

FRICH News

As many of us know, it is a longstanding tradition in numerous high schools across the nation, and dare I say world, to spoil the seniors in their final year of high school. We, here at FRICH, agree with this tradition. We believe that it is the right of the *overworked, underpaid, and disenfranchised* seniors to have every right that could possibly be offered to them (us). This is why at the end of the year (read: May), we will be offering senior wills to those who wish to have them published. As we expect a grand turnout—even if you don't like FRICH (this won't be a real issue per se as all we will be publishing are the mentioned wills), we still expect you to submit as it may be a nice memento, or token of what you took from your high school years—the entire issue will be dedicated to these wills and depending on the number of submissions, it may be multiple pages. While this does come as a shock to some of our non-senior readers, we assure them that everything will be alright as we are ensuring the continuing success of FRICH next year with a specially handpicked writing staff that nearly bests ours this year. Please do take into account that this is just a warning: an official statement of when these are due and where to submit them will accompany the next issue.

On a complete side note, simply included to make it so that this excerpt is not completely useless to anyone who is not a senior, we would like to take a quick moment to speak of the various disclaimers that need to be given with the articles in this issue. Firstly, no, we are not egotistical. The list praising FRICH is simply a list; that is all. We acknowledge that continuously printing lists, articles, or otherwise praising ourselves may make us appear to be narcissistic, but in reality we print these things simply because we receive no articles that have to do with FRICH being horrid. We also do not hate IB kids; it is just a satirical view on the stereotypes placed upon those who frequent our school, one that will probably only be funny to those who are in IB; thus, it comes full circle and is really making fun of everyone else...in an odd way.

Well, we hope you enjoy this issue and that you look forward to reading the last two that have yet to be printed! As always, thank you for your time.

π Averonalus Tint π

Open Letter to Colorado and Its Weather

Dear Colorado and your weather,

We, the people of Colorado, wish that you would be normal which means a simple relationship with none of this weird crap you've been throwing at us lately. We know you like to keep us on our toes and have us dress in layers and always have extra jackets/sweaters/hoodies/etc., but we would prefer not to have to lug around so much clothing. The back of my car has had a heavy jacket, a light jacket, a hoodie, sweats, shorts, and flip-flops in it for some time now because I never know what you will be like. If only you could give us some kind of warning as to what you are going to do so we might have some peace.

Another thing: stop teasing us with nice weather. You keep giving us 3-4 days of sunny weather in the mid-60s to 70s, but we are afraid you will change abruptly, so we wear long sleeve shirts and pants. Then, when we finally give in to temptation and wear a T-shirt and shorts, what do you do? You turn on the wind and lower the thermostat! It's getting annoying. Pick a season and stick with it.

Also, earlier this winter, we set record lows on several

occasions with it being below zero most of the day. That seems like winter to me. Did you get sick of it? Were you too cold yourself and wished to be hangin' with Hawaii instead? Because just the other day you set record highs. I know the mountains are distracting, but nearly all mountainous states go through this. You are just young and wild, but you need to learn to grow up and act like a mature state and have consistent weather. Just look at the states that have had their mountains for a long time. Washington has settled on constant rain. California has settled on mostly sunshine. The East Coast hasn't really settled on one thing, but at least they have trends. But you, you are always changing and it's annoying. I want to be able to plan my trips to Water World or Six Flags well in advance, but I can't because you are too unpredictable. Seriously, settle down and let us enjoy the weather as it is.

Sincerely,
Colorado residents

π Fermat LT π

Fill In the (Blank/Empty Space/Gaping Hole in Your Life)

With all the essays that need to be compiled for scholarships and colleges, seniors have only two choices: join the green movement in this hippie loving country and recycle previously written essays, or tread the line of plagiarism and fill out this form. Either way, this article only applies to seniors and actually not so much, since all of that is all starting to get behind us. Therefore, this really serves no other purpose than to aid the underclassmen which is something I am barely alright with. So you had better make use of this and make it witty. In fact, that last part should be easy. As I know you would fill in these blanks with nothing but profanity, I have given the only three things that truly will make this essay a piece of art. And remember: stray from this formula and suffer the pain of complete and total rejection!

Dear (College/Scholarship/Institution of Imperialist Swine),

I am very interested in applying to the services which you have offered on account of my (grades/athletic talent/six fingered hands). I am a very special and unique person, which is why I should be considered for this (school/money/laboratory test). Although you have seen my transcript, I do not believe you have been presented with the chance to have the time to get to know (me/my parents who are writing this essay/the IB kid writing this essay). I know the essay was supposed to be about (insert real essay topic here), but time would be better spent for us to become acquainted on a personal level.

I grew up in (the rough inner city/a little farm in Kansas/the impoverished country of Botswana) and from the beginning, I wanted to make a name for myself. When I was seven, I became the leader of (my class government/my soccer team/Italy) and I learned how to work with others. Several years later, I (completed my first essay/started to make my own my lunch/traversed the Amazon) and from this newfound independence I learned to rely on my strengths which I have many of. I would later discover that my weaknesses are (irrelevant/nonexistent/erroneous) and therefore I choose not to dwell upon them. If I had to use one word to describe myself it would be (glorious/magnificent/savory).

The reason I should receive this acknowledgement over everyone else is that I will (make more money than you do/rule the world/kill your family while they are sleeping). No one else can utilize the full potential of the position being offered here. While others would squander this opportunity by (laughing at it/saying that it's beneath them/using a generic letter other than this one), I will make the most of what is given to me. I am the (correct/perfect/only) candidate for this honor and if that isn't reason enough to give it to me then you (are a fool/ride a short bus/are Dutch).

*Sincerely,
(Your name/Suck One/God)*

π Machiavelli π

Top Ten Awkward Niwot Occurrences

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>10. Saying goodbye to someone in the hallway, then walking in the same direction as them.</p> <p>9. Having a Bush/Cheney bumper sticker on your car.</p> <p>8. Ditching class, only to end up bumping into that teacher later in the day.</p> <p>7. Walking in on a student and his Mudkips.</p> <p>6. Attempting to stuff the new kid into a locker, only to discover it's that one kid from that South Paw article (Remember, that wrestler? Oh, you didn't read it?).</p> <p>5. Asking out that hottie you've been eyeing in Math, only to dis-</p> | <p>cover she's a dude.</p> <p>4. Dropping your cell phone in one of the toilets.</p> <p>3. Meeting any one of your teachers wearing short shorts while on your jog. Or at the pool. Or at a nude beach.</p> <p>2. Suddenly realizing that your teacher can read your mind.</p> <p>1. Suddenly realizing that your super hot, new student teacher can read your mind. And she is winking at you.</p> |
|---|---|

π Mahavira π

SMART Boards: The Right Choice for a District in a Budget Crisis?

As it is nearly the fourth quarter of the school year, many of you may have noticed SMART Boards¹ that were installed in your teachers' classrooms over summer. For those of you who don't have the fortune to have a class in one of these "SMART Classrooms"—as they are so affectionately called by the administration in their widely unread newsletters—a SMART Board is a giant, overpriced tablet that also serves as a dry-erase board as well as a projection screen. Here is a definition for those of you who aren't as tech-savvy as others: a tablet is pretty much a giant piece of paper, except what you draw on it shows up on your computer instead of the page. While these are good features, the installation of these boards begs the question, "What can they do that a normal dry-erase board cannot accomplish?"

Now, the last two pieces of that list may seem fine—as they are. The problem with these boards is the fact that they are tablets. In a graphic-design based classroom, or even an art based class in general, these could be useful. But in a typical classroom environment, I have a difficult time seeing why exactly these are useful. Until now, teachers have typically given lectures with hand-drawn visual aids, on a chalk board, or, more recently, a dry-erase board. With this new addition of technology, many of our beloved teachers' methods are left in the dust, and these teachers may not know how to incorporate this new technology into their lesson plans. For example, how exactly would one go about incorporating hand-drawn pictures or diagrams in History? And in English? At most, I can imagine that a tech-savvy teacher (who are rare at best) might upload written notes, but even this is a farfetched idea.

As previously mentioned, these overemphasized and underused white boards are abhorrently expensive for what they are. The smallest size offered at the cheapest price found on the Internet is \$1,000. Now, this may not seem like much, but if you consider the number of schools in the St. Vrain Valley School District and the number of these puppies being installed, the cost quickly skyrockets. Unfortunately, in my experience, not one of my teachers has used their respective SMART Board to its full potential. In fact, most of my teachers instead either use it as a normal white board, and occasionally to view something with a SMART Document Camera (such a creative, professional name for a live-feed camera), watch a movie, or to see a slideshow, or use the other dry-erase boards conveniently placed on every wall possible around their rooms.

Now, don't get me wrong—I'm all for modernizing the classrooms. These changes are very overdue and I believe that having the projector in the classrooms as well as the document camera will help everything run just a little more smoothly. But if the SMART Boards aren't being used to their full potential, why have them? Why not install a simple projection screen or white board instead? If the district can save even a little money by installing dry-erase boards in place of these monstrosities and use the money saved to improve the education of the schools, or better yet, to try to put an end to the ever-present debt (the one that should have been dealt with years ago), wouldn't it be better?

π Averonatus Tint π

¹ Yes, I do realize that SMART Board is a brand, but for the sake of simplicity, and so I didn't have to repeatedly type Promethean ActivBoard, I chose to go with the more colloquial SMART Board.

Ten Things IB Kids Dream of Having

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10. Friends. | 4. The future where nerds become rich and return to their high school reunions to crush those imbecilic peons. |
| 9. A pencil that never runs out of lead. | 3. A college that gives credit for IB. |
| 8. IAs for AP. | 2. Friends. |
| 7. Social lives. | 1. A grand slice of chocolate cake. |
| 6. Other IB people counted as people so they could be considered friends. | |
| 5. An essay-writing robot. | |

π Machiavelli π

I Know You Have a Boyfriend/Girlfriend, But...

If you need to open with this statement, you should probably just stop talking. You wouldn't be saying this if the person you were addressing wasn't taken. "Taken", in this sense, means that they are unavailable. This leads to the natural conclusion that you can't have them. There is a reason the person you are talking to is with their boyfriend/girlfriend. That reason probably includes some sort of footnote pertaining to the fact that they don't like you. If they did, they would be with you. But they aren't with you, so you do the math. This being said, it is a very bad idea to confess your undying love for someone in a relationship. Honestly, it's not going to get you anywhere and will most likely end in one of the single most awkward situations that either of you have encountered to date. If you do happen to "accidentally" mention the fact that you feel that you can't live without said person, do not, under any circumstances, follow this confession up by asking the person to prom, Homecoming, Sadie Hawkins, or any

other social or private function that doesn't happen to be a school dance. He/She will automatically assume that his/her attendance to whichever event you chose to invite him/her to will be looked upon as a date and this poses a bit of a problem seeing as how he/she is in a relationship with someone that is not you. The only reasons he/she might agree to go with you would be to ditch you once there and hook up with someone else, to appease his/her guilt-tripping parents, or to prove to his/her significant other that he/she has other options. None of these reasons include him/her liking you and most will result in you getting your poor love-struck feelings hurt. So here's a word to the wise: don't do it! Fantasize from afar if you must, but please, please, please, don't put anyone through the grueling process of having to coming up with a reason not to go with you.

π Phoenix π

Jacked In

Everyone knows how our generation is the most connected group of people ever to walk this planet. With Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, cell phones, car phones, text messaging, AIM, MSN, Hotmail, Yahoo!, VoIP, text-to-speech, speech-to-text, the "Internet Superhighway," and so much more, how could we not be? The question really is, with all of this tech and the know-how to use it, what exactly is the point at which we stop being human? Right?

Well...no, not really. I honestly don't think anyone in this school would give up their intravenous drip of information in order to be a little bit more "human." You see, in this day and age, information is like crack cocaine for the soul. It's addicting, illegal in some places, and usually of questionable quality and content. Ever try kicking a cocaine habit? I guarantee you, it would be easier than cutting yourself off from your data pipeline spoon-feeding you useless bits and bytes of mind-numbing memes and poorly made cartoons until your mind becomes more than the John Travolta-feeding mush that Hulu reduced it to.

This little effect has been covered to exhaustion in pop culture and geek culture alike, from 3 year old hackers to The Matrix to Vinge's Technological Singularity. Our increasing reliance on technology might not be at the level of The Matrix (yet) and the machines might be docile (so far), but when your cell phone decides to punish you for the constant abuse it receives by thoroughly microwaving your head, I suggest we rethink our position and kick the habit.

Let's blog about it.

π Marcus Aurelius π

Ten Reasons FRICH Makes You Smarter

10. FRICH writes proper English.
9. FRICH doesn't write in another language, thereby reinforcing your knowledge of English.
8. FRICH gives you a fair and balanced view on things kind of like FOX except not.
7. FRICH uses big words like "astronomical" and "<censored>" (FRICH hasn't actually used either of these words this year, but we're going to).
6. FRICH keeps its promises, teaching you who to trust and love.
5. FRICH throws mind-bending analogies and paradoxes at you; its syntax being the sunlight to your chlorophyll.
4. FRICH writes about pertinent topics in today's world. It doesn't waste its time on fashion (white sunglasses and short shorts excluded) or teenage pregnancies. No, FRICH goes right to the important stuff like world issues and South Paw errors.
3. FRICH will never waste your time and if it has, it may well have been your fault.
2. FRICH accepts criticism and if you think that's wrong, then you're wrong.
1. FRICH makes reading fun.

π Katow-Jo π

Disclaimer:

Euh...

PLEASE DON'T SUE?