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# F R I C H

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## Introductions Are In Order

For those of you who don't know us: Hello, our name is FRICH. More importantly, we are your newspaper.

For those of you who *do* know us:

*Weeeeeeee're baaaaack...*

Basically, FRICH is a place where you can find insightful articles and essays about a variety of topics, from religion to patriotism to school violence. In addition, it's a place where you can read the moronic ramblings of a fool, be enlightened as to how assemblies could be improved with sound effects, and find a call to arms against jolly ol' Saint Nick. And the icing on the cake: We don't write it, you do! <Editor's Note: See the end of this article to find out how.>

FRICH has two constant goals: to be a forum by

everybody, and to be a forum for everybody. Occasionally, critics will roll their eyes and claim that we have some sort of a hidden agenda. I'm sorry to be the messenger of bad news, but if you want to know what our agenda is, read the beginning of this paragraph.

So, as we here at FRICH get ready to begin a new year of publishing, we hope that you out there get ready to begin a new year of writing. Oh yeah, for those of you who don't know us, we'll publish just about anything as long as it's well written. Just send it on over to [submit@frich.zzn.com](mailto:submit@frich.zzn.com), visit our website at <http://frich.flatirons.org>, or give a copy to your local, neighborhood FRICH distributor. Gee, isn't that easy?

$\pi$  Winston Churchill  $\pi$   
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## Let's Dance!

After hearing about the ways women were treated in Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule, did you ever think, "Wow. That sounds familiar." Well if you did, YOU WERE RIGHT. The Taliban's oppressive ideals run almost parallel to those of every single school dance, from Homecoming to Prom. Here are a few facts that highlight both organizations' standards. You can find the similarities yourself.

The Taliban: One of the most important things that women living under the Taliban regime must remember is the strict dress code. They must wear burkas, or long robes that cover their whole bodies from head to toe. Unfortunately, these dresses are extremely expensive and many women cannot afford them. The bodies of the women who cannot afford them can be found in a heap on the floor of the public execution stadium. Secondly, women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male member of the family. Those who choose to leave their homes unescorted can also

be found the heap on the floor of the execution stadium. If a woman chooses to stay home alone, she must pull black curtains over their windows in order to prevent anyone from seeing them.

Prom: First, the dress. Unfortunately, the dress itself costs anywhere from \$40 to about \$400 depending on the occasion. If the woman does not have the money, then they are surely not getting a dress. That also means that they are not going to their dance. Then there's the date. It's pretty simple actually. No date, no go. Going stag means also receiving a fatal (or just verbal) beating from the almighty blonde friends. A male convoy is essential. When one doesn't go, they usually end up sitting at home, alone pouting with the shades closed to prevent anyone from seeing them. No dress, no date, no dance. Arriving without either means a sure lashing.

See any patterns? So remember: If you go to Prom and such, you're supporting the Taliban's ideal society!!

$\pi$  Sugarnapletree  $\pi$

**- 4 Points****Opinions Not Opinionated Enough**

School: A conspiracy created to undermine and brainwash the young in effort to control us in the future. They work on the pretenses on equality and creativity but it is only a facade. Their real goal is to create ready consumers and a steady supply of faceless zombies. I don't know how many times I have heard the everyone-is-unique-and-should-express-themselves-in-their-own-way lecture from teachers. They make you think you have control of your ideas and that they are 'your own,' but it is a lie.

Freshman year in a certain someone's class, we did monthly projects, and at the end of every project we were asked to reply to: "What is your opinion of this?" Every time I would reply thoroughly and properly, making sure I fully responded to this open-ended question. And every time, I would get the paper handed back with a message scribbled on it, "-4 points because I don't think your opinions are opinionated enough. Why didn't you respond in this way? or this way?" Not only did I find this ridiculous grading on *my* paper, but many other students also had similar experiences... too similar to be coincidences. It's not enough that these people get to dictate and add stress to our very lives, but they also believe they can think for us now. At the rate that this astounding mass brainwashing is occurring, I am afraid that, someday, quite soon, there will be no original insight.

π Subconscious Thought π

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So, another year has come, and it's time to begin again with everybody's favorite underground newspaper. Well, here's an editorial rant for your reading pleasure: FRICH can only survive if you guys out there send in your wonderful, insightful, meaningful (though we'll settle for 'funny') articles to be published within these pages. Even if you don't think you're very funny, send articles in anyway. Trust us when we say that *we've seen worse*.

**Send Articles to: [submit@frich.zzn.com](mailto:submit@frich.zzn.com)**

or

**Go to: <http://frich.flatirons.org/>**

**Special Report or Special Interests?**

You are being lied to. Every day. You open the newspaper, watch the news, listen to the radio, and there it is. The majority of Americans are regularly bombarded with images, voices, and words from all sides, and they rarely, if ever, question their content.

Turn on one news station. Hear that? The "latest developments" in whichever event is currently happening in the Middle East. Switch to another channel. Those "latest developments" will probably tally with the ones you just heard. Is that because it's what really happened or because both stations are owned by the same mega-monopoly of a company?

I am not a conspiracy theorist. I tend to be a realist. How many news stations are there across our country? Hundreds, maybe? Despite this, a preschooler still counting on his or her fingers could easily add up the number of companies that own these stations. It's a little frightening how limited our "free press" really is.

Still think I'm delusional? Maybe some examples would help. A few months ago, newsstands were bursting with "hero stories" - stories of the extremely few US soldiers killed in combat. While America was fixated on this, Britain's newspapers spoke of the hundreds of UK soldiers being sent to the front lines. Did we hear about it? Why the discrepancy?

Another example is the sob story that NPR aired on Levi. Apparently Levi Strauss was forced to close many of its US-based factories, including their original one in San Francisco, thanks to a bad economy and a competitive market. The story, which prominently featured the loss of an "American Icon," failed to mention the fact that Levi would replace the American factories with sweatshops in third-world countries. NPR is largely sponsored by large corporations. Special interests, anyone?

Does this mean you should stop listening? Turn off your TVs, throw out your papers, burn your magazines, completely ignore the media? Just the opposite; gather even more information. The more resources you have, the closer you will get to the truth. While you're at it, support independent media. The fewer big businesses that have an involvement in your news, the smaller the chances of "special interests" interfering with the truth.

π DiGi Charat π

## Another Clique Story

NIWOT - A shocking discovery has been made about the staff of Niwot High School. A conspiracy controlling students during school has been exposed. This conspiracy controls the largest parts of most high school students' lives: the social interaction between students and the choices involved in choosing friends.

Cliques have always been something Niwot students have had to cope with during school, and they have been something affecting the social status out of the classroom, as well. The conspiracy deals with staff members, even including PE teachers and custodial staff, choosing the cliques to which students belong. A meeting took place over the summer in which the staff congregated, carefully selecting the groups of students that will, in the coming year, "hang out" together and eventually become friends. This labeling will consequently affect each student for the rest of his or her life.

The decision to put a student in one clique or another is derived from each student's profile. These profiles are found in the secret student files only accessible to highly trained staff members at NHS. These files are not accessible to students, thus rendering them unable to anticipate which people he/she will be forced to "hang out" with. The conspiracy is implemented by utilizing a complex algorithm involving placing students in lockers located at key positions in the building, forcing certain

students into classes together, and the use of the A/B lunch schedule. All students are unaware of what important part they play in making the conspiracy a success by forcing stereotypically profiled students, such as "jocks" or "nerds," to inadvertently group together.

Friction will become an issue because certain cliques are organized with the preprogrammed dislike for other cliques. The heart of the conspiracy centers around creating conflict between students, so that, if at all possible, staff members create cliques within cliques. This in turn offers even more friction for students to battle against. Verbal assaults, hurt feelings, and even physical brawls erupt between cliques when this friction becomes too much. Of course, these are all against the NHS disciplinary code that each student is forced to sign during registration before every school year. The reasoning behind this is to provide a way of getting rid of students by expelling them or suspending them from school should they ever become a problem to teachers.

Apparently, though only recently discovered, this conspiracy has been going on for quite some time. Hopefully, though, despite the fact that the students are left scarred for the rest of their life and will never become the non-corrupted people the general population hopes for, they will still have their pre-selected friends' shoulders to cry on.

$\pi$  AFellow  $\pi$   
<afellow@frich.zzn.com>

For those of you that dread those silly, little, so-called "school spirit" assemblies (where the multitude of the school population ends up catching up on their sleep, doing homework, or doing last minute studying for tests), my friends and I have put our heads together and devised some ways of effectively getting out of those hour-long torture sessions. I mean, who really wants to see someone eat a whole jar of pickles and down the juice, anyway?

10. Hide in the lockers while they round up the rest of the school like cattle and escape during the assembly.
9. Camouflage yourself and try to blend with the walls.
8. Have a friend fake their death and escape out the door while the teachers investigate.
7. Run through the halls screaming about the voices in your head. If you're lucky, they might give you some good drugs.
6. Find Mr. Howe and speak to him in "Japanese." It might not get you out of the assembly, but it's always fun!

5. Put potassium in the toilets.
4. Declare a religious holiday and hold a service on the front lawn.
3. Grow your own genetically altered termites and release them in the gym. When the bleachers are gone, they'll be too confused to make you go.
2. Roll freshmen down the main staircase in a trash barrel and escape while the faculty points and laughs.
1. Catch some squirrels and let them loose in the school. Won't they look odd chasing after them?

$\pi$  The Horsemen of the  $\pi$   
Apocalypse

## AFLA Works to Contain Underground Newspaper

In a press conference Monday, a spokesperson for the AFLA (Anti-FRICH League of America) was pleased to announce that the underground newspaper known as the Forum for Research Into Communication History, or FRICH, has been 85% contained. Furthermore, head officials expect the rogue disaster to be completely extinguished by the end of the week.

The FRICH newspaper began almost two years ago, and it has since spread out of control. Only recently have volunteers, including soccer moms and candy-<rears>, from around the district been able to get a firm grip on the raging beast.

"We saw a gaping weakness when the original editors graduated," said District Official Paul Lefferson. "This year's seniors will *never* be able to run that thing effectively." When asked about the juniors, Lefferson chuckled, "Don't get me started on *them*."

Fortunately, despite taking out hundreds of acres of Niwot's apathy, FRICH has failed to successfully branch off into other underground newspapers. "Well, there was *Peaceful Resistance*," one AFLA member recalled, "but thank God our supporters spotted it early and stomped it out!"

Investigators are still uncertain as to the origins of this particular newspaper. Originally, some believed it to be a result of the removal of Senior Wills and Predictions from the official NHS newspaper, the *South Paw*. Experts today, however, are beginning to wonder if a member of the faculty may have been a catalyst in the creation of the paper. Others hold true to the idea that it was all a Y2K CP Composition essay gone horribly wrong. With most of the key witnesses attending out-of-state colleges, the AFLA is left without answers.

When asked about their plans for after this great tragedy, the Status-Quo and its life partner Conformity looked at each other uncomfortably, sighed, and shrugged. "I dunno. I guess we'll rebuild or somethin'."

π Joe Stalin π  
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## 4 Very Good Reasons to Get Cable

Those of you who have had the luxury of owning your own, surprisingly legal, electronic, addictive substance that I call Broadband know that cable is the best invention ever. The following is a list of shows that I can almost guarantee you don't watch now, but will be hooked on within a week.

1. Six Feet Under (HBO): Although the title of this show connotes corpses and funerals, it's not nearly as gory as one might think. It portrays the unusual lives of a family of morticians. This show is above and beyond many of the mainstream programs that we watch today. One episode and you'll be obsessed.

2. Trauma, Life in the ER (TLC): If you faint at the sight of ketchup on your hamburger, or "feel the pain" of the splinter on your friend's pinky, then skip this entirely. Everyone else, PAY ATTENTION because this is the coolest show on television. On the last show, there was an accident involving tequila and a semi, Drano to get a fix, and, my favorite, a brain surgery ending with screws in a skull. Call me sadistic, but WOW! Does television get much cooler?

3. Iron Chef (Food TV): His whole life has been building up to this moment. He is anxiously waiting to jump into the stadium. The competitor is chosen, the game is named, and the fight begins. No, this is not a boxing match; it's a cooking match between the most skilled chefs in the world. If you like food and the X-games then you'll love this show.

4. Extreme Homes (HGTV): Ok, I know it's on the Martha Stewart channel, but this is EXTREME; she's nowhere in sight. One episode featured the making of a tree house, but this was no ordinary tree house; it had 2 floors, a kitchen, a bathroom, and even a guest bed. Of course, it was crammed into about 800 sq. feet. If that's not extreme, I don't know what is.

The preceding shows were an eclectic blend of all my favorites. Watch and find out why.

π Mrs. Earnest Shackleton π

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