



The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

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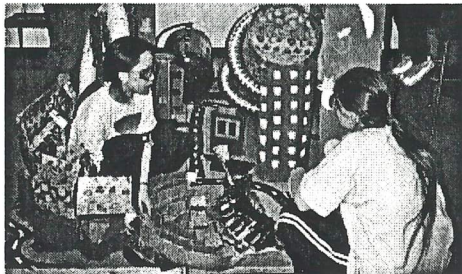
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Open Places Two Teams at D.I. State Tourney

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

Destination Imagination students have just lost their excuse to run rampant in the hallways after school--uh, I mean, work wholeheartedly on DI. At the State Competition on Saturday, April 15, all seven Open School teams went and competed their hearts out. Sadly for some and not-so-sadly for others, no teams placed high enough to make it to



Jillian Yang and Sara Schultz working on the roller coaster for their team, secondary level "Fruit Roller Coaster"

the World Competition in, of all places, Iowa.

"Open School did well, but their competition was superb," said Aaron Izakson-Smith, an 8th grader who watched the competition.

Only two teams placed, snagging two third places, the secondary and intermediate level "It's Not Impastable" teams, both coached by Greg Adams. Overall, there seemed to be a sense of disappointment. "I thought that there would be a team going to Worlds, but it didn't work out," said Lizzy Shramko, a DI member.

Open School teams began performing at 7:30 in the morning at Armstrong High School, requiring some unfortunate team members (and their especially unfortunate family) to wake up at semi-ungodly hours.

DI Continued on 2

Jennifer's Departure Requires Adjustments

Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 20th, Open's Program Coordinator, Jennifer Johnson, gave birth to a son, Marcus Johnson (3 pounds, 13 ounces, and 16.5 inches long), through Caesarian Section. Jennifer's baby wasn't due until May, and this sudden turn of events was an unanticipated surprise, which caused Open's Principal, Ruth Pechmann, much panic. She says that her first reaction to the news was "oh no," shortly followed by a big "help!"

Other staff members were also affected by Jennifer's sudden maternity leave. Kiara Buchanan-Gilman already knew the computer programs that Jennifer had been using, so Ruth asked her to help with that end of the responsibilities. Pete Sandall is now taking care of the disciplinary actions and program coordination, and is doing some computer work also. "The computer programs and computer filing system is tough. Kiara has been a huge help with the computer. Without Kiara's help, I'd be lost,"

stated Pete.

About his new work as Program Coordinator Pete said "[I found out] the day she was gone. My first reaction was concern for my class."

Pete says that "my advisory does not like me being gone. At first they were all pretty upset and disappointed. But, they have come to accept the fact that I am gone." For the time being Pete has a sub, Tim Gromley, who has been with his advisory and classes, "It has been a great struggle for them. They are doing a great job adjusting to the sub," says Pete of his students.

Right now, no one knows when Jennifer will be back. Ruth says that she thinks Jennifer will be back for the last week or two of the school year to tie things up, but that has not been confirmed at this time.

Jennifer and her new son were doing fine at last report. Marcus is off oxygen, and is

JENNIFER Continued on 3

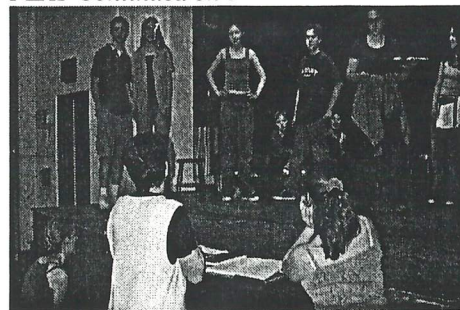
'Tis a Challenge

Emily Schultz
Staff Writer

It's 3:00 pm. All is quiet within Open's walls. Teachers sit quietly in their rooms, preparing for tomorrow's classes. All is peaceful. That is, until the silent roar of students in the cafeteria begins to fill the air. You can hear them in the distance: "Thy lovest thy old smell!" "Why, how now, Ganymede, sweet Ganymede." What is this gibberish? What is the world coming to? It's Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and performances are just around the corner! With only five weeks left, the cast and staff of this trimester's play are working hard to make this a spectacular play.

The cast has faced several hardships so far. "The biggest challenge is interpreting the language. They need to be able to understand what they're saying, and make it easier for the audience to understand," said Bridget Martin, drama teacher. "A lot of it

PLAY Continued on 5



Play practice for *As You Like It*

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Spring Makes

Everyone happy . . .

**Mackenzie is cheesed
off at books on page 7.**

**Salvador is cheesed off
at everybody on page 4.**

**Mark is cheesed off at
teachers on page 4.**
•••••

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Monday Extras- Yay!

On Monday April 10th, this year's Monday extras started. Students can sign up for a variety of classes that meet after school every Monday from 2:45 to 4:00, until May 22nd. Some of this year's choices are: uLTimate frisbee with Tim and Leo, Artsy Crafts with Christina with 12 students, Computer Lab with Susanne, and Nihongo (it's Japanese) with Kiara. Frisbee has 12 participants and still more are joining, Nihongo has 4 and Computer has two. If you're interested in being one, you can talk to the class instructor for more information.

◇

Outward Bounders off to Colorado

On April 29th, 18 students will be traveling with Julie to an Outward Bound base camp in Leadville, Colorado. There, students will be volunteering by doing various work such as fixing camp stoves, cutting cord for tarps, and other odd jobs. There will also be time for fun and various forms of recreation such as rock climbing, a high ropes course, and other cool stuff. The students will be staying in a bunkhouse for the time they are in Colorado, which will be a little less than a week.

"We are all really excited to be going," commented Julie. The students who are going on the trip have been working hard to raise money for the trip through the taste test, the plant sale, and other miscellaneous fund-raisers.

The Outward Bound base camp is located high in the Colorado Rockies. The weather will range from 20-60 degrees, with sun, snow and everything in between. ◇

DI From 1

The intermediate level (which is basically junior high aged kids) "Fruit Roller Coaster" team, coached by Susanne Hollingsworth, the team given this early performance time, placed 7th overall, out of 14 teams.

Although perhaps Open School's showing was not their best, there are those who still appreciate the time and effort that students put into DI over the past seven or eight months. "In spite of the fact that the teams did not place highly, I hope they all feel really proud of themselves," said Julie Doble, science teacher and past Odyssey of the Mind coach.

Don Von, coach of the elementary level "It's Not Impastable" team, agreed. Even though the teams seemed to "lose some momentum" at the State competition, "I was proud of them," said Don of his team.

Top right, Lucy Stark and Miranda Byrne in costume and with their pasta castle. Their team, "It's Not Impastable" secondary level placed 3rd. Bottom right, secondary level Fruit Roller Coaster Team. Left, the brain of secondary level "If Music Be the Food of Life..."



Open Schoolers, both DI members and non-, show support for their school.

Other teams: Greg's secondary level "Fruit Roller Coaster" team placed 7th; Secondary level "If Music Be the Food of Life..." coached by Kiara Buchanan placed 4th; and the intermediate level "Eggsploration" team, coached by Kim Klwendid, got 8th place. ◇



Senior Profile

Michele Cook



otter.

How long have you been at Open School?
Uh . . . four years?
Five years. I don't know!

If you could be an animal, what kind of animal would you be?
Andy took mine! No, I would be something that could fly. Or maybe I could be reincarnated as an

What are your plans for after graduation?

Plans? *she looks trapped and afraid*

What will you miss most about Open School?

The pe'pos. ♦

And Now, Introducing the All-New Animal Profile!!

by Miranda Byrne, inspired by Lucy Stark

Animal Profile

Aardwolf



Who do you have a crush on?

Maggie Karl

If you were a person, who would you be?

Jenna Elfman

What are your feelings on Helen Hunt?

She's hot. She cools me to the core. She boils my bile.

Who is the sexiest young star on TV these days?

Jason Behr, the hot, young star of the hit show Roswell. He has ears like Mickey Mouse and a heart of gold.

Interim, Again

Sarah Meyer
Staff Writer

There has been a lot of discussion about interim this year. Questions have been raised about how well-prepared interim is and whether it should even happen and at this point.

For those of you not familiar with the word, interim is a three-day period where students spend time doing one activity in particular. When interim started many years ago it was longer. Sometimes it lasted as long as two weeks, and it gave students and teachers an opportunity to take a break from the regular curriculum. It also gave them the chance to do some activities that were just too hard to do in a class that is only 50 minutes long, such as go on day-long field trips. Another reason behind interim was the student-planning aspect; it gave students a chance to make decisions about what they wanted to do.

Many Open Schoolers seem to like the idea of interim, because, "it gives us a chance to do things that we never do," according to 12th grader Michelle Cook (a.k.a. Mousy). 11th grader Michele Anderson agrees. "It's a good way to keep up the Open School spirit!"

On the other hand, some students feel that interim is a big waste of their time. They think that it isn't worth it to make such a big fuss over something that won't last more than three days while we could be getting more regular class work done.

Other students are mad this year because there are a lot fewer classes this year and the selection isn't quite as interesting as previous years have been. Some of this year's choices include a Tarot class (where, presumably, students will be learning to read Tarot cards), video production, hair and make-up. So far the majority of the classes still have a lot of planning to do. The groups have met 3 times to lay the ground work. ♦

JENNIFER From I

expected to be home this week. One of the nurses at the hospital is currently working on putting together a website so people can track Marcus' progress, but the web address isn't available yet.

Pete says that he has "learned how valuable Jennifer is to our program, and how much I miss her." And Ruth says that she knows everyone misses Jennifer, and that "it's good to know that when things happen to people, other people at school are ready to pitch in . . . it feels like a team effort." ♦

Opinions 'n' Stuff

Old Man Monthly: Regis Philbin

Lucy Stark
Staff Columnist

Once again I've decided to bring you the story of an old man that I adore. Regis Francis Xavier Philbin. Born on August 25th, 1933 in South Bronx, this old man was a beautiful treasure from the beginning.

My lovely Regis grew to be a strapping young lad and graduated from Notre Dame University in 1953. He then went on to join the Navy. My dad was in the Navy too! OHMIGOD! Anyway, while turtle man was in the Navy he met a lady. Imagine that! Her name was Kay Falan. They were married for 13 years.



That's a long time. When they got divorced Regis decided to go into show business. He worked small jobs until he finally got his big break hosting *The Morning Show* with

Cindy Garvey. The show wasn't doing so hot - that is, until Kathie Lee Gifford replaced that Cindy lady. After the arrival of Kathie Lee, the show was a hit. My baby even was nominated for seven Emmys! He didn't win any ... but who cares? All I care about is the fact that he's old and looks like a shriveled turtle beast.

Now, as you know, Mr. Philbin is quite the hottie (HA!), so he obviously couldn't stay single forever. He remarried (much to my dismay) to Joy Senese. He's got four kids. But oh well. Someday I know I'll marry my turtle man.

I know Regis has been alive for a long time (a LONG time), but I really only discovered this diamond in the rough within the last year. See, Regis decided to remake this British show, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* for America. He gets so into hosting the show ... it's so great! "Is that your final answer?" are the five words that captured my heart.

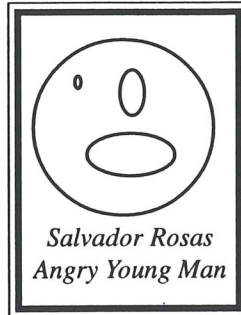
I love Regis so much! He's old, turtle like and short. I adore him!

Coming next month: David Bowie - he's not dead yet! ♦

Goodbye Angry Young Man?

Wait, good-bye angry young man?! I don't know who told you that, but that's a filthy malicious lie. Well, not completely filthy. I guess it's time to, not necessarily call it quits, but I feel that I've stressed, and stretched, and exploited my points and opinions. I think I've made enough people realize just what I'm trying say, and made people mad in the process. One more rant, maybe not my last rant, but it's time for change.

I don't enjoy being angry, and for the most part I'm normal ... Just like everyone else. Well, almost. Okay, not quite, but who cares? Anyway, I'm not angry all the time, a good portion of it, but it's hard to look around at the world and not be completely disgusted - and on top of that - not say anything. I don't know. It just seems like no one is trying at all anymore. It's everything, everybody. Especially in (my field of expertise) the entertainment industry.



Salvador Rosas
Angry Young Man

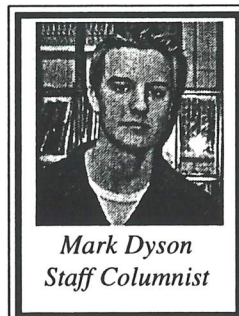
Let me 'splain. Maybe you've heard of a low budget TV network called NBC, and the fact that they keep blowing all their money on retarded shows - usually half baked generic sitcoms - that their demographics indicate that you, the viewer, will waste your time on, instead of demanding good shows, with good writers and good actors. Well, I guess it's not just NBC. One exception I have to make is *Malcolm in the Middle*. That show is good, but it just seem like lately there is nothing good on.

I find the sudden fame of all these million dollar game shows - that are oddly enough a dime a dozen, hahahahaa - to be confusing, but at the same time pathetic. I know, they're just game shows, so I won't get too worked up, but did you see how all the networks jumped on that trend as soon as *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* got some pretty heavy ratings? And they're all a little unique, but they're also a little too similar: The host asks a question that's easy enough for preschoolers, like, "Which color at a stop-light means to go? Is it brown ... Pink ... Green ... Or purple?" Then the guy an-
SALVADOR Continued on 9

Goodness Profiling: It Can Happen to You

In recent national news, there have been accusations against police officers alleging that they will pull over a minority before they pull over a white person who is speeding, running a red light, etc. This practice is called "racial profiling," and almost everybody with a sense of right and wrong decries it for its unfairness and conscious or unconscious bias towards people because of their skin color.

Now, what would happen if I told you that something extremely similar happens right here at Open School? It's not exactly racial profiling, but it's very close to it. You see, teachers here are biased too. Every single



Mark Dyson
Staff Columnist

one of them. If they see someone in the hall during class talking to a friend, or buying a soda, they might ask "Hi, Freddy, how are you this morning?" or they might yell "Freddy, get to class or you've got detention!" But what's the determining factor?

Well, in my exhausting research for this article, I have found one thing that makes a teacher/hall monitor be nice to one kid and hard on another. It's how "good" the student is. What teachers here practice is "goodness profiling." If a student is passing his classes, isn't very loud or disruptive in the hall, and hasn't done much detention, then he is "good." However, if a given "good" student is in the hall for the same reason as a "bad" student, the bad kid will always get the shaft, even if the good kid is doing the exact same thing.

I'm not alone in my belief that this hor-
TEACHERS Continued on 8

Mmm . . . Food

Saji Ya: Tasty Appetizers and Multiple Courses

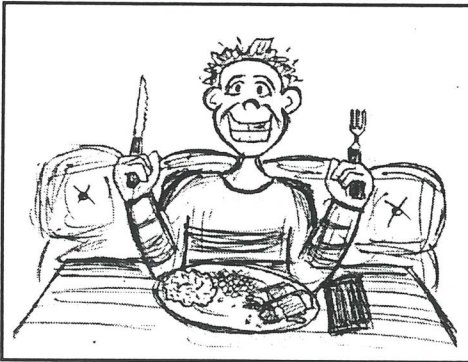
Everyone likes food, right? But it's so hard to find food that you like these days (nod your head, good.) I'm using this section to inform you of good eats. Every month I will review the best type of restaurant. This month is oriental (east Asian) and next month I will focus on steak houses. So eat up and read on, with Saji Ya.

Saji Ya is a Japanese restaurant with dine in, take out, and tempenyaki. Tempenyaki is where they cook the food on the table in front of you, they also have a bar, and zushi (or sushi) bar. In the middle of the room there is a pond with a little bridge and fish. It's a large place so service is slow (give'em a break). The size of the meal can vary from one course to eight. The taste of the food is indescribable (stop drooling), but the price is punch in the face, a meal can cost up to \$70. The atmosphere is lively and the acoustics are mediocre.

If you are first timer and don't know what to order (and if you have a bottomless pit for a stomach), try my suggestions. Here is the imaginary eight course meal that I highly recommend.

For appetizers, try the egg drop soup (which comes with the main course), green salad, zushi (or sushi), goyza (steamed or fried dumplings), and egg rolls. For the mouth-watering main course, have the tempura (deep-fried veggies) and rice (soaks up the tempura grease). Finally, try the scrumptious bread pudding for dessert, it's better than it sounds.

Bon Appetit. ♦



PLAY From 1

is just changing words. Not necessarily modernizing them, but saying it in a different way."

Most cast members agree. "I think doing Shakespeare will be a lot harder than any other play because in order to learn the lines you really have to understand them," said cast member, Lucy Stark. "There's a lot of weird words that no one knows. So first you have to figure out what the hell Shakespeare's talking about, then you can start acting it out."

Not only do students have to contend with learning the sixteenth century's version of

like hell. For those who have a slightly higher masochistic streak, dine in and prepare to be treated like mold. I'm sure there are those who get wonderful service, but these are generally Leo types who know how to work the circuit, beat the system, and obtain twelve o'clock shadow. Unfortunately for us kiddies, this is not the case.

They come sneering, frowning, and shrieking into the night. No, these are not gibberlings from the AD&D handbook, they are your friendly wait staff. After having my drink nonchalantly filled up, assuming that this was a refill like every other place, I was charged for two drinks. While eating my bread, which comes served with the salad and is really quite tasty, my waitress comes and wheels it away. Then there was the frightening man who seemed to be talking to himself and motioning wildly at nothing in particular, but was *RESTAURANTS Continued on 7*

the English language, they have also been faced with a time management issue. Students agree that the situation with the Destination Imagination competition has been the worst so far. About one third to half the cast was on a DI team, and the week before competition was the most important time of all. However, the students understood that it was also important to stay for after-school rehearsals as well, so they were often faced with a schizophrenic situation. This has caused stress for both Bridget and Greg. Fortunately for Bridget, that problem has been resolved, as none of the DI teams made it to world.

The DI members also had to face another

Bridgette's Twin Cities Tour of Teen Eat Treats

Sometimes restaurants should come with a warning label: *Do not enter, objectionable wait staff.* Or *Warning, this meal will cost more than you are worth.* That's why I've taken on the tremendous task of reviewing them for people like you. The restaurants that I include all stand out, some like a beautiful sunset, and others like a pair of screaming yellow socks.

The Olive Garden is definitely a pleasure for those who adore Italian and have a moderate amount of money to burn. Served in a calm atmosphere, with cloth napkins instead of paper, it is a perfect place for those who want to partake in a conversation and pretend they truly are high society folk. It is the ideal destination for lunch. (This does not mean that if, per chance, you meet up with a sleazy A&R representative, you should eat here. Uptown restaurants are better suited for those who say, "Let's do lunch.") Everything on the menu is eye candy. Square bright red tomatoes with tiny cheese blocks served on Italian bread, creamy Fettuccini Alfredo, and Cheese Ravioli smeared with red sauce, for example. I recommend all of these dishes, especially during their lunch hour where the price is significantly lowered. The price can range from \$14 for two people during lunch, up to \$20 for dinner.

Figlio is a restaurant I would normally avoid like the black plague, but I had to compare it to the Olive Garden. Okay, I have to admit, if you ever want heaping portions of an extraordinary Caesar salad, hop on the bus to the corner of Lake and Hennepin in Uptown, and walk one block to Calhoun Square. My immediate recommendation would be to order the salad, go to Borders and flip through magazines, come back five minutes later to grab the salad, and run

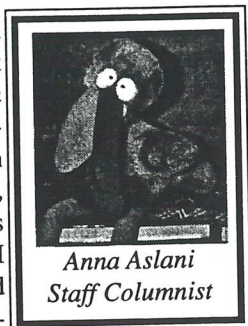
challenge: memorizing lines. Students had to spend their after-school hours working with their DI team, which left them no time to do their homework. The largest assignment looming overhead was indeed memorizing lines. "There's just no time," said Miranda Byrne. "I mean, there's so many lines that you have to memorize, and learning all the cues. It's hard."

Hopefully things will start looking up for the cast of "As You Like It." What seems to have been the worst situation so far is over. Hopefully nothing else will arise with the few rehearsals the play members have left. Performances are June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. ♦

Foreign Snob, Indie Snob

Julia Roberts Vs. Juliette Binoche in the Ring of Death

Apparently Julia Roberts has done it again. With *Erin Brockovich* grossing \$56.3 million in the first ten days, confirms that she's still sitting pretty. I was quite impressed with her latest venture, though I am reluctant to admit it.



Anna Aslani
Staff Columnist

Upon my first analysis of the movie, I concluded that perhaps the acting wasn't what made *Erin* so unusual, but more so the plot. Then I had to get real. There have been quite a few veeeery similar movies, such as *A Civil Action*, and *The Firm*, which are lawyery features with big names, John Travolta and Tom Cruise, that portray a David vs. Goliath court case. *A Civil Action* is even so similar as to have innocent people getting sick off the drinking water, as is the plot with *Erin*. We should note that *A Civil Action* came first.

So what makes this blockbuster stand out above the rest? Could it be Ms. Roberts scantily clad physique? I'm guessing no, that

was a personal drawback. Waaaaaayyyy too much boob, in my humble opinion. And stillettos so tall and thin, I spent much of my time hoping she wouldn't drop one of her fictional children or scrape one of her carefully "Pilate" sculpted knees. Although, if I had more testosterone coursing through my veins, perhaps I would think differently.

But contrary to my previous thoughts on her persona and acting skills, I actually admired her in this film. "Erin" possessed a unique mix of responsibility, fiery independence, and condescension. Yet she admitted her faults. Few snooty actresses can convincingly convey their being wrong. Not to name any names, but . . . Gwyneth Paltrow does come to mind.

That opens a whole new can of worms. I don't really believe that American actresses/actors are really all that good in the eyes of the world's cinema. Filmmakers have to concoct elaborate plots with many epic twists and turns, and gobs of special effects to keep today's antsy audiences from theater ditching.

Modern Hollywood actors are often unable to subtly express emotion, because of

the fast-paced action-packed cinema that today's youth are accustomed to. Perhaps that's why so many American films are so cliched. Filmmakers produce films that sell even if that means Jason racks up yet another addition in the *Friday the Thirteenth* series.

I've been on this foreign film kick, recently, I've seen the German feature *Run Lola Run*, the French film *The Horseman on the Roof* and the Spanish movie *Life and Freedom*. At first the contrast between domestic and foreign film techniques seemed slight, and it was hard for me to distinguish the differences. Only after careful observation did things begin to surface.

To me the thing that stands out most is the cinematography. There's nothing in the foreign films I've viewed that's all that flashy or special-effects saturated. *Run Lola Run* had some short animation clips, and a few intriguing still photos, but everything was done very simply. I think this is proof that less can be more.

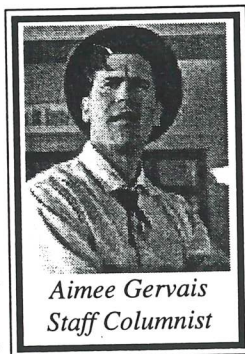
Other unique cinema graphic traits include the unusual camera angles used in *Life and ANNA Continued on 8*

Get a Clue Hollywood, 'Indie' Films Offer Welcome Alternative

Kevin Spacey is the man. You have to have expected something like that from me, after his Oscar win, but his ability to acquire a little naked gold dude is not what makes him so cool. No, what makes

him so cool is his ability to completely ignore li'l Mr. Oscar to make some really snazzy movies.

He's a star. He's a big shot have-your-people-call-my-people star. He could be demanding truckloads of cash from bigtime studios to make appearances in those dime-a-dozen blockbusters, but instead, he consistently chooses underdog independent films like *American Beauty* and a new one, *The Big Kahuna*, with crazy things like origi-



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

nality. Oh, the horror.

Now you might be thinking, "What's wrong with you? Did you not watch the Oscars? *American Beauty* was huge!" And yes, it's true, *American Beauty* was funded by the hotshots at DreamWorks Studios, but despite lots o' money courtesy of Mr. Spielberg and friends, *American Beauty* is still indie at heart. The script was written by Alan Ball, pretty much an unknown in the movie world, as a personal project, not a prepackaged blockbuster assigned to him by some money-hungry studio executive trying to be daring and hip. Even without funding from DreamWorks, I'm sure *American Beauty* still would have been made somehow. Studios aren't the only people in the world willing to invest in movies.

But, if it wasn't for the cash DreamWorks also put into distributing the film, we may never have gotten a chance to see it. I caught a screening of *The Big Kahuna* at the Min-

neapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival the other day, and I'm very glad that Lion's Gate, a company that has done distribution for lots of other now popular indie films (*Dogma*, *American Psycho*) is distributing it, so it can get the recognition it deserves. Most studios are usually wary of such quirky films like *The Big Kahuna*, which has only three characters and takes place almost entirely in one room, but Kevin Spacey has proved that people are willing to see strange movies, as long as he gets a cool part.

It's unfortunate, but some of the best films ever made may never make it to a theater near you. It seems like sort of a form of torture, but at film fests movie addicts get to see wonderful movies that might never resurface again. One of these was *The Dream Catcher*, a sort of philosophical road movie, which is now one of my favorite ever. *INDIE Continued on 9*

Harvey's 25 Book Rule Seems Unnecessary, Inconsistent



Mackenzie Byrne
Staff Columnist

Unless you have been living under a rock on a desert island in the middle of the Pacific ocean, you know about the 25 book rule. For those of you that have been living under that rock the superintendent of the St. Paul schools is requiring every student to read 25 books over the school year to pass to the next grade. I think this is a bad idea for several reasons.

First of all, a book can be anything from "I will go. Will you go? I will go." (from the book my first grade class "read," pretty much everyone just memorized it) to a book

like *War and Peace* 1,000 pages of 9 point type. I think that the superintendent said something like, "A book is a book is a book." She said that she would make book-length requirements for each grade, but does anyone see such requirements? The whole thing is kind of vague and they set the rule before it was finished, like the whole graduation standards thing.

People read at different speeds and read maybe all short books or all long books. The person who likes long books, even if reading at the same speed as the short book guy, may not be able to read 25 books and the short booker will have no trouble. They have the same reading level but one passes and one doesn't. This is not a fair rule.

I do think that it is important that kids can read but I think it is the responsibility of the

individual teachers to make sure their kids are reading. This district policy should not be mandatory. Teachers should do the little extra work to get their students reading. Didn't they always do that? District rules stink in general, just sit back and let the teachers teach! Reading is fun and I like it but I hate this 25 book thing. It's not for me, and it really gets me cheesed off. Maybe this book thing is one option to get people reading. Okay, maybe this works for some people but this shouldn't be for everyone in the district. But isn't that the way with all the district bureaucratic stuff. Heck, all I've been doing is whining, I can't change a thing. No one who can change stuff cares what I think but I want it to change anyway.

And that's all I have to say about that. ♦

RESTAURANTS From 5

actually chatting intently on a cellular phone. Pricey food (average \$25 for two), surly staff, and a very loud atmosphere all make this restaurant a no no for anyone who wants to retain their dignity.

For the lazy at heart, Perkins is heaven. Notorious for it's less-than-stellar service, customers have plenty of time to waste before their food arrives. It's an ideal place to play harebrained, childish games. Why do you think they offer crayons at the door? I even came up with a game of my own, Minefield, otherwise known as "The Penny Game." This is where one sets up a virtual minefield of pennies on the table, spreading them around, so that dimes can easily pass by. The object of the game is to get your dime to the end zone, or hit the dime your partner is using. If you collect six pennies, you lose. If you hit the other person's dime, or reach their end zone, they collect one penny. You've been warned, I have amassed eighty pennies in my coat pocket as a result of this game. After two hours of an intense Minefield game, Perkins food is a delicacy. Savor the melted cheese from the grilled cheese sandwich, enjoy the mouth-watering taste of mozzarella sticks, and appreciate the meticulous care that went into making the cuisine, all for the low price of \$15.

For a more bustling lunch experience, Café Latte is the place to be. Located in the Paris-like Grand Avenue and

Victoria, it can easily be mistaken for a yuppie hangout. However, if you plant yourself on the second floor away from the insanity of the lunch crowd, tucked back in the farthest corner of humanity, you can convince yourself that you are not one of them. As for the food, I give the restaurant an A+. Just because it is served like the school caf-

eteria doesn't mean that you are eating gruel. Try the egg salad sandwich, and for the sweet tooth, choose one of their gourmet pies. Strangely enough, the price shocks me. It's actually lower than Perkins, the average bill being around \$12.

DID YOU KNOW?

Annie on My Mind by Nancy Gardener was banned because "it promotes and encourages the gay lifestyle."*

*from 100 Banned Books, Karolides et al., Checkmark Books, \$18.95

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TEACHERS From 4

rendous discrimination happens every day. Even teachers, such as high school science teacher Julie Doble, agree with me. "It's all about reputation," she said. So a student who has been "bad" before will be bad again, even if they're doing the exact same thing as a "good" student when they get in trouble? Senior John Grotenhuis agrees with that scenario. "I can get away with anything," he said. "I'm a 'good' kid."

Another aspect of this discrimination is the gender of the offender. You might be wondering why I always refer to these "good" and "bad" kids as "he." That's because all girls, until proven otherwise, are by default "good." And most of them, even if they have done a million things that would make a good boy into a bad one, still get away with it all because they lack the Y chromosome. The teachers here are not only biased against certain "bad" kids, but are extremely sexist as well!

Take one of my teachers, for example. One day, during that class, there were three girls who shall remain nameless playing with toys on the table while the teacher was lecturing. They were making a lot of noise, giggling like crazy, and the teacher would have been deaf not to notice. However, s/he just kept talking like s/he didn't care, and the girls kept playing loudly for at least five minutes until they finally got bored with

their toys. Now, could you imagine if group of boys were playing with their toys during that class, making the same amount of noise? The teacher would have sent them to their advisor within seconds, or at least given them a stern warning.

This rampant sexism happens all other times, too, especially in the halls between and during classes. I can think of a maximum of ten girls whom the hall monitors here would question their presence in the halls by default, but at least ten times that many boys. It's likely that usually girls are quieter in the halls, but still, they're ditching classes just the same as the more often-punished boys. Open School 8th grader Lizzy Shramko thinks along the same lines. "[The hall monitors here] get mad at the boys a lot easier," said Lizzy when asked if a girl and a boy both in the hall during class would be treated any differently. And while the hall monitor is giving detention to the boy, the girl can quietly slip into the girl's bathroom and ditch class without any fear of consequences.

In classes, two boys can talk to one another at the same volume as two girls next to them and get yelled at and moved away from each other while the girls sit there giggling. While at times girls are more discreet than boys when talking during class, even when my friends and I have been whispering quieter than girls we have been sepa-

rated. Teachers have more of an eye for boys talking together than they do for girls, and punish them accordingly. The same thing happens when teachers make up class lists. While teachers that I have talked to deny doing this intentionally, somehow I am always at least half of the room away from my friends (who are also male) I'd like to sit next to.

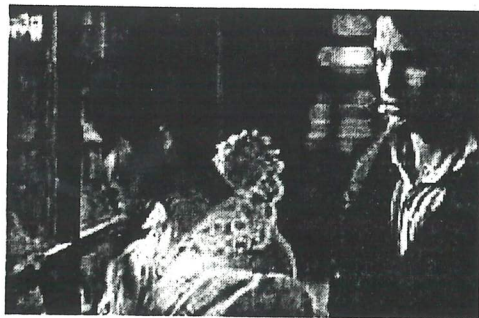
Now, I don't completely object to this blatant discrimination that every teacher I've ever met practices against "bad" kids and most boys in general. I can understand it, even. I mean, they teach dozens, maybe even hundreds, of kids, and interact with many more. They've got to classify them into groups, or they'd never get by. Also, I admit, I am a "good kid," and I don't get too much of the automatic "get back to class right now!" speech from hall monitors when I go to the bathroom during class, and I might not have such an objective view as I'd like. But still, I demand an end to this heinous discrimination against us boys and all those kids labeled "bad" who are fighting for their right to be treated equally under the roof of a school that prides itself on diversity and fairness! But, as I said, I'm still one of them "good kids," even if I am a boy, so if you decide to be fair by being hard on everyone including the good kids, then just ignore this whole article and forget I ever said anything ... ♦

ANNA From 6

Freedom. Where in scenes with large groups of people, it wasn't uncommon to find the extras closely passing in front of the camera.

My last quibble with American film is the way we portray the human body. More specifically, the female body. Though "Erin" was based on a real person who did wear revealing clothes, the context in which she was portrayed seemed eminently more perverse than the full frontal nudity in *Horseman on the Roof*. However, as I said before, the situation was different in *Horseman*. But aside from the obvious diversity of the two films, the delicacy with which Juliette Binoche's body was shown in *Horseman* greatly differed from Julia Roberts' "Erin" in that she didn't flaunt herself as a sexual object from the beginning. There was also a good sense of timing in *Horseman*. We weren't intimate with Binoche's body before we became well endeared to her character.

I'm not saying that all American films are completely predictable and monotonously similar. I think that more filmmakers should learn to do things their own way despite contradiction from blockbuster records. Ultimately I think it's up to us, the film-viewing public, to culture ourselves in film technique. ♦



Some people from some movies: On the left, *The Horseman on the Roof*, a sophisticated French film; on the right, *Erin Brockovich*, a typical American film.



The Purple Press
thoroughly
appreciates birds,
especially when they
fly and are pretty.

SALVADOR From 4

swers, and the host is like, "Is that your final answer?" And then they nervously concur. And then they pause for 30 seconds, and the stupid dingy bell comes on and they won a million dollars! It's sick to see people so disgustingly obsessed with the almighty dollar, especially if it's only to see other people getting it, or to just see someone marrying a multi-millionaire.

Movies are really horrible lately as well. *Romeo Must Die*, my left foot! I can't remember the last time I saw a good movie . . . Okay, I can. But, lately I can't help but look at most movies in disgust. Just a lot of made-for-teen crap.

And as I've already declared, music is at an all-time low. I can't stress how much rap sucks, and that if you already listen to it, you should stop doing so immediately, but you probably won't for fear of losing popularity among your pathetic hip-hop-MTV zombie friends. You know, it's really annoying when people say, "I don't listen to rap, I listen to hip-hop." They're the same damn thing!! And yes, they both suck. Do you notice how rappers always feel compelled to state their name in their songs? They're always like, "Yo, this is Tupac representing Master P." I think they say their names, because they know all that crap sounds the same, and you might have thought you were listening to some other big black guy with an attitude problem and one

hell of an addiction to crack. Yeah, that's right, get it straight: RAP SUCKS!!! I don't care if all the kids are listening to it, it still sucks! It's like, if everyone agreed that $2 + 2 = 5$, it wouldn't mean it's right, just because everyone thinks it is. (Oh, for those of you that like hip-hop the answer is 4. You see when you hold up 2 of your fingers and then add two more fingers, the number of fingers you have equals 4, not 5, you morons.) Hey, you know what else has phat beats? Well, if you put your head against a train track. Man, those train tracks have some phat beats, I highly recommend them to the hip-hop culture.

Rap is the end to all creative thought. In the future we will all be forced to listen to it, believing that we really like it, under penalty of law. Musical instruments will be burned and destroyed, as well as the people that used to play them, in all countries around the world. Pretty soon, the word music will be replaced by rap, and people will forget about all previous music. No more Mozart. No more Beatles. And to these rap songs, there will be no lyrics, just the word "rap" repeated over and over again, to a rather vague phat beat, and no one will care. No one will know that no one cares. Don't worry all you teeny boppers, boy bands and those girl sensations will still be around, but they will be robots (or clones) that resemble perfect looking, soul-selling idols (no one, of course, will know the dif-

ference).

People will continue to live out their lives in a disappointing routine. They will wake up, go to work or go to school, do what they're told, come home, put on their government issued rap listening machines. But until those days (which aren't too far from now), I will do everything within my reach to stop this horrible fate. Well, I consider it to be a horrible fate, some couldn't be more delighted, and that just means that the process has already gone into play.

Speaking of not trying, I'm even a little disappointed with the Purple Press lately. I mean, most of the people at this school couldn't care less about most of these articles. Sean Connery, come on, what the hell is all that about? Does Lucy Stark have some bizarre sexual attraction to old men? (Or should I say Loo-shee Shtark?) Then you have some freak blabbing about different kinds of pop. Hey, man. Don't tell me what kind of pop I should like. You don't know anything about me. And someone's talking about how incest is okay and spam or something. I don't know, I think we can do better people!

Well, I'm gonna go now, but just remember a couple of things: rap sucks, everything MTV tells you is wrong, and the A.Y.M./Rock Machine will triumph . . . ♦

INDIE From 6

It's a truly original, beautiful and funny film, but the director said at the screening that he's been told by a few distributors that the movie would be too hard to sell to wider audiences outside the festival circuit. I know a few people who would really love *The Dream Catcher*, but unless there's some kind of miracle, they'll never get to see it. Most indie films aren't as lucky as *American Beauty*.

This year has been quite an indie year, with *American Beauty* and *Boys Don't Cry* picking up all the big awards at the Oscars, and the whole *Blair Witch* phenomenon. So shouldn't the big Hollywood studios get the clue that with enough money, indie films can do better than their formulaic Hollywood counterparts? Well, somewhere along the line they did figure that out, but instead of searching out indies to help along, they try

"Shouldn't the big Hollywood studios get the clue that with enough money, indie films can do better than their formulaic Hollywood counterparts?"



Kevin Spacey as Lester Bunham in *American Beauty*. Isn't he terrific?

to create their own. The studios try to copy common tricks and themes from popular indie films, and write a script based on focus group research. Then they cast those edgy, hip stars and wait for the money to roll in. Funny, these projects turn out more like the Frankenstein monster than the super-human lifeforms they were trying to create. So what went wrong?

The beauty of indie filmmaking is that the writers and directors don't have to answer to ratings boards or audience interest polls, so the finished project turns out to be exactly what they want it to be, which is usually anything but average. They're not all good, but at least you know that the filmmakers made them because they love movies, not because they were just doing their job. ♦

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