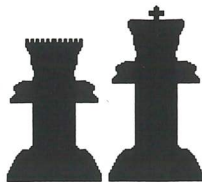


Reality Check!

Teol Knight
Staff Editorialist



It's kind of hard trying to look into the future if you can't see straight.

Well folks, there is a new year coming up, and to some of us that just means another day lost. Another day where the world turns with you dragging behind. But if you've got your right hand man, Mr. Mind Alter, as far as you can "see" that is "A" okay. But as far as everyone else can see, it's a waste of another life. Right now, at our age, drug abuse is more than just a bad habit. It's past the "Big Problem" stage. Brothers and sisters, it made the front page. Most of us were too high to notice that we'd been dragged to the starting line of life

and just dropped there. Dropped, instead of walking up to it, with a straight back and clear mind, with boxing gloves on, ready to take on whatever the world has to throw at us. So now the struggle is bigger than life, it's you against the world!

Don't you just want to kick yourself when you realize that drug use was a matter of choice? Or maybe a better question would be: does drug use concern you? Well... it definitely concerns you. So I guess what I'm really trying to ask is, are you the least bit worried? Or are you just so pissed off at this story that you have your defenses up and have more excuses than I have facts to debate this

topic.

Either way, the problem's still there, and excuses won't excuse the problem. As long as we breathe air and are of age, what happens now, and in the future, depends on us.

Reality check: whatever goes on in this world affects you and me and our families. Take a look around. Just this year an Open School student was accused of assisting in a murder. This is the same student who admitted on the 10 o'clock news last year that he used Robitussin daily, while he was in school. Also this

REALITY continued on page 5

Inside *The Purple Press* . . .

Interim - page 2

Senior Profiles:

Tuesdae Henel, Rachel Wilgren - page 3

Outward Bound - page 4

OM Update - page 4

We made a mistake! Check out the correction on page 2

Staff Profile: Tim - page 5

Gay/Lesbian Issues - page 7

World Go Boom? - page 9

Technical Nostalgia - page 10

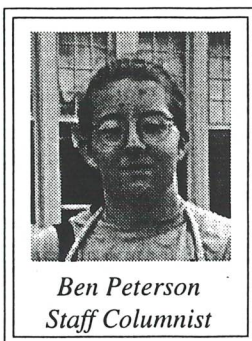
Hollo Passes . . . Barely - page 10

4-Square: A Legacy or a Lunacy?

The school is finally pulling together. After all the assemblies, the programs and the staff-mandated get-togethers, the K-12 community is finally forming a cohesive bond. To what do we owe this school togetherness? Is it the all-school assemblies? Is it SLC school service for ELC teachers? No. It's a bouncing rubber ball.

Yes, 4-square. You've seen it being played during ELC recess/SLC lunch. Maybe you've played it yourself. It is one of the few things where all students, K-12, have an equal chance of succeeding. Everyone can play, and everyone has the possibility to advance. Even if you don't make it to the King's Square, the top of 4-square's proverbial ladder, you feel a certain sense of joy and achievement

4-SQUARE continued on page 3



Ben Peterson
Staff Columnist



An active game of 4-square earlier this year

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Tom Greenly

Alan Slaughter

Betty Chang

Matt Haug

Art/ Photography

Cheryl Mishler

Selsa Castillo

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Correction

In last month's issue it was reported that Midge and Alyce get commissions for selling ala carte items. In actuality, the school district receives the profits. *The Purple Press* regrets the error and any inconveniences it may have caused.

—The Editors

News Briefs

Thought of the Month

Teol Knight

Staff Philosopher

One of life's biggest Questions has finally been solved!

Q. Is the glass half full or half empty?

A. 1. (In literal terms) The glass is only half full if that is the amount of liquid that has been poured into glass. This is the act of filling the glass. The glass is half empty only if you spill, drink or pour out half the liquid that had already been in the glass. This is an act of emptying the glass.

A. 2. (In analogy terms) In life, every thing is a choice and the saying "Is the glass half full, or is the glass half empty?" is an analogy to show how some people think positively and some people think negatively. My personal opinion on the whole thing is, we all start out with a full glass. How much we pour out is our choice. The amount we have left, whether it's almost empty or not as full is only a frame a mind, but you'll still have the same amount.

So, in a nut shell, what I'm really trying to say is whether it's half full or half empty really doesn't matter, because you still have the same amount. It's all about how you look at it. Appreciate what you have while you have it, keep your glass full. ☐

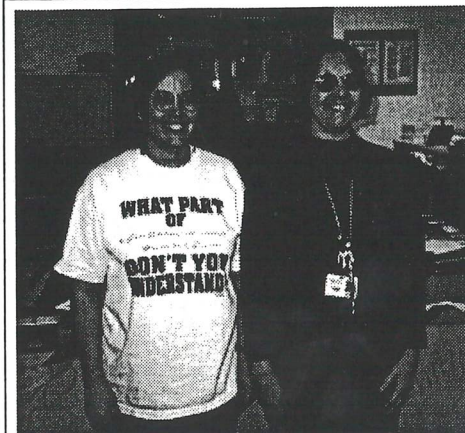
Interim's a Go!

John Grotenhuis

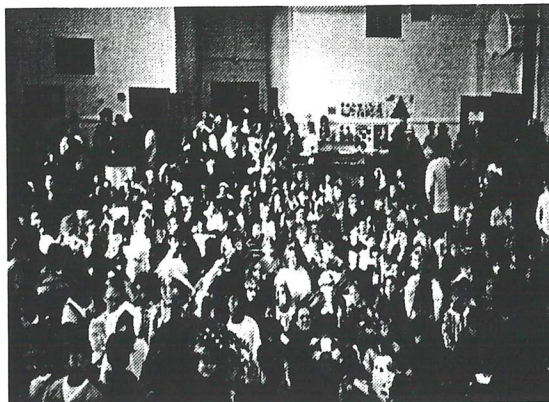
Staff Reporter

This year, due to student involvement, a two day interim will be held on December ninth and tenth.

Interim is designed to allow a long period of time to concentrate on a single subject or project. Last year there was not an interim due to an apparent lack of staff and student interest. After it was announced that an interim was not going to be held last year, a group of students started to meet with the goal of having interim this year. The group's efforts have worked. Years ago, interim was up to a week long, now people are happy to have two days. ☐



Connie and Elizabeth are now board certified, Congratulations!



The Winners of the Halloween Costume Contest were:

ELC 1st Place - Alex McCoy, TV
ELC 2nd Place - Sierra Blakely,
Black Widow Spider
SLC 1st Place - Jessica Haug,
Lamp
SLC 2nd Place - Jairus Abts,
"Nothing"
Staff - Eileen Keetley, Stella
Snodgrass

Open School

Discussion and Potluck

Dec 15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to a meeting to discuss:

- The direction we want Open School to go, and how to get it there. What do we want our school to be?

- ELC achievement, including parent involvement and the new Work Sampling System.

- ELC and SLC interaction.

The focus of this meeting will be on solutions, and we will also meet in small groups to discuss specific plans. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck. There will be a Hmong interpreter.

Please Come!

Senior Profile:

Tuesdae Henel & Rachel Wilgren

Matt Haug
Staff Reporter

What are your plans for after High School?

Tuesdae: I plan to go to College, then go to Hollywood.

Rachel: I plan to go to nursing school and become a pediatrics nurse.

How long have you been going to Open School?

T: I have been going here four years.

R: I have also been going here four years.

What is your best memory of High School?

T: All the people I meet and the things I've done.

R: All the good times I had with my friends.

What will you miss most about High School?

T: I will miss the dysfunctional family atmosphere.

R: I will miss the smallness.

What is one thing you would like to change about what you did?

T: I wish I had taken the first three years seriously.

R: Nothing.

If you could invite two famous people to dinner, who would they be?

T: I would invite Brad Pitt and Anne Sexton.

R: Johnny Depp and Foxy Brown (the one from the 70s).

What is the hardest validation you have ever done, Why?

T: Math, I don't want to say why.

R: Minority Culture, it took forever.

What classes did you enjoy most?

T: Writing, Theater and of course Hallway 101.

R: Spanish, Theater, Science and Art.

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? Why?

T: My friends have been the biggest influence. They kept me in line.

R: My mom has been the biggest influence, because she helped me out when I needed it.

Favorite foods?

T: I like sweet things.

R: I like white Chocolate. ❧

4-SQUARE continued from page 1

knowing that you had a chance to play.

Even if you don't play, you've probably watched the game. You've probably noticed the sense of camaraderie, the system of rules and unwritten conduct unanimously agreed upon by all who step into the line. Some of these unwritten rules include: "When you're out, you're out," and getting retribution for "cheap" play. Retribution is when three players gang up on the fourth player after he/she has been playing in an unsportsmanlike fashion.

You can also see some of the accepted leaders keeping control when things get a bit ugly. For example: situations where a dispute arises over the rules, or where someone gets angry about being "out," and proceeds to propel the ball the length of the playground. These leaders are comprised of the people who brought the current version of 4-square to the school. They include: Tom Greenly, Pat Zemke, and Lateef Heller, among others. Along with these founders are the people who have come forward as respected 4-square regulars and mediators: Hunter Sheldon, Jon Lubke, Maura Shramko, Ehren Stemme and a few others.

All of these people have added something to improve, alter, or just spice up the game. Pat added the set of rules that have been adopted as the standard for game play. These rules are a variant on the high velocity game. These rules carry a sense of fairness by avoiding the silly, "I'm not out yet because they kept playing it" excuse. The totally awesome looking serves, involving numerous forms of dance-like flowing showmanship, are courtesy of Tom. Also, cool ways of keeping the ball in play, mainly running backwards, spinning, and then hitting the ball behind your back or over your shoulder, can be credited to Hunter.

All in all, though, one must wonder, will this great thing last, or will it fade out when the founders have left? Will the ELCers continue Open School's best bonding activity when we're all gone? I think so. Something this great is destined to become a classic. ❧



Features

Outward Bound: The Inside Story

John Grotenhuis
Staff Reporter

Have you ever been around school and seen a sign or overheard a conversation about Outward Bound and wondered what it was about?

Outward Bound is a service adventure activity at Open School. In 1990, Jeanne Hall, then a social worker at Open School, went on a trip with Outward Bound. After arriving home, she suggested that Julie Doble contact them with the hope of finding opportunities for students to work with them. Julie called the Outward Bound headquarters in Ely and later that year Julie, Jeanne, and a group of students found themselves building dog houses, repairing tents, and having fun. Now, seven years later, Open School and Outward Bound have an established relationship.

The most exciting part of the program is going on trips outside of the city. But, Julie pointed out, "there is a great deal of work that needs to be done both before, during and after the actual trip." Outward Bound provides the room and board for the group once they get to an Outward Bound base camp, but students are responsible for raising the money for transportation. Students raise money by helping out with the taste test and the plant sale, which are both fund raisers specifically for Open School Outward Bound. Students also sell t-shirts, calendars, and rely heavily on generous donations made by the auction class.

Some of the trips that Julie has lead, besides building doghouses in Ely, include doing maintenance work on trails in Oregon, working in a Mexican village, washing backpacks in California, and white water canoeing in Texas.

"The next trip should be in February. We're hoping to go to Texas again, but we don't

know for sure. We're still trying to find the least expensive transportation," said Julie. Julie didn't have very many more details about the upcoming trip, except possibly that they may do some work in a Mexican village

Some of the big philosophies that Outward Bound operates around are to foster leadership and self-reliance through service, as well as encouraging students to do things beyond their comfort level. Examples of this are things like spending a long morning of washing trail backpacks and then in the afternoon going for a rock climbing expedition on a cliff, or after a few days of repairing rubber rafts, going for a three-day-long trip down raging rapids. The philosophies of fostering leadership through service and going beyond one's comfort level are carried over into Julie's community service class where students work with mentally and/or physically disadvantaged students at Bridgeview.

Outward Bound is a very rewarding group experience according to Julie. "One thing that is nice to be able to see is people who may not usually hang

OUTWARD BOUND continued on page 11



OM Update

James Trebesch
Staff Reporter

OM competitors just might have an extra incentive to preform this year. The winners of the state competition go to Disney World in Florida, from May 27th to May 30th.

OM teams trying to reach that goal started practicing earlier this year than in previous years. Last year, OM started just before the second trimester. Lots of "OMers" would have liked to have started earlier this year, but Greg Addams, who is coaching four OM teams, had too many things to do. "The reason that we wanted to start this early is that other schools started in August," Greg said. Asked how his teams would fare, he stated, "I think that we are going to do very good."

Thomas Greenly, an 11th grader, is on the Pageant Wagon, division 3 team. He, along with Lisa Grotenhuis, Andrew Chervenak, Ariel Slaughter, Pat Zemke, Lauren Beitler and Alan Slaughter, have to "design and construct a wagon and a tow vehicle. The tow vehicle has to be human-powered," according to Slaughter.

Last year one of Open School's OM teams had great success. They went all the way to the World competition in College Park, Maryland. Four of the state-champion team members are returning to OM again this year. Dorothy Henke-Haney, Teol Knight, Tara Wilken and Kate Dyson are all on the Morph, division 3 OM team, along with Neil Henke-Haney and Lee Moua. They have high hopes this year, just as all of the other teams do.

This year, the regional competition is being held March 7th at Harding High School in St. Paul. The state competition will be held on April 25th and will take place at Armstrong High School in Plymouth. □

REALITY continued from page 1

summer, my sister, 24 years old with 5 kids, was beaten to death by her crack-head husband. So yeah, the stuff that happens affects you and me, and drugs affect the way people behave. The sad part is, both of these incidents probably could have been prevented. I am not trying to criticize anyone, it's just a reality check before you lose.

Enough of opinion-based writing, let's get the facts: Here's a little Question/Answer I got off the internet (address). This study is supported by scientific research.

Q: Why do young people use Marijuana?

A: Curiosity and the desire to fit in. These are common reasons. Certainly youngsters who have already begun to smoke cigarettes and/or use alcohol are at high risk for marijuana use. Also the use of alcohol and drugs by other family members plays a strong role in whether children start using.

Hey, my own personal thought on that, "curiosity killed the cat."

Q: Does using marijuana lead to using other drugs?

A: Studies show that few young people use other illegal drugs without using marijuana first.

My thought on this, "if you want to quit a bad habit don't start one."

Q: Do Marijuana users lose their motivation?

A: Some frequent, long-term marijuana users show signs of a lack of motivation. Which is called amotivation syndrome. Their problems include not caring about what happens in their lives; no desire to work regularly; fatigue; and lack of concern for how they look. Most also seem to perform poorly in school.

It looks to me like the drugs will take you no where but down, if you are a frequent user.

This whole article is not about trying to make you quit or start. It's to help you look at the picture as a whole, so you can make a choice while you still can,

like I did.

Here are some quick facts also from the internet:

- Over 70 million Americans over the age of 12 have tried marijuana at least once.
- More than 5 million Americans smoke marijuana at least once a week and 10 million at least once a month.
- Among teenagers ages 12-17, the average age for first trying marijuana was 13.5 years old.
- By 10th grade, nearly 16 percent are users. Among 12th-graders, nearly 40 percent have tried marijuana/hash at least once, and 19 percent are current users.
- The peak time for drug use is during the teen years and early twenties.

So there you have it folks. Just the facts. If you don't believe me, believe those, because they're proof. If drugs are a priority in your life, I've got two words for you "check-mate!"

Staff Profile: Tim Leone-Getten

Betty Chang
Staff Reporter

What is your hometown?

Minneapolis. I moved to St. Paul about 5 years ago.

Where did you go to college?

Carleton College. It's in Northfield, MN.

What kind of things do you like to do? Hobbies?

I like cross-country skiing a lot. Biking, camping, reading, listening to music.

What did you do before you came to Open?

Teaching Spanish in a high school Mahtomedi, which is 15 miles northeast of here.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I really enjoy working with young people, kids to young adults. I feel like education is very important. Everyone needs education.

What made you decide to come to Open?

I was working in the suburbs and living in the city and I wanted to teach closer. I wanted to teach ESL because there isn't any ESL there. I want to work in the same community that I live in.

What are some of the ups and downs of being a teacher?

The ups are just being able to work with kids. It's really great, fun, very energetic. It's never a boring job. One of the downs is sometimes it gets a little crazy. Overall, I really like my job a lot.

Who has influenced your life?

My grandpa, he was a teacher for a long time. He was a really big influence for me because he worked for 41 years and always had a good attitude about it.

What do you get out of being a teacher?

I learn a lot from my students, especially being in ESL and being able to work with people from other countries and other cultures. It is a very rewarding and fun job.

What is the best thing about being at Open School?

I enjoy the students and I like the way the system is. The students have a lot of input in what they do. I feel like I fit in here. More freedom as a teacher and a student. ■

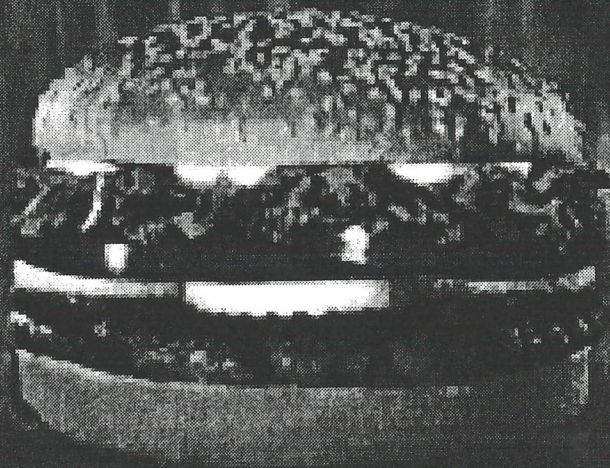




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Employment Opportunities



Editorials

Gay/Lesbian Issues: Not Very Funny

Why is it that so many people still think being gay or lesbian is a bad thing? I admit, in 4th grade my friends and I used to walk around asking people if they were "lesbos," giggling senselessly at the results. A teacher eventually took us aside, and told us we shouldn't do stuff like that, but not because it was wrong to use someone's sexuality as a derogatory term, but because little kids should not be exposed to stuff like that.

It wasn't until last year, when Ellen DeGeneres and her character on the sitcom *Ellen* 'came out' that I became aware of this extremely important issue. Because of *Ellen*, I began to seek out information. When I found out the state legislature was considering trying to ban gay and lesbian marriages, I decided to do a report on it for one of my classes, which heightened my knowledge even further.

Now, I could be mistaken, but from what I soaked up from reading many articles on the matter, the reason the state wanted to ban gay and lesbian marriage was because it was unethical. Unethical according to what? The Bible. Forgive me if I seem a bit presumptuous, but could it be that the state of Minnesota, and the entire country for that matter, is not officially Christian, or any other religion? And, forgive me once again if I am jumping to conclusions, but isn't the Bible a religious book? So, wait, what does that mean? It means that America cannot be ruled ethically by one religion because America is a country of many religions. It seems to me that the government's decision was misguided.

I guess what this whole column is trying to illustrate is that this is the 90s, and we should be more understanding and tolerant of people who we don't understand, or are different. We have to be more respectful of other people's differences, whether they be differences in opinion, religion, or sexuality. The real cause for this kind of problem is that people are not kept informed of important events and situations happening around them. As it happens, 99.9% of all events related in any way, shape or form, to this attempted ban of gay and lesbian marriage happens because not everyone was kept informed. The only way we can stop stupid, prejudicial things like this from happening in the future is to make sure everyone is kept aware and allowed to form their own opinions. ☐



Maura Shramko
Staff Columnist

Hey, We Could Be Sibley

Once or twice a week, it's guaranteed that, in the halls of Open School, you'll hear the cries.

"We're broke!", "Where's the money?", "Do I have to do another fund raiser?" Cries that denote the poor financial state of our school. Now, you may be thinking I'm going to say you're all wusses for whining so much, but I'm not.

The financial state of Open School is wretched. The building is in disrepair, and it's almost necessary to steal from other schools to get supplies. I fully support more money for Open School.

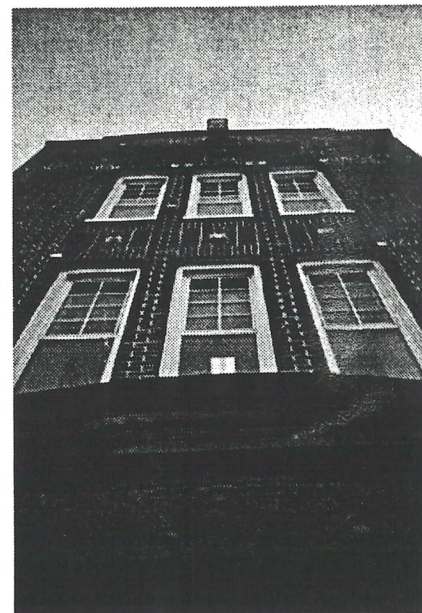
On the other hand, if you'll take note of which schools have the money to pay for massive buildings with carpeted floors, cafeterias with built-in restaurants, and fine, comfy office chairs to sit on, you'll notice these are all preppie, suburban schools.

Despite the lavish, comfortable setting, the absolute last place I'd want to be educated is a place where classic high school stereotypes are being fulfilled left and right. I despise the thought of "learning" amongst societal drones, where social status means everything, (despite the fact that it's absolutely ludicrous). Picture a world full of self-indulgent delusion, where success is merely a popularity contest, and academic perfection is viewed as the captain of the football team. I couldn't stand an environment where the most open-minded, independent person, is a conformist.

So, is it possible to find some middle ground? A preppie building without being a preppie school? Unfortunately, there's not a chance in hell that we'd get a better place without giving up our curricular and social ideals. Preppiness and comfy chairs go hand in hand. So, we might as well go with what we got. Hey, we could be Sibley. ☐



Wolfman
Staff Columnist



Video Pic of the Month

Wolfman
Staff Critic

Seen any senseless movies lately? I have. I saw a pointless Dutch flick called *Turkish Delight*. This wretched film has nothing more to offer than excessive perverseness and vulgarity. For someone who has seen his fair share of French films, the amount of blatant nudity is simply horrid.

The plot is a morbid take on a classic romance: Boy meets girl. Boy and girl break up. Boy and girl get back together. Girl gets brain tumor and dies. There are nearly a dozen scenes and subplots that are utterly without purpose and should have been cut out. That would leave us with a film approximately 45 minutes long, which is how long it took for me to want to kill myself for even thinking of renting this movie.

The cinematography was beyond terrible, with "creative" lighting techniques. All that meant was you couldn't see any of the characters. In addition, the editing was almost nonexistent, which showed in the jagged breaks between clips. The acting was mediocre at best, and I'm forced to believe it's just the fault of a poor casting director, and not simply due to a lack of quality Dutch actors. The one and only upside to this film is the dubbing. It is honestly the best dubbing job I have ever seen in my life. Unfortunately, that doesn't even come close to making up for the other aspects of this wretched film. ❧

In a Nutshell

What - Turkish Delight

Genre - Foreign/Romance

MPAA Rating - R

Wolfman Rating - 1/2 * of 5 stars

Watch for

DEDICATIONS

Coming soon!

**Drop off your dedications
in Leo's room (311).**

I Bade You Farewell

Rover McKlauski

Editor's Note: This is the first installment in a series of parts of a fiction story. The author is an Open School student who prefers to remain anonymous.

Part 1: The Offer

Of the concluding exploits with my late wife and the events thereafter I can speak only with mounting horror. This is not entirely due to her untimely passing, credit must also be given to my recent visions, strange encounters and the ignorant persons whom I have vainly attempted to assist.

Bade was his name, my frequent visitor who offered a minute perspective into the happenings which had not yet taken place. At first I was unable to act upon what I had learned from Bade. Lately I have made grand efforts to stop his prophecies from becoming reality. During the first few months of my acquaintance with Bade, he appeared exclusively in a very odd place for a entity of his power and knowledge: my old dog's rusted metal dish.

The first meeting I had with Bade was surely the most frightening, he showed me various images much too horrid and macabre for my mortal mind to conceive. His deep and intimidating voice beckoned to my unbelieving ears from the dog's dish. His face fell upon me, darkening the room's atmosphere like a dark cloud rushing in front of a full moon on a dreary October night. Dread crept in upon me, gnawing at the marrow in my bones, leaving them hollow until I felt as if I would collapse. I regained my composure and reassured myself that the strange voice was only a figment of my own warped imagination. It came again, filling me not with dread and fear as it had before, but with anger. I scrambled relentlessly around the kitchen, throwing pots and pans from their cupboards, knives and forks from their drawers, savagely trying to find my unseen conjurer.

Pausing momentarily from my hunt, I took note of the ghastly swirling and putrid stench which were emitted from my dog's bowl. All I could do was gaze, my mind boiling over with curiosity. The seemingly infinite depths mesmerized me, but also injected a strange sense of misplacement. It should be here, I should not be here, leave now because something is not right. Just as I had convinced myself to turn around and run, Bade called once again through his dark, infernal channelling, sending a flurry of goosebumps through my flesh. He commanded me to peer into the twirling descent into vague nothingness. I remember his chilling introduction as clearly as the dreadful day which I became acquainted with him.

"I am Bade, son to none and father to all." This became his opening line of low pitched dialogue which he bellowed each time he came to me. The bass in his voice rumbled through me, humbling me like a timid puppy. "I bring a gift for those daring and brave enough to accept further vision, vision not restricted by the three dimensions of your feeble plane, but into the further realms of time and space, the fourth dimension. A blessing to some, a curse to others. Do you accept my generous offering?" ❧

Who is Rover McKlauski?

**Drop off your guesses in Leo's room (311).
The winner gets lethal injection!!! Not too
shabby!**

**(If you don't want lethal injection, you may opt for the
*Editor's Choice: Being beaten with cooked spaghetti
while Duct-Taped to the ceiling.*)**

**** The Editors are not responsible for any injuries incurred in the
contest.**

World Go Boom?

"The mid 1990's was the era of your last so called world war." Uh... thanks for the update Spock, but I haven't noticed any huge wars. I guess I've been a little more out of it than usual lately.

In the original Star Trek series episode "Space Seed" Spock mentions that and many other disturbing (or maybe just amusing) "facts" like how "whole populations were being bombed out of existence." Dang, sounds like the end of the world . . . again. As the end of the millennium draws closer, people have been predicting it so often that I bet a lot of people are starting to think it'll never actually happen. That's the way I feel, anyway, but I don't think I ever really believed it was going to happen.

Especially since most of the people who keep predicting the end of the world are crazy cult leaders or Nostradamus. At least the ones you always hear about are the crazy cult leaders or Nostradamus. And no, you don't get any examples of the crazy cult leaders' thoughts on the world, because every crazy cult leader has predicted the end of the world at some time or another.

Maybe Nostradamus was crazy too, though. In my opinion, he probably was. Some of his predictions, especially the way they're written, make him sound a little wacko. For example, he said something about world-wide famine and New York blowing up... sometime in the 90's. He set the starting date for world war 3 at least three times, all in the past few years. Hmm.

With all of these false doomsday predictions, you'd think people would start believing his year 2000 thing a little less. But, people say that a bunch of his predictions came true, all the stuff he said about world war 2. Really, though, most of the stuff he wrote could be interpreted to mean anything from a really bad thunderstorm to the Beanie Babies' plan for world domination and enslavement of the human race.

I guess it's because people see him as a mystical prophet sort of guy that they immediately dismiss the idea that he might have been a rambling madman with some morbid ideas. I'm not saying he was, just that something about him seems a little off.

But I think there could be some big disasters in 2000, just for a different reason. My theory is that since everybody's going to be so freaked out on New Year's Eve, that maybe somebody will go insane and decide to build a huge bomb and blow up large portions of the Earth. Now that wouldn't necessarily



Aimee Gervais
Staff Columnist

mean Nostradamus was right, because if he had never made that prediction, people never would have gotten so jittery and never would have thought of such a thing in the first place. So, if the world ends in 2000, it's all Nostradamus' fault.

Well, anyway, I'm getting a little sick of this time period. I think I'll just have somebody put me in suspended animation, stick me in a starship, and launch me into space. I'll wake up in a few hundred years or so, and everything will be great. They've been doing that since the early 90s, you know. At least that's what they said on Star Trek.

It's pretty funny how technologically advanced people thought we'd be by now. Maybe we should feel a little behind. People thought we'd be launching starships for interplanetary travel on a regular basis, and we've got . . . well . . . bits of a malfunctioning space station. They thought we'd be way into genetic engineering people, and we're experimenting with cloning headless animals.

So which is it? Are we behind, or were everybody's expectations too high? Personally, I think it's the latter. We haven't exactly been lazy.

But, for those of you who are sick of this pesky little world war 3 and such, feel free to try the suspended animation.

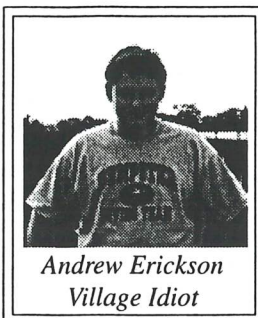
**From the editor's
desk:
We, the staff of *The
Purple Press* wish all
students and staff a
great Thanksgiving
vacation.**

Technical Nostalgia

What ever happened to the good ol' days when you had 15 or 16 choices when it came to computers, and didn't have to worry about stuff like, "Will I be working on a P.C. or a Mac?" or how about, "What kind of media do they use?"

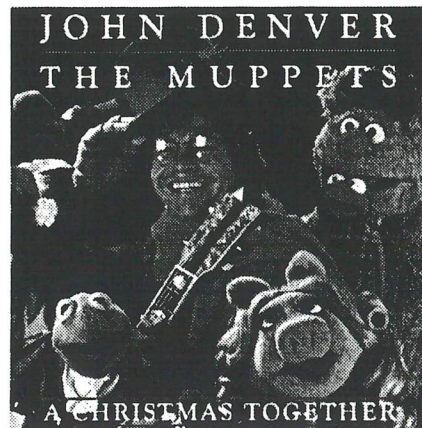
Come on! There are now well over FIFTY kinds of disks and disk drives on the market including the well known Zip Drive and the almost extinct Magneto-Optical drives. A few years ago sharing data wasn't even an issue, now it seems like people just want the latest and greatest and forget cheap and dependable stuff like floppies and portable hard drives.

Now don't get me wrong, I think the progression of technology is great, but expanding it so quickly that we don't get a chance to learn it can be dangerous and stupid. It seems every month we come out with three new and better computer stuff and two dozen spin-offs. What ever happened to the great 486? it now seems everyone has at least a Pentium 200 and a giant 8.0 gigabyte hard drive. Hell, the only thing they're good for is playing big expensive video games and telling other gimps how



Andrew Erickson
Village Idiot

much it set daddy back! I think we should just slow down and use what we've got. Call me a Luddite if you want to but I'm going to go play Donkey Kong on my twelve-year-old Nintendo.



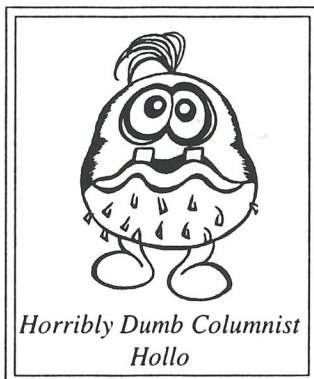
This issue of *The Purple Press* is produced in loving memory of John Denver.
May he rest in peace.

I'm Gonna Pass!

Something went wrong. I tried to do something about it, but nothing seemed to really help. I attempted to write an article for the paper, but it flopped, I tried again, and it also flopped. A third one was written that showed more promise, but alas, it also failed. So, I am attempting again, to write an article. Let's see what happens.

Once there was this boy. He tried and tried to write things for a newspaper, but everything he attempted fell through the cracks in the floor and dripped on the head of a tenant in the room below. This may sound like a story, but, well, that's not what I'm writing. I need to write a column. I need to write one fast. But what to write about? I wish I knew. How about stupid drivers? Naw. How about how much the computer lab is going to die within the next year? Nope. Maybe something about the general mindset of kids in SDL? Forget all that noise. None of those offer me any interest or thrill to write. I need something with pizzazz, something thrilling and adventurous. Oh, who am I kidding? I can't think of any topics like that. So let's just ramble on about nothing for the rest of this column.

I don't like going outside and waiting for the bus in the winter. Sometimes the summer is just too dang hot. Once in a while things just don't go the way that you planned them to. If you really love her, set her free. If she comes back, set her on fire. Without glue everything falls apart, without glue it's not as much fun to pick up the pieces. Mary has two dogs, if she sells three of them, how many fake dogs did she have to make out of



Horribly Dumb Columnist
Hollo

paper mache to make the deal go down? Why is pancake batter all gooey? Someone once said, it's better to be pissed off than to be pissed on, but I figure, what harm is a little urine, if yer really happy. A wise man once said, he who drives a stick shift, is good at math. Call me Ishmael. Just a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down. Juke Joint Jezebel coming for my cremation. Spooky monkey. Dude, this rules. Cowabunga. Groovy Groovy Groovy Gro Groo Groov Groovy Groovy. The Good King Leo is a big purple woodchuck with sharp pointy teeth! Purple. Ungowa. Ya know what they say about men with big fingers, they have big nostrils. Why did the baby cross the road? Cause he was stapled to the chicken. Question your own reality before it questions you. The monkeys fly at night. Where is the bathroom? And you will reply, my camel has diabetes, shut up. And it booms as cool as sugar-free jazz. Schools he bombs he bombs. Senior, Super Senior, Super-Duper Senior, Super-De-Duper Senior, Super-De-Duperly Fantastic Senior. Some people like pastries, but I like muffins, you thought you were a man but you were a muffin. And everything was colored with this nice tint of green, kinda like everything being colored in with neon markers. It's not the orange business hanging across the >bigedy-blank< business. Amaze your friends, be the envy of all your colleagues, buy snake oil! Only \$105.95 a bottle. Thank you sir may I have another? The castle of ahhhhh...And don't come back or I will be forced to taunt you a second time. Excuse you, excuse yourself. Hey Brad-dog, what up Bigedy-Bigedy-Blake? Squeak, and when did you notice you were a mouse, well I was at this party and one of the guys brought out some cheese, and...

Well I've rambled on long enough. Thank you for your time. And guess what! I passed this class. ☐

The New Slave Rebellion: College!

Alan Slaughter
Staff Editorialist

At one time or another we have all been slaves to something, whether it be drugs, alcohol, Robitussin or even sex, but in this day and age many of us tend to overlook slavery of economics.

Economic slavery allows any elite business owner to control their workers through their paychecks, and at the same time, increase their own yearly wages. Economic slavery is tricky to spot though, for most people think it's a thing of the past. So, in this high-tech time when many companies show at least some net profit increases; the company CEOs are in turn using the money to ensure their own financial welfare instead of putting the money back into the workers, or even the company. Now, although this is not true of all businesses, it is becoming an all-too-common trend in American modern economics.

This is not the only problem that people find in companies, though. You see, companies nowadays hire people

straight out of high school and then train them to do the same job that may have required a college degree. This way they can pay them considerably less. What you may not know is the reason for this. In the time that it takes a person to finish a four year degree, the company could have had the person that they trained working and making money for them for three or more years. Now, the question becomes, what would be the point in going to college then? Well, the tasks that are normally given to the people the company trained are extremely limited and they are not expected to solve problems that may arise, not to mention that they normally don't get advancement opportunities and thus in the long run do not cost the company very much money.

Companies also usually end up having to hire a college graduate to supervise the employees without college degrees. Those who do have degrees and become supervisors are expected to do

sixty-hour weeks without overtime pay (they are expected to do it). It then becomes that the companies take advantage of people without college degrees as well as those who do have degrees.

The problem, although large it is easily solved: GO TO COLLEGE, ANYWAY! With the development and training accumulated through your college career, you will be able to advance much more quickly, assuming you get a job. Through the training, you will be able to make better decisions, be able to take the initiative and maybe one day even create your own company.

The possibilities are limitless for those who take the time to evaluate, gather information and implement plans. These three things will allow you to reach for anything you hope to attain. In other words, to summarize all this, with a degree you will have a better chance to escape job and economic hell. ☐

VAN MORRISON

Days Like This

1995, Polydor 31452 7307 2

Many words have been used to describe Van Morrison. Blues master. Rock songster. Lusty baritone. These are the words that I use to describe **Days Like This**. Bad. Bad. Bad. In other words, this album has more low points than Lake Minnetonka.

There are a couple of good songs on this CD (after all this is Van Morrison we're talking about) but they are overshadowed by the overall chaos that reigns in the dugout from the other tunes. "Melancholia," a very good example of what I'm talking about, repeats itself so often you will not ever want to hear the word melancholia (if it's really a word) again. On the other hand, there are the good songs, like the title track and "Perfect Fit" that demonstrate the horns and lyrics that are the trademark of Morrison.

Overall, this disc was a mediocre recording and was pretty disappointing for a blues-rock fan like myself, but Van Morrison has staying power and this album is hardly a crushing defeat.

In A Nutshell

What: Van Morrison **Days Like This**

Category: Blues/Rock

Should you buy it? If it's priced below \$10.

Rating: **1/2 of 5 stars

VAN MORRISON | DAYS LIKE THIS

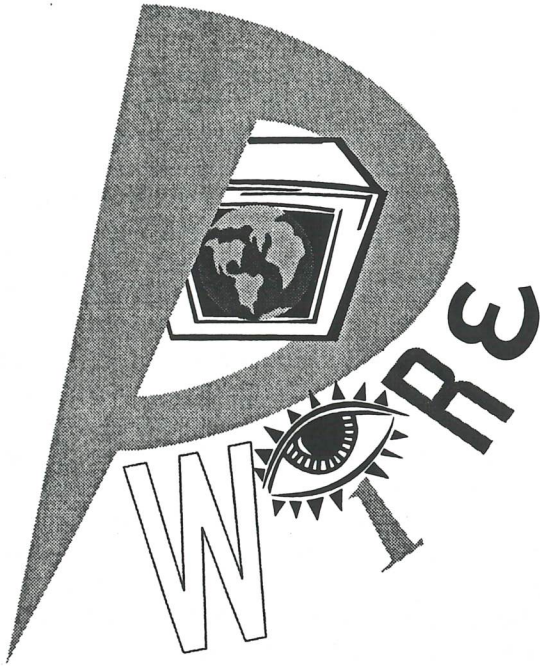


Days Like This . . . the kind of album that makes my bowels clench.

OUTWARD BOUND from page 4

out together, working together for a common goal, and since we rely on each other for food, water and shelter, the bond between group members strengthens more quickly," remarked Julie. Outward Bound alumna also seemed to have similar feelings. "It was challenging, but a lot of fun" commented Leah O'Neil, who went on the Outward Bound trip to Ely last year. "It was fun spending time with people I normally don't get a chance to," added Gracia O'Neil, who went on the same trip, as well as other trips in the past.

If you are interested in participating in Outward Bound, then you should sign up to participate in many of the fund raising activities listed above, and express your interest to Julie to find out how you can get involved. ☐



Want to see your name in lights?
Want to show your work to the world?
Submit your stories, art and photos to
the Pioneer Wire!

(Well, your name won't really be in lights...)

What's the Pioneer Wire?

The Pioneer Wire is a project for high school students coordinated by the Pioneers in education department of the Pioneer Press. It will use all submitted stories to create a wire service, and use the best stories in an online publication.

What's a wire service?

A wire service is a collection of up-to-the-minute stories that are sent to newsrooms across the country. A wire service that you may be familiar with is the Associated Press. While the Pioneer Wire will not go across the country, it will be available to students across St. Paul and eventually the metro area and the state.

How do I submit my work?

Your school currently has two Pioneer Wire representatives: Ehren Stemme and Terry Schanno. Give your work to them. They will submit your stories to the Pioneer Wire bureau. After your story has been submitted, it will be reviewed by the Pioneer Wire bureau. If the bureau would like to publish your story, they will pass it on to be edited by a professional journalist or writer. The professional will give you feedback to make your story better. The story will then be published on the Pioneer Wire.

Can I be in a Pioneer Wire bureau?

After winter break, a bureau will be formed at the Open School. All students are encouraged to participate. You will get more information on this in December.

Where will the stories be published?

On www.pioneerwire.com.

How can I get more information?

Contact Amy Caron at the Pioneer Press.

acaron@pioneerpress.com

(612) 228-5144

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