

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

History Day a Huge Success

Sia Yang
Staff Writer

On March 19 students from St. Paul Schools participated in the History Day regional competition at Concordia College. Fourteen out of 16 students who were chosen to represent St. Paul Open School advanced to the State Finals.

"I was thrilled," said Susanne Hollingsworth, who is the school's coordinator for History Day.

History Day is a year-long program that can earn students a scholarship for college. The competition starts at the Regional level then it heads on to State, then on to nationals. The competitions are somewhat like DI. You're competing with other students from other schools and, of course, students from

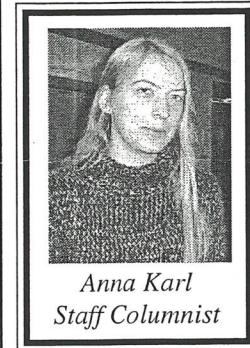
your school.

"Are you ready to compete with us? You're our enemy now," said Houa Xiong before regionals, working with Mai, Mee, Mai Lee and Ker on their group Media project.

This year's theme for History Day was "Revolution, Reaction, Reform." You could work either individually or as a group. There were many ways to present your projects, including: Exhibit, Media, Performance or Essay. There were many different, neatly-completed projects at Regional.

"I think three or more of the exhibits will surely proceed to Nationals and many of the Media and the dramas have a good chance too if they improve based on the judges' suggestions," said Susanne Hollingsworth.
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Open: a Dying School?



Anna Karl
Staff Columnist

Is Open School dying? Maybe. There have been many changes in discipline and student freedoms. But I think the important ques-

tion is, "why have these changes been happening?"

Can we really expect to keep the privileges that "make Open what it is" if we don't live up to the responsibilities that go with them? I don't approve of most of these changes and I think they are harmful and dangerous to Open School. I am more upset by the actions and attitudes of my fellow

DEATH Continued on 8

Pillar of Light a 9/11 Tribute

Houa Yang
Staff Writer

On March 11, 2002 six months after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, twin beams of light pierced the night sky by the Brooklyn Bridge.

Relatives of the thousands who were killed stood and watched as a 12-year-old girl, Valerie Webb, activated 88 powerful search lights arranged to simulate the Twin Towers called the "Tribute Light." Webb's father (Nathaniel Webb) was a port police officer who hasn't been found in the ruins nearby.

The "Tribute Light" is located a block away from the ground zero. It remained lit from dusk until 11:00 p.m. for 32 days. The light could be seen from 25 miles away.

The terrorist attack showed us the worst of man kind, and the face of the evil. Many fought back tears as they gathered in Battery Park to mark the

moment that the first two jetliners slammed in to the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.

At 8:46 a.m. is when the first hijacked plane hit the north tower. New York will never forget.

Officials also dedicated "The Sphere," a sculpture that once stood in the World Trade Plaza's fountain. The sculpture weighs 45,000 pounds and stands there as a symbol of peace.

Is life in America any different six months later after the attack?

"Well, some people might still be nervous about what's going to happen next. You also see people going to war, which is a difficult thing," said Susanne Hollingsworth. ♦



Check it Out, Yo!

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Adult to Blame

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Football Injuries

Will Beneke-Eaves

Staff Writer

Most people think of football as a fairly violent sport, with football players being referred to as "the gladiators" of our times. It is one of few sports where you hit or get hit by someone else on every play. With anything as physically demanding as football, injuries occur all the time and this year was no exception. For example, the Patriots starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe, was hit so hard that he broke a blood vessel in his chest and almost died from internal bleeding. Willie Howard, defensive tackle for the Minnesota Vikings, failed to protect himself from a legal chop block and suffered such a significant knee injury that he may never play again. Kurt Warner, the Rams all star quarterback, was hit in the throat and was unable to talk for several weeks. According to an article by Dan Vergano in USA Today, in the wild card round of the playoffs, teams averaged 20% of their 53-person roster injured.

Even on my own high school football team, St. Paul Central High School, one of our linebackers who had a kidney cyst [un-

diagnosed]. He was hit in the wrong way, causing him to require emergency surgery on his kidney that same night. He was unable to return for the rest of the season.

Professional teams do make efforts to make sure that their players stay healthy. Players are given immediate medical attention. Teams hire good doctors, and provide year round training weight programs, which help players to be less likely to injure themselves. Some teams, like the Pittsburgh Steelers, have a sophisticated sports medicine facility connected to their stadium. Team doctors make use of advanced technology like MRIs and X-ray machines to evaluate the extent of injuries.

One positive side effect of football players getting hurt is that medical advances are being developed to address their unique injuries that further medical technology for the general public. According to Dr. David Gubbrud, Emergency Room physician at Riverside/University Hospitals in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and offensive coordina-

BROKEN Continued on 8

Open to go Wireless?

Shumel Blyly-Strauss

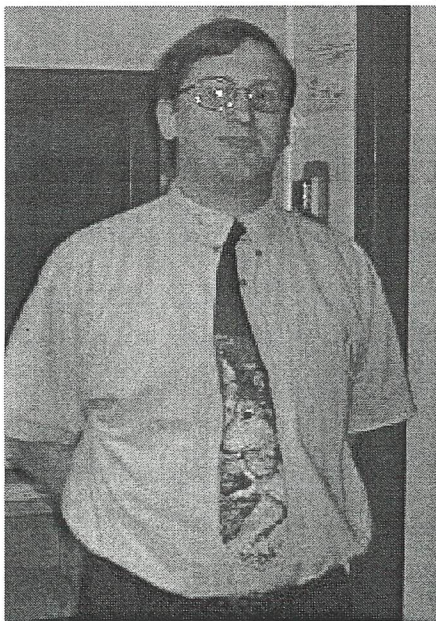
Staff Writer

Due to budget constraints, the district is getting rid of the computer repair department. This means that computers that aren't under warranty or can't get fixed locally don't get fixed. Our total computer inventory, not counting LCs and 5400s, is 20 G3 All-In-Ones, 30 newer iMacs, and at least 12 older iMacs.

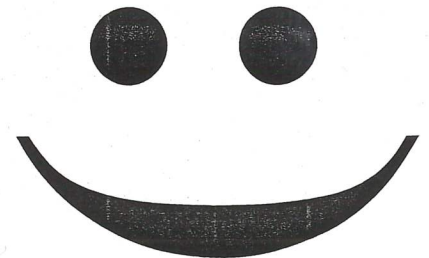
Another thing that was discussed at a recent staff meeting is changing our network over to a wireless one. The main problem with this idea, however, is that it would be very expensive, as in around \$2100 just to change the lab over. Another drawback is that the pre-iMac computers would need to be replaced to be able to use an Airport wireless network card. One wireless hub that supports up to 50 computers within 150 feet of it costs about \$300. Each Airport card costs another \$60.

The main advantages to wireless networking are that we wouldn't need to deal with

network cables and that teachers or students with iBook laptops would be able to network more easily with the school computers. Former lab supervisor Ken O'Brien said that he thinks that eventually wireless networks will be everywhere, but, due to budget problems, we probably won't be going wireless anytime soon.◊



**There's a new
computer guy, get to
know him next issue!**



Senior Profile

Heather Raiter



How long have you been at Open?

3 years.

If you could be an animal, what kind of animal would you be?

A painted wolverine.

What is your favorite color?

Orange

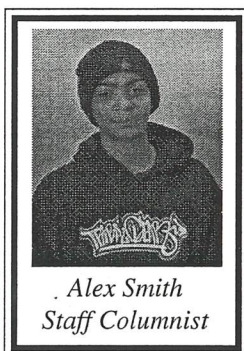
What will you miss most about Open School?

The atmosphere and the teachers.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Forensic Pathologist or a director of B class horror films.

Grand Theft Auto 3: Alex Strikes Back



Alex Smith
Staff Columnist

Contrary to popular belief, Grand Theft Auto 3 is not solely dedicated to walking around a city, picking up and then killing hookers.

In fact, hookers play no part in the game whatsoever, other than the fact

that they are there. Yes, it is true that because someone at Rockstar Games has a sick sense of humor you can pick up hookers off the street. However, there is no sexual contact, the car only shakes and your health goes up. If you look in the side window of the car, you can see that they are both just sitting there. Now for some this is enough to write an article about, but for others it's just a small part of this complex and twisted game.

There is no reason at all to defend this game, they should be paying me for this. Lizzy is right about some things, but to compare this game to a game about killing black

people is bad analogy. To write about this game, and compare it to a game called "Klu Klux Kill" in a world where women are degraded every day on TV, in movies, in books, on the internet, in magazines, in music, and in conversation is like saying that one person is responsible for school shootings. If anything, Grand Theft Auto 3 is a result of degradation to women, not the cause of it.

Of course I agree that there should be no hookers in the game and that it's wrong to glorify things like solicitation of sex and a life of crime. But it's here and it's not going anywhere. Grand Theft Auto 3 is about stealing cars, making money, working for and killing gangsters and causing violent havoc in a huge, beautifully-rendered urban environment. The game is not called "Kill Hookers and Make Women Look Like Sex Object 3" because except for the occasional hookers, the women in this game are business women, professionals, and upstanding citizens. As for myself and all the other people I've talked to about this game, no one feels that women are an inferior sex because of it. The whole hooker part of the

could and should be taken out of the game, and it would not affect the game in any way.

In closing, let me say that Lizzy's article was very well written and had many really important points, but I also think that she got a very bad taste of this game from a bunch of immature people. And once again,

I agree with her that the solicitation of sex in this game, or any game, is wrong and

is not something that should be on the TV screens of teenage boys. And if you want to talk about this game's violent content then that's a different subject, on which myself and many others have plenty to say. And this debate will continue to rage until Grand Theft Auto 4 comes out and we'll have something new to argue about. ♦

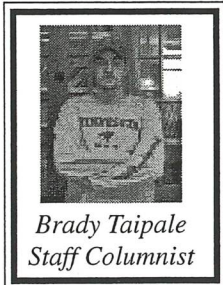


Opinions 'n' Stuff

Cops Are Not to Blame

As most of you know by now, a guy in Minneapolis was shot by the police after he did not drop his weapons and was considered a threat. I have read the paper and all I see is the anti-police weenies saying that the only reason he was shot is because he was of Somali descent. I see this as an example of the police getting screwed for doing their job.

I am really getting tired of hearing that all cops are racist jerks that are out to get everyone. This is why cops have a tough job. If you try to do your job logic, they should have shot the machete out of his hands like in a western. Let's not forget that they tried to stop him with a tazer, which is non lethal, and it didn't work. They tried to reason with him for twenty minutes. None of this helped.



Brady Taipale
Staff Columnist

Still, cops who put their life on the line get accused of everything by the same people they are trying to protect.

That wuss Mayor Rybek is caving in to the "all cops are racist" crowd. I can't believe this. He is saying that they have to change how they deal with mental illness. This has nothing to do with mental illness. What this means is that he is sucking up to the cop haters who think that everyone should get special treatment based on their ethnic background and anyone who doesn't agree is a racist bigot. Yes, that's it. Never mind that this was a guy with weapons who refused to drop them. And never mind that they tried to stop him with non-lethal methods. We are supposed to believe that the police are just big, bad, thugs who are itching to kill people and the only reason they shot this guy is because he is Somali.

POLICE Continued on 7

Watch TV

Maura Shramko

Staff Critic

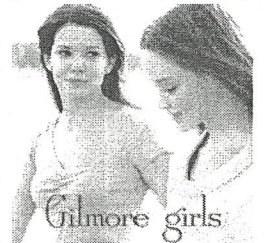
I don't watch a lot of TV, but there are a couple of shows that I think everyone should watch. Join me now for my (limited) guide to the world of TV.

Gilmore Girls

Tuesday 7:00 PM, WB 23

When first I saw promos for Gilmore Girls on the WB, I was skeptical. It looked schmaltzy and boring. What could possibly be interesting about a mom-daughter teen drama? But, I must say, the WB has done it again. Gilmore Girls is very wonderful.

And by that, I mean entertaining. There are those who disagree with me. Perhaps. But to them I say, stop being so mean. Because, in spite of the fact that Lorelai Gilmore (Lauren Graham) and her daughter Rory (Alexis Bledel) are sarcastic and sassy, they are truly loving, caring and cheesy. But in a good way! If, like me, you have always longed for a character who likes reading books and doesn't care to hide it, then you too will love this show. Everyone should want to be smart and read books. My one problem with this show is how it has to make up for the fact that Lorelai is such a "cool" mom by making her really conservative. Sure, she's wacky and crazy, but she flips out if Rory stays out all night with her boyfriend. Still, give the girls a chance!



Alias

Sunday 8:00 PM, ABC 5

When I first saw a bus ad for this show, I thought, my they're ripping off Run Lola Run. And, because I love that movie, of course I had to see it. But really, Alias didn't



TV SHOWS Continued on 8

Yet Another Dating Show

Cameron Beitler

Staff Critic

Imagine you are a bachelor with 25 women to choose from. Sounds like a dream to most single men. Well, now it's a reality for one. Welcome to *The Bachelor*, a new show on ABC.

The basis of the show is the bachelor narrowing the field of 25 women, all of whom are looking for Mr. Right. Every episode he has to decide which girls he wants to stay and which he will let go.

The Bachelor's name is Alex. He graduated from Harvard and went to graduate school at Stanford. He now lives in San Francisco. He was picked out of several thousand bachelors to be on the new show.

The first episode introduced us to where he is going to be living for the next few weeks. If there was ever an official "bachelor pad", this would be it. It is probably worth about three quarters of a million dollars. It has an amazing view and a swim-

ming pool that would rival any for best in the world.

Then, one by one, he meets the women. They have compiled a wide variety for him. They have doctors, lawyers, even a Hooters waitress. After that, it was time for him to party and get to know them better. Then it

was time for him to pick who stays and who goes. This is where the show really gets cheesy. He gives the women he wants

to stay a rose and they get to choose if they accept it or reject it. After this, he will start going out with them individually, and finding out more about each of the remaining girls.

I believe that the show is quite cheesy but better than "Who Wants to Marry a Multi Millionaire". The people who like shows such as that will keep it around in the ratings. But I don't think there will be a Bachelor 2 any time soon. ♦



THE
BACHELOR
Mondays 9/8c



Resident Evil the Movie

Justin Albrecht
Staff Critic

Imagine waking up naked in your shower not knowing who you are or what you're doing. That is exactly what happens to Milla Jovovich (Alice) in the opening scene of the *Resident Evil* movie now showing in a theater near you.

RE is based on the top-selling, gun-slinging, zombie shooting game *Resident Evil* for the Playstation game console. The plot line is about the Umbrella Corporation and their illegal advanced biotechnology weapons.

An evil saboteur has infiltrated the hive and is stealing its most dangerous weapon, the T-Virus. The saboteur then throws a beaker containing the virus into the laboratory, where it proceeds to shatter, allowing the virus to escape into the air ducts. The Hive's central A.I. seals all exits, not allowing the infected employees to escape. A military task force, employed by the UC, is sent in to shut down the A.I. so they

can reopen the Hive.

The military task force finds all the employees dead. Or are they? Yes, just as you suspected, the employees are now the ravenous, zombie-like creatures known as the undead. Lurking elsewhere in the Hive is one of its earlier experiments, the fast, skilled and dangerous hunter which has the power to mutate into a stronger entity with every victim it slays, the Licker.

The plot line is only attached to the game by the creatures and the mansion leading to the Hive. Everything besides the creatures and the mansion were added in to make the movie more exciting. The whole first game takes place in the mansion.

The acting wasn't very good either. The actors made the characters look like they were stupid. If the characters from RE walked into a room full of geniuses, the average IQ of the room would drop so fast and hard it would shatter the measuring device.

EVIL Continued on 9



The Time Machine

Cha Vang
Staff Critic

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you could travel through time? If so, you might want to check out *The Time Machine*. Maybe it will give you at least a couple of ideas about what can happen to you while traveling the endless space of time.

Time Machine stars Guy Pearce, Mark Addy, Samantha Mumba, Jeremy Irons, and Philip Bosco. This film is directed by Simon Wells and produced by Walter F. Parkes and David Valdes. Warner Brothers and Dream Works are the distributors. It was released on March 8, 2002 and is rated PG-13 for intense action and violence.

The movie is set in England during the 1800's, and is about a scientist and an inventor named Alexander Hartdegen (Guy Pearce.) Hartdegen has built a high-tech machine that has the ability to travel to different times. He wants to travel back into time to save his fiancée, Emma (Sienna

Guillory), who was killed in an accident.

His journey is a complete success, but he is unable to prevent Emma's death. Then the hero decides to take a long trip 30 years



into the future, to search for an answer to why he can't change the past. But while traveling, something goes wrong with the machine and Hartdegen finds himself in a time that is 800,000 years in the future instead of 30 years. Wow, it only took him a flash to get there!

This event brings Hartdegen into a peaceful and quiet tribe. There he meets the Elio, a race of people that lives and looks human and has no technology at all. He makes friends with the beautiful Mara (Samantha Mumba). That is when the trouble comes in.

Hartdegen has discovered that mankind has evolved into two different races and one is hunting the other. The humanly Elio are

TIME MACHINE Continued on 9

Useless Info

Dedicated to unraveling strange, unusual, and often useless mysteries that people may or may not wonder about at odd intervals during the course of the day and/or evening.

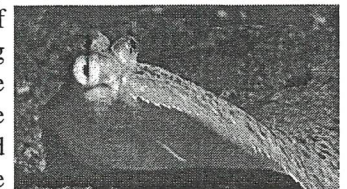


Michael Griffin
Staff Columnist

Leo asks: "Do fish sleep?"

Answer from www.nefsc.nmfs.gov/faq/fishfaq1.html:

The answer would depend on your definition of sleep. Most lexicons define sleep as a period of rest during which the eyes are closed and little



thought or movement take place. Fish, as most know, have no eyelids (save for sharks), thereby making it excruciatingly difficult for them to close their eyes. They do, however, allow their minds to drift off at some points; floating in place, or wedging themselves in sand, stone, what have you. All the while the fish are resting, but still aware of nearby danger.

Aaron Schutjer asks: "Why do humans have eye brows?"

Searches on various engines such as Lycos, HotBot, Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, and Alta Vista failed to turn up any results, so I asked Jon if he had any idea. "I read in a Scholastic magazine in first grade about the eye brows. They keep dust and dandruff from falling into your eyes. Try brushing your eye brows sometime and watch the dust and stuff." That is a very good reason. Thanks. I had no idea.

Other Interesting Trivia from home.nycap.rr.com/useless/index.html

The five most stolen items in a drugstore are batteries, cosmetics, film, sunglasses, and, get this, Preparation H. Apparently people are just too embarrassed to purchase the last item. And, just in case you are curious, one of Preparation H's main ingredient is shark liver oil. The oil not only helps shrink hemorrhoids, but will shrink any tissue. As a result, many older women in Florida use the

M. GRIFF RAMBLES Continued on 9

Reader Loves GTA 3

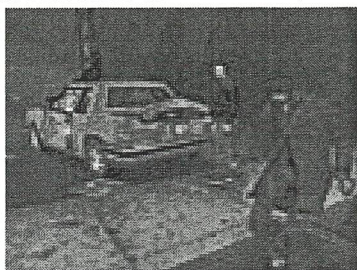
Dear Editor(s),

The school buzzed with a nervous excitement as word spread: the next issue of *The Purple Press* was out. Children's faces glowed with joy as they skipped down the hall to their advisors, hardly containing their excitement about what glorious articles awaited them in the school newspaper.

Like everyone else, I was brimming with anticipation. So it was with great excitement that I picked up the newest issue of the *Purple Press*. As soon as I saw the front page, I started to laugh, and then I started to cry. You see, I happened to read Lizzy Shramko's letter to the editor (concerning Alex Smith's article about Grand Theft Auto 3) and it made my blood boil, which sucked because then I burned up from the inside.

Her main deal with the game was that it was too violent, and sexist. She complained about there being no male hookers. Wouldn't

it be better if there were no hookers at all? And she said that players had the option of killing them with bats (the hookers I mean) but she left out the part about being able to kill them with guns, or your bare hands. Looks like some one didn't do her research! She also compared it to a fictional game called "Ku Kulx Kill." To me, that sounds like a game where you run around killing the KKK, not the other way around. Besides,



comparing a game like that to GTA 3 just isn't fair. GTA 3 really isn't racist, it's prejudice against everybody, like *Family Guy*, that show kicks.

What you people don't understand is that violent video games prevent violence, they don't cause it. If I felt like stealing a car and run people over with it, would you rather have me actually do it, or do it in a video game where it's all fake?

VIDEO GAME Continued on 7

E.T. Rocks!

Chris McLean
Staff Writer

The greatest movie of all time, *ET: The Extra Terrestrial* is being re-released this month with great new scenes and special effects. March 22 seems a long ways away now, but the wait will be over by the time this is published. God I wish it was now. But by the time you read this it will! That's great.

That reminds me, one time I was at Universal Studios Hollywood and I HAD to go on the ET ride that was on these cool bicycles, just like the movie! I was wearing my favorite "I Love ET" shoelaces and I got in line with incredible haste. The line was long, because everybody loves ET! So after a 3 hour wait (I KNOW!) I rushed to the front bicycle with the basket, I had to be the closest to ET! So the ride started and it was awe-



some, with a lot of familiar scenes from the movie. This is probably what heaven is like, I thought. The most exciting part of all is when it took us to ET's home planet, because that wasn't even in the movie. I jumped off the bike and hurt my leg, and I swear to god ET came up to me and healed it.

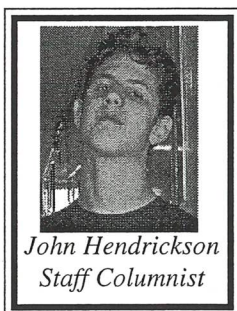
Then another time I was eating my ET chewable vitamins, but I wasn't allowed to eat more than one so I took the bottle up to my room when my mom wasn't looking. I ate all 50 vitamins in a minute. Later on I went downstairs to watch ET on video, stopped breathing and woke up in the hospital. I was scared, but I pretended ET was with me so everything was all right.

The best ET memory I had was when I was riding my ET big wheel to Children's Palace to buy ET toys and then a car hit me. I will always believe in ET.

ET's 20th anniversary came out on March 22 and I hope you were there, because it has a ton of great new scenes like one where ET's taking a bath, and another one where he's opening a soda and it explodes all over him! I'll probably be dead of anticipation by March 20th at least. When it comes out on DVD, please buy it and leave it at my grave. ♦

Full House Now Empty

Whatever happened to predictability, the milkman, the paperboy. Well I'll tell you what happened, those fat cats down at the network cancelled it. That's right, they cancelled *Full House* (in



John Hendrickson
Staff Columnist

1995). I guess there is just no room for family entertainment in TV-land, where sex and violence rule with an iron fist and beat shows like *Full House* mercilessly. *Full House* was a show about family. In the show Danny Tanner is a working single parent with 3 girls, DJ (Donna Jo), Stephanie and Michelle. His best friend Joey Gladstone also lives in his basement. He often gets paid visits by Jesse Katsopolis (Uncle Jesse) and his wife, Becky Donaldson. Together they face and overcome many problems with love, humor and most importantly, family values.

While complaining about this to fellow classmates I realized that I wasn't alone in my passionate love for *Full House*. "The big wigs down at the station need to know

when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em and folding *Full House* was a mistake," said Sam Gleason, senior at Open School. "Best show ever," exclaimed Dan Falla, junior at Open School, "And Kimmy Gibbler - a work of art," he added.

Unfortunately, not all Open School students shared my magnificent outrage about the cancellation of *Full House*. "That show sucks," sneered Emily Jacobsen. "Dude, that show is lame dude," said Gus Olson, sophomore, "I just watch wrestling and *Baywatch*. If you ask me they should bring back *Cleopatra 2525*. How come no one's raising cane about that cancellation? They were three women with a will to survive."

"No one asked you gus. It's not that I wasn't also mad about the cancellation of *Cleopatra 2525*, it's just that I used to be Gus's friend until my militant love for *Full House* came between us.

With magnificent regret, I must bid adieu to the cast of *Full House*. So good-bye Uncle Jesse (John Stamos,) your rock band will always be a hit in my heart. Good-bye Danny Tanner (Bob Saget,) I hope that hosting *Good Morning San Francisco* brings

FULL HOUSE Continued on 9

Jon Thurn on Graduation

Open School's seniors are playing an arcade game called Bat Hunter. The game is about flying around on a bat and saving your friends from a bat hunter. But the game will soon be over on April 15th, so Monday should really be called GAME OVER.

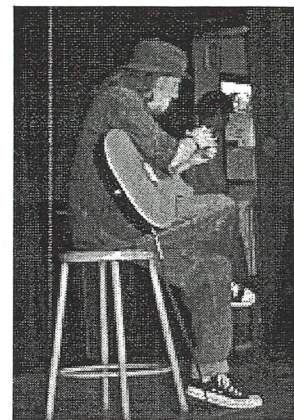
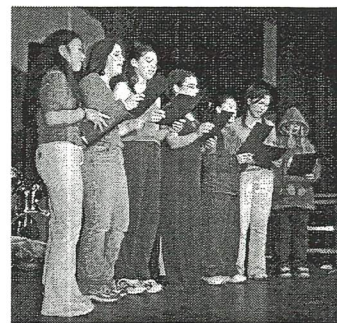


Since the Grad Portfolio was created years ago, it also created a cauldron of liquid controversy stronger than Sunny Delight, no joke -- stronger than Sunny D. I was drinking orange juice and I overheard people talking about the Grad Portfolio and the standards and checkoffs it has built it's ruby red roof over. "I still think they (the Grad Portfolio) have a ways to go, although the juniors and seniors were exempt, a lot of work needs to be done for the sophomore class to have an adequate system," said senior Adam Hurt, talking about the very book that could

be poison. Meanwhile, group facilitator Lenni Augustine commented, "After the first graduation meeting we had decided that the advisor would just tell the committee that the advisee received all of their sign offs." She then continued to comment on the waves that were on the lake of snow-water that had formed in the field. Lenni, who was a master of the Validation process, seems to support the Grad Portfolio, and its labyrinth of processes.

Azeneth Rodriguez, a junior, commented on the amount of seniors that will graduate, saying, "Yeah [they'll all graduate], there's been so much slack for them." However there is not all support for it, an anonymous source that is rather high up in rank has denied the Grad Portfolio as a system for graduation.

So there has been a lot of talk as Open School embarks on letting this year's senior class out from under its wing and clenches it's talons as their beaks screech with freedom. But freedom comes at a price, since *GRADUATION Continued on 10*



Talent Show Stuff was fun!

Ken Leaves

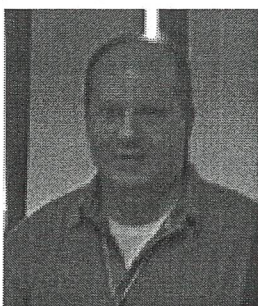
Tony Cavanaugh
Staff Writer

As some of you may have heard or noticed, Ken, the computer lab supervisor left on Tuesday, March 26. He is the second computer lab supervisor we have had this year. He left for other opportunities, but I think he was sick of playing internet cop. Now I don't blame the guy, I mean if every time I told someone to get off of an inappropriate web site I got called "racist," I wouldn't like it either.

"[This job] It's not exactly what I want to do, I would like to learn about networking and at this job I don't have as many opportunities in that field," said Ken on the matter.

I've been in the lab when stuff like this has happened. In one case, the student involved was on an inappropriate site and when he was asked to get off, he stormed out of the room calling Ken racist. I have also seen the same thing happen to a white kid, this proves that it's not a matter of race.

If you go to inappropriate web sites in



school, you will be asked to get off them or be sent to your advisor. Your race is irrelevant. There are announcements all the time about how the computers are to be used for educational purposes only. Making internet use a matter of the color of your skin or how you look is one of the dumbest things you can say at Open.

This is not what Open School is about. The staff and students here would never do something like that. It only hurts our school more when people say things like this, it turns our school into a place that Open School should never be. Open School is a school with all different walks of life. This school is the farthest thing from racist. Our school will be destroyed before anyone is discriminated against because of race, looks, or anything that makes you different. Open School is about being different. That's what makes us Open School.◊

POLICE From 4

Come on, this had nothing to do with the guy's race. This was a dangerous man who got out of hand and became a danger to others. The police are getting the short end of the stick for protecting themselves and others. What's next?◊

VIDEO GAME From 6

Once I got really angry and felt like pummeling someone. So I pummeled my brother, and I got in so much trouble. But if I had owned GTA 3 at the time, I could have gone and pummeled a computer generated image. Which one is better? You tell me, you tell me. My point is that Duncan is a real jerk. Wait.... that's not what I was talking about. Oh yeah, Lizzy is a real jerk. If she is so smart, why is she so dumb?

Yours truly,

Devlin Byrne, a.k.a Devlin R. Byrne.

P.S. All insults were said in the heat of the moment, and should not be taken seriously.◊



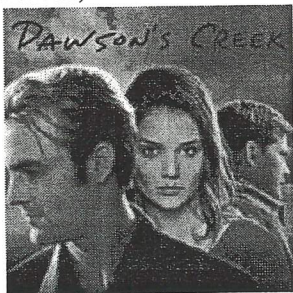
TV SHOWS From 4

rip off RLR directly until the fifth episode when Sydney: 1) goes to Germany; 2) has red hair; and 3) runs down the hallway to techno music. But it's still a good show. Sydney Bristow (Jennifer Garner) is a graduate student who works for what she believes is a covert branch of the CIA, called S-D6. She finds out the truth about S-D6 when they kill her fiancé. So, what else is Sydney to do, but become a double-agent with the real CIA in order to bring S-D6 to its knees? But just watch the intro, and you'll know all that. The man who keeps me coming back to this show every week (as though Sydney wouldn't) is Micheal Vartan (weird, huh?). He was in "Never Been Kissed" with Drew Barrymore, but that's not the point. The point really is that he and Sydney have a love tension that they cannot resolve. But to see just how great this show is, you have to watch it.

Dawson's Creek

Wednesday 7:00 PM, WB 23

The WB is honestly the best channel out there. Where else can you get the wonderfulness of Dawson's Creek? This season is one of the most interesting (and yet depressing) in a while. Joey (Katie Holmes), Pacey (Joshua Jackson), Jack (Kerr Smith), Jen (Michelle Williams) and of course Dawson (James Van Der Beek) have relocated to Boston for college (except Pacey, who's a chef)! Apparently, this means it's time for them to grow up and move on with their lives. The twists this season have been crazy—Jen and Dawson got together, Jack joined a frat house and turned into a jerk, Joey is having an affair with her creative writing professor and did I mention that's Dawson's dad died? The real gems of the show are Pacey (who really is the most wonderful character on the show: why did Joey break up with him?), Joey (when she's kissing her creepy teacher) and Audrey, Joey's new roommate. Okay, yes, I admit it. I like the annoying girl. She's meant to be so annoying it's infectious, and it just is. I can't deny it. I really can't hide it. Pacey and Audrey are hooking up, but really Pacey and Joey should just go out forever. But those conniving writers are going to pull our heartstrings once more with that whole Joey/



DEATH From 1

students.

In truth, many of the changes have been made for a reason. The bathrooms are a mess. The hallways are noisy. There is Graffiti, some of it incredibly offensive and derogatory. People are rude to both teachers and students. People steal things, break things... the list goes on. I know this is nothing new, but it seems to be getting worse and worse.

Actually, the worst behavior still isn't widespread, but that doesn't matter. As long as it happens at all, it is a problem, because both the problems and the school's reaction are divisive. I'm sure most people don't throw the soap thingies in the toilet, or write racist comments on the walls, or draw mustaches on the pictures outside the art room. It's a case of a few people ruining things for everyone, those anti-Open-School morons! Right? Well, not necessarily.

Yes, only a small number of students actually do those things, but the obvious stuff is only part of the problem. What about the rest of us? In my opinion, "not my problem" is a very dangerous phrase. A combination of self-righteousness and apathy seems to have taken over most of the school. *We can't help what the other students do.*

Dawson thing. Again. I can feel it. Anyway, while this show has its stupid Halloween episodes and its hokey dad-drug dealer episodes, there are many brilliant hours yet to come. I guarantee it.

Felicity

Wednesday 8:00 PM, WB 23

A lot has happened to young Felicity Porter (Keri Russell) in her four years at NYU. For some reason, each season she's had to make the often difficult choice between Ben (Scott Speedman), who she creepily followed from California to New York, and Noel (Scott Foley who is married to Jennifer Garner of Alias!), her first-year RA who, apparently, has been in love with her, like, forever. For the last two years, Felicity has been going out with Ben. But since Ben has just callously impregnated some woman, Felicity's gonna have to choose again... But this time for real. Appropriately, the show will be ending with Felicity's senior year. The sad truth is that Felicity is on a countdown to goodbye: Who will she choose? Ben? Noel? I think one thing I can safely guess: She has to pick. Who will it be? Who?



Why should we be punished? It's not fair — but we can't do anything about it. Wake up, people! Those precious Open School freedoms are not a right!

If we want to keep Open School open, we need to stop whining and find something to do about it. Not getting special treatment doesn't mean everyone hates you. Drawing a line between the "good students" and the "bad students" won't help anything, either. Face it — this is a public school. That means we can't choose who we let in. However, that should not mean that we throw away the things that make Open special. If Open School loses its uniqueness, it will be nothing but a very small school without the resources of the other high schools in the district. Why would our cash-starved district keep it open? And who would care when they closed it?

The only way to stop the trend towards less responsibility and less freedom is through student solidarity. Let's stop saying, "It's not my business," and make it clear that there are things that most of us don't agree with. Let's stop whining, "It's not my mess," and just deal with it. Let's stop saying, "It's not my problem." Even if it isn't now, it will be.◊

BROKEN From 2

tor of the St. Paul Central football team, "Football injuries are more severe today because players are bigger, stronger, and faster than they used to be. But teams at all levels of play have use of technological advances to improve care. For example, with players who come in with a concussion, they are immediately given an MRI and doctors are much more cautious about releasing them to return to play. Also, there are new procedures in medicine—both in surgical and therapeutic—that improve healing without being as intrusive on the body as they used to be."

When Garrison Hearst had a severe ankle injury which doctors predicted might make it impossible to walk again, he received an innovative surgery that allowed him to not only return to football but become one of the leading rushers in the league this year. Some of the other medical techniques used to help football players include laser surgery on shoulders to do repair without having to cut the shoulder. Another technique being researched is the possibility of using genetic engineering to regrow cartilage for damaged joints, which someday may allow doctors to completely eliminate the need for surgery on an injured joint.◊

M. GRIFF RAMBLES From 5

stuff to help reduce the appearance of wrinkles!

Source: *Do Pharmacists Sell Farms?* by Vince Staten (1998, Simon & Schuster)

A South Korean movie theater owner decided that the movie *The Sound of Music* was too long. His solution? He shortened the movie by cutting out all of the musical scenes!

Source: *Uncle John's Fourth Bathroom Reader*, 1989, page 63

Griff's note: *I think that would make the movie much more enjoyable.*

Two hundred and twenty six soldiers lost their lives way back in 1850 when they crossed a suspension bridge that spanned the Maine at Angers, France. It turns out that they were all marching in step and had caused an increased resonance (vibration) to the bridge. Ever since, troops are ordered to rout step (march out of step) when crossing a bridge.

Source: *Why Some Shoes Squeak* by George W. Stimpson, 1984, p. 115

Griff's note: *OW! Crikey.*

Did you ever wonder what the WD in WD-40 stands for? The name was lifted right out chemist Norm Larsen's laboratory notebook. Way back in 1953, he was trying to

concoct an anti-corrosion formula, which worked on the basic principle of displacing water. On his 40th try, Larsen finally got it right. Hence the name WD-40. It literally means Water Displacer, 40th try.

Source: *WD-40 web site*

Griff's note: *Finally, something I actually wanted to know.*

Everyone knows that spinach is loaded in iron and makes you stronger - Just look what it has done for Popeye's career. Well, Popeye was wrong. So were all of those parents that stuffed it down their kids' throats. In reality, spinach has no more iron in it than any other vegetable. This spinach misconception dates back to the 1950's when a food analyst made an error while calculating the iron in spinach. His decimal place was off by one place, suggesting that spinach had ten times as much iron content than it really did.

Source: *Spinach* (link no longer available)

Griff's note: *Good to know this NOW. Thanks a bloody lot, mum.*

Any other odd, daft, or just plain weird questions? Just ask! I can be reached at pissedmage@hotmail.com or griffmage@yahoo.com, usually the former. Have a psychotic day!♦

HISTORY DAY From 1

sanne.

Students who participated in History Day worked very hard on their projects and got out of many classes. Students and staff were really devoted to the History Day projects.

At regionals, there was a time set for judging. The judges looked at each project and asked the groups questions relating to their projects. This is the hardest part for some students, because they're uncomfortable answering questions. Students, teachers or parents from other schools walked by and could ask questions too.

"The hardest part for us was making our project go with the theme. The funnest part of History Day is winning the Gold Medal and you learn things," said Mai Thao.

This event goes on every year. It's a good way for students to learn about history issues.♦

TIME MACHINE From 5

like a bunch of chickens locked in a crowded cage, and the powerful Morlock are the hunters. The Morlocks are like ghostly white goblins and hunched creatures, living under the cold ground. So the Elio are like slaves



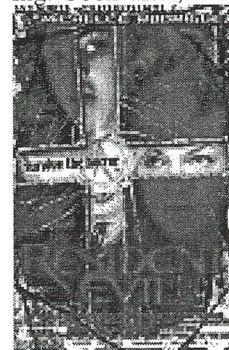
to the Morlock. The Uber-Morlock (Jeremy Irons), is fascinated with

Hartdegen and his machine so the hero has to put up a big fight if he wants to go back to his time. Will he make it?

I think that *"The Time Machine"* is worth watching. All of the environments and actors are cool, especially the Morlock, with all the make up and crippled gestures. So if you're a movie lover, you might want to check out *"The Time Machine"* for yourself.♦

EVIL From 5

At one part of the movie when they encounter the first zombie, they fire at it and literally blow it away. When they walk over to examine the body they find it to be missing. Soon after, a zombie wielding an ax comes up to take its chances. Instead of running or shooting they proceed to calmly tell the zombie to stop where he is.



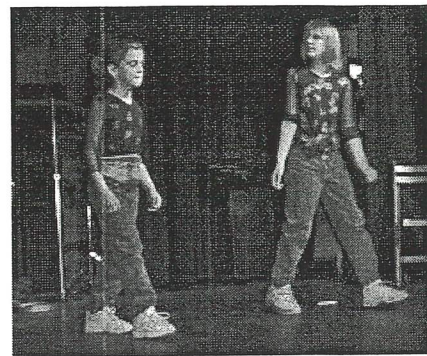
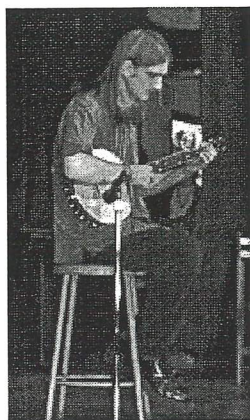
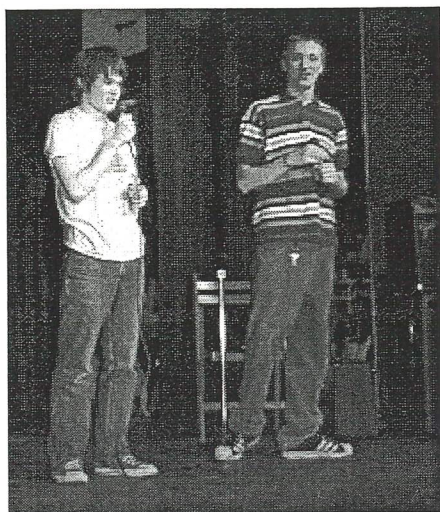
RE was overall a pretty decent movie. If it followed the game a lot more it would have been an excellent movie. The movie ends with much room for a sequel, so expect the unexpected. *Resident Evil 2* will probably be hitting the streets sometime in the next couple of years.♦

FULL HOUSE From 6

you great riches. Good-bye Joey Gladstone (David Coulier who in real life has a hilarious comedy CD called *Blast From the Pants* out now wherever CD's are sold), one day you'll make it as a stand up comedian and move out of Danny's basement. Good-bye DJ Tanner, (Candace Camero) I'm sure that the trials and tribulations that you went through in your adolescence will make you into a woman of strong character. Good-bye Stephanie Tanner (Jodi Sweetin,) you won't need to live in the shadow of your older sister anymore. Good-bye Michelle Tanner (Mary Kate and Ashley Olson) your father is a very wise man. Good-bye Rebecca Donaldson (Lori Loughlin,) may your role as wife and mother continue to be fruitful, and I hope you also find great riches as co-host of *Good Morning San Francisco*. Good-bye Kimmy Gibler (Andrea Borber,) may you stay sometimes irritating but always hilarious. Good-bye Nicky and Alex (Dillon and Blake Tuomy-Wilhoit,) I hope that each of you can always find sanction in each other.

Good-bye cast and crew, I laughed with you, I cried with you and my heart melted with you, "It's something unpredictable but in the end is right I hope you had the time of your life."♦





GRADUATION *From 7*

the Grad Standards were introduced so late and tweaked so much, the senior class was left like a horse shaped prism that whinnies for the absence of light. What are you whinnying over crystal horse?

I am whinnying and neighing over some of these standards, they don't make sense. And indeed some of the standards seem out of place, check out some of these check offs.

_Participate actively in a group discussion

_Know rules, skills, strategies and etiquette associated with physical education activities.

_Solve the problem (in creative problem solving)

_Work out a trap with a magnifying glass to catch the burglar that's been stealing your chocolate bars!

_Make a helmet, one that makes it so you can eat fire.

_Ride a motorcycle through a brick wall blindfolded, and make a hole in the wall shaped like a four-leaf clover. That's lucky!

_Go to the Olive Garden and ask if you can harvest some olives,

_Go to the Orange Julius, and un-sarcastically say, "Hail Caesar!" upon drinking a frothy piece.

_Play Poker with the Big Boss and The Insane Irrigator, and then put some peppermints on the table, but don't shout out, "It's hard to breathe with a frozen throat!"

_Teach a spider to catch and drain a pepper-

mint candy with its fangs.

_Read a book, on how to raise a mummy back to life, but don't actually do it.

_Go back to the time of the dinosaurs, then mount and ride a triceratops.

_Play crossfire! But play to win. Crossfire. Crossfi-i-r-e-e! CROSSFIRE!

_Get a Game Genie, but get the code that makes you cool.

I guess the idea of a checklist to graduate has a long way to go and maybe another way might have been better, and us seniors are lucky to be given a deal, and the deal isn't for a huge basket of oranges. I'd make my own Sunny D! Still, we've gone this far so we need to think of the future of the graduation system, for the old system of validations are dead and gone and the bad jokes remain, but the rain is gonna go away. And hey, if the Chaos Emeralds from Sonic the Hedgehog were real, which I still think they are, you need to collect them all in the form of the required reflection letters, summaries, and checkoffs needed to graduate. A giraffe's heart is as big as a basketball but you as a senior are as big as the Grad Portfolio, and as it beats with anger, shout back! And as Game Genie's hands start charging up with lightning, you know you've made it, and look at his glowing eyes and run away - to graduate! Will you win the game of graduation?◇

