



Behind the Scenes: Mitty Parking



Mitty's Parking Supervisors show off the tools of their trade as they attempt to tame the chaos of our "paved paradise."

East Lot Q&A with Mrs. Cathy Campbell

So what are your main concerns/hopes for Mitty parking and Mitty drivers?

Well, I hope students realize that we're here to help them and not to persecute them. We want to get them into class on time and safely, but also to park legally. So we try to get as many as we can in here and, if we can't, we try to accommodate them in other parking lots.

What was your most frightening or exciting moment in a Mitty parking lot?

Some strangers tried to drop a bag off in the bushes and then tried to get onto campus. It was clear that they were trying to be where they shouldn't be for the wrong reasons. I thought that we were here just to park the kids and then be done, but, yeah, there's more than that...there are outside influences trying to get to you guys.

What would you like to say about your reputation as a parking lot lady?

The official term is "parking lot supervisor." Other terms are "parking lot mom," "parking lot Nazi," and "parking lot lady." You know, I just love the kids and it's fun. Most of them don't realize I went here and it was open campus, so I know all the ways to get in and out. And I remember what it was like to be a student...but, I just love the kids. And if they're trying to get away with something, I can pretty much read it. But for the most part, we're just moms. I think of my kid going here, and I feel like I'm just an extension of their parents.



Curbside Info: The 411 on Parking at Mitty

By Hannah Moeller
Staff Writer

On a typical school day morning at Archbishop Mitty, the parking lot can truly resemble a vehicular labyrinth straight out of a chase scene in *The Bourne Identity*. Between 7:20 and 7:40, over one thousand cars are registered under the Mitty parking program. For many students, the parking process is a difficult balancing act of not being late to class, shortening the after-school walk to the car, and obeying the often-daunting number of parking regulations.

"The most common offense is students parking anywhere in the surrounding neighborhoods where they aren't supposed to," says Mrs. Wesmiller, assistant dean and head of the parking department. "Especially on the corner where Park Meadow turns into Lapa Drive," she continues, "Students park past the Lapa street sign, placing them on Lapa Drive where they are not permitted to park."

Sometimes, students are running late to class and take the first available parking spot they can find. Since parking is limited at Mitty and many students drive themselves to school, few easily accessible and permitted spots are left, and the quickly found parking spots may be illegal. The resulting consequence is often a Saturday detention for the student driver.

The second most commonly broken parking rule is turning left onto Mitty Ave from the senior lot exit. Additionally, students are not allowed to drive straight across Mitty Way from the senior lot exit to Bevans. During peak traffic hours, this area becomes very dangerous because of the poor visibility, and as a result, there have been accidents and many close-calls. It is safest to turn right onto Mitty Way from the senior lot exit.

So what does the future look like for Mitty parking?

"We have no drastic changes in mind," says Mrs. Wesmiller, "But we do want to continue to expand the carpool program."

With the carpool program, students drive with their peers and enjoy parking spots in senior lots especially reserved for members of the program. The program helps reduce the number of cars being driven to school every day, freeing parking spaces and lowering overall gas consumption. Currently, about fifty carpool cars are driven to school each day. With advertising, Mitty hopes to increase participation and convert more regular senior spots to carpool spots.

It has been suggested by many that Mitty should build a parking structure.

"We would love to build a parking structure for out

students," explains Mrs. Wesmiller, "but for us to build anything, we must get our plans approved by the city, and the city asks our neighbors if they would be OK with the building. No one wants a big, tall, ugly structure built near their house."

The neighbors most commonly request that extremely tall buildings not be built and that students do not park in front of their homes, as it is frustrating to have parking spaces taken up, as well as having garbage bins or yard waste moved or parked over by students.

If Mitty were to satisfy both neighbors and students and build an underground structure, the cost of such a project would increase by millions of dollars—an unfeasible expense. Ultimately, the parking situation at Mitty is left with little room to grow or change. Other high schools, such as Serra and Valley Christian, experience similar stressful limitations, all resulting in frustrations for students.

"When students become frustrated, occasionally they may break rules or lash out at our parking staff," says Mrs. Wesmiller.

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Dirty Rotten Scoundrels: Curtain Call for Class of 2010

By Payam Mirfendereski and Sumedh Guha
Staff Writers

Mitty recently wrapped up its production of the musical-comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, a story of two con men and their amusing lives on the French Riviera. While students appreciated the play during its run, the backstage production was a very difficult and complex process. Mr. Santana, the director of the show, explains, "This is a challenging time of year with college auditions for many of our actors, so we have to do some creative scheduling. We have a crew of over 20 students doing anything from props to run crew to spot lights."

Mr. Santana collaborated with Mr. Kimont for the music production, and with Ms. Moura for the choreography. Mr. Santana's student stage manager, Alison Kalpakoff, along with assistant director, Sierra



Meszaros, closely cooperated with them in order to create the best performance on stage. All the crew, including students' parents, worked hard to arrange the scenery and choose costumes and props. The cast too had an active part in the production of the musical, helping with interpreting the characters and improvising in rehearsals. With all the hard work, it's no surprise that *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* was a smash success.

Though the musical may have drawn wild laughter from the audience, many of the students involved in the production regarded it as a bittersweet experience. For the talented actors of the class of 2010, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* was their last show on the Kinkade Theater stage, and a last chance to work alongside their friends and peers at Mitty.

Senior Logan Breitbart (an ensemble member in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*), who has participated in every Mitty show since his freshman year, reflected on one of his first turns in the Mitty spotlight—the comedic play *Lend Me a Tenor*.

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OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints:

Do Teens Need Provisional Rules?

TEENAGERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

By Eugene Woo
Staff Writer

“The youth are our future,” people always say. Yet adults still continue to denigrate teens as universally impulsive, frivolous, and reckless—and then they use these stereotypes to unfairly discriminate against us. We are bullheaded, pigheaded, and bigheaded, they say, but sometime in the future we become the responsible, sensible adults that run society. So when does that transformation occur? Does something in our heads snap as we turn eighteen, or twenty-one? How can a universal standard for maturation be applied to everyone?

It can't. Some people may indeed grow responsible and mature at eighteen, while others might grow up at nineteen. Some may never grow up at all, while others grow up at younger ages, at least in terms of responsibility and good sense. Intellectual maturity simply isn't a function of age: many teenagers, even freshmen, in high school have more rational reasoning power than a sizable portion of the adult population.

Certainly as a whole, the teenage population possesses less developed minds than adults, and it shows in driving habits, irresponsible consumption of drugs and alcohol, or even in a certain lackadaisical way of speaking.

But simply because some teenagers are immature, it doesn't follow that all teenagers should be forced to follow unfair restrictions in driving and other aspects of life. Many teenagers have the moral and logical convictions to allow them to easily resist temptations of, not youth, but immaturity.

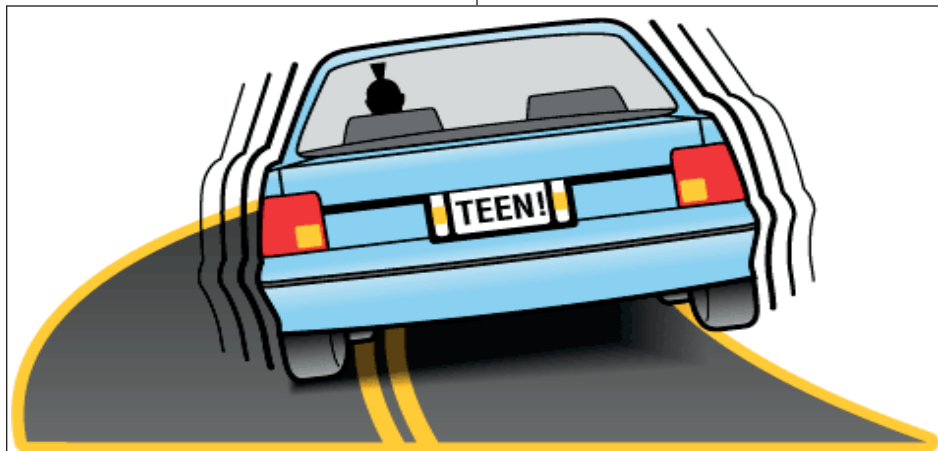
I challenge critics of teens to look at many adults. Adults themselves are prone to the same mistakes that youth make. Although youth without doubt make them more readily, the discrepancies are not so big to warrant the response and reaction that society has given.

Any teenager who has learned the value of dedication has already traveled halfway towards maturity. Dedication and perseverance have always been virtues that are signs of maturity. Foresight and responsibility should be the true measure of character, rather than the arbitrary status of age.

In reality, when you observe the lives of people in society, these noble traits are distributed unevenly around the population. There are always some lazy, apathetic, and narrow-minded adults and bright, hard-working, and tolerant teenagers. Those teenagers should not be discriminated against

simply because of their lack of experience, and therefore it is completely unreasonable to force all teenagers to comply with stricter rules simply because of their age.

No one is claiming to be a Nobel Prize winner fresh out of high school. We just want our fair share. The youth only got the 18 year-old vote because our country wanted to send us to war. Since then, youth have had a dismal showing at the polls, but those who do show up at the polls are one step above the significant number of adults that do not show up as well. While some adults may make derisive arguments that our voting percentage is remarkably low, we can point out that some of us do vote. And some adults don't. There is overlap; there is no clear line



drawn in the sand. But we pretend that there is when we artificially place boundaries at age 18 and then wrongly restrict all teens based on the misbehavior of a few.

A child prodigy of music who practices hours every day while maintaining superb grades, or a sports star who maintains physical fitness as well as moral integrity in all aspects of life—both of these are significantly different from the apathetic youth who doesn't think school is worth his or her time, or the junkie who really likes to go 0-60 in 10 seconds on a residential side street. But we are all inappropriately grouped as one and subjected to the same stricter rules.

The generalization made when referring to teens shouldn't be enforced by making all teenagers follow special rules simply because of age. When dealing with individuals, preconceived notions of teenage shortcomings should be thrown out the window, because youth can sometimes even be wiser than adults.

The truly intelligent teenagers know their weaknesses and how to overcome them, and truly experienced adults know that many teenagers are thoughtful and responsible.

THERE ARE RULES FOR A REASON

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

Why do most 16-year-olds drive like they're missing a part of their brain?

Because they are.

“Adolescence is a period of profound brain maturation, and that maturation is not complete until about age 25. It's a process,” states Dr. Ken Winters, a professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota.

Teens under the age of 18 have to wait a year to drive their friends around town. Insurance prices for teens are significantly higher than for adults. Those under eighteen, even those who feel strongly about political issues, are not permitted to vote. It seems

ing the increasingly popular “Call of Duty.” Teens' excuse for this could be that they need time to “unwind.” Do they really need to “unwind” up until dinner time?

Teens account for a mind-boggling number of accidents and injuries. Is that not reason enough to put restrictions on their driving? The rule that states that teens must have their license for a year before driving their friends is not intended to make teens feel powerless or constrained, but to keep them from injuring or possibly killing other teens with their rash and impulsive driving.

Today's youth also seems to hold tremendous animosity towards any sort of “work.” Their excuse this time is that, “we have our whole lives to work, and only a short window of opportunity to be a kid and have fun.” Again, we see that teens really are not considering their future with this “happy-go-lucky” mentality. Clearly, their underdeveloped brain is at fault.

Nowadays teenagers do not even want to take a break from television or idle hours spent with iPods to even spend time with their families. Any parent of a teenager will confirm that their son's or daughter's belongings are always scattered across the floor, beds are always unmade, and their closet is a black hole where everything, from food to school textbooks, can simply be dumped in. If asked, most teens would be unable to find the washing machine in their house. Texting and video games are the most exercise some teens get. They hate almost every subject taught in school, or simply, anything that requires cognitive brain function. They procrastinate and do not take responsibility for their actions. All of this requires that government and schools keep stronger restrictions on teenagers to keep them from total breakdown.

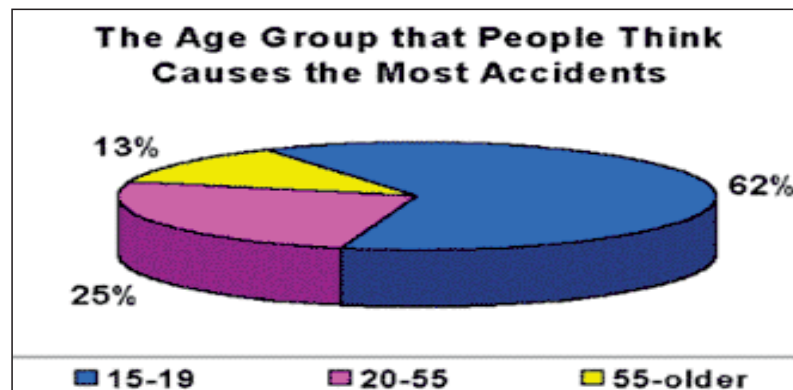
Surely, as with any generalization, there are exceptions. There are, of course, some teens who choose to do something productive with their lives. Of course there are some teens who deserve more credit than society gives to them; nevertheless, that does not take away from the fact that many teens simply cannot handle the responsibilities that come with adulthood.

It is no coincidence that the people who slack off in school during their teenage years are generally the ones who end up unemployed or struggling to make ends meet in the future.

If America wants to move forward as a world power, they must find other means to keep today's teens, individuals that will inevitably be our future, in line.

DID YOU KNOW?

“Teenage drivers account for only 6.4 percent (12.5 million) of the total drivers in the United States, but account for 14 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes and 18 percent involved in police-reported crashes.”



SENIORITIS: THE CLASSIC EPIDEMIC

By Ally Lockwood
Staff Writer

Senioritis, not unlike other debilitating diseases of the same suffix (pancreatitis, appendicitis—Shout out to E Fang on the recovery!) can become extremely acute and potentially fatal particularly in the closing months of the second semester. Common side effects include, but are not limited to: lack of studying, repeated absences, and a generally dismissive and apathetic attitude toward all things school related (especially post Monarch Madness). According to urbandictionary.com, the “only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation.” This fact is a bit of a shame for many of us, judging from the thirty or so school days we have left in the grading period.

It cannot be denied that this highly contagious and rapidly spreading ailment has overtaken a significant number of Mitty’s upperclassmen. A stroll by senior hill garners nothing less than an assault of complaints about workload and development of acute senioritis. Indeed, for many seniors, battling school while enduring the pangs of senioritis has become something of a game—a balancing act between at-

tempts to simultaneously elude and complete homework.

Procrastination has become a refined art form for many seniors—and boy, are they proud. If you can go a day without overhearing a senior complain about their workload or fatal senioritis, I commend you. But I also doubt that you are anywhere on campus, and are probably in fact living in a cave. This campus is a breeding ground for a deadly senioritis that seems to manifest itself from the moment the final college app is submitted. Second semester: living the dream, with a webgrade profile littered by incompletes and an attendance record full of unexcused absences.

Still, senioritis has not dug its dirty, infectious, claws into the entire class of 2010. There are a number of members of the senior class who, bless their little souls,

have continued to tirelessly crank out late night essays and formulate equations for the square root of eternal math doom. I commend them, and usually end up asking them for help on my homework. But for the most part, the way a large, lazy amoeba of seniors see it, they’ve spent so much time over the past four years studying, working, and sweating all the small things with awkwardly clammy hands and chewed-over nubby pencils that they feel they deserve to spend the next few months soaking up the sun, cultivating chrysanthemums, and feelin’ sassy.

This all being said, I’d like to point out that senioritis is nothing but a pathetic excuse for the fact none of us feel like doing our work. As Senior Sarah Bernosky (who, for the record, fully admits to being stricken by senioritis) pointed out, “it

goes into remission sometimes... for like an hour.”

It’s usually during that hour when work ethic prevails that we have realized for a fleeting moment that what awaits us around the corner from graduation is, indeed, more schooling.

But in all reality, finding a way now to get work done in a manner that is both productive and as pain free of a process as possible will only help you in the long run. None of us have ever really wanted to sit around doing homework when it was a wonderful day outside, but we did it as underclassmen because we felt that we were working towards something. That’s why we’ve been saving up and waiting for senior year to finally have a chance to bust out that senioritis excuse and take for the sunshine!

So in that respect, go ahead and excuse yourself from working on those math problems—it is a lovely day outside. Bake yourself some brownies, celebrate your acceptances.

I won’t lie: being a senior feels great, whether you’re plagued by senioritis or not. As for the senioritis jokes? We’ll laugh for the hundredth time now, but they can only go for so long.



WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT?

The Ugly Side of High School Dating

By Stephanie Anderson
Staff Writer

Love it or hate it—the concept of dating in high school is one facet of life that is not fading away anytime soon. And although there have been relationships that go on for what seem, (to those outside the relationship) like centuries, one aspect remains the same: persistent are those who deem dating as simply a petty, fun part of high school.

While some Mitty students hold fast to the idea of dating as a chance to find someone meaningful in their lives, others own up to the fact that they use dating for their personal advantage. Although there is an array of negative reasons as to why people are dating, these few remain most common, and most unappealing:

1. Climbing the social ladder. Everyone has heard the story of the popular jock and popular cheerleader coming together to form “The Perfect Couple.” While Mitty holds no ties to any sort of cheerleading group, the same psychological mindset is aroused. “I would date so-and-so to become this-or-that.” Whatever the reason may be, whether it be recognition in the hallways or rubbing elbows with those more well-known, people crave such acceptance and strive to climb up the popularity ladder.

2. Well aren’t they cute? As seen in Facebook comments and spewing across the hallways, the idea of “cute” and “hot” plays a deciding factor in dating someone. And why not go out with someone cute? When it is the only reason as to why people are dating, the act of dating seems to be a moot point. Yes, they are cute... so what? There are plenty of people who are attractive, but what is the point of dating someone for merely that purpose. Two reasons come to mind, and two reasons only: jealousy (people always want what they can’t have),

and greed (people who get what they want without actually wanting it, and tend to like to show off what they obtain.)

3. Love and money. Showered in wealth and gifts, some people are willing to confess that they would not go out on a date with a person if he, or she, did not pay. Furthermore, students conceptualize the value of a dollar in a relationship, stating that gifts are not only a perk, but a necessity within a relationship. For whatever reason this may be, people have the ability to confuse material possessions with the idea of love, or maybe just attraction.

4. “I just want to have fun.” And there is absolutely nothing wrong with that—until you elaborate. Students admitted that there was no reason to make sure that the people they were dating were clued-in to that fact that they weren’t looking for anything serious. Crossing the murky lines between dating and a relationship needs to be set with established agreements, rather than unspoken rules. For what people may take as one thing, may, in fact, mean an entirely different thing to you altogether.

Beginning to date requires communication and expectations, whether these exist or not. So go out, and have fun, just make sure both parties are included in the plan.

Whatever Mitty students’ reasons are for dating, it seems that there will always be those who strive to build a relationship, and those who choose to flounder in attempts to inflate themselves. Personal gain or not, dating within the walls of high school proves to be a testament of one’s character, and in that, a reflection of the society in which they live,

With shows like MTV’s *Is She Really Going Out with Him?* and VH1’s *Tool Academy* mirroring the notions that are upheld today, the question remains: Why are you going out with them?



TEXAN TEXTBOOKS

How a State is Literally Rewriting History

By Kyle Kubo
Staff Writer

For those of you who aren’t keeping abreast of the fast-paced, no-holds-barred rigamarole that is Southern educational standards, the latest hoo-ha to polarize the political peanut gallery is a proposed cluster of changes to the content and allocation of emphasis in the textbooks and lesson plans of the lone star state.

Texan textbooks, besides constituting a formidable tongue-twister, are notable in that the old adage concerning the relative size of Texas-type items is certainly true of their textbook market. The hardcover behemoths are to Texas what “hunny” is to the Hundred Acre Wood, and the ramifications are such that when Texas changes curriculums the entire nation’s books are liable to do the same.

To debate the political bias (or lack thereof) of scholastic Americana is a task best left to talking heads and people with cleverly named blogs (I’m looking at you, Your Civic Doody), but what does warrant discussion, as always, is the silliness, in this case regarding some of the more specific recommendations.

McCarthyism, spearheaded by one Joseph Raymond McCarthy, commonly refers to the sweeping accusation of individuals alleged to have Communist sympathies or allegiances during the Cold War. McCarthy’s finger-pointing fervor has been largely derided in modern times, but the Texas State Board of Education is calling for a positive revamp of the Senator’s image in light of new evidence. There is, however, a caveat

(other than his 67 to 22 vote of Senatorial condemnation): out of the 159 people he accused, there is sufficient evidence of only nine having aided in Communist espionage, which is coincidentally the same proportion of Communists that I am able to find by walking into an IHOP on any given Sunday and groping around blindfolded.

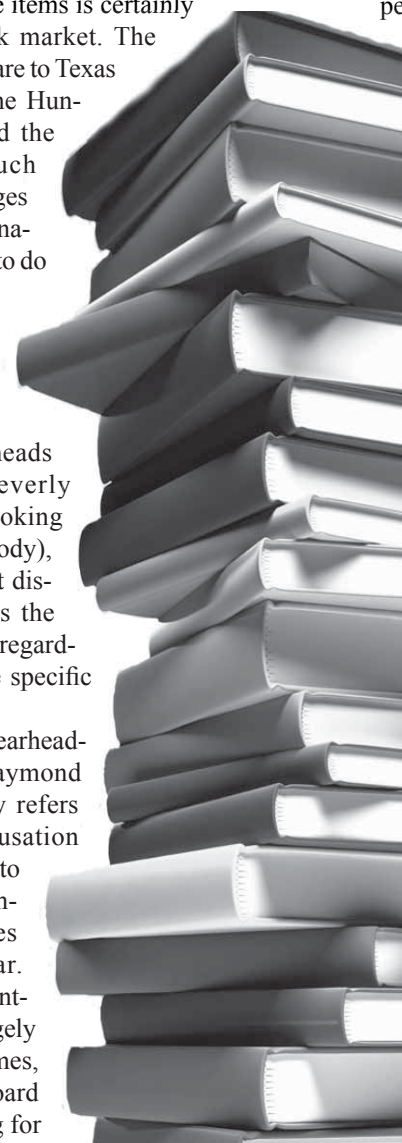
And then of course there is the issue of McCarthy kneeing a journalist in the crotch and having to be pulled away by Richard Nixon. When Nixon has to step in because your behavior as a politician has become too inappropriate, that is when you can start expecting history books to frown upon your political career.

Another conservative figure for whom the Board is requesting more positive mention is Phyllis Schlafly, an activist who called for the impeachment of a Supreme Court justice because he argued against the death penalty for minors. I may be alone in this, but when selecting role models I generally steer clear of those who feel so strongly that a government we can believe in needs to have the right to kill me.

The list of revisions goes on and on, from disregarding Thomas Jefferson’s role in our nation’s formation to rejecting hip-hop as an influential movement in America’s culture (both actions much to the chagrin of rappers 5 Cent, Ne-Yo, and The Agrarian B.I.G.).

The only question remaining is will these changes be welcomed by teachers and play a significant role in shaping the young minds of today and tomorrow.

The answer is no.



American Terrorism: A Reality Check

By Manosai Eerabathini
Staff Writer

Typically, we associate the word “terrorist” with scary-looking foreigners. Particularly after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center towers, security measures have increased sharply to protect America from terrorists of other nations. However, it has become alarmingly apparent that on a domestic level, many citizens of the United States are now committing open acts of terrorism to further their political or religious beliefs. Though these recent crimes have made their way into the public eye, it seems as though the American public is reluctant to even see those acts as terrorism. The reasons for such visible acts of violence may differ in terms of extremist religious motives and practical frustrations with the government, but the premises are strikingly similar.

Since the al-Qaeda terrorists were responsible for the premeditated attacks of September 11, 2001, Islamic fundamentalism has been seen as a serious threat to the U.S. However, the appalling act of deliberately crashing a plane into a building repeated itself on February 18, 2010, when a disgruntled software engineer, Joe Stack, crashed a small plane into an IRS building in Texas. Yet far from being

religiously influenced into the suicide mission, the demented Stack led a personal “jihad” of his own—completely secular in intentions yet delusional and violent in action. In expressing his outrage over taxes by publicly crashing a plane into a building, Stack exemplifies terrorism.

Yet many are reluctant to acknowledge Stack’s commitment to domestic terrorism even though it is exactly that. Right-wing extremists, in fact, have been quick to lionize Stack as a patriot. Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown (R) shrugged off the attack, claiming that “people are frustrated” and “no one likes paying taxes.”

Simply because we can relate to that feeling of frustration, does not mean that we should try

to explain away what it is: a blatantly obvious act of domestic terrorism. After all, the senator would never even so much as hint that the 9/11 attacks were understandable. Regardless of the intentions, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge all levels of terrorism as they manifest themselves through shocking acts of violence.

Whether it be the rising threats of a violent coup to overthrow Obama or the murder of Dr. George Tiller, who performed late-term abortions, the open manner in which violence is being carried out by right wing extremists should be alarming to all. Yet in many media outlets, conservatives such as Bill O’Reilly actually seem to condone this sort of crime, ignoring the enormity of this terrorism and instead focusing on the purported villainy of the targets—painting Obama as a dictator and doctors who perform abortions as cruel mass-murderers. That a country built upon the principles of reason can support unreasonable action is utterly incomprehensible.

The double standard when defining terrorism occurs both internationally and domestically. For example, racial profiling takes place at airports even though criminals realize how the system can be manipulated to their advantage, making racial profiling completely ineffective as well as discriminatory.

Just recently, the weakness of racial profiling was exemplified: On the basis of her daily life, Colleen LaRose was just another middle-aged blonde woman living in the suburbs, yet she was in fact conspiring with terrorists to commit murder. Leading a seemingly innocent life by day, LaRose undertook the role of “Jihad Jane” by attempting to recruit militants online by night. Had she not been seized by the F.B.I., it is not completely unrealistic to see that LaRose may have succeeded, partly because she appears to be just another “patriotic, all-American” woman. In this context, her race gave her the upper hand and the element of surprise, as no one would expect her to be undertaking such a daunting task. This is probably the most troubling problem with the American mentality in defining terrorism. When seemingly normal citizens shift towards domestic terrorism, we fail miserably in realizing their true identity as radicals deluded by the concept of profound violence.

Ultimately, the necessary solution to such a problem requires an ethical shift regarding the mentality of many Americans. We are reluctant to see our own citizens as terrorists. But it is crucial to realize that such generalizations serve as a detriment to ensuring security on any level. Although profiling is not the proper means to identify a threat, too many find it rather convenient to be able to distinguish supposed terrorists from a crowd of a 100 simply based on color and conspicuous religious affiliation. Even the Republican Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma states his belief “in racial and ethnical profiling because all terrorists are Muslims or Middle Easterners.”

Perhaps these outrageous comments are as disturbing as the actual terrorist acts. To think that some of our nation’s “leaders” encourage profiling sheds light on the troublesome reality that our view of terrorism is far too narrow-minded. In an especially troubled society where many frustrations are on the brink of eruption, we must accept that terrorism can occur both in large, militarily active groups in Afghanistan as well as in isolated, disconcerted citizens of this country who take matters into their own hands.



CODE WORD: SOCIAL JUSTICE

In response to Glenn Beck’s view on Christian Social Justice

By Ritty Zhai
Staff Writer

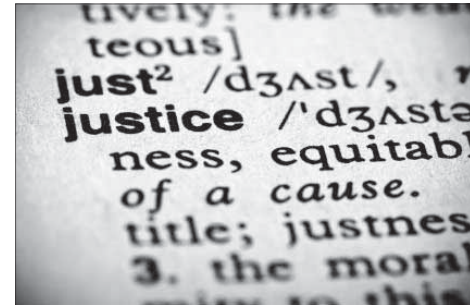
On March 2, Glenn Beck insisted millions of American Christians leave their churches, warning that Christian groups across the U.S. promote Nazism and Communism. And how does one tell the difference between “safe” Christianity and a sinister threat? According to Beck, any church that promotes social justice should be avoided at all costs.

With that bold pronouncement, Beck argued against everything we’ve learned about Christianity.

Religion is a mandatory class at Mitty, so everyone here knows social justice as one of the core teachings of the Catholic Church. We’ve all heard our teachers stress the importance of social

justice; we join clubs, go on immersion trips, and do at least 25 hours a year of community service, all to help those in our world who are less fortunate than we are. We, as a Catholic school, try to live out the teachings of Christian justice as best as we can.

And the Church is immutably tied to social justice: after all, Jesus’ most important instruction to his followers in the Gospels was to care for the poor, the needy, and the sick. He wants us to follow in his footsteps, living out social justice by helping the unfortunate and standing with them in their times of need. He taught his disciples that it doesn’t even matter how you pray, where you worship, or how often you go to church.



The only thing that you will be judged on is how you treat the poor and the needy in your society. Social justice is at the heart of Christianity. It isn’t something you can just detach from the religion. Even Beck’s own Mormon Church has criticized him for failing to recognize the value of social justice.

Beck even went a step further in the “offensive” direction: he boldly associated social justice with the concepts of Nazism and Communism. He calls it a “code word” that Christians should avoid. But really, standing up for the rights of the poor and the needy is not being a Nazi or a Communist. It’s called being Christian.

Striving for justice in our world is beneficial to society as a whole, and it definitely is not an ideology that should be shot down. Where would the world be without powerful

religious leaders, including Archbishop Oscar Romero and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who fought tirelessly for social justice? Likewise, the homeless shelters and food banks that have been set up in the community for the unfortunate are not signs of Communism. They signify the love and compassion that we as a society have toward those in need. Evil does not lie in trying to achieve social justice; rather, it lies in apathy toward other people’s suffering.

A church without the desire to forward social justice is not a church. Simply put, it is the goal of all churches, to help the poor and to seek equality for all people.

No code words are needed here.

TREASONOUS TEXTING

Elected Representatives Deceive the Public

By Linda Nguyen
Staff Writer

Government is supposed to be controlled by the people, yet sometimes the voice of the masses is drowned out by the desires of a few. The latest threat to the voice of the people, surprisingly, comes from texting.

Imagine yourself at a San Jose City Council meeting. As members take turns to speak on the people’s behalf, you can witness intense texting sessions proceeding between several people in the audience and the city council members. This is utterly appalling, as these audience members are in fact lobbyists who are telling the City Council members verbatim exactly what to say.

In a meeting where members are speaking in front of a live audience, they should focus on giving a sincere presentation to the people than on receiving messages concerning information that they should have prepared in the first place. These texts can mislead the public into viewing an incompetent government official as proficient.

It’s ironic that texting and electronic exchanges of ideas that have made government information more readily available

to the people now have the potential to work against the well-

being of the public. Texting has only made it easier for lobbyists to communicate their agenda straight to policymakers. Before the advent of smartphones and Blackberries, City Council members visibly passed along notes that the public could catch sight of. Now, electronic communication between members of the city council and legislators is more obscure and concealed from the public, and only rarely becomes apparent.

Even the iPhone fanatic San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom has requested for legislation that would limit the use of texting and email during city council meetings. Any outside information given to them by lobbyists should be done before the meeting. During the meetings however, text messages can lead to the unfair influence by the lobbyists. While San Francisco has yet to draft legislation for this dilemma, San Jose has decided to combat the issue.

On March 8, 2010, the San Jose City Council unanimously voted in favor of a measure that will reveal to public record any electronic messages via texting or email sent from lobbyists or interests that pertain to the matter of discussion at meetings. This measure is an extensive disclosure regulation and a step in the right direction.

San Jose’s objective in curbing the use of texting during commission meetings is the first of many fundamental steps in keeping rules on ethics and disclosure current with continuous advancements in technology. State Assemblyman John Perez even mentioned how a limit on texting during Assembly meetings could potentially reduce distractions and keep meetings more open to the public. On that note, San Jose should be lauded for its insistence on shifting attention back to the community.



Arts & Entertainment

Entourage of Oddity

The brilliant and original film family of director Tim Burton

By Justin Hough
Staff Writer



In 1985, a young director entered the popular spotlight after working on *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, a film adaptation of a popular children's show.

This same director went on to helm a film that became famous for changing superhero movies to a darker, grittier tone. This

was followed by a semi-autobiographical film about a boy with scissors for hands, that criticizes the inability of American culture to accept anyone who strays from the norm.

Such a massive contrast between his first three major films is the calling card of **Tim Burton**. The mix of an inner childishness and a dark quirky atmosphere would push his career forward for years to come. Whether through his variety of films, his reimagining of film standards, or through the splattering of his works onto every form of Hot Topic merchandise, nearly everyone has heard of Burton.

Keeping a unique style is no easy task in the film business and involves fighting with the other writers, actors, and producers over what effects a film should have. For this Burton is to be applauded, but not all of the credit can go to him solely. Burton utilizes a stable of talent—people as unique and creative as he is.

The first of these talents is **Danny Elfman**. Former lead singer of the eccentric band Oingo Boingo, Elfman was approached by Burton to write the musical score for *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* his first film. Elfman's unique tunes were perfect for the aspiring director's style. Since then, Elfman has produced music for all of Burton's films with only four exceptions—*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Cabin Boy*, *Ed Wood* and *James and the Giant Peach*. This was undoubtedly a key to Burton's creative success—music is just as important to setting a scene's mood as any visual. The fact that their two equally eccentric minds wound up together is truly a miracle, as both of them are clearly a 1 in a 1000 find. Burton had already been a fan of Oingo Boingo before he and Elfman started working together. Since then they have become good friends even outside of their jobs, and show no signs of ceasing their partnership.

Another quirky talent and close friend is **Johnny Depp**, a name that needs no introduction. Though now very respected and famous, Depp was a teen idol at the time of meeting Burton, fresh from his show *21 Jump Street* (look it up—you'll never look at Depp the same way again). Depp and Burton connected as soon as they met. Depp's offbeat acting ability put a face to Burton's scripts, and Burton's direction gave Depp the freedom to act in his unique style. In fact, Depp would go on to star in six more of Burton's films, and their relationship would become a defining aspect of their careers.

The latest member of the growing Burton creative team is **Helena Bonham Carter**. Despite her newbie status, she is the closest to Burton. Despite publicly being in a relationship with Burton and having two children together, Carter has proven that she is more than just Burton's girlfriend. Carter is an actress that shows a great deal of versatility, more than qualifying her to be a member of Burton's entourage. From the completely insane Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* to the sweet maternal figure of Mrs. Bucket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Carter has successfully pulled off every role she has played in Burton's films.

Carter's joining the group allowed Burton to fill one of his last gaps: a strong recurring actress who can perform a multitude of characters.

Tim Burton's crew has always been a loyal bunch. Dedicated to making the most of their movies and achieving full creative potential, they have created some of the best, most bizarre movies in the past few decades. And while Burton's latest films have been criticized as too mainstream, this is the man who would not make a second *Batman* film unless he was given full control. Wherever you stand on his latest films such as *Alice in Wonderland*, it is obvious he and his friends will not stop doing what they love: creating films that represent their own unique flair.

They have revolutionized many aspects of the film industry in the '80s and '90s and no matter how much gag-worthy merchandising I see of their intellectual property, Tim Burton and his entourage constantly strive to be something new and original in an increasingly stagnant and repetitive Hollywood.

For this, I tip my hat to them.



Point of View: Life Backstage

By Julianna Roy
Staff Writer

"Now I'm starting to know what God felt like while he was up there creating the world."

"And what did he feel like, Lloyd, my love?"

"Happy he'd taken his Valium!"

- Lloyd and Belinda, *Noises Off*

This exchange, from the winter farce *Noises Off*, is a comedic riff on the stress of producing a play. Life backstage is not exactly like this, but the crew certainly knows what it is like to create a world for actors to live in. And though God could create his world in six days, it takes several weeks to build sets for each production seen by audiences at the Thomas Kinkadee Center for the Arts. The construction process is long and sometimes tiring, but the sets are necessary to produce a top show.

At the start of set builds, Devon (the Technical Director, in charge of set construction) hands the crew the designs and sends them off to build each set piece. They measure, plan, and start the building.

Junior **Angela Hodge**, Prop Master for January's *Noises Off*, says, "There is a lot of satisfaction in seeing the set evolve from a truckload of plywood and a box

of screws into a unique environment for each show."

By referring to the satisfaction in seeing the set's "evolution," Angela is describing a range of emotions associated with seeing the set go up. The build crew looks at the set and understands that each piece has been built from scratch, the product of hours of careful work. So while the show is running, the backstage crew has a protective, almost parental concern with maintaining the set.

The same crew that builds the set works in a variety of positions during the performances. Jobs include spotlight operators, run crew, light- or sound-board operators, costumes, and prop master. Some jobs, like spotlights or run crew, make it possible to watch the show. Others, like costumes and props, allow you to be with the actors backstage and help them with quick changes or wigs. The stage manager, the top job, is chosen for each show during the summer, and controls all crew operations by calling cues and giving directions to the run crew via headsets.

No matter what job one has backstage, or in the booth (sounds, lights, etc.), that crew member is connected to the show and has an integral part in its success.

Junior **Elizabeth Bell**, another mem-



ber of the backstage crew, says, "I have always enjoyed knowing what is happening behind the scenes and being on stage crew allows me to be part of it too."

During the shows, something is bound to go wrong. In October's *Sweeney Todd*, the titular character used a mechanical barber chair to eject people from the set, but the chair broke during the last weekend. The crew knew what the problem was, and with Devon's help, the chair was fixed temporarily.

It takes several weeks to create the set, and only a couple of hours to destroy it. After the closing show, the cast and

crew take out hammers and destroy the set in a process called "strike," which is perhaps most enjoyable for watching the actors use power tools. The physical set disappears, though the memories remain. The end of every show is signaled by the ceremonial mopping of the stage by the stage manager, and after some closing words from the director, the cast and crew head to someone's house for a party.

Angela says, "If you like theater but you're not a performer, crew is a great way to get involved with Mitty's drama department."

Sign up, and get some crew muscles!

Under the Radar: YouTube, Undiscovered

By Steffie Ko
A&E Editor

To many of us, sites such as YouTube and MySpace, are used simply for enjoyment, communication and easy distractions. However, to stars such as Colbie Caillat, Iyaz, and Justin Bieber, these sites were stepping stones that led to their rise in popularity. Simply by posting video covers of their favorite songs or their own original songs, many singers such as the aforementioned have gained opportunities they never dreamed of. Other rising sensations include Esmee Denters, Justin Timberlake's protégé, Marie Digby, whose cover of Rihanna's "Umbrella" was featured on *The Hills*, and Andrew Garcia, a current contestant on this season of *American Idol*. With such famous talents emerging, here are a few amazing YouTube artists that deserve more attention and more listeners.

Gaining an incredible number of viewers on YouTube is **Gabe Bondoc**, a Bay Area native. With his soothing vocals and his talent on the guitar, Bondoc demonstrates a great amount of potential and talent. Best known for his original song, "Gentlemen Don't," Bondoc has dozens of covers of popular hits, ranging from songs such as "The Way You Look Tonight" by Frank Sinatra to the male version of Taylor Swift's "Love Story."

Using his acoustic guitar and a refreshing style of vocals, he easily takes well-known melodies and transforms them into his own pieces. Notable tunes include his



Singer-songwriter Gabe Bondoc is one of several promising YouTube artists.

remakes of "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson, "I Remember" by Keyshia Cole, "So Fly" by Slim and his own self-composed song "When You Say." Although a record label has not discovered him yet, he has already gained a large number of 129,247 subscribers and from the looks of it, will continue to gain more.

Another major sensation on YouTube is **AJ Rafael**, a Berklee College of Music alumnus. First gaining suc-

cess on MySpace for his self-composed singles, "I Just Want You Now" and "Showstopper," he soon shifted towards YouTube and currently has 151,400 subscribers on his channel.

Rafael's music is distinctive for his blending of acoustic melodies with an R&B twist. Playing both the piano and guitar, Rafael is also known for doing duets and collaborations with other underground artists. Working with fellow singers such as Lydia Paek, AHMIR, Jenny Suk, Cathy Nguyen and Jesse Barrera, formerly from My American Heart, Rafael has created a mixture of medleys and remakes, mixing in his own character within them.

A few of his best covers include his Disney series, the mashup of Best I Ever Had/1234, and the collaboration with Randolph Permejo and Andrew Garcia for "Stand By Me." Already gaining many offers for bookings, Rafael currently has two tracks available on iTunes and Amazon and is currently working on his goal to complete a full-length album by Summer of 2010.

Aside from Gabe Bondoc and AJ Rafael, there are a multitude of singers such as **Kina Grannis**, **Tyler Ward**, **Cathy Nguyen**, **Jennifer Chung**, **Legaci**, **Traphik**, and **Joseph Vincent** who are also quickly gaining a devoted fan following and display great vocal abilities. With such talent easily viewable at any moment on YouTube, don't be surprised if you see several of these names appear on our Billboard Charts in the future.

Hidden Online Gems

Alternative websites to treat your mind, relieve your boredom

By Zoya Qureshy
A&E Editor

The information the Internet contains is endless—one can only search so much, leaving much of it undiscovered.

Utilizing this information in combination with the natural affinity that most of us have to surfing the internet, sites such as StumbleUpon, Sporcle, and Howcast invite users to a more enjoyable exploration of internet websites that go beyond the purely factual-based presentation of details.

Unlike search engines such as Yahoo or Google, where one is offered numerous websites (often times, in an unorganized list) that are specifically based on what the user enters into the search box, **StumbleUpon** transfers Internet users to a random site based on the interests that the user indicates. The process is simple: access the site, where they offer you a wide selection of subject areas, ranging from animals to photography; select what interests you; and then stumble.

By using StumbleUpon, you are directed towards an unexpected website pertaining to the chosen subjects. Through its random selection, many users are able to learn new information that they would have otherwise never encountered, increasing the overall knowledge of Internet users, as well as simply unveiling unknown sites. And if you are done with one website, unsatisfied, or just searching for more, all you have to do is stumble again.

Sporcle.com, an addictive website that occupies the off periods of many here at Mitty, is another site gaining increasing popularity, stimulating the mind with its timed games on almost any subject. The idea is to choose a topic and then enter in all the relevant answers you can think of within the allotted time frame, based on the category or the clues given. The topics for these quizzes range from history and science to popular songs and movies.

According to Ayman Ullah, "It's one of the most diverting and stress relieving activities on the web." This is supported

by Manosai Eerabathini, who believes, "it treats your mind and relieves your boredom".

Besides pure enjoyment, it is also informative in that if one is unable to finish the game, answers are quickly provided at the end. Already well-known to many students, Sporcle has proven to be both useful and enjoyable for all.

The Internet also features many how-to sites, which are both informational and comical, such as **Howcast.com** and **Wikihow.com**, among others. From how-to guides for making your own vegan cupcake to learning how to live with a perfectionist, the information proves itself to be just as entertaining as the guides often viewed on YouTube, but better filtered and more refined. In addition, the sites offer practical advice on concepts that you would not necessarily think about, and put a humorous spin on them, like the how-cast video that revolves around how to tell people to be quiet in movie theaters.

With websites such as these, concepts that are uncommonly thought of are brought to light in the form of quirky videos and articles shared by ordinary people for other regular people just like them.

The concept of how-to sites extends into ones that are more practical and hands on, such as **Shoes of Prey**. For girls who love shoe shopping, but can never find anything they specifically want, this site not only allows them to design their own shoe, but also provides an opportunity for girls to purchase them. Sites such as Shoes of Prey, demonstrate the recent growing trend of websites catering to the interests and involvement of their users, far beyond just a display or catalog of information and items.

Although the aforementioned websites are still uncommonly known, the applications and services provided will soon entice many users, and for those who are already fans of these sites, there will surely be more beneficial sites such as these in the future.

"Ask me anything."

The next landmark in online social networking?

By Christina Collins
Staff Writer

"Ask me anything."

It's such a short, yet open-ended request. Not "What are you doing?" the question asked by websites such as Twitter and Facebook, but "Ask me anything," the question which makes **Formspring.me**, the newest internet fad, so undeniably appealing for so many.

It seems that lately, everyone's status updates on Facebook are promoting their Formspring pages, shamelessly regurgitating the "Ask me anything" question that entices so many strange responses—but still, many are asking, "what exactly is a Formspring, and do I really want one?"

To put it simply, Formspring.me is much like the Honesty Box application seen previously on Facebook not too long ago. Quickly taking the internet by storm with its narcissistic appeal and seemingly sincere promise of anonymity for questioners, Formspring advertises itself simply as a great way to get to know someone; the website itself boasts that one can "send and receive anonymous questions, and learn more about people you find interesting by following their answers."

It seems innocent enough; and sometimes, it's comforting to log in to a website where an anonymous user dishes compliments on how nice they think you are, or how cute you looked at school yesterday.

However, in an age where anonymity is so often confused with license to say whatever is on your mind, questions and comments often get ugly. Users may find their inboxes overflowing with hateful, inappropriate, and usually poorly written posts that

are often times hurtful and shocking, to say the least.

Even more shocking are the origins of the site, which, even after extensive research, are as anonymous as its user questions claim to be. A recent prank article making the rounds on Twitter scared Formspringers and irrelevant-question enthusiasts alike—the fake blurb claimed that twelve Formspring administrators, including CEO Mark Baxter, were arrested because they threatened to reveal the anonymous identities of askers via tracked Facebook information on April 1.

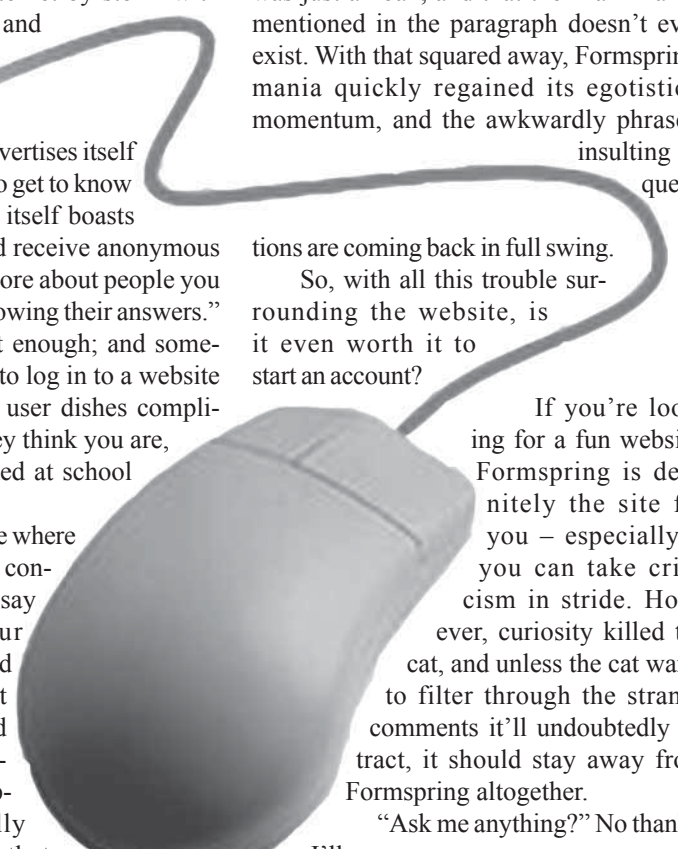
Some April Fool's prank. It wasn't until then that real administrators Ade Olonoh and John Wechsler finally stood up, issuing a simple statement explaining that the article was just a hoax, and that the Mark Baxter mentioned in the paragraph doesn't even exist. With that squared away, Formspringmania quickly regained its egotistical momentum, and the awkwardly phrased, insulting ques-

tions are coming back in full swing.

So, with all this trouble surrounding the website, is it even worth it to start an account?

If you're looking for a fun website, Formspring is definitely the site for you — especially if you can take criticism in stride. However, curiosity killed the cat, and unless the cat wants to filter through the strange comments it'll undoubtedly attract, it should stay away from Formspring altogether.

"Ask me anything?" No thanks, I'll pass.



MONARCH CRITICS

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Tessa Krey
Staff Writer



Based on the novel by the late Swedish author Stieg Larsson, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* follows the story of Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) and a brilliant computer hacker, Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace). Blomkvist, who was accused of libel after attempting to bring a prominent industrialist's crimes to light, agrees to help find out the truth behind the disappearance of the wealthy Henrik Vanger's niece, Harriet, in order to stay out of the public eye.

The film's cast is excellent, but Noomi Rapace easily steals the film as Lisbeth. She does a great job of showing the vulnerability and complexity of a character that outwardly appears so cold, yet is sympathetic. Unlike the book, the film strayed from being an intense dramatic character study and instead focused on the action and actual mystery of Harriet's disappearance. In addition to the great cast was the fine editing—while certain aspects of the book were left out, they were probably the least important parts and the filmmakers easily explained certain features of the book that were pretty complicated. Despite being over two hours long, the movie never dragged and easily kept track of the many storylines.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is a Swedish film, with English subtitles, but that doesn't mean it's not a great movie. Hollywood is, unsurprisingly, already planning a remake with screenwriter Steve Zaillian. Hopefully the Hollywood rendition lives up to this one.

Bonjour Crepes Company

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Alyssa Caban
Staff Writer



You all have eaten Togo's or Subway sandwiches or any of the food found at your local fast food joints, but have you ever wanted to try something new? How about a crepe that you can eat at any time of the day, filled with practically anything you're craving, one that you watch made fresh right in front of you? If so, then I highly recommend you stop by the Bonjour Crepe Company at the intersection of Stevens Creek Boulevard and Blaney Avenue in Cupertino.

Bonjour Crepes has an authentic, yet casual, French vibe given off by the whimsical French music being played and the refreshing setting of the restaurant's décor. Customers have a seemingly unlimited number of ingredients to choose from, with a variety of meats, veggies, cheeses, fruits, and sauces.

Two of the pre-set menu items, the Mediterranean crepe and the Frenchie Panini, are highly recommended. The chocolate and banana crepe had a rich chocolate taste I found decadent and the crepe itself was huge, almost too large for a dessert serving.

This new French creperie definitely fulfills any hype I'm putting onto it. But be warned, these terrific crepes don't come cheap. Yet, with no other restaurant like this in our area, the price is well worth it.

Gorillaz

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Eric Pestana
Staff Writer



Plastic Beach, cartoon supergroup Gorillaz's first album since 2005, plays exactly as the title sounds. It maintains a poppy vibe while adhering to the Gorillaz's trademark British influence and hip-hop roots. The result is a relaxingly psychedelic listen. The album kicks off with an orchestral introduction to simmer down the tone for Snoop Dogg to literally "welcome" the audience to the music's atmosphere in the following track.

After the mood is set, the fuller compositions begin, with featured artists in nearly every following song, including Mos Def, Lou Reed, and De La Soul (of "Feel Good Inc"). Though "White Flag," is a somewhat disappointing rut after the promising exposition, the album picks right back up afterward with a selection of tracks that have a keen sense of rhythm, with satisfactory bass and percussions throughout. "Superfast Jellyfish" delivers a deep bass/classic drum kit combination to create an undeniably catchy punch to an oddly memorable song. "Rhinstone Eyes" seems to be a hallucination-induced monologue, and somewhat gives a vibe of nighttime Tokyo in its chorus. The slow buildup of "Empire Ants" can be considered a turnoff at first, but once its beat drops, the synthesizers and sheer Gorillaz charm carry it much further to make it a noteworthy track. As the songs pass, the title of the album becomes increasingly appropriate. For example, the daydreaming "On Melancholy Hill" serves perfectly for kicking back on a sandy shore.

The newest effort from the Gorillaz proves to be their most laid back set of tunes to date, and it succeeds greatly.

Ovo

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Dasha Sadovnikova
Staff Writer



As the title suggests, Cirque du Soleil's latest creation invites the audience to experience its artistic magnification of the indistinct world of our planet's number one inhabitant—the insect. The show, entitled *Ovo* due to the storyline's focus on a human-size insect egg, premiered in Montreal in 2009 and recently played in San Jose under the Grand Chapiteau.

Cirque du Soleil is distinguished for its unique style of incorporating an abstract storyline into a series of high-power circus acts, balancing super-human strength with elegance and visual splendor. *Ovo* is no different. Its diverse collection of spectacles includes an insect acrobat balancing himself in precarious positions on a sliding spiral structure as well as gravity-defying trapeze artist cockroaches—no doubt signifying the invincibility of these domestic pests.

However, though aesthetically pleasing and thrilling to the senses, none of these acts significantly distinguished *Ovo* from any of Cirque's other shows, and experienced circusgoers were thoroughly entertained but not particularly awestruck with these nonetheless impressive performances. Still, overall, *Ovo*, like all Cirque du Soleil shows was worth experiencing for its visual creativity and talented performance team, especially to those fascinated by the mysterious and chaotic world of insects.

The Green Zone

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer



Starring the Bourne series' Matt Damon, *Green Zone* is latest political action thriller to hit theaters. Set in Iraq during the the invasion, this film delves into the reasons for the conflict. On the field, Sergeant Roy Miller (Damon), frustrated after facing multiple dead ends in intelligence on weapons of mass destruction, sees that there must be an explanation for all the unanswered questions. After being shot down by his superiors who mandate that he does what they say, he decides to break loose from the team and pursue matters for himself, receiving help from a local named Freddy (Khalid Abdalla). Through the course of his own investigations, Miller comes across disturbing evidence with major implications for the United States.

The relationships between all the characters aren't always entirely clear because there are many secret identities and covert alliances; however, this uncertainty was the only negative point of the film.

Considering this is an action film, Matt Damon is cast perfectly for the astute and fearless military leader, Miller. In addition, this movie provides for stimulating viewing and an interesting take on the current War on Terror—such a controversial topic at this point in time that it is valuable to receive another perspective on it.

The film focuses on Miller's discovery of an American cover-up, as well as providing necessary insight into the Iraqi point of view regarding the war—reminding us that it is all too easy to forget about the victims of our occupation.

Green Zone does not fail to deliver, and is perfect for anyone interested in a fast-paced, powerful, and important film.

Battlefield: Bad Company 2

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Austin Kruckmeyer
Staff Writer



The Battlefield Series has always been about big maps, teamwork, vehicles, and, exclusive to the Bad Company Sub-Series, destructibility.

Like its predecessor, *Bad Company 2* has a single player mode, although not as enjoyable as the first. In addition, while this sequel keeps the humorous four main characters and a consistent theme, the first game's lighthearted plot is dropped for a more serious one that features a more linear game-play rather than the previous sandbox game-play. Towards the middle, the game begins to pick up and resemble its predecessor, only to disappoint again with its anti-climatic ending.

Fortunately, the game is not restricted to the single player—the multiplayer mode is phenomenal. Playing as one of the four customizable classes, you can join a team of 15 other players who attack and defend objectives. Maps in the game are expansive and offer multiple ways to complete your objectives.

Strategic planning aside, the actual destructibility adds a dynamic layer to the battles by providing new ways to outsmart your opponents. The huge battles, exciting team-play, and explosive combat all combine to create an epic and engaging experience that you will want to come back to.



By Anni Huang
Staff Cartoonist

Are you going to the models are pet accessories trend their little accessories enables design owners from outfit of the Pet the chic pets' out as seen How convenient and fluffy temperature stability. Pets even notion that dogs by ensuring their feet from W the run, pet clothes the relationship appeal c



A Word About Men's Fashion

By Kanishka Khanna
Sports Editor

bohemian dress code. I'm not saying that either is particularly perfect, just that it's time boys find the juxtaposition between the two houses of fashion to be a little more aesthetically

pleasing. thought about it, she actually made sense; why spend our days bundled in the oversized excess of sweatshirts when we can slip into something just as comfortable and immensely more aesthetically pleasing (sweaters)?

Men's fashion lines such as ExpressMen, Armani Exchange and Banana Republic have found that mix of style. Here you can find that rainbow array of button-downs, cashmere sweaters (which are ever-appropriate), and the most essential dark-washed jeans.

There's something about a boy who thinks about what he's wearing, rather than throwing on whatever he finds in the jungle that is his closet. What could be more unattractive than the guy who thinks it is passable to wear unwashed, two-week old jeans with an arbitrary graphic tee? He thinks it shows an air of nonchalance, of a person that goes with the flow of life – the opposite is true. That boy is simply effortless.

The clothes are not those we find in the closets of our grandfathers or even fathers (well most fathers anyway). The shirts are crumpled, the jeans ripped or tastefully stained, and the accessories pair perfectly with most outfits. Here one finds attire aimed at the cosmopolitan man, one who isn't afraid to dress up for school every day and still maintain a style that turns heads at the weekend parties. He emanates an aura of professionalism combined with the boyish charm of an un-tucked but tastefully chosen shirt.

There has always been this contrast between the styles of the coasts: The West promotes anything that works for the individual, whereas the East has a much more regimented

Words of wisdom from the infamous airhead Paris Hilton have been listed alongside historic scholars Confucius and Oscar Wilde in a new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotes. Paris' verbal gem, "Dress cute wherever you go, life is too short to blend in," is immortalized in the 65th edition of the dictionary. When I first read this quote, I would be remiss if I didn't admit I made fun of her in my head. But the more I



COLOR OF TROPICAL

Pretty

TURQUOISE

FASHION Disasters THROUGH THE AGES

By Lisa Patel
Staff Writer

Through the ages, there have been fashions that have inspired us to wonder, "What were they thinking?" Some fashions are so outrageous and ridiculous that it seems impossible that they were once de rigueur, and we should all thank our lucky stars we don't have to see them around anymore.

ocean in *Pirates of the Caribbean* when the tightness of her corset caused her to faint? Believe it or not, this was not altogether uncommon in the days when corsets reined supreme. When corsets were overly tightened, women fainted, broke ribs, and bled internally, just to name a few of the consequences. Despite these dangers, women continued to try to achieve that hourglass shape through this "fashionable" tool.

who had to work on farms.

But other women, who needed to have bound feet in order to be considered marriageable, had to suffer through countless blisters and worse consequences all for the sake of fashion. All I can say is, thank goodness less lethal fashion trends have surfaced.

One such ridiculous trend was that of the crinoline, commonly known as a type of hoop skirt popular in the 19th century.

Another custom that has fallen out of practice is that of foot binding, once common in China. From the 8th century to the early 1900s, women continually bound their feet in order to minimize their size, resulting in short, narrow feet. Females began binding their feet anywhere from age 2 to age 7, soaking their feet in a special mixture and then binding their toes back. The process continued for multiple years until the females reached the ideal foot length of about three inches. Foot binding cut off circulation in the legs and led to various diseases which were sometimes life-threatening, and women could only take very small steps. Women whose feet were not bound were the provincial women

Several tales have surfaced about how these were susceptible to gusts of wind, often causing women to fall, and in some unlucky cases where the women were on piers, to fall into the ocean and drown. Not only were these hoop skirts inconvenient to maneuver around, but they have also were known to tip over candles and set their wearers on fire. Think this is a myth? The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's second wife actually died this way.

Remember Keira Knightley's graceful tumble into the



Fashion I

By Nhi Nguyen
Staff Writer

ing to the couture fashion show? Did I mention that pampered puppies? Sporting the latest apparel and nds, these puppies strut across the runway flaunting ets in Pet Fashion Week in New York. The event gnars to showcase their latest creations, giving pet m around the globe the opportunity to purchase the e moment.

fashions are inspired by cultural influences and mimic styles of contemporary humans. The coordination of tfits purposefully complements that of their owners by the classic doggie tutu and moccasin boots.

ever, for the mainstream of society, comfort and nce supersedes fashion. Oftentimes, pets don jackets sweaters suitable to the climate because their body e range varies with the weather, and clothes maintain ven wear lifejackets. Although there is a widespread are adept swimmers, many pet owners remain careful ir pets' safety. Pets may also wear shoes to protect n street debris

hether on the runway or on othes play a factor in ive comfort and f pets.

FOCUS ON Fashion

Prom Dress Trends 2010

The mother of all teen fashion events is fast approaching—yes, that's right, it's the Promenade. It's a day when a girl's countless hours of searching for that perfect dress pay off, when she can finally display the product of her efforts to the world. Here's a forecast that shows you exactly what to expect for this magical day.



Mermaid Metallic Sequins One Shoulder Print

THE YEAR
ANNOUNCING
* * *
DRAMATIC
* * *
BRIGHT
By Focus Editors

Spring 2010 Trends

By Focus Editors



Ripped Jeans

It was inevitable; no amount of school detentions, parental pleading, and disapproval from friends could protect society from this trend. That's right, ripped jeans – the bridge between sloppiness and high fashion - are back! Whether your rips and tears are DIY or store-bought, your distressed duds are sure to gain nods of approval from fashionistas everywhere. Pair your ripped jeans with a simple, sleek top and you will never be mistaken for a homeless person.



Warrior Chic

Fashion is turning fierce with the surge of military and tribal – inspired clothing and accessories flooding stores everywhere. Look out for chain mail detailing, military jackets, and war-paint motifs.



Ruffles

Girly girls and guys who are completely assured of their masculinity will be thrilled to learn that ruffles are in this season. No longer considered stuffy and matronly, ruffles now adorn blouses, skirts, bags, and shoes everywhere—either as subtle accents or the main focus.



Neutral Tones

Neutral colors such as beige, sand, khaki, gray, and flesh-tones are big this year, likely because they tend to add an instant air of style and confidence to whoever wears them. Plus, they match with almost anything, making them wardrobe staples that will withstand changing trends. Neutral tones should be broken up by soft pastels or gentle pops of color; this is especially essential when wearing flesh tones in order to avoid looking naked from a distance.



Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



Alex Ramirez

Alex Ramirez is a senior here at Mitty. He lives in San Jose, and apart from photography enjoys cooking and looking for new locations to shoot at in his spare time.

What attracted you to photography in the first place?

My photography class, first semester of senior year, is what attracted me to photography. I really enjoyed the class and started to take more pictures outside of class and experimented with different settings and subjects.

What is your favorite thing to photograph?

People. I enjoy taking pictures of my friends with simple and elegant backgrounds.

What inspires you?

Nature. I like driving around and finding new places to take pictures.

Describe the favorite photo you've taken:

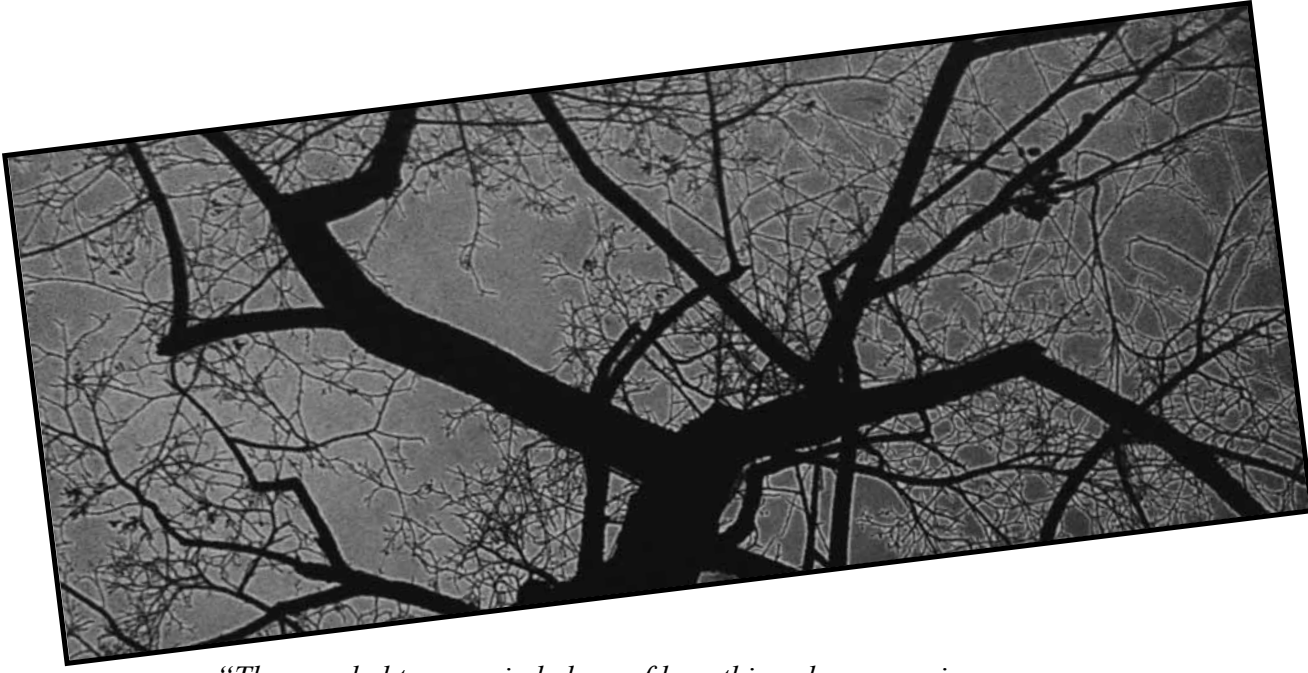
My favorite photo is one of the ocean and cliffs of Big Sur. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and I feel like I captured the natural beauty in the picture.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?

I plan on continuing to take pictures just as a hobby and keep experimenting with new subjects.

How would you describe your photographic style?

I would say a lot of my pictures are simple and traditional. Most of my pictures are portraits of people.



"The gnarled tree reminded me of how things keep growing, even in the darkest moments."
-Ashley Eggleston

"I love the dog's facial expression; anyone who owns a dog knows this longing stare."
-Brooke Parrish



"I really like the way the light hits the guitar and shades it from light to dark. It created a nice dramatic effect."
-Lauren Masch

Snapshots



"I was originally taking pictures of detail in the rocks, but the beautiful sunset inspired this simple, tranquil photograph."
-Kelly Prows

MANASI PATEL



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!

**CONFESSE
WINNER**

Justice Awareness

PEEPING PRINCIPAL TOM

ADMINISTRATION USES CYBER TECHNOLOGY TO SPY ON STUDENTS

By Olivia Bartz
Staff Writer

Since the addition of the ninth amendment, the Supreme Court has upheld the right to privacy as a basic human liberty. However, this right is not always guaranteed; government agencies as well as other authorities have occasionally subverted this expectation. While oversight is vital to any organization as it allows regulation, maintaining this code can lead to an invasion of privacy, as Blake J. Robbins and his classmates at the Lower Merion School in Philadelphia experienced last November.

School-wide laptops were issued under the pretense that this would allow students to access school-based resources conveniently from their homes, a seemingly generous offer. Unbeknownst to the students, the laptops provided more communication with the school district than was apparent: each laptop contained webcams capable of being covertly accessed by the school's administrators to spy on the students while in their homes.

Does this qualify as an invasion of fundamental privacy? Robbins and his parents thought so when Jake was disciplined at school for having engaged in "improper behavior in his home." The vice principal of the school provided the evidence for this misconduct: a photo of Blake taken by the webcam embedded in his computer. The webcam scandal is now in the public eye as a result both of the action by Robbins and his parents, and of a class action suit brought on "behalf of all similarly situated persons" (regarding

the other students) against the Lower Merion School District of Ardmore, Philadelphia.

While this level of surveillance may appear shocking and obviously inappropriate to some, this is not the first time that authorities have used their power and opportunity to "overstep" the boundaries of what some may regard as an expected right to privacy. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Patriot Act was implemented, providing "the federal government vast powers to access personal information, perform searches, and detain suspects in the interest of national security." While this act is controversial, as it is seen to be providing the government with far too much power, it is still in effect today—so one may raise the question: Is it allowable to infringe on the people's right to privacy if the infringement only occurs due to noble and serious concerns?

In the case of the webcam scandal, the District claims that the webcams were to be used only in case of theft of the laptops and that audio and video on the webcams could not be employed; only still pictures could be taken. It still denies any misuse of the system—though the system is disabled for now because of the suit.

So while the use of these webcams was a violation of the students' right to privacy, the nation as a whole is also encouraging a level of surveillance in order to protect its people. Perhaps it is not the nature of the offense but rather the nobility of the intentions that differentiates these two infringements on the right to privacy.

AL JAZEERA UNCOVERED

Leading Arabic News Network Reveals Another Side of the War

By Sarang Shankar
Staff Writer

Al Jazeera is an international Arabic television news network headquartered in Doha, Qatar. Since their initial launch as an Arabic satellite TV channel, Al Jazeera has expanded into a multitude of networks such as Internet and specialized TV channels. After the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, Al Jazeera received worldwide attention because not only was it the only news station to cover the war in Afghanistan from its station there, but

it also made global headlines by being the first and only news station to broadcast video statements from Osama Bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders.

In 2003 as the invasion of Iraq began to unravel, Al Jazeera immediately began its coverage of the very graphic footage from inside Iraq. Soon after, American officials accused Al Jazeera of being anti-American/anti-coalition (the other non-U.S. forces in Iraq) in addition to inciting violence and encouraging the insurgency. As a result, censorship of Al Jazeera in the U.S. became inevitable. For example, two Al Jazeera reporters covering the New York Stock Exchange on Monday, March 23, 2003 had their credentials revoked. The Exchange would further go on to ban all Al Jazeera reporters from its trading floor indefinitely under the pretext of "security reasons."

The worse has yet to come for Al Jazeera, however. With the war in Iraq escalating, the U.S. Pentagon began to pay more attention to Al Jazeera. In response, the Pentagon hired the Rendon Group to silence and counter any

anti-American stories by Al Jazeera. The Rendon Group was tasked with creating an "information war room" that would monitor news reports worldwide at incredible speeds and respond to them nearly instantaneously with counter-propaganda.

The Pentagon considered these extreme procedures "critical to U.S. objectives in the War on Terrorism." In addition, according to Pentagon documents, another one of the Pentagon's objectives was to "coerce" foreign journalists and plant false information overseas in order to promote U.S. efforts in the war. Even worse, the Pentagon also, according to secret briefing papers, sought methods to punish those who conveyed the wrong message—meaning those who spoke out against U.S. decisions.

"I can see why American and British politicians and military leaders don't like us showing these pictures. They show a side of the war that they don't want projected because it may affect public opinion in their country negatively," said Yosri Fouda, al-Jazeera's bureau chief in London. "In these things, the western media is highly sanitized. You are not seeing what war, this war, is actually like" (BBC news).

Censorship in times of war is still censorship. With the number of reporters in Iraq infinitesimally low (in 2006, there were 9 embedded reporters in Iraq—approximately 1 for every 75,000 troops), the events transpiring remain largely unknown to the U.S. public let alone the world.

After all, American blood and tax money has been spent in the prolonged occupation of Iraq. Therefore, it is the unquestionable, natural right of the people to know what is happening in Iraq.

By Betsy Thomas & Maya Raman

Staff Writer and Justice Awareness Editor

Reporters Without Borders awarded the first "Netizen Prize" to Change for Equality, Iranian women's rights activists. Change for Equality is an online blog that tried to change discriminatory laws towards women, and has become a source of objective information in a fundamentalist society. "Without these courageous citizens, we would be deprived of information that is essential for understanding our world" (Reporters Without Borders).

CHINA

Coming in as the number one "Enemy of the Internet", China has been enforcing censorship since the birth of the Internet. For years, Internet giant, Google, has complied with the Chinese government's demands; this proved to be too much once it was discovered that "highly sophisticated hackers," thought to be working for the Chinese government, attacked the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. Viewing this break-in as direct attack upon Google, Google finally threatened to pull out. (New York Times)

AUSTRALIA

Australia's Racial Discrimination Act makes it "unlawful for a person to perform any public act that is likely to offend, insult or humiliate another person if the act is done because of the race, color, or national or ethnic origin of the other person." This act is problematic when dealing with websites such as Encyclopedia Dramatica, where internet users "gain their kicks from verbally tormenting others." The Australian government now plans to create the "Great Firewall of Australia" which will censor child pornography as well as internet service providers that fail to pass Australia's adult classification services. If implemented it will be the largest internet censorship program of any western democracy (Irish Times).





A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROM DRAMA

High School Senior Constance McMillen Banned from Her Senior Prom

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

Well, it's that time of year again. Girls frantically scouring the Bay Area in search for the perfect dress and shoes, and guys trying to conjure up the courage to ask the pretty and quiet girl that they have been sitting next to all year in class. But what if you weren't allowed to attend your prom because of your sexual orientation?

Constance McMillen, a senior at Itawamba High School, was informed earlier this year that she would not be allowed to bring her sophomore girlfriend to her senior prom. In addition, the school officials informed her that she would not be able to wear a tuxedo, as was her original plan.

Constance then went on to contact that American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi, as this sort of discrimination was a direct violation of her constitutional rights, and they began talking to the district about a policy change. Following this, McMillen's school announced that they would cancel the prom due to Constance's involvement.

In an interview with *USA Today*, Constance responded, "That's really messed up because the message they are sending is that if they have to let gay people go to prom that they are not going to have one."

Perhaps it is the fact that we live in liberal California, an area where cancelling prom simply because of homophobia is analogous to the apocalypse in 2012. It is a shame to think that there are places in the United States, a nation built on freedom of expression for all people, where this type of discrimination still occurs.

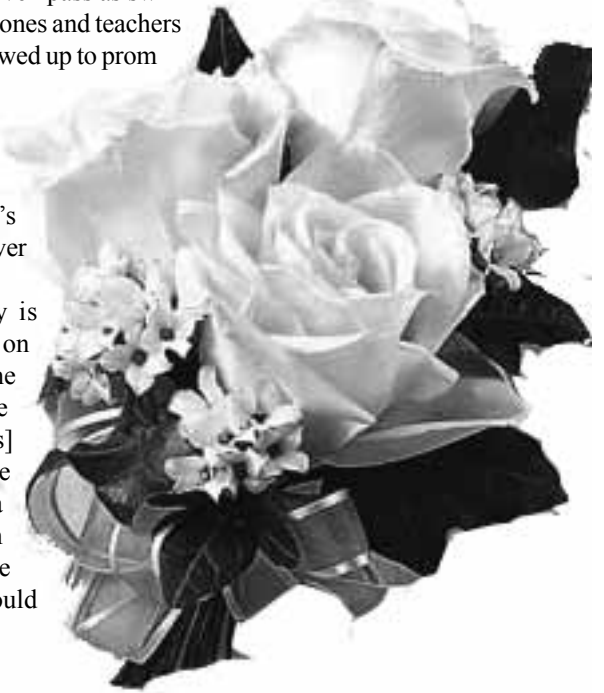
Clearly these Mississippian school board officials have yet to discover that homosexuality is not a choice, and therefore, is not something that can be transmitted to those of heterosexual orientation. What is this? Swine flu? Yes, these Evangelical Protestant school administrators may not want to acknowledge homosexuality, but one would think that they would at least possess the decency to acknowledge the inherent human dignity of each individual person, regardless of sexual orientation.

Now, let's consider the school administrators' poorly-made decision. The school officials have tried desperately to justify their "protective" decision, but flimsy excuses and homophobia are not reason enough to cancel one of the most anticipated events of one's high school career.

Besides, what problem do these administrators have with girls in tuxedos? If you consider how many girls will be showing up to prom in skimpy, backless dresses that would not even pass as swimwear, one would think that chaperones and teachers would be thrilled if more girls showed up to prom in modest apparel.

On top of this, the board told Constance that she would not be able to dance with her girlfriend because it would "push people's buttons." So these people have never seen two girls dancing together?

Nevertheless, such bigotry is no reason to discriminate based on orientation. When approaching the board with her concern, Constance McMillen said that "[she] want[s] [her] prom experience to be the same as all of the other students, a night to remember with the person [she is] dating." To be frank, there is no reason why Constance should not have that.



NEW AGE CENSORSHIP

Iranian Journalists and Protestors Silenced, Websites and Texting Shut Down

By Elise Sudlow
Staff Writer

Being able to write and share our opinions is something we all take for granted. To put a pen to paper and express our ideas is one of the most valuable forms of expression we have. The right to express our ideas and opinions is something so many people all over the world aren't afforded.

Right now, in Iran, journalists are struggling for this right that we have every day. In Iran last June, an election was held and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was re-elected. Much controversy surrounds his re-election, and people communicated through the internet and via text about the results. Journalists who were writing about controversial issues such as women's rights were often arrested.

Some news organizations were targeted as well. An organization called Reporters Without Borders investigated and confirmed an increase in arrests of journalists. Iran's prisons are filled with more journalists and bloggers than any other country in the world. With 1,000 imprisoned within the last few months, many are becoming hesitant to voice their opinions (CNN).

Because of the advent of the Internet as a medium of expression, the Iranian government has censored its citizens through even more extreme measures than in the past. After a female protestor named Neda Agha-Soltan was killed and a fellow protestor took the video, he wanted the world to know. But because of the caps on internet sites like YouTube, he had to send it to a friend who sent it on to various news stations. It was then played on newscasts such as CNN, showing that this censorship can only go so far. In this day and age, it will be harder for the Iranian government to keep what they wish inside Iran.

Even so, many journalists and protestors are fleeing and these people are rightfully fearful, as those not in prisons remain under the watchful eye of the government. Those charged are not given access to lawyers or even knowledge about the nature of their arrests. Those in prison are forced to admit to crimes they never committed, and there is evidence

of physical and sexual abuse taking place in these facilities.

Festivities in Iran during early February were met with more censorship. Some phone companies disabled texting on customers' phones. Reporters Without Borders is working to rectify the problem; though they cannot do so without the full support of the Iranian community (CNN). Such censorship is a threat to the voices of all of the Iranian people.

Discontinuing the ability to send text messages is absolutely ridiculous, considering how many people use this form of communication. This just shows the extent to which the Iranian government is willing to go in order to silence the opinions of its people. Blocking such frequently visited websites as YouTube and jailing journalists shows the steps backward that Iran is taking with regards to human rights and freedoms of speech and the press. This has inevitably caused turmoil within the country and unrest amongst those who live in it.

Iran should look toward the Chinese government, who has attempted similar censorship in the past, and learn that they cannot keep a lid on their problems. Life in the United States would be unimaginable without our freedom of speech and expression.

Write and share your voice, simply because you have the ability to, and because others can not.

SPORTS

Player Profile

Curtis Fellenz

Lacrosse

Q: What position do you play, what are your strengths, and what do you wish to improve?

A: I play midfield. I would love to work on improving my left hand. I think the strongest aspect of my game is probably my mental toughness, along with my tenacity.

Q: What is the biggest obstacle that the team had to overcome this year?

A: We lost some key players and knew that it would be hard to fill the huge voids that they left.

Q: What are the team's biggest assets?

A: I think how close we have become after just one year of playing together. This team covers all of the bases, although there's always room for improvement.

Q: What has been the best experience during your time on the team?

A: Having the chance to become a captain with Blake Hurt and Sam Miraglia has been one of the greatest opportunities of my high school career. I feel honored to be able to help our team. Although it can be a lot of work and pretty frustrating at times, it feels great to know that your team can rely on you for anything.

By Steven Nguyen
Staff Writer

Monarchs Take Aim at CCS

Team seeks to capture title that eluded them last year

By Bryce Bajar
Staff Writer

The new, strikingly polished scoreboard looms over the field in stately magnificence.

Yet, underneath the shadow of this new grand fixture, something far more impressive takes place.

Mitty Baseball has rocketed to a jaw-dropping season start, picking up right where it left off in a previous season that featured a trip to the CCS finals.

In the preseason, Mitty defeated Los Gatos, St. Mary's, and Jesuit in convincing fashion—all finalists in their respective sections last year.

This eventually culminated in a perfect 7-0 preseason, marked by winning the Mike Hazlett Tournament after overcoming Valley Christian in a close 3-2 championship game.

The Monarchs (10-1-0) now find themselves seated firmly at the top of the WCAL.

USC-bound senior **James Roberts** provided some insight into the team's success so far: "Everyone in our lineup is contributing to each win and everyone is a lot more consistent. Every game is up to us and is in our hands."

"We are blessed with a lot of strong pitching—more pitching than we have ever had," adds **Head Coach Bill Hutton**, "The juniors have won league titles, and the seniors won league titles in their first two years and went to a CCS title game last year, so we have a fair amount of talent."

Strong hitting complements the exceptional pitching corps. With the likes of USF-bound senior **Alex Balog**, batting around .400, Mitty has been formidable at the plate. They outscored their opponents 50-16 throughout the preseason.

Their strong start led to Maxpreps.com ranking the team 10th in state and 3rd in



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Junior Brett Fuller winds up for a pitch.

CCS prior to the regular season.

However, these accolades do not alter the Monarchs' focus.

"If you asked anyone on our team, they will tell you that none of the rankings matter to us. We didn't go into the season looking to win only the first seven games, get ranked, and start cruising along the rest of the season," Roberts commented.

Coach Hutton noted: "We are trying to stay in the present and play to our potential."

The Monarchs continue to work diligently in practice, despite the spectacular results so far. As Coach Hutton said: "In baseball you have to constantly improve at everything. We are just going to continue learning how to play a team-centered, unselfish, humble style of baseball."

With the regular season underway, the team has steadily continued with its success, highlighted by a 6-3 win over Bellarmine to open WCAL play.

"It is scary to see how good we are now since we still have much room to improve," Roberts said.

Asked about the team's aspirations for the season, Roberts was adamant: "Our goal this season is simple—win CCS."

The Monarchs did suffer an 11-6 defeat to Serra, though they rallied with a 7-4 victory over St. Ignatius the next day, and followed that up with a dramatic, 5-4 defeat of St. Francis on a Balog walk-off homerun.

"We know that the teams in our league don't care how good we are—every game is a toss up. We are looking to play each game one game at a time, one inning at a time, and one pitch at a time," said Roberts.

With the regular season well underway, a number of key games remain. Right after spring break, Mitty takes on Valley Christian at home, a team that gave the Monarchs a most competitive game in the final of the Mike Hazlett tournament.

On April 23, Mitty will host the Serra Padres, which narrowly defeated the Monarchs in last year's CCS Division I finals.

After the conclusion of round robin WCAL play at the beginning of May, make sure to note the beginning of the WCAL playoffs and CCS playoffs on May 11 and May 19 respectively.

Should you venture outside after school, be sure to witness the Monarchs playing on Bill Barone Field just over the hedge.

Witness not only an excellent showing of America's pastime, but also something very special, as Mitty Baseball, shining on the field like an unbreakable diamond, continues on their quest for victory.

A League of Their Own

Women's Softball Starts New Season with Strong Performances

By Alexis Savini and Juli Ruiz
Sports Editors

Archbishop Mitty takes much pride in its Women's Softball team. With a winning tradition in place, the 2010 Mitty Softball Team again moves towards reaching its lofty, yet very realistic goals. Currently the team boasts the following on its resume: WCAL Champions, 5-year CCS Champions, and last year ranked #1 by ESPN, and by *USA Today*.

Though the Monarchs lost key players like Alaina Thomas, Shea Williams, Sydney Frangieh, and all-world Keilani Ricketts after last season, they have nonetheless stepped up to the challenge of filling these rather large shoes.

Coming out of the gate strong, the Lady Monarchs have definitively staked their claim for a spot at the top of the league rankings.

The team has already toppled a plethora of key opponents, including a 10-1 blowout against Wilcox and an 8-0 demolition of Foothill, as well as a slightly closer defeat of Gilroy, with a final score of 1-0.

The Monarchs' success is due in part to **Vanessa Alvarez**, the sophomore pitcher who has tackled the overwhelming task of replacing last year's award-winning



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Lindsay Norton connects with the ball.

pitcher Keilani Ricketts.

So far, so good. Alvarez has been nearly untouchable during the initial games of the season, giving up only one run in the first five games and a mere ten hits.

When added to the phenomenal play of junior **Sylvia Llamas**, who leads the team in runs, as well as junior **Shannon King** and senior **Lindsay Norton**, who trail close behind, it is not difficult to divine the source of the team's early success.

As senior **Jillian Anderson** puts it, "We have a lot of potential. We're a young team and we are good, but not all of our players know it yet."

However, if they don't know it yet, they are sure to realize it soon. Though the Monarchs suffered a recent 5-4 loss to Clovis West, the team was looking undeniably strong as they headed into games with Notre Dame and Live Oak.

With the leadership of **Coach Sarah Thomas** and the focus of key players, including King, Andersen, Norton, and Alvarez, the Mitty softball program has a promising season ahead.

Despite the loss of a number of last year's powerhouse players and the relative newness of the team's dynamic, the Monarchs are poised to maintain their firm hold on their #1 league ranking.

Basketball Completes Stellar Season

Men Capture CCS Title

By Ayman Ullah
Staff Writer

Mitty has been heralded as one of the top athletic programs in the nation for many years now, and the Monarch's Men's Basketball team has added to that reputation with their significant accomplishments this year.

The Monarchs headed into CCS play with a 9-5 record in league play, no small accomplishment for a team playing in one of the most competitive leagues in the state.

Yet the young Monarchs defied all expectations by playing at a level that would take them all the way to the CCS championship to play against league rival and #1 seeded St. Francis.

The young Monarch team played with an energy and desire that St. Francis simply couldn't match, and the Men's Basketball Team brought home a CCS title.

This season was geared for growth and development for the Monarchs; with a team that featured eleven juniors on the roster, many critics doubted whether the team would be able to emulate the successes of seasons past.

But the young Monarch's gritty, defensive style of play paid off, as they held their own against more veteran teams.

The team's growth was especially noted by **Coach Tim Kennedy**: "Team defense started to come together and their communication on rotations helped make it difficult for teams to score."

Though the team consisted of mostly juniors, strong play from freshman **Aaron Gordon** and senior **Stephen Meade** drove the team toward its title run.

During crucial points in games, both players took advantage of their defensive skills and size to dominate the paint and prevent defensive lapses and according to Coach Kennedy, "had some dominating performances."

As the CCS playoffs progressed, the team continued to grow in their play, highlighted by the win over Fairfield in CCS, in which junior guard **Kyle Toth** hit a

buzzer-beating shot to seal the home victory for the Monarchs.

However, in the end, the Monarchs succumbed to the Woodcreek Timberwolves in a 91-83 overtime loss on March 13, marking the end of their impressive season.

Despite their unfortunate finish, the Mitty basketball team surpassed all expectations this year, earning a 21-10 record. Their outstanding play and determination has earned them a reputation in the league as ferocious competitors once again.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Freshman Aaron Gordon slams it home.

Women Reach NorCal Finals

By Arjun Ravishankar
Staff Writer

No, they didn't bring home their fifth state title. But the Archbishop Mitty Women's Basketball team still put together another superb season.

And it was a season that included a landmark: **Coach Sue Phillips** earned the 500th win of her coaching career, a rare achievement and one that testifies to her greatness as a coach.

The players, too, achieved plenty during the season. Harvard-bound senior center **Elisabeth Gordon** stepped up her game, averaging nine points and just over eight rebounds.

Her physical game combined with impressive guard play from junior **Ashley Watson** and senior **Classye James**, who averaged double figures in points, gave the Monarchs a dominant front-court and back-court presence.

Entering this season, the Monarchs had the same goal as every year: as Coach Sue Phillips puts it, "keep it simple...get better on a daily basis."

However, the Monarchs were "pleased but never satisfied" says Phillips, as they were in "constant pursuit of perfection."

Heading into the NorCal champion-

ship game at Arco Arena in Sacramento on March 20, the Monarchs had strong momentum, having come off big wins against Bella Vista and Northgate.

In their matchup against Northgate, the Monarchs intense defense forced fifteen turnovers.

The climax of the season came in that NorCal Championship, however, when Mitty faced Carondelet in the.

The Monarchs had beaten Carondelet earlier in the season by a narrow margin, 58-52.

The team entered the finals wanting to in the words of Coach Phillips, "execute those offensive and defensive schemes to the best of our ability."

Unfortunately the team's successful season came to a close with a narrow

defeat of 40-38 in a game marked by missed opportunities.

Watson led the Monarchs in scoring with 16 points. Gordon also played a strong game, with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Monarchs ended the season with an overall record of 26-6-0, ranked 8th in the state by Maxpreps.com.

Despite their disappointing final loss, the Women's Basketball team showed tremendous potential and will no doubt continue to be successful in the future.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Allie Lustig on the press.

Highlight REEL

Men's Volleyball

COACH:
MR. KEVIN PORRAL

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:
RYAN PETULLA, RYAN SABATINI, TYLER VINSON,
ALEX BECKER, AND JUSTIN HAMILTON

HIGHLIGHT:
WHEN THE MONARCHS TOOK SECOND
IN THE APTOS TOURNAMENT

RYAN SABATINI:
"WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SEASON
BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCED PLAYERS
AND A REAL SHOT AT GOING FAR IN CCS."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez



Photo courtesy of Prohunge

Men's Tennis

COACH:
MRS. TAMRA SCALESE

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:
VIJAY MOHAN, DEVASHISH JOSHI, AND IVAN KRAVTCHEKNO

VIJAY MOHAN:
"THE TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING ON COMING TOGETHER AND
CREATING A FEELING OF BROTHERHOOD."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Swimming

COACHES:
MR. TOM MILLER AND MS. JEN GONZALEZ

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:
CCS FINALISTS MONICA GARCIA, HILARY HUNT, JEFF PETERS,
AND DEFENDING CCS CHAMPION STEPHANIE PHIPPS

STEPHANIE PHIPPS:
"MY GOAL IS FOR US TO HAVE FUN AND DEFEND OUR CCS TITLE.
WE HAVE A LOT OF TALENT, AND I THINK WE ARE DEFINITELY
GOING TO BE A FORCE. NOW THAT WE HAVE TWO COACHES,
WE ARE SURE TO BE TWICE AS GOOD!"

Men's Golf

COACH:
MR. JOHN MOSUNIC

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:
RYAN RANKIN AND STEPHEN JAHNCKE

RYAN RANKIN:
"I WAS A MEDALIST (LOWEST INDIVIDUAL SCORE AMONGST
ALL PLAYERS IN THE MATCH) THIS PAST WEEK AGAINST
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL AND SAINT IGNATIUS...
IT WAS NICE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM'S SUCCESS AND
TO HELP KEEP OUR UNDEFEATED RECORD ALIVE."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Track and Field

COACHES:
MR. KEVIN DUNN AND MRS. DINA OAKLAND

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:
ANGELA ARTADI, LIZ DUXBURY, ALLY LOCKWOOD,
BOBBY MARANI, KYLIE PALACIO, REBECCA ORGAN,
OLIVIA RINTALA, AND CORTNEY WOOD

COACH DUNN:
"MY HOPE IS THAT OUR ATHLETES LEARN HOW TO
BECOME BETTER YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH
TRACK AND FIELD. I HOPE THEY WALK AWAY FROM TRACK
KNOWING HOW TO WORK HARDER, COMMUNICATE BETTER,
MAKE SACRIFICES FOR OTHERS, AND BE RESPONSIBLE,
ACCOUNTABLE, AND RELIABLE TEAM MEMBERS."

Compiled by Kelsey McClung,
Erik Chu, and Cameron Schott
Staff Writers

PARKING

continued from page 1

The majority of the parking staff is made up of parking supervisors, informally known by students as the “parking ladies”—although there is one dad. The supervisors are all parents of current Mitty students and work daily four-hour shifts. Instead of receiving a paycheck, they receive a tuition discount. They assist students with parking, monitor driving behaviors, and supervise for the safety of students.

“It’s really sad when a student is rude to them because that’s someone’s parent,” says Mrs. Wesmiller. “It isn’t a major issue, though. Most of the time, students are friendly and compliant, and I am always pleased with the Mitty student body.”

The parking attendants often walkie-talkie each other to find a late, desperately searching student an unused teacher spot.

Senior Claire Bredennoord agrees, “You learn to love the parking lot ladies. Once you establish a relationship with them, it’s their mission to find you a spot.”

SCOUNDRELS

continued from page 1

“I got to work with the funniest ensemble—it was me and Ethan Fang as freshmen playing opposite each other.”

Expanding on his experience as an actor, Logan said, “I came in as a freshman with little musicality, little understanding of the craft, and little understanding of the business. The classes and experiences I’ve had here at Mitty have allowed me to be more than a chubby clown.”

Logan mused on the future of the Performing Arts Department at Mitty, adding, “I am immensely jealous of the younger students because I won’t get to work with the wonderful, talented freshmen and incoming class.”

As a student transfer in his sophomore year, senior Matt Hill (Freddy Benson) has had a similarly fulfilling three years at Mitty. “Coming to Mitty was the best decision I’ve ever made. I worked on a show with Mr. Santana before I attended Mitty, and he encouraged me to go to a school where I could perform.”

On his development as an actor, Matt remembered, “I was still nervous about kissing onstage when I came in as a sophomore. I’ve grown immensely, and my walls and barriers have dropped.”

Senior Sarah Bernosky (Muriel Eubanks) commented, “As a performer, I’ve grown in terms of being able to deal with and adapt to competition.”

The immense commitment by each actor to their craft created a wealth of memorable experiences throughout their years at Mitty. Sarah reminisced, “I loved *Noises Off* because it had such a small, intimate cast—but I loved *Thoroughly Modern Millie* for the exact opposite reason.”

Senior Ryan Mardesich (ensemble and understudy for Andre) reflected, “My favorite role was Tobias from *Sweeney Todd*. The first time I saw the character, I knew that was who I wanted to be. I literally devoted hours of time to perfecting my part.”

With the curtain falling on their final performances at Mitty, these seniors are going on to bright futures. Look for familiar names in the Tony Awards in the future—you just might be able to say, “I knew them in high school!”

STUDENT CENTER(RED)

Student Focus: Sebastian Zuniga

By Morgan McEnery
Staff Writer

Meet sophomore Sebastian Zuniga.

At the age of three, when Sebastian started kicking around his first soccer ball, he fell in love with the sport. Since then, he has been on several recreation and club teams, all of which have helped him cultivate his skills and love of the game. Coming to Mitty as a freshman, Sebastian has built on his soccer career by making the Varsity team two years in a row. In his two years at Mitty so far, Sebastian has been an integral part of the Mitty Men’s soccer team.

What comes after Mitty for Sebastian’s soccer career? He’s hoping, something big.

“I will continue to play soccer for as long as I possibly can, and I am training hard to play in a college; as a kid growing up I always wanted to play in a Division I school.”

Sebastian’s involvement with the Mitty community doesn’t end with the soccer team; he is also a member of the Latin American Student Union (LASU).

Growing up in the River Glen Dual Immersion program, Sebastian’s education was bilingual, with classes in both English and Spanish. From kindergarten until sixth grade, most of his classes were taught in Spanish. Although for most students at Mitty, this would seem difficult, Sebastian describes it as “the best years of my life.”

This kind of learning atmosphere prompted Sebastian to embrace his family’s Mexican heritage: “My culture means everything to me; I am very proud of where I come from.”

At Mitty, Sebastian joined the LASU to continue his involvement in his community and learn about his cultural heritage. “I believe it’s important for one to know their culture and the historic background of where they are from.”

As Sebastian moves through his years at Mitty, he will leave his mark on the community both on the soccer field and through LASU. Undoubtedly, his big passions will be matched by great opportunities for him in the future.



ACCEPTED! ADMISSIONS AT MITTY

By Omid Mirfendereski and Sruthi Ramaswami
Staff Writers

Odds are, if you’re currently reading this, you are familiar with the anxiety of waiting for your high school admissions decision—and the excitement of receiving your *big* envelope in the mail. But what exactly did your application go through so that you could end up here?

As our school year comes to a close, Archbishop Mitty’s admissions team has been actively working and preparing for the next set of students who will begin their life at Mitty this coming fall. For these eighth graders and for the staff in admissions, the rigorous process includes submitting paperwork, going through standardized testing, and, finally, sending out acceptance letters.

After looking at essays, recommendation letters, and other parts of each student’s application, it finally comes down to which applicants are to be accepted. Ms. Kate Caputo, the Director of Admissions, explains that academic qualification is a major basis for the school’s decisions.

However, the admissions team looks for many other attributes in students, too. Students must be willing, for example, to persevere and work hard at school. When speaking about prospective students, Ms. Caputo stated that the admissions staff always looks to see “what [the potential students] can do here at Mitty.” She looks for students who work hard, maintain a balanced life by participating in extra-curricular activities, and take advantage of the opportunities given to them.

Ms. Caputo maintains that the admissions process

at Mitty is both efficient and fair. The office reads every single application to preserve the integrity of the process. At times, the staff comes across applications with humorous essays that give insight into the real personalities of the applicants.

“We look for the kids who have the willingness to give it their all throughout their years at Mitty,”

Ms. Caputo explained. “The worst day of your life is not when you get rejected from your dream school. The worst day is when you are a student at Mitty and we have to ask you to leave because of your performance.”

Most of the students here at Mitty have fond memories of either shadowing at Mitty or attending the numerous open houses. Ms. Caputo shared, “The Visit Mitty program continues to be popular. We had 1,300 students visit this year!” Guests can visit with a friend, or shadow someone of their choice.

Freshman Kathleen Amaral recalled her memorable first impression of Mitty as an 8th-grader. She visited the campus on the day of the Christmas Rally and was able to witness the festivities. “I really liked how fun and spirited the students and even the teachers were. It was so cute how one girl was surprised with a bouquet of roses—and the whole school cheered! After shadowing, I really wanted to come to Mitty.”

Though most of the Mitty community is not aware of the intricacies in the process, the admissions team gives each applicant a thorough review and selects each student carefully. With the sad and inevitable departure of this year’s seniors, the Mitty community will open its arms to the fresh faces of 2014 in the fall.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Lopez

Junior April Hua at Freshman Orientation 2009.

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