

Halloween "Boo-tiful"

Maura Shramko
Staff Writer

On Friday, October 30th, something ghoulish happened. It was scary . . . it was spooky . . . it was this year's celebration of Halloween.

Halloween was interesting and colorful, as usual. Although the Student Government representatives needed to repeatedly quiet the assembly, overall it was successful. The winners in the costume contest were: ELC, 1st place, Will Warner (UFO); 2nd place, Lensea Mohamed (Spiderella); SLC, 1st place, Kathryn Alexander (Renaissance lady); 2nd place, Sierra Blakely (Giraffe); Staff, ELC, 1st place, Fawn Nguyen (Door); 2nd place, Pete Sandall (Wolfman); SLC, 1st place, Connye LaCombe (Starry Night); 2nd place, Sharon Haldeman (Scarecrow). Other interesting costumes included: Boy George, a preppy, the Pillsbury

Doughboy, and a truckload of fairies.

The other big Halloween competition was the door contest. Advisories spent day after day trying to make their door the bestest, the prettiest, the originalest. Some advisories were working right down to the last minute, taping things up and adding to the overall effect. The winners of the door contest were: ELC, 1st place, Don Von's door; Grand Prize, Elaine Alper's door; SLC, 1st place Bridget Martin's door.



Kathryn Alexander, winner,
SLC costume contest

The third Halloween attraction was the SLC dance. The dance went as all Open School dances do. A majority of the people spent most of their time sitting calmly on the outskirts of the cafetorium, though from time to time there were occasional bursts of dancing. ♦

Save Our Neighborhood

Daniele Finley
Staff Writer

There's an old, broken-down white house by the Dairy Queen on West 7th. It's the sort of place that, when you drive by, you can't help but wonder what the story is behind it.

That house is part of Irvine Park, and it has been on the National Register of Historic Places since the early 1970's. The owner, David Berg, wants to tear it down and replace it with a parking lot. He has been asking for permission to do this since the mid-1980's. The whole south wing was destroyed in an attempt by Berg to tear it down.

The city refused to grant him permission because the house has been there since 1874, and was previously owned by the Mannheimer's and *HOUSE Continued on 3*

Vandalism Sweeps Art Room

Mina Blyly-Strauss
Staff Writer

Are you in any art classes? Has any of your artwork disappeared or been broken? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, you are not alone.

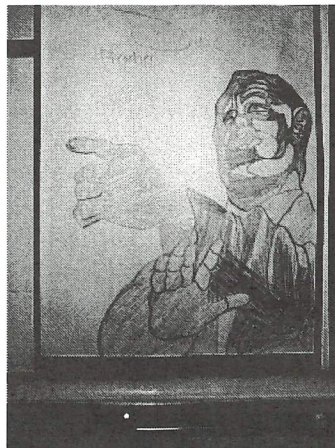
This year started out with trouble around the art room. Before the 1st trimester had fully gotten underway, three pictures had disappeared from the hallway. One was found in the garbage; the other two haven't been found. There have also been people writing on drawings hung in the hall around the art room.

Clay objects have also been broken and taken off the shelves in the back room. "Every day someone tells me that something is broken or missing," says art teacher Elizabeth Lehman. Although she knows these things are happening, it's hard to tell when, it occurs because many times she finds out during class.

These problems are especially shocking because the number of incidents has greatly increased over the past years. In fact, Elizabeth says

she has never had this much trouble.

One reason for the increase of clay-related incidents may be that there are now two ceramics classes. More classes means



It's 6:54 PM. Do you know
who's been touching your art?

more students going through the already small and overcrowded kiln room. With more people traveling through the kiln room there is more of a chance that people will bump into other sculptures while looking for their own.

A paperback drawing book featuring trees and landscapes has also disappeared from the art room book shelves. In the past, Marvel comic drawing books have also been stolen. "Popular books are always stolen," remarked Elizabeth.

If you have seen the landscape book or if you witness artwork being torn off walls, written on or broken, tell Elizabeth quietly or tell your advisor. Since accidents do happen, it's better to know than not to know. ♦

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The Play's the Thing

Our Friend Bob

Staff Writer

After four days of reading through the scripts, a group of students decided that this year's school play will be, "The Madwoman of Chaillot."

Approximately 35 students met 6th hour from November 8th through the 12th to read the scripts of both, "Toad of Toad Hall" and, "The Madwoman of Chaillot." The beginnings of both plays were read, as well as a scene from the later acts. ♦

SENIOR PROFILE



Leah O'Neill

How many years have you been at Open School?

13

If you were an animal, what would you be?

An aquatic animal.

What do you plan on doing after high school?

I'd like to travel, and open my own business. Perhaps go to school more.

Where do you picture yourself in 30 years?

In a house with interesting furniture.

What will you miss most about school?

The people. ♦

Jesse Wins Big With Student Support

Mark Dyson

Staff Writer

On November 3rd, almost 70 percent of Minnesota's voters turned out to vote in the mid-term general elections. A day earlier, Kathy Kluth's Urban Geography class held a mock election at Open School that showed the same results. Both elections resulted in Jesse Ventura, former pro-wrestler, in 1st place, Norm Coleman in 2nd place, and Skip Humphrey in 3rd.

In the Open School election, Ventura snagged 69 votes, Coleman won 24, and Humphrey got 23. In the general election, Ventura won with 37 percent of the vote, Coleman captured 34, and Humphrey lost with 28.

When asked about their votes in both the general and mock elections, Open School students overwhelmingly supported Ventura. Brian Forsberg, a senior, voted for Ventura. "With Jesse in the governor's office, things just won't pass by the public like they would with a Republican governor."

Ehren Stemme, another senior who voted, said, "It's a lot better than if Skippy was in the office! Ventura won't be a puppet to the major political parties when he's making decisions." ♦

Drivers Beware!

You need to grow up more

Brigitte McKern

Staff Writer

Starting January 1st, 1999, the Graduated Driver's License Law will be in effect for new drivers under the age of 18. There are three phases that you must complete before you can hold a full license. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety is hoping that this new law will reduce the number of accidents and traffic violations caused by young drivers. The qualifications and conditions for each phase are:

Phase I - Instruction Permit

To be qualified to receive an Instruction Permit you must:

- Be at least 15 years old.
- Complete 30 hours of classroom instruction.
- Pass vision and written tests, com-

LICENSE Continued on 3

FTC Leader Speaks

Ehren Stemme

Staff Reporter

Craig Kielburger, a 15 year old self-made child labor activist, spoke on the subject to an in-house audience of about 700 at Wesley United Methodist Church in downtown Minneapolis on November 12. About 25 Open School students, staff and parents were in attendance. In addition to the audience in the church, the forum was heard over the radio statewide in a simulcast on Minnesota Public Radio.

Kielburger first became aware of child labor problems at the age of 12 when he read an article about a Pakistani laborer in a Toronto newspaper. Igual Nushit, also 12 at the time, reportedly had been murdered about two years after fleeing a rug-making sweatshop. To this day the murder is unsolved, but Kielburger thinks it is the result of the sweatshop owners putting a hit out

KIELBURGER Continued on 7

LICENSE From 2

plete application and pay the required fee.

When you receive an Instruction Permit, you can drive under the supervision of a certified driving instructor, parent or guardian, or any other licensed driver age 21 or older. Previously, it was 18 or older. Also, every occupant under the age of 18 must have a seat belt or child passenger restraint system fastened.

Phase II - Provisional License

To be qualified to receive a Provisional License you must:

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Have completed driver education.
- Hold an Instruction Permit for six months with no convictions for moving or alcohol/controlled substance violations.
- Pass a road test, complete an application and pay the required fee.
- Have the person that approves the application certify that the applicant has driven under the supervision of a licensed driver at least 21 years old for not less than 30 hours, at least ten of which were at night.

When you receive a Provisional License, every occupant in the car under the age of 18 must have a seat belt or child passenger restraint system fastened.

Phase III - Full License

To be qualified for a Full License you must:

- Be at least 18 years old or must have held a provisional license for at least 12 consecutive months with no convictions for alcohol/controlled substance violations, crash-related moving violations and with no more than one conviction for a moving violation that is not crash-related.
- Must complete an application and pay the required fee.
- If under 18, the person who approves the application certifies that the applicant has driven under the supervision of a licensed driver at least 21 years old for not less than ten hours on the Provisional License. ♦

HOUSE From 1

Goodkind's, who ran a store that later became Dayton's.

The estimated value for the house five years ago was \$38,000. When David Berg and his wife bought it 13 years ago, the house was appraised at \$115,000. They originally bought it to be a bed and breakfast. Later, he hoped to convert it to offices for his nearby steel supply company.

A few Open Schoolers have taken it upon themselves to adopt this house. Amy Travers, Michelle Cook, and their mothers are trying to get a grant from a preservation committee, so that they can buy the house and fix it up.

Naturally, there are problems. In Amy Travers' own words, "On the Dairy Queen

side, you can see through one window, up through the first and second floor ceiling, and all the way up to the sky."

The first thing they plan to do is write a request for a grant. They will also be calling local colleges for plumbers and electricians, and asking if any students need to work on-site, hoping to reduce expenses for getting things fixed for the house.

If the students and their families win a grant from the preservation and restoration group, they can return this "flop-house" to its original splendor. If they fail, the city will, in all likelihood, tear it down. The fate of a grand old house hangs in the balance. ♦

It's Swingin' Time

Mark Dyson
Staff Reporter

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing! That seems to be a popular opinion among 20-somethings and even younger people as the swing revolution sweeps America.

It started a year or two ago with the movie *Swingers*. That movie, featuring the swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, had a wonderful dance sequence where the main character and his date danced all over the floor in a lively fashion; his wallet chain twirling and writhing like it was alive.

Then came the popular swing bands. Royal Crown Revue, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Squirrel Nut



Zippers, The Brian Setzer Orchestra, and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy started to play on popular radio stations and intrigued the public with their fast beats and jazz-like sounds.

Finally, there was the Gap commercial. This commercial, sending the message that "khakis swing" and featuring Brian Setzer's hit cover "Jump, Jive, and Wail," had young people doing a very exaggerated version of the Lindy Hop (a dance from the 20's).

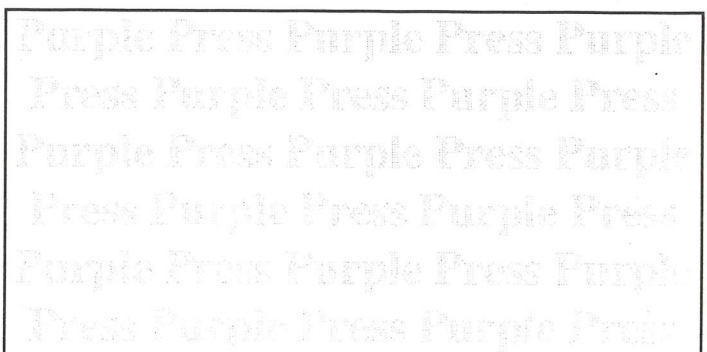
Swing websites are abundant on the internet. When the internet search engine Ya-

hoo! is searched under "swing," almost 1,000 websites are found. There are also dozens of swing dance lessons and clubs in the Twin Cities metro area, including places like the Fine Line Cafe, where people gather to eat, drink, and dance to local swing bands.

Open School students seem to have different levels of enthusiasm towards the revolution of swing. Of the people interviewed, most liked the new swing music and were happy that it was "hip" again. At the recent school Halloween dance, "Zoot Suit Riot," by the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, was played and a few dozen

students danced to it. They didn't exactly swing dance, but they at least seemed to enjoy the music.

I think that we will continue to see swing music on the radio stations, on the Web, and at dances. Most of the widely-known bands, like Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and the Brian Setzer Orchestra, have released several CDs, but have only recently had their songs become popular. They are likely to produce more CDs to satisfy the public's need. In the meantime, I'm going to visit the CD stores on a regular basis and wait for that new music. ♦



Opinions 'n' Stuff

Coffee for Dummies *An Idiot's Guide to Java*

Pat Zemke and Lisa Grotenhuis
Staff Writers

More and more teens seem to be wandering into coffee bars to order a double-mocha half-decaf with a shot of espresso or a large almond steamed milk. But, if that's all Greek to you, then read on to hear about three very accessible hang-outs.

Cahoots is a comfortable place with a friendly atmosphere. Fridays feature live music nights with no cover charge. In the smoking section there is a record player that's run by customers. The selection of vinyl ranges from oldies to punk rock, as do the live performers. Despite the music, Cahoots is usually pretty quiet and great for studying. There are also computers in the nonsmoking section that customers are welcome to use. This coffee shop definitely has the widest age range of the three.

LOCATION: Selby, off of Snelling
BUSES: 21, 4, 3

Cosmic Charlie's is a very 90's cliche coffee shop with an outdoor pool table, pinball and loud music. As far as atmosphere is concerned, an array of hanging disco balls and psychedelic planets definitely give them bragging rights. However, if you walk in late on a weekend, good luck finding a place to sit. The many regulars as well as other miscellaneous teens are always sardined into the furniture.

LOCATION: Snelling, off of Selby
BUSES: 21, 4, 3

Rudies Ska Cafe is a very smoke-filled but comfortable coffee shop. The walls are lined with booths and the entire thing is a little too smoker-friendly. At Rudies, there is an unusual side room called "The Vault." It contains video games, pinball machines, and screaming players. One of the most popular (and most yelled at) games is Elvira, a talking pinball machine.

LOCATION: Randolph & West 7th
BUSES: 14, 9

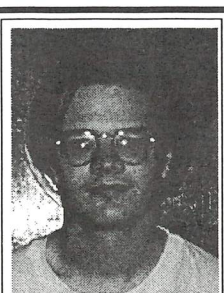
Out of the three, the one most frequented by Open Schoolers would probably be Rudies, because of its convenient location. However, we think all three of these are excellent choices. We recommend poking around yourself to find the atmosphere that suits you best. ♦

VBS: The Braindead Killer

I had two goals this summer: the first was to get a substantial amount of writing accomplished. Now, you must understand I have about four novels, two plays, and at least one screenplay in progress. That's in addition to all the countless things I've started that I've forgotten and/or regret starting. And, for the most part, I failed miserably.

On top of that, the second goal, the one my parents gave me (aside from getting off my toosh and getting a job, which is the topic of yet another column) was to pull myself out of the proverbial rut I've gotten into regarding validations.

Now, part of the reason I fell behind in the first place was my stubborn stance on what a good validation consisted of. (In my brain, it sat right next to a college thesis paper.) Whenever I'd start the Group Process, for example, some groupish activity would come up that I'd get dragged into, so I felt obliged to put it off until after that was done. (If you don't see where this



Wolfman
Staff Communist

is going, I apologize, but too bad.)

Now, that excuse is good and all, but it doesn't explain why I'm so horribly behind. The real reason is something I've dubbed Validation Braindead Syndrome (VBS). Whenever I sit down at the computer to write one, I get as far as, "I hereby formally request that you validate me in the area of . . ." when my fingers cramp, my back stiffens, my eyes start burning, and my mind blanks out.

It happens every time. I may have had creative juices up to my ears beforehand, but as soon as I start that request, the juices take a trip to Tahiti.

What's the reason for this inability to complete my task? Got me. Maybe it's the result of a childhood without a dog. Maybe it's a government computer virus implanted in my brain. Maybe I'm just slacking off.

Strangely enough, I think the first two are more likely. I really do want to graduate. Granted, it started as just slacking off, but VBS is some monster that grew out of something far more innocent.

This is where I should write about the cures for VBS for those who suffer like I do. Well, sorry folks, if I knew any cures I wouldn't be in this rut and therefore,
VBS Continued on 6

Rap: The Anti-Music

Let me be honest, in all of my years of exploring different kinds of music, I've been at least a little impressed with every genre I've come across, except one. After listening to/analyzing more, I've come up with a conclusion: rap sucks.

I have enough, if not too many, reasons to support my decision for writing this article. First of all, when I tell anybody that



Salvador Rosas
Staff Columnist

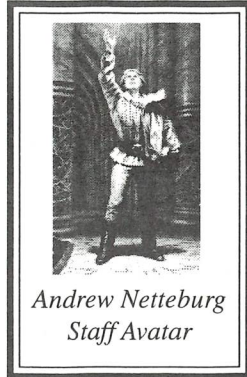
likes rap music why I don't like rap music, they either threaten to shoot out my knees or they put up a very weak argument. "Hip Hop Fo-eva!" and, "You're racist!" are their usual replies as they walk away. Get over it, Tupac is dead and Biggy Smalls was most likely murdered by Puff Daddy just so he could make money.

I don't even know how to classify Puffy's style of music, except that it is so annoyingly unoriginal, it's sad. It brainwashes people's, especially children's, minds into thinking that that's what music is supposed to sound like, just because MTV plays their repetitive videos.

RAP Continued on 6

Car Trouble?

Many of the students who may be just beginning to learn to drive, or are now currently driving on our roads, might notice something. A lot of the drivers out there really, really suck. You may be one of them. And not all of them are young, Leo. A while ago I was driving with Notah on 35E. It was about six o'clock. I was just behind a mass of cars watching them swarm. They didn't drive, they swarmed. People were going 70 miles an hour and making lane changes with just enough room for a VW bug. And they didn't care!



Andrew Netteburg
Staff Avatar

I have had just about enough of all of these bad drivers. They infest our roadways, threatening our lives and property. This problem is caused by too many people getting licenses when they really, really shouldn't. Many of my friends who have licenses can't even park without endangering lives and property. They hit the posts during their tests, yet passed with room to spare.

The problem is the overworked, underpaid, and resource-deprived civil servants at the horrid DMV. But, I don't blame them, it's not their fault. The lines at the Testing station look like the one in *Airplane 2* crossed with *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. In other words, it's a long line of gun-carrying, scimitar-wielding, English deficient, immigrant psychopaths with half an IQ point between the lot of them. I would be afraid to tell these guys that they couldn't have a license. I mean they might kill me just because I wouldn't let them have a mode of transportation to get to their jobs and feed their families.

But foreigners are not the problem. America was based on immigration, and we need cheap labor to do the jobs that we don't want to. It's the system that's at fault. If we could create more DMV's, and staff them with enough people, then employees would not have to pull a triple shift. That way we might be able to start actually giving licenses based on merit rather than speed. And then, God forbid, we might be able to reduce the number of crappy drivers and improve our commuting lives! After that we can eliminate the national debt by legalizing gambling and marijuana and then taxing the hell out of them! Then on to cure AIDS and cancer by giving the five richest people cancer and giving them AIDS! We could also try solving world peace!

But, that is about as likely as Luciano Pavoratti going on Jenny Craig. So, until we revamp the process to award licenses, here are a few pointers for all new and/or bad drivers to help you behind the wheel.

1. Even if there are no painted lanes, drive as far right as you can. That way you're not hogging the road when another car wants to go the other way.
2. Let the bus win.
3. Same as two above, but substitute Mack truck.
4. Left lane fast, right lane slow.
5. When making a turn, lane change or parking on the street it is helpful to SIGNAL!!!!
6. Merge, contrary to popular opinion, is not French for stop. There is a reason for acceleration ramps and lanes. Because,

DRIVERS Continued on 7

We're All Different Deal With It!

Earlier this year, a young gay man from Wyoming was beaten to death because of his sexual preference. His life was taken because of someone's hatred. He won't view another sunrise because someone was too insecure to tolerate their differences.

In this day and age, one would think that we, as "civilized" people, would be making more progress in our ability to accept differences. So, why are people still discriminating against people different from them? We have people getting murdered because they happen to be gay, people burning crosses on the front lawns of the African-American family down the street, and the beating of the (fill-in-religion-here) girl across the hallway of your dorm.

Hate crimes are definitely not restricted to these incidents. This is a widespread issue. In every city, neighborhood, and school there are examples of this behavior. In 1995, Minnesota's crime rate was the 2nd highest in the Midwest. Michigan had about 150 more reported hate crimes than Minnesota, and North and South Dakota collectively had eight hate crimes for the whole year. Wisconsin, surprisingly, had approximately 40 hate crimes, and Iowa had 12. I think that it's about time that we recognize this as something that needs to be dealt with and not ignored by your happy, bubble-wrapped world.

It can all start by people educating themselves. Violence has always and forever been caused by ignorance; not understanding another person's beliefs or actions. We, as a whole, need to stop and think about what we say and do before we do them. Your mom was right about that, at least. There is no reason, I believe, why anyone should have to express their opinions with actions in such a way that it hurts another person.

I feel that hate crimes should be prosecuted as separate crimes. If you murder someone you should be tried for murder. If you murder someone because they are gay, I think that you should be tried for both murder and hate as an additional crime. Of course, this may not be a realistic proposition because the law sees all crimes as actions, unless they are premeditated. Which means if one couldn't prove that someone was prejudiced, only the actions of the crime committed can be punished. Proving someone's mental state is the hardest thing that a prosecutor could do. Often we can only speculate. ♦



Krysteenah Garcia
Staff Columnist

**The Purple Press apologizes for
not bringing you the
Conspiracy Pages this issue.
La Niña has temporarily
isolated our fanatical writers.
We hope to have it up and
running again next month.**

Computer Trouble?

Computers. I am beginning to believe that my life would be stress-free without them. Have you ever been able to find anything even close to the topic you were looking for on the internet? Or if you have, have you ever been able to print it?

If you answered "NO" to either of those questions, you are not alone.

I usually sit down in front of a tinted computer screen at about ten o'clock in the morning to document my work for a validation. I then find I have to switch computers about twice for various technical reasons. When I find one that seems to work, it freezes in mid-page and I loose the thought that I was developing. Several minutes later I start again. When I get about two sentences farther, I clench my fists in anger and fear. The screen begins to eat all my precious and not-so-precious work. Whether it is precious or not doesn't matter. Even the not-so-precious pieces I'll sometimes want to save for inspiration.

Maybe I am just cursed. Every Tuesday and Thursday, I sit down in front of one of the Open School computers and begin to type, hoping that whatever I'm working on will turn out okay. I know you're thinking, maybe it's the computer? It's not. I can use the very best computer ever invented, yet still I fail to find any information and can never get beyond typing. I'm sure it's a problem that only I have, and have had ever since my first encounter with a computer.

When I moved to Minnesota from Mexico in 1989, I took a basic computer course in third grade at Ames Elementary. Little did the teacher know that she was enrolling the most computer-illiterate curse she would ever receive. We began this course by learning where the keys on the computer were and we started to type the alphabet. One hour later the students were in line to collect their work from the printer. Needless to say, mine never came. It jammed the printer and the teacher and I were unable to find my work ever again. The next week of class, my fellow students and I were working on stories and somehow I lost the program that we were working in. From then on I was supervised while in the lab.

This year, however, I have had the worst computer year ever. This year I have wrecked many pieces of work. For example, I have been writing my Group Process Validation for three months. Those of you who have already done this validation know that this is a very easy validation. It's not that I can't write,



Marlene Otterness
Staff Columnist

VBS From 4

wouldn't take up space in a column about it. However, there are options.

The first option is also the most drastic and one I DON'T recommend; it involves switching schools. Keep in mind this is a last resort for those who achieve no results from any other method. If this sounds like you, you could be suffering from a subconscious desire to go to a more conventional school. It's tragic, but possible.

The second option, which I actually recommend you try first, is bribery. Now, I don't mean bribing validators to get your validations quicker. I mean people bribing you. For example, if you don't have X number of validations done, your RENT tickets go to the redneck neighbors.

The third option, which really won't work if the first one does, is threats. Have your parents threaten to yank you if you don't make it. Sure, it may be empty, but more often than not, it works. Just the thought of being stuck in Humboldt makes my flesh crawl.

So, in conclusion, life's a bitch. Do your validations. ◇



RAP From 4

This kind of music is called sell-out crap and I would strongly advise you not to listen to it. If you already do, may God have mercy on your soul. That's just my opinion but it is a very educated one, because I've tried to listen (more like forced myself) to, not just Puffy's music, but the whole rap genre. It's a mystery to me why anyone would want to listen to this kind of music. Why not just go out and buy the original music that Puffy pretty much plagiarized with the exception of a few crappy lyrics?

When asked, "Why do you like rap music?" someone who listens to rap music, (but for some odd reason wishes to keep their identity unknown,) replied, " 'Cause it's got the phat beats." Shouldn't people like music for more than just "phat beats?" I mean, most of the time, these groups don't even have a real drummer! Oh, and like it really takes so much effort to program a drum machine. Come on! Where have all our standards gone? I've listened to rap and I've come up with the following observations: Harsh/pointless lyrics, same basic beat, too many contradictions (like talking about killing but at the same time crying about their homies being dead).

Even the rappers themselves aren't very professional. One example would be at the 1998 Grammy Awards when O.D.B., a member of the Wu-Tang Clan, felt the need to interrupt Shawn Colvin's acceptance speech with a speech of his own explaining why he should have won for best new artist of the year. Basically, it was because he spent a lot of money on what he was wearing that evening.

The only rap group that I'll make an exception for is Bone Thugs and Harmony, because they had their own unique style of rapping. They actually had a few songs that were about something other than sex and drugs. But now they've faded away from the mainstream.

Music and talking about your addictions and problems are two very, very different things, and I think it's time that they figure this out. I'd respect rap artists so much more if they played, perhaps, their own instruments. If I ever saw Master P or Method Man behind a piano, I'd be pretty impressed. ◇

COMPUTERS From 6

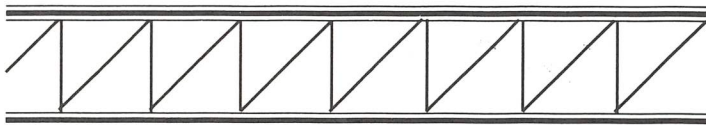
it's that every time my piece starts to sound tolerable, it erases itself. As of yet, I have not been able to get over my fear of failure. This fear has made this year even harder.

Unfortunately, I am forced to work on the computer constantly for the newspaper and graduation. I am a senior this year, and hopefully will be graduating, so a large sum of time is spent on the computer typing requests and summaries. I have found various problems with every computer I've worked on even while writing this article. The first computer erased my work within the first ten minutes, then the printer was not accessible.

Over the past six months, I have broken two keyboards, one mouse and jammed every other page I've printed. I've accidentally printed hundreds of blank pages and once I find anything, it freezes and I am never able to find it again. The computer is also responsible. I have lost everything that meant something to me, everything that I put effort into creating.

I believe that computers and I do not mesh. We are both out to get each other. I also believe that computers are not half as smart as they seem to be. They often black out, freeze, and they take forever. I believe that I am far more developed than the average computer. I have never met a computer that has been able to catch up or keep up with me. I challenge any computer to do something right, to actually do what it's supposed to, because I have to, no matter how much I hate them, use computers.

I have been contemplating whether or not computers are even worth our time. Would we be better off if we destroyed them now, before they turn evil? We can always return to our old system using typewriters. I think this is a very intelligent plan. ♦



KIELBURGER From 2

on him.

Child labor isn't just isolated to international countries, either. In fact, child poverty in the United States is at "a 17-year high," according to Kielburger and his sources. While this statistic alone doesn't



Ehren Stemme and Craig Kielburger

say much, child poverty is indirectly related to sweatshop workers, where they receive a salary far below the legal limits of minimum

wage.

Soon after reading about Nushit in the newspaper, Kielburger gathered some friends, and over pizza and soda, discussed the forming of a group now known as Free The Children (FTC). FTC is a nonprofit organization that networks children all over the world for the sole purpose of freeing poverty-stricken children and their families from the virtual slavery that exists in most third world countries under the guidelines of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. FTC raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for its cause, and uses every penny toward it.

As part of his active role in FTC, Kielburger travels the U.S. to talk to groups, and also travels across the world to different countries to examine conditions there. He says although he has learned a great deal from all of his trips, one that stands out in his mind is a recent trip to Brazil. "Street kids don't have much . . . [and] when he said he wanted to give me something, I wondered what it could be," he recounted during his speech. "And when he gave me the

DRIVERS From 5

when the cars are going 70 mph it's not that they don't want to stop, they CAN'T!!!

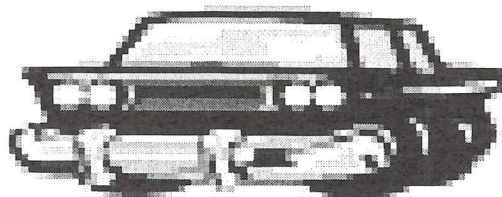
7. When it says "Do Not Enter," man, they mean do not enter.

8. Look, I'll turn when I'm damn well ready, okay? My car is a Ford Escort, not the Mach 5, and I'm certainly not Speed Racer, so that millisecond I have to make the left turn is not going to be enough.

9. Tailgating is not the answer! If a person is driving a slower model vehicle (i.e. VW Bug, Ford Escort, Yugo, or Toyota) and you want to go faster, pass them. Don't tailgate.

10. Okay goober, listen up. Put the Whopper/dog/water bottle/phone/child/hairbrush/make-up/or whatever the hell you have in your dirty paws down and concentrate on not hitting me or pedestrians. Whatever it is, it can wait. If not, pull over. Don't endanger me or anybody else because you're a greedy, impatient little putz.

If we can all just follow these simple rules, then we can get along and reduce the deaths on the highways and byways. And if you can't speak English, no problem. Not many people born in America can speak it coherently, just ask Leo. But if you do have some English deficiency, please at least learn to swear correctly. Nothing is more pathetic than being told to "kiss your mule." ♦



shirt off his back, the only thing he owned, I was speechless." He went on to talk about the working conditions in Brazil and other South American countries.

"And when he gave me the shirt off his back, the only thing he owned, I was speechless."

To close his monologue, Kielburger related to the audience the time he met the now late Mother Teresa. He recalled talking to her about his crusade, and when he asked her how he could accomplish such a large task, she replied, "We cannot do great things; we can only do small things with great love." And it is with this motto that Craig Kielburger and the other members of FTC carry out their message, hoping to make the future bright again for the world's children. ♦

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