

Wait 'Till
Yo' Father
Gets
Home:

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The Purple Press

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SDL: Do Students Use The Time Wisely?

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

Kids, scattered around the school. They might be in Julie's room or in Greg's room. They might be in the hallway or in the family room. These people might be doing anything from doing homework and completing validations, to playing games and conversing with friends. There is one common bond between these people: They are in SDL.

SDL, or Self-Directed Learning, has recently become something of an issue. According to reports at a recent staff meeting, some students have begun to make poor use of their SDL time.

"I just don't agree that sitting around chatting is part of SDL. SDL means Self-Directed Learning; that's not a learning process," said Greg Adams, who is responsible for supervising a majority of SDL students.

According to Lenni Augustine, SDL officially started in the early eighties, when then-principal Ken Osvald decided that students had to have set-down schedules. At that point, it was called Independent Studies, recalled Lenni.

From there, it transformed into SDL. The idea was that students would work on anything from homework to validations, although often they would have a special project they hoped to complete within the trimester.

Recently, however, teachers have become concerned about what SDL has become. At staff meetings, students' use of SDL is an

important issue. Because some students, especially those in SDL, have begun to migrate down to lunch before 11:30, teachers have become



Students during a typical day in SDL.

SDL Continued on 7

Prom Permeates Pavilion

Emily Schultz
Staff Writer

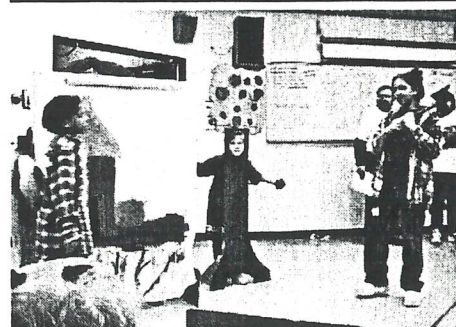
Smiling faces, loud music and laughter were all a part of this year's prom. The music was great, the pop was free and everyone was happy. "It went really well. It was a lot of fun," said Anna Aslani.

Prom took place at the Como Pavilion on the third floor. The view of the lake was perfect and everyone was having a great time. The room was filled with sapphire blue, black and white decorations, and mul-

ticolored lights flickered along the walls. Bundles of people chatted and danced, while small crowds of friends lined up to get their pictures taken on the second floor.

Everything was going just as expected. "The dance floor was a little crowded . . . but then again, at other times it was almost empty," Sara Schultz explained.

"The DJ was okay. But he only played



Division I RatiOMetric structure team performing their skit at the State Odyssey of the Mind competition. Results, see 3.



"The truth is, giving out condoms will not cause a mad chaotic scene of teenagers running out to have sex."

See Becca, page 4

"I've been wondering lately if I'm going to make it, or if my head's going to explode from anticipation before opening day."

See Aimee, page 5

"It's plain to see that the pizza industry knows where its money is, at least in Washington."

See Ben, page 10

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News Briefs

All-State Student Government

On Sunday, April 25th three members of Open School's student government met at 360 Colburne, district headquarters, to board a bus bound for Owatonna, Minnesota and the All-State Student Council Convention.

The Convention started on Sunday and ran through Tuesday the 27th. During the convention many student council-produced resolutions were discussed and the action that would result from them were decided on. Some of the most talked about resolution were abolition of the new grad. standards and lunch line nutrition. Other things that the delegates participated in were dances and entertainment, a formal banquet, elections of new committee members for the MASC (Minnesota Association of Student Councils) and many, many meetings. ♦



Pepsi Benjamin, Lisa Grotenhuis, and Mina Blyly-Strauss, Open's three representatives to the All-State Convention.

Mural, Mural on the Wall

Tom White and Pat Zemke have a plan to make the first floor entry way a little more interesting. Through a grant from the *Pioneer Press*, they will be creating a mural that will feature art from selected students in a montage format.

The grant, known as the Imagination Grant, was in the sum of \$500. Jennifer D. informed Tom and Pat about the opportunity to receive a grant for their idea. They turned the grant request in early when they were misinformed about the deadline, which may have helped get the grant.

Pat came up with the idea for a mural when thinking about the old school. Back at the old school there was a large mural on the wall, and Pat wanted to recapture the tradition of Osceola. ♦

Pasghetti . . .

April 27th was St. Paul Open School day in the city of St. Paul. To celebrate, and just to have an after school get-together, Open also had a Spaghetti Dinner on that night.

Running from six to eight, the evening featured a number of different acts. The beginning strings performed early on in the evening and was followed by the orchestra, which played five songs they had recently been working on (at that point, the audience neglected to stop talking when the orchestra was performing so that it was a miracle they even knew to clap at the end of songs).

After the instrumental portion of the night, run primarily by Kiara Buchanan, Jaki Hafiz introduced her singing class and they performed several songs. Later, Emma Cavanaugh performed a solo of the Titanic hit, "My Heart Will Go On." All by herself. Without anyone else, except Jaki playing the piano.

Finally, the last act came on. This was the St. Paul Open School Improvisational Street Theatre Corps. This group, Ben Peterson, Kathryn Alexander, Jon Lubke, Caitlin Rude and April Cusick, involved the audience from the start. They performed two skits which included whipped cream pies being thrown in people's faces, before running out of time.

As the name of the evening implies, a spaghetti dinner was served until they ran out of spaghetti dinners to serve. Also, there was artwork from students in Elizabeth Lehman's art classes as well as from the Critical Eye exhibit (featured in an earlier issue of *The Purple Press*.)

All in all, the night was very successful. Bridget Martin, Drama teacher, wound up the evening reminding everyone that a similar line-up would be present at the Performing Arts evening on May 25th. Look for more information in current and future newsletters. ♦

Monday Extras

Monday Extras from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. The classes given include: Ultimate Frisbee with Tim and Leo; Cooking with Jennifer D.; Keyboarding with Jaki; and Secret Formulas with Paula.

All of these activities are fun and exciting. If you want to know more about any of them, talk to the teacher. ♦

Christina, the "new" new James



You may have noticed that since Jeff Loots left, there's been a somewhat familiar face patrolling the halls. From Office Lady Extraordinaire (how many times has she helped you make copies?), Christina Maurico has picked up where Jeff left off. But don't call

her hall monitor. Christina's official title is, "Greeter." So, be nice to her and make sure you get to class on time! Otherwise . . . Who knows what she'll do.



Senior Profile

Ben Peterson



How many years have you been at Open School?

I've been here as long as Tara. Since 4th grade. Nine years.

If you were an animal, what would you be?

That's a hard question. If I could pick one based on animals I liked, it would have to be a flying squirrel, a snow leopard, or a lemur. If it's based on what I resemble I think it would be a hedgehog. They have a lot of the same qualities I do, though I will be so vain as to say they don't have any physical similarities.

What do you plan on doing after high school?

I plan on going to Hamline, and when I'm not working or studying, I'll be back here coaching NEDC, and directing plays.

Where do you see yourself in 30 years?

Either in Hollywood, or a major name in local theatre.

What will you miss most about Open School?

I'm not even going to try and pick one thing. I'll miss it all, except Leo. He was always mean and abusive towards me, never letting me bring my lamb to school, picking me to answer questions all the time . . . (he laughs)

OMers Come up Empty

Mackenzie Byrne
Staff Reporter

On April 10th five of Open School's Odyssey of the Mind teams competed at the state tournament held at Armstrong High School, in Plymouth. The tournament put the best teams from the 10 Minnesota regional competitions against each other with a berth in the world tournament at stake.

Open's highest finisher was the RatiOMetric Division II team, which placed 2nd. RatiOMetric Division I finished 3rd, a strong finish for a fairly young team. The Environmental Science Division III team pulled in at 4th. RatiOMetric Division III

and Environmental Science Division II both finished in 7th place.

Although no teams will advance to World Competition, most participants enjoyed the competition. "It was fun, but I was tired . . . it was entertaining," said James Trebesch. The Division II RatiOMetric had high expectations but their structure didn't hold as much as it did at regionals. But as Daniele Finley put it, "I think we were beaten very fairly. It's always disappointing to lose but it feels good to place. Kudos to the team that won."

Open's performance wasn't as good as was hoped. Greg Adams said, "It never goes as well as you'd like to see it go but it went pretty good." Part of the below par finishes can be traced to human error. James, the structure builder for Division III RatiOMetric structure said, "I built a poor structure . . . I didn't spend enough time on it."

Not all Open School teams made big mistakes. The Division I RatiOMetric team had a structure that held 445 lbs and a ratio of 29, their best ratio ever. ♦

PROM From 1

requests for hip hop and rap . . . he wouldn't take requests for anything else," according to April Cusick.

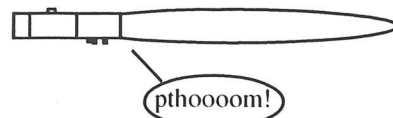
"It was stupendous! It was the best prom ever, I think," said Lenni Augustine, the coordinator of Open School proms. "It was just the right number. About 80 kids showed up, and there were teachers, too, so there were about 100."

But sadly, prom didn't bring a smile to everyone's faces. Prom was still a big hit

and many students attended, but there were a decent amount of students that didn't go. "Well, I can make a (butt) out of myself any other day of the week. I don't understand why I should have to pay to do it," stated Matt Pajunen.

Overall, Open School's prom of 1999 was a blast. Almost everyone who attended had a great time, and hopefully next year's will be even better. Thanks to everyone who made it possible! ♦

Vis Sit Tecum



Current Issues Page

Lauren on Kosovo

The war is starting to get to me the way it did back in '91, when I watched the oil wells burning on the news and knew nothing of Iraqis except that they were dying. I still feel the same way about war that I did



Lauren Beitler
Guest Columnist

then, despite all that's happened and every thought that's occurred to me in eight years. Jenny would always argue that some wars are justifiable, and look at the alternatives: Hitler staying in power, wiping out all the Jews, or Milosevic killing the ethnic Albanians. And I'm not saying I have the solutions. I just think violence only begets more violence. Why did Hussein invade Kuwait? A long chain of greed and violence. And when we bombed them recently, they were stockpiling weapons and acting aggressively because they were economically devastated by US sanctions. Hitler rose to power because Germany was so chaotic after WWI, which was caused by earlier violence, all the way back to Cain and Abel if you buy into the Bible.

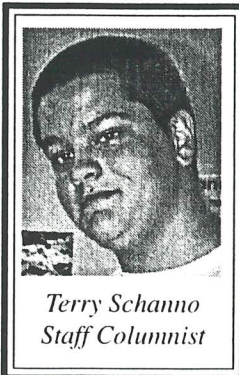
Also, no one ever talks about it on the news but we are not bombing Milosevic or Hussein. They are in their bunkers underground, snug as bugs. We are bombing Iraqis and Yugoslavians; civilians, or soldiers who are usually young boys. From their perspective the opportunities are bleak. Helping their country, as they are often forced to, seems like the only way to give themselves a future. It is the same reason we are fighting. There cannot be such things as right or wrong in these situations. When you look into the eyes of the soldiers, even the ones on T.V., you see that, victory or defeat, good reasons, morality, or genocide, there are only wrong answers when we give up our humanity to drop bombs and shoot guns and kill, kill.

So what are the solutions? Peace, love, hippy apathetic flower power? Talk, negotiations, diplomacy? Should we all just put up walls and buy guns and ignore each other

PEACE Continued on 9

Terry on Kosovo

On the evening of March 29, 1999, NATO and allied warplanes dropped bombs on Yugoslavia. NATO bombs have fallen on a wide range of targets, both military and civilian, including power plants, airfields, presidential residences and even cigarette factories.



Terry Schanno
Staff Columnist

The NATO bombings were prompted by the ethnic cleansing of Muslim Kosovars by Serbian military forces. The roots of this conflict go back to the 14th century and are very confusing. This article will try to give everyone a brief understanding of the conflict.

First, a quick geography lesson. Yugoslavia is located in southern Europe, almost

directly south of Poland. Yugoslavia has no access to any major seaways, restricting access to the region from the water to one small port in Albania. Yugoslavia is highly mountainous, and the weather is almost always bad.

Now, let's go back in time, say to about 1323. We're at a place in southern Yugoslavia called the Field of Blackbirds, part of what is today Kosovo. The Yugoslavian Army, lead by Prince Lazar, is doing battle with the mighty Ottoman Empire. After a long struggle, the Yugoslavian forces were nearly defeated, but instead of surrendering they chose total defeat.

After the defeat of Prince Lazar at the Field of Blackbirds, Kosovo became part of the Ottoman Empire, where it would remain until about 1912. No real major events occurred during that time, except for nearly total conversion of the populous of Kosovo to the Muslim faith.

KOSOVO Continued on 11

Birth Control

Until now, St. Paul Public Schools could hand out waivers for birth control and condoms that students could pick up at off-campus clinics. However, with the new change in effect school clinics have the birth control on hand for students to get directly. People disagree whether or not this change is a positive or negative one, and so the controversy begins.

Against the change, some say making birth control readily available to high school students, some as young as fourteen years of age is only encouraging young people to have promiscuous sex. If they have condoms, thus they will have sex, and maybe they're right. Condoms equal sex!

Imagine the scene. With every public high school giving away condoms like Halloween

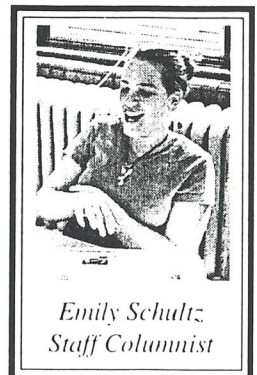


Becca Stephens
Staff Columnist

Eating Disorders

I confess, I am a very optimistic person when it comes to life, but it makes me sick the way women treat their bodies today. I'm surrounded by five foot ten, one hundred and fifteen pound women. It's disgusting. Television, movies, and magazines have convinced our youth that fat is ugly, and thin is beautiful. I read stories all the time about teen girls who are anorexic or bulimic because they've been "brainwashed" into thinking that looks are everything.

When are people going to realize that there are more important things in life than the amount of fat you have on your body? In my opinion, a person who is chubbier than Cindy Crawford, or Kate Moss is much more attractive, and they have a better chance of living longer. When you have an eating dis-



Emily Schultz
Staff Columnist

Opinions 'n' Stuff

You Gotta Get a Job to Go A Ridin' Next Sunday

For many high school students at this time of year, there is a little voice which is quietly whispering in your ear, *Get a job, you need money*, or some other sweet nothing.

Don't dismiss the little voice yet; it is probably right. You should get a job. You need money, and your parents won't always be around to stuff money in your pockets. I myself have been procrastinating for about a year, since my first job at the State Fair ended. In this time, several of my friends have gotten jobs and are happily raking in the dough.

Now, you might be thinking to yourself, I'm under 16. Where am I going to find a job where I make more than minimum



Brian Blakely
Staff Columnist

wage? The truth of the matter is that they're not all that hard to find, you just need to be committed to the search, which means do not give up after a week just because nobody's asked you to be the CEO of a large business. Actually get out and look for a job. Your neighborhood is a good place to start, because there are bound to be a lot of businesses in your neighborhood which need to fill positions, and even if they don't have a "Hiring" sign, go in and ask if they need any help. It won't hurt your reputation, and it might work. Also, take advantage of connections at school, like the school counselor, your teachers, the bulletin boards outside the office, and the classified ads. The internet is a good source for local and national jobs and sources are listed below. Some companies hiring are the Science Museum and Summer C.E.T., which pays minimum wage.

If the above advice doesn't work, then ask
JOBS Continued on 7

Good Music Remains Under-rated

I actually kind of resent my new title of Angry Young Man, even though it's all true, because I am angry and I am a young man. But I think Sane Young Man or Highly Opinionated Young Man would be more appropriate. I

don't want to come off as this big bully guy that likes to smash people for liking certain kinds of music, no matter how intolerable it seems to me. I would rather have people agree, or at least try to respect what I am trying to say in my articles, because I think I've presented the facts pretty damn clearly if I don't say so myself. I actually would be lying if I said that I wasn't trying to make people a little mad for liking certain kinds of music, but then my title would be Angry



Salvador Rosas
Angry Young Man

Lying Young Man, and I don't want that. Of course, I know that everyone is free to like whatever kind of music they like, I'm just trying to declare what is and what is not a legitimate art form.

If it makes anyone feel better, I can find bad things about almost every kind of music there is, and yes, including rock. Especially rock, for that matter. But there are just too many more reasons to pick on rap and teeny-bop pop. The bottom line is, I respect musicians, because after being one, you learn a type of respect for music that has excellent musicians or excellent songwriters, and right now I happen to see a lot of good musicians and songwriters that are not getting the credit they deserve. I've never been a fan of anyone who has someone write their songs for them, except for Marilyn Manson (although he does write a small portion of his music), but at least someone in the band writes the music.

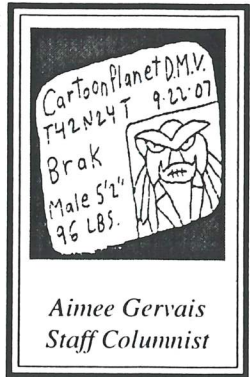
ANGRY Continued on 9

Death Star or Nerves Which Will Explode First?

33 days left. That is, 33 at the time I'm writing the rough draft of this, but by the time it's printed, there will only be 12. Only 12 days until Star Wars - Episode I: The Phantom Menace opens in theaters across the country. Sigh . . .

I've been wondering lately if I'm going to make it, or if my head's going to explode from anticipation before opening day. I've been trying to get as much of a Star Wars fix as possible by buying every magazine that even mentions the new movie, hanging out in Star Wars chat rooms, and posting on obsessive little message boards. Unfortunately, these things just seem to get me more excited, and make May 19th seem even farther away, so I've decided to try to shorten the wait as much as possible by doing a very, very silly thing: I'll be going out to the Showplace 16 theater in Inver Grove four days before the premiere to wait in line for tickets to that first show. Yes, that means camping, though not as much as I'd like, since I have to come home for school, unlike many people who are just playing hooky from work or school on those days. I'd do it too if I could. It turns out okay that I can't though, because no one really has to be out there all the time, for all four days. I'm lining up with a bunch of other people, and we've organized everything into six hour shifts. Maybe it's not technically camping then, though there is one shift that goes from midnight until six a.m. Wait, before you say "Okay, she's nuts," let me explain . . .

The tradition of camping out for first show tickets started for Star Wars when the first movie of the first trilogy came out in 1977. George Lucas was in a restaurant near the Mann's Chinese theater in Los Angeles (that's the one with all those cool handprints and stars) when he noticed the huge line of
STARWARS Continued on 9



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

HOROSCOPES -- Brand Spankin' New

From The Purple Press

Emily Cusick

Staff Psychasthenic One

The 0 grading system. 0 = good month, 00 = okay month, 000 = horrid month, 0000 = so bad you don't know the words to describe the month and, 00000 = so bad that everything possible is going to go wrong month.



Aries (March 21 - April 19)
0000

This month you have fallen on bad times with the daily cross-words, not to mention that you most likely just ran out of your favorite fish juice lotion. Don't fret, things are looking up around May 21st.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
000

You might be worried about a big test that you're not ready for. Well just wait it out and I'm sure you'll fail. For five consecutive nights, drink three cups of octopus suction-cup oil and one cup of salt and lemon mixed together. Your lucky day: May 12th.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
00

This will be an okay month even though school is still dragging on. You will feel that the fish eye cocktails you've been drinking have finally paid off. Don't forget to walk your dead toad named Harry. Your lucky day: 15th of May.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
00000

You feel horribly, horrible because you forgot to take your cat-hair, dog-tail, hamster-bedding vitamins last night but do not worry. You are still alive and next month should be better. Your lucky day is the 3rd of May.



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)
000000 (so bad it's over five 0's)

If you are a Leo and your name is Leo, then you are in grave danger. On May 22nd you will be struck by lightning, hit by a car, dragged across a bed of nails and burned at the stake. For the other Leos who aren't named Leo, you will have a fine time and your lucky day is May 22nd.



Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) 0000

You might feel like smelling rotten eggs is the only way to go through life, and I can't tell a lie, but please don't do it. Plus, next month is supposed to be even worse so don't worry.



Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) 000

You're not going through good times right now, but you know it can't be bad forever. Just take a nice long bath in your favorite chopped-cow-tongue bubble bath with edible chunks.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) 00

This is an exceptional month, but you haven't done your taxes yet, and the way it looks you're going down the drain. Take more walks, now that it's getting nice out, and don't forget to feed your fish.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) 0000

You don't know what to do with your love life, or what you call your love life, which we all know is really nothing. Don't worry, you'll be finding that special someone around the 3rd of Dec.



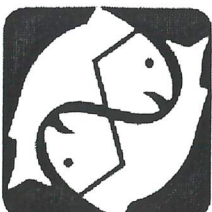
Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) 0000

You're in a horrible predicament with the law and you're most likely down in the dumps about the Sock day you missed. Don't worry, next month will be even worse and you'll regret chickening out of the bingo game with your mother.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
000

RELAX! Don't worry about all the laundry you have to do and the homework you have, you need some time to be by yourself and relax! Use your favorite cheese-powder foot deodorant, this month is really smelly.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)
0000

Oh yes, you're a Pisces and feeling pretty down. You haven't had this bad of a month since last month. Just make sure you remember to stock up your shelves for Y2K, better known to you as "Your 2 Kids."

Disrespect: A Powerful Act

Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

Recently I had a very powerful experience. Something in this experience really stuck to me. This thing, if you can call it that, was the level of respect, or lack there of, exhibited by a group of 17 high school students in a television studio production class. The behavior made me really evaluate something I, and many other Open schoolers seem to take for granted everyday. It made me really appreciate Open School. It made the occasional fights, disruptions and swearing I see in class seem downright civilized and responsible. It made me wonder; was there really intelligent life out there, in the "real high schools?"

The high schoolers were all participants in a Saint Paul Connections class. These teens (9th-12th grade) knew no boundaries. They ran around like wild animals. They swung big, extremely expensive pieces of production equipment (studio cameras, etc...) around with no thoughts as to what might break next time something hit the wall, or was carelessly dropped on the ground. They screamed at, swore at, in-



Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

sulted, downgraded and threatened everyone around them, other students and instructors included. They were all out for themselves, trying to instill fear in everyone else around them. None of them could, or would, sit still for long enough to receive simple instructions. It was horrible and was the first time I left a class on the brink of tears because of the pure disrespect I witnessed. What's more, I wasn't even a student in the class. I had taken my afternoon to help show people how to use the studio cameras and audio equipment.

I was in the studio for less than two hours and in that period of time I was sworn at, and called names more times than even my brother could accomplish in that short a period of time. The only thing expected of the teens in the class was to make a short, six minutes or so, talk show about why they were in the Connections class. After an hour and a half in the studio the only things accomplished were a video (young people swearing, condemning the primary instructor, and jumping around nearly breaking the set) all set to punk/Goth music, and having the facilitator laughing to fight back the tears that were making her eyes red and watery.

This may not seem so bad, but believe me, it was. Even the Open School fights which break up dances and get kids suspended are **DISRESPECT** Continued on 11

JOBS From 5

your parents. They might be able to hook you up with either an apprenticeship in their place of work, or with a friend of the family who probably owns either a drug store or a bar. Either way, it can't be all bad. But don't just sit around and wait for a job to come to you, because, unless you're a rich white kid who's going to inherit Daddy's business when you grow up, it isn't going to happen.

In the words of Leo, "The best jobs will be found by the people who go out and look for them ...or who have good connections."

If you believe volunteering is the way to go, some companies will reward volunteering with a scholarship once you graduate from high school, and some will simply provide the necessary experience to list on your resumé.

Sources for jobs in Minnesota are:
mn.jobsearch.org,
mn-jobs.com,
summerjobs.com/do/where/jobtree/US/MN
fentonnet.com/jobs.html,
webserv3.startribune.com/employment/
coolworks.com/showme/minnesta.html,
minnesota.computerwork.com/
net-temps.com/customers/everyone.html#Minnesota,
www.startribune.com/techjobs

NEXT MONTH:

The tragic story of little Timmy and the job interview.

Why you never ask if you can smoke during an interview.

Why polyester ties don't go over real big. All this and more, from Dr. Brian. ♦

SDL From 1

more strict about letting students down to lunch: Christina Maurico, hall monitor, awaits students who come down to lunch even as little as a minute or two early. Students often use the excuse, "I have SDL," to justify being early.

To try to make sure students are doing something constructive, Greg has SDL students keep track of their SDL time daily. According to Greg, he has students who try to validate being in chat rooms or sending e-mail as SDL work. He doesn't agree that either of those things qualify as things to be worked on during SDL.

"It was kind of a given that some people were not using SDL periods very well, and it was reaffirmed that students should work their way through their whole SDL," said Leo Bickelhaupt, English teacher, describing what had been discussed at staff meetings.

Students tend to agree that SDL is often abused, although they don't usually think it's as bad as most teachers do.

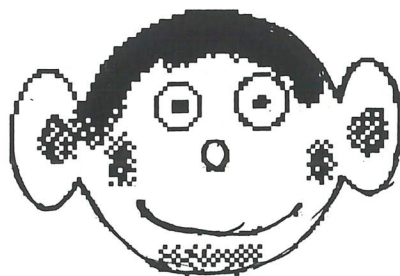
"I think a lot of students just goof off and don't do their work; they just consider SDL free-time," said SDL student Miranda Byrne, 9th grader.

Lucy Stark, another 9th grader in SDL, agrees. "Lots of kids take it because they have nothing better to do, and then during SDL, they have no homework, so they just end up talking with their friends and pretending to do things when Greg comes around to check on them," she said.

And while all students aren't always on-task, a lot of students do use their SDL time for SDL.

"I've seen people sit and work very hard doing graduation requirements. I've seen people sit and work on studies for their classes. I've seen people doing special projects; I've seen a variety of things that are very, very valuable," said Greg. ♦

Mi mono le gusta
El Papel de Morado



Matrix Ranks High in Nerd Charts

Andrew Netteberg

Staff Critic

These last few months have seen many strange and new things to the Nerd Collective, including scores of obsessed psychopaths paying full admission to see such great works of cinematography like *Wing Commander* and *A Bug's Life*, for no other reason than to see the Star Wars preview. Ugh. Double ugh if you count the fact that my gaming group actually paid seven bucks for *Wing Commander* just to see the preview. Sigh.

At any rate, this season has also seen the birth of a new cult classic, *The Matrix*. This movie (proudly?) goes to stand in the ranks of cult films like *Dark City*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Army of Darkness*, and . . . well . . . *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*. Ahem. Anyway, why does this movie rate among the giants? Well, because it was FRICKING AWESOME, that's why! This movie is stunning, the cinematography is beautiful, the fight scenes are cool, and the special effects are gorgeous.

This movie takes the Hong Kong style of camera angles (overhead views and off the shoulder POVs like in spaghetti westerns)

and general Anime feel to the fight scenes. This could make it seem really hokey like the old kung-fu movies (rent one just for kicks, they are hilarious). *The Matrix* however, really takes it to a new level of reality when combined with American editing and film quality. Toss in joint Hong Kong/American special effects and you get an action packed thrill ride. Add a script that doesn't suck and a great plot and the movie is bound to be a cult classic! To top it all off, add in top notch actors and you get OSCAR MATERIAL!!! Well, uh um . . . scratch that last one. Now it's time to get real.

What does all this mean? The fight scenes are really well done, with the exaggerated "largeness" of Anime and the throwing effect of the attacks, it makes for a smooth lob. What does that mean? Well, in one scene a character is hit and actually thrown about a good twenty yards. The way they accomplished that was by hooking him to a cable/pully system and "throwing" him down the corridor.

The cable kept him from cracking his fool

neck and provide for a smooth ride. This way they did not need to use a blue screen to paste his "flight" on like in so many other American movies. The fight scenes were also further Anime-ised by having the actors study Kung-Fu under a master for three months before shooting a single scene. Wow, now if they would give speech and acting lessons to the other action heroes (Arnold, Sly, Jean-Claude, and Stephen) . . . hmmm, nah it'd never fly.

It may seem like I'm going off on this movie and only talking about the fight screens ("Dodge this" . . . heh, heh) and not even touching the plot, but I don't want to ruin it for you all. So, I will just say this (and you can quote me): "This movie has the best plot of any science-fiction movie I have ever seen in the last ten years."

So, final words: See the movie. See the movie. See the movie. See the movie. SEE THE MOVIE!!!! Okay that's my two cents, enjoy. ♦

Family Values CD an Intriguing Combination of Styles, Voices

Salvador Rosas

Staff Critic

Part of the reason I like live performances is because you can hear the instruments a little better and it always gives the musicians, especially drummers, a little bit more freedom to do what they want. The Family Values Tour CD has a lot of very good musicians who use that freedom. The CD consists of various bands, like Korn, Rammstein, Orgy, Limp Bizkit, Incubus and Ice Cube. Anyone who's heard any of these bands knows that there is a wide range of styles. The rapper Ice Cube's performances really clash with the other bands, since he's the only one that talks about killing cops and such. Although I think rap is horrid, I can't help but laugh at Ice Cube's hilarious song, *Check Yo' Self*. Because you better check yo' self before you "riggity wreck yourself," according to Ice Cube.

The other styles include Orgy's new wave/industrial sound, which they refer to as

"Death pop," especially on the remake of the 80's song *Blue Monday*. Orgy looks, and even at times sounds, a little like Marilyn Manson. But anyone who's heard both bands would have to admit that Jay Gordon, the lead singer for Orgy, is just a little more eerie than Marilyn Manson. Limp Bizkit has the whole white-boy-rap/rock going on with jazzy drums and punk like guitars. They even remake the House of Pain's song *Jump*. Rammstein performs their hit *Du Hast* with Til Linderman's Nazi-like vocals and raging industrial guitars in the background. Incubus gets the CD started with a tearing diddy called *New Skin*. And then there's Korn. Korn, who organized this whole rock extravaganza, have a very unique style. Jonathan Davis' voice varies from sounding whiny and nasal to this type of evil scatting that's very original on his part.

Most of these performers do an excellent

job. You can occasionally hear a few mistakes and they're pretty minor, like the guitars or the vocals are a little off or the tempo is inconsistent at times, but overall these bands do an excellent job. ♦

IN A NUTSHELL

What: Family Values Tour 98' (Korn, Orgy, Rammstein, Limp Bizkit, Incubus, Ice Cube)

Category: Hard Rock

Should you buy it?: Yes, If you like any of the bands and if you like live performances.

Rating: * * *

ANGRY From 5

Another thing about my title is that I am not only mad about the music scene right now, I am mad over a lot of issues in the news these days, but music is my specialty. Well, since I am running at the mouth, I might as well get all of this out. I don't want to limit myself.

Why are there so many people protesting against the bombings in Yugoslavia? That makes me mad because of two things: first, do they really think that they will stop bombing if they keep protesting? I mean, it's good that they are against war and everything, but come on, this is not the Vietnam war, damn hippie wannabes. I think this conflict has more to do with World War II than Vietnam. And second of all, don't they see what the Serbs are doing? They are the ones that are killing innocent people. And you always hear people trying to defend the Serbs by saying not all of them are monsters and you shouldn't compare them to the Nazi's. Well, if there are so many of them that don't want to kill and rape innocent people, why do they do it? These protesters are traitors to not

only their country but to the whole idea of freedom, when you think about it. If you don't like the way America handles its problems, or if you're not going to stand by your country in times of war, go to Serbia and wear those signs with the targets on them.

Do I dare talk about the whole Tinky Winky deal? Even though it's kind of old news, I'm pretty riled up right now, so I think I will. First of all, I hate to bring this news to anyone who doesn't know (including Jerry Falwell), but Tinky Winky is not real. He's a damn puppet. It's not like he's a well known celebrity that just "came out of the closet." And this whole Christian Coalition thing is really driving me nuts, since I am Roman Catholic and everything. That's not how Christians are supposed to be. Do they really think that God's going to love them anymore for saying these cruel things to these people? The saying "God hates fags" is such a contradiction to the whole Christian religion that it's not even funny. The point of being Christian is to be more Christ-like, and I can't imagine Jesus saying, "AIDS cures homosexuality." I think God

doesn't approve of people, whether they be homosexuals or not, if they over-indulge in sex.

If anything, Jerry Falwell's little Tinky Winky thing is going to backfire, as I've recently seen that people are actually more annoyed with Christians than gays. And the thing that upsets me is that people are starting to assume that if you are Christian, you automatically hate gay people and that you belong to a church where there's some self righteous preacher shouting with a Southern accent, and that there are people all around you shouting "Amen!!" Some people do, and that's the way they think is the best way to worship Jesus, but I would just like to say that it's different from the Catholic Church, which is very quiet and humble. I don't mean to offend other kinds of Christians, namely Baptists. My point is that there are different kinds of Christians, and some are more responsible than others for treating gay people like they're less than human.

Well, now that all of that is out of my system, I think I can rest. ♦

PEACE From 4

except to shoot trespassers? Maybe. Probably not. I don't know. No one does, not even congressional representatives who get paid to think about these things. But how are we ever going to solve our differences while we are dropping bombs and committing genocide? Do I sound ridiculously idealistic? Yes? Good. You all are too cynical.

(As an aside, we knew almost nothing about the death camps in WWII until after we liberated them, we were fighting for the freedom of European countries from German rule. And in Iraq we didn't say anything about humanity. That was about oil and we knew it and so did everyone, and in most cases there are no good reasons to fight the war and we do it for bad ones. Decent reasons are almost by sheer chance) ♦



STARWARS From 5

people stretching all the way around the block outside the theater. He wondered what everyone was waiting for. It turned out to be his movie, so he called the theater and arranged to have the world premiere held there. Twenty-two years later, the biggest line, and the world headquarters for Episode I lines everywhere, is already camped out outside that same theater.

The LA line is one of the many that is being moderated by the crazy people at starwars.countingdown.com, a website dedicated to, well ... counting down to Episode I. The site is run by Lincoln Gasking, who is usually based in Australia but has temporarily moved his headquarters to the pavement outside the Mann's Chinese theater. He's out there with a laptop, taking calls

from a nearby pay phone. For over a month.

It almost makes sense though, doesn't it? The people in the LA line are out there to uphold a tradition, and to see the very first showing of *The Phantom Menace*. Maybe the part about them being out there since April 6th for a movie that doesn't open until May 19th is a bit nuts, but waiting is part of the fun, and anyway, it's for a good cause. Everyone in the LA line is raising money every hour they spend in line for the Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity program for underprivileged kids.

Also, the Chinese theater line isn't just a lot of standing around. So far they've been on TV news programs countless times, and had a fair amount of celebrity visits. They got to watch Sean Connery do that nifty

handprints-in-cement thing outside the theater. Just that makes me insanely jealous, but that's not all. Jay Leno visited the line and did a skit and a brief interview. The best thing though, that made me the most jealous, was when Jake Lloyd, the kid who will portray Anakin Skywalker, the young Darth Vader in Episode I, made an appearance. He signed posters, his parents gave out tootsie roll pops, and he said he'd call up Ewan McGregor, Episode I's Obi-Wan Kenobi, and get him to visit the line. Can I go to LA now?

No, I guess I have to stick around here, but I'll get a bit of Star Wars excitement. With all the hype around Episode I's premiere, the energy level in any line will be so high that wacky hijinks, if not visiting Jedis, are to be expected. ♦



The Conspiracy Page

The views expressed on these pages do not necessarily represent the views of The Purple Press or its staff.



Dominoes Has Been Calling the Shots

Ben Peterson
Staff Schizo

Have you ever wondered why these attacks on Kosovo are so prolonged and without resolution? Why does the United States keep bombing a country approximately the size of Rhode Island? Why don't they send in some ground forces and sweep out the resistance? Our forces and technology are more than a match for their own. The answer to these questions is buried in the fact that there's more behind it than just warfare, there's a whole political underground capitalist plot.

In all reality, it isn't the White House that determines when we get involved in a war, it's the pizza market. That's right, pizza. The food industry you and I thought we knew so well.

The pizza restaurant owners are the worst terrorists the world has seen. When business was slow for the Domino's Pizza facilities serving Washington D.C., the Kosovo incident started. On the first night alone, Domino's remained open an hour later than usual to fill the 800 pizza orders it received from the Pentagon. I'm not just doctoring figures here; according to the Associated Press, when the Monica Lewinski scandal happened, it reached its record of over 1,000!

Coincidence? I think not. It's plain to see that the pizza industry knows where its money is, at least in Washington. When-

ever their business gets slow, a crisis happens. This can't be just sheer luck. They know that when officials are stuck doing their patriotic duty, they're bound to get hungry. Therefore, they're going to need food. What's the easiest way to get food without leaving your chair? That's right. Pizza. So, it should come as no surprise when it is learned that these crises happen. The pizza industry makes them happen.

Why do you think the price of pizza keeps rising? It's to cover their secret branch of international espionage artists. They use them to infiltrate countries that are slightly

unstable and erupt political/military turmoil, hoping that the United States will be forced to intervene. Every time they're forced to intervene, they stay at work. Every time they stay at work, they order pizza. A brilliant plan.

But wait. Why should the pizza industries stop there? If it works in international conflicts, why not create one after the other? Because then the White House would get drained, and the balance might shift too much. They know this. They have smart people working there.

So does that stop them? Of course not. There's no reason they couldn't turn to inner conflicts, hence the Lewinski scandal. But why stay in Washington? The pizza industry in the rest of the country could target their local governments. Not nearly as profitable, true, but still more profitable than a slow night. Take Minnesota, for example. Jesse Ventura would most likely be easily swayed into forceful dealings with hostile situations. Why not stage a bombing or two? Or maybe a hostage takeover?

You can see where this is going. Pretty soon, all the governments will be coercively run by Domino's. Unless we do something.

Boycott the pizza industry. Start ordering Chinese, or other forms of takeout. There are hundreds of millions of things you can eat that aren't pizza. ♦



Top Ten Things Students Think Whilst Sitting in Class

- 1) I wonder exactly what trajectory I'd need to hit the teacher with this paper airplane.
- 2) It looks like Cracker Jack Candy is giving out Teaching Licenses again.
- 3) If I have to sit through another "Don't Do Drugs" rap, I'm gonna kill something.
- 4) Elvis.
- 5) I wonder how Julie would teach this class.
- 6) Shoot. I don't have my homework. Think up excuse. Think up excuse...
- 7) When was the last time they updated this curriculum? WW II?
- 8) Is that a nose, or did the teacher's face grow a turnip?
- 9) Wow. I'm bored.
- 10) I wonder what would really happen if I pressed that button in Leo's room.

Question of the Month

What's with Leo's shirts?

And why does Tim own the same ones?

ANOREXIA From 4

order, your body doesn't get the calories it needs to function properly, so your body will eat away at your muscles, and your heart weakens which can cause great disabilities.

I was looking through a magazine one day, and I was shocked to see that it stated that 40% to 60% of all high school girls are on a diet. I just sat on my bed in deep thought. I wondered to myself, is it worth it? Is it all worth the effort? Are people better off crash dieting, and becoming depressed little fetuses as their friends and family watch them waste away?

And now, advertisers for such things as dietary pills and weight loss programs are saying it's not necessarily the size of women that matters, but how shapely they are. And yet, you still hear radio commercials about how you can lose weight and get a pretty figure. That makes no sense to me. That

still gives people the message that you have to lose weight in order to get a man's attention.

Let's go way back to the medieval times. Plump used to be the ideal of beauty. If you were skinny, you died a lot faster than someone chubbier. There wasn't enough food, or nutrients, so people survived off their own fat. Now it seems that people can't survive with fat.

What is so disgusting or unnatural about body fat? Everyone has it, but everyone thinks of Barbie as the ideal woman. I really do not understand eating disorders at all. I blame the advertisers, mostly. They always pick tall, thin, beautiful models doing happy things like shopping and hanging out with friends to advertise their products, which gives people the idea that they can't have fun without looking like people on television. Here's a good example. I was look-

ing through a magazine last night that had a huge cover story about eating disorders. I thought Hey! This is great! Maybe these people can get it through society's head that no one is perfect! The article, of course, talks about how dangerous and deadly eating disorders really are, but as soon as I turned the page, here was a picture of Mariah Carey. She had obviously gained a little weight from the look of her, but she was still relatively thin. I thought she looked great, but of course, here was a small paragraph under her photo quoting: "EGADZ! Classic Elegance was not on Mariah Carey's Oscar repertoire, as she scarcely squeezed into a L'Wren Scott gown."

I just don't get it. I admit, I'm not tall and thin, but I'm happy with who I am. I don't let things like this get to me. In my opinion, anorexia or bulimia is just slow suicide, and I don't want that. ◇

DISRESPECT From 7

nothing in comparison. No matter who is involved in these fights, there are always other people whose viewpoints are the same as the fighters. When someone is swearing in class, there is a point at which, for one reason or another, the swearing stops. When sharp objects (spikes, forks, etc...) are around, their primary use is not that of inflicting injuries upon others. Teachers are usually treated with respect in class. Students know some limits and boundaries.

A lack of this knowledge of basic boundaries has proven, to me at least, to be utterly disastrous. Now, as I hear Open's staff and students complain about each other, I will be thinking about how lucky we are to have so many people who respectfully interact with each other, who will stand (or sit on the cafeteria floor) together without anyone being injured or (overly) insulted. I am by no means saying that Open Schoolers are perfect, for there are still many disrespect issues (vandalism for one thing) that are not appropriate and that could be brought to an end. There are, however, many things such as laughing, working and playing together in a comfortable environment that our school has managed to maintain, but there is always room for improvement. ◇

CONDOMS From 4

een candy, the condom population of St. Paul will grow by the thousands every day! Condoms will fill backpacks, lunch boxes and the purses of young girls. They'll come spilling out of every high schooler's locker when opened! Blown up like balloons, condoms will decorate the city. And because we all have condoms, heck, we'll want to use them gosh darn it! We'll use them every chance we get! You won't be able to walk down the street without seeing some high school students having sex. They'll be doing it on public park benches and in the toy aisle of K-Mart. Everywhere you look, there they'll be having out-of-control promiscuous sex with hundreds of partners everyday

all because the school gave out condoms! Am I right? No.

The truth is, giving out condoms will not cause a mad chaotic scene of teenagers running out to have sex. If anything, supporting the idea of safe sex will do teenagers a lot of good. Although it's ideal they would wait until they are mature enough to handle any consequences that might come of having sex, that ideal is not yet a reality. The reality is that every day teenagers are having unprotected sex, they are getting pregnant, and they are contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV. We can pretend it's not happening simply because we wish it wasn't, or we can take actions to put it to a stop. ◇

KOSOVO From 4

After the turn of the century The Ottoman Empire began to slowly break up. In 1912 the Ottomans turned Kosovo back over to Serbia. Under the rule of the Christian Serbs, the mostly Muslim population of Kosovo suffered. But their chance for revenge would come; in the form of Nazi Germany.

After World War II, the Serbian wartime leader Josip Broz, more commonly known as Tito, attempted to yield many communist countries into a common state. Kosovo became part of this new country, where it remained until about 1972 when Tito granted Kosovo a degree of independence.

With the death of Tito, so died Kosovo's short-lived independence. The new Yugoslavian dictator, Slobodan Milosevic, ended Kosovo's independence in 1989. Under the new rule of Milosevic, the Kosovars would struggle for their very basic rights.

The Kosovars have been demonstrating for freedom since 1991. Serbian military forces have been used on many occasions to kill Kosovars, based solely on their religious beliefs.

Many of the more civil countries of the world have tried to stop the violence in Yugoslavia. Peace treaties proposed by both the U.S. and the United Nations have failed. The biggest reasons these treaties have failed is because the Serbians refuse to have Kosovo, which is very important to Yugoslavian history to be "invaded" by UN peace keeping forces. ◇

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