

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

-Senior Profile, pg 2

-Geoff's Gifts, pg 3

-Opinions, pg 4

Gary Prepares to Retire, Thinks Golf

Miranda Byrne
Staff Writer

Gary Vettleson, Open's counselor of three and a half years, has decided the time has come for him to retire. On January 16th Gary will pack his bags, bid us farewell and head down south to the green golf courses and sandy beaches of Florida.

"I've been a counselor for a long time," said Gary. "I've enjoyed being here but now the time has come for me to be in Florida, playing golf."

Of course the warm beckoning calls of the sunshine state are not the only reason Gary has decided to leave. Another major factor in Gary's decision is all the testing that is taking place.

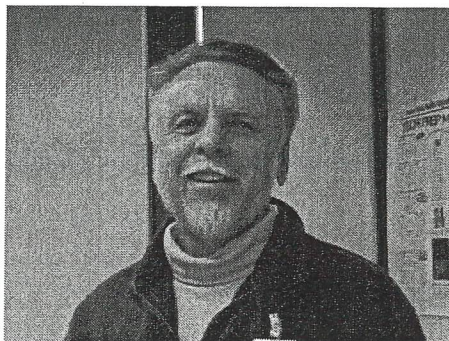
"All this testing stuff is out of control," said Gary. "It's not why I became a counselor."

After working for 11 years in an Open School program at Minneapolis South High,

Gary found that he really liked the philosophy behind the Open program. When he came to St. Paul looking for a job, he felt Open was the ideal place.

"The kids at Open are really receptive," said Gary. "I got a chance to know people here. Over at South, there were so many kids

GARY Continued on 3



Everyone will be sad to see Gary go

Probation Criteria Raises Ethical Issues

Ethan Williams
Staff Writer

It can be a school's worst nightmare. Its implementation makes schools vulnerable to change. No, I'm not talking about student uprising or revolution, what I'm describing is academic probation.

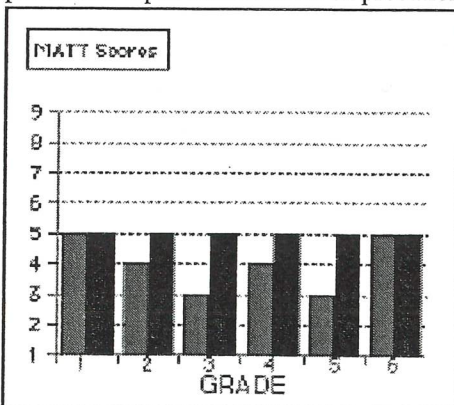
Schools who perform below the district average on MAT 7 scores will be placed on probation. Open School is not on probation

this year. Our status for next year will depend on our performance on the Spring MAT 7 tests. I question the district's strategy of placing a school on probation based solely on a standardized test score.

Probation's effects can transform a school in many ways. It can merely dent the surface of a single class curriculum or it can transform and mutate a school's entire functioning from a once distinct educational format to one without a grain of identity, a pedagogical clone of the traditional American school system.

Probation is often a scary and belittling process for a school to go through. Open School Principal Ruth Pechmann explained it as a process in which a team of district officials are sent into a school to study reasons behind its low academic achievement. The team conducts many student and staff interviews, researching how academic per-

MAT 7 Continued on 3



Open's MAT 7 scores grades one through six compared to the national average

What's Going On?

Miranda Byrne
Staff Writer

On December 15th Neil Henke-Haney, senior at Open School found himself the proud owner of the most in-demand gift of the year, a playstation II. Neil won the playstation II from a raffle drawing, held as a fund raiser for Destination Imagination and the England trip.

Speaking of Destination Imagination the time has come when Destination Imagination teams start to mold and take shape. In other words, after school practices begin. This year there will be 8 teams representing St. Paul Open School: 1 division I team, 3 division II teams and 4 division III teams. There are fewer teams this year than there were last year due to the fact that Greg Adams decided to take on less teams and stick to the older divisions.

Despite the decline in quantity, Greg still strives for the same quality as always.

"Just like any other year my hopes and expectations for the students are to have fun and learn," he said.

Next: NEDC. "Unfortunately due to people being involved in the play there will not be NEDC this year," said Connye when asked if there would be NEDC this year. With NEDC rough project plans due December 19th Connie doesn't have enough time to throw a team together.

What else is going on? For the spring play, drama teacher Bridget Martin is hoping to do a mystery of some sort, possibly "Clue." It will consist only of 9-12 graders this time, and Bridget believes that it will turn out "absolutely stupendous." ♦



Outdoor activities don't end, even in winter

The Purple Press Staff

Editors

Melissa Blythe-Strauss

Melissa Shramko

Bridgette DaSilva

Writing Monkeys

Cameron Beittler

Geoff Freeman

Joe Levine

Duncan Weinberger

Amanda Wild

Elhan Williams

Miranda Byrne

Nail Kerkas-Keray

Adult to Blame

Leo Pickelhaupf

Don and Ron Von: Like Two Peas In A Pod

Cameron Beittler

Staff Writer

Many years ago Don and Ron Von were born. At that time, no one had any idea about what kind of confusion the twins would cause at Saint Paul Open School.

Most Open Schoolers have seen Ron Von, brother of ELC teacher Don Von. Over the past few weeks, Ron has been making appearances in different classes, mostly during 3rd/4th hour. He has shown up in Leo's Thematic Journeys class, which happens to be where I am during that time. When he walked in, I really didn't notice him. When he started talking I just thought it was Don coming to have a chat with Leo. But when I looked up it wasn't Don, it was Ron!!! Now, I knew that Don had a brother but I didn't know that they were so much alike. I was scared.

Their voices, they were exactly the same. Other things that they have in common are their love of basketball and their career: they're both teachers. They look pretty close to identical, except Ron doesn't have

the facial hair and Don does. They used to look even more alike, but Ron had to get plastic surgery after he got in a car accident.

"We were very competitive with each other, but mostly we got along," Don said about growing up with a twin. According to Don, they rarely tried to fool people, although they occasionally switched jerseys in basketball to try and fool the defender.

The most alarming thing that happened is when Ron recently subbed for Don. To some people, it looked as if Don had just suddenly decided to shave before coming in to work. The voices sound exactly the same and the gestures are pretty similar too. As for the names, between Ron and Don Von there is enough ON. What if Don King had a twin brother named Ron King? Would that be acceptable?

The point of this story is to watch out the next time someone who looks like Don comes to your classroom. It just might be Ron . . . ♦

High Tech Gadgets Vs. Wooden Ducks

Geoff Freeman

Staff Writer

At first glance, Mike Garcia appears to be an ordinary senior. He has ordinary shoes, ordinary hair, and an ordinary watch. . . But wait, that's no ordinary watch.

It looks like any other watch. It has a nice big display and has the functions of any other watch, but watch out. Press a few buttons and bam! He's takin' pictures right and left, that's right! His watch can take digital pictures, a hundred at a time to be exact.

When his watch is full, he can just download the pictures onto a computer. And it only cost him \$200. "It's all worth it," says Garcia. "I think its a very useful little gadget." Right. Well, I suppose if you're a spy or something . . .

It's the time of year for the annual holiday shopping craze. Parents frantically hoping to buy the present their kid really wants should consider some of the new high tech gadgets for under the tree. After all, kids are tired of the same old things: a wagon, a wooden duck, or just some lame low-tech

present. This year there are all kinds of wacky new toys available that I'm sure any good boy or girl would be glad to get their greedy little hands on.

One of the big gifts this winter will surely be the Palm Pilot, a small hand-held computer about the size of an oversized wallet. It is capable of wireless internet services, storing tons of notes and schedules and you can play all kinds of games. Palm Pilots go for from \$400 to about \$1200. Pretty neat, huh? I'd say any 16+ year old person would enjoy one.

I think that Palm Pilots are useful and all if you're receiving it as a gift, but I'm not sure I would want to buy it for someone else.

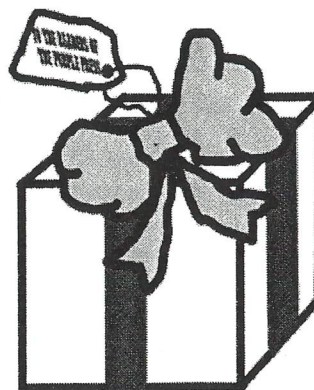
The next little item is the electronic ro-

botic puppy called Techno. The puppy goes for \$39.99 and it's pretty crazy. It acts just like a real puppy. You can teach it to do tricks. But beware, it is likely to drive any person mad with its annoying bark. The

Techno is a fun toy and half the time he actually does what you tell him to. He's sort of like last year's Furby.

So is it worthwhile to get a nifty little "toy?" I mean sure they may be able to do all sorts of cool things but is the cool to price ratio high enough to make you want to buy these nifty but expensive items? If you have money to waste and are, say, an international man of mystery, I say go for it! If

not, go with the wooden duck. ♦



Senior Profile

Per Olson



How many years have you been at open school?
5 years.

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

An otter.

What do you plan on doing after high school?

There is an after high school?

Where do you see your self in 30 years?

Acting like I don't miss Open.

What will you miss most?

The staff.

MAT 7 From 1

formance can be improved. At the end of the investigative process, the school is put on an improvement plan.

MAT 7 tests are given annually to all St. Paul public school students grades one through eleven throughout the United States. It is primarily a tool used to assess a student's ability to understand, compute, and rationalize given information through methods developed in preceding public educational experiences. The test scores, then, are a reflection of how much information a student has internalized through the teachings of school and can regurgitate in the areas of mathematics, science, reading, and social studies.

The purpose of the MAT 7, according to Ruth, is to provide "Concrete evidence" as to how well a school is educating its students. Gary Vettleson, Open's Guidance Counselor, noted that this concrete evidence is then compared to schools from across the nation. ELC teacher, Jack Mills, said the purpose of the test is to, "hold schools accountable for teaching specific content to their students."

Our ELC scores are lower than the national average. This outcome can be attributed to many variables.

The main variables shaping this outcome are the high population of students who do not speak English fluently, and having students with immense hurdles to overcome outside of school such as poverty or domestic hardship that greatly affects their school performance.

Another factor that affects our scores on the MAT7 standardized tests is that we are not a standardized educational system. We

are Open School, we cultivate the mind's capacity to be creative as well as critical and productive. "We tend to look at the whole student," said Ruth. Looking at the whole student means a lot more than simply considering their capacity to store information.

Could it be possible that this whole process of testing and comparing is simply a tactic to pride or shame a school? Is it a way of telling schools whether they have embedded enough culturally formulated rational, tactics of computation, and factual information into the minds of its students?

My point is that because there is certain content and certain notions, such as evolution, that are required of every public school to invest into the minds of its students, it (school) therefore is an oppressive institution.

The late Paulo Friere, who was a renowned educational theorist, stated that in much of South America certain teaching tactics have been outlawed because they taught students too much and would often result in uprising and government upheaval. This is a depiction of how education can be manipulated for the purpose of controlling a population, of holding a certain people down.

Finally I would like to ask you, as a fellow student, teacher, or administrator, to examine the amount of value our educational system puts upon memorization and at the expense of the development of critical thought. I encourage you to ponder whether you are in a system which is oppressive through its emphasis on content at the cost of many other important things.◇

GARY From 1

I didn't really have that chance."

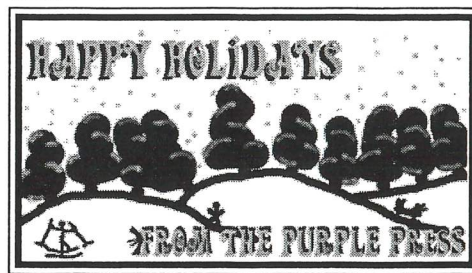
Working with the juniors and seniors and being involved in the graduation are the things Gary is going to miss most about being at Open School.

"I will still come to graduations," said Gary, "but it will be different . . . I won't be the one handing out the diploma."

Gary will miss the feeling of connection that Open has and helping kids get what they want.

"It is a black day for Open school," said science teacher Julie Doble of Gary's departure. "He was a great contribution to Open and he will be missed."

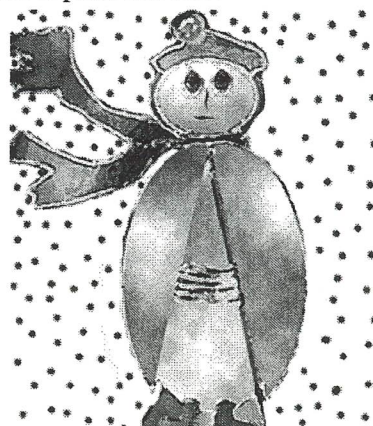
"Open School is a little gem," said Gary. "Whoever else comes in will have their own ideas but they will have to take the time to talk with people and make a connection, because that is what Open school is all about." ◇



MEDIA From 4

from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. I saw 60 commercials in all, 35 were unrelated, 10 were aimed at Christmas, nine were neutral, six were imposing, and the one that came as no surprise, non Christmas got a big fat ZERO. Wow the media really loves us.

I hope they change their ways soon, but till then I'd be happy if they taught the dogs who bark "Jingle Bells," "Dreidle." Some day, when the Jews own the media, say bye to Christmas commercials and say hello to Hanukkah. Before I finish this story I'd like to say, I realize the irony of attacking the media by way of the media, so you don't need to point that out.◇





Opinions 'N' Staff



The World Outside Open Is Big



*Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist*

Ah, a semester of classes, of full-fledged college courses, almost complete. Now, as I look back I can't quite remember what I was thinking last spring when I decided, "Sure I'll fill out applications

for two different colleges. If I get into both it will be simple — just take classes at both." Ah, the memories.... What the heck was I thinking!?

I guess it started like this. After much insistence from Elizabeth (my advisor) and Connye (my influential semi-advisor), I went to visit Gary and asked what I needed to do to take PSEO classes. He asked where I was thinking about going.... St. Kate's perhaps? Or the U of M? Nah. I thought about it and decided that I knew people who attended MCTC and MCAD, and had visited both schools. I got the information and looked it over: MCTC looked straightforward — "Fill out this form and send it to us with your transcripts." But MCAD looked pretty unwelcoming — "Only 10 seniors a year make the cut... Letters of recommendation... Portfolio... only four classes are offered to PSEO students..."

So, what did I do? I put together a graduation packet and started filling out forms. MCTC looked pretty good, and MCAD was just another challenge to try to overcome. So I guess I looked at applying to MCAD as a place that I really wouldn't be able to get into anyway, but tried to just see what would happen.

As it turned out, after a bit of debate and bickering, I got accepted and registered in classes at both schools. Little did I know, the excitement had just begun.

I was registered for three classes (Film History, Video Production 2, and Foundation 3D), at two different schools in/near downtown Minneapolis, and I also had to spend quite a bit of time at Open (the other side of the Twin Cities). I started averaging

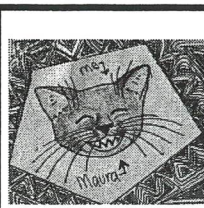
PSEO Continued on 6

Dazed and Confused

The school year started out strangely. As early as the first week of school, I had a feeling that this year was going to be vastly different from previous years.

Juniority. Now that I'm a junior, everything has changed. Well, not really. But everything matters that much more. Of course, I took advantage of Post-Secondary, taking a course Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Kate's. My first taste of "the college experience." I had to take the PSAT's for real, a test which left me high strung and falsely nonchalant. Suddenly, the piles of mail began pouring in from random colleges that, quite frankly, I've never heard of.

In a way, it seems like I'm living between projects, assignments, tests, labs and papers. The time between each test and lab is a time



*Maura Shramko
Staff Columnist*

for me to halfheartedly do my daily assignments, recuperate and wait for the next big thing.

I almost dropped math. After two labs, time-consuming darlings that they are, I'd had enough. "I hate math," as though it weren't a common enough phrase already, became my motto. But I didn't drop it, and I bet you're all dying to know why. After tons, just tons, of people telling me it was up to me, etc., it took one person telling me not to change my mind. Strange, I know. I was afraid it would affect which colleges would consider me. Our counselor, Gary Vettleson, said it probably wouldn't, but some comment Susanne made about young female English majors being a dime a dozen made me stick to my foolish calculus ways. My grade is a steady B+, a fact I have learned to live with.

Central and Highland have distorted my view of Open School. In many ways, they have heightened my appreciation, but there are some things that have somehow in-

MAURA Continued on 6

Media Recognizes Only One Holiday



*Joe Levine
Staff Columnist*

The media does it every year. It's like a bizarre circus that starts day after Thanksgiving. It pumps ad after ad into people's minds, and pumps value and reason out. As the holidays get closer, magazines get more festive, commercials get more manipulative, and newspapers (including the Purple Press) focus more on the holiday.

Wait, I forgot. What am I saying about "The Holidays" we all know there is only one holiday in the media's vocabulary: Christmas. No Hanukkah, no Kwanza, no Boxing Day, just Christmas, but why? I'll tell, you like it or not, the media ignores non Christians, There is no denying it. How many Hanukkah commercials have you seen in your life? Kwanza? I haven't seen any,

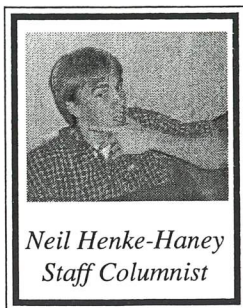
but I have seen Christmas commercials and lots of them. Is the antisemitic media saying we Jews (for those who don't know I'm Jewish) don't exist. Are they saying this is a great Christmas Gift but not a great Hanukkah gift?

I decided to do some investigation in the media's biggest strong holds: TV. No one can deny its influence. I tallied the commercials that fell in to one of five categories: 1. Aimed at Christmas: showing or saying Santa or Christmas or X-mas trees. 2. Imposing Christmas: they mean X-mas but they aren't saying the buzz words, or playing semi-X-mas like "Jingle Bells." 3. Religion neutral: they aren't saying or playing or showing any thing from any holiday, they may say "its a holiday sale," or "its a great present." 4. Non Christmas holidays; Hanukkah or Kwanza. 5. Not related; self explanatory.

To investigate I watched the Fox network

MEDIA Continued on 3

Vikings Looking Better Than Britney Spears



Neil Henke-Haney
Staff Columnist

No major sports magazine predicted that the Minnesota Vikings would be the first team in the NFL to clinch a playoff spot, but on Thursday November 30, 2000 they did just that beating

the Detroit Lions 24-17.

Many critics including the St. Paul Pioneer Press, predicted that the Vikings finish the season with a winning percentage of less than 50%. They came to this decision when Vikings head coach Dennis Green assigned the starting quarterback position to second year quarterback Daunte Culpepper. The Vikings, now 11-2, are lead by second year monster quarterback Daunte Culpepper.

Culpepper is not your average sized quarterback, at 6'5" and 265 pounds. Easily the biggest starting quarterback in the league, bigger than some defensive linemen. Still he plays like a seasoned veteran completing 62.7% of passes for 3505 yards, 29 touch-

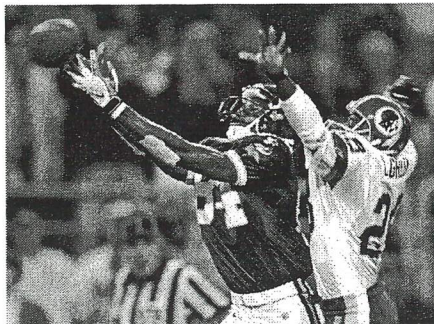
downs, 15 interceptions and a QB rating of 96.6. He has proved to many that he has what it takes.

The Vikings star running back Robert Smith is leading the NFL in total rushing yards and is well on his way to the best season of his eight season career. In years past, Smith has performed as well, but has been injury prone and has not had the chance to play an entire season. If you can run the football, you control the clock, and in turn control the game.

The two big guns of the team are looking just as good. Randy Moss is the most explosive player in the game and, to me, the greatest player in the game. Winner of last years pro bowl MVP proves this. Cris Carter is the veteran who makes all the clutch plays. Carter earned his 1000 reception on November 30 against the Lions. He is only the second player in NFL history to archive such a milestone, the

only other player to do this is the great Jair, Jair (Jerry Rice). Randy Moss and Cris Carter have combined for 157 receptions totaling 2375 yards and 21 touchdowns.

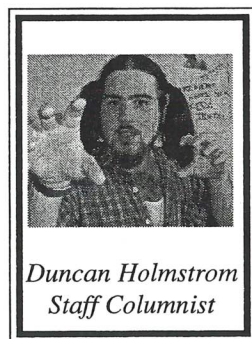
As a fan, and a spectator I feel that the Vikings have a very good chance of making



it to this years Super Bowl. To me, it seems as if the Vikings haven't played the best football they are capable of, and still they have an 11-2 record. When the team finally comes completely together there high powered offence will prevail over even the best defences in the league. An anonymous junior stated "If the Vikings don't win the super bowl, many fat people will die."

When the playoffs began I suggest keeping your good eye on the Vikings because this feels like the year that the Vikings will go all the way. ♦

Duncan's Take on The Election



Duncan Holmstrom
Staff Columnist

We are all aware of the electoral college, but do we know what it actually does? Are any of you aware when reading this that this year Al Gore won the popular vote, yet still lost the presidential

election?

In the US today, we do not elect a president by popular vote which would mean that there would be one vote per person, and the total number of people's votes would decide the election. Instead we elect our president via electoral votes. Each state has a set number of electoral votes based on its population. For example, Minnesota has 10 electoral votes, where California has 54. We have about four million people in our state, California has about thirty million people.

In most cases, if a candidate wins one electoral vote in a state, he wins all the electoral votes in a state. That's one of the simplest ideas in the entire electoral process. Oddly enough that doesn't always hold true. The

state of Maine is broken up into electoral sectors. So instead of winning an entire state, a candidate can win sections of a state, the states number of sectors is synonymous with the amount of electoral votes it has.

There a couple of weird quirks in the electoral college. The first one being kind of frightening in my opinion. Some of the electors are bound to vote for a particular party, but those that aren't may vote how they choose. They are supposed to vote for whichever party they represent, but it is possible that the electors who are not bound could vote against the popular vote. I believe that this gives too much decision-making power to people who don't deserve it.

The second one is a little less frightening. Sometimes, the popular vote just loses. Like this year. If a candidate campaigns strategically, he can actually lose the popular votes, but win enough of a state's voting districts so as to win the electoral votes. Nothing power hungry or suspicious about it, the popular vote can just lose out. Like this year. Al Gore may have won the popular vote, but he lost the electoral vote fair and square.

Now, my opinion. I think it is an outdated

process. The founding fathers formed the electoral college because they didn't trust the wealthy landowners that could actually vote.

Now we have so many regulations that I believe that you shouldn't look at the popular vote as a state by state thing, but more as the country on a whole. If you think about it, a candidate won't "win" states, that is because state isn't looked at in a popular vote, it's totally anonymous. They should keep all the voting districts and things of that nature, but instead of counting up votes and seeing who wins the electoral votes, they should add up all the votes and see who the people voted for.

Also, think about how simple it would be to have a fraudulent election under the electoral college. The way the population works it would be easy to corrupt 270 electors rather than one hundred million people.

Personally, I think that the idea of the electoral college is outdated, and now redundant. Perhaps I'm wrong, but I will stand by my decision.

In closing, I would like to quote Mary Henke-Haney.

"Bla! Leo is a duck..." ♦

MAURA From 4

grained their way into my psyche. Example: Students working in the hallway-- strange. Students coming late to class-- unheard of. In a place like Central, a teacher could go through an entire day sub-less. The different periods blend together to ensure that no teacher ever knows, until the day is, well, over.

Central has an odd community feel, even though most people really aren't much more than acquaintances. It's the kind of bond that comes from uniting against a common enemy, i.e. the teachers. It seems like most of the students know each other pretty well, but what they're really simply mild acquaintances. They went to the same junior high. They have the same math teacher. They had another class together. Certainly, people have real friends. But the general situation is almost contrary to what I've always been exposed to at Open.

Meanwhile, back at Open, my social situation has changed. My group, a group I sentimentally remember as growing up together, has dispersed. There has been a constantly escalating friction that came as a result of a somewhat random rift within the group. The

new group bears little resemblance to what it once was and the change has been disorienting, not just to the group itself, but people around it too. Teachers have come up to me, out of the blue, and asked me "if everything's alright," assuring me that I can talk to them if I need to.

Open school is so comfortable to me, yet I still feel the demon workings of Central flow through my veins. This is exacerbated by the added stress of tense social surroundings. My escape was once going home, watching TV, doing stuff with my friends. Now, my "escape" is when I hurry home to finish my homework. Procrastination is restricted to certain times; I can slack off until 5, but then I have to start working. My mind is busy with constant monitoring of the clock and calculations of how much time before I really have to get moving. I have not sat down to watch TV in a number of weeks.

I just took my first college final which wasn't a real college final. My professor referred to it as a "mini-final." How novel! It consisted of five essay questions and 95 minutes, roughly 17 minutes per question. I'm afraid to find out how I did. I'm not saying I failed, because I didn't. But for the

first time that I can remember, I really froze up. I took too much time at the beginning, and made rushed, sloppy answers at the end. Maybe I'm taking everything too seriously, but it scares me that maybe this really matters. This year it seems like everything I thought was concrete is flip-flopping. Abruptly, things are becoming vivid and overwhelming.

At first I thought that this whole experience was making me lose my sense of humor. Now I take things too seriously. But it's my optimism and, ultimately, my sense of humor that help me get through this. Without those things, and the perfectionist inside me, I couldn't see things like this. Without them, I wouldn't be able to come out on top. ♦

PSEO From 4

about 3 1/2 hours on the city bus, that's 17 1/2+ hours a week, which is a lot.

I soon realized, before Open School classes even began, that instead of having an easier, more stress free year than the last, as Student Government President, this year was going to be at least as crazy. Bye, bye pictures of being a Senior, sleeping in, wandering into school whenever I felt like it, taking it easy, and being well rested and ready for the big jump to college at graduation. Sigh.

So, anyway, in the first three weeks of PSEO classes I found out/realized the following: 1) it is a very big world outside Open, and most people won't take the time to learn your name; 2) my video instructor didn't like my video production style, my editing techniques, my camera techniques, or anything else about my past video work; 3) my instructor at MCAD was an adjunct faculty (who knew nothing about the school or course), was an architect (and planned the course to follow principles of that profession), and was an abstract artist (which I'm not) who didn't like representative artwork. It was going to be tuff, physically and fiscally (my MCAD projects were expensive and heavy), and mentally.

You know, it was really a blow when you

show up at class and are basically told your work is no good, and when after going through half a semester one of your instructors doesn't know your name, or seemingly that you even exist. It's really, really frustrating to hear "this has bad structure, bad edits, bad technique" about pieces that you thought were pretty good, and was were shown at the Walker Art Center, and won a Purple award at the State Fair. Was I an artist, or wasn't I. Who was telling me the wrong stuff, my teacher, mentor, or friend?

Well, it's been nearly a semester. An extremely long, trying, frustrating semester. Time is a funny thing. While you're going through something, it seems like it will never end and has been happening forever. Then, all of a sudden, it's over. All over.

My MCAD class finally ended the day before yesterday, and I have to turn slides of my projects in today. My instructor still didn't like or understand my artwork, but by the last day he realized that he had taught the class very differently than any other instructors. It was quite an experience, taking that class, and, thinking back, I'm

not sure whether I would choose to go through it again.

My MCTC classes end next week. My video instructor still doesn't understand my work, but has had to admit, after paging through my graduation packet, that I have had a lot of experience in the field. And my Film History instructor now knows my name (that's an entire other Purple Press article). My finals are next week. Oh, goody, tests. I'll be happy to have a nice, two-week break. And then it'll start all over. But this semester, I decided to only take classes at MCTC. And then, when next semester is over, I graduate high school. My how the time flies.

Top Ten Rejected Reindeer

- 10) Shmvel: too accident prone
- 9) Duncan: too hairy
- 8) Da Monkey: too cute
- 7) Charlie Chaplin: too dead
- 6) Patrick Swayze: he wants to be Julie Newmar
- 5) The Thurn Brothers: enough said.
- 4) Elvis
- 3) Fred: just a little bit special.
- 2) Gilbert Gottfried: too annoying
- 1) Leo: because, according to Mary Henke-Haney, "Bla Leo is a duck!"

