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# F R I C H

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***"Something unpleasant is coming when men are anxious to tell the truth."  
- Benjamin Disraeli***

## Made In China

It's like drinking hot cocoa on a February day in Salt Lake City. A warm feeling comes to mind when I think of Longmont's streets lined with happy residents of the great St. Vrain Valley. Yes, as the Olympic torch passed though, it seemed that the entire community lined the streets of our great town of Longmont. Great citizens of all ages came together to support our great nation. Old men camped out in folding chairs on their front lawns, shouting ch(j)eers at those who passed by; "get your underpant flashin' arse off my God damn land!" This almighty proclamation I heard more than once. It excites me that even the elderly spoke out loudly, with enthusiasm and conviction! Plenty of Longmont's younger folk were present too! Spangler elementary students were corralled across their school parking lot and onto Coffman to experience their first lesson in American pride and community. How truly endearing it was to hear several hundred high pitched voices chant; "We want the torch! We want the torch!" A myriad of pre-teens lined the streets slightly after 1 p.m.. And I must commend the cesspool of Niwot High students for attending the great event. Even soccer moms left their minivans for a few minutes to join the festivities.

It warms my heart to see Longmontians harmoniously coming together. It warms my heart to know each of these individuals I have cited carries a trait so necessary to the great American character; Each old man shouting at passers by exemplifies our greedy need to overspread, first this continent, and then the world. Each squealing voice reminds me that we Americans know how to get what we want; we must simply demand it! Such great students our community has, for they would postpone an afternoon of schoolwork to support their great American nation! Not to mention, these students

were environmentally minded enough to toss their cigarettes into the old man's lawn where they would become part of the lawn instead of creating an eyesore in the middle of Coffman Street. Finally, I must commend the soccer moms who dared to leave their mini vans for a sliver of the afternoon. How difficult it must be to be the beacon of the healthiest way to live one's life. We know these fine women invite stress into their lives more than any other well-meaning faction of society! A "Go, go, go!!" mentality, the sort they possess, is exactly what will eventually bring us all happiness.

One thing I saw made me prouder than any other. Each and every great Longmontian jeering in the street proudly waved a plastic flag reading, "I saw the flame! Coca-Cola: proud presenter of Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Torch Relay." How great it is to know that America's great citizens are not the sole display of this country's great ideals; sprawling corporations embrace American ideas also. Coca-Cola was proud to promote both their product and wasteful consumerism. Finally tears come to my eyes. A sticker on the bottom of each flag reads, "Made in China." How truly great it is to know America does not do what is good for her; she is interested in the well being of her sister nations. She would even go as far as to employ some of China's 1 billion inhabitants instead of employing her own. Probably children.

π Samantha Adams π

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Want power? Not only is FRICH looking for new writers, but it is looking for people interested in managing, editing, and printing during this year and in future years. This isn't one of those cheesy "get a say in what's going on," or "get involved in your community" offers. This is a genuine chance for those interested in having a high-level position in FRICH. What's FRICH going to be like next year? It's up to you!

# A Brief Look @ Beliefs

We live in a pluralistic society, world. As we have grown up, we have been taught that truth is an overall subjective thing. This definitely leaves us wondering what to believe, how seriously we should believe whatever that is, if we should believe anything at all. I want to take a quick look at some of the main types of beliefs we have been presented: pantheism (Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age), monotheism (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), and atheism.

Strictly, Pantheism believes that nothing is real. "ALL IS ONE" is the idea that fuels the thought of all pantheistic worldviews. Basically, God is everything; you are God, the grass is God. Hindus, for instance, believe that the ultimate goal is to realize that everything is an illusion. You must lose all sense of individuality to become a part of what is really real. So you must realize you are not real, but to believe that you are not real, you have to be real, so if you really aren't real, how can you really know you aren't real? Buddhism puts some emphasis on the individual and says that suffering in the world is real, but in the end we are still just a part of that ONE, so in essence the individual doesn't exist, nor its pain. I hope you can see that to believe in any pantheistic worldview, you must believe that your belief doesn't truly exist, which is simply illogical.

Now we'll look at the monotheistic worldviews. Judaism and Christianity have the same basic beliefs. There is one God who created the universe and desires to ultimately have an eternal relationship with mankind. However, they differ at the point where the man Jesus Christ comes in to the picture. Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of the Jewish Law, saying that only he can bridge the gap for man back to God. The Jewish belief says that we still must work our way back to God in order to spend eternity in Heaven with Him. Christianity says that God came down, in the form of Christ, so that by grace we may believe in Christ and go to Heaven. In other words, Christ did for us what we could not do. Often, Islam is put into the same category as Christianity. This is due mainly to the fact that it is another major world

religion that believes in one God, Allah. However, Islam differs from the Judeo-Christian belief in that understanding God is an impossible task. God and mankind are totally separate from one another and man is unable to comprehend Allah. An Islamic song states, "Whatever your mind can conceive, That Allah is not, you may believe." God is totally unknowable; therefore, it is hard to conceive that you can actually believe in him. To juxtapose, the Judeo-Christian God is both conceivable and you can know Him.

Atheism is the last belief system we'll look at. Yes, it really is a belief system. By definition, an atheist is someone who, for whatever reason, believes there is no God. Atheism holds also that there is no objective truth, no ground for reason, no absolute morals, no ultimate value, no ultimate meaning, nor any eternal hope. I want to point out one thing I have observed about the atheistic belief: By a strict belief in atheism, the atheist has no right to say anything is right or wrong, fair or unfair, true or false. Many atheists say they are so due to logic, but a logical examination of atheism would show that they have no basis for that assumption. For anyone to objectively say there is no God, they would have to transcend all time, all space, all reality; in essence become God.

Now, this was a very short look at some of the main beliefs this world has offered us. I simply wanted to present them to you in a tangible way. I was unable to elaborate as much as I would have liked, simply because there would not be enough room. I would encourage you to do some searching now. Make sure you can base your belief on history and logic. That means, look at the claims of these beliefs and see if they can pass the test of history and reason, i.e. does the resurrection of Jesus Christ stand the test, or likewise, does pantheism match up with reality. Be smart, and don't be afraid to search. Your eternity may depend on it. Blessings.

π Karl Barth <krlbrth@aol.com> π

For the first time in months, the Frich website is up to date with electronic versions of past issues (as well as this issue). Get them at: <http://frich.flatirons.org>

If you have an article, a gripe, or too much time on your hands, you can send us a message from the webpage above, or email us at: [submit@frich.zzn.com](mailto:submit@frich.zzn.com)

# The PTHL of IB

I don't like those "Dealin' Doug" type car commercials on TV. You know the ones I mean: a used car salesman in a cheap shiny suit shoves his pouchy face right into the camera lens and screams, spittle flying, "I want your Toyota Even Horizon to expand, and that's why I'm making prices low, LOW, **LOW!**" With each successive "low," the salesman's voice becomes louder and he therefore produces more saliva in a direct 3 pints to 1-decibel ratio. Yet somehow, even though the screams of the desperate voiceover would suggest otherwise, I don't really believe that the car dealership cares about expanding my *personal* Toyota Even Horizon. I'm out on a limb here, but it seems to me that perhaps Dealin' Doug just wants to...sell something.

I get that same feeling every time an administrator discusses the International Baccalaureate program. Excuse me, did I say "administrator?" I meant "coordinator." Whoa, did I say "International Baccalaureate?" I meant "IB." One of the ways that you

can tell that the IB program is better than any other program that has ever existed in the entire history of American public high schools, or APHS, is because it has all these snappy acronyms and fresh new ways of talking about old ideas. You don't have a counselor—you have a coordinator. It's not philosophy, it's TOK! It's not community service, sports, or just plain doing something besides hours of homework, no, not for this fancy program, it's CAS hours! You won't write research papers, but you will write I-Search papers because that way you'll be prepared for all the I-Search papers you will eventually write at college.

Another way that bewildered students know that IB is the right choice for them is because so many people tell them so, continually. Teachers come around to sophomore classes and explain the many choices in the program. There are meetings with guest speakers. The admin—I mean, coordinators are always drilling the importance of the choice of students. I can almost hear Dealin' Doug doing a voiceover whenever a coordinator or counselor opens his mouth: "ACT QUICKLY OR THIS CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

WILL BE GONE." Why, everyone knows it's the truth: you haven't got a shot at college unless you're in IB! In fact, your LEH (Learning Event Horizon) is shrinking as we speak. The fact that the AP program doesn't need scare tactics or aggressive advertising is obviously because it is an inferior program. Or maybe it's because a good thing sells itself. No, that can't be it.

Know this: the IB program is superior to all other programs for several reasons. First of all, it is run by coordinators, not administrators. (It's like how Kleenex is better than tissues.) Second of all, not other APHSP (American Public High School Program) has more SCA (Snappy Clever Acronyms) that will eventually expand your LEH and put you on the PTHL (Path To Higher Learning). And you know of course that all this is true, because the coordinators are foaming at the mouth and telling you so at higher decibel levels than ever before: "THERE IS NO OTHER WAY! JOIN THIS PROGRAM AND YOUR FUTURE HAPPINESS IS ASSURED!!!! NO OTHER DEAL CAN OFFER THIS!!!!!"

$\pi$  Snork Maiden  $\pi$

## Top 10 Classes offered at Niwot for the 2002-2003 School Year

1. FRICH 101
2. Calculator Fundamentals: TI-83 Programming for Cheating and Games
3. Lifetime Fatness
4. Introduction to Intercom Usage (Recommended for Administration Only)
5. C.P Luxury SUV Maintenance
6. Intro to Niwot Studentdom: Learning to love your school and its sports
7. Theology Fundamentals: Which religion is the TRUE religion?
8. Junior Varsity Men's Choir
9. ABC's of A&F
10. Photo 3: XXX

# Niwot remains Pillar of Sanity in St. Vrain District

Students from all over the St. Vrain Valley School District howl in protest, that is, all but the ones from Niwot. Armed with the fresh administrators of Haddad and Padilla, in addition to the familiar duo of Daly and Berry, Niwot has yet to hold a student/administrator face-off. While Niwot remains surprisingly docile, schools all across Longmont are in an uproar.

The unannounced drug searches at Longmont High have caused a wave of protest among the student body. Though Dr. White was brought into Longmont High to "clean it up", it seems students resent the housecleaning process. Skyline has had metal detectors installed and the students scream about this act being unfair. Both of these procedures are not uncommon and have been used since the early '90s. It is about time that St. Vrain began to catch up.

While the crackdowns at Longmont and Skyline occur, the unseasoned Silvercreek has troubles of its own. An unsatisfactory grading system coupled with a strict dress code has led to grief among students, resulting in multiple student transfers.

It seems that the closest thing Niwot has had to an issue involved parking permits. That leads to just one conclusion: while these troubles brew among other schools, Niwot remains competent and (somewhat) sane, so be thankful.

π Benidict Arnold π

## Girls' Ten Most Wanted List

Hey Cody, I figured I'd let you know what's up from a girl's perspective, seeing as though you seemed pretty clueless in the last edition of FRICH. I outlined a Girls' Ten Most Wanted list to help you and all those other thickheaded blokes out there who can't get a date.

10. A boy who's not intimidated by my dad's loaded shotgun.
9. Someone who will hand you a pint of ice cream and a spoon when things aren't going so great.
8. A person whose jokes don't contain the phrase "Your Momma" or gratuitous genital references.
7. Somebody who doesn't have a preoccupation with large vehicles.
6. A guy who realizes my face is above my neck.
5. For <<insert hot Hollywood star>> to ask her to Prom.
4. A guy who will cook her meals and <deleted>.
3. A certain **Extremely Babe-o-licious** teacher, not to mention any names.
2. Someone who will listen.
1. Roses, Flowers, Diamonds, need I say more?

Dear Cody,

I love reading an underground newspaper that comes out periodically in my school, but recently a new advice column came out featuring a misogynistic <<beep>> who's stuck in the fifties.

π SuperStar π

Disclaimer: In the process of compiling FRICH, we come across a great deal of inappropriate material. We chortle at the plethora of unnecessary vulgarities, pleased that the issue will contain such enlightening material. Annoyingly, someone always says, "We can't print that! Someone will be offended and we'll get sued or expelled!" Fortunately, the rest of us remember one vital loophole: We can just smack a disclaimer on the issue! The disclaimer is a tool of extraordinary power. With a disclaimer, FRICH can print ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING and BLAME IT ON SOMEONE ELSE. And, with the use of pseudonyms, we can go so far as to blame random people. It's brilliant. Better yet, we don't even have to put legal statements in the disclaimer. We just have to write "disclaimer" somewhere on the issue and, automatically, we enjoy supreme protection from all libel and slander lawsuits. Here, look. You don't even read this, I bet. It doesn't matter what this says. You just read FRICH, you find something offensive, you think, "I should sue these freaks!" but then you see the word "disclaimer" and you think, "Whoa... they've got lawyers... I'd better not sue after all." Everyone is happy and more issues of FRICH are published, all because of the word "disclaimer." Ahhhh... the beauty of law.