



Opinions, pp. 2-4



A & E, pp. 5-7



Focus, pp. 8-9



Justice, pp. 10-11



Photo, pp. 12-13



Sports, pp. 14-15



# The Monarch



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## The World at Mitty's Fingertips



Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Hicks will help lead Mitty's new classes with a global focus.

By Bridget McAnany and Kit Strong  
News Editors

A year and a half ago, Mitty decided to go global. Mitty administrators, including curriculum director and Associate Principal, Mr. Robinson, began implementing a strategic plan to open the eyes of Mitty students and get them ready for the big, wide world outside of our school.

Next year's class changes will equip students with global knowledge and leadership skills. Mitty curriculum organizers hope that these skills will prepare students to take

an active role in the emerging global society.

According to Mr. Robinson, "we need to arm people to be ready for the world."

These changes in curriculum reflect the sweeping changes that are happening in our world. The rapid economic growth in India and China, the economic changes in our own country, and the impacts of these changes throughout the world reveal just how interconnected we truly are. So it is only fitting that our new classes next year have a more global bent.

see GLOBAL, page 16

## Nigeria Comes to Mitty

By Emily Chu  
Staff Writer

Father Ugo Nweke came to Mitty on a mission. "I came to Mitty due to a class assignment and my interest in Catholic education in the U.S. The class assignment has to do with supplemental educational programs at Mitty," he says.

Father Nweke is a member of the North-West African Province of the Society of Jesus. Originally from Nigeria in West Africa, he studied in Nairobi, Kenya for three years, where he received his Masters in Divinity and Theology.

He came to Santa Clara University from Loyola Jesuit College in Abuja, Nigeria, where he worked for three years as a Religion Teacher and Campus Minister.

Father Nweke's goal is to return to his hometown in Nigeria to work in a Catholic school, possibly working in school administration. He hopes that when he returns home, he will be able to bring the administrative techniques that he has learned at Santa Clara, and Mitty, with him.

**"I understand that the Christian Activities and spirit in Mitty is student driven. I like that!"**

At Santa Clara, Father Nweke is enrolled in the Graduate Program in Education Administration.

"This quarter, I took classes in K-12 school leadership, like how to run or administer public k-12 schools; Teaching in Secondary Schools—classroom management, handling difficult students, lesson preparations, and school intervention," he explains.

Part of his quarter studies includes a class assignment with Mitty as the focus.

Father Nweke looked mainly at the supplemental programs at Mitty that develop the individual student. "I like the special program Mitty has for students in need of more academic help in different subject areas. I like the fact you have it set-up in such a way that both the school administration, the counselors and subject teachers can work hand-in-hand to see that all students are helped to improve on their performance when they have any problems."

see NIGERIA, page 16

## It's Art Time Online: Mitty Visual Arts

By Maria Palma  
Staff Writer

Mitty has a new art gallery and it's not in the foyer. The gallery features student art for the very first time—online.

A link on the Mitty homepage, allows viewers to virtually see AMHS visual art work in three sections: Featured Artist, Featured Class, and the General Monarch Gallery—freshmen through seniors.

"It's been something that the Art Department has been talking about for years, and now it's finally happening," says Visual Arts Department Chair Mrs. Lemak about the new Archbishop Mitty Online Student Art Gallery.

Over the summer Mrs. Albers applied for a grant to design the gallery and received it this year. "Mrs. Albers did the technical work, and the whole

department helped in a collaborative effort," said Mrs. Lemak.

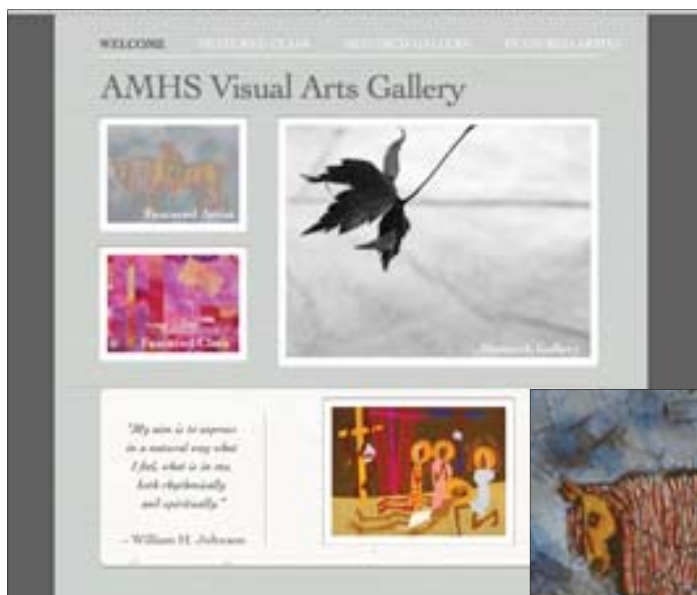
They hope to expand the site to include alumni artists.

The first Featured Artist Sarah Steele said that she feels "flattered at the attention the Art Department is finally receiving."

"I'm excited because there are so many talented artists here and they picked me! I already sent [the link] out to my family and friends." She commented on how well put together this new website is—from the elemental art pieces to the general website.

Mrs. Lemak added, "We wanted it to be perfect now so that anyone in the world can look at it."

The AMHS Digital Art Gallery is up and running on the Mitty webpage. It is listed under the student section as AMHS Student Art Gallery.



At left: The new online AMHS Visual Arts Gallery features over 30 pieces of student art including featured class work, the work of a featured student artist, and a general Monarch gallery.



At right: Sarah Steele's painting as seen in the Featured Artist gallery.



# OPINIONS

## College Decisions:

### Big Universities Vs. Small Colleges

#### BIG SCHOOLS OFFER MORE

By Ally Lockwood  
Staff Writer

Large universities offer many diverse opportunities that can be tailored to satisfy your needs (unlike, say, our school cafeteria).

A bigger school, unlike some smaller institutions, provides a wider variety of majors and courses. This is especially a bonus if you are still undecided and have yet to declare your major. You can experiment with classes and poke around to see what holds your interest. With a larger course selection, like that at Stanford, you can choose from a variety of classes ranging from Microwave Engineering to Chinese Philosophy.

With more choices, you are given more of an opportunity to take advantage of your college years, exploring a wide range of all subjects you could possibly be interested in, until you finally find one you want to spend the rest of your life doing. With such a wide array of academic courses, you are also afforded more chances to interact with a larger spectrum of people from different backgrounds, including your professors. An additional benefit of larger universities is the presence of famous faculty; the opportunity to intern and assist them with research is often available, and beef up your under-graduate resume.

However, being able to tell your parents your Political Science professor was Condoleezza Rice is hardly the only perk for enrolling in a large university. For those among us who are not only the pride of Mitty academia but also endowed with bulging biceps and Greek god-worthy athletic skills, big universities usually have major athletic programs.

Even for those of us whose muscles don't ooze PAC-10-worthy glory, going out to support your school's team can be a great way to socialize with fellow students. Not only do college sports allow you to meet new people, they also get the community outside of your school involved in the university, bringing everyone together to root the home team into obliterating your unfortunate opponent.

At large universities there will not be anyone to tell you what to do: the decision is totally up to you. Depending upon your level of self-motivation, this can either depress or stimulate your studies. With bigger universities there will be no one to push you but yourself—no real hand-holding from counselors and no threats of detention for not doing your homework. For some students this can be an incredibly liberating experience, as they come into adulthood and realize they need to take responsibility for their own life and actions.

As opposed to campuses with a smaller student population, where everyone is better acquainted, larger campuses mean more people, which grants you the anonymity to be whoever you want and reinvent yourself, while still allowing you to form important friendships. You can maintain many different friendships with people who may have no common interests with you academically (you're pre-saw and they're studying zoology) but you can still have fun together because you both have bonded over your mutual love for dungeons and dragons video game marathons.

Not only are large universities good if you're looking to vary your social scene, but with big time donors and alumni, bigger schools usually have a plethora of resources, including extensive libraries. Additionally,

bigger schools offer more opportunity and flexibility in terms of living arrangements, whether you're looking to settle on or off campus.

College should be all about making choices and indulging in your new found freedom. Large universities give you the chance to choose what you want from your college experience, from class choices and resources to living situations.

In addition, the chance to create your own diverse social surroundings and interact with people who have different interests than you will allow you to expand your horizons, or for the less social among us, give you complete anonymity that can be starkly contrasted with a small-campus atmosphere where everyone knows one another.

Since college will play a large part in your future, choosing a school that will provide you with a wide range of opportunities to develop yourself into the person you want to be is not only important, but also necessary. You want to go to a school where you can determine what you want to do with the rest of your life and, the more options you have, the more chance there is that you may uncover hidden talents you never knew you had.

#### BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

By Manasi Patel  
Staff Writer

If you're a high school senior then you're probably thinking about where you want to spend the next few years of your life. A handful of bothersome questions may be lingering in the dark corners off your mind: Near home or as far away as possible? This major or that one? Living in dorms or living off-campus?

But for many of you, the main issue may be this: small college or big college.

Though both can provide equally beneficial experiences, small colleges have a few significant advantages over large universities—advantages which should be kept in mind during the college-decision process.

Let's start with the obvious difference in class size. Small colleges, with their smaller student bodies, are able to establish more focused and intimate classes than big-time universities. An incoming freshman may find the anonymity and intimidating size of lecture halls at large colleges discouraging. However, the smaller class sizes at less mainstream colleges allow for greater individual development, one-on-one time with truly passionate teachers, and more hands-on learning.

Rather than being simply another face in the crowd of 900 other classmates, a small

college can give you the chance to excel, rather than competing for recognition. It offers an environment that encourages individual growth rather than stifling it.

In addition to smaller classes, smaller universities allow for a smoother transition from high school life to college life. Independent living isn't familiar territory for the average high school graduate. Therefore, a smaller college may be the best route for students who feel that a demanding major and a completely new setting would be too much to handle at once.

A smaller student body also allows for a closer community and encourages cooperation amongst peers. For those who are worried about spending their entire lives in a close-knit environment, moving on to a different location is always a viable alternative. For example, many students prefer completing the undergraduate years at a small college and grad school at a major university.

Among the many misconceptions of small schools versus big schools is the notion that mainstream universities have better campuses and athletic opportunities. On the contrary, smaller colleges have ideal, often picturesque and beautiful campuses that are more compact and easily navigable.

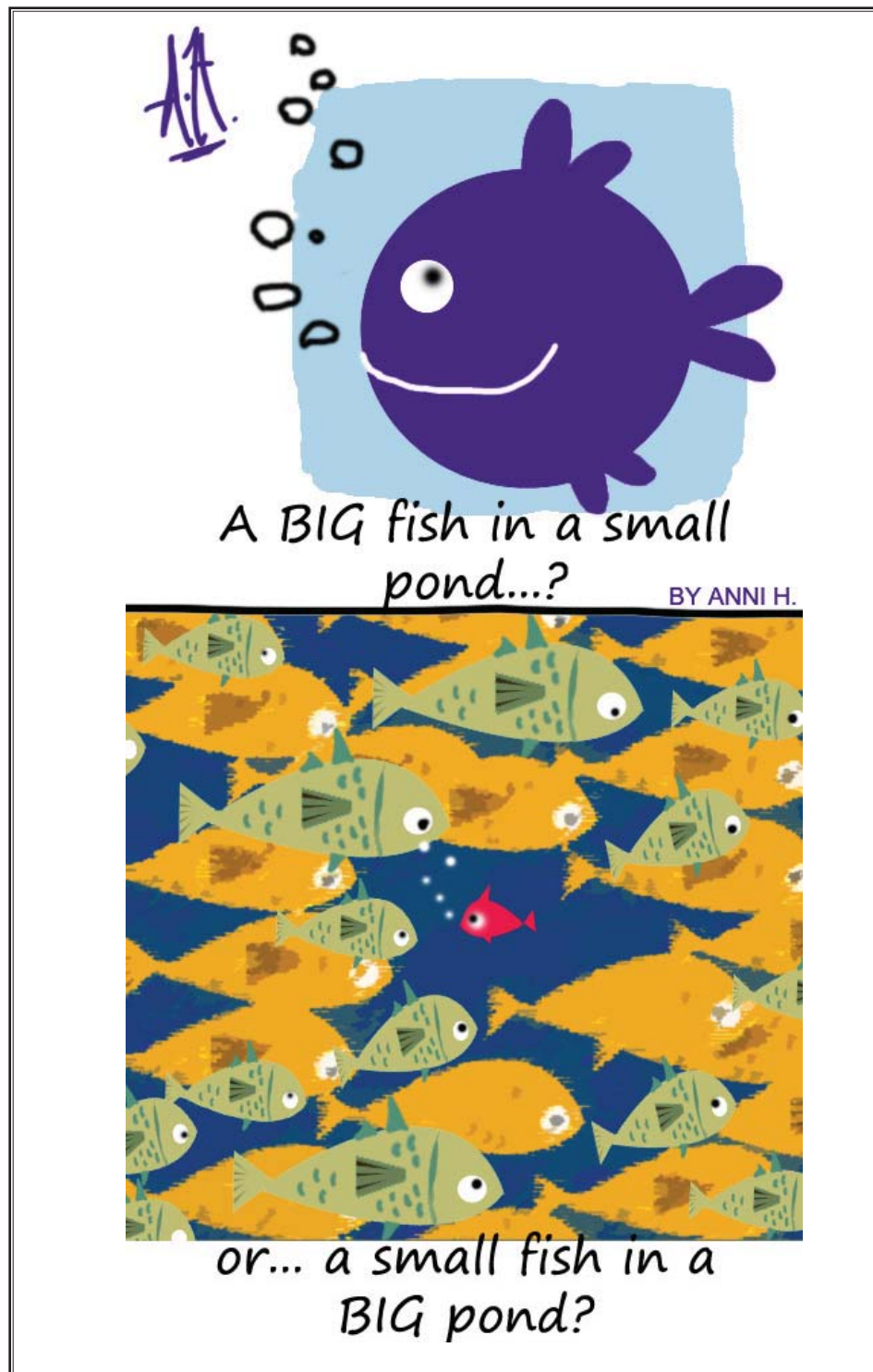
As for sports, although major colleges recruit more talented athletes with scholarships, small colleges have their athletic advantages because they put less pressure on their athletes. The balance between athletics and academics is more easily managed and is a high priority at most smaller universities, preparing the typical college student for multiple responsibilities out there in the real world.

Still the main argument of most college applicants favoring larger universities is that a bigger student body will better prepare the student for life "out there." If your definition of reality is a campus with fraternities and sororities competing for your attention, and professors who you won't get to know, then sure, perhaps a mainstream college is exactly what you need. If your future college experience is modeled after the fabricated situations in entertaining yet misleading shows and movies, such as *Greek* or *Legally Blonde*, then no, a small college is most definitely not what you are searching for.

But, in truth, the chances are that in the real world, you won't be working with hundreds of people every day, but rather with a few close colleagues. There won't be sororities or fraternities to help you make certain connections, but instead you'll have to rely on your communication skills. The real world is looking for people with the right experience and education. If preparation for the world "out there" is what you're worried about, then a small college can in many ways be the right choice for you.

Ultimately, while most incoming freshman may be drawn to the glory of mainstream colleges, it is always beneficial to keep in mind the value of individuality and hands-on learning that is embodied in most small universities.

Therefore, when imagining the next four or so years of your life, try imagining it at a place other than the Ivy League or a big-time college. You may be surprised by what you can gain from the small college experience.







## AN ALTERNATIVE TO COLLEGE: Vocational Schools as a Viable Substitute for College

By **Marlena Vasquez**  
*Staff Writer*

For this year's seniors, the pressure is on: We've taken college prep, AP, and honors courses; we've sat through hours of standardized testing and poured over personal essays; we've applied to some of the top universities in the country, competing with the largest pool of applicants ever.

For most of us, there isn't even a question of whether or not we will attend college: it is what is expected of us as students at Mitty. With the intense focus on college admissions, it can be surprising to hear that in actuality, nearly one in four California students does not graduate from high school.

There are numerous reasons for this shocking statistic, some indicating serious flaws in the California educational system. Nevertheless, vocational education offers one clear solution to the problem.

In a society where a college diploma is regarded as the foundation for success, increased emphasis on career-focused and vocational education in schools can be a hard sell. Although, it is true that no single program can reduce the number of high school dropouts, vocational education can be an option for students who have lost interest in the traditional high school setting.

Because not all students have the desire or the resources to attend college, high school should ensure that they are fully capable of earning a living and being successful in life. Specifically, a large number of students lose interest in traditional high school courses because they cannot connect the course content to the "real world." Vocational education, with classes focused on preparing an individual for a specific career, can be an answer to this problem. In the past, technical education has been criticized for encouraging schools to "track" students. While high-achieving students were guided towards the college-prep classes, students who performed poorly were placed in lower-level classes.

The idea of technical education usually brings to mind the traditional woodshop, welding, or mechanics classes—programs which have long since been discontinued in many high schools. The problem with this system was that many of the lower-achieving students that were pushed into the vocational programs had the ability to achieve, but they had not been provided with the tools (i.e. academic counseling or tutoring) to be successful.

However, proponents of vocational education have come up with various programs that provide students with a career-focused education, while ensuring they have the option to attend college in the future. One such approach is the Multiple Pathways movement supported by such institutions as the University of California, California State University and the California Department of Education. Multiple Pathways is not so much a program as a collection of organizations with the same goal: to provide an education that will actively engage students and prepare them for the adult world.

A program associated with Multiple Pathways is the California Partnership Academies. The Academies function as schools-within-schools, beginning with the tenth grade and continuing until graduation, catering specifically to under-achieving students with potential. These academies are not the vocational programs of old. Students in these programs can focus on a wide variety of career paths, including health care, agriculture, biotechnology, engineering and more. Paired with rigorous academics, the program offers courses based on a career theme, academic mentoring, and possibilities for internships. Indeed, the Academies have proved to be a successful model of Multiple Pathways in action—participants in the program were more likely to graduate from high school and attend college after graduation.

The need for vocational education is a vital and often forgotten one in the public education system. However, the success of programs like California Partnership Academies has demonstrated that technical education can play an important role in inspiring low-achieving students to pursue their education—most importantly, by connecting what they are learning with real world situations and careers. With the intensifying pressure of college admissions, it is often difficult to recognize that a high school education is not simply a means to an end at a university. Perhaps programs such as Multiple Pathways can serve as a model for all high schools, emphasizing that high school is not just preparation for college, but a place to learn about and prepare for the challenges of the adult world.

## MITTY'S CURRICULUM: More Options of Courses More Benefits to Education

By **Alex Fong**  
*Staff Writer*

Mitty already has talented teachers who lead exciting classes, motivating students to study beyond the normal curriculum. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were even more options to learn on campus?

For those of you who don't know much about school curricula, it's best to think of it like literature or philosophy, which reflect their time and place. In upcoming years, Mitty's classes will change, implementing a curriculum shift from a traditionally focus on the local and national community into a more global focus on the larger world.

Despite the enormous amount of work it takes for teachers to develop new courses, Mitty's faculty remains flexible and enthusiastic. Classes like AP European History, AP World History, and Mandarin as a new foreign language have all been added within the last few years. As contemporary global issues rival domestic issues, Mitty wants its students to have the skills to live in the rest of the world, according to Mr. Hicks, the Social Studies Department Chair. What this means, to be exact, is the advent of classes on global economics, on the rise of second and third world countries like Brazil, India, and China, and a class on Middle Eastern affairs, all of which will become available for next year's seniors to take as Social Studies electives beginning next year.

Thus far, the steps Mitty has taken are laudatory, and if its objective is to make "a key component of all future classes at Mitty to focus on globalization," then it is on the right track. But is it enough?

Perhaps an easy change would be to allow for a full year of philosophy. The current semester-long course is great, yet can a "Love of Wisdom" be effectively and genuinely cultivated in only four and a half months?

I think we should have more classes that give students the opportunity to understand not just the what, but the who. In other words, we need classes that emphasize a country's people and not only its politics or economics. Although we have spectacular immersion trips, we should strive to ensure that all students come to understand how different their perspectives are from people in other parts in the world.

Perhaps more English classes like Cultures in Conflict, which focuses on different works from different cultures could be added. Still more immersion trips and foreign language options would further help students understand other cultures and societies. These are some of the many potential steps Mitty could take to make its curriculum more international. But in any case, regardless of how the school decides to teach the world to its students, I think Mitty's new changes to its curriculum will lead to impressive results.

## SAT AND THE ACT: A Breakdown

By **Philip Budriunas**  
*Staff Writer*

With the first half of the year almost done, and second semester soon approaching, many juniors will have a new challenge to face: the infamous college entrance exams. The college application process can feel complicated. The combination of applications, essays, and especially the entrance exams, is stressful. However, an alternative test, called the ACT, may relieve some pressure from many high school students, who approach testing differently.

The ACT is the ideal test to take for those who may not consider themselves the best test takers, due to the test's design. The ACT is 2 hours and 55 minutes in length, in comparison to the SAT which is 3 hours and 45 minutes. The ACT is scored from 1-36 based off of four sections consisting of English, Math, Reading, Science, with an optional writing section. In contrast, the SAT has three sections based on Mathematics, Reading Comprehension, and Writing with a mandatory essay. Unlike the SAT, the ACT does not deduct any points for a wrong answer.

A common concern among students is how many times one can take each test. Both tests can be taken as many times as necessary. For the SAT it is suggested to take the test twice, because colleges see how many times one takes the test. Thus, taking the SAT five times and finally getting a high score does not hold the same impact as taking the test twice and consistently earning an above average score. For the ACT there is no limit to how many times one can take the test, because the test taker can choose which test scores are sent to the college.

The bottom line of the entire SAT-ACT debate comes down to one's test taking style and preference. The best advice given to high school students is to take both tests.

However, there is a growing movement to remove standardized tests from the admissions process. Already, a number of progressive institutions have become part of the SAT-ACT optional movement, recognizing that grades and essays are more telling about a student than a test begrudgingly taken on a Saturday morning.





## WHAT "CHANGE" NEEDS TO OVERCOME: Challenges Facing Barack Obama

By Ian Davis  
Staff Writer

Our country has just elected the first African-American president, a historic victory by any standard. But for President-elect Obama, winning may have been the easy part. His administration will inherit the worst economy since the Great Depression and the biggest foreign policy mess since Vietnam. The greatest challenge of Obama's presidency will likely be pulling us through this global economic downturn. The biggest obstacle? The 10.6 trillion dollar debt—that's almost \$35,000 per American—created by the fiscal irresponsibility of deregulatory practices, among other issues, that can be traced as far back as Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Obama is starting with an almost one trillion dollar budget deficit. He will either have to significantly increase the deficit—a choice that will go against his plan to balance the budget—or significantly increase taxes, which will alienate voters.

Whichever one he chooses, he will also have to spend the money wisely if he wants to get the economy back on track. No more open-ended loans to failing mega-corporations or golden parachutes for their executives. He will have to invest the money back in America, creating New Deal style programs that will rebuild our infrastructure, create viable alternatives to oil, and improve our education system. This way, he is not just creating jobs, he is creating lasting improvements that will benefit the country for the next century (just look at something like the Hoover Dam).

But that will not be as simple as it sounds. How will he convince the Americans to pay for the necessary investment in Green technologies now that gas is cheaper again? How will he improve the education system when people have been unsuccessfully trying for years?

The economy may be the most pressing challenge, but foreign policy is definitely one of the greatest. The main challenge here—restoring international respect for America—can also be traced back to the Bush legacy.

Though an early critic of the War in Iraq, Obama's website reports an ambiguous answer similar to what we have heard from George Bush. Obama plans to give the "Secretary of Defense and military commanders a new mission in Iraq: successfully ending the war." The War in Iraq found itself on the back burner this election and members of the grassroots organization Iraq Veterans Against the War were consistently denied a meeting with Barack Obama. On some occasions Obama would go so far as to cancel meetings with IVAW after agreeing to listen to their concerns about this seemingly never ending quagmire. Furthermore, Obama has been discussing a troop surge in Afghanistan similar to last year's surge in Iraq that would also rely on cross-border raids into Pakistan. We must remember that any "success" from the Surge in Iraq came from the United States and the Iraqi government paying rival factions in Iraq to lay down their arms; the higher troop levels were not the magic elixir.

The president-elect will also have to find a way to re-engage human rights violators around the world without appearing like a crusading imperialist as Bush did with Iraq. Obama has promised to close Guantanamo, which will help soften America's image abroad. Likewise, Obama will need to diffuse the situations in North Korea and Iran, and prevent either of them from acquiring nuclear weapons. He must be especially cautious with the latter, for if they even come close to become a nuclear power, Israel is sure to make the defensive first strike with their own vast weapons arsenal which also contains nukes.

There is also the growing threat in the east: the return of a hostile Russia. Both presidential candidates sided with Georgia—a nation who was on its way to becoming a NATO member—in its conflict with Russia earlier this year. It is fair to say that Obama matched McCain for belligerency in the final debate when it came to their plans for dealing with an increasingly menacing Russia. Dmitri Medvedev, an extension of the Putin regime, gave a speech on November 5 (yes, that is only one day after the election) reminiscent of Cold War era tensions in which he declared they would be placing missiles on the Polish border. Oh, and he also congratulated Obama on his victory.

But Obama's greatest challenge has sprung from his greatest asset. He has inspired this country, so much so that many believe that he can accomplish all of this and more. Hopefully, Americans and Obama can remember to be realistic during this political honeymoon. Change doesn't simply deliver itself to your doorstep, you must actively seek it. What the American people (and Progressives in particular) need to do is to not become complacent with an Obama presidency. Just because he is not George Bush does not mean we can disregard standards of honesty, integrity, and morality.

## A TRUE MAVERICK: The Legacy of John McCain

By Will Kline  
Staff Writer

Come January, Barack Obama, will officially be the President of the United States. His future for the next four, or possibly eight years, is already being considered.

However, as with most elections, one can't help but to look at the other side of the table. It is a phenomenal thing to become the first African American President, but it is another idea entirely to think of the first man who lost to the first African American President. I am of course talking about the Republican candidate, Senator John McCain. Seriously, how does one react to that? Losing in such a historic election, there can be many reactions. Jealousy, anger, hate, or maybe respect, appreciation, and sportsmanship. In John McCain's case, it is certainly the latter.

On November 4, John McCain bowed his head in defeat. Knowing that he would not be President, he gave a concession speech saying how he has supported the decision of the American in the past, and would continue to do so in the future. Then, according to him, the first thing he did was to take a long rest. I would have done the same. After so much campaigning, speeches, travel, and debate, anyone would be wiped out. As McCain accepted defeat I can't help but think he felt more relieved than patriotic, and I mean that in a positive way.

The future for the 72 year old isn't as set in stone as Obama's. The campaign having ended, I imagine it feels like a great burden has just been shed from his shoulders, or in his own words during the aforementioned concession speech, it was "the end of a great journey."

Returning to the Senate, I wonder if John McCain really doesn't regret his decisions. But then I remember that he said himself that he does not look back on his actions with doubt. When the curtains have closed and the fans have left the stadium, McCain has both respect for his opponent, and resolve in his actions. In the face of insurmountable odds, an opponent who created a following the likes of which has never been seen before, and a world where many of his decisions were not popular, he stayed in there. He kept in the game against Barack Obama, and did not back down. At the end of the day, John McCain can say that he battled something of a magnitude that nobody else has fought before.

In truth, John McCain is a maverick worthy of respect. Unfortunately, a man who remained with his comrades in Vietnam and made a name for himself by butting heads with Republican leadership, ran a negative campaign that squandered and insulted his legacy. Luckily, he will not be remembered for losing to Obama: he will be remembered for much, much more.

## COLLEGE CRUNCH CSU System Cuts 10,000 Students

By Britney Karim  
Opinions Editor

In this day and age, one thing is certain: colleges and universities around the nation are feeling the effects of the American economy. Indeed, Ivy League schools as well as public institutions are integrating new policies in hopes of cutting spending.

And so, as home values and stock prices continue to fall further, and unemployment rises, students will find it increasingly difficult to obtain the loans they need in order to attend college.

Many schools have foreseen the economic challenges that lie ahead, and have been forced to forestall developments and freeze hiring.

Only two weeks ago, the California State University System announced its plans to turn away 10,000 eligible students next fall. Boasting the largest enrollment numbers within the United States, the CSU system attributes this reduction to a lack of funding caused by the state budget crisis.

Apparently, the 23-campus system has been over-enrolled by 10,000 students since 2006. It appears the economy has taken its toll on even the most major state college system in the country.

But, what does this imply for student applicants? Surely, parents will be more reluctant to finance their child's Ivy League education. Many will opt for more feasible public institutions. And thus an even larger pool of applicants will struggle to gain financial aid along with fewer available slots.

Some individuals will lack the resources to attend a public school. Enrollment at CSUs alone is projected to drop from 460,000 to 450,000. Given the economy, enrollment may well decrease further.

Financial woes aside, student applicants will find it more challenging to be accepted to their college or university of choice.

In terms of the CSU system's recent trimming of their applicant pool, there will be even fewer than the original number of seats to contend for.

While colleges within the nation may be relieving overcrowding on campus, their actions only serve to increase the competition between eligible students.

Senior Cerena Chen recognizes the difficulty the class of 2009 faces: "The bar has been raised yet again; students will have to work even harder to obtain an acceptance letter."

Without a doubt, students will be challenged academically and financially in the coming months. The changes that are occurring within school systems will undoubtedly work against students lacking financial resources or exceptional grades and test scores. Unjust as it is, there will be 10,000 qualified graduating students in California that will not be accepted into the CSU system.

And though as senior Annie Nalesnik sums up, "The situation gives students an incentive to work even harder and to present themselves as viable candidates," surely, this wasn't what the class of 2009 was expecting in the coming year.





# Arts & Entertainment

## Traditional Animation Makes a Comeback

By Nicole Haaser  
Staff Writer

In recent years, mostly as a result of a long-standing and complicated Disney-Pixar agreement, the film industry has seen a boom of CGI animated films, while the traditional celluloid, or “cel” animation and stop motion techniques have been shoved into the background. Fortunately, this charming older style of animation is making a comeback, though not without difficulty.

September 2005 marked a popular year for stop motion with the release of *Wallace & Grommit: Escape of the Wererabbit* (claymation) and *Corpse Bride* (puppets), internationally grossing \$56,110,897 and \$117,195,061, respectively. Both films received critical acclaim, instilling hope into traditional animation supporters. Yet despite this undeniable success, stop motion films have remained relatively below the radar.

On a similar note, many proponents of cel animation are becoming increasingly pessimistic about future success or change in a market that is heavily tilted towards computer imaging. The most recent high-grossing cel animated Disney film was 1994's *The Lion King*. Since then, Disney has released a few cel animation films, often sequels, but none that equal the former glory of the 1980's and '90s. Moreover, many went straight to DVD, bypassing the moviegoing audience completely.

So why bother going through the tedious process of hiring hundreds of artists to painstakingly illustrate each frame, when the alternative is to have an efficient and more cost-friendly computer do it for you? Is the former grandeur of traditional animation is long gone?



Nevertheless, despite recent times, patrons of traditionally animated films should rest assured: All hope is not lost. Just last year, along with the release of *The Simpsons Movie*, cel animation made a clear, albeit brief, cameo. The vivid opening sequences and original songs sung by the characters in the feature film (as opposed to superimposing background music) harken back to the earlier Disney masterpieces. Sure enough, this brief utilization of cel animation has foreshadowed its comeback in the Disney world. *The Princess and the Frog*, Disney's latest cel animation endeavor, is due out in December of next year.

Outside the world of Disney, the French full-length animated feature *Persepolis* was released last year and receiving widespread recognition and a nomination for

an Academy Award. The film adaptation of the autobiographical graphic novel, *Persepolis* was co-directed by creator and protagonist of the comic, Marjane Satrapi, and completed entirely in cel animation style.

In response to the typical questions regarding cel animation and its tedium, Satrapi explains, “We made a choice to do the animation on paper to draw it by hand with a pencil. Of course, it takes a lot of time but anything that’s done by a machine becomes dated very quickly. It might look great today, but in five years, it’s dated.”

Satrapi also provides some insight about the authenticity of cel animation, “Machines produce a perfect image, while human beings are imperfect. So it’s not the image of a human being. There’s something wrong with this cold quality, with this perfection, that doesn’t match us. There’s vibration in the hand that brings the image to life.”

Finally, Wes Anderson aficionados have been given something to be truly animated about.

The voices of the usual suspects—Anjelica Huston, Jason Schwartzman, and Bill Murray, along with the additions of George Clooney, Cate Blanchett, and Meryl Streep—will be superimposed onto the characters of Roald Dahl’s *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*, Anderson’s latest film project, due in theatres November of next year.

That’s not the only thing fans of stop-motion have to look forward to, however: the film *Coraline*, to be released in February, features an innovative blend of CGI and stop-motion animation. Although it’s true that the movie industry is long past the glory days of traditional forms of animation, the charm and originality they produce in films keeps fans coming back for more.

## Twilight: Behind the Phenomenon

By James Garza  
Staff Writer

*Twilight*. This is a title we’ve all heard at least once, either spoken with disdain by critics or screamed by adoring fans.

It’s a story about a perfectly normal girl who falls in love with a vampire, setting the stage for a blockbuster series of four books. But why is Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight* series, and everything surrounding it, so popular?

Since the first book debuted in 2005, it has sparked pandemonium not only in the U.S., but also internationally.

In the years following *Twilight*’s debut, three sequels, a feature film, a



best selling movie soundtrack (featuring new songs from popular bands Muse and Paramore), chocolate bars for Godiva, a clothing line from Hot Topic, and countless other examples of *Twilight*-related buzz have appeared.

*Twilight* has caused such a fan frenzy that over 3,000 people lined up for a chance to meet Robert Pattinson, the now-incredibly-famous actor playing Edward, in San Francisco.

In fact, there were so many people storming the mall for even a glimpse of the star that things quickly spun out of control, as disputes over who would get into Hot Topic first culminated in a melee that left one girl with a broken nose and

others trampled. The event was quickly canceled.

So what is it about *Twilight* that appeals to fans so strongly that it causes this level of hysteria? It is definitely not the quality of writing, as literary critics and even fans of the series agree that the books are not particularly well-written.

For one, the setting in the book is realistic, not a fantasyland like Middle Earth or Hogwarts. Forks, Washington, is, in

reality, just as it is described in the novel—rainy and in the middle of nowhere.

This gives the reader a sense of a world that she could enter. Thus, despite the fact that *Twilight* is a story about

vampires, it’s not completely far-fetched.

However, what really draws these fanatical fans into the series is the romance between the immortal vampire Edward and the fairly normal, not spectacularly beautiful, Bella. Edward is described as impossibly beautiful, undyingly chivalrous, and perplexingly mysterious—most of the book’s popularity can be attributed to his unabashed romanticism.

So in conclusion, it’s not the lackluster writing or rather predictable plot that attracts so many readers to the blockbuster *Twilight* series.

Rather, it’s the perfect yet impossible romance between a could-be-you normal girl and a dream guy.



## Lady Gaga: Newcomer to Pop

By Andy Vo  
Staff Writer

Pop music is returning with a sparkling vengeance, led by 22-year-old New York native Lady Gaga.

Discovered by hip-hop artist Akon in 2007, she has quickly become one of music’s rising stars. Her debut album *The Fame* is an absolute powerhouse, showcasing a new and creative blend of hip-hop, glam, disco and electro-pop, and filled with fourteen delicious dance-worthy confections. The album is chock-full of Gaga’s impressive vocals, catchy hooks, tongue-and-cheek lyrics, and fun propelling dance beats.

Lady Gaga’s influences—Queen, Madonna, and Kylie Minogue—are visible throughout the disc and her debut single, “Just Dance,” is a fun and upbeat party anthem. She also cleverly manages to blend hip-hop beats with techno touches in “Starstruck,” featuring rap superstar Flo Rida, and “Paper Gangster.” Any fan of pop, hip-hop, and even ’70s glam will be able to appreciate *The Fame*. Gaga isn’t just a musician: She is an artist.

Currently, Lady Gaga is on tour with labelmates New Kids on the Block and recently performed at San Jose’s HP Pavilion. Her live performances show off her extraordinary talent and tell a tale of her quest for *The Fame*. The live show combines music with innovative technology, such as her “disco stick” (a glowing staff), video projector glasses, and movable screens, with music to create great visuals for the audience.

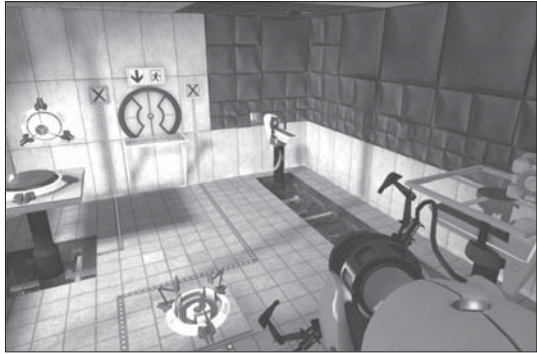
*The Fame* has currently gone platinum in Australia and Canada and is racing up the dance charts of Europe and the US. Lady Gaga is shaping up to be the Madonna of our generation and will be a force to be reckoned with in the pop scene for years to come.



## “Portal” Sequel Offers Unique Gaming

By Scott Whitman  
Staff Writer

In May 2007, Turn 10 Studio's *Forza Motorsport 2* set new standards for racing simulators across all systems. In September of that year, Bungie's legendary *Halo 3* hit the market, quickly selling millions and becoming the definitive first-person shooter game. In November of that year, developer Bioware brought us *Mass Effect*, the epic role-playing game that impressed gamers with its immersive storyline and expansive worlds. So what has 2008 brought to the gaming industry? This fall, developer Valve gave us *Portal: Still Alive* for the PC and XBOX 360.

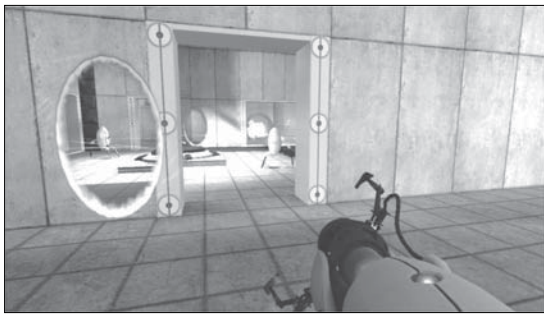


Unlike most other games, there is no backstory for *Portal*. Upon starting the game, the player simply awakes to find himself within a transparent holding cell. After providing the player with an “Aperture Science Handheld Portal Device” (portal gun), the facility's resident artificially intelligent computer, GLaDOS, sends them off

to complete the test chambers, promising, in a creative quirk, cake and grief counseling as their reward. As the test chambers become increasingly life-threatening, though, it becomes apparent that there is something far more sinister at work behind the facility's pristine white walls.

But what exactly is *Portal*, as a game? Although it may be a first-person game in which the player carries a “gun,” *Portal* is by no means a “shooter.” Rather than bullets, this gun allows the player to create portals on nearly any wall. The portal gun can create two distinct portal ends, orange and blue. Neither is specifically an entrance or exit; objects (including the player) that travel through the one portal will exit through the other.

Since speed is conserved through portals and there is no consequence for falling (except into acid, of course), you'd better be prepared to defy the laws of physics as well as space as you warp your way to the exit in each of the four dozen test chambers. There simply isn't enough room here to discuss in detail every conundrum you will be presented with, but rest assured *Portal* is a game of the mind that will make you use every last bit of brain power, whether or not you are a hardcore gamer.



While not perhaps one of the most notable developers around, Valve certainly knows how to get the fundamentals of *Portal* correct. Though sometimes criticized as overly sparse, the environments are nonetheless crisp-lined and realistic, and the austere depiction of the sterile test rooms is visually pleasing. From the sloshing of water and the humming of lightbulbs to the oddly satisfying “pop” of the portal gun, every audio cue is precise.

In truth, the only genuine weakness of *Portal* is its brevity. Most players will progress through the main storyline in less than four hours, though the additional advanced challenge chambers will add about as much. That aside, as the review site *GameSpy* noted, “What *Portal* lacks in length, it more than makes up for in exhilaration.” It is this exhilaration that ultimately earns *Portal* high marks.

## A Forgotten Classic

### Stephen King Story of Buried Past Worth a Watch

By Grey Traynor  
Staff Writer

It is not very often that two performances fit just perfectly together, but in *Dolores Claiborne*, lightning strikes: Kathy Bates and Jennifer Jason Leigh work off one another so well as an estranged mother and daughter that they deserved more awards attention than they actually received.

However, there is a lot more to this film than the outstanding performances.

*Dolores Claiborne*, from a novel written by Stephen King, is about a woman who has to deal with an abusive, alcoholic husband every day, and still be the bread-winner for a young daughter. But the non-linear nature of the film means it begins with the future and along the way reveals secrets from the past.

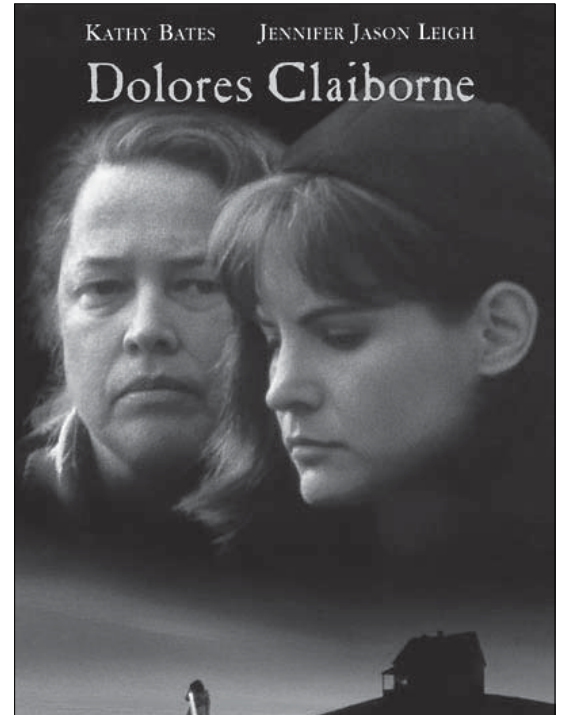
Selena, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, is a hotshot reporter who has a broken relationship with her mother, Dolores (Kathy Bates), because of an unknown event from their past. But Selena comes back home to determine why her mother, a maid, is being accused of murdering her long-time employer, and this visit opens up old wounds that never healed.

A non-linear film can often be uneven or confusing if mishandled, but *Dolores Claiborne* director, Taylor Hackford, delicately places each scene and gives us enough information so as to keep our attention. Also, some of the shots have a glossy glow to them that fits with the sometimes-dark tone of the film. Another great part of the film is the supporting cast. David Strathairn as the alcoholic husband and Judy Parfitt as Dolores's severe but caring boss strengthen the plot.

*Dolores Claiborne* is one of those films that can be watched again and again. Even when you know what happens, the superior plot and filmmaking pulls you in. Some of the scenes are pitch-perfect, and Hackford delivers an ending that doesn't cheat the viewer or seem formulaic.

The reason for *Dolores Claiborne*'s failure in awards contention and its fall into obscurity among moviegoers is probably due to its March 1995 release date. Often times untraditional movies such as this, when released early in the year, struggle to get Oscar attention. And the truth is that those awards are what many films depend on for a place in public consciousness.

Hopefully now you are tempted into seeing a forgotten gem, a character-driven drama deserving of repeat viewing.



## Michelle Obama: First Lady of Fashion

By Geraldine Slevin  
A&E Editor

Of all the First Ladies in the United States' history, one stands out as an eternal icon of style: Jacqueline Kennedy. Her smart suits, chic dresses, and pillbox hats have, over the years, provided inspiration for countless designers, and for other women in the public spotlight.

Future First Lady Michelle Obama seems to be one of these women—her classically elegant and youthfully chic ensembles suggest a new style icon in the making. Mrs. Obama's public appearances are always marked by a beautifully tailored suit in a striking color, such as the pear green Moschino skirt and jacket she wore at a rally in May, or an instantly memorable dress by an of-the-moment designer—for example, the purple and red floral Thakoon shift she wore at the Democratic National Convention. That's not to say that the First Lady's style is based on expensive designer pieces; however, a \$150 dress from the mall store White House/Black Market sold out almost immediately after she wore it for an appearance on *The View*.

Michelle Obama seems to be a far more relevant fashion figure than Jackie Kennedy for women today—her skillful blending of sophisticated and casual, fashionable and classic, high-end and inexpensive outfits makes her an accessible and admirable fashion figure, not to mention a well-respected figure in the new political sphere. For this reason, various designers, from Diane Von Furstenburg to Thakoon, are vying for a chance to have her wear their dresses at the Inaugural Ball, an opportunity for invaluable public attention.

With a new presidency just around the corner, talk of change is constantly in the air. But as Michelle Obama emerges as one of America's chicest political figures, it seems change is in the air for fashion as well.





# MONARCH CRITICS

## Snow Patrol

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Manosai Eerabathini  
Staff Writer

Following their last success with *Eyes Open*, the indie rock band Snow Patrol released their latest album titled *A Hundred Million Suns* on Oct. 28. After years of endeavoring in obscurity, these Irish rockers have subsided into a conventional formula of expansive musicians mingling with hushed, mellow ballads.



Musically, the album doesn't sound much different than their previous one. The few anomalies to the rather consistent tracklist are the songs "Take Back the City" and "Crack the Shutters." They crackle with energy and seem to be the only songs of enough potency to provoke comparisons to their previous global hit "Chasing Cars."

Despite these successes, the album is too similar to Snow Patrol's previous work to stand out. It merely maintains the fans' interest in the band and serves to gain a number of new followers. From a lyrical standpoint, the album moves in a different direction: frontman Gary Lightbody admits that this album tends to deviate away from songs about the last stages of relationships and instead describes the vulnerability and naiveté of being in love.

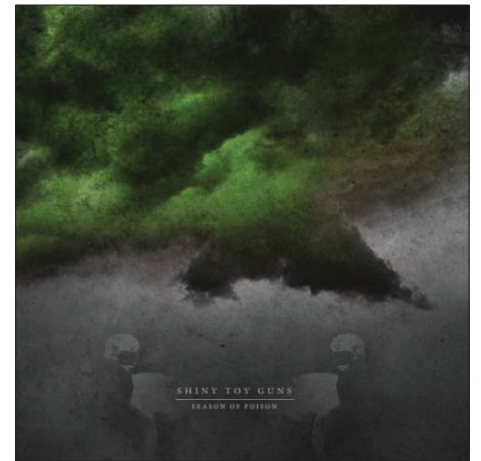
With *A Hundred Million Suns*, Snow Patrol has produced another solid album, but apart from a few potential hits, it's not much we haven't heard before.

## Shiny Toy Guns

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Shivali Singh  
Staff Writer

Released on November 4, 2008, *Season of Poison* is the fourth studio album for Shiny Toy Guns, but only the second album to yield new songs. Their last compilation, *We Are Pilots*, produced numbers that quickly became well known: "Le Disko," "You Are the One," and "Rainy Monday."



However, *Season of Poison* proves to be slightly more profound than its predecessor. The opening song "When Did This Storm Begin?" sets the mood with its fast pace and its insightful yet angst-filled lyrics. The rest of the songs vary in speed, but they carry an undercurrent of pain and confusion, creating an excellent collection of emotive tracks.

The songs "Ricochet!" and "Ghost Town" stand out as the most intriguing of the album for their intense, danceable beats. Interestingly enough, the band's female lead vocalist Carah Faye Charnow was replaced by newcomer Sisely Treasure before the recording of *Season of Poison*, but the vocals seem to be improved from the last album.

Overall, Shiny Toy Guns' latest album is full of strong, emotional songs and reveals real musical talent.

## Quantum of Solace

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Justin Nguyen  
Staff Writer

Daniel Craig is back as James Bond in *Quantum of Solace*. As an action movie, it delivers all that it promises, with no shortage of flying bullets, large explosions, perilous close-quarters combat, and epic car chases. As a continuation of the James Bond legacy, though, *Quantum of Solace* diverges from expectations. The film follows Bond through an adventure fraught with betrayal and revenge as he searches for clues about a secret organization.



Though Daniel Craig does an excellent job in the role given him, the Bond he plays lacks somewhat the depth and flare we're used to: he's more power than finesse. *Quantum of Solace* is modern, dark, and gritty, causing it to resemble a film in the Jason Bourne series more than anything from the James Bond franchise.

However, the special effects and the action are top notch, and make for a very entertaining experience. Don't worry—*Quantum of Solace* won't bore you. Yet despite the fancy looking computerized interfaces on secret government computer systems, I couldn't help but be bothered by the movie's lack of any sort of marvelous gadget. In another step away from tradition, Bond was also, unfortunately, too busy to spend much quality time with the Bond girls.

All in all, though, *Quantum of Solace* is a lot of fun, and you shouldn't let any of its shortcomings detract from any of the secret agent action. It's not perfect, but it's a fine addition to the James Bond name. And don't feel bad if after watching it, you still have no idea what *Quantum of Solace* means. I think that's normal.

## Zack and Miri Make A Porno

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Tessa Krey  
Staff Writer

*Zack and Miri Make a Porno*, the new film from director Kevin Smith, tells the story of supposedly platonic roommates and friends Zack Brown (Seth Rogen) and Miriam Linky (Elizabeth Banks), who resort to making an adult film to solve their monetary problems. But once the camera starts rolling, the two begin to realize that they might be a little more than friends.



The plot sounds overused, but the movie actually has a lot of heart to it. Despite the raunchiness its title might imply, the movie never loses sight of the overall theme, which is the honest love between Zack and Miri.

The cast is uniformly excellent. Known for hit comedies such as *Superbad* and *Knocked Up*, Seth Rogen is predictably hilarious as Zack, and Elizabeth Banks induces just as many laughs despite less comedic experience.

The two have real chemistry and play off of each other very well. The supporting actors are equally great: *The Office*'s Craig Robinson as Zack's best friend had the funniest lines in the movie and nailed every one of them, and Brandon Routh and Justin Long stole the show despite only appearing in one scene.

Some may be reluctant to see *Zack and Miri* due to the bluntness of its title and plot. And if you get easily offended, you probably should stay away. But it truly is lighthearted, moving fun with an ending that is somewhat predictable yet very satisfying.

## Role Models

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Jon Lacson  
Staff Writer

When one imagines a role model, what comes to mind? Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr., and Jesus are a few examples, but certainly not an apathetic salesman who's depressed with his job, or his best friend. In *Role Models*, Danny (Paul Rudd) and Wheeler (Seann William Scott) are less than ideal "role models" who travel from school to school, preaching about the dangers of drugs to students while promoting their company's energy drink, "Minotaur" as a "safer" alternative.



After being dumped by his girlfriend, Danny and Wheeler drive the company truck into a school monument in an energy drink-induced rage. Faced with either jail-time or 150 hours of community service, they both decide on the latter and are forced to enroll into the "Sturdy Wings" program and assume the position of "bigs" to needy "littles."

The perfect ensemble casting stands out. Paul Rudd—a frequent player in the Judd Apatow movies—finally gets the chance at a main role and brilliantly demonstrates the wit and charm that made him such an effective supporting actor. Seann William Scott is adequate in his role as a playboy who is obsessed with the band KISS. Christopher Mintz-Plasse—AKA "McLovin"—plays a nerdy teen immersed in the world of medieval role-playing games. But the real breakout star of the film is Bobb'e J. Thompson. With his vulgarity only matched by his love of a certain part of a woman's anatomy, he proves to be the scene-stealer with every uproarious line.

It all builds up to the ending, which is one of the most memorable endings to a comedy in memory, one that perfectly wraps up the movie in all its ironic glory.

## The Haunting of Molly Hartley

★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

By Zoya Qureshy  
Staff Writer

*The Haunting of Molly Hartley*, the new horror film starring unknown Haley Bennett and *Gossip Girl* star Chace Crawford, follows Molly, a teenage girl who tries to start over at a new school.



Even as she tries to make a fresh start at a new school, Molly finds it impossible to let go of the past; she constantly relives a horrific moment that she and her mother shared. She isn't the only one trying to leave the past behind: her parents also try to forget the strange circumstances surrounding their daughter and the inevitable fate waiting for her on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Haley Bennett is good as Molly Hartley, but her disturbing teenager becomes tiresome and repetitive. Much of the film follows a very typical teenage plot device: a shy girl with no friends somehow gets asked out by the most popular guy in school. Despite a plot twist, provided by her devilish fate and her abusive mother, *Haunting* sometimes seems formulaic and boring.

The movie does build up some suspense, but every suspenseful moment culminates in nothing particularly frightening. The film ends abruptly and perplexingly, leaving the viewer confused and irritated.

This repetitive film, without many scares or much of an ending, is not worth the price of a movie ticket.



Now in color!

Focus on

# HIDDEN TREASURES

## Hidden Exotic Destinations

By Lisa Patel  
Staff Writer

The catacombs of France are popular tourist destinations. However, most people do not realize that hidden societies still thrive underground in France's extensive network of tunnels and caves.

Recently, the French police force, while on a training expedition, stumbled across a tunnel leading into a huge underground chamber equipped with cameras and a high-tech security system. The abundance of Celtic crosses, swastikas, and Stars of David suggested the presence of some secret society.

However, when the police came back to further investigate the area, it was emptied, and all that remained was a note that said, "Do not try to find us."

Certainly garners new interest in those age-old catacombs, doesn't it?

Also, when most people travel to France, they visit Paris, perhaps daring only to venture out to the outskirts of the city to see the beautiful Versailles. However, most tourists don't get the chance to appreciate the Dordogne region of France, or more specifically, Perigord.

Hailed as "the land of a thousand castles", Perigord is filled with a rich history, tradition, and food that are available for all visitors to enjoy. The beautifully preserved medieval buildings set amongst the serene landscape of this region quickly endear this region to any visitor.

And while you may have been to the Swiss Alps, you may not be familiar with Nainital, in

India. Nestled in the Himalayas, the trip to get to Nainital is difficult. For those who make the trek, however, the beauty of Nainital is a rich reward.

Tourists are welcomed with gorgeous, misty lakes, sloping hills, and horseback rides through a forest path. Known as the Lake District, Nainital is a popular set for many Bollywood movies. However, it still manages to retain its rustic charm and remains one of India's best-kept secrets.

Truly, the most important thing to do when traveling is to be open to new experiences and to try out new things. We've offered a couple suggestions about some of the lesser-known paradises around the globe, but remember to always keep your eyes open—you never know when you will stumble on a hidden treasure!



California Academy of Sciences

By Andrew Yen  
Staff Writer

A lawn on the roof? An indoor rainforest? At the recently reopened California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, with its innovative architecture and instructive environment, you can discover the extraordinary, where science comes to life.

This museum, one of the oldest natural history museums in the United States, was originally opened in 1853 amidst much hype. Unfortunately, parts of the complex had to be closed in 1989, when the Loma Prieta earthquake damaged much of the original building. However, in September 2005, construction on the museum began again and a massive restoration effort was well underway. The museum, its exhibition having been moved to a temporary location for three years, was finally reopened in September of this year.

The only place on earth with an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum all under one roof, the Academy is truly a "school," as well as a hub of research and development. There is a four-story rain forest, a Philippine coral reef, a butterfly garden, bat caves, and a huge variety of artificially created, diverse ecosystems. The museum is also home to some incredible animals, like leafy sea dragons, anacondas, giant octopi, Amazonian piranhas, and African penguins. For students and visitors alike, this is truly the experience of a lifetime.

And the museum's greatest quality is its accessibility: tickets sell for only \$20 each for teens and \$25 per adult. Also, on every third Wednesday of each month, admission to the museum is free for everyone.

And in accordance with the going green phenomenon, the entire museum is largely self-sustained—90% of the museum utilizes natural lightning, and the countless solar panels make the museum even more eco-friendly. In fact, the California Academy of Sciences was featured on the Discovery Channel's "Extreme Engineering" series in 2006 and on the National Geographic's "Man-Made" series earlier this year.

An extraordinary experience for the whole family, the California Academy of Sciences offers something spectacular for all age groups. So check it out today!



### Retail-Me-Not

By Seethim Naicker  
Staff Writer

\$17.50 for the newly released book you ordered online, plus that additional \$3.99 that accompanies all online purchases called "shipping and handling." Online sales have skyrocketed in the past few years due to their convenience, but purchases can be fairly expensive.

Retailmenot.com offers the simple solution of coupon codes to be used online, as well as printout coupons that are valid directly in the store. With coupons for over 20,000 stores, the site pairs each code with a "success rate," which indicates the validity of the coupon. The only catch? You must be a member to have access to many of the coupons. However, membership is free, and 50% off a new pair of jeans at Aeropostale is not a bad deal.

### The Up-and-Coming Underground Music Scene: The Reinvention of Convention

By Nabeel Qureshi  
Staff Writer

1 drummer + 1 bassist + 1 or 2 guitarists + 1 singer = a fairly popular, generic band.

Have you taken the time to look at the mainstream bands that consistently top the music charts? Generally, there is a formula to their lineup, as seen above.

This formula, however, is not consistent with today's underground and indie music scene. The new, up-and-coming bands have begun to embrace a less formulaic approach to their lineups.

In the indie music scene, bands tend to have more musicians on stage. For example, The Arcade Fire and The Decemberists have around 6-8 members at any given time. These bands stage performance's use a variety of instruments rare for the popular music scene. Banjos, violins, accordions, upright basses, and even instruments as bizarre as the bagpipes are becoming more prevalent in both the indie and underground music scenes.

On the other hand, bands like The Kills, Death from Above 1979, She Wants Revenge, and the White Stripes, have only one or two musicians at a given time and generally consist of one guitarist and one drummer. These bands aim to create a new and "stripped-down"

sound that strives for innovation.

These bands are just a taste of what the underground and indie music scene has to offer. They show how the once dogmatic formula is no longer pertinent to the up and coming bands.

At the cusp of reinvention, music is now at a pivotal turning point. And these non-traditional bands are revolutionizing music history by reshaping the way in which music is perceived and answering the call for something revolutionary and new.



The Decemberists

### Fruity Fixes

By Jocelyn Tan  
Staff Writer

With flu season approaching, we've uncovered for you some of the curative properties of popular fruit:

**Pumpkins** prevent disease and fortify your immune system by fighting cold viruses. Pumpkins are also natural cancer and heart disease deterrents.

**Apples** are rich in vitamin C. Along with being an effective detoxifier, they contain a high malic content, which aids in the body's overall energy efficiency.

**Limes** are powerful anti-viral citrus that are packed with immune-essential vitamin C. Aside from expediting natural healing processes, they also stimulate phagocytes, the virus and bacteria busters of the body.

**Grapefruits** are for "slim-living." They strengthen the immune system and contain vitamin C. Also, they detoxify the body and naturally protect from the flu.

From "The Top Ten Immunity Boosters," a guide to healthy living.

### Course Notes

By Linda Nguyen  
Staff Writer

There's a DBQ for APUSH, and you didn't understand anything from the unit. Aside from trying to comprehend a week's worth of lectures or just deciding to fail, what are your options?

CourseNotes is a great web site that offers outlines, vocabulary review, and practice quizzes for nearly every subject taught at Mitty, from AP Bio to Music Theory AP.

Many students have found this website to be a useful external resource. The site provides outlines for each chapter of the textbook to help you study. One of the few websites that offer help with AP classes, CourseNotes is a valuable find.

A final note of caution to students: Course-notes, while helpful, shouldn't replace doing your reading. So with that in mind, feel free to check out this handy website at [www.course-notes.org](http://www.course-notes.org).



Hidden Treasures



Hi, Anni's here :] My friend Seethim has been searching for hidden things around her lately; let's see what she's found...



Hidden In n' Out Menu



Hidden websites



Hidden attractions



CA'S hidden animal?

By Annie Huang  
Staff Cartoonist

## PostSecret.com

By Shubha Ranganathan  
Staff Writer

"Always remember you're unique—just like everyone else." It's true: we are all unique.

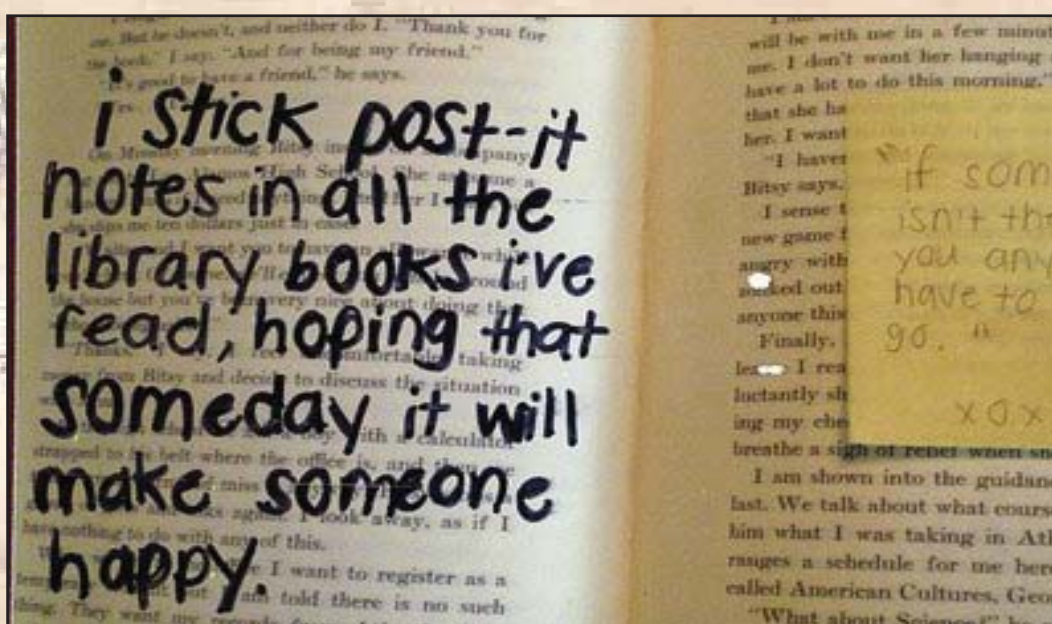
The beauty of the human experience, however, lies in the fact that all human lives abide by certain truths. Though we hold our own values and beliefs dear, we can recognize that the deepest desires of our hearts, the most well-kept secrets of our lives, may be echoed in the hearts of countless others as well. Postsecret.com is a direct expression of this truth.

Boasting a current 190,000,000+ visitor count, the site is updated by its creator, Frank Warren, every Sunday. To quote the website, it "is an ongoing community art project where people mail in their secrets anonymously on

one side of a postcard."

People across the world have the opportunity to anonymously reveal their long-hidden secrets to an unknown audience. In this process of revelation and acceptance, not only does the secret-bearer find healing in this cathartic act, but so do those visitors to the website who can particularly connect with a certain secret.

Also, the postcards on PostSecret.com are excellent at tying current, momentous events to the feelings and lives of the ordinary person. For example, one of the more inspiring postcards was posted on November 5, 2008: "I feel like we're at a really amazing point in history and it's amazing to be a part of it."





# Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



## Ryan Rickard

*Ryan Rickard is currently a senior at Mitty. He grew up in San Jose with both of his parents and continues to reside there. In addition to photography, other interests of his are lacrosse, surfing, body-boarding, and golf.*

### What drew you to photography?

I was always kind of interested in photography, but never really wanted to try to get into it. I thought I would have needed to buy a \$1,200 camera and a bunch of equipment. However, I take all of my pictures with a cheap digital camera, which has worked fine so far. A bunch of my friends were taking the class, so I thought it would be fun to take it.

### What is your favorite thing to photograph?

I like to photograph things up close. This usually means using some type of macro setting so the focus is on solely the object and the rest is blurred. I also like taking landscape pictures, but macro shots are easier to make look good.

### Where do you find inspiration?

I am mostly inspired by different things in nature. It can be almost anything: forest, ocean, beach, animals, plants.

### Describe the favorite photo you've taken.

My favorite is the up close shot of the falling leaf in black and white (featured in the October issue of *The Monarch*). It's just a really cool picture. I didn't even have to Photo-Shop it that much! In general, I think it just has a really cool vibe.

### Where do you plan to take this hobby?

I plan to continue messing around with the hobby. I think its fun to take good pictures. Of course it's also fun just to play with Photo-Shop and make some funny pictures.

### How would you describe your style?

My photographic style is simple. I like to take pictures of things most people don't notice, or don't even recognize as interesting, and make them artistic and intriguing.







*Hannah Furgerson*

**“A portrait of a beautiful young girl from the island of Yelapa in Mexico..”**



*Ally Romero*

**“The subject is a yellow daisy that my best friend bought me for my birthday. I like the detail of the pollen on the flower petals.”**

# Snapshots



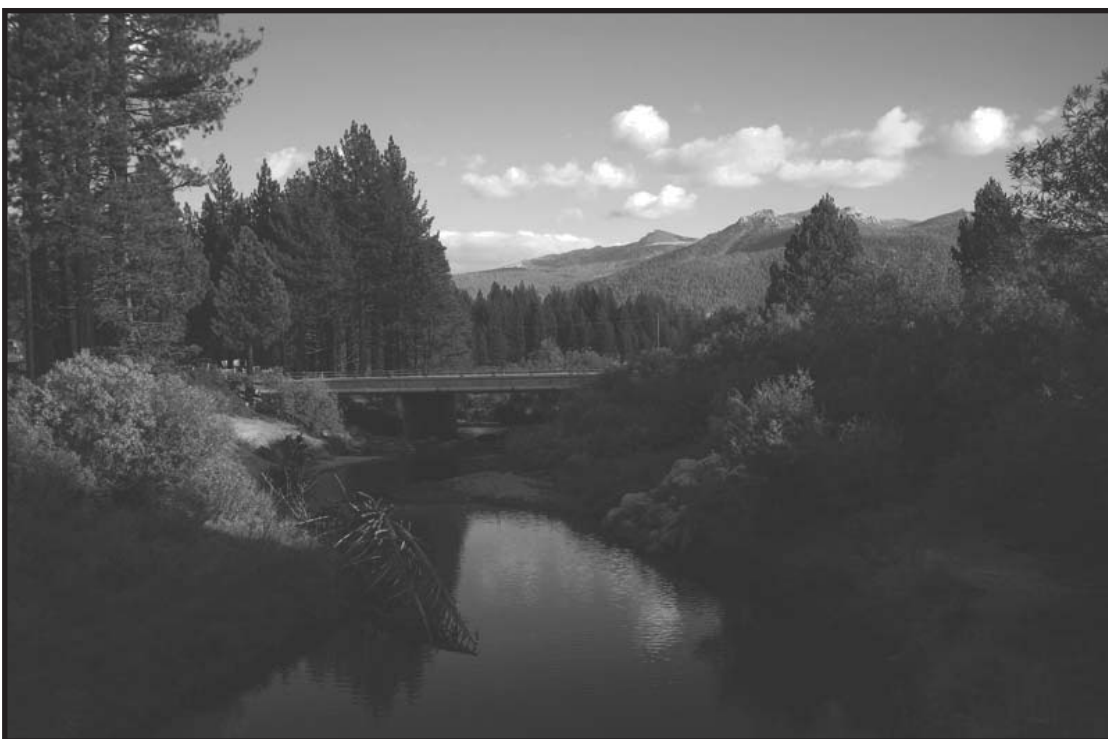
*Kim Niedermaier*

**“Alisa Strayer and I were down in Aptos watching a women’s triathlon. I had my camera out to get some passing bikers in focus, but I decided that Alisa was an easier subject to capture; she was peacefully looking out at the triathletes coming back.”**



*Nick Tran*

**“This thirsty bird enjoying Rhodes’ central fountain was not camera-shy, so a closer shot was possible. A fast shutter speed afforded by bright sunlight froze the water’s motion.”**



*Ryan Flanigan*

**“This was taken in Tahoe while crossing the bridge. The whole sight took my breath away... The bright blue sky, the glassy, clear creek, the many colored trees surrounding both sides of me, and the mountains in the background.”**

Like what you see?  
If you would like to be a featured photographer in *The Monarch*, send your photographs to [photomonarch@gmail.com](mailto:photomonarch@gmail.com) and your work may be shown in an upcoming issue!



# Justice Awareness

## Profiles in Justice

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOA IMMERSION TRIP



Each year, Mitty students travel to Fort Benning, Georgia, to call for the closing of the SOA and honor victims of injustice.

Justice Awareness Staff

Sixteen Mitty students and two Mitty teachers flew to Fort Benning, Georgia, (about two hours from Atlanta) where they advocated for peace and social justice against the School of Americas (SOA). Led by Mitty teachers Mr. Accorsi and Mr. Motroni, the students left for the trip on Friday, Nov. 21 and returned on Sunday.

The School of the Americas, renamed in 2001 the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation," is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers.

According to the *School of the America Watch*, an independent organization that seeks to close the school, "the SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, 'disappeared,' massacred, and forced into refugee by those trained at the school."

SOA graduates were directly linked by a U.S. Congressional Task Force to the killing of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador on Nov. 16, 1989.

Every year since 1990, social justice activists have protested against the SOA and its continued support by the U.S. government. Mitty's group is hoping their support of this protest will help put an end to the SOA. Part of the advocacy against the school includes a silent protest honoring past victims of injustice through the carrying of white crosses inscribed with the names of the victims.

Archbishop Mitty students had the opportunity to meet others from around the nation, including students and teachers from high schools and colleges. The trip, in part, seeks to motivate Mitty students to act against injustice.

The group prepared for their trip by meeting four times to discuss social justice issues and gather information for their visit. They read articles regarding civil disobedience and watched films that also pertain to similar issues. Students had the opportunity to meet Lucia Cerna, one of the only people other than her husband, who witnessed the killing of the Jesuit priests in El Salvador in 1989. The students confronted these difficult issues, but in the process learned of the value of hope in committing to any and every action.

Mr. Motroni added that no one should be discouraged to protest and assert themselves—there are always different injustices to tackle. As he declared, "Keep your eyes and ears open. Activity is a start. Not a finish. It is the beginning... not the end. You should have the courage to stand up ... no matter what the issue is."

## Democratic Zeal Stifled in Zimbabwe

By Kiron Chandy  
Justice Awareness Editor

"Unity, Freedom, Work."

While the people of Zimbabwe champion this phrase as their national motto, the events unfolding in this country clash with it garishly. All that exists in the country in the present is the cracked shell of democracy and the plight of those fettered by poverty and corruption.

The situation in Zimbabwe has now reached an apex of tension, violence, and despair, a crisis unparalleled since the blood-filled years that eventually bore its independence in 1980. When nascent Zimbabwe swore in Robert Mugabe as their first president, little did it know what calamitous affairs would ensue under the socialistic, one-party regime of the Zimbabwe National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF).

Mugabe issued a series of fiercely contested land reforms shortly after his ascent to power. Wanting to reverse the British colonial policies that had once booted black farmers off the best agricultural land, he ordered government-run seizures of white-owned farms and allotted them to poor black farmers.

By 2003, the government of Zimbabwe claimed that over 200,000 black farmers had been given new land. Yet what they failed to bring to light was the slipshod management and funding of the program. While these previously destitute black farmers may have deserved greater financial benefits, many lacked the knowledge to till the land and the money to sustain the farms and themselves.

Moreover, the unwarranted seizure of the lands led the white men to migrate elsewhere, taking with them the remnants of wealth and experience.

Unsurprisingly, agricultural production and exports plummeted, causing hyperinflation, food shortages, and a 33% plunge in the country's GDP in that year.

To add to the list of woes, the nation experienced a drought in 2005 and the virulent spread of HIV/AIDS, reducing the labor force tremendously. President Mugabe also prohibited the aid of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the people.

In light of these economic failures, many blamed Mugabe for his recklessness and imprudence. Resistance slowly grew—and so did hostility from the government.

Human rights activists and those concerned with the interests of the nation slowly congealed their concerns and funneled them into action by forming the political party Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in 1999.

As their numbers grew, protesters sought to reveal to the world the poverty and intractability of President Mugabe. Meanwhile, the ZANU-PF sought to suppress his opposition forcibly through the use of law enforcement and the Joint Operations Command (JOC), a group consisting of members of the military, intelligence forces, government representatives, and other affluent and powerful supporters of Mugabe.

To gather support, the ZANU-PF also uses the food crisis to its advantage, distributing precious maize to rural areas that pledge allegiance to Mugabe.

While the destitute remain in abject poverty, the wealthy grow increasingly prosperous. By supporting the ZANU-PF, they are allowed to sustain their wealth, and the government turns a blind eye to their illicit dealings.

For instance, these corrupt, affluent few smuggled nearly \$800 million USD in diamonds out of the country, procuring immense sums for themselves.

Protesters were arbitrarily arrested under such

absurd charges as "disorderly conduct in a public place." They were subject to beatings, tear gas, torture, murder, kidnapping, forced evictions, and destruction of their homes and livelihood. Human Rights Watch asserts that there have been at least 163 murders due to this political contention, and as such, only 2 arrests were made.

Recently, President Mugabe besmirched democratic institutions everywhere by using the power of his office to suppress his opposition in the June 28 elections.

Potential president Morgan Tsvangirai of the MDC dropped himself from the race, asserting that a free and

just election was impossible in Zimbabwe due to the violence targeted at his supporters.

On September 15, the ZANU-PF signed an agreement to respect human rights and share power with the MDC, a compact which in action has been completely ignored and rescinded on Mugabe's part.

In short, Mugabe has turned his back on his people as they cry out in anguish from the violence and poverty that he had a hand in establishing.

"Since 2000, the ZANU-PF government has ignored evidence of human rights violations,

thereby exempting perpetrators from any form of accountability – and allowing them to believe they can continue with their actions. Breaking this cycle of violations must be a top priority for the new government once it is in place," said Simeon Mwanza (Amnesty International's Zimbabwe Researcher).

Only with increased foreign pressure and humanitarian efforts can Zimbabwe hope to find reprieve from its moribund state.



Protestor in Zimbabwe chased by policeman.

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President Mugabe and the ZANU-PF have turned their backs on the people of Zimbabwe as they suffer from the cholera epidemic, poverty, and violence.

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A welcome sign is boldly graffitied with the words "Mugabe is a Dictator"—a stark indicator of the political strife of Zimbabwe.



# Unfair Health Care Costs for Women

By Isabel Sausjourn  
Staff Writer

President-Elect Barack Obama promises to improve America's health care. He can start by working with other policy makers to eliminate the discrimination against women by private insurance companies.

While employers are forbidden by law from charging female employees higher health premiums, women purchasing insurance on the free market are not protected. Many insurance companies charge women thirty to fifty percent more than men for the exact same benefits.

The discrimination goes even further, though. Some insurance providers will deny a woman coverage if she has borne a child by caesarian section. Most shockingly, in nine states companies can refuse to cover a woman because she has experienced domestic violence. These discrepancies and discriminatory policies are widespread, with only 12 states protecting women from discrimination in the insurance market.

Insurers have many explanations to justify the inequalities, but they fail to offer truly convincing arguments.

Women have many health care costs associated with pregnancy and childbirth, surely. However, even health policies that exclude maternity care are more expensive than men's health plans. Then, for women planning to have children, maternity coverage is another huge cost to tack onto the bill. In effect, this punishes women for their vital ability to have children. Though the birth of healthy babies is essential to our society, it seems no one will pick up the tab.

## Only 12 states protect women from discrimination in the insurance market.

Sure, for various reasons, women cost more to insurers. While many men ignore symptoms and avoid doctors' exams, women are more inclined to utilize the health care system. Women are also more likely to have chronic conditions such as asthma, depression, or arthritis which require medical attention and expensive medications, adding to the cost for insurers.

However, discrimination is still unacceptable. If we raise premiums for women because they generally cost

more, how long will it be until we charge people depending on their race or ethnicity? Ashkenazi Jews are more likely to have children with certain genetic diseases. Latinos and African-Americans are at a higher risk of heart disease and diabetes than white people in America. Charging these groups more would be recognized as blatant racism, yet the higher price for women is accepted.

The situation becomes even more calamitous in light of the recent economic crisis. Companies across America are cutting back on health benefits for employees, and even more workers are losing their jobs. As greater numbers of women lose their health coverage, they also lose their legal protection against insurance discrimination. More and more women are subjected to the unfairly high premiums of private insurers. Even worse, many women cannot get insurance at all on the private market, rejected because of "pre-existing conditions."

Maybe legislators can simply ban such inequalities in coverage and cost. Or, perhaps the government will introduce a universal health care plan to eliminate this problem. Whatever the solution, it will require leadership and cooperation to bring equality.

## WORLD AFFAIRS

By Meera Bose  
Staff Writer

### Justice Doubtful for Murdered Reporter

The trial regarding the murder of the fearless Russian reporter, Anna Politkovskaya, who was shot dead two years ago, is making little progress. Known for documenting the Kremlin's war in Chechnya, she was an enemy of the Kremlin government. When news of the murder spread, the world suspected the plotting of the Kremlin, but the accused are three dockmen. Recent discoveries suggest the real mastermind hired FSB officers who in turn hired Chechen gangsters to shoot her.



### Dissent Punished in Burma

Zarganar, a popular comedian active in Burma's democracy movement has been sentenced to 45 years in jail for violating the Electronic Act, which regulates electronic communications. He had already been jailed four times before he was detained in June for criticizing the government's slow response and leading a group of entertainers who organized private aid deliveries to victims of Cyclone Nargis. His staggering punishment is only one of one hundred others given to dissidents of the government over the past two weeks.

### Government Official Alleged of Torture Commits Suicide

Mario Ferreyra, a former Argentinian police chief wanted for alleged crime against human rights, shot himself dead in front of television cameras. He was accused of kidnapping and torture as part of the military government that ran the country between 1976 and 1983—the period known as the "Dirty War." Families of the victims say the suicide was part of a pact of silence, for the ex-police chief would not testify against former colleagues accused of kidnapping and killing tens of thousands of Argentines.

### Rebels in Congo

In Congo, government forces and Nkunda's rebels displaced more than 250,000 people. Rebels and troops attacked villages, driving many people from their homes and forcing them to shelter at churches or schools. Hunger and malnutrition are currently at emergency levels. Dozens of trucks, escorted by U.N. peacekeeping forces, recently brought in food, sanitation kits, and medical help to the Congo in an effort to help alleviate the situation.

## "Together We Learn Better":

### A MOVEMENT TO INCLUDE ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

By Angela Hodge  
Staff Writer

It's a tough thing to admit, but in most schools – Archbishop Mitty included – discrimination against "different" kids is still all too prevalent. Only last week, I had to politely request that a friend stop using "gay" as a derogatory term, at least in my presence.

"Oh, sorry," she said. "That test was *retarded*."

I was not, to say the least, mollified. With all of the time and money currently being spent to support in-depth, unique education that plays to the learning strengths of such people, why are such unspoken distinctions being made every day? Why does the idea of a separate "us" and "them" still exist?

A main problem with current special education is that there are many schools that seek to provide a safe and isolated environment for children who suffer from mental retardation, behavioral disorders, physical handicaps, or simple learning disabilities such as dyslexia. This is a good intention, but it inadvertently produces many negative consequences.

First, it prevents these children from understanding social systems in a regular environment or interacting healthily with "normal" peers.

Second, such a lack of preparation means that as an adult, a disabled person has even less chance of succeeding in a career – and his social ineptitude, not a product of his condition but instead of his isolation, will work against him in any situation.

Third and finally, it creates that "us and them" mentality in kids, teenagers, and even adults who aren't raised and taught while interacting with disabled peers. That mentality breeds ignorance and bigotry.

Nevertheless, inclusion is complicated because some argue that inclusion is in itself unfair to disabled people. James Kauffman of the University of Virginia argues that trying to force students of all levels of ability into a single mold is as discriminatory as trying to force the same students into the mold of isolated special education.

The Inclusive Schools Network takes a different stance. Its mission, as stated by the official organization site (which you can find at [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org)) is "to encourage, embolden and empower people to design and implement

effective inclusive schools by sharing insights and best practices and by providing opportunities for connection." ISN asserts that the idea of an inclusive class is not that all students benefit the same way or are forced to learn in one way, but instead that all students simply benefit and learn – while forming healthy social bonds with their peers.

Fortunately, a reassuring number of public and private schools have recently (in the last 10-20 years) been changing to include programs for disabled children without isolating them from their peers. As evidenced by the strong subconscious discrimination going on at so many high schools all over the world, though, quite a lot of change still needs to be made.

The Inclusive Schools Network is working actively to increase inclusion of all disabled children into regular communities. This effort is at its most urgent during the National Inclusive Schools Week, seven days of vocal and physical support for inclusion. This year, the week's theme is "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children."

Please make your voice heard by participating December 1-5 this year.



# SPORTS

## Monarchs Take CCS, Look to NorCal, State Ranked #1 in Nation, Team Seeks Div. II Title

By Juli Ruiz and Alexis Savini  
Sports Editors

With their recent rise to the #1 spot in the ESPN RISE FAB 50 National Rankings and their domination of the WCAL season, Mitty's women's volleyball team has continued its extraordinary run and lived up to its prestigious national ranking.

However, as junior Rachel Williams says, "We all know what we are ranked, and it is in the back of our minds, but that is not our focus. We are more concerned about winning and playing our best at all times."

And it certainly shows. Passing through the WCAL quarterfinals on a bye, the Monarchs blew past both Saint Francis and Sacred Heart Cathedral to clinch the WCAL tournament title, making them champions of the WCAL season and tournament.

As a team, Mitty has proven to be formidable competitors this season, compiling an astounding record of 35-1, suffering their only loss at the hands of the equally formidable La Costa Canyon in the Durango Fall Classic.

Despite this match, the Lady Monarchs have gone on to become perhaps the most highly regarded volleyball team in the country.

"Wins are wins and losses are losses. We try to learn from both," says Coach Bret Almazan-Cezar.

The team has defied skeptics who believed the Monarchs' reign as volleyball champions might end with the graduation of Amanda Gil, proving that the Monarchs still have the strength and skill to dominate.

"Some writers have called us the most physical, powerful team in the nation," Coach A-C states.

The Lady Monarchs lived up to their prestigious reputation as they beat powerful teams like Santa Margarita and Menlo Atherton. The team also proved their talent as, after losing to Mira Costa in the Division II state finals three years in a row, the Monarchs came back for competitive wins against the rival twice this season.

"It's just a win," says Head Coach A-C, "but it's been a long time coming."

The Lady Monarchs have also gone on to win impressive tournaments such as the Santa Barbara Tournament of Champions as well as the Archbishop Mitty Invitational

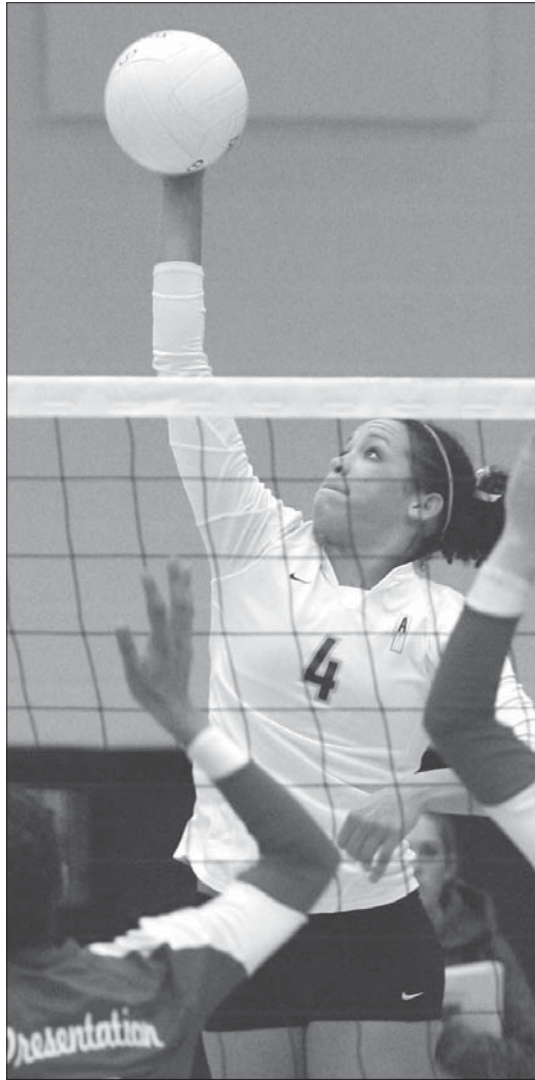


Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

### Junior Rachel Williams goes up for a kill.

played here on campus. Wins over nationally ranked teams like Santa Barbara and Torrey Pines put the Monarchs at the top as a volleyball powerhouse.

In the CCS playoffs this year, the Monarchs dominated Presentation and Palo Alto, and went on to win the division championship beating Mountain View High School. The

women's volleyball team at press time was advancing to NorCal to face Mountain View for the fourth time.

In addition to their focus on winning, the team's efforts were also directed toward helping others, as they sponsored the Dig for the Cure game against Presentation High School to raise money for breast cancer.

As this year's volleyball season comes to a close, Mitty has a few more banners to add to its collection, as well as a variety of superstars to boast of, notably juniors Rachel Williams and Kristina Graven.

Williams, a powerhouse outside hitter with a killer spike, was named the Tournament of Champion's MVP in Santa Barbara, racking up 20 kills and significantly contributing to the Monarchs' first-place finish.

After being named the *San Jose Mercury News* Sophomore of the Year last season, Williams has continued her excellent play and is arguably Mitty's strongest player, leading the team in kills per game.

Her teammate, Kristina Graven, has garnered much attention herself. After tearing her meniscus while playing for the Youth National Team last May, Graven came back with force for the fall season, showing no visible signs of injury as she hit and blocked her way to the top of her game.

An integral member of the Mitty team, Graven was named ESPN RISE CalHiSports.com Girls State Athlete of the Week, as well as the ESPN RISE Girls Western Regional winner during the season.

Despite the individual talent that fills the team, however, the Lady Monarchs have strong teamwork on the court.

"It's a team sport and we realize that to be successful everyone needs to play for the others around them," states Coach A-C.

With the diverse talent and outstanding teamwork, the Lady Monarchs are poised to become one of the most memorable women's volleyball teams in Archbishop Mitty history. But despite their success, the Monarchs maintain their humility.

As Rachel Williams modestly puts it, "There is never a time when we don't need to improve. We can always get better at everything and strive toward perfection in all aspects of our game."

## Hockey Teams Triumph

By Neil Jariwalla  
Staff Writer

Throughout our stay at Archbishop Mitty High School, we have heard endless times about the progress of various sports teams and their stars. One does not need to look far beyond volleyball's Kerri Walsh, basketball's Drew Gordon, and tennis's Tayler Davis, to realize that Mitty has produced a wide range of highly-skilled athletes with exceptional talent, unbelievable power, and supreme finesse. The aforementioned names are household ones; you may hear them mentioned in some context every week.

But what about Ben Paulides? Chris Hewitt? Joe Oria? Sam Miraglia? They don't automatically ring a bell for most Monarchs. Other than the fact Hewitt shows up on morning announcements and Paulides was honored during the monthly assembly, they just appear as normal, everyday high-schoolers who go to Mitty just like the rest of us. But they all have made significant contributions in forming Mitty's hockey team, a drastically improving but relatively unnoticed club.

The ice hockey team plays at Sharks Ice at San Jose, which is better known as the main practice facility of the NHL's San Jose Sharks. They start their season in late February, playing their games over the weekend. The schedule is a bit erratic, but they usually play games on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays, depending on the division. The roller hockey team plays at Rollin Ice in

the Silver Creek Sportsplex. The schedule depends on the division the team is playing in; this year, because they are in Division II, their games will take place on Saturday nights with occasional doubleheaders.

Most of the recruiting for the hockey team is done by word of mouth. The recruiting occurs on a year-to-year basis, so if there are not enough players to constitute the team, there will be no team.

The roller hockey team does, however, have an interesting set-up: If there are a lot of players, multiple teams are created at separate skill levels. More experienced players will comprise the A team, while beginning players (or those who are still honing their skills) would make up the B and, if there are enough players, the C team. The good thing about roller hockey, Oria notes, is that it is open to anyone with any skill level.

The ice hockey team is mostly comprised of seniors, sophomores, and juniors in that order from highest to lowest, respectively, while the roller hockey team has a lot of seniors. Because the schedules of both teams do not clash, many players play both sports.

In roller hockey, the Monarchs currently hold second place in their division with a 4-3 record.

Miraglia was the highest scoring ice-hockey player last year as a sophomore, notching 17 goals and 18 assists. Paulides, who was recognized as a top-notch defenseman with consideration in the NHL draft, was the second leading scorer with 7 goals and 8 assists in 10 games as a junior. Sebastian Wendell was the starting

goaltender for the ice hockey team, while Hewitt was in the nets as the starter for the roller hockey team.

As all expansion teams do, the Mitty ice hockey team got off to a slow start, finishing with a 3-10 record in the Varsity League. The roller hockey team skated to a 1-3-1 record in Division II play, claiming second place. However, the Monarchs' success goes far beyond victories and defeats, as other factors certainly contributed to their records.

"Mitty's ice hockey team struggled near the beginning of last season," says Paulides, "and just when we began to develop and play as a single unit, we were hit hard with injuries. Plus, it seemed that we were living in the shadow of Bellarmine and Valley Christian. However, with the summer came maturing and three new freshmen prospects, so we are hoping to go all the way this year."

With their season set to start in about three months, it would be icing on the cake for this hardworking group of individuals to compete in a national tournament, and their talent is in place to do so. Right now, however, it's all about taking it one step at a time.

"Our hockey team was successful in many ways this past year. It was very successful because of the simple fact that we have an already established roller hockey program. Our ice hockey team was successful just for stepping out on the ice because it was the first time Mitty has ever had a high school hockey team," said Oria.



# UNDEFEATED: TENNIS MAKES HISTORY

By Jaslyn Johnson  
Staff Writer

25-0.

WCAL champions. CCS champions. NorCal champions.

They did it all. They were perfect.

Coming off a historic year in 2007, the Archbishop Mitty Women's Varsity Tennis Team returned to the court with an even stronger desire to dominate their opponents in 2008. And dominate them, they did.

Last year's campaign ended with the first CIF NorCal title in Mitty history, and they were determined to claim the second championship this year.

Despite their indisputable talent and drive, the team began the season with unfortunate setbacks due to three preseason injuries and the loss of two key seniors: Senior Tayler Davis developed tendinitis during preseason, sophomore Stacy Yam suffered an abdominal muscle pull, and sophomore Maggie Yudkevich played on a bad knee.

The graduation of Briana Neveras and Christina Ton, who made up the number one doubles team, was a loss as well. The team was forced to rely on incoming freshman, transfers, and returning doubles players to fill these exceptional players' large shoes.

The team's hard work and determination paid off, as shown by the three doubles' undefeated WCAL season.

Senior Stefanie Ton explains, "Our team really came together strong this year and we have been able to accomplish some amazing things."

Following last season, the team retained the strength and skills needed to achieve their goals, but also wanted to focus on team chemistry. As individuals, they excelled on the court but had not formed the essential team relationship needed to fully come together.



Senior Stefanie Ton strides into a forehand return.

Photo courtesy of Pro Image

Coach Scalese explains, "Team chemistry was not our strength last year despite our success."

In order to create a team that could succeed both on the court and off, Coach Scalese named Tayler Davis and Stefanie Ton co-captains. The two players showed amazing leadership and were able to transform the team's chemistry successfully.

"The dynamic of our team is competitive and serious come match time, but off the court it's light and fun," states UC Berkeley-bound Tayler Davis.

The team's performance on the court somehow improved from last year's record-setting season.

The Monarchs ended with a perfect record, capturing even the California Girl's High School Tennis Classic Division One Championship in Fresno. Clearly the team has built on last year's success, having placed third in the prestigious tournament in the previous season.

The Monarchs further proved their dominance in league play, finishing 11-0 in WCAL, and as noted 25-0 overall, while claiming their third consecutive WCAL Championship.

In the CCS Team Tournament, the top-ranked Monarchs defeated both Harker and Menlo 7-0, but were tested by Monta Vista in the semifinals. The Monarchs got the win by one set, advancing to the finals against Saratoga.

The Monarchs claimed the CCS Championship, defeating Saratoga 5-2. Mitty then waltzed through the CIF NorCal Team Tournament, eventually facing Saratoga again in the finals, and again winning 5-2, claiming the second consecutive NorCal Title in Mitty history. Individually, they also accomplished similarly phenomenal feats.

In the WCAL individual tournament, Tayler Davis won the single's crown for the fourth consecutive year, and placed second in the CCS Individual Tournament, after having to withdraw from the final match with an injury.

Stefanie Ton and freshman Samantha Polayes won the doubles title in both the WCAL and CCS, and junior Tara Vanooteghem and sophomore Maggie Yudkevich placed second in WCAL doubles play.

Coach Scalese's summed up the year, saying, "No matter what the outcome, this has been my favorite girl's team to coach in eleven years. The selflessness with which they approach the team is unprecedented and the talent as strong as it is, is overshadowed by the amazing depth."

## Cross Country

WCAL RANKING: 6TH (M), 4TH (W)

CCS RANKING: 15TH (M), 8TH (W)

HIGHLIGHTS: LYNBROOK INVITATIONAL CHAMPION (W), ADVANCING TO 1ST CCS COMPETITION (M)

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: JOSH HOGAN, KEDAR IYER, MARY KRIEGE, NICOLE ELLIS

STEPHIE JOHN: "THE MOST TOUCHING MOMENT OF OUR SEASON WAS THE WAY OUR TEAM CAME TOGETHER OVER THE DEATH OF MS. REICH."



Photo courtesy of Pro Image

## Football

COACH: MR. HANIGER

BIGGEST WIN: BEATING ST. FRANCIS FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: SENIOR CAPTAINS ANDREW BIGELOW, COLIN CARNEY, PATRICK DOWNEY, AND MITCH HANIGER

PATRICK DOWNEY: "EVEN THOUGH THE SEASON WAS TOUGH, ALL OF US STILL GAVE OUR BEST AND HAD A GREAT TIME."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

## Highlight Reel

Compiled by Brigette Latno-Mosonic, Mona Patel, Arjun Ravishankar, Ayman Ullah, Sean Robbins, Stephnie John

## Women's Water Polo

RECORD: 11-13

RANKINGS: 4TH WCAL, 7TH CCS

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: KIM MCCOMAS, BECKY FRIEDENBACH, SARAH SLUGOCKI

TURNING POINT: OVERTIME LOSS TO LOS GATOS IN MONTA VISTA VARSITY INVITATIONAL

HIGHLIGHT: JULIE KELLEHER'S WINNING GOAL ON A CROSS PASS TO DEFEAT PRESENTATION 5-4

IN FINAL 10 SECONDS

COACH SCOTT BLAKE: "THE CHANGE IN OUR PLAYERS' TECHNICAL SKILLS AND TACTICAL

UNDERSTANDING IN JUST TEN WEEKS

IS REMARKABLE."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

## Field Hockey

COACH: MS. WILLIAMS

RECORD: 8-7-4

RANKINGS: 4TH BVAL, 8TH CCS

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: SENIORS NICOLE MESTICE, AMANDA GIMENEZ, ALAINA THOMAS, KORIE SOARES, AND SOPHIE SEQUIERA

TURNING POINT: 1-0 WIN OVER ST. FRANCIS ON SENIOR DAY

JAIME GARCIA: "WE MUST PLAY WITH PASSION. THAT FIRE INSIDE US MUST SHOW DURING EACH MINUTE OF EVERY GAME."



# Students Take to City Hall

## Protest of Prop. 8 Sparks Activism

By Olivia Tran  
Staff Writer

A group of Mitty students joined several hundred other protesters in taking to the streets of downtown San Jose during the nationwide protest of Proposition 8 on November 15.

At the rally, four separate groups marched through downtown, meeting with a gathering of protesters in front of the San Jose City Hall.

"If anyone, anywhere is being taken advantage of and I know about it, I will work my hardest to end the injustice," said senior Ian Davis, one such student activist.

Davis and other students' chants met with both the encouraging support of car horns and voices of dissent.

Prop. 8, which altered the state Constitution to restrict the definitions of marriage to between a man and a woman and eliminated the right of same-sex couples to marry, remains unresolved, despite its passage in November. Though the State Supreme Court denied a motion to suspend enforcement of the proposition, the courts are still determining the proposition's ultimate fate and deliberating over the legal status of gay couples



Photo Courtesy of Nick Tran

married before November 4. Pro-8 groups such as Protect Marriage remain confident that the decision of the majority will be upheld in court.

The revolution of the younger generation into politics continues as students remain involved with such current political movements. Expressing the sentiments of many young activists, Davis adds, "one thing I know I will do is stand up for civil and human rights abuses in whatever form they may occur."

# Mitty Speaks for Invisible Children

## Students Form Club to Spread Awareness

By Hannah Moeller  
Staff Writer

For 23 years, Uganda has been at war, leaving its educational system in terrible condition and the Ugandan children in grave danger.

The children are being abducted and forced to fight in the war, destroying their innocence and lives. As a result, they must leave their homes at night and move from place to place, constantly trying to avoid capture.

On Nov. 13, the Global Solidarity Club invited Mitty students to watch the film *Invisible Children*. This documentary, created by Invisible Children Inc. seeks to spread awareness about the current situation in northern Uganda.

The Mitty Global Solidarity Club, in alliance with Invisible Children Inc., seeks to raise awareness about this human injustice issue and inspire action towards change.

"Global Solidarity chose to work with Invisible Children to provide them with a voice they need so that someday soon they can come out of hiding," says student organizer Elise Sudlow. "We want to speak for them because nobody else is, not even the leaders who ruled the use of child soldiers illegal."

The aim of the movie night was to make students aware of the critical situation and also to inform them of what they can do to make a difference in the lives

of Ugandan children. Upcoming events include the Global Night Commute, the Red Hand Campaign, and Invisible Roadies lectures.

The Global Night Commute is a worldwide event where youths from around the globe leave their homes and walk to city centers to spend the night, showing their support for the Ugandan children who leave their villages every night to escape capture.

The Global Solidarity Club is also participating in the Red Hands Campaign, whose goal is to collect 1 million red handprints from people all over the country and send them to the UN.

These handprints represent the child soldiers in Uganda, and the hope is that the campaign will cause the UN, which has remained mostly passive in the matter, to take action in ending the Ugandan war. The Global Solidarity Club is also hoping to send red handprints from the students of Queen of Apostles.

And finally, the club in February plans to host the Invisible Roadies at Mitty. They will speak to students about the Invisible Children in an all-school assembly or as an after-school event that might include Bellarmine and St. Francis students as well.

If you are interested in supporting this cause, contact the Global Solidarity Club here at Mitty or visit the Invisible Children website at [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com).



Photo Courtesy of invisiblechildren.com

# NIGERIA

*continued from page 1*

However, these were not the only things that interested Father Nweke. Mitty's Campus Ministry was definitely a highlight of his visit.

"I like the Campus Ministry, especially the active students' involvement in planning and organizing retreats and religious activities within the school," he says.

"I understand that the Christian activities and spirit

in Mitty is student driven. I like that! I like the Immersion Trips and the service programs organized for students to immerse themselves in service within and outside the USA."

Fr. Nweke believes education as the key to success, echoing Armatya Sen's philosophy: "To build a nation, build a schoolhouse."

# GLOBAL

*continued from page 1*

"Every senior will have to take a globalization course," explained Mr. Robinson. "It's required since we are no longer having the spirituality courses".

In Religious Studies, the new classes include Global Business Ethics, Environmental Justice, and Religion and Globalization. The purpose of these classes is to "give students skills to apply ethical concepts to business, the environment, and the greater global world," said Mrs. Walker, the Religious Studies Department Chair. She is excited about these new courses because "they build on the concepts taught in junior year and are designed to develop leadership skills in our students, a focus on one of our mission statements."

Global Business Ethics teacher, Mr. Mosunic, will show students how to be effective and just in business. The Environmental Justice course, taught by Mrs. Matusich, will study the human relationship with the world and how both can coexist. Mr. Herrera will teach Religion and Globalization based on the effects of religion on the continuously growing world.

In the Social Studies Department, electives include The Rise of the Rest, Economics, and Contemporary Conflicts. Mr. Davidson will teach the Rise of the Rest, discussing the development of other industrial countries on the rise, including China, Brazil, and India. Mr. Accorsi, who will teach Economics, said that, "students want this course because they have so many questions about the world. We are in a global economic shift right now, and this is something we all have to study." Mr. Lavelle will teach a Contemporary Conflicts class that, in Mr. Hicks' words, "will focus on various hotspots of conflict in the world with an emphasis on the Middle East."

Mr. Hicks, Social Studies Department Chair, says that through these classes "students will understand the global issues of the world and how the United States fits into it."

"For American students, this globalization is important," said Mr. Robinson. "Many Americans fear and distrust the economy of our own country and outside countries." The recent downturn in the US economy and its drastic implications for millions of Americans is only further evidence of this fear and distrust.

Mr. Robinson hopes, however, that these new globalization courses will help Mitty students be less afraid of our changing economy and world.

"At Archbishop Mitty High School we define our educational mission as a global mission to prepare young women and men for leadership in a global society. As a Catholic, college preparatory school, we seek to educate students to be global citizens with the world knowledge and skills for meaningful participation in a global society. Ethically we believe that educating students to promote social and environment justices lies at the core of our mission."

Enthusiastic and ready to see the implementation of the global courses, Mr. Robinson concluded, "The world is changing! It's time for us to engage our global society!"

# THE MONARCH

Volume 18 Number 2

## Advisors

Mr. Mick Van Valkenburg  
& Mr. Craig Whitt

## News

Katie Helland, Bridget McAnany  
& Kit Strong

## Opinions

Paul Dougherty, Britney Karim, & Josie Suh

## Arts & Entertainment

Ryan Meyer, Rahul Pandya,  
& Geraldine Slevin

## Focus

Likhita Kommidi, Emma Luk, & Alyssa Vu

## Justice Awareness

Kiron Chandy, Meera Ramakrishnan,  
& Ramya Singireddy

## Sports

Christina Jones, Juli Ruiz, & Alexis Savini

## Photo

Claire Bredenoord & Kendra Breunling

*The Monarch* is published for the students, faculty, and parents of Archbishop Mitty High School.