

Better Than
Spring
Cleaning:

Volume 2, Issue 7 • May 1, 1998

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

A Spy for a Spy

-Page 7

South Park

-Page 6

Shannon Returns!

-Page 5

The Pit Can Cage Me Not, Nor Five Foot Walls a Prison Make

Ben Peterson

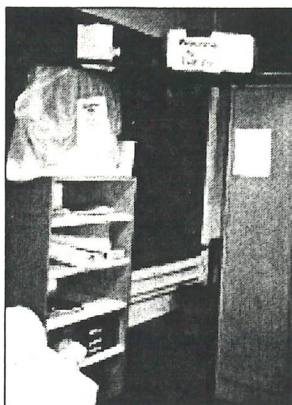
Staff Editorialist

Picture this: Two first graders, forced to sit confined in a relatively small, cramped room. Not doing anything, just sitting there in the office; for two hours.

They didn't, of course, they're first graders. Within 15 minutes they were being excessively loud, annoying, and generally disruptive, as their energy could no longer be bridled inside their little frames.

The preceding image is an example of how the disciplinary system works here at Open. Over the course of the last three years, Open has added two forms of disciplinary action: I.S.S. (In School Suspension) and detention. I.S.S. does not belong in our school. In fact, a lot of the disciplinary actions we have don't belong here. I understand that these steps are necessary due to the clientele, but maybe it's time Open took a more active stand on it's philosophy and policy.

There was a time when the students fought for their rights. The only reason Open has maintained its independence so long is due to student and parent involvement. What happened to the philosophy of the school? It seems to me it's just a pretty shell



The
PIT

of propaganda to spew to prospective parents. The whole student-driven school idea is a farce. Why? Because it seems the students care very little; and the parents? Even less.

Let me tell you a little story. . .

Once upon a time, in a land not so very far away, there was a quaint little building, filled with quaint little people. This building was called St. Paul Open School.

These people had a unique, cohesive community. In this community, everyone was responsible for themselves. For the most part, they were concerned about everyone else's needs. They weren't afraid to stand up for each other. If someone from Open got into a fight, the whole school was there to help.

This school also had a very distinct, fully functional, highly effective, form of discipline. Here, some would say, was bliss. There was no detention program,

no Saturday School candidates, and no In School Suspension (I.S.S.). This system was basically comprised of four steps.

1) If someone did something wrong, (s)he was sent to his/her advisor, and they would talk about the incident and how to correct the situation. Then the student was *I.S.S. Continued on 6*

PSEO: The Next Step

Kate Dyson

Staff Reporter

The classroom is filled with desks. All of the other students are older than you. You go up to ask the teacher if you can join his or her class. No, it's not Open School gone awry. You're a Post-Secondary student trying to take classes at a local college or university.

Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a state program that allows high school juniors and seniors to take classes at area colleges and universities instead of taking classes at their high schools.

Statewide, the program has over a thousand participants. At Open, approximately fifteen people currently take advantage of the program, the majority of whom *PSEO Continued on 2*

Even More OM

Moxy Man

Staff Reporter



Jenny Murray, making final corrections to her product during the stressful waiting period before presentation

Three Open School OM teams competed at the state OM competition at Armstrong High School in Plymouth, Saturday, April 25. The two Camouflaged Creation teams, Divisions II and III, both coached by Greg Adams, placed second. These teams were required to build a balsa wood structure and then camouflage it. The Marvelous Mentor team, Division II, coached by Jesse Buetow, placed third. This team was required to have a mentor that inspired an advertising agency to make a nutritional product portrayed through a skit.

Find these quotes
and you won't get a
cupcake.

"Like OhmiGod!"

"I slacked my 9th grade year
at Como Senior High. I
slacked my 10th grade year at
Open, and now I'm slacking in
. . . my 11th grade year at
Open."

"All in all, I doubt that this
sick legacy will thrive much
past next season."

The Purple Press Staff

Head Honchos

Ehren Stemme

Layout Maestro

Jonathan Lubke

Doc Space Finder

Maura Shramko

Editing Sorceress

Ben Peterson

Headline Hedgehog

Kate Dyson

Grammar Goddess

Writing Monkeys

Pat Zemke

Lucy Stark

Notah Gyorgak

Anna Aslani

Moxy Man

Lisa Grotenhuis

Hollo

James Trebesch

Cheryl Mishler

Aimee Gervais

Syndicated Columnist

Shannon Scott

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Eure Führer

Winston Churchill

Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes . . .

Kate Dyson
Staff Reporter

On March 14, Dara Sanders-Dokas gave birth to Juliana Louise Dokas. Juliana weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz. Though Juliana initially had problems serious enough that she was in intensive care for ten days, she is now perfectly healthy and at home with Dara and her husband, Paul.

While Dara and Paul find that having a new person in the house brings new challenges, they just can't believe how wonderful Juliana is. ♦

DC Tripping

Aimee Gervais
Staff Reporter

On May 8-11 nine students in Jennifer Greer's government class will visit Washington D.C. Ka Moua, Mary Xiong, Kathryn Alexander, Lee Moua, Selsa Castillo, Marisol Diaz, Pepsi Benjamin, Jessica Haug, and Becky Wilcox are going to learn about the U.S. government by taking tours of government buildings and visiting monuments.

The trip, which costs \$700 per person, was paid for by grants, donations, Pennies for Open School, the auction, and fund raisers like candy sales and a bowl-a-thon. ♦

Outward Bound Goes to Oregon

Cheryl Mishler
Staff Reporter

After a year's preparation, the Outward Bound trip is finally here. The destination: the Pacific Crest Outward Bound School in Odin Falls, Oregon.

They left on the trip April 28, and will be back May 3. The group of 13 students had to be at the airport at 7:30 am to catch their flight to Portland, Oregon, where they were picked up in a van, and driven to Odin Falls (near Bend), which is about 100 miles Southwest of Portland.

Julie Doble's Outward Bound students have been working hard on fund raisers, like the plant sale, taste test, selling calendars and t-shirts, and the auction to raise money for the trip.

In Oregon, the students will be repairing equipment, building trails, packing food, painting, and working on logistics. Julie said the best parts of the trip will be spending time together and rock climbing near a place called Smith Rock. They will most likely do other things, also, but Julie doesn't want to give it all away.

The students participating are Lauren Beitler, Alex Chase, Nicole Clapp, Lisa Grotenhuis, Cheryl Mishler, Ka Moua, Gracia and Leah O'Neill, Karl Petersen, Hunter Sheldon, Der and Sai Thao, and Mary Xiong.

There will be an update on this trip in the next issue. ♦

PSEO From 1

say they enjoy it.

Gracia O'Neil, who took "The Biology of Women" at The College of St. Catherine, is no exception. "It was great being in a class about women, with women," she said. "Some of the women in the class were 30 or 40 years old. So when we talked about childbirth, they had experience. It wasn't like being in a high school class."

Nicole Turnbull, who has taken classes at The University of Minnesota, agrees for the most part. She enjoyed the greater diversity, larger size and "inspiring and challenging environment" of The U of M. But while she said that she'd never learned as much in her life as from her "Native American Studies" and "Cultural Studies" classes, she cautioned against taking math at The U. "The Department is terrible!" She said, "My TA [teacher's aid] didn't speak English and my professor was a psycho!"

Aisha Formanski, who also took a class at The U of M, had a good experience in class, but found the application process tedious. "I had to fax over ten pages of writing and applications to them!" she said.

Other schools with the reputation of a tiresome admissions process are Macalester and Hamline; Macalester because it requires you to fill out several application forms and submit two writing samples; and Hamline because it requires you to fill out several pages of applications and then interview with an admissions counselor.

"I had to fax over ten pages of writing and applications to them!"

Some schools that have an easier application process are The College of St. Catherine, The University of St. Thomas, Concordia College and various community colleges. These require you to fill out an application and sometimes submit a piece of writing.

If you are interested in participating in PSEO, you need to have the appropriate number of validations for your grade level completed (8 if you're a junior, 13 if you're a senior), to fill out all of the application materials from the college you wish to attend, and to fill out the state application, which is available in Gary's office. ♦

Senior Profile

Doreen Law



What are your plans after High School? I'm going to college in Olympia, Washington at Evergreen

How long have you been going to Open School? Since first grade

What will you miss most about High School? The people

What is one thing that you would like to change about what you did? Nothing. It was all fine

What is the hardest validation you ever did? Why? Learning from the Community because I don't think it's a real validation

What classes did you enjoy the most? Advisory

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? Mr. Ed

E-Mail Too Slow? Try This

James Trebesch
Staff Reporter

It is 2:00 in the morning on Sunday, March 8. Five people as far as 50 miles away from each other have gathered to talk, yet they do not use telephones. They are using an Internet-based chat-room to type messages back and forth, and they are currently chatting about . . .

Well, anyways, the Open School Web chat, or chat room, is a place on the Internet where people go to talk about their day at school, or to spew forth the secrets which they acquired over the day. When you get there, it appears at first glance to be like any other Web page, but upon closer examination, there is a place to enter your "Handle," or your Internet nickname, and a place where you type your message to the rest of the chat room. There is also, of course, an ad from the provider and a place where you can view the messages that the other people have typed. It can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection and a web browser.

The people that go to the chat room are 7th-11th graders, and for the most part, are in the same social group. People usually stay for about an hour, but on Saturday nights, people have been known to stay on for more than 6 hours at a time.

The chat room was started by Terry Schanno. For the most part people started coming to the chat room for the same reasons. As Mark Dyson, long time denizen of the chat room says, "It is less personal. You can talk to people that you usually would be socially 'forbidden' to talk to by your friends."



"It's fun and it gives me time to relax and gossip," says Emily Schultz.

A popular opinion among chat room users is that the chat room is a great thing because you can talk to lots of people at one time, and there is no other medium in which other people could or would talk this openly or candidly with one another. As Schultz, another denizen says, "It's easier to say things . . . and to more people." But a downfall is that anyone with an Internet con-

nection can watch what the others are typing without the typists knowing it.

But, if people decide to post stupid and annoying messages or start irritating people, usually someone will "yoink out a nuker on [them]," says Dyson, "and kick them off the Web." A 'nuker' is a program that, when used, kicks the annoying person's computer off of the Web and possibly does some damage to it, such as deleting system files and corrupting the disk.

Although the chat room is wildly successful right now, some people think that it will die out prematurely. Andrew Erickson says, "I think that it will die out because people get on each others' nerves when they talk to each other for way too long." Some denizens agree. Some do not. But when-

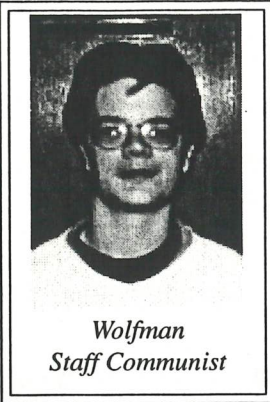
"It's fun and it gives me time to relax and gossip."

ever the chat-room ends up losing popularity, it will still have made an impact on the lives of the people that go there and on the general population of Open School. If you wish to visit the chat room the URL is <http://mercury.beseen.com/chat/rooms/c/4706/>

Opinions 'n' Stuff

Open School or Bust!

You know you're an Open Schooler when the term 'bell' doesn't ring a . . . you know. When a substitute advisor posed the question of me, "When is the bell?" I walked around like a



bumbling fool. In my experience, well, recent experience, bells have been musical instruments. *Why does she think we have a handbell choir?* I wondered as I made my way to first hour. Then, around 10:30, it hit me like a ton of lard. *Bell! Like ring, ring, 'get to class' bell!*

It's stuff like this that has made my transition to Open School very . . . concrete. Before, I attended, dare I say it, Ramsey. Yes, I went to the uncultural Mecca, the black hole of realism, the world within a world; and I was miserable.

During junior high, I was in my ultra-extremist, "Society is Inherently Evil and is Programming Us to Become Drones" phase. However, like most junior high students, it was based on exactly 0% fact. If I

remember correctly, supporting my arguments with facts was a form of, "giving in to The Man." It was my generic excuse for not doing things, saying that it was all part of society's diabolical plan to enslave the human race; or something along those lines.

So then I came here. I suppose mine is a success story, assuming you're not looking at my number of completed validations, which is a different column altogether. For the first time in my life, I was comfortable at school. I didn't naturally dread the thought of sitting next to fools for hours on end. In a fraction of my previous

Society is Inherently Evil and is Programming Us to Become Drones

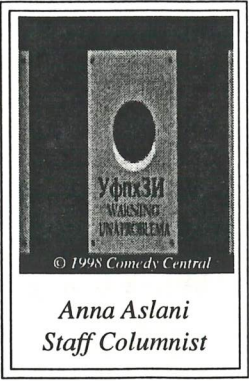
adjustment time, I got to know people. This time, they didn't all turn out to be morons. (The key word, of course, is "all.") For once, peers in my school have inspired me. I started getting involved. I did OM, I did plays, I did (well, duh) newspaper. I cared about my school. I also started staying after school to work on things. School changed my life. I revised my "everyone is stupid" motto to a more realistic, "a lot of people tend to be stupid, but that's okay."

What's the secret? Why does Open School have that effect on people? Now, I've never answered my own questions before and I don't plan on starting now. ♦

"South Park" Your Butt Somewhere Else

Hidiho readers! Do you know what it takes to become a millionaire and hot new pop-cult trendsetter in the late 90's?

"South Park's" creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker have the secret. They've taken



the cable world by storm with their fairly new animated production. I was quite curious as to this new rage, so I decided to investigate.

I don't have cable . . . And I'm proud of it. But I viewed an episode at my neighbor's house. I was disappointed, to say the least, at how low the feature stoops for a laugh.

In the Christmas episode, young Kyle, the lonely Jew, befriends one of Santa's droppings. His friends and family decide that he may be feeling left out of this commercialized season. So after a visit with the even more psychotic school counselor, he gets loaded with Prozac and heads off to the happy house.

The "Christmas feces" concept nearly sent me into convulsions. C'mon a **PARK Continued on 10**

Maura Shramko: Anti-teen

Warning! In this column I generalize!

Some people like to revel in their teenage-ness. I don't. I strongly dislike being



friends, Leonardo DiCaprio, things like that which I don't have or participate in, and do not plan to. Well, not for awhile, anyway.

Maybe I'm a late bloomer. Or, perhaps, subconsciously, I am in fact a typical teenager. Or maybe I am just a mildly reasonable person. I don't know.

The only thing I like about being a teenager is the immaturity associated with it. Unfortunately for me, girls don't normally have that privilege, they are in a state of heightened maturity (see, that's why I don't fit into that category). Now, there are two parts to this. First of all, girls generally

go through puberty a couple years before boys generally do, giving them something of a head start. The second part is my own personal theory. Go to a clothing store.

Go to the girls' section. Go to the boys' section. Notice a difference? Forget the fact that the boys' section doesn't have any skirts. Forget the fact that the girls' section is in ridiculously bright greens and pinks. Compare the freedom of the clothes. That's my theory. Now, I know that boys' clothing is generally modeled after mens' clothing, just as girls' clothing is modeled after womens', but you must admit that women's clothing is more for appearance than comfort. Which in some way promotes

ANTI-TEEN Continued on 8

Her-scopes

I read the newspaper every morning. The international news. The opinions. The metro section. The horoscopes.

As everyone knows, the horoscopes are the most important section of the paper. Forget Bosnia. Forget the hockey arena. Forget the President's sexual foibles. I want to know if I'm going to have a five-star day.

Here, for one time only, is Shannon Scott's Astrological Forecast.

Aries - The picture in the Astrological book, which I'm using as a reference point, shows an Aries woman standing in a field of daisies wearing Go-Go boots. This tells me nothing.

Taurus - The symbol for Taurus is a big, macho, pissed-off bull. This contradicts the picture of the Taurus woman sitting on a grassy knoll. She is weaving flowers in her hair and singing. Probably a Kenny G. song. If I were a bull, she would be the bull's eye. My advice: don't wear red.



Gemini - Pretend you're on a tropical vacation. Confuse others by wearing bathing suits, turbans and sun tan lotion. Then add the accent of your choice.

Cancer - Cancer's ruling planet is the moon. Which could mean it's time to make space travel a serious career option. Take it up with the guidance counselor. Or it could mean that you remain in the shadow of the sun and it's time to kick the sun's butt.

Leo - You are a star. The sun is your ruling planet. Even in space you take center stage. Of all the signs, you have the most potential for fame. So wear those rhinestones proudly. They'll be diamonds someday. Oh, yeah, and prepare to get your butt kicked.

Virgo - Virgo wins the prize for most boring picture. Since the pictures are what I'm basing all my predictions on, this leaves me in the awkward position of having to use my imagination. Take up a hobby, Virgo. One that involves juggling knives or swallowing razor blades.

Libra - The Libra man and the Libra woman look like the same person. They're born wearing loose fitting clothes, they both have long hair and they're both floating through the air. My advice: therapy. These people obviously have a deep-rooted

Dorothy complex.

Scorpio - If a battle was fought between the Scorpio man and woman, it's hard to say who would win. No doubt it would be a righteous-blood-and-guts-Steven-Segal-battle worthy of a full price movie ticket. I wouldn't want to meet either of them in a dark alley or sit next to them in church.

Sagittarius - You are the worker bees of the zodiac. The type who strives for excellence. The smart ones. This is made clear by a picture of a Sagittarian woman reading an Encyclopedia Britannica. They don't show us what she's looking up but judging by the look on her face it has something to do with marijuana.

Capricorn - To the well-dressed and dignified-looking Capricorn I have only three words. Monster Truck Rally.

Aquarius - The Aquarius male looks like a mad scientist and the Aquarius female looks like the result of his psychotic experiments. You have diabolical X-Files-esque schemes. Stay away from wire rim glasses. In fact, stay away from me.

Pisces - The Pisces people look like a cross between a priest and a hippy. But that's okay. I've never met a Pisces I didn't like. If Hitler was a Pisces, please don't tell me. I predict a series of joyful days. Avoid seafood. ♦

Site Council Closes Case on Controversy

Notah Gyorgak
News with a view

On April 14 the Site Council passed a motion to support a proposal to change the grouping in the lower elementary. This proposal has been surrounded by controversy ever since its conception three years ago.

Opponents say breaking up the 2nd-3rd group will destroy the Open School feeling and make Open just like any other school, while the proponents say that we're passing students who can't read, because teachers are trying to teach two classes at once. The proposal's supporters are also quick to point out that the multi-level grades will still exist -- there will be two 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes.

To people who say that the breakup of the 2nd-3rd grade will kill the Open School environment, I believe they should look at other Open Schools who have successfully implemented the 2nd-3rd grade changes. It has worked because as long as you have enough multi-level classes, the students are still able to borrow off each other's knowledge. And the students, after a period of adjustment, don't seem to notice. There is no reason to expect the same won't be true here.

People who say that the teachers are doing this purely for their own benefit may be partially right. Of course the teachers are doing this for their own benefit, but isn't it true that what benefits the teachers benefits the students as well? If the teachers can teach more effectively, then the students are better off. One potential problem with the proposal is that some of the teachers might have much larger classes than others. If it doesn't bother the teachers who are going to have 30 kids in their class, I don't see why the teachers with 20 should complain.

On the other hand, breaking up the 2nd-3rd grade might not benefit the second graders who can't read. The third graders help the second graders read and do arithmetic. The classes are designed so that the older kids help the younger kids. So, if the classes don't have older kids, then you will not have the benefits they provide.

No matter what you think of the plan, it's here, but not to stay. If it does not provide the desired results next year, you will see another set of changes and you will continue seeing changes until improvement is evident. ♦

I.S.S. From 1

sent back to class to continue learning.

2) If the behavior persisted, the student was sent to his/her advisor again, where (s)he remained until the end of class. Later, when a time could be scheduled, the student, his/her advisor, and the teacher against whom the transgression was made, would meet to talk about the problem and devise a workable solution.

3) If step #2 did not correct the problem, the student would be forced to have an additional meeting, which would include parents, and possibly the principal.

4) Finally, if all the previous methods had failed, the student's advisor, parent, and the principal would look at "other disciplinary actions." This usually included either Suspension or Expulsion, because Open did not want people in its community who could not work with it.

This method of discipline worked extremely well, and step #4 was very rarely used. It worked because the last thing a student wants to do is be accountable for his/her actions. By making the student talk about what it was (s)he did, and how it could be avoided in the future, it forced the student to take responsibility for his/her actions. The End.

Now, however, by automatically sending a student to detention, all the staff is doing is saying, "We think you did something wrong. Now, you're going to be punished." This method, while actively removing the cause of trouble, does not effectively correct what was causing the trouble in the first place.

This form of punishment is comparable to what parents do to their three-year-old children. "You did something bad. Sit in the corner." For a three-year-old, it works great. Negative rein-

forcement is an excellent tool in that stage of development.

WE, however, are Secondary students. We don't respond to the three year-old approach. If a student receives detention as a result of actions taken on his/her part, one of two things always happens. They either mess around in detention, not paying any attention to the fact that they're supposedly being punished, or, they feel like they're being treated like a child, and end up revolting and getting themselves in more trouble, because they don't take it seriously.

Random Quote:
**"... Never
play a battle of
wits with a
Sicilian when
death is on the
line!"**

Why did Open have to throw out an excellent, working solution in favor of standard malpractices? Why throw out something that has been refined over time, until it was a smoothly-working, cohesive, problem-correcting program, and throw in a program that has always been minimally effective that doesn't even address the main problem?

It's time for change. I think it's time to stop looking at the future and what we can change. We should look at the past, and things we have done well, and consider returning to those systems. We've gone so far making these changes, we never stopped to think about whether or not it was the right thing for the school. ◇

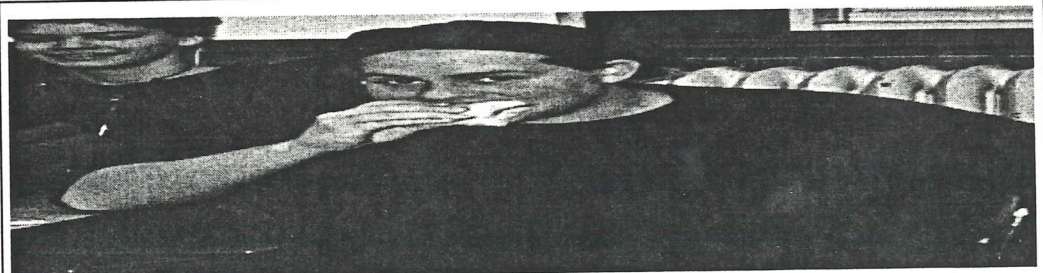
Is it Summer Already?

So, now for the third time in my life I am having problems. Problems that could make my "leading a nice happy life" idea, a complete pain in the ass. I'm failing. Even though I don't have grades to worry about anymore, I am still failing, and I'm failing hard.

I need to graduate. I need to get my validations done. I need to stop going out to coffee shops, Perkins, and Denny's so much. I need to take all my vacations and pile them into one long vacation and just work and work and work and work on math and writing and validations. It may be my only hope at this moment.

I remember the first time I slacked off. It was back in 5th grade. I never turned in some report on my family heritage. My parents got very mad and they grounded me. Ever since then I've understood why I needed to do my work. If I didn't, I'd get grounded. Well, maybe I didn't get the right message.

Lately I've been thinking, if I left Open School, would I have a better chance at graduating? But, every time I ask myself that I say "Nope," cause I just couldn't perform any better in a confined public school environment. I need to have some freedom. But then again, is it all the freedom that I have that is making it so easy to not do my work?



*Hollo
Staff Columnist*

Just to give ya a history of my past and present slacking, I'll tell ya this: I slacked all through my Junior High years. I slacked my 9th grade year at Como Senior High. I slacked in my 10th grade year at Open, and now I'm slacking in the first two trimesters of my 11th grade year at Open. I know it's going to come down on my head. But for some reason, I can't actually make myself not slack. It's starting to piss me off.

There is a plus side to my writing this column. I've now just noticed how much I am screwing myself by slacking. I started working on some validations, and over spring vacation I am going to work on my math. Maybe some way, somehow, I can save myself from the burning pit of unemployment options that will await me when I graduate. That is, if I graduate. Bad thought, bad thought.

So now I am going to put an end to this column and work on the Information Finding Validation. Let's hope I graduate. ◇



The Conspiracy Pages



I Spy, With My Beady Eye...

Ben Peterson
Staff Schizo

This just in! The existence of a police-state spy agency that operated in 1960's Mississippi was recently revealed to the general public. A federal judge ordered records kept by the agency opened for court purposes in 1989. Now these findings have become public knowledge.

This spy agency was established to protect segregation and white power in the south at the time of the Civil Rights Movement. The agency kept tabs on figures in African American culture, and was known to have alerted the Ku Klux Klan to people that were taking poll taxes to protect black voters' rights. These people then had their businesses and homes fire-bombed.

All of this makes me wonder, what other spy agencies were around back then? What illegal espionage activities were going on right under our parents' noses? And, most importantly, what illegal spy rings and cartels are around now? What kinds of organized espionage is happening, for better or worse, especially here in Minnesota?

In fact, there could be some right here in the school district. It would explain some actions of certain figures in the school's hierarchy. It might clarify the office personnel's recent increase in over-protectiveness and secrecy lately. Think about it. The copy machine can only be used by School Service people, and it lies back in that confined room where everything that goes in and out can be monitored. It wouldn't surprise me if there were hidden surveillance cameras planted back there.

Also, remember the cameras hidden in the emergency lights? Maybe they go not only to the Pentagon, but to the school district's secret agency, too. Perhaps while we're all sitting here, nice and content in our little school, our teachers are heading off to all their "training" sessions to share information on the collective district. Doesn't it strike you as odd that there are always "workshops" or "seminars." Or sometimes a teacher, such as Connye LaCombe, who has done this more than once, will slip off to the district center for a meeting with "a colleague." Of course, that's all the information we're ever given.

I think we should take more notice of the world around us. Don't take those "little quirks" for granted. Maybe we even need to prepare a resistance ring to react to the covert operations around us. But I've said too much already. I'm sure operatives are either watching me right now, or will get their slimy hands on a copy of the paper on or before its release date. ♦

Why Mr. Jones Puts Tin Foil in His Hat

The Open Eye
Staff Lookout

Perhaps I am not the only one at Open School who has noticed the tangled web of lies and deceit woven over the seemingly innocent pretext of a public school computer lab (or should I say control lab).

Let us take a brief look at the situation created by the artificially-cooled and, more importantly, controlled atmosphere surrounding the sinister off white idiot boxes.

Supposedly, as students are mercilessly funneled into this den of deceit they are the masters of the computers and what they do. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is my belief that these computers

(or more specifically their monitors) actually contain mind control lasers which even now are affecting my ability to wright this very text6nfb.

Observe the blank stares students and yes even teachers pour in to the monitors, the way several people will crowd around one computer in rapt attention yet mere hours later have difficulties recalling what they so eagerly viewed, and the shockingly obvious and yet somehow subtle sign adorning the wall above the "FYT" bulletin board.

And what of the closest full of wires, jacks, and a computer only a chosen few are aloud to touch, much less operate? Could this be the control hub of a electronic slave market run by the very students of Open

Top Ten Spring Conspiracies

Winston Churchill
Staff Reporter

- 1) Lent was invented by an East Indian sect of Green Peace to save cows.
- 2) Spring was invented by Carl Pohlad to have an excuse to build an outdoor stadium.
- 3) Spring was invented by Bill Gates to get people out of the house so that they wouldn't notice Windows 95 making their computers crash.
- 4) Elvis.
- 5) Ruth Pechmann designed it to get people outside so she can give them smoking tickets.
- 6) It was designed by sunglass manufacturers.
- 7) It was designed to re-enforce gender stereotypes.
- 8) Hunter Sheldon invented it to get in more hours of 4-Square.
- 9) Spring was created by the makers of daylight-savings time which is a direct counter-effect of global warming.
- 10) It was created because Connye LaCombe couldn't find a winter boot big enough. ♦

Question of the Month

When was the last time we had a president who obeyed the law?

school? Or are the few allowed to use this computer just that much more prone to this cunning conspiracy?

This is exactly the information they are withholding from us.

And the controlled "atmosphere" I spoke of, no doubt the air conditioner emits an odorless, scentless gas to make us that much more susceptible to the control of the mind lasers.

And the reason behind this subtle control? As is the vary nature of a conspiracy this is as yet unknown to me. But as the mind's eye of Open School, I am even now endeavoring to find these answers and more. In the meantime, however, I feel the sudden urge to go surf the net. Must surf net... ♦

Like, OhmiGod!

Rating System

- * Who cares?
- ** We're glad it didn't happen to us!
- *** OhmiGod! Total and utter embarrassment!
- **** Like change your identity or something!
- ***** Go die in a hole!

*Maura
Shramko
and Lucy
Stark
In touch
with the
teen scene*

Booger Test

See, like, one day during a test or something my nose started running and so like I wiped it on my test, and like handed it in to my teacher, who happened to be like a total hunklet. He was all like did you wipe your nose on the test, and I was like yeah, and he was like, that's really gross and I was like yeah and then I left and I went to the bathroom and I looked in the like mirror and like then I realized that I wasn't wearing the right shirt! It was like so embarrassing!

Our rating: ****

Teddy Love

Once I was making out in my room with my teddy bear and then my boyfriend like walked in and it was like so embarrassing cuz my room was like a total pig-sty!

Our rating: *****

A Crushing Quiz

*Maura Shramko and Lucy Stark
Staff Valley Girls*

- 1) How do you feel about your crush?
 - a) He's okay. I mean, like, he's just a boy who happens to be cute and likes to pick his nose an awful lot or something.
 - b) He's, like, one of my best friends. I can tell him anything. Except who I like, tee-hee. He's really cute, too.
 - c) I love him so much! I sneak up to his window every night to watch him sleep. I write him love poems about his hair. He's like better than Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Cruise all rolled up into one big lovable teddy bear!
- 2) When you're at the mall seeking out the perfect pair of orange patent leather hip-huggers you see your crush lounging around the Orange Julius stand. Your first reaction is:
 - a) You immediately think, Why is he here? Why is he always, like, invading my space? I mean, like, the mall is my refuge or something!
 - b) You walk over to him and start a friendly conversation.
 - c) You rush over towards him and start brushing his hair with your eye brow brush that you just got at Macy's.
- 3) Your typical dream consists of:
 - a) Like, lollipops and sugar plums or something.

ANTI-TEEN From 5

earlier maturity in girls.

I guess I'll be an outcast for life. Well, it kind of makes sense. I mean, look at me. Make-up? Ha! Cool new hairstyles? Um, no. The latest fall fashions? Yeah right! And assuming that teen magazines hint at the Typical Teenage thought process, I am in a totally different category! I mean, stories titled 'Is your crush a crush or an obsession?' and 'What is he thinking?' just don't appeal to me.

I guess I'm just not cool enough. I admit that I like my parents. Heck, I love 'em even! And they've raised me pretty well, I'd say. As a matter of fact, they raised me so well I can't even bring myself to swear, not counting damn.

The last major difference between myself and the Typical Teenage Girl is this: self-esteem. I have it. They don't. I am not overly self conscious. I don't ask people whether they think I'm fat. Never in my 14-year life have I tried to lose weight. That is what sets me apart from the T.T.G.: I am completely okay with myself and who I am. I would never try to change myself for anyone, no matter what.

Maybe I'm being unfair to Typical Teenagers everywhere. I'm basing this entire column on my personal stereotypes of teenage girls, and I think it's very possible that they aren't that close to reality. Stereotypes are like averaging numbers. As Julie would say, it's just adding numbers together and dividing them. It doesn't really mean anything. The same could be said about the stereotypes in this article. On the other hand, you have to admit that the majority of magazines for young women (Notice, I said majority) promote a kind of self-conscious image, being concerned with boys make-up and clothes. Even a lot of women's magazines give of the same image.

Yesterday, I was talking to my sister, Lizzy, and my dad. My dad said, "Oh, Lizzy's just being a teenager. She's insecure."

I said, "Being a teenager doesn't mean that you're insecure."

Dad said, "That's the definition of a teenager. You can't be a teenager without being insecure."

I said, "I'm not insecure. And I'm not a teenager either." ◇



- b) Your crush and you at the pizza place.
- c) You don't know. You were at his window all night writing love letters and drawing pictures of him which you will treasure forever.
- 4) Another girl walks up to your crush and says, "Hi." What do you do?
 - a) Like nothing. I mean, like, who cares, it's, like, a free country or something.
 - b) You walk over and politely join the conversation. After all, the girl is your best friend.
 - c) You immediately send the girl death threats, stalk her and leave knives in her pillows. He's yours, not hers. I mean, come on, she's only his girlfriend!

PARK From 4

piece of dancing sewage going around bathing in people's coffee, popping up in unexpected and inappropriate places is not what I consider quality entertainment. I'm desperately hoping that my younger brothers don't get any ideas. I was puzzled, this is the stuff that many clubs have dedicated Wednesday evenings and many a big screen TV? For the decency of future youth, I hope Santa will find it appropriate to go before he begins his twilight trip.

As I was attempting to feverishly scrape together any knowledge of the show to begin this column, I was given advice to view more than this one episode. Okay, I'm thinking I should I should give it a fair chance. So I fired up my VCR, barely ready, yet slightly more optimistic for round two.

Three and a half episodes. I managed to watch three and a half episodes! I couldn't stomach any more of this. All the sheer immature stupidity of it was making me nauseous. But at least I'd managed to give it a fair shot. I'd now seen the Thanksgiving special, the Valentine's Day episode, the Christmas special twice, and half of some seedy episode that I've conveniently forgotten.

But I'm still so insanely lost as to where, when, and what actually makes



© 1998 Comedy Central

this stuff funny. Could it be that I'm the only one yawning in this cackling orgy of vulgarity and tastelessness? Or maybe underneath it all I'm just rebelling against any and all forms of modern American pop-culture. I doubt it.

I've always enjoyed "The Simpsons." That's classic comedy. Matt Groenig has mixed just the right amount of satirical politics, with "even-if-you-don't-really-get-it-it's-still-funny" humor. Those writers are the real geniuses. They've managed to keep avid fans continually rolling in the aisles. I have no doubt that they will

Free

WHOPPER®

When you buy



With this coupon, get one free WHOPPER® Sandwich with the purchase of WHOPPER®, large fries and large drink.

Offer good only at 224 Grand Avenue location

continue to do so for quite awhile.

"South Park," however, is struggling to grasp hold of its future and present identities. Aside for the monotonous; "You & ^\$%^#! You killed Kenny," comment. It has yet to develop distinctive character personality. The writers are strangling every last drop of entertainment out of overly cliched stale jokes.

All in all, I doubt that this sick legacy will thrive much past next season. ◇

Top 10 Pick-up lines (and responses)

- 1) Shutup, leave me alone! I hate you, I'm gonna tell Leo!!
- 2) Hey, bay-bee, what's your site?
- 3) Wow, with a haircut, your hair might possibly sorta look like kinda good.
- 4) Elvis.
- 5) Hey, Billy, Frieda says you're cute.
- 6) Hey, baby, what's your Addy?
- 7) Quick. Yes means no, and no means yes. Do you like me?
- 8) What? No! No, wait. . .
- 9) Whadda ya say? You, me, candles, 4-square?
- 10) Hey, aren't you in Leo's advisory?

"Seinfeld" Has 'Nothing' Left to Talk About

Lisa Grotenhuis
Staff Reporter

"Seinfeld" is an NBC sitcom that has been around for years. It is known for talking a whole lot about nothing. Last December star Jerry Seinfeld announced that this would be the last season for the series.

There is a lot of anticipation surrounding the last episode. The producers have revealed various clues and hints for the show. In the final scenes of the episode, Newman will be unconscious in a hospital and George (Jason Alexander) will have the last word: "So what am I going to do now?" They have also revealed that one of the scenes will take place in a wedding chapel. However, in order to see whether or not Jerry and Elaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfuss) finally get married, you'll have to watch the show.

On May 14, an estimated 79 million will watch the last episode of "Seinfeld." It is expected to rank among the top five episodes of series television. ◇

Heartthrob Cafe



TEEN DANCE CLUB



**The Twin Cities Newest
All Teen Dance Club**

Every Friday Beginning May 1st.

- Doors Open At 9:00 p.m.
- Ages 16 thru 18
- School I.D. Required
- Dress code Enforced
- Call For Information 224-2783
- Admission \$6.00

