

Where's the Truth?

Did you read the last issue of the South Paw? If you did, you might've seen editor π Joe Stalin's π New Year's resolution, to stop making fun of them and Student Council so much.

Who actually keeps resolutions, anyway?

In early December, we were told that Mr. Haddad was getting a lot of phone calls from parents who had been grossly misinformed about the situation of our school. Apparently he was spending a lot of time explaining that none of our classes are being taught in the dark, we have plenty of toilet paper, and the state of the school was pretty much business as usual.

Despite the repetitive nature of dispelling rumors, Haddad still handled every concerned, though mistaken, parent. His goal was, and still is, to make accurate information available in order to combat rumors and the general ignorance about the situation. It's definitely a common goal. The website poorschool.com was created for that purpose, we here at FRICH devoted an entire special edition to it, and that's certainly what the established news media is always trying to accomplish. When we read the most recent South Paw, we were pleased to learn that even they were working toward distributing accurate information and dispelling rumors.

Until we got to the last page. There, we were surprised by an editorial written by a member of the South Paw staff. It expressed the opinion that budget cuts should affect the students of the SVVSD as little as possible. That wasn't the problem; everyone involved in the budget crisis shares these sentiments. The problem was that this opinion was supported by several examples, most of which were horrendously inaccurate.

The most credible of this article's examples cited difficulties that resulted from the ban on copies at NHS. However, unfortunately for this example's accuracy, the 12/20/02 issue of the South Paw was released after

the copy ban had been lifted. Don't you hate it when they solve a problem before you can complain?

Despite the semi-credibility of this example, the others were completely laughable. Included were two items copied straight from the 'Comedy' page (part of the *Fiction* section) of poorschool.com. While the editorial carefully pointed out that these "may or may not" be accurate, it's our opinion that it's still shameful that the South Paw apparently doesn't have the integrity to admit when it uses fictional material as if it was factual. The article also explained that the School Board said that they were cutting all funding for food and travel. This is *absolutely true*. The School Board did in fact cut all funding for their own food (at meetings) and travel (to conferences). They did not, however, cut funding for school lunch and field trips, as the editorial implied.

What truly worries us is that we are extremely willing to bet that at least one misinformed student read this article and believed everything included in it. It pains us to know that the rumors that everyone has been trying to hard to combat have just been reinforced... by the South Paw.

π John Nash π and π Joe Stalin π

Help Wanted:

FRICH really needs people to send us their articles. As is, our submissions are starting to dwindle. Remember, we can only publish issues as long as we have stuff to print. If you've sent us something in the past that never got printed, maybe it's time to write another draft and resend it, or you can send us something as-is, tell us to give you feedback, and we'll tell you what it needs to be printable quality! We're here to help you. If you really want to see FRICH stay alive into next year, it's very important that you send us articles! Send anything and everything to:

submit@frich.zzn.com

Good Job, Student Council

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article criticizing, well, everything about the Student Council, but I recently decided that I had to change it. Mr. Haddad complemented the Student Council at the most recent assembly for doing such a good job on the canned food drive, and I, for one, agree. The Student Council has finally earned my respect.

Suddenly, it doesn't outrage me that they take field trips to The Egg & I, I don't mind that they hardly even try any more to disguise their popularity contests as elections, and it doesn't bother me that it seems to take two or three Student Council members to come to my second block class to ask my teacher a simple yes-or-no question.

Considering how they collected thousands of items of food for charity, I've stopped wondering over questions like "If they don't keep close track of their budget or take minutes at their meetings, what do all those treasurers and secretaries do?" and it doesn't bother me that the Student Council's budget and records of their decisions and agenda, if they even exist, aren't normally made available to the students they supposedly represent. I've also stopped wondering how, exactly, this "representative student government" governs, represents, or otherwise leads the student body.

Since I realized how effectively the Student Council organized the annual canned food drive, I've stopped calling them "The NHS Party Planning Committee," and I've not been concerned about the allegations that they've been rigging raffles so that their friends win, or that they tried to shift the class song votes last year because they didn't like the song that won. I've even decided not to make a big deal out how those decorative specialized recycling bins, which they spent a large portion of their budget on a few years back, are now completely useless because Eco-Cycle says we can, and even should, mix all of our recycling together now. (Don't take my word for it: Check the memo above the copier in the front office.)

So, in closing, I'd just like to complement the Student Council one more time. I never thought I'd see this day, but considering how well they did with canned food drive, I must commend them. well done!

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Plastics of Evil

It starts... You hear a band that you like, and you absolutely *have* to run out *immediately* and get the CD before your spleen bursts with excitement. After exiting victorious from the mall, you skip on home, your shiny, shrink-wrapped prize clutched in your hands. Now, you have only to open this flimsy casing before you are on your path to audio nirvana.

You pull at the shrink-wrap, but you are easily vanquished. Next you attack the "pull here" tab, but, much to your dismay, it proves to be under the protective outer layer! Soon you resort to tearing, biting, perhaps even *melting* the cursed plastic foe. Alas, despite all your hard work, you will not be able to listen to your musical goodness for a long, grueling, pain-filled time. By the time you're able to listening to your music, the experience is ruined. Your blood pressure raises another notch. Every time you repeat this torturous process, slowly and surely, your blood pressure inexorably rises.

Thirty years later, after dozens upon dozens of CDs, you're shelling out hundreds of dollars for blood pressure medication.

What's the purpose of this system? Why put a seemingly innocent, but truly noxious, plastic coating *over* the pull tape and plastic case? Why waste our precious minutes and resources? Who's in charge of this asinine system?

The answer is simple: pharmaceutical companies. Yes, as FRICH can exclusively reveal, the producers of such medications such as MEDLINEplus, Omapatrilat, and Xanical have secretly allied with CD manufacturers everywhere to boost their formerly falling profits. Their solution to a financial crisis: Shrink Wrap (insert ominous music here).

Now that you have been informed of this nefarious plot, we urge you to take action! When you buy a CD, look for pull tabs on the outside of the wrap, to make that process so much easier. If none exist, we suggest taking up meditation to help keep an inner calm and maintain a normal stress range.

If all else fails, get a large, blunt object and SMACK THE LIVING <censored> OUTTA THAT <censored>ER!!!

π Witch Baby π
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Busy As We Are

Why is today's society so overworked? I mean, kids these days rarely have time for themselves. Between school, sports, and other activities, when do we start having time for ourselves?

People are overworked because they are trained to be. It starts in school. In high school, we get up early, go to class, get out of school, go to sports, get home, eat, do homework, and go to bed so that we can start it all over again the next day. Where does the leisure time with friends, family, and self come in? How is a person supposed to reflect on his or her day, get a decent night's sleep, and get up the next morning a happy person?

But it's no wonder that everybody is always so busy; they teach us to always have our minds racing. That way, they can have us constantly working and doing something for them. I don't know the whole purpose behind this, but maybe it's to kill us all. Stress has been proven to shorten a person's life. Alas, no, that can't be it; there are much easier, faster, and cheaper ways to kill us. Maybe it's so we'll work extra hard to make them something. Maybe we provide entertainment for them. Maybe we do all the work so they don't have to.

The primary questions remains unanswered: Why are we so overworked? Why is society so fast-paced? Maybe it's because of our want to do more. We have

machines to help us with most everyday chores, but the technology is not there to let us do the fun stuff. This means we have to work on and learn about technology so that we, too, can have fun every now and then. So, in our quest to do more and have more fun, we have created a too-fast-paced society that stresses too much, doesn't see the point to life, and helps entropy along.

Oh, it's great to be sleep-deprived with the brain in overdrive! You start to slip into the state of half-zombie that so many high school students know all too well. So how do we stop this whole "too much work, too little leisure time" problem? The answer is somewhere out there, and the only people to find it will be the ones with nothing to do. This is a cry out to the whole student body of Niwot to stop from becoming the overworked type.

Wait. Never mind, it's not in your hands; it's in the hands of parents, teachers, coaches, and bosses. So don't worry about it, just keep doing what your doing, and maybe you'll end up a workaholic one day.

Cheerio!

π Afellow π

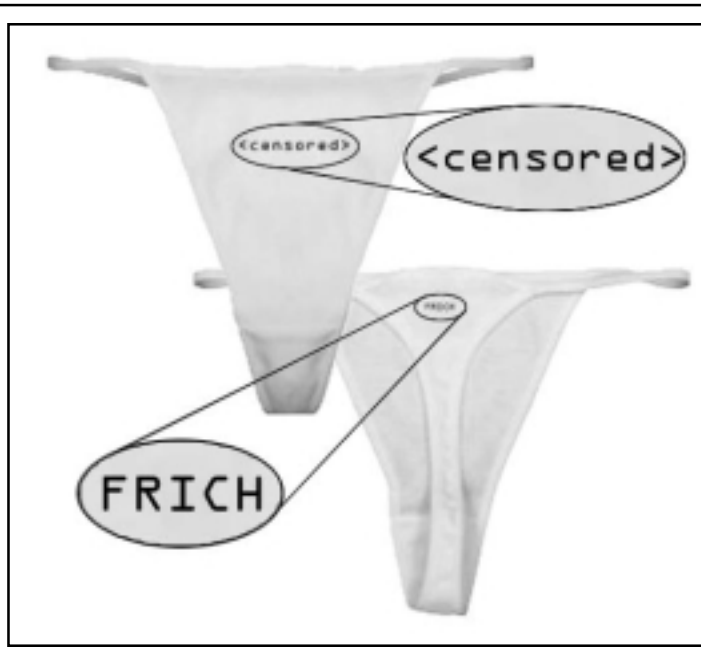
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Buy Our Stuff!

I'm sure that a lot of you got clothing during the holiday season that you absolutely did *not* care to receive. And, as such, I'm sure you returned a great deal of it to the stores. So, now that you have all of that hard-earned holiday-return cash, how about spending a little bit of it on clothes that you actually would like to wear?

Go online to frich.flatirons.org/store to check it out. There, you will find all sorts of great clothes bearing wonderful FRICH logos and catchphrases. Plus, instead of supporting some sweatshop in Indonesia, you can support your friendly, neighborhood FRICH! To the right is a picture of our "<censored> thong," which is just one of the great items that you can purchase. Visit our store today!

frich.flatirons.org/store



Get it Right

I am very disappointed with the news coverage all over the nation. The news channels in the Colorado area are extremely bad. I say this because they report news that nobody cares about, and the news that people do care about is faulty.

Whenever the news stations have numbers, they are often wrong. One news station gave statistics for how much water each person in the United States used per day. The station said that the average American uses 5,200 gallons of water every day. The news people also said that ten percent of this was used for flushing toilets. Considering that the average toilet uses five gallons of water per flush, the statistics say that I flush my toilet 104 times per day.

Why do the news stations have to be so ignorant? The reporters know nothing about what they are reporting on. They are just in the way. When you see a Boeing 747 at the airport you can tell from looking at it that it is a 747. For those of you who don't know what it is, it's a plane with two decks. The channel 7 news reporters at DIA called a 747 a 737. There is only a small difference between the planes: about one hundred seats.

If they're going to report the news, then they should report it right. There have been countless errors in the things that are reported on the news. These errors give the public a false image of what is really happening. For example, channel 4 said that United Airlines is losing \$22 million a day. In actuality, the company is only losing about \$4 million per day.

Reporters are always trying to make things seem

tragic. The news stations in general think that a broken arm is a tragedy and that it will change the person's life forever. Here is the reality of it: People break their arms every day, and it will not change their lives forever. When President Clinton had his affair with Monica, the news stations went ballistic. The reality of the situation is that this happens all the time with regular Americans. Clinton related to the general public better than any other president in history. Another thing about this situation is that I don't care about it at all.

That's something that needs to be said about almost every news story: I don't care. I do not care about poor Johnny choking on a marble. I don't care about your problems with your mother. I don't care about the poor little idiot who is dying from lung cancer because he chose to smoke too many cigarettes.

I watch the news to get the news. Instead, I get an hour completely full of emotional crap. Tell me the actual news, the stuff that actually matters. Instead of a ten-minute story about the Broncos players playing video games, tell me what is happening in the real world. In Baltimore, there were seven cops killed in nine days, and nothing was said about it on any of the Colorado news stations. There are tons of things that happen in the real world that are never mentioned on the 6 o'clock news.

π The Gnawing Gargoyle π

*<Editor's Note: At least we at FRICH rarely even **try** to pretend that we have real news.>*

Disclaimer:

On January 1st, FRICH officially turned three years old. My how it's grown. Kinda makes us reminiscent of the old days. *sigh* It's been nice.

Well, I suppose we've probably said some things here that have made people displeased, but that's how satire is, I suppose. But don't get upset! Remember, there are a lot of worse things to get upset about. Like how the State Treasurer may or may not be ruining the local economy for years to come.

Oh no. Now somebody's gonna get mad at us for that. Wait! I know! We'll apologize for that one, but how about this: "Mike Coffman, our beloved treasurer who is "rescuing" the district from peril, is a high school drop-out." Nobody can get mad about that, right? I mean, it's a fact. People have to

accept facts, don't they?

Alas, no. There are those out there who let facts upset them. I suppose the only thing we can do is censor out *ideas* that may offend. Like if I said that Coffman was <censored> <censored> <censored> but he still <censored> <censored>. Now nobody knows what the heck I'm trying to say! Hurray!

Okay, we can't censor out every opinion that's going to make somebody mad, we can't censor out facts that are bound to upset, and we'd be insane to try and censor ideas. We're truly sorry if we upset anybody who reads this; it's not our intent to make you mad. Please read with an open mind, and don't get angry enough to not think about it in a reasonable manner. And, in case of emergency:

Please don't sue!