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# F R 2 I 11 C H

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## The Revote

Pay very close attention. Now. I'm going to give you all the facts, and you had better understand why this is important. You better make the connections. Pay attention. If you're not annoyed at the end of this, you didn't look closely enough.

This is an article about the events and reasons surrounding the revote for the senior class song. In preparation for writing this article, I interviewed multiple dozen students, teachers and administrators. I have strove to make sure that every bit of information I have is accurate. I will happily accept any corrections and updates, because what I want is the truth, exposed for everyone to see. But, as I will show, uncovering the truth has been considerably difficult, as many bits of information are mutually exclusive.

**FACT:** On the 24th of January, a vote was held for senior class motto, flower, speakers and song in the auditorium. On February 5th, a revote was held. This was conducted differently, with student council members going to second block classrooms. The vote was only done for graduation speaker and song. In both votes for song, Pink Floyd's "The Wall" won, and in the second vote, Mr. Williamson won for graduation speaker. Figuring out the true reasoning for the revote has proven monstrously difficult. Explaining the graduation speaker part is, fortunately, easy. In the original vote, there was a tie between Mr. Williamson and Mr. Title.

**EXPLANATION:** In all of my interviews, no reason beyond this was given, this reason was never denied, and, in my opinion, this is a valid reason to have a revote.

**EXPLANATION:** The fact that the outcome of the song didn't change is completely unimportant and don't think for a moment that it is. What IS important is whether or not the revote was backed with legitimate reasons. Revotes are not common in democratic processes and must occur with good reason. As Mr. Haddad informed the student council, "If you don't like the song, it's not grounds for a revote."

**FACT:** A Blink 182 song containing profanity was dropped from the ballot after the first vote. According to some student council announcements made during the revote (such as the one in AP Psychology), if the votes originally for Blink 182 were redistributed, there was a chance that the winner of the vote could change.

**EXPLANATION:** Unfortunately, this is wholly unverifiable (at the moment) and conflicting. It's conflicting because, when I spoke with Mr. Duffy, the teacher who oversees student council, he informed me repeatedly that Pink Floyd's "The Wall" won "over-

whelmingly" in both votes. This doesn't mix well with the AP Psych announcement. I do not like being told conflicting things.

**FACT:** It's currently unverifiable because, in asking student council members for the original vote tallies, I have either been referred to someone else or given an excuse. What excuses? The first is one of tradition. The student council hasn't released vote totals in the past, so they won't now.

**EXPLANATION:** This is faulty logic. Simply because something hasn't happened in the past doesn't mean it's something that shouldn't happen now.

**FACT:** The second excuse is that people's feelings might be hurt. This is referring to revealing the vote on speakers. A teacher might see that he or she didn't get as many votes as another teacher and will feel bad as a result.

**EXPLANATION:** There are two problems that I have with this reason. One, the vote count for the class song could be shown alone, because songs don't have feelings to hurt. More importantly, this is an issue of truth. Remember, aside from this excuse, I haven't been given any legit excuse NOT to see the votes. So, we either risk hurting teachers' feelings or we be refused the truth. The choice here is not hard. Ignorance is not bliss. The nature of a vote is that there WILL be losers. Choosing to hide that fact is NOT a justifiable reason to conceal the vote counts. I don't care what kind of vote we're talking about. Prom king and queen, graduation speaker, or class song, it doesn't make one bit of difference. There is absolutely no valid reason that the truth should be withheld. In speaking to Mr. Duffy, he said that there was "no reason" he could think of for me not to be given the numbers, and Mr. Haddad also expressed an interest in seeing them. I concur.

**FACT:** A random senior (whose name is being withheld upon request,) told me that she had been informed that "The Wall" received 72 votes in the first vote. "That's what I heard through the chain," she stated, referring to other students. How do some people know when the student council has refused to release this information? What is going on?

**FACT:** Suppose you were sitting in AP Biology during the revote. Not only would you have been given the Blink 182 reason, but you would also have been informed that the original voting was "unfair", as it was influenced by outside sources. Supposedly, some people, in the original voting, were suggesting to other people that they vote for "The Wall." As I recall, when "The Wall" was played during the January 24th meeting, a number of people did cheer when the song came on and booed when the song

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## FRICH article bashing FRICH publishers happily published by FRICH publishers

In printing SuperStar's ten most wanted list in the last issue of FRICH, the editors made a grievous typographical error. Billed as "Girls' Ten Most Wanted," it should have correctly been written as "Girl's Ten Most Wanted." I am insulted at the suggestion that this immature, boy crazy (likely) underclassman speaks for all females. I did not see the previous comments made by Cody "misogynistic <beep>" Dawson, as mentioned by our good friend SuperStar, but if she thinks Cody is "stuck in the fifties," maybe she should take a good look at herself.

Are we females really so petty, so superficial, that hot Hollywood stars, "babe-o-licious" teachers, and pretty trinkets are all we need to make us happy? I had thought we as a gender had evolved past the era when an attractive guy and a diamond ring were enough to get us in the sack. Of course, this is Niwot, where "the more he buys for me, the more he loves me" seems to be the mantra of all too many members of the fairer sex. Though I'm not entirely sure if the "preoccupation with large vehicles" comment is a thinly veiled reference to <censored> size, it offends me nonetheless. I'm not saying we shouldn't judge personal merit based on size, but maybe we could be taken more seriously if we looked at, say, the size of a man's intelligence? If I am indeed a minority in my views, and SuperStar's opinions are shared by the majority of females at this school, then I do feel very sorry for anyone trying to date them.

In the interest of objectivity, I suppose I can't disagree with everything SuperStar has listed. I agree that a man who can cook does have high market value. I'd like a hot Hollywood star to ask me to prom; I was thinking Rose McGowan. And sure, I'd like someone to cheer me up when things aren't going so great. But not with a pint of ice cream and a spoon; I want to be told dirty jokes to make me laugh, I want attention paid to my body below my neck even if my face isn't down there, and you think large vehicles aren't without benefit? Ever been in the backseat of a Delta '88?

However, I cannot merely criticize SuperStar; the fact that this article was even made available for me to read is directly the fault of the publishers. I read FRICH because it gives me an alternative voice, because it makes me laugh and occasionally pisses people off, and because it's something I receive in school that doesn't put

me to sleep. I have not yet lost faith in FRICH's integrity as a forum, but if I wanted to read silly, immature, poorly written and edited features, I'd read the Southpaw.

π Violet Xenos π

So, someone doesn't like the FRICH editors. I think we actually do a pretty good job... well, okay, maybe a mediocre job... all right, we suck terribly. So, we'd like some new editors. Competent ones... or incompetent ones, we're not picky. But, to figure out who's most qualified, we've devised a test. Answer the following questions and send the results to [submit@frich.zzn.com](mailto:submit@frich.zzn.com). We'll quickly contact you to arrange time for an interview and to discuss wages and benefits and schedules and... hahahaha... oh god, I apologize for laughing. Just fill out this stupid thing and humor us.

1. What is the best way to recruit more FRICH staff members?
  - a. Write advertisements in FRICH that no one reads.
  - b. Approach random people in the hall and cheerfully propose that they become staff members. Use violent, sweeping hand gestures while ranting in Gaelic.
  - c. Write quizzes that no one responds to.
  - d. Scream, "Why won't someone write for my secret underground newspaper?!?" during passing periods.
2. Which of the following is a GOOD idea for a FRICH article?
  - a. Too many people make out in the halls.
  - b. "I am the only sane person at Niwot High."
  - c. Sports editorials
  - d. Trick question: FRICH articles could never be good.
3. To test whether or not you are "in the know," which of these people are actual FRICH staff members?
  - a. Osama bin Laden
  - b. Don Haddad
  - c. Peter Jennings
  - d. The Four Horsemen of The Apocalypse
4. It's 1:00 AM, early Sunday morning. The last page of the issue is still empty. What do you do?
  - a. Write an atrociously unfunny quiz to take up the space. Keep writing until you have run out of space. Conclude in midsentence if necessary.
  - b. Use a Ouija board to channel the wise spirits of dead staff members. May they rest in peace.
  - c. Bellow, "SCREW THIS!! YOU WRITERS SUCK!!" Then quickly realize that you're alone because all of the other staff members have fallen asleep.
  - d. Drink until you pass out.
5. When Sam begins removing clothing, the best plan

## Government Orders Surgeon General's Warning to be Posted on Pop CDs and Romantic Comedies

President Bush called recently for the Surgeon General to post warnings on popular music. "It has come to my attention," the President remarked at a press conference, his brow furrowed, "that popular music proliferates false ideals of romance and misrepresents the average teenage male. The impressionable consumers of this music need to be warned that what they hear contained in this music are lies!" The warning, written by the Committee for Truth in Love, will be immediately posted on all compact discs suspected of containing romantic material. The warning reads: "Warning: this product may be detrimental to your mental health. Romantic works cause increased expectations, crushing disappointment, and depression."

The warnings were extended Tuesday to cover romantic comedies as well. A spokesperson for the White House simply remarked that the President's administration had the same complaints about romantic teen movies as it did about popular music. "I mean, think about it," she said. "Any boy who came up to you and whispered, 'Let me be your hero,' and then went on to remark that he would 'kiss away the pain' would have to be stupid, high, or both."

While the Surgeon General's warning about the erroneous statements made in popular culture was originally put in place to protect the consumers, historically teenage females, the decision was applauded by young men everywhere. "Dude, it, like, raises expectations," sighed one young man. He wiped his nose on his sleeve before continuing. "All those chicks expect us to, like, give 'em flowers and chocolate and shit and really we only do that for the hottest ones, 'cause sometimes that's, like, the only way to get laid." Many young men echoed these sentiments. Judd Bender, a local expert on the behavior of teen males, said, "This decision provides them [teenage guys] with freedom from stereotypes. Now, perhaps, we will see an explosion in honest music, where young men say what they really think without worrying about the girls they have to sell their CDs to." Bender offered an example from a local band. The lyrics are reprinted below.

"Dude, you're hot/I don't love you but I want to get laid/I'll spout some nonsense 'bout the stars in the sky/You won't ever have to know that it was all a lie/Or maybe I'll tell you when my pants are back on/And I'm going, going, goooooooooooooone!"

Eventually, President Bush hopes that the Surgeon General's warnings will dispel all of the myths surrounding

popular culture's portrayal of true love. Young women will be freed from the idea that if you're a sweet, kind person, love will find you and it will be unconditional and true as well as being embodied by someone who has the finely chiseled body of a Greek statue and is as well-endowed as (*Editor's note: The comparison originally made by the author did not make sense. Therefore, to make a logical statement, this sentence should now read: "...is as well-endowed as FRICH's head editor."*) That only happens for "extremely attractive babes," the President finished as the press conference came to an end. "Not to you."

The posted warnings may not suffice. Bush's administration, after extending the required warning to romantic movies, warned that forwarded emails with the subject headings "Sweet Things Guys Do" or "Things Guys Love about Girls" may soon be banned if they are not discontinued.

π Snork Maiden π

## Ramblings of a Wise Man

Fat people will rule the world. When nuclear winter comes all of you toothpick thin models will freeze to death. With no "fuel reserves" you will starve and become weak. Fat people will have the reserve power to overcome you frail and pathetic "popular" folk. The only way to avoid this horrid end of humanity is to exalt the cuddly and portly people you see. Just come to terms with the fact that we are better than you. Once the plump godlike rulers are pleased with the skinny man's offering we might not be so eager to devour you.

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Do you hear it? The bells, it's the ice cream man! Quick, as fast as you can, run for your money. Why is it that all humans are naturally addicted to chimes of the ice cream man? I will tell you. It's the government, they have been brainwashing us for generations. You don't really want to pay a 400% markup for ice cream. You never knew that you even wanted ice cream. The government went to all of your parents and grandparents and paid them to implant in you the need for the ice cream man. It's called classical conditioning. Pavlov, a renowned psychologist, trained dogs to salivate at the sound of a bell, so too have you been trained to pay for ice cream you don't want at the sound of Pop Goes the Weasel. Why would the government want to do this you might ask? Simple, to keep civil uprisings suppressed. When you participate in the Ice cream syndrome you derive happiness. Happy people don't start riots. So next time you hear the chimes fight the power, take out your local ice cream man.

π Skizel π

went off. And some people, when speaking to student council members, said that they'd voted for "The Wall" just because they knew that other people were voting for it.

EXPLANATION: So, is this a reason to have a revote? Absolutely not. People place their votes for a wide variety of reasons. Sometimes it's because they have a strong opinion, sometimes it's a bias, and sometimes they just want to go with the crowd. You can't justify a revote on the grounds that you think the people had poor reasons. You can't force reasons upon the people; they must be allowed to choose their own. And the people's opinions are expressed on the ballots.

FACT: Sam Schabacker, a student in the AP Bio class during the revote, said, "The student council 'cautioned' the class about voting for a song, that it would reflect upon you and your class." I recall a very similar statement made in the AP Psych class. Another student in the class (name again withheld) informed me that, in their announcement, the student council members expressed the opinion that "some people didn't understand the message the songs were delivering," and that this was emphasized concerning "The Wall". Interviewing a half a dozen other students from the class, no one contradicted these statements, and all (who were paying attention) felt that they were trying to be influenced to NOT vote for "The Wall".

EXPLANATION: Having a revote because the vote was influenced and then proceeding to influence the vote is hypocritical.

FACT: Asking student council members personally for reasons only increased these contradictions and my discontent. Asking Tim Maguire, Chelsea Hagen, and Brian Fassbinder, all members of the student council, resulted in the Blink 182 response. Asking Moriah Prystupa only resulted in the "influenced vote" response. Asking Amber Miller resulted in both responses. Most importantly, asking all of them if were any more reasons beyond the reasons they gave always resulted in a "no".

EXPLANATION: I am confused and alarmed. As you should be. All of these statements don't exactly work well together.

FACT: Asking Mr. Haddad how the student council presented the issue to him, he assures me that the student council's initial concern was the influenced vote reason, which was then followed by the discovery of the Blink 182 reason, and that the student council chose to have a revote for the combination of these reasons.

EXPLANATION: So, in that AP Psych announcement (and in other announcements, such as the one made in Mr. Tesone's Keyboarding class, as testified to by Dinah King, a student in that class) why weren't we told all of these reasons?

Things are not consistent here, and I don't understand why it has had to be that way. If the original vote count were to be shown to the entire student body, maybe this confusion would be alleviated. Maybe it would only get worse. I would like to add, though, that when I have said "student council", I might very well be speaking of the actions of only a few individuals actually in the council. Why is this important? According to Mr. Duffy, there was much

"bickering about the appropriateness of the song" within the student council, referring to "The Wall". This says that there was a disagreement about the class song. I am quite certain that some members of the student council have opinions that don't go with the overall resulting actions. In fact, it would be silly for people to make the assumption that the student council agreed with complete unity that a revote should occur. I rarely asked for their opinions, because I didn't feel that those were important at getting the truth. The problem is that I have been presented with no reasonable evidence that a revote should have occurred, regardless of opinions.

So. You don't care. I've presented all of this to you, and you still don't care. The outcome of the vote didn't change, the revote didn't do anything. No harm done, right? I disagree. There are still things that don't make sense, there is still information we don't have. If the truth still hasn't been shown, no one should be satisfied. A body of government that makes decisions for us, no matter how little or on how small of a scale, must always be under review for everything to be fair and just.

By the way. I am all ready getting wind of rumors that this song will not get the same treatment as normal senior class songs. I have done no investigation into this, but I don't feel that such a thing is necessary anyway. I am quite certain that this will stay and die a rumor. Honestly, I don't think "The Wall" and its meaning represents our class very well at all. This is 2002, not 1979. There are many better songs of our time that could work as our class song. But that doesn't matter whatsoever. More seniors voted for this song than any other song, and that's all the criteria needed to make it the official class song.

### π Spider Jerusalem π

*(Author's note: In testing out this article on people, many found it too convoluted with poorly connected facts. If you're one of those people, go read it again, because I swear everything you need to know is in there. Also, I have moved the following information to the end of this essay for reasons of coherency.)*

FACT: While interviewing random seniors, a great many asked me about the Boys II Men song, suspicious about the process involved in the original vote. It was only announced option, as opposed to being on the actual ballot.

EXPLANATION: I can assure you that its presence was warranted. If a song received an appreciable number of nominations (I was given an approximation of "five,") the song was put on the ballot. More than five people in the student council supported it being on the ballot and they, also being students, have equal say. There was simply an error that caused it to be left out, and this error was corrected at the January 24th meeting by announcement.)

As always, please keep in mind that FRICH is solely influenced by those who write for it. The opinions expressed are those of our writers. Thus, if you dislike what is written in FRICH, do what Violet Xenos did, and make your own voice heard. If you already wrote an article, chances are it will be published eventually if it was written well. And now for the three word disclaimer: **Please don't sue!**