

Osama found in EHS cafeteria;

Dragseth awarded Congressional Medal of Honor

by Karen Rustad

Chaos erupted at Edina superintendent Kenneth Dragseth's National Superintendent of the Year reception on March 6th. As tables of fancy tarts were overturned and men and women in formalwear fled in all directions, Dragseth chased international fugitive Osama bin Laden up and down the halls of Edina High School. Bin Laden was finally apprehended in the chemistry laboratory by Edina police officers. For his efforts, Dragseth was honored for helping capture bin Laden last week in Washington, D.C. by President George W. Bush.

The episode began as faculty, community members, and students mingled peaceably in the Commons during Dragseth's reception. "I had noticed some Arab guy standing around mumbling in Arabic, but I didn't think anything of it at the time. I was too busy concentrating on making beautiful music for Dr. Dragseth," said Hank Lowe, a member of the orchestra quartet that played at the gathering.

Dragseth, however, did think something of it. "While I was chatting with Martha Cosgrove, I saw a suspicious character pour something into the punch bowl. I immediately shouted an alarm, so people wouldn't drink the punch," said Dragseth, polishing his Congressional Medal. "I figured it was either a terrorist or a student with a warped sense of humor. I had no idea it was the Man [bin Laden] himself," he said.

Bin Laden fled the reception and scampered down the stairs. Dragseth, taking cover under a table, immediately ordered teachers Corey Brueckner and Pacy Erck to follow bin Laden. As the terrorist galloped past the bathrooms near the science department, he slipped on a half-eaten container of mozzarella sticks and fell into a puddle of green Powerade. For several

tense minutes, Brueckner and bin Laden sparred using their formidable tae kwon do skills. Finally, as bin Laden attempted a flying side kick, Erck came from behind and subdued bin Laden with an Enriched Biology textbook. Brueckner and Erck stuffed the terrorist into a science cabinet and, while waiting for the police to arrive, graded some tests.

As the world knows, after the September 11th attacks numerous federal agencies have conducted a manhunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Little did they know that their target was much closer to home. Since the beginning of this school year, bin Laden had hidden out as an employee for Edina High School food services. After his capture, FBI agents discovered that bin Laden had been experimenting for months with various biological agents, including smallpox, by putting small amounts in the cafeteria beefy nachos. "We've had students coming in with red spots on their faces, but we thought it was just acne," said school nurse Ann Little.

The FBI also found that bin Laden had been leaving food on the floor for the EHS mouse and rat population, apparently in an effort to breed bubonic plague-carrying fleas.

For his service to the United States of America, President Bush presented Dragseth with the Congressional Medal of Honor on Tuesday. Attorney General John Ashcroft serenaded the five hundred guests at the reception. "Golly gee! National Superintendent of the Year, a Congressional Medal of Honor, the man who put bin Laden where he belongs - there is nothing this extraordinary man cannot do!" exuded Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Bush also sent two letters of appreciation to Brueckner and Erck for their services.

Dragseth's bid for this year's Nobel Peace Prize remains pending.