

The Purple Press

Official Publication of the St. Paul Open School



Notah
Gyorgak
Staff
Editorialist

Got Change For A Policy?

Open School is Changing . . . But to What?

Changes at Open School have come fairly often in the past. A small, yet vocal, group of people have now decided that it is time for a new set of sweeping changes. There's only one problem: They don't know what to change.

Some think that the ELC needs to be changed. They think splitting up the 2nd and 3rd graders might be a good idea; and that the elementary classes are too big. They think that the SLC needs to get to know the ELC better.

These ideas have some merit. All of them are reasonable and intelligent. But the reason for making the changes is to keep moving forward in the world. This creates a problem: which ideas should stay and which ideas should go? Everyone thinks they know what needs to happen at Open School, but opinions differ.

I have found in recent months that the changes are being pro-

posed by a handful of students and a few teachers. Because I am one of the people who will be making these changes, I don't feel left out, but most of you reading this are. By refusing to speak up and make your voice heard, you are leaving the changes to Lauren Beitler, Gracia O'Neill, Anna Karl, Erin Boyd, Jenny Sherman, and me. Do you really want only these people in charge of your future?

At a recent meeting held to discuss the direction of Open School, only 20 to 30 people showed up. Is this really the number of people who care? I mean, that figure could have been made up by student government and their parents. But not even all of the student government showed up. This wasn't something that they

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The Truth Behind 4-Square

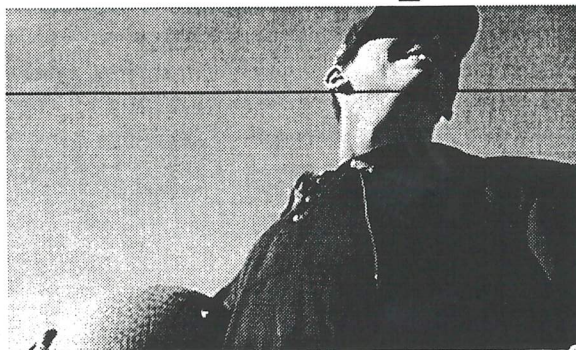
MoxyMan
Staff Reporter

4-Square at Open School has many different sets of rules. In case you are uneducated in the ways of 4-Square, when one gets to the 'King Square', they are the one who gets to call the rules. Now, the basic game of 4-Square is always the same, but there are differences in the way the game is played. In this article, I will explore the 5 most popular sets of rules used at Open School, their origins and my opinion on each one.

Don Von's "Standard." This is the most basic set of rules on the court. In this set, the King must serve behind the diagonal divider of the King Square, and no players may hit the ball downward. If it is hit downward, the player who hit it is out.

This set is popular with ELCers and those who want to play more slowly. The only good parts about it are that younger

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ELC and SLC: Together Again

Tara Wilken
Staff Reporter

Open School has always operated as a K-12 school. Open has changed to keep up with the times, as it should, but some things have changed that should not have. the widening gap between ELC and SLC is an example. Susanne Hollingsworth says the way the ELC views the SLC can be summed up in one word, "big". Onoma Ejjiya says the SLC students are "noisy" and "frightening".

Seven years ago the advisories were very different. All the ELC advisories were mixed, first through sixth grade. Vaughn Koenig and Wendell Carroll even went a step farther. Their advisories were 1st through 12th grade. Today an ELC advisory is also the student's open classroom teacher. There is no

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Interim Dubbed Success

Student involvement was key

John Grotenhuis

Staff Reporter

The SLC held interim on December ninth and tenth. Interim is designed to provide an opportunity for students to do things that they can't normally do during the school year, this year interim provided just that. Activities included things such as theater rehearsal, sports, role playing games, fund raising, and even a winter camping experience.

The Purple Press interviewed several staff and students about interim. "It was a lot of fun," said Chris Wintheiser, who led the winter camping trip to Lake Elmo. "I think it went well, personally," commented Notah Gyorgak, who organized Role Playing Games, one of the many student-taught interim sessions this year.

According to Lenni Augustine, Open School's group facilitator, interim has a long history at Open School. Lenni said that interim began in the early 1980's, when some of the teachers decided to try an interim session similar to college's do. The first year there was an three week long interim held for both ELC and SLC students in March. Activities included a skiing trip to Montana, working outside, and of course working on the school play. As the years went by, different times and lengths were tried, such as having two one and a half week long interims in one year. "Eventually students seemed to lose interest and stayed at home, and some parents didn't feel that interim was academic enough," said Lenni. Interim decreased in length from three weeks to two weeks to three days to having no interim at all last school year.

Interim is back this year mostly because of increased student involvement. Students lobbied for the return of interim, helped plan classes and many led classes of their own.

Staff interviewed said that the interim held in December was a tryout, and that if it went well, there may be another, possibly longer interim in the spring. An evaluation has yet to be conducted. Teachers said that although interim went well, there was still a need for more students to become involved in the process of planning and organizing interim activities, both to ease the amount of work needed to be done by the teachers and to make students feel more responsible and committed to interim. Lenni proposed a number of things that could help in assuring that interim is a good experience for all. One of these ideas was beginning planning and fund raising for larger activities early on in the year. Hopefully there will be enough student interest and involvement so that interim will stay an important and interesting part of the Open School experience. ♦



Rock Climbing with Julie

News Briefs

Auction Results/Cosetta's Raided

On December 15, the students who participated in the Auction class finally got their reward when dozens of people made bids on items ranging from a computer to a bag filled with baby items.

Through hard work and dedication, the auction brought in a little over \$2,900.

The money will help fund school trips, the Artist in Residence Program and various other classroom activities.

Susanne Hollingsworth, who ran the event and teaches the Auction class, said she was very happy with the results.

"I thought that it was very successful. We had a lot of items and made quite a bit of money. The one thing we didn't have was [enough] people. I think that may have been because we ran into

their Christmas obligations." ♦

---On Tuesday January 6, at 1:30 p.m., federal agents, with the Immigration and Naturalization Services, arrested 23 allegedly undocumented workers at local restaurant and business, Cossetta's. The 23 arrests only amounted to about one sixth of Cossetta's work force, and their business went relatively uninterrupted for the rest of the day. ♦

Information taken from Pioneer Press reports.

4-SQUARE continued from page 1

ELCers get as fair a chance to play as anyone else and that usually a fair person is in the King Square, like Don himself. All in all, people who are looking for a more exciting set of rules should seek out "Just Hit It," or "Downtown."

-Jeff Parker's "Just Hit It". In these rules, basically anything goes. You can block the ball, which involves hitting it before it hits your square, and then letting it bounce before you hit it into another square; tip it, which involves hitting it before it hits your square and sending it into another immediately without letting it touch the ground; and hit the ball twice. If you hit the ball twice and then block it, though, you are out. Another feature of these rules is that a player who gets out does not get a second chance, even if the other players continue to play the ball.

The unique name comes from the time Jeff Parker got into the King Square and was at once bombarded by a barrage of questions as to what rules he would call. Confused, he said, "Just hit it, man!"

This set's only problem is that it is still largely undefined. When one calls "Just Hit It," they must clarify, or else some confusion may arise. Downtown, is much clearer.

-Downtown. Brought to us by Lateef Heller, Tom Greenly, and Pat Zemke, Downtown is played in Mears Park in Downtown St. Paul, hence the name. You can do basically anything you want when playing "Downtown," from tipping and blocking to hitting the ball twice and running into another player's square. Also, unlike the preceding sets of rules, if one is out and the other players continue to play it, the player that was out is no longer out.

"Downtown" is more popular than the preceding two sets of rules.

It is more popular than "Standard" because you can do more than just hit the ball upwards, and it requires more skill. It is better than "Just Hit It" because it is more defined, and doesn't require much explanation. The only thing that is undefined in "Downtown" is whether there is heavy spiking or not. Since when the King calls "Downtown," it is usually followed by a "No heavy spiking" call, that problem is solved. These rules rank somewhat lower than Pat's Rules on my list, but they are higher than "Just Hit It" and "Standard" by far.

-Pat's Rules. "Pat's Rules" are brought to us by Pat Zemke, as the name suggests. They are exactly the same as Downtown, with three minor differences. One is that if you get out when the King serves it to you, the King reserves. Another is, if a player gets out, it doesn't matter if the other players keep playing, that person is still out. The third is that there is no heavy spiking, so the King doesn't have to call it.

This set of rules, along with "Notah's Rules," ties for my

second favorite. My favorite is "Drama Rules." I like the alterations in both sets, and people generally tend to play these rules less cheaply than Downtown.

-Notah's Rules. Notah's Rules are brought to us by our own fearless Notah Gyorgak. They are similar to Pat's Rules, but with two major differences. One, you can't play ultra-cheap. For example, if you turn it in another player's square by hitting it parallel to where they are, you are out. Two, if you get out on a fair serve but missed the ball, you are still out. The other difference is the ankle rule. This mainly applies when it is icy and the ball, even if hit hard, might skid off the ice and go below one's arm reach. Which says that if the ball goes below your ankle, it is to be redone.

"Notah's Rules" are often played, because Notah is often King, but other than that, players tend to call "Drama Rules."

-Drama Rules. This is one of the most popular sets of rules. Brought to us mainly by the 4-Square-playing people involved in the production of "The Wizard of Oz," this set builds on "Notah's Rules" by adding, again, two modifications. One is that if the ball

These rules are often used, because Notah is often King.

hits the line bordering the field on Open School's main 4-Square court, it is a redo. Previously, any outside line was out, but if it hit the aforementioned line, it might bounce funny and be hard to tell whether it was line or not.

These rules are really popular because they add "Notah's Rules" to

some guarantees that you won't get out too unfairly. They are definitely my favorite set of rules, because I find them the most fairly played on the court.

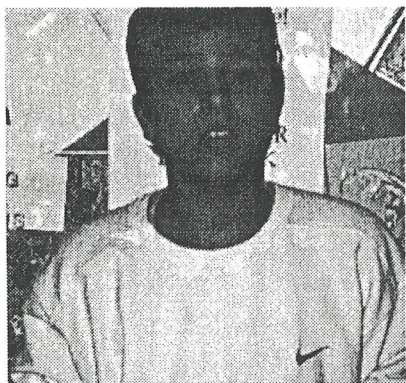
All in all, I think that all these sets of rules are good, if used in moderation. "Standard" is good sometimes to play fair on ELCers, and Just Hit It is very broad and can be configured for the needs of the King. Downtown is always defined, and more active than most others, while Pat's Rules eliminates people who make an argument if the ball was kept in play when they were out. Notah's Rules and Drama Rules are both good because they both have measures against cheapness and unfairness.

So, if you ever walk out on the 4-Square court and hear the King call Pat's Rules or Drama or Downtown, you'll know what they're talking about! Oh, and one last thing, to those people who walk across the Holy Court in the middle of an active game and interrupt the game-play, and you know who you are, I have one message for you. STOP OR I WILL RIP YOUR HEAD OFF! Thank you. ♦



Senior Profile: Joe Bauer

Terry Schanno
Staff Reporter



What are your plans for after high school? I want to go to college to become an architectural drafter.

How long have you gone to Open School? I started in third grade - 10 years.

What is your best memory of high school? The whole thing.

What will you miss most about high school? The few teachers that are here that I like.

What is one thing you would like to change about what you did? I would have attended school more consistently.

If you could invite two famous people for dinner who would they be? Brett Favre and John Travolta.

What is the hardest validation you ever did? Why? Information Finding - It took

a lot of investigating.

What classes did you enjoy the most? Architectural Drafting with Greg.

Who has been the biggest influence in you life? Why? My family and friends.

Favorite food? Pizza. ♦

Nacori's Farewell

New Richmond, Wisconsin, Population: about 100. When my family moves there, it'll be 104.

Thanksgiving day, I watched quietly while about 300 of my family members voted on and discussed which sketch of a rooster we would use for the mascot of the bar/restaurant/dance hall that we bought there. The whole time I was thinking about how I really couldn't care less.

Throughout my life, I've lived in seven different states, which include Texas (where I was born), Arizona, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, South Dakota, and Min-



nesota. I've also been to 12 different schools, and I'm only fifteen.

I guess I could say that my parents like to travel, and my sister and I have to suffer for it. We both hate moving and leaving people and places behind more than anything. Personally, I will miss Open and the people in it more than any other place I've ever been in my life.

This year is my third at Open, and it's been the best three years of my life. Honestly. It's like my home away from home. Some of my teachers are more caring than some of my family members. A few of the students are among the most caring people in my life. I would thank specific people, but that would end up being a page all by

itself.

But there is one person that I absolutely must acknowledge; Sarah Bozeman, who's been like a sister to me for those past three years. I'm going to miss you the most, and I'll never, as long as I live, forget about you.

Friday, December 12 was my last day at Open, and I hate leaving more than anything I've ever had to do in my life. I won't even be here to read this article when it comes out.

Thank you for being my second family.

Love always,
Nacori Leigh Lyons

ELC/SLC continued from page 1

This year the Site Council suggested that the school try to find a way to bring the ELC and SLC together. The staff talked over ideas at the beginning of the school year and they voted to pair up each SLC advisory with an ELC advisory so that the two could get together once a week..

Most of the SLC advisories have been working with an ELC advisory since September. Elizabeth Lehman's advisory has been working with Fawn Nguyen's. Elizabeth said that working with the younger students has influenced everyone involved in a positive way. "[The program] helps my students understand or be sensitive to the younger students," said Elizabeth.

Julie Doble's advisory works with Rick Olson's group every Friday. The two groups read together for the entire SLC advisory time. Julie's advisory planned a Holiday party for Rick's advisory that took place on Thursday, December 18th.

Most of the advisories do a variety of activities with the younger students. Connye LaCombe's advisory plays games such as Duck, Duck, Gray Duck and Sharks and Lifeguards with Evelyn's group. Connye volunteered to pair up each advisory at the beginning of the school. Although she could not comment on whole program she said, "It is going wonderfully (with Evelyn's group) it was such an eye opener for these kids to see how the little kids look forward to this." ♦

Da Crossword For Da People

Created by Tara Wilken

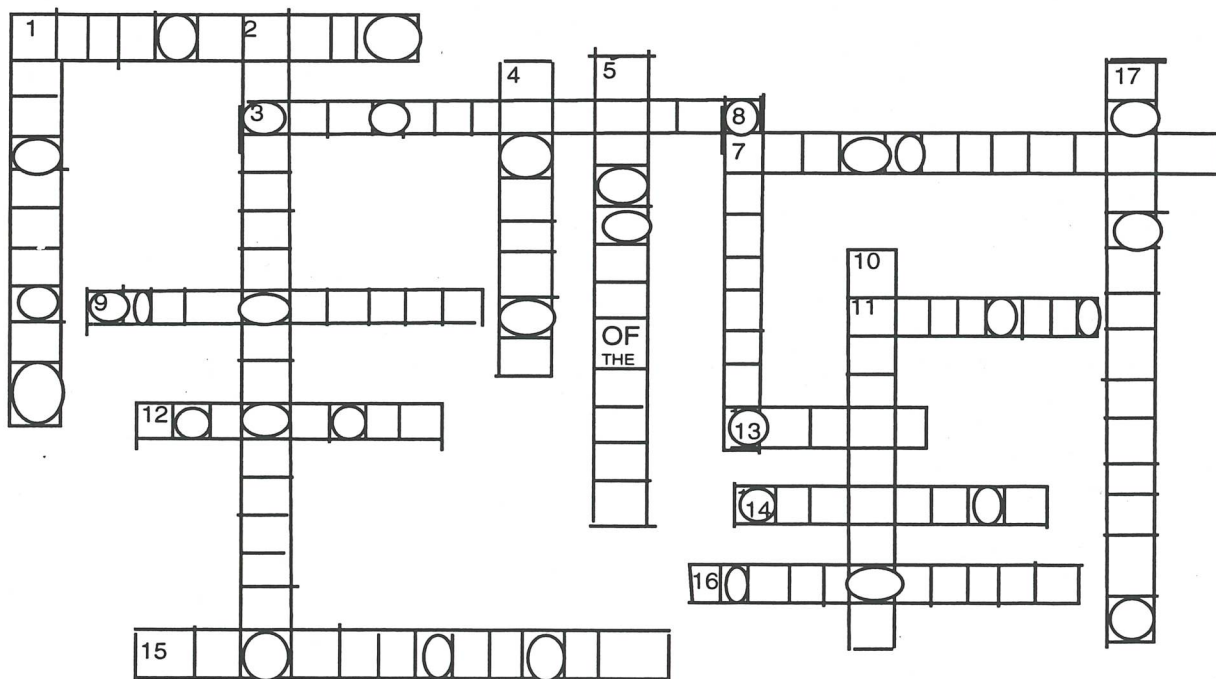
DOWN

- 1) A game ELC and SLC enjoy equally.
- 2) In charge of Snow Daze
- 4) People who compete with numbers
- 5) If you smell popcorn between January and March than it is _____ (2 words) time.
- 8) Someone who occupies the wood shop
- 10) A room anyone is free to use
- 17) Someone who has seen Open through all of its moves

ACROSS

- 1) A relationship you and your friend have is a _____.
- 3) Do you have an _____ of the Open School's philosophy.
- 7) The staff's boss
- 9) This place has a lot of sand (at school)
- 11) A person you need to check in with 3 times a day.
- 12) Open School's atmosphere is _____.
- 13) The opposite of large
- 14) A book that holds a year's worth of memories
- 15) Julie goes every year with _____.
- 16) Every floor has at least 200 of these in the hallways.

On the crossword, some words have circles in them. Gather all of the letters that are in the circles and arrange them in boxes to see a message from the PURPLE PRESS!! (Answers on page 7.)



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Editorials

The Sibling Dilemma

Chances are you have 'em. They're the infamous younger siblings. They are masters of whining, unmatched at backstabbing, and world renowned for "getting away with it." There has been a fair amount of talk on this subject, particularly in the circles of firstborns, but the topic has never truly been brought to justice.

I know I can talk about it. I have one of the little roaches. The nine-year-old terror has done nothing but disrupt all logic in our household for as long as he's been a part of it. The overly-sensitive blot on an otherwise reasonable family is constantly contradicting me, and refuses to admit when I prove him wrong.

His habits are classically annoying, and typical among younger siblings. The most heinous is spending hour after hour provoking violence from me, and then leaving me to take all of the blame. Even my logical parents are swindled into the diabolical scheme of this non-diabolical twit. Day after day, older siblings put up with a cycle of annoyance from him, leading to violent re-



Wolfman
Staff Communist

sponse by me, leading to punishment.

It makes one wonder if the U.S. legal system would consider the actions of a justly desperate older sibling self-defense or temporary insanity. It also makes you wonder if you can divorce your siblings.

Typical scenarios of 2 younger sibling problem.

- The restaurant choice competition. (I think I've stock-piled enough chances to pick where we eat to last me through 2015.)
- The personal space invasion; the repeated action of sitting on your feet when you nap on the couch, or hovering over your shoulder while you try to work. In some cases, you're working on columns like this one.

- The last cinnamon roll race. On rare occasions, the dash to have that last pastry ends in bloodshed.

- Loss of all reason. (I've explained this above.)

So, in conclusion, I'm not going to suggest genocide against younger siblings. I'm not going to suggest we all "just get along." If you've read my columns before, you know that I never have answers to problems like these. I'll just end with a solemn quote of mine that resounds often in my house, "Come on, I asked you politely, now leave!" ♦

"Home Alone 3," Don't Make Me Gag

Oh, how Macaulay Culkin has changed. He's way taller, has millions of dollars, a bad teenage moustache, and his parents split. And he got dethroned as the king of the Fox family movie empire.

But just because Culkin doesn't work for Fox anymore doesn't mean they can't put out any more Home Alone movies. The promos and trailers for "Home Alone 3" have been running for a while now, promising better burglars, a plot that is strikingly similar to the other two movies, more paint cans slamming into heads, and another defenseless kid that will annoy the hell out of you and end up in a rehab clinic after trying to drink Ted Kennedy under the table. But what does it matter? After all, if producing mogul John Hughes has a chance to make another couple million dollars, why shouldn't he? Well, I don't think it's such a good idea to make a sequel to a sequel that didn't need to be made.

That brings me to the point of this article. I am using it to voice my displeasure over movie sequels. Not all of them, mind you, there are occasionally the good sequels, like "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "Back to the Future 3," and "Return of the Jedi." But the majority are futile attempts. For example, "Major



Ehren Stemme
Staff Columnist

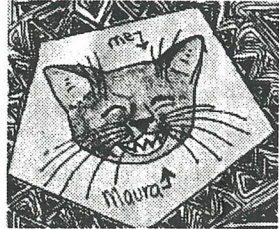
League," a 1987 flick, was a wonderfully hilarious baseball movie featuring Charlie Sheen as a nearsighted pitcher. In 1992, though, Paramount decided to make "Major League 2," a grossly inferior movie that struck out at the box office. Even with this, they started making "Major League 3" at Jacobs Field this year and it's scheduled for release next summer. And to take an example from "Back To The Future," Universal was in such a hurry to throw money at Robert Zemeckis and Steven Spielberg that they saddled Michael J. Fox, Lea Thompson and Christopher Lloyd with "Back to the Future 2," the worst and most confusing script in the trilogy. The 1989 flick, which was set in 1985, 2015, 1955 and 1885, dealt with how buying a 20th century sports almanac in the 21st century for the purposes of bringing it back to 1985 and gambling with it can lead to trouble. Thankfully, though, they ignored the critics and made the third movie, which, depending on who you ask, is the best one in the series.

Sequels represent a huge change in Hollywood filmmaking. In the 1950s you would hardly, if ever, see sequels. This is not hard to understand considering that only a handful of movies were made in a year. Now you have HBO and Showtime battling for the movie-makers' money as well as both major and independent film distribution.

MOVIE RANT continued on page 7

Meat-Lover and Hating It

Picture this: a big, fat, juicy steak dripping with gravy. I cut off a large piece, and then put it in my mouth.



Maura Shramko
Staff Columnist

It's only then, when the steak is in my mouth that I think, *I like the way dead cow tastes.*

I think that I shouldn't eat meat because morally, and ethically, it seems wrong. It is wrong. To kill something else, to take something else's life is wrong. I think this; more than that, I know this. But for some reason, I can't stop myself from eat-

**"I like the
way dead cow
tastes."**

ing meat.

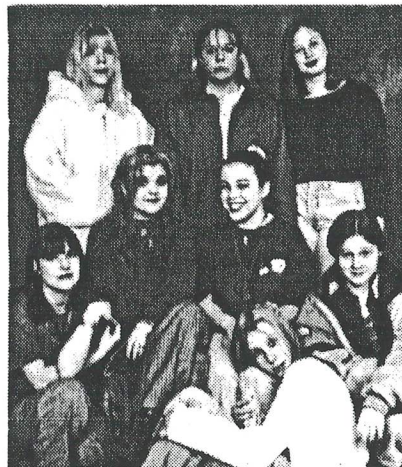
The reasons that I can't stop are probably lack of will-power, and the fact that I like the way meat tastes.

My mom used to tell me that it was okay to eat meat because the animals that we ate wouldn't even be alive if people didn't eat them. Meaning that, if people didn't farm these animals, purposely breed them, they wouldn't exist. And while I'm not sure if this is true or not, it's simply easier to believe that it is.

So, what I want to know is, if I'm so sure that eating the flesh of another living being is wrong and unethical, and I am, then why can't I make the connection between knowing and doing?

My only hope of becoming a vegetarian is then to gradually cut back on meat. I have friends who are successful vegetarians, and tell me they've been meat-free for so long they don't know the difference between real meat, and meat substitution. And, even though maybe I will never become a vegetarian, I will probably always hold these views. In the mean time, I can take consolation in the fact that I know what I'm doing is wrong. ♦

Open School, the few
and the bold. It makes
sense doesn't it?
Yearbooks on sale.
get them while you can.
The price will go up.



**Coming soon:
Buddy Pictures
Jan 22, 1998
10 - 1:00 p.m.
make an
appointment
with Connye**

MOVIE RANT continued from page 6

bution companies. Another thing about 1950s films is that the majority of them were of superior quality. Now, when about 20 new "blockbusters" are released to the theaters every summer, few of them have worthwhile scripts, and even fewer of them succeed.

However, the trend seems to be turning away from sequels. More scripts are being turned out that actually have an original premise. Instead, the family movies like "The Mighty Ducks" and "The Land Before Time" write up second and third movies because they can sell the storyline to disapproving yuppies that have nothing better to do than take their spoiled kids to the theater. Hollywood seems to be righting itself from this travesty in moviemaking. Take "Titanic," it's like a live-action, well written "Land Before Time," with people. It is a complete storyline with a beginning, middle, and comprehensive end. The director, usually involved with action movies, took a chance, and it proves to possibly be one of the biggest blockbusters of the recent past, despite the fact that the director isn't ever going to make any money off of it.

I am glad that all the writers, directors and producers have realised that half-assed attempts to bilk Joe Moviegoer out of his money are offensive. Also, thank God, they have decided to start writing screenplays that are semi-believable. We owe a debt to Quentin Tarantino for shaking guys like Spielberg and Tim Burton out of their delirium. Well, I guess I'm finished, so I'm off to the Showplace 16 to see "Scream 2" . . . ♦

I Gotta Pee: One Man's Story

Picture this: cold day, you're really tired, and you just drank way too much coffee when you were out before school. What do you do? You go looking for a bathroom.



Hollo
Staff Columnist

Everyday, it seems that I have to go to the bathroom, and then I find out that the bathroom that I'm trying to get into is locked. So I have decided to write a little column with detailed explanations of how I feel when I have to go and I'm not allowed to go.

Third floor. By this time I am starting to feel the burn, as some people would call it. It kinda feels like the water my bladder is holding is about to jump out of my body like that little slimy thing with acidic blood in "Alien." I slowly creep over to the door and the darn handle won't move. I growl and head over to the stairs.

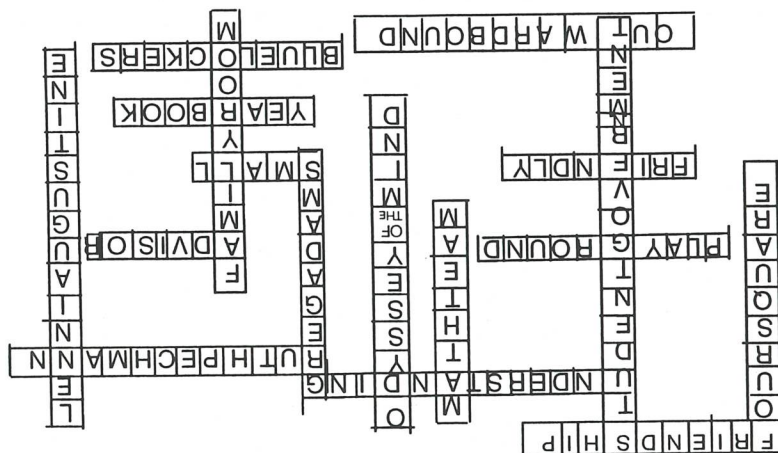
Second Floor. It's starting to get a little worse. The bouncy trip down the stairs didn't do me a lot of good. By this time I really gotta pee. I reach out real fast and attempt to turn the handle of the big wooden lavatory door, but it won't move. Now I start to get mad. I'm tired, I don't have much time, and now I am forced to go to the lowest student accessible bathroom.

First floor. Now this one could go one of two ways. It could be open, but it could also be locked. If it's locked I'll be in a lot of trouble; 'cause, after bouncing down two flights of stairs on a full bladder you don't tend to feel too good. Well, luckily, the door was open this time.

Now, what if it isn't next time? Do I just go on the floor and hope someone will clean it up? Do I run outside and do as the original humans did? Do I run for the staff lounge or a handicapped bathroom? Or maybe I'll just hold it until my bladder decides to rupture?

To understand some things, we have to figure out why the bathrooms are closed all the time. I'll tell you why they are closed, and you probably won't like the answer. Student vandalism. Someone stuck paper towels in the sink and let the water run. Someone decided to jump on the walls over and over and make big black marks. Someone decided that throwing toilet paper on the ceiling is cool. Someone decided to urinate in the corner or down the drain in the middle of the floor and made it smell really funky. Someone decided to clog the toilet with paper towels or maxi pads. Someone decided to break off the paper towel dispenser. Someone decided to pee all over the seats in the bathroom. Someone decided to write something on the walls about someone or something. Someone decided to smear miscellaneous makeup supplies on the mirrors or walls. Someone defecated in the urinal. Someone smeared poop all over the toilet seat. Someone decided to put glue on a toilet seat and make it look like something else. Seems like there are a lot of reasons for the bathrooms to get shut down.

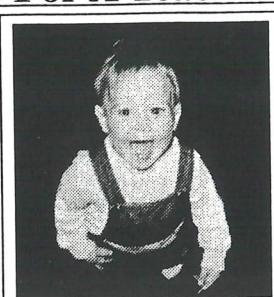
A solution is all I give you. Cut that shh . . . stuff out, 'cause I gotta pee! ♦



Answers to Open School Crossword:

An Apple For A Teacher

I ran out of apple juice this morning. The truth is I don't even like apple juice, or vanilla pudding, or English muffins. At least not since I've been able to tie my own shoes.



Shannon Scott
Syndicated Columnist

But ever since I started receiving college applications in the mail, my taste buds have been regressing back to kindergarten. My head is filled with questions; where has all the time gone? What will I do with my life? Where is my Bunny Rabbit?

I figure if apple juice can help me through the inevitable hell of liberal arts education, then bring it on. Bring it on.

As you can tell, I'm enthusiastic about my future in college. It's this positive attitude that I hope will win me thousands of dollars in scholarships. My test scores certainly won't. I'm not a merit scholar. I'm not a kick-ass athlete. I'm not the chubby kid who plays French horn in the school band. Which, unfortunately puts me in the 'pucker up and smooch' category.

It's my own fault. I'm incredibly vain. I spent my college savings on porcelain veneering my teeth. Which may or may not help my puckering. You'll have to ask my entrance officials, or my former boyfriend.

I don't know why I dread college so much. It's just four years of lecture and papers. The teacher talks. The clock ticks. I sit in my chair and let my notebook wire gnaw at my jugular vein.

At least it's better than the alternative. I could get a normal job like a normal person and become a free-lance writer. But the words 'free' and 'lance' cause me to break out in hives. Whereas the phrase 'liberal arts' only cause stomach pain.

"Shannon is good at sharing. She does not bite the other children."

I think the fact that I've never bitten another human being should be worth a full scholarship in itself.

In the meantime, while I ponder how to phrase my superiority, I have the pleasure of watching my friends apply to colleges in a galaxy far far away.

Me, I'm going to the grocery store to pick up some apple juice. ♦

Dear Abby? Dear God!!

Here's a fun little game: reading people's stupid questions in advice columns and guessing what advice they'll be given.

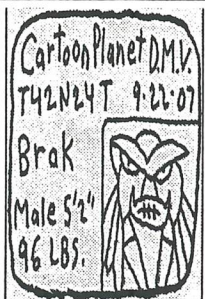
Half the time it's a weird moral dilemma that's completely based on personal beliefs and opinions, so why ask somebody else for their opinion when you know it won't change your mind? But with the more tangible problems, the answer's usually pretty obvious. It seems to me that the person should have stumbled across it somewhere on their thoughtful little journey. In one letter for example, a woman was worried because her granddaughter's school required its students to carry too much in their backpacks. Her granddaughter was getting back problems, she was wondering what she should do. Umm... maybe complain to the school? So maybe there was no thoughtful little journey. Do these people really try to come up with a solution themselves? Or do they just give up right away because they know they can ask someone else? Do they honestly not know what to do? Or is it just a clever way of dumping their problems on someone else?

Maybe people ask advice columnists these stupid questions just to get a specific answer. They want to be reassured that they've made the right choice, even if it's a complete stranger who gives them that reassurance. When the person has already figured out what they want to do, they just get the writer to tell them to do it. Then it's considered credible and makes even more sense.

Sometimes, though, the right answer to the situation is certainly not what the troubled party wants to hear. I guess when they get that "bad" advice, they just ignore it and move on. It seems like you could just figure out what the columnist was going to say and not waste your time.

Some people make a little bit more sense: those who ask their friends for advice. Even that's pretty silly most of the time though. These people tend to do the same things as the people in the paper, the only

DEAR ABBY continued on page 10



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

Conspiracy Page

The Munchkins Are Coming!

Ben Peterson
Staff Schizo

Is it just me, or has the validation process slipped from first on the computer priority list to about fifth? I remember a time when the computer lab was new. It was nestled in a little closet room between the library and the drama room in the old building. This was the time where SLCers could stroll into the lab and say, "I need to do validations. Get off."

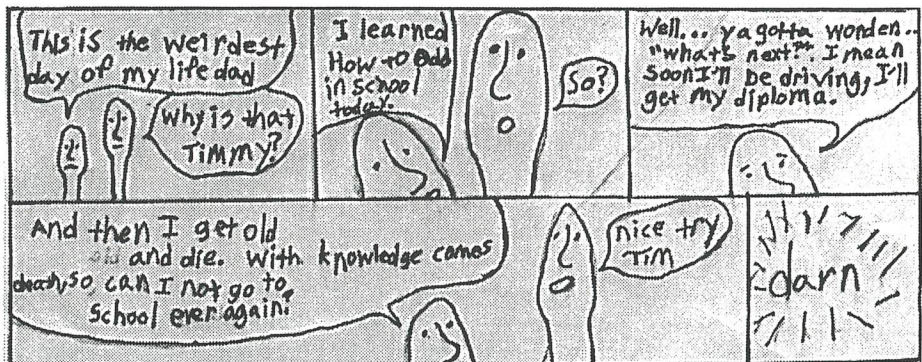
Now, the tables seem to have turned. It seems to me that now, SLCers with important tasks to do, namely validations, are being booted by the ELCers who surf the net, or play "educational games." Oh sure, they can use the excuse that they have a class, but if you ask me, it's one big conspiracy.

I think the ELC teachers and Susanne have secret meetings after school to figure out ways to take up as many hours of the day as possible through classes, special activities, etc. They are using a very classic method of control. They are exerting power in little steps. For you know, if you take lots of little steps, you meet far less resistance than if you take one big step. It's in this manner they do their dirty work.

Sure, maybe it's just their way of scheduling equal time for ELCers, or maybe it's a plot to take over the lab. Or maybe . . . maybe it won't stop there. Maybe they'll get greedy after their success with the lab and move on. In fact, you can already see the beginnings of the ELC control being exerted in the library. Is that their next target? Or is that just a small piece of a larger goal?

The second floor! And once they have the second floor, who's to stop them from sweeping down into the first floor? Sure the wood shop would pose a threat, but they already control a good portion of that floor. The office will most likely remain neutral. It would be an easy matter to siege the Shop until they run out of food. All that's left after that is the third floor. Though we could hold out for a little while, we'd have to utilize the stairs to get there. And guess who'd be controlling those. What I'm trying to say is we have to stop them now, before they have a foothold to start from. Don't let these warning signs go unnoticed! ♦

THE LUMPS by Lateef Heller



From the editor's desk:

The views expressed on this page are not necessarily those of *The Purple Press* or its staff. In fact, most of it is senseless raving and ranting and should be taken as nothing more. Thanks again for reading *The Purple Press*.

I Bade You Farewell

Part 2: A Vision

Rover McKlausi

Guest Novelist

Fearing his response to a negative answer, I foolishly accepted. At that very moment I felt as though I had made a mistake, a mistake which would cost lives. These thoughts ran along my spine causing an uncontrollable shiver. Before I could further wallow in my grief, he proceeded to alter the images in his twirling confines. The pictures changed frequently, people I had never gazed upon, and might never gaze upon again drifted onto the surface, then swirled away downwards like water after a drain has been relieved of its plug. It would have been displeasing enough to experience this eerie scene, the fact that they all appeared to be dead chilled my blood even further.

What crossed into the bowl next painted a horrid image which would never be fully persuaded to leave my memory. My wife's body lay sprawled across the linoleum surface which clad the kitchen floor, arms clasped tightly to her chest in a desperate

attempt of survival, cold dead face pressed to the cold hard floor. In the image, I stood over her, telephone in sweaty hand in a vain endeavor to summon the medics. My skin had grown stark cold from the sight, I clenched my eyelids tightly shut and clawed at my hair with sweat laden fingers.

"No!" I shouted. When I opened my eyes once again, Bade had left the dog's bowl, it was only a dream. None the less, it felt so real. My lower lip began to quiver slightly and a fog of tears filled my eyes as I dropped to my knees. A simple picture, real or not, had caused me to feel as if my wife had already died.

I refrained from informing my wife of her impending and ghastly demise until nearly a week after my initial encounter with Bade. For the entire week I did not once gaze into her deep blue eyes to search for the love of a being who would always be there. Each time I attempted to look, I was reminded of the image. She wouldn't always be there...

◇

DEAR ABBY continued from page 8

difference being that it's a conversation instead of writing. Also, your friend knows you, so they can read you better. They'll be more likely to know when you're telling them your problems for an excuse to talk about them, not so they'll get better, but to get somebody else to feel sorry for you. Yeah, I know, that's a pretty cynical way to look at it, but it's probably true.

Then there's the people who just read the advice columns everyday. Maybe they're playing the same little game I play. But I think that more often it's a slick little way of poking into other people's lives. It's easier to satisfy that nagging curiosity by spying on people who you don't know who are willing to publish their problems in the newspaper than it is to, say, listen in on your classmates' conversations.

Keep in mind that I never said I don't do all this asking for advice stuff myself. Actually, that's why I find it so intriguing. Each one of us does things we don't understand. So anyway, good luck in finding that much needed advice . . . I'm going to go read "Dear Abby." ◇

CHANGE continued from page 1

were required to attend, but it would have said that they care about where Open School is headed.

Poor attendance can't be blamed on lack of publicity, either. Lauren Beitler did the best she could to spread the word. The last issue of *The Purple Press* had a flyer about it.

Now it is painfully obvious that either the entire school is illiterate, or nobody gives a damn. It is difficult to find what is plagu-

ing the students of today if no one comes forward with the problems they are facing.

If you do not want to be involved in the changing process, at least help out by voicing your problems. This way, the people who will be doing the changes know what to change.

This brings me to my final point. Are these changes necessary? If not enough people care, and the people who do can't decide on what to change, maybe we should

Smooth Sailing on the Oz Set

Lucy Stark

Staff Reporter

The school's production of *The Wizard of Oz* had a few problems, but the overall performances were great. The play had great special effects and the acting was very good.

Emily Schultz, who played Toto, said the scenes the audience reacted to the most seemed to be the wicked witch scene in which the wicked witch seems to disappear after having a bucket of water thrown on her, the scene where Dorothy meets the Lion, Scarecrow and the Tin man, and the first Oz scene. Dara Sanders Dokas, drama teacher and director, agreed. "The audience really reacted to the wicked witch scene," she said.

I can see why. The wicked witch scene, along with the Oz scene had excellent special effects.

The smoke in those scenes was cool, and the eerie lighting added a nice touch. Everyone was surprised when the wicked witch melted on stage. She sort of crouched down under the red stool and crawled backstage.

All in all, I think those scenes were very memorable. The scenes seemed really polished, even after Dara's absence earlier in the year.

"I think it was really hard on the cast when I was gone," says Dara, "They could have gone two ways, fallen apart or bonded together. I think they bonded together." ◇



The cast following Saturday night's performance

stand still and wait to see where we'll be facing tomorrow. Get more people to care, and then find a new direction for Open. ◇