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The Purple Press

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Open Dominates Regional Tourney

Sara Schultz
Staff Writer

The Destination Imagination (DI) competition on Saturday, March 4th was an incredible success for Open School. For the first time in school history, 100% of the teams are going on to State! Not only that, but the number going on, 7, is the highest number in first place Open has ever seen!

Open's success did, for better or for worse, elicit some grief from other schools com-



Secondary "If Music Be the Food of Life" DI team and the brain (which includes retractable tongue) after their performance.

peting. But with a lack of any basketball, football, soccer, or any other teams at Open, it's no wonder that hordes of loud fans show up for every Open School DI performance. DI is the school's one and only sport.

First place did not come easily for every team, especially for the "Fruit Roller Coaster" groups, who experienced some technical problems. Neither team succeeded in getting the tennis balls all the way through the roller coaster, as the problem required. Fortunately, other school's had similar difficulties.

Both of Open's "It's Not Impastable" structure teams held a great deal of weight, despite the many frustrations with the pasta. The intermediate level team built a structure that held 526 pounds, and, surprisingly, the structure wasn't broken during the performance. *DI Continued on 2*

As Bridget Likes It: Drama Dept. Tackles Shakespeare

Emily Schultz
Staff Writer

It's third trimester, and that means yet another play! This time, drama teacher Bridget Martin has decided to direct "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare.

Auditions were held March 6, 7, and 8 and the cast has already begun rehearsing. Miranda Byrne is the lucky gal to play Rosalind, one of the leading roles. Other cast members include Per Olsen as Orlando and Holly Ryan as Celia.

Bridget plans to go all out this year, with very elaborate costumes and backdrops. "I have a friend who does a lot of staging and decorating," said Bridget. "We've come up with a small plan of what I want the set to look like. It's going to be very foresty and beautiful."

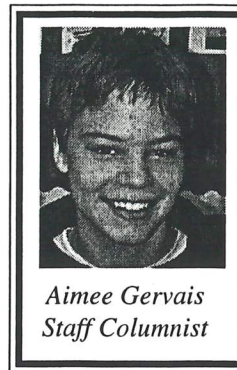
"As You Like It" is not one of the more well-known Shakespearean plays, but Bridget is excited about its potential. "It's a play that you can really play along with as

far as role reversals go. It's a very light-hearted comedy. I'm relatively familiar with it."

The story consists of two young cousins, Rosalind and Celia. Rosalind has been banished from the palace (if you want to know why, you'll just HAVE to come see it!) and has set off with her cousin to find Rosalind's father in the Forest of Arden. Rosalind disguises herself as a man and calls herself Ganymede to avoid being caught by anyone from the palace. Celia trails along beside her dressed as a peasant girl and pretends to be Ganymede's sister. . . To see what takes place next, you will just have to see the performance.

Performances will be on June 1, 2, and 3 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday.) Tickets will be \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and children.◊

Oscars: Aimee's Picks



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

The Oscars can usually be counted on to screw things up. Even when the Academy does a relatively good job picking the winners, movie fans everywhere feel obligated to rant about how stupid their choices were, or in

this case, rant about how we think things are going to turn out.

Other than ranting, I'm not really sure what the point of predicting the Oscars, except maybe to say "I told you so!" the day after the awards. Of course, that only works if you're right. Last year I was right most of the time, but I never bothered to write my guesses down, and no one was watching with me to cheer for me. Um . . . not that I'd ever gloat about it.

This year's nominees are a bit tricky, with a few surprises before the awards are even given. Most publicized has been the complete snub of Jim Carrey's new obsession, *Man on the Moon*. Most annoying to me *PREDICTIONS Continued on 11*

Check This Out . . .

"Did they think it would be 'cool' to go on some show where you pranced around in bathing suits later to be married to some creepy old millionaire guy who couldn't get a date on his own?" . . . Lucy, 4

"The image of Barbie prancing around a computer screen is supposed to make me more technologically literate." . . . Bridgette, 4

"What If you've known someone for a substantial period of time, and you want to go out with them. Is this inbreeding as well?" . . . Anna, 5

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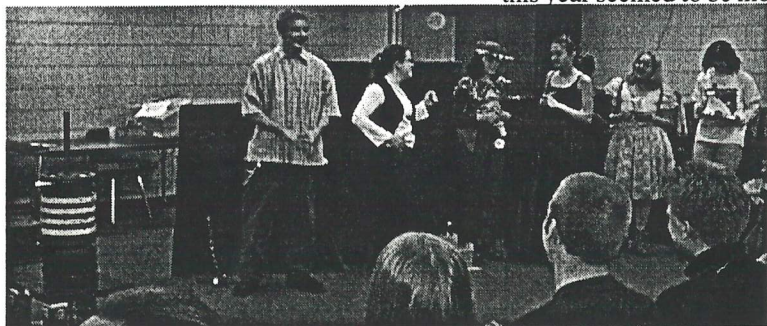
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Sara Schultz

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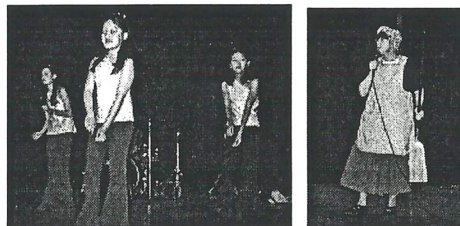
The Level S "It's Not Impastable" Structure Team just after their performance. Team members shown, from left to right, Mark Dyson, Emily Schultz, Miranda Byrne, Lucy Stark (and Agnes Kigwana, right behind her shoulder), Emily Cusick and an unidentified judge.



Talent Show

On Friday March 17th, Open School had its first talent show in several years. Held in the cafetorium, students from kindergarten to 12th grade were present; it was an all-school event.

There were bands with guitars and drums and things, courtesy of students like Ted Howard, Salvador Rosas, Jon Hendrickson, Marcos Richardson, Chris Schmidt, and others. There were also a few vocal acts, including Open School's own tiny choir headed by music teacher Kiara Buchanan, selected Julie students singing the "Element" song, and Mee Xiong and Jillian Yang singing a Mariah Carey song. In addition to the musical talents, there were a few dance numbers, a baton-twirling thing, and even a little drama ♦



Bridget Martin on the right, reading a poem in character. On the left, Champa Lee, Sunny Yang and Youa Yang dancing.

DI From I

formance. The secondary team's structure also had a very impressive weight-to-structure ratio.

Despite the apparent success of the competition, there were some problems. Perhaps it was due to the new DI format as opposed to OM, or perhaps it was just a bad year, but some people felt the meet was a bit unorganized. Ribbons were not available, so the judges handed out stickers instead, and some of the problems, like the roller coaster ones, were not very well thought out. However, despite glitches, it seemed like a successful meet for the first year of Destination Imagination.

Most people agreed that the challenges this year seemed to be more difficult than in the past, mostly because of unclear rules. "DI has been a little tougher this year because of the changes in the terminology, and some of the problems are

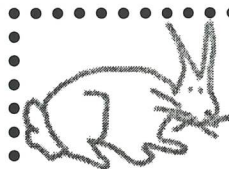
COMPETITION From 3

playing Rosalind, the lead role of the play.

With State just around the corner, most of our teams are staying after twice a week to perfect their already award-winning skits. Teams use their long-term scores to see what they need to improve on, and what they should keep the same.

All but one of the teams this year, got a taste of their competition. That one team however, "If Music Be The Food Of Life" had no competition at Regionals, therefore they have even less of an Idea of what to expect at State.

This year's State, compared to regionals, will be quite different. In fact, Greg Adams, a long-time OM coach, predicts that Open's competition will be much tougher than at Regionals. Greg however, is hopeful that one lucky team might make it to World, but don't get your hopes up yet. This year, State competition is on April 15th at Armstrong High School, and World will be in Iowa. Happy DI-ing! ♦



It's spring. Bunnies come out in the spring time. Bunnies are cute, but sometimes they smell.

I wish bunnies didn't smell.

certainly a little different," said Greg Adams. Granted, challenges like "It's Not Impastable" have only been modified a bit, but this is still posing a problem, even for the "veteran" OMers.

It also appeared that there were about half as many teams competing at the regional competition this year. This could be due to the fact that people were weary of entering this strange, new DI world instead of the traditional OM. Either way, this didn't stop the Open Schoolers from going on with business as usual, and being a recognized presence by both teams and judges. One judge commented on the fact that people know when Open is performing because of the excessive crowd noise.

Open added a certain ambience to the award ceremony as well. People were swing dancing to the Harding jazz band music, and two intermediate students went so far as to start a conga line of sorts, which included more than half of the kids in the auditorium. Overall, people had fun, and were glad to just be there. Now the DI-ers, all seven teams, are looking forward to--and working hard to prepare for--the State competition on April 15th. ♦



Lee Moya

Senior Profile



How long have you been at Open School?
5 years.

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

What are your plans for after graduation?
To go to college.

What will you miss most about Open School?
I'll miss my friends the most. I'll also miss some of the teachers. ♦

D.I. Takes Regionals

Kathryn Alexander
Staff Writer

After walking down the halls these past weeks you've probably noticed the familiar smell of super glue, duct tape, tempera paint and burnt wood. We all know what this means, it's DI time, roughly translated, it's the weeks before State competition.

As you probably know all seven of our teams are going on to state, and for many of those teams it's a first time. This year our region had much fewer teams competing because of the lawsuit.

The problem for most DI teams this year is the conflict between the school play, "As You Like It," and DI commitments. The hardest part about this is the fact that if a team goes to world, they're going to be missing a lot of rehearsal time right before performance. Since the vast majority of people who are in the play are also in DI there really isn't any easy way around it. Bridget Martin, drama teacher, is worried that she'll lose some people because of the world competition but it really hasn't influenced her casting decisions. Miranda Byrne, who is on the "It's Not Impastable" structure team and has a good chance of going to world is *COMPETITION Continued on 2*

Doc Marten Trend Backed by Rich History

Mark Dyson
Staff Writer

We've all seen them. They seem to be on everybody these days, those brightly-colored, ankle-high, six hole Dr. Martens boots. There are dozens of Open School students and staff that have bought them, and just as many colors. Several shades of orange, green, and blue, and many different patterns, are all available, not to mention that you can get most of those in either matte or shiny. Most people are getting them from a store called Just For Feet, which is selling them for five dollars each. Says Ananda Wold of the bright, shiny, green boots on her feet, "I bought them because they were cheap, comfy, and they're a cool color."

But Dr. Martens, or DMs for short, have much more of a history than their fleeting months as a trend at Open School. The first Dr. Marten shoe was made on April 1, 1960 in England: the eight-hole, cherry-red, 1460 boot (its name comes from the date it was made, 1st April, or 1-4, '60, according to Dr. Martens' website). These first boots were sold almost exclusively to workers in England during the early years of the '60s, and only later did they become a social trend.

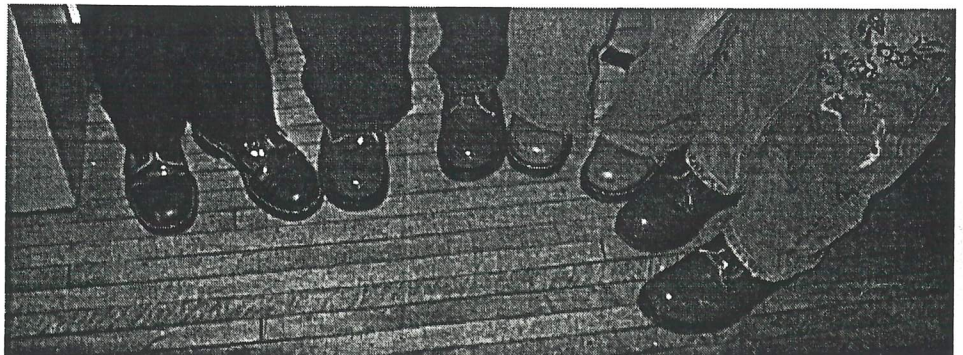
DMs were championed by the skinhead movement during the late '60s, and were

seen on many bands later during the '60s and '70s, the first being The Who. Later bands to wear DMs from the '70s to the '80s include The Clash, Madness, and The Cure. Current bands, like the Foo Fighters, Rancid, Prodigy, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, the Mighty Might Bosstones, No Doubt, and the Toasters have all worn DMs on tour and as part of their common dress.

Dr. Martens have also been a part of the "dress code" of several different English and American subcultures, starting in the '60s with skinhead, and also a standard part of punk dress in the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Grunge, promoted by such bands as Nirvana, also used DMs as the shoes seen on many members of the subculture.

Today, you can see boots and shoes with the trademark yellow stitching around the sole, in many different colors and styles, wherever you look. To date, there have been more than 3,000 styles of Dr. Martens made, and currently there are over 40,000 DMs made every week, according to a book published by the makers of the shoes.

DMs have reached a point of ubiquity in alternative society, especially among young people. I dread the day, though, that the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears start wearing them, but at the rate the shoes are gaining popularity, I fear that we might see rabid fans running to the stores to get their pair of the new teen trend. ♦





Opinions 'n' Stuff



Work Shmirk

I have a plan. This plan cannot be done sloppily or by an amateur. Only a master can pull off this tricky working of my imagination. It is time I acknowledged my eternal laziness of spirit that, though I have tried to hide, keeps surfacing in their life.

My plan is to do no work.

I guess I should start at the beginning, I really don't know what happened. I mean, for years, since my very childhood days, the desire to please others has always been somehow ingrained in me. In school, I have always done well because I applied myself and strived to do well, instead of dying in a pool of death also known as brain-dead lack of motivation. Motivation was never something I lacked, not once ever. I made it up into high school, still with this "motivation" aura backing me up. 9th grade was fine for me. Still the achiever, pleasing myself by pleasing others. Then came 10th grade.

My sophomore year, this very one, I started taking classes at Highland. This was my death sentence. I got a taste for a real "high school" experience and discovered something I had always known: Open is the only place for me. It's like Cheers, one of the best shows ever. Everybody knows your name. I love Cheers like nothing else. Oh, god, how I love Cheers. Sam, Diane, meant for one another, the mailman, Frasier and what's her name, oh yeah, Lilith. All the wonderful people I was so used to. And Woody. Who could forget Woody? Going to Highland set my mind to the truth: The truth is not out there. It's at Open.

What I mean to say with this is that I put myself to the test. Could I keep up yonder, be a wonderful perfect student still? And, yes, I could. Faced with a new and different learning environment, I was somehow able to keep my act together and excel. But it was trying on me. I hated it. I hated having the teachers not care about me, I hated not knowing anyone, I hated the grades, *WORK Continued on 9*



Maura Shramko
Staff Columnist

Who Else Wants To Be An Idiot??

On February 15th the Fox network scored some major ratings with the TV special, "Who Wants To Marry a Multimillionaire?" Over 23 million people tuned in that night. Fox was even

scheduled to air the special over again hoping to grab a couple million more viewers. But, I guess the marriage didn't work out.

Surprise surprise!

I seriously believed that those two pathetic, desperate people who had never met and who were after each other for completely superficial stupid reasons would have a lively and loving relationship that would last for years! In case you couldn't tell, that incredibly long sentence was supposed to be set in a sarcastic tone. Duh. I mean, I'm sorry, but those people seriously make me



Lucy Stark
Staff Columnist

sick. And it's not just the two of them, no, it's all the 49 other ladies who had the lack of self respect to be contestants on a beauty pageant that ended in a legal wedding. What is wrong with these people? Did they think it would be "cool" to go on some show where you pranced around in bathing suits later to be married to some creepy old millionaire guy who couldn't get a date on his own? I just don't understand.

And really, what is the matter with the millionaire (excuse me, multimillionaire)? He couldn't meet someone on his own darn time? Is it really that hard? I mean, he could have just bought someone for himself. He obviously didn't consider that people would lose all respect for him when he went on national television in front of all America to reveal that he was really spooky and creepy and pathetic and needed a date so badly that he would advertise himself as rich and hope that some equally pathetic lady would fall for him or in this case, his money (sorry, *MONEY Continued on 12*)

Barbie Video Games Are Not Gonna' Cut It

Once the image of her sparkling white face, perfect blond mane, and unnatural body hits the screen, am I supposed to be impressed? Am I supposed to be enraptured by this archaic phenomenon simply reiterated through a different medium? The marketers believe I will be. The image of Barbie prancing around a computer screen is supposed to make me more technologically literate, supposed to open up new avenues for young girls everywhere. But I digress: has anyone been able to successfully become a computer scientist fluent in UNIX because of a Barbie computer game?

Games like this have sparked a debate between educators everywhere concerning girls and technology. Boys, some educators argue, have more opportunities to become involved in technology because it is a relatively unfriendly world to girls. Games such as Doom and Quake don't hold girl's inter-



Bridgette DaSilva
Staff Columnist

est because "the idea that they have to die and start over is insane to them." That concept of mastery of a subject doesn't appeal to them. They are "prosocial," shying away from video games that involve that type of competition. Garbage, basically.

Even if shoot-em-up games don't float your boat, the games that marketers have selected for this target audience makes me want to tear out my hair and mail it to them in one neat, pink package. For example, Cosmo. Yes, this backwards form of third-wave feminism has resurfaced and attacked our virtual minds all over again. (Third wave = makeup/fashionable clothes/a great body/and sex advice articles empower me! I don't understand how magazines like this could be selling an image of what I'm supposed to be: a slave! Lets do our hair and wait for the boys to call us.) The Cosmo computer game has all-new features like the opportunity to paste one's face onto the screen and manipulate it with all kinds of makeovers.

The voice of reason seems not to deter marketers who put these games out. Per- *GAMES Continued on 11*

Dr. Laura: Old Fashioned Discrimination

Discrimination: look at how far we've come. It has been going on since the beginning of time. In the 1600's there was the slave trade, which resulted in millions of Africans becoming enslaved by the white men because they were thought to be less human. They were treated worse than the workhorses and the farm dogs. People coming to the new world in hopes of a better life, such as the Irish, Swedish and others, ended up living in the slums because they would work for so little pay. Business owners took advantage of that, so they were looked down upon because they were poor, and they were different. For centuries women have been fighting to have the same opportunities as men: the right to vote, the right to work, the right to form their own opinions and ideas. During the 1960's came the civil rights movement. People across the nation joined together, standing up for African Americans. They held protests and marches; they wouldn't give up, not until segregation was ended.

These are only a few examples of discrimination and prejudice from the past. Many of these problems still remain today;



Miranda Byrne
Staff Columnist

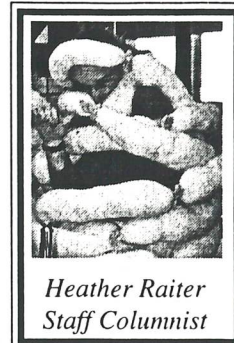
they are just not as prominent. As time goes on, people find different groups and cultures to target their hatred towards. Just when we think we have jumped the last discriminatory hurdle, another pops up right in front of us and we realize we still have a long way to go.

The most recent culture that has been a target of this human flaw is the gay and lesbian community. Struggling for their rights to be respected and treated the same as heterosexuals, homosexuals have a long hard fight ahead of them. Of course, it doesn't make it any easier when persons with influence speak out against them. One such person is Dr. Laura Schlessinger, (Otherwise known as Dr. Laura). Dr. Laura is a physiologist who has a call in radio show that is aired on nearly 500 stations through out North America and has accumulated more the 20 million faithful listeners. Besides her show, Dr. Laura also has a column that gets run in nearly 100 different newspapers across the nation and is making a TV program that is planned to start airing this fall.

Dr. Laura has called homosexuals "mistakes," "sexual deviants" and "biological errors." She has even gone as far as to compare same sex marriages to incest.

"If two men can be sanctified in this country as marriage, then what is your logical or justifiable reason to exclude adult incest? A MEANIE Continued on 9

Spam: A Breakthrough



Heather Raiter
Staff Columnist

Frank never woke up from his nightmare and William never forgave Frank for the embarrassment he caused him when the other members on the team heard of the vomit incident.

Days passed, then weeks, soon months before Frank realized it. He had been working on Mr. Packstone's miracle meat for over three years. The failure of this product seemed imminent. Not even William thought it was going to pull through. Until one day . . .

"I've done it!" Frank threw his arms up enthusiastically.

William sauntered over, "Found something?"

"Yes, yes, look . . . look I just don't know how it could have taken us this long to put this slop together."

William looked into the bowl of meat "It looks just like the first batch we had."

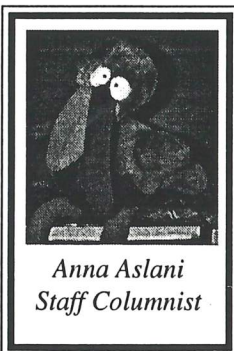
Frank gave William a tired look.

"Yeah, only edible. Oh god William, right now I could care less. Let's cook some up and get it over with." Frank, now in tuned to the kitchen, started getting out the hot SPAM Continued on 6

Is There Room to Date Classmates In The House That Jack Built?

My casual observations of people at our school have led me to make a few unsettling discoveries. While being entangled in a vast teenage social web, I've found myself being sought for counsel in various instances of "love." Although it may at first seem like your normal teenage melodrama, and thus uninteresting, I assure you that "crushes" at Open School work quite differently.

For one, there is no conceivable way that you can keep your significant other secret from anyone, as long as they're in attendance at this school. Secondly, there's a high risk of anything you do with this person being exploited. Yes . . . even the staff will know. Thus implying that your advisor will know,



Anna Aslani
Staff Columnist

and you'd better be pretty darn angelic in school or there may be a certain phone call home to which only the phrase "blackmail" seems appropriate.

But enough about risks, this is to be a happy, frivolous matter. For any of you not alarmed by my former musings I congratulate you! You are now prepared to enter the social obstacle course of your peers.

May I start by saying, "You're going out with who? That's so gross, he's practically your brother! What will your mama think!?" Eeeeeeeeeeeeeewwwwwww! That's like inbreeding!" That's the basic gut reaction echoed by many a peer. After the initial gross-out, your friends may be a little more accepting of your "other half." But that can take months. Just remember that you're "in love" and you no longer need friends . . . right?

I want to know if these "rules" apply to real life. What if you've known someone for a substantial period of time, and you want

to go out with them? Is this inbreeding as well? Have none of us been educated in classic literature? What of Jane Austen's "Emma" marrying an old family friend, or Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations" where the young hero expresses endless affection for a childhood companion? Weren't these supposed to be touching romances?

So what is it about Open School relationships that make them so inaccessible and "yucky?" Could it be public displays of affection that make them hit so close to home? Speaking from personal experience, I admit that picturing some of my close friends involved with each other can give me the willies. But this is Open School. We should be more accepting. We should embrace the closeness we possess with so many diverse people, whether they be brothers and sisters or special "friends." I, for one, will try harder to be more open and accepting . . . even if I have to avert my eyes. ◇

New Wolf Bill Might Be Worth a Look

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed a new gray wolf management bill. It goes about like this: if a wolf attacks a human, a pet, or livestock it can be "taken."

Also if it poses an immediate threat to a person's property, the wolf can be "taken."

Although I support the bill, it does have some minor problems. The bill's two main problems are that they do not define "taken" or what they mean by a person's property. This should be defined because it could be misinterpreted. The gray wolves will also be confined to the northeastern part of Minnesota, roaming one-third of the state

If the bill passes, the rise of the wolf population will slow down, but both sides are attacking the bill. The environmentalists think the bill is too strict and think wolves should be able to populate all of Minnesota. They're also mad at the House Agriculture Policy Committee for breaking the agreement of a 33-person round table that had agreed on a different bill. The round table had included advocates from both sides. I feel that it's not too strict.

The biologists, farmers, and sportsmen on the other hand think the bill is not strict enough. They think that if the wolf population grows too much, the numbers will start

BAD WOLF Continued on 14



Sean Keith
Staff Columnist

Wolves Are Neato

by Miranda in 5th Grade

Once you think about it, wolves are a big family. They wouldn't survive without each other. They hunt together, play together and protect each other. When they play they are practicing fighting, hunting and who's dominant. So they may grow up to be a alpha female or alpha male instead of being the low man on the totempole.

I think wolves are beautiful animals when they run they look so majestic. Not that I have seen them but I can just imagine it and I hope some day I can see one. ♦



A wolf on a rock

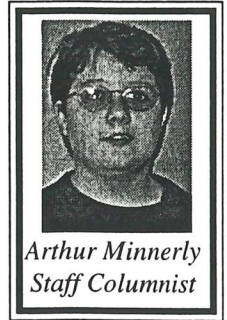
New Wolf Bill is a Step Backward

In early January, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed a new bill allowing gray wolves to be killed or captured and put down if they pose an immediate threat to people, pets, or livestock. Under the new law, wolves could still be shot, or captured if within five hundred yards of buildings or agricultural property, even if they are not posing a threat to anyone or anything. I just don't think wolves are being given the respect they deserve.

I remember when I was on a sailing trip in Canada with my dad. We were rowing back to our boat after a day trip to shore. After a minute or so I heard a faint howling. Then it started getting louder, and I started hearing more than one howl at a time. I'll have to admit, it was a little creepy because it was pitch black except for the moon and our boat's running lights, but it kind of builds a different respect for wolves.

Before 1978, hunters and farmers had been trapping and shooting wolves because they thought they were killing off all the game in Minnesota. So when the DNR finally realized that the wolves were disappearing, the wolves were almost down to zip in the wild, and not just in Minnesota. Since that point, the DNR has been trying to bring back the wolf population with something

GOOD WOLF Continued on 14



Arthur Minnerly
Staff Columnist

SPAM From 5 plate.

"It's deja-vu all over again " William sighed.

"Yeah but let us hope for a better result this time. " Frank started up a batch.

The result was not only better, it was a complete and utter success. Everyone agreed it was the salty ambrosia of the meat world which would be, nine years from then, considered Spammy gooness. Everyone on the team agreed that Frank had discovered the meat wave of the future. The news spread like wildfire all over the building. The wave of the future was here and Hormel was the first to find it.

Twenty minutes after the meat was tested Mr. Packstone came storming in. "Did I hear

that my new little mastermind has finally made the product that we've been trying to create for three long years?"

"It's finished but I don't think I should get all the credit. After all it was Margrits' idea to add the sugar."

"Frig this poop " William stormed out of the room.

Everyone's eyes were on the door that slammed behind a very disgruntled William.

"What's eating that sap?" Mr. Packstone turned to Frank.

"I think he still hasn't gotten over the reaction to his first product."

Frank sighed and started to go after William.

"And where do you think you're going ?" Mr. Packstone glared at Frank.

"To get Will. He's been doing this a lot lately and. . ."

Mr. Packstone started shaking his head, "No, no boy let him go. Sometimes he just needs a little time to himself, and besides we have a lot to talk about. " Mr. Packstone put his arm around Franks shoulder and led him to the back of the room.

As they discussed packaging and recipes, William was at the door spying and what he saw made him angry. He felt an overwhelming hatred forming for his dear companion, Frank. As he walked down the long corridor, a low hollow laugh escaped his throat. As he got to the front desk, he didn't feel so bad any more and he knew exactly what he was going to do to make him feel even better. ♦

The Battle of the Rootbeers

Mr. Joe Levine
Staff Critic

Still not sure, eh? Welcome back to the guide to your perfect pop, part II, the Battle of the Beers. I'm continuing for you root beer drinkers and soon-to-be-RB drinkers. There are nine of these tasty beverages though six go nearly unheard of while the other three are in a no-holds-barred-fight-to-the-death battle for popularity (pun not intended).

The three, MUG, Barq's, and A&W are the best of the brews, but which is the best of the best? Because I'm only doing three pops, I'm giving full Pro/Con coverage along with the handy dandy little TIP that we all (unless you did not read last issue) know and love. Why don't we start with . . .

(Please note strength can be Pro or Con for different people so it is not listed as either)

MUG :
(Foamihead)

It's not too strong (see not Pro not Con) so you get flavor not a kick in the mouth.

Pro: It's yummy carbonation is low so it rarely blows up, and no caffeine to screw you up. Con: the low carbonation takes its toll because it goes flat fast. TIP: add red food coloring drink in a clear glass, snap a pic and keep the red eyes Kodak moment.

Barq's: (Biteybeer) The strongest brew in the bunch. Pros: unlike MUG it won't go flat easily nor will the taste leave when it does. Along history like this one shows it's good enough to last. Cons: bitter, rough and overall the flavor is not too pleasant. TIP: Whatever you do DO NOT CHUG unless you want the feeling of sandpaper, yes, sandpaper, ripping at the inside of your throat.

ROOTBEER Continued on 11



School Shootings: Not Just Outcasts Anymore



Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

Recently there was another school shooting. That's right, a boy got mad at a girl, went home, came to school the next day with a gun, and bang, one shot, she's dead. But this school shooting was different. It was different because, one, the shooting didn't happen in a rich suburban school - it happened in a working class area, and two, the girl and boy involved weren't teenagers, they were first graders who may not have known the reality that once someone is killed they're dead, forever.

This shooting was not something people expected. After all, it's not like first graders bring guns to school every day. There were, therefore, no laws regarding punishment of young children who kill. Because of this, no one knows what to do with this six-year-old who fatally shot his first grade classmate.

Obviously, the state is going to find someone to pay for the killing, and help relieve the family of the little girl (i.e. they're going to put someone behind bars). The problem is, they don't know who this will be.

You see, this six-year-old had a troubled family history. His mother was a drug addict who had been evicted from her home a couple of months before the shooting, so the boy and his two brothers had been staying at their uncle's house. A house full of drugs, guns, and stolen property. Bottom line, it wasn't one of the best environments to be raised in.

So . . . this little boy spent his time at his uncle's house, and then finds a gun sitting on the floor, under some blankets. He then picks it up, puts it in his pocket, and goes off to school.

Do you see something wrong with this picture???? I don't know about you, but I don't think that it's normal to have a loaded gun sitting around on the floor. Well, the state saw it this way too, so now prosecutors think they know who to lock up: one of the boy's uncle's friends.

You see, it turns out that this guy had frequently twirled a gun in front of the six-year-old, and his brothers, faces during their stay at their uncle's house. This family friend was also the person who had brought the gun

GUNS Continued on 13

So You Wanna Be President . . .

Brigitte McKern
Staff Columnist

It's election time. Presidential hopefuls are traveling the country debating, handing out buttons and kissing babies.

You know the front runners: Bush, Gore and some millionaire, but there's one man whose dream you may not have heard. He's known as the underdog, but the story of his rise to presidential hopeful is fetching.

On October 9, 1999, Thomas Lagoo announced that he was running for President of the United States to a crowd of 75 at Perkins in Boise, Idaho.

The Purple Press recently met with Lagoo at the Perkins where the dream started.

P.P.: What made you decide to run for president?

T.L.: I think it started in ninth grade.

P.P.: Were you the class president?

T.L.: No. I fell down a flight of stairs. I broke my leg and spent a lot of time in front of the television. I saw a Kennedy debate and was hooked.

P.P.: Where did you grow up?

T.L.: In Level, Idaho. Small town population twenty-three people, ten cows, twelve

CANDIDATE Continued on 13

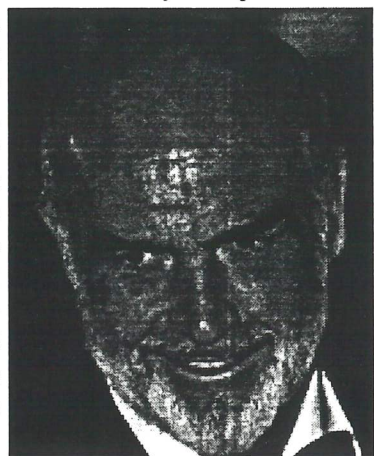


Old Man Monthly: Sean Connery

Lucy Stark
Staff Writer

Old men are wonderful. Seriously. If this world is lacking one thing it's old men. They could be ugly, they could be wrinkly or maybe they could be a little perverted. It doesn't matter to me. All I know is that I love old men. There is a huge spot in my heart for them and I don't really know why. You may think I have some problems. Maybe I do! But nonetheless I am going to write about one old man every month hence the name Old Man Monthly.

This month I will be featuring one old man that has captured my heart. Mr. Sean Connery. That's right, the aging (some think he's about 90 or so, but he's actually 70) James Bond with a scottish accent and dentures. Sean's career started in 1955 with the movie *Lilacs in the Spring*. No one has heard of that movie, but the



Sean Connery

point is, he's really old. REAAAAALLLY old. And he's been in 65 movies. 65! And he produced 4 of them. Wow, he's old! He's

been married twice. Once to a French-Moroccan portrait painter named Micheline Roquebrune and another time to Diane Cilento, an aspiring actress. He also has a son named Jason (who is old too, he's about 50). Pretty impressive for a high school dropout. Now, as proud as I am of my dear Mr. Connery, the reason I love him is not his lengthy filmography or his 50-year-old son. No, oh no.

I love Sean Connery because he talks funny. He says things like "You're playing both shides!" or "You're very shexy." Yes, he talks funny. And did I mention he's old? REALLY old. Sean Connery is just plain shpecial. Coming next month: Regis Philbin, man who looks delightfully like a turtle. ♦

Uh Oh Walker



Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

I recently had one of my videos screened at the Walker Art Center as part of the Junior Home Girls section of their Woman With Vision film and video festival. I learned many things from

this experience. Unfortunately, most of the things I learned involved how not to run a quality event.

Junior Home Girls was a juried exhibition of 34 films and videos created by teenage girls ages 12-18. In all, four of these videos were made by Open Schoolers, and two more were made by a recent Open School graduate. Yes, the screening had great potential. I mean, Open Schoolers are very good at being interestingly creative. And besides, it's usually pretty neat to see people you know blown up onto a fifteen foot screen.

Yes, it's true, the Walker taught me a valuable lesson: preparation is good, without it your event sucks. Here are some tips about having successful public events. If you use them in planning an event then you will have done a better job organizing it than the Walker did when organizing one of their major film/video festivals.

1. Let your presenters know what to expect, what they'll need to do, and how things work. If you don't, you'll find yourself with a few nervous presenters, and a lot of presenters who don't care about the event, and, consequently, don't show up. Maybe the Walker should take notes that, believe it or not, it's very hard to have an artist answer questions if they aren't present.

2. Publicity is very good. Get press releases, flyers, booklets, and other information out to the public significantly before your event. If you have a web site, post your event on your web site. People won't show up if they don't know that there's something going on. And, sorry Walker Art Center, this information should be out more than two weeks prior to your event.

3. Keep track of materials that are given to you. You shouldn't need to call people up the week of the event to ask for new materials, because you lost the ones you had. It makes you look unorganized, and irresponsible. In other words, it makes you look re-

WALKER Continued on 13

DID YOU KNOW?

I am the Cheese by Robert Cormier was banned because "...students should not be taught that a government agency might be corrupt and untrustworthy."*

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

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WORK From 4

scores, everything. My motivation is all that kept me going during that long, hard first semester.

Then I returned to Open. No more Highland this year, for me. Not ever, if I can help it. And suddenly, I had more free time than I have ever had before. At least an hour each day when I didn't really have a class. Some days as much as two and a half hours. It was terrible for me. I didn't do homework anymore, not only because I had extremely little, but also because I used my endless SDL time as a blanket. When I have homework, I always end up doing it right before class. I don't use my SDL time. No, I do not. It just gives me an excuse to procrastinate my work. Too much free time is a dangerous thing.

"I am never going to lift another pencil in my life, unless it's to throw it in someone's eye."

And then there was the Orchestra Project incident. Suddenly, there was a project in Orchestra that I had to do, and by golly, I didn't do it. I didn't have any time in-class to work on it (due to group), and at the end of the trimester it wasn't done. Well, fine. My teacher elongated the deadline, until the middle of second trimester. Still, I didn't finish it. And then I decided I just wasn't going to do it. I still have no intention of doing it. I just am not going to do it.

This, for some reason, bothers my mother. "You can't just not do it," she said in a fluster, when I accepted her indefinite grounding for not doing my project by reaffirming my intention of not doing anything.

My overall frustration with work in general is definitely filtering through in an annoying way. Not a day goes by that I don't whine my life away about how I hate school, work is dumb, so on. For now, my teachers probably think it's funny, maybe even "cute," but soon enough they'll realize that I am serious. I mean it: I don't want to do any work. Not only that, but I am going to stop. No more work. After I finish this article, submit it to Leo, make all corrections and make sure it counts in my evaluation, I am never going to lift another pencil in my life, unless it's to throw it in someone's eye. (Ironically, I never write with pencils. In fact, I typed this whole thing up.)

I am going to go make an angry rock album and call it Jagged Little Pencil and make millions and trillions of dollars. Then I will go into seclusion for awhile and come out with another one later. Everyone will be surprised: How could she be that angry??

Um, anyway, I realize that in this world, we are all being geared towards that time some many years from now when we, the next generation, will have to spread out fledgling wings, and fly out into the corporate, competitive world, where unfortunately, we have to work. At that time, maybe I will have decided to do work again; maybe I won't. The point is, there's more than one way to skin a cat. If I don't work, I can go and live in the woods by myself, thereby becoming a hermit, and eat trees and wood, like deer do. They did in Bambi, anyway. I will not work. ♦

MEANIE From 5

man and a woman-consensual, 25 years old, who are brother and sister-should not be discriminated against because they have a genetic relationship."

It is not surprising to find that Dr. Laura is a main proponent of "reparative" therapy, the so-called cure for homosexuality. There has been much controversy over whether people should be allowed to practice 'reparative' therapy or not. The American psychological association does not agree with reparative therapy. Homosexuality is not a mental illness and they were opposed to all portrayals of gays, lesbians and bisexuals as mentally ill. With Dr. Laura strongly supporting reparative therapy, she has managed to rub a lot of people the wrong way.

"Dr. Laura is able to take advantage of legitimate fears on the part of parents," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, "They know that if they have a child who is gay or lesbian, that child's life is going to be more difficult. What Dr. Laura holds out to them is a false hope that they can protect their child by fixing their child."

Despite all the ridicule, Dr. Laura stands by her beliefs, "I have never suggested that reparative therapy is something all homosexuals should do," said Dr. Laura in defense of reparative therapy. "What angers me is that the professional organizations for psychologists and psychiatrists have said that working with homosexuals who wish to change their sexual orientation is unethical! Imagine if you were a homosexual who was tormented by your sexuality and wished to explore the possibility of changing it but were turned away because the doctor or therapist feared being sanctioned by their peers. I think that's unbelievably cruel."

Now the question is this, should Dr. Laura be allowed to have a TV show? With Dr. Laura's outspoken anti-gay stance, she has angered a lot of people and many people feel she should not be allowed on TV. Representatives from Paramount and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation have met to try and work something out, but nothing has been decided yet. Paramount claims that the TV show will differ greatly from the radio show, because there will be many different points of views derived from a variety

"Dr. Laura is a main proponent of 'reparative' therapy, the so-called cure for homosexuality."

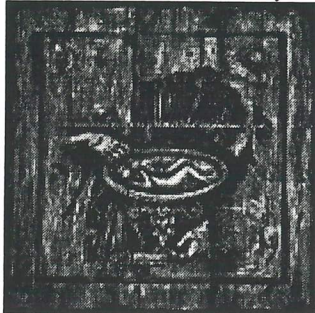
of different sources, guests and the audience. GLAAD members are still skeptical because they know that Paramount doesn't want to change the show too much because of the hope that Dr. Laura's extremism will pull high ratings.

We have come so far but still have a long way to go when it comes to discrimination. I wonder when we will be able to accept people for who they are on the inside, no matter the color of their skin or their sexual preference. ♦

Salvador's Reviews

New Music: The Good, The Bad and the Mediocre

Smashing Pumpkins: Machina/ The Machines of God 'Dis one, 'dis a beddy good album. You like it beddy much, you like the jambala boogala? Take my word, you like it beddy much, issa beddy good album. Why is it a good album you say? Well, hand me a beer and I'll tell ya'. Well, it's like, when you hear an album and you say, "Damn! This is a damn fine album!" That's kind of what it's like, only it's like.... Yeah!



Smashing Pumpkins' New CD

You know? Woo! So go buy it, it's in stores now!

Well, I guess I should say some stuff about it. The f a m o u s quartet is

back, this time with their old drummer Jimmy Chamberlin who was dismissed on drug charges on July 17, 1996. I've said before that a key to a great rock and roll band is the songwriting, and Mr. Corgan is in charge of that.

This time they attempt to resurrect rock

from the dead, with all different styles of musical dynamics. They use a wide variety of guitar tones: the good-old-happy-mild-distortion (reminiscent of such old songs as muzzie and here is no why). There's also some new sounds and tones, like the aggressive-lower-sizzling-distortion found on such songs as The Everlasting Gaze and The Imploding Voice, the torn-static-guitar noises on the somewhat Doors-esque Glass and the Ghost Children, the chorus tones on Raindrops and Sunshowers and I of the Mourning, as well as some pleasant sounding acoustics and good old fashioned guitar solos. There's also some electronic bumbles and some wavey-liquid keyboard sounds.

Another thing I was impressed with is the drumming of Mr. Chamberlin. Like the old days he just sounds awesome, but I also liked how the producers miked his drumming to give him a more diverse feel: raw sounding drums, high-tension jazzy pop drumming on try, try, try, the techno-new wave style on Wound and Raindrops and Sunshowers.

Billy sings of love, life, devotion to God, the resurrection of rock and roll, and of course the end of the world (which actually might be a metaphor for rock music). It

might seem kind of odd for Billy to sing about God with such past lyrics as, "God is empty, just like me" and "down in the belly of the beast". Especially, since it seems that abominating God has become a trend. Even more, his mother died not too long ago, and people's faith isn't too great when something like that happens to their family. None the less, it's an all around great album.

David Fricke of Rolling Stone said the album is like, "Pink Floyd's The Wall rebuilt in the battered image of grunge-heavier, punkier, self involved but not self pitying." And I agree, except the Pumpkins were never really a grunge band. They always had something different about them but since they were a rock band in the age of grunge, they got nailed with that tag, but they are truly one of the last great rock bands of our generation.

Huh?!: Machina/ The Machines of God Rating: **** (out of 5) count 'em! There's four little happy stars there, hehyulk!

Should you buy it?: Well, if you don't.... I'll blow your brains out! Dynamite! Get down oond boogie!

What type of music is it, mommy?: Rock
SALVADOR Continued on 13

A Tale of Two CDs: Counting Crows & Weird Al

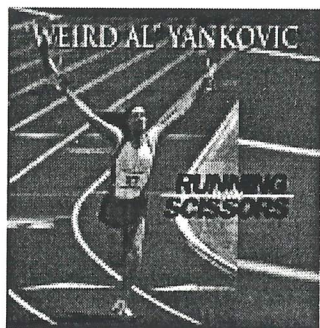
Sean Keith

Staff Critic

"I wish I was a girl so that you could believe me ..." That's what you'll hear on the Counting Crows' new cd ("This Desert Life.") That's a clip from their song "I Wish I was a Girl," one of my favorite songs on the cd.

On this cd, the Counting Crows capitalize on their great beats, and good lyrics. This compact disc starts out with their newest hit "Hanginaround" and ends with their strange yet great "St. Robinson In His Cadillac Dream." Still the cd does have its kinks. I'm going to do its ups and downs.

The Upside: Good variety of songs, good instrumentals, easy to hear lyrics, and the lyrics come with the cd. My favorite songs are: "Hanginaround,"



Weird Al's New CD

"Mrs. Potter's Lullaby," "All my Friends," "I wish I was a Girl," and "St. Robinson In His Cadillac Dream."

The Downside: Some of the songs are a bit too long; for example "Mrs. Potter's Lullaby" is almost seven minutes long, and some of the songs get boring fast.

All around it's a pretty good

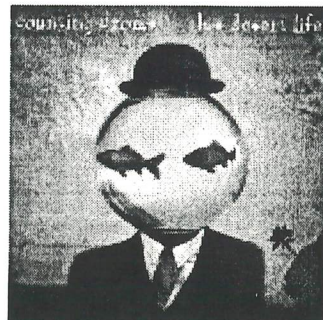
cd. On a scale of 1-10, I'd give it a seven and a-half. You could probably listen to this cd anytime and still enjoy it.

"Weird Al" Yankovic's new cd ("Running with Scissors") is hilarious. He does parodies on "One Week" (which he changes to "Jerry Springer") and "American Pie" (which is changed to his newest Star Wars parody "The Saga Begins.") Also Al does a polka/mix with songs ranging from the Backstreet Boys' "Everybody" to Marilyn Manson's "The Dope Show."

The Upside: Funny as heck; you're always laughing. Every song is great except for about one. Personal favorites: "Albuquerque," "Polka Power!" and "It's all about Pentiums."

The Downside: This cd is only good if you're not tired or depressed.

On a scale of 1-10 I'd probably give this a 9.999999, or as close as you can get to pure humor perfection. When should you listen to this cd? Anytime you're ready for some good jokes. ♦



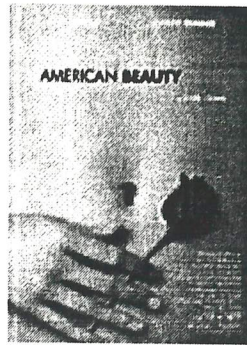
Counting Crow's New CD

PREDICTIONS From 1

personally has been the omittance of both *Magnolia* and *Boys Don't Cry* in most categories, including Best Picture. Those two, along with *American Beauty*, are my picks for the best of the year, but they were virtually ignored, with *Magnolia* getting three nominations, and *Boys Don't Cry* only getting two. Maybe they're "too weird" for Oscar hype, but then again, *American Beauty* isn't exactly run-of-the-mill, and it's been nominated eight times. If I were in charge of this mysterious Academy, both movies would sweep the awards, with some statues for *American Beauty* and some technical awards for *The Matrix* just to balance things out. But alas, I haven't yet coaxed all the money I need out of the mob to pay off the Academy, so I'll just have to rant instead.

My predictions begin with Best Picture. *American Beauty* has been the one the critics loved the most, and it also scored the Best Motion Picture - Drama award at the Golden Globes in January. Considering the other nominees (*The Cider House Rules*, *The Green Mile*, *The Insider*, and *The Sixth Sense*), *American Beauty* seems to be the sure bet. I can't even figure out why most of the other movies were nominated, and of course, they left out my favorites. Grr.

The Best Actor award went to Denzel Washington at the Golden Globes, but I think mostly that win was so he could bring the hero of his movie *The Hurricane*, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, up on stage with him during his acceptance speech. Awards shows



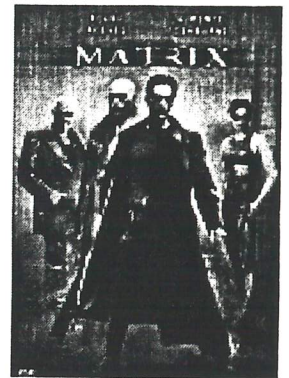
American Beauty
Movie Poster

are suckers for touching moments like that, the Oscars included. So, Washington has a good chance, but my bet is on Kevin Spacey for his midlife crisis role in *American Beauty*. I don't see why there even had to be other nominees in the Best Actress category. Nominee Hilary Swank's portrayal of Teena Brandon/Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry* was incredibly convincing, and there were times when it was easy to forget that she wasn't actually a boy. None of the other nominees had particularly challenging roles, and certainly none of them had to pass off as a man. Swank is a shoo-in, just like at the Golden Globes, where she picked up the Best Actress - Motion Picture trophy.

The Best Supporting Actor category is a frustrating one this year, where one of the few nominations for *Magnolia* is Tom Cruise, one of the few cast members in the movie who I don't desperately want to see win an award. His performance was on target, but nowhere near as impressive as those by William H. Macy or Philip Seymour Hoffman. Cruise got the Golden Globe in this category, but I have doubts about him being lucky enough to score the Oscar as well. He's my second choice, but much like

the Academy's weak spot for heroes, they also love to watch kids give acceptance speeches. Haley Joel Osment is up for his role in *The Sixth Sense* as the now-famous kid who sees dead people, and at 10 years old, a win would give him a tie for the youngest person ever to take home an Oscar. If he were a year younger, and he had a chance to break that record, I'd say there was no doubt, but there's a chance the Academy will ignore him to give the award to Cruise.

Angelina Jolie won the Golden Globe in the Best Actress category up against mostly the same nominees. I'd like to see her win again for her role in *Girl, Interrupted*, because she's one of my favorite actors, but I'd also like to see Chloë Sevigny win for her work in *Boys Don't Cry*. I haven't exactly seen the movies featuring the other nominees, so I can't really judge. There goes my plan to see all the Oscar nominated flicks for once. I'm rooting for Jolie, but I admit that I don't really know what I'm talking about.



Matrix Movie Poster

The Best Screenplay category is a tricky one if you just look at the nominees. From what I've heard and seen, *American Beauty*, *PREDICTIONS Continued on 12*

ROOTBEER From 7

A&W: (Highhead) It is not too strong, not too smooth either so it's just right. Pros: It's sweet and has a good carbonation, but it still goes down easy. Cons: Though it has no caffeine in it, it's quite addictive. TIP: Take a fast swig and it foams, swig-foam, swig=foam, swig foam. Fwig soam!?!

At Open, of course, none are available, but here is a list of places you can find them. MUG can be found in 6, 12, and 24 packs in almost any store, Barq's is the same. Shasta and A&W I have found in Super Value and Sam's Club. Sam's Choice was once available in Greg's room but now only at Sam's Club. IBC is found mainly in restaurants like Applebee's or Cossetta's. The other three are hard to find and I have found them out of state.

AND the winner is . . . IBC Root Beer!!! Wait a minute!!! Who put that in???

Next issue F.F.F. Fruitopia Fights F it out. ♡

GAMES From 4

haps they are being unethical by presenting the idea that this should be important to girls. Some girls may view these insulting games and believe this is what they should be interested in. The fact that the Barbie computer game sold so well could be a red flag for America. What are we telling our daughters? Faugh! Marketers are not interested in that! Everyone should realize this by now. Most of them could care less what they are selling, so long as they are.

Alas, I understand that computer games, with all of its entertainment value and introduction to the computer, are valuable. However, Barbie and Cosmo are not exactly games that improve the quality of life. (Then again, neither is Doom.) Some claim that the world of technology is not girl-friendly, so they have to introduce girls by creating games such as these.

Even when discussing the internet, most all of you know what would arise once you typed in the keyword "girls." Not exactly girl-friendly.

There are alternatives. If one wants to get involved with computer games, why not try a role-playing game that presents opportunities to solve puzzles? Diablo and its follow-up Diablo II (which should have arrived in stores this March) are interesting, as well as Vampire: The Masquerade. Games like these rarely buy into old gender stereotypes, and challenge your intellect instead of insulting it. When it comes to the internet, why not check out some postfeminist fiction at www.altx.com/eb/eb3/chick.htm. Or, if your computer is being a brat, type in the search words "chick" "lit." Games and sites that provide challenging and insightful material are the gems of technology, and should definitely be sought out. ♡

PREDICTIONS From 11

Being John Malkovich, Magnolia, and Topsy-Turvy all have excellent screenplays. I don't know about *The Sixth Sense*, but I was surprised to see it nominated. I couldn't decide among *American Beauty*, *Being John Malkovich*, and *Magnolia* until I looked at other awards, The Golden Globes again, and the Writer's Guild of America's (WGA) awards. *American Beauty* got both of them, and while I wish I could say *Magnolia* was going to be recognized for something, the attention *American Beauty* has already gotten makes it a pretty safe bet for winner.

Like the Oscars, the WGA also gives an award for Best Adapted Screenplay. The twisted comedy *Election* won that honor, but will have tough competition from *The Insider*, based on an essay about tobacco company conspiracy and lots of political controversy. The Academy also loves controversy so they can pretend they're rocking the boat, instead of just looking as mundane as they are.

This year I think the producers of the awards ceremony have finally come to their senses and tossed out the silly dance montage before the presentation of the Best Original Score award, but we still get to hear

all the songs nominated for Best Original Song. This poses an interesting problem, since one of the nominated songs is "Blame Canada," from *South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut*, and of course, it contains a naughty word or two. I could ramble on for awhile about the irony of the situation of bleeping part of a song from a movie about the evils of censorship, but maybe I'll save that one for later. I wish "Blame Canada" could win, just because I know there would be an amusing acceptance speech to go with the controversy, but there's a song from Disney's *Tarzan* nominated, and as we all know, Disney always wins. Unfortunately it seems to be a law, and apparently the Oscars don't even pretend to like controversy enough to let *South Park* win anything.

Visual Effects is one of the fun categories, but with only three nominees (*The Matrix*, *Star Wars - Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, and *Stuart Little*). You're thinking I'm going to say *Star Wars*, aren't you? Well, sure, the massive armies of computer generated characters were impressive, but the effects magicians for *The Matrix* actually had to come up with an all new way of shooting action scenes to get those slow motion moves and flying bullets just right.

The *Star Wars* effects were essentially the same thing as the *Stuart Little* effects, only on a larger scale. As long as the Academy is still more impressed by ingenuity than assembly line armies, and as long as Lucas hasn't paid off the judges, *The Matrix* will take home the award for their "Bullet Time" creation.

Every year it's the same. When I'm trying to pick the Oscar winners I constantly have to remind myself that there's a huge difference between who I think should win, and who will actually win. I'm only betting on my favorites of the nominees in five of the nine categories I covered in this article, and it turns out to be an even smaller ratio when I consider all of the awards. This is one of those years where the Academy has actually done a pretty good job with nominees, but I'm going to be forever angry with them for leaving out *Magnolia* and *Boys Don't Cry*. I could write full reviews of each of those movies, but I'll just shut up instead and tell you to rent them as soon as they're on video. They're good. Really. They are.

Anyway, watch the Oscars on Sunday, March 26 on ABC. Make your own predictions, and then maybe you can laugh at me on Monday. ♦

MONEY From 4

that was another incredibly long sentence).

Okay, maybe I'm being a little hard on these freaky people. I mean, I actually feel a little bad for Darva Conger (the bride). She had a pretty normal life before all this stuff happened. She's only 34 and she worked as a nurse at Santa Monica hospital. She even claims to be a gulf war veteran. "I was on active duty in the Air Force at the time of the Gulf War. Anyone on active duty at the time of that war is considered a Gulf War veteran. I received a medal for Gulf War service," Conger told Inside Edition. But military officials disagree. "You can't call yourself a Gulf War veteran if you've never been to the Gulf," said Retired Army colonel Daniel Smith.

Darva admits she made a huge mistake when she entered the contest as a joke. The network gave away a free trip to Las Vegas and a Jeep to each contestant. But still, she must have known there was a chance she would be married. And she didn't have to say yes when he proposed. But she did. And now she has to deal with the consequences. From the first moment the multimillionaire kissed her after his proposal she knew it wouldn't work out. She wasn't attracted to

him from the beginning. What was she expecting? Some hottie who happens to be really rich and for some reason can find a girl by himself? She is dumb. So is he.

Rick Rockwell, 42, was expecting a little more from this marriage than Darva Conger was. "I was really hurt," Rock said on the show Larry King Live. "I was devastated because I thought this was something that would really work." What a moron. Now, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe it was a great idea. But I just can't understand what Rick Rockwell was thinking. And what did his family and friends think? Did they really agree with his decision to do this? I don't think so. But maybe they thought after his ex-fiance Debbie Goyne filed abuse charges that the TV special would be a good way to get Rick's little feet back into the dating pool. Yes, that's right. In 1991 Goyne submitted charges against Rockwell along the lines of abuse and threats of violence. A judge ordered a restraining order. Fox has explained in press reports that the restraining order was overlooked in its background check on Rockwell because the order was a civil matter in which no criminal charges were filed. Whatever. All these people just

have got some problems. I can't say that enough.

Well, after all is said and done the two lovebirds are trying for an annulment or a divorce. What happens after that? Well, an agency called Entertainment Network Inc. has created a web site for Darva Conger that will help her meet the real "Mr. Right." Haven't you learned your lesson Darva? Just say no! And it's been rumored that Rick Rockwell wants Fox to "try again" and find him a new money-sucking, gold-digging bride. Haven't you learned your lesson Fox? If you're going to air a program like this (it's not like Fox is known for its reality based shows) use someone besides creepy Rick Rockwell. That's all I have to say. ♦



The
Purple
Press is
a happy
paper.

GUNS From 7

used in the shooting, which incidentally was stolen, into the uncle's house and left it in the pile of blankets on the floor.

Real bright guy, wouldn't you say? Anyway, now they want to lock him up, not only for possession of stolen property, but also for involuntary manslaughter, for the death of the little girl. Basically, the court system wants to strongly discourage repeats of the shooting, so they'll throw the book at anyone and everyone they can with as much force as they can. The message to others being: keep track of your deadly weapons,

or be prepared to spend a really long time in jail.

In summary, there was this six-year-old who grew up in a crack house, where gang activity was probably also around. This little boy found a gun at home, brought it to school and shot another six-year-old who he was mad at. Everyone is looking into his background, and blaming that for the shooting. What is most frightening is that this boy's background isn't that different from hundreds of thousands of other kids growing up in the United States.

This boy's family had three kids in it. Just

think of all of the other families who live in those kinds of conditions, and may also have one, two, three or more children. Because of high rent and a booming housing market, many more families are sharing housing. Just think, if all it really takes is one friend of one family member being totally irresponsible to have an atrocity like the one that happened recently, than it's a miracle that there wasn't already a statute dealing with elementary kids who are guilty of homicide. ◇

CANDIDATE From 7

chickens, eight pigs and one Llama.

P.P.: What was your childhood like?

T.L.: Very normal. Up at dawn, feed the llama, milk the cows, gather eggs, pick veggies, paint the fence, mow the lawn, churn the butter, and then head off to school. Of course school was seven miles away, I walked every morning, came home for lunch and then returned.

P.P.: Many people don't know who you are. Your face is not seen in television ads like the other candidates, why not?

T.L.: Well, I figure if people want to know about me, they'll find out. Plus my publicist tells me I have a face for radio - whatever that means.

P.P.: Have you met any other candidates?

T.L.: Of course. I met Al Gore at an Embers. I approached him to introduce myself and he gave me a tip.

P.P.: What was that?

T.L.: Two dollars and fifty cents. He thought I was his waiter.

P.P.: Why do you think you'd make a good candidate?

T.L.: I like people, I want to help people, I don't have a lot of money, I like to give money, and I'm very active in charities.

P.P.: What is your favorite charity to support?

T.L.: P.A.T.P.W.A.A.L.

P.P.: And that stands for?

T.L.: People Against The People Who Are Against Llamas.

P.P.: Any final words?

T.L.: Remember it's not always about how much money a candidate has, or even if he's qualified. It's about you - the people. As my slogan goes, "Tough times will be through, with Thomas Lagoo."

Thomas Lagoo, truly an underdog and perhaps our next president. ◇

SALVADOR From 10

and Roll dude!

Sevendust: Home

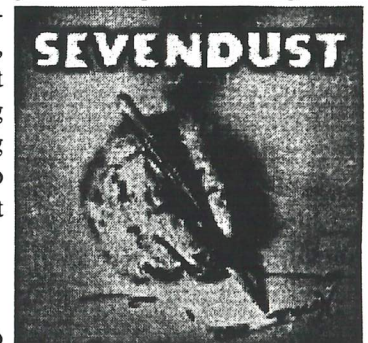
The members in this band are all really good musicians, however some of the stuff on this album is a bit repetitive. I think bands should really try to focus on the songs a little more and stay away from getting songs from jam-sessions. On all the song credits, it just says, "music by Sevendust." There's a lot of bands like that, Korn does that as well. The band has good qualities though. I like the vocal stylings of Lajon Witherspoon. He sings with a lot of heart and energy. I like how they are an aggressive band, but not like, "Mommy, I'm scared!" Maybe, if one person could focus on the song more, I think it would sound better than 5 people trying to pull the song in different directions, until they finally just pull the song apart. Well, they might individually be lazy. If it's too hard to write songs when you are in a rock band, then get the hell out of the business!

What?: Home

Rating: * * 1/2 (out of 5)

Should you buy it?: Well, I bought it and I wasn't too impressed. It ain't really my bag, but it ain't the worst thing I've ever bought.

Oh, my God! What the hell is that?: Hard Rock ◇



Sevendust Album Cover

WALKER From 8

ally, really, really bad, so don't lose track of objects that come from outside sources.

4. The last thing you should be sure you do is test any and all of the equipment that will be used in your event. You look very, very, very unprofessional when you're having a video screening and your projector doesn't work properly. Get to where your event is taking place at least an hour before your event so you have time to test all of the equipment that will be used. A little hint: your projector isn't working if there are white lines going across the screen, and if there is an intermittent blocking out of video with a blue NO INPUT signal going out instead.

I hope that these tips will be useful to someone, somewhere in the future. If not, I hope that you now have some idea of how I think that the Junior Home Girls screening at the Walker Art Center went.

In conclusion I'd just like to say the following: thank you Walker Art Center for teaching me how truly bad a major event can be, if put together poorly. I only wish that this lesson could have come from somewhere else, somewhere I hadn't had so much respect for. ◇



The logo for Junior Home Girls, the ill-planned art show held at the Walker recently.

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GOOD WOLF From 6

called the Wolf Protection Act. After the act had been operating for a couple of years, it was obvious it was doing its job, and the wolves were recorded in the hundreds.

Now land owners are angry because the increase is supposedly endangering farm animals to a point that it will be impossible to keep wolves away, even though only around 2% of livestock are actually likely to be killed. Farmers are not the only ones that are upset by the bill. Mass numbers of people, including the Coalition to Protect Predators, are saying this bill does not allow enough protection for Minnesota wolves. Now the DNR is trapped between two very strong groups of people.

Also, one problem that hasn't been addressed by the DNR yet is the Mexican Gray Wolves. A couple of years ago, these wolves were only about four strong in the wild, and about forty strong in zoos. So they started a

breeding program that would release grown wolves into the wild when ready. Now the problem is that wolves have wandered all across the states and also into Minnesota. This means that when the new bill comes into effect, there's a chance their population will be more threatened. At the earliest, the wolf bill will go into effect in 2002, but in the meantime the DNR is debating how to change the bill to suit more peoples' demands.

As for my opinion, wolves should be preserved in a way that doesn't kill them. Though one of my concerns is that once this new bill comes into effect people will start using the fact that it's now legal to kill wolves, to kill too many of them. If this happens, it will only be a repeat of a couple years ago when they were being hunted so much they became scarce.

One way wolves can be controlled is if we stopped the breeding programs so the

wolves would even themselves out. In the past, wolves had up times, and down times. In the up times, wolves would eat lots of game and their populations would rise. But then there wasn't enough food to support them all, and that's when their populations dropped making the down times. ♦

BAD WOLF From 6

increasing in southern Minnesota. The wolves will also start killing more farm animals and that means that farmers will start feeling it in their wallets. They argue that if the wolves grow in population, they'll kill more livestock. Also once wolves grow up they're hard to capture or kill, so we'll have to watch out.

I think the bill is all right except for one or two small mistakes. If enforced properly, it seems it will control the wolf population, not destroy it. ♦