

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

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Got Graduation? Sort of

Heather Raiter
Staff Writer

Entering into it's third year, the Graduation Portfolio remains a heavy burden on most teachers and students. The degree to which people feel comfortable with the new system varies, but all in all students and staff say they understand a lot more now than they did last year.

The Graduation Portfolio is the official title for Open School's new graduation system, which goes into effect for next year's senior class. The portfolio was designed to align with the new Minnesota state standards, called the Graduation Standards, and is replacing the Validation system that Open has used for the last 27 years.

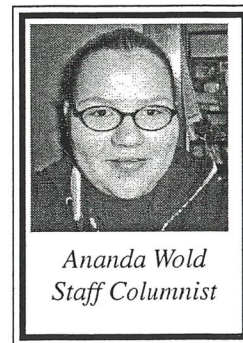
Last November, the staff held a mandatory meeting for Juniors explainin recent updates to the portfolio. At the meeting, the teachers explained the new one-sheet record

keeper. This sheet makes it easier to see what you have done and what you need to do. Most people see it as a positive addition.

"I think that the one-sheet record keeper is very helpful," said 11th grader Emily Schultz. "I mean, when you get every thing checked off in a certain area, all you need to do is shade in the box. It can't get much easier than that."

Of course that's not the only topic that was brought up at the meeting. The former counselor, Gary, and the teachers also answered questions and reviewed the Portfolio, explaining recent changes, such as revising the Post High School Plan, and correcting a mistake in the Healthy Body section. Some students still think there are things that the GRAD Continued on 10

Temptation Island



Ananda Wold
Staff Columnist

Temptation Island is just one of the very sad things Americans have come to enjoy. It's one step into the new age of television we're entering called reality TV.

Temptation Island takes place on a remote island resort just a boat ride away from Belize City, Belize. Basically four couples are put on a tropical island, then they are separated. The women at camp Mata Chica, and the men at camp Captain Morgan (like the booze).

Waiting for the men are thirteen single women ages 22-28, with professions ranging from ex-Playboy model to bass player in a rock band. Waiting for the women are thirteen single men ages 23-31, their professions range from professional motor cross racer to small business owner.

The couples will be on the island for two weeks and will not be allowed to communi-
TEMPTATION Continued on 10

Got Homework? Mostly

Homework, is it a problem at Open school? Apparently some parents and teachers think so. Parents are worried that their kids don't get enough, teachers just want students to do it. Lately the new district homework policy has been a hot topic at site council meetings and staff meetings.

Teachers and parents have been addressing the issue of homework at Open School and whether or not they give enough to prepare students for college.

"I think giving us more homework is retarded," said Duncan Holmstrom, 11th grader at St. Paul Open School. "The problem at Open isn't that they don't give us enough homework, it's the homework completion that is the problem."



Miranda Byrne
Staff Columnist

How true. Open has never been known for assigning endless hours of homework, and before I started taking classes at other schools I on average would probably only have about 30-40 minutes. of homework a night. Not a lot, but enough.

"Homework is not about minutes," Said Julie Doble, science teacher at Open Sschool, "it should be meaningful, not busy work."

With this I also agree. If people get all wound up and obsessed with making sure students are getting the right amount of hourly homework time, the whole idea behind homework will be lost. Not only will the idea behind homework be lost but yet another one of Open's qualities that makes it unique will be lost too. One reason that my mom choose Open School for me was because she liked the fact that they didn't put so much emphasis on homework and there wasn't that pressure of grades. See,
HOMEWORK Continued on 7

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Staff Profile: Our New Counselor Renee

As most of you already know, Renee is Open School's new counselor. She took over for Gary when he retired.

Before working at Open School, Renee was a counselor at Dayton's Bluff.

Renee is married with three children and seven grandchildren. She graduated from Washington High School and then went to Concordia College. She got her Bachelors degree from Hamline University and her Masters degree

from the University of Minnesota.

Renee was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but has no memory of that because she was raised in St. Paul. She was adopted and at the age of 51 she tried to find her birth mother, only to find out she had died. She met one of her mother's sisters and found

out she was the only child her mother ever had. Her Aunt had also told her that she was the only one that knew about the adoption.

Renee also got to meet her mother's brother and his wife in Wisconsin.

Renee enjoys being at Open School. She says she likes the advisory system and the atmosphere. Outside of school she likes to spend time at her cabin up north, and she likes to spend time with her grandchildren and go to their sports games.

"The most important thing in life is to treat others the way you want to be treated, and the most important ingredient is love. We are more alike than different. Don't let the differences hang us up," said Renee. ♦



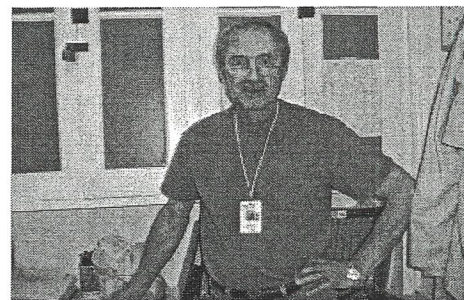
DI Competition

Tomorrow is the Destination Imagination (DI) regional competition. Open will have eight teams competing to move on to the state competition.

Open has a good chance of getting some teams to state competition, but it would be too much to hope to do as well as last year, according to coach Susanne Hollingsworth. "It would be a miracle," said Susanne, recalling last year's performance, when all of open school's secondary teams advanced to state.

Teams are still adjusting to the switch to DI from Odyssey of the Mind, which took place last year. Last year teams faced the challenge of building with pasta instead of classic balsa wood. This year the structure problem called Triplicity allows teams to use balsa, but they also have to use paper.

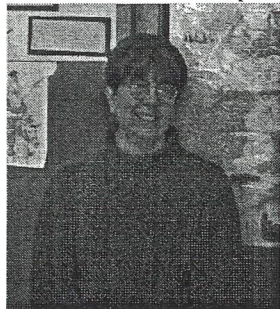
Three of Open School's level S teams have no team to compete against tomorrow, but they would like to see a large fan turnout nevertheless. ♦



Here are the competition times for Open teams;
Triplicity level E: 1:00 pm
Triplicity level M: 10:40 am
Triplicity level S: 9:30 am
IncreDible TechEffects level S: 9:50 am
Anonymously Yours level M: 1:40 pm
Anonymously Yours level S: 2:00 pm
Mystery Loves Company level M: 11:20 am
Mystery Loves Company level S: 8:20 am

England Trip

On March 28, teachers Bridget Martin and Connye Lacombe will lead 16 Open School students on a tour of England. The students raised money by selling a plethora of candy and pop, a large chunk of miscellaneous items at the Open School sponsored garage sales, as well as flower bulbs and books. They are also planning a British High Tea on March 8 at 6pm, which will be the last fund raiser.

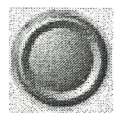


Their itinerary includes three days in Hastings, on the south coast. On April 1st, they are heading up to London to join the main tour. They are also going to visit Bath and Stonehenge.



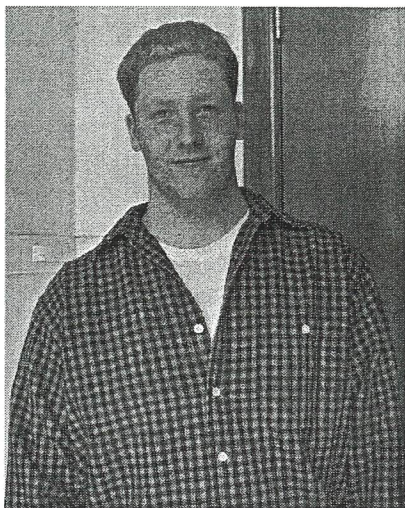
Outward Bound Fun!

This year's Outward Bound plan have been set for Leadville, Colorado from April 28th until May 3rd. Sixteen students will be attending this trip and Julie Doble, director of Outward Bound at Open School says, "I'm excited, I wish we were going tomorrow." ♦



Joseph Molitor

Senior Profile



How many years have been at Open School?

6 years

If you could be an animal what animal would you be?

A horse

What do you plan on doing after high school?

Going to Minneapolis Community and Tech, for black and white

photography.

Where do you see your self in 30 years?

With my own photography business selling my own art and maybe, I'll have a family.

What will you miss most about Open?

Friends and a lot of teachers

Groundhog Tradition Goes Way Back

Dan Skelley
Staff Writer

February 2 has come and gone and if the groundhog saw his shadow it would mean six more weeks of winter. For us Minnesotans, it doesn't matter. The groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, don't wake up until at least March in this state. So we end up with seven to eight more weeks of winter.

Have you ever wondered where Groundhog's day came from? I'll tell you. Groundhog's day comes from the holiday Candlemas day. If the sun came out on Candlemas day, it meant more winter, hence the shadow part of the Legend. The reason it is on February 2 is because the day falls between the winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox

When German settlers arrived in what is now called Pennsylvania. In the 1700s, they brought Candlemas Day with them, Superstition held that if the weather was fair, the second half of winter would be stormy and cold. Some believed that hibernating animals could predict the weather. If they went back to their den it meant they were returning to



of Groundhog Day began on February 2, 1886 with a proclamation in The Punxsutawney Spirit by the newspaper's editor, Clymer Freas: "Today is groundhog's day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The groundhog was given the name "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary" His debut performance: no shadow, early Spring or so they say. ♦

hibernating. So the two beliefs merged.

The United States official groundhog is kept in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's first celebration

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TEACHER?

Welcome to teacher trivia where I ask the question "How much do you know about your educators?" There are ten questions and four possible answers.

Your teachers are: A) Julie Doble B) Greg Adams C) Bridget Martin D) Leo

1) Who did not meet their father until they were 21?

2) Who was a college gymnast?

3) Who was under water for more than 24 hours without coming up?

4) Who was a Dungeons and Dragons freak in middle school?

5) Who climbed Kilimanjaro, the largest mountain in Africa?

6) Who saw Paul Robeson play Othello live?

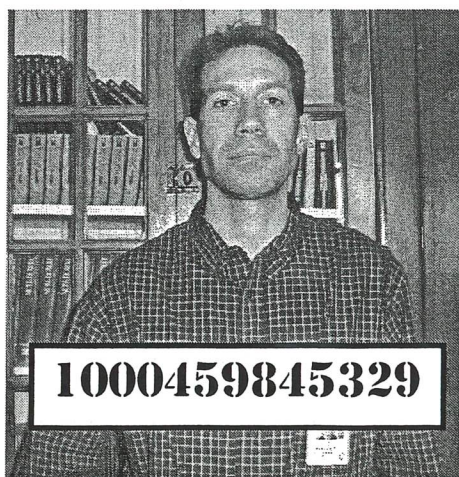
7) Who went rafting down the Rio Grande?

8) Who had pet horses as a child? Bonus: What were their names?

9 and 10 both have two answers.

9) Which teachers were not born in the USA?

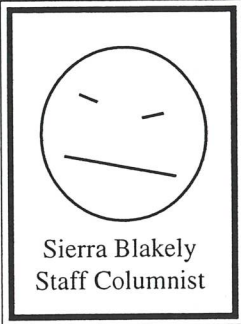
10) Who got the exact same score on the Meyer-Briggs personality test?



Attention! Have YOU seen this teacher? He is considered strange and extremely literate. If you see this person in the building be sure to say 'Hi Leo' immediately!

Opinions 'n' Staff

Adventure Girls



Sierra Blakely
Staff Columnist

"Help wanted: three young, courageous girls ready to duke it out in nature's toughest conditions," the sign on the coffee shop window read. "See interviewer inside."

Cara, Sierra, and Caitlin, three adolescent girls, all very good friends and seldom apart, were huddled around the sign.

"Well, I guess this is the place," said Sierra. "We should probably go in."

"It looks locked," said Caitlin doubtfully. "Maybe we should come back later."

"Well, I don't know about you two, but I didn't snowshoe all the way out of town just to find out it's closed. See, right on the ad it says that it's open 'til nine, and it's just past six now!"

"You're right, let's go," Caitlin nodded, reaching for the handle. The door creaked softly on its hinges, leading them into the coffee house, a dusty room with one table in the middle of the room, highlighted by a light.

Approaching warily, the three girls gathered around the table, each silently reading the single piece of paper that lay with a slight layer of dust on it.

'Welcome Caitlin, Sierra and Cara. You are here because you wish to be the next adventure-girls, battling nature's toughest climates in an effort to be the next explorer's of our generation,' it read.

"Any theories on why they know our names?" Caitlin asked suspiciously.

"No, and keep reading," said Cara, scanning the paper with a look of concentration.

'You will have only one chance. You have 24 hours in which to prove yourselves, and you can only use the things that you brought and the survival kits that are under this table.' The note was accompanied by a detailed map of the area, showing the town to be pretty close.

"That doesn't look too hard," Cara said.

"Yeah, but I don't like this anonymous crap,"

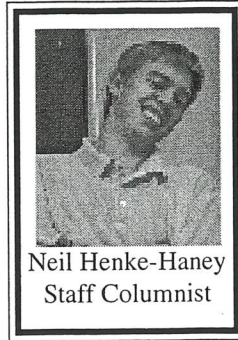
ADVENTURE Continued on 8

The XFL Can Go To HEL

I first heard about the new Xtreme Football League (XFL) during a commercial break for a regular season Vikings game, I thought, football by the same goons that brought us Monday Night Raw, I ain't

watchin'. However, on Saturday February 3, I received a message from my fellow football viewing friend telling me to come over and watch the debut game of the XFL. When I called him back, I explained my stance and my plans to go to Lake Phalen and watch car racing on ice, but after a lengthy conversation, he explained to me some XFL rules that differ from NFL rules and I figured I'd give it a shot.

The rules differences included, no penalties on late hits, so after plays quarterbacks and kickers should theoretically get tackled. No fair catches, so on punts and kickoffs you



Neil Henke-Haney
Staff Columnist

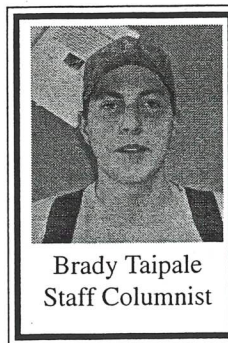
basically have to catch the ball and run no matter how ready a defender is ready to attack. Also, if the ball is punted more than 25 yards it is anybody's ball. The only other alteration is that instead of a coin toss to figure out who gets first possession, opposing players run from fifteen yards away to a stationary football and who ever gains possession of it in the end gets the choice.

At around 6:30 I went to watch the game after a quick stop at Super America. I picked up a large bag of Cooler Ranch Doritos, a 20 oz. bottle of A&W cream soda and six feet of grape flavored bubble tape. These were all the snackables I deemed necessary for what I thought would be a three hour football game.

As I watched the player introductions, I knew that the XFL was going nowhere fast. In the NFL, player introductions last only a small fraction of the entire game, and include only the player's name, position and, in playoff games, what college they attended. However, with the XFL, players say their

XFL Continued on 8

Jesse Has Right to Earn \$



Brady Taipale
Staff Columnist

Jesse Ventura has received a lot of criticism lately for accepting a role as a color commentator for the new XFL. People have said that he is giving the state a bad name by using outside opportunities to gain extra

money.

I still don't see what the big deal is. In fact, it surprises me that people who criticize Ventura actually thought that he wouldn't use his fame to make more money. Didn't people vote for him because he was not a career politician, and didn't they want a governor that was not like the others? He is a celebrity, what did they expect he would do.

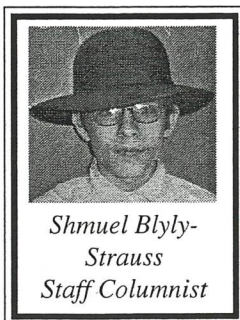
This is not the first time I have found myself defending the governor's outside ac-

tivities. Last year, the same people were so surprised that Ventura was going to be a guest referee for some dumb wrestling deal on cable TV. If Governor Carlson had ever been a guest referee for a gopher game, nobody would have cared.

I have heard Ventura critics say that he is not taking his job seriously, or is not being professional about governing. So far, he really hasn't been a bad governor. In fact, he is actually doing a somewhat good job at it. Isn't that all we should care about, instead of getting so upset over things we knew he would have done anyway?

As long as this XFL thing won't affect the state at all, I don't know why people care so much if he does something else to gain money. I don't think he is making the state look bad either. Minnesota has always been joked about in other parts of the country, I think Jesse Ventura makes us look better, more interesting, and less boring. ♦

Build A Computer Part: Construction



For the construction, you start by taking the box. Then, you check to see if it already has a power source or whether you need to get one separately. The easiest

way to accomplish that is to look at the back of the box and see if there is a three-flat-pronged plug built into something in the box. If this is the case, then you already have a power source, and you can go on to other things.

If there is no plug, then you need to open the box. Most boxes have several screws in the back that you can just unscrew, and then slide the outer section of the box off. After that, you should be able to notice a large, squarish area with a large hole towards the back of the box. This is where the power source should go. There are generally some screw holes so that you can screw the power source into place. Be aware that there are many different sizes of power sources, so you should first check

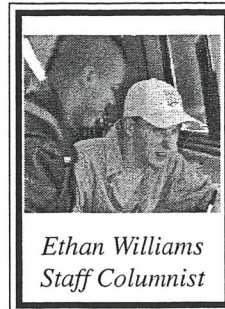
what size power source you need and then go get it if your box didn't come with one.

Next, there should be another area with several rectangular slots running along the back of the box. There should be another area with screw holes that should be perpendicular to the slots. This is where the motherboard should go. There will be some plugs from the power source that fit onto the motherboard. These are to give it power. They are the only ones that will fit, and there should either be two of them or one that is labeled P1.

Next, there will be a row of three or four different types of slots on the motherboard. The topmost tend to be the RAM slots. The RAM chips will go there. The remaining ones are for miscellaneous cards that add additional features to the computer. The monitor card will go into one of these slots, with the monitor plug-in facing out the slot.

Next, the drives. On the back of the floppy drive, there will be two spots with little pins in them, one with a double-row of pins, one in one short row. The one short row is where the power plugs into the floppy drive from the power source. There may be several that
COMPUTER Continued on 9

Nana: A Crucial Link



My 92-year old grandmother, who prefers to be called Nana, lives alone in a bright yellow, one story ranch on a small man-made creek in Mauston, Wisconsin. Her floor is carpeted with puke

green shag carpeting, which has been around for nearly twice as long as I have. The interior of her home is surfaced with wood, aged and slightly darkened from forty years of cigarette smoke, accumulated dust, and perspiration deposited on the walls from the bodies of past and present occupants.

Nana leaves her home only a few times a year to go to various dentist, doctor, and optometrist appointments. She has been surviving for the last few years on Ensure, tapioca pudding, macaroni and cheese, and Mylanta.

In remembering my humble past, I turn to my memories of the frequent trips to visit Nana's home. Nana explained the joys of her time in this world to me. She has always stressed the fact that nothing in this world is perfect, and that life is fun, but one must use their personal strength to find their own well being in life. She never actually comes out and tells us how she has gotten through life. She just says something like, "Yea, it has been good, but there have been a lot of hard times too."

I have learned to listen to Nana's stories about life with a very sensitive ear. When she was born in 1911, life was very different. Much of what we depend on every day for survival had not even been invented yet, no TV, no Airplanes, no computers, and barely any cars, so people were much more responsible for their own happiness and survival than those of my generation.

Nana's father died in 1918 of the flu epidemic. She was forced to quit attending school and begin working at the age of eleven to support her grandmother, brother, sister, and finally herself. She never went back to school and hadn't even received a junior high diploma, but still had the ability to organize, type, and dictate letters. She worked long and hard hours as a typist.

Her sense of strength, determination, and courage enabled her to successfully support herself. She became more and more aware of herself as an independent soul on this
NANA Continued on 9

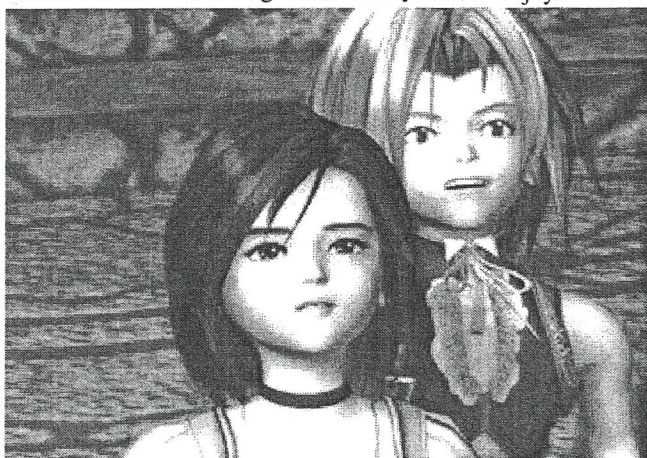
Final Fantasy IX: The Best Yet

Mackenzie Byrne
Staff Critic

Recently, Final Fantasy IX hit the shelves of stores all around the nation. Critics call it the best Final Fantasy for the Playstation. This game rocks. When I got back from Funcoland, I popped disk one into my Playstation and played it until 12:30 on a school night.

The game starts out in the quaint little kingdom of Alexandria. Alexandria is a city that looks like something out of a fairy tale,

with a giant sword blade sticking out the top of the castle to boot. Zidane, our hero, is on an assignment to kidnap the princess of Alexandria. The thing is, she wants to be kidnaped. So the adventure starts, and what a long one it is. This game takes you through getting 8 characters that you can control and grow to love, 4 continents for you to explore, and over 50 hours of game play that you can enjoy.



Final Fantasy IX is the most recent installment of the, duh, Final Fantasy RPG (Role Playing Game) series, the 3rd and last one to appear on the Sony Playstation. The most significant differences between Final Fantasy IX and older final fantasies are Final Fantasy IX is set in a more mystical fantasy world than the last two Final Fantasies (VII and VIII where more Sci-Fi), and has a lot

FANTASY Continued on 10

TV: The Way The Purple Press Sees It

Survivor 2

Cameron Beitler
Staff Critic

On January 29, millions of viewers tuned in to watch the premier of Survivor II The Australian Outback, the sequel to Survivor I. The sixteen castaways were sent to the Australian Outback. As in the first survivor, the castaways are split into two tribes: Kucha and Ogakor.

The first episode was supposed to introduce you to the castaways. In this Survivor, the people are much younger than in the first series. The oldest person on Survivor II is 53, unlike the first one where there were three people over 60.



The cast of Survivor II

Like in Survivor I the, new show has immunity challenges. The winner doesn't have to vote someone off the island. Wait a minute it isn't an island. In the first episode, the Ogakor won the challenge. They had to bring a torch through 4 legs of a race all over water so they didn't have to vote someone off the whatever it is and recieved canteen of waterproof matches. The Kucha tribe, on the other hand, had to go to tribal council. Going to tribal council is bad news. Not only do you have to vote someone off, you also have to put up with the annoying host, Jeff Probst.

My guess is that this series will last longer than the first series. The people are more attractive, and we don't have to watch a ugly guy walk around naked. Survivor II will still be based on strategy, like the first series. People will have to go behind people's backs and vote them off which makes the show more interesting. As the show starts to get fewer and fewer castaways, people will start to form alliances with other people. It will be interesting to see who aligns with who. This is one of the main reasons I think this show will stay interesting. Stay tuned to CBS Thursdays at 7 to find out. ♦

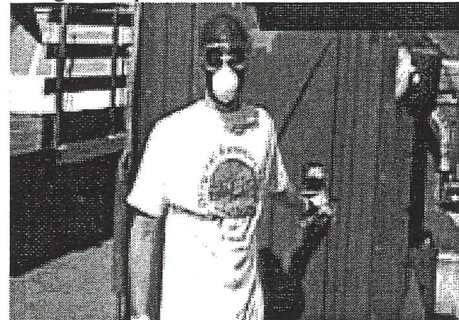
Jackass

Tony Cavanaugh
Staff Critic

A grown man jumps into the pure sewage "LA River" on roller skates, with another grown man wearing bunny ears and a thong as his lifeguard. Another grown man swallows a gold fish and throws it back up into its fish tank, unharmed. Is it a Louisiana family reunion? No. It's Jackass. The new show on MTV.

Jackass is America's reason to laugh again. Who wouldn't like watching 20 year old men running around naked, destroying things, disrupting public events, playing public pranks, and hurting themselves, all for your pleasure as you sit at home watching MTV.

Jackass is set in California, and stars Bam Margera and Johnny Knoxville. They have been doing this since they were 10 years old. Margera, a professional skate boarder, and



Johnny Knoxville

Knoxville, a professional skate boarding commentator, started the show just by doing stupid things on big brother skate videos. Much of what they do has been edited out because MTV can not air it. Most of the things edited out are "The greatest Jackass things to do," Says 11th grader Chris Schmidt. Things such as an anonymous man projecting his poop 3 feet, Johnny Knoxville running into the middle of the woods and shooting himself in the chest at point blank range.

My personal favorite Jackass act is "off-road scootin'," where cast member Ehren McGhehey travels around on a Razor scooter and runs into curbs and anything else that may get in his way. Another personal favorite is when Jason "Wee-Man" Acuna, Jackass's three foot tall, crazy skate boarding midget dresses up as an Oompa Loompa and skateboards around scaring people. He

JACKASS Continued on 10

Gary and Mike

Sue Moua
Staff Critic

Gary and Mike want to beat up Chyna, a WWF wrestler. Mike is thrown face first into the turn buckle and then Gary jumps in to help him. Instead, he gets beat up by Chyna. Finally this gay guy who really likes Gary gets mad and beats her up. This is one of the wacky scenes you can see on the new show Gary and Mike on channel 9 every Friday at 7 p.m.

Gary and Mike is about two 21 year old Caucasian men on a road trip across America. The claymation stars in this show are Gary Newton and Mike Bonner. Gary's voice is played by Chris Moynihan and Mike's voice is played by Harland Williams. The executive producers are Fax Bahr, Adam Small and Will Vinton.

The first episode I saw was about Gary going on the Lewis and Clark trial by using his fathers's SUV. Then, out of nowhere, Mike jumps in because he's being chased by a cop for sleeping with the cop's daughter. Later on Mike gets the SUV completely destroyed when he picks up a hitchhiker. The hitchhiker turns out to be a hijacker and steals their clothes and the SUV.



Gary and Mike

A funny part that I saw was when Gary and Mike went into a strip bar, Where Gary said

"Can I get change for a dollar," because he didn't want to spend a

whole dollar on a stripper. Gary is a responsible guy, but is afraid of going back home to his father as a failure. Mike is a cool slacker that likes girls and always gets in trouble.

This show is basically targeted to males aged 12 to 34. I think the producers are getting the viewers to watch because I know that a lot of people my age or older are watching. This show is worth people's time because it's the only good show on Friday. Unfortunately Gary and Mike has to get more than a 1.0 house hold rating or it will be canceled ♦

HOMEWORK From 1

when it come to homework and grades I can tend to get a little neurotic, obsessive if you will. It's hard to explain, I guess I just get into this frame of mind where Homework becomes life and I can't relax until I finish it. Because of this I am grateful to go to Open where I am able to have a life outside of school.

This brings up another point about homework which I would like to address. Teenagers and the social aspect of their life. Teen years are hard enough as it is with all the emotional changes and added responsibility that is going on, friends are important and having time to hang out with them and have fun is important too. When you are expected to devote 5 hours to homework a night it makes this part of life a little hard a

For those of you interested, here are how many minutes a day the St. Paul Public Schools Homework Policy says we should have :

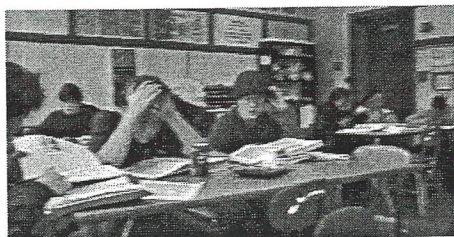
Kindergarten-- 15min.

Grades 1-3-- 30min.

Grades 4-6-- 45min.

Grades 7-8-- 90min.

Grades 9-12-- 135min.



Arthur Minnerly and Cameron Beidler concentrate on their math.

little hard.

It may not seem like a lot just looking at the numbers, but they do add up. And you also have to understand that a lot of kids participate in after school activities and have jobs.

After talking to a couple of students I found that on average 7-8th graders have about 30 minutes of homework a night and that 9-12th graders have about 30 minutes to 2 hours a night depending on the kind of classes they are taking. Of course the amount of homework they have is not what is important but the amount completed that counts. So in conclusion, beware that trouble is brewing on the home front and there may be more homework being assigned in the near future. ◇

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Lives Up to the Hype

Joe Ring

Staff Critic

If you're looking for one of the best movies of the year, this is it. Its got action, romance, and it looks really cool. Yes, that's right I am talking about a film from China called *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*.

The subtitled film is set in 19th century China, where "Wuxia" warriors roamed the lands. It is a mysterious time where Confucius practicing warriors are able to perform flying techniques and jump without gravity. They are like noble knights of Asia.

One of these warriors, Chow Yun Fat, or Li, gives his infamous 500 year old jade sword "Green Destiny" to his loyal friend and secret love Yeoh, she is suppose to deliver it to the governor so Li can retire. On the way the sword is stolen from Yeoh and a whole other story unfolds around princess Yu Shu, Chang Zi Yi, and her life. Basically it jumps directly into part 4 of a 5 section novel by Wang Dulu.

The villain of the story is a ninja by the name of Jade Fox (Chang Peipei). She has trained Yu Shu into this ultimate warrior. Her greed is only matched by her ignorance as she continually attempts to steal the "Green Destiny".

The funny thing about this movie is how it breaks sexist stereotypes of Asia. For the longest time males have been getting all the lead roles in movies. (I mean the women look tougher in this movie then the guys do). Even though women have been practicing martial arts for centuries now. Chang Zi Yi does an awesome job at playing out her confusion between right and wrong love and

loyalty.

The choreography of the movie is just amazing. The same stunt men from Hong Kong who planned out the Matrix also worked on this film. All I have to say is wow, they've really taken it up a notch since their American debut. They are really in there element with this film though. They also had a lot more time to work with the actors too. With the Matrix all the actors trained for 3 months with crouching tiger each actor trained for a whole year.

There is this one fight with Jade Fox were they are all using real weapons. The moves are so intricate. They dodge each swing within an inch of the blades. I mean if you look closely you can see the hair chunks get cut off.

I personally would give this movie five out of five donkeys. That's perfect on the Joe scale, which is kind of like the Richter scale strangely enough. I thought the complexities of the characters were great and the story was seamless, despite the fact that it cuts right into the middle of a book. Plus, it looked really cool.

The producers of the

movie are talking about making a sequel and a prequel of the movie to cover the rest of the book. I can't wait until the next movie. ◇



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ADVENTURE From 4

said Caitlin pointedly. "It either means that they're someone I don't want to meet, or they're not for real . . ."

Caitlin's griping was cut short when a booming voice filled the room.

"Trust me, I am VERY for real!"

Almost to accentuate the voice's point, a giant pine tree came crashing down through the roof, collapsing the area of the room where the three girls stood, trapping them in a pocket under the debris, supported only by a beam that was slowly giving way.

"Remember, you have one day to get back home" the voice said.

"Caitlin, you and your griping! You just had to tick them off, I mean honestly," Sierra said, trying to dislodge some of the rubble. "Come on you guys, this isn't because Caitlin had an attitude problem, didn't you realize that one day was more than enough time to finish that assignment? this is the real test: we have to work together to get out of here."

"Well, let's get going then," Caitlin remarked nonchalantly, as if trying to shove aside the previous argument. Climbing to the highest

point of their cave, Caitlin took one of her snowshoes and began scraping wood and cement away, making slow progress. Climbing up by her, Cara and Sierra began following suit. After about 15 minutes, Cara, angrily shoving her snowshoe into the rubble, was finally rewarded with cold winter air.

"Come on you guys, I've made it! We're out!" Struggling through the small opening, Sierra climbed out of the hole and sat panting on the remains of the building. One at a time, Cara and Caitlin crawled out and sat down next to her on the ruined insulation. Standing, Cara surveyed the situation they were in, holding her hand in front of her eyes to block the falling snow.

"Uh, you guys, we have a dilemma. If we start now, then we won't have enough time to make it all the way back tonight. On the other hand, we wouldn't have enough time if we waited until tomorrow."

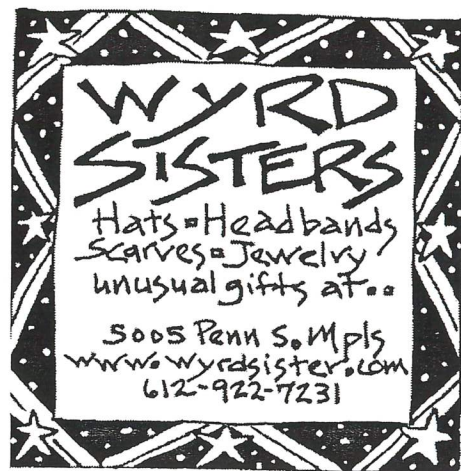
The three girls sat in gloomy silence until Caitlin perked up.

"Hey, what about those survival kits and tents that were under the table back there?" As far as I know, that's where they still are,"

said Sierra, a smile quickly spreading across her face. "You thinkin' what I'm thinkin'?" looking over at Cara who had disappeared inside, coming back momentarily holding three packs triumphantly.

"Well, what are we waiting for?" Caitlin asked.

Setting boldly out into the night, the three teenagers trudged along, each thinking different thoughts. ♦



XFL From 4

name, position and then start yelling about how good they are and how well they will perform. Some players even went as far as to give shot outs to their "Boys" and "Babysmamas". After some thirty minutes of these introductions, the game finally began.

"It seemed like the players in the XFL were guys who couldn't make it in arena football, and guys who play arena football are unintelligent, washed up college players who never made it through the NFL draft and didn't want to move away to play in the NFL Europe"

The first thing I noticed was the talent, or lack thereof. I have watched many college football games, but it was still easy to see how much more skill there is in the NCAA as opposed to the XFL. I noticed this because any pass over fifteen yards was a lob pass. Receivers often dropped passes for no reason. It seemed like there might have been a little talent in the running game, but as it turned out, the defense was just that

bad. To me, it seemed like the players in the XFL were guys who couldn't make it in arena football, and guys who play arena football are unintelligent, washed up college players who never made it through the NFL draft and didn't want to move away to play in the NFL Europe.

The timing was also terrible in the XFL. A fifteen minute quarter lasted nearly an hour. I would have never guessed, that because they shortened the play clock by at least five seconds. The remaining time was wasted on shots of cheerleaders, sound and visuals of the coaches calling plays and locker room shots from before the game. After a play where the Las Vegas Outlaws scored a touchdown, the camera skipped to a shot of the Outlaws quarterback and a cheerleader talking in an empty locker room. The cheerleader says with a smile, "The Outlaws quarterback really knows how to score." And he replies. "I just what for the safety to drop out of coverage and then unload a pass." Unlike the NFL, cameras are allowed in the locker rooms and microphones are on coaches and players so the fans can hear the "xtreme hits." This appears to be the same fans that like monster trucks, tractor pulls and the Jerry Springer show.

As I watched more, I noticed that players could have any name or nickname placed

on the back of their jersey. So dumb, wrestling-like names appeared on a majority of players jerseys. One that really got to me was the Las Vegas Outlaws running back who had "HE HATE ME" written on the back. I wanted to know what this meant, and my curiosity was satisfied at halftime when he was interviewed. When asked to explain what "HE HATE ME" meant, he replied "see the other sideline, they all hate me cause I'm so good." I then got to thinking, this guy doesn't have enough talent to play D1 college ball, and second, didn't "THEY HATE ME" fit in the allotted space on the jersey.

Even the names of the teams are bad. There are no names like the Bears, Patriots or Jets. They had names like the Outlaws, Rage, Demons, Blitz or Maniax (correct spelling) just to name a few. To me it seemed like a couple of fifth graders made them up while playing football at the local rec. center.

Everything about this league is bad. I don't expect it to last any longer than Pogs or Pokemon cards. So if you ask me, I'd rather sit outside in the cold, on a metal lawn chair, drinking unsweetened KoolAid, while watching reruns of Blossom than watch another ten minutes of the XFL. ♦

planet.

Nana loved to dance. At 23 she and two other female friends utilized the resources available to them at the time. Traveling thousands of miles aboard a train owned by her employer, they arrived at the Florida Keys. Then they hopped aboard a small fairy boat and traveled ninety more miles to the Island of Cuba.

Nana and her friends spent the next three days dancing with various people in many different Cuban dance clubs. Currently, Americans aren't even allowed to go to Cuba without having a visa. Three young white women from Chicago who just want to meet new people and dance would never be granted permission to make such a venture nowadays.

Nana has survived many American era's, such as the great depression and World War Two. She has gained a first hand look at history which I will never be able to truly grasp.

Nana worked for a period in her late teen years as a secretary. She made her money taking notes and dictating documents for clients in an upscale Hotel in Chicago during the 1920's and 30's. I faintly remember her describing one of her clients to me. She described him as one of Chicago's largest mafia leaders at the time.

I chose to write about Nana because she has always been in my life. from supplying one fourth of my genes to nagging me when I have her refrigerator door open for too long. She's one of the most unique people I've ever known. Her life is an amazement to me, because she never lived to make money and prosper financially in a world where capitalism dominates and spending money for kicks is a common phenomenon. Instead, she focused her energy on raising her four sons and daughter and her many grandchildren. I admire her sense of strength and resilience, her final years will not be lavished in material luxury, but lavished in the wealth of positive energy passed through her household by visiting family and loved ones. Nana's influence in my life has given me a sense of hope and motivation to live my life in the drab reality of our chaotic civilization, which has focused all too much energy on the production of goods and not on the production of love, health, and honest happiness.

Right now she is waiting at the ripe old age of ninety something. It is probably the longest wait of her life, she is waiting for the end of her physical being on this riotous world. For the time when she is once again reunited with her past love, who died of heart failure in 1979. Some day Nana will be buried next to Tex in a small cemetery just a few miles from where she has lived for the past twenty or so years.

Whether I am visiting her with my sister and brother on a snowy winter weekend, or honoring her through silent meditation after I can no longer give her a simple hug to express my gratitude, I will always be amazed by the life she has lived and thankful that she has been such a strong a part of mine. ♦

would fit there, but it doesn't matter which one you plug in, just as long as there is one plugged in. Next, you have to hook up the floppy drive to the motherboard. The floppy cable will have at least two pieces of plastic along it. There will be a red line along one side, which identifies which side has the pin one. There will be an area on the floppy drive near the cable plug in that will have numbers on it. On one side of this area there will be either a number one or two. This is the pin one on the floppy drive.

Next, you insert the plastic part on the cable that has a twist just before it into the drive plug, making sure that the pin ones are lined up. Next, look for an area on the motherboard with a double row of pins. There will be several, so you will have to check which one is the right length to accommodate the other plastic thing on the cable. Check near that area on the motherboard to find a one or two to locate the pin one. Plug the other end of the floppy cable into the motherboard, making sure that the pin ones are lined up.

Okay, you're almost done. All that's left is the hard drive and the monitor and power cables. The hard drive will have some areas similar to the floppy drive on the back. There will be several power plugs that will fit into the power area on the hard drive. Again, there may be several that would fit into that area, but it doesn't matter which one you plug in. The hard drive cable is like the floppy drive, except there is no twist and the plastic things are slightly wider. You plug the hard drive cable in pretty much the same way as you plugged the floppy cable in. Then, you plug the monitor cable into the monitor card. On the back of the monitor, there will be an area where you can plug in one end one of the power cables. The other plugs into any three-prong outlet. Next, repeat the plug-in process with the power source.

Although the basic assembly is now complete, the computer is not operational yet. You don't have an Operating System, or OS. You start by either getting some type of DOS install software and then follow the directions it gives you. An alternative way is to go to an operational computer and go to DOS. On a Windows 95/98 computer, this is accomplished by clicking on Start, going to Programs, and clicking on the icon labeled MS-DOS Prompt. On a computer with windows 3.0/3.1/3.11, go to the Main group and double click on the MS-DOS icon. After you get to DOS, all you have to do is put in a blank floppy disk and type format a:/s. Now you have a boot disk. Next, put the boot disk into the floppy drive of your computer-in-progress and press the power button. After a while, you should see a screen that has a simple A:\>. Next, you type format c:/s. Now, you should have DOS on your computer and can move on to install Windows and whatever other software you need or want. That's all. ♦

The Purple Press' Post-Valentines Day Acknowledgement . . .

1. I choo choo choose you
2. Be mine
3. What's your sign?
4. Elvis
5. How you doin'?
6. If I rearranged the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.
7. Did it hurt when you fell from heaven?
8. Are you tired? Because you've been running through my mind all day.
9. Are you Jamaican 'cause you Jamaican me crazy!
10. Want to read The Purple Press with me?

Fantasy From 5

of elements of older Final Fantasy games. For example they brought back Black and White magics (attack/curative and defensive). Also, you can have four members of your party on your team, just like in the days of V and VI. But it's not all old stuff, they updated the graphics. The graphics in Final Fantasy IX are better than FFVIII, and the CG movies are awesome. The guys over at Squaresoft put in plenty of movies-- lots of them for me. . . I mean you to drool over.

The cast of characters in Final Fantasy

IX is the most memorable of any Final Fantasy game I've played. They have interesting personalities and there is pretty good development for all of them. Like at the end, when every character talks about their feelings. They also say funny things like, "That monkey deserves no praise." Oh my lard, the story is good. No, great, super great, amazing. It is interesting from beginning to end and in my opinion the best Final Fantasy story line ever.

As for the game play itself the battle system hasn't changed. It's still the turn-based

battle style seen on the other Final Fantasies. Not much innovation here, but that's not a bad thing. I like that style. One thing that is annoying though, is the constant random battles can get, well, annoying. But if you have played many RPG's, you're probably used to that. They did improve the battles a bit; they're faster now.

So here is the Final scoop FFIIX Rocks!!! On a scale from 1 to 10 it gets like an 11. This game is possibly the single best game I have ever played. ◇

TEMPTATION From 1

cate with each other until the last day, when each one will answer the question "Have I found the right one, or is there someone better out there?"

One couple is Ytossi and Taheed. Ytossi is 34 and an executive administrator. Taheed is 29 and a production assistant. This couple was asked to leave when the producers discovered the two of them had a child previous to the show. Chris one of the producers told them "As a network FOX would not put two parents in a situation where they would be tempted to separate and FOX couldn't possibly let the two stay on the island and jeopardize a child's future."

Another couple is Valerie and Kaya. Valerie is 29 year old real estate agent. Kaya is 28 and a model. These two seem like the strongest couple, my prediction is these two will stay together, but who knows what shocking revelation will be on the next episode.

The least interesting couple, in my opinion, is Shannon and Andy. Shannon age 26 is an attorney. Andy, also age 26 is the owner of a kayaking company. I'm unsure of how their relationship will turn out, but they both say "We're just here to have fun."

And last, but not least, is my personal favorite Billy and Mandy. Billy is 26 and the manager of a outdoor sports store. Mandy age 22 is an aspiring singer. This couple is the spunkiest. They are just plain fun to watch, especially when they get in to fights (which is most of the time). In one

"As I began to watch Temptation Island, I became addicted. I now enjoy watching it. When I watch it, I never take it seriously, but then I began to think about the people who do. What messages is this show sending to those people?"

episode Billy sees a video clip of Mandy's less than conservative date and gets very upset. He then went to one of the women's cabins and performed a strip tease for the ladies. On the next episode Mandy saw what he did and she started to cry and all she said

was "Billy looked like a F*@\$ing slut."

In writing this story I've come upon some dilemmas. For instance, when I first saw the show I couldn't stand to watch more than five minutes, so I decided to write a review on it and as any good critic would do I watched it several more times. As I began to watch the show, I became addicted. I now enjoy watching it. When I watch it, I never take it seriously, but then I began to think about the people who do. What messages is this show sending to those people?

Then I began to think about how any one could take this show seriously, I mean this show is just so stupid it's funny. I also began thinking about whether or not I should finish this story with my new found moral dilemmas. What I mean is should I go ahead and finish my review even though I found the show comical, or should I lie and say I hated it, or maybe I just shouldn't turn it in?

Well the results of my decision is this story. This mangled review/column thing. So even though Temptation Island is a funny show to watch it poses some questions on television morals. Unfortunately for me I've already been brain washed and I'll be sitting in front of the TV on Wednesday at 8.◇

.....
● **JACKASS From 6** ●
● and cast member Bam Margera are profes- ●
● sional skate boarders with sponsors such as ●
● Element boards and Volcom clothing. ●
● Jackass seems to be targeting everyone ●
● in 6th grade all the way up to adults, and ●
● are doing a great job of it for now. But even ●
● host, Johnny Knoxville knows it can't go ●
● on forever, despite what we all wish. Al- ●
● though there are a few flaws, such as MTV ●
● not being able to show some of the best con- ●
● tent, Jackass is THE funniest thing I have ●
● seen in a long, long time. It is definitely ●
● worth your time, so watch "Jackass Sunday" ●
● every Sunday at 8:00 on MTV. ◇ ●
●
●

GRAD From 1

teachers need to work out in the Portfolio.

"The personal development section is still really unclear," said 11th grader Miranda Byrne. "Like how much you have to do. I mean do you really have to be a peer mediator?"

All in all, students and staff tend to be positive about the new system.

"Both Gary and I were impressed with how much the kids already knew and we're very confident that it will all work out for the best. The key to making this system work is students need to remember to get things checked off and teachers

need to put standards into their curriculum," said science teacher Julie Doble.

Gary agreed: "A lot of this will be tied to class work, but the community is out there and it sure would be welcomed for you to go out there and get things checked off," he said.◇



Look, it's a
squirrel!
Squirrel's
are CUTE!