

Still Better
Than
Scream
Cheese ...
Get it??

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The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

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OM, DINI: What's The Dif?

Kathryn Alexander
Staff Writer

On September 15th, Minnesota, along with other states, decided to switch from Odyssey of the Mind (OM) to a new creative problem-solving program called Destination Imagination (DINI).

The switch was made because of a lawsuit between the two leading sponsors. The lawsuit has since been resolved, but Minnesota is still going to participate in Destination Imagination. "This year will make or break Destination Imagination," said Greg Adams, a long-time OM coach. If the new program goes smoothly, Minnesota is most likely going to stay with DINI. If there are a lot of problems with DINI, however, Minnesota and many other states may turn back to OM next year.

Most people are asking: What is Destination Imagination? "It is very similar to OM," Greg said. The teams are composed of up to seven people, all of whom can perform during long-term competition. The competitions will be held at the same schools for both regional and state, and the only real differences are the names for events. Spontaneous, for instance, is now called a "challenge." These names had to be changed so the OM Association wouldn't sue DINI for copyright infringement.

Some students seem to be very skeptical about the new program. April Cusick remarked, "It will give me an excuse not to do OM this year." Other students thought
DINI Continued on 2

See "A Song of Six Pence"

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

This fall, the Open School theater department will be putting on the play, "Sing a Song of Sixpence." Those of you who pay attention to things might have noticed that usually Open only puts on one play each year, and it typically takes one and a half to two trimesters. In her second year at Open School, drama/English teacher Bridget Martin has turned the system upside-down; she is attempting to put on two plays in one year, one trimester per play.

And what does Bridget have to say about her "changes?" "I feel really good about it. We're under a lot more pressure time-wise," she told me in an exclusive interview.

"I really hope everything will be done in time," con-

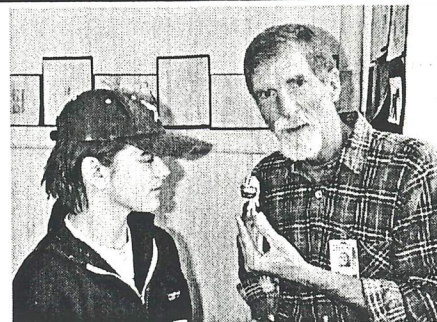
fides Lucy Stark, cast member, "Everything's going well so far."

"Sing a Song of Sixpence" is a British play, which cast members claim includes all kinds of funny British lingo, like "taking the mickey out," which means making fun of someone. "Sixpence" also happens to be a pantomime, a very special breed of play. According to Bridget, pantomimes are traditionally performed around the holiday season in England. They tend to be fairy tales or nursery rhymes with slapstick



Lucy Stark and Miranda Byrne
exercising their theatrical talents.

PLAY Continued on 5



Robin Steinmetz, left, and Don Von hotly
debate

A Midwestern Border Battle

Joe Levine and Sean Keith
Staff Writers

Moss? Culpepper? Are these some spices? No, they're football players. Does Open School care? Probably not.

We went out and asked Open School students about their knowledge of the NFL. Here are some of the responses: Who is Daunte Culpepper? Is it a petunia, a type of spice, a flavor of chip, a singer, an actor? Randy Moss? A cereal, alias to Michael Jackson?

Actually, Daunte Culpepper is the Vikings new quarterback, and Randy Moss is their top receiver.

But not everyone in the Open School community is quite so ignorant when it comes to the NFL. ELC teacher Don Von and 9th grader Robin Steinmetz are well known for

FOOTBALL Continued on 5

Check this out ...

"Have you no respect for a
good catch phrase?" ...

Wolfman, page 7

"Maybe I'll even ... leave the
house. Dearie me, I'm born
again." ... Aimee, page 6

"The staff is conspiring to keep
potentially useful students
inside the school system." ...

Mina, page 6

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News Briefs

DINI Continued From 1

that the problems seemed too corny. Destination Imagination is definitely different than OM and it's also a big change for Open School, but sometimes change isn't a bad thing.

There are some people who seem fairly excited about the new program. "I don't want to loose my edge," said Caitilin Rude, a past OMer who will be participating in Destination Imagination this year. Julie Doble, a long-time coach at Open School, said: "I think it's just different. It will be different for a year and then OM will be back." Is this change for the better or for the worse? It may very well turn out that DINI is in some ways better than OM. If everyone could look at this new program as a breath of fresh air, maybe this change wouldn't be so harsh. After all, if DINI hadn't shown up, there's no telling what would have happened.

For Open School, things will go pretty much the same as before. There will be approximately eight teams competing this year, with five coaches. These coaches will most likely be: Greg Adams, Jennifer Schultz, Kiara Gilman- Buchanan, Susanne Hollingsworth, Kim Kvenlid, and Don Von.

This year, there are six problems in which teams will compete.

The structure problem, which is called "Non-Leaning Tower of Pasta," has students design a structure made from pasta that will hold weight, similar to last year's balsa wood problem.

The next problem, the "Fruit Roller Coaster," has teams make a roller coaster or device that will carry tennis balls from point A to point B as quickly as possible.

"Mixing Apples and Oranges" involves adopting a young creature and its life story.

"If Music Be the Food of Life . . . Play On" is much like the old classics problem. Students perform a non-verbal skit that is narrated by music, much like "Peter and the Wolf."

"Eggs Over Easy" is like the car problems of the OM days. Students construct one or more vehicles where the purpose is to transport eggs through an obstacle course.

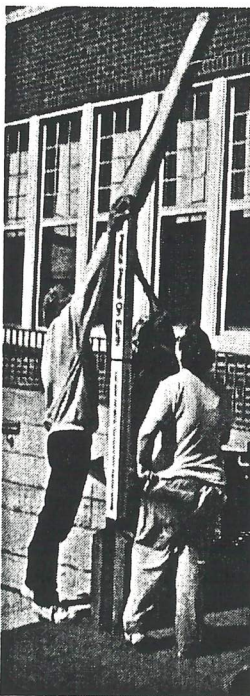
The last problem is unlike any problem seen before in OM: "Instant Pudding Improv." Teams are given famous people

and places to research. When they show up to competition, they are given a scene to improvise. This problem requires very little time before competition, but a lot of quick thinking once they arrive.

Greg held try-outs in early October and teams will be getting together as soon as possible to work on the various problems. Please see Greg if you are interested in being on a team this year. ♦

Peace Pole Raised

On Tuesday, September 21, Open School had a Peace Pole dedication. The event was celebrated with an all-school assembly. There were speakers, a Native American ceremony, a rendition of "Lean on Me," and an ice cream social. ♦



Greg Adams, left, and students raise the top off of peace pole

Student Government

On October 6th, Student Government delegates elected their executive committee members. The positions were filled as follows: president, Mina Blyly-Strauss; vice president, Jenny Bartel; secretary, Tyja O'Neil; and treasurer, Adam Hurt.

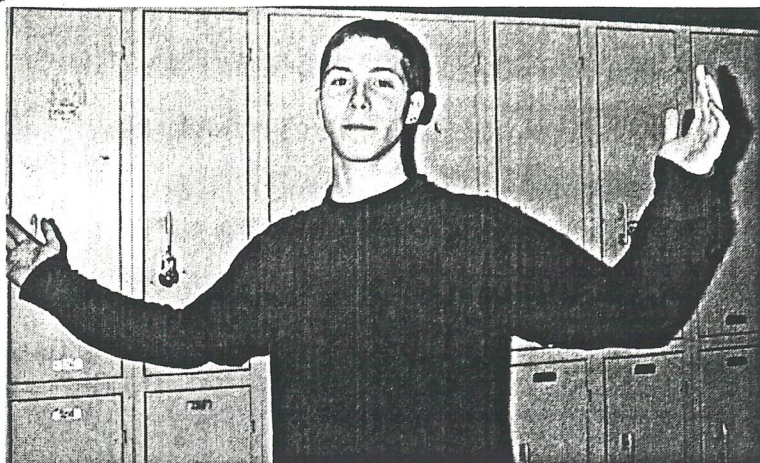
The Purple Press congratulates this year's Student Government executive body. ♦

•••••
• Get thee to thine school
• play, "Sing a Song of
• Sixpence," November
• 18th, 19th and 20th.
• It's a pantomime.
•••••



Senior Profile

Andy Busch



How many years have you been at Open school?
4th year

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

A ferret; like a weasel but with more class.

What do you plan to do after high school?

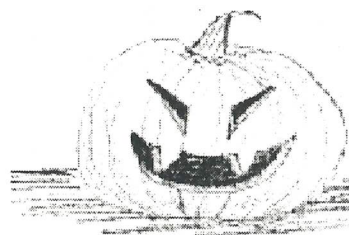
Make lots of money and spend it all on myself.

Where do you picture yourself in thirty years?

A housewife, I think. That way I can do housewife things.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Open? ◇



*The Purple Press
curses you. With
evil pumpkins and
cats and Andy
Busch...*



Open Schoolers Sighted Art Crawling

Mina Blyly-Strauss

Staff Writer

Earlier this month, hundreds of people visited Lowertown in downtown St. Paul for the semi-annual art crawl. Both Open Schoolers and the general public were included.

Several of the participating Open Schoolers took advantage of the event to show off some of their own artwork. Other members of Open's student body had a chance to look around some of the studio spaces.

Open Schoolers Tom White, Michele Anderson, and Mina Blyly-Strauss had their digital photography hung in a studio in the master framer's building. Other work being shown included digital photographs created by recent Open School graduates Sai Thao and Gwendolyn Richards. Their work was showcased along with other young media artists' photography work from around the state of Minnesota.

The student showcase was, quite literally, a last minute decision. So late, in fact, that people were still up on ladders and photos were still being hung on the walls a half-

hour into the crawl.

The general public was impressed by the work, "Good job! Keep on soaring!" was the first comment recorded in a comment book left by the front door of the studio. This was followed by, "Life does get easier when you keep plucking away at it." Another visitor commented on artist bios presented by

**"Life does get easier
when you keep
plucking away at it."**

the artwork, "Enjoyed reading the statements the artists made about themselves. Thanks!"

When asked about her time at the art crawl, Gwendolyn Richards, recent Open School graduate commented, "For my first one, it was pretty okay. Not a lot of people came [on Friday night], but I wouldn't go up eight flights of stairs just to see some art." Sai Thao, another recent graduate who displayed photo work, strongly disagreed, "It was worth walking up the eight flights of

stairs!"

Most of the students who both came to the crawl and displayed artwork didn't get a chance to walk around the crawl. Other Open Schoolers, however, such as Tom White, had a chance to wander around lowertown. Some of Open's students took the time to climb up the eight flights of stairs to visit their often bored, fellow students.

The youth showcase was visited by a very diverse group of individuals. Everyone from business people, to artists, to neighbors, to whole families, to students, to baby chickens paid a visit to the studio where the artwork was being displayed.

Overall, the art crawl seemed to be a success, at least to the Open Schoolers present. The youth sold several magnets featuring their own artwork, and received \$7 in donations. The visibility provided acknowledgement of youth as accomplished artists, and the donations more than paid for the candy that was given out. All in all, not too shabby. ◇

Renaissance Festival Attracts Open Schoolers

Emily Schultz
Staff Writer

Cleavage, dragons, kings, and queens. That's right, you know what it is . . . it's the Renaissance Festival! And who else to be there but . . . tons of Open Schoolers!

So what makes the Ren-Fest (as it is called by regulars) so popular? "It's sort of an 'Open School' place," says Sara Schultz. "You can run around and be silly and no one will think you're weird."

The Ren-Fest has been going on for about twenty-five years and is a country-wide event. It's pretty much "a medieval State Fair." Everyone who works there wears renaissance outfits and some of them speak with accents. When you walk into the front gate there is a giant white castle that you walk through. There are always people standing on the rooftop waiting to greet you once you've arrived. Once you're inside, you'll see lots of mini-castles which are actually just big stores and lots of booths that are decorated like little cottages. You can do anything from buying clothes to making your own wax hands, it pretty much just depends on how much money you feel like spending.

You walk around, see shows (mostly com-

edies), go to booths, eat their delicious food and go on the occasional ride. And, like the Minnesota State Fair, the prices are very high. If you bring \$30 with you, I guarantee you will leave with \$1.00 or less; unless, of course, you pay at the door, hang about for five minutes, and then leave.

Well, obviously, you'll be very amazed with the costumes people wear, but here's something to open your eyes. Last time I attended the Ren-Fest there was a man there who called himself the "Fallen Angel." He didn't work at the Ren-Fest, but his costume was certainly the best I'd ever seen. He wore a black speedo with chain mail over it and had armored plates on his legs and arms. He had metal gloves with claws for fingers and wore gigantic black feather wings. And to top things off, he had on fangs and red cat-eye contacts. That was certainly the life of my visit.

Anyway, back to my main subject. The Ren-Fest cer-

tainly has that "Open School aura" floating about. I suppose that's why so many people like to work there during the summer. "I've only ever worked there once, and that was only for one day at a children's clothing store, and that doesn't really count," says April Cusick. When asked about the rave of the Ren-Fest within Open's students, April added, "It's a place to be weird and silly, and that's why people like to work there so much." But you can be weird and silly at any other big event, can't you? What makes the Ren-Fest so amazing? To tell you the truth, no one knows. It just is. ♦

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For your last minute Halloween needs

Open Welcomes New Spanish Teacher

Heather Raiter
Staff Writer

It shouldn't take long for Amy Underhill, the new Spanish teacher, to adjust to Open School; teaching is in her blood. After all, her paternal grandmother, maternal aunt and her mother were all teachers.

"School's magical. I mean, when someone understands something for the first time, I like being there for that," she said.

Amy Underhill has lived in St. Paul most of her life. She went to elementary school at Easter Heights, high school at Woodbury, and college at St. Kate's.

Before Amy came to Open, she worked at Holy Trinity for three years, teaching Spanish to elementary students. She left Holy Trinity because she was seeing up to 400 students a day and things got a little bit too stressful.

When she came to Open for her interview, she didn't know much about the school or what to expect. She had never taught high school before and was ner-

vous, but now that she has settled in and has become more accustomed to Open School, she is enjoying herself. She said she likes working with students from many different grade levels. "I really like the students. I especially like that the SLCers seem so self-determined."

During Amy's free time she enjoys reading, shopping and using her artistic creativity with arts and crafts, such as beading. She has no children, but her babies are Alex, a West Highland white terrier, and Geneva, her guinea pig.

So far, Amy's first year at Open has been going smoothly. Her plans for next year are at the moment undecided, but it seems that she is leaning towards staying.

"Open has a wonderful system that gives so many choices and that makes the kids more responsible because they are the ones making the choices for themselves," she said. ♦



Amy Underhill is pleased to be at Open

Can Jimmy Come Out And Play?

Advisory Do's And Don'ts

Kathryn Alexander
Staff Writer

During the second week of school this year in advisory, I happened to look outside and see another advisory playing Ultimate Frisbee. As any obsessive frisbee player would, I ran up to Bridget Martin, my advisor, and asked if I could go outside. When I got outside I asked if I could join in on the game. I was shocked by the response: "NO."

What I discovered is that I'm likely to get this response any time I try to join another advisory in an activity. Most SLC teachers have decided on a rule that prohibits students from visiting other advisories.

Bridget Martin, the drama teacher said that the rule came about because last year things got really out of hand. Advisories didn't have enough time to bond with each other. The teachers decided that this year it would help, if students weren't allowed to visit other advisories. Most teachers thought that new advisors didn't have enough time to bond with their advisories, causing students to

split off to other rooms where their friends were.

You have to ask yourself: why didn't we as students know about this problem before it was too late? Jenny Sherman, an 11th grader at Open was asked if she thought it was the student's responsibility to ask advisors if they could visit, or if it was the teachers who should have been saying no. Her answer was: "I think it's both." Students seem to understand that they have to take responsibility for their actions, but the problem seems to be that the students didn't know they were doing anything wrong.

Another problem with this rule is that no one seems to know whether it applies outside as well as inside. It will be a sad day when you have to sign up to go outside so you won't run the risk of merging with another advisory. "Outside, I think, is common ground," said Jenny Sherman. Anyone who uses the field outside the school

knows, there just isn't enough room for a bunch of separate groups. Everyone is pretty much forced to act as one group.

Jonathan Lubke commented: "It's one of those rules that will slowly diminish." He thought that after the teachers realized the rule wasn't working they would stop enforcing it.

What if they don't realize that? Will this rule really disappear or will it slowly creep up behind us? Many students seem very upset about this rule. It keeps students from socializing with new people and it may also jeopardize old friendships. Now that the family room is gone, what other time or place do we have to be a family at Open School? Maybe the simplest solution would be to make sure a student has permission from both advisors concerned before he or she visits. ♦

PLAY From 1

sort of comedy, and also involve lots of audience interaction.

Pantomimes also tend to have a little gender role reversal. An older, female matriarch type of character is traditionally played by a man, and the young, male hero is generally played by a woman. In a way, this was how the play was chosen.

Holly Ryan, who plays the witch in this year's play and was one of four madwomen in last year's "The Madwoman of Chaillot," claims that one day during play rehearsals last year, Jon Lubke, also in this year's and last year's play, filled in for her part. Jon, playing the part of an older woman, apparently impressed Bridget enough to make her consider "Sixpence" for this year's play; hence we have "Sing a Song of Sixpence." Incidentally, Jon is playing the part of the Dame (female character played by man) and Lucy Stark plays the part of Prince Valentine (male character played by female).

As the weeks fade away, and opening night is almost upon us, one has to wonder: Will all the actors know their lines? Will the set be done? Will the costumes be ready? Will the play be done?

In the prophetic words of Bridget, "It better be." ♦

FOOTBALL From 1

their gridiron passion. Robin is a Vikings-obsessed fan. He has season tickets for the next seven years, buys and wears only Vikings merchandise, and stands on street corners with signs saying "HONK IF YOU LOVE THE VIKINGS."

Don, on the other hand, is different not only in that he prefers the Green Bay Packers, but he is also a more low-profile fan. He stays at home to watch games, or goes to his brother's house with a bag of popcorn and watches the game in a more casual manner. He may be casual, but he has been a fan for quite some time. He first watched the Packers in 1963 at Lambeau Field, when they won Superbowl II.

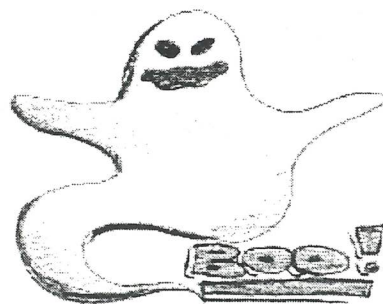
Naturally, these two had very different responses to the Vikings Packers game which took place on (date). The Packers disappointed Vikings fans by coming back to win the game with a last minute touchdown. Robin articulated his response to the outcome with a series of expletives.

Don was more calm. "It was a well-played game regardless of who won or lost," he said.

How loyal are these fans? Robin said it upsets him when the Vikings lose, but he stands by his team no matter what. Don says

he tries to stay detached from the outcome of the game and is careful not to let disappointing losses affect him at work.

As for predictions, both Don and Robin maintain high hopes for their respective teams. "I see (the Packers) winning the division and playing Jacksonville in the Super Bowl," said Don. Robin sees a different outcome: The Vikings winning it all. ♦



The Monster Mash!



Opinions 'n' Stuff

Save Me From My Computer!

The first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem. Yes, I am addicted to my computer. It took me awhile to realize it, but then I smacked myself in the head and decided there's something very wrong with going online as soon as I get home and still getting all jittery while I'm waiting for the connection. Then I don't move until midnight or so, aside from necessary potty breaks and trips to the kitchen to refuel. That adds up to about eight or nine hours a day, and you don't even want to know what it was like in the summer.

But now I'm on the road to recovery. That's right, I am unplugging for a while. I'm going for a week, maybe two if it goes okay. Who knows, I may still be clean by the time this story is printed. Wouldn't that be cool? But it's just as likely that I'll be running around this week like a junkie who's been locked in a room alone for far too long. Everyone saw *Trainspotting*, right?

I'm just glad I managed to convince myself to unplug, instead of waiting until my mom decided I was addicted and did it for me. Like in the *Matrix* where everyone gets the plugs yanked out of their heads and they just go limp and die. Oh, it'd be tragic.

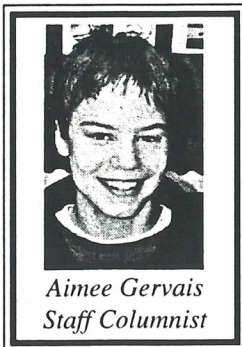
So we'll just have to see how it goes. Hopefully I can at least pretend I still have a life, if only for a little while. Maybe I'll even . . . leave the house. Dearie me, I'm born again.

[Fast forward 4 days]

Oh c'mon, just five minutes. That's all I need. Just let me check my e-mail. Really, that's all, I swear.

Er, sorry about that. In case you're wondering, it's not going too well. It's been a bit like breaking up with my computer. Everything was great at the beginning, "I don't need that computer anyway!" and it slowly went downhill from there. Only three days in I was thinking maybe it wouldn't hurt to

COMPUTER Continued on 9



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

The Truth About Procrastination

Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Conspirator

If you've been around Open School for very long, especially around Leo, you have probably heard abundant use of the word "procrastination." In fact, it seems that nearly every time the word "validations" comes up, the word "procrastination" is close to follow.

Is the fact that these two words always are spoken together coincidence, or are there more devious schemes behind it?

The following are observations. In 7th and 8th grade, advisors make post high plans into a really big deal. During 9th grade most Open Schoolers are extremely concerned about completing three validations. The first part, and often the whole year, of 10th grade there is concern about validation completion. By 11th grade however, students no longer seem worried about validations. Through the middle of Senior year, many students continue putting off completing their validations. Many staff stop heavily pushing students to complete validations

during 11th grade. Many staff members also are the slowest validators to write validations.

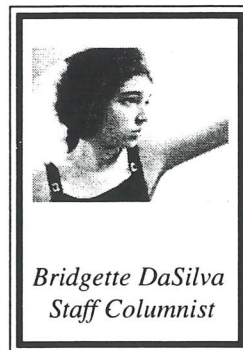
These observations raise many questions including "why is it that validations are made to seem more important during a student's first years in SLC?" and "why is it that as a student move closer to leaving Open, they become less involved and enthusiastic in the system that they must complete to graduate?"

After reviewing this information, there is only one logical answer: the staff is conspiring to keep potentially useful students inside the school system.

If this conclusion seems a bit strange, listen to the reasoning. First of all, when a student first begins in SLC, staff members lack valuable information as to whether the student desires to learn, wants out of school, will come to school/class on a regular basis, knows anything they don't, are violent, like

TRUTH Continued on 9

Women's Wrestling in Peril



Bridgette DaSilva
Staff Columnist

"Women's wrestling can thank silicone. Breast implants made it popular."

-Governor Jesse Ventura

Despite a lot of controversy over the statements made by Ventura, some people maintain that he's just being honest. Concerning this idea, I am one of those people.

Okay, I'll admit it: I am one of the converted. Over the summer a funny thing happened to me. I became a WWF wrestling fan. The campiness of it all reminded me of a Marilyn Manson show, with all the glamour and passion included. The wrestlers themselves were total prima donnas, prancing around with exaggerated characters and scripts that read like soap operas. It was the pinnacle of sports entertainment.

However, there was something nagging

at me along the way. The men's tournaments are fun to watch. The women's are not. Get that. And it has nothing to do with pure strength.

For the most part, the men's division includes an intricate balance between athleticism and allure. The characters are romanticized. Some of their personalities can be traced back to Greek Gods. As for the strength: sure, you have some guys who can lift 300-pounders and throw them fifty feet into a grave during a casket match. But, like I said before, it isn't all about raw power and force. X Pac is one of the smaller guys compared to the rest, but he is admired for his swiftness and speed. And how about the tag team, the Hardy Boys? They aren't beefheads at all, but their matches are electrifying in the fact that they literally throw their weight around like gymnasts.

The women's matches are like the intermission at rock concerts: the warm up to the main event.

It is laughable trying to compare the two.

WRESTLING Continued on 7

WRESTLING From 6

What I have seen in the women's matches is a lot of hair pulling, screaming, and slapping. The characters are also downsized. My big objection to the women's division is the difference in the character's personalities. They are very rigid, in fact. Every one is admired solely for their sexuality. A blanket statement, you say? Here's the evidence.

Let me start with Debra, who isn't actually a wrestler, but manages Jeff Jarret — the confirmed sexist a la mode redneck. My first introduction to Debra was in a wrestling magazine this summer. The writer seemed to be very fond of her. "Who cares if she has an IQ of two or two hundred? Debra's magic number is two." (And if you can't figure out why . . .)

The article went on to describe how her character is admired not for her business-like appearance, but more for how she flaunts her sexuality. He believed that every woman should adopt Debra's "shrewdness," in figuring out that, in today's society, if one wants to get to the top quickly, they should use their sexuality for power instead of intelligence, charisma, or talent.

The problem with that is — and this is demonstrated time and time again in the WWF — if you use your sexuality to gain power and admiration, that is all you are. That is all you become. You are nothing else.

An example of this happened just yesterday, in fact, on the UPN Smackdown event. It changed my opinion of the WWF entirely. It involved two women's wrestlers, one named Miss Kitty (the sex kitten, who would have guessed?) and the other Ivory. It was an actual, down and dirty mud wrestling match. The objective? The winner was required to rip off the top of their opponent. Never in my life have I been so insulted. There wasn't any hinting anymore. This was over-the-top, blatant sexism.

While watching this event unfold, I felt my stomach unravel and my fists curl up into a ball. The women involved were not human anymore, but disgusting creatures exploiting themselves for the disgusting creatures egging them on. They were down to the animal level. Their dignity had been ripped away from them by participating in this match. This was worse than any time Jeff Jarret (Mr. Sexism) hit Chyna (the only female wrestler who is given respect) over the head with a frying pan and dressed her in an apron. Whereas most people agree that women don't belong in the kitchen anymore, I'll bet few in the audience realized that treating these women as sex objects was a simi-

lar discrimination. By treating these women as objects for pleasure, they are reduced to . . . objects of pleasure, and nothing more.

Now the other thing that bothered me was the fact that there were impressionable children in the audience. (Boy, do I sound like a member of the Christian Coalition now. But don't worry, I am not an evangelist.) Children learn a lot from their parents. When they see their parents encouraging this humiliating display, they learn that it is acceptable. Personally, I don't like the idea of being viewed by someone as a sex object because I am a woman. But this is how the women are characterized in the WWF. Brainless, petty, and sexualized.

There is a difference in how they treat men and women's sexuality too. There are such things as tuxedo matches in the men's division as well. This is where the men are required to rip the clothing off of their opponent. (But unlike the mud wrestling display yesterday, there is no nudity on their part) However, there is a vital distinction. The men own their sexuality. They can express it, but they are not swallowed up by it. They don't embody it. They can be heroic, intelligent, funny, compassionate, intimidating, and sexual. The women are nothing more, minus a rare exception.

Chyna. This is a woman who competes in the men's division, because it would be unfair if she were in the women's. She'd just be: boom, you're dead. Boom, you're dead. Boom, see ya in hell. This character is one of my favorites, not because of her brute strength, but because she is given a person-

"The men own their sexuality.

They can express it, but they are not swallowed up by it."

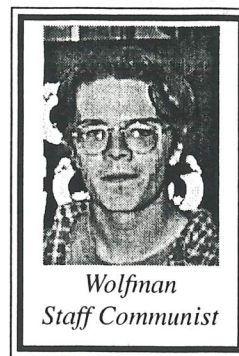
ality similar to normal women I know. She can be heroic, mischievous, funny, strong, and sexual (she regularly dons black leather dominatrix costumes). Heck, she even kicked a door over Shasta McNasty. (One point against sexism!)

So women's wrestling has the potential to rock, but it hasn't reached that point yet.

And what's up with Vince McMahon, the WWF big corporate sleazeball who controls the events? He must have something up his sleeve. What is his intention by having cat fights in the arena? Is it to please an inherently sexist audience? I'm not so sure. I know of a few guys who find the women's events displeasing.

But then again, there are a lot of rednecks coming to the show. You decide. Are you one of them? ☐

State Reels From Loud-Mouthed Governor



Wolfman
Staff Communist

Guess what this column is about! Yup, it's about our man Ventura. But, unlike some of the many editorials written about the man occupying Arne's old office, I'm not going to gasp at his thought-

less abuse of the office, nor will I applaud his honesty. I am going to criticize the public.

I had always hoped the people of Minnesota weren't so thin-skinned as to recoil in horror at any offhand remark made by a public official. I'd like to think the hearty folk of Minnesota are a little tougher than that. I mean, really, blizzards and tornadoes are handled without a second thought, but the first whiff of a snide remark sends us hiding under rocks?

I mean, what are we anyway, men or two year-olds? The man says he can understand why someone who has seen the horrors and ravages of war can find fondling a woman a relatively innocent activity. He never said he condoned it, in fact he said he didn't. He just happens to be talented enough to see things from a perspective other than his own, unlike many people who read those remarks and labeled him as a chauvinist freak.

Then there's the line, "It's good to be the King!" Come on, you uncultured goons! That's a classic Mel Brooks quote! Have you no respect for a good catch phrase?

And as for the religion line, ugh! For the last time, Gov. Ventura said that organized religion is a "sham," not a "scam." There's a big difference. A "sham" is a spectacular failure, whereas a "scam" is a deliberate attempt to deceive. Particularly, the latter is much more harsh, to say that the Pope and his buddies are getting together to scheme a way to rob everyone blind is a far cry from people blindly following a group which just isn't all it's cracked up to be.

As for his pro wrestling appearances, I really don't care. This is just one of those "what difference does it make?" moments that in the long run doesn't add up to more than minimum wage in Indonesia.

Let's see, what next? Oh, yeah, I'm just gonna take this moment to interject my own little Jesse story. One day last year, as I was
VENTURA Continued on 8

Muppets, Mystery, And Matrimony

Brigette McKern
Staff Critic

The sun rises on a crisp autumn morning, the sight of boldly-colored leaves falling from trees, the sounds of squirrels gathering food for the long winter ahead, and the smell of smoke from a Hollywood studio head's cigar. The studio head is laughing with glee as he sees the millions of dollars his studio brought in on their blockbuster summer movie.

Summer movies are a chance for studios to make up for all the money they lost on the year's previous movies. It's a simple formula: overpaid star + catch phrases + too much money spent on advertising = big money! So now that summer is over and I finally got the sticky goo off of my shoes from the movie theater floor, let's take a look at reunions, super heroes, and Muppets.

Movie reunions. Partners that once worked together and just when we thought it was too good to be true, they split. But somehow they find it in their hearts (or paychecks) to reunite. Of course there is no better time for a reunion than summer. This summer it was Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. Who could forget that movie they were in that no one seemed to like until they had a reunion? That movie . . . that they were in



Gonzo

. . . together. Well I'm sure their new movie, *Runaway Bride*, will be just as memorable.

In this movie, Julia Roberts plays a woman who gets engaged often but can never seem to make it down the aisle. Richard Gere plays a big city newspaper reporter who visits the small town Julia's character lives in to do a story on her running. Of course, after much teasing, sparks begin to fly and the two become engaged. But can she make it down the aisle? Will he get the girl?

The predictable plot and too-sappy-to-be-true characters were what I expected from a reunion movie - not much more than the first. If you're at the video store and all the movies you would like to see are checked out and the movies you don't-really-want-to-see-but-would are out also, than I recommend thinking about renting this movie.

If you're a big Muppet fan then you won't want to miss *Muppets From Space*. In this movie, Gonzo's curiosity about his family roots lead him to believe he is from outer space. Gonzo and his family send messages back and forth in hopes of meeting. The government finds out that Gonzo is communicating with extraterrestrial beings and, believing that he is one of them, they use him for experiments. Gonzo meets his family when they make a trip to Earth, but he must choose between his family in space or his

friends on Earth. Like any Muppet movie, there are celebrity cameos, from such people as: Ray Liotta, David Arquette, Kathy Griffin, and Katie Holmes; with Jeffrey Tambor starring alongside the Muppets. This movie is definitely a good rental movie, since a theater full of screaming kids isn't the best atmosphere to see it in.



Garofalo

I saved the best for last. My favorite movie of the summer was *Mystery Men*. It's about a group of wannabe super heroes who finally get their chance to prove their powers when Champion City's super hero, Captain Amazing, (Greg Kinnear) is kidnapped. They must fight the evil Casanova Frankenstein, (Geoffrey Rush) who plans on taking over the city and rescue Captain Amazing. It stars Ben Stiller, Hank Azaria, Janeane Garofalo, William H. Macy, Paul Reubens, and Kel Mitchell as the wannabe super heroes. The movie is hilarious, the characters unique, and there couldn't have been a better cast. I definitely recommend seeing this movie.

Well, there you have it, another summer of movies. But what can we expect next summer? Only time, pop culture, money and studio heads can tell. Happy movie watching! ♦

VENTURA From 7

walking to Open from St. Bernard's, which is where I took a German class, I had a close encounter of the Ventura kind. I was walking down Rice St., between University Ave. and Sears, and as I cross the street, this brown station wagon comes barreling down the side street at me.

The vehicle showed no signs of stopping, which worried me, naturally, but I wasn't in the best of moods that day so I figured I had the right of way and if this jerk hit me I'd just sue the pants off of him. Besides, I'd probably do more damage to a hunk like that than it would do to me.

Luckily, such an accident never occurred, since the driver managed to stop on a dime just a foot or two away from me, and you'll never guess who was driving.

Okay, fine. Given the context, it wasn't all that hard. It was Gov. Ventura. He was rather oblivious to me as I stumbled across the rest of the road in shock. Not believing it was actually him, I glanced at the side of

the car, where a large State of Minnesota seal was stamped. For further proof, he then drove off to the capitol, still clueless as to my presence.

So, anyhoo, that anecdote out of the way, what else do I have to say? Oh, yes. Ventura's capabilities as a governor. Well, what has he done wrong? Let's see, he uh . . . no, he did . . . not quite. Dang! I can't come up with a single act of legislation or executive-type decision he did that had a blatantly adverse effect on the state.

All he did was to oppose stadium taxes, an act for which I applaud him. If a billionaire wants a stadium, by all means, let them build it; let them pay for it, too.

He also opened the forum on a number of issues which critics translate into support for, such as the legalization of drugs and prostitution, which, I'm sorry to say, wasn't exactly his idea, the Libertarians have been doing that for years now.

One thing he has pushed for is more streamlined, effective government. Another

misconception is that he wants to cut social programs. And while in a way this is true, the plan is to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and move funds from failing programs into ones that work, thus putting each tax dollar to better use.

Perhaps the most notable action of his career is one that tends to go unnoticed within the reaches of our own state, how he has advanced the Reform Party. Remember back when it started? Back when it was all about that loony Texan named Ross Perot? Well, now it's not. Ventura has moved the image away from the unappealing Perot to a more acceptable stance in the public's eye, in addition to gaining the only statewide office ever held by a member of the party.

So, in conclusion, how do we repay a governor that's managed to put the whole political scene into perspective? We try to dethrone him in a vain attempt to forget about our little electoral "oops." Well, tough noogies. You'll just have to learn to deal with your own mess for a few years. ♦

Working For The Weekend

Job number one was a bakery thing: selling cakes, pastries, donuts, bread and cookies to yuppies with money to burn. It was in some ways just great; once I mastered the listing of ingredients and

the ten thousand procedures for cake orders, I was sailing through it. Plus, all the free cheesecake, etc. But it was hectic, full of vague managers with lists of things like "attention to detail," and "ability to influence customer satisfaction," and they rated me on these. As if I knew what those things meant. As if they even did. As if I had time to care about this job as anything other than an after-school stint.

I just quit that job. Still gotta finish out my two weeks. People always say work is hard, boring and time-consuming. What they don't tell you is that it takes more than your time. It takes your brain cells. Doing a crap job sucks something out of you, something I didn't realize I was losing until just this summer. It's that childish sense of abandon. Work turns you into a grown-up. Yuck.

School can do it, too, if you have the wrong attitude, not to mention owning things like cars and houses. Time turns into money which turns into responsibility. Open School isn't really like most schools in that it has a more outsider outlook on life—it is what you make it, not just a series of things leading along like some hurdles race, but a path that skips, jumps, swims and rolls in the meadow. At least that's what I've always thought.

I got another job at a restaurant, cashiering and busing tables. I'm quitting that one, too. I like quitting jobs, it's proof to myself that I am more important than them. The downside is that I still need a job, since I gotta go to college. Isn't that strange, thinking of life as a skipping dance, and sometimes living it like a death march? But the moment it's not worth it, I'll move to Venice, Italy, and become the first female gondolier. The gondolieri are extremely rude and expensive, just perfect.

My new job is waitressing. Good money, but I don't get to be rude. I have to tell you, if you're selling your soul part-time, sell it to the highest bidder. ♦



Lauren Beitler
Guest Columnist

TRUTH From 6

to complain, do homework, etc . . . By 10th grade, most staff have started figuring out what a student can do for them. By 11th grade, many teachers and administrators know what the students know, what the students can do for them, and often have at least one student doing at least a few things, if not a lot of things, for them (many of these things involve technology and/or organizational skills). Thus, by the time they have reached this point they start wondering what they will do without these students. And more importantly, who will replace these students when they graduate.

You may still not understand how staff members affect validation completion. If this is the case, there are only two words that present themselves. These words: peer pressure. You see, as staff members constantly complain about how 11th and 12th graders "procrastinate about doing validations," students become forced into the mind

COMPUTER From 6

just check my e-mail really quick or drop in on the Star Wars chat room I hang out in to see what everyone's up to. That room, by the way, is a bit more than just sitting around playing Star Wars trivia all the time. Not much more, but we get to try the occasional hostile takeover of other rooms and other shenanigans. So it's possible that in a whole week I could really miss something interesting. See, there I go again.

The whole point of this week was to show myself that I can function without my computer, and I've spent the whole week trying to rationalize going back online early. It's made me wonder why I'm really doing it, if all I did the whole week was wish I was online. The first few days were very worth it, at least. I went to two parties, saw a pile of movies, read a lot, and wrote even more. I'm sure I had more fun than I ever would have if I had stayed in front of the computer, but I still can't wait to go back. This last weekend started to seem very pointless when I ran out of things to do and started trying to do school work. It should have worked, since getting caught up with assignments was another point of my disconnecting, but then I realized I fried my brain doing other stuff. So I watched some TV.

This week has showed me that, although it's a lot different from a normal addiction, it's quite possible to be addicted to comput-

ers. I knew that before, I just didn't see a problem with it. Living online can be very similar to living in the real world, and if you think about it, one is not much more valid than the other. Every now and then people like me need a "reality" check though, even if my actual reality isn't much more real than my virtual reality. ♦

set that that is simply the required attitude about validations during this part of your high school career. You start to wonder what Leo will have to talk about if students don't procrastinate. What would the staff think if everyone graduated the first year that was possible for them to graduate? What about when there are no more validations for staff to complain about writing?

To add to their cause, many staff put off writing validations by misplacing requests, leaving requests at school, leaving requests and/or validations at home, etc . . . Knowing that if a student doesn't have all of their validations filed by May of their senior year, they will most likely be back the following year, thus providing more time for staff to adjust to the idea of not having the student around to be useful to them.

In conclusion there is one piece of advice that seems to present itself. This advice is the following: Look out for peer pressure, you may find it where you least expect it. ♦

Top Ten Halloween Costumes

- 1 - Lemon Merengue
- 2 - The Red "C" (I actually saw a teacher do this one year.)
- 3 - Canteloupe
- 4 - Elvis
- 5 - The Amazing Radioactive Ferret Man From A Moon Orbiting Zondar
- 6 - Pikachu (Ha ha, made you wince!)
- 7 - The Abyss
- 8 - A neo-classical interpretation of the age-old struggle between depth and reality
- 9 - Pasghetti
- 10 - Jerry Falwell

ers. I knew that before, I just didn't see a problem with it. Living online can be very similar to living in the real world, and if you think about it, one is not much more valid than the other. Every now and then people like me need a "reality" check though, even if my actual reality isn't much more real than my virtual reality. ♦

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