

Behind the Scenes: Senior Hill



Mitty seniors take advantage of their senior status as they bask in the sunlight on top of Senior Hill.

By **Hannah Moeller**
Staff Writer

The large mound of earth and sod at the center of the Mitty campus has seen its fair share of epic events—like being staged as Pride Rock for the senior Monarch Madness reveal—but to many students, Senior Hill is simply a mainstay of school social life. Any school day after about 11 a.m., if the sun's rays are strong enough to dry the dew on the grass and warm any cool breezes, students can be seen sprawled across the hill. They might lazily bask in the light like overgrown iguanas and converse with friends, or practice their art of stealth with a spirited game of ninja.

Archbishop Mitty's landscape was not always graced with the grassy curves it sports today. For the majority of its lifetime, Mitty's campus had only a large, flat, grassy plain at its center. It wasn't until 1994, when the 500 wing was built, that Senior Hill was born. The part of campus that the building inhabits today was once sloped laterally. Construction workers were required to flatten the area in order for a stable structure to be built, and removed a significant amount of earth to do so.

Additionally, the soil beneath a portion of the future classrooms was too runny to serve as a foundation. This also had to be removed. What resulted was a large amount of displaced dirt that school administrators needed to find a home for. Instead of paying a large sum of money to remove the soil from campus, they created a hill at the center of campus surrounded by the new buildings.

Once the sod had set, senior students moved in and transformed the hill into a relaxing hang-out. Before long, they were bringing beach chairs and umbrellas to enhance the scene. "It became a sort of senior beach club," explains

Associate Principal **Mr. Robinson**. Senior Hill was born.

Though seniors were the dominant presence on the hill, there was never an effort to intimidate and exclude members from the other Monarch classes. According to Mr. Robinson, there has never been a case of seniors barring any student from spending time on the hill nor outward displays that other classes were unwelcome. He explained, "Mitty has never had any kind of exclusive or hazing culture. It is a very inclusive place."

Possibly, the location of the hill has led to its overarching attitude of acceptance. Almost all of Mitty's classroom buildings surround Senior Hill and, as a result, students of all ages must walk through and pass the hill several times a day going from class to class.

In turn, all students see and experience the hill daily in at least a small way. It is in the center of the crossroads of Mitty and not in some alienated corner to where seniors can evade the rest of the school. Because Senior Hill is located at the physical heart of campus, it exudes the heart of Mitty's community-centered culture. Additionally, its proximity to Campus Ministry and Student Activities, both also inclusive environments, may have influenced this result. Mr. Robinson explains, "Culture follows form. The form was there, so culture took over."

Though all members of the Mitty community are welcome at the hill, the site has always been particularly special to seniors. Senior Hill is central to the identity of the senior class—a portion of their graduation ceremony even takes place on the hill.

The connection that seniors have to the hill goes back to its earliest years of existence, when the students created a "senior-stock" event, a peaceful spin-off of Woodstock

(but with no drugs and more bathing). Seniors would camp out on the hill for one night and bond together, enjoying each other's company. This helped create a strong sense of unity in classes and a deep fondness for the communal and peaceful symbolism of the hill that still exists today.

Current senior **Vijay Mohan** elaborated on this special meaning, "Senior Hill in an environment of relaxation and enjoyment. It allows us seniors to indulge the carefree leisure we all have earned from our years of hard work at Mitty. It also has a strong culture of general acceptance."

Junior **Kimberley Lowell** agreed, "It's a place to congregate and relax. It's a unifying place on campus." Often, juniors can be seen spending time on the hill alongside the seniors.

However, freshmen, new to the Mitty community, may be intimidated by the seniors' presence at the hill. Freshman **Eddie Nazaradeh** explained, "If no one's on the hill I can be there, but I'm kind of scared to go there if seniors are there." To counteract any sense of segregation, Mitty has many school-wide events on Senior Hill, such as the Mass of the Holy Spirit and seating for Jazz on the Green, which draw all members of the Mitty community to the beloved location.

From its humble beginnings as a pile of rejected soil from under the 500 wing, Senior Hill has become an integral symbol of the Mitty community. The students of all grades who congregate there daily can all share in an experience of warm, sunny bliss and mellow acceptance.

Still, the hill's title is apt—from chilling out after school to participating in the last mass as a high school community, Senior Hill has punctuated every important aspect of student life for senior classes since its creation.

It's Utterly Robo-tastic!

By **Lucas Bolster**
Contributing Writer

Dribbling down the left-hand side, Brandi goes in for a shot and puts it in the top right corner of the net! GOOOOAL!

Do not be mistaken—this is not **Brandi Chastain**, the Mitty Alumna and renowned Olympic and World Cup soccer player. It's Brandi, Mitty Robotics's soccer-playing, award-winning robot (named after Brandi Chastain, of course) this year.

With their robot Brandi, Mitty Robotics kicked, guarded, and scored their way to success in their soccer-like competition, "Breakaway." Ms. Chastain attended the final afternoon of the Silicon Valley Regional, getting to know the team and cheering them on.

Mitty Robotics concluded their 2010 FIRST Robotics competition season in March as quarter-finalists at both the Silicon Valley Regional and the Sacramento Regional. Nabbing three awards along the way, the team had one of their most successful seasons.

The robotics team has won the Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award three times before, but this was the first year that they earned the award at

both of their competitions. The award recognizes a team that has developed an impressive, comprehensive business plan. Making the Sacramento Regional doubly rewarding for the robotics team, they also brought home the Website Award for the first time ever.

Certainly, Mitty Robotics will only continue to grow and get better in the years to come.



OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: GREEK LIFE

MY BIG FAT GREEK FAMILY

By Kim Tran
Staff Writer

For many, the mention of “Greek Life” evokes a picture of unpleasant, preconceived notions created by ongoing stereotypes. With the bad rep sororities and fraternities have been given over the years, the idea of rushing seems unappealing. Fraternities often conjure an image of immoral, obnoxious, beer-guzzling cavemen, while their sorority counterparts are deemed as self-absorbed, ditzes who can’t tell the difference between Edward Cullen and our very own Joey Malysz.

Let’s take a step back and get informed. While my level of wittiness is no rival to that of Kyle Kubo’s, and senioritis has already claimed my body and soul, the facts speak for themselves, and the advantages of Greek life are abundant.

First of all, myth debunking is in order. The stereotypes created by a few horror stories and wild TV shows are not always the case. The truth is that most everyone who goes to college goes to college parties—that truth just happens to be magnified a bit under the roofs of fraternities.

Speaking of houses, living in a fraternity or sorority house has been proven to be much cheaper than living on campus. While the required dues of these organizations might neutralize that cost, the perks of being a letter-bearer are plenty.

Greek life is one effective way to get involved on campus. Many fraternities and sororities are the epicenter of college sociality, hosting mixers, trips, and formal dinners among other fun activities.

That is not to say that Greek life is only advantageous socially. Most sororities and fraternities require a minimum GPA in order to participate and both are also extensively involved in community service. Academic chapters exist that bring together people of the same major and allow them to bond over similar college experiences while supporting one another through their rigorous workload. Similarly, ethnic sororities and fraternities bring together people of common ancestry allowing them to discover and appreciate their roots.

To address the questionable hazing activities that have contributed to the bad reputation of Greek life, many schools are

cracking down on sorority and fraternity pledging processes.

Most sororities and fraternities, however, do not engage in the media-broadcasted dangerous activities. According to Archbishop Mitty alum Julia Brewka, member of Tri Gamma at USF, “the pledging process... all of the secret details and events definitely brought all of us girls closer together. Everything that we went through and learned, we did it together and it created that sisterhood bond that being a Greek is all about. I see these girls being in my life for a long time. We’re like a family.”

People tend to bypass the corny, yet fundamental and primary reason that sororities and fraternities are created for in the first place. No, not for the themed parties or the catered breakfasts and lavish living. Fraternities and sororities are built on the values of brotherhood and sisterhood—to be a Greek is to partake in a community of like-minded individuals who share your values and with whom you will create lifelong bonds.

With these bonds come valuable resources in and beyond college. Life is very much about networking, as teacher Mr. Herrera constantly points out. Joining a fraternity or sorority automatically expands your network and those bonds that you create will no doubt be helpful in getting jobs, employees, box seats, and more.

Joining Greek life is not for everyone, but it should not be written off your list just because of what you’ve heard. Make an informed decision and keep in mind the many opportunities presented to you in college, joining a sorority or fraternity being one of them. Why not make your own family and home away from home?

NOTHING BUT A SCHOOLYARD PICK

By Kyle Kubo
Staff Writer

The long-overdue resurgence of the toga in the wardrobes of people who are neither maladjusted time-travelers, wait-staff at a kitschy Greek eatery, or guests at an aristocratic theme party. The equally anticipated return of non-aristocratic theme parties. Popped collars. Beirut. The Bro Code. The lesser known but equally legitimate Sis Magna Carta. With such a kaleidoscopic mishmash of societal pillars so staunchly rooted in the party-hearty mythos of American Greek Life (not to be confused with Greek-American life, which on the whole involves decidedly fewer keg stands), it is perhaps somewhat puzzling that anyone would question such a beloved tradition.

First on the chopping block is the exclusivity of any organization whose membership comes sucked through the straw of a glorified schoolyard pick (nobody pick Weird Paul, Stinky Rhonda, or Substantially Underdeveloped Fine Motor Skills Jean-Pierre). Proponents of the “rush week” system can stamp their feet and demand the right to keep victims of the cootie pandemic out of their secret club, asserting perhaps that such rejection is “nbd,” but it is unequivocally a bd.

To a potential pledge rejected from one or more desired frats or sors (as I shall henceforth refer to them, unpleasant homonym notwithstanding), the message is clear: not only are you apparently still trying to fit in at our school, you’re also an outcast; go be an outcast some-

where else. The problem here is not limited to high levels of meanhouse gases popping caps in the hellozone layer; to pass such flippant judgments is logistically foolhardy, for who among us has not had the occasional moment of being ostracized? Last year this reporter accidentally kicked a stranger’s small child and then, through a case of mistaken identity, allowed innocent Mitty senior Bryce Bajar to take the blame. Am I to be ostracized until the end of days for this? I think I’ve made my point.

Now comes the time to address the bull elephant in the china room: hazing. To say that hazing’s strict illegality has plucked it from the collegiate lexicon or even greatly dampened its spirit would be a regrettably stark error.

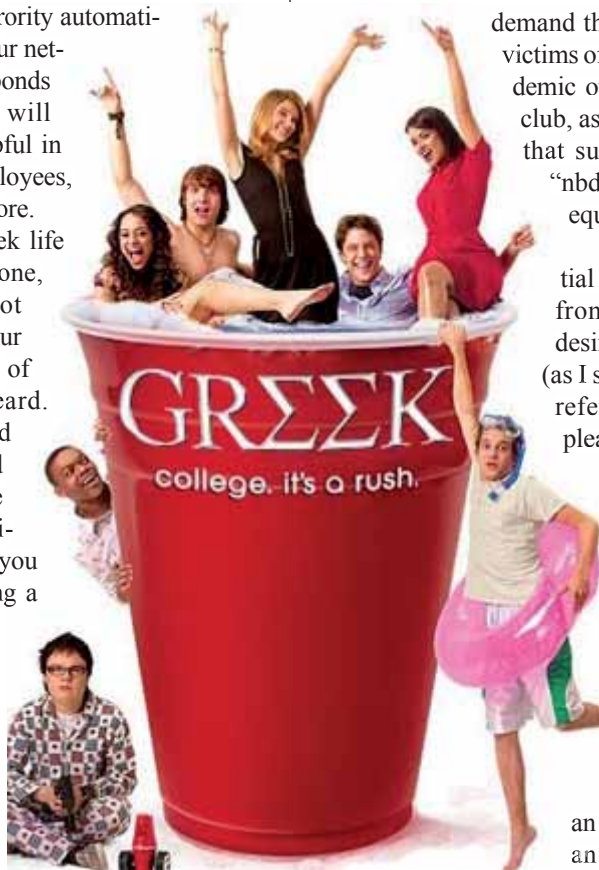
Just as a toked up jaywalker eating contraband cheese will tell you of the inexact correlation between the forbidding of fruit and the popularity of fruit salad, so too would a certain young man formerly of Chico State University in California, had his enrollment there, along with his life, not been terminated in 2005 through water intoxication due to hazing.

Those involved (members of a fraternity not recognized by the school, which makes regulation dangerously sparse) were charged as felons, with the boy found most culpable serving a year in jail.

Despite the expressed hope that others will not follow suit, multiple other Greek organizations at Chico exhibited conduct resulting in suspension within the year, showing in no uncertain terms that much like Bruce Willis (and, to a lesser extent, Justin Long), old habits die hard.

This is but one example of a trend of hazing-related deaths, and at a time when we are engaged in multiple wars, no parent should have to tell people that their son died because he really, really wanted to be a bro.

Noble intentions aside (even saying that is a larger concession than the trash-receptacle-sized Ices available at movie theaters), a Harvard study revealed that on average, those who participate in Greek Life drink significantly more, do significantly worse in class, attend significantly fewer classes, and are significantly more likely to engage in arguments or fights based on precedent. No need to bundle that in a conclusion; make like an art forger and draw your own.



FRAT STATS

ALL of the APOLLO 11 members were GREEK

Among women, 62.4 percent of sorority members engaged in heavy drinking, compared with 40.9 percent of other female students.

2001 Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study (CAS), found that fraternity members were much more likely to engage in heavy drinking than their non-fraternity peers (75.1 percent versus 48.6 percent).

Of North America’s 50 largest corporations, 43 are headed by Greek-life men and women.

Forty-three of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate were members of a fraternity or sorority.

Sources: whygreek.com and 2001 Harvard School of Public Health CAS

SOMETHING TO SAY? GO RIGHT AHEAD

By **Manosai Eerabathini**
Staff Writer

A fundamental principle of the American spirit, the right to free speech, is a liberty granted to those citizens who seek to maintain the powerful ability to exercise unrestricted thought and expression. Granted, there are certain exceptions to the First Amendment, which guarantees this privilege. Speech that is found to be distasteful as per the Miller test for obscenity, pertaining to child pornography, inciting an imminent danger, or violating the regulations of commercial advertising may be rendered unprotected.

The Supreme Court has a deep and rich history in dealing with cases of free speech. From turbulent times of war where national security trumped civil liberties (Schenck v. U.S.) to a KKK rally advocating a violent revolution (Brandenburg v. Ohio), the court has often ruled to constitutionally restrict free speech.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court has also struck down limitations on speech: most recently, it overturned a federal law banning the sale of animal-cruelty videos (Stevens. v. U.S.).

Though the court's finding in Stevens

may seem absurd, an overwhelming majority of the justices agreed on the decision. Headed by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., in April the Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that even such videos as dog fighting are protected under the First Amendment despite the highly unpopular and inflammatory content.

Although many Americans find such videos odious, they are protected under the same Constitution that gives us all freedom of speech. The First Amendment, after all, was created to protect controversial speech. As much as we choose to cherish the great liberty of expression that America offers us, the right to free speech for one citizen inevitably gives a voice to everyone, including the worst of brutes and demagogues. It must, unfortunately, condone disagreeable forms of speech for the sake of consistency, even the most obnoxious.

No one is disputing that Mr. Robert Stevens should not have run a business selling videos of pit bulls and other dogs fighting for the sake of entertainment and revenue. The real issue as conveyed by the eight justices is that the accepted exclusions for free speech protection cannot be extended for animal cruelty videos. This

is an inconvenience that would potentially imply levity in the enforcement of the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court has ruled in the past that free speech is not always protect-



ed; for example if it incites an imminent threat to someone's safety. So what about condoning the spread of videos involving

dog-fighting?

The court chose to rule with tradition, which says that free speech can only be banned in certain cases such as slander and libel, obscenity, and threats and incitement of violence.

Apparently, the Supreme Court has no intention of creating another category of unprotected speech, even for depictions of brutal animal cruelty. Instead, a man who converts a despicable act of inhumanity into a profitable business contract is rewarded under the guise of free speech. As beneficial as it is to have this liberty, we must question if we are abusing it, as human nature leads us to intuitively exploit our freedoms sooner or later. In situations like these, the purpose of the First Amendment is muddled a bit, and even seems to be taken too far.

The question lingering in the minds of many is if there will ever be exceptions to free speech where ethically unacceptable content is banned. For now, there is an uneasy balance between free speech and prohibited speech. With that being said, Chief Justice Roberts Jr. adeptly handled the situation by recommending that the abuse of animals should be ended to begin with, not the expression of these acts.

BOYCOTT ARIZONA

State's New Anti-Immigrant Law Intolerable

By **Isabel Sausjord**
Opinions Editor

Arizona is at it again.

The state first stumbled into the spotlight for its racism, when in 1987 it refused to recognize the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Now they've passed a law that authorizes profiling and harassment of Latinos.

The facts of the law, SB1070, are these. If police have any reasonable suspicion that someone is in the country without documents, they have to demand proof of legal residency. Immigrants without those papers on them at that moment will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Even beyond the dubious morality of punishing people for immigrating, there's a major problem with the law, so obvious that the Arizona legislators could not have failed to see it. How are police supposed to decide who looks "reasonably suspicious"? Undocumented immigrants are "aliens" only in the legal sense – they don't act like foreigners or extraterrestrials. In fact, they look and act just like citizens or legal immigrants, except for the fact that they're more likely to be Latino or Latina.

That's where the racial profiling comes in. When it comes down to it, "reasonably suspicious" will always mean race, language, and other cues used to target Latinos.

With no other real way to target undocumented immigrants, the police may resort to harassing everyone who looks brown and speaks Spanish. All Latinos—4th-generation Americans—could be targets for harassment.

Proponents of the law insist that it will only be used against people who are already being questioned by the police in connection with a crime. But the co-author of the bill specifically wrote that the crime could be even a minor infraction, so that police could

demand the papers of people with cars on blocks in the yard. This not only betrays the racist motivation behind the law, but also justifies widespread application of the law to people who are hardly criminals.

This law is clearly unjust, and human rights groups are already working to exert pressure on Arizona to repeal it. What worked in the case of Dr. King's birthday, and could easily work again, was a coordinated boycott of Arizona companies. Consumers avoided Arizona businesses, and the NFL played a huge role, pulling Super Bowl XXVII from Tempe. Soon after, Arizona decided that it respected Dr. King after all, and the holiday was reinstated.

The time is ripe for a new boycott. Arizona's new law infringes on civil rights, and perhaps even worse, it has inspired several other states to draw up draconian anti-immigration legislation.

We have the dedication to fight this; the law should move to action any person who cares about civil rights.

The movement is already in motion. Web sites advise consumers on which companies are based in Arizona.

Sports groups are getting involved once again: pressure is mounting from within Major League Baseball to move the 2011 All-Star Game from Phoenix. Everything is pointed to a specific goal: putting the economic pressure on Arizona so that it will repeal this law.

On the grand scale, SB1070 is just one more manifestation of American racism and xenophobia, demonstrated in the fear of a Black president or anxiety that whites may soon cease to be a majority race in the US.

But if we can push back here, we can send a message to all states seeking to impose racial profiling and other unjust tactics: that their infringement of civil rights will not be tolerated.



BIGGER IN TEXAS

Emptied Pockets for a High School Stadium?

By **Sneha Singh**
Staff Writer

Clearly, everything really is bigger in Texas. In case there is still any doubt in your mind about this, consider the fact that a high school in Allen, Texas just received \$60 million to build a football stadium that seats 18,000. According to Rivals High, "[this stadium] will feature two decks, a video scoreboard, four concession stands, and 12 restrooms."

This heinous act of building such a stadium in a school of 5,000 kids is justified by the fact that the \$60 million the school received could only be used on capital expenses, as opposed to being used on education. In this cutthroat economy, most schools are being forced to give up their sports teams simply so they can provide the students with an education, which is after all, the primary purpose of a school.

The town of Allen, instead of doling out funds to build more high schools, believes that the athletic prospects of its top-rated football team are more important than the education of thousands of other Texan teens. It is sad to know that 60 million dollars are burning holes in the "city's wallet." Of all the places their government could spend this large sum of money, a football field should be at the very bottom of the list.

This town desperately needs to sort out its priorities. The coach of the football team, states that, "The old Eagle Stadium was very good to us but just got too small... We hope the new field will continue to be

a home-field advantage for us." But what difference does this make for the players?

Obviously the size of the playing field is not changing. Or maybe, this stadium is simply being built on such a grandiose scale to add to the Allen team's intimidation factor. Of course, a powerhouse football team is much more daunting when they are playing in a stadium the size of Texas (no pun intended).

Hopefully, as the city believes, the revenue that this stadium provides will go towards financing education and other, more pressing needs throughout the Allen community.

Schools like the one in Allen, Texas, put too much emphasis on athletics. It seems too often that schools seek to recognize those certain individuals that commit to play Division I athletics in college over those who achieve exceptional academic success. A person can only do so much damage to their body through sports. After a while, they will have reached their prime, and their athletic careers will eventually start to decline.

Schools that have such celebrated sports teams should hold their athletes to higher standards than simply maintaining a 2.0 or 2.5 GPA. A school's main focus is not to develop an athlete; it is to develop an educated individual who has a decent chance of surviving in the real world.

This highlighting of sports at Allen and other high schools seems to produce the occasional exceptional athlete, while too often detracting from the importance and value of education.



The Real World Long Live Teenage Invincibility

By Ally Lockwood
Staff Writer

People, specifically those who have “aged gracefully” and have subsequently drawn conclusions about the abilities of our generation, have deemed us irresponsible and reckless. “Teenagers think they’re invincible!” they croak. Admittedly, the negative connotations of teenage invincibility can conjure images of reckless teen driving—and even intoxicated attempts to sky-dive from atop the chimney. In all honesty, there are often times I wonder why in God’s name people don’t take the time to consider the consequences of their actions before they make decisions. Myself included. Although I’m proud to say I have never found myself considering the long dive off the chimney onto a trampoline at 3 a.m. (remember kids, nothing good ever happens after 3 a.m.!).

But let’s take “teenage invincibility” a step further: beyond the physical and well, the stupidity. Let’s talk about why I believe our sense of power as a generation, that can surely be looked down upon as naïve by some, is one of our greatest assets. Aside from a few Scrooges (you know the type, Bah-humbugging all of humanity in the back of philosophy class and insisting that there’s nothing morally wrong with torture? Those ones), my interactions with people of all grades at our school, whether they’re fearless freshmen who charge full speed ahead into the chaotic world of student government, or a certain optimistic senior couple I know, has given me confidence that our generation will be able to accomplish all the virtuous world-peace dreams pageant queens have been expressing since kiddy pageants first began. Our faith in ourselves, that may indeed sometimes be misguided, will be essential as many of us leave the “Catholic paradise” of Mitty and venture out into the real world.

The funny thing about the “real world” is that the very notion of it seems somewhat ironic (Is it ironic? What’s the word I should use here?). It is only in the face of adversity, that teachers and parents like to point out that whatever problem we’ve encountered is only representative of the “real world.”

Now this seems to suggest that the real world is nothing but a string of endless disappointments and failures, loosely knit together by thread made up of backstabbing and petty indifferences. But being the hopeful teenager I am, not only do I hope this isn’t true, but I refuse to let it be my reality. Maybe it’s because I am a bullheaded teenager, but in my experiences I’ve found that things are only as terrible as you make them. Even the heartbreak, the loss, the struggles that await us in college and beyond, can surely be scraped together and made into some kind of beautiful quilt eventually. Our generation is in a unique position not only because of when we have grown up, but because of the widespread resources available to us. We have witnessed immense catastrophe from a young age, but we’ve also seen the many ways others have responded to these crises to try to help their fellow human beings. We’ve got the technology, we’re innovative thinkers who are surrounded by equally amazing individuals, and we’ve got hundreds of years worth of other people’s mistakes to learn from if all else fails.

Even here at Mitty each year, our peers venture not only across the country but around the world to help people they’ve never met. I hope that in the distant future, I will be able to proudly say that we went out and affected change not only because our world was bleeding and we needed to, but because we wanted to. Because it’s important to care, and I believe Mitty has produced and will continue to produce competent, intellectual individuals (who embody the ESLR’s! those freshmen religion lessons always come back to haunt you...) who will be able to go out and leave impressions in all walks of life because they do care.

As I see things, it is up to us to take what we’ve learned within our community, the acceptance we’ve felt and the experiences we’ve had, out into the broader “real world.” The world is only as harsh as you make it. Life happens, but how you react to life as it’s handed to you is on you. Better yet, no one ever said you had to wait for life to happen to you. Lauryn Hill, ex-Fugees great, just mused from my iPod that “fantasy is what people want, but reality is what they need.” And although we’ve always been told you can’t have your cake and eat it to, I think that there’s no harm in trying to take the fantastical relations, the sense of community and comfort we’ve developed at Mitty out with us to the various corners of the country as we leave for college. I’ve spent the past four years with some of the most awe-inspiring, passionate and dynamic people I think I could have ever encountered, and I believe in the invincibility of the messages and changes they will effect on our world. It’s a big bad world out there... but it doesn’t have to be.

TRUE LIFE: MY PROM WAS AWKWARD

The Trauma of Post-Prom Awkwardness

By Stephanie Andersen
Staff Writer

So prom didn’t go exactly as you had planned. The movies make it seem so easy—find a date, a prom dress, or tux for that matter, take some pictures, and then dance the night away. But what about everything that people forgot to mention about prom, besides the standard “We had a great time” response? The dance floor was hot, the food was food for the most part, and the date, well in all honesty was... a bit awkward.

After a widespread consensus, people tended to have the same issues swirling about as prom concluded, and that post-prom phase began. Things may not have gone as expected, and maybe you escaped the night unscathed, but these situations, as awkward as they may have been, were not limited to a certain few, and play out a little something like this:

1. “I thought we were going as just friends.” Maybe prom made you realize, after talking to the friends of your date, that the two of you, despite your mutual friendship, have two polar ideas of what that friendship entails. And after all that has been said and done, the friendship that once seemed so accessible, now seems a bit muddled and confused, lost between friendship and what it means to be in a relationship.



2. “They won’t stop calling... what do I do?” What once seemed to be a fairytale beginning, circa a Cinderella story—perhaps by midnight, prom truly was the full embodiment of that story—has become by the next morning something else. Those warm and fuzzy feelings that had once been a prominent aspect of the excitement of

your date seemed to wither away quickly. Although the calls keep on coming, and you still don’t answer, it seems as though the attempts do not let up. Take that phone call and end it here and now, for if the connection didn’t happen at prom, it may just be better left untouched.

3. “We didn’t meet beforehand, and it didn’t end any better.” So you got set up on a date the night of the prom, and in the end the sparks just didn’t fly. Rather than ditch, or be ditched, through the entire

prom, escaping the awkward dinner and conversations, the idea of going stag doesn’t seem so daunting anymore. And now, with it all said and done, at least it was only one night that was really just plain awkward.

Whether the night ended on a high or low, prom truly will be a night to remember, filled with stories, plenty of pictures, and maybe even a few laughs. So whether you and your date were meant to be, or whether it was the first and last date you two ever go on, prom cannot simply be forgotten.

A FADING ART

A Developing Deception

By Gwendolyn Holst
Staff Writer

How long has it been since you have opened your mailbox and, among the utility bills, store advertisements and catalogue subscriptions, found a personal letter? That’s right, a handwritten note sent simply in salutations or to notify you of the latest gossip. Although popular in the Victorian Age, and so precious to the women in ancient China that a special system of characters was devised, chances are one of these thoughtful correspondences has not graced the interior of your mailbox for some time.

Nowadays, instant messages are sent via the Web and appear immediately on the screens that seem to be in our faces at an increasingly more frequent rate.

It looks as if the etiquette of formal writing has become a thing of the past as well. The formal greetings and well-wishing closings that compose the essence of a letter’s structure are now lost. Commas may be forgotten and letters might take just too much effort to capitalize. Little stock acronyms that are meant to communicate basic feelings, such as OMG’s, LOL’s, or jk’s, are interjected whenever a possibly more complex emotion is experienced.

Oh, those jk’s, they have even become a part of the vernacular overheard at most high school campuses. Those two letters

can seem like a quick panacea when we re-read our words and discover that their interpretation could make us appear like unfathomably rude people. Even if we tack a “jk” on to the end of something, what we write never truly goes away.

Our written expression’s permanence presents a similar problem when we make the not-so-obvious mistake of forwarding a message intended for private eyes alone. The

consequences of this mistake may have been inconceivable at the time, but we trust our dear friend the Internet a bit too much.

If a message that perhaps contained vitri-

olic, spur-of-the-moment remarks ever reached the person who spurred its initial composition, relationships could be unintentionally damaged or severed. A person is much less likely to hit a “forward” button on a handwritten letter, however, because this option simply does not exist.

Am I implying the communication over the Web is a bad thing? Of course not! In this day and age, internet access is almost a necessity. Meetings might need to be set up with teachers or contacts made with car-pools: items in our daily agenda that cannot wait for the dog-pursued postman to deliver.

It is a shame, however, that letters are becoming so obsolete, for there is something heartfelt about taking the time to actually pen out thoughts and feelings to a friend.



Arts & Entertainment

Before There Was Gaga...

Looking at the predecessors of today's music idols

By Christina Collins
Staff Writers

Let's face it: the music industry can get pretty tedious after a while.

However, every so often, a shining star will emerge and take the entire music industry by storm, instantly gaining millions of fans overnight and selling out arenas worldwide within seconds. At the peak of this person's fame, large-scale music magazines like *Rolling Stone* will often write articles praising this new artist, claiming they are the "one to watch," the one redefining the music industry. "We've never seen anybody like *this* before." But, think about it...is anything ever *new* in the music business? Take a look at these musical doppelgangers and decide for yourself:

Before there was **Lady Gaga**, there was **Madonna**.

Countless tabloids and Gaga fanatics alike have practically crowned Lady Gaga "the new Madonna," and their points of similarity are valid: Lady Gaga's career bears a striking resemblance to Madonna's in more ways than one.

Getting their starts in the clubs of New York, the two Italian-American ladies both have the signature bleached-blond hair and an ultra-glamorized wardrobe. They also both have instantly recognizable stage names, are very open with their sexuality, and are unafraid to cause controversy – not to mention, both artists have released an incredible string of pop hits since their breakthroughs.

Madonna's defining transition from a regular pop star to a world-famous icon came in 1984 when she performed her iconic song "Like a Virgin" at the inaugural MTV Video Music Awards, rolling around on the floor in a lacy, white wedding dress. Gaga's moment came similarly at the recent 2009 MTV VMA's, when she performed "Paparazzi." Was her eccentric performance, most famously recognized for her notoriously bloody suspension from the ceiling, a tribute to Madge, one of her top musical influences?

Madonna's musical legacy is nothing but immaculate; she has been able to reinvent herself with every album she's released, attributing to and strengthening her longevity in the music business. Only time will tell if Gaga will do the same. Key Madonna Tracks: "Like a Virgin", "Holiday", "Vogue", "Express Yourself"

Before there was **Adam Lambert**, there was **David Bowie**.

Wham, bam, thank you *glam*. Adam Lambert, sensation of *American Idol*'s last

season rose to fame due to his androgynous looks and high-pitched screeches, but androgyny has been present in the music business for much longer than Adam has.

David Bowie, music's resident glam rock legend, made his mark far before in the early 1970's. Bowie's trademark style in his performances always included heaps of glittery eye makeup, a neon-colored bouffant, and his flamboyant onstage persona. Not only has Lambert emulated Bowie in his vocals, performances, and personal fashion, his album cover *For Your Entertainment* is styled in an eerily similar way to Bowie's landmark 1973 album, *Aladdin Sane*.

Lambert paid tribute to his glam hero on the past *American Idol* tour, singing his versions of classic Bowie hits while sporting a studded blazer and leather pants that the original himself would have been delighted to own. After a few years of dominating the glam rock hemisphere, Bowie decided to reinvent himself in the late '70s by trading in his spandex and glitter for tailored suits and ties, and hasn't turned back since. However, is Adam ready to change his controversial, glitzed-up look yet? Probably not. Let's hope Adam sticks around long enough so we can find out for ourselves. Key David Bowie Tracks: "Ziggy Stardust," "Changes," "Starman," "Life on Mars?"

Before there was **Green Day** there was **The Who**.

Rock bands in the 2000's don't get much cooler than Green Day. Throughout the '90s, Green Day was known for their simple yet defining alternative hits. Their trademark three-chord punk sound was re-vamped, however, as they released a string of "concept albums": 2004's *American Idiot* and 2009's *21st Century Breakdown*. Because of those two albums, Green Day has won countless Grammys, sold millions of records and even earned themselves a spot on Broadway with *American Idiot*.

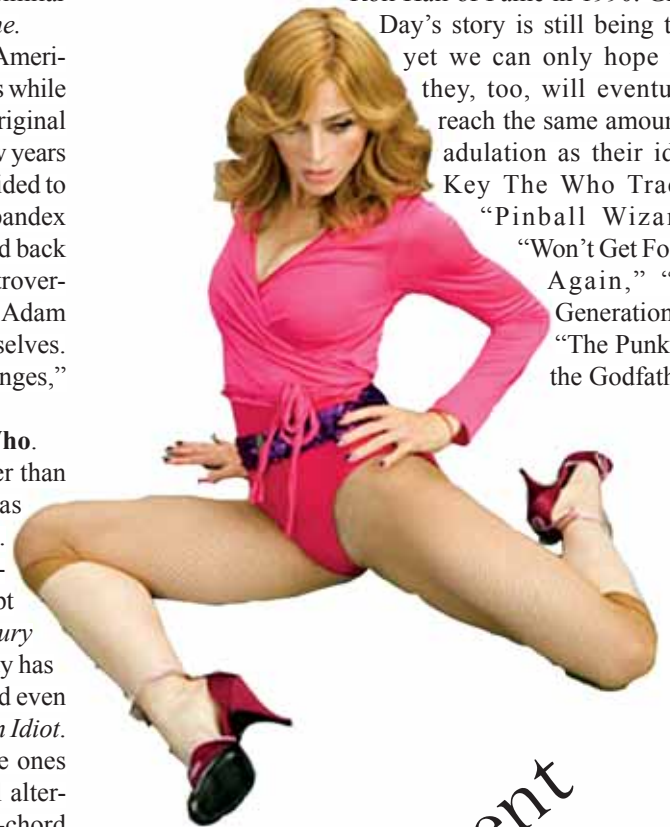
However, '60s mod rockers The Who were the ones to formulate the original game plan to a successful alternative band. Emerging with similarly simple three-chord rock songs, The Who gained notoriety for their edgy sound and for destroying their instruments after every set. It wasn't until their 1969 rock opera *Tommy* that their true musicianship shone through, placing them on the pedestal of rock stardom. Much like *Idiot*, *Tommy* was adapted into a musical in 1971, running for a few years before The Who's second concept album, *Quadrophenia*, was released. All four of the rock operas, *American Idiot*, *21st Century Break-*

down, *Tommy*, and *Quadrophenia*, similarly follow a central male character, struggling to discover who he is in a world of turbulence.

Green Day has cited The Who to be one of their biggest influences and has even released a cover of The Who's hit "My Generation" on their 1992 album *Kerplunk*. The Who, which has weathered lineup changes and tragic deaths in their journey to rock idolatry, had their spot in history sealed when they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. Green

Day's story is still being told, yet we can only hope that they, too, will eventually reach the same amount of adulation as their idols.

Key The Who Tracks: "Pinball Wizard," "Won't Get Fooled Again," "My Generation," "The Punk and the Godfather."



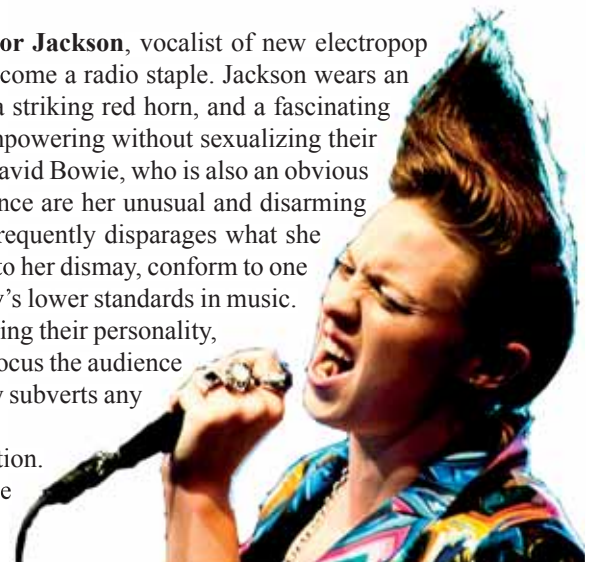
Goodbye, Paris Hilton
By Ryan Meyer
A&E Editor
Female artists emphasize a new empowerment

A few short years ago, **Lindsay Lohan**, **Paris Hilton**, and a disturbed version of our childhood, **Britney Spears**, were the only female music stars making headlines, and not for their careers. Their erratic, head-shaving, rehab-requiring, no-panty-wearing behavior was the primary image of women in the industry, an image of weak and reckless hedonism that lacked any trace of **Stevie Nicks**'s strength or **Madonna**'s feminism.

Today is a different story. Since **Lady Gaga** stuck her heels into the music scene, women have had something much more substantial to offer. Not only is her music as thought provoking as it is accessible, but Gaga has worked to foster a public persona dependent upon mystique and shock, which often means live performances saturated in sensory overload and brash sexuality. In fact, she often welcomes definition by sexuality with her barely-there costumes and suggestive routines. However, hers is not the submissive sexuality of, say, a Paris Hilton car wash commercial. Lady Gaga uses her femininity for empowerment – it's the men who are submissive in her lyrics and performances. She completely monopolizes the sexual politics of the industry, redefining the image of her gender by restoring what power was lost after Britney exited that fateful limo.

And then there are artists like **Eleanor Jackson**, vocalist of new electropop outfit La Roux, whose single "Bulletproof" has become a radio staple. Jackson wears an eccentric hairdo that reaches up out of her head like a striking red horn, and a fascinating androgyny that suggests female artists can be bold and empowering without sexualizing their music. Her sexually ambiguous looks call to mind '80s icon David Bowie, who is also an obvious inspiration for her work. Just as fascinating as her onstage presence are her unusual and disarming comments about the industry and the role of the music artist. She frequently disparages what she perceives to be an "Ikea mentality" among her fellow music artists, who, to her dismay, conform to one indistinctive fashion style, and blames a culture that shuns criticism for today's lower standards in music. She also believes that the art should be separated from the artist. "You're not buying their personality, you're buying their music." Jackson's passion for ambiguity, though it may aim to focus the audience on the music instead of the person, in effect enhances her own allure, as she refreshingly subverts any existing mold of traditional femininity.

We are currently in an era of exciting female artists who are masters of reinvention. Lady Gaga and Eleanor Jackson can be credited with breaking an unfortunate precedent set by the damaging behavior of years past, and with providing role models of strong and intelligent femininity.



The Wild West makes a Comeback

Upcoming 'Red Dead Redemption' to resuscitate genre

By Austin Kruckmeyer
Staff Writer

The Western genre has lost much of its appeal over the last few decades. People no longer seem to be mesmerized by the uncharted frontiers, the lawless nature, nor the gruff but honorable anti-hero. However, Rockstar Games, the developers of the popular *Grand Theft Auto* series, have set out to revitalize the genre with *Red Dead Redemption*.

The game takes place in the final days of the Wild West, when laws and modern technology were gaining a foothold, and follows the story of John Marston, a former outlaw being blackmailed by the government to capture his former brother in arms.

Recognized only as a spiritual successor to Rockstar's *Red Dead Revolver*, the game took a more serious and realistic tone revamp, similar to *Grand Theft Auto IV*. While this may mean less "Man with No Name" character archetypes, there appears to be a wide range of memorable characters such as Seth, a prospector driven insane by wealth, Luisa, a 19-year old Mexican revolutionary, and Jonah, a lazy, sarcastic, and arrogant deputy.

The wide range of characters is due to the fact that Marston's pursuit will not take place in one general area for long. Marston will be forced to travel from unsettled frontiers to snowy mountainous regions and finally to Northern Mexico, where one of the most climactic battles will take place between Mexican Rebels and the Mexican

Army. The game takes a few pointers from *Grand Theft Auto* by letting you roam freely between missions, but rather than simply serving as a hub to starting missions, *Red Dead Redemption* adds a lot of features of its own. Taking place in the largest world that Rockstar has ever produced, the game refuses to be barren and boring by having



Reformed outlaw John Marston fends off enemies in Rockstar Games's latest.

all the areas filled with life. Towns are populated appropriately with rowdy saloon patrons, working citizens, and cautious lawmen.

The frontier remains varied with bandits, wild animals, and helpless travelers and ranchers. This living world is replete with moral choices. For example, you may find a stagecoach being attacked by bandits. You could kill the bandits for honor or you could kill everyone and take the stagecoach cargo for yourself, making yourself a bit richer in the process. It is this and many other side activities that immerse the player into this legendary world.

Red Dead Redemption also includes a multi-player mode with game types rarely seen in other games. Other than being able to shoot each other or Non-Player Characters, you can also form a posse, a group of up to 8 players, and take them through organized games or do challenges scattered across the world, giving players a lengthy co-op experience.

The organized games also have some original gameplay mechanics to them. Games take place in the same large game world as single player and free roam, but with borders set up to keep the action together. Even more riveting is how each match starts.

Rather than spawning in a secluded location, every player is placed into the middle of the map to form a Mexican Standoff or a Showdown for free-for-all modes and team modes, respectively. All you have is a gun and a prayer, hoping that no one aims for you.

Even something as bloody as a Mexican Standoff has a layer of strategy as you are able to foolhardily wait it out or take out the unharmed players who are busy aiming at someone else.

Red Dead Redemption is looking to be another one of the captivating and exciting experiences that Rockstar is known for. However, calling it *Grand Theft Auto* in the Wild West or *GTA* with horses doesn't do it justice. This game only further proves how the West has plenty to offer in narratives and adventure, explaining why we love the Western genre.

A Note to Ashanti: The Science of Fame

Detailing the seven-step recipe to enduring pop stardom

By Andy Vo
Staff Writer

Ashanti, Ciara, Cassie—what happened? Where did they go?

These formerly famous pop sensations have all seemingly disappeared into obscurity. This failure can be attributed to their deviance from the proper guidelines in becoming a successful pop star. The following steps are those that every aspiring singer should follow to ensure longevity and great success in their future careers.

One of the most essential keys to becoming a pop star is to work with what I call the "Holy Quad of Producers." "The Holy Quad" consists of **Bloodshy & Avant**, **Dr. Luke**, **Max Martin**, and **Darkchild**. Working with any one of these producers will ensure at least one hit record within your career. Examples of their past hits include **Britney Spears**'s "Toxic," **Katy Perry**'s "I Kissed a Girl," **Britney Spears**'s "If You Seek Amy," and "Telephone" by **Lady Gaga**. These are only a few among the large catalog of singles these men have produced.

The next step on the list is **dance talent**. Not every pop star must be able to do splits and other techniques but they should at least be capable of performing some form of simple choreography. What many pop stars lack in vocal talents, they make up for in dance. **Janet Jackson** and **Britney Spears** have similarly built their entire careers on their ability to dance well, and Janet's smooth moves have helped her garner ten number-one singles and six Grammy wins alone.

Fashion also plays an important factor in the success of young pop stars and that is why it is also a necessity. Any great diva needs to become a fashion trendsetter. For example, in her prime, **Christina Aguilera** wowed audiences with her 1950s-inspired style, and when examining fashion, one would be remiss to ignore **Lady Gaga**. Having a unique and creative fashion sense can help bring any up-and-coming performers the attention they deserve.

The next step is most certainly one of the most important ones

on the list. Every recording artist should have a **different concept for each album they release**. Many pop stars have fallen to their doom simply by recycling tired concepts from one album to the next. **Madonna** is the queen of concept reinvention. She has wowed audiences from the 80s, disco-themed *Confessions on a Dance Floor* album to the iconic cone bra of her *Erotica* era. She never ceases to amaze fans and critics alike. The key to a great concept is picking one that can be used as an aesthetic theme for your tour.

However, when examining **Jordin Sparks**'s latest, *Battlefield*, the album merely demonstrated a better-styled Jordin Sparks, with no clear concept. On the other hand, Spears's *Circus* theme gave her the freedom to create an amazing, four-act circus extravaganza.

The fifth step is one that can not necessarily be taught: **the public persona**. **Beyonce** is a great example of having an amazing public persona, especially with the recent emergence of her alter ego **Sasha Fierce**. The success of fellow singers **Lady Gaga** and **Katy Perry** have also clearly proven that fans admire performers with dynamic and alluring personas.

Step six, likely the most difficult one to accomplish, mandates that the pop star remains **open to risqué ideas**. Many young, rising stars are afraid to escape their comfort zones and take risks, which is what causes them to fail. Even if one feels uncomfortable with an

idea, a pop star should learn to develop and alter the idea until it becomes both familiar and challenging.

The final step is having **extreme dedication**. Simply obtaining a record contract is not enough to ensure success in the music industry. Pop domination requires a strong work ethic. Most of the household names in the music industry are a result of countless hours spent in studios, on costumes, songs, stages, concerts and more.

So listen up, Ashanti. Give **Bloodshy & Avant** a call if you're interested in putting yourself back on the map.



Britney's success is due to a loyalty to the foolproof recipe.

SUMMER TOP FIVES

In honor of the approaching vacation, the editors have compiled lists of our favorite films, songs, and novels that are perfect compliments to the summer season.

Movies

1. Roman Holiday

Audrey Hepburn's princess pretends to be a civilian for a day, exploring Rome with Gregory Peck's slick newspaperman. An ultimate romantic comedy.

2. Grease

"Summer days driftin' away/ to uh-oh those summer nights."

3. Pirates of the Caribbean

The romance. The sword-fighting. The scheming pirates. The trilogy and adventure, first began in the Summer of 2003, never gets old.

4. 500 Days of Summer

Although this movie fails to actually take place during this season, this poignant story of love (not a love story) is perfect for a movie night with friends.

5. Say Anything

Senior Emily Chu explains the movie's appeal: "It's the hormones."

Singles

1. "Summer in the City"

Reach back into the 1960s, a summer that spanned an entire decade, with the *Lovin' Spoonfuls*.

2. "Summer Girls"

LFO proclaiming their love for the girl in *Abercrombie & Fitch* is a guilty pleasure.

3. "Umbrella"

"When the sun shines/We'll shine together." The international hit from *Little Miss Sunshine*, a.k.a. **Rihanna**, is one for all seasons.

4. "Santeria"

Sublime's tune is instantly recognizable and perfect for a chill-out summer day.

5. "Ocean Avenue"

First released in 2003, *Yellowcard*'s smash hit has quickly become the perfect representative of the ultimate summer beach trip.

Books

1. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Pick up this year's 'it' book and become engrossed in a sprawling mystery with fascinating characters.

2. Harry Potter

Nothing says summer like staying up seven hours straight to finish up your favorite book in the series.

3. The Princess Bride

Wit meets fantasy in *S. Morgenstern*'s classic tale of true love and high adventure, as told by the very funny **William Goldman**.

4. Naked

David Sedaris's hilarious collection of essays detailing his wacky life (including visits to a nudist colony) makes for a satisfying leisure-read.

5. Pride & Prejudice & Zombies

Everyone's favorite literary mash-up takes something old and makes it very, very new.

Q&A with Logan ECJ: El Salvador

By Olivia Bartz
Staff Writer

Staff Writer Olivia Bartz talks to senior Logan Breitbart about his experiences in El Salvador last summer.

What was the most difficult part of your experience in El Salvador?
Honestly, the latrines were the most difficult part. Because our family had had their latrine for so long, you could see things in the bottom of the hole that I never really got used to.

What was the most meaningful part of your experience?
The stark contrasts between different parts of the country were very eye-opening. We stayed in impoverished Guarjila for a week only to move to a mansion on the beach for the next few days. This brought perspective to the trip and revealed the wealth gap. There is no middle class and it is an issue.

Did the Salvadoran lifestyle appear radically different from your own or did you find points of common ground with the people there?
There was certainly common ground. Depending upon the family you stayed with, many of them knew some references to pop culture and major news items because the wealthier families could afford televisions. The biggest differences were seen in the educational system which was moderately optional in Guarjila. Children could choose to go to school or stay at home and work. In order for the country to progress, there has to be some serious attention to the educational system.

What was the purpose of the trip?
To immerse oneself in a new part of the world and become more aware of a poverty through a first-hand experience.

"The stark contrast between the conditions on the reservation and those that we enjoy at home is staggering – it's amazing how such a different world exists within the borders of our own country. I enjoyed observing and taking a part in native culture. I particularly found the sweat lodge an important and unique experience, and the copious amounts of fry bread were also good – for a while."
- Bryce Bajar
ECJ: Native America

Throughout high school, many things change, but the community service requirement of 25 hours remains constant. Although the volunteering guidelines are more specific for upperclassman, the expectation of a Mitty student to give back to the community has produced several notable benefits.

It may seem that those who are helped directly by a student's efforts will gain the most from the experience but, on the contrary, often times the volunteer obtains the greatest sense of fulfillment and personal growth. As a freshman, broad standards allow students to virtually go anywhere to complete the mandated hours. But as the years progress, various themes emerge to direct the student to emphasize a specific aspect of the community.

For example, the junior year focus is on assisting the impoverished members of our society in a myriad of possible methods including Sacred Heart Community Services and Second Harvest Food Bank. To many, this may seem impressive simply based on the first description but, beyond the surface, there is a

significant transformation occurring within the participant. A teenager who is able to distinguish between the privileged life of attending a private high school with certain accepted luxuries and an extreme of indigence should be recognized for this awareness.

Although from the perspective of some, community service becomes a tedious burden plagued by procrastination and a lack of initiative, it can definitely allow an individual to broaden his or her perspective. It is very convenient for a high school student to be consumed by typical, age-appropriate activities of materialistic concerns and social engagements with friends. But for those who serve 25 or more hours each year, they have the powerful opportunity to be in someone else's shoes – to see things from a different vantage point.

Some may argue that mandatory expectations from schools only reinforce a superficial sense of charity for the sake of college applications or well-roundedness of students. However, there is not much basis for such claims as the effects of these actions speak louder than

the intentions. What schools do in requiring a yearly allotment is encourage the student to take initiative, for it may be rather difficult to commence the process of giving back on one's own.

Beyond this extent, community service in high school has also substantially increased the number of volunteers working as part of a nonprofit organization (NPO). This added bonus has allowed many such groups to successfully meet expected quotas for necessary volunteers as they try to meet the community's immediate needs.

Both on the personal level of gaining a broader view of understanding and appreciation from a teenager's viewpoint, as well as the larger objective of assisting the community with practical issues, community service in high schools has continually moved students in the right, intended direction of becoming responsible citizens—taking and giving their due share.



04341077087-8
Last year about 30 current Archbishop Mitty seniors spent two weeks experiencing life in a Salvadoran village.

Do you feel that this purpose was carried out successfully?
Absolutely. I'm not speaking for everyone here, but I really believe all of us have grown and are better people as a result of this trip.

Would you recommend this trip to other students?
Yes, it is a fantastic experience and it really goes beyond something to throw on your college resume. It is something that will stay with you the rest of your life.

"The bonds I made with my Mitty classmates were so much more meaningful on the other side of the world. We were able to experience the beauty, poverty, culture, and spirit of India in the deepest way possible during our immersion trip."

- Jonathan Wang
ECJ: India

The Spirit of Service

By Manosai Eerabathini
Staff Writer

Open Me
Up!

FOCUS ON

CLASSES OF 2010

Above the Influence

By Ryan Sabatini
Guest Writer

The Above the Influence Club started out as a little idea I had in my mind to get active around campus. What I really wanted was a club for my friends and I to call our own and to attract other people of a similar lifestyle.

Luckily, there were a lot of people who shared this type of mindset -that of refraining from associating with drug and alcohol use.

While I was planning to create this club, I also had the best idea for a moderator, Mr. Motroni. Without his help the club would be nowhere. We would not have had more than sixty members at our first meeting, and we certainly would not have had to change locations from room 304 to the chapel to accommodate all of our new members.

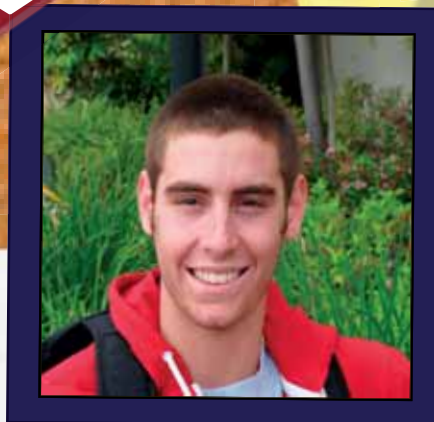
Since our first club meeting, the Above the Influence Club has made

Mitty minutes for sobriety promoting a safe lifestyle with our logo on them. I had a joint meeting with L... amassed over 70 participants. We assisted the Freshman Night this year. Most of a group of our club members gave individual talks at club to Mrs. Scott's religion classes.

We have been very active on campus in our short time and I am extremely proud to have started. More than I could have dreamed of, pleased that after I'm gone, the club will continue on. Hopefully, the club will spread like it did with Juli Ruiz, Julianne and I first started. Kids continue to make friends and

Gov Luv

By Alyssa Relos
Guest Writer



Student gov love - (stood'nt guv luv) *noun*: the close bonds of friendship and affection formed among the members of student government and ASB as a collective group of insane, lovable individuals; a form of love not found anywhere else.

My very first student government election speech is still saved on my computer—the speech that started it all. In my blue polka-dot baby doll dress, I remember going in front of the rest of the freshmen class, speaking too fast, referencing Hyphy Juice, and unraveling an (approximately) 10-foot long scroll reading "Vote Relos <3" repeatedly all the way down. It was only a couple months later that I was told we weren't allowed to have additional props and I was actually supposed to be disqualified.

Luckily, that's all in the past.

However, I can't even fathom what my four years here at Mitty would've been like without my involvement in student government. From the painting to the cheering to the filming to the dancing, I quickly fell in love with it all. Spirit Week and Monarch Madness had rendered me exhausted more often than I would've liked, but I just couldn't get enough of it.

I've even spent a majority of my time literally in Student Activities. Whether stealing candy from Mr. Walker's office, presiding over meetings, filming Mitty Minutes, or sleeping on the couch—Student Activities is my comfort zone. On good days, representatives and I are here from 6:45 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. So, I digress: Student Activities is basically my home away from home.

However, Student Activities is *nothing* without the actual people in it. Although she still resents me for the props mishap, I found friendship in Kylie Mulcaire my freshman year. As the only two surviving seniors in the Gov for all four years, we've formed a kinship unlike any other. Our family grew as Kelly Vane, Corinne Sliva, Marc Santos, Brian Robles, and later Mazi Arjomand sassily strutted into our

lives, forming a surrogate family.

People have come and gone. However, they still hold a place in our makeshift family. After freshman year, Steven Walker, Samantha Douglas, Frankie Desrocher, and Neeraj Chandra bid their adieus; then, Monique Rootsart, Natalia Smith, and Devashish Joshi collectively said their good-byes following sophomore year; while Jimmy Atwell and Claire Bredenoord both hold special places at our dinner table for their contributions to the Class of 2010's first Monarch Madness victory. Finally, our senior year. Ally Lockwood, Alex 'Minnesota' Vekich, and Joey Malysz filled the gap as they helped lead the senior class into a repeat victory; meanwhile, I progressed onto ASB. With current juniors Kendra Cavaney, Ryan Chew, Indira Battacharjee, Don Allen Stevenson, and Tony Lewis, a new family was born as we danced, ate, laughed, and cried together alongside Mr. Walker, Mrs. Boulton, and Ms. McCabe.

Student government has been my family—in every sense of the word. They have supported me through thick and thin, they have accepted me for who I am, and they have helped me whenever I needed it. The friendship bonds I made as a representative and ASB member cannot be broken. And as my high school career comes to a close, I realize that it isn't just about the end product; it's the enjoyment of the process that is more satisfying.



For as long as I can remember, music has always been my thing. I've performed over twenty-five different pieces, and I've yet to get tired of it. I started performing because I was told it would help me to improve my performance. Indeed, after seeing *Li'l Abner* and *Lend Me A Tenor* performed at this school, I stepped on to this career. Years ago, I was not aware of my own talent. I fell in love with the school. As a result of this, my growth over the past three years has been somewhat exponential. I have made many great connections with my teachers from all different backgrounds. With the freedom to be creative, I was able to be offstage, I was also

A Class All Their Own

By Ms. Hopkins
Guest Writer

It is normal to feel very proud of the graduates across the stage to pick up their diplomas. There is a sense of accomplishment, and it feels like it is the right time to move on to the next phase of their education. This year is a little different. I have the feeling that it will be a moment as over the past few years I have had the pleasure of one of their class moderators and have really come to love this class.

As a moderator of ten years, I have noticed something unique about this class. They have an extraordinary ability to work well together, and they realized very early on that Spirit Week and Monarch Madness are not all about a win, the main focus is to come together as a group and have fun. Following Monarch Madness this year, I was truly surprised by the number of seniors who came up to me in the hallway to say thank you for being their moderator—students I know, teach, and ones who I only had the chance to work with a few weeks alike.

The class of 2010 exemplifies the spirit of Mitty and means to be a Monarch. They are leaving behind some vacancies to fill and I would like to wish them the best of luck for the



Club

er prom, posters
yle, and t-shirts
l. We have hosted
ife Team that
icipants, and
man Drug
recently,
eaders
s about the
freshman

very active on
t of existence,
proud of what was
anything, though, I'm
ub is still popular, and
e, the club will continue
example that was
ub will catch fire and
when Garrett Camarota,
e Heckel, Kevin Mould
out. It is our goal that
use our club as a place to
d enjoy Mitty.



Visual Arts

By Denise Wong
Guest Writer

Art has been my passion ever since I could pick up a pencil. I started out very young, so it was something that I felt natural at doing as I got older.

When I transferred into Mitty, I began taking all sorts of art classes. As I finish out my senior year, I have taken drawing, painting, 2d/3d design, photography, and book as art. I am currently taking painting for the second time, as I do various projects on my own in the class.

My experience with Mitty's visual arts program has been very fulfilling, and I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to be in all those classes. What makes them so fascinating are, of

course, the teachers that come with each class.

Mrs. Lemak, Mrs. Frise, and Mrs. Cable have all been a great help to me and others. Their support is very much appreciated. Without them, I would not have been able to produce all the artwork I have finished with such fine quality.

They have been there for me when I needed ideas, and encouraged me to push myself with new challenges. They have offered me countless, different opportunities to enter in contests that they believe I could do well in. Thanks to them, I did in fact win a couple, and it was a great experience.

I will be going off to Otis College of Art and Design in the Fall, and I think



that Mitty's art program, and support from the teachers have been big, contributing factors to my acceptance and decision. I will miss the good times I've had with the teachers and classes, but will always remember them in the future.

Performing Arts

By Matt Hill
Guest Writer

an remember, theatre
ing. I have done
ent shows and I've
came to Mitty
was a great place for
forming arts skills.
ittle Shop of Horrors
knew I would love
ol. However, when
mpus under three
are that I would
ool itself.
my personal
ee years has been
I have made so
with students and
nt walks of life.
whoever I wanted
able to find

myself in the extremeness of characters onstage.

In parts like Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd*) I was able to act and talk in a way that I had never attempted to do. By using people I knew and had seen, I created an entire personality separate from my own so that, for those few short minutes, I could step onstage and present an interesting, comical, and believable character. Sometimes it took more than a little creativity to step into a role. Jean Valjean of *Les Miserables* was a character that I could, in no way, relate to. His pain, strength, faith, and love were all things that I had never experienced. For that role I had to imagine what it would be like and imagine how I would react to things. I needed to be believable in everything I did and trust

each choice I made as an actor. This would have been entirely impossible if I was in any environment other than Mitty.

Mitty essentially made me want to be a better person and a better performer. Next year I have been given the opportunity to attend one of the best Musical Theatre schools in the country, and I am thrilled by the new possibilities it will provide me. I am so proud to call myself a Monarch and I will never forget the memories I've made at this school, such as performing on stage, doodling in class, and accidentally pulling the fire alarm, just to name a few.

Thanks to Mitty, I couldn't have asked for a better high school experience.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Melissa Moreno
Guest Writer

When I reflect on the most memorable experiences I have had at Mitty (other than Monarch Madness), all my Campus Ministry-related activities come to mind: retreats, liturgy class, community service, "hellos" to other Corps members, and even morning every morning there's a group of us who congregate at the Campus Ministry table to talk, finish homework, and solve puzzles.

Most of you, myself included, know Mitty's Campus Ministry because of the free donuts that accompany class liturgies. The Campus Ministry department at Mitty strives to reach out to students not only through confirmation and retreats, but also by means of immersion trips, MICAH, LIFE-Emmaus, liturgy class, and even by keeping goldfish available for the students

who forgot about the most recent price changes in the cafeteria. Campus Ministry aims to build and strengthen a sense of community between the faculty and students of Archbishop Mitty. Next time you're near the 300 wing or bored on an off period, come by Campus Ministry. You won't regret it.

A year ago, I said I wouldn't cry at graduation. Now, with graduation looming, I recant this statement; I'm bringing Kleenex.



Our Own

as they walk
a sense of
e for them to
year will be
bittersweet
leasure of being
o know and

ething very
bond, they
at Spirit
but that the
un! In the
ly humbled,
allways to
ow well and
h for a few

what it
ry big shoes
e future.

JUSTICE AWARENESS

SPOTLIGHT ON: Community Service



The ECJ: Native America trip took current Mitty seniors to reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.



04341077087-8

During the inaugural ECJ: India trip, Mitty students flew across the world in order to perform service and experience the Indian culture.

"Los Niños was a beneficial experience where I was able to see a different culture, eat wonderful authentic Mexican food, make new friends, and do community service in a welcoming atmosphere that opened my eyes to the world of solidarity."

- Josh Ferguson
Los Niños

"I know it sounds pretty lame to ride in a bus around California – like, how exotic is that, right? But I really love buses. And I think that the experience was so much better for how close we were to home, because poverty is everywhere – it's in India, it's in South Africa, and it is also right here. This trip helped me realize how closely linked we are to the suffering of the underprivileged, and how we can personally change lives, even in the teeny-tiniest way."

- Olivia Tran
ECJ: California

ECJ: South Africa

By Shayan Aftab
Staff Writer

When I was a freshman, at Mitty and found out that there was a minimum twenty-five hour community service annual requirement in order to graduate, I thought what most freshmen think. I thought it would be a chore to finish, and that I would end up just trying to get it done as fast as possible. Well, I'm glad to say that my opinion changed.

For my service this year, I participated in the ECJ: South Africa immersion trip over the summer. Continuing the trend of trying something new, this time I was participating in a class immersion trip, but I was a not close friends with anyone on the trip. I thought this would get in the way of my experience in South Africa, but fortunately, it did not.

Going to South Africa was definitely a life-changing experience. It taught me how fortunate we are, and that we should not take anything we have for granted because of how little people manage to live off of in countries like South Africa. Visiting the townships, orphanages, and playing with the

children there helped me realize how important it is to help the poor. I remember seeing the children's faces light up as we brought our giant bags of donations filled with toys, coloring books, toothbrushes, towels, soccer balls, clothes, and so much more. Going to South Africa was an experience I will definitely never forget, and I'm glad I was able to get into the ECJ: South Africa class so that I could be blessed with this opportunity.

Overall, my experience with community service at Mitty enabled me to see past the concept of simply doing it to get it over with. Each year, I completed well over the minimum requirement of service hours, and I have absolutely no regrets in doing so. Giving back to my community through service is the best thing I can do because of how fortunate I am. Going to South Africa also taught me many things, and it also made me a much more open-minded person as well. I hope I will be able to participate in trips like that in the future, and I will definitely be continuing to aid my community in any way I can.

CRITICISM & REVIEWS

MGMT



By Eric Pestana
Staff Writer

If you've heard "Electric Feel," or "Kids," forget everything you know about MGMT. The band's second effort *Congratulations* capitalizes on the psychedelic rock of the lesser-known songs on their first album, and while it requires an open mind to appreciate, it isn't a chore to embrace.

MGMT's original plans were to create a more cohesive work, avoiding the idea of an unbalanced batch of songs alternating between singles and filler. So, while there are only nine tracks on the CD, the entire piece sounds far more complete than what such a seemingly small tracklist might produce.

Congratulations kicks off with "It's Working," a 60s-rock-inspired opener that functions as a perfect introduction to the album. Songs like "Song for Dan Treacy" and "Brian Eno" sprout a perky surf-pop vibe that are clearly the most accessible tracks of the album.

"Flash Delirium" is the closest any of the songs has come to a single—and even at that, it's a grower. At first it seems decent, sharing many of the same characteristics of the aforementioned songs, but its appeal grows with its catchiness. The sprawling "Siberian Breaks" can be a bit much to digest at first, clocking in at twelve minutes long, but if listened to as a series of different songs in itself, it can be appreciated as more than the trudging test of patience it initially appears to be.

Some of the best albums ever recorded don't sound sensational on their very first listen. That's what makes them so incredible; they grow on you with every listen, and can only improve with time. What MGMT has created here accomplishes this feat.



Nightmare on Elm Street



By Nikita Nathan
Staff Writer

Freddy Krueger has returned to Elm Street, raising havoc once again in the remake of the 1984 original horror flick, *Nightmare on Elm Street*.

The story introduces the audience to a villain, Freddy Krueger (Jackie Earle Haley), who tortures a group of teenagers in their sleep with his intent to kill. These "nightmares" pose as the perfect place for Freddy to attack them, as a death in a dream is a death in reality—if the victims fall asleep, they may never wake up.

Unfortunately, the movie is forgettable, as it is so uncannily similar to the original that no one aspect sticks out enough to captivate the audience—not even the cast, which includes Katie Cassidy (*Melrose Place*) and Kyle Gallner (*Veronica Mars*), performs well enough to allow the movie to separate itself from its predecessor.

However, what sets aside this version from the previous is that this movie itself is more dependent on gory images than it is on suspenseful substance. Freddy does not possess as much "character" as one would have liked to see, ripping him of a personality that is vital to establishing his intimidating nature. The potential it has to scare the audience is diminished by its predictability, because each suspenseful buildup to a scary scene occurs in the same way: Freddy attempts to kill a teenager in his or her sleep. Though the storyline is the same as the previous, the way that it is carried out by the characters of the film does not distinguish this version as one that was worth watching.

Nightmare on Elm Street is a decent attempt at a good horror movie, but when choosing between the original and the remake, keep in mind that the remake does not do the original justice.



B.O.B



By Puja Subramaniam and Julianna Roy
Staff Writers

"Can we pretend that airplanes in the night sky are like shooting stars / I could really use a wish right now," are the lyrics of B.o.B.'s single "Airplanes."

And his wish was definitely granted with the release of his new album, *B.o.B Presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray*. This album has been topping the charts, even hitting number one on iTunes.

His first top-ten single, "Nothin' On You (ft. Bruno Mars)," properly introduces the new hip-hop artist to the music industry. The single has a unique style and flow, establishing him as an idiosyncratic artist.

The release of the single "Airplanes (ft. Haley Williams of Paramore)" has caused an uproar among music lovers, blending pop, hip-hop, and punk, forming one of the best collaborations of the year. Part II of the song is even better, adding Eminem to the mix, but unfortunately this is an album-only song on iTunes. One of the most popular songs on the tracklist, "Magic (ft. Rivers Cuomo)," is repetitive, but keeps you hooked with a creative and catchy tune.

Regardless of your musical tastes, B.o.B.'s new album is a fusion of songs that will appeal to a broad range of listeners. With its fresh and original tracks, B.o.B has really stepped up to the challenges that most new artists face.

There are four current hip-hop albums we would buy without a moment's hesitation: T.I., Kid Cudi, Ludacris, and most recently, B.o.B. This new album places him at the top of our lists, and it should be on yours too.



Falafel's Drive-In



By Logan Breitbart
Staff Writer

Falafel's Drive In, owned and run by senior Dominique Grayeb's parents, is a great gem amongst restaurants in San Jose for its pure originality.

The premise is simple: combine Middle Eastern fast-food with American drive-in classics. Half of the menu features drive-in standards like hotdogs and hamburgers for the less adventurous customer, but the drive-in has become enormously popular for its Middle Eastern- and Greek-inspired dishes, of which I recommend the crowd favorites: the Gyros and Falafel.

The Gyros is composed of slow-cooked spiced beef steak in a pita with lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and tahini sauce. The tahini sauce is a cool sesame sauce that counters the heat of the succulent meat—a Middle Eastern twist on a Greek favorite.

The renowned falafel special does not disappoint. A pita sandwich consisting of falafel balls, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, tahini sauce, and a hot sauce, it may not appeal to all because of the spicy kick. However, the piquancy of the sandwich can be offset by the rich sweetness of the banana milkshake, creating an ideal duo for a satisfying meal.

Due to enormous popularity, Falafel's is typically crowded, yet the lines move quickly and the customer service is top-notch. No matter how busy, the employees make the experience personal and elevate what could be a rushed and typical drive-in atmosphere.

Falafel's is worth all its hype and anyone would do themselves a disservice by not stopping by for a falafel this summer.



Iron Man 2



By Justin Hough
Staff Writer

A sequel to one of Marvel Comics' biggest hits, *Iron Man 2* has some big, rocket-powered boots to fill.

And for the most part the movie fills them admirably, bringing forth a decent script that, without going into any spoilers, reveals a bit about the Stark family history and furthers what is becoming a series spanning multiple connected Marvel movies. Comic book fans will delight at what is to come, and enjoy the many side references made throughout the movie.

The acting is excellent, but what else is to be expected from the great Robert Downey Jr. and Mickey Rourke? Sam Rockwell manages to perfectly portray a slimy little man—you just can't help but want to punch him. Downey has perfected the immature yet loveable Stark, from his hilarious dead pan to his eccentric mannerisms. Don Cheadle does a decent job filling in the shoes of Terrance Howard from the first *Iron Man*, who did not return for the second film.

However, Cheadle's performance brings an emotional motivation to Rhodey different from the version played by Howard. And while such a change is expected when the actors are different, rarely has it been more noticeable than with Cheadle's now very stoic Rhodey.

Despite the strong cast, the film is filled with disappointing action sequences. The trailers promise epic combat and the tag team fighting of robotic suits, but the major lack of battles makes this a somewhat moot point.

Ultimately *Iron Man 2* is an excellent film. Though not as great as the first, this film is by no means a slouch when taken on its own.



The Hold Steady



By Ryan Meyer
A&E Editor

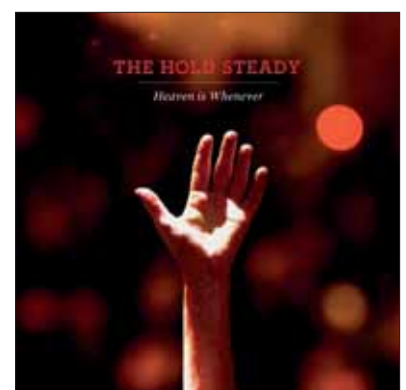
The wonderfully rich and layered lyrics of Craig Finn, vocalist of blues-rock band The Hold Steady, are typically delivered in a style best described as slam poetry. His songs are tales full of characters and plot, yet unbound to any narrative structure—the words would cascade over bar-band guitar riffs and wild keyboards.

With the new album, *Heaven is Whenever*, the departure of the band's keyboardist also summons the departure of this free-form style. Finn now sings instead of spits, and the songs now find a more traditional structure.

This altered approach takes a little getting used to for loyal fans of the band, but ultimately, The Hold Steady's best attribute still remains: the poetic lyrics. The best songs on the album showcase Finn's colloquial lyrics. "Barely Breathing" is a memoir of the hardcore club scene. Finn recounts, "Summer '88 was all heat and intensity / Saw the youth of today at the 7th Street Entry." Though the songs take on a different structure, there still remains a relaxed atmosphere to the music, as though the singer is telling stories around a campfire.

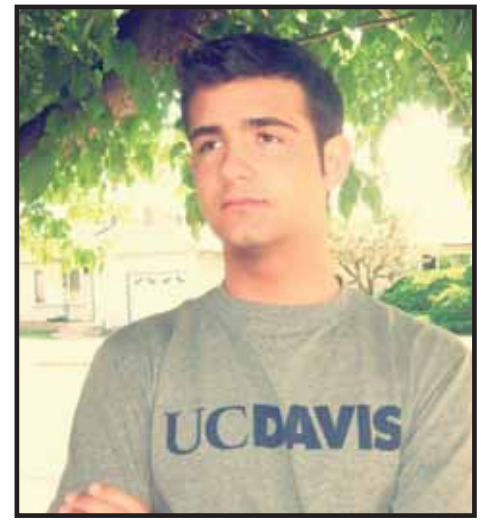
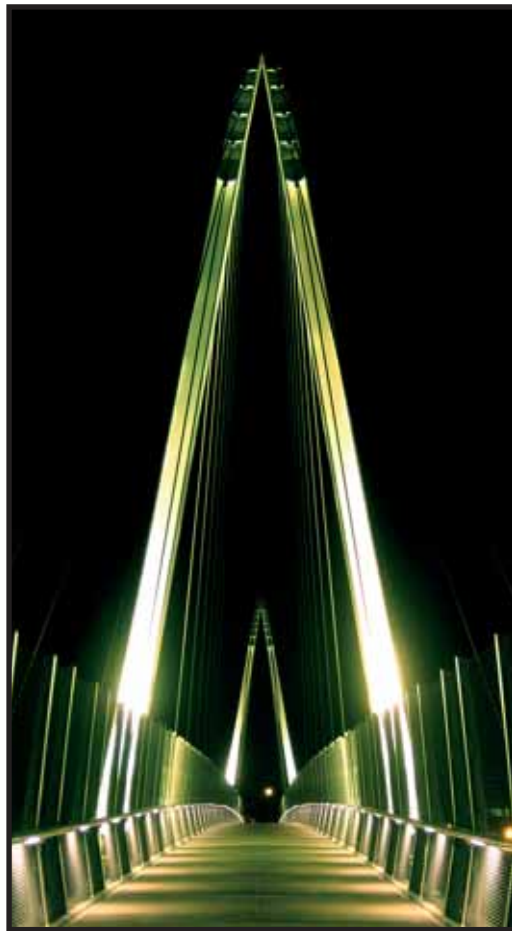
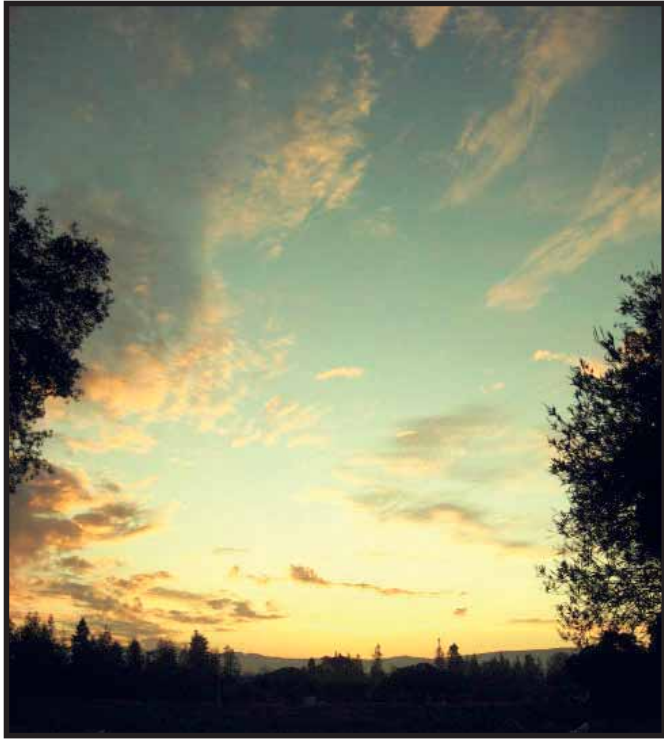
"The Weekenders" is the album's best track, undoubtedly because it is the most novelistic. A sequel to "Chips Ahoy!" from the album *Boys and Girls in America*, "Weekenders" continues the story of a couple who turns their talent for winning bets at horse races into wild and indulgent weekends. "It's not gonna be like in romantic comedies / In the end, I bet no one learns a lesson."

The album is solid, though the panache of past albums is missed. *Heaven is Whenever* is still worth a listen for those who like their lyrics as heavy as the riffs.



Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



Nick Delucchi

Nick will be graduating on May 29 and is attending UC Davis in the fall. Aside from photography he enjoys camping, philosophy, and learning about the world in general.

What attracted you to photography in the first place?
I liked the effect that photography has on people, that it can really make them think about how awesome the world around us really is.

What is your favorite thing to photograph?
I like to photograph people because of the emotions that I can convey through them, but I don't always have the opportunity because either people aren't available or just aren't willing.

What inspires you?
Pretty much anything inspires me: any art I see, the people I meet, the subjects I learn in class--anything.

Describe the favorite photo you've taken:
My favorite photograph would have to be the one of the pedestrian bridge over 280 on the way to Foothill (center). I always liked the way it looked, so one night I went out and took a few hundred shots, cropped two together to get the whole height of the structure, and out came the product.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?
I might take a class or two on digital photography in college, but I won't major in it. I would like to one day photograph bacteria and microscopic life, though; I've always wished I could.

How would you describe your photographic style?
I'm kinda all over but I do tend to favor Macro style when it comes to nature. And I do really enjoy taking pictures of the sky. Perhaps I'm a nature photographer who has the occasional desire to photograph people.





Preston McPeak



Morgan Czeropski

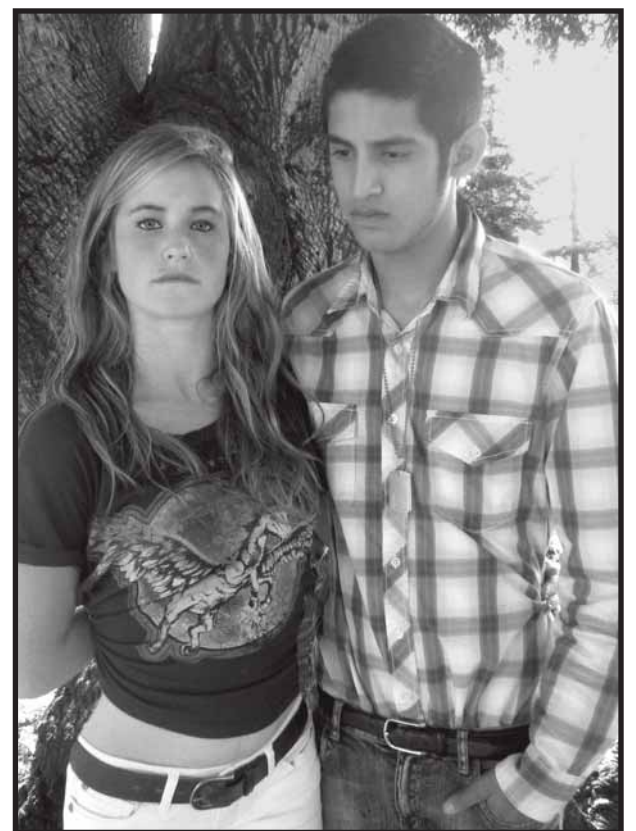
Snapshots



Claire Bredenoord



Alexander Ramirez



Kelly Prows

Marissa McPeak

CONFESSE
WINNER



Thank you
to all the photographers who contributed to the Monarch Photo Section this year. Hopefully, you inspired a few other talented students to pick up a camera and begin to see the world in a new way.

SPORTS

4 x 100 Relay Team

By **Jaslyn Johnson**
& **Neil Jariwalla**
Staff Writers

Although Track and Field is not considered a team in the conventional sense, the 4x100 relay truly defines what it means to participate on a team.

The four members of the women's team, Ally Lockwood, Elizabeth Duxbury, Kamilah Davis, and Jessica Seymour, comprise this lightening-fast group.

Senior Ally Lockwood explains, "The track team overall is a friendly community, but our relay team is especially close because we spend so much time together."

The girls have become great friends and teammates, allowing them to form a unique bond on and off the track.

They attribute their victorious season to their friendship developed over the years, as well as their dedication.

"Our team is successful because we know we have the talent and the capability, so we work hard and take every practice and meet seriously," says senior Elizabeth Duxbury. "Our track team usually comes out first."

As the team competes in their final league meets, they hope to make it into the finals at state and set a new personal record.

Softball Aims for Yet Another CCS Title

By **Bryce Bajar**
Staff Writer

Domination. This is not a word unfamiliar to Monarch Athletics, which have, in this year alone, enjoyed especially successful seasons from the likes of men's football, women's volleyball, and basketball.

Yet for Mitty's softball team, there is something a little greater than domination at hand.

This is a team that is 25-2 overall, with a commanding 6-0 league record to undisputedly place itself at the top of the WCAL.

This is a team with an unprecedented 20 shutouts, and outcomes such as the 14-0 trouncing of Sacred Heart Cathedral on April 13.

This is a team that has outscored its opponents 125-12. Domination inadequately describes this Monarch softball team.

But is this any surprise? The Monarchs have captured both the WCAL and CCS titles five years in a row now, so this trend of excellence is more than a mere intermittent phenomenon – it is a well-rooted tradition.

Let us all keep in mind that this success so far is in light of lower expectations this year, as many key players graduated last year.

Says senior Jillian Anderson: "We had amazing seniors last year who were great leaders. Last year we had more power hitters who could hit extra base hits, but this year we are more of a win-by-singles type of team. Other teams thought that since we lost some key players we weren't going to be as good, but we've been proving them wrong all year."

Head Coach Sarah Thomas offers some insight into the team's unparalleled strength this season.

"One of the team's strengths certainly is pitching," she said.

At the heart of this pitching strength is sophomore Vanessa Alvarez, whose 22-1



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Sophomore Vanessa Alvarez winds up for the pitch.

record has contributed greatly to the overall success of the team.

"The team feels like they are certain in every game because she is such a tough pitcher," Coach Thomas said of Alvarez.

Andersen, bound for Cal Poly, adds: "Our greatest strength would probably be defense. Our whole team is extremely versatile and many people play more than just one position."

This very consistent defense, combined with the outstanding performances of Alvarez and sophomore catcher Chiara Biagini, has contributed to the stark scoring differential and the host of shutouts so far this season.

The team's "all around expectation to win" is another strength according to Coach Thomas.

"When you expect to win every game good things and good luck comes your way."

Yet this strength is also a struggle for the team, as Andersen says: "One of our biggest struggles is relaxing and having fun. We tend to put a lot of pressure on ourselves and think it's up to one player to win the game. We need to work more on relaxing and trusting each other and our skills."

Additionally, Coach Thomas acknowledges that there still remain facets of the game that the team needs to work on.

She notes: "The only struggles I would say would be playing every team with the same focus and intensity. We have elevated our game against great competition and lowered our game when facing less talented teams. We are working on playing our game no matter who is in the other dug out."

With these areas of improvement in mind, the team moves on, pursuing their ever-lofty goals.

"Our main goal is to keep the winning streak alive and win league and CCS for the sixth season in a row. We want to play our hardest every game," stated Andersen.

The Monarchs completed their regular season as of May 6 in an 8-0 shutout of St. Ignatius and a semi-final victory as of May 11 in a 3-1 victory over Belmont.

As the Monarchs advance to WCAL playoffs, the smell of victory is in the air. With total domination within reach, Andersen urges the Mitty community: "Come out and support softball!"

However, it looks as if the Monarchs will be nearly unstoppable in their CCS schedule and will be sure to add a few new banners to the Fien Gym ceiling.

With the season nearing its finish, be sure to take part in the tradition of excellence, the exhibition of pure strength, and the greatness of Monarch domination.

Mitty Baseball Earns Regional Recognition Heading into CCS Playoffs, Monarchs Ranked #4 in State

By **Cameron Schott and Bella Colpo**
Staff Writers

Only three games into the league season, Archbishop Mitty displayed the determination and skill to come through in a clutch situation.

Stepping up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning, Alex Balog prepared to bat, the score tied at 4-4. The result?

A walk-off home run to beat St. Francis, one of the top teams in the country.

This was just to start the league year. Mitty followed a perfect 7-0 pre-season with an 11-3 record in WCAL play, going on to finish the season with an impressive 24-3 record prior to the WCAL playoffs.

Following the defeat of rival Valley Christian in the finals of the Mike Hazlett Tournament and having a near-perfect start of the season, the Monarchs pressed their advantage throughout the year.

Despite losing close games to Valley Christian and Bellarmine, the Monarchs have shown little weakness in their play.

Demonstrating obvious composure in their 7-5 defeat of St. Francis, they have steadily improved to their current state of success.

Now, at the top of their game, the Monarchs are ready to face the fast-approaching CCS playoffs.

Their 24 wins have come against some formidable teams, including Valley Christian, Serra, Bellarmine, and, arguably their biggest rival, St. Francis.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Sophomore Preston Caldera looks to drive the ball for the Monarchs.

How do they do it?

Coach Bill Hutton said, "Our strength is our deep and talented pitching staff...It is a blessing to have a deep staff, but [it's] unfortunate that there is not enough opportunities to get them all significant innings."

He also added that, "Another strength is the senior leadership. The seniors have done a great job of leading by actions and words."

Crucial players such as senior slugger

Alex Balog, who led the win against St. Francis, junior Brett Fuller, who helped beat St. Ignatius, junior Tyler Davis, who brought back the victory against Serra, and James Roberts, who has played more games as a shortstop than any other player in school history, have contributed to Mitty's success.

Archbishop Mitty baseball rightly earns their astonishing Maxpreps.com ranking as not only 4th in the state and 21st in

the nation over the 2010 season, but even more impressively, they are also ranked 5th in the nation by Baseball America.

Senior captain Stephen Meade says, "We are excited about the rankings, but really that stuff doesn't matter to us. It is all about going day to day and not getting ahead of ourselves to get to our goals."

Coach Hutton was also modest, saying, "It is fun to be recognized in the national rankings. I am not sure that it is humanly possible to have state and national rankings for high school baseball, [but] to be recognized by the various outlets that attempt to do that means that we have a good reputation and are respected in the baseball community."

Coach Hutton is also quick to point out future obstacles, saying, "Of course, with the difficulty of our league, you can climb or slide in those rankings quickly with a big win or unfortunate loss. The WCAL is very tough."

Mitty secured the WCAL title, beating Sacred Heart Cathedral 13-7 on May 7, aided by homeruns from USF-bound Alex Balog and junior Sean Edgecumbe.

They have already begun WCAL play, defeating Riordan in the first round, 9-2 and St. Ignatius in the second round, 9-7.

The Monarchs were scheduled to play Serra on May 13. From their, they will head into the CCS, where they will seek to avenge last year's title loss in the final inning.

Ice Hockey Skating in the Fast Lane

By Steven Nguyen
Staff Writer

The ice rink: a place where champions are made.

For most Mitty-ites, it's a surprise that their school even has exposure to the rink. However, the Mitty Hockey team is in its third year of existence and includes greats such as seniors Sam Miraglia, Stephen Jahncke and Kyle Dzurko.

As a young team it's difficult to attain the usual Monarch standards in such a short amount of time.

Rather, the last few years have been known to be team growth periods more than anything else.

Last year, for instance, after making an incredible run to the playoffs, the team was stopped short in the first round.

With Coach Leaf holding down the fort the team is ready to take on the playoffs and then the championships.

Senior Stephen Jancke explains "While the team is small in size, we are very fast. Like Usain Bolt except on skates. Many of

our opponents underestimate our skill and we catch them off guard in the beginning of the game. We also play incredibly hard and check a lot."

Through seven games the team had already exceeded last year's expectations and the team is working together better than before, hoping to advance farther into the playoffs than they have in previous years.

The drive to win this year's championship has been immeasurable as of late.

With players on edge, Senior Kyle Dzurko jokes, "We play by the rules and we do as much as we can to be fair, and we just want to win the championship so badly."

The team has been practicing for their games at the Ice Center at San Jose, but since they are a club team they do not officially have a practice schedule designated at the rink.

It becomes a daunting task for the team to get time on the ice, making it that much more difficult for this team to make its run to the championship.

However, the Monarchs keep gliding on and remain optimistic of their chances.



Photo courtesy of Facebook.com

Junior Erik Leaf skates down the ice with the puck.

Men's Volleyball Close to WCAL Title

By Aymun Ullah
& Arjun Ravishankar
Staff Writers

When volleyball is discussed at Archbishop Mitty, the women's team often dominates the conversation. However, the Mitty men's volleyball team has also made significant strides in strengthening its reputation.

With an overall record of 28-8 and a league record of 7-5, the Monarchs were able to fight their way into 3rd place in the always-competitive WCAL, showing just how much the team has matured and grown with time.

Says Senior Alex Becker, "This has been our best year in a long time for volleyball. We put in the work and have fun doing it."

Though not necessarily as tall as teams of past years, the Monarchs were able to utilize solid defensive and intelligent offensive play to maximize their strengths, and the team often found itself on the winning end of a game due to their strategic play.

Led by Seniors Ryan Petulla and Ryan Sabatini, the Monarchs found a potent 1-2

punch on the offensive and defensive ends of the floor.

Ryan Petulla leads the team with 277 kills, while Ryan Sabatini contributes to the defensive end with his impressive 33 blocks. Sabatini also leads the team in kill percentage, driving home 41% of his attempts.

"Our best qualities are that we play for each other and get pumped when one of us does well and we can be relaxed and funny on the court but know when to focus," explains senior Tyler Vinson, who himself has had 203 kills thus far in the season.

Such attributes have led to a long list of victories for the Monarchs, notably against Serra and St. Francis earlier in the season.

Despite wins against both St. Ignatius and St. Francis in the quarter- and semi-finals of the WCAL tourna-

ment, the Monarchs met a close defeat in the final against Bellarmine on May 7, ending their WCAL bid.

However, the Monarch season is not over yet. They will head into CCS on May 10 to compete for the title.

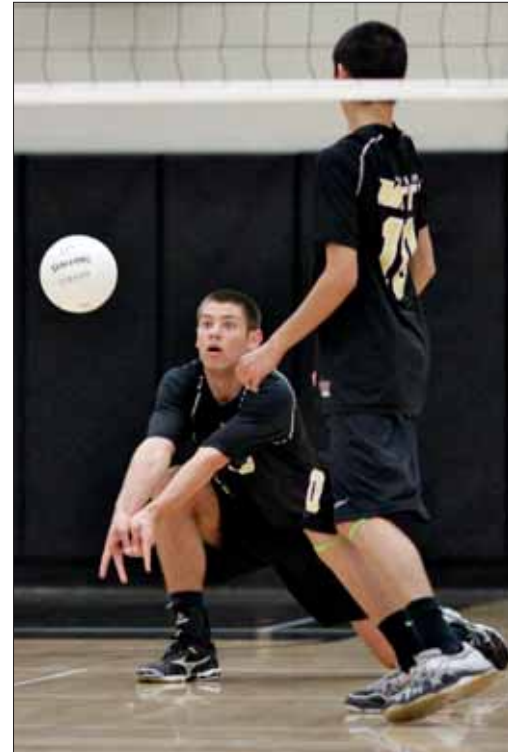


Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Ryan Petulla crouches to dig the volleyball.

Highlight REEL

COACH: MR. JOHN MOSUNIC

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: SHOTARO BAN, STEPHEN JAHNCKE, RYAN RANKIN, AND GABLE IGNACIO

HIGHLIGHT: BEATING BOTH SAINT FRANCIS AND BELLARMINE BY 1 SHOT IN THE LAST TWO MATCHES TO WIN THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

SHOTARU BEN: "WE ALWAYS GOT EACH OTHER'S BACKS. IF SOMEONE ISN'T PLAYING WELL, WE TRY TO HELP THEM OUT."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Freshman Paige Haar leaps over the hurdle at a sprint.

COACH: MR. KEVIN DUNN AND MRS. DINA OAKLAND
KEY CONTRIBUTORS: OLIVIA RINTALA, LIZ DUXBURY, BOBBY MARANI, AND RICHARD GUZIKOWSKI
DON STEVENSON: "THERE IS A LOT OF TALENT ON THE TEAM THIS YEAR. HOPEFULLY WE GO ON TO PROVE OUR DOMINANCE IN LEAGUE."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Frances Choi tucks in good form.

Swimming

COACHES: TOM MILLER AND RACHEL RHODES

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

CATHY CONTINI: "WE ARE LOOKING TO QUALIFY IN ALL EVENTS AT CCS AND WCALS AND BEAT NOTRE DAME NEXT THURSDAY, MAY 7."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Swimmer leaps off her starting block.

Compiled by Kanishka Khanna, Kelsey McClung, Erik Chu, and Patrick Le
Staff Writers

Lacrosse

COACH: MR. CARLOS TRUJILLO

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: NICK BILLMAIER, SEAN MATUSICH, JOE WILKINSON, AND CURTIS FELLEZ

HIGHLIGHT: A 6-GOAL PERFORMANCE BY SOPHOMORE BILLY HERR AGAINST SCOTTS VALLEY, AND A 2 OT VICTORY OVER SERRA.

CURTIS FELLEZ: "WE'RE HEADING INTO OUR LAST GAME AT SI WITH HOPES OF MARKED IMPROVEMENT AND HOPE TO USE THAT GAME AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR OUR BIG PLAYOFF GAME AGAINST BELLARMINE THE FOLLOWING WEEK."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Freshman Lindsey Scheller prepares to serve the birdie.

Badminton

COACH: WILFREDO VARGAS AND ANTOINETTE CAO

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: BRIAN MORIYAMA, JEFF XU, MANISHA EERABATHINI, SABRINA LI, AND GAVIN CHAN,

JESSICA SNYDER: "THE TEAM THIS YEAR IS MORE DEDICATED TO THE SPORT. WE'VE HAD A MUCH BETTER YEAR THAN THE PAST AND I HOPE THAT WE CONTINUE TO GAIN MOMENTUM TO FINISH OUT THE YEAR'S GAMES WITH VICTORIES THAT WILL CARRY US TO LEAGUE FINALS."

STUDENT CENTER(RED)

Senior Focus: Valedictorian Josie Suh and Salutatorian Alexis Savini

By Morgan McEnery
Staff Writer

Josie Suh has accumulated quite a number of claims to fame in her 4 years of high school. She can boast a complete play-through of every Final Fantasy game and a mastery of driving stick-shift, and she's *this* close to being able to name the world's 195 countries.

Oh, and she's also Valedictorian.

Josie has taken the most difficult course load offered at Mitty, with 12 AP and 6 Honors classes. Although she dedicated the majority of her time to her schoolwork, Josie spent the rest of her time with her horse, Pepe, whom she trains and rides daily.

Also involved with her church community, Korean Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Josie holds faith as an important aspect of her life. Because of this, she joined the LIFE Emmaus Corp and is involved in a base community her senior year. Being a big part of Campus Ministry, Josie has had the opportunity to lead both Quest and Kairos retreats. Says Josie, "Being able to offer the Kairos experience to other seniors was even more amazing than being on Kairos for the first time!"

Additionally, Josie attended the inaugural trip to India for the ECJ Immersion trip, is editor of the *The Monarch* Opinions section, and is a tutor at Mitty and outside of school.

With this impressive list of accomplishments, it is no wonder she will be attending Georgetown University in Washington D.C. this fall, studying in their School of Foreign Service. Josie hopes to follow in her grandfather's footsteps and work for international peace, possibly becoming the United States envoy to North Korea to work for reconciliation. As to other parts of her college to-do list, she wants to travel abroad and learn another language—maybe Arabic!

"I'm going to miss chatting with teachers after class and in the hallways, and I'm going to miss seeing the crazy kids in the senior class," she said. Mitty will miss Josie, too, but Georgetown will be gaining a superb student—a gamer, driver, and equestrienne.

After challenging herself for four years at Mitty, senior **Alexis Savini** will graduate on May 29, feeling like most seniors do, very accomplished. However, Alexis will speak in front of the class of 2010 as Salutatorian. She will be recognized for her outstanding academic accomplishments, leadership roles, and service to the community.

As a National Merit Finalist and a nominee for the Presidential Scholars Program, it is quite an understatement to say she has worked tremendously hard and deserves to be named Salutatorian. Alexis is an advanced-level piano student and has been playing piano as well as club soccer for 12 years.

Alexis has taken full advantage of her opportunities at Mitty and has been very involved during her four years here. She traveled to South Africa as a junior with her ECJ class, participated in a corporate internship, and is an editor of the Sports section of *The Monarch*.

As she makes a long trek across the country to New Hampshire to attend Dartmouth College in the fall, Alexis is excited to live somewhere new and be on her own. Although still undecided in her course of study and

unsure about possible career paths, she hopes to find something she loves to do and travel as much as possible in the meantime.

Moving on to the next chapter in her life, Alexis is thankful for what she says is, "the opportunity that Mitty gave me to challenge myself." Alexis recalls being very nervous as a freshman and worried she wouldn't be able to keep up with the change of pace that high school brings.

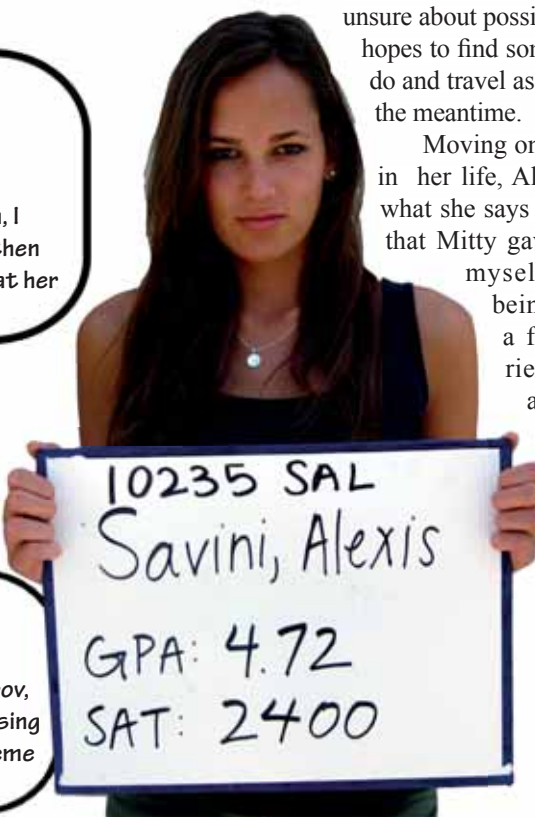
Clearly, Alexis has done much more than just "keep up" in high school. She has unquestionably earned her spot at the top of her class.



10239 VAL
Suh, Josie
GPA: 4.70
SAT: 2390

Fun Facts!
Josie:
Favorite Cafeteria Food: Tater Tots
Hardest Class: Physics AP
Embarrassing Moment: "As a freshman, I laughed at something a senior said, but then she glared at me and told me not to laugh at her because she wasn't stupid."

Alexis:
Favorite Cafeteria Food: Pizza
Hardest Class: Physics AP
Embarrassing moment: During AP Gov, Alexis was caught talking and had to sing Miley Cyrus's "The Climb" and the theme song to "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."



10235 SAL
Savini, Alexis
GPA: 4.72
SAT: 2400

Graduations to Remember



Graduating ASB members pose for this year's class of 2010.

By Sruthi Ramaswami
Staff Writer

High School Graduation is undeniably one of the most memorable events in a person's life.

Okay, so we all know that worn-out cliché—still, sometimes an unexpected occurrence can make the (admittedly predictable) ceremony that much more exciting. Past years have seen various faculty members infuse graduation with their own sense of humor, giving students one more reason to think fondly of their high school experience. Here are two such memories.

Along with the students, the faculty and staff have their own gowns to wear for graduation. But it used to be that every faculty and staff member except one had a gown to wear for graduation—that one had to wear what was called the "Dorothy Dress." When teachers went to the rack, they would usually find their respective gowns. However, the tradi-

tion was that one teacher wouldn't get a gown, and they would be left with the Dorothy Dress—a blue gingham frock straight from *The Wizard of Oz*. One year, **Mr. Korbel** found the Dorothy Dress in place of the customary gown...

In 2000, **Mr. Brosnan** and **Mr. Silva** decided to fool the graduating seniors by referencing the newly released *Austin Powers* movie. Early on, Mr. Brosnan's speech was interrupted by microphone interference, shocking the audience into silence. Mr. Silva emerged from the stands dressed as Dr. Evil. While the audience was recovering from their shock, he commandeered the ceremony and proceeded to deliver the rest of Mr. Brosnan's speech.

With graduation quickly approaching, the class of 2010 has a truly remarkable moment to look forward to, regardless of whether or not the faculty have something extra in store.

T-Brawz Graduation Movie References

(nearly every year Mr. Brosnan weaves a movie reference throughout his graduation speech)

- 1995 "Forrest Gump"
- 1996 "Apollo 13"
- 1997 "Jerry Maguire"
- 1998 "Good Will Hunting"
- 1999 "Saving Private Ryan"
- 2000 "Austin Powers"
- 2002 "A Beautiful Mind"
- 2003 References to 25 different classic movies
- 2004 "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
- 2005 "Crash"
- 2006 "Joyeux Noel"
- 2007 "Little Miss Sunshine"
- 2008 "Juno"
- 2009 "Slumdog Millionaire"
- 2010 ??????

THE MONARCH

Volume 19 Number 5

Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg
Mr. Craig Whitt

News

Emily Chu, Bridget McAnany,
Kit Strong, & Olivia Tran

Opinions

Manasi Patel, Isabel Sausjord,
& Josie Suh

Arts & Entertainment

Steffie Ko, Ryan Meyer, & Zoya Qureshy

Focus

Manisha Eerabathini, Emma Luk,
Seethim Naicker, & Ramya Singireddy

Justice Awareness

Kiron Chandy, Angela Hodge, & Maya Raman

Sports

Kanishka Khanna, Juli Ruiz, & Alexis Savini

Photo

Claire Bredenoord

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