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Open School Heads To Worlds

Xe Moua, Staff Reporter

Fans, family members and OM competitors piled into Armstrong High School on Saturday, April 12th, to battle for spots in the coming World Tournament. Open School's Omerdroid team took first place and earned the right to compete at the World Finals on June 4th-7th. Omerdroid team members include: Dorothy Henke-Haney, David LaCombe, Walter Jones, Teol Knight, Tara Wilken and Kate Dyson.

"I knew that we had enough potential and the mind set to win," said Knight. "When I found out that we did, I was happy but not at all surprised."

The tournament will be held at the University of Maryland and an estimated 7,000 other teams from around the world will be competing.

The atmosphere at the State competition was intense. Before each competition started, the doors were closed to avoid any kind of disturbance. Pagers,

cellular phones or any noise-making devices were not allowed.

Each team's performance was limited to eight minutes. All of the 150 teams competing were champions at the Regional Tournaments, which were held throughout the state in early March. ELC OM coach Fawn Tran



said, "Teamwork is the key." This was her first year coaching and she said she was impressed by how much effort the students put in.

Most students interviewed agreed that "teamwork" is the key. Teams practiced two to three times times after school each week. For some, it was even more. A majority of teams started

practicing in November. The State tournament began at 7 a.m and ended with the award ceremony at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium, where the coaches received the results.

As Open School's Omerdroid team received their medal, there was a sound of loud applause from friends of Open School. "We were all happy with the results from the tournament, we should be proud of what our team members have accomplished," coach Greg Adams said afterwards. At the state tournament there were five

teams from Open School: The Omerdroid team, Double Trouble II, Double Trouble III, Balloonacy Cars III, and Classics "Can You Dig It III?" The Omerdroid team did a skit about a mayor who didn't allow any smiling. At the end, her sister convinced her that smiling was something great. The

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News Briefs

Summer School

Mary Moua, Staff Reporter

Summer school classes begin on June 16. The purpose for most Open School students is to catch up on the validations that they couldn't complete during school year. "The summer school courses run for seven weeks, four hours per day, and four days per week," Ev Myers said.

This year summer school is held at: Harding High, Arlington High, and at Open. "Validation work is independent work and it's really fun," Lenni

Augustine said. The computer room, library and a class room will be open. Open School is different from other summer sessions because Open School focuses on validations rather than credits.

The teachers working at summer school this year are: Jennifer Greer: Social Studies and Spanish, Connye LaCombe: Math, Robin Stryker: English, and Jenny Eiesle: Current Issues.

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Omerddroid played the part of the mayor. The Double Trouble III skit was about an untrained actor who takes the place of an actor and fouls up the show. The Balloonacy Cars team did a performance explaining how the sun and moon invented the game of "tag." The Classics, "Can You Dig It?" did a performance based on carrot and onion gods set in the distant past. All these skits received loud applause from Open School friends and family, who gave them plenty of support.

"I was nervous that Gregolina (the Omerddroid) wouldn't work, but I was confident that for once, things would go our way, maybe," Dyson said.

The results from the State tournament are:

Omerddroid III - 1st

Double Trouble III - 4th

Balloonacy Cars III - 5th

Classics "Can You Dig It?" III

- 6th

Double Trouble II-6th

Prom Report

Nina Kimmons, Staff Reporter

Ninety people gathered at the Como Lakeside pavilion for the 1997 OpenSchool Prom on Friday April 25. The Prom started at eight and ended at eleven. Music was provided by "The Scene."

Lenni Augustine, who has attended Open School proms for 25 years, said, "This was the second largest Prom in Open's history."

In addition to the 90 people who attended, there were six chaperones. Jennifer Greer, one of the chaperones, said, "I thought it was a good experience because people got to dress the way they chose to." For those who were wondering, Ruth and Jennifer did

plan to wear the same dress. Leo Bickelhaupt said, "I liked the chips and salsa and the vegetable dip was good too."

Teya Grangler complained about the photographer, and added, "The music was good, but I wish they would have played more slow songs." Katteri Huitt agreed. "I thought the photographer did a rushed job. I had a great time though," she said.

For those who didn't attend this year, there's always next year. "The Scene" said they liked our school and that they would like to come back and provide music for the Open School Welcome Back dance in the fall.

Critic's Corner

Del Amitri Ehren Stemme Staff Reporter

Twisted
1995, A&M CD-0311

It's the typical story of the aspiring British band: make a couple records for a small, independent label, tour for a while, get airplay on college radio, and maybe make a few bucks while doing it.

This would fit the profile of Del Amitri perfectly, except they're from Scotland, and they've been around the block. From the release of their 1985 debut album, *Del Amitri* (Chrysalis Records), Del Amitri has been trying to establish itself as a big-time group. Here, on *Twisted*, they make their major-label debut and demonstrate the raw talent that they possess. It starts out in typical Dels style, with the in-your-face electric guitars and poetic lyrics, but then takes a drastic turn, exposing eight wonderfully written acoustic songs. The single "Tell Her This" starts off this surprising set. The set continues with "Roll to Me" and finishes off with a moving "Driving With The Brakes On."

Del Amitri made a great effort on this album. It will undoubtedly make its impression on the pop circuit, but for now they will have to remain A&M's best-kept secret.

In A Nutshell

What: Del Amitri *Twisted*

Category: Pop/soft rock

Should you buy it? Go ahead, if you can find it. It's been flying off the racks lately.

Rating: **** of 5 stars

Entries from a Hot Pink Notebook

Jairus Abts
Staff Reporter

"It's so weird that people who wouldn't dream of saying 'nigger,' 'chink,' or 'wop,' scream 'Faggot!' like it's going out of style. They just don't get it." One of the very good points made in Todd D. Brown's debut novel, *Entries From a Hot Pink Notebook*.

I chose to review this book because I feel that it deals with a wide range of views, points, and issues that many adolescents deal with today, and it's a great book.

Entries From a Hot Pink Notebook is about a gay boy named Ben Smith who is just starting his freshman year in a new township and a new school. His school year begins when he runs to the General Store to pick up a notebook to use for spit wads. When he finds one hot pink notebook left, wanting to avoid ridicule, he keeps it at home and uses it for a journal.

Ben lives in a very dysfunctional family. He has an abusive alcoholic father, a mother who is co-dependent with the father, and a Christian fanatic grandmother who has moved into Ben's room to help his mother kick out her husband. This forces Ben to room with his dimwit jock brother.

This book chronicles everything that happens to Ben. The author does this by making him have a fairly humorous outlook on life. But underlying this happiness is his confusion with his sexuality and his struggle over whether or not to come out to his best friend Mag.

One of the best things about this book is that the author uses realistic situations and he writes in such a way that Ben seems very real and alive.

Todd Brown seems like he can identify with teens, thus sounding realistic. Brown brings you so into the book that you experience everything that Ben does and put yourself in his shoes.

The author adds very poignant instances, such as when Ben explains why he doesn't like girls. "What turns me off about women is their softness. You can't touch a single part of their bodies without squishing something. . . I like hardness."

He also adds some very depressing things that are happening around Ben, which make him want to be closeted. For instance, an old friend, Dion Hatch, is (thought to be) gay when a rumor gets spread. "The following Sunday, Dion Hatch shot himself with his father's hand gun. Dion's mistake was that he advertised himself. There's a big difference between being gay and having people think you're a fag. This notebook's gonna stay carefully hidden."

Ben soon falls in love with his English/Phys. Ed. teacher, Miles Mariner. In this book it seems like Ben is going through hell, being put through one bad experience after another, Miles' marriage to a beautiful woman, one friend finding out about his sexuality, his grandmother condemning everything Ben does and his father coming in and out of the picture are just a few examples.

Todd D. Brown illustrates all of Ben's feelings very well. Ben explains what his hormones are doing, why he doesn't seem to get an erection in the shower room with all the other boys ("I learn to turn it off. I pretend I'm taking a shower with a bunch of ugly statues."). He relates what Ben's

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Teen Pregnancy

Gail Yang and Alesha Ostrow, Staff Reporters

Many teens today are pregnant or know a pregnant teen. Some of these pregnancies are planned, but many are unwanted. Pregnancy is one possible consequence of having unprotected sex. Other possible consequences include contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

These are some facts you may find interesting about teenage pregnancy:

~ 7,628 pregnancies were reported among teens 19 and younger in 1992.

~ More than one million girls become pregnant each year, half of which result in birth.

~In about 75% of teen pregnancies, the father was 18 or older.

~1,619 (59.6%) of teenagers obtaining abortions reported a lack of use of any method of contraception.

~One out of nine 12 year olds has had sex.

The Purple Press interviewed a variety of people to get their opinions on this important issue. Most students interviewed said that teens shouldn't get pregnant "It (pregnancy) should wait," said sophomore Dorothy Hanke-Haney.

"Wait until you're older,"

agreed Angela Ostrow.

"Wait until you're married!" said Angila Rua Torres.

"There's a whole lot of it, immature people who have unprotected sex!" said Tuesdae Henel and Sadye Donahoe. None of the people interviewed said they would get pregnant as a teen. "Never, never!" said Henel.

Other students were more accepting. "If you're ready to have a kid, then go for it, otherwise, wait," said Tonya Jaworski.

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anatomy does every time Miles touches him, and what it feels like when he gets his first real boyfriend.

This book realistically explains a lot of what the normal teenage queer is going through. The writing is so down to earth and easy to read that it makes you want to hear more about Ben's life.

From the silent cries for help, to the loud screaming of happiness; from the hot and steamy kissing in the supply closet, to the hot lustful sex; from the ridicule and pain of growing up gay, to the joy and happiness of self-acceptance, this book definitely brings you along on a journey.

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ter, was filled with young women who looked tired, cranky and malnourished. They weren't interested in learning; they just wanted a good grade and eight hours of sleep. I can't say I blame them, our professor cared less about the class than we did. She gave out assignments that define busy work. In one assignment we were supposed to give our political ideologies.

In my ideology I was a benevolent dictator to the world and people like Steven M. Delue, the man who wrote our text book, and Richard Gere would be sent to live in colonies on Mars. She responded by saying that she loved Richard Gere's movie *Mr. Jones*. To this day I remain speechless. My classmates' ideologies went something like this.

"In my political ideology there would be peace, justice and. . . . liberty."

Are you getting goosebumps yet? These truly

profound and creative words proved to the professor that these young women were indeed our future politicians. Meanwhile I was given a frown for not taking our assignment seriously. Little did she know I was already designing a holding cell for her on Mars. With Spikes.

Next month I'll be taking the ACT and the SAT. Unlike my former tests I'm actually going to read the questions. However, that doesn't mean I'm going to get facial ticks trying to remember quadratic equations. I've already decided that nothing in the "real world" is worth that.

Academentia

Shannon Scott, Staff Columnist

I just finished watching the Simmons college promotional video. Students interned at local hospitals and mixed chemicals in their lab facilities as the Pulp Fiction sound track blared in the background. While taking the blood pressure of an elderly man with diabetes it was "Bustin' surf boards," and during the dissection of a human heart it was "Surf rider." This lame attempt at appealing to my generation did not go unappreciated. Thanks to that groovy sound track, my parents are now willing to fork out twenty grand a year for an education at Simmons. I don't know who to thank first, their office of admissions or Quentin Tarantino.

After a year of post secondary at the College of St. Catherine I have a hard time believing that one college is different or better than another. They are all the same, boring and expensive. This is the first year of my life I have been bored to tears.

During a lecture on Marxist, fascist, socialist with communist, imperialist tendencies tears streamed down my face and I had to be excused from the class. When I got to the bathroom to blow my nose on some toilet paper I began sobbing harder. For \$17,000 a year you think they could at least afford Charmins quilted toilet paper or charge an extra \$4,000 on tuition and buy some damn Kleenex. If I was paying \$17,000 a year I'd expect someone to blow my nose for me.

This is also the first year of my life I got more mail than my parents. Caring colleges from all over the country are genuinely concerned that I get the best education possible in order to prepare for my career in the "real world." As opposed to the unreal world where I live now. It disturbs me to think that my life begins at 18 and everything before that was just a practice run.

I have a drawer in my closet overflowing with college

information. I have reached the point where I throw away any mail with the words 'History of Academic Excellence' printed on it. That usually eliminates most of it. What really cracks me up are the colleges in New York or California that send me invitations to their open houses which are within two weeks of the date I received them. It took my family three years to plan a vacation to Brainerd.

If this year has taught me one thing, it's that you can stare directly at someone who's speaking and tune their voice out completely. I've never been able to do that before. Believe it or not I actually used to listen to what people were saying! I guess I am learning skills for the "real world."

College is a racket and anyone who says different is trying to get into Harvard on a scholarship. My class, this semes-

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Stralastic Man

