

Shhh,
you'll
wake the
baby:

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We're gonna' party like it's 1999! An Open School Year-in-Review

Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Writer

Now that we are nearing the end of yet another year of being Open School students, it's hard to think past "we've almost made it." But before you get out your summer vacation gear, let's have a look back at another year at Open. There have been a lot of controversies, changes, troubles, improvements and fun activities that have combined to make this school year different from any other (and I'm not just talking about the new graduation portfolios.) Try, if you will, to think back to last September. That's right! Fall of 1998. There are eight new staff members...

Eight, of course, if you don't count the returns of Elaine or Ev. Sharon wasn't able to start teaching until a few weeks into the year, so Susanne Hollingsworth was temporarily an advisor. Pete and Kelly started teaching two separate classes, with a total

of around 50 kids, in one room. Sara Barsel left her position in Twice Exceptional, Kim Kvenild took her place. Ev was called out of retirement because Jennifer Johnson had her daughter early, he didn't retire for good until January 4th, when Jennifer came back. There was also our hall monitor of four years, James Bush, who left. And our hall monitor Jeff Loots, the college football player extraordinaire, who also left. The custodians Mike and Jeff also left, leaving us with an entirely new maintenance staff.

Also, remember the arena scheduling? How about trying to get into Julie's Biology class? How about all of the new computers in Julie's room, the computer lab, the art room and Leo's room? Then there was Tom and Pat's mural, and Julie's advisory mural. There was the school fund raiser: sell a heck
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Gail Bids Open Farewell

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

Open School is about to lose another long-time staff member. Gail Barth, whose teaching career spanned 35 years, 20 of which she spent at Open School, is retiring.

"I thought it was probably time for me to investigate other doors," said Gail, whose teaching expertise at Open School has been the primary grades.

Gail said she knew this was the right time

to retire, because instead of teaching a combined class of 2nd and 3rd graders like she had in the past, she was teaching only 2nd graders. Students wouldn't be returning to her class the following year, which meant she would have a whole new set of kids.

"I will miss the kids," Gail said. "Teaching is a really hard job at any school; kids at Open make the job easier."

After 20 years, it isn't surprising that someone would want to move on. "I've had really mixed emotions because I've been here so long," she said. "I think that's the way with anyone who's come to the end of their career."

When asked what she won't miss, Gail thought for a minute. "My messy room," she said. "I won't miss the mess." ♦



Open Schoolers Sighted Hauling

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

They hauled brush. They chopped wood. They stacked it, too. They filled in potholes, moved canoes and kayaks, mopped and waxed floors, did dishes, and so much more. They are the few, the proud, the Outward Bounders.

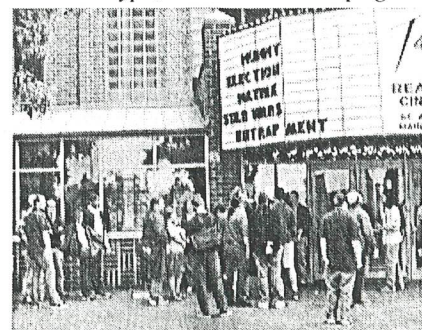
Yes, it's true. On May 21st, 16 Open School students, one teacher and one former Open School teacher completed a five-day service project, up in Ely, Minnesota. The group endured two six-hour bus rides to get there and back, but students found it to be an enjoyable experience.

"I thought it was really cool for my first time [to Ely]," said Bridgette DaSilva, 10th grader. "Ely was really beautiful."

The students involved had been fund raising for months in advance, all the way back to the Taste Test last fall. A grand total of around \$2400 was made, earning \$1400 at the Plant Sale, \$600 at the Taste Test, and \$200 in various other fund raisers. Interim proved a convenient time for the trip because Julie and the students involved would only
OUTWARD Continued on 10

Count the number of times the words "Star Wars" appears in this issue. Submit your guess to Leo by Tuesday, June 8. First five correct answers will win a *The Purple Press* back issue of their choice. Either that, or a feature article in an issue next year!

Star Wars Hype, read about it on page 5.



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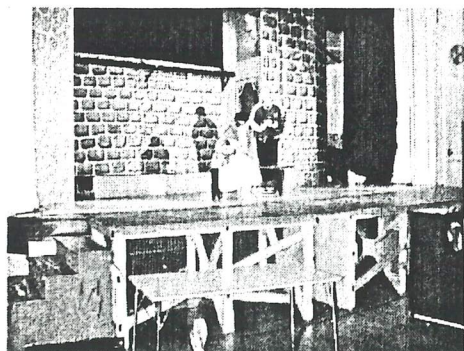
Headitor

Leo Bickelhaupt

Performing Arts Night

Open School hosted a successful night of music and drama last Thursday. The event featured five short plays intermingled with music by the orchestra. Four of the plays were short productions, taking less than ten minutes to perform. The final play, "The Quest for the..." was a 45-minute production.

All the plays were directed and produced by students in Bridget's sixth hour drama class. ♦



News Briefs

Ultimate Frisbee

This year, as the daisies began to grow, the SLC sport of choice switched from the minimun-energy game of four square to the faster paced ultimate frisbee. Students play ultimate during lunch and after school on Mondays with Tim and Leo as part of the Monday Extras program.

To capitalize on growing interest in ultimate, Tim and Leo are organizing the first annual inter-advisory frisbee tournament to be held at Lake Elmo on Thursday. Sign up sheets were sent around to advisories to determine how many willing players are in each advisory. Advisories with less than seven participants will be combined with other advisories in order to field a full team. Teams will advance through a tournament style bracket with an overall champion crowned at the end of the day. ♦

Minnesota AIDS Walk

Every spring on the third Sunday in May, people from all over Minnesota come together to walk for the same cause, fighting AIDS.

The 10K walk around Minnehaha Park is Minnesota's largest AIDS-related fundraising event and all money raised through pledges and donations goes directly to the Minnesota AIDS Project along with other Minnesota agencies. Other benefiting agencies are the Agape Home, the Alive-ness Project, District 202, a GLBT youth peer education program, and Open Arms of Minnesota, a meal delivery program for people living with HIV/AIDS in the metro area.

For many people, going on the AIDS walk every year is important to them for emotional reasons. For people who have lost someone they love to AIDS, know someone who is currently living with AIDS, and even people who are HIV+ themselves, participating in the walk brings them hope and makes them feel that they are doing something to help. Although it may feel like a small step, raising money is one of the most helpful things you can do along with volunteering your time. ♦



Miranda Byrne comes up with the reception during lunchtime Ultimate Frisbee.

White T-Shirt Day

On Thursday, May 20th Open School joined many other schools throughout the state of Minnesota in speaking out against violence. May 20th was the one month anniversary of the Littleton, Colorado school shooting, so students were asked to wear white t-shirts in support of peace. Many of Open's students looked united as they arrived at school sporting white shirts. ♦

Interim

After much planning, Interim rolled in for three days of fun and learning starting on Wednesday, May 19th. SLC students and staff jam-packed the days with activities such as Outward Bound, a behind-the-scenes look at the Minnesota Zoo, street theater performances at BridgeView and in Downtown Saint Paul, ultimate frisbee, playing Dungeons and Dragons, visits to parks, watching movies and preparing for senior graduation. On Wednesday, the third floor looked nearly deserted as the SLC was off having fun. ♦

End of Year Calendar

June 7

SLC graduation at Como Pavilion.

June 8

Last day of classes.

June 9

SLC to Valley Fair/Como Park.

June 10

Last day of school for students. Long advisory at Lake Elmo and other locations.

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Dear Open School Community,

As I sit writing this, I recall the happy times as well as the sad ones. Through it all Open has been there for me. Open has played a huge part in who I am today.

Open, I fought for you on numerous occasions, and won. Now it is time that I relinquish the reins to the next generation of Open Schoolers. I ask of them to remember our philosophy and what it truly stands for.

I could not have asked for a better place to spend my high school years. Open, you have taken the mouse you were given and turned her into a butterfly, ready to spread her wings and fly.

I know the time has come to move on, for I have outgrown the school. No matter what I decide to do with my life, I will never outgrow the friendships I have made here.

Open, thanks for everything!

With Love,

Tara Michele Wilken '97
Tara Michele Wilken

REVIEW From 1

of a lot of stuff and you went to the Old Country Buffet in a limo. There were also the Digital Photography, and Honors Ordway shows with artwork made by several of Open's artistically-motivated students. There was also OM; five teams went on to state, two others placed. Open had a strong NEDC team; they came in second with their "Lemur." There was the Pokemon craze, and club. "The Mad Woman of Chaillot" was this year's masterfully cast play. There was the all SLC Roller Skating activity, and the one-of-a-kind all school Math Fair. There was the wonderful prom at Como Pavilion on the 23rd of April, and the Spaghetti Dinner that attracted 200 people on April 27th. There were the three days of Interim, and there was the week-long Outward Bound trip. Tou Ger Xiong visited, presented, and rapped here. There were the wonderful Halloween and Snow Days activities and dances. The skateboarding battle involved students convincing staff that allowing skating at school wouldn't be too much of a liability. There was the SDL controversy, to use SDL or to abuse SDL. There was also the bullet-belt controversy. The

result: many very mad students, many complaints and, ultimately, an all SLC meeting and a general understanding between students and staff members. Student Government also played an active role in school, starting with the election of the president, Pepsi Benjamin, last fall. And, yes, throughout the year there were many, many frantic seniors using the forces of, first procrastination, then adrenaline, to get to the divine point of graduation.

Outside of school was also . . . well . . . interesting. This past school year saw many movies such as: Godzilla, The Truman Show, Deep Impact, Titanic, Saving Private Ryan, The X-Files, Star Trek Insurrection, The Matrix, A Bug's Life, City of Angels, Elizabeth, Shakespeare in Love, The Mask of Zorro, You Got Mail, Ever After, The Mummy, Entrapment, Life is Beautiful, Austin Powers, 10 Things I Hate About You, Waking Ned Devine, Message in a Bottle, remakes of both The Parent Trap and Doctor Doolittle. . . and yes, the long awaited Star Wars: Episode I.

The state seemed to really dislike teens this year. They started out with the new grad. standards, then they made it harder for teens

to get drivers licenses. Finally, as if the other stuff wasn't enough, they sent thousands of teens into fits when they decided to dump teachers. There was also the condom battle in the Saint Paul School district, and there was the new superintendent. There was the "gay teletubby." There is more on the International Space Station, and there was a newly discovered galaxy. There was an economic crises in Asia, more political trouble in the Middle East, and the war in Kosovo. There is the Y2K problem, and the millennium mania. There was the Titanic exhibition, and the election of our constantly apologizing Governor with his concealed handgun. There were the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the Clinton impeachment hearings, and the Starr cover up. There were basketball players who were caught cheating in academics, and the sitcom stars who were condemned for having eating disorders made public. There were school shootings, and there were school vouchers. There was good music, and there was bad music. . .

. . . And there was a whole lot of other stuff that combined to make the sometimes overburdening, often exciting, truly colorful 1998-1999 school year. ◊



Andrew
Netteberg

Senior Profile



How many years have you been at Open School?

Seven years.

If you were an animal, what would you be?

Well, I can't top Pat's but I'm guessing I'm going to have to go with the Nerf from Star Wars.

What do you plan on doing after high school?

To go to college and become a teacher and take over Julie's position.

Where do you see yourself in 30 years?

Retiring from my position at Open School and handing it off to another former Open student.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Slacking off in the halls, playing AD&D.

current events

Geeks Did It? Suburbia Did it!

When the news of the Columbine shooting came across the television, I was in an internet chat room with a bunch of computer geeks. We were all appalled at the news, and later when we found out that these kids were supposedly computer geeks, it got worse. How could one of our own commit such atrocities? Geeks are supposed to be submissive wimps . . . not gun-toting lunatics.

When the media discovered that the young men from Columbine played Doom and Battle Tech and had a web page, they immediately called them geeks. The truth of the matter is that these young men were not geeks at all. They were mere gamers who liked to pretend that they knew what they were talking about. Proof exists to prove this: Klebold had an AOL site. America Online is the ultimate evil of online services. They provide poor service and if you need support, good luck. No true geek would ever be caught dead with an AOL account.

Another piece of propaganda put forth by the media that really bugs me is the fact that all computer games are "killing simulators", as put forth by state legislator, Sandy Pappas. Most computer games don't have anything to do with killing people. In fact, I can't think of a single computer game that actually involves killing people. Sure, Quake, Doom, Duke Nukem and such have you killing things - but there is a real big step between aliens and genetic mutants and humans. And even if these games did portray someone killing real people, how the heck is shooting with a mouse and keyboard anything like taking fully automatic shotguns and assault rifles and killing people?

GEEKS Continued on 11



Terry Schanno
Staff Columnist

Since the school shootings in Littleton, CO parents, teachers, and politicians have all asked a collective, Why? But good answers are hard to come by.

Therefore, the masses have all decided to take the easy way out, and target things like trench coats, industrial techno, the girl who wouldn't go to prom with one of the gunmen, and a type of computer game which involves blowing up your competitors with gratuitous violence, and life-like gameplay. They are doing this because they believe that these things will be easier to deal with than dealing with the real problems faced by our



Brian Blakely
Staff Columnist

culture and giving our society a makeover.

Dr. James Garborino, a household name in adolescent psychology, speaking at a closed forum on May 12th said, "I hope we can all approach this topic with a certain humility." He then went on to have a moment of silence for the victims of the Columbine shootings.

Garborino, who has spent time studying topics like children who live through wars, and kids who have killed, said that it is a mistake to just target one issue. He believes there are some that are more important than others. Garborino also pointed out that these shootings haven't yet been compared to inner city gang violence, which, across the nation, kills as many kids daily as were killed in the Columbine shootings.

Garborino said that our culture targets the things we think we can get rid of easily, and, "We've always been drawn to look where

LITTLETON Continued on 10

Marilyn Manson Did It?

A few weeks ago I was watching The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn. It happened to be just after the Littleton shootings and the Oklahoma tornadoes. He was showing footage of tornado destruction and people crying because they had lost their houses and such, and he turned to the camera and said, "Damn you Marilyn Manson." I thought that was hilarious, but that might as well be America's way of thinking.

Blaming Marilyn Manson for problems with America's youth has become a media trend. And you can be damn sure that these people have never actually bothered to listen to his music, let alone hear what he is saying. After the shootings, Marilyn Manson



Salvador Rosas
Angry Young Man

issued this statement, "It's tragic and disgusting anytime young people's lives are taken in an act of senseless violence. My condolences go out to the students and their families." Oooh, that sounds so very evil, Marilyn Manson should be sentenced to death. I'm being sarcastic in case any elderly people read this.

Marilyn Manson is not the person to be blamed, nor is KMFDM, Rammstein, movies or video games. There are two kinds of people that are more responsible for this than Marilyn Manson, but I don't think the media wants to admit that the people to blame are the kind of people that Eric and Dylan killed -- the preps and jocks. Anyone who has been to a different high school knows that the need to be popular or to fit in is extreme. If you don't fit in, you will be made into an outcast and made fun of by stupid, preppy jock people. In my opinion, it was just a matter of time before something like this happened. Although there is no excuse

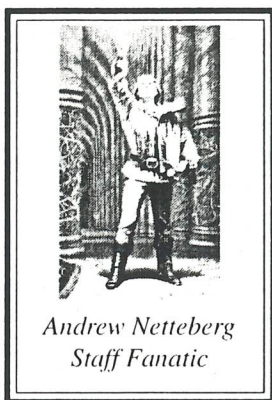
MANSON Continued on 10

Opinions 'n' Stuff

Star Wars: 24 Hours Plus

People have said I was always a little obsessive. I fail to see why. You see, to me, it is perfectly reasonable to spend eight hours in the pouring rain standing with people who are singing the Star Wars theme, rattling off trivia questions, and making sound effects that sound exactly like the movie's effects just to get tickets for Episode 1. I fail to see how I am obsessed. Since I am trying to explain my dementia, I will go through my day hour by hour.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 0600 hrs: I get a call from my operations commander Peter Holm (here after referred to as Alpha



Andrew Netteberg
Staff Fanatic

One). He informs me to get to Har-Mar for advance tickets for Star Wars. I pack my book bag with AD&D stuff, Star Wars RPG stuff, dice, books, pop, and munchies. I ready my cell phone so I can make instant communication with all team members. I grab a lawn chair, load up my car and drive to Har-Mar.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 0730 hrs: I have been at Har-Mar for a little under a half an hour now (prep time took a while) and I call Alpha One for a Situation Report. He informs me that he is at Centennial Lakes Movies out in Edina and is in line at number 33, I am currently number 180 something. I drive on over to Alpha One's position for further commands.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 0823 hrs: I am now heading south on 35W around 35th/36th street exit. KDWB announces that there is traffic on 35W backed up from 62
STARWARS Continued on 11

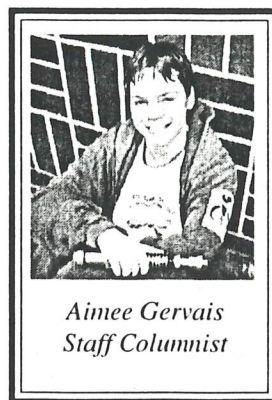
Star Wars

"Morning, Grommit, time for walkies." What's that? Oh, it's an alarm clock. The only thing I knew at the time was that I was awake, which meant it was morning, which meant for some reason I had to get up. I still couldn't remember exactly why when I opened my eyes and found myself being stared down by an Imperial Walker, about two inches away, blasters pointed at my head. Oh yeah . . .

I was sleeping on my friend's living room floor, the Walker was about a foot tall and plastic, and I'd been waiting for that day for years. It was finally May 19, 1999, and I had to get to the line outside the St. Anthony Main theater for the showing of The Phantom Menace at 10:30. And for some reason I was perfectly calm. Well, maybe not perfectly.

For awhile my plans were a bit more psychotic, if anyone read my last column. I was going to camp outside the Inver Grove Showplace 16 theater for a few days, but when Lucasfilm agreed to sell advance tickets for showings of the movie, I abandoned that line for one that I thought was still doing ticket sales the old-fashioned way. The St. Anthony Main was the spot to be, until they announced one day that they, too, would start selling advance tickets the next day. Luckily, my buddy Jeremy was there, and I got a ticket without having to sit in the rain all day. (Take that, Andrew . . .)

I still got a few hours in line, before the show (our little group was right in front, ha ha ha . . .), which was plenty for me. The whole experience may not have been quite as high-voltage as if I had gone to the midnight showing Tuesday night, instead of Wednesday morning, but we had some fun.
AIMEE Continued on 9

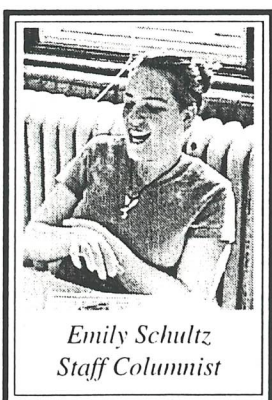


Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

Women In Music Videos

You're sitting in your living room watching Total Request Live on MTV. Suddenly, on comes Ricky Martin's new music video called "Livin' La Vida Loca." Half-naked women prance around in their underwear while he sings thinking he's "all that." Then you stop and think. Half naked women prancing around in their underwear?! Isn't that a little inappropriate? But then you realize . . . music videos have been like this all your life.

Since MTV first came out in the early 1980's the portrayal of women in music vid-



Emily Schultz
Staff Columnist

eos has gotten worse and worse. From Billy Idol to Master P, music videos has given a bad influence on young teenagers that women are now no more than toys for men.

Music videos have become sexual fantasies for the male population. It's all the same. No matter what the subject of the song, there will be women in small outfits dancing around in an inappropriate manner (like strippers almost), while the male singer stands there with a look on his face like "I'm so cool and sexy." Ninety percent of the videos you see on MTV will be like that, and ninety percent of the videos you see are directed by males. Coincidence? I think not! It's back to the male fantasies. These directors know that this kind of video will get more viewers, so they keep going with the idea. Now I'm sure this is great for MTV and the singer/band that has this kind of

MTV Continued on 9

GOT BEN ???

A great many things have happened during my residence at Open School. I've seen teachers come, and I've seen teachers go. I've seen great policies of change instituted, and just as many forcefully rejected by the Open community. I have seen students rise up against causes and rules they believed unjust, and fight hard enough to change something. That is, until recently.

Recently this atmosphere has evaporated. The fires are gone, and the people are, for the most part, apathetic. They will say they care, those certain people may even get pissed at these writings. Good. That's the point. Students here now seem more content with whining and moaning. They spend all their energy complaining, and never even think about getting off their butts and doing something about it. This school has subscribed to the unloved gutter punk attitude. Nobody loves us. Nobody listens to our



*Ben Peterson
Staff Columnist*

point of view. We are helpless. I have one question. Doesn't it suck to be you? Do something about it!

Now that that's off my chest, I'll get to the real point of this article, and that is simply stating my views of the current system Open is operating under. First, and I've stated this before, detention and ISS needs to go. It doesn't belong here. It's unbecoming of the atmosphere, and it goes against everything Open's fundamental philosophy stands for. The ISS system would be much better served if it were to be replaced by a peer mediation and conflict resolution system. If we had teachers helping students learn how to resolve conflict rather than resolving it for them, then the students would have the skills to resolve future conflict in their lives.

As for the detention system, it is a waste of time, money, and manpower. It only barely works in institutionalized schools with strict detention rules and policies. Why did anyone think it would work at a lax environment like Open?

Second, the destruction of self-motivation. Where has it gone? It's that simple. The classrooms at Open now preach what to do and when to do it. The only self-motivated

program that remains at Open is the Drama program. This is mainly because it's the philosophy of dramatic arts, not the philosophy of Open. When I first came to this school in 4th grade, it was presented to me as "a school where the teachers support, rather than push. Where they will give you all the help you need, if you ask." This was not just a speech at that point, it was the truth. The philosophy was: here's a short lesson. Here's your workbook. If you need me, I'll be at my desk.

Of course, coming from a more structured school, I thought "Great, I can slack off and he's not gonna say anything." However, after a few months of this I realized "Shoot, he's not gonna say anything, if I want to succeed I need to work."

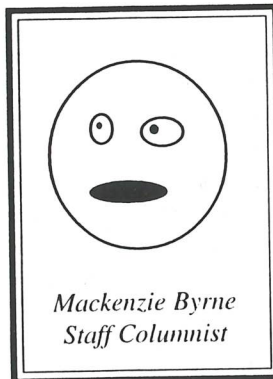
The self-motivation this school used to teach and project prepares one for college more than any preparatory school. They teach you how to do work. Open used to do something much more amazing. It taught you how to figure out how to manage your life so you'd have time to do the work.

Third, and I'll stop after this, is the clientelle. Many people reading this article might think about my last two points "Sure, *SCHOOL Continued on 11*

Pokémon Better Served in Small Portions

Pokémon. The thing is way out of hand. I owned the Pokémon Game Boy game before every little ELC kid with a Game Boy had it. I still like the game. It is one of the best Game Boy games there is, but I hate everything else about Pokémon. I hate the TV show, I hate the stuffed animals, I hate the trading cards, I hate the Pikachu Giga Pets, but most of all I HATE THAT STUPID LITTLE PIKACHU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Why would I hate everyone's favorite Pokémon? Well, for starters, he's always too cute, he's dumb, and every little kid talks like him. Also, on the TV show he is the super Pokemon, while in the game he is not any better than the rest.

As I mentioned earlier, the game is the only good thing about the Pokemon craze. This is a role playing game where you are a 10 or 11 year old kid who wants to be the best Pokémon trainer in the world. To do this you get your first Pokémon. (BUT PIKACHU ISN'T ONE OF THE OPTIONS, thank God) Pokémon are small creatures. Well most are small, and you fight with them. To start your quest to make your Pokémon better, you fight other Pokémon. If you win a match, your Pokémon gets experience points. Once you get enough points the Pokemon goes up a level. Then you just



*Mackenzie Byrne
Staff Columnist*

go around the world to fulfill your journey. Eventually you can enter the world championships, and if you win you are the best trainer in the pokémon world.

Now this is my opinion on the subject. I really like the Game Boy game, but I can't stand everything else. It's all so stupid. I think I will start with the dumbest Pokémon thing: the bleeping show. It is nothing like the game. The only thing that is the same is the word Pokémon and their various names. They also make Pikachu the star of the show when in the game, he's just a regular Pokémon. He's not the worst Pokémon, but he is not nearly as good as they make him in the show. What's even more irritating is how any little thing merchandisers can slap the Pokémon logo on makes money. I hate it all. How could the merchandisers do this? It was cool when the game first came out, now it's just a freak show.

There is also one other thing that I wish would die -- besides Pikachu that is -- the little kids on my bus. But why would I want them to die, you ask? Because they are obsessed with Pikachu and the TV show, two things I hate. But what's worse is that they can't talk about anything else. Every single day I hear them talk about it. It wouldn't be so bad if they knew something about how the game worked, but they don't know snot. To make matters worse, they talk like Pikachu: "Pika pika pika! Chu chu pikachu!" It's like my Pokémon hell. All the know-nothing kids are driving me insane. If

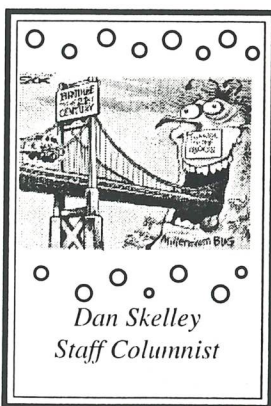
POKÉMON Continued on 11

Y2K: Consider Worrying About This...

God decides to end the world January 1st, 2000. So he calls the three most important people in the world: Bill Clinton, Boris Yeltsin, and Bill Gates. So he tells them, "The world is going to

end January 1st, 2000, Go back and tell your people." Boris goes back to Russia and says I have some bad news and some worse news. The bad news is there is a God; the worse news is he plans to destroy the world January 1st of the year 2000." Bill Clinton goes back and says "I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is there is a God, the bad news is he plans to destroy the world January 1st of the year 2000." Bill Gates goes back and says "I have some good news and some great news. The good news is God thinks I'm one of the three most important people in the world. The great news is we don't have to fix Windows 95."

This joke shows that the Y2K bug continues to be a subject of concern. We know it



Dan Skelley
Staff Columnist

is probably not a big one here in the United States, but what about other parts of the world?

One of the problems world wide is that many banks use computers to figure out interest. These computers might suddenly go back to 1900 at the turn of the millennium, causing the computer to get confused stop and make money disappear.

One of the more dangerous problems is Russia missile control systems. This system is not Y2K compatible and may be confused into thinking that Moscow has been attacked and that it's time to launch its missiles. Since the Russian system is designed to run with no human input it may launch the missiles on January 1st, 2000. Arrangements are being made with the former Soviet Union to disconnect its missiles from these computers, circumventing the problem. These computers might also be used in other former Soviet Allied countries, such as North Korea and China.

In France and some other countries, Y2K could cause large problems at nuclear power plants. There is a possibility that these plants might shut down because the computers that control cooling aren't Y2K compatible.

Airlines are some thing to worry about, too. The air traffic control computers could

get messed up. It may cause the whole air traffic control system to fail; planes might crash into each other. In China and many other places there is a deadline for being Y2K compliant for each airline. In China's case, it's July. One rumor is that the Chinese government made a law that all airline executives have to be in the air on January 1st. That sounds encouraging.

Meanwhile, many computer companies like IBM, Microsoft and Compaq, which sell computers around the world, have Y2K bugs in the computers they sell. It costs money to fix the errors. Windows 95 is probably not completely Y2K compatible (nobody really knows - not even the engineers at Redmond). Microsoft has identified at least a few small problems - mostly related to leap years in Windows 95. Microsoft has released a patch for these problems, available on Microsoft web site (http://www.microsoft.com/windows95/downloads/contents/wurecommended/s_wufeatured/win95y2k/default.asp?site=95). The easiest fix for Windows 95 is upgrading to Windows 98, but Microsoft engineers are not positive Windows 98 is Y2K compliant.

Apple Macintosh, on the other hand, has Y2K Continued on 9

The Mummy: Predictable but Good Fun

Aimee Gervais
Staff Critic

Movie critics have a preoccupation with things like original ideas and believability. This has infected the movie-going public, preventing them from seeing something cheesy. Little do they know, cheese is good. Cheese is fun. Cheese is our friend.

It's one thing when a movie is really trying to be interesting and deep but ends up looking ridiculous; it's a completely different story when the movie really seems to have been made to be laughed at. The Mummy is this kind of movie. It dares us to swallow our pride and say, "Yes, I would like to pay five dollars to see the dumbest movie in the theater." More than that, it dares us to have fun, and proudly tell our friends about it the next day.

The Mummy is simple, unadulterated fun, without any of that pesky thinking stuff. So it doesn't really matter that it's possibly the



most predictable movie ever made. It doesn't matter that the second a new character is introduced, you can tell if they're going to die or escape, and how. Never mind the fact that every plot twist and nuance is really just an Indiana Jones rip-off. Never mind the fact that this movie was without a doubt made for money-making purposes only. It's still the most entertaining movie I've seen all year. Of course, at the time

I'm writing this, Star Wars is still a week away, but we'll leave that for another time.

The Mummy's characters may be predictable, but they're anything but dull. All the actors are great, not because they really brought anything to the roles necessarily, but because they seem to be made for the parts. There's no real character development to speak of, but somehow that's refreshing. It lets the movie concentrate on what it's good at: snappy one-liners, action-packed (but not tedious) chase scenes, and awesome special effects, instead of getting tangled up in complicated characters.

This movie is by no stretch of the imagination a good movie, just a rip-off of one. But it's an incredible ride, as long as you agree to leave your brain on the, "Eek, villain! Yay, good guy!" setting for a couple of hours and just have fun. ♦



The Conspiracy Pages

The views expressed on these pages do not necessarily represent the views of *The Purple Press*, or its staff. This section is continued on pages 8 and 9.



Good-Bye!

Ben Peterson

Staff Schizo

This is my last intra-Open School conspiratorial rambling. I leave you now to delve into the untold mysteries beyond the doors.

I can't begin to write about how much it has meant to me to share my discoveries with you all, and spread the true meaning of the word "investigation." Don't let this legacy stop with me. Pick up the burning cinders of the torch, and re-ignite it for the brighter future.

In parting, I'd like to share one last piece of news with you all. The paint.

In case you haven't noticed, there's been lots of painting and mural-work happening in Open School the last week or so. Why? Why the sudden urge to beautify the school? Because the day before the last day of school, June 9th, the new superintendent will be touring the schools of the St. Paul School District. Any buildings she deems unappealing, or aesthetically unsound, will be sacked. That's right. Condemned. Destroyed. In their place will go the most horrid abomination of the 21st century: Suburbanite sprawl schools!

You know those of which I speak. The one-story buildings that sprawl all over. Taking up oodles of space, these buildings eat up precious wetlands, and destroy beautiful constructs like the Como Zoo. Open School has gotten wind of this, and is desperately trying to shape up its appearance.

This project is being secretly funded by Dusty Anderson, the re-surfacing principal from the 4th floor. With the helpful timing of Ruth's abduction by Wookiees, it seems certain the building is secure.

In addition to these lovely artistic pieces, the building is also undergoing a new trend, seemingly started and followed by only one person. Table coverings made of used gum wrappers. Whoever this person is, (s)he is an artist in his/her own way. Keep an eye out, as these gum wrappers may really be concealing toxins which are spread through the table into your very fingertips. Wait. I'm typing on a table! It may be affecting me now! I must disinfect myself before it's too late. I leave you all now. The next time I write, it will be from "outside." ♦

Principal Abducted; Wookiee Sighted

Mina Blyly-Strauss

Staff Writer

Today, while conversing with some generic Open School students about strange occurrences, unexplained disappearances and overall weirdness, I heard what is sure to be one of the most bizarre happenings that took place here at school. It appears that Monday, during 5th period, Ruth Pechman, Opens' principal, was removed from just outside the third floor boys' bathroom by a large, hairy, unidentified object.

Admittedly, this sighting is not widely shared. In fact, according to witnesses there were only three witnesses in the hallway. This in and of itself may make the incident seem highly unlikely, for it seems that there isn't a time when everyone's in class, but in reality that seems to be some of the most conclusive evidence.

Though the details are somewhat foggy at this point, this is what appears to have occurred. While on her way to Lenni's room to discuss the graduation, Ruth noticed some unusual noises coming out of the third floor boy's bathroom. She stopped outside the bathroom door and apparently thought about what could be making the noises; soap dispenser destruction? toilet paper being distributed evenly over the stalls? tagging? graffiti? what??? She was just about to turn

around and go get Leo to check things out when, according to witnesses, the bathroom door opened and an extremely tall (no shorter than 8 foot in height), hairy creature bearing some resemblance to an extremely large bear, came out of the bathroom, tossed Ruth over its shoulder and promptly exited down the center stairway. "It was really weird, Ruth was just kind of standing there with her walkie-talkie, when out of nowhere this thing came and carried her off" stated one witness who didn't wish to be identified. "Ruth didn't look too happy, she was kicking her feet and citing policies against involuntary removal of staff members from school property" commented another witness.

While the method seems somewhat unusual, the motive is all too familiar. Why yes, it seems that the school district is once again trying to disturb the wonderful learning environment here at Open School. It does, however, appear that their newest motive for disliking us has more to do with the staff than the students. They seem to have become distraught by Ruth's ability to find new teachers who can get along with students, learn and maybe even kind of fit in with Open School's ways and people. The

idea of a school sticking out, with students and teachers who don't automatically hate each other, seems to have frightened the under-imaginative minds in the district's high ranks. They have tried to divide us by putting us in a building with an unfriendly custodian. They even tried sending in a hall monitor who was extremely unaccepted and unrespected by many of Open's students. But they didn't succeed in dividing us. Both the custodian and the hall monitor left. So after two failed attempts they took our principal. They didn't want their actions to be brought to the attention of Open's most influential group of supporters, Open School parents, so they kept things quiet. They had someone sweep the halls clean of any and all possible witnesses. Their main fault, however, was that they didn't check the stairway going up to the fourth floor. If they had, they would have spotted the three Open Schoolers with SDL who unknowingly became witnesses, and who brought the scandal out into the open.

(It is believed that our principal has not, as of yet, been returned to the school grounds. It appears that the district has created a "Ruth clone" through expansion of "The Evil Twin Project") ♦

MTV From 5

video, but I don't think these people realize that they are giving a bad image to the younger viewers.

If they keep showing these kind of videos, what position do you think this will put the women in? Does this mean that we all need a man to boss us around to get anywhere in life? Have things gotten so bad that we need to be told what to do? We're so dependent on males. Oh, and don't forget that we're all blond bimbos, you know. We don't know any better, so you need to guide us.

And it's not just the whole appearance of women on television, it's the way they're treated too. Haven't you ever noticed in a music video that if the women don't do as the men say, they beat her up? And if she tries to pull back from something, it's okay for the male to force it upon her. That is the kind of influence that tells people that rape or abuse is okay.

This all makes me wonder how the actual women in the videos go through with all this. I mean, it's obvious that these women don't mind prancing around in tiny outfits very much, but does it even cross their minds that what they do in these videos is sick? Can you actually imagine one of those girls in those videos breaking out of character in the middle of shooting to argue with the director that she's feels it's not right to portray women like this in these videos?

But I suppose there's not much you can do about it. You can write your letters and protest, but I don't think that it will open all of the directors' eyes. Videos are going to stay like this as long as you keep watching them. So I suppose there's just one solution to the problem . . . Don't watch MTV. ♦

AIMEE From 5

"If you're in this line right now, you just can't deny that you are a really huge nerd," said one line member. There were no crazy freaks in costume (I guess that only happened at midnight), but Jeremy proudly showed off his homemade lightsabers. My friends and I brought donuts, which were surprisingly hard to get rid of, and someone else brought little bags of cereal. Someone tried to feed it to the geese across the street, but got chased away.

The line started moving at about 10:20, making us wonder if the theater personnel were making us wait extra long just to torture us. When we finally did make it inside, the theater was buzzing with excitement. It wasn't full, which was sort of a surprise, making me wonder about the status of our mission to kick Titanic out of our spot as the highest grossing movie. The lights dimmed, and everyone shut up, as if on cue. We sat through a few excruciating trailers. My stomach was doing acrobatics and my brain had almost shut down from the overload. 20th Century Fox fanfare. Shimmering Lucasfilm logo. The immortal words "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..." And then it hit. The huge screen completely filled with the bold yellow Star Wars logo. The theater erupted into cheers and applause. I just couldn't help laughing as the majestic theme music filled my head, and I tried to remember to actually read the opening crawl text under the heading "Episode I - The Phantom Menace." Having missed the first trilogy in the theater, this was an experience I had always dreamed about, but was never really sure would be realized. But there it was, and I'm still excited. So excited that I saw the movie five times in the first three days alone.

That first showing, I wasn't sure what to think. It certainly had its moments that were truly awesome, but I couldn't really tell if the movie gave me what I expected. It wasn't until I watched the

Y2K From 7

always planned for Y2K. Ever since the Macintosh 128K (the Macintosh Classic) rolled off the production line in 1984, the Macintosh operating system used a 32-bit value to store seconds, starting at 12:00:00 a.m. January 1, 1904 and ending with 6:28:15 a.m. on February 6, 2040.

Before introducing the Macintosh, Apple delivered several models of the Apple II computer, a number of which are still in use today. The ability of Apple II computers to handle dates after the year 2000 vary by model. For example, an Apple II GS, running System 6.0 or later and GS-specific software, should have no problems with dates beyond the year 2000; whereas users of an Apple II GS systems running 8-bit applications will need to load ProDOS 8 Version 2.0 or later to ensure that the applications continue to handle those dates correctly. The Apple II series computers do not have a system clock, so they shouldn't have any problems come January 1st, 2000. Eat that Bill Gates!

To wrap things up, many religions say the world will end in the year 2000, but by the calendar used by some of the major religions when the predictions were made, it is already past the year 2000. The worst part about Y2K is the fear and panic about it. I've been stockpiling food for the Y2K disaster. Not because of the Y2K computer bug but because of all the people who think the world is going to end! ♦

very next showing, at 1:00, that everything seemed perfect. It was Star Wars, brand new in a lot of ways, but the same experience and atmosphere in the end.

I still haven't found a positive review of The Phantom Menace, but the first trilogy got horrible reviews as well. I thought about it a bit, and realized that critics can't really give positive reviews of any Star Wars movies because they have to be objective. They have to really think about and analyze the movies, instead of just going along for the ride. Really, when looked at objectively, the Star Wars movies aren't very good at all. They're pretty, they're fast, and they're a bit cheesy. So what else is a professional critic supposed to say? The only way the Star Wars movies can be any good is if you just look at them as a fairy tale, as an epic, and as kids' movies. It's sort of hard to look at Star Wars in a very grown-up way.

I know, however, that there are plenty of people who try. They'll refuse to go see a movie made for kids in an unfortunately successful attempt to oppress their inner child. All I can say to these people is please, please, give yourself a break. Have a little fun.

There are also those out there who refuse to see the new movie because they're sick of all the hype. Well, look at it this way: if you go see Episode I, maybe you'll like it, and then you might be a bit intrigued when all the Episode II hype starts up. From what I've seen so far, I'm sure it won't take long, and remember, that movie won't be released 'til 2002. So go. Save yourself from the torture.

Also, a note to anyone who was always planning on going, but for some insane reason, hasn't yet: stay till the very, very end of the credits for a nifty little surprise. And you'd better get out to the theater soon, before someone wrecks the ending for you by telling you about the part where . . . ♦

LITTLETON From 4

the light is good." For example, he pointed out that the DARE program, which the government has blown 250 million dollars on, has in some areas been shown to increase drug use. But, "Everybody loves DARE!" It has everything necessary for a feel good, happy program. After all, it makes use of community figures, local cops, and a cartoon lion. It can't go wrong!

But it has, and so is this war on teen violence, which is targeting things which will only make kids feel more isolated and awkward. It's almost as if by doing this we are saying You can't do this, we say it's wrong. Why not just say, "Let's take this already isolated, scared, angry group of people, and tell them that what they do, and the way they want to live is wrong." In my opinion, that's fairly pathetic.

Our role as a culture is not to alienate these "outcasts" further, but to make them feel all right with who they are and the way they live. For there to have been as many school shootings as there have been in recent years, that shows, in my opinion, a decline in our society's standards. A decline in the way we teach, a decline in the way our families work, and an overdependence on the media, (which I believe is at least partially responsible for the shootings.) I do not believe, however, that the media is at fault here. It simply feeds off the rash that is American culture, it doesn't create the disease. In the words of KMFDM, the German industrial band that the boys listened to, "Sex, drugs, violence: America . . . This is your life, this is your fu**ing life . . . We all just want to die, a little bit."

To many, if not all teens, these words hit home. Because, in our generation, with the attitudes which adults have about us, it takes a lot not to be at least a little depressed with the image into which we've been cast. On top of that, it is incredibly hard for adults not to just go along with what the media says is teen lifestyle: Sex,

drugs, and violence. If you, too, made the connection between the way the media alienates teens, and the words of KMFDM's songs, then maybe you'll start to understand their appeal. For those among us who are already unhappy and disillusioned about the world, telling them that America hates them can only beget more evil.

I believe that, while no one issue can truly be targeted as a cause, what is at fault here is not music or trench coats, but a way of life in which communities have different standards than they once did. The lack of communities I am talking about is in suburban America, where many of the neighborhoods have only been around for a few years.

Many will argue that fledgling communities will build a positive, constructive society faster than old ones, where all cliques have been previously formed, but I believe that in a new community, the cliques form faster than they would in an old community, because everyone is just thrown into the mix, and the potential for hate and mass alienation is even larger. If you're not a prep who lives for sports and dating cheerleaders, or what your grade point is, and aren't concerned with all the status involved in owning a house as large as a barn and driving a Durango or a Jetta, then you really don't belong in the suburbs.

I don't believe these kids felt they belonged in the communities they were in, and that made them fit the definition of outcasts, more prone to violence than, say, a happy jock.

Everything these kids did expressed a distaste of the culture they were born into, and their culture felt the same way about them.

These kids are growing up in troubled times, and are all responding to something, either in our culture, or in theirs, which makes them killers. It is our job as a society and a culture to find this problem and deal with it, because these shootings have become a very negative trend. ◇

MANSON From 4

for killing innocent people, I hate to say it, but preps brought this upon themselves. As everyone should know in this strange time, people -- especially teens -- are stupid and violent, and if you keep picking on the ones that happen to be very stupid and violent they're going to go nuts and do something like this. Being stupid and violent is not a good mix.

The other people that are to blame are, oh, I don't know . . . THE PARENTS!! Maybe!?! AAAAAHH!!!! The police said when they went over to search one of the boy's rooms, they found a shotgun on the bed! Does anyone else feel like smacking those parents? They should arrest the parents in all of these cases, because people like that shouldn't be allowed to have kids, EVER! If you can't see that your own child is about to go on a killing rampage, you might be mildly if not completely retarded, and I don't mean mentally challenged, I mean RE-TAR-DED!!

Another thing that bothers me is that in all of these cases the killers are rich, white,

preppy, suburban boys. Oh, I bet suburbanites have a really hard life and are really stressed out, that's probably another reason why this happened. Those poor suburbanites (there goes that sarcasm again, sorry. As you can tell, me no likey suburbanites.) And the media tries to pass them off as gothic people because they may or may not have listened to Marilyn Manson. I mean, come on, does the media even know what a goth looks like? I'm no expert on Gothic people, but I can imagine that a true goth would not dress up nice for picture day or even smile for that matter.

If there is any kind of music that will make you want to kill someone, it's rap. After all, there are so many rap songs about killing, rebelling and stupid crap like that. But perhaps its lyrics don't even matter, because as I stated before, people are stupid and violent and they can interpret a lot of lyrics as, "go on a killing rampage." So when there are these shootings it seems that the rest of the world waits for the media to point fingers and then follows suit. ◇

OUTWARD From 1

miss two days of regular school, and the trip served as an Interim.

Every year for the past eight years, according to Julie Doble, science teacher and Outward Bound head chaperone, a group of Open School students has gone on an Outward Bound trip wherever they were needed. There are Outward Bound schools all over the country to help people experience challenges in things like canoeing or rock-climbing, and so on.

"The purpose of Outward Bound in general is to teach people leadership through challenge and service," said Julie, "The reason we decided to hook up with them for our trips is because we liked their philosophy."

"We worked really, really hard for a couple of days, clearing brush and whatever else they wanted us to. Then we got to go canoeing and do fun adventure things," said Lucy Stark 9th grader, "It was a very cool experience." ◇

STARWARS From 5

to Diamond lake road. Ugh. Traffic is exactly on the path I want to go. The worst part is I am less than ten minutes away at non rush times.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 0912 hrs: I reach Centennial Lakes and trade car positions with Eric (Alpha Three) so I am now parked at the curb in front of the theater. By some tricky maneuvering Alpha One is in control of The List II. The Lists are several sheets of paper with the fans names on them. List I is the people who camped out and List II is the people who arrived that day.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1007 hrs: We have been sitting in my car for nearly an hour now and are very bored. We get out and talk with some of the other people around us and find several interesting characters, including a mother who arrived at 0700 hrs to get places in line for her kids who are at school (my mom, if asked to do this for me, would probably laugh in my face). The most interesting person was a guy who could do every sound effect in the trilogy and most of the lines (he does a great Rancor, complete with facial expressions and screams of pain from Oola). It might be a good point to mention that it has been raining since roughly ten o'clock last night (2200 hrs) and hasn't let up very much.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1030 hrs: The entire shanty town of tents comes down and

people begin to line up in accordance with The List. The manager (hereafter referred to as Darth Dork) runs out and informs us that the theater will not open at 11:00 as it advertised it would, and tells us to wait for another two hours. Well, at this point in time, I really need to use the restroom and have needed to for about an hour (the other stores opened at noon or later). In desperation I run to Shinders, praying that they would be open for once. They are not. But Dayton's was open, fortunately for me. (Ah, department stores. Is there nothing you can't do?) I also ran to Byerlys and got some Leeann Chin's (mmmmm ... Peking Chicken and Shrimp toast. Pot Stickers ... mmm).

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1145 hrs: We again formed up for a line, many needing to use the facility (hot air hand driers work wonders on wet, clammy clothing), but our plan was foiled by Darth Dork, who informed us that we were not allowed inside unless we purchased a non-Star Wars ticket. The only thing we could use was the restroom and even then Darth Dork glared at us and scowled if we take longer than a minute each.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1330 hrs: After a quick pick-up game of Dungeons and Dragons we assembled for the line and cheered as WCCO channel 4 showed up. They filmed us and interviewed several of the campers. A high point of the showing

was when someone broke out their ghetto blaster car stereo system and played the Star Wars theme music to which we hummed and sang. Slightly more disturbing was when people called off their favorite tracks from the CDs. (Imagine eighty people screaming: "Number Five! Play Number Five!" Number five is the Imperial March)

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1400 hrs: It's go time. Tickets go on sale. The first ticket is sold and hundreds cheer (well, 160 something anyway). We dance to the Cantina music and revel in the glory of Star Wars.

Wednesday, May 12, 1999, 1431 hrs: Alpha One and Three procure our tickets and we head to Shinders to get protective covers and cases for the tickets. We are ready to rumble. Wednesday, May 18, 1999, 0001 hrs we will be watching Star Wars.

So now that I have cataloged my experience it seems perfectly stable, sane, and normal. Everybody else is insane for not buying tickets and standing in the rain for eight hours. In fact, I will probably repeat this experience for the next two movies. As several Star Wars Fanatics have said:

"Star Wars is my life."

In the immortal words of George Lucas:
"May the Force be with you." ◇

POKÉMON From 6

they want to talk about Pokémon they could try playing the game or learning something about it.

This is what I have to say to the little kids on my bus: "You little kids want me dead? Do you? Well you can't beat me that easily, oh no. It will take something much bigger and badder to take me down. You can't do it with your obsession with Pokémon or <gasp> Pikachu. Get more creative with destruction." Well, with that said, I think you may understand what I'm getting at. I like the game. I hate Pikachu, the show should be taken off the air and, of course, the kids on my bus should keep their thoughts about Pokémon to themselves. ◇

GEEKS From 4

The last piece of misinformation I would like to dispel is the fact the geeks and nerds are angry social outcasts. This is as far from the truth as I think it gets. Geeks are actually quite social - but in their own ways. Geeks have their own social system that is somewhat different from mainstream society. We chat on the internet instead of using phones. It's not uncommon to meet some people online and later meet them in real life. ◇

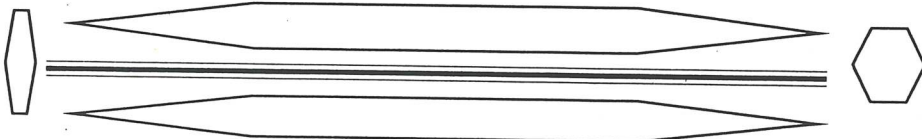
SCHOOL From 6

but there are people here who need this rigidity. They need to have this projected for them because self-motivation isn't in their cognitive capabilities yet. I'd just like to affirm you are absolutely right. They can't use what Open should have to offer. But why, I ask, does that mean Open has to change it's philosophy. Why should the people who can't function at that level be in control of where the school goes? Shouldn't it be the other way around? Shouldn't the school control where they go? What administration, in its right, or left, mind, would lower its standards to accomodate the people who can't work in it? What does that do to the rest of the system? What happens to the people who can use, and thrive off the structure? This school has turned from a radical philosophy supporting students as people, to a low-end, low-budget, poverty-stricken school that's so worried about

traditionalizing to accomodate the masses, it has forgotten about the populace it was designed for.

It's too late for me to do anything about this, or any of the issues, because I'll be graduating this year. This is the last issue of The Purple Press I'll be writing for. It is the last issue I will be the chief editor for. This is my last chance to speak out. I hope this article will help instill the fire of a student-driven school this building has lost.

The school needs to be student-driven to survive. Without active student participation and control, the school becomes not an alternative to normalcy, where creativity is encouraged, but an alternative to ALC, where behaviors are discouraged. Think about it. Don't let new staff, new students, and new eras destroy what this school has fought so hard for. ◇



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