



The Haniger Family legacy
Top left: Erin Haniger Mulcahy looking at baby, parents Walt and June Haniger; the baby is Mr. Haniger; 1968
Bottom right: Haniger family reunites at football game with Kyle Hansen; 2004

Six Seniors Continue Family Legacies



Update on the Swine Flu

By Maria Palma
Staff Writer

Although cases of H1N1 will no longer be closing schools, Archbishop Mitty High School has protocols in place in case the flu mutates into a more dangerous version in the fall.

Even though the flu seems to be less harmful than doctors originally feared, the appearance of H1N1 is still dangerous. H1N1 has already demonstrated the ability to mutate from a virus that affected pigs to a virus that affects birds and now people. Since this flu virus mutates so quickly, there is concern that the virus will change into a strain of flu that is resistant to antiviral drugs. Currently four types of drugs treat influenza: amantadine, rimantadine, oseltamivir and zanamivir. Because H1N1 is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine, and the virus has demonstrated the ability to mutate, there is concern that the flu virus will re-emerge this fall as a strain of flu that is immune to the antiviral drugs that currently treat it.

To prevent the spread of flu viruses Mitty is doing extra cleaning of surfaces in the school. Once outside the human body and on a wood or marble surface, the virus won't last two hours. "Really, every morning the school is naturally disinfected because the virus dies, if it was here at all," said Mr. Robinson, Mitty's Associate Principal.

Maintenance is wiping down all the desktops, railings, doorknobs, counters, etc. Essentially, they are cleaning surfaces in the school that would be exposed to the virus. Because of this focus on disinfecting campus, they are cutting back on other aspects of school maintenance, like trimming bushes.

As dean and head of campus security and safety, Mr. Fallis, oversees the school in any cleaning and health precautions. "We made sure that all classrooms had hand sanitizer and all bathrooms had soap. Even students did their part: on a recent Saturday detention, we had the students cleaning and disinfecting the campus, but I think they really enjoyed being part of this and being involved in helping protect their school," Fallis said.

Mr. Robinson reaffirmed that Mitty's top priority is the health and safety of the student population. The Academic Council, a group of primarily department chairs, headed by Associate Principal Robinson met in an emergency session to consider the problems and solutions of the potential pandemic.

If Mitty had to close, all activities and events, like athletics and after school activities, would get rescheduled to the best degree possible. This would not likely apply to senior prom, Baccalaureate Mass, graduation, senior cruise, and finals which would all still happen on their normal date. All senior events would likely remain exactly the same as well.

see **MITTY RESPONDS**, page 2

Appreciating the Mitty Community

By Olivia Tran
Staff Writer

At the end of the month, Mitch and McKenna Haniger will graduate from Archbishop Mitty High School along with the rest of the class of '09. While there are many students like them who will don the customary cap and gown, not quite as many students can make the claim, like Mitch and McKenna can, that twelve of their family members are past and current Mitty students.

The Haniger legacy, which includes the two seniors and one freshman, Sean Mulcahy, traces back to the very beginnings of the school.

Erin Haniger Mulcahy, class of '80, recalls, "My brother Walt was in middle school when a Mitty student rang our doorbell. He was going door to door to homes in the area to talk about this great and new all boys high school, Archbishop Mitty."

Walt Haniger, of Mitty's third graduating class, reflects on how Mitty has changed since he attended. "A lot of the kids who got kicked out of public school went to Mitty. It was pretty wild. It was more like a home for wayward boys," he says.

Since then, the school has gone through some transformations. "Now Mitty is so much more competitive, it's grown up," says his sister, Erin Haniger Mulcahy.

But not everything at Mitty has changed since these alumni last sat in its classrooms. Erin Haniger Mulcahy remembers Mitty's sense of community, too. "Mitty was a very small school, and our family became friends with many of the staff and administration," she says.

From the very beginning, she believes that Mitty played a significant part in her life, supporting both her and her

relatives. For example, though he wasn't a student at Mitty, Erin's younger brother Tim was made a part of the school's extended family. Erin Haniger Mulcahy is grateful this was the case. "I'll never forget Brother Mike Chu taking the time to accompany Tim down to the state finals in L.A. for the Special Olympics," she says.

Mitty was again a community of support when her father passed away as well. "My father died unexpectedly at the beginning of my younger brother Matt's junior year. It was the 'Mitty Group' that supported and sustained my mother long after my dad's passing," she says.

For the Hanigers and their fourteen past and current students, Mitty is not only a college preparatory institution, it is a community of friends and family. Although two Haniger seniors graduate this year, the legacy does not stop with them—Erin Haniger Mulcahy's freshman son, Sean, still has three more years of people to meet and knowledge to discover. On his application for the school, he wrote that Mitty is "in my blood."

The Hanigers are not the only family that has ties to the first class of the school. Like the Hanigers, the Walsh-Formico-Caloiaro family goes back to the first graduating classes of Mitty. With two current students, junior Joan Caloiaro and senior Vincenzo Caloiaro, and twelve alumni, including, of course, Kerri Walsh, this family also has extensive connections to Mitty.

The Welch-Hart-Popolizio family has also seen multiple generations through the school: their 20-person legacy starts with the class of '70 and goes through '09 with seniors Michael Hart and Morgan Popolizio. A third family of students with 27 former and current students is the Infantino-Bresniker-Santana-Stapp family.

see **LEGACY**, page 16



Nineteen Mitty Students participated in Catholic Lobby Day.

Lobbying for Change: Catholic Lobby Day 2009

Hannah Moeller
Staff Writer

On April 28, 2009, nineteen Mitty students, accompanied by Mrs. Walker, Mr. Accorsi, and Mr. Herrera, traveled to the state capital for Catholic Lobby Day. The group reported to school at 5 a.m., took a bus to Sacramento, and arrived at the capital building. There, small groups of five or six students met with government officials face-to-face in their offices throughout the day, discussing pressing issues affecting California today.

Catholic Lobby Day is a state-wide event facilitated by the California Catholic Conference. Delegates from every diocese travel to Sacramento and lobby with our statesmen, attempting to gain their support on particular issues or persuade their votes on pending legislation. The goal of the event is to be a voice for the voiceless by advocating for the poor and vulnerable. These people do not have access to power, often not knowing how, where, or what to do to advocate for their rights.

Lobby day strives to apply the principles of

See **LOBBY DAY**, page 16

A DOCTOR DISCUSSES H1N1

By Kit Strong
News Editor

My father, Philip Strong, an internist in Mountain View who has practiced medicine for over 20 years, agreed to sit down and discuss H1N1 with *The Monarch*.

What's the difference between swine flu and regular flu?

The first thing is, there are probably two kinds of flu in the community: seasonal influenza and right now, a tiny number of H1N1, swine flu cases. You can't really tell the difference between the two by symptoms. Influenza generally is one of the most contagious kinds of illnesses. So anybody who gets any kind of flu, whether H1N1 or seasonal, should stay home so that they don't infect other people.

What are the symptoms?

People are contagious one day prior to developing symptoms to five to six days after developing the symptoms. Fever is prominent. Temperature of 100.8 or greater, sometimes 102, 103, 104. Headache. and then upper respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, cough, and congestion.

Why is all the hype of H1N1 dying down?

It doesn't look like it is as bad as originally thought. The case-fatality rate is lower in Mexico, meaning that there were more cases, but fewer deaths. There is still a long-time threat for influenza. I mean, at some point, there is going to be another great pandemic. But, this little episode of the swine flu seems to be less dangerous than it first appeared.

How many new infections are being diagnosed now?

The number of incidences seem to be decreasing in Mexico. There are some sporadic incidences in various states in the US as well as in other countries.

Should students get flu shots for the upcoming year?

Yes. In the fall, in November, they develop a new flu shot every year. It is likely that there will be a component of this upcoming vaccine that will protect against H1N1 influenza.

How do we prevent spreading illnesses and epidemics?

Stay home! Especially during the early phases of illness. Avoid close contact with others.

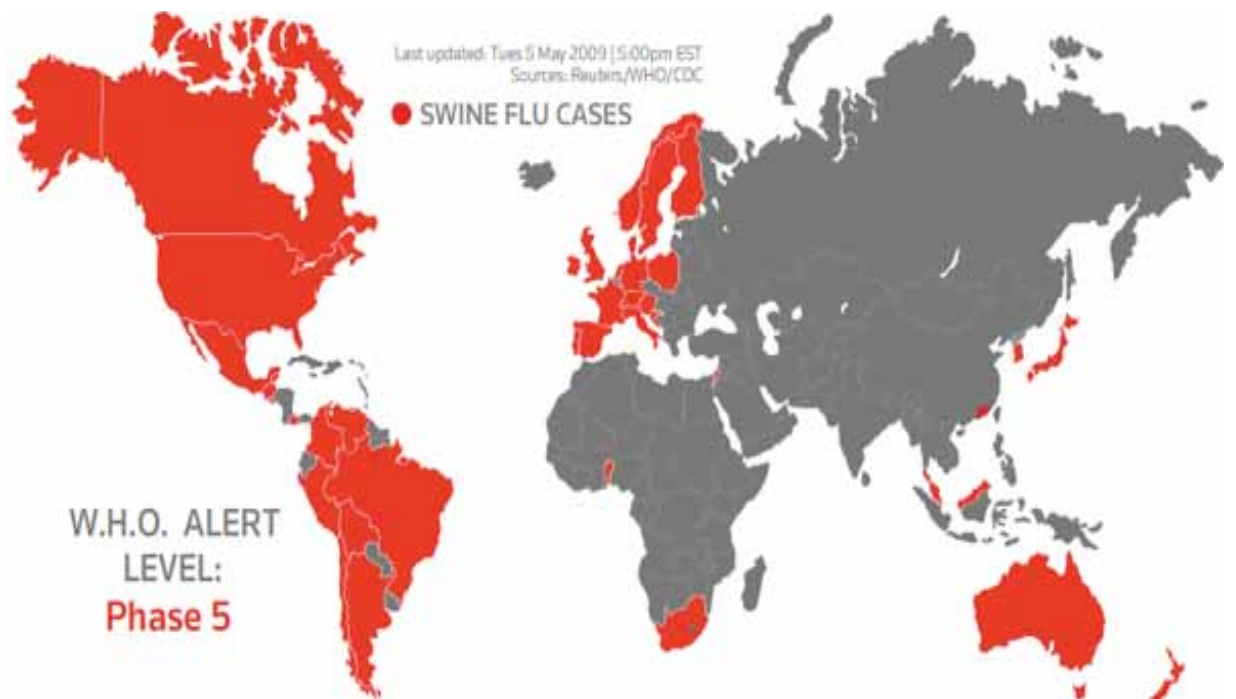
What does this swine flu outbreak show about our health care system and its ability to respond to potential epidemics?

For one thing, the counties have been cutting back on their public health budgets. This is not the time to do this. Those budget cuts should be reversed.

Why did people become so anxious about this specific flu, if it resembles so closely normal seasonal flu?

Authorities were worried because H1N1 flu was not covered by the available vaccine and it seemed to spread quickly and all over the world. Additionally, there had been deaths in Mexico connected to it. Also, experts were concerned that it was like the 1918 epidemic that killed 125,000 people in the US in the first four and half months worldwide, and killed about 100 million in 18 months.

MAPPING H1N1



AFTER THE FACT: WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM H1N1

By Manosai Eerabathini
& Isabel Sausjord
Staff Writers

Even as fear spread worldwide about a possible swine flu pandemic, some people doubted the severity of the virus. Though this recent health scare has been publicized broadly in the media, the influenza A (H1N1) strain appears so far to be hardly any more dangerous than the regular seasonal flu, which kills 36,000 Americans every year. What may set this outbreak apart is that it has tested the global community's ability to respond to impending health threats.

Although the initial reaction was slow in Mexico, governments quickly began taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the flu and ensure that antiviral treatments would be present in mass amounts if deemed necessary.

After noticing a series of unusually rash flu cases in the state of Veracruz, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about 48 hours later than standard. Many were quick to criticize the PAHO's lack of action as the first confirmed case of swine flu was reported. This slow response continued until the PAHO finally published their findings after three deaths occurred in Mexico.

At this point, the United States began to notify the media about two cases in California; a comparatively brisk reaction to the influenza A virus. It quickly became apparent that this outbreak had the potential to become global, and it eventually did. As the cases began to accumulate in the US, the government began to prepare for H1N1 by buying 13 million courses of anti-flu drugs to replenish its stockpile. Clearly, this was a worldwide concern as confirmed cases began to appear in Israel, China, and South Korea.

In China, a 25 year-old Mexican tourist was confirmed as having swine flu, prompting an entire quarantine of the hotel in which he was residing. In fact, the Chinese government isolated 61 Mexican nationals in six cities solely based on "precautionary steps" and all incoming flights from Mexico were cancelled. After the SARS epidemic of 2003, Hong Kong was criticized extensively for failing to limit the transmission of the disease by imposing quarantines. But now it almost too quickly instituted a complete sealing of the infected area as if to show the world the valuable lesson it learned.

Phase 5 Pandemic

"Phase 5 is characterized by human to human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. While most countries will not be affected at this stage, the declaration of phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short."

—World Health Organization

Meanwhile, the U.S. media latched onto the story, instilling a sense of a fear and anticipation amongst many people. Understandably, all the nations potentially affected by the flu are eager to be overcautious, risking no expense to ensure they are prepared. The sensational nature of this health scare and the intense public scrutiny that has come out of this event may have important long-term effects. By showcasing the vulnerabilities of the current system, this excessive media coverage may help improve the ways we deal with disease.

One area that needs help is the way health care organizations prepare for a possible pandemic. Although health care is a complex topic in the US, the vast majority of Americans believe that there needs to be some change in the system. As this outbreak shows, the health care system must be better prepared for pandemics and other public health emergencies. The swine flu outbreak, while not especially deadly so far, demonstrates that Congress must allocate money for public health emergencies. If such a reform were implemented, hospitals would have the resources to treat more patients, including the uninsured, during pandemics. This would slow the spread of the disease as well as saving the lives of many of the infected.

Vaccinations also pose a challenge. The main reason for alarm is that there is no vaccine available for the H1N1 virus. Due to the dismal state of vaccination medicine, the development of a vaccine will take months. Most vaccine production today uses the slow, dated method of injecting chicken eggs with a version of the virus and waiting for several months. Production, as well as research, lacks funding. With almost seven billion people on the planet, we manufacture only enough doses to vaccinate about 780 million.

see LESSONS OF H1N1, page 3

MITTY RESPONDS *from page 1*

Athletic contests that were canceled would be rescheduled by the league.

In any closure to the school, the student body would definitely continue with the best possible academic program. The Instructional Technology Department, in conjunction with Mr. Robinson, has made sure that every teacher has a working E-Class, including the file-download command and a drop-box, so that teachers would be able to communicate, according to Mr. Robinson, "with each and every student electronically and remotely to home, so that they would be able to do their work at home."

Teachers would be posting all their assignments from home and would realize that "they'd need to have very realistic expectations" of what a student would be able to do and complete for homework assignments.

Even though Mitty will certainly not be closing now because the virus has declined throughout the country, policies are now more firmly in place in the event of such an event in the future.

Justice Awareness

LESSONS OF H1N1 *from page 2*

Outside of the medical community, the H1N1 outbreak may prompt changes in agriculture. While scientists are still unsure about the flu's origin, the facts that it contains swine flu RNA and was first found in the village of La Gloria indicate that it may be related to the Granjas Carroll pork facility near there.

Whether or not this proves to be true, the revelations of the condi-

tions at that farm may change public perspective on such factory farms, often known as CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations).

Investigation into the flu's origin has brought to light unsettling facts about Granjas Carroll's effects on the local environment, which include clouds of flies and contamination with fecal waste.

If consumers pay attention to this

side of the story, perhaps reform of the agricultural system will follow to protect the environment and the people of farming communities.

While this outbreak has caused relatively few deaths, its impact on public policy and opinion has been enormous thusfar.

Hopefully this will be a lesson for the world and an impetus to improve pandemic prevention.

TAKING A TOLL ON HEALTH Stress and Insecurity during the Economic Crisis Produces Adverse Effects to Health

By Angela Hodge
Staff Writer

Americans spend two trillion dollars each year on health care.

That's half of the entire world's health spending and yet America is ranked 30th in life expectancy, and we, the current generation, are predicted to be the first since the founding of the nation to live for a shorter time than our parents.

This silent health crisis hits the poor much harder than the wealthy. After all, 47 million Americans have no health coverage and it is more or less certain that the financially secure citizens of America have better access to doctors, medicine, and shelter.

However, 2008 studies proved that there is much more to health than having resources available. One of every five American men works in a high-demand, low-control job, and regardless of whether he has health care or not, he has dangerously high blood pressure compared to men in more secure jobs.

Finally, in a 2008 test where assorted subjects were directly exposed to a cold virus, the likelihood that each person would contract the cold was directly proportional to the number of years his parents owned a house in his childhood.

Why do these discrepancies exist? The childhood conditions of a person or the fact that he faces discrimination don't directly affect the resources available to him. Biology shows that it all comes down to stress

and security.

The film *Unnatural Causes* illustrates this using a monkey colony in a zoo. All of the monkeys are provided with the same amount of food, receive the same attention from the handler, and live in the same environment with no particular dangers or health hazards. Yet the alpha monkey, who leads the colony, will live on average three years longer than a subordinate monkey from the same colony. Handlers explain this is a result of the animal's nervous system. Subordinate monkeys, who must be constantly on alert for aggression from the alpha, have a hyperactive nervous system that raises their heart rates and puts their minds under perpetual stress. This wears down the immune system (among others), so the subordinate monkeys are more susceptible to viruses, bacteria, and more.

American statistics such as those above suggest that the same science applies to the body of the average worker. Those lower on the food chain feel less secure in their ability to provide for themselves and their families, and these stresses make them more susceptible to diseases that could restrict their money-earning options even further.

Job insecurity takes its toll on workers especially during times of economic crisis, like today. To heighten awareness of how poverty, health, and skin color connect, monthly seminars are being held in the churches of various parishes of Santa Clara County. For more information, you can check your own church's bulletin or visit the sponsor's site at www.healthtrust.org.



WORLD AFFAIRS



Fifteen of the eighteen Zimbabwean human rights and political activists who were re-detained May 5 have now been released on bail, though three remain in custody.

They were charged for involvement in terrorism and bombings, though accusations are largely believed to be unfounded concoctions by the former government. These detainees, previously imprisoned in December, were subject to "enforced disappearance, torture, and other ill-treatment." The fates of Kisimusi Chris Dhlamini, Shadreck Andrison Manyere, and Gandhi Mudzingwa have yet to be decided.

The United States has displayed a willingness to recommence peace-talks with North Korea on its nuclear weapons program. These talks, which had also included representatives from Japan, Russia, China, and South Korea, were mired near the end of the Bush administration and relations have been since further strained by North Korea's recent rocket launch and threats of increased nuclear arms testing.



Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Amman, Jordan to take a weeklong tour of the Middle East to help "foster good relations between Christians and Muslims," through participation in prayer services and meetings with Islamic scholars and diplomats. Though this goal may seem rather ambitious for a single trip, it appears to be diplomatically necessary. Two years ago, Pope Benedict quoted a Byzantine emperor's less-than-flattering depiction of the Prophet Mohammed in a speech, thus straining the Church's relations with the Muslim community. His trip marks the first papal visit to the historical sites of the Middle East since Pope John Paul II made the pilgrimage in 2000.



Danger on the High Seas:

A NEW WAVE OF PIRATE ATTACKS ARISES OFF THE SOMALIAN COAST

By Kanishka Khanna
Staff Writer

While talk of pirates might bring up images of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, they pose a real threat on the high seas of the Indian Ocean. Although the notorious Somali pirates have held several international sailors hostage, the recent capture of the American freighter *Captain* exposes just how booming this business is with millions of dollars in annual turnover.

Somalia, with an estimated per capita GDP of \$600 per year is undoubtedly one of the world's poorest countries. Millions of Somalis depend on food aid and in 2008, according to the World Bank, as much as 73% of the population lived on a daily income below \$2. During the Siad Barre regime (1969-91), Somalia received aid from various countries in the world to help develop its fishing industry by improving the ships and supporting the construction of maintenance facilities.

However, after the fall of the Barre regime and the subsequent Somali Civil War, the income from fishing decreased. Thus, as funds started to shrivel up in the region, fishermen were hard-pressed to support themselves, and so they turned to piracy.

These once impoverished men are now members of the socio-economic elite with the wealth and strength they have amassed. Abdi Farah Juha explains that "They have money; they have power and they are getting stronger by



the day. They wed the most beautiful girls; they are building big houses; they have new cars; new guns."

One pirate anonymously contacted the press stating, "My ambition is to get a lot of money so that I can lead a better life. Now I have two lorries, a luxury car and have started my own business in my town. I only want one more chance in piracy to increase my cash assets, then I will get married and give up."

On October 7, 2008, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1838 calling on nations in the area to apply military force and repress the acts of piracy.

International donors have pledged over \$250 million for Somali aid which includes \$134 million to increase the African Union peacekeeping mission from 4,350 troops to 8,000 troops and \$34 million for Somali security forces.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon told delegates at a donors' conference sponsored by the U.N. that "Piracy is a symptom of anarchy and insecurity on the ground," and that "more security on the ground will make less piracy on the seas."

Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed pledged at the conference that "It is our duty to pursue these criminals not only on the high seas, but also on terra firma."

The Somali government has not gone after pirates yet because pirate leaders currently have more power than the government. It has been estimated by piracy experts that in 2008 the pirates gained about \$80 million through ransom payments.

The Somali pirates are a very real and very serious threat in the Indian Ocean. Their illegal activities have caused problems not only for corporations and navies, but also for some non-profit organizations trying to get aid to the people.

It is time to nip the problem at its bud by directly helping the impoverished in the nation, so that they will not turn to piracy as a way out. If we bring the treasures to the people, then perhaps they will not have to go out to take it themselves.



REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

By Morgan Sellers
Class of '09

Having the opportunity to travel to New Orleans this past spring break is difficult to describe in words.

I have never felt so blessed, so needed, so in awe, and so troubled at the same time before in my life. I was blessed to see a different corner of the world, one I have never experienced before, and to absorb its culture and life.

I was blessed to work and meet people like Dr. Brian and his family who survived hurricane Katrina. I was needed to help rebuild; four years later, the amount of work left to be done is astounding and a little disheartening.

I was in awe of the resilience of the people of New Orleans, people who lost everything, even family members, but continue to make their homes in such a volatile environment. And, I was disheartened that we as a country, as a community, have begun to forget about New Orleans.

It's a tragedy that has been pushed out of the news for bigger, more current stories. I am left to wonder if another hurricane, with all its devastation, is the only thing that can make us realize once again the great need of the people in the south.

With all of these things in mind, I feel that the good, the hope for a better future, outweighs the bad. I can say that I, along with our whole group, couldn't have asked for a better spring break.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

By Maggie Wiley
Class of '09

Everyone in high school searches for their "niche" where they fit in—where they meet similar friends, make connections, and do something they love. For me, this is in service.

You hear a lot about how by helping people you actually help yourself also, and it's true. I feel incomplete and lacking if I know there are people suffering in the world that I could be helping and I'm not. But I also love service because of the people you get to meet. Those who spend their lives advocating for the less fortunate have a clear understanding of human dignity and compassion. It is not easy to be constantly empathetic, but the recognition of the grace in everyone is crucial. I have met some of the most fully human and genuinely happy people through my service work, and this makes for some incredible experiences. This is the family I have found within Campus Ministry, and one that I will sorely miss next year.

Mitty certainly did its job for me, because my original inspiration was Mrs. Walker's Ethics class junior year. Through her recommendations I became involved in Catholic Lobby Day, the SOA trip, leading Micah, and ultimately the Global Solidarity Club.

After watching "Invisible Children," Corinne Wolf and I were determined to help these kids, and so we spent all of junior year planning out the beginning of our club for senior year. Though we tried to focus on many different human rights issues through the club, we have immersed ourselves in this particular cause to which we both became committed.

More than anything I am proud of what we have accomplished this year: Not only did we have multiple screenings, hold fundraisers, and host the IC Roadies, we also simply

BEYOND OUR HOMES:

What the California Immersion Trip Taught Me About the Neglected in Our State

By Kimberly Niedermaier
Class of '09

In a yellow school bus the very first ECJ: CA class drove to Fort Mason in San Francisco and began our trip through California.

In the City, we trekked down to Van Ness and Bay to board a MUNI bus for St. Anthony's in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. There, the class split up into groups of 4 or 5 students to serve different groups of people. I delivered warm lunches to home-bound seniors the first day, then worked in the Dining Room the second, and played card games and attempted "chair aerobics" with the elderly the third. The class reunited in the afternoon to eat lunch at the Dining Room—easily the most memorable experience. It was truly fascinating listening to their personal experiences that led them to St. Anthony's day after day. Despite the hardships they faced, the diners appreciated the community that developed from sharing a warm meal and the dignity with which they were treated.

Our next stops were Save the Bay (in Palo Alto), Dorothy's Place (Salinas), Dolores Mission and Homeboy Industries (East L.A.). In Salinas we gleaned lettuce fields



for Ag against Hunger; luckily, only Jeff Campbell injured himself with the 12-inch knives we used. We visited the labor camps, where the teenaged children of migrant farm workers shared their stories of heartbreak, hope, and resolve. At Dorothy's Place, like St. Anthony's, we served food to the Salinas residents, who provided us insight into their daily struggles living in poverty.

In East Los Angeles, we met with Father Greg Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries, which is the largest provider of jobs to former gang members. Again, the stories of the struggles of these ex-gang members exposed a world

easily neglected by the greater community, a world that receives little help for the poverty that affects so many who live in it.

No matter where we stopped in California, the class was humbled and overwhelmed by the amount of gratitude exhibited by the people we served. In these two weeks, 24 students, four moderators, and one amazing bus driver on a yellow bus traveled the golden state performing small acts of service and forming bonds with the many gracious people we met.

Class of '09:
GIVING BACK

SENIORS REFLECT ON HOW THEY'VE SERVED THEIR COMMUNITY IN THEIR TIME AT MITTY.

got the word out there to the Mitty community that Uganda needs our help. That, more than anything, will make a difference in the long run. I am excited to leave behind such a legacy. It means more than words can express to have seen the growth in my club members this year, and how much effort they all put into the movement too. When you get into something as big as this, you can't help but feel the excitement and positive energy. It's like a high, and luckily, an addicting one.

Catholic Lobby Day taught me to not only go around handing out food to the hungry and clothes to the poor, but also to advocate for justice and human rights in the long term. Twice I had the opportunity to go to Sacramento and lobby at the capitol building to senators about my concerns in my own community. It didn't matter that I was a high schooler; they could tell that I was serious about what I was doing and they listened. This was a terrific confidence booster, and an inspiration.

Many of my peers believe that doing something so bold is not their job, and should be done by someone better—but if everyone says that, nothing will ever be accomplished. I truly believe that we all are capable of much more than we believe ourselves to be. My advice is simply to try, and give it all you've got. It worked for me.

My life revolves around service work, and this will absolutely continue when I leave Mitty. My plan is to attend Sonoma State University, spend a year in the JVC (preferably in Uganda) and then begin my career as a spe-

cial education teacher. Not many people can say that they knew what they wanted to be when they were in the first grade, but I am proud to say that I did, and my resolve has not shaken in thirteen years.

I hold all the respect in the world for teachers. It is not an easy job, but I one hundred percent believe that it is one of the most rewarding jobs a person can have. My goal in life is to change the world for the better, and my philosophy is that I can accomplish this by simply teaching empathy and love to my students. In my opinion these are the most powerful tools I could give them, and hopefully I can help create more children who grow up dreaming of making the world a better place.



OPINIONS

Writing on the Wall: Torture Memos Reveal Atrocities of Bush Administration Actions

By **Elise Sudlow**
Staff Writer

Memos were released a few weeks ago confirming that torture was conducted on al-Qaeda and other captives under the Bush administration. Methods such as water boarding, confinement to small boxes with insects, beating, and stress positions were implemented. Did we receive any intelligence from this? The Bush administration says so. However, I don't know why we should choose to believe so blindly an administration that has lied to us before. For example, one man was water boarded 183 times in one month.

In America, we condemn other countries that torture. If we are going to stand up and condemn those who do it, we cannot defend our doing it. It doesn't matter that what al-Qaeda did was worse: We inflicted torture upon people.

Furthermore, it is now apparent that the Bush administration was complicit in breaking the law when they authorized torture. Beyond the lies surrounding the War in Iraq, we now know that waterboarding was committed with the full knowledge of the senior members of the Bush administration and thus they are guilty of the crimes in violation of the 1996 Federal War Crimes Act. President George Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Assistant Attorney General Jay Bybee, Former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice could very well be charged with war crimes, either as the architects of torture or allowing it to happen.

Even with these arguments about America's morality set aside, torture is too unreliable. Think about how many wrong people have to be tortured in order to procure information. Additionally, those who do not know anything are tortured nonetheless because we assume that they do. We assume that they haven't been tortured enough yet, as seen with the water boarding case.

People who are tortured will often lie and give false information so that the pain will end. John McCain said precisely this himself about his own torture in his autobiography. We don't need to use these tactics used by organizations such as al-Qaeda when we have more reliable and less brutal technology. Traditional practices are more effective on the whole and we don't need to spend time water boarding, torturing, and killing people just to extract potentially unreliable information. We cannot let America decline to the level of our adversaries, otherwise we vindicate them and destroy ourselves.

Somali Pirates: Beyond Media Caricatures

By **Alyson Atondo**
Staff Writer

The Somali pirates who hijacked a Ukrainian freighter loaded with tanks, artillery, grenade launchers and ammunition said in an interview that they had no idea the ship was carrying arms when they seized it on the high seas. Little did they know that they would walk off with an estimated \$30 million in heavy artillery. People already have preconceived notions about the word pirate: they are thieves who seek to steal in order to bolster their finances.

However, many of these pirates insist that so far, in the eyes of the world, they have been misunderstood. "We don't consider ourselves sea bandits," a Somali pirate said in an interview. "We consider sea bandits those who illegally fish in our seas and dump waste in our seas and carry weapons in our seas. We are simply patrolling our seas. Think of us like a coast guard."

Piracy in Somalia is a highly organized, lucrative, ransom-driven business. Just this year, pirates hijacked more than 25 ships, and in many cases, they were paid million-dollar ransoms to release them. The juicy payoffs have attracted gunmen from across Somalia, and the pirates are thought to number in the thousands. Also this year, however, the United Nations declared that the anarchy of the ongoing Somali civil war has created the worst humanitarian crisis on the face of the earth, no doubt worsened by Western exploitation of the waters off the Horn of Africa.

The trappings of success may be new, but piracy has been a problem in Somali waters for at least 10 years—when Somali fishermen began losing their livelihoods. Their traditional fishing methods were no match for the illegal trawlers that were raiding their waters. Piracy initially started along Somalia's southern coast but began shifting north in 2007—and as a result, the pirate gangs in the Gulf of Aden are now multi-clan operations.

Somali raised, "straight outta Mogadishu" rapper K'naan wrote, "Well, the pirates are serving a purpose right now. They come from regions which have been completely ignored, and Westerners have tried to destroy these regions by their constant plundering of resources and by the illegal dumping of nuclear waste. The pirates really began in order to discourage these actions—initially. And then the business became lucrative. So I don't know what to tell these people who want Somalis to condemn them. One man's pirate is another man's coast guard."

Really, this whole ordeal is another example of the western media sensationalizing—and misrepresenting—the motivations and the desperation of poor people on the other side of the globe. After Angola, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and now Somalia, one has to wonder, when will the West ever give Africa a reprieve from the ceaseless exploitation that have plagued this continent since Vasco da Gama?

Useless and Obsolete: The Federal Reserve

By **Jacque Sharre**
Staff Libertarian

"The Federal Reserve, the central bank of the United States, provides the nation with a safe, flexible, and stable monetary and financial system." This motto found on the Federal Reserve web site is likely one of the most ironic statements I have had the pleasure of encountering in quite a while. While I am not suggesting that the Federal Reserve is completely worthless or unnecessary, the wording should be chosen more wisely, especially when the economy speaks so contrarily.

The words safe, flexible, and stable may perhaps be better compared with a rotting piece of wood—dangerous to stand on, stiff, and likely to break under any pressure—than with the United States economy, which is, in essence, what the Federal Reserve is. A better phrase may be an unsafe, debt-producing, and constantly fluctuating financial system.

Because of its debt-based monetary system, the Federal Reserve causes America to live with severe boom-bust economy trends. The Fed's money is considered "legal tender" meaning it is not backed by anything, as was our early economy before 1862. Therefore, this money has no intrinsic value since its supply is virtually unlimited, it is not based on any sort of commodity, and it is being printed at such a rate that value is decreasing.

Furthermore, the reserve encourages banks to make loans that will have a small chance of being paid back. This is the result of fractional reserve banking, a practice which allows banks to create and lend money they don't have; in other words, for every dollar actually in the reserve, seven or even eight dollars can be loaned out.

Yes, this may seem familiar, given the current state of the market and the reasons for its dismal performance. Not only have the loans that were not paid back come back to bite the fed, the methods they are using to jumpstart the economy again, like throwing massive quantities of money into the economy, have so far proved unsuccessful.

Ultimately, this is trying to fix a problem with "money" that never really existed turned into bad loans, which weren't meant to be paid back, in a system that is fundamentally broken and corrupt.

Perhaps part of the problem of reforming the Federal Reserve is that it is such a complicated behemoth that people are cautious before approaching its tangled webs. This solution is not as simple as a "tea-party" demonstration.

Designing ways to make the economy more stable is imperative at this point. While the Federal Reserve continues to be immoral in terms of its practices, the world economy cannot hope to improve. This stability stems from the Federal Reserve itself. Refining its ways and becoming trustworthy is the starting point to help cure the dire financial situation.

Put it in the trash!

By **Ally Lockwood**
Staff Writer

Mitty is a school of smart, Catholic-educated little whippersnappers who spend countless hours on our campus preparing their minds for the real world and the work it will bring. So can someone tell me when all these up-and-comers suddenly lost their manners? Remember when your mother told you to clean up your trash after you finished your pudding cup in elementary school? Looking at our campus some days, it may appear that Mitty kids are not advancing, but attempting to revert back to early childhood at the maintenance staff's expense.

In running through all the reasons I could conjure up to excuse Mitty students' inability to dispose of their own trash, I was unable to come up with anything remotely legitimate. I doubt that any of our students believe that stockpiling massive amounts of trash on tables is excusable. I have also noticed that there aren't any preschoolers wandering around campus who don't know how to find the trashcans. One could easily be led to believe that half our school is unaware that our campus even has trashcans. Indeed, it was during my latex-gloved lunch-period workings with Don of the maintenance staff that I became aware of the problem at hand. At first, I was annoyed with the fact that of the kids who aren't getting rid of their trash, half are finding alternative methods to disposing of it, and the other half just don't care.

At Mitty we are told over and over the importance of understanding the fundamental dignity we all possess and how everyone deserves respect. However, being the ignorant child I am, I fail to see exactly how trashing bathrooms and leaving your personal remnants around for others to clean up conveys a notion of respect. As Mr. Fallis pointed out, students need to take into consideration what our campus would look like if no one took the time to address the selfish mess they left sprawled around our cafeteria and grounds. If the maintenance staff did what most students do on a daily basis, and just decided to not pick up any of the trash lying around, and instead step around it, what would happen? Our school would look like a dumpsite.

All kidding aside, the trash problem is a serious issue. Be considerate. Our maintenance staff works around the clock, arriving before you even start trying to pick out your outfit for school in the morning and leaving way after you've logged off and finished complaining about your homework load on Facebook. They put in countless hours to keep our campus looking almost as good as you pre-prom, so I don't think it's at all too much to ask that you show a little respect. Show your gratitude, and pick up some trash.

Quite honestly, if you want to go home and pee on your own walls that's fine, I'd love to see what your mother has to say about it. But until you, your uncontrollable bladder, and your poor aim are a healthy distance from our school, I guess you'll just have to hold it in and have a little respect.

Fewer Angels in America: Is a More Secular Society a Bad Thing?

By Josie Suh
Editor

In the war between the left and the right, the battles have been arduous and numerous. Whether or not there should be prayer in public schools. Whether or not evolution should be taught. Abortion. Gay marriage. Heated protests and debates over legislation, court decisions, and everyday life decisions. The conflict has seemed tiresome and endless—and in the natural way of the world, something has to give.

According to recent polling of the American people, it seems as if the Evangelical side of the sociopolitical war is the one that is losing ground. Numbers and interviews seem to show a diminishing influence of the Christian faith on American politics. Demographically speaking, the numbers of Christians has been declining in the last decade and the number of agnostics has been rising.

According to the American Religious Identification Survey, the number of self-declared Christians has fallen 10% since 1990 while the number of agnostics has more than tripled from 3.6 million to about 10 million. While many leaders in the Christian community are worried about these declining numbers, and I understand their concern, as a Christian myself I am not sure I see a reason to fret.

I think that if Christianity is free from politics, it can be what it is truly meant to be. Jesus' advice on how to reconcile faith with participating in the world's governments was "Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his" (Matthew 22:21). For Jesus, politics and faith were not separate, but in differing spheres of influence. His goal was not political victories, forcing the Romans to believe he was the Messiah, but following God's message in the everyday. He did not need to have the powers of the world recognize that he was the Son of God to feel validated and legitimate.

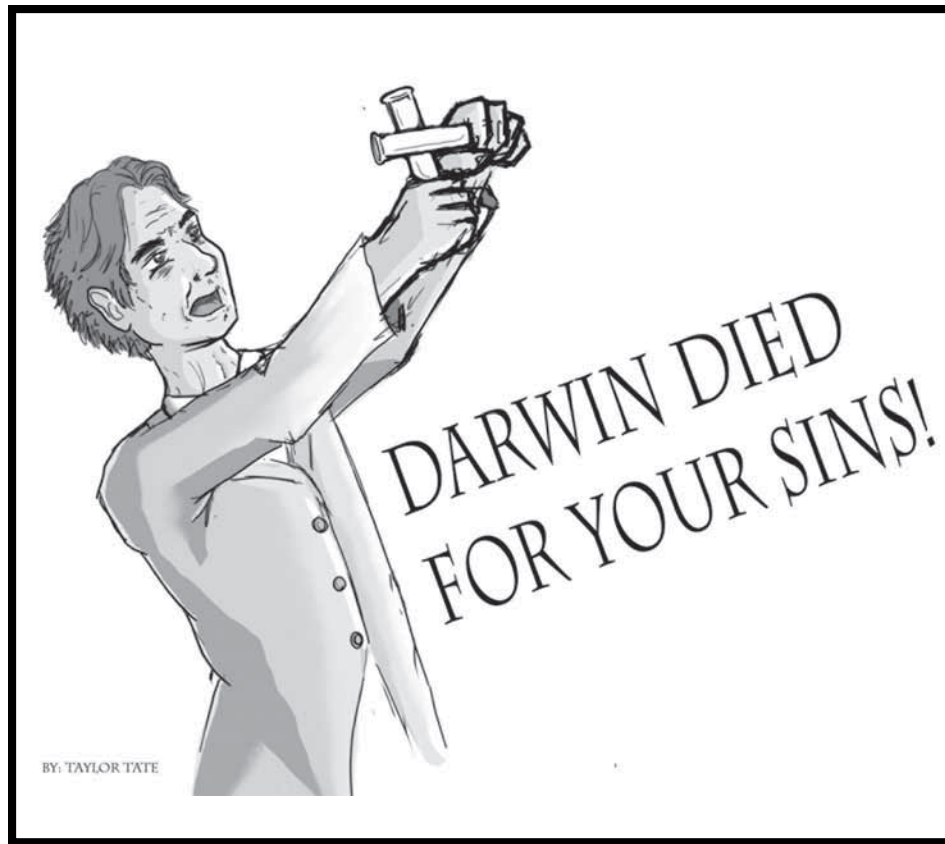
But unfortunately, what I see more often than not in politics is the effort of "Christian conservatives" to pursue a political agenda. I admire protests and lobbying on the basis of faith in order to stand up for what one believes to be right—as is done by many of the students and teachers at Mitty. However, what I see with many other members of the Christian faith is that they want the world to know they are right and therefore they will fight to the end to pass laws that validate this. But this is not what Jesus called us Christians to do. If we examine how Jesus worked to reconcile people with God, he did not change the framework of the political world but instead shook the foundations of people's hearts—one person at a time.

In a sense, I understand why the numbers of self-identified Christians are losing ground in the political arena. I do not blame those who turn away or refuse to invite God in their lives—in the larger context of the world many churches have become more concerned with validating their faith by maintaining political orthodoxy than developing a relationship with God and their neighbors.

Sadly, when these Christians focus on changing society over to their own narrow political views rather than following Jesus' example, more and more people will continue to see the church as merely a divider rather than a connector of people.

The church does not need to be so concerned with establishing the world's viewpoints. Consider C.S. Lewis' view: "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."

If Christians really desire to make a change in our world today, they need to be less concerned about politics and more concerned about who God really is to them individually and within their own faith based communities.



ATHEISM AS DOGMA: How Popular Atheists are Subverting Skepticism

By Alex Fong
Staff Writer

In my mind, there are very few obstacles preventing atheism, the rejection of the existence of God, from truly getting off the ground and becoming a 21st century phenomenon. One such obstacle is the attitude of atheist elites like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. These two figures represent the modern atheist movement, both of whom are quite vocal online and offline about the dangers of God-belief and the necessity for a more open-minded society. Yet in their arguments, they are just as dogmatic and narrow-minded as the they contend the religions they are trying to disprove can be.

If atheism is going to truly win more converts and show more people some of the shortcomings of religion, then its advocates ought to encourage more respect for differences in opinion and not view atheism as inferior or antiquated.

I must clarify that as an agnostic, I do not qualify or disqualify anything Dawkins or Hitchens says. Dawkins, a renowned Oxford University biologist, and Hitchens, an author and literary critic, do have a great deal of experience and knowledge on the subject of religion. They know their stuff, just not how to debate and win hearts and minds. In fact, they scare more away from the skepticism they encourage than they draw to it.

Take Dawkins' apparent inability to control his temper and his attitude in conversation. In a documentary interview with former evangelical leader Ted Haggard, he expressed what is clearly a kind of intellectual arrogance. Trying to proselytize, Dawkins let his ego get the best of him as he began to call his opponent stupid and absurd. At one point, he smugly claimed that Haggard knew "absolutely nothing" about the subject.

Watching the debate, one can see and hear this arrogance manifested as Dawkins allows the conversation to escalate into a shouting match. Haggard, by no means an intellectual giant, politely reacts by saying "Sir, there are many things you know well, and many things you don't know well...but please, in the process of it, don't be arrogant."

Come on Dawkins! Being disrespectful is not the way to show atheism in a positive light. You made that hypocrite Ted Haggard look like the more level-headed, more intelligent person. Indeed, such a lack of dignity doesn't promote open-mindedness, but rather the opposite. Can it be a surprise then that many Christians have responded negatively to Dawkins for reasons other than theological differences? Yes. As one of the leaders of the atheist community, one would expect that Dawkins would not lower the bar and engage in childish (and rather unproductive) shouting matches in the future.

Similarly, Christopher Hitchens muddles his basic message that the late Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell was a corrupt, completely disingenuous person by calling Falwell

"such a little toad," "an evil old man," and basically, an illiterate. Saying that he couldn't care less if Falwell's family's feelings were hurt by his harsh critique makes Hitchens sound an awful lot like...well, a bigot. I have seen YouTube rants with more substance. But his actions don't stop here. He also steamrolls over Anderson Cooper and Alan Colmes, arguably sympathetic figures, and doesn't help strengthen his arguments. Like Dawkins, Hitchens is at once immature and obstinate. It's enough to make a skeptic like me ashamed.

I think the atheist community owes it to itself to demand some respectfulness from its two leading figures. It has become clear that these guys do not convince a whole lot of Christians. Why? In part, because they proselytize ineffectively.

If we are going to regard atheism as valid skepticism, then I think it ought to be honest skepticism. That is to say, open-minded and polite skepticism—that transcends the fire and brimstone of the heavy-handed—and not the smugly closed-minded or rude kind Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens have so tellingly evinced.

A Brief Message from the Opinion Editors

We wish to extend our congratulations to journalist David Barstow, of *The New York Times*, who won the 2009 investigative reporting Pulitzer Prize for revealing that many of the retired generals who went on the national news programs including NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, CNN, and MSNBC to provide analysis and commentary on the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were actually on the Pentagon's payroll.

It is sad to think that these ubiquitous "authorities" on America's foreign affairs and military intelligence were actually cunning stool pigeons for a Pentagon clamoring for public support, while trying to further the agenda of the George Bush Administration.

Networks utilized these false authorities and, through them, gave free, unchallenged air time to authorities that

were anything but impartial, in an effort to foist an unjust war on the American public. These generals would extol the party line on news broadcasts to advance the Bush agenda as casualties mounted and civil liberties disappeared.

Since winning the Pulitzer, Barstow has been predictably shunned by the mainstream media because his victory is a true indictment of the sorry state of corporate media in America. Ignored by the major networks, Barstow had his first nationally broadcast interview on Amy Goodman's nonprofit, fiercely independent program, *Democracy Now!* (Weekdays from 6-7am and 9-10am, on 94.1 FM KPFA).

On that program, Barstow said, "And this is what you would see when things like Abu Ghraib happened and when questions were being raised about the adequacy of

the armor being given to American troops; invariably they would pull these guys in, and they would sort of bring them in to neutralize the critical coverage, sometimes the critical coverage that was coming from the network's own war correspondents."

At *The Monarch*, we applaud the Pulitzer Committee's decision to award Barstow with the 2009 prize as it is a step beyond the corruption and "info-tainment" that currently afflicts modern journalism.

As this school year ends, hopefully those staying on at *The Monarch*, or those who will join in the fall of 2009, will take note of genuine journalists like Barstow or Goodman, remembering to have the courage to pursue controversial stories, and make sure that the real truth and the true facts are passed on appropriately to everyone.

The Graduates: Class of 2009

The ASB Experience

By Ashley Conner
Contributing Writer

Coming to Mitty as an awkward fourteen-year-old was not an easy transition for me. I didn't have many friends going here from my middle school, nor did I have any idea of what I wanted to get involved in. During my freshmen year and throughout my sophomore year, I just sort of drifted—like a vagabond—waiting for something exciting to happen to me.

But what I didn't realize was that there were countless exciting things going on all around me—I just needed to take the time to explore them and figure out what would fulfill my dreams of the perfect high school experience.

At the end of my sophomore year, I decided I was going to run for ASB Spirit Commissioner. It didn't matter to me if I won or lost the election. In fact, I expected myself to lose.

Running against upperclassmen was intimidating, but I proved to myself that I was capable of much more than I had given myself credit for. I enjoyed being Spirit Commissioner so much that I decided to run for ASB President the following year.

To me, this was a very important step forward. I came to Mitty as a "nobody" and let my lack of self-esteem run me into the ground. But to my surprise, at the end of my junior year, I was elected as AMHS's ASB President. I couldn't believe the complete 180 I had made in my life. I had so much



to be thankful for and so much to look forward to.

I am so proud to say that I was ASB President for one of the best Monarch Madness Opening Productions ever as well as one of the best Christmas Rallies ever! I had the best team I could have ever imagined, and we have become a family over the course of a year. Mr. Walker, Ms. LaRose, Ms. McCabe, Anooshka Kumar, Kendra Breunling, Mustafa Siddiquee, Marty Ricci, and Josh Ronen are such incredible people to work with.

They taught me so much about myself and how to be a respectable leader. Plus, they put up with me even on my worst days. I know we have all grown throughout our time on ASB, and we have changed dramatically over the last four years.

If it weren't for Mitty, I would have never had all the opportunities, like ASB and immersion trips, that I have been so fortunate to have during my high school career.

Mitty has helped me to discover what I am truly passionate about and has given me a path on which I will choose to follow my dreams.

There is something for everyone; it just might take some time for you to find what you are passionate about. Whether it be immersion trips, LASU, the school play, or Student Government—you have a home at Mitty. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone to find it. After all, high school is supposed to be four of the best years of your life.

Mitty In One Word?

"United."

-HANNAH FURGERSON

"Love"

- RYAN FLANIGAN

"Ambitious"

- RISHABH KUMAR

"Advantageous"

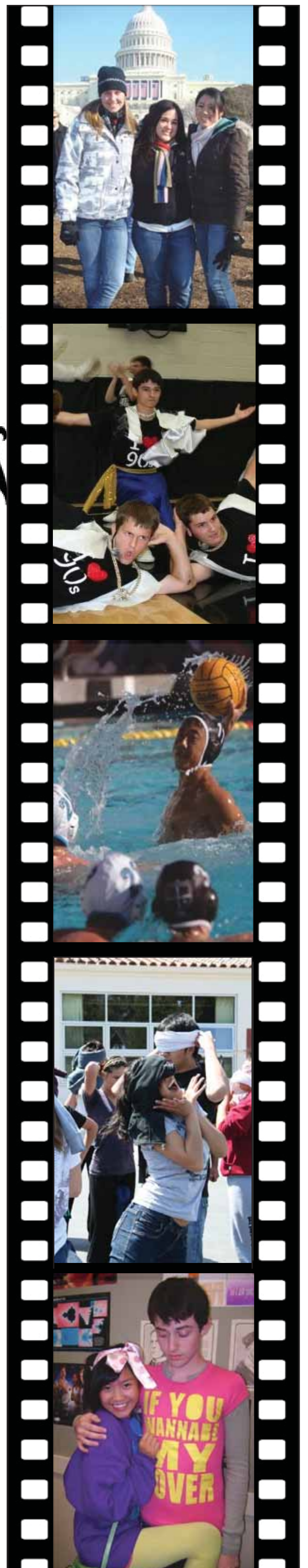
- JOSH RONEN

"Wondrous"

- LAURENCE DELISLE

delectable

- MATT RAUSCH



The Most Memorable Thing a Teacher Has Said?

Mr. Dunn WALKS OVER TO A PINE CONE, PICKS IT UP, STARES AT IT FOR A SECOND HOLDS IT UP TO HIS NOSE, SNIFFS IT, THEN TURNS TO US AND SAYS, 'AHHH, I LOVE NATURE.'
- Kerrilee Fazzino

Mr. VanValkenburg
"LEARN SOMETHING VALUABLE, INSTEAD OF ALL THAT CALCULUS THAT'S IN YOUR HEADS."
- Ian Davis

Mr. Bauman:
"R2D2, SHUT UP!"
- John Bujalski

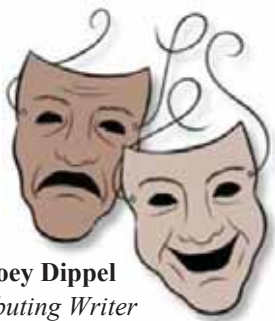
Coach McCalister:
"IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A MONARCH!"
- Kim Niedermaier

Mr. McAdams:
"THE SMARTEST DAY OF MY LIFE WAS WHEN I GRADUATED FROM STANFORD."
STUDENT: "SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE GETTING DUMBER AS TIME GOES ON?"
MR. MCADAMS: "YES!"
- Sean Robbins

Mr. Phil Miller:
"THEY WANT US TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE WONDERFUL AND YOU'RE SPECIAL, AND THEN YOU GO OUT IN THE JOB MARKET AND REALIZE YOU SUCK AND NO ONE WANTS TO MARRY YOU."
- Nicholas Tran

Mr. Fairley:
"OH, POOPUS"
- Adrienne Lamelas

Reflections of a Rising Star



By Joey Dippel
Contributing Writer

Scene: Tuesday, August 23, 2005. Enter a freshman, **JOEY DIPPEL**, an eager young actor who plans on conquering the Kinkade Theater and ending up in the spotlight. What he doesn't know is what actually is in store for him over the next four years of high school.

For those that believe that Performing Arts is a fun little hobby, I'm sorry to inform you that you are terribly mistaken.

It is most definitely a huge time commitment. Start with the six hours of school and add three hours of rehearsal and you get my average nine-hour day. The week leading up to opening night adds on three more hours to rehearsal and ends with getting home around 10 p.m., without any homework started. Sounds fun to do for six weeks per production, right?

Why, then, did I continue to take part in this? All the opportunities I was given made it completely worth it.

The first week of my freshman year, I was approached by the intimidating Mr. Kimont, who questioned why I wasn't planning on auditioning for the jazz choir.

I didn't even know what a jazz choir was, let alone

that Mitty had one. Little did I know I would be spending the next three years holding tight harmonies and attempting to "scat."

Sophomore year rolled around and I was cast as the lead in the spring musical, *The Will Rogers' Follies*. Different from most major roles, I had to know four monologues, learn how to twirl a rope as well as perform tricks, overcome some of the quickest costume changes I had ever done, play the harmonica, and play up to par with the leading lady, who also happened to be my best friend.

Junior year hit like a hurricane! It was the year that I

reminded myself that I am only human. I was not cast in any lead roles in the musicals and I started the year going through many troubles with some of my closest friends.

Luckily for me, there were many silver linings. I was cast as Antonio Salieri in *Ama-deus*, I was the dance captain for *The Who's*

Tommy, and through being a part of *Little Women*, the male ensemble became a great group of friends.

Everything mended and just in time for senior year. What was in store for me? Well, I had to learn Cantonese/Mandarin for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, dressed as a woman named Stephanie for *Leading Ladies*, and performed in

one of the most vocally-demanding shows that goes by the name of *Les Miserables*. With all these achievements and challenges, I've had a very fulfilling, jam-packed four years.

Where am I now? I just wrapped up my last sketch comedy show with the amazing troupe known as the Lucky 13 and will now no longer be performing on the Kinkade Theater stage.

As I prepare to attend the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in the fall, there is a certain eighth grader I know



who is getting ready to enter his first year at Mitty. Just like I was four years ago, he is curious about how Mitty works, excited to begin, and plans on getting very involved in the Performing Arts.

What he will learn is what I have learned: *A lead doesn't succeed by himself. There is always an ensemble backing him up.* This motto completely reflects my high school days: Without the support of my family, my friends, and the remarkable faculty of the AMHS Performing Arts Department, I would truly not be the person, the performer, and the Mitty alum that I soon will be.



Finding My Refuge

By **Jennifer Campbell**
Staff Writer

When I first enrolled at Mitty, I maintained high aspirations in how I would contribute to the community. I was determined to continue my athletic pursuits from my childhood, aspiring to ultimately become a member of the soccer team. All my life I was an athlete—a competitor, someone who strived to win at everything, regardless if it was really a contest or not.

Such a mindset worked for me for so long that it only seemed rational that it would translate easily into my high school career. But then the winter tryouts for soccer approached, and I was quickly cut. Never before had I felt so defeated. My plans for high school seemed to diminish before me. Who would I become in the next four years if I could not be that athlete, that persistent competitor?

Needless to say, I was set out of my comfort zone, soon struggling to find a new role, a new persona to take on. But it didn't take me long to find new ways to be active in the school I so wanted to be a part of. I participated in cross country and track—sports that humbled my competitive nature and nourished a desire to do my personal best.

Mrs. Nowell introduced me to Mock Trial, one of the most nerve-wracking, time-consuming, but completely fulfilling ventures I have ever dared to partake in.

At the same time, I found myself becoming a leader, as Katherine Edgecumbe inspired me to help in the undeniably successful Girls Lead Now event these last two years.

These various avenues granted me opportunities to uncover myself beyond the idea of that athlete I once desired to be.

Yet, none of them truly helped me identify with who I am at my core like the Campus Ministry program.

My introduction to Campus Ministry was like everyone else's. I heard the liturgical theme by Exodus at that first introductory mass, unaware of how it would become an essential part of the year.

I remember watching the LIFE-Emmaus Team members, adorned in denim shirts and khakis, leading the school effortlessly in liturgies, masses, and retreats.

I knew I wanted to be them—I wanted to reflect the same maturity and assurance such senior leaders upheld. However, until senior year, I felt there was nothing I could yet do to become such a leader—to be a part of Campus Ministry in a prominent way.

Not, that is, until my junior year. I had been fortunate to be accepted into the ECJ: South Africa class, a class that became more than just a group of peers, but rather, a community determined to experience and learn from an outside nation.

This class, and soon the trip to South Africa itself, opened my eyes to the chal-

lenges that South Africa has conquered and its continuing struggle to build itself up to be a first world nation.

I came home from South Africa that last summer with a clear idea of who I was and who I wanted to become.

This realization had been earlier realized when I had attended the April Quest retreat in 2008.

The experience was beyond anything I could have ever imagined for a school retreat. In a matter of three days, I became awakened to my life, with its imperfections and its beauties, and I finally found the courage to change my perspective for the better.

My leaders and peers transcended my old thoughts about school, the constant competitive race, replacing such negativity with peace and acceptance. I could see the life I wanted to live more clearly—and the person I wanted to become was more within reach.

I couldn't believe how drastically pivotal such an event was to me. My life was once consumed with the ideal of being successful and holding a recognizable identity in the school. Yet, this part of the school,

this Campus Ministry program, highlighted a more important ideal: to simply live, love, and grow, all in good time. There was no race, there was no rush. Life was not something you can win—just something you sought to make better.

Ultimately, I joined LIFE Corps at the end of my junior year, and immersed myself in the experience of Campus Ministry. I found myself becoming more and more passionate about such an organization as time went on as I soon committed to leading retreats and attended every Tuesday Corps meeting without hesitation.

To me, Campus Ministry was never a chore or a burden—but a refuge. It was always a place that put me in focus, calling me back to that person I discovered through South Africa and Quest—that girl who knew who she wanted to be and would fight to be at her own personal best.

Never would I have thought back in freshmen year that I would be at that place today. I pictured myself an integral part of the athletic program—and I ended up thriving in Campus Ministry. But that's the beauty of high school, especially here at Mitty. There is always an opportunity to become involved, to change, to fully realize who you want to be. Perhaps it won't be what you originally plan for, but it'll nevertheless be there for you to experience.

And in the end, it's all about taking those opportunities for all they're worth. These four crucial years, as exasperating as they may appear, can be completely worthwhile if you just take the time to live them fully and hopefully. Just set your heart on fire.



Most Likely to Be on Oprah?

“**Adrienne Lamelas** BECAUSE THAT GIRL CAN SERIOUSLY RAP!”
-Melanie Manibo

“**Stephanie Wei**. SHE'LL BE SWIMMING IN THE OLYMPICS.”
- Meredith Santos

“I THINK THAT **Grey Traynor** IS GOING TO BECOME A SUPER SUCCESSFUL COMEDIAN AND DEFINITELY BE ON OPRAH. HE'LL MAKE HER ROLL ON THE FLOOR LAUGHING.”
- Mia Dessenberger

“**Paul Dougherty**, AFTER THEY FIND HIM HIDING IN A HOLE IN SOME SOCIALIST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY.”
- Nabeel Qureshi

“**Nikhil Dua**: HE JUST SEEMS LIKE HE MIGHT BE FAMOUS ONE DAY BECAUSE HE'S REALLY GOOD AT DESIGNING SHIRTS AND STUFF. OR A MODEL. I COULD SEE HIM AS THE FIRST GUY ON ANTM.”
- Danielle Seto



“**Taylor Davis** FOR TENNIS, **Mia Dessenberger** OR **Kim Hessler** FOR SINGING, **Keilani Ricketts** FOR SOFTBALL, **Maggie Wiley** FOR HELPING THE WORLD, **Alec Woodward** FOR BEING A GREAT MUSICIAN, **Joey Dippel** FOR BEING A FAMOUS ACTOR, **Meera Ramakrishnan** FOR SOME BIG SCIENCE DISCOVERY, OR **Anooshka Kumar** FOR BEING THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PERSON EVER.”
- Kat Muller

Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers

Kimberly Niedermaier



Kim Niedermaier is a senior at Mitty and lives in Cupertino with her parents and greyhound. She enjoys flying kites and will be attending Northeastern University in the fall. To check out more pictures from Kim, you can go to [flickr.com/kinniedermaier](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kinniedermaier/).

What attracted you to photography in the first place?

I didn't get into photography until my brother showed me how to use the macro feature on our family's Canon point-and-shoot. From there, I have made it a point to learn how to play with a camera's settings and learn how each function affects the final result.

What is your favorite subject to photograph?

At the start, it was strictly scenery and nature, but after some yearbook experience, I've gotten more into portraiture; it's really rewarding to take a picture that captures the essence of a person in one single frame.

What inspires you?

Seeing the amazing work on Flickr is pretty inspiring; it's mind-boggling how talented some people are.

Describe the favorite photo you've taken.

Right now, my favorite picture is the one of the bee on the flower. I find the colors fairly vibrant and completely in touch with the spring season.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?

I plan to take a few college courses in digital photography. I also want to invest in a 35mm SLR to learn how to work a dark room and such.

How would you describe your photographic style?

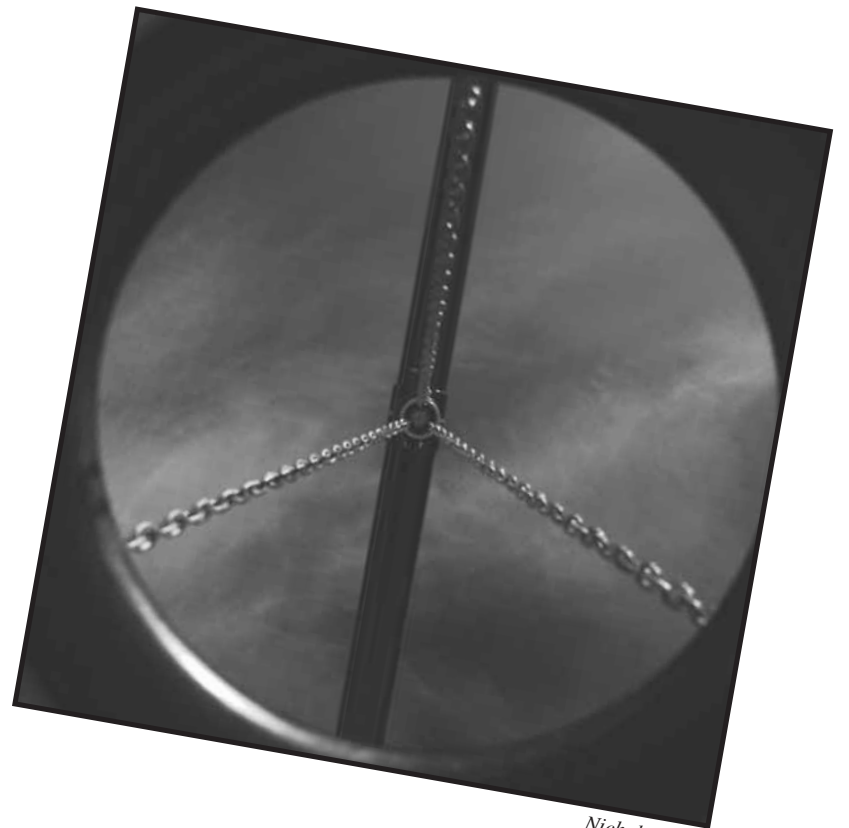
My style is pretty varied depending on what happens in front of the lens. I shoot whatever catches my eye.





Alexandra Vekich

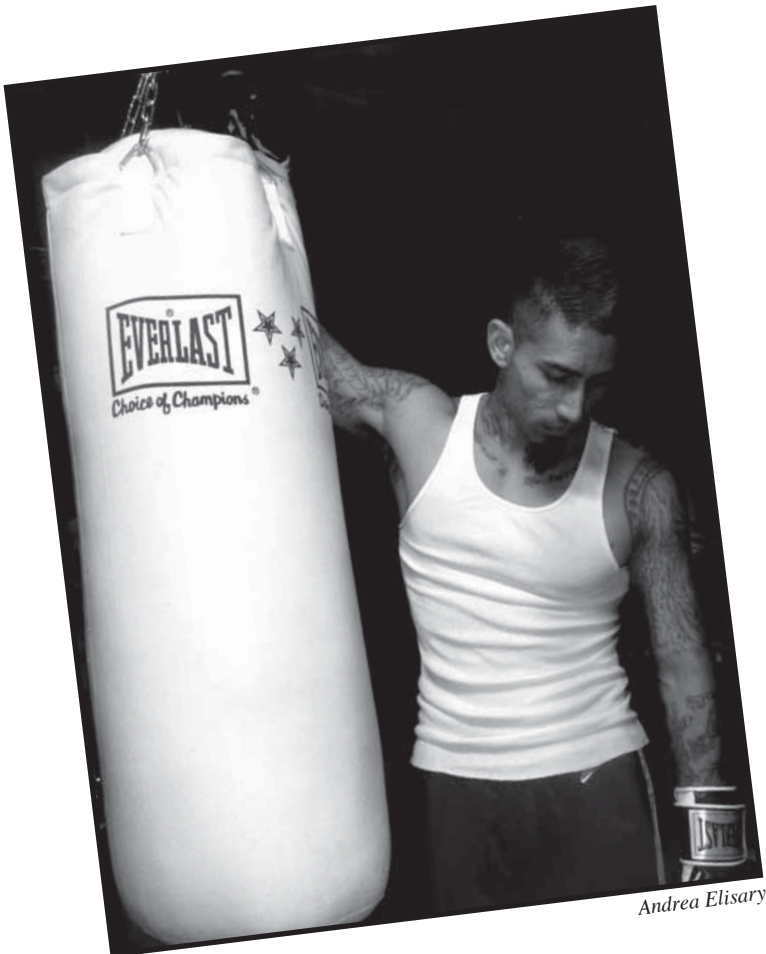
“Just some seaweed waiting to become Sushi; Pismo Beach during Spring Break 2009.”



Nicholas Tran

“My friend and I were wandering around the park when this tire swing caught our eyes; the presentation of the peace sign formed by chain lines combines two conflicting ideas.”

Snapshots



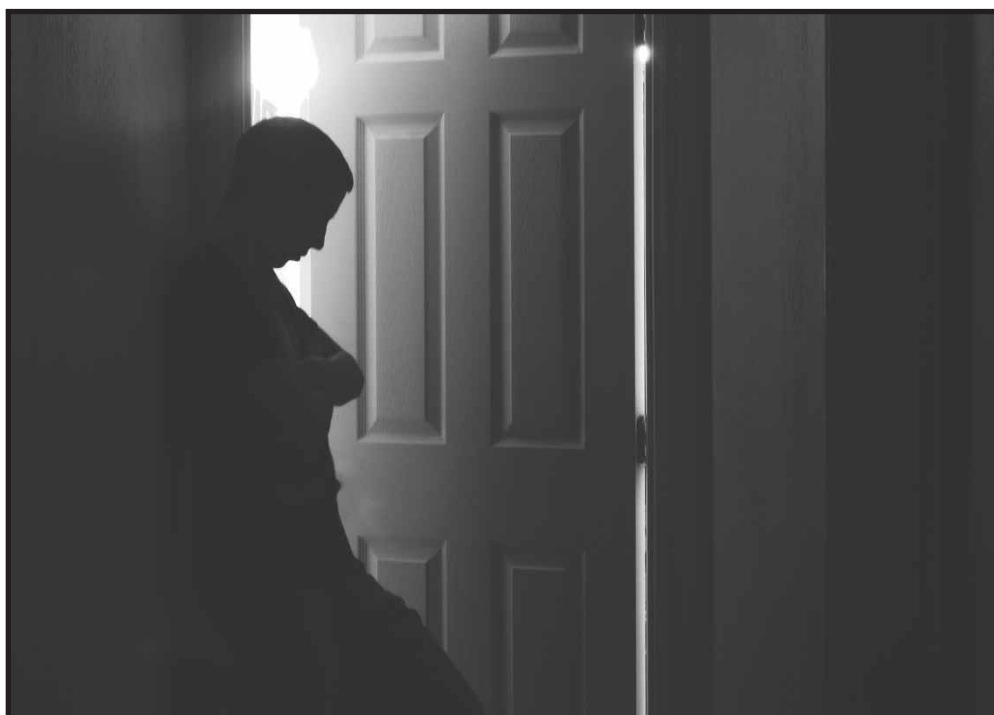
Andrea Elisary

“This shot reflects what I try to capture in every one of my pictures, some type of story told within the picture, along with emotion and originality.”



Ashley Conner

“My dog, Sophee, is the perfect model for any picture. In everything she does, she inspires me to take a picture so that the moment lasts a lifetime.”



“I think the simplicity speaks for itself.”

Preston McPeak

Like what you see?
 If you would like to be a featured photographer in *The Monarch*, then keep us in mind next year. In '09-'10 you'll once again be able to send your photos to photomonarch@gmail.com and your work could possibly be shown in an upcoming issue!

Arts & Entertainment

Spotlight on Student Creativity

Creative Student Association's First Annual Open Mic Night a Success

By Rahul Pandya, Geraldine Slevin, and Ryan Meyer
A&E Editors

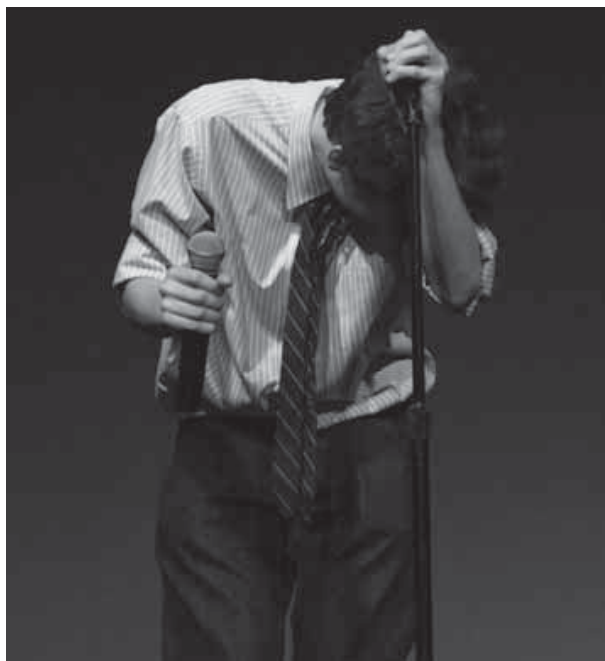
Mitty's very first Open Mic Night, led by senior Tommy Johnston and The Creative Student Association, featured a multitude of acts by students from all classes, and boasted a larger-than-expected turnout of students, fans, and even proud mothers and fathers. The event was a perfect way for those otherwise not actively involved in performing arts at Mitty to showcase their talents in a fun and casual atmosphere.

Noteworthy acts included two songs performed by rap group Metafizix with members seniors Anthony Mastrocola, Andrew Bigelow, Dan Bakewell, and Rahul Padya, and senior Grey Traynor's hilarious stand-up routine, which included jokes about his family, high school memories, and the swine flu. Both performances received standing ovations.

The poetic stylings of senior John Bujalski offered a variety of different types of poetry about all topics imaginable, and freshman Kiauna Phillips performed an impressive original song. Audience member Jennifer Campbell saw the evening as an opportunity to see new sides of her unexpectedly multi-talented classmates.

She cited the more spontaneous acts, such as senior Ricky Redford's poetry reading, as contributing factors to the informal spirit of the event.

The CSA hopes that Open Mic Night, which Johnston says took two years to get



Senior Grey Traynor performs his original comedy.

off the ground, but was "absolutely worth all the effort in the end," will in the future continue to be a way for students to gain exposure among their peers. And for those who are hesitant about performing, Johnston hopes the night will allow them to showcase their talent in a comfortable, casual setting.

Senior Kendra Breunling says of the event, "It was a great start to a new tradition here at Mitty. I was surprised by the wide array of talent that was presented and regretted not signing up myself."

It seems as if Mitty's Creative Student Association has succeeded in creating an event that brings together students from every grade level in a collaborative artistic and musical effort.

Under the Radar

By Geraldine Slevin
Editor



Dark Was the Night, released earlier this year, is only one of many compilation albums created by the Red Hot Organization to raise money for and awareness of HIV/AIDS.

But the value of this album goes far beyond the fact that its proceeds go towards a worthwhile cause. As the album progresses, a dark, moody, yet sometimes hopeful atmosphere builds.

One of the most memorable tracks on this sometimes overwhelmingly heavy compilation is Jose Gonzalez and The Books' cover of Nick Drake's "Cello Song," which is a mesmerizing blend of elegant violins and Jose Gonzalez' velvety vocals. Another standout track, "I Was Young When I Left Home," is a perfect example of the kind of melancholic beauty that characterizes *Dark Was the Night*.

Other more recognizable names in music, such as Feist, Iron & Wine, Spoon, Ben Gibbard, and Sufjan Stevens, also appear throughout, lending their talents to covers, previously unreleased songs, and new originals. The sheer quantity of music on the album is impressive (it contains 32 songs), which simply adds to the many reasons *Dark Was the Night* is a worthwhile addition to any music fan's collection.

Breaking All the Rules

By Grey Traynor
Staff Writer

In the film world, many directors want to bring a fresh idea or way of filmmaking to the screen. Whether it is using special lenses to obtain the bleakness of a war torn America, or putting the camera right in front of an actor's face to convey that idea that when you're having troubles in space, you're toast. It may even be taping bacon to a wall for no particular reason. But how fresh does an idea have to be to start a film movement that could turn the cinematic world on its head?

Though film movements have been appearing and disappearing since film began, one of the more recent is the intriguing Dogme 95 film movement. Started in 1995 by directors Thomas Vinterberg and Lars von Trier, this movement was designed to take the bells and whistles out of movies and make filmmaking more honest, raw, and pure.

A manifesto written by the two directors laid out the strict rules that must define all films to be deemed part of the movement. These include: Music cannot be in the film unless it was played during the filming; all lighting must be natural except for a lamp attached directly to the camera; all shooting must be done on location; filters are not allowed; and the director cannot be credited for his or her work. Despite these radical guidelines, some directors were willing to take on the challenge.

The first Dogme 95 film was Vinter-

berg's 1998 Danish movie, *The Celebration*, which went on to win the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival that year. Von Trier's *The Idiots* also premiered at Cannes that year.

After these two films were released, the Dogme 95 film movement started gaining momentum. American directors participated as well, particularly drug-addled Harmony Korine, who made his debut with *Julien Donkey-Boy*, a story about a boy with schizophrenia whose sister is pregnant with his child. *Julien*, like most Dogme films, has an unconventional, unnerving, and uncomfortable story. As the films became increasingly alienating to viewers, audiences and critics didn't seem so interested in where the movement was going, and many directors lost interest in following this particular and difficult set of rules.

The founders of Dogme wanted to make a certain art out of film, and that is a respectable goal for any endeavor. Granted, most of the rules were slightly impossible to follow, considering the length and complexity of modern films.

But the intentions of the creators of this movement were pure: to bring a new originality and perspective to film. It seems that Vinterberg and Trier bit off more than they could chew, but their artistic hearts were in the right place. Screenwriter Robert Bresson, once said, "Make visible what, without you, might never have been seen." In the end, it seems one of the rules to which Dogme 95 directors remained true.

Which Summer Blockbuster Are You Most Looking Forward to?

Up (Pixar)

13%

Year One

13%

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

8%

Harry Potter & The Half-Blood Prince

65%

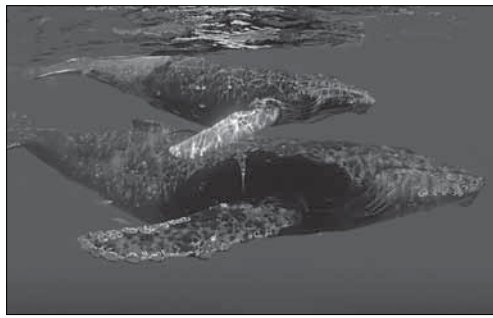
MONARCH CRITICS

Earth

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Kendra Breunling
Staff Writer

With its sensational and extensive footage, *Earth* proves to be a tremendous film. In a time where our environment is increasingly at risk, this film captures the true essence and wondrous beauty of Mother Nature.



Throughout the film, directors Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield do a remarkable job of informing the audience of very real and present social issues without directly speaking of them. They allow the breathtaking cinematography to display the effects of a damaged ecosystem on the earth's creatures.

As the film begins, narrator James Earl Jones declares, "Of all planets in our universe, we know of only one which can support life." Because of Earth's crucial tilt of 23 1/2° towards the sun, life can be sustained on our planet. The effect of this small but crucial detail is to make the rest of the film mesmerizing. In its 85-minutes, *Earth* showcases some of that life: the life of the incredible creatures who share our planet. The focus on the lifestyle of three animal families—polar bear, elephant, and humpback whale—make this film even more emotionally engaging.

Because of astounding visuals and editing, the absolute amazement, boundless beauty, and essential diversity of Earth are all laid before the viewer. Our responsibility to protect this wonder underscores every image presented, and watching reminds the viewer of our undeniable allegiance as humans. My advice: don't do yourself a disservice; see *Earth*, and see it on the big screen.

Battle for Terra

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer

Battle for Terra, directed by Aristomenus Tsirbasand and written by Evan Spiliotopoulos, is the story of the inhabitants of the imaginary planet Terra, where life is serene and the residents of the planet celebrate life and live with the land.

Mala (voiced by Evan Rachel Wood) is an adventurous and inventive young Terranian who is curious, always pushing the limits placed upon her people by the Elders.

One day, Terra is visited by strangely shaped airships, and Mala finds herself face-to-face with a human being, Jim Stanton (voiced by Luke Wilson). It is when she accompanies Jim to the human home-ship that she realizes her beloved peaceful planet is in danger of an impending, deadly attack.

The most remarkable elements of this film are the visual effects used in its creation. The settings of both Terra and the human ship, the Ark, are beautiful: Terra with its fascinating plants and animals, and the Ark with its intriguing complexity.

The overriding theme of the movie is that love has the power to overcome fear and hate, which is conveyed especially well by the human Jim Stanton, who expresses sympathy for the Terranians when few others have the strength to rise up against the tyrannical General Hemmer (voiced by Brian Cox).

While the plotline of the movie is interesting, *Battle For Terra* fails to hold the viewer's attention for its entire running time. It is a good watch, but is not necessarily worth viewing in theaters.



Eminem

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Rahul Pandya
Editor

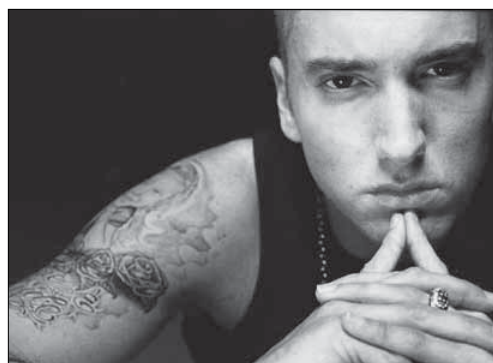
The singles for Eminem's sixth album, *Relapse*, are unbelievably disappointing, yet they are just as successful as everz—kids will obviously buy anything these days.

The album is appropriately titled *Relapse* because it follows the semi-autobiographical story of Eminem trying to recover from a drug and alcohol addiction. Much like his highly controversial, highly successful *The Marshall Mathers LP*, *Relapse* is filled with violent rants and a number of "drug ballads." But unlike the former album, something is very blatantly missing from this one.

The problem is just that the energy is absent from his delivery. Part of this can be blamed on the production, which has more of a dark, cinematic feel than a purely fun bounce. Also, his completely vulgar stories have no entertainment value whatsoever, but rather, as with the song "Insane," a story of a boy assaulted by his step-dad, they leave you disgusted and confused.

Many of the songs are simply filler, but one standout is the song "Beautiful," the emotional retelling of his depression and how one can get out of such a slump. If only all the songs were as heartfelt as this, *Relapse* would receive the same high praise as the rest of his catalogue.

Is Eminem done forever? Not at all—we still see glimpses of his potential, and his track record is unmatched. This is a misstep in what has been a phenomenal career. Hopefully his future work will be as dynamic as the music that made him famous in the first place.



Wolverine

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Jon Lacson
Staff Writer

Last month, a rough version of *Wolverine* was illegally leaked via the Internet. Millions eagerly downloaded the movie weeks before the official release. One question remained: How would the theatrical version differ?



The film follows the origin of James Logan (Wolverine)—a mutant with rapid regenerative healing abilities and the iconic three claws that protrude between his knuckles—and his journey from his days with the CIA covert-ops "Team X" to his acquisition of an indestructible adamantium metal skeleton—his greatest blessing and curse.

The hallmark of the hugely successful *X-Men* franchise has been spectacular visual effects and epic battles, and this spin-off prequel does not stray from the formula. However, *Wolverine* falters when it tries to be two different movies at once: wanting to be the special-effects laden, action-packed blockbuster à la *Spider-Man*; and also wanting to take the dark, painful, pathos-filled origin story route (see: *Batman Begins*).

If this movie had a definitive identity and focused on its strengths, rather than half-heartedly attempting to be two movies at once, then *Wolverine* would be the true kick-off to the summer movie season, as *Iron Man* was a year ago.

Regardless of whether you have seen the leaked version, this film is still worth the price of admission. There are enough comic-book characters and cameos to appease the hardcore fanboy crowd and enough pulse-pounding action to entertain the general audience, that *Wolverine* warrants a watch—just make sure to stay past the credits.

The Informers

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

By Tessa Krey
Staff Writer

The Informers is based on a book of short stories by Bret Easton Ellis, whose novels *American Psycho* and *The Rules of Attraction* have also been adapted into now-famous movies.

This film lacks a main focus; its individual stories are vaguely connected, but each is unique. One story follows William (Billy Bob Thornton) and Laura (Kim Basinger), a separated couple attempting to reconcile after William's affair with anchorwoman Cheryl (Winona Ryder). Another tells the tale of Jack (the late Brad Renfro), a bellhop whose uncle, Peter (Mickey Rourke), has less than moral means of earning cash. These two stand out the most because of their respective cast members.

The weakest part of the film is the story of Graham (Jon Foster) and his girlfriend Christie (Amber Heard), essentially a day-in-the-life of ridiculously wealthy, alarmingly apathetic twenty-year-olds. Their segment is devoid of plot and merely frustrates.

By themselves, the stories have the potential to be interesting. However, because of its short length, the film is rushed and confusing. It becomes virtually impossible to relate to any single character, not only because of the changing plots, but also because there are no characters with redeeming qualities.

If the movie were a little longer, and had the time to develop its characters and better storylines, it would be more worthwhile. Unfortunately and disappointingly, *The Informers* never reached its full potential.



Ben Lee

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Steffie Ko
Staff Writer

Although he is perhaps not the most well-known artist today, Australian musician Ben Lee deserves a look for his seventh album, *The Rebirth of Venus*.

Known for catchy tunes such as his previous single, "Catch My Disease," his new album features the same addictive and upbeat style that Ben Lee has slowly become known for.

With his meaningful lyrics in such songs as "What's So Bad (About Feeling Good)" and "Wake Up to America," Ben Lee creates a unique mixture of mellow and cheerful tunes which will have the listener singing along. However, he also includes slow and heartfelt songs such as "Families Cheating at Board Games," which sends a subtle message through a silly title.

An amusing feature of *Venus* is Lee's confident mission to produce an overwhelming feminine influence on the album through songs like "I'm a Woman, Too" and "Boy With a Barbie."

A portion of the proceeds from this album will be donated to an organization which offers financial services to the world's lowest-income women entrepreneurs and improves job opportunities and living conditions.

Many other musicians are featured in the album, including Missy Higgins, Cary Brothers, Nic Johns, and Lara Meyerratken, and they add to the amazing combination of radio-friendly and deep songs. With Ben Lee's refreshing new album, he'll have you singing along, especially with the song that sums up his entire record: "I Love Pop Music."



SPORTS

Softball: #1 in State, #2 in Nation Working Toward Another CCS Championship

By Josh Ferguson
Staff Writer

This year they came out with a mission, and they came out with a swagger. They came out to win.

In the 2009 campaign, the Mitty softball team has done just that, winning every game to garner an impressive 27-0 record at press time.

The Lady Monarchs have been WCAL and CCS champions for the past four years, and this year's team, despite its youth, has done an extraordinary job living up to the high expectations of the program.

"Our goals are to win WCAL and CCS," states senior catcher Sydney Frangieh—and the Monarchs are well on their way to doing so.

Also in the team's sights is finishing the season as number one in the nation.

The Monarchs breezed through their league, giving up only four runs in their first twenty games, before reaching their first real challenge as a team.

The Monarchs played Sheldon, at the time ranked as the best team in the state and the nation, according to ESPN, until they faced the Monarchs.

Going into the game, Mitty may have been the underdog, but they still went out with confidence, explains senior Alaina Thomas, "We were going in playing with no regrets, we were the underdogs and they were a formidable force."

The game itself was intense. People from all around the area came to watch arguably two of the best teams in America play softball at its highest level.

Junior Jillian Anderson describes the game as, "One of the most intense I've ever played in. We all worked together, and it was a team effort."

Senior pitcher Keilani Ricketts led the way, yielding only two runs, striking out twenty batters, and hitting a three-run home run that made the difference in the game, as the Monarchs won, 5-2.

Ricketts, Mitty's Female Athlete of the Year, has accumulated many honors throughout the season and her illustrious high school career. After her phenomenal per-



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Junior Jillian Andersen rotates to make contact with the ball.

formance in the Sheldon game, ESPN called her "perhaps the best pitcher-hitter in the nation," a title she continues to earn with her play continued exceptional play. After hope-

fully leading the team to its fifth consecutive CCS Title, she will be pitching at the University of Oklahoma next year.

From the beginning of the season, this team was one of the favorites to win league, but they were not the favorites to finish the year ranked in the top two in the nation.

This team is smaller, whereas past teams were bigger. Previous Monarch teams focused on big hitting to win, and this one focuses on speed and quickness.

Also, this team is much younger than in the past. Currently, the Monarchs only have four seniors, and two freshmen, with sophomores and juniors filling out the roster.

The Monarchs have dispelled those thoughts says Anderson, "We've hit our peak, and we can overcome anything."

Coach Thomas agrees, saying, "The team has become more confident, but they have a quiet confidence. Physically they have gotten stronger, but more importantly they have gotten smarter."

Being the top team in NorCal comes with its challenges, explains Coach Thomas, "Being at the top is partly easy and partly hard, because they are so talented, but it also means that every time we play, the other team comes out like it's a playoff game. Our biggest challenge is not letting the pressure get to us."

Even so, while this team is currently ranked #2 in the nation, they still carry themselves the way they did from the beginning of the season.

Alaina Thomas explains, "Being at the top is the same, we still work hard and ranking doesn't influence how we play or how we practice. Now we have the monkey on our back, and every game we play the other team is going to bring their A game and we have to be ready."

The Monarchs are ready and capable. With WCAL playoffs starting in one week and CCS starting shortly after, the Monarchs are the clear-cut favorites.

The only thing standing between this team and realizing all their goals would be themselves, but that's clearly not even in the picture. They've come together superbly and are seeking to achieve perfection.

Player Profiles

By Ayman Ullah and Arjun Ravishankar
Staff Writers

Ryan Rankin Golf

Q: What do you credit for the sudden success of the golf team this year?

A: Last year, we set the school record for most wins in a season with ten, and the four matches we lost were by a combined 6 strokes total. With no seniors on the team this year, we were able to keep a lot of key players from last year, and hope to continue our success throughout CCS and the next season.

Q: How have you been able to lead the team to the top of the WCAL standings?

A: With three of our players ranked in the top 6 in the league, we have had strong contributions from all of our players. Everyone on our team has the capability to shoot a low score, and every player has been key to our success: freshman Sam Guterman, sophomores Neerav Sharma and Shotaro Ban, juniors Gable Ignacio and Stephen Jahnce, and myself have all medaled at least once this year.

Q: How do you look to improve your game for the remainder of this season and for next season?

A: In golf, there is always room for improvement. Along with the rest of the team, I'm working hard to stay consistent throughout the CCS playoffs and into next season.

Q: What was the most memorable event this year for you?

A: Some events would be beating Bellarmine twice, clinching the WCAL title (the first in Mitty history) by beating Saint Ignatius, and medaling at the WCAL League Championship with a score of 70 (2 under par).

Tiffany Jianto: Badminton

Q: What has been the most memorable moment of the season for you thus far?

A: The most memorable moment would be our win against Pioneer. By defeating Pioneer, we have tied for first place in the League.

Q: In which areas do you need to improve?

A: I need to start practicing harder and working on my court movement, so I can get ready for League Finals and hopefully CCS.

Q: How have the new coaches influenced you as a player?

A: The new coaches have definitely been a big help to me and everyone else on the team. Mr. Vargas and Ms. Cao are dedicated to the sport and put a lot of time into it.

Q: What do you credit with the success of the badminton team this year?

A: I think a large part of our success this year can be attributed to the dedicated coaches and, I must admit, to the fact that we moved down to C league. Our practices have become much more serious and efficient than they were in past years and we are able to play even better than before in this lower division.

Q: Have you noticed any change in the team dynamic due to your success this season?

A: Winning so many games sparks a lot of team spirit and confidence. The badminton team has been doing wonderfully overall thanks to all our dedicated incoming freshman and to past players and to our hardworking coaches.

Women's Swimming

By Mona Patel
Staff Writer

The Archbishop Mitty Women's Swim Team is in the midst of yet another successful season, with an overall record of 7-0 at press time. The team is full of swimmers with talent, determination, and perseverance.

In Coach Miller's view, this group of swimmers, "definitely have the potential to win CCS," a regular and realistic goal as the Monarchs hope to regain their CCS title from two years ago.

Members of the past championship team, seniors Laurence Delisle and Stephanie Wei continue to contribute to the success of the team, which is a combination of youth and experience, with four freshmen on the varsity team to balance the five seniors.

"The younger swimmers have stepped up to the plate and shown what Mitty does best: fight until the end," states Delisle.

Altogether, these swimmers have combined their talents to make this a very successful year for the Women's Swim Team despite the lack of crucial members due to illness during part of the season.

The Monarchs did not let this affect their performance, however, and are currently undefeated in league, having also won meets such as the St. Francis Invitational and Clovis West Invitational.

Delisle asserts, "We have stellar swimmers that are consistently striving to achieve more and beat the next person. At the last minute, someone can step up to the plate and swim for another individual and we will still win...not many teams can say that."

Coach Miller agrees that one factor that contributes to the team's success is that "not only does the team have quality, but it has depth, too."

In addition to the talent the swimmers have, it is their ability to place in various events that makes the team so successful—their talent is not concentrated in one area, but spread out to cover different events, according to Miller.

With such a strong group of swimmers, the team is looking forward to a successful conclusion to the season.

Junior Lindsay Oosterhouse comments, "To ensure victory, we need to all stay healthy and have confidence. If we all swim like we know we can then we should have a great meet at both WCAL and CCS."

After this season, some of the graduating seniors will continue swimming in college, a clear mark of the success of the program.

Wei has already committed to Rice University and Delisle to UCLA.

This has been a very successful season so far for the Archbishop Mitty Women's Swim Team, and the future is looking bright for them as well.

Baseball: Ready for Playoffs

By Christina Jones
Sports Editor

With an impressive 20-10 overall record at press time, the Archbishop Mitty Men's Baseball team has had a successful yet trying season.

The Monarchs came out of the gates hot, starting with a 7-0 record.

Mitty took the crown at the Mike Hazlett Tournament early in the season, and overpowered Santa Cruz and Davis before coming to their first real test as a team—a game against the fifth-ranked team in the country, Jesuit.

Jesuit took a two run lead into the seventh inning only to have the Monarchs snatch the win away from them with a huge three-run rally in the seventh inning to win the game, in what Coach Hutton describes as "a moment of euphoria."

Following that thrilling win, the Monarchs suffered their first bump in the road, losing to rival Bellarmine at home.

However, the team was able to rebound with a stellar four game winning streak, which included a 21-3 thrashing of Sacred Heart Cathedral, as well as a 5-2 decision over the defending CCS Champion Warriors of Valley Christian.

St. Francis snapped Mitty's winning streak, but yet again the Monarchs demonstrated resilience, defeating Riordan by twenty-one runs to earn Coach Hutton his 500th career win as a high school coach, an exceptionally rare feat in the competitive

world of CCS baseball.

Senior Scott Masik says of the monumental victory, "[It] was no ordinary win. We were struggling at that point and we needed a win to get us back on track. That big win just happened to help us and it helped him."

Mitty then had the oppor-

Adds Junior James Roberts, "All the games ... in the tournament were very close, which is exactly what we expect in the CCS and WCAL playoffs."

Since then, the Monarchs have found themselves in a bit of a slump, winning only two of the last seven games.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Junior Brandon Moreno prepares to field the ball.

tunity to travel to Southern California to participate in the Anderson Bat National Classic, which pitted the top teams in the country against each other.

"The national classic was the best tournament that everyone on this team has ever played in," proclaims Masik. "The talent was unbelievable and so was the atmosphere... it felt like every game was the CCS finals... [which] gave us the experience we needed to do well during the CCS and WCAL playoffs."

Roberts explains the team is "built around our deep and legit pitching staff... But lately, our pitching hasn't been where we have expected... Our whole team has not been producing in the same way we were in the beginning of the season."

In most of those losses, the opposition has scored enough runs in a single inning to defeat the Monarchs despite close play in the other innings.

"One really bad inning per game ... puts so much pressure

on the defense and the offense, because they have to be perfect to counteract the excessive runs allowed," explains Coach Hutton.

Despite falling on hard times, the Monarchs remain optimistic about the playoffs and are pleased with, but not satisfied by, their performance in the regular season.

"This is just a small slump that we all believe will help us in the long run and make us better as a whole. We can learn from this and hopefully capitalize and get hot at the right time, which is in the playoffs," states Roberts.

Says Masik, "All we need is one solid game and we will feed off that energy and momentum and hopefully we can ride it to the WCAL and CCS Finals."

The road to the playoffs has not been an easy one, but intentionally so.

Coach Hutton explains, "Our schedule is possibly the toughest in the State. We know that the league schedule is always tough, so we make sure that our non-league schedule is as tough. We are one of the premiere programs in the state—we are expected to play the toughest teams in the area and we do."

Coach Hutton's words are echoed by his players who also welcome the challenge.

"At Mitty, we strive for more," adds Masik. "Especially with the caliber of our team, we aim for the highest we can. A successful season is getting to the CCS Finals because once you make it to the finals, anything can happen. All you need to do is get there."

Lacrosse: Successful Inaugural Season

By Neil Jariwalla
Staff Writer

They might be new around here, but they certainly don't look or act like it.

The Archbishop Mitty Men's Lacrosse team has been charging through the league with force, compiling an impressive 10-4 record through their first season, and looking to make a statement against some of the Bay Area's top teams.

Mitty is led by junior Blake Hurt, who by May 1 had scored 27 goals and had 10 assists for a total of 37 points. Senior Kyle Holcomb is also among the team's scoring leaders with 18 goals and 14 assists for a total of 32 points.

The Monarchs have started strong at home, recording a perfect 5-0 record through May 8.

Head Coach Carlos Trujillo has been more than satisfied with the play of his new team.

"I have a great group of seniors who have done a fantastic job leading the team to a successful season. We are a first year program and yet we are among the best in the league and in CCS. We are currently ranked sixth in CCS and we are fighting for the 3rd seed in the



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Senior Kyle Holcomb takes the ball down the field.

PAL playoffs—pretty impressive for a first year team!"

Like any new team, just getting on to the field to start the inaugural season took some

time. A lot of work and effort had to be put in to bring a group of players who could lead both through their talent and voice.

"We worked very hard, beginning with classroom instruction and long days of conditioning, to be one of the best teams in our league this year, and that work has paid off," notes Trujillo.

Among the team captains are seniors Brett Bowers, Trevor Stephens, Colin O'Kane, and Holcomb. Trujillo cites Bowers and Stephens as the main leaders. Brett also describes Kyle as a "lead by example" player who is instrumental in providing leadership to his teammates.

Coach Trujillo is also happy with the way the school has promoted the team, as in recent weeks they have been mentioned frequently on morning announcements.

"The school has been very supportive of the lacrosse program from the beginning—from the athletic department to the parents and our fans—and that has certainly contributed to the great season," Trujillo comments.

Overall, with a highly skilled group of guys, a good foundation, and an experienced coach, there looks to be a winning future for the Men's Lacrosse team.

Economic Summit at Mitty

Sophomores Look at International Economies

By **Maria Palma**
Staff Writer

By the end of May, three hundred AMHS sophomores will participate in a mini economic summit. The world economic summit is a final unit project in which World History students research and analyze a country and finally participate in the international economic trading “mini summit.”

The economic summit “offers students a real chance to understand globalization,” said history teacher, Mr. Walker.

“This unit allows students to understand how and why countries are interconnected and how the global economy works. It also offers insights into why third world nations struggle so mightily and gets students to contemplate how and if these countries can rise up to being emerging or even first world nations.”

This is the first time Archbishop Mitty students will participate in this new unit. Students will barter goods, come up with a strategic economic plan for what their country will do, and, perhaps the best part for the students, dress up in the clothes of their country.

The AMHS Social Studies department has been planning such a World Economic Summit since last summer when Prospect High School organized their own economic summit. Prospect was originally inspired by the International Economic Summit.

AMHS sophomore Social Studies teachers attended seminars and training sessions held by the Federal Reserve Bank, in order to prepare them for the massive undertaking of the simulation.

By the end of the quarter, sophomore students will have gone through thirteen different lessons, all pertaining to global economics. Sophomore Ryan Chew said, “You

study the country, current events, culture, and different aspects of what creates a successful country economically and socially.”

“All their homework assignments are very hands-on. They are also provided with their own paperback textbook,” said World History teacher, Ms. Rule. With this involved learning approach, teachers are hoping that students are learning the way economics works in the real world, but also how it can work ethically.

“Not only are you trying to make economic plans for your country, but you’re also trying to increase the living standards of your assigned country through trading,” said sophomore Ryan Walsh.

Most importantly, this project is geared toward awareness. The project “makes students take a global perspective on such things as trade and economics. They are more aware and awareness is key,” said Ms. Rule. No student is allowed to research and present the United States as their country for the economic summit, since the point of this simulation is to expand global awareness.

The Social Studies department is trying to make it possible, so that in the future, all AMHS World History classes can participate in one large summit, but for the moment the “mini summits” will be held in each class period. Eventually, Archbishop Mitty would like to hold a summit with other high schools from the area.

Both teachers and students are enthusiastic. Says Ms. Rule, “This is a lot of fun to teach. Every day you teach about the economy and each time you see it applied to everyday life.”

For more information about the International Economic Summit, visit <http://econsummit.org/>.



LOBBY DAY *cont. from page 1*

Catholic social teaching to real-world politics and policy, on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Delegates work to bring about a society that allows all people to live lives of dignity.

“Any citizen can do this at any time,” describes Religion Dept. Chair Mrs. Megan Walker. “But what makes this powerful is the numbers. These students and the California Catholic Council represent 6 million people.”

Mitty is currently the only high school in the state that sends its students to engage in this social action event.

“It was a great experience,” said junior Ferial Aoun. “I got to further understand the social issues affecting our world, and it felt really good to do my part in fighting for my beliefs.”

The students prepared for Lobby Day for months beforehand, researching legislation and voting records and meeting together to organize their thoughts and arguments. The issues chosen by the CCC this year that the students focused on were the CalWORKS Food Stamp Program, the Criminal Justice Sentencing Bill, Child Protection, and the California State Budget.

Overall, the day was a fantastic success. Many government officials complemented the Mitty students, claiming many of them had bright futures in politics.

“They did a superb job,” says Mrs. Walker. “The students are simply doing what they do every day at school—arguing a thesis and supporting it with evidence. They have developed this so well at Mitty that they are effective and intelligent lobbyists. They are taking an active role in the real world. They are going to change the world some day.”

—Kim Tran contributed to this story

LEGACY *cont. from page 1*

Their lineage includes current senior Daniel Bakewell, junior James Meyer, sophomore Angelique Infantino, and freshmen Kyle Stapp, Teddy Infantino, and Julie Infantino.

Julie Infantino, class of 2012, feels that despite being a freshman, she has known the school for a much longer time. “Our entire family has this place in common,” she says, citing both of her parents, her aunts, uncles, and cousins as current and former Mitty students. “I had three siblings attend Mitty before me, so when it was finally my turn to come here, I was so ready. I felt completely at home.”

Infantino also knows that, although the school

certainly has gone through its share of transformations, she can still count on the same standards that Mitty valued when her mother and father attended.

“My parents definitely attribute their success to the education they received here at Mitty. It was never a question of if they would go on to college, just where they would go. And the same goes for me.”

Mitty has come a long way since its humble beginnings as an all-boys institution, but if there is one thing that remained constant in over four decades, it is Mitty’s overwhelming sense of family. Mitch, McKenna, Vincenzo, Michael, Morgan, and Daniel graduate this year, but they will carry the Mitty community with them in all the years ahead.

Special Thanks to Mrs. Giachetti, Director of Alumni Relations

750,000 satisfied students can't be wrong!



DriversEd.com

Drivers Ed - anytime, anywhere you want.

Take 25% Off!

Use the discount code CA2007A when you sign up.



The Monarch

Volume 18 Number 5

Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg
& 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 Kommedi, 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.