



Behind the Scenes: Faculty Love

Love Among the Teachers: Uncovering Campus Couples

By **Hannah Moeller and Sruthi Ramaswami**
Staff Writers

Love knows no bounds at AMHS. Mitty is almost like a dating service in itself. The teachers here share certain key values and are passionate about educating young people, so it makes sense that Mitty faculty members are compatible on deep and fundamental levels. Many become close friends and for some, these friendships develop into committed relationships.

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Scott. These two met when they worked at St. Ignatius in San Francisco and married before they made the move to Mitty. Mr. Scott is the director of Campus Ministry and Mrs. Scott is a freshman religion teacher.

"It's a wonderful way to meet someone," said Mr. Scott.

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Wesmiller. They met at the teacher orientation in 2006, the beginning of their first year teaching at Mitty. Typically, first year teachers dedicate long hours to develop lesson plans and to generally assimilate into their new work environment. Like typical new teachers, Mr. Wesmiller, a Religious Studies teacher, and Mrs. Wesmiller, a Social Studies teacher, clocked in many after-school hours working together with other new teachers and forming a support group of close friends. During Thanksgiving break, they decided to start dating; they married a few years later.

Many faculty members said that they enjoy having loved ones at work.

Mrs. Matusich, a Religious Studies teacher, explained, "Working at Mitty is not just a job. A huge part of working at Mitty is understanding the Mitty community, and this understanding is something my husband and I share."

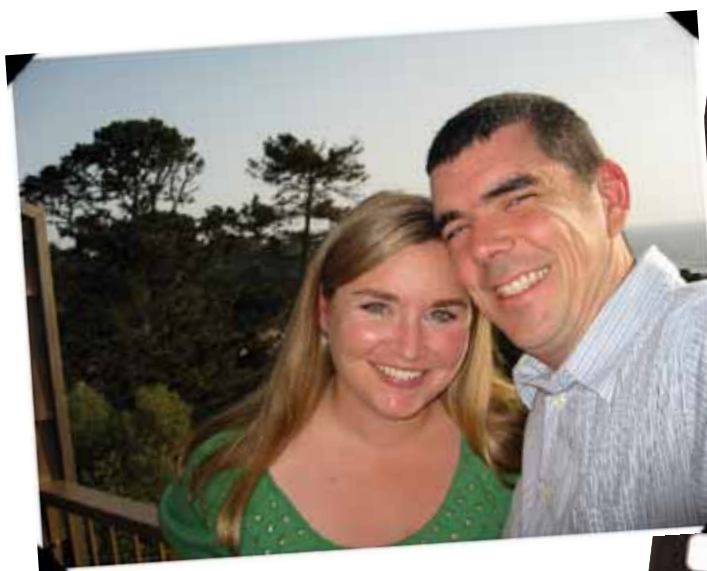
Mr. Lopez, Director of Publications, agreed. He and his wife, Mrs. Lopez of the Foreign Language Department, talk about their work experiences together and relate to the Mitty community.

According to Mr. Wesmiller, "For teachers, it's difficult to date someone who isn't a teacher. If you're a teacher, your job is your life, and you need a companion who can understand that."

He continued, "It's easy for your spouse to empathize with you about your work if they're a teacher at the same school. Otherwise, you'd have to do a lot of explaining about what it's like." He added that he and Mrs. Wesmiller also support each other through the long hours of grading papers. The shared vacation time is also a practical benefit.

Mr. Scott said, "The upside of working with your spouse is that you get to work with your best friend. You share so much and can support each other in your work. You have a common set of friends and you both want to go to the same Mitty events."

Challenges also come with working alongside a spouse. Mr. Matusich commented that schedule conflicts can be a



Faculty couples define "family" for the Mitty community.

problem.

He explained, "At times, I have to stay at school longer for athletics, or for my job at the snack shack. Since we have two sons who go to Mitty, coordinating all four of our schedules can definitely be a challenge."

Mrs. Kroenung, an English teacher, felt that she and Mr. Kroenung, a Religious Studies teacher, find it hard at times to separate work from their home life. Mr. Wesmiller and Mr. Scott agreed.

"The challenge is trying to keep distance between home and profession," said Mr. Wesmiller.

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Q&A with Campus Insider



Associate Principal,
Mr. Robinson

Which Mitty couples have you predicted would marry?

I predicted Bill and Janelle Kroneung. After we hired Janelle, I told Bill that she was the woman he would marry. He laughed, as I often kid about things. A couple of months later he came to my office and confessed "he had never felt this way before about someone; how did I know?" What can I say?

Would you say the environment at Mitty is helpful for the development of couples?

AMHS emphasizes community, the context in which relationships that have history and deep meaning can

grow in healthy ways. We are community that strongly supports committed relationships.

Do you think faculty relationships are beneficial or healthy for the Mitty community?

I think the married couples on our faculty are tremendous role models for our students who can see the possibility for healthy relationships in their futures. These couples on campus live out their relationships and family lives in the sight of a community of young people who have all the decisions about love and life ahead of them.

Were there any couples on campus that surprised you?

Well I keep my eyes open so I haven't really been surprised. Mitty is like a small village: the unity and sense of family we all experience are great blessings. But, as with all villages, secrets don't last long.

A New Courtroom Drama: Mock Trial at Mitty

By **Emily Chu and Olivia Tran**
News Editors

On April 13, 2009, renowned critic Preston Palmer was found strangled to death in his driveway. Police point toward up-and-coming comedian Jordan Bratton. Is Bratton guilty? It's up to Mitty's Mock Trial Team to uncover the truth.

Another year has started with the Mock Trial team working diligently for the competitions in February. Since 2005, Mock Trial has sought to introduce students to the machinations of the criminal justice system. Mrs. Anne Nowell has been the teacher-moderator and coach of the team since day one: the heartbeat of Mock Trial at Mitty.

Headed by student attorney, senior **Jacque Scharre**, and aided by assistant teacher-moderator, **Ms. Nadine Paulsen**, the team has been meeting since August.

While the cases may be fictional, they are all based on realistic scenarios: murder, arson, and other grim representations of the world of criminal justice. Students act as attorneys, witnesses—including the defendant on trial—court clerk, and bailiff, each

contributing their skill and dedication to the success of the team.

Junior **Praachi Raje**, a witness for the Defense team, said, "Being in the courtroom is so intense, and the team has grown to be so close. Even though it takes up so much time, when it all comes together in the end, it's definitely worth it."

They also acknowledge how their experience in Mock Trial applies in the real world, beyond scripted examinations and fictional testimonies.

"Mock Trial has really helped develop my oratory skills and extemporaneous

see **MOCK TRIAL**, page 16



OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: Internet Censorship

THE DANGERS OF FREE SPEECH

By **Lindia Nguyen**
Staff Writer

In the average neighborhood, the guilty and the innocent coexist. Our nation chooses to protect the innocent. This partition is also crucial to the public safety of our citizens and the many innocent children that are being introduced to digital technology at a sensitive age.

The most dangerous medium of communication today is the Internet, where information can be readily exchanged and created by strangers. These strangers might as well be terrorists or sex offenders, who have only one intention: to harm. Since most of these clandestine operations occur in password-protected areas on the Internet, the government has the right to censor and regulate the Internet.

Although some protest that this regulation violates the first amendment, the right to free speech does not encompass all speech, especially when people advocate violence.

Sherialynn Byrdson, whose husband was murdered in a racist-motivated hate crime, explains: "I doubt seriously if the writers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights intended that freedom of speech could be a way that people can spread their hate philosophy. I don't think that free speech means hate speech."

Our Founding Fathers developed the Constitution as a way to protect vulnerable groups, so government must regulate Internet use to prevent the actions of certain individuals from infringing upon the rights of others.

Consider the spread of the ideas of the Ku Klux Klan in the South declaring white supremacy in the aftermath of the Civil War. No one censored the hate speech of this heinous organization, and they continued to advocate the brutal murder of hundreds of African Americans to further their cause. Thus, the havoc from this group lasted for decades when the government could have halted their crimes. They did have the right to their beliefs, but their beliefs were infringing upon the rights of the innocent African Americans who were the victims of their crimes. Information exchanged on the Internet can be just as dangerous.

If there is a trend that is dangerous, or beliefs that are communicated with the intent to inflict harm upon others, then the government has the right and responsibility to regulate these conversations. In a conflict where innocence is pitted against privacy, the protection of innocents is of greater magnitude as they have done nothing to deserve any destructive treatment.

Megan's Law, for example, requires the personal information of registered sex offenders offered to the public domain. The protection of innocence overrules privacy in this case. Censorship of the Internet would insure that the many children that are online are sheltered from the menacing threats and

obscurities that are listed online.

The government has already tried to keep up with the rise of digital technology by enacting several acts to regulate broadcasting and mediums of communication. The Communications Act of 1934 had a mission of "regulating interstate and foreign commerce in communication by wire and radio." This act allowed the government to censor the most prominent digital media at that time, which was the radio.

Then in 1996, the Telecommunications Act allowed the government to regulate television broadcasters as well. Now, fourteen years later, the government should have the right to regulate the Internet. The Internet is just a different medium for a new era where digital technology is the social norm, and the government must catch up.

Recently, there has been a conflict concerning China's regulation of Google's email accounts and search engines. The Chinese government's political regime of

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CENSORED

oppression is completely different from our American democracy. The Internet seems to them to be a major threat that has the ability to undermine their policies, so they censor it accordingly. The extent of their regulation may seem slightly extreme to Americans, but there is certainly a middle ground where innocence is protected and privacy is respected in the US. The protection of innocence and especially children is crucial to the safety of our civilians. Limited internet censorship is a necessary government action that will allow a balance between innocence and privacy.

Thus, the censorship of the Internet by the government is justified when the innocence of civilians is jeopardized. Our government has already regulate radio and the television. Now with the rapid growth of the Internet, America needs information on the internet to be censored before doing physical or psychological harm to others.

KEEP THE INTERNET FREE

By **Ritty Zhai**
Staff Writer

We all know that the Internet can be a very disturbing and dangerous adult medium. Unquestionably, there are parts of the Internet that we might rather not see: explicit websites, hateful screeds, disturbingly-spelled Lolcat images. Many argue that people, especially children, should be protected from these obscenities, and some even say that the government should regulate the Internet to achieve this.

But the question is this: who is actually responsible for preventing Internet users from viewing material we don't want to see? In short: we the consumers are. Although allowing the government to censor the entire Internet sounds like an easy fix, it would be both ineffective and impractical.

Parents, not the government, should take primary responsibility in determining what their children are allowed to access. People need to parent their own children instead of waiting for the government to do it for them.

Does the government have the right to tell parents what books and magazines they can let their children read at home, or what television programs or movies they should allow their children to watch? Just as it is with other forms of media, it is the parent's

anything they think is necessary for others in the world to know. Therefore internet censorship is unconstitutional. There is a good reason for this: we should not trust anyone, not even the government, to dictate what information we can and can't see.

If the government is allowed to regulate information, there's no way to make sure they won't just silence the voice of anyone who dares to challenge them. When the Internet is censored, we cannot be sure whether or not important information has been removed simply because some bureaucrat finds it disagreeable or a corrupt politician wants to cover it up.

If you're not convinced, take a look at the face of Internet censorship today: China. Ever since its establishment in 2005, Google China has been censoring many of its searches in compliance with China's Internet censorship laws. For a long time, there has been great controversy over the moral and human rights implications regarding this decision.

As a totalitarian government, the Chinese have banned a multitude of websites and related information, known as the Google China "black list," in an attempt to hide the truth from its citizens. Many searches, such as "Tank Man," are blocked entirely, even though these are the crucial points in China's history that the people of China should be aware of.

Websites, such as YouTube and Facebook, which many of us probably could not imagine living without, were also at one point blocked by the government. It is almost impossible for us, as Americans, to imagine a government to have such immediate control over its citizens' lives.

Obviously, when the government is given control over the Internet and it is allowed to monitor exactly what it wants its citizens to see, the effects can be disastrous. If our government wishes to censor the information that we can see on the Internet, it could potentially hide anything from its citizens. People have the right to know the ugly truth that is present in our world, whether it is racism, terrorism, or war.

Censoring the Internet would severely limit what adults could view and ways that they could communicate. Since when did the government own the Internet? The Internet was created as a free forum of ideas, and this setup works. Everyone can participate to the extent they want, and people should be able to decide what's best for them personally.

The primary responsibility for determining what speech should remain available on the Internet should remain with the individual user, not with the government. People who gain access to the Internet have the right to find out what exactly can be found there.

If you don't like something then don't watch it, don't listen to it, and don't read it. One has the choice of whether or not to be exposed to certain websites, information, and articles.

The Internet was designed to be a free and public forum, where people are allowed to post their opinions and ideas. And that's the way it should stay. No censorship needed here. To take away the right to free speech and information is to sever the rights given to us by the Constitution, the very basis on which our country was built.

responsibility to limit their children's access to the Internet. Parents should do whatever they think necessary to protect themselves and their children, and they easily can: numerous software programs and security options can prevent children from accessing offensive sites. With so many options for the parent to control their children's use of the Internet, there is definitely no need for government censorship of the Internet.

Should the government regulate the Internet to keep lies and misinformation off the web? After all, there's a reason teachers don't let you cite Wikipedia for a research report: there's just no guarantee that the information will be true. But it is still not the government's place to censor the web. The First Amendment of the Constitution states that all people have the right of freedom of speech and press.

Technically, the Internet is a form of press, so it should be legal for people to post

2010!

TOP TEN DO'S AND DON'T'S OF THE DECADE

By Manasi Patel, Isabel Sausjord, and Josie Suh
Opinions Editors

DO:

- 1) Update all your DVDs to Blu-Rays
Provided you have a Blu-Ray player or a PS3, of course. If not, do your eyes a favor and hook yourself up with a high-def experience!
- 2) Buy an iPad
- 3) Drive a Hybrid
- 4) Wash your hands to avoid H1N1 fever
You don't want to waste the New Year being sick!
- 5) Save a pair of 3D movie glasses!

DON'T:

- 1) Buy that poster of the latest twelve-year-old celebrity
There will probably be a new one next week...
- 2) Use plastic grocery bags
- 3) Leave any issues unresolved before 2012!
You never know if the world will really end... (hehe)
- 4) Become a technological hermit
- 5) Sell your soul to the vampires

THE 2000'S WERE THE DECADE OF...

By Ally Lockwood
Staff Writer

The second millennium as we received it was new, shiny, and coated in great expectations — it was all ours! A fresh start free of charge as the curtain closed on the Nineties and all that had preceded them. But far sooner than expected, Americans were overwhelmed by the televised tragedy of 9/11, subjected to the freeze frame images of the chaos inflicted upon our fellow countrymen.

In terms of transformative events of the past decade, Sept. 11th stands out even amongst the many other extreme events that have occurred over the past 10 years; the tsunami in Southeast Asia, Hurricane Katrina. Whereas these natural disasters humbly reminded us that we are residents of an earth whose power far surpasses our control, 9/11 was the result of pure human hate—yet another inconvenient truth.

Although it was a decade in which it seemed that “more news” really meant more tragedy, it was also a time in which we saw much of our culture transformed by our rapidly developing technology. Despite the fact that there are just as many videos on YouTube promoting radical jihad as there are small acts of kindness, the positivity gleaned from the innovative manner in which technology has been used to help, not hurt, others has been astonishing. Who would have thought 10 years ago that Google would be such a world presence? That white ear buds would be a must have accessory for anyone looking for a traveling beat (sorry Zune enthusiasts).

Hey, it's been a long ten years for everyone. Martha Stewart spent some time behind bars at “Camp Cupcake” while the Terminator made a new home in our capital building. A new Pope was elected, and it seemed like most of the male population was “lookin’ like a fool with their pants on the ground.” Darker happenings, like the humanitarian catastrophe that was ethnic cleansing in Darfur and the dark reign of the Taliban kept us grounded in awareness that everything was not okay after all. Joe the Plumber turned out to lack any real plumbing credentials, Janet Jackson redefined the term wardrobe malfunction, and much to the horror of many parents, middle-schoolers fueled by hormone-laden milk and insecurity made mean girls cool and ‘sexting’ the norm. Americans were puzzled by the (literally) dark ending of the Sopranos...but it was set to a Journey song, so everything was cool. When we weren't watching shaky footage of Michael Phelps, 8-time gold medal winner, hit the bong a few times, we were subjecting ourselves to “the Real World,” of reality TV. We saw Harry Potter in the flesh and blood on the big screen—a world of fantasy, indeed! Not to mention we elected our first black president, Barack Obama. That seems like a positive enough note to end on.

Pop culture references aside, it has admittedly been a tough decade for our country, and dually, for our world. The

“decade from hell,” *Time Magazine* called it “the Reckoning, or the Decade of Broken Dreams, or the Lost Decade.” I think to merely designate the 2k's an epic failure, a short stay in one of the chambers of hell, would be a cop out. It is a given that these past ten years were hard on many of us, but that doesn't mean they can be written off entirely. So what was it a decade of?

Often, it seemed it was a decade of Autotune—the facades put up by governments and by ourselves that kept assuring us that everything was all right, when surely those still suffering would have to disagree. According to some, global warming still didn't exist—two things I'm sure many of those who were left to drown in the wake of Katrina would probably vehemently disagree with. That sense of a premature “Mission Accomplished!” seems almost too fitting for a time period where more than 4 million adults opted to Botox their wrinkles away in another attempt to

cover up the truth of age.

Even as an ignorant teenager, I have often found myself in awe of what seems like the skewed priorities not only of my peers (another session at the tanning salon instead of doing your homework? Hmm...) but also my government. A war on drugs before a war on poverty? Sometimes you have to wonder.

Luckily for all us common folk, many geniuses worldwide have spent a healthy amount of time inventing solutions. Before the past ten years, wireless internet was merely a dream to be fantasized about while listening to your prehistoric

computer conducting a symphony of soul-sucking dial tones. No one had a smartphone, let alone any kind of color screen, and there was no GPS to give the final verdict on whether Dad had really gotten everyone lost on the road-trip or not. All in all, despite the many heart-wrenching pitfalls humanity has endured over the past decade, the most important thing may be that our society, our world, and our people as a whole, have, for the most part, kept advancing.

As someone who still can't even legally purchase a lottery ticket, I feel unauthorized to draw one definitive conclusion. The good news is, with the first ten years of this new millennium under our belt, we have the opportunity to keep moving forward. We've seen what doesn't work—what causes our economies to crash, what makes us lose faith in each other, and hopefully we will be better for it. Assuming more than lichens and moss survive beyond 2012 and our world manages to escape the fate outlined for us on “Life After Humans,” I would like to think that in coming years, we will define the 2000's as a century with good decisions. If we really failed at everything else, at least we can say we have another 3,500 days of growing pains under our belt, and from there I expect our world to look forward as a people and keep advancing from this moment.



HARRY POTTER LAND!

This Decade's Obsession with the Fantasy Genre

By Manasi Patel
Opinions Editor

If I had a nickel for everytime I've heard the words “vampire”, “werewolf”, or “likeomgtotallyTEAMJACOB”, I'd probably be getting my nails done with Paris Hilton or shopping with the Kardashians right now. As a teenager that never quite bought into the whole *Twilight* mania, whenever I heard anything Cullen-related it usually induced a long-winded rant about Kristen Stewart's excessive lip-biting and Robert Pattinson's wannabe Johnny Depp persona. The last thing I would have ever wanted for this world was even more *Twilight* hype. That is, until I heard about the upcoming Harry Potter Theme Park in Orlando, Florida, and all the memories of my own crazy obsessions came flooding back to me. It's true. I am an average teenager. And, yes, I am a fantasy world addict.

I'm sure I'm not alone in the excitement of the Harry Potter dream coming to life. Don't pretend that you didn't search through your mail on your eleventh birthday looking for the magical words, “*We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted to Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry.*” You can admit it. It's exciting. In fact, upon hearing news of the theme park's grand opening this spring, I've already talked to some seniors planning on dedicating their spring breaks to escaping the Muggles. And I won't say I'm not jealous! Grabbing drinks with my friends at the Three Broomsticks or stocking up on candy at Honeydukes, maybe even bringing some tricks home from Zonko's, all seemed like dreams that would only ever exist in the confines of my childhood brain, but never in real life. So if you tell me that soon enough I can be touring the dungeons of the Hogwart's Castle, you better bet that I'm going to be excited.

Hence consider this my formal apology to all you *Twilight* enthusiasts. For the truth is, we are all children of a decade known for its fantasy mania. Whether your taste is wand-waving wizards, lovesick vampires, or swashbuckling pirates (Captain Sparrow ftw!), I guess it's safe to say we're all a little guilty of giving in to obsession. Here's to the decade of guilty pleasures, where what begins in print soon turns into movies, mania, and amusement parks.





One of the few pictures of the reclusive J.D. Salinger: the author in his youth.

In Memoriam: JD Salinger

One Student's Reflection on a Secretive Writer Who Touched Many Generations of Youth

By Kim Tran
Staff Writer

Literature is forever, and though cliché, so is J.D. Salinger, author of the much-beloved novel, *Catcher in the Rye*. Salinger, 91, died January 27 after a long life of seclusion and unwanted fame. While he began his career with a lust for recognition, Salinger quickly became repulsed by fame, and he retreated away from everything. Soon after declaring himself “good and sick” of having his face on every copy of *Catcher in the Rye* and ordering his fan mail to be burnt, Salinger finally escaped from Manhattan in 1953, moving to a 90 acre compound on a wooded hillside in Cornish, New Hampshire, where he lived until his death.

During this part of his life, Salinger slowly stopped publishing, with the last of his work being “Hapworth 16, 1924,” a story published in *The New Yorker*. Salinger held steadfastly to his privacy. However, he could never fully escape the public eye. While he refused to disclose any information, books by Joyce Maynard, a woman he had an affair with, Margaret, his daughter, and British literary critic, Ian Hamilton, leave us with only a glimpse into who he really was.

In the biographies and memoirs published without his consent, Salinger is painted as an eccentric man. He was described by Maynard as “a health nut obsessed with homeopathic medicine and with his diet.” Apparently Salinger ate frozen peas for breakfast, and an undercooked lamb burger for dinner. His daughter described him as self-centered, a practitioner of multiple religions, and an enthusiast of strange diets.

To this day, and possibly forever, Salinger will remain a mystery. However, his impact on the world through his few works is unquestioned. Though aloof, Salinger wrote novels close to the heart. His stories swept the world because they spoke to the sensibilities of people. Says Senior Josie Suh, “I remember studying *Catcher in the Rye* Freshman year in Mr. Van’s English 1 Accelerated Class and passionately agreeing with Holden Caulfield’s view with the world. J.D. Salinger so perfectly articulated my frustrations with society during that time in my life.”

Catcher in the Rye is an incredible work detailing all the frustrations of teen life. Says the *New York Times*, “Mr. Salinger had such unerring radar for the feelings of teenage angst and vulnerability and anger that *Catcher*, published in 1951, remains one of the books that adolescents first fall in love with—a book that intimately articulates what it is to be young and sensitive and precociously existential, a book that first awakens them to the possibilities of literature.”

I think that *The New York Times*’ words are true for many of us. Like many authors, Salinger was an incredible observer of life. To reference Wordsworth’s description of an ideal poet, Salinger “is a man speaking to men: a man, it is true, endowed with more lively sensibility, more enthusiasm and tenderness, who has a greater knowledge of human nature, and a more comprehensive soul, than are supposed to be common among mankind.” He was an artist.

His characters, the *Times* goes on, “tend to be outsiders—spiritual voyagers shipwrecked in a vulgar and materialistic world, misfits who never really outgrew adolescent feelings of estrangement. They identify with children and cling to the innocence of childhood with a ferocity bordering on desperation.” Often these characters are revealed to be deeply flawed, unable to connect with others. And yet, Salinger created characters that we could relate to, that we could see a bit of ourselves in.

In all the cynicism of these characters, Salinger reveals our innermost feelings. He wrote about our constantly suppressed desires of holding on to childhood, our anxieties and frustrations, our feelings of vulnerability, of alienation—Salinger denounced the phonies of the world that we constantly meet and secretly hate. In essence, Salinger gave us teenagers a companion—someone we understand, and someone who understands us—even the parts we hide.

Unfortunately, Salinger published very few works. He even said, “There is a marvelous peace in not publishing. It’s peaceful. Still. Publishing is a terrible invasion of my privacy. I like to write. I love to write. But I write just for myself and my own pleasure.” The works of Salinger that did make it through to the publisher’s include *Catcher in the Rye*, *Nine Stories*, and *Franny and Zooey*—works of genius we are grateful he was willing to share, and works that will forever immortalize J.D. Salinger, a literary icon, sadly lost.

AIRPORT SECURITY:

At What Cost is the TSA Failing to be Effective?

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

You have been on a plane for ten hours and have just heard the beautiful words, “We will be landing soon.” A wave of relief rushes over you as the vision of comfortable beds and real food begin to fill your mind. All is going well until you realize that you need to go to the bathroom. Oh but wait, the new security regulations do not permit any passenger to be out of his or her seat during the last hour of any international flight. So guess what? You’re stuck.

In addition to these ridiculous stipulations, passengers are also not allowed to reach into their carry-on luggage or have anything on their laps during this last hour.

So who is to blame for all of this? Some would blame the Nigerian Christmas Day bomber or Osama bin Laden.

But the real problem is in the individuals that do the security checking. For example, the father of the Christmas Day bomber called and actually notified the US that his son was a potential danger. Knowing this, what did the security officials do? Of course, they put him on a plane. Wasn’t it at all suspicious that this man boarded a plane with no luggage, and a one-way ticket for which he paid with a check?

If American security officers let individuals like Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab on a plane, and question the young teenage

males that possibly “look” like individuals likely to cause some sort of terror because they haven’t shaved for days, there is a serious problem with this security system.

As if that is not enough, the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) is now considering making use of full body scans. Although this may increase security by viewing people essentially naked, many feel that this is a direct violation of their privacy. As a result, people who feel uncomfortable would probably start flying less frequently, causing potential problems for the transportation industry. The reality of the situation is this: as airport security

grows more and more stringent, the knowledge of the terrorists also increases.

Now consider that while the TSA and other organizations are busy concocting more ways to violate individuals’ privacy and make plane rides extremely uncomfortable, sick

patients are dying in hospitals from preventable causes. According to Medical News Today, about 195,000 people die each year from hospital errors that are preventable, a number that far overshadows any terrorist attack death toll in the United States.

Clearly, the United States has some of its priorities in the wrong places. Instead of going to such extremes (such as using full body scans or confining people to their plane seats), the government could perhaps also focus its energy and time on something as basic as hospital sanitation.



Full-body scanners are a new controversial tool adopted by the TSA

TRUE LIFE: MITTY HYGIENE

By Kyle Kubo
Staff Writer

The last thing anyone wants to read is a finger-wagging tirade from someone up on their soapbox talking about hygiene and cleanliness, no matter how good of a cleaning joke that is. Nevertheless, beneath Mitty’s shiny, fancy-pants veneer and despite the courageous efforts of our dedicated maintenance staff, there exist amongst our student population several issues of communal upkeep that cry out for urgent address. They are as follows:

1. Littering – Somehow or another, every school day at certain times there are certain areas that look like Oscar the Grouch is having a largely unsuccessful estate sale, and this need not be the case. The first priority for cleaning up campus is getting the trash into the trash cans. A novel theory I realize, but this is not the round-robin basketball tournament at your uncle’s company picnic; missing three-pointers and not attempting to rebound because you don’t want to bend over or you’re too full of potato salad is entirely unacceptable.

To further complicate matters, the brown and blue receptacles are not, in fact, one and the same, nor is blue an acronym for Box of Lots of Unwanted Everything. Recyclables only, please; the world is not ready to make anything out of used gum, even if it’s wrapped in a banana peel.

2. Speaking of Gum. It’s Under the Desks – Much like chia pets and over-the-counter laxatives, this is the gift that keeps

on giving. Not in a good way. How many times have you nonchalantly brushed the underside of your desk only to find yourself shaking hands with someone else’s ancient spit? Perhaps it is because we as students so often touch the bottoms of our desks that

someone first assumed we would

like to be fastened securely to them by a gummy material, but I assure anyone who believes this that it is not the case. If it were we would all have long ago opted to be bitten by radioactive spiders, silk worms, or other sticky arthropods. If you must chew gum, don’t stick it under a desk, and if you must stick it under a desk, make sure it’s the teacher’s.

3. Stank – Most of us tend to ask questions whose answers we expect to be given à la carte. It is thus the most unpleasant of surprises when a response comes paired with a waft of paint-peeling funk comparable to being slapped across the face by the Garlic Bread Man (the ginger variety’s smellier, more belligerent cousin).

According to an anonymous Mitty teacher, the number of students with rigor mortis inducing breath and B.O. as though they’ve only recently fallen out of the rectum of a beached whale has increased dramatically and shows no sign of leveling off. Be it from the embargo on gum or an acquired immunity to antiperspirant, respecting our school’s mascot does not necessitate smelling like an antelope carcass. Students who persist in their unabashed rankness will be hermetically sealed, if necessary.



Arts & Entertainment

And the Oscar Goes to...?

By Logan Breitbart
Staff Writer

This year's road to the Academy Awards provides one of the most exciting and unpredictable races in recent history. Though it seems some nominees already have their names etched into the coveted statuette (I'm talking to you, Mo'Nique) each race has potential upsets, and this will undoubtedly be a year to remember.

Despite the accumulation of critical plaudits and a slew of acting trophies for both *Precious* and *Up in the Air*, they seem to have lost some steam in their campaigns for top film, unable to snag many significant best picture recognitions.

Nonetheless, both films will certainly have credible wins by the end of the evening. Mo'Nique's tour-de-force—both onscreen and throughout the awards season—makes her win for Supporting Actress the safest and most deserved bet for *Precious*. Maggie Gyllenhaal's surprise nomination for *Crazy Heart* does show a surprising Academy affinity for *Crazy Heart*, and if anyone is going to slay the monster that is Mo'Nique's winning streak, it will be her.

Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner's writing for *Up in the Air* will take home the gold for Adapted Screenplay, as their sophisticated work stands out for its intelligent humor and striking relevance to modern America.

Inglourious Basterds has a fervent fan base and picked up some momentum with a Screen Actors Guild award for Best Ensemble Cast, but Quentin Tarantino's wartime fantasy may be a bit too edgy of a Best Picture pick for many academy members. However, this won't stop them from checking the box for Original Screenplay. Similarly, Christoph Waltz's villainous Supporting Actor turn as Nazi Colonel Hans Landa has followed the same path as Mo'Nique and won virtually every pre-Oscar prize. He will not lose.

Another predictable win is that of Jeff Bridges for *Crazy Heart*, which featured Bridges' career-best work in this touching and deeply felt performance. He is the frontrunner for Best Actor, but there is potential for a George Clooney upset win. Clooney gives his most dynamic performance to date in *Up in the Air* and might just give Bridges a run for the gold.

On the contrary, the award for Best Actress has become a very tight Bullock-Streep race.

Due to the enormous popularity of *The Blind Side*, perhaps voters feel the need to give the film something because Bullock's performance is consistently good. Not great. Meryl Streep's charming Julia Child could get her a much overdue award, though Bullock does have a slight edge with her recent wins. It is a shame that such politics stand in the way of breakout performances by fellow nominees Carey Mulligan and Gabourey Sidibe, who both displayed remarkable range for young actresses.

The year's biggest race, however, clashes two opposing titans—the mainstream box office-smashing machine vs. the critic's darling, beloved by the serious filmgoers. This year's *Avatar* vs. *The Hurt Locker* competition is immensely difficult to predict, as both films are entitled to the highest honor for very different reasons.

Avatar is a sensation. The epic has been described as the “future for filmmaking,” for its visionary CGI and technical brilliance. Clearly, this leads to easy victories for sound editing, mixing, visual effects, and possibly, editing and cinematography. It has become the highest grossing feature in the history of filmmaking and is accessible to both film connoisseurs and regular audience members. I would call this the definite frontrunner if it weren't for several huge disadvantages. James Cameron, the self-proclaimed “king of the world,” is reviled in the film community for his self-congratulatory speeches and horrible temper on-

set. In an interview with Jay Leno, Sam Worthington, the lead actor in *Avatar* claimed Cameron often used a nail gun to nail crew members' cell phones to the wall in retaliation to ringing during shooting. This kind of bad press hurts the film's chances because as writer, director, and producer, Cameron himself is *Avatar*. To award *Avatar* is to award Cameron. You see where this is going.

Avatar is an aesthetic masterpiece and an undeniably immersive experience, yet it has received backlash for a lack of substance, choppy dialogue, tree-hugging propaganda, and an eerie similarity to the Smurfs.

Though such joking may seem harmless, when it comes to voting for

best picture, would a member honestly vote for a film that has become the butt of everyone's jokes? When big names like Morgan Freeman are chastising the film for being “simply cartoons,” it is hard to believe voters won't take notice, and they have: the exclusion of *Avatar* from original screenplay shows the academy recognizes the film's faults.

That is why *The Hurt Locker* will take home Best Picture and Best Director. Kathryn Bigelow's deftly crafted and superbly acted Iraq War drama has garnered the most significant wins for Best Picture, ranging from the big surprise at the Producers Guild awards (it is the lowest-grossing film ever to garner this honor), to a victory with the Directors Guild. Only six times has the winner of the DGA not won the Oscar for best direction.

As well, Bigelow is destined to become the first Oscar-winning female director. *The Hurt Locker* is a diamond in the rough, a gritty film that explores the war in Iraq with an unbiased point of view, and many are branding it the “first great Iraq War picture.” It defies conventions of a typical war movie and provides a deeply psychological look at the modern soldier. Though this indie made a measly 12 million dollars at the box office, it has just enough relevance and merit to take down *Avatar*.



Avatar, in running for the Best Picture Award, has a strong chance.

Change: for Better or Worse? Academy Hopes More Movies Means More Viewers

By Nikita Nathan
Staff Writer

Founded in 1927, the Academy Awards has been the ultimate movie awards show of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

However, lately, the number of viewers has been falling, as a result of

show's exclusivity and the type of movies

nominated, often critical favorites that few regular moviegoers get a chance to see.

To try and rectify the situation, the Academy Awards has decided to increase the nominations for Best Picture from the usual five to ten. This year's changes could potentially be the saving grace that the awards show needs, or it could fail to succeed in its overall purpose.

With the addition of more nominations, an increased number of movies will finally receive an esteemed recognition. Usually, the movies included in the Academy Awards are those that send a distinct message to the audience and evoke strong emotions. However, now, more popular and well-known movies can be included, meaning that a greater number

of people will be more eager to tune in.

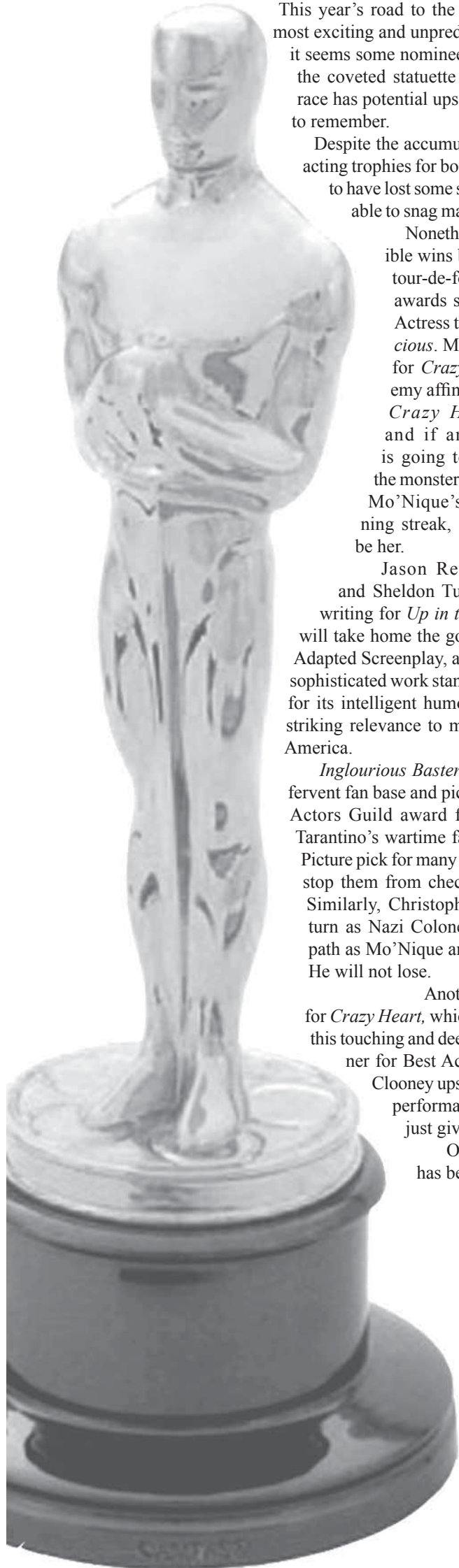
With this new feature, the Academy Awards will hopefully gather a huge increase in interest.

However, disadvantages to the change must be taken into consideration. For one, will these newly included movies actually win? Even though the number of movies eligible for awards increased, the mind-set of the Academy members may remain unchanged. These popular movies, such as *Avatar* and *The Blind Side*, could still fail to win, in comparison to the more distinctive and profound movies, like critical favorite *The Hurt Locker*. In the end, this may simply be a stunt that the Academy Awards has concocted in order to gain more viewers that might not ultimately lead to very different winners.

The Academy has taken a risk by opening its doors to a more diverse variety of movies. Though the ratings of the award show may increase ratings, the change could devalue the meaning of the Best Picture award. Although the regularly nominated films are usually obscure and unfamiliar because they are based on artistic integrity rather than on popularity, it is usually through this show that people are able to widen their film knowledge.

If more well-known movies gradually take over the Academy Awards, those small, relatively unknown films may lose the ability to gain the recognition they deserve as in many cases they have a stronger meaning than the other films.

We will have to wait and see whether resorting to this tactic will prove to be beneficial or not for this year's Academy Awards.



Mass Effect 2: Even Better than Before

By Scott Whitman
Staff Writer

Given such titles as *Bioshock 2* and *Super Mario Galaxy 2*, 2010 is truly shaping up to be the year of the videogame, with these and a slew of other outstanding titles set for release. Such is the case with developer Bioware's *Mass Effect 2*, which fulfills the promise of its predecessor, *Mass Effect*, by delivering a combination of solid game-play and compelling storyline shaped by the player's decisions, while also continuing to push the boundaries of what we should expect in a role-playing videogame.

Picking up where the first game left off, *Mass Effect 2* once again puts the player in the role of Commander Shepard. After being separated from the crew of his ship and presumed dead in the wake of the dramatic space battle, Shepard must assemble a motley band of the best (and most deadly) to take the fight to the enemy.

The most distinctive feature of the game is the characters who drive the story forward. Through the distinctive "conversation wheel" pioneered in the first game, players control Shepard through the game's real-time dialogues and cut-scenes by quickly selecting an emotional response (ranging from self-serving "Renegade" to selfless "Para-

gon") from the wheel. Featuring an all-star voice cast and the addition of a new quick-time interrupt system, the characters come across to the gamer as convincing and intriguing. In addition, the players of *Mass Effect 1* will be able to import their character from the previous game—their choices therefore impacting and shaping the world in the second game. *Mass Effect 2* thus often feels less like a typical videogame than an interactive movie in which the player takes center stage.

Cinematic and plot-driven though *Mass Effect 2* may be, it also delivers a rock solid performance as a third-person action game. The action has been refined to the point that even general fans of shooters will find a lot to like here, and though it won't be long before one masters the basics of combat, higher difficulty levels will require a true understanding of how to strategically command and combine raw power, tactics, and one's two AI teammates.

Certainly, BioWare seems to have listened to every last bit of criticism leveled at *Mass Effect 1*, as all of the flaws from the first game have been corrected. *Mass Effect 2* offers a significantly cleaner experience than that of its predecessor, a game that suffered from a number of presentational and technical issues.



Generic cut-and-paste side quests and empty planets to explore have been completely ripped out and replaced with enough variety to fill two game discs. Additionally, the convoluted inventory and skill systems from the first game have been streamlined. With time an unprecedented strength and depth emerges as the characters and squads are further customized.

Though no game can ever be impeccable, *Mass Effect 2* comes closer to such perfection than any other single player game in the past decade. It is an experience that no gamer should miss.

Guess Who's Back?

After Thirteen Years, Sublime and Other Bands Reform

By Eric Pestana
Staff Writer

Nobody likes a breakup. Whether in the music industry or between a couple, it's saddening to witness a torn partnership. Countless acts that originated in the '90s were laid victim to various degrees of separation, including Sublime, Soundgarden, Blink-182, and more. 2010 brings back hope for numerous beloved acts of the past two decades.

In 1996, guitarist, singer, and songwriter Bradley Nowell died of a heroin overdose, leaving his two bandmates with no choice but to end the band Sublime. However, after a thirteen-year hiatus, Sublime has reformed. The band that created hits such as "Santeria" and "What I Got" is back for more. Remaining members

Bud Gaugh and Eric Wilson have entrusted young guitarist and singer Rome Ramirez to be the replacement.

Some fans are skeptical of Ramirez's ability and believe that the band will not be the same. This sentiment relates to how Nowell's comrades initially decided against finding a replacement immediately following his death.

A tribute band named Badfish, after one of Sublime's early hits, assembled in 2001 to carry on. With the success of



this band, it became unclear as to whether the real Sublime would ever return.

However, after fourteen years, they have finally found a match to continue Nowell's legacy. Although a portion of the group's admirers may still refuse to accept a Sublime without Nowell, the rest can appreciate the new music that the band will make.

Since the reunion, a legal dispute has risen about the band using Sublime as their name. After negotiations, the band reached

an agreement to use the name "Sublime with Rome." Although the band may not be exactly as it once was, it's still a treat to have such respectable musicians return with a promising new face.

Not only is Sublime making a comeback, but after twelve years, singer Chris Cornell is reuniting his first noteworthy band Soundgarden, which produced '90s hits "Black Hole Sun" and "Spoonman," recognizable today as songs from the Rock Band video games.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are also returning after a four-year break with a new guitarist. Blink-182 is set to release new music this year as well, after extensive touring last year following their bitter six-year breakup.

Needless to say, 2010 is an exciting year for rock.

"Jersey Shore": The Little Show That Could

By Christina Collins
Staff Writer

Before this year, New Jersey was best characterized by the images of warm beaches in the summertime, blue collared Italian boys, and songs by Bruce Springsteen. However, nobody expected the "Great Jersey Controversy" which erupted from the latest MTV series *Jersey Shore* in late 2009.

During the first few episodes, *Jersey Shore* appeared to be just another cookie-cutter MTV reality show. It had all of the same components as the rest: a group of outspoken young adults living together, late nights filled with clubbing, and long days on the beach.



It was the East Coast's answer to *The Hills*. And for these first few episodes, despite the shameless promotional commercials, courtesy of major corporations such as Domino's Pizza, that's exactly what it was. *Jersey Shore*, even with its loudmouthed cast and colorful wardrobe, failed to catch the media's attention until Nicole "Snookie" Polizzi, pint-sized star and self-proclaimed "Princess of Poughkeepsie," was very publicly assaulted by a man while

the show was on the air.

Since then, the show's popularity has rocketed. The stars — such as Snookie, Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, DJ Pauly DelVecchio, and Jenni "J-WOWW" Farley — have now become household names. The entire West Coast has learned the term "guido," and the image it entails: Ed Hardy shirts, gelled hair, that ridiculous fist-pumpin' dance, and fake tans. Cast members are raking in the cash due to constant MTV airplay and exposure, appearing on talk shows, and, most surprisingly, appearances at private parties. Lesser-known cast members, like Ronnie Magro and his girl, Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola, receive around \$3,000 for the pair of them to show up at a gig. However, good things must come in small packages because little Snookie racks up at least \$7,500 per appearance. It seems that America has found its new "it crowd"—at least, for a little while.

But with all of the success that *Jersey Shore* has had this past winter season—including its record-breaking 4.8 million viewers for the season finale, the most for any episode of an MTV show's first season—can America expect more fist pumpin' action next year? For now, rumor has it that negotiations for a second sensational season with the same cast are currently in discussion (MTV has yet to officially release a statement; fan favorite and resident mama's boy Vinny Guadagnino accidentally spilled the beans at a press party).

Apparently, disputes have arisen between MTV executives and *Shore* cast members over raising their pay to at least \$10,000 per episode, pushing back the confirmation for Season 2. Imagine how much hair product Pauly D could buy with that much dough!

However, controversy almost kept the show from finishing its first season. It began when star Snookie received a nasty blow to the face by a man at a bar. MTV was forced to pull the clip from the episode before it even aired, and sponsors dropped *Jersey Shore* immediately. *Jersey Shore* has also been called a "racist" show: Italian-American organizations protested against it, claiming that "guido" is a derogatory term. However, if you ask *Shore* star the Situation, he claims that a guido is just "a good-looking Italian guy."

Jersey Shore ultimately proved to be the "little show that could" this winter season, fighting against obstacles and overcoming the odds—and there were a lot of them. For now, we can only hope that the original cast will sign up for another train wreck of a season for our own sick enjoyment. And who knows, whatever "the situation" may be, Snookie always has some way of attracting media attention. Maybe she'll get the spinoff she's been working toward: how does *Snookin' for Love* sound, MTV?

MONARCH CRITICS

Gombeï

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Brandon Roosenboom
Staff Writer



If one wants to get a real taste of what Japanese food is like, Gombeï is the place to go. Compared to other Japanese restaurants that serve Americanized versions of Japanese food, the food here better epitomizes what is a valued part of Japanese culture. Located at the intersection of Lawrence and Homestead, this restaurant prides itself on its authentic Japanese food, serving meals that include noodles, grilled meats, tofu, and homemade broths made of *shoyu* (soy sauce), meat stock (fish, beef, pork), and vegetables.

Most grilled items and curries at Gombeï are served over rice—their menu includes teriyaki, sushi, *udon* noodles, curry, and a multitude of appetizers and side orders. While Gombeï doesn't have an extensive sushi menu, the selections available are of the highest quality. One particularly delicious dish is the exotic *Mirugai* (clam sushi), which will delight any sushi lover. Other tasty dishes are the Beef Teriyaki, which features a perfect balance in sauce that is not too sweet or salty, and Mixed Udon, made from a rich-flavored homemade broth. The only noticeable flaw in the food served was the placement of a little too much wasabi under the fish, leaving an unwanted burning taste.

Along with the great food comes excellent service. Every waiter is enthusiastic when taking an order, contributing to the lively atmosphere of the restaurant. With its reasonable pricing and outstanding quality, Gombeï guarantees an exceptional dining experience.

Dear John

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Alyssa Caban
Staff Writer



Based on Nicholas Sparks' novel, *Dear John* portrays the successes and the downfalls of a romantic relationship between John (Channing Tatum) and Savannah (Amanda Seyfried), propagated by the struggles of a long-distance relationship caused by John's commitment to the army.

This film, although a tearjerker like *A Walk to Remember* and *The Notebook*, was not as fulfilling as those movies based on Sparks' novels. Readers of the book would say the movie differs especially because of the lack of transitions between scenes, resulting in a sense of incoherency. In addition, the chemistry between Tatum and Seyfried was flat, leaving the viewers wanting to see more passion in their relationship.

Despite these faults, the movie did have strong points. Female viewers would say the film brought tears to their eyes—a valid statement, for there were scenes that were definitely emotional, especially the silent scenes. Although the story line of a relationship gone wrong when a man leaves for the army after falling in love over two weeks of spring break sounds cliché, many moments go beyond the standards of the cliché and were heartfelt and captivating.

The conflicts presented, dealing with tough love, as well as the power of true love ties are intriguing and it is safe to say that the audience never lose interest. Overall, the film is worth watching, however, viewers should not enter this movie with high expectations, as they would have with previous Nicholas Sparks' movies.

Edge of Darkness

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Tessa Krey
Staff Writer



In *Edge of Darkness*, starring Mel Gibson as Thomas Craven, a Boston homicide detective investigates the brutal murder of his activist daughter, Emma (Bojana Novakovic). Be warned: Despite the trailer, this movie offers very little action, a disappointing truth for viewers who wish to be on the edge of their seats for the duration of the film. The movie is unexpectedly depressing, having a dark, heavy tone more similar to, for instance, *The Departed* than to last year's *Taken*, which it has been constantly compared to.

It is a dramatic thriller, and most of the action is reserved for the end.

All of the acting was superb, particularly that of Gibson, who plays the part masterfully, not over-dramatically, portraying the perfect mixture of a grieving father and a vengeful cop. It's been several years since he's starred in a film, but his acting makes it feel as if he never left. He is very believable as the man who has nothing to lose, and he truly made the movie. Ray Winstone, who plays Jedburgh, a CIA agent, did a fantastic job as well, especially considering the challenge of depicting his character's mysterious nature, and Martin Campbell, the director effectively gets across the dark atmosphere of the movie to viewers.

Unfortunately, in regards to Emma's murder, there were no big twists. About half way through the film, the identities of the main conspirators become fairly apparent to the audience. However, there is still plenty of suspense, and certain death scenes are intriguing and appropriately violent. Just remember that *Edge of Darkness* is, above all else, a gritty drama/thriller, and, if you're looking for an action/adventure, it's not here.

Legion

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer



Directed by Scott Charles Stewart, a visual effects artist for hits such as *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and *Iron Man*, *Legion* is a film that contemplates the good and evil forces at work in man. God, greatly angered by the way mankind now lives, decides to bring about the end of the race. He instructs his angels to possess] humans, ultimately leading them to their doom. The only hope for man's survival is left to the archangel Michael (Paul Bettany) and a handful of humans in a secluded diner on the Mojave Dessert, including the diner's owner Bob (Dennis Quaid), his son Jeep (Lucas Black), and the pregnant waitress Charlie (Adrienne Palicki).

The film features many intriguing biblical references throughout—elements of both the Old and New Testaments are present, providing interesting parallels between the Bible and life in the present day. In addition, the movie conveys that it is important to have hope even when it seems as if there is none left.

Unfortunately, this movie is regrettably disappointing—although it has great potential, it lacks clarity. Consequently, the plot comes across as confusing. For example, the reason why God would choose to annihilate humans by the method of possessing them remains unknown throughout the entire movie. Plot details aside, the sloppy editing also contributes to the film's overall incongruity. *Legion* leaves many loose ends by the conclusion of the movie, leaving the audience harboring more questions than answers.

The Sea

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Ryan Meyer
Staff Writer



It has been four years since Corinne Bailey Rae's Grammy-winning, self-titled debut album and two years since the sudden death of her husband halted the conception of her follow-up disc. "I didn't write anything for ages," she told *Entertainment Weekly* in January. "I couldn't think of anything. Everything was just a total blank... All of that seemed pointless, meaningless."

The Sea is a testament to an artist changed. Many of the tracks on Bailey Rae's new album present an edgier, more adventurous sound, as her lyrics are embedded with a pensiveness and heartbreak, clearly informed by her tragedy. The song that most directly addresses her loss is the poignant lead-off track, "Are You Here," a romantic portrait of a lover calling out to a lost partner. There is an apparent artist's catharsis in the work that makes for very affecting and redeeming listening.

There are, as well, a few upbeat songs on the playlist. "The Blackest Lily" may be the album's best, a track that is the most fun to listen to, thanks to a rousing chorus. Highlights include "I'd Do It All Again," written by the artist immediately following a fight with her husband two months before he died, and the fun though slightly less substantial "Paris Nights/New York Mornings." A few of the later songs are a little forgettable, but Bailey Rae's distinctive, soothing, and masterful voice could make anything worth a listen.

Though it will not produce a radio-friendly hit like her last album, *The Sea* is a sophisticated work that is a rewarding experience because of Bailey Rae. Listening to this fine collection of songs is witnessing the personal resurgence of a true artist.

Hands

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Andy Vo
Staff Writer



With divas like Lady Gaga and Ke\$ha quickly establishing themselves as the new leaders of the pop scene, the question can be asked: who's next? One of the rising stars in contention is certainly Victoria Hesketh, better known by her stage name of Little Boots.

Already a major success in Europe, Little Boots is now bringing her brand of sleek electro-pop to the states with her debut album *Hands*, scheduled for release in the U.S. on March 2.

Compared to artists such as Lady Gaga, Little Boots' voice lacks a distinctive quality, which she makes up for through her melodies and very stylized vocal approach to her music.

While there are no real weak links in the album, some of the tracks fall short, such as "Ghost," "Tune in my Heart," and "Math," compared to songs like "Symmetry" featuring Human League's Phil Oakley and the undeniably catchy "Every Little Earthquake."

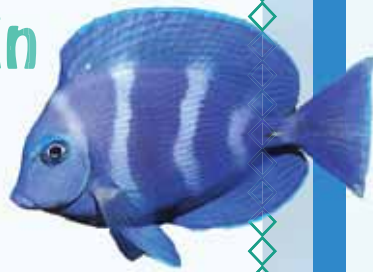
Other standout songs on the album are the lead U.S. single "New in Town" which showcases her love for synths and catchy choruses, and the RedOne produced "Remedy" with its club-ready beat and fun lyrics.

Little Boots' music will easily charm any lover of pop. Lyrically pleasing, Little Boots shows off her ability for creating smooth and well-groomed pop music.

With her enchanting lyrics and well-produced electronic sounds, Little Boots shows she is easily able to create a masterpiece within her perfectly capable "Hands".

What did YOU do when you were in high school?

By Nhi Nguyen & Ekta Partani
Staff Writers



Let's sail around the world in 80 days. No – wait! . Forget the time limit...that's old news. You should sail around the world alone and unassisted! Not up for the journey? Well, some enthusiastic teens have taken up the challenge.

In 1999, at the age of seventeen, Australian sailor Jesse Martin set off to sail around the globe on his boat, *Lionheart*. Traveling in solitude and facing turbulent weather were the most difficult challenges for Martin.

To stay motivated during his journey, Martin would envision a day at sea with perfect weather. After 328 days, Martin had successfully completed his voyage, breaking the record for the youngest sailor to circumnavigate the world solo, nonstop, and unassisted.

Attempting to beat Martin's record, seventeen year old Zac Sutherland set sail from Marina del Rey on June 14, 2008 in an *Islander* – one of the highest ranking sailboats of all time.

His goal to sail around the world took him from the Marshall Islands to Australia to the Cape of Good Hope and finally back to the Pacific. On paper, this voyage sounds exotic and simple; in reality, however, not everything was smooth sailing.

Sutherland had close encounters with pirates, weathered rough winds, and even celebrated his 17th birthday alone while at sea. But finally, after a long voyage, on July 16, 2009

—after 13 months and 2 days at sea—Sutherland had become the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe unassisted.

Within six short weeks, Sutherland's well-deserved title was threatened by the efforts of Mike Perham.

In 2009, Perham became the youngest person to circle the globe—but he didn't manage to snag the Sutherland's coveted tagline of "unassisted sailor"; Sutherland's record still stands.

Perham began his journey on November 15, 2008, in Portsmouth England in a chartered *Open 50* yacht and finished his journey on August 27, 2009.

Although Perham was initially competing to be the youngest unassisted sailor to circle the globe without stopping, he was not able to meet his goal because problems with his yacht forced him to make a stop over in Lisbon and the Canary Island so that repairs could be made.

Nevertheless, Perham's feat was quite an accomplishment, and he was even able to use the money raised by his voyage to make a donation to organizations such as Save the Children and the Tall Ships Youth Trust.

Martin, Sutherland, and Perham weren't the only ones to attempt this feat. Sixteen-year-old Jessica Watson set sail on October 18, 2009, with the intention of giving the boys a run for their money.

During a trial run in early September, Watson's yacht had collided with a sea freighter, drawing much skepticism from the public.

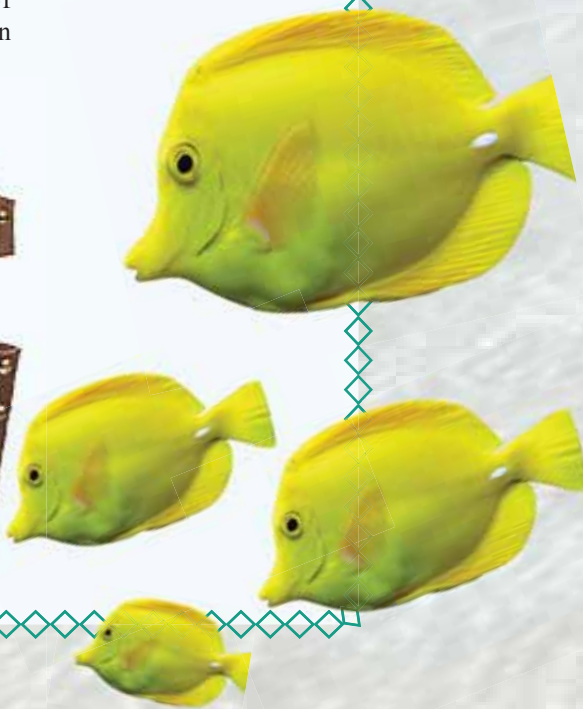
However, Watson insisted that she is an experienced and qualified sailor who has already sailed 10,000 nautical miles, maintaining her determination. Her claims have proven to be accurate so far.

On January 23, 2010, Watson faced her toughest challenge thus far: she experienced a violent storm with strong winds up to 70 knots and waves reaching 7-10 meters while crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Despite the difficult conditions, Watson managed to navigate through the storm passing her 38,000 nautical mile journey's halfway mark. Watson is expected to return in May, and it will be determined then whether or not she will have broken Sutherland's record as the youngest person to sail around the world solo.

Sailing the world requires some serious determination and courage, and these teens have proven they have what it takes. Clearly, one's youth shouldn't be an impediment to achieving one's goals.

Now, the question that remains is: what lies ahead on their horizons? And furthermore, what will YOU do during your high school career?



STINKING MESS OF OUR SEAS

By Jocelyn Tan
Staff Writer

Pristine. Pure. Unpredictable. Standing on an isolated waterfront, these are just a few words that come to mind as we gaze across the ocean's vast expanse of blue and behold its exotic immensity. It is hard to appreciate the sea's natural wonders, however, without realizing that recent civilization has not done a great job of showing its appreciation considering the incredible conglomeration of trash that has accumulated in our aquatic ecosystem.

Just like with the air we breathe, we must not underestimate the potential hazards that human contaminants bring to marine habitats. Since the dawn of the industrial age, our oceans have been swallowing extensive amounts of our eco-unfriendly waste.

Marine debris range from city storm sewage to the cans and beverage bottles that we leave at our lunch tables. Although,

at first, fish may be hooked to the seducing morsels of inedible confetti suspended above their heads, their lives are at risk as they swim into the unnecessary consequences of our trash.

Deposited pollutants ensnare animals both above and below the surface, such as sea turtles, seals, whales and birds; these creatures are often choked or poisoned after mistaking marine debris for food. Furthermore, our waste creates a suffocating layer of filth that blocks vital oxygen and sunlight from entering the home of thriving underwater communities. Oceanic greenhouse effect, anyone?

Evidence of the not-so-shiny side of industry also prevails because ten percent of the two hundred sixty million tons of plastic produced each year contributes to unhealthy and unsightly garbage patches that have amassed on the surface of our oceans. Right off our western coast lies the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (a.k.a. Pacific Trash Vortex). Sandwiched between Hawaii and California and twice the size of Texas, the Vortex is eighty percent land-based flotsam that finds its way into this

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UNDER THE

Focus

Frank Pope once said, "We know far more sea. We have explored less than five percent of it laid their eyes upon, save for a few scientists and creatures found on our little blue planet."

Vampire Squid

What has a black cape, glowing red eyes, and a critter that lives up to a thousand meters below, the *squid* from hell). The vampire squid gets its name because its red tentacles are arranged like a cape, and its eyes are so close together that it has the uncanny ability to draw its arms over its body. This prehistoric specimen is the only existing

Mimic Octopus

An amazing species named the Mimic Octopus has the ability to mimic more than fifteen different aquatic animals. In Indonesia, the mimic octopus is the first known species able to copy the physical likeness and movement of flatfish, brittle star, giant crabs, seashell, stingray, and the ability to mimic you.

Strange Creatures that Dwell Below

By Katrina Vokt
Staff Writer

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ceive abundant supplies
y from its currents and
ound oil reserves. So
question is: what are
g to *give back* to our
ot fertilizer for the
patch, I hope.

UNDERWATER FILMS

By Lisa Patel
Staff Writer

When it comes to making unforgettable films, there's something magical about the combination of animals, kids, and the ocean. Throw in a dash of the power of friendship and you've got a winning formula: a movie that will capture the hearts of millions while broadening our appreciation for the wonders of the sea.

Who can forget the popular *Free Willy* series that began in 1993 and captured the hearts of numerous children all over the country? Starring Keiko the orca whale, the *Free Willy* series is about the friendship between a teenager and a killer whale, and the

healing power animals can have on us.

Following this theme of friendship and the healing power of underwater animals is the movie *Flipper*, which is similar in theme but much more lighthearted and also involving a dolphin instead of an orca. The dolphin that played Flipper quickly gained the adoration of many children in addition to skyrocketing the popularity of dolphins as favorite animals.

When talking about childhood underwater movies, who can forget the classic *Little Mermaid*? With its catchy songs, lovable characters, and happily-ever-after plot, this

movie quickly became one of the most beloved Disney movies ever, and Sebastian the crabby crab also became a staple at Disney World's amusement parks.

One cannot leave out *Finding Nemo*, which, in my opinion, is possibly one of the greatest movies of all time. With a lovable clownfish, seagulls, and sea turtles, this movie truly is an underwater tale of adventure suited for everyone, not just children.

Regardless of when these underwater-themed movies were released, they continue to appeal to the masses and occupy the top spots of our best-movies-of-all-time list.

s Goes

THE SEA



about the dark side of the Moon than about the bottom of the sea." The sea is teeming with creatures most humans have never seen. Here's a list of some of the most bizarre sea

...s, and can turn its self inside out? None other than that six inch vampire squid (*Vampyroteuthis infernalis*, lit. "vampire squid") is from its ghoulish appearance: its webbed jet black or pale blue glow blue and red in certain lighting. The vampire squid also can turn itself when threatened to form a defensive web that covers its entire body. It is a member of the order Vampyromorphida.

...Octopus (*Thaumoctopus mimicus*) has acquired the remarkable ability to take on the characteristics of multiple species. It is a mimetic species of organisms including, but not limited to sea snakes, lionfish, jellyfish, and sea anemone. Who knows? Maybe it even has



Polaroid Photos!



The Proposal
starring the Wesmillers

By Rebecca Organ
Staff Writer

...Mrs. Wesmiller knew that Mr. Wesmiller was going to propose to her that summer, but that was all she knew.

Even Mr. Wesmiller, who was intending to do so while on their cruise to Tahiti, didn't have an official plan, rather intending to make it up as he went along. After getting approval from her parents, Mr. Wesmiller waited until the second to last day when the cruise ship had taken a stop in order to pop the question.

Unbeknownst to her, he had brought the wedding ring along with him as he snorkeled out, and practiced dropping the ring into the crystal clear water. Every single time, it sat perfectly in the sand.

After convincing Mrs. Wesmiller to snorkel with him, it was time to perform. He pointed. She looked. He dropped the ring. It disappeared. Oops.

Panicked, Mr. Wesmiller frantically began digging in the sand around. Seeing him, Mrs. Wesmiller came up for air.

When Mr. Wesmiller finally emerged out of the water, she repeatedly asked him what he was doing. He initially replied, "Nothing," but later admitted to losing her ring in the sand. Although skeptical at first, she eventually believed him, replied with an, "Okay, let's go!" and dove back under.

Five seconds into their search, Mr. Wesmiller found the ring and an enthusiastic Mrs. Wesmiller screamed "Yes! Yes! Yes!" though he hadn't even proposed yet. A few months later, the couple was married in a private ceremony in Georgia, and now the Wesmillers are surely a hit pair on campus.

Blob Fish

This strange creature looks more like a cartoon character than a fish. At least it would, if the cartoon was about the unfortunate adventures of the grumpiest, ugliest fish on earth. The Blobfish (*Psychrolutes microporosus*) can't help it, though. To live at the intense pressure of 1000m and more, its body must be made up of a gelatinous material slightly less dense than water. The jelly allows it to float just above the sea floor without expending energy to swim. In other words, it is just as lazy as it is ugly.

Barreleye Fish

Try to imagine having a transparent forehead. Can't? Well this fish doesn't have to. The Barreleye fish (*Macropinna microstoma*) is a small, dark creature with large fins and a fascinating pair of eyes. The barreleye's eyes are surrounded by a transparent, fluid-filled shield that covers the top of its head. In simpler terms, it has a see through head. Not freaky enough? Its eyes are a globular mass that can rotate freely to peer up at potential prey or focus forward to see what it is eating. Not the kind of fish you want to bump into on your next scuba diving excursion. The two dark indents on its face that appear to be eyes are actually nostrils. This species was first discovered after fishermen hauled up a mangled specimen from the deep in 1939. The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute recently captured the first footage of its kind, alive, with its transparent dome intact.

Down in the abyss of the ocean lies an alien world in which only a few have been privileged to glimpse. [Who knows what other strange creatures will wash up on our shores today?](#)



Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



Marissa McPeak

Marissa is a sophomore here at Mitty, who lives in San Jose. She enjoys swimming on the school team, and drawing what inspires her.

What attracted you to photography in the first place?
I'm really drawn to the idea of capturing something that you see and making it more beautiful with editing skills.

What is your favorite thing to photograph?
Nature. I love its various forms controlled by different seasons, and the beauty of the sky, water, and sunlight.

What inspires you?
Mostly other artists on a website called deviantart. So many talented artists create such beautiful work in that community.

Describe the favorite photo you've taken:
I really like something about the dragon photo. I'm happy with the composition too. I had a string of Christmas lights behind the dragon that gave off a nice orange glow against the blue shadows.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?
I would love to have a career in professional photography, and be featured in a museum or exhibit. Or possibly get into advertising photography, or maybe travel the world to take photos!

How would you describe your photographic style?
Colorful, bright, and expressive. I try to be original, and create a photo that appeals to the eye.





*"The mix of the rain and the city was really interesting, so I decided to focus on the less obvious aspect: the rain."
—Hillary Houghton*



*"This picture was originally supposed to be taken in a cloudy setting, but the sun unexpectedly highlighted the picture in unique areas."
—Lauren Masch*



*"I was on the Agape retreat walking through a garden, and everything covered in dew inspired me to photograph it."
—Andrea Fieber*

Snapshots



*"I really loved how perfect and distinct the pier's shadow was in the water. It translated really well into a photo."
—Taryn Spiller*

CONFESSE
WINNER

ALEX RAMIREZ



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

WORLD AFFAIRS

By **Angela Hodge**
Justice Editor

The center of Peru's economy is shifting from coca to cacao. The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has pledged to assist Peru in replacing its number one export, coca, with legal crops. Coca is central in the manufacture of cocaine, the illegal trafficking of which is both economically unstable and politically unsafe. San Martin, a large province of Peru, has spearheaded the effort to take advantage of Peru's natural potential for production of quality chocolate.

Peter Sawali, of the **South African country Malawi**, was arrested for putting up gay-rights posters. If he is convicted, his sentence will include hard labor, months in prison, and a small fine. In Malawi, homosexuality is considered an illegal act; convicted homosexual individuals can be punished with a maximum of 14 years in prison. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch have urged Mawali's government to reconsider its treatment of homosexuality as a crime.

The organization Jews Say No demonstrated in New York to protest Israel's occupation of **Gaza**, specifically the blockade that now prevents construction materials from crossing into Gaza in order to rebuild miles of destroyed homes, businesses and farms. The occupation of Gaza is the longest-running military occupation in decades; organizations like Jews Say No represent the dissatisfaction that Jews worldwide feel due to Israeli governmental oppression of Palestinians.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has confirmed instructions for the enrichment of uranium production in **Iran**, despite protest from Western nuclear watchdogs. The United States and Germany have both threatened sanctions against Tehran; on February 5 the U.N. Security Council members (USA, China, Russia, Britain, and France) met to discuss a response to the Iranian effort to upgrade its nuclear fuel.

A MODERN TAKE ON HEALTH CARE

By **Manosai Eerabathini**
Staff Writer

Despite President Obama's agreeable campaign slogan of "Yes we can," he has been unable to reform health care to insure all Americans. The concept of federally sponsored coverage is not at all a novel one. Originating from the Social Security Act of 1965, Medicare and Medicaid were some of the first efforts to provide health insurance to eligible citizens of certain criteria such as income-level and age. Each president since Lyndon B. Johnson has dealt with the issue of health care in a nation where 15% of the population is uninsured.

Taking the platform of universal healthcare, Obama has pushed for the creation of a National Health Insurance Exchange which would feature both private plans and a federal option.

Though Obama favors a largely revolutionary stance,

he is not the first president to embark on a journey to universalize health care. In 1994, this objective was also a primary concern for former president Bill Clinton. Clinton's campaign for health care standardization is eerily similar to Obama's effort for reform. Laboring tirelessly for 10 months, Clinton aides were able to output a 240,000 word bill that detailed his intentions. This spectacular proposal was just as remarkably shot down with overwhelming resistance from not just the GOP, but much of the public as well.

History may indeed be repeating itself. 16 years later, Obama seeks to ensure health insurance to 47 million uncovered Americans without overhauling cost to the government or individual citizens. The most formidable obstacle to this noble plan is the utter lack of coordinated, bipartisan support which is key to achieving success. While the Democrats may lobby in support of a health care bill endlessly, the obstructionism of the GOP may simply lead them to continuously vote against such a proposal.

The first glimmer of hope for Obama's plan came on Nov. 7 when the House of Representatives approved a sweeping overhaul of the nation's health care by 5 votes. The Affordable Health Care for America Act was passed as a legislative bill that ensured nondiscriminatory coverage

regardless of a patients' medical histories.

But even this token of confidence is being placed in jeopardy with the recent upset Republican victory for the Massachusetts Senate seat. Losing the 60th vote needed to block the Republican filibuster only threatens the oscillating support of the bill between the two parties. It seems as though any progressive step forward is met with a detrimental two steps back—a perpetual gridlock.

During his State of the Union, Obama made it clear that he would continue to push forth with his own bill of universal health care. Even after Scott Brown had shockingly won the Senate seat, the President persisted in his ideals and has tried to inspire confidence in those who support universal care.

Although Obama did promise that he would bring change, so far he has nothing to show for it in the area of health care. The prospect of reform seems unlikely at the moment considering the deep, partisan differences between the two parties. Marketing the bill to the American public has been a continuous focus of the Obama administration. Now, that focus must shift towards ensuring bipartisan support within Congress so that any chance of successful reform can be fully realized.

CHARITY IN CRISIS? { HOW THE RECESSION IS AFFECTING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

By **Kanishka Khanna**
Staff Writer

Christmas 2009 marked yet another successful end to Mitty's annual Christmas drive for underprivileged San Jose families. The Teens for Teens program, initiated by senior Katherine Edgecumbe four years ago, was a resounding success. Each National Honors society member and California Scholarship Federation Member was asked to donate a little something for the teens in the Bay Area whose families could not afford presents. The Mitty community came together yet again and showed its charitable spirit. Program coordinator and NHS/CSF head Ms. Janie Falcone said in an email to members:

"Happy New Year and a special thank you for bringing in a gift for 'Teens for Teens' in December. A van full of items and many, many gift cards were collected. We were very close to 100% participation."

This sort of giving spirit is rare in these times of economic turmoil. The good old days – when in any one year some 70% of Americans gave to charity, and those with jobs tended to give about 3% of their income – are gone, at least for now. The Great Recession, as coined by some expert economists, has tightened the belts of every American family, corporation and organization. A lack of cash flow has severely affected general philanthropy, and simply giving money to a charity has become a luxury that many cannot even dream about.

During the last 40 years, according to data provided by Giving USA, charitable giving fell in real terms (i.e., adjusted for inflation) in years in which the economy was in recession, or in years in which there was a significant stock market dislocation.

"The way the economy goes determines how charity goes," said Melissa Brown, associate director of research at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Una Osili, interim director of research at the Center on Philanthropy, points out that more than 93% of fundraisers said the economy is affecting their jobs negatively, "including 28.5% who reported a very negative impact. However, just over 21% of those surveyed expect the economic impact to be positive six months from now."

In times of turmoil it is important for people to stand together and do whatever they can to help those who can't help themselves. Stories of empathy and faith such as the one President Obama shared during the State of the Union of the "8-year-old boy in Louisiana, who just sent [him] his allowance and asked if [he] would give it to the people of Haiti," continue to give us hope in these dark times.

As each of us at home decide to stay in rather than a dinner out, or watch a TV movie rather than venture into the closest AMC, it is important to remember that there are those who are cutting back much more than we could imagine.

Now is hardly the time to forget to extend a helping hand. Philanthropy should be considered a necessity not a luxury.

HAITI HOPE amidst the HORROR

By Olivia Bartz
Staff Writer

Prior to its 7.0 earthquake, Haiti already qualified as one of the most economically disadvantaged countries. Now that the earthquakes have hit, Haiti has entered a new level of economic devastation. This is a time when they cannot possibly stand alone. In response to this crisis, many world leaders have become sources of hope for a sustainable future in Haiti.

(1) Three days after the earthquake struck, President Barack Obama promised, "You will not be forsaken. You will not be forgotten. In this, your hour of greatest need, America stands with you." The President has followed through on this sentiment, as he promised \$100 million along with American troops for relief effort to Haiti.

(2) The United Kingdom has provided \$10 million in aid to Haiti and has pledged another \$22 million. It established a fairly quick response time to the damage as the U.K. government flew out 71 search and rescue teams as well as two search dogs the day after the earthquake struck in hopes of finding survivors.

(3) Prior to the quake, Haiti was Canada's second largest aid recipient. Due to the recent additional damage caused by the quake, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that Canada would be issuing an additional \$5 million to Haiti.

(4) President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil offered to send \$15 million in humanitarian aid to the devastated country of Haiti. His government also announced as of January 21 that Brazil's goal is to ultimately send a total of \$375 million to Haiti, accompanied by a total of 2,200 troops to aid the relief effort.

(5) The Italian government responded with direct medical support as they flew a field hospital and emergency medical team to the country. It additionally sent 920 military personnel to work with reconstruction and rescue assistance.

By Betsy Thomas
Staff Writer

Not only world leaders are pledging aid to the Haitians: everyday citizens are making a remarkable impact by opening up their wallets to assist the earthquake victims. Will you be among them?

Lending a hand may be easier than you think. Such organizations as UNICEF and CARE use money donated by citizens to deploy clean water, shelter, and food to the earthquake victims, as well as to provide services that reunite lost children with their families. Money can be donated online in mere minutes through the websites of UNICEF and CARE, along with numerous others, including Save the Children, the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund, Direct Relief, and the Red Cross.

To make donating even more accessible, the following organizations are accepting SMS donations: SMS text "HAITI" to 90999 to donate \$10 to Red Cross relief efforts, SMS text "YELE" to 501501 to donate \$5 to the Yele Haiti's Earthquake Relief efforts, or SMS text "GIVE10" to 20222 to donate \$10 to Direct Relief. The Haitian earthquake victims are in tremendous need of assistance – through one easy donation, you can make a difference.

BY THE NUMBERS

01.12.2010- Earthquake of 7.0 magnitude devastated Haiti.

54 AFTERSHOCKS from January 30 onwards (4.5 or greater in magnitude)

230,000 estimated dead by Haitian government.

\$733,707,082 - Estimated amount of money given (by government alone) to victims.

\$183 MILLION - United States

\$131 MILLION - Canada

\$100 MILLION - World Bank

\$75 MILLION - Japan

\$46 MILLION - Spain



SPORTS

Soccer: Crunch-Time

Women in CCS Playoffs

Men End Tough Season

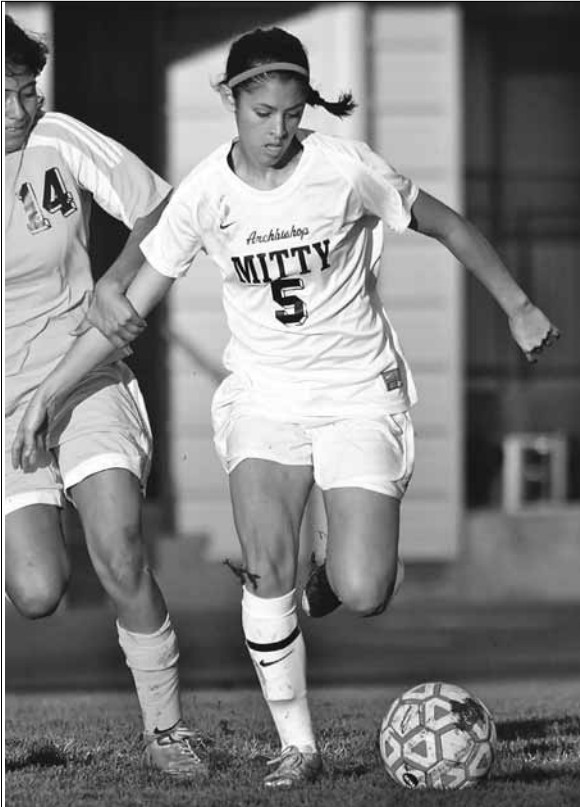


Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Junior Alana Sooy dribbles past rival St. Francis.

By Mona Patel
Staff Writer

As decades of impressive performances have shown, Mitty athletes know how to win. They know what they want, and they go after it with unyielding determination.

This year's Archbishop Mitty Women's Soccer team is no exception: on the field and off, they do everything they can to achieve their goal. They've achieved a regular season record of 13-4-3 (9-3-0 in WCAL play).

And it's no easy goal either—when asked what they were striving toward this season, seniors Amanda Turini, Crystal Shaffie, and Monique Rootsart all replied that it was to win CCS finals.

Rootsart elaborates, saying, "We are determined to make it become a reality because we have the talent, skill, and heart that most high school soccer teams don't have."

As seniors, they want to make this season a memorable one, and they have been putting in the effort needed to achieve their goals.

In addition to logging countless hours on the field during practice to hone their skills, the Monarchs also make preparations off the field for their upcoming games.

"You start by doing the little things

because eventually they pay off, such as always having water to keep yourself hydrated, eating pasta to get carbs into your system, doing extra sprints during practice, sometimes taking an ice bath, or even skipping a dance to get rest for the game the next day. Soccer is a sport like no other. Soccer takes commitment," says Rootsart.

The Monarchs started the season in early December with a 2-1 win against Leland High School.

They then went on to defeat both Monta Vista and St. Ignatius, wins that helped catapult the team into the ESPN RISE Top 20.

Towards the end of December, they entered the challenging Tri-Valley Classic tournament, defeating teams such as Carondelet and Foothill, only to suffer a loss against nationally ranked San Ramon Valley.

They then played a conference game against Presentation, which despite their efforts they ended up losing 0-1.

However, the Monarchs did not let this minor setback be a detriment to their playing—instead, they focused on what they needed to improve on and defeated Presentation in a rousing 3-0 win later in the season.

Being a team sport, soccer obviously requires a strong level of connection between all the players.

One way in which the team helps establish this is through a team retreat in which, as Shaffie describes, "We really... bonded and got to know each other a lot more. We were laughing the whole night!"

The team also gets positive encouragement from Turini, who despite being unable to currently play due to an ACL injury, remarks that she tries to "get myself in a positive attitude for my teammates and do my best to get them mentally ready for the game."

The team was certainly mentally ready in its first round WCAL playoff victory over Sacred Heart Cathedral. Led by three goals from senior Crystal Shaffie, the Monarchs defeated the Fightin' Irish 5-1 and were preparing to take on rival St. Francis on Tuesday in the WCAL second round.

By Bryce Bajar
Staff Writer

Coming off a strong season last year, finishing third in WCAL and reaching the CCS semifinals, the Men's Soccer Team appeared poised to sprint past the competition this year, empowered by a number of returning players.

However, Lady Luck has not been kind to the shin-guarded men of black and gold. Rather, it appears as if she has rented out her favors to a rival school for the majority of the season, for a series of struggles and unfortunate events have hampered this potentially powerful team's progress.

The season certainly started well, as the team earned a handful of non-league wins in the preseason, most notably kicking off the season in early December with a 1-0 victory over Concord's De La Salle, ranked 4th in the nation at the time.

However, as the season continued on, the storms of misfortune rushed into the path of the team's road to dominance.

A critical blow came when starting goalie Kevin Peach suffered a season-ending knee injury during an 0-3 home loss against Serra in early January.

"Our freshman keeper was amazing," says senior Danny Woo. "However, replacing Peach is just not possible."

"Having to adapt and fill in the positions both on and off the field has not been easy," senior Richard Thomas, added.

Additionally, the team found real difficulty in scoring goals—a struggle that found its deepest rut when the Monarchs were held scoreless in ten of their final eleven games, resulting in an 0-9-2 run

Woo, the team leader in scoring with four goals on the season, noted: "We have trouble finishing even though we create a lot of opportunities. We get very unlucky hitting the post or missing by inches."

Despite these obstacles, Mitty felt they were far from out of the running for a successful campaign as WCAL playoffs approached.

Finishing at 1-9-3 in league play, the Monarchs sat at 7th place in the perennial gauntlet of the WCAL.

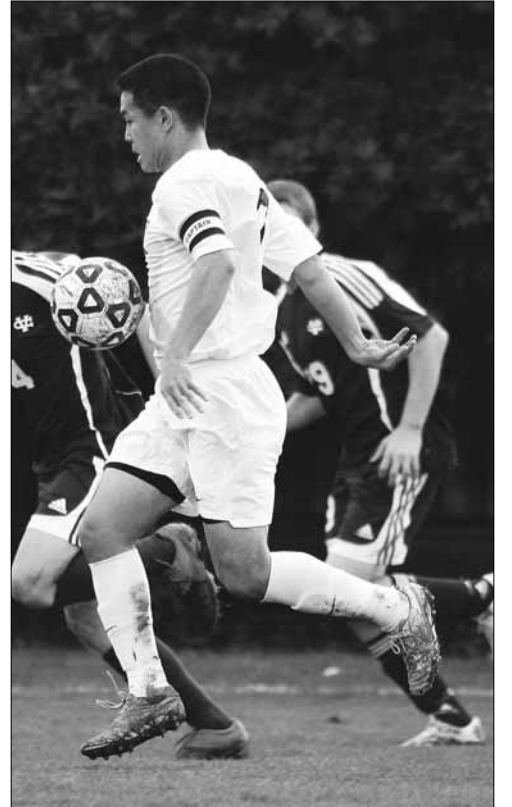


Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Senior Daniel Woo controls the ball.

Given their seed the team drew second-seeded St. Ignatius in the first round.

The Monarchs hoped to set the season right in the league playoffs, as the misfortune that has struck the team served as a point of inspiration.

Prior to the playoffs, Woo optimistically explained, "Our goal is to win WCAL and CCS which is still a possibility."

That wasn't the case, though, as the boys fell to S.I. in a hard-fought 0-2 loss on February 13, effectively ending their season.

The soccer team had sought to play with particular inspiration in the season since it was head coach Vince Bachanas's final year.

"We were hoping to do our best so [Coach Bachanas] could leave with a good season," confirmed Woo.

The Monarchs struggled all season to find the power they showed in their earlier games, which included hard-earned ties against last year's champion Bellarmine and this year's #3 seed, St. Francis.

Unfortunately, the devastating injury to senior Kevin Peach (headed to Berkeley to play next year), along with season-long scoring struggles doomed a gritty and game Mitty bunch.

Wrestling Profile: Jon McCarthy

Compiled by Erik Chu
Staff Writer

What is your favorite part of wrestling?

My favorite part of wrestling is getting my hand raised because it makes me feel like all my hard work has paid off.

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

I take most pride in always working hard and practicing as much as I can. I don't just wrestle at Mitty: I go outside of school and go to many places to practice, wrestling really good kids to get better. I know that I need to improve in believing in myself because wrestling is a very mental game, and I tend to psych myself out before some important matches.

What is your most memorable wrestling experience?

My most memorable wrestling experience is placing in the CCS tournament last year. I was the underdog and I wasn't supposed to get that far. I was ranked 17th going in and placed 6th.

Can you share with us your keys to success?

In order to succeed you need to practice more than just during season. You need to find practices, lift weights, go to tournaments on your own, and even go to camps in the summer. A lot of hard work is needed to succeed in wrestling.

How would you describe your own personal form of leadership?

I would describe it as leadership through example. If I work hard at practice and win matches my teammates should also want to win and push themselves every practice. I also think you have to have put forth a lot of hard work in order to be a good leader.

Women's Basketball: #1 Once Again

By **Jaslyn Johnson and Steven Nguyen**
Staff Writers

The Monarchs broke out this season, starting exactly where they left off.

Their success last season was in part attributed to the power and tenacity of graduating senior Keilani Ricketts.

Coach Sue Phillips explains, "While you can never replace a player like Keilani, I was certain that those minutes would be filled with quality play from a number of different individuals."

And, in fact, an incredibly talented squad of seniors including Classye James, Elisabeth Gordon, Stephanie Weed, Nina Vukicevic, Iman Scott, and Courtney Wilson has stepped-up to fill the void that Keilani and others left.

The Monarchs have high hopes for this season and believe that returning to the State Championships is definitely achievable. With last year's great success, the team has become accustomed to achieving nothing less than absolute perfection.

And with the loss of Keilani the Monarchs have known that it would make this daunting task that much more difficult.

"I think that we are a more experienced group and know what to expect. The seniors know that they need to step up and be leaders this year," states senior Liz Gordon, who has committed to Harvard.

With this gifted and skilled group, the Monarchs have had a significant amount of success on and off of the court. It is because of their incomparable talent and drive that they have found such success as of late.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Senior Liz Gordon leaps for the rebound.

Headed into the WCAL, which begin for the team Feb. 18, the Monarchs have compiled a 19-5 record.

This includes a perfect 12-0 run through the WCAL to once again claim the league title.

This group's size, strength, court savvy, depth, and overall experience have made for an extraordinarily versatile team.

"With a great variety in personnel and style of play, we have the potential to be good at doing a lot of things," states Coach Phillips.

The fact that the Monarchs have so many versatility is unquestionably one of their greatest assets.

They have a deep bench and every girl can contribute at any given time, something that is rarely found within high school teams.

As Gordon states, "We've got a really talented group of girls, each one bringing different assets to the team. I feel like there may be another trip to the Arco Arena this year."

The Monarchs recently showcased their abilities against Valley Christian winning 55-45 and also overcame a tight 51-44 triumph over their leading competition in WCAL, St. Ignatius.

The Monarchs are currently ranked number one in CCS and eighth in State, having also beaten rival Cardonole 58-52 earlier in the season.

Although the Lady Monarchs have performed well, the team still hopes to improve, expecting that their journey this season will be both challenging and rewarding.

Coach Phillips expects her players to "give 100%, 100% of the time. No excuses. Strive for perfection. To always be happy, but never satisfied."

The team has had to live up to an astounding tradition of excellence with 22 League Titles, 22 Central Coast Section Titles, 8 Nor Cal Championships, and 4 CIF State Titles in our school's history.

Men's Basketball: WCAL Victory in Sight

By **Arjun Ravishankar & Ayman Ullah**
Staff Writers

Having reached the pinnacle of success in earlier seasons, Mitty basketball finds itself in a position to show its dominance to the rest of the league once again.

The Monarchs have a 16-8 record overall so far this season: an impressive fact as the group has much more room to grow, since there are 11 juniors on the team.

Though this abundance of youth may seem to hinder the team, it actually "gives the team a lot of energy and poise," as junior guard Colin Wan puts it.

The energetic play of the team is manifested on defense, where the Monarchs have earned a reputation as a "lockdown defensive team," says Wan.

Coach Tim Kennedy agrees that the greatest asset for the Monarchs lies in their ability to pressure the opponents on the defensive end, and he states that "when we are not scoring, we have been able to stay in games because of our man-to-man pressure defense."

While the offensive production has fluctuated throughout their games, the Monarchs are holding their opponents to just over fifty points per game while allowing the highest number this season, sixty-nine, in their loss to Jesuit.

The stellar play on the defensive end has led to a successful offense, which as Coach Kennedy describes is "built on cuts, screens, and reads because all five players on the floor have the capability to score."

The team relies on each other offensively, and the ball movement is evident in any one of the Monarchs' games, and as Wan states, in games and in practice, "everybody steps up and carries each other."

The chemistry between players is continuing to improve, and, combined with their

youth, the future for the basketball program is hopeful.

This unselfish and energetic play has given this young Monarch team a 9-5 record



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Junior Kyle Toth drives for the net against Bellarmine.

in league play, and earned them a respectable spot at 4th place in the competitive WCAL.

Crucial games will ultimately determine the strengths of this team, and Coach Kennedy looks forward to a potential playoff match-up against a team like St. Francis, who sits at first place in the league.

At certain points throughout any game, size becomes a problem for the Monarchs. While it seems that they are on the losing end of a somewhat important height differ-

ential, the Monarchs take full advantage of the skills they have.

As Coach Kennedy states, "We like to push the ball in transition and not let the defense set up."

The Monarchs have an advantage in speed and endurance and therefore are able to out-hustle opponents down the stretch.

It seems as though, after a slow start, the Monarchs have found their groove as they currently are on a four-game winning streak, coming off dominant victories over Sacred Heart Cathedral, Valley Christian, and Archbishop Riordan.

Although they have found recent success, the Monarchs cannot afford to dwell on their performance as they soon may face St. Francis and Bellarmine, two teams that have given the Monarchs difficulty and that have handed the Monarchs two league losses.

The team mentality is enforced and is reflected in their playing style.

Although an overall team effort, senior Stephen Meade has emerged as a natural leader as "he has done a great job on the offensive and defensive end. He is our leading scorer and always is defending the other team's best player," claims Kennedy.

Being the lone senior, Meade is leading the young Monarch squad with his defensive intensity and offensive ability.

Undoubtedly, youth is a factor in the future of the program, but that does not mean the goals of the Monarchs are lessened. As forward Connor Gorman puts it, "The goals for the team are the same as pretty much every other team—win WCAL and go as far as possible."

The determined Monarchs seem prepared for a tough road, as they continue to grow and mature.

Play Like They Do: Curling Edition

Every week a group of people gather inside the cool realms of Sharks Ice in San Jose to participate in a daunting sport that few Americans know about. The San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club invited editors Juli Ruiz and Alexis Savini to learn how to curl and experience the culture hidden in ice rinks around the country.



Step 1: Crouch down with feet even, eyes up and body square with the broom.



Step 2: Shift body weight back behind the hack, move sliding foot back, and raise hips.



Step 3: Push off with back foot and slide forward, releasing stone lightly.



Step 4: Sweep in front of stone to help melt the ice and increase sliding distance.

Photos courtesy of Kanishka Khanna

FACULTY LOVE continued from page 1

For Mr. Wesmiller, the greatest challenge was keeping his and his future wife's dating hidden from the majority of the Mitty community. He recalled, "Some students caught on and brought it up in our classes. We had to act professionally and keep our personal life separate from our jobs." He concluded, "Overall though, the positives of working with your spouse far outweigh the negatives"

Some of these positives inevitably include funny encounters.

Mr. Wesmiller had his fair share of humorous moments. He laughed as he said, "Students think of me and my wife as the 'good cop' and the 'bad cop' because I'm the forgiving religion teacher and she's the Assistant Dean. They always think I can get them out of detention, but I actually intentionally stay out of Mitty's discipline matters so my judgment of my students isn't clouded by what's happening in the Dean's office."

All married Monarch faculty members seem to agree that Mitty is a perfect and supportive environment for working alongside a spouse.

"I've heard of schools where committed relationships between faculty members are discouraged," said Mr. Wesmiller. "If two teachers marry, one is asked to leave the school. Mitty, on the other hand, is very supportive of faculty members' relationships."

Obviously, Mitty is a unique place—the community here is so supportive that it feels like home, with friends and family.

Mr. Scott accurately concludes, "I get to experience the Mitty family that everyone talks about in a direct, literal way."

For more on how Mr. and Mrs. Wesmiller met, see the Focus section, at center of paper.

MOCK TRIAL continued from page 1

speaking," said senior attorney **Monica Ortel**. "It has definitely helped me be more confident in public speaking," she added, with a laugh.

Junior defendant **Varun Agarwal** affirmed this: "I won a speech contest at a retreat," he said, attributing his accomplishment to his involvement in Mock Trial.

The Mitty team headed to the Santa Clara County Superior Courthouse at the beginning of this month, defeating rivals Lincoln, Lynbrook, and Pioneer. With a 3-1 record, Mitty will meet another Top 8 school in the quarterfinal rounds. Mitty's team has set a high standard in the past, reaching the quarterfinals three times and the semifinals once. The competition is fierce, but with the Mitty Mock Trial Team on the case, justice will most certainly be served.

2010 at Mitty: New Year's Resolutions

By **Ryan Kapur and Sumedh Guha**
Staff Writers

It's 2010, and around the Mitty campus, we've found some resolutions definitely worth keeping.

Associate Principal, **Mr. Dick Robinson**, wants to make sure that students are provided with the necessary resources and teachers to become intellectually competent in the global world.

Sophomore representative **Claire Chu** is energized for the upcoming Monarch Madness and said, "We want to prove everyone wrong who says the sophomores are the underdogs and who thinks Candyland won't work out."

Dean **Mr. Jim Fallis** is sticking to his resolution for the first time ever. He is striving to reduce his habit of drinking two Pepsi's daily.

Freshman **Omid Mirfendereski** said, "I would like to communicate better with my teachers and other classmates."

World History AP teacher **Mrs. Ann Nowell** is hoping to accomplish her lifelong goal of trying out for the game show Jeopardy.

On the other hand, baseball head coach and math teacher **Mr. Bill Hutton** has a multitude of goals to achieve: he wants to eat better, lose weight, get better at using the SmartBoard, and cook more at home.



Teacher, Mr. Hicks, gets excited about the New Year.

Newspaper Staff

- Senior **Juli Ruiz** wants to learn how to write with her left hand.
- Senior **Emma Luk** has resolved to grow to be at least six feet tall.
- Senior **Kit Strong** wants to dye her hair purple.
- Senior **Kiron Chandy** wants to learn to double-dutch jump rope.
- Senior **Ramya Singireddy** wants to learn how to cook.
- Senior **Manasai Patel** wants to expand her movie collection to 100.
- Newspaper moderator, **Mr. Craig Whitt** hopes to have a *daily* jog with his baby.
- Senior **Olivia Tran**'s resolution is a work in progress.
- Senior **Bridget McAnany** hopes to spend less time on Facebook.

- Senior **Alexis Savini** desires to drive slower.
- Senior **Manisha Eerabathini** wants to learn how to use her sewing machine.
- Senior **Emily Chu** says that she wants to eat more bacon.
- Newspaper moderator, **Mr. Mick VanValkenburg** strives to assign fewer essays this year.

Resolutions may be easier said than done, these Mitty Monarchs are doing a great job of rising to the occasion.

STUDENT CENTER (RED)

Student Focus: Ana Plascencia

By **Morgan McEnery**
Staff Writer

If you see senior Ana Plascencia walking around campus, you might think she's your average high school student. However, first appearances are often misleading.

Not many of us can boast that we've been the lead singer in a band, let alone at the age of six. Ana can. Since she was six, Ana has sung to the beat of a Mariachi drum. Unlike most of us who have a hobby and do it merely as a pastime, Ana has taken her singing to a new level by participating in almost a dozen Mariachi bands. She performs in a variety of settings, singing to cancer patients and the elderly in her spare time. She has even appeared on Spanish-speaking television programs.

Ana said, "What means the most to me about being able to perform Mariachi is that I am able keep one of Mexico's oldest traditions alive and I am able to share with many communities the wonders of my culture." At a school liturgy last year celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, many of us witnessed how her voice warmed the Fien Gym.

But her singing talent isn't the only thing she shares with our school. The Latin American Student Union, is proud to have her as their president. As president, she has been able to share the Latino culture by starting the very first Day of the Dead celebration at Mitty, complete with Aztec dancers. This is just one of the many impressive feats Ana has accomplished with the LASU.

She also mentors for the Romero Institute Leadership Program, a cultural and educational program created by Mitty. This program gives Latino students an opportunity to experience cultural activities and to learn more about our school, while motivating them to seek an education at Mitty. In addition to mentoring these students, she is also a Latino speaker for Mitty at middle school fairs, where she shares her experiences

at Mitty with students and parents.

"Thanks to Mr. Rojo, Ms. Mireles, and Mr. Vargas I have been given the opportunity to motivate and mentor Latino 8th graders who strive to attend college," explained Ana.

Ana's volunteer work may be one of her more impressive accomplishments. She co-founded S.T.A.R.S. Reading Program, a program dedicated to assisting young children from low-income families develop and improve their reading skills. So far, 30 participants have improved their reading skills, some receiving awards for their improvement.

As Ana goes to college, she has big dreams for the future. She hopes to continue to sing, and participate in non-profits. Her main focus for studies in college will be biological and biomedical research, but she wants to earn a degree in public health and social justice to help third world countries obtain free health-care services and education. Mitty is certainly very lucky to have such a dedicated, cultured, and selfless student in the community.



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& Mr. Craig Whitt

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Kit Strong & Olivia Tran

Opinions

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Seethim Naicker & Ramya Singireddy

Justice Awareness

Kiron Chandy, Angela Hodge, & Maya Raman

Sports

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