

Better
than
Oprah:

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School

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Validation Restructuring Imminent *Students and staff brace for change*

Ehren Stemme & Jonathan Lubke
Staff Reporters

It looks like state-mandated changes in the way Minnesotans graduate from high school will affect teachers and students in every school across the state -- even Open. So it was no surprise to anyone when a committee of Open School staffers and students gathered at Black Bear Crossing Coffee House on February 23 to discuss the reconstruction of Open School's validation process.

Although this so-called "overhaul," which has been on the back burner for many years, was sparked by the recent grad standards changes, it does not necessarily mean the validation system is being changed strictly to conform with the state's demands. "The main concern is not aligning with the graduation standards, but what's best for

Open School," said Leo.

The proposed changes have met some criticism. "Changing a curriculum is much like moving a cemetery; until you try you don't know how many friends the dead

"(It's) like moving a cemetery. Until you try, you don't know how many friends the dead have."

have," said Connye. This statement signifies the arduous task the committee has to face.

The most significant of the proposed changes include a new system which divides a student's time in the SLC into three

levels, fewer validation areas, and checklists which would replace most written validations.

The proposed three-level system is perhaps the most significant change. Students would complete validation checklists in order to move on to the next level. The three-level system is designed to prevent students from falling behind. Level I would target students in the current Thematic Journeys program. Students at Level I must complete validations via checklist before being approved for Level II. They would also have to be approved by both the student's parents and their Thematic Journeys teacher.

Level II (generally 9th and 10th grades) is for the students who have successfully completed their Level I tasks and are ready to get down to business. Students would be required to complete six more vali-

VALIDATION Continued on Page 5

All I Really Need to Know I Learned From OM

Tara Wilken
Staff Reporter

You've probably heard people complaining about OM before. But do you really know what OM is? If you don't, or if you'd like to refresh your memory, read on.

The competition itself is divided into three different areas: long term, spontaneous, and style. Each team may have up to seven members. During long term and spontaneous only five members of the team may directly complete.

The Long Term problem is an eight minute performance, which has several required elements that may vary for each problem. The mess in the hallways, which consists of props, backdrops and costumes, is the work for the long term portion of competition.

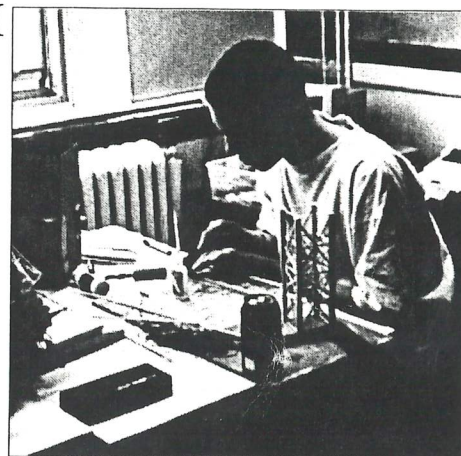
Style relates directly to the long

term problem. OMers are judged on how creatively they present their solution. Judges also look for flashy and unusual skits.

The third part of the competition is called spontaneous. The spontaneous problem may be anything, no one knows until the team gets in the room.

A possible verbal problem could be "name things that are green." The team then has one minute to think and then two minutes to respond. Another type of problem might be to use a pile of materials to construct a free-standing structure that will hold an egg.

No one but the team and judges can watch spontaneous, not even coaches. OMers are not allowed to talk about their spontaneous problems until after the last awards ceremony. So don't ask! The team may get severely penalized if they talk! ♦



James Trebesch builds structures.

**Want proof that the staff of
The Purple Press is regressing?
See Page 3.**

Two Fun Facts About OM

- 1) Samuel Micklus started Odyssey of the Mind (OM) in 1978.
- 2) OMer the Raccoon is the mascot, picked for the creative way raccoons solve problems.

Tara Wilken
Staff Reporter

OM: It's Here!

The Purple Press Staff

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Ehren Stemme

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Jonathan Lubke

Doc Space Finder

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Editing Sorceress

Ben Peterson

Headline Hedgehog

Kate Dyson

Grammar Goddess

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Mark Dyson

Tara Wilken

Notah Gyorgak

Tom Greenley

Lucy Stark

James Trebesch

Artsy Folk

Anna Karl

Terry Schanno

Phantom Reporter

?????

Stolen Celebrity

Mike Campbell

Person Who Hasn't Written For Us The Past Few Months But Will Probably Write Next Issue

Shannon Scott

Spiritual Guidance

John Denver

Jim Henson

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

We, *The Purple Press*, feel that it is important to publish all 77 students' names and their coaches in this edition of *The Purple Press*. Before each team is listed, there will be a few sentences about each problem. Keep in mind each team has only eight minutes to perform their solution. All problems, with the exception of two, must have all their props contained in a 52" by 52" by 24" inch box. All problems must be humorous as well. *The Purple Press* would like to apologize beforehand on any of the names we misspelled.

Competition is March 7th at Harding High School throughout the day.

Pageant Wagon

Build a car someone can ride in that also pulls a wagon.

**Division 3 coached by Greg Adams
Performs at 8:20 AM - Gym C**

Pat Zemke, Lisa Grotenhuis, Tom Greenly, Alan and Ariel Slaughter, Andrew Chervenak, Lauren Beilter

**Division 2 coached by Jeff Parker
Performs at 10:50 AM - Gym C**

Sarah Prentice, Nick Ipsen, John Hendrickson, Jeff Gruber, Rachel Stewart, Joe Anderson

**Division 1 coached by Jenny Eisele
Performs at 1:40 PM - Gym C**

Mary Henke-Haney, Charlie Burchill, Devlin Byrne, Liam Shramko, Georgia McClellon, Shalonda Jones, Ruth Weiler

Create and Animate

Make something inanimate come to life and write a creative song or poem with original music.

**Division 2 coached by Susanne Hollingsworth
Performs at 10:00 - Gym B**

Mackenzie Byrne, Heather Cook, Alix Fennell-Nichols, Lizzy Shramko, Allie Riley, Sue Moua, Lakeisha Clairborne

**Division 1 coached by Fawn Nguyen
Performs at 1:50 - Gym A**

Regan Smith, Clara Iwaszek, Will Dantuma, Nick Smith, Molly Ellis, Tony Cavanaugh, Grace Alexander

Dream Vacation

A skit about a dream vacation that includes a creative song.

Primary Grade 1 coached by

"Coach" Rick Olson 11:00 AM - Library West

Damien Bullis, Shauna Gagavada, Jimmy Wardlaw, Abby Wold, Emily Cramsie, Chee Nou Xiong

Marvelous Mentor

A television commercial about a nutritious product that must include a famous mentor.

**Division 2 coached by Jesse Buetow
Performs at 11:50 - Room 1219**

Emily Schultz, Emily Cusick, Kathryn Alexander, Miranda Byrne, Lucy Stark, Jessica Haug, Maura Shramko

**Division 1 coached by Kiara Buchanan
Performs at 1:30 - Room 1218**

Alex McCoy, Onoma Ejyia, Sean Keith, Duane Buck, Tony Rosario, Barbara Clairborne

Camouflaged Creation

Build a camouflaged balsa wood structure that weighs about 15 paper clips. The point is to hold as much weight as possible.

**Division 3 coached by Greg Adams
Performs at 9:20 - Room 1149**

Sara Schultz, April Cusick, Brigitte McKern, Jenny Sherman, James Trebesch, Hunter Sheldon, Necia Brewington

**Division 2 coached by Greg Adams
Performs at 11:40 - Room 1149**

Daniele Finley, Sierra and Brian Blakely, Mark Dyson, Anna Karl, Mai Khang, Jenny Murray

Morph Magic

This problem requires a change from human to animal and must save an animal from a plight.

**Division 3 Coached by Greg Adams
Performs at 9:40 - Field House**

Lee Moua, John Boyd, Teol Knight, Tara Wilken, Dorothy and Neil Henke-Haney, Kate Dyson



Quick Karma Points, and a Validation

Cheryl Mishler
Staff Reporter

Are you lacking community service hours? Well, luckily for you, Julie Doble, Open School teacher, has just the class for you. The class is Community Involvement Team, which has a variety of community service options. Students get an average of 30 hours per trimester.

This class is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-4 period. On Tuesdays, Open School students in this class have the choice of going to any of the following places:

West Seventh Community Center, The

Salvation Army, Dorothy Day Center, Health Care for the Homeless, The Public Library, or Bridgeview.

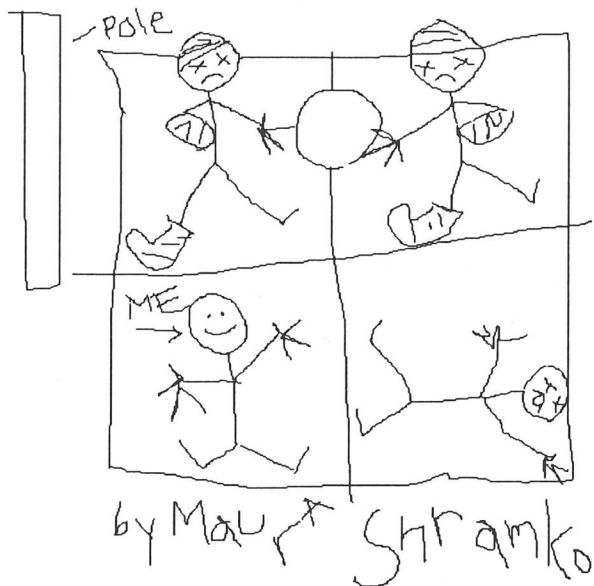
On Thursdays, students go to Bridgeview. Bridgeview is a school for handicapped students, ages 6-22. Their students really look forward to having Open School students come. Open School students who go find that it is a rewarding way to earn their community service hours. Some students have all the hours they need, but go anyway.

While at Bridgeview, Open School students participate with Bridgeview students in a program called Music & Movement. Open School students bring two groups of 20 or so Bridgeview students in wheelchairs to their gym, where they listen and move to music.

Even though it is a wonderful way to earn community service hours, there is one problem; there just are not enough volunteers signed up to go to Bridgeview. There

BRIDGEVIEW Continued on Page 4

News Briefs



Zoobilee zoo; Zoobilee zoo; Plenty of fisheys are waiting for you.

We went to the zoo. There are animals at the zoo. I saw a bear. It ate fruit loops, but not in front of me. I saw lots of sharkies. And some rays.

There were starfish and some other things too. Mark dressed up like a shark. He looked stupid.

I slept in Discovery Bay, that new place at the zoo. But anyway, I got to make a t-shirt and see a dead frozen rat and eat five pieces of pizza. It tasted good. But I think they put something in the red juice stuff. I couldn't stop laughing and Daniele couldn't remember her name.

Oh, oh, and guess what else! I got to hold a big shark mouth, but not with the shark.

P.S. Miranda was killed by a star fishy. ♦

4-Square Boo-boos

4-square is fun. You hit a big bouncy yellow ball around and you get to stay outside and play. It's fun.

But sometimes people get hurt. They fall down. Or they get hit on the head with the ball. Or they get thrown over a wall. Or they run into the pole. Then there's a twangy sound. It doesn't look very fun.

One time this one person (he was a big kid!) was trying to get the ball and they hit it and then the other person hit it back to them and then they hit it back to the other person and then the other person hit it back to them, but then when they tried to get it they dived and then they hit the pole, the big metal one. It looked icky. I think that one person who hit his head got a coconossion. Or a conocononossiom. His name is John I think. I forget.

Oh, oh and this other time this other person got another person out, and then the person got mad, so they threw the person who I didn't talk about yet and threw them over the wall.

But I don't get hurt when I play. I like pasgetti. ♦



Briefs by Maura Shramko, Resident 1st Grader

Kate Dyson



What are your plans for after high school? I plan to go to college.

What were your favorite classes? Drama.

What will you miss most about Open? All the ELCers.

How long have you gone to Open School? 12 years.

What would you have done differently during your time at Open? I would have made fun of Leo and Dara more.

If you could invite two famous people to dinner, who

would they be? I would invite Molly Ivins and Maya Angelou.

What was the hardest validation for you to finish? Why? Current Issues, because I procrastinated so much.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life? Why? My grandmas, because they were very strong role models.

What is your favorite food? Garlic, but not by itself, usually.

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OM and Open School

Tara Wilken
 Staff Reporter

Open School has been competing in OM since 1989, when Julie Doble coached the first three teams. Julie ran two balsa wood structure teams in the same division, and a Classics team. In 1991, Greg Adams began coaching OM. Greg has always coached between four and five teams. He usually coaches two balsa wood structure teams, a car team, and either an "everybody problem", or the invention problem. The "everybody problem" is for Divisions

1 and 2 only, and is the easiest problem. Therefore everyone participates in that problem.

Since Julie and Greg got OM started at Open, many other teachers have become involved in OM. Julie Doble, Don Von, and Chris Wintheiser are three past OM coaches that have decided to take a break for awhile. In spite of the OM coach shortage, Open has eleven teams. That means there are 77 students in grades 1 to 12 are involved in OM this year. ♦

BRIDGEVIEW From Page 3

should be around twenty students, but Julie is lucky if she gets to take ten. For next trimester, she only has about fifteen students signed up. She estimates that by the start of the trimester the number will drop to about ten. "It works best if they're one to one, and it makes me feel bad that some [Bridgeview] students don't get enough attention," stated Julie. She has tried many ways to recruit more volunteers. She has put up signs, sent out notices and put bulletins in the Monday Announcements.

First trimester she also had a lack of student involvement but that was resolved thanks to the students who signed up second trimester. Julie needs student participation to make this class/team successful. ♦

dations, again in checklist format. The validations, like the current system, would have to be approved by a validator and the student's advisor before being filed.

Level III (11th and 12th grades) would be the final push for students before graduating. Another six validations must be completed, three by checklist and three by full letters of recommendation by validators. All validations would be approved by validators and the student's advisor before being filed. Although the Level III work is generally geared toward the 11th and 12th graders, there is nothing preventing students in lower levels who have successfully completed their work from starting on Level III.

The six areas, Coherent Communication, Personal Development, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Service, and Social Studies, are to be completed on each level. In this way, students who naturally excel in a given area (i.e. math) would be allowed to continue on to level two or three if they have completed the requirements for

**Level III . . .
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students before
graduating.**

that section.

The designers of the proposed system claim that it will help eliminate the 9th and 10th grade "procrastination period," and the 11th and 12th grade "panic." They also support the proposal due to its ability to lighten teacher/advisor workload, minimize the vague appearance of validations, and keep students on track.

For the benefit of current SLCers, these changes are not taking effect immediately, and will be implemented with next year's 7th-9th graders, with older "pilot" students given the ability to volunteer as "guinea pigs" to test for problems the new system may bring. In general, opinions vary within the SLC regarding the switch. Many are supportive of the concept, but they are wary of what it will be changed to. Pat Zemke says that he likes it the way it was, but admits that may be due to his 13 years of Open Schooling. ♦

Iraq 101

Why Can't They Just Play Nice?

Terry Schanno
Staff Militant Aggressor

The current situation with Iraq has always puzzled me. Why is it that the United States is forced to put up with this?

Iraq was created after World War I from part of what was left from the Ottoman Empire. The portion of the Ottoman Empire with the highest oil concentration is now known as Kuwait. Iraq, a country less rich in resources, is bordered by Iran to the east, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the south, Jordan and Syria to the west and Turkey to the north.

During the Iran-Iraq war (from 1980 to 1988) the United States supplied Iraq with weapons to fight Iran, whom we thought was the worse of the two. Iran and Iraq fought until 1988, when Hussein realized that the war had become too bloody. He decided to look for new objectives. Hussein decided to claim the wealthy Kuwait as his own and invaded it on August 2, 1990.

A military coalition was formed to oust Iraq from Kuwait and Operation Desert Storm was hatched. At the conclusion of the war, as a condition of the cease fire, Iraq agreed to keep its military to a domestic peace keeping force and not build any new weapons. United Nations weapons inspections were a key tenet of the cease fire.

Sometime in 1996, Hussein decided to kill off some of his Kurdish residents because of uprisings and civil unrest in the north. The Iraqi military reportedly used chemical agents in their attack on the Kurds. The U.S. retaliated by launching a few tomahawk missiles at Iraqi military sites.

Later, in 1997, many Gulf War veterans complained of flu-like symptoms and breathing problems. U.S. experts linked the symptoms to possible exposure to chemical weapons. The United Nations decided they wanted to inspect a few sites to determine if chemical weapons still existed. The crisis has nearly broken into war twice, but both times Hussein has allowed few more inspections. Now we have the agreement that nobody wants to talk about. Here we are almost a week after the signing and the terms still haven't been released . . . ♦

NEDC: The Other OM

Chalk this one up to the Phantom Reporter



They dominate the third floor after hours. They reside in Connye LaCombe's room and work less-than-diligently into the night. They are the few, the proud, the NEDC team.

NEDC, or National Engineering Design Challenge, is in its premiere year at Open School. The team, which is coached by Connye, consists of Notah Gyorgak, Ben Peterson, Jonathan Lubke, Per Olson, John Boyd, and Derek Harrison. When asked what NEDC is, they will answer in a straightforward manner, "It's like OM, only not."

The similarities are moderately primal. Both are group problem-solving competitions that are judged on creativity. Aside from that, not much is constant. NEDC does not have spontaneous or style points, and judges score for consumer usability.

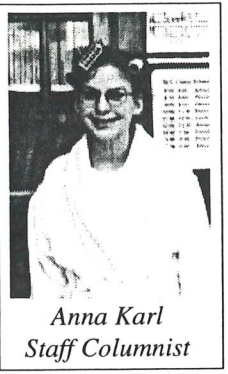
This year's NEDC problem is to design a better, safer shopping cart. The team has to not only design this, but make a scale model to prove it will work. The main points are to provide better stability to reduce accidents resulting from wild children in the child seats and assist in allowing elderly people to use the shopping cart for support.

Open's team must compete against seven other teams from the area on March 28. The winner will be announced in the next issue of *The Purple Press*. ♦

Opinions 'n' Stuff

Club the Celebs

Why do we make such a big deal about celebrities? Or, actually, that's a stupid question. A celebrity is someone who is made a big deal of. More to the point, why do we make such a big deal about their short-comings? Why do we care?



Anna Karl
Staff Columnist

Personally, I couldn't care less about the marriages, divorces, affairs, drug use, lawsuits, eating habits, etc. of the movie stars, musicians, TV personalities, politicians, that we supposedly look up to. I am sick and tired of hearing about some woman claiming to have had an affair with the president. I don't want to know all the "latest developments" about Diana or JonBenet.

It isn't just the tabloids, either. Even the big, important, competing, city papers cover and re-cover these things until we all want to scream. It's also there in other forms of the media. I don't watch the news on TV because I know that I'll see the same thing I see in the paper again, and again, and again. Why does the media do this? Easy. Some people want to know. They relish scandal. They enjoy reading the tabloids. They want to know everything bad and immoral about the rich and famous. I don't know why.

It might be that it makes them feel better about themselves if they can behave better than the President. Or, people could just want to gossip. Or, they could just be curious. I don't know. Anyway, I'm going to stop writing, now. The paper just came. ♦

**Warum, Warum, Warum ist
die Banana kruum? Warum,
Warum, Warum.**

Hey, We Could Be Vegas

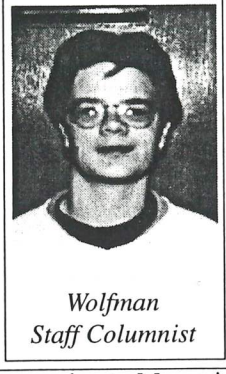
Note: This column was conceived at one in the morning, while I was shoveling snow.

Now normally, I don't bash anything I can't personally vouch for. Which is why, until recently, I've laid off the City of Sin.

However, my recent excursion to Mecca in the middle of nowhere makes me think, "Oy ve!" and I'm not even Jewish.

The thought of the place makes my nicotine-intolerant lungs cringe. Few sights are as frightening as the hordes of decrepit bodies frowning deeply as they compulsively load the slots. The lack of any nighttime makes insomnia second nature as you try to bury your head from the glaring neon lights. What makes it even worse is, in daytime, the place is a ghost town, while the populace recovers from their respective hangovers. They reside in their hotel rooms, each of which is decadently themed in a vain attempt at style.

Honestly, the most interesting part



Wolfman
Staff Columnist

of the trip was the marshmallow factory, the tour of which lasted barely twenty minutes. I was particularly pleased by the free bag of marshmallows each person got with the tour. On second thought, the best part of the trip was spending Thanksgiving with my aunt and uncle in Utah on the way back.

What really irked me about the sadistic Nevada playground is that it wouldn't let up for a minute. The first thing we saw as we got off the plane was not the happy faces of other people's relatives joyously praising their return. No. Straight ahead, in the center of the terminal sat upwards of two dozen slot machines. Their dark aura caused me to realize I had just crossed the River Styx.

On top of that, I knew the chances of escape were next to nil. Outside the demonic city center, beyond the slums and pawn shops, lie the desert. That vast, soulless wasteland was even more foreboding than the city that lies in its heart.

In any case, I only stayed for a few days, so I didn't go completely insane. The threat of returning has been completely eliminated, and I am able to say whatever I want about the Nevada hellhole. Hey, we could be Vegas! ♦

RUSH!!!

As I walk down an Open school hallway at about 3:30 pm on a school night, I hear screaming, yelling and an occasional "Shut up!!!" Of course, I'm not worried because I know, it's OM time.



Lucy Stark
Staff Columnist

Loud, noisy, and rambunctious, but also creative, we OMers rack our brains to try to come up with good ideas for this year's Odyssey of the Mind competition. But even with all this creative juice running through our bloodstreams, stress blocks our brains from creativity like cholesterol blocks arteries from getting blood to the heart. OM is sort of like junk food, it's not good for you but you keep coming back for more in spite of the consequences.

When you think of QM, you think of stress. In the beginning of the year it's nice. All you are just getting to know your

RUSH Continued on Page 9

'Leo' Row the Boat Ashore

I believe in being an individual; not in doing what everyone else is doing purely because everyone else is doing it. I also believe in expressing my own opinion.



Maura Shramko
Staff Columnist

But for some reason I'm having trouble admitting that I like the box office hit *Titanic*. 'Like' is probably an understatement. *Titanic*, in spite of all the mushiness, is one of the best movies I've ever seen. This decision had nothing to do with the sex appeal of Leonardo DiCaprio.

I resent the fact that everyone, as in that jerk from the Pioneer Press, Rick Shefchik, who thinks his daughter's experiences determine everyone else's. If you'd like to know what I'm complaining about, you can read his column, "Go Ask Dad" on Tuesdays. Everyone thinks that the only reason teenage girls want to see that movie is because of 'Leo.' Like there's some sort of connection between being a young woman, liking the movie *Titanic*, and having the hots for Leonardo DiCaprio.

Personally, I didn't want to see *Titanic*. I thought it was going to be another one of those movies that uses money, stars, and special effects to attract people. I was surprised; surprised to the point that I have dubbed *Titanic* one of my favorite movies.

The acting was exceptional, and even I, who couldn't care less about special effects, have to admit that the special effects were pretty damn good.

Now at this point, I know I'm agreeing with everyone else, and at the same time contradicting myself. I also think that a lot of girls do go to this movie for Leonardo DiCaprio. I am inferring, using all of those idiotic teen magazines as my source, but I do believe, sadly, it's true. I'm not saying that all adolescent girls go to *Titanic* just to see 'Leo,' only that the vast majority do. And then, there will always be the people, however few, that go to see 'Leo' for his acting, not his looks. Personally, I think that his acting far surpasses his looks, but then I'm just different.

One thing that has spurred this whole obsessive following of DiCaprio, or any other young, rich celebrity, is people's (especially younger people's) need to conform. Because liking 'Leo' is one more thing that adolescent girls have in common, one more thing that makes them part of the group. Not all teenage girls think like this. I don't, and I would be willing to bet that I'm not the only one.

I guess what I'm trying to get at is that I'm sick of being branded as 'just another 14-year old who's in love with Leo.' It really annoys me that I can't like something without being a conformist. And on some level I think this entire article means I care to a point what people think of me, which is kind of where the need to conform starts. ♦

Got Change For Tradition?

Notah Gyorgak
Staff Editorialist

This editorial was assigned to me. So if you disagree with any of the opinions expressed, try to be mature enough to stay within the field of play, that is this paper. If you truly disagree, be a responsible adult and exercise your First amendment rights to express your opinions in print. Now that is a long way of telling you to write a letter to the editor of this paper and NOT HASSLE ME like some illiterate red neck thug.

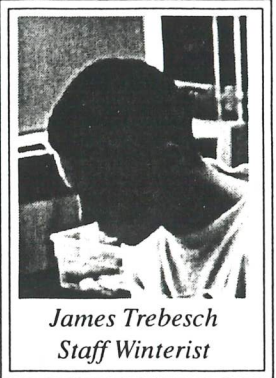
Parental Involvement

In a recent site council meeting, the fact that fewer parents are volunteering as in the past was brought up. Some plans were discussed to make parents care (Gee, if we could eliminate parental apathy, there would be no need for state imposed graduation standards) about the happenings of their children in school. These plans all were based on one basic concept: forcing parents to volunteer.

Mandatory volunteering, however, defeats the point of volunteering. As a matter of fact, it's an oxymoron. You can't force **CHANGES** Continued on Page 8

I'm Cold! No Wait; I'm Not

I hear the whining everywhere: "Oh it's so cold out. This weather is just awful. I wish it was spring." When I hear this, I think to myself: "My gosh, this has been one of the mildest winters I can remember."



James Trebesch
Staff Winterist

It hasn't been below zero more than 7 times and as of February 19, 35 days in a row have had temperatures above average. And to top it all off, we have had very little snow.

People say this winter has been awful, and I have to agree with them, but for all of the wrong reasons. They say it has been too cold. I say that it has been too warm and there was no snow on the ground until after the New Year. Now, what snow we have left is melting into huge puddles like the one that was next to the four-square court.

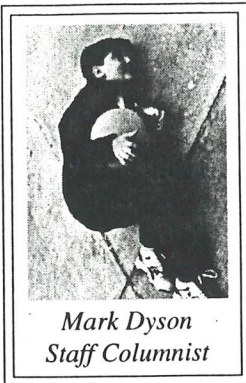
My idea of a good winter is 6 feet of snow and temperatures around zero. I like that weather because then I get to use my snow blower, have great skiing and I can build awesome snow forts and the best part is that, even on a warm day, the snow doesn't melt.

It's been so warm, I've felt like it's time to go fishing. And I don't mean ice fishing. My point is that people should STOP whining and enjoy the beautiful white snow while they can. They should enjoy things like skiing, ice fishing, snow shoeing, ice skating and, of course, four-square. When the snow is gone you will have the wonderful sight of dead, brown grass and wretched, sandy curb ice to look at.

So to all of you whiners, quit complaining about the cold. Put on a warm coat and hat and enjoy the best season there is, winter. If you won't, at least let us winter lovers enjoy what winter we have left without your tedious complaints. ♦

OM OM OM OM OM OM OM OM OM

Odyssey of the Mind. That wonderful, fun-filled activity. It provides a chance to make friends, improve skills in building and creativity, and it's a wonderful tool to fuel the competitive blood that some kids lose when they go to Open School. But there is one problem: stress.



Mark Dyson
Staff Columnist

OM, you usually don't have the team of your dreams, so there are bound to be little arguments. For example, if another team is doing better than you, like building better structures or having a better skit, you are going to feel a bit anxious to match them, or if they have a more harmonious team than you, you will want to make your team less dysfunctional.

Another effect of one team building better structures is jealousy, and if the better builder rubs it in (but we true OMers would never do that), you go on a crazy structure-building binge. Your hands get super-glued; all your hunger is gone because of the fumes; you work until you lose all feeling in your fingers or you beat the better builder's weight, which ever comes first. (Usually one of the former.) This goes all around, so the teams are bound to be either inwardly stressed or openly hostile.

The OM-Stress-Syndrome hits the hardest right before competition. Two weeks before regionals, teams are scrambling. One

week before regionals, OMers won't be in any of their classes. We'll be staying after school for four hours each day of the week. And if you see us in the halls, the first things you'll notice are the insane looks on our faces and the odor of the woodshop in our clothes. The night before regionals, we don't get any sleep. We lie awake, thinking of spontaneous problems, structures, and skits. We're thinking, we could fudge our skit. Our structure could bust too early. Our spontaneous problem might stink. Oh, no! These problems double if we make it past regionals and onto the state competition.

So, please decide to come to the regional competition. Clap for us, cheer, whistle, whatever. Just don't make some clever remark about our attitudes or our skits or our scores. Because if you do, we could be pushed over the edge. Seven OMers running screaming down the hall because of lots of built-up stress is not a good thing. ♦

Wo sind deine Beine? Weiss du wo deine Beine sind? Wann du wo deine Beine sind nicht wissen, du hast ein Problem.

CHANGES From Page 7

people to care. It has to be a personal choice. If people don't care, making them volunteer would be like extracting blood from rocks.

The lack of parental involvement really hurts Open School. What can be done about it remains unclear. There is no easy solution. A lot of parents don't have the time. They work too much or they have too many children. It's not easy to be involved when you don't have the time. The days of June Cleaver are gone!

New Curriculum

Next year, there could be a few new mandatory classes catered to helping students pass competency testing. These could also include mandatory ninth grade classes. These science, math and English classes will have to be placed on our schedule. If the teachers can work the new curriculum into their existing ones, there will not be classes entitled ominous things such as Ninth Grade Science.

Sandy Pappas Versus the Rest of Us

Recently, there has been a proposal to send all ninth through twelfth grade students on the city bus. In theory, sending students to school on the city bus would save money. School buses cost a lot. This plan would give all metro area students a flash pass so they could just walk on a bus during set times. Its major proponents are Sandy Pappas and Metro Transit (MT).

This bill has come under fire from parents and teacher groups for a variety of reasons. First, it would not save money in St. Paul; the school bus system in St. Paul is cost effective because one driver does three routes: elementary, junior, and senior high school. Also the plan could only save money if it were implemented in both cities. Other reasons are if the bus came every 15 minutes there might be a SMALL matter of truancy, and tardiness.

MT patrons are not happy about this idea! Having fifty kids on a bus full commuting adults is not the Madison Avenue fantasy to most of these working folks.

Lastly, Oh Sandy, where do we get the extra dollars for all the new buses that will be needed. With all the kids going to school all over the metro, would not the traffic in the morning be a major problem? Gee, Sandy just because there may be a billion dollars in the state's budget does not obligate you to spend it all in metro. You see they taught us at Open School that Minnesota is bigger than just St. Paul.

The public is against this bill almost fully. The students polled were 90% against and 10% indifferent. This makes for a very interesting push in the house. If only one woman wants this bill to pass, why is it still up for discussion? Unless you want to be sent to school on the city bus, write a letter to Ms. Pappas telling her how much you dislike this prospect.

To sum this up, its initial logic is wrong, it will cost more, and both the adult and student population are dead set against it. So, knowing Sandy Pappas and the DFL, it will become law. (Gee, is this idea why we say, Mayor Coleman?) ♦

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The taste that beat McDonald's
fries in a national taste test.

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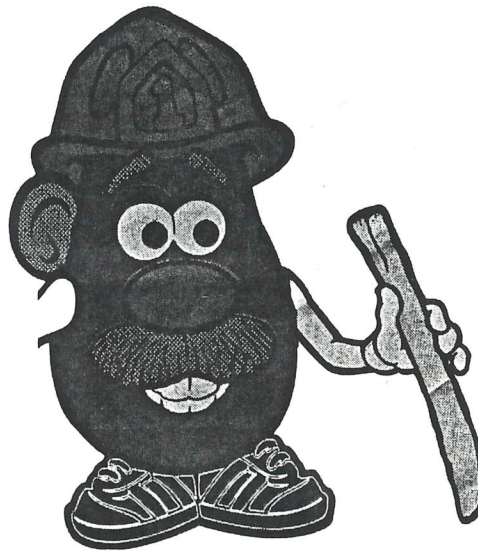
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Makes a great after school snack!

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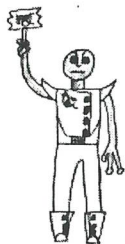
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Conspiracy Pages



The FBI and You

Ben Peterson
Staff Schizo

Have you ever been walking down the hallway and looked up at the emergency lights? If you have, have you ever wondered why that little red light blinks? I know why. I did a little investigating, including interviewing suspected members of the FBI, shadowing key members in the school's hierarchy, and some good old fashioned late-night rooting around in my kitchen (you never know what you could find...).

Guess what I uncovered. Those little red lights might have nothing to do with the lights at all. They're more probably there to let the FBI members know the cameras inside are working properly. That's right. Cameras. After interviewing the suspected FBI member, let's call him "Jon," I have reason to believe that there are surveillance cameras, linked directly to the Pentagon, hidden inside those lights. That's right. Our every movement, our every conversation,

it's all being recorded by the Pentagon and put in their vault.

Also, the fire alarms. What's with them? If you ask me, it's a ploy by the "Independent School District #625" to control our minds and wills. Think about it. With that high pitched drone, and the quick flashing strobe, it could be an attempt to throw us into epileptic seizure. Have you ever seen *Andromeda Strain*? It's the same as the lady in there. In fact, if you look around, you can see the beginnings of their control. You can see those students, who shall remain unnamed, walking around in a complete daze, prone to any staff suggestion that floats by.

Don't let yourself be drawn in. The best defense I've found is the simple cover-your-ears-with-your-hands trick. You'll have to endure the treachery while in the hallways, or else the FBI will know of the revolt. But, as soon as you reach the stairwell, plaster your hands to your ears, and don't let anyone remove them until you are the minimum safe distance from the school.

Sunglasses might also help against the glaring flash of the strobes. If you carry some along with a set of earmuffs in your bag, you'll be ready for any emergency (or lack thereof). Yes, I said lack thereof. Have you ever wondered why they make us do a "Fire Drill" every other week? They can't possibly expect us to be dumb enough to believe it's for practice. No, most of the school population could walk the routes blindfolded. Of course that's what they don't want you to do, because it would almost completely negate the effect of their mind-control apparatus.

Maybe, if you had dark enough sunglasses and a high collar, you could reach a level of anonymity towards the camera as well as protecting yourself from their drones.

Be sure to review my survival guide list before you turn the page. Remember: Everybody is a possible threat. They may all be out to get you. Everyone's against you. Even yourself. ♦

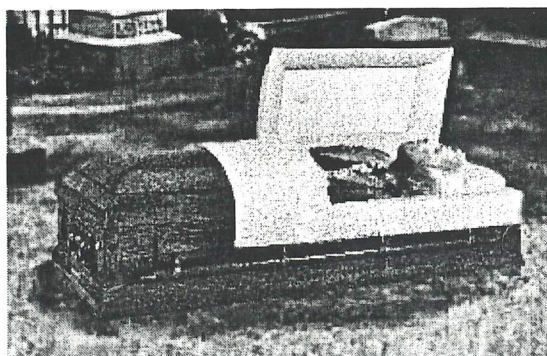
Top 10 Things Teachers Do Over Spring Break

As Compiled by Purple Press Staff

1. Go on a five day drinking binge with Mardi-Gras leftovers
2. Validation catch up (just kidding)
3. Flirt with college students
4. Elvis
5. Try to get a good night's sleep
6. Dream about school
7. Spend the first half trying to get to their door through the lawn they have no time to mow
8. Spend the other half going back
9. Wake up in the gutter and attempt to stumble home
- 10 Yoga ♦

Tom Petty Dead? Say It Ain't So!

A Guest Editorial by Mike Campbell, Lead Guitarist, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers



A shot of "Tom Petty" before "burial" in Gainesville, FL

Recently, this was found on the Internet by yours truly . . .

"Sad but true, one of the most successful artists of the 70's and 80's is dead. In fact, the Tom Petty we all grew to know and love was not who he seemed at all. You see, shortly after Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers were signed to their record deal, but before the first album was released, Tom Petty slipped into an unexplained coma where he stayed for most of the decade.

PETTY Continued on Page 11

"Early on, the other members of the Heartbreakers covered the vocal duties on the albums. In the mid-80's when the Traveling Wilburys were forming, the other four members of the Wilburys (George Harrison, Jeff Lynne, Roy Orbison, and Bob Dylan) decided to assume the duty of portraying Tom. A Tom Petty look-alike was found to do interviews, photos, and to lip-synch at live appearances. Finally, during the recording of the 'She's The One' album in 1996, Petty passed away."

This story seems pretty believable. To you, I mean. However, to a seasoned insider like me (after all, I have been in the group since its inception), this story is filled with gaps and inconsistencies. There is only one reasonable explanation: obviously MCA Records (the Heartbreakers' label from 1972-1994) wants to discredit Petty and the rest of us in a feeble attempt to sabotage sales for our new label, Warner Bros. It hasn't worked; **Wildflowers** has sold over 4 million copies and the so-called "truth" has sparked a surge in the sales of "**She's The One**." Also, sales of **Playback** (a 6 CD set released in 1995 by MCA) have stilted.

Now, for good measure, I will take this story and pick it apart like the mound of BS that it is. First off, MCA didn't particularly care for us in 1972. If Tom had fallen into his fabled coma, they would undoubtedly have halted shipping until he were able to tour. Also we would probably be out the door faster than you could say "Here Comes My Girl." Number Two: Traveling Wilburys? Without the barbecue that Petty threw at his Los Angeles home in 1988, there would be no Wilburys. And besides, why didn't they find a replacement for Orbison after his death in 1990, instead of coercing Eric Clapton into joining? All you'd need is a plastic toupee and oversized Ray-Bans. And lastly, how did Warners manage to sign the Heartbreakers to a standard five-album contract if Tom were really comatose? The last time I checked, comatose people aren't generally active in business deals.

Sooooo, you're still not convinced, you bull-headed reader, you? Well, go see Tom Petty's dead body perform a speaking role in Kevin Costner's *The Postman*, showing at a second-rate multiplex near you, and I'll talk to you later. ♦

School Crisis Survival Kit

- 1) Earplugs; preferably airline quality, but ordinary sleeping ones will work too.
- 2) Sunglasses; the darker the better.
- 3) An emergency collar extension; you may be able to find these at costume or clerical stores. These handy things will give instant "Trenchcoat Collars" to help hide your face.
- 4) A gas mask; just in case there really is a fire.
- 5) An emergency hall pass; just in case you have to go somewhere you're not supposed to.

Question of the Month

Why do men feel the need to pee everywhere except where they're supposed to?

I Failed! I Failed! I Failed! I Failed! I Failed! I Failed! I Failed!

Ben Peterson
Staff Schizo

I couldn't help it. I resisted for 36 hours, but then I finally broke down. I had Kraft® Cheese & Macaroni. I opened up my dad's cupboard on Sunday looking for something to eat for lunch. And lo and behold, staring me in the face was Kraft® Cheese & Macaroni. I turned to my brother, and asked him to make some. He said no. I asked him again. He said no. I begged, and I pleaded. I followed him around the house whining. Yet my brother, being the true friend he is, would not consent to cooking.

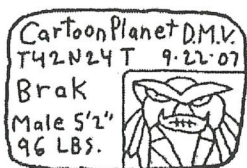
You may wonder why I didn't just make it for myself. Two reasons; first, I hate the way I make Macaroni and Cheese. When I make it, it gets all clumpy and I always manage to get the cheese too soupy. Second, I was feeling really lazy and I also knew there was a chance we'd be going out for lunch later. This was just going to be "a snack."

I completed the rest of my Sunday without a single drop of Kraft®. But then on Monday, I woke up to a craving. A craving

for food. I didn't know what my craving was for, but I knew it was big. It was just me and my step-sister. So I asked her if she could make good Macaroni and Cheese. She said yes. She also informed me that she had two boxes of Spirals. You know, the stuff they don't make anymore.

So she went and got the boxes and made them. Ooh, it was so good! But the point of all this is after eight months of being Mac free, I crumpled under the pressure. I apologize to all of the people I may have touched with my last article. I apologize that I couldn't uphold the cause. I pass the banner, temporarily to my second in command, Aimee Gervais.

I shall return once again to uphold the righteous cause! Do not fret, do not crumple!! Stand strong, brave anti-cheesists! Stand strong. But for now, I am going to do something more desperate than I ever thought I would. I'm checking myself into a clinic. ♦



Reviews

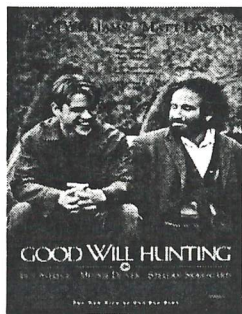


Good Will Hunting *MIT's Revenge*

Wolfman
Staff Critic

This Academy Award nominee is not your average genius kid movie, this time the film has brains, too. *Good Will Hunting*, the film by Matt Damon is the most human film I've seen all year. As opposed to simply the perfect brainchild being fallible, all characters are. At the same time, however, all the characters are intelligent and insightful. If you can get past the swearing frequency of an OM practice, and the same number of urban train-passing-through-slums-as-the-character-ponders sequences as appeared in all of the 80's, then you find a really great movie.

It's the story of a Boston twenty-something that, despite his brains, chooses to work for a construction company and hang out with his blue-collar buddies. The professor that finds him is a surprisingly full character, my personal favorite. The lack of sappy speeches, and bounty of original thoughts and characters put this film atop my top ten list for 1998. ♦



In a Nutshell

What: *Good Will Hunting*

Category: Drama

Starring: Matt Damon, Robin Williams

MPAA Rating: R, for a heaping helping of language and a spattering of violence and sexually-oriented dialogue.

Rating: **** 1/2

Old-Time Metallica Present in New-Time Album

Ben Peterson
Staff Critic

Metallica's new album, *Reload*, is a fun little trip back in time. The album has that harder rock feel of the Metallica of old. However, it still retains artistic merit and a hold on today's culture. In my opinion, this combination has always been Metallica's strong point. They have always been able to add musical talent to rock, dispelling the view that rock is simply people banging on guitars and drums. The album starts off with a pure hard rock piece titled "Fuel," that sets the pace for the entire 70+ minutes of *Reload*. The album continues with a quick pace, with a couple slower rock numbers, showing once again Metallica's musical prowess. There are a few songs that return to the thrasher days of the early 80's, but for the most part the album is well balanced. ♦

In a Nutshell

What: *Metallica Reload*

Category: Rock

Should you buy it?: Yes, if you are a fan of rock in general.

Rating: *** 1/2

RUSH From Page 6

teammates and figuring out your problem. Now, I don't mean one of your personal problems. I mean the OM problem you and your team are supposed to solve together.

Anyway, as I was saying, in the beginning there is stress, but not really enough to drive you crazy. You feel optimistic and care-free. You look forward to competing and all your ideas flow out easily. After that, there's the middle stage where you realize how little time you have, how much you have to do, and that's where the stress really starts.

You and your team mates start fighting about really stupid things that normally

you wouldn't care about, like what color the outside of a backdrop should be, or what the color of someone's shoe is. Okay, maybe that last one was a little far-fetched, but OM will do that to you. All those stupid little fights have a hidden meaning, and if you keep bottling up your feelings from those fights, soon you explode. Fun, huh?

After the dreaded middle stage, there's the final stage in which you only have a couple of weeks to finish everything. Now the stress is super bad and there's still fighting. In the final stage you get out of classes to do OM, and time you would normally spend doing something regular you spend worrying about OM. During that time you can either get a lot done or, if you don't re-

spond well to all that pressure, not.

On the last few days before competition you make last minute changes and work like crazy and you finally feel satisfied . . . well to some extent. There's still last minute worries and fears and pre-competition jitters. For example, I think that all the judges personally hate me. I do suck up, but I'm afraid they can see right through it.

OM is stressful, really stressful. But in spite of the stress, it's actually fun. And you do learn a thing or two about team work. But here's a warning to anyone who wants to start, be careful. Like I said before, once you start competing in OM, for some strange reason, you can't really stop. ♦