



Behind the Scenes: Student Activities



Photo Courtesy of Luie Lopez

Juniors cheer during the recent Spirit Week, an event that Student Activities plans for months in advance.

By Olivia Tran and Deepika Suresh
News Editor and Staff Writer

For most of us, Spirit Week passes by in the blink of an eye; a heart-pounding, anxiety-building blitz of ridiculous hats, homemade costumes, hoarse throats, and green-red-blue-black. But for the hard-working individuals of Student Activities—the (frankly under-appreciated!) adults, class representatives, and student body officers—Spirit Week takes months to plan.

At the end of June, in a retreat center in the middle of the woods, the student reps and ASB start to put together the ideas that will eventually culminate into the phenomenon we all know as Spirit Week. ASB and the student reps for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes narrow down their ideas for overarching themes to 3 contenders; then, the classes all put in their respective votes.

According to senior ASB president Alyssa Relos, “We have to keep the freshmen in mind when we consider which overall theme works for all the classes.” After the theme is chosen, the classes pick their own individual themes, with ASB deciding in place of the incoming freshman reps.

As the event approaches, Relos revealed that the reps can easily spend more than 4 extra hours at school every day, not to mention the frequent weekend meetings.

“We practically live here,” she said, when asked the

exact amount of time she puts into planning. What can they possibly do that takes so much time?

Student Activities’ Mr. Walker explains that, “The paintings, posters, and murals are very hard to prepare for. They need to be sketched, traced, and, finally, painted.”

Relos agreed. She thinks students tend to overlook “all the effort put into the murals, decorations, and t-shirt designs—all the thought behind the artwork.” The ASB choreographs the first 30 seconds of the powder puff cheerleader routine, as well, and she is a bit disappointed that “people don’t think beyond the fact that it’s amusing and funny.”

Despite the inevitable exhaustion that comes with this unflinching commitment to school spirit, Student Activities’ devotees still have the energy to be pumped up for the event.

“My favorite part is watching the cheerleaders dance,” said Relos.

Mr. Walker said, “I look forward to the dunk tank, and finding out who students consider their everyday heroes.”

Amidst all the exhilaration, our school president admitted, “It’s really hard staying neutral. I’ve been a class rep for 3 years, but I’m the only senior on ASB. I can’t help supporting my class, because the senior reps are like my family.” She is not the only one with a little bias, though.

Mr. Walker does not prefer one class over another, but said, “Many faculty members want the freshmen to win,

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Christian Service Opportunity Mission to Education

By Hannah Moeller and Ryan Kapur
Staff Writers

This year, Mr. Kroenung teaches the newly formed religion class for sophomores and seniors, Mission to Education, which focuses on incorporating Christian service. Mitty is making an effort to integrate hands-on experience with class curriculum, resulting in an enhanced understanding of the course.

Among other activities, students go to select-local schools to tutor children both individually and in small groups. Each individual tutor attends one of the select schools for the entire semester, forming a strong and inseparable relationship with the children. After their weekly trips, these sophomores and seniors return to the classroom and reflect on their experiences with the service work. The curriculum focuses on child development and education issues, further enhancing the students’ knowledge and skills in this type of service work.

One senior reflected, “I’ve learned to accommodate the needs of different students. I have more understanding and empathy now.”

At the beginning of every week, seniors go to one of the following schools: St. Francis Cabrini, Holy Family, Holy Spirit, St. Mary’s Los Gatos, or St. Andrews. Sophomores attend other local schools: Queen of Apostles, St. Justine’s, St. Claire’s, St. Martin of Tours, and St. Joseph of Cupertino.

“There is a lot to learn beyond cinderblock walls,” said Mr. Kroenung.

As an end product, every Mitty student is required to catalogue 100 hours of service work by the end of his or her four years of high school. For many, this is accomplished by setting aside time from everyday, hectic schedules. As a result, service becomes an entirely separate entity. This year, however, Mitty’s religious studies department seeks to change this and incorporate service into the everyday routine.

“The main goal of this class is to convert service into service learning,” said Mr. Kroenung. “Tons of Mitty students already tutor for their community service work, but it is an isolated experience. Students’ experiences aren’t discussed in typical religion classes except at the end of the semester when the service essay is due.”

With the Mission to Education class, students work together and reflect together.

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Photo Courtesy of Luie Lopez

Art students make pinwheels to raise awareness at Mitty.

Spinning Peace Around The World Pinwheels For Peace Comes to Mitty

Omid Mirfendereski
Staff Writer

This year, Mitty’s art department contributed to Pinwheels for Peace, a worldwide project that celebrates September 21, the International Day of Peace. The project involves creating and displaying pinwheels to serve as visual statements of peace. Students in most art classes made pinwheels and designed them with drawings and expressions of peace and harmony. By putting the pinwheels on display on the front lawn, the teachers of the art

department aimed to inform the community about the day of peace.

Two art teachers in Florida, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, first organized Pinwheels for Peace in 2005. They intended to make a change by raising awareness of the violence afflicting humanity on a global scale. The project eventually spread to other cities in the United States, and other locations throughout the world. This year, Mitty took part in Pinwheels for Peace for the first time, with students making pinwheels. These pinwheels, featuring the

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OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints:

In State vs. Out of State Colleges

CALIFORNIA, HERE WE COME

By Kyle Kubo
Staff Writer

For many a harried high school senior, the mere mention of college evokes an intoxicating wanderlust, an almost primal urge to fly from the nest, take to the skies, and defecate on the parked cars of hometown familiarity and parental oppression. College is perceived as a magical land where siblings are disowned, cake can be eaten at three in the morning, and (most importantly) your parental figures are veritable light-years away, much too far away to criticize your posture in public or tape over your scheduled TV recordings with *Desperate Housewives* reruns. The lure of an exciting new setting is not to be underestimated, but the four year long-haul that most all Mitty students will undertake is much better spent in-state.

First and foremost is the matter of in-state versus out-of-state tuition, hardly to be taken lightly given the economic downturn. Although colleges are starting to narrow the cost gap to woo eager young minds from nearby states, the difference today is generally well into the thousands of dollars if you choose a public school. Any parent who is footing the bill will tell you that this is no small matter, and who knows, maybe they could be convinced to pass part of the savings on to their soon-to-be-broke offspring—which could mean the difference between 1) living comfortably and 2) living comfortably but also selling bodily fluids to science.

The desire to flee the state could be justified if California was the awkward turtle of college environments, but it is in fact just the opposite, offering both one of the nation's most highly regarded public university systems (UC) and the largest such system in the country (CSU), to say nothing of such prestigious private institutions as Stanford, USC, and Caltech.

The reduced tuition and bountiful harvest of first-class schools found locally couple perfectly with our desire for a pleasant environment. You could offer up a full-ride scholarship to Hogwarts; many Mitty students still will not attend a school if it means contending with locust swarms, ozone holes, or a legitimate winter. How fortuitous then, for us indecisive applicants, that our

state is basically a big bacon-shaped college town: the weather is perpetually balmy, there is a substantial amount of terrain for skiing and snowboarding, and in the areas surrounding the major colleges you can't throw a rock without hitting three Taco Bells, two movie theaters, and a minor celebrity. The entire left side is a beach, for goodness' sake! Students living in Solitude, Indiana and Ordinary, Kentucky (yes, real places) can be excused if they feel the need to explore past the horizon, but when people are vacationing where you live you might want to reconsider skipping town (or state).

Lastly there is the often under-appreciated value of proximity to home. Although very few people wish for their college experience to be marked by a parent peering over their shoulder, being within driving distance can offer up a bevy of advantages. Besides increasing one's presence at family functions and resultantly decreasing guilt trips and tearful goodbyes, being relatively nearby provides an answer to that age-old question: Who ya gonna call?

The Ghostbusters are more often than not unavailable to help move your futon or get your arm unstuck from inside a vending machine, whereas your family is obligated to help out. Even after all of your relatives have perfected their excuses, another advantage to the in-state education is the high likelihood that you are attending school with a few old friends who will go to great lengths to assist you in exchange for pizza. Speaking of which, if you are really close to home you may have the occasional option of stopping by for a home-cooked meal, an incalculable blessing when your food options often consist of Easy Mac, Top Ramen, and your roommate's questionable brownies.

Bottom line: The only people who should be leaving the state for college are those who have found a peerless, top-ranked college set in a mythological paradise that they can afford to live in, and who have also proven themselves to be entirely self-sufficient on more than one occasion.

I honestly doubt that you are that cool.

THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

Most people choose to go to college simply because a higher-education degree usually results in better job opportunities. While some high school graduates choose to stay in state for college due to the seemingly obvious closeness to home and the savings on cost, choosing a college out of state is far more beneficial because students can experience new environments as well as gain valuable independence.

One of the main reasons students choose a college out of their home state is the desire to move away from home and live independently. This offers significant advantages because the student is then better suited to live in the real, working world upon graduation. Many parents have stated that seeing their children go to college farther away from home has helped that child grow up faster and therefore become more accustomed to change and different environments.

Because parents generally support their children through college, going out of state is a relatively safe way to explore new areas, all while having a safety net back at home.

In addition to newer surroundings, out of state colleges usually offer specialized programs as well as a greater variety of majors. For example, a high school graduate who wants to one day become a doctor could possibly consider UCLA or UC Davis for undergraduate school if he or she wanted to stay in California.

After undergraduate school, they would have to look into a medical school. However, a viable alternative to staying in California for eight or more years would be to find an accelerated medical program out of state, such as to one found at Northwestern

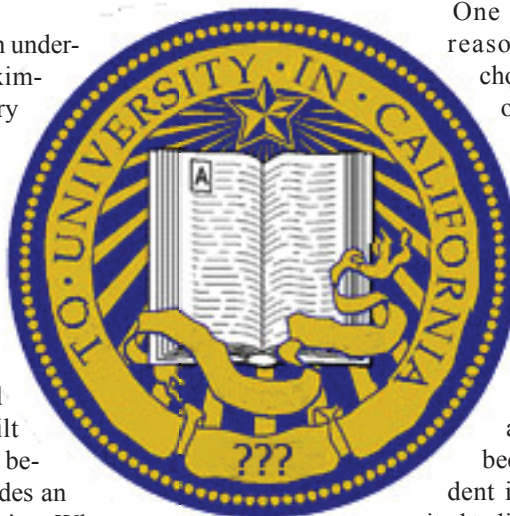
University in Illinois which would reduce the amount of time in school, as well as save of money on tuition.

Another plus to choosing a college outside your home state would be the slight leeway on SAT scores and cumulative GPA. Because all colleges want diverse representation, many schools would rather take someone from a different part of the country as opposed to someone local with the exact same qualifications. Due to the increased number of students applying to the University of California and CSU systems, applicants generally need much higher qualifications to remain competitive and set themselves apart from others in such a large population. Essentially, this means that even with a slightly lower SAT score or GPA, it is still possible, and perhaps even easier, to receive acceptance at a prestigious out-of-state college.

At the same time, most high school students choose to stay in state for college because of the high costs of tuition. Because of this, many states across the country have significantly lowered their out-of-state tuition costs, in hopes that it will attract a more diverse population and eventually result in establishing that college's credibility as a widely attended school. In addition to slashing out-of-state tuition, numerous scholarships and grants are available for students who decide they want to leave their home state for college.

Lastly, an out-of-state college is more advantageous in the long run because there are far more job options available. As a result of the experience gained in a new state, a college graduate will already be somewhat settled and established in the area. Because of this, he or she will have an easier time job searching in the college town while maintaining the option of returning home and finding jobs here if that doesn't work out. In essence, as a graduate of an out-of-state college, you will have double the network as well as connections than those of someone who opted for a local college.

For all of these reasons and more, out-of-state colleges are a better choice for an individual because of the new environment, greater independence, and a wider range of connections for future employment they offer.



TOP FIVE: CONTROVERSIAL MITTY RULES

By Neal Deot and Phillip Talieh
Staff Writers

1) Students must stay on campus until 2 p.m.

Why we may not like it: Students can choose to stay and can be responsible and independent. The entire student body shouldn't be forced to stay on campus.

Why it exists: Staying until 2 p.m. encourages students to seek teachers and school resources for help, and also instills a greater sense of community at Mitty.

2) No White Tee Shirts

Why we may not like it: White t-shirts are just like any other t-shirt and are often the easiest choice in clothing. A white shirt can look classic and not inappropriate.

Why it exists: White Tees often look like undergarments and disrupt Mitty's presentable image.

3) No delivering PE clothes/Lunches/ to students during school

Why we may not like it: Not being able to have people bring you these can create a big issue, especially if homework is left at home, which can jeopardize grades.

Why it exists: Deliveries have caused major buildups in the attendance office and unnecessary burdens which should be taken care of by the students before school.

4) No Facial Hair

Why we may not like it: Aren't we all made in the image and likeness of God? Many teachers in the "professional" environment of Mitty have facial hair. We understand that we can't have a severe five o'clock shadow or look unkempt, but if the student has a presentable beard, shouldn't that be allowed?

Why it exists: Facial hair is cited as unprofessional and falls under the same category as white tees and plastic sandals. Different interpretations of allowing facial hair could lead to issues of presentability in our Mitty environment.

5) No Yoga Pants

Why we may not like it: Yoga pants allow students to be comfortable which in turn helps student focus. They are plain, don't distract other students, and keep attention on academics rather than style. Not to mention, they make Monday mornings a lot easier.

Why it exists: Yoga pants, though comfortable, are too tight and expose too much. They can, in fact, create distractions in an academically serious high school environment.

MEDIA MARINADE

What kind of sensationalism are we soaking our brains in?

By Manasi Patel
Opinions Editor

If we try hard enough, I'm sure all of us can remember a time in our lives when we spent our days and nights glued to a couch in front of a TV screen, absorbing endless waves of glorified gossip and refusing to blink unless absolutely necessary.

And for many of us, this has happened more often than we would like to admit. We are a disoriented generation, too often obsessed with the media and celebrities that define our very existence. And there's only one way out of it. Wake up.

But of course, this isn't easy. A number of obstacles stand between today's youth and its liberation from celebrity

culture. We are, after all, only human. We like to believe we are completely in control and conscious of our own choices, so we close our eyes to inconvenient facts.

Yet when we log on to Facebook, we see ads for some sort of plastic surgery or a celeb gossip page.

There's a certain art in the subliminal ways of the media. A dash of bright colors and a flattering photo of Lauren Conrad, and you've already got half the teenage population's attention.

A single message transmitted to the minds of an entire generation in only a few

seconds. All hail the internet.

This is not to suggest that today's youth is comprised of air-headed idiots who can't think for themselves. But let's think about it for a moment.

President Obama swats at a fly during an interview and the video is circulated around the world? Not only that, but it's seen as a reflection of the president's personality and attitude?

When the media glosses over the health care issues discussed in the interview and focuses only on Obama swatting a fly, how can we expect Ameri-

can teenagers to be any better?

Wake up America. We know better than to simply accept what we hear, especially when news outlets are dedicated to hype and gossip.

Kanye West made a silly lapse in judgment at the VMA awards, but was it really worth all the energy that went into hating someone you don't even know?

The truth is that unless we open our eyes we will lose ourselves completely to the age of technology.

The media is useful, but it exists for us; we do not exist for the media. Yet until we own up to the truth, our eyes will remain shut and our minds will remain asleep.

So let's wake up.



SMARTBOARDS AND FINGERPRINTS

Mitty's technological revolution

By Ritty Zhai and Linda Nguyen
Staff Writers

"Now we'll input this equation into our graphing calculators. Let's see if this SmartBoard will work this time. Argh, I opened up iTunes again!" says Mr. Nicoletti. Frustrated, head in his hands, he laughs it off and tries again as the class looks on, entertained by his facial expression. Only this time he opens up Safari, accompanied by the laughter of an amused class.

Recently, many new technologies have been introduced to Mitty, including SmartBoards in the classrooms and fingerprint scanners in the cafeteria. These new technologies give the busy lives of the students and teachers a small respite, making certain tasks, such as explaining a math problem, or even fumbling for cash in a wallet, a little bit easier.

The fingerprint scanners in the cafeteria are working very well, speeding up the line, and giving a break to both the cafeteria workers and to students who often forget to bring money for lunch. We no longer have to go through the unpleasant experience of waiting in line behind someone who is searching each and every pocket for that last quarter to pay for his pizza.

As for the SmartBoards, although there are still some glitches in the system that are somewhat of a nuisance, more and more

teachers are adapting to their interactive userface. Regardless of our experiences with these new SmartBoards, doubtless its interactive touch screen makes learning fun and, at times, hilarious, for all of us. With the Smart Boards, there is no longer a need for those dry-erase markers or those messy overheads.

In addition to these recent additions to our growing list of technologies, overall Mitty has become a more connected and efficient school. With the establishment of the mittymonarch email accounts, contacting peers and teachers has never been easier. Mitty is gradually attempting to use less paper and have assignments and calendars provided on eclass or online. Some teachers even have websites that list everything we need to know in order to keep up.

Compared to just a decade ago, we have vastly advanced in the way we communicate and keep connected with each other. There is an increased use of laptops and electronic sources, which can be seen in our very own library. The Internet, much like literature and books, further enhance our knowledge and helps increase the number of resources we can use.

With so many resources available to us here at Mitty, we are providing our generation with the tools and skills needed to be ahead of the game and providing the direction for other schools to implement such resources in the future.

THE KERMIT THEORY

The difficulties and rewards of being green

By Morgan Heller
Staff Writer

It's reasonable to say that our society is fairly "green obsessed" these days. Green activities such as recycling and innovative technology have become a part of everyday life.

It has been asserted by a certain amphibian puppet "It's not easy being green". Such a statement plagues our society, including here at Mitty. A student in one of my classes complained that he should not be held responsible for the previous damage our planet has endured because it is the government's responsibility to "fix it."

I can understand his frustrations despite his odd state of denial. Statistics such as the United States' 5,762,050 annual tons of CO2 emissions can be overwhelming and discouraging (we're number 1 by the way). This daunting number cannot be explained away by our high population either. China's CO2 emissions are one third lower than ours and their population exceeds ours by one billion people. Similarly, India's emissions are one fifth of ours and their population is approximately 900 million more than ours. Although we have been industrialized longer than these countries, our gross carbon emissions haven't increased exponentially since the 1950s. So, in actuality, it has only taken us roughly 60 years to create this

problem. Clearly, there is a discrepancy in our societal practices comparable to the size of the hole in the ozone (it's 9.7 million square miles).

Not to fear Monarchs, there is a solution in this fine institution of learning. We have a Green Club that provides solutions that you can put into practice. This club's long-term goal is to have Archbishop Mitty as a certified Green School and to have our school run on solar power. Right now, the Green Club wants to make immediate changes that are simple and effective. First, the maintenance staff can be encouraged to use biodegradable cleaners instead of the plethora of chemicals that inevitably shift into our environment. Also, the cafeteria can consider switching from plastic to potato-based utensils. A switch from white to brown napkins can keep bleach from seeping into the ground when the napkin eventually hits a landfill.

The Green Club appreciates the fact that not everyone can afford a Prius or solar panels. However, there are habits you can start today that cost nothing. You know those blue bins we have outside? Use them. They accept all empty cans and bottles. Only take as many napkins as you need. We go through too many reams of paper every day in the library. Let's not go crazy with that print button.

Essentially, we can recycle the Kermit Theory with our Green Club's universal motto, "Think Globally, Act Locally."

VICTIMS OF STOLEN CHILDREN

The unsettling reality of shotgun adoptions and the coercion of unwilling mothers

By Kim Tran
Staff Writer

Like a shotgun wedding, shotgun adoptions are often regretted. The difference is that with marriage, you can get a divorce, but losing a child is likely forever. We all know that for some pregnant teens, adoption can be the better choice, but the dispute is not between the pros and cons of adoption—the word "shotgun" changes everything.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers, or CPCs, have been established in an effort by anti-abortion groups to dissuade (mostly young) women from having abortions. An additional part of the Centers' agenda is to not only have young women "choose life" but choose adoption.

Many of us have seen *Juno*—the story of the cute and sassy teenage mother in her orange striped sweater, bestowing the gift of life upon an eager, hopeful family. It's a beautiful picture, a touching story of choice and consequence. Free choice and consequence.

CPCs such as Bethany Christian Services, which operates across the country, are all for adoption, and are less than flexible when it comes to choice. This is where

"shotgun" comes in. According to Kathryn Joyce in *The Nation*, after showing a prospective mother graphic abortion films and convincing her to continue her pregnancy, the agencies often strongly encourage the woman into one of Bethany's "shepherding homes" outside of the influence of friends and family. Her decision to give a child up for adoption is then made under constant subtle and overt pressure to do "what's right for the baby."

The appeal of these agencies is that they pose as symbols of hope, and they reach out a hand to the struggling mothers. It's called the fear factor, which the CPCs exploit and use. It is because these women are frightened and vulnerable that these agencies are in part able to provide children for the happiness of hopeful adoptive couples.

The CPCs are typically not even kind in the process, threatening to leave the often poor mother on the streets if she does not agree to relinquish her child. They are manipulative, "evangelizing; discovering and exploiting women's insecurities about age, finances or parenting; then hard-selling adoption, portraying parenting as a selfish, immature choice," according to Joyce.

In preying upon the weaknesses of the vulnerable

mothers, these agencies achieve their goal. The mother, unsure, agrees to an adoption. In one such case, after relinquishing her child, a mother was told it would be a private adoption, and that she would never hear from the child again or learn the identities of the new parents. That is a shotgun adoption.

Missing from shotgun adoptions is freedom of choice. Juno chose to have her baby and she chose to give it away. These mothers are frequently pressured into giving up their children. In many cases some mothers were drugged up when they agreed to sign the papers—and you bet the CPCs were aware of it. Where's the sparkle, the beauty in that situation? Instead, there is only the regret of a young mother who didn't know what she was getting herself into.

Of course, every situation has a different story. Yes, Juno had a happy ending, but adoption may not be for every young mother. The point is not, of course, that adoption is wrong; the point is the method by which these agencies are achieving adoptions. Simply put, adoption should ultimately be the choice and decision of the mother, a choice and decision made freely.

DID PRES. OBAMA DESERVE THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE?

By Tyler VanValkenburg
Staff Writer

On October 9 it was announced that Barack Obama had won the Nobel Peace Prize, perhaps the most prestigious award one can receive for working to better this world. But does Obama deserve this honor?

Many were happy he won, many were angry, but most were simply confused as to what he had done in his first eight months as our president that qualified him to even be a candidate for the Prize.

The main argument given by supporters for why Obama was so honored is that he has changed the world's view of America for the better. And of course part of the way in which he has managed to gain the respect of other nations is by simply being the liberal replacement of Bush, a president whom much of the world did not have a high opinion of by the time his second term was over.

But Obama did not win the Nobel Peace Prize solely because he succeeded Bush, but also because he has established a new tone with which America now speaks to the world. He has rid the U.S. of much of its excessive arrogance, something that had come to overwhelm its sense of reason dur-

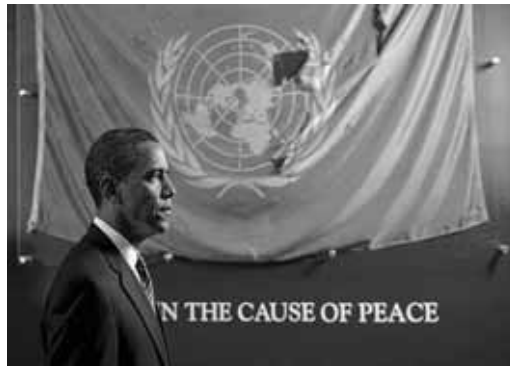
ing the last eight years.

By presenting to the world a more humble America, Obama has rekindled feelings of respect for our nation. He has resurrected the principle of international equality—of America as one among many—as a guiding force in foreign policy.

In respecting other nations, Obama has gained in return respect from those nations. With America using a less imperious, more understanding tone when addressing the world, the future is looking bright—and possibly more peaceful.

It's looking bright, that is, if you're not looking at the dark and shameful corners where wars in Afghanistan and Iraq rage on, where indefinite detention continues, and where torture-endorsing Bush officials remain unprosecuted.

Although having made promises of a 16-month exit strategy, Obama has con-



tinued the war in Iraq with no significant withdrawals of troops made so far. He has also continued the war in Afghanistan, and is even now scheduling the addition of some 34,000 or more troops for this war. In both

of these wars, the U.S. has ordered air strikes on enemy locations. However air-strikes do not only take out enemy targets, but also sometimes kill civilians in the vicinity. In a May air-raid this year, for example, over 100 innocent Afghans were killed by U.S. bombs. Is blowing up the innocent civilians of another country, unintentional as it may be, something that should be on the record of a Nobel Peace Prize winner?

While maintaining wars in both Middle Eastern countries, Obama has also maintained the government's right to detain and imprison suspected terrorists or enemy soldiers for an indefinite period of time without charges or trials. This clearly vio-

lates Habeas Corpus, which states that no person can be held in detention without being charged of a crime. The government's action of ignoring and defying these laws when detaining a prisoner is known as indefinite detention. Is infringing on the rights of another human being an action that should be on the record of a Nobel Peace Prize winner?

Finally, Obama has done nothing of significance in pursuing an investigation of the torture authorized by the Bush administration. Torture is by any interpretation illegal under both federal and international law. To only attempt to prosecute those at the very lowest levels while allowing those who ordered the torture to go without punishment is to become an accomplice in the crime of torture itself. Should a Nobel Peace Prize winner allow those who enjoin torture to go unpunished?

Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize because he marks a new beginning for America in the world of foreign policy. However, this return to a more humble and conciliatory foreign policy is vastly overshadowed by the wars he continues, the prisoners he unlawfully detains, and the torture-authorizers he does not prosecute.

MonarchBites

Quick editorials from the voices of the Opinions Section



OBAMALYMPICS

Where should our President's attention lie?

By Jacque Scharre
Staff Writer

Back in late 2008, Chicago was excited about the then President-elect Obama possibly coming to office as a push factor in holding the 2016 Olympics there. Since he has come to office, such matters were not forgotten by the people of Obama's hometown as they still hoped to have the opportunity to hold the summer Olympics over Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Tokyo, Japan; and Madrid, Spain. Lucky for them, Obama tried to make their dreams become reality. Flying to Copenhagen, Denmark earlier this month to push summer Olympic placement certainly raised some eyebrows in the political world, and not without reason.

Why, with the country at war, the health care proposition recently going through congress, and now Iran's nuclear ambitions, did the President decide to set focus on the Olympics that won't even happen until well over five years from now? It is a question worth pondering. The conditions in Afghanistan are constantly deteriorating and decisive action needs to be executed. Obama's Health Care bill has been stalled in Congress which will likely call for another round of propositions for this universal option that Obama feels so vehemently about.

But, if neither of these issues can be considered pressing enough, what about the one Iran poses. After just having disclosed information about their own secret uranium enrichment site, which is large enough to manufacture bomb-making material, they proceed to try missile test launches: many short-range and their two long-range missiles were launched—both of which hit their targets. After this flashy display, the Iranian air force commander commented that he was “fully prepared and determined to stand against all threats.”

With these “threats” including anyone who poses a mere threat to the existence, independence, and freedom of the ruling system and Iranian values, it is shocking the President of the United States has not followed suit with other countries in chiding the Republic of Iran and threatening further sanctions. He was, in fact, gone in Copenhagen for the ever important 2016 Olympics vote when Iran's nuclear negotiator was to meet with the UN.

QUESTIONING CLICHÉS

Can an honorable end sometimes justify the means?

By Jay Wang
Staff Writer

No cliché is used more incorrectly than “The ends do not justify the means.” I am not denying that this statement is sometimes true, but only that it has room for exceptions. In short, the absolutism many attribute to this statement is what so often makes it false.

For example, when Bernie Madoff deceived his investors, telling them he would invest their money with essentially “guaranteed” returns when in fact the profits were non-existent, the ends certainly didn't justify the means.

On the other hand, when Oskar Schindler, who in an effort to save Jews from the horrid concentration camps, lied to the Nazis, telling them that the Jewish workers he needed were “essential” to his company, in this case the ends certainly did justify the means.

Well how, then, is it that the means in both cases—lying—is unjustified in one case and justified in the other? The answer is because of the ends. The ends to matter. How else can the means be justified?

When your end is to save lives, lying is acceptable. When your purpose is to cheat people, lying is contemptible! It's as simple as that. Nevertheless, there are those who contend that you can under no circumstances use an evil means to achieve a good end.

While of course I believe that one should try to avoid evil actions, my problem with such absolutism is that there is always an exception in which an evil means can be justified—such as in the case of Oskar Schindler. That is why you should not unconditionally claim, “The ends do not justify the means.”



NIP/TUCK: KOREA

Might a culture's obsession with image have gone too far?

By Josie Suh
Opinions Editor

In Korea (and even sometimes among Korean-Americans), you don't receive a car or a free trip to Hawaii as a graduation present—you get plastic surgery. Students often turn up at graduation ceremonies in Korea bandaged and/or wearing sunglasses to cover the evidence of being under the knife. And this isn't a trend limited to self-conscious young adults, either. Whenever I visit my relatives in the Kangnam district of Seoul, I cannot traverse a street without seeing a plastic surgery clinic every other block.

Yes, in every culture there is an obsession with attaining the prescribed ideal of beauty, and plastic surgery often accompanies that obsession. But in Korea, plastic surgery is out of control because of the superstitious dogma of image that is ingrained in Korean culture. Many Koreans view it as a required part of a successful, respected individual's life. For example, Samsung's former CEO had a professional face-reader who assisted him in reading the auspiciousness of job candidates in interviews. Certain shapes of eyes supposedly foreshadow future deceptiveness, and other significant flaws simply indicate a candidate's lack of luck.

I am aware that I would be asking for the near impossible if I desired the Korean culture itself to change. But I am tired of seeing my blood country's society gloss over the earnest and the talented in a search for the beautiful and auspicious. I am tired of my friends and relatives undergoing surgery—throwing precious money away to buy their way into social acceptance and respect—instead of being content with their individuality. If Korea wants to be the world power it so eagerly strives to be, it has to stop killing deviances from the ideal—idiosyncrasies that could have inspired a culture that frantically chases static illusions.

Arts & Entertainment

Hang on to Your...Head? A Preview of Mitty's Fall Musical

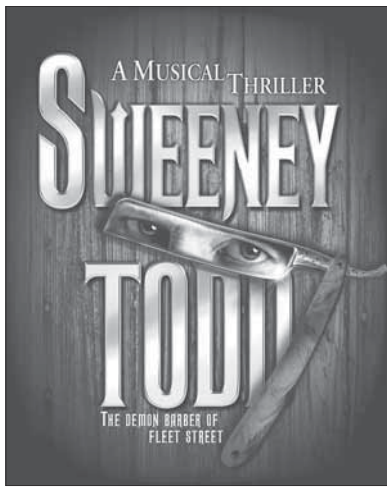
By Alexandra Garfield, Melanie Mascarenhas, and Katya Lohngoen
Staff Writers

"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd..."

Archbishop Mitty is celebrating Halloween this year with the theatre department's fall production, the musical thriller *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. *Sweeney Todd* is the story of a bloodthirsty barber with a tragic past. With chilling lines like "we all deserve to die" and "welcome to the grave," *Sweeney Todd* will surely scare you witless.

Silver razors, meat pies, green finches, swooning sailors and bloodthirsty barbers are all a part of the popular musical *Sweeney Todd*, which is just one incarnation of the long-lasting legend of a revengeful hairdresser. For the uninitiated, this show will no doubt be a shocking display of squalid behavior, filled with unexpected twists and turns of plot that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

When *Sweeney Todd* returns to London after being exiled by a corrupt judge who stole his wife and daughter away from him, he vows to pay back Judge Turpin and the other wrongdoers of the city. His wife is now lost, and Turpin keeps the daughter, Johanna, locked in a tower, from which she meets the eyes of a vagrant sailor. The subsequent love affair between the star-crossed lovers is seamlessly woven into the meat pie dilemma of Mrs. Lovett, a lonely chef who becomes attached to Todd. She cooks up an unscrupulous plan to benefit business, and works in tandem with Todd, baking his victims into her pies. Meanwhile, an eerie ensemble lurks in the background, their voices blending in creepy chords, contributing to the spine-chilling atmosphere.



So why should you see *this* show? Junior Annie Donahey, playing the mysteriously prophetic Beggar Woman, says that the show is "going to be very scary and funny at the same time." And Logan Breitbart, who portrays the title role, explains, "unlike most musical theater, you can personally relate to the experiences of these characters and you go through an emotional roller coaster." The serious nature of this show is offset by bursts of comic relief in musical numbers such as "Pirelli's Miracle Elixir." The complex harmonies and multifaceted characters create an intricate plot of murder and mystery. The music is especially interesting because it conveys conflicting emotions.

Other Mitty students have been constructing an elaborate set for the show for the past few weeks that will blow you away!

With archways, stairways, and a mobile pie shop, this set will pull you into a bleak 19th century London.

You might be familiar with the movie version, starring Johnny Depp, but Mr. Santana's original stage direction and Mrs. McCormick's musical instruction bring a new level of depth to this show. In previous years, Mitty has performed *Les Misérables* and *Little Women* and they continue to perform vocally and dramatically demanding shows with *Sweeney Todd*. The dedication of each person involved in the show truly make this thriller remarkable.

Tickets are on sale now, so reserve yours online today! Performances of *Sweeney Todd* begins Oct. 22 and closes on Halloween night. This show will make you think twice about your next haircut.

The New Age of Movie Musicals

By Logan Breitbart
Staff Writer

Up until a few years ago, the movie musical was all but dead. Now, the genre is at the peak of its renaissance, having resurged out of a long Dark Age to become one of today's most commercial and critical mainstays.

For about 32 years, musical films were a dying breed—rarely produced, and hardly missed. Before the turn, the 1960s saw some of the last great musical films, with such classics as *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Oliver!* (all of which won Best Picture at the Oscars). However, despite the successes of a few, Hollywood failed to profit on musical films with a series of huge flops that included *Hello Dolly!* and *Mame*. Collectively these failures crippled several of the major studios, and displayed a cultural shift in the audience tastes: the mainstream public was on to Rock & Roll, leaving Julie Andrews and her airy showtunes behind.

However, in 2002, the film adaptation of *Chicago* single-handedly revived public and critical interest in movie musicals, becoming a catalyst for the contemporary renaissance. *Chicago* became a machine that restored faith in studio executives, proving that musicals could both make money and dominate at the Oscars.

Adaptations of successful Broadway shows and original musicals quickly reappeared on the radar for studios. Shows like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Hairspray* were produced for mainstream appeal, and musicals even invaded independent film: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* has become a cult-classic, and Björk's controversial vehicle, *Dancer in the Dark*, also made it to several awards shows.

Chicago had a formula for success that is now a universal model. Director Rob Marshall casted household names Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger, and Richard Gere who surprised audiences with their long-hidden musical abilities. This star-power has

been a crucial element in succeeding films. *Hairspray* appealed to a broad audience by featuring John Travolta in drag on its poster, surrounded by the faces of a diverse cast that included Christopher Walken, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Zac Efron. This trend also made *Enchanted*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Mamma Mia!* box office-smashes.

The rare modern musical films that flop do not feature such a commercial cast. The screen adaptation of *Rent* failed at the box office because it simply featured the original Broadway cast. Though there is some artistic integrity in maintaining the same cast, it is not a wise financial move, because a musical on its own is often not enough to draw in a crowd.

Recent musical films also seem to have a knack for making stars. Jennifer Hudson solidified an A-list celebrity status through her riveting performance in *Dreamgirls*. The slew of awards she won for the film, including the Oscar for Supporting Actress, provided a pathway to fame and enraptured audiences with an underdog success story. This "a-star-is-born" motif has continued for Nikki Blonsky in *Hairspray* and Amanda Seyfried in *Mamma Mia!*, giving audiences a chance to watch discovered talents blossom into Hollywood celebrities.

So why does this renaissance come now, after such a long drought? It is noteworthy that the revolution has flourished at such a bleak point in American history. A year after the events of 9/11, *Chicago* revived a demand for the traditional feel-good movie. Perhaps it is the inherent escapism in musicals that has allowed them their big return. As war, death, and violence plague our world, there is something comforting in escaping to an alternate reality, and becoming engaged with a musical number.

It seems there is no end in sight for this young new era. The father of the renaissance himself, Rob Marshall, is releasing his second musical, *Nine*, next month, and the hype surrounding it is already drowning out the music.

Oh Man, Nam Ho! An exclusive interview

By Steffie Ko
A&E Editor

Although you may not have realized it, many of you have probably seen an article of Oh Man! Clothing. Created by one of Mitty's own alums, Class of 2009, Nam Ho, the clothing line has quickly been spreading at Mitty. In order to help get a closer look at Oh Man! Clothing, we've interviewed Nam Ho himself.

How did the Oh Man! Clothing line start?

Oh Man! Clothing was a vision of mine back in late 2006, but the company officially launched in Spring 2009. The reason there was so much time in between was because I wanted to make sure I did my research instead of hastily jumping into a business without a solid plan. My drive for Oh Man! Clothing started when I began to closely observe the urban street-wear market and realized that it was getting saturated and repetitious. I felt like I had something new to bring. As for the name of the brand, I thought that nobody could really steal it since it's my name backwards.

What are the inspirations for your t-shirts? How do you come up with your designs?

Many of the inspirations for my t-shirts come from my own life experiences or random things that I see throughout the day. Ideas come the easiest when they apply to me because then I feel like I am designing for myself. I don't have to pretend to be somebody else. When I design, I keep in mind what market I am targeting, but at the same time, I do what I know best.



Is there a particular message or theme you want to convey through your clothes?

My first couple shirts were designed to make a statement such as "Never Forget Your Roots" and "I Rock Your Intelligence." I've always been a fan of shirts with designs and messages that make people think or have some type of meaning behind them. There is no particular/specific theme that I try to stick to, because I don't want to stereotype or narrow the focus of my brand.

What are your plans for the future of Oh Man Clothing? Is there a specific direction you want to focus on for your clothes?

I plan on carrying Oh Man! Clothing for many more years by attending as many events as possible to build exposure. We are always looking for new artists to collaborate with and design with. As of now, the only direction we are looking at is forward.

Since this is your first year in college, are you planning on pursuing fashion design?

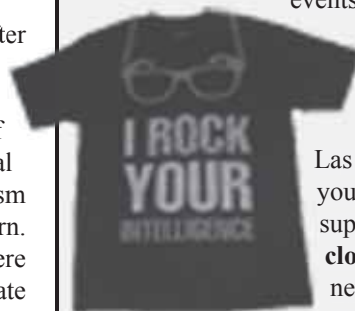
I'm actually not planning to pursue a degree in fashion at the moment. I am currently majoring in Business Administration and plan to minor in Graphic Design. With this type of degree, I can learn the tools that are important to maintaining a successful business while taking my knowledge in art further. In the future, I do plan to intern for a couple clothing companies.

As a recent Mitty alumnus, how do you feel about the various underclassmen that are already wearing your designs?

It's great! I really don't know what else to say except "Thank You!" I encourage more people to support not just Oh Man! Clothing, but also other underground brands, artists, musicians, etc. that are just trying to make their way up the ladder.

Are there any future activities that will give students an opportunity to see and to support your clothing line in person?

Oh Man! Clothing has been an exhibitor and sponsor for the World of Dance Tour 2008 & 2009. World of Dance has multiple events across the country, and we plan to stay involved with this event for many more years to come. Oh Man! Clothing will also be a future exhibitor and attendee at events such as Dunkxchange, Magic Las Vegas, and Agenda Los Angeles so keep your eyes out for us! For opportunities to support the line, visit us at www.ohman-clothing.com and sign up for our online newsletter for exclusive coupons, updates, sneak peaks, and promotions. Also, everybody is welcome to "Become a Fan" of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ohmanclothing and follow our Twitter at www.twitter.com/ohmanclothing. Our online shop is open 24/7 at www.ohmanclothing.com/shop.



Under the Radar

Take a look at two fresh undiscovered artists who deserve your attention

By Andy Vo
Staff Writer

Pop Divas Watch Out! A new girl is in town and she goes by the name of **BoA**. This South Korean pop star might not be well known in the US quite yet, but she is easily one of the biggest names in Asia.

BoA, which stands for Beat of an Angel, was discovered by SM Entertainment Talent Agency in 2000. After two years of training, she debuted and became one of the biggest if not the biggest pop star in Asia.

Now, BoA has set her sights on breaking into the American pop scene. Her self-titled debut English album consists of mostly fast-paced dance pop songs with touches of R&B. The fourteen-track self-titled album clearly shows off her strong background in dance music. Her musical influences, ranging from Britney Spears to Michael Jackson, are evident throughout the album and her debut single "Eat You Up" showcases her penchant for catchy electronic beats.

Her album also includes a fun and exciting blend of electronic and hip-hop

beats with a heavy use of vocoder and synthesizers. Some album highlights would have to include the club-friendly second single "I Did it for Love" and the Ciara-influenced "Energetic." While the album may not be the most lyrically clever, the well-produced beats and vocoder-laced vocals create a fun and edgy sound that will make you want to dance.

Though not vocally gifted, she makes up for it with her amazing dance talent. What sets her apart from other pop stars is her androgynous and powerful hip-hop style along with her hard-hitting and aggressive choreography.

Recently BoA performed at the San Francisco Pride Festival to rave reviews. Her hip-hop dance moves garnered the attention of R&B superstar Akon, which led to their collaboration on his hit single "Beautiful" for the re-release of his album "Freedom in Japan." Despite little to no promotion here, BoA has already reached number one on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play Charts. Ciara and Britney should watch out because BoA is a force to be reckoned with and she just might "eat up" the charts.



By Eric Pestana
Staff Writer

New York City has done it again. After producing popular bands like The Bravery and The Strokes, they give us their newest yet less familiar creation: **Jupiter One**. This stellar band from the New York City underground has found a vast following since their 2003 formation and subsequent releases. After touring clubs and other small venues, singer K Ishibashi entered a songwriting competition in which the band took second place among thousands of other entrants, leading to exposure among small, devoted followings.

In 2007, the band released its self-titled debut album. Several of its songs were featured in the video games *Burnout Paradise*, *Fifa 08* and *09*, *Madden 08*, and *NHL 08*, in addition to a Mazda commercial and the TV shows *Heroes* and *Kyle XY*. While they still haven't broken into the mainstream, these appearances have garnered the band recognition and praise.

Jupiter One's first album is the most flawless CD I've ever listened to. All thirteen songs on the release don't jump at you at once; rather, this album grows

on the listener. That being said, there are songs that immediately catch the ear, like "Countdown" and "Fire Away."

In 2009, the synth-fused band released their follow-up, *Sunshower*, that strips down production, turns the synths down, and puts a closer focus on the band's

instrumentals. The range of sound is still impressive, from soothingly gentle to blissfully energetic. The opening song "Volcano" begins with a bright sound that justifies the album title and almost gives one the image of sunlight breaking

through clouds. "Lights Go Out" includes peppy verses and a harder-hitting chorus, creating a highlight of the album. The heavily '70s-influenced "Anna" sees the band departing from their sound and adding standout harmonies to their formula. It's a worthy successor to their first effort.

Jupiter One is, simply, the most talented band I have come across in the past decade. Although they are not as popular as other bands we listen to today, Jupiter One shows promising potential for success in the music world.



"Glee" Leads a Promising New TV Season

Introducing some of this Fall's most buzzworthy television debuts

By Nikita Nathan
Staff Writer

School has started, and you can smell fall in the air. What does that mean? New television shows. This fall over forty new shows—with ideas ranging from the glee club to vampires—are making their debut. Here is your guide to some of these new shows.

The most widely popular new show is *Glee* on FOX. About a group of students with extraordinary singing ability trying to find their way in high school, *Glee*'s pilot premiered last spring after *American Idol*, and it started its fall season on Sept. 9 with an impressive 7.3 million viewers. What makes *Glee* so popular is its accuracy on high school stereotypes and its exceptional music.

The show portrays the trials of a misunderstood jock (does this remind you of Troy Bolton from *High School Musical*?), a talented vocalist who wants to make it big in the music industry, a popular cheerleader, and many more. Also, the music is just amazing with covers of popular songs like "Gold Digger" by Kanye West and "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.

Because of the interesting plot line and the impressive integration of music into the show, *Glee* gains more viewers each



week and will continue to be a large success, as proven by Fox announcing it to be the first new show to be picked up for a full season.

In addition to *Glee*, Fox released a hilarious new

show based on an African American family called *The Cleveland Show*. A spinoff of *Family Guy*, *The Cleveland Show*, features Cleveland Brown, who decides to return home to marry his high school sweetheart Donna and raise a blended family together. Like most young adult cartoons the show includes outrageous jokes and stunts.

An interesting and different aspect of the show is that their neighbors are a family of bears—the show's quality is still to be determined as the season progresses. Due to the *Family Guy* audience, its outstanding comedy, and hilarious but stupid antics, the show will most likely succeed. Fox claims that the show will definitely have a second season.

On the CW, their newest Tuesday night show is called *Melrose Place*. This show plays off the older *Melrose Place* released in the '90s.

While maintaining the same setting as the previous show, this new premiere of *Melrose Place* is packed with intense drama and many twists. However, *Melrose Place* just seems like another cookie-cutter CW show with no originality, due to the drama and twisted romances that are similarly presented in other shows featured on this network.

The CW also premiered another new show called *The Vampire Diaries*, based off of L. J. Smith's hit book series. Its timing could not have been more perfect, given that

it feeds on the huge obsession of vampires that *Twilight* has caused. This new show is popular, likely due to its good-looking cast of Nina Dobrev, Paul Wesley, and Ian Somerhalder. After losing her parents in a car crash, the new girl Stefan comes to her school and

changes everything for Elena. However, his brother returns and shakes things up by bringing up their old love interest Katherine, who died decades ago. The rivalry between the



brothers and the romance between Stefan and Elena keeps you hooked and intrigued.

All in all, the new fall premieres have had a

pretty solid start, however, they can only be judged as the plot progresses. They seem to move a little slow, unlike the other preexisting shows such as *Gossip Girl* and *90210*, which present their viewers with plenty of existing drama each episode.

Though plots haven't set in yet, they still provide enough substance to keep the viewer interested. Most of these new shows provide a lot of eye candy, which is a smart move on the cast director's part for reeling in new fans; however, I am skeptical on their actual acting experience. Some seem new and landing quite a large role might mean they're in over their heads. As a whole, I enjoy the fact that directors are stepping out of the box and creating new ideas and also twisting preexisting story lines into something refreshing.

Other new shows that premiered this season are ABC's *The Forgotten*, *Cougar Town*, *Eastwick*, *Hank and the Middle*, *Flashforward*; NBC's *Jay Leno Show*, *Mercy*, and *Community*; CBS' *Accidentally on Purpose*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Three Rivers*, and *The Good Wife*, produced by Mitty alumnus Robert King, Class of '78.

MONARCH CRITICS

Zombieland

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Justin Hough
Staff Writer

Everything in this world has rules. Rules for school, for life, and even for science itself. But, what rules do you follow when chaos reigns, and everyone you knew and loved is dead? *Zombieland* provides the answer by following the intelligent but timid Columbus as he attempts to survive in an America now filled with the living dead. As one of the last ordinary people left, Columbus attempts to educate the moviegoer with his own set of rules to live by (literally).

The movie favors comedy, but does not ignore its horror roots, providing hilarious critiques of clichés often found in zombie flicks. These critiques usually take the form of the rules set by Columbus, and include “check the back seat” and “cardio.” Whenever a character exhibits a law, the name of the rule is displayed in text cleverly blended into the background. Visual jokes of this variety are common throughout, and most hit their mark, with the exception of a few that are disappointingly predictable.

But brief gags about fighting zombies are not the true draw of this film. These characters are funny *and* deep. Known to each other only by the names of their destinations, the four protagonists form a motley crew that includes Columbus, with his many phobias and rules, and the tough and energetic Tallahassee. All play off of each other’s quirks well. Actors Jesse Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson do excellent work transforming what could have been one-dimensional figures into believable people.

Ultimately the film brings the laughs hard, and gives great tips to anyone who plans on surviving a zombie apocalypse. The brief but clever action and deep character development are a pleasant surprise in a film marketed simply as a campy zombie flick.

Zombieland is highly recommended.



Whip It!

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Tessa Krey
Staff Writer

Drew Barrymore makes her directorial debut with *Whip It!*, based on the novel *Derby Girl* by Shauna Cross. This movie tells the story of Bliss Cavendar (Ellen Page), a small town misfit, pressured by her mother (Marcia Gay Harden) to compete in beauty pageants, who discovers a passion for roller derby. There are no deep meanings or surprising twist endings here. The plot is predictable and the ending is expected, but nonetheless the film is enjoyable to watch.

The acting is great, particularly by Ellen Page, made famous by *Juno*. She, once again, plays the role of the quirky misfit and it suits her well. This movie also marks the acting debut of musician Landon Pigg, who gives a solid, albeit simplistic, performance. Marcia Gay Harden, as her loving, but misguided mother, and Daniel Stern, as her father, worked great together and made for a very amusing couple. Yet the most humorous characters were Razor, played by Andrew Wilson, the lesser known brother of Luke and Owen Wilson, who was the team’s coach, and announcer Johnny Rocket, portrayed by Jimmy Fallon, who delivered some amusing one-liners.

Drew Barrymore, who also acts in the film, does an excellent job directing. There’s no super complex subject matter or particularly complex directing, but Barrymore delivers the movie with good humor that manages to easily convey Bliss’ coming-of-age. She also never romanticizes the sport of roller derby, instead showing its brutality. However, the characters of the other roller derby girls are not expanded upon much, apart from “Maggie Mayhem” (Kristen Wiig) who becomes Bliss’s mentor, which does cause the movie to fall a little flat. Despite the predictability, the movie overall is definitely worth seeing.



Fame

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer

Based on the 1980 film of the same name, *Fame* chronicles the various stories of students at the New York City High School of Performing Arts, a prestigious institution that rigorously coaches the arts.

Of the six main characters at the P.A., Jenny (Kay Panabaker) is uncomfortable with loosening up enough to express herself, Denise (Naturi Naughton) longs to step out of her boundaries and experiment outside of classical piano, Marco (Asher Book) meets every requirement for achieving musical success, and Victor (Walter Perez) strives for success as well, while attempting to tear down every requisite. Joy (Anna Maria Perez de Taglé) embarks on a path of self-discovery, but Malik (Collins Pennie) tries to suppress his personal history. These intertwined stories promote the message of the film: success is more than just the achievement of fame.

Overall, *Fame* is merely enjoyable. The most noteworthy aspect of the movie is the talent displayed. The voices of Naturi Naughton and Asher Book are powerful and sweet, respectively. The best of the songs are “Out Here on My Own,” by Naughton and “Someone to Watch Over Me” by Book. The dazzling set—particularly that of the Halloween scene, filled with bright color and cool costumes—makes for a visually stimulating experience. By highlighting a range of the students’ issues, the difficulties in pursuing a career in the arts are portrayed effectively.

Unfortunately, what prevents the movie from being truly great is the often mediocre acting, and the letdown of a final number—the singing does not meet the standard of the dancing. The combination of these negative elements makes *Fame*, at best, a time passer.



Invention of Lying

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Julianna Roy
Staff Writer

The commercials advertise *The Invention of Lying* as a comedy about a man named Mark Bellison (Ricky Gervais) who tells the first lie in a world where everyone only speaks the truth. What the commercials do not advertise are the satirical elements, including the notion of God as a “Man in the Sky.”

In this alternate world, there is no such thing as *not* saying whatever comes to your mind. Even the ads here have to be truthful: Pepsi is “For when they don’t have Coke.”

When Mark tells the world’s first lie, it leads to a total distortion of his identity. He is shown on a date with his dream girl, Anna (Jennifer Garner), who does not want the relationship to go anywhere due to Mark’s “chubby” genetics. Nevertheless, Mark does not stop pursuing her, and as the relationship progresses, he finds it more and more difficult to lie to her.

At one point in the movie, Mark tells a lie to his dying mother about what happens after death, and this leads to the invention of heaven. Soon the entire world is waiting to hear from Mark what the “Man in the Sky” has to say. The implication is that religion could only exist in a world where man invented it.

While mostly entertaining, the pacing of the movie is too slow to keep the audience fully engaged. The actors are generally very good, but not served well by the pacing of the script. The audience at my showing was visibly bored and did not laugh much at the jokes.

If you are in the mood for a light comedy, then this movie might fit the bill. However, if you want a movie that will make you laugh out loud, I suggest you choose another and wait for this to be on DVD. No lie!



Beatles: Rock Band

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Christina Collins
Staff Writer

When the large-scale gaming company Harmonix announced they were going to release a Rock Band game based on the Beatles, I wasn’t immediately intrigued (being a little bit of a music snob, I confess I uttered the words “sell-out” a few times). However, on the very day of the release, I found myself buying the game, and I must say, it was worth it!

Using the individual band members as on-screen characters, players begin in “story mode,” performing at the tiny Cavern Club in Liverpool, modeled after the actual club where they were discovered. As more songs are unlocked, one would move on to play in other locations that were important to the Beatles’ career, such as *The Ed Sullivan Show* and Shea Stadium in New York.

It is evident, from the extreme amount of detail of every character, instrument, and reference, that Harmonix put a lot of time into the making of this game. With great anticipation for the release, Harmonix consulted with Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and Yoko Ono to make sure the game included all of the elements for the ultimate Beatles experience.

The graphics in this game are nothing short of amazing. The characters show striking resemblances to the Beatles themselves. In addition, rather than having only one singer, three singers can form triple harmonies to boost their scores and attempt to recreate the melodies that John, Paul, and George sang throughout their career.

Overall, this game is perfect for anybody, at any age. Everybody can enjoy playing it, and any Beatles fan is sure to be amazed at the detailed graphics and generous song list.



Muse

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Dillon Williams
Staff Writer

After a string of mainstream successes in the United States with the release of songs such as “Hysteria” in the popular video game Rock Band and the addition of “Supermassive Black Hole” to the *Twilight* movie soundtrack, Muse has released one of the most highly anticipated albums of 2009: *The Resistance*.

The Resistance, although fundamentally different from their 2006 multi-platinum selling album *Black Holes and Revelations*, is a major breakthrough for the band. Muse adopts a more electronic feel than they did on previous albums, which is very apparent in the first single, the upbeat “Uprising.” The second track, “The Resistance,” is reminiscent of 80’s British-pop music, with its catchy yet somewhat corny chorus. “Undisclosed Diaries,” which is sure to be another hit single, slows things down while maintaining the electronic sound that the album has leaned towards, while adopting an almost R&B rhythm. The song entitled “United States of Eurasia/Collateral Damage” shows an extremely heavy influence of fellow British band Queen, apparent in both the singing and piano work laid down in by front-man Matthew Bellamy. However, the most impressive piece is the thirteen minute symphony entitled “Exogenesis,” a piece that Bellamy has been working on, on and off, for years that features over 40 classical musicians. He composed the entire symphony including the orchestral instruments on his own and the result is a musical masterpiece. Fans of English alternative rock bands like Radiohead and Pink Floyd will certainly enjoy this album in its entirety, making *The Resistance* a must have album for Muse fans.



FOCUS ON *Guilty Pleasures*

Starbucks

By **Katrina Vokt**
Staff Writer

It's a pandemic ... only tastier and loaded with caffeine.

At Mitty, you are probably accustomed to seeing people in the morning with a cup of Starbucks in their shivering hands. Yet, this is just a small portion of the people affected by this delectable plague. For some individuals around the world, it is the only thing that keeps them awake during the day. For others it's simply a deliciously smooth blend of coffee beans and sugar enjoyed in moderation. From the commonly ordered cup of regular coffee to the more complicated



orders such as a Grande Latte with half the vanilla, extra hot, non-fat, coffee, Starbucks is undoubtedly on the rise. Although the prices and calories are a little high, people continue to indulge in Starbucks because it is so tantalizing and provides just the right amount of caffeine to function.

This little guilty pleasure started in Seattle around 1971 and became an international phenomenon with a simple mission statement in mind: "to inspire and nurture the human spirit— one person, one cup, and one neighborhood at a time." Has Starbucks inspired you today?

Oh, No She Didn't!

When asked what their guilty pleasure is, many people will respond with the following: chocolate, Starbucks, therapeutic shopping, fast food, trashy novels, or perhaps even a continuing love for Disney Channel. What most people forget, however, is the enthralling hold celebrity gossip has over all of us.

Many of us have fallen prey to celebrity gossip's relentless grip on society, as we often forgo our homework in favor of celebrity gossip that we imbibe as voraciously as a Starbucks Skinny Latte with three pumps of hazelnut.

For some unfathomable reason that even the most dedicated celebrity gossip lovers cannot comprehend, we just can't get enough information about the lives of the beautiful, the rich, and the famous. We pore through *People*, reading it with our friends and commenting on the celebrities, always finding something to say about them, whether it is criticizing their fashion or their life decisions (Lindsay Lohan, anyone?). And we religiously follow Perez Hilton's website, which is filled with snarky comments about anyone and everyone even remotely famous.

Why do we take pleasure in reading about the lives of people we don't even know and probably will never know?

Maybe it is because of this very fact—the fact that we'll never have to face them—that allows us to dissect their actions and judge them quickly without feeling any remorse. Whatever the reason is, it is still an unquestionable truth that, as a society, we love our celebrity gossip. Whenever a star goes to rehab, the magazines write about it, the radio talks about it, and we follow it.

When Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston split, everyone came to their own judgments on who was to blame and discussed their own conjectures on what really happened. And recently, when Kanye West very publicly insulted Taylor Swift at the VMA's, everyone had something to say about it, whether it was their fellow celebrities Twittering their comments, regular people like us talking about it, or even prominent politicians like our President Obama passing judgment.

Thus, celebrity gossip remains one of the most prominent guilty pleasures we find ourselves indulging in, and, much like a siren's call, it beckons us to read and find out more about the lives of people we will never know.

Lisa Patel, Staff Writer

facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox Settings Logout Search

Facebook Frenzy

By Ekta Partani Staff Writer

Wall Info Photos Boxes +

What are you doing now?

Attach:

Share

Options

Facebook hardly needs any introduction. All have surely heard of this social networking phenomenon. In fact, according to a recent survey conducted by Pew Internet & American Life Project, about 65% of online American teenagers use Facebook every day. But what exactly is it about this online communication website that makes it the latest fad?

Founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook is currently the most popular social networking site, with an estimated 175 million active users. It is so popular that CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated, "If Facebook were a country, it would be the eighth most populated in the world, just ahead of Japan, Russia, and Nigeria." However, Facebook's popularity is not only visible through the numbers, but also through the addition of new words, such as "facebooking" and "facebook me," to teenage slang. Although it started out as a social networking site for Harvard students, Facebook is now accessible to everyone, allowing users to connect with family members, co-workers, friends, old classmates, and acquaintances. It allows one to post pictures, publish notes, write on other users' "Walls," take quizzes, update one's status, and more. Of course, these are just a part of what this site can do, as new quizzes and applications are added every day by other users.

In the Mitty community, Facebook plays a vital role in enabling students to connect with one another via the Internet. A poll taken of a group of Mitty students shows that, even though we may have homework to finish, sports practices to attend, and other commitments to fulfill, we always seem to make time for Facebook.

According to Junior Nhi Nguyen, "Facebook is an amazing way to keep track of all the different events that are going on as well as keep in touch with all your friends. Every few seconds, you receive a notification. And Bing! The latest news about so and so is in your newsfeed."

Facebook has swept the nation and has become not just a national, but a worldwide, craze due to its many attractive features. Games, photos, and most importantly—the sense of connectivity it provides—has made it perhaps the biggest guilty pleasure in recent years.

Create an Ad

Freshmen

Sophomores

Juniors

Seniors

■ Less than 1 hour

■ 1 hour

■ 2 hours

■ 3 hours

■ 3+ hours

View Photos of Me | View Videos of Me | Edit My Profile

"Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life."

Information

Networks: Archbishop Mitty
Birthday: February 4, 2004

Friends: See All

Twitter

Wikipedia

Google

AIM

Applications Chat

Trashy Novels

By Shubha Ranganathan
Staff Writer



When it seems like the already dense words in our textbooks are shrinking with each page, and the pages themselves are ceaseless and challenging, we are often drawn towards literature that is more basic and yet still supremely satisfying—these are our very own guilty pleasures.

More often than not, what reels us into these novels lacking significant academic merit is the story, the plot—the excitement, interest, and anxiety that come with delving into the characters' lives. In the phenomenon otherwise known as the *Twilight* series, for example, the audience is made to experience the story largely

through the main character's eyes, due to the use of first-person point of view by author Stephenie Meyer.

Meyer's writing itself has been mocked by parodies such as *Twilite*, written by Stephen Jenner and starring Edweird Sullen and Stella Crow. However, in spite of Meyer's numerous references to vampire Edward's "glorious" body and the criticism she has received for her two-dimensional characterization, there is still something in her novels that has had thousands of fans attending midnight release parties and spending hours in line waiting for the first movie's release.

It is not only the *Twilight* saga that has this inexplicable power

to allure. J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, which first made its appearance in 1997, with its final installment released just over two years ago, has been one of the most influential and most discussed series ever. *The New York Times* claims that the 7th and last volume, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was the fastest selling book in history, with more than 11 million copies sold in the first day in just three markets.

Adding to Harry's success, the film series, with two films left to go, is already one of history's highest-grossing. The magic sport Quidditch has found its way into our world—with over 150 college teams such as those from Boston University and Vassar participating in the Intercollegiate Quidditch Association.

Harry Potter fans on Facebook gather under groups such as "I was depressed when I turned 11 and didn't get a letter from Hogwarts" and "THE POTTER GENERATION." A theme park, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, is set to open at Universal Orlando Resort in 2010. In such a time of ongoing

Pottermania, it is only fitting that we attempt to understand the initial attraction to this series.

When considering the language itself, this series is not written especially well. It does not impart to the reader any significant scholastic learning. Even the plot is inconsistent at times, with numerous instances of *deus ex machina*—making the story even more unbelievable. But still, this series has garnered worldwide attention. Why? If not the quality of writing, what is this special attribute that has so aptly attracted such a large number of fans?

What is most appealing to us, both in the *Twilight* and *Harry Potter* series, and what makes both of them our guilty pleasures, is that though they do not raise highly intellectual questions, they do teach us to think more humanely. Literature in general, all literature, is an echo of the human experience. Thus, as we flip through page after page of that relentless textbook, we are understandably always drawn towards the simpler, yet still fulfilling, essential enjoyments afforded to us by life.

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for... Frozen Yogurt?

By Nhi Nguyen
Staff Writer

Every day after school, you see Mitty students rush to their cars with an excited gleam in their eyes. Where exactly are they going? If you're thinking home, you are mistaken. Lately, the Mitty community has seen a growing number of frozen yogurt fans. According to April Garlejo, "about three times a week after practice [she and her teammates] would cram into one car and quickly drive to Yogurtland." It's quite remarkable that people would go to Yogurtland three times a week, considering that some people don't even shower that often. If venturing to a frozen yogurt shop is part of a weekly routine, there must be some very alluring aspects to this yogurt phenomenon.

Perhaps, it's the personalization that is so enticing. At Yogurtland, you can choose any flavor of frozen yogurt and then top it off with an array of toppings. Yogurtland boasts the title of "The Top Self-Serve Frozen Yogurt Store." When you enter the store, you can immediately spot the long line of customers crowding around the yogurt machine area. As the yogurt dispensers are endlessly cranked, heavenly swirls of frozen yogurt can be seen slowly descending into the brightly colored cups.

Then, the horde of people rush to the topping counter, and blueberries, mango, chocolate chips, and gummy bears start flying. After the customers are satisfied with their selection, they place their yogurt cup on a scale, paying 30 cents per ounce. The hands-on experience of making your own dessert according to your own preferences is a nice bonus for most people.

The health aspects of frozen yogurt also seem to draw the crowds to Yogurtland. In a society where health issues are prevalent, frozen yogurt is a beneficial choice because it's either low-fat or non-fat.

Nikita Nathan notes that "frozen yogurt is a much healthier alternative to ice cream, and it also comes in a variety of flavors that seem a lot more natural than some very colorful ice cream flavors."

Like Nikita, others are delighted to seek out the guilt-free snack. However, frozen yogurt is only a health advantage if serving size is kept in mind. With more ounces, the calories accumulate due to the high carbohydrate content.

Customers also need to watch out for the toppings. While fruit is a great choice, smothering the yogurt with chocolate sauce is a bad idea health-wise. Still, in comparison with ice cream, frozen yogurt is healthier seeing

that its probiotic content aids digestion and its lactose is more digestible than the lactose in milk. For people who are lactose intolerant, they can enjoy the treat with little or no ill effects. Overall, amidst the desserts that are high in fat and sugar, frozen yogurt is a healthy alternative.

In the words of Andre Adricula, "frozen yogurt is taking the United States by storm...it's probably going to end up being the ice cream of the future."

Andre is right in that the frozen yogurt fad truly has swept the nation, but did you know that it is also a global trend? Frozen yogurt shops similar to Yogurtland have opened in Greece, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Korea, and the United Kingdom.

For typical people like Varun Agarwal, yogurt would be a nice treat "every day after dinner, because it's like ice cream, but thirst quenching and awesome."

Self-serve frozen yogurt is a delectable and healthy treat available almost everywhere. For some, eating frozen yogurt has evolved into a daily routine, and as a result the frequency of consumption of this treat may induce feelings of guilty pleasure.

Speaking of self-gratification, all this talk about frozen yogurt has spurred a craving. See you at the Yogurtland by Mitty!

To Our Guilty Pleasures:
When it comes down to treating ourselves with the delights of life,
We often forgo our pangs of conscience.
When euphoria overtakes us,
We make the choice to think about consequences later.
And when we know our English essay is due tomorrow,
We Facebook anyway.
Why?
Have we become addicted to our obsessions?
Like Starbucks
And Yogurtland?
Have we become IM-ing fanatics, and gossip aficionados?
Have we the need to be rewarded,
Or the need to evade our intuition?
We know the luxury of living in the moment only lasts for a heartbeat.
But we still make excuses, and let human nature take over.
With sports, clubs and classes that can't be put aside,
No wonder we deserve to be indulged.

Yours Truly,
Jocelyn Tan

Guilty Pleasures- You know we all love it <3

<p>Monday</p> <p>Hmm...burgers</p>	<p>Please step on the scale one person at a time</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Hmm...Farmsville</p> <p>Online for 7 hours</p>	
<p>I... I flunked the test? TAT</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>By Anni Huang Staff Cartoonist</p>	<p>I WILL NEVER, EVER SUCCUMB TO THE TEMPTATION OF GUILTY PLEASURE AGAIN!!!!!!</p> <p>FRIDAY</p>	<p>Hey, Gossip Girl's on, wanna watch?</p>	<p>Ohm</p> <p>coming~</p>

Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



Natalie Nguyen

Natalie Nguyen is a Junior at Mitty. She lives in San Jose, CA and along with photography, enjoys Pixar movies and community service.

What attracted you to photography in the first place?

Honestly, I don't really remember what got me into photography. I just recall being in junior high, always having a camera in my bag just in case.

What is your favorite thing to photograph?

I love taking pictures of everything, but in my opinion, candid shots are the best, and I love capturing every emotion in a person. I believe that emotions make the picture. Also, I love taking pictures of silhouettes because the shapes of the subject emphasize a particular moment.

What inspires you?

Seizing every moment in life inspires my photography. There are so many beautiful things in this world that we often take for granted.

Describe the favorite photo you've taken:

This photo is named "Open Up". On the first few days of spring, I was in my backyard when I came across this tree with flowers blossoming like this one. I love the vibrant colors of the flower. This may sound cheesy, but I feel like this flower metaphorically describes me: once someone gets me to open up and get out of my shell, I feel more confident about myself, and I am willing to spread the positives of my personality to others.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?

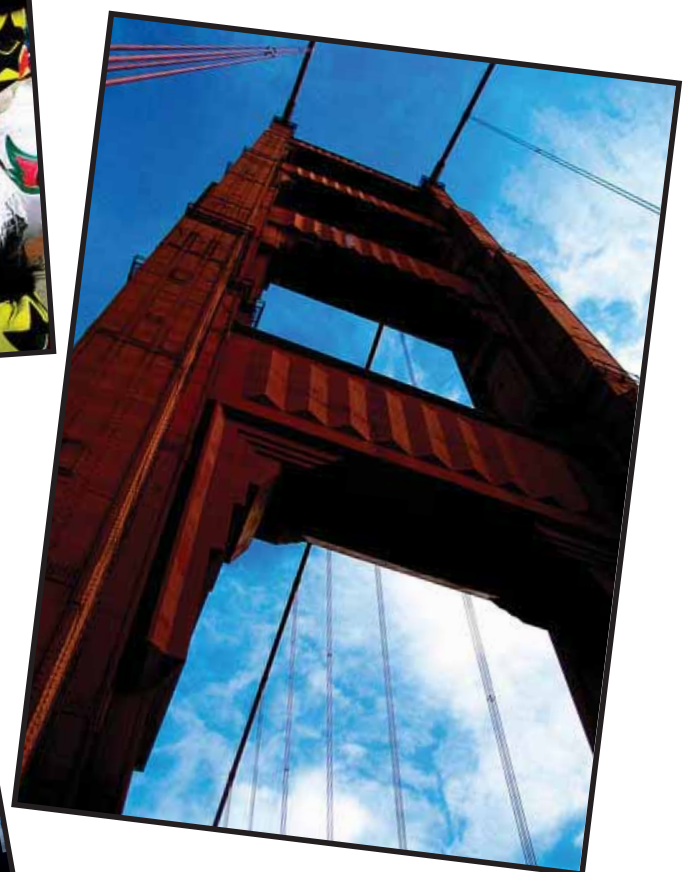
I probably won't pursue a career in photography. I just like having fun with what I love to do the most.

How would you describe your photographic style?

I guess I can say my photography is versatile, sometimes goofy, simple, and vibrant with colors; I don't think I really have a distinctive style, but I'll tell you this: behind every picture of mine is a story waiting to be told. I hope that photography will help me have a better understanding in creating visually appealing apparel and ads.

How would you describe your photographic style?

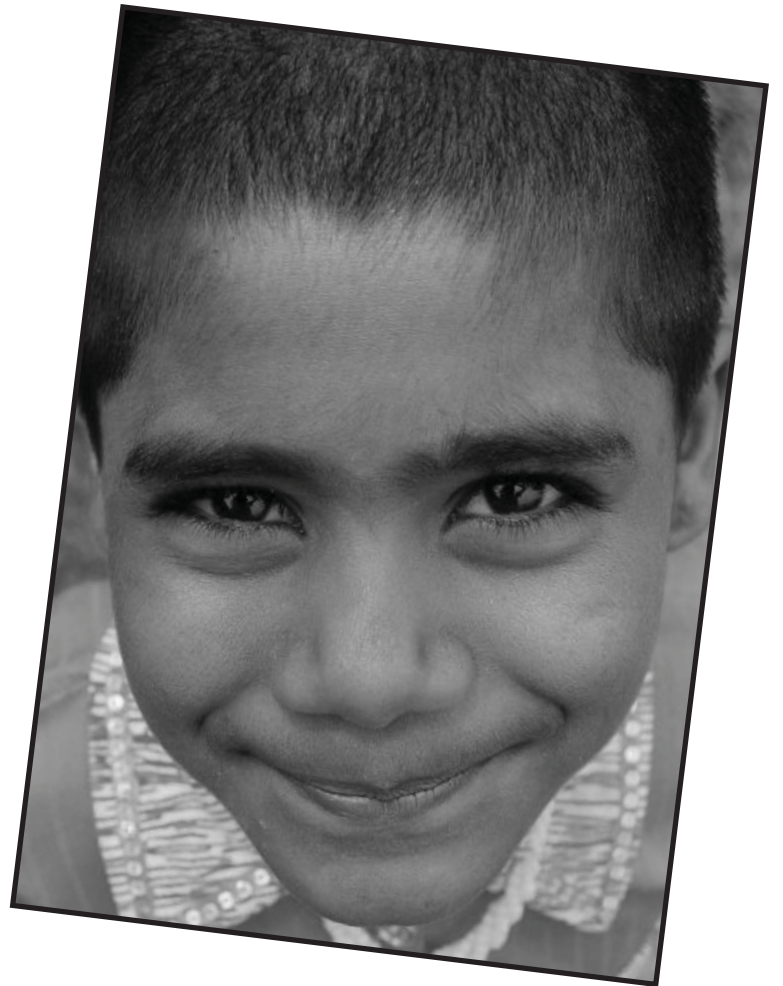
Crisp. Creative. Fun...with a hint of contrast.



Snapshots



"On Highway 9 I took a picture of my friends spelling out "love" with LED lights and the beautiful city shining in the background." —Denise Wong



"I met this little boy on the ECJ: India trip at an orphanage. I knew his big black eyes would look great in a photo." —Claire Bredenoord



"I took this photo of a dandelion to show that everything in nature is beautiful...even the weeds." —Melina Raftopoulos



"I think this picture shows that not everything is perfect but instead unique. This crack is a flaw that led to a great picture." —Alix Britt

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LAUREN MASCH



Like what you see? Want to enter next issue's photo contest? If you would like to be a featured photographer in *The Monarch*, send your photographs to photomonarch@gmail.com and your work may be shown in an upcoming issue!

Justice Awareness

Mitty Advocacy Project

By Staff Writer
Elise Kudlow

Q: What drives you all to speak up about issues in our community?

A: "We're not legislative robots," says sophomore Taji Hutchins, "but we realize that we'll have to deal with these problems now or later, and this is something so accessible we can do now." As sophomore Sruthi Ramaswami points out, "We're proud to be active in our community."

Q: Describe your legislative experiences at Catholic Lobby Day. What was it like to actually be in a room with members of Congress?

A: "When we arrived, we were all so intimidated. But we realized we were prepared to make an effective change," said senior Stephanie Cao. Sophomore Megan Linney agrees, "Seeing them face to face and hearing their responses feels more powerful than letter writing or making phone calls to their offices."

Q: What do you hope to accomplish this year?

A: "We're working on expanding our credibility and developing relationships with local legislators," senior Josh Ferguson explains. "We address several aspects of issues and present ourselves as active constituents. We can't organize a protest every time an issue comes up, but we can at least discuss these issues."

Q: With so many activities here at Mitty, why is MAP a worthwhile organization?

A: "We're not pushing for self-interest, but the welfare of others," senior Ferial Aoun said. Senior Alex Vekich continued, "The legislators are impressed, too, because we're at such a young age. They realize that we're speaking up, and we're speaking loudly. There is no better time to act than now."

The Mitty Advocacy Project, or MAP, aims to prevent desensitization to critical societal issues. By visiting legislative offices, participating in events like Catholic Lobby Day, and brainstorming strategies for increasing their impact, MAP seems to have their bases covered. An interview with the team reveals much about their aspirations to make a true impact as young leaders of tomorrow.

MITTY PEER TUTORS

By Kanishka Khanna
Staff Writer

Lauded for its academic achievements, Archbishop Mitty is known to accept nothing less than the best. Over the four years, students transform from timid freshmen to experienced seniors heading out for college life. Along the way, however, the path is anything but smooth. Even the most exceptional students can wobble under the load of rigorous coursework and extra-curricular activities. It is little wonder that some tend to fall behind in class. For situations just like these, it is highly advisable to apply for a peer tutor.

The Peer Tutoring Team at Mitty has been a behind-the-scenes program moderated by Head Librarian Billie King and Mrs. Dorian-Glynn for over five years. The two moderators developed Mitty's program off of the nationwide SPARK Peer Tutor Training Program that is designed to help students struggling with academics. Each year, interested sophomores, juniors, and seniors sign up to tutor in subjects where they excel and schedule to meet with tutees at the earliest convenience. These students do not merely apply on a whim; they are the cream of the crop recommended by their own teachers.

This year, the program has offered leadership opportunities to several students: Co-Presidents Maya Raman and Kanishka Khanna, Secretary Emily Chu, and Media Manager Kiron Chandy.

Response to the organization has been overwhelmingly positive. Junior Alana Sooy states "It was overall very successful. The tutor was always flexible and willing to work with me whenever the best time was. They not only helped but gave methods on how they were successful in a particular section. Since they were in the same position I was in not too long ago they understood what it felt like to not understand something so they were always willing to slowly go through anything I needed."

The aim of the tutoring team is simple. They want to be able to help their peers when they are overburdened, help them to better grasp the material with the personalized attention they offer. Furthermore, the tutors themselves gain valuable experience. In essence, they assume the role of the teacher and understand the importance of explaining material from a variety of perspectives. They are able to reinforce their own knowledge while explaining concepts to their peers.

Mitty is known for the high academic standards it holds its students to. Along the way, there are times when a student slips up and needs some extra help. This is the foundation of the Peer Tutoring Team. They are here to help with any academic problems that students may have. This is a volunteer program, so if you wish to sign up for a tutor or want more information about this program, please contact Mrs. King in the library.

Back to School

LML (light my life)

Light my Life is a new section of Justice Awareness created from contributions by you, the student body. Submit stories of your own happy moments to Campus Ministry.

This past summer, while on the India immersion trip, our group visited a Don Bosco center that attempted to reunite runaway children with their parents. In such a large country with such a high population, this seems to be very difficult to do. But as we were leaving, we witnessed firsthand a mother finding both of her children. If God exists, I thank him for giving her back her children, and for giving us the opportunity to see what kinds of miracles are possible through human empathy and compassion. LML.

Today as I came back from my locker, the pile of books in my arms rivaled the height of the Tower of Babel. As I approached the seemingly insurmountable obstacle of getting myself back inside, another student noticed my distress and graciously held the door open for me. Thanks to him, I now realize that chivalry is not dead. LML.

This year, as seniors, two of my friends and I got to know a freshman. It was fun to meet someone younger and new to the school. We had the opportunity to offer him some advice about surviving at Mitty, and it was a great experience. We just hope that he'll be able to cope without us next year! LML.

J A D I E Ribbon Campaign

BAY AREA STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT HEPATITIS B

By Jay Wang
Staff Writer

If I were to ask you how many people in this world are affected with Hepatitis B, what would you say? Ten million? One hundred million? What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver caused by infection of the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) that affects 350-400 million people in the world. With time, HBV causes scarring of the liver, liver cancer, and premature death.

Now, you may be wondering why a disease ten times more prevalent than HIV is so little discussed in this country. The answer is fairly simple: HBV is not a Western disease. In fact, it only affects 1 in 1000 Caucasians.

On the contrary, in the Asian and Pacific Islander population, a staggering 1 in 10 people are chronically infected. What is most frightening about HBV is that its victims will not encounter symptoms until it is too late, leading HBV

to be dubbed the silent killer. Of the millions of people infected with HBV, the majority of these victims contract this disease through birth, one of the three ways Hepatitis B is transmitted (the others being blood and sex).

But the most absurd thing about HBV is that unlike most diseases we are trying to cure in this world, Hep B is preventable through a simple and low cost three-step vaccination process. Look at the perverse irony of this statement: Almost half a billion people in this world are dying from a preventable disease.

In this case, ignorance or a lack of resources are causing the unnecessary suffering and deaths of tens of millions of people – people do not know about HBV.

More-over, those who do know about the disease create a social stigma against HBV, which is why it is rarely discussed. For example, in many East Asian countries, those infected with Hepatitis B are not allowed to attend schools or get jobs.

So what can you do to help? For one, you can volunteer at the Asian Liver Center, a non-profit organization based at Stanford University that gives free screenings and low cost vaccinations (around \$30) throughout the Bay Area.

You can also attend the annual Youth Leadership Conference on API (Asian and Pacific Islander) Health at Stanford University during the summer. This Conference is a nationally recognized program that brings together approximately one hundred students from across America to educate, lead, and inspire motivated high school youth who want to make a change in their community for the better.



Lastly, you can apply for the Jade Ribbon Youth Council, a select group of fifteen high school students from across the Bay Area who plan outreach events, talks with lawmakers, and discusses ways of furthering the cause against Hepatitis B.

Having participated in both the Youth Leadership Conference and volunteer service, I can say that these experiences have truly shaped me as an individual because of the invaluable real-world experience I have received. But the biggest contribution you can make is to promote awareness. For every person you educate about Hepatitis B, you will be making a step toward the ultimate goal: a Hep B free world.

For more information please go to <http://liver.stanford.edu>. If you have any questions about volunteering or Hepatitis B, please contact jaywang11@mittymonarch.com.

By Ana Plascencia and Esha Joshi
Staff Writers

SUDANESE WOMAN JAILED



Journalist Lubna Hussein was sentenced to a month in jail after refusing to pay a fine of \$200. She was caught in a café wearing pants and was convicted with this fine. This case instigated protests on the rights and treatment of women. Just recently, dozens of women, including Hussein, held a protest in a courthouse against the unjust discrimination that women in Africa face. Hussein hopes to have made a striking impact on treatment of women in Sudan. (AP)

AFGHAN VOTES DECLARED INVALID

The votes from the Afghan Presidential Election were declared invalid from five different stations because of fraud. It is evident, the elections panel stated, "the ballots were not legally cast, or were not legally counted." The five polling stations came from the region where Afghan Presidential Candidate, Hamid Karzai, had most support. Karzai acknowledged that fraud had occurred, but claimed it inevitable in a growing democracy. (New York Times)



JUANES IN CUBA AND HIS CALL FOR UNITY



On September 20, 2009, the Colombian rocker Juanes and fifteen other Latin American artists united hundreds and thousands of Cubans in Cuba's Plaza de la Revolución to perform his Paz sin Fronteras (Peace without Borders) concert tour. Despite the opposition, accusation, and threats from Cuban exiles who accused Juanes of supporting the Cuban communist government, Juanes assured his concert did not

have a political purpose. Juanes successfully achieved his objective and through his music he was able to reunite the Cubans of the world and convey a gesture of love and hope to all the Cubans from the entire world. (Miami Herald)



Junior Jay Wang (center), member and student leader in the Jade Ribbon Youth Council, volunteers frequently at the Stanford Liver Center and helps raise awareness about HBV.

SPORTS

Risen from the Ashes

Mitty Football Jumps out to 6-0 Start, #2 Ranking

By Bryce Bajar
Staff Writer

They thought that the bird was finally dead, their rulers finally vanquished; they thought the great reign had ended, that they were free to do as they pleased. It turns out they were wrong.

The phoenix rises from the ashes, and out of the darkness, out of the fog, the Monarchs return in glory to ascend to the throne.

Witness what has been dubbed “the comeback story of the year” – the phenomenon that has awed onlookers, marveled statisticians, and stunned unsuspecting opponents – Monarch football.

Currently enjoying a 6-0 record, this 2009 team is not the same one that went 1-9 last season – the first time in four years that Varsity football did not go undefeated in non-league play, and the first time in three years the team did not have a winning year.

Clearly, something has changed.

Third year head coach Matt Haniger shone some light upon the matter during a KTVU Channel 2 interview: “I’d have to attribute it to the hard work in the weight room this past summer. The kids have done a phenomenal job working hard for about 6-7 months – and that’s lead to our success this year.”

“We are playing with a chip on our shoulder and coming out with a completely different mentality than before,” adds key running back, senior DJ Bush, attributing the team’s success to a new team attitude.

With the previous season spurring them on, the team can focus on winning and continue to demonstrate their strengths in practices and games.

“As a team, our strongest aspect is our aggressiveness,” Bush said, “We wear people down on offense and defense and take away their desire to play against us.”

This same aggressiveness is evident on the offensive side of the football – the offense has already surpassed last year’s total points in the first six games played.

At the controls of this rejuvenated offense is the new starting quarterback, junior Kyle Boehm. Throughout the three non-league games, Boehm performed excellently, notably serving as an offensive powerhouse with his ability to both pass and run, rushing for 260 yards in 3 games. He had thrown 3 touchdowns and had run for 3 more.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Rocky Meszaros leaps for end zone against Valley Christian.

“He is turning into quite a leader for the team,” Coach Haniger said of Boehm.

Boehm finds himself at the helm of an incredibly versatile offense, with a wide variety of options. The running game, fueled by the likes of running backs DJ Bush and 2008 WCAL Sophomore of the Year, Rocky Meszaros, shines. In addition, Senior Joey Walker led the WCAL with 6 touchdowns going into league play. This strength, combined with a solid passing game and the option plays in Boehm’s arsenal, exhibits the offense’s remarkable power.

The Monarch defense, empowered by a host of returning players, more than complements the offense, setting the pace with their aggressive play.

“Our defense is going to carry us,” Coach Haniger said. While Meszaros adds: “We are very aggressive on defense. We have a lot of pride in our team and it translates over to defense as well as offense.”

Indeed, the stalwart Mitty defense has put on a stellar

showing so far, holding each opposing team to no more than two touchdowns per game, giving Mitty the highest net point differential in the WCAL. The Mitty defense showed particular strength in the Palo Alto game, forcing six turnovers and shutting down the opposing offense.

With their regained success, the Monarchs have once again climbed the rankings, currently holding first place in WCAL, alongside St. Francis and Bellarmine. Maxpreps ranks Mitty first in the Central Coast Section, while Mitty is ranked second in *The Mercury News* Top 15 after being left out prior to the start of the season.

Reinforced by their early successes, the team continually strives to improve their game as they delve into the perennially stiff WCAL competition.

“Right now we are trying to work on careless penalties. If we can control those, we are going to be pretty tough to beat,” DJ Bush explained.

The Monarchs must continue to refine their exceptional play if they wish to succeed in league play and in the CCS playoffs, but the team is confident.

“We are ready and prepared to go into league play, to give ourselves a real test to see where we stand,” said Rocky Meszaros prior to the league opener against Valley Christian. “We are anxious to get revenge on each team and make things right again.”

This revived Mitty team has taken its revenge so far this year. In their first league game, the Monarchs shut out Valley Christian (21-0), led by two touchdowns from Meszaros, and continued their success with a 47-24 defeat of St. Ignatius.

And last Friday night under the lights at Mitty, the Monarchs dismantled an overmatched Sacred Heart team in a 49-7 blowout. In the game, Boehm threw for two touchdowns, while Meszaros had 154 yards rushing and two touchdowns of his own. On the defensive side, senior Brendan Manion had three sacks

Mitty faces a pivotal game against close rival Bellarmine at San Jose Community College on Oct. 23, in which the Monarchs will have an opportunity to defeat the Bells for the first time since 2005. On Oct 30, the Monarchs take on the Lancers to extend a current 3-game winning streak against St. Francis.

Go then, and be a part of the victorious rebirth on the gridiron fields – witness the return of the Monarchs, shining as they reclaim what is rightfully theirs.

Highlight Reel

Cross Country

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: JOSHUA HOGAN, SEAN SWALE, OLIVIA RINTALA, MARY KRIEGE

BIGGEST WINS: FRESHMAN EARLY BIRD INVITATIONAL AND VARSITY LYNBROOK INVITATIONAL

SEAN SWALE: “WITH FIVE RETURNING VARSITY RUNNERS, AND A FAST FRESHMAN, WE HOPE TO REACH CCS AS A TEAM AND SEND ONE RUNNER TO STATE.”

COACH FRISE: “THE TEAM HAS THE TALENT AND DEPTH TO TAKE THEM TO THE CCS FINALS.”

Women’s Tennis

RECORD: 8-0 LEAGUE; 14-1 OVERALL

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: STACY YAM, MAYA RAMAN, SAMANTHA POLAYES

BIGGEST WINS: 5TH PLACE FINISH AT FRESNO TOURNAMENT

HIGHLIGHT MOMENT: 5-2 DEFEAT OF ST. FRANCIS RIVALS

STACY YAM: “I THINK THE TEAM AS A WHOLE HAS NO TROUBLE OVERCOMING OBSTACLES.”

Compiled by Jaslyn Johnson, Ayman Ullah,
Arjun Ravishankar, Patrick Le, Erik Chu, Cameron Schott
Staff Writers

Women’s Golf

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: KELLI OTIS, TABITHA AHEARN, DANIELLE AIELLO, KIRSTEN FERNANDEZ

HIGHLIGHT MOMENT: AFTER ALL OF THE GROUPS WERE DONE, EXCEPT FOR ONE, WE WENT TO CHEER FOR KIRSTEN AS SHE PUTTED FOR AN EAGLE.

COACH GARRISON: “[I EXPECT] GROWTH AS A PROGRAM, AND GROWTH AS INDIVIDUALS ON AND OFF THE COURSE.”

Women’s Water Polo

RECORD: 14-4

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: BECKY FRIEDENBACH, STEPHANIE WEED, JEN AFFLERBACK, AMY FRY, SARAH SLUGOCKI

HIGHLIGHT MOMENT: WIN AT LOST ALTOS TOURNAMENT

COACH RHODES: “I THINK WE’RE A PRETTY STRONG, EXPERIENCED TEAM WITH A LOT OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP. WE JUST NEED TO TAKE WHAT WE’RE WORKING ON AND USE IT MORE IN GAMES.”



The Legacy Continues

Lady Monarchs Dominate on the Court Once Again

By **Mona Patel**
Staff Writer

Already well into their season, the Archbishop Mitty Women's Volleyball team shows no sign of slowing down.

The team currently has a perfect 23-0 record and is ranked number one in the nation by Maxpreps.com.

Having won the WCAL, CCS, and NorCal championships each multiple times and having captured the State Championship last year, the Monarchs are on the right track again towards another tremendous season.

Senior setter Joan Caloiaro declares that one of her goals for this season is "to go undefeated and win state again."

This year's team consists of many returning players—eleven to be exact, nine of them seniors. And the new players have integrated well into the team, and the team's chemistry on and off the court is amazing. Caloiaro comments, "This team is goofy and I love it. Someone always makes me laugh."

On top of their great chemistry is the work ethic that each of the players possesses. Senior outside hitter Kristina Graven praises her team, saying, "We work really hard in practice and I think it shows on the court."

One need only look at their ranking to see the truth of that statement.

The team is solid this year, possessing no apparent weakness. Senior Rachel Williams comments, "Everyone that steps on the court is a key player. Our defense and offense require everyone to be in sync."

At the net are hitters Rachel Williams and Kristina Graven, who Mercury News writer Dennis Knight hails as "perhaps the top hitting duo in the nation."

In addition to a powerful offense, the Monarchs can additionally boast of a strong defense with three liberos—seniors Ryan Shaffer and Kaitlyn Connolly, and junior Ronni Lewis.

Also part of the Monarch lineup this year are senior



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Brittany Bozzini has helped lead the Monarchs this year.

middle blockers Shannon Flemming and Bennet Jones, senior right side hitter and middle blocker Brittany Bozzini, and senior setters Joan Caloiaro and Holly Mueller.

In addition to these seniors, the Monarchs also have sophomore setter Alex Caldwell, sophomore middle

blocker Katarina Milosavljevic, and junior outside hitters Heather Roberts, Jacqui Lewis, and Tara MacLean.

With all this talent, it is no surprise that head coach Bret Almazan-Cezar comments, "We're just trying to maintain consistent skill at outstanding levels."

Coach Almazan-Cezar adds that the team has been "working primarily on blocking and defense" of late. With no real weaknesses in their roster, the team is focused on fine-tuning their skills.

Shannon Flemming observes, "There's so many little things we can get better at right now. If we improve on those, it will make us amazing by the end of the season".

A major tournament the Monarchs have already participated in was the Durango Fall Classis, which took place in Las Vegas at the end of September. The team excelled, defeating top teams such as Mira Costa and Newport Harbor to become the tournament champions.

They played their final match of the tournament against Newport Harbor. Mitty lost the first game 25-16, but they bounced back to win in the second and third games.

Flemming comments that the games "got a little tight at some points," such as when both teams were tied at 21 during the second game.

However, the Monarchs played well under pressure and won the last two games. Joan Caloiaro had 33 assists and 5 kills, Rachel Williams had 11 kills, Brittany Bozzini had 9 kills, and Kristina Graven had 7 kills. Caloiaro, Flemming, and Graven were named on the All Tournament Team, and Williams was named MVP of the tournament.

Quite a few players have already committed to play volleyball for several different colleges. Caloiaro will be heading to the University of San Francisco, Williams to Stanford University, Shaffer to the University of Miami, Bozzini to Rutgers, Flemming to UC Irvine, Graven to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, and Connolly to Indiana State.

In terms of upcoming games, Williams says that their "best competition will be at the Santa Barbara tournament on Halloween."

Player Interview: Kyle Dzurko

By **Steven Nguyen**
Staff Writer

Q: What are some aspects of your game you take the most pride in and which areas do you feel you can improve in?

A: I'd like to improve my overall speed. I think the strongest aspects of my game are my shots and defense, but I'd really like to rehabilitate my arm and get my shot back to 100 percent.

Q: Keys to success?

A: I think that the biggest keys to success this year are just playing as a team and not just playing for our individual benefits. I believe that if we play as a team, we are a force to be reckoned with.



Q: What is your favorite part of water polo?

A: I just like the fact that we're so close. And with very few seniors on the team, I feel as if we've grown into a sort of leadership role in supporting the team in and out of the water.

Q: What is your most memorable water polo experience?

A: Being invited to play in the Turbo Cup in Europe for two years straight.

Q: Do you want to continue your water polo career in college and if so where?

A: Yeah, I'd love to keep playing through college. One school in particular that I've been looking at is Concordia University in Irvine.

Q: Do you see any future bumps in the road?

A: Being in one of the toughest divisions for water polo in California, some bumps in the road have definitely got to be St. Francis, Bellermine, and of course, Sacred Heart.

Player Interview: Emilie Soares

By **Juli Ruiz**
Sports Editor

Q: How has the team felt about its performance so far?

A: The season started off with a little adversity and the team was frustrated; however, the team is working very hard and we are progressing as the year goes on.

Q: What has changed on the team since last year?

A: The depth of our team is very big advantage this year. My coach can put any player in and have full trust and confidence in that person.



Q: What are the team's ultimate goals?

A: The team's ultimate goal is to make it to CCS and win it!

Q: What specific things have the team been working on?

A: The team struggles with communication on the field. We have been working hard to improve that and it is looking a lot better.

Q: What players have been particularly valuable this season?

A: Everyone has brought a lot to the table and in different situations, different people come through for the team.

Q: How would you describe the team dynamic in general?

A: We are a young team but have great chemistry on and off the field.

Q: What have been some of the most memorable moments of the season so far, in specific games or scrimmages?

A: Our season has really just begun, but the most memorable game so far has been the Gilroy game because it was our first scrimmage together and we came together as a team and played really well.

Update on the H1N1 Virus

Mitty combats the swine flu

By Payam Mirfendereski
and Sumedh Guha
Staff Writers

Spreading from country to country, the H1N1 virus is not just any flu. The new virus has been documented in Asia, South America, parts of Europe, and the United States. The headlines are rife with reports of infection; the health department is diligently searching out new vaccines for this flu. What is Mitty doing to prevent the spread of this virus?

Mr. Fallis, Dean of Students, discussed several precautions. "The most important of these steps is to educate our community, which we have done through our website, parent newsletter, announcements to both faculty and staff, and handouts. We have provided hand sanitizers to our classrooms, increased the cleaning of handrails and other common areas of concern, and have been in close contact with our local health department."

Mr. Fallis also stressed the importance of personal safety precautions. He said, "If a person feels that they might have this flu they should stay home, get plenty of rest,

drink a lot of fluids, and stay away from other people. If this person feels like the symptoms are getting worse, they should contact their physician."

What should students do to stay unaffected by the virus? "Friends or family of those with the H1N1 virus should keep

DO YOU HAVE THE SWINE?

Here's Mr. Fallis's prognosis:

"Symptoms of the H1N1 virus are similar to those of the seasonal flu, and they include fevers, coughs, sore throats, stuffy noses, stomach aches, diarrhea, and vomiting."

their distance and limit contact until the symptoms subside. [They should] not share drinks or food as this virus could easily spread," explained Mr. Fallis.

Finally, Mr. Fallis talked about the symptoms of having the flu. "Symptoms of the H1N1 virus are similar to those of the seasonal flu, and they include fevers, coughs, sore throats, stuffy noses, stomach aches, diarrhea, and vomiting."

If the Mitty community takes these preventative measures, we can overcome the spread of H1N1—and even the common cold.

ACTIVITIES

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because it's a new experience for them and they want them to do well."

But after all the points have been counted up and the trophy given away, Mr. Walker said that Spirit Week is about "unity—bringing the school together rather than separating the four classes."

He added, "Spirit week is the most fun time in the fall for the whole school—not just separate classes, but teachers and faculty as well." It is hard to disagree with that.

Agreeing with Mr. Walker, Relos said, "The main idea of Spirit Week is to make the school year memorable. It's all for the students and their entertainment, and when they think back on high school, they'll remember this."

We will remember cheering until our voices give out. We will remember donning capes and working our superpowers of school spirit. And—hopefully—we will remember all the devotion, planning, and hard work behind it.

MISSION

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"The students have solidarity in the challenges they face with their service," continued Mr. Kroenung.

"They have the help of their classmates, so there is a greater sense of community."

These young tutors are not learning just from textbooks. They are taking the lessons they learn in class and applying them to real life service. In this way, the curriculum of Mission to Education combines classroom information with actual experience.

"There is a lot to learn beyond cinderblock walls," said Mr. Kroenung. "And our goal is to discover those lessons by moving from isolated service to community service, and connecting it back to the curriculum."

For more information regarding this class, please contact Mr. Kroenung at bkroenung@mitty.com.

PEACE

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art of Mitty students, symbolized innocent childhood and devotion to tranquility. The pinwheels were meant to draw attention to the world's need for peace and allow students to express themselves through a creative medium.

Mrs. Peggy Lemak, head of the art department, explained that, "When a pinwheel spins, it is supposed to release [its creator's] thoughts to heaven." By displaying the artwork out in the open, the teachers hoped to make an impression on passersby.

By adding Pinwheels for Peace to Mitty's calendar, the teachers and students voiced their enthusiasm for a non-violent world. "It is part of Mitty's mission," Mrs. Lemak stated, "to strive to achieve peace." The purpose of Pinwheels for Peace is to make people aware that a peaceful world is possible, but also to show that everybody needs to take the responsibility to do so.

Mrs. Lemak said she heard only positive remarks in response to Mitty's participation in the program, and saw "people slowing their cars to look at the pinwheels." She hopes that Mitty will participate in the program again next year and that students will continue to understand its purpose, asking, "If peace is for a day, why not for a week, why not for a month?"

STUDENT CENTE(R)ED

Student Focus: Preston McPeak

By Morgan McEnery
Staff Writer

You may not know him, but soon you will be seeing his work all around campus: senior Preston McPeak has been ambitiously creating new, cutting-edge graphic design creations, which he posts online. Some of these new creations will be centered on Mitty, as Preston has been asked to design the Campus Ministry liturgy posters that will be in all the classrooms.

Mr. Lopez, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Robinson asked Preston to contribute his graphic-design talents to the school. They put him in charge of the layout and design of these new posters while leaving Campus Ministry to determine the quotes that will appear on them.

The new Campus Ministry posters showcase Preston's graphic design skills.

In addition, Campus Ministry also selected him to design the birthday cards sent out to every student and staff member on his or her special day.

How does Preston feel about all this newfound attention? He admits, "I've always had an eye for what looks aesthetically pleasing, but I only realized about four years ago my strength in the digital field of design." After his father purchased Adobe Photoshop, Preston taught himself how to use it as well as other programs; he has really taken a liking to them. Also, he has continued to develop his love of art by participating in Mitty's various art programs.

He admits, "Studio art with Mr. Eagleson was one of my more challenging classes because it involved drawing rather than digital design." He also took Digital Photography with Ms. Cable, and is currently enrolled in 2D/3D Design, Book As Art, Modern Art History, and Graphic Design.

Preston is inspired by his classmates as well as his mentors. "Being around the creative influences of the faculty, such as my art teachers Mrs. Lemak and Mrs. Cable, as well as being around many creative students such as Corinne Sliva and Denise Wong, helps to inspire me to find a new edge of creativity to my work."

No one can deny that it is certainly exciting that each month we will be able to experience Preston's talent in all of our classrooms. Feel free to check out his artwork at <http://cookthechef.daportfolio.com/>.



courtesy P. McPeak



The Monarch

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