



THE NEW HALL OF MUSIC

By Maheen Ahkter and Katya Lohngoan
Staff Writers

Mitty's Performing Arts Department has already brought a lot to the table and is now planning to expand its facilities to grow even further.

With a continual inflow of talent, the school faces the dilemma of being unable to support all the goals of the Performing Arts Department. Construction will begin in April 2011, and **Mr. Brosnan** and **Mr. Kimont** are hard at work with the blueprints and construction planning of the latest facility which will include a music rehearsal/performance hall, a dance studio, a recording studio, and an additional dressing room for dance classes and actors.

The new dance studio is sure to be a big benefit to the experiences and abilities of our dancers. It will take the place of the existing band room and include a professional dance floor, mirrored walls, and ballet bars. **Ms. Moura**, the school's dance teacher and head coach of the Royals, can't wait.

"We will finally have our own space! We'll have mirrors and our own dance floor." In the past, dancers have often shared space with other classes or sports and even resorted to the cement outside of Aymar, which is terrible for their bodies. With the growing number of dancers, the renovations are certainly exciting.

Another key aspect of the construction is a full-sized, tiered music hall. The concept of the new hall is to fit all of the school's five bands and three choirs in one area.

"The new hall will be two times the existing size of our band room and the space can also be used for concerts," says **Mr. Brosnan**.

The constraints of space are evident with the growing program, and the according volume of instruments and other equipment. Previously, each student was not guaranteed his or her own locker.

Junior **Cassie Liu**, a member of the Wind Ensemble, is "really excited about the new concert area. The tiered seats will help the audience hear the music better, especially since it's hard to hear me play my flute over the brass instruments."

Choir students are also awaiting construction of the



Hand-drawn visual representation of the upcoming Performing Arts Center.

music hall. The different levels will be able to enhance the blend of their vocals, and they will be able to see the choir director and hear each other.

The music hall will also double as a recording studio so the choir and bands can record themselves on stage and get instant replay. There will be a new recording studio with three adjacent soundproof rooms for professional-level recording, which will aid vocalists and instrumentalists alike, including Exodus, which previously had to travel to record its annual CD.

The intention of the new technologies and facilities is to expose the students to a more professional environment and give them a glimpse of real life in professional show business.

Sophomore **Ryan Ballard**, a singer in Exodus, shares his hopes. "Having regular access to a recording studio will give us a leg-up on what it's like in the actual music industry."

Because sending in recordings for pre-screening is becoming a more common aspect of applications to performing arts colleges, **Mr. Brosnan** and **Mr. Kimont** hope to aid students with the addition of the new studio. These recording studios will also be open to use for all other musical groups or interested students.

The fact that this new facility is soon to become a reality ensures that all present Mitty students, as well as future Monarchs, will thrive in music, dance, and theater in the years to come.



Dept. chairs Mrs. Nowell and Mr. Brazelton are key players in revamping the History and English programs.

Changes in the Humanities

By Payam Mirfendereski and Ryan Kapur
Staff Writers

Archbishop Mitty's English and History Departments are establishing a multitude of innovative changes regarding the courses and electives available to students in the coming years. The goal of these changes is to enhance students' learning experiences while creating diverse courses that will be more enjoyable while tapping the individual talents and interests of teachers.

Foremost on the list of changes is the replacement of World Literature and World History in sophomore year with American Literature and U.S. History, respectively. **Mr. Brazelton**, English department chair, explains that novels written by American authors and our common national history will likely be more accessible to incoming sophomores.

In the Social Studies Dept., the belief is that the wealth of knowledge taught in World History is more

suitable to third-year students. Thus, there will be no World History courses offered on Mitty's campus next year, as both juniors and sophomores will be taking American History. Classes, however, will still be separated by grade level to ensure that a solid introduction to writing elements remains an emphasis in both during the sophomore year.

World History and WHAP courses will not be taken out of the history curriculum, but will return as junior courses in the 2012-2013 school year. **Mrs. Nowell**, the Social Studies Dept. Chair, recognizes the importance of this modification and feels that "the process of studying from Civics to American History to World History will be more fluid," with a gradual increase in content and workload. **Mrs. Nowell** explains that junior year religion

see **CHANGES**, page 16

Mock Trial Reaches Playoffs

By Gwen Holst
News Editor

Congratulations to the AMHS Mock Trial team! These 28 students began preparing in September for their bi-weekly competitions at the Santa Clara Courthouse, which took place over several weeks in February.

The team finished 3-1, with victories over Los Gatos, Mountain View, and Lincoln. Two of the team's victories had margins of twenty-seven and twenty-eight points, a decisive "slam dunk" in the realm of Mock Trial, according to teacher-coach Anne Nowell.

In the quarterfinals the team lost a dramatic and hard-fought match to Lynbrook by just four points.

For the past six years, Mitty has been one of the twenty or so schools to sport a team and for the past five has advanced to at least to the quarterfinals. This is especially impressive given that Mitty is one of the few schools that double casts, offering as many students as possible the opportunity to both perform in court before real judges while learning the workings of the legal system.

Beyond the teams five-year playoff run, the program's success is evident in that every year at least two-thirds of the students are recognized for their outstanding performances.

OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: Jersey Shore

SNOOKI FTW

By Dillon Williams
Staff Writer

So Snooki wrote a book that ended up on *The New York Times* Best Seller list. My personal response: who cares? Seriously, we all know that this isn't about Snooki.

No, it doesn't even matter what she wrote. The questioning of her success is more due to the shocking nature of her background.

So why is this accomplishment being met with such harsh criticism? She hasn't done anything revolutionary or even original; in fact, she isn't even the first person to write a book that many feel "doesn't belong on the bestseller list."

A few years back, a book entitled *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell* spent quite a few months atop the list and was met with constant degradation from critics castigating its raunchy content. So why didn't it belong on the list?

Was it because the content was unadulterated and crude? Because if that's the case, then people fail to realize that this is the sole reason that the book was able to gain such instantaneous fame.

Maybe the critics are so shocked at the unveiling of books like these because they fail to accept human nature. The reason that these books become instant bestsellers is not in spite of their content, it is *because* of their content.

People want to observe the vices that they are too afraid to associate with themselves, and so stay away from—until given the chance to experience such things vicariously through the media.

As I said before, this isn't about Snooki's book, it's about her persona, and more importantly it's about the show that she is a part of, a show that, quite frankly is known

for its shock factor.

Jersey Shore allows people to live vicariously through the characters that they follow on a weekly basis, but more importantly it teaches them exactly where such vices can lead them.

Some criticisms? The show displays people getting drunk in public...and then getting arrested. I don't see any inaccuracy here.

Let's try something else: *Jersey Shore* shows people getting punched in the face in a bar fight; and then subsequently sued and later arrested. Again, this is a fairly accurate portrayal of what sometimes happens in real life.

So what exactly does *Jersey Shore* do wrong? If like me you are unable to answer this question but still find yourself hooked on these characters' antics, then congratulations: we are just like the hundreds of thousands of other people who find mindless television amusing without any harm done.

And as far as the influence of *Jersey Shore*? I find no problem with going to the gym or doing laundry; in fact I find it to be part of a healthy lifestyle. As for tanning, not my thing.

AN ABSOLUTE ABSURDITY

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

Before I begin commenting on the absurdity that is our ever-changing world, here are a few interesting statistics concerning books:

•33% of high school graduates never read another book for the rest of their lives.

•42% of college graduates never read another book after college.

•70% of U.S. adults have not been in a bookstore in the last five years.

I cannot be the only one who finds this depressing. Not only are less books being published on a yearly basis, but the quality has also seen steady decline.

Apparently now, you don't need to have even graduated from high school to publish a "successful" book. Not only is America as a whole, losing its ability to read, but this nation also fails to produce many people who can actually write.

Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is now known for something other than towering hairdos. Never in a million years would I ever believe that this oompa-loompa-esque woman

would fall into the same category as Eleanor Roosevelt or Khaled Hosseini. This barely five foot tall woman can tease her hair, and babble drunk and still make *The New York Times* Bestseller List?

Of all the people that should be on this list, how on earth is it that some drunk managed to earn this coveted spot? It's hard to understand how Snooki could have even written a book, considering the likelihood that she has never read an entire book herself.

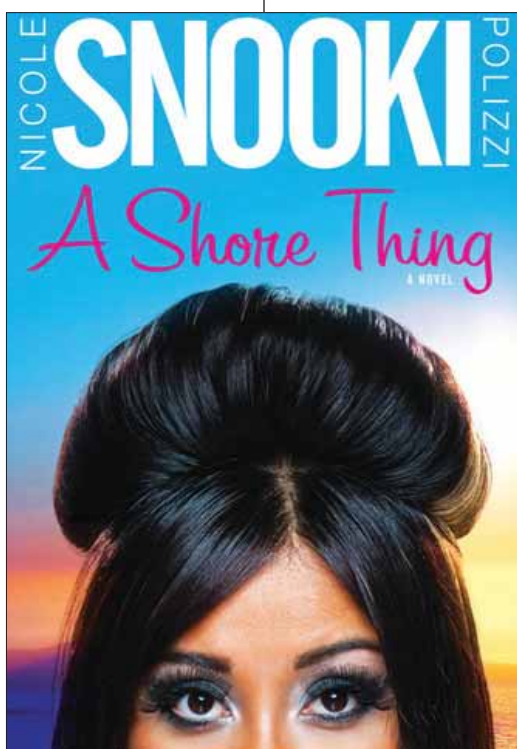
What really irks me is the fact that aspiring writers with brilliant stories and a real desire to have something published are sometimes never able to do so.

What kind of message does this send? The strategy for success? Spray tans, eyeliner, and parties. Apparently there is some societal attachment with this small, teddy-bear like person; otherwise, her excessive lifestyle would never have been deemed fit for publishing.

Snooki is certainly not the first "celebrity" to make the seemingly effortless transition from television, to music, to Hollywood, to politics, and to *The New York Times* Bestseller List. Lavish lifestyles and complete ignorance frequently result in publishing deals and millions of dollars. The media, sadly, is notorious for rewarding those who should not be rewarded.

Perhaps there is some good that may come out of this awful situation. Maybe, just maybe, teens will actually pick up this book, and read it.

The only silver lining to the dark rain cloud of modern literature is the fact that Snooki's "success" as a writer will be short-lived. Let's all hope that Snooki is simply a small pimple on the face of literature—soon to be popped.



VIDEO GAMES An Art to be Reckoned with

By Eugene Woo
Staff Writer

Video games are grossly misunderstood by much of society, and I'm reluctant to bear the title "gamer" publicly because I know well enough it wrongly evokes images of the controller-toting, gore-loving *Call of Duty* fanatic.

The highest-grossing games aren't necessarily the best examples of the gaming market, which is a diverse and very deep market with a widespread audience in all age groups and cultures. Some of the deepest stories I've seen have come from video games that probably sold less than 50,000 all told. Besides the art of the great story, video games have mastered the art of simulation. Why watch a movie about war, mob wars, or even crime-solving if you can vicariously live the thrill through games yourself?

For instance, one game, *Brothers in Arms*, follows a squad leader through various battles in World War 2 as he grapples

with his past decisions—decisions that have killed his men. Characters with depth are much more poignant, so his comrades all have tangible qualities. As you play through the game, you witness haunting flashbacks of gore, violence, and killed men that drive you to the brink of losing hold over your mind.

Of course, to sell copies, the game is also fun, but this isn't the type of game where you finish the main storyline, and the world has been saved, and you're fist-pumping the death of the bad guy from your couch. This is a story fraught with insight, depth, experience, and character.

As technology has advanced, gaming is becoming a whole new beast in itself. It's

no longer just a 2D figure with a ridiculous accent and bushy mustache in overalls and a red cap that must hop his way to saving a princess at the mercy of a giant fire-breathing, spike-shelled turtle.



It's not even just a nameless, faceless special-ops soldier that must kill waves of inept enemies to save various famous historical figures, landmarks, or the world.

There is a new trend in characters that has been observed. The introduction of imperfect and tragic heroes has greatly increased the depth of gaming. Similarly, villains are no longer simple embodiments of evil; many antagonists follow the literature or movie mold, being those

who have become blinded by good intention into doing things that perhaps have crossed the line. These are villains, and these are heroes that we could easily observe in our world and our history. Games make statements about society, about humanity, and about history, among other things.

If one is to ever pass judgment upon gaming, he just needs to remember that gaming is no longer just gaming. Games are as varied as books or movies, stretching the genres, and even bringing them to new places because of gaming's unique ability to entirely create new universes that might be limited by the technology of movies. Gaming then places the user directly into the world it has created.

Gaming is too deep. To be honest, trying to explain the facets of gaming to an outsider, or even a gamer that plays nothing other than *Halo* and *Call of Duty*, is pretty much impossible. To explore the beauties of gaming, one has to truly delve into the world that is gaming.

WIKILEAKS: A FORCE FOR GOOD

By Tyler Van Valkenburg
Staff Writer

Citizens deserve to know the actions their government takes, and when these actions are concealed, it is up to the news media to unearth them.

Wikileaks describes itself as a “not-for-profit media organization” that accepts any “restricted or censored material of political, ethical, diplomatic or historical significance...to bring important news and information to the public.” By creating this secure and simple way to leak classified information, Wikileaks has received and, with the help of mainstream media organizations, published thousands of otherwise secret documents that in the last year have revealed many significant truths about the U.S. and other nations’ governments.

Here are just a few of the facts Wikileaks has revealed to the world so far:

The leak that first brought the site to the public’s attention was a video released in April, 2010, known now as “**Collateral Murder**.” The video depicts two U.S. attack helicopters, from one of the helicopter’s point of view, killing multiple innocent, unarmed Iraqis and two *Reuters* journalists in a square in Baghdad.

The video reveals the chilling detachment with which modern warfare can be fought. Looking through their screens in the helicopters the gunners pick off the Iraqis



casually, almost as if playing a videogame. One can hear the gunner eagerly asking, “Can I shoot?” as he aims down at the unarmed van, and later in the video proudly boasting of his shot, “Oh yeah, look at that, right through the windshield! Haha!”

After the death of their two men in Baghdad, *Reuters* had asked the US—which claimed that there was “no question” that the Iraqis shot at were a “hostile force”—for the video. However, the video remained unavailable to *Reuters* (and the public) until Wikileaks released it.

In late 2010 Wikileaks would go on to release the **Iraq War Logs**, a massive collection of data on the War and the estimated

109,000 Iraqi deaths it has caused, 66,000 of which are civilian casualties.

There is no reason, other than to hide the disturbing truth, for why this data should have been kept from the public, as a nation should be aware of the consequences of its wars, especially when these consequences include over 100,000 dead.

Yet if it had not been for Wikileaks all of this information would likely

still be classified, with the military still telling us that they, as General Tommy Franks put it, “don’t do body counts.”

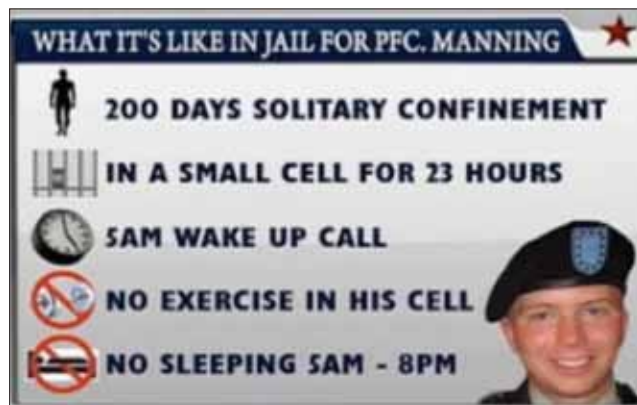
But one the most important aspects of Wikileaks was witnessed this very winter. In **Tunisia**, beginning in December 2010 a collection of protests broke out across the North African nation demanding the resignation of its repressive dictator Ben Ali, who finally left the country on Jan. 14 of this year. The revolution was rooted mainly in the growing public resentment of the corruption among Tunisia’s elite, which continued to prosper while the rest of the country suffered economically.

Part of the fuel for this public rage was,

in fact, an American cable leaked by Wikileaks in which the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia described the issues posed by the growing corruption in the nation’s government and elite. While this leaked information was not new to Tunisians, hearing their frustrations reflected by a democratic nation’s ambassador helped bolster their cause. And soon after Tunisia’s revolution, nearby Egypt, inspired by its neighbor’s successful change, began to have protests of its own, demanding and recently achieving the resignation of its dictator Hosni Mubarak.

In this way, Wikileaks’ devotion to government transparency and freedom of the press has helped generate concrete change in parts of our world that need such change the most.

And in our own nation, Wikileaks has uncovered, in much greater detail, the horrific consequences of our wars as well as the government lies behind them. I have only touched on a fraction of what the organization has revealed, but it should be apparent by now that Wikileaks has provided the modern world with a new alternative for exposing and fighting abuses of power after a decade of incessant government secrecy and complacent mainstream reporting. For this service we as a nation should be nothing but grateful, remembering that what Wikileaks does is little more than what all real journalists do: uncover the truth.



SOLITARY CONFINEMENT A Disgraceful Detainment

By Linda Nguyen
Opinions Editor

Private Bradley Manning is a U.S. soldier who was charged in July 2010 with allegedly disclosing classified information to WikiLeaks, a non-profit organization that advocates government transparency by providing confidential data to the public.

This includes a video of a July 2007 US helicopter airstrike in Baghdad repeatedly opening fire on a Reuters photographer, his driver, and his rescuers. In exchange for trying to make his government’s actions known for the public good, he has been detained in solitary confinement for 23 out of 24 hours a day for over seven months (and counting) without trial.

For someone who has not been convicted of a crime, he undoubtedly is being condemned as a criminal. He sits in military prisons—first in Kuwait; now Quantico, Virginia—in strict isolation. Under constant surveillance, he cannot exercise and is denied the basic provisions of imprisonment, including pillows and sheets for his bed. According to Glenn Greenwald, such tactics are so extreme that Tunisia, an authoritarian state in North Africa, has pledged that “it will no longer place prisoners in solitary confinement for more than 10 days.” This treatment is the equivalent of psychological torture, and for what? Doing a public service? For letting people know of the atrocities their government is committing?

In addition to focusing public anger on Manning and his alleged betrayal of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the government has also reprimanded Manning and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for exposing the murder of innocents in Iraq.

As a military intelligence official, Manning felt that it was his duty to report to the public some of the awful things he came across. To many, he is a hero who did a service to his country, one who does not deserve the inhumane solitary confinement that violates the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Last month, leading human rights groups Amnesty International and the Physicians for Human Rights both sent letters to the Department of Defense protesting Manning’s treatment. They admitted that solitary confinement is common in US prison systems, but almost unheard of in regards to prisoners who have not even been convicted of a crime. Despite President Obama’s politically calculated claim to have ended the use of torture by the U.S. government, Bradley Manning is suffering from one form of it. He is a brave American who is being unjustly tortured, helpless to form his own case.

That is a disgrace to our government.

WE ARE ALL EGYPT The Freedom of Tomorrow

By Isabel Sausjord
Opinions Editor

These days, every tyrant in the world is sleeping with the light on. Egypt’s successful anti-government revolution is an inspiration to freedom-seeking people around the world, and a fright to dictators.

It started on Jan. 25. The revolution began with youth protesting against the poverty, government corruption, and repression experienced under President Hosni Mubarak’s nearly 30-year-rule, but the Egyptian populace soon joined together in a startling and beautiful movement for democracy, freedom, and dignity.

The problem in Egypt had been around for a long time. Mubarak had been the US-backed leader of Egypt for almost three decades, making him the country’s 3rd longest ruler in 5000 years of history, right after Mohamad Ali Basha and the Pharaoh Ramseis II.

His years in office were marked with corruption, sham elections, and torture. After so much injustice Egypt was ready for change, and on Jan. 14 the country of Tunisia lit the spark of revolution when they successfully ousted their autocratic ruler, Ben Ali.

Emboldened by the success of the uprising in Tunisia, Egyptians quickly mobilized. Being a society increasingly dominated by tech-savvy youth, it was through Facebook and Youtube that demonstrators first got out the word about their plans to protest.

Plans spread through word of mouth and social media, and on the appointed Day of Anger protesters gathered in Tahrir (Liberation) Square to stand up for their dignity and freedom as Egyptians.

The protests continued almost non-stop for 18 days, with protesters in the streets

through curfews, fires of live ammunition, beatings, and intimidation. They withstood tear gas (Made in USA), water cannons, and an internet shutdown. Many protesters even slept in Tahrir Square to keep the police from closing it off. As time went on the demonstrations grew, from tens of thousands on the Jan. 25 Day of Anger, to more than 3 million in Cairo alone on Feb. 10 protesting Mubarak’s refusal to give up power.

Through all this, Mubarak stalled for days and days, insisting that Egypt would be unstable without him. Yet the popular pressure was too large and finally, on Feb. 11, he stepped down.

As of right now, the military has taken control and fair elections are being planned. The people of Egypt are victorious.

The Egyptian Revolution is a powerful sign of hope in a world suffering from repression

and complacency. It has animated revolutionaries in Algeria, Bahrain, Libya, and Iran, who are already picking up the torch and demonstrating against their own oppressive governments.

Egypt has shown the world the limitless power of the people, who when united can shake the entire world and unseat the powerful. US-imposed “democracy,” as seen in Iraq, is not needed—the Arab people have the strength to fight for their rights and achieve democracy themselves.

There is so much we can learn from Egypt, and a great need for us to do so, as we face a world wracked by the same corruption and injustice that Egyptians fought against.

Let us no longer be immobilized by fear and apathy. As the saying that has been floating around the internet goes, “Yesterday we were all Tunisian. Today we are all Egyptian. Tomorrow we’ll all be free.”



OBSTRUCTION

Putting Politics before Jobs

By Kunal Patel
Staff Writer

Before the midterm elections of 2010, Republicans promised a radical reform to their “conservative roots.”

With newly appointed Speaker of the House, John Boehner, newly appointed Republican National Committee chair, Rince Priebus, and newly appointed House Majority Leader, Eric Cantor, the face and agenda of the Republican party have been set.

The Republican party promises to cut spending, but create jobs. They promise to cut the national deficit, but lower taxes. Republican idealism wants change.

But Republicans also promise “no compromise” in all aspects of their legislative policy, and as a result provideno means to achieve the change that they campaigned on.

The Republicans assure Obama that his vision of America will become reality if he “works with the Republican party, like Clinton did.” Yet, Clinton’s relationship with Republicans did not stop his impeachment by the Republican Congress over a petty sex scandal. In turn, Republicans are hoping that this last midterm election will mirror the Republican Revolution of 1994 and its ultimate realization in Pres. Bush’s first term, when Republican power was at its peak.

Republicans want to limit the effectiveness of Obama’s presidency for the purpose of a Republican president in 2012. That’s the purpose of the strategy.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has explicitly said, “The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president.”

Rather than focusing on creating jobs as they said they would, the Republicans in the House and the Senate have a new goal in mind: sabotaging the potency of Obama’s remaining term. Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) leads a pointless campaign that does nothing to get people back to work. Instead, he’s focused on scoring a largely “symbolic” victory on health care, while planning the end of Planned Parenthood with the proposed “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.”

These actions are “disrespectful” to American politics. However not “disrespectful” in the sense of working through the Christmas recess on the “9/11 Health and Compensation Act,” as Republican Senator Jon Kyl embarrassingly stated, but “disrespectful” as in proudly corrupting the political process, by seeking only to score political points rather than effect real change. Republicans promised such change, after all.

By making it a central goal to obstruct significant legislation and so harm Pres. Obama, the change they promised is a farce.

Through their threat of filibusters against all bills that stand in the way of a Republican vision, it is clear that the GOP does not have the nation’s agenda in mind—just their own.



GUN CONTROL LAWS

Limitations on Arms

By Katie Ericksen
Staff Writer

On January 8, at a town hall event, outside of a grocery store in Tucson, Arizona, Jared Loughner shot Rep. Giffords in the head. He shot 19 others and six died, including a nine year old girl.

Loughner was only stopped when he paused to reload his gun, and luckily, brave bystanders took him down in that moment.

In the wake of the shooting and attempted assassination of Representative Gabrielle Giffords in

early January, the debate concerning gun control has risen up once again. Politicians are submitting gun control regulations, including a ban on knowingly carrying a firearm within 1000 feet of a high-profile government official.

In addition to this law, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) has proposed a bill to ban high-capacity ammunition.

Opposing such legislation, freshman Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky argues that, “weapons don’t kill people; it’s the individual that killed these people.”

The fact of the matter remains even if Loughner had still managed to acquire a gun, had he 10 bullets instead of 31, and thus fewer people would have been killed and injured. Also, Loughner would have

had to stop to reload earlier, allowing the people to take him down sooner.

Ultimately, gun laws should be enforced to keep America safe. While the topic of gun control is

a controversial, the tragic incident in Tucson is a grim reminder of the consequences of lax gun control.

Again, while the right to bear arms is a precious, fundamental right, we must bear in mind that it is not an absolute freedom.

A balance must be struck between safety and liberty, and these two laws would help to accomplish that.



THE PRINCESS COMPLEX

Lessons from Disney

By Claire Chu
Staff Writer

Every year, Walt Disney World hosts their annual “Princess Half-Marathon Weekend” to, as the website states, “bring women of all ages together to participate in a magical event designed just for them.”

Interestingly enough, the promotional poster depicts a woman crossing the ribbon at the finish line with the following quote attributed to her: “I learned a long time ago that a true princess makes her own happy ending. So I train. I sweat. I succeed. That’s my fairytale.”

Since when did Disney princess movies ever teach that lesson?

I actually remember Disney teaching the opposite: that princesses do nothing and are simply saved by princes. And that’s just one of the detrimental lessons Disney princess movies teach little girls.

Take Jasmine, from Aladdin. Throughout the entire movie, she hardly does a thing to save herself from her difficult circumstances. Instead, it’s Aladdin who’s clever and resourceful enough to save her at every turn.

Likewise, Snow White voluntarily subjugated herself to sweeping for, scrubbing for, and feeding seven untidy little men. Falling directly into the pre-industrial Victorian Era’s

cult of domesticity development, Snow White was also awakened from unconsciousness by true love’s kiss. Amusingly, she had never crossed paths before with this apparent “true love” who only rescues her after being “captivated by her beauty.”

As the Disney Princess Half-Marathon Weekend asserts, “The road to “Happily After Ever” begins with me.”

But are men, marriage, and true love the only ways through which women can achieve happily after ever? Are how a woman looks, how beautiful she is, the only indicators of her desirability to men? We need to reevaluate.

Princesses convey to little girls that all they have to do in order to escape the miserable

situation they have found themselves in and achieve true happiness, is to make sacrifices for conventional beauty and possess a melodious singing voice. They are mere damsels in distress who are rescued and whisked off into the sunset on horseback by Prince Charming, to be married and live happily after.

The messages behind the magical, fairytale storylines in our Disney-princess-permeated world are far from empowering—under the guise of castles and glitter, they take the female empowerment movement ten steps backward.

Girls deserve better than that.



SCHOOL SEGREGATION

The Ongoing War on Racism

By Pratyusha Javangula
Staff Writer

Ignorant and Forgetful.

That is the unfortunate reputation that Americans are building themselves when faced with the issue of combating segregation in society.

In 1954, the Supreme Court finally ruled against “separate but equal” segregated education in Brown vs. Board of Education.

Why then, even though segregation has been unconstitutional for many years in the United States, does it still exist?

Although segregation is no longer the law of the land, it is still very much present, as social and economic disparities lead to the increasing hyper-segregation of communities, and thus, schools.

Hyper-segregation, segregation that ghettoizes demographic groups into certain areas of a town or city, has remained prevalent in larger cities. It’s impossible for us to hold up equality as a national standard when we still see inequality and segregation all around us. It makes us look ignorant and ultimately hypocritical as a nation, especially

given that we so ardently support equality in other nations.

To see the extreme effects of this segregation, consider the recent case of an African American woman, Kelley Bolar, who was jailed and sentenced to 80 hours of community service for sending her daughters to the wrong school—a mostly white school.

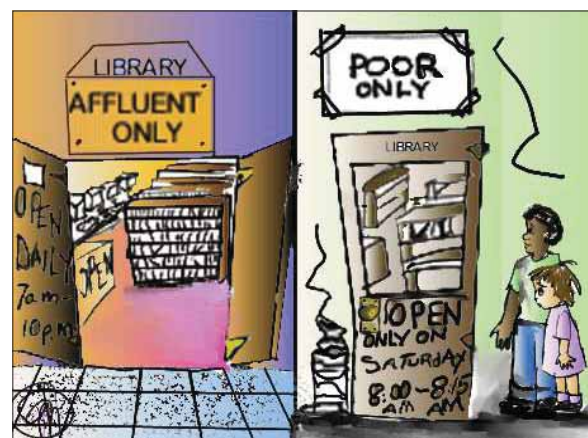
Bolar lied on school documents, saying that her children lived in the affluent, primarily Caucasian school district.

She lied, and later went to jail, but only so her children could get the quality education they were being denied.

Are you kidding me?

There is absolutely no way we can preach equality if we jail women for wanting their children to be educated properly.

And we as Americans look foolish on a grander scale for preaching that our country does not segregate on any basis. There’s no segregation in America? Let’s think again. Do we want to be seen as forgetful of our history? If we want to be known as a people who can live up to the standards they’ve set, this cannot continue to happen—for our reputation, for justice. And for mothers and daughters like Williams-Bolar and her family.



Arts & Entertainment

And the Oscar goes to...

By Michelle Martinelli and Thomas Soares
Staff Writers



While expensive gowns and exuberant celebrity egos are an undeniable portion of the event, the Oscars are far more than a red-carpet. It's the one event a year where recognizably brilliant performances are appreciated. With the incredible number of outstanding films and performances to be acknowledged this year, we're in for an evening of anticipation and intense competition.

Ladies first! A rule of thumb: never underestimate **supporting actresses**. In this category the majority of these women carry the success of the film. Such is the case with both Melissa Leo and Amy Adams of *The Fighter*, whose roles are of equal importance as that of Mark Wahlberg in terms of creating a beautiful and memorable work. Nominated for her role as the headstrong bartender and girlfriend, Charlene, proves Amy Adams to be a worthy actress capable of crafting candid and caustic characters into endearing heroines; but she will not walk away with the statue tonight. Neither will Helena Bonham Carter. The joy of her performance in *The King's Speech* is in her palpable on-screen chemistry with Colin Firth—the two creating a delightful pair of genuinely happy spouses caught in the midst of obligation and duty. However, her tenderness and enormous range will not afford her the award this year.

The Oscar will go to Melissa Leo for her role as the overbearing and possessive mother in *The Fighter*. Her character's excessive devotion to her sons as the story progresses demonstrates emotions from vulnerability to joy to disappointment to anger that course through Leo with unstoppable power—she is a force to be reckoned with.

It's unfair to be a nominee this year for **Leading Actress**. There's no doubt in any mind that we're bound to see a very pregnant Natalie Portman crying as she walks up to accept her award. *Black Swan* forced Portman into uncharted territory as she played the naïve and sheltered ballerina Nina. This grace, along with Nina's mysterious alter ego and descent into insanity, contribute to a suspenseful spectacle that leaves critics begging for more. She also admirably conquered the film's obstacles—such as a year's worth of rigorous ballet training—as well as the cinematography, demanding the camera to constantly be approximately three inches away from her nose.

Although it's inevitable that she'll win, Michelle's personal choice is Nicole Kidman for *Rabbit Hole*. The sensitivity brought about in her rendition of Becca, a former mother journeying through healing from the loss of her four-year old

son, cannot be ignored. Kidman's struggle is touching at least, and her crumbling from grief is equally as profound as Portman's dramatic delusions.

Likewise, the winner for **Supporting Actor** will be near-unanimous. While Geoffrey Rush is hilarious and heartwarming as mentor Lionel in *The King's Speech*, nothing compares to Christian Bale as the addict brother, Dicky, in *The Fighter*. Bale is barely recognizable, his face hollow and teeth blackened, making his portrayal of an addict horrifyingly accurate.

For **Leading Actor**, the competition is relatively slim for Colin Firth (*The King's Speech*), but with his inspirational work, he would have won regardless of the caliber of his competitors. Firth brings history to life with Bertie's startling anger and realistic stammer, performing with incredible conviction what is an extremely demanding role.

The competition for **Best Director** is stiff yet again. It's hard to predict, but Michelle's personal hope is for Darron Aronofsky (*Black Swan*). His vision is undeniably unique and *Black Swan* is a fantastic manifestation of his endless creativity.

Last, but most certainly not least, **Best Picture** should go to *The Social Network* since it stands alone in portraying an entirely new aspect of our society. As rapidly growing technology, business, and popularity for social networking sites develops, this film will prove to be a landmark. *The Social Network* will not be the last time Hollywood explores whether or not social networking will cause us to lose our humanity and communication skills entirely.

Though these films, actors, and directors are receiving acclaim for their artistic work, there are many who are just as deserving (such as Nicole Kidman) of an Oscar. For example, Christopher Nolan, who was not even nominated for Best Director, deserves it the most because he was snubbed two years ago for *The Dark Knight* and he pushed the limits of filmmaking more than anyone else in 2010. Though *Inception* is nominated for best picture, the film's intricate and realistic feel wouldn't be possible without Nolan. People are also divided when it comes to Best Actor.

The Academy Awards get more competitive every year as the progression of technology has given directors and producers

endless possibilities to work with.

Though your favorites may not win an Oscar, you'll know that someone truly deserving of it will.



The Grammy Awards: Highs and Lows

By Andy Vo
Staff Writer

and Florence Welch of Florence and the Machine. Each of the ladies' extraordinary performances was a fantastic way to open the show. Christina Aguilera fortunately redeemed herself from her embarrassing Super Bowl mishap, only to trip and fall at the end of her performance.

One of the biggest misses of the night was Lady Gaga's debut performance of her latest single "Born This Way." After building anticipation from her egg capsule entrance, the performance was surprisingly bland. Strong choreography, excellent vocals, and a *Phantom of the Opera* inspired piano section would have been considered an outstanding performance if anyone other than GaGa had done it. Where were the theatrics of her opening performance last year? Or her iconic bloody performance of "Paparazzi" at the 2009 VMAs? Unfortunately for GaGa, her over-hyped performance fell short of expectations.

Following performances from Miranda Lambert and Muse, the trio of B.o.B, Bruno Mars, and Janelle Monae gave a performance worthy of their Grammy Award Nominee titles. With Janelle on back-up vocals, B.o.B started off with a stunning orchestral rearrangement of "Nothin' on You", followed by a charming doo-wop influenced performance of "Grenade", and ending with an energetic performance of the

The 53rd Annual Grammy Awards was held February 13, 2011 and was full of both hits and misses in terms of performances.

The show opened with a tribute performance to Aretha Franklin by Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Hudson, Martina McBride, Yolanda Adams,

critically acclaimed song, "Cold War".

Next up was Justin Bieber, and not even an army of prepubescent teenage girls could have saved him from the embarrassing mess. The cringe-worthy performance began with Usher's awful acting chops before Bieber went into a passable acoustic rendition of "Baby." However, he ruined any credibility he was earning with an army of ninja back-up dancers while performing "Never Say Never," a blatant ad for his 3-D film.

In an attempt to salvage what was left of his performance, Jaden Smith, yet another musical spawn of the Smith clan, went into a rap and showed how the event was a family affair with the cameras constantly flashing to Will and Jada.

Following his protégé, Usher suddenly appeared out of nowhere to perform the exact same routine of "OMG" he has at every other award show in the last five months. His vocals were embarrassingly flat in the few moments he actually sang live. For someone with as much experience as Usher has, there are no excuses for him to be unable to deliver a solid performance. Even Rihanna, who was sick with bronchitis, managed to give a beautiful rendition of "Love the Way You Lie" with Eminem.

Surprisingly the best performer of the night was Katy Perry. Known for her inconsistency during live performances, Katy arguably gave the best vocal performance of the night. Her performance began with her on a swing singing a divine version of "Not Like the Movies". Dismissing any rumors of divorce or separation, the screen projected footage from

her marriage to Russell Brand. Right after the song was finished, she made a seemingly effortless transition to her smash hit "Teenage Dream".

The second portion of her performance featured the fun and lighthearted Katy Perry that we're used to. The excitement was so infectious even Nicole Kidman couldn't stop herself from grinning and singing along.

AWARD SEASON



British Invasion

By Christina Collins
Staff Writer

The British are Coming! The British are Coming!

There is no doubt that America has a love affair with the UK. From the fashion, to the lingo, to our sometimes poor imitations of their distinctive accents, it's clear that we have an obsession with our friends across the pond. As of late, a new trend has taken hold in American TV: adaptations of British shows. Take a look at a small handful of the successful, major-network shows you may not know are actually UK exports:

Skins: MTV's newest controversy, *Skins*, is actually an adaptation of the British show of the same name. Originally aired on UK channel E4, the show's plot follows a group of teenagers growing up in Bristol who face pivotal issues: eating disorders, drug abuse, and sexuality, among other topics. While the pilot episode of the U.S. *Skins* stuck very true to the original (the script was almost word-for-word), MTV promises to give *Skins* an original twist by adding new characters and rewriting old ones. In the UK, the show received acclaim, as critics felt it artfully depicted the struggles of teenagers, portraying subjects that normally would be ignored.

In the U.S., *Skins* has stirred up a media hailstorm, rapidly losing nine of their sponsors. Yet ratings continue to hold strong as more than 1.5 million people tuned in to watch the third installment of the show. Time will only tell if U.S. *Skins* can match the five seasons run of its UK counterpart.

American Idol: Created by enormously successful director Simon Fuller, both *American Idol* and its British twin *Pop Idol* have experienced successful runs in both countries. Although *Idol* has made its way to several different countries—*Australian Idol*, *Latin American Idol*, *Canadian Idol*, and *Indian Idol*, just to name a few—*Pop Idol* and *American Idol* are by far the most successful. Both formats include a panel of three judges, weeks of auditions and most importantly, audience participation. In 2004 *Pop Idol* was replaced by *The X Factor*, a show produced and starring U.S. and UK

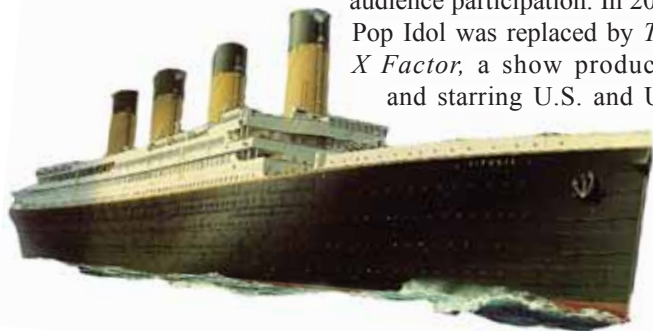


judge Simon Cowell.

American Idol has continued since Cowell's departure. The show is currently in its 10th season on Fox, working with new judges Steven Tyler, the lead singer of Aerosmith, and famous singer, actress, and diva Jennifer Lopez.

Dancing with the Stars: *Strictly Come Dancing* just doesn't have the same ring. Before *Dancing with the Stars* was a smash hit on ABC, it was a British talent show run on BBC One. The show's format was essentially the same for both versions; each was a talent competition for both professional dancers and celebrities, competing for several weeks while being scored by a panel of three judges. Dances performed include the Cha Cha Cha, Paso Doble, Foxtrot and Jive. Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli, judges familiar to American viewers, worked on the first season of SCD before being exported to ABC where they currently work with choreographer-cum-judge Carrie Ann Inaba. Like *Idol*, *Dancing* became a worldwide phenomenon after being so successful in both the United States and Britain. In the UK, SCD just wrapped up its 8th season, and in the US, *Dancing with the Stars* is scheduled to start its 12th season in March.

Being Human is not your average vampire show. Adapted from the British show of the same name, *Human* stars Aidan Turner as Mitchell, a vampire from the Revolutionary War. Other characters include George, a werewolf, and Annie, a ghost; all three are roommates in Boston, trying to live a normal life despite their odd personas. Airing on BBC3 in its current season, *Being Human* was extremely successful in England. Since then, it has been adapted by the Syfy channel and is currently in its first season. Developers Jeremy Carver and Anna Fricke paid tribute to the original version in naming the main character Aidan, played by Sam Witwer. *Being Human* has reached success in both England and the US, representing Syfy's most successful winter series launch since *Battlestar Galactica* in January of 2005.1



New Clubs Offer Culinary Delights

By Chitra Marti
Staff Writer

The possibilities of types of food are endless. And no matter type it is, food brings people together.

Two different clubs at Mitty have embraced this dual nature of food: The Culinary Appreciation Club and The Baking Club. Though they are different, they both share a common purpose: to foster interest in new things.

The Culinary Appreciation Club has been on campus for a few years now. As described by Co-President Brandon Roosenboom, "The purpose of the Culinary Appreciation Club is to get students out into the world of food... to broaden their palettes and encourage them to act without hesitation when approached by a situation that is unfamiliar or strange."

The club often takes trips to local, unique, restaurants, to sample the cuisine and learn more about various types of food. Currently, the club has plans for trying all kinds of cuisines, from Creole to Malaysian, as well as a "Vegan/Vegetarian" adventure. By integrating cuisines that members are not usually exposed to, the Culinary Appreciation Club not only encourages students to sample various cuisines, but also to be courageous when experiencing new things. To join the club, contact Mr. Kimont or Brandon Roosenboom at brandonroosenboom11@mittymonarch.com.

Mitty also has a new food-based club; this one is devoted to desserts. The Baking Club, established by current sophomores Katrina Vokt and Puja Subramaniam, had its first meeting in January. Its purpose, as stated by the presidents, is to "...introduce the basics of baking to students at Mitty who are interested. Our focus is to learn about baking basics, put together a recipe book, and have fun!"

The group has plans to take classes at a local Michael's store, which offers many baking classes for individuals and groups, as well as to donate baked goods to InnVision and to the faculty on Teacher Appreciation day.

The Baking Club allows students to act upon their interest and grow into more motivated bakers. And of course, the fact that there are cupcakes and cookies involved does help a lot. To join the Club, contact Mrs. Kroening or Katrina Vokt at katrinavokt13@mittymonarch.com.



Editors' Choice

In honor of the recently passed Valentine's Day, the editors have compiled lists of our favorite films and songs that are perfect compliments to the month of February.



MOVIES

1. Breakfast at Tiffany's

Audrey Hepburn. Enough said.

2. Titanic

Love is a timeless emotion; a couple days together can last a lifetime.

3. Casablanca

"Here's looking at you, kid."

4. Sixteen Candles

Laying the foundations for most teenage movies, *Sixteen Candles* depicted the ideal high school romance.

5. Love Actually

As senior Paige Monk states, "the vignettes allow everyone to enjoy realistic portrayals of different kinds of love."

6. Say Anything

John Cusack standing outside your window, holding a boombox. Who wouldn't enjoy this?

7. 10 Things I Hate About You

"I hate the way I don't hate you."

8. You've Got Mail

Sometimes the person you hate might just be the person for you.

9. When Harry Met Sally

One of the first movies to raise the question, "Can women and men ever just be friends?"

10. A Walk To Remember

When tragedy strikes, a relationship's strength is tested by the amount of love that had built it.



SINGLES

1. "I Want to Hold Your Hand"

The Beatles got it right with their heartfelt and innocent declaration of love.

2. "The Way You Look Tonight"

The perfect wedding song sung by Frank Sinatra.

3. "At Last"

Etta James captures the way the world changes when she's with the person she loves.

4. "The Way I Am"

Ingrid Michaelson's debut single, which catapulted her into stardom.

5. "Umbrella"

"You're part of my entity, here for infinity."

6. "My Girl"

As one of The Temptations' greatest hits, this song will let them know how special they are.

7. "I Just Called to Say I Love You"

Stevie Wonder's testimony to how sometimes you don't need a special occasion to say those three words.

8. "Head Over Feet"

"You held your breath, and the door for me," Alanis Morissette's song details the unspoken qualities that people look for in prospective others.

9. "L.O.V.E."

This anthem to love, performed by Nat King Cole, has captured the word's true definition.

10. "I Can't Help

Falling in Love with You"

As Elvis says, "some things are meant to be."

MONARCH CRITICS



Rok Bistro

By Anushka Pushpala
Staff Writer



time customers eager to discover the origin of the sound. The source: volcanic rock being heated for six to eight hours in a specially designed oven that can retain heat for at least an hour. Though the unorthodox method of cooking is intriguing, there is a long, unsatisfying process before you can finally indulge in your meal.

These hot rocks come to your table with your choice of raw meat or vegetables ready for you to essentially prepare your own meal. You have time to make good conversation while your meat cooks to your preferred level until you have to quickly cut it into edible pieces. In case the over-salted meat does not suit your taste buds, you can choose from the vast number of oily dipping sauces to drown the undesired taste. In addition, the entrée comes with a choice of seasoned rice or garlic mashed potatoes, a measly five or six white beans and one green bean. One would clearly notice that the consumption rate of food is pretty fast given the meager portions.

The inattentive service and the smoky atmosphere don't even compensate a menu that features Ahi tuna and chicken, the best dishes. The Ahi tuna is a fresh combination of textures that lends itself to a soft and chewy fish that melts easily. The chicken is a Cajun spiced and cooked briefly to ensure it remains moist. If one chooses the chicken, care should be taken to allow the spices to seep through the meat to prevent tasting a bland inner layer.

Even though this restaurant has flaws, one thing they did do is save the best for last. The desserts at Rok Bistro are something to look forward to. For any occasion, romantic or casual, the fondue pots are the way to go. Rok Bistro maintains an element of fun and surprise in the restaurant. However, it is lacking when it comes to its entrees. If management observes the atmosphere they are providing and checks the taste of their entrees instead of leaving it entirely up to its customers to decide when their meal is cooked, the restaurant will be successful.

Just Go With It

By Lea Kreck and Steffie Ko
Staff Writer, A&E Editor



Just Go With It, Just Too Cliché. Not much can be said about the newest comedy alongside its puzzling trailers.

It has all the ingredients for the generic romantic comedy: a slightly awkward man, a living breathing Barbie, a ridiculous brother and an adorable best friend. Danny (Adam Sandler) is a plastic surgeon who wears a fake wedding ring to pick up women. He meets the gorgeous and charming Palmer (Brooklyn Decker) who he connects with without his sham of a failed marriage—that is until she finds his fake wedding band and assumes that he is married and cheating on his wife.

So in order to save his relationship with the young teacher he employs his best friend and co-worker Katharine (Jennifer

Aniston) as well as her two young children to be his soon to be ex-wife and kids.

Slowly but surely the tangled web of lies grows, and so does the love between Danny and his fake family. The movie had its moments, whether it be Katharine's two children's shenanigans, Danny's brother Eddie (Nick Swardson) pretending to be a foreign sheep-shipper, or simply those heartwarming scenes between the two main leads.

While the plotline, adapted from the Broadway stage play, *Cactus Flower*, was a good attempt at originality, the film falls short of a success. Led by comedy veterans Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, *Just Go With It* seems to follow a string of formulaic movies that decrease with quality and interest as time passes. Aniston, whose career has seemingly been on a decline since the finale of *Friends*, manages to retain her charming, girl-next-door vibe while Sandler is continuously typecast in the same character roles.

Sadly, their chemistry is not enough to support the film. The film's predictability fails to distinguish the film from other romantic comedies. Above all, the film is undermined by the lack of depth in the plot. Dependent on the box office stars and its plentiful celebrity cameos—Nicole Kidman, Heidi Montag and Minka Kelly—*Just Go With It* will do well enough in the box offices, despite the many harsh reviews.

Just Go With It is cheesy and predictable. Yet, seeing how it is surprisingly one of the few romantic comedies out this month, it may just be what people want this Valentine's Day season.

21

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer



Staying true to the emotive quality of her debut album, *19*, Adele takes her sensational voice to an even higher level with her new release, *21*. This album proves to be an impressive showcase of her growth in the past two years—both as a singer and as a person.

She admits, "I deal with things differently now. I'm more patient, more honest, more forgiving and more aware of my own flaws, habits and principles—something that comes with age." This transformation is exhibited in the way she handles her music. Her perspective on love is more mature, deep, and profound than it was when she was *19*.

More of her songs in *21* discuss the pain of losing love and the effects of lasting love instead of praising the flirty and playful and whimsical aspect of it. She sings in "Love Song," "However far away, I will always love you; however long I stay, I will always love you; whatever words I say, I will always love you; I will always love you," representative of the enduring (not fleeting) attribute of her love.

The album starts off big—the first single "Rolling in the Deep," which Adele herself describes as a "dark bluesy gospel disco tune," is an uptempo song that has taken over the radio. A testament to Adele's ability to show her emotions through her songs and her voice, this song leads to less fast-paced music and more ballads. Though she is not belting out her emotions in an up-beat, haunting chorus in these next songs, that doesn't make them any less

powerful. Adele continues to showcase her versatility through the incredible range of the songs. She can be tough and angry, but also soulful and somber without losing her vocal talents in between. A direct contrast to the opening song is her ballad, "Take It All," in which her vulnerable side is most prominent.

Every song in this compilation is worthy of recognition, but those especially deserving of attention are "Set Fire to the Rain" and "Turning Tables," which are notably haunting. In these tracks, Adele discusses the loss of love through beautiful craft of lyrics. She sings, "So I set fire to the rain, watched it pour as I touched your face. Well, it burned while I cried 'cause I heard

it screaming out your name," producing such a vivid image in the listener's mind that one cannot help but be moved by her words. "Turning Tables," a song filled with farewell and hope for moving on, is similar, showing a stronger side of her underneath the song's soft melody.

Adele's genius is also shown in the way she organized the tracks on her album. She starts from being in pain and angry, slowly segueing from anger, to sorrow, to more optimistic music about finding new love, as portrayed in "One and Only." The next single from this album is "Someone Like You," which is set to be released on April 1 of this year.

This album is a hot must-have: Adele's vocals are extraordinary, and her songs are expressive and contemplative.



Doña María

By Megan Baggett
Staff Writer



Doña María is a new Mexican restaurant in Santa Clara that is definitely worth a stop. Conveniently located right next to the Central Library, the restaurant allows diners to eat in or order food to go.

The décor of the interior is simplistic; the walls are clean and bare except for a few Mexican paintings and sombreros, which add to the casual atmosphere. The wait staff was very helpful and willing to serve, and they even brought another basket of—quite tasty—chips and salsa to our table before we asked.

Food is moderately priced, and my order was delivered to my table in a timely manner. I ordered the vegetarian tostada, which consists of a crunchy shell, warm beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, sour cream and guacamole.

The dish was the perfect temperature when it arrived, and all the ingredients tasted fresh rather than from a can. However it did seem a bit greasy, as did the chips. The rest of my family chose a combination platter for about ten dollars—a great choice when you just can't choose from the menu's numerous options. The menu ranges from a variety of burritos and tacos to seafood and breakfast items that are served all day. For dessert, we decided to order the chocolate flan. It was more of a cake than custard, but was rich and delicious with chocolate drizzled on top.

Overall, Doña María is a great new restaurant with plenty of potential. Next time you're craving Mexican food, be sure to check it out!



CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE AGES

By Puja Subramaniam and Elena Georgieva
Staff Writers

Have your parents ever given you the "when I was a kid..." speech? Well, life was very different for our parents when they were teenagers. With technology constantly changing, we wonder if kids born in this new decade will be able to recognize some of these items that were once popular when we were children.



VHS & CASSETTE PLAYERS: Remember watching your favorite Disney movies on VHS when you were little? Nowadays, it's rare to even find someone who knows what VHS stands for (for the record, it's the abbreviation for Video Home System)! When is the last time you used the cassette player in the car? How about a Walkman? With iPods and Blu-Ray DVD players becoming more and more popular, there's a good chance that the next generation will never see any of these.

BOOKS AND LIBRARIES: With the entire world available at your fingertips, why would you need to use an encyclopedia or dictionary? And many students no longer use the public library to do research? Especially with Kindles, Nooks, and iPads now out, people are opting to use these technological advances instead of staying old school and using those good old books.



DIAL-UP INTERNET: As teenagers who live in the US today, we don't know a life without wireless Internet. We can't even imagine a day—or even a few hours—without logging on to our computers. Before wireless Internet, people had no choice but to spend their time online with their computer plugged into a router. Even today, few families still have those bulky desktop computers, and future generations will not even know what dial-up Internet is.

HAND-WRITTEN LETTERS: Remember when we were required to learn cursive in the fourth grade? And all for nothing—none of us use it now. Typing emails and texting is quicker and more convenient, and the postal system has recorded a decrease in letters sent. Handwritten letters, as well as mail, have gone near obsolete; postal mail takes nearly 4 days to deliver, unlike an email, which is delivered instantaneously.



focus on

The iPad

Whether for its 200,000+ apps, revolutionary gadget in our ever-world full of various devices and interface, WiFi connectivity, tilt and projections. It can be used to browse, communicate and project important information at a high convenience level as well as a .5-inch wide gadget has captivated the imagination, pleasure, and business.

Apple is constantly correcting its GPS system to minor errors in these shortcomings, however, the affordability as it finds its way into the iPad may be utilized more frequently, facilitating the rapid exchange of information in the economy.

The iPad is, of course, used in many ways, its multi-tasking capabilities, which makes this versatile gadget will even appear in the workplace. Wing have begun to experiment with the iPad.

With more than 4.2 million units sold, the iPad seems inarguable.

The Maglev Connection: An Update on Transportation

By Jocelyn Tan
Staff Writer

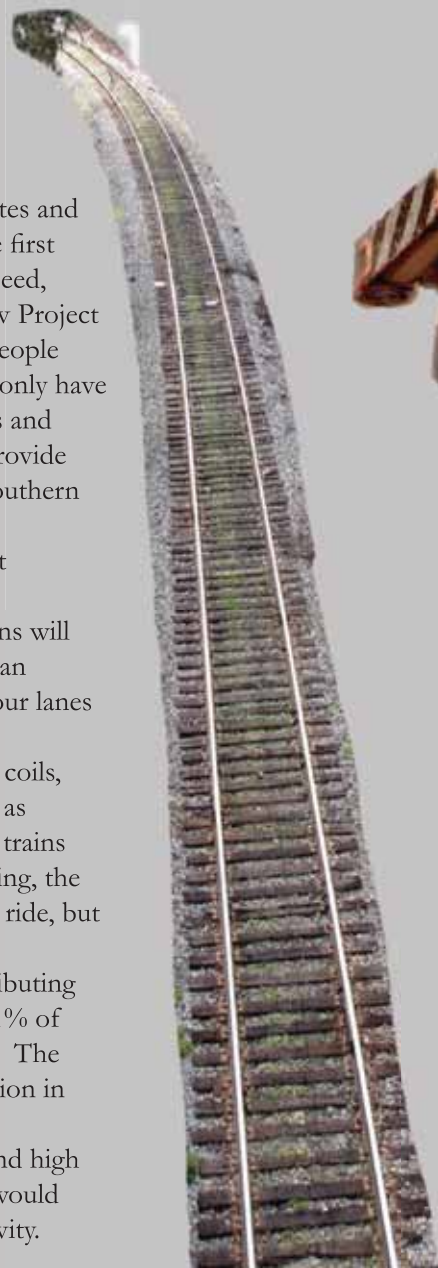
What would it be like to travel from Las Vegas to Anaheim in less than 90 minutes and at speeds of over 300 mph? Well, the impossible is close to becoming a reality. The first of its kind in the U.S. and nicknamed the second transcontinental railroad, a high-speed, magnetic levitation transport service is what the California-Nevada Interstate Maglev Project is hoping to deliver in the near future. By the year 2015, the estimated number of people traveling the I-15 corridor would be 52 million. Original highways, however, would only have the capacity of moving 38 million. Linking three major airports, tourist destinations and the nation's most rapidly growing Western cities, the high-speed rail system would provide effective commuting between heavily populated areas of Southern California and Southern Nevada.

Senate majority leader Harry Reid once stated, "Las Vegas has the second worst 'congestion' burden in the nation. Magnetic levitation could help ease this traffic crunch." Using magnetic levitation technology, otherwise known as Maglev, the trains will float over a guideway at record speed, transporting 76,800 passengers per day to urban destinations in practically no time. That's the equivalent of an eight-lane freeway (four lanes in each direction) moving at 60 mph!

Electromagnetic propulsion, created by a magnetic field generated by electrified coils, enables high speeds and eliminates friction, propelling engineless trains twice as fast as Amtrak's fastest commuter train. State-of-the-art technology allows the base of the trains to wrap around the guideway, forbidding derailment. Clearly meeting, if not exceeding, the standards of today's fast-paced society, the trains will not only provide for a smooth ride, but also eliminate the all-too-familiar congestion individuals experience in air travel.

Besides its convenience, Transrapid trains are extremely energy efficient. Contributing to a reduction in emissions, noise and air pollution, Maglev trains will use less than 1% of available grid-electricity and thus reduce U.S. dependence on foreign or domestic oil. The project will also boast nearly \$80 million in annual revenue, 97,000 jobs and \$3.4 billion in household income.

So, will this project fulfill Obama's call for, "an investment in our ports, roads and high speed rails?" No doubt. But is it feasible? I believe it will be, for transrapid trains would provide the necessary transport efficiency to keep up with our world of endless activity.



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the past few decades. Not only can they help humans, but they can accomplish things humans cannot. Collecting and storing data from space, exploring the world, robots are occasionally used to perform delicate operations and be more precise. As a result, the recovery time for the patient is shortened and scarring is minimized.

Ever since the first robot was popularized by Czech writer Karel Capek, robots have been everywhere, from theme parks to movie screens. Whether depicted in the media or in real life, at public locations, robots are more often seen in a favorable light.

Some predict that in the next 25 years, the rate of production of robots continues, and they will outnumber humans. Their skills and capabilities will render other technologies obsolete. While they may take away jobs without jobs. Undoubtedly, robots have the potential to be helpful and entertaining, but if they really start to take over in the workplace, it is time to pull the plug.

TECHNOLOGY

ad Frenzy: Explained

4:15 PM
Music Menu

os or its large easy-to-use screen, the iPad is a growing world of technology. It's essentially a virtual utilities such as a speaker, microphone, intuitive touch and accelerometer, printing support, and enhanced data wise and send emails, search the Internet, read books, want business ideas, or play several exciting games. It has a ue to its portability and large screen. This 1.5 pound and ed millions around the world as a source of socialization, business.

g the flaws of the iPad, from the inconsistency of n word documentation and organization. Despite e iPad is likely to improve in both accessibility and nto a variety of settings. In the future of technology, the ntly in business communications and transactions, thus f information and accelerating the growth of the global

n school environments, with its multi-touch screen and characterize it as a handy teaching aid. Perhaps this throughout Mitty—already, a few classrooms in the 600- with this device.

nits sold and its popularity still growing, the success of

By Piyali Banerjee
Staff Writer

ALTERNATIVE PRESS

By Ji Soo Kim
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of a food printer? Didn't think so. Well, if all goes well for the team at Cornell University's Computational Synthesis Lab, food-by-printer will be the norm in every household.

Cornell's Computational Synthesis Lab has teamed up with the Fab@Home, an ambitious project aiming to create an affordable printer that can literally print a variety of foods. The latest design uses precise syringes to deposit food "inks" layer by layer. An electronic blueprint (the "FabApp" recipe), using computer-aided design software, specifies where the ingredients go. However, the raw materials that are the "inks" used to print the food are currently limited to anything that can be extruded from a syringe: Melted chocolate or cheese, cake batter, and liquefied cookie dough are common ingredients.



The team's success so far includes creating cookies with embedded letters and working with turkey meat. However, they hope to make their designs and ingredient list more complex.

So what do the team members see in the "food printer"? Dr. Jeffrey Ian Lipton, who leads the project, says, "FabApps would allow you to tweak your food's taste, texture, and other properties. Maybe you really love biscuits, but want them extra flaky. You would change the slider and the recipe and the instructions would adjust accordingly." People without cooking ability would be able to download the recipes of master chefs. The dietary restricted would be able to print out nutritious dishes recommended by their doctors.

Should they continue to achieve success, Fab@Home hopes to change the future of food production.

ROBOTS: FRIENDS OR FOES?

By Kate Coffey
Staff Writer

it were possible for robots to completely replace humans in society by taking our jobs, our families—they most likely would in upcoming years. But with recent technological advances, robots are becoming assets to society: They not only imitate human behavior and thinking, but also contribute to modern conveniences and medical procedures.

Robots have risen in prominence in many ways that humans are incapable of, such as performing long periods of time. In the medical field, they can perform surgeries. They can make smaller incisions, the recovery time is limited.

Popularized in the 1920s, robots have appeared in movies and TV shows. Some are implemented in real life, while others are not featured.

In the future, if the current trend continues, robots may become most-effective tools, leaving millions of jobs. They have proven both useful and dangerous. To replace humans is a big plug.



GREEN MACHINE



By Katrina Vokt
Staff Writer



In a small and dingy classroom, in the middle of Ethiopia, a group of young children click away, deeply immersed, on their green and white laptops. Their classroom has limited clean water, an old battered chalk board, and a thatch roof. How is it possible, then, for every single child in the room to possess a laptop? The answer is simple. Children all over underdeveloped countries are in similar situations as this one, because of the "One Laptop per Child" program. "One Laptop per Child" (OLPC) is a non-profit organization whose goal, according to its mission statement, is to "create educational opportunities for the world's poorest children, by providing each child with a rugged, low-cost, low-power, connected laptop." So far, over seven million children and teachers have one of these laptops, which are providing opportunities and resources to kids that they would have otherwise lacked.

The laptop that OLPC distributes, called the XO, is a robust low-powered, affordable device that can tolerate rough conditions. The low cost of making the XO laptop is made possible by lowering the cost of the display, removing excess software found in conventional systems, and by marketing the laptops in large numbers directly to education facilities, where the laptops can be distributed like textbooks. Currently, technicians at OLPC are trying to make their product even more efficient by transitioning from laptop to tablet form. The reason for OLPC's shift to the more modern tablet form of technology is because tablets are more cost and power friendly. Tablets contain fewer components, which automatically lowers the cost of the overall product, and they run on less power. The original OX laptops used about five watts of power, but with improved technology and the use of a tablet, the amount of power needed will be lowered to about 1 watt.

The XO Laptops cost approximately \$150, and the tablet about \$100, which, compared to other laptops that cost over \$1000, is relatively inexpensive. In the developing world though, \$150 is still a high cost for people who don't have water, food, or electricity. Edward McNierney, Chief Technology Officer of OLPC, says "These laptops and tablets are a lot of money for children in developing countries...but we like to ask people to substitute the word laptop or tablet with the word education". What he tries to point out to people is that education is just as important as food, water, and sanitation.

Ultimately, children are given the opportunity to learn and lead the lives they deserve when provided with the right tools.

Kalie Olenak

How did you start your interest in photography?

I grew up in a family with a strong passion for photography, which helped me gain interest in the subject.



Why did you choose the photos you submitted?

I like to take pictures of objects that would seem ordinary to most people. It's surprising how many familiar objects can be made unfamiliar through photography.

What do they say about your style?

My photography does not really take on a specific style, but I like to photograph landscapes and nature the most.

What three words would you use to describe your style?

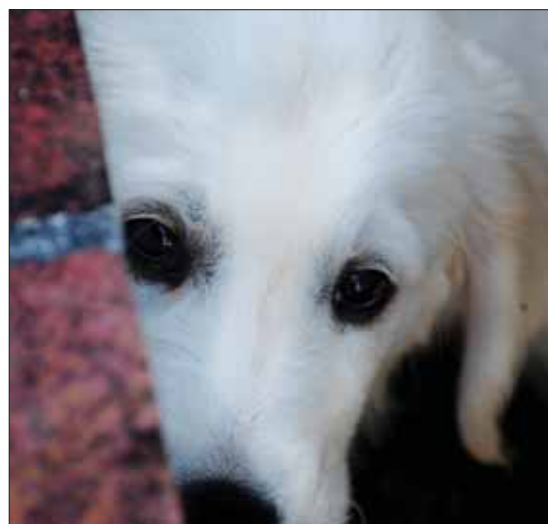
Simple. Unique. Fun.

What intrigues you about photography?

I like the fact that every photographer has the chance to express themselves in a unique way.



Through the Lens: *Monarch Photography*



Edward Davalle

How did you start taking pictures?

I started taking pictures when I saw other peoples' work around school and wondered if I could do it.



Why did you choose to submit these photographs?

I chose these pictures because I feel that they are the best examples of my work and show the broad spectrum of my capabilities.

What do they say about your style?

I really don't think I have a specific style of photography; I like to change it up.

What three words would you use to describe your style?

Lively. Appealing. Fun.

What intrigues you about photography?

I like being able to capture a moment and save it forever.



Above: "I always see these lamps around my house during the Indian festivals period of the year, and they remind me of where I come from. I always try to stay close to my culture and educate others about it as well." —**Anushka Pushpala, Junior**

Right: "I like taking portraits because they capture the person's character and they're a good display of natural lighting." —**Vanessa Morelan, Senior**



Above: "I find the beauty in the simplicity of this single flower. This flower is still capable of beauty, even though it is missing a petal." —**Natalie Hinson, Senior**

Left: "This wild photo represents the connection between the human and natural world, which is my artistic purpose. My friend's pose on the rock is eerie but natural at the same time and has a slight playful edge through her outfit." —**Kendall Mack, Senior**



"No matter how much we plan and prepare for things, sometimes we still need to take chances." —**Amanda Le, Freshman**

Like what you see?
 Want to be a part of
The Monarch's
 next issue?
 Send in a request to
 themonarch.photo@gmail.com,
 and **you**
 could be featured
 in the next issue!

Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE



Spotlight On TESS JACOBS

By Heather Lee
Staff Writer

Archbishop Mitty offers several immersion trips to further students' knowledge of the world around them and teach them the importance of reaching out to those less fortunate.

A senior at Mitty, Tess Jacobs, took this lesson especially to heart. After she returned from ECJ: India, she decided to follow up by creating her own website to raise awareness for the Dalits: a group of people marginalized by the caste system in India. Tess, along with other ECJ India Mitty students, were later featured in "Outsourced, Silicon Valley Students in India" on CBS5 for their work in India.

What was your inspiration for creating the website?

"One day during the trip, we went out and learned about the group Insight, which was an organization set in Delhi," explains Tess. "We met with Anoop Kumar, the founder, which was really inspiring."

Tess learned about victims of caste abuse, Dalits, from Anoop Kumar, adding, "The Dalits are a low group in society and are not part of the system. It began as job separation but [later] became social... They are forced to work in spiritually unclean jobs."

Learning about such a marginalized group in society, Tess felt compelled to "raise awareness."

What do the organizations promoted by your website do to help the Dalits?

"The organizations on my website are mostly grassroots movements centered around improving the lives of Dalits. I chose the Dalit Freedom Fund particularly because anyone can donate small amounts of money to specific projects which work directly with Dalits.

These projects include anything from sponsoring a child's education to providing healthcare for Dalits living in rural areas."

What do you hope your website will accomplish?

"My biggest hope for this website is to raise awareness about issues concerning Dalits and the poor in India. I also want to link others to well-established organizations that are already doing great things to alleviate the social barriers that Dalits face."

To visit Tess's website, go to:
www.supportdalits.wordpress.com

Girl Scouts: Beyond The Thin Mints

By Jennifer Grich
Staff Writer

When people hear the word "Girl Scout," an image of a small girl in a green skirt, carrying a box of cookies might come to mind. And, while this stereotype might be somewhat accurate for junior scouts, senior scouts all over the country are exceeding this limited description.

In general, the effects of girl-scouting are somewhat downplayed. A girl scout is so much more than a uniform and some songs around the campfire: Girl Scouts promote peace, friendship, and helping others in the community. And, I am an example of this. I have been a Girl Scout since the first grade, trying to help others and live out the meaning of the organization.

For the past few years, as a senior Girl Scout, I have been working to help my community with my Gold Award Project. A Gold Award is like an Eagle Scout project for Boy Scouts—it takes many years to complete and ends with a final project that helps the marginalized in the community through work that will make a lasting change.

The Gold Award requires presenting the project to a committee, fund-raising all of the money that is necessary to complete the project, and finding the time and volunteers to make this dream a reality for the community. The work involves more than just completing community service hours; it's about advocating for the forgotten communities that are the most in need, and not just in the U.S., but all over the world.

So, what project did I embark upon?

Since I was a little girl, Wilson Preschool of Santa Clara has been a second home to me. It was the place

where I took many of my first steps in life to becoming the person that I am today, and I recognized that the school now needs my help. It receives very little money from the state for necessary repairs, ones that are needed to keep the children safe.

When I visited the preschool last summer, I saw a leaky playhouse, a broken garden box with its sharp pieces tripping students, and a yard that needed to be fixed. This was a place where money and time needed to be spent.

I worked with outside volunteers to find a way to fix the preschool's backyard, and after getting approval from the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee, it was time to start my work.

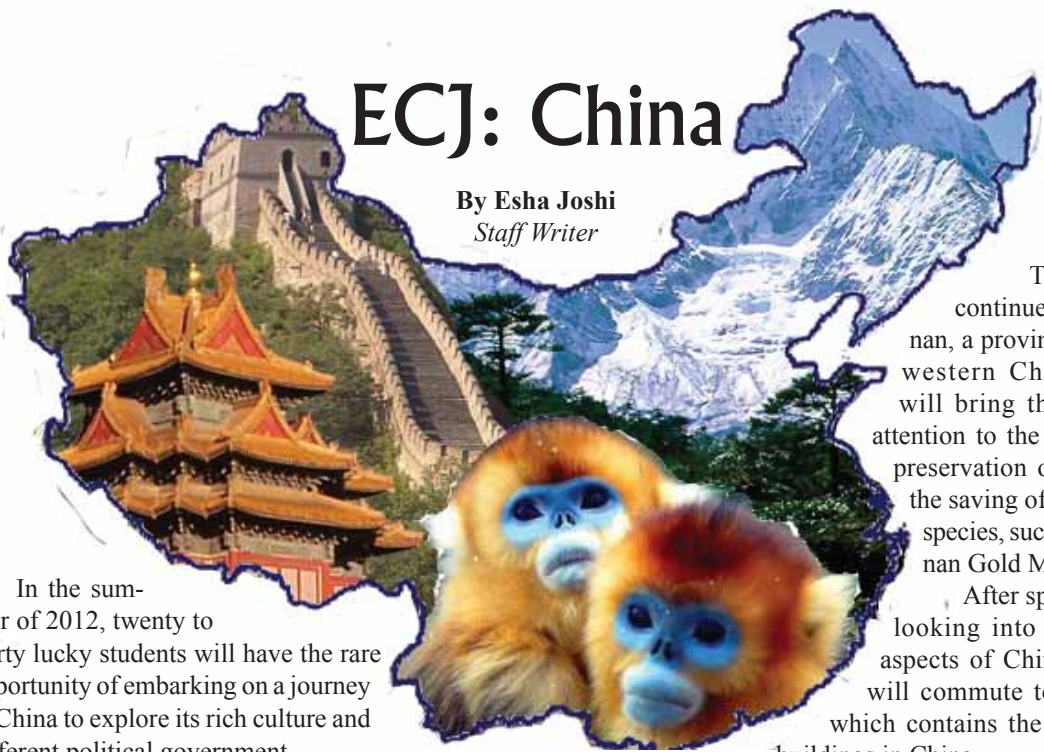
Since the end of November, I have been working with many volunteers, including fellow senior and girl scout, Emily Campi, to build and construct a new planter box—one that can be used for educational purposes while still being safe for the students. And, after days of work, it is finally completed. In addition to this planter box, I am finding other projects to make the yard of Wilson Preschool a safe environment.

This is just one example of the potential advocacy projects in the senior Girl Scout community. I proudly recognize this organization as a sum of young women who are trying to change the world, young women who do not simply pass by those in need. And the Gold Award projects manifest this sentiment in a practical and helpful manner.

For me, Girl Scouts has far exceeded the initial connotations of cookies and campfires.

ECJ: China

By Esha Joshi
Staff Writer



In the summer of 2012, twenty to thirty lucky students will have the rare opportunity of embarking on a journey to China to explore its rich culture and different political government.

Why has the ECJ China trip been added to the list of trips offered for juniors? Over the past few years, Campus Ministry has taken note of the exponential growth in maturity and curiosity among Mitty students; students have aptly demonstrated a thirst for knowledge for the world around them. As a result, this trip to China will provide further opportunity to expand students' minds about foreign concepts.

Prior to the trip to China, via classroom activities and discussion, students are expected to gain insight about pressing matters, such as the environmental impact of the rapidly-growing industrial nation, the abuse and violation of human rights, and the slow transition from a Communist government.

The trip itself will begin in Beijing, the nation's capital, where students will spend a great deal of time looking at the quintessential sites of China—the Forbidden City, for example, and Tiananmen Square. Students will hike along the Great Wall of China, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and witness work dating back to the Ming Dynasty. Students will also spend a few days aiding others in volunteer centers, orphanages, health centers, and schools for migrant children.

The trip will continue on to Yunnan, a province in southwestern China, which will bring the student's attention to the projects for preservation of dams and the saving of endangered species, such as the Yunnan Gold Monkey.

After spending time looking into the ancient aspects of China, students will commute to Shanghai, which contains the two largest buildings in China.

Students will also trek the beautiful Himalayas and eastern borders of the Tibetan Plateau, where they will live among some who solely depend on "social responsibility, indigenous culture and ecologic sustainability" to survive. By the end of the trip students are encouraged to realize how China, a nation emerging as a world power, connects to their future lives.

How is ECJ China different from all other ECJ trips? Within the government, China faces many difficult issues that are unseen from a tourist's perspective: China's economic prosperity is largely due to its population; however, the gap between the wealthy and poor continues to increase.

Tibet's independence from China, which China refuses to support, also poses an issue. Students will also encounter China's Tiger Leaping Gorge Dam, one of the largest in the world, that is a threat to China's landscape and environment. Such political, socioeconomic, and environmental issues make ECJ China a unique and cultural experience.

*For more information about the ECJ China immersion trip, please visit Mr. Wesmiller, Associate for Immersion Trips, in Campus Ministry.



San Jose Murder-Suicide

By Diana Pawell and Kaitlin Perrata
Staff Writer

To observers and readers of the daily news, Wayne Sanchez was just another name in a local headline. But in reality, he was a man made a murderer from resentment for the lack of effectiveness in the justice system.

Wayne Sanchez's name was first seen in papers ten years ago, after the tragic and unexpected loss of his sister, Jeanine, who went missing and was never found.

Sanchez, according to close friends, was generally a very non-violent person, but recently made headlines in papers and on local news stations due to an unexpected and devastating confrontation in a Peet's Coffee at El Paseo de Saratoga between himself and the prime suspect in the murder of his missing sister.

Due to a lack of sufficient evidence in the original case, the suspect was never convicted—this inconclusiveness motivated Sanchez to take matters into his own hands.

Around nine o'clock on the night of Saturday, January 15, Sanchez found Maurice Nasmeh, his sister's suspected murderer, at Red Robin in El Paseo de Saratoga. In an emotional confrontation, Sanchez accused Nasmeh of killing his sister.

Nasmeh then proceeded to storm out of the restaurant, walking to the nearby Peet's Coffee. A few minutes later, Sanchez followed him and shot him once before walking into the parking lot and taking his own life.

By the time police arrived on the scene, both men were already dead. Though Sanchez was armed, authorities have said that they do not believe Sanchez sought out Nasmeh, and that this was a chance encounter.

Sanchez's frustration with the lack of action in response to his sister's disappearance seems to have caused him to take such responsibility ultimately into his own hands.



Maurice Nasmeh,
Victim of murder

Gun Laws to Blame in Tucson

By Makoto Lalwani
Staff Writer

January 8, 2011—Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is standing outside a Safeway in Tucson, Arizona, holding a meeting with her constituents. Suddenly, a young man in the crowd, Jared Loughner, shoots Giffords in the head and begins a deadly rampage that culminates in six people dead and several others wounded.

As details of the events leading up to the shooting unravel, one is particularly unnerving: a few hours before the shooting, Loughner was able to purchase ammunition for his gun at a local Walmart. Just like that, with no background check for potential illnesses or disorders, a killer was unleashed. The type of gun, a Glock 19, was also used in the infamous Virginia Tech massacre which claimed 32 innocent lives. The fact that Arizona has an extremely lenient gun control policy does not help matters at all; it is no surprise that it has 1.5 times the number of gun deaths as the national average. In the end, these details culminated in a shameful truth: Loughner, a mentally ill and unstable person, was able to get his hands on a dangerous weapon and use it to its full capacity. Clearly, major revisions must be taken in our safety regulations if we are to learn from this tragedy, so that the deaths of six innocent people will not be in vain.

Fortunately, people are stepping up to combat uncontrolled gun regulations and hopefully curb the amount of gun-related violence that occurs in our country.

Republican Peter King, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, has vowed to support gun control legislation, as has Democrat Carolyn McCarthy (whose husband was killed in a shooting 18 years ago).

However, the two major political parties remain, for the most part, split: Democrats continue to campaign for more rigid gun control laws, while Republicans argue that the shooting was the result of a mentally unstable shooter rather than the leniency of gun control laws. But this massacre cannot simply be blamed on one factor or the other: it is the result of a culmination of botched compromises, of unchecked threats, and of past mistakes returning to haunt us.

The Tucson shooting was an unspeakable act of horror. Yet there is one "positive" aspect about it: it enables us to focus in on the problems that caused this massacre to happen, and to limit the chance such an event will happen again. Our representatives must focus on what is best for the nation: stronger gun control regulations does not mean a "win" for the Democrats and a "defeat" for the Republicans, but should instead be viewed as a victory for the safety of all citizens of America. By putting safety first and politics second, Columbine, Virginia Tech, and Tucson may all become mistakes of the past, never to be repeated.

VIGILANTISM: ROMANTICIZED CRIME

By Angela Hodge
Justice Editor

Vigilantism, as a concept, is seemingly heroic. It is a way for the everyman to take the law into his own hands, and summarily beat the bad guys over the heads with it.

Everyone wants to be Batman. Or at least Guy Fawkes. Unfortunately, Batman does not exist. Nor does Guy Fawkes. If you think Guy Fawkes exists, you have been fooled by teenagers protesting against scientology. And the sentiments propagated by thrilling works of fiction that popularize the ideal of the one-man war against crime are about as realistic as a billionaire socialite rappelling around Gotham punching clowns.

The problem with taking the law into one's own hands is that the law is designed to fit quite comfortably in the hands of the justice system. Policemen, attorneys, and judges are extensively trained and educated to bring criminals to justice as fairly, safely and efficiently as possible. Vigilante violence is motivated by the belief that the system is partly or wholly incompetent. That one man with a vengeance and a pistol can accomplish what a state or federal court cannot.

This is not an unreasonable proposal, if you consider murder an accomplishment. It's true that America's justice system can seem frustratingly slow to victims and their

families. In 2009, the average time spent between receiving a death sentence and actually being executed was fourteen years. In 2004, a 74-year-old man in an Alabama prison was executed for a murder he had committed in his forties.

**Sorrow and fury are defensible.
Frustration with perceived
injustice is understandable.
Murder is not.**

A murder conviction means a judge or jury decides that sufficient evidence has been presented to convict a person. In the case of Wayne Sanchez, discussed above, the alleged criminal, Maurice Nasmeh, was tried a number of years after the actual crime, and acquitted a number of years after that. In this situation and others like it, the anguish of men like Wayne Sanchez – parents, spouses, friends, and children of loved ones whose likely murderers have escaped punishment – is understandable. There is a certain instinct, perhaps rooted in the romantic heart of American culture, to empathize with and support vigilantes whose only desire, it seems, is to bring justice where there is none.

In actuality, though, our moral and ethical standards as human beings drive us to a different conclusion. Sorrow and fury are defensible. Frustration with perceived injustice is understandable. Murder is not. Vigilante violence bypasses all the paperwork and inconvenience inherent in the justice system, but in doing so, it also shoves aside the fundamental concern for human rights that necessitates that caution. It compromises the values that separate us from lawless, primitive societies, and as hard as it may be for people in grief and anger to remember, the Sixth Amendment is an instrument of justice, not an obstacle.

If we understand as a society that vigilantism is essentially wrong, why does it happen? The cases above suggest two basic causes for vigilante violence. First, a sense of the ineffectiveness or impotence of the justice system motivates the friends and families of wronged victims to take matters into their own hands – as in the case of Sanchez and Nasmeh.

Second, it is distressingly possible for a civilian to acquire the means with which to exact violent revenge – as in the Tucson shooting. Does this mean that our government is responsible for the death and chaos that results from vigilante violence? Not expressly, but it is becoming clear that steps must be taken to tighten gun control and address the needs of civilians.

SPORTS

Underdog Victors: Men's Wrestling

By Kyle Payne
Staff Writer

With Mitty's multitude of recent athletic triumphs, it is easy for some teams to fade into the background, their achievements overshadowed by those of others. However, the Monarch Wrestling team is not ready to accept a secondary role this season.

Led by Head Coach Chris Curry and senior Michael Atondo, the Varsity team has impressed on its way to its most successful season in five years. Talented junior Diego Gaxiola and second-year sophomore Kyle Jackson have also played key parts in the Monarchs' ascendancy.

Atondo's presence has undoubtedly played a huge role in this season's surprising success. "He has been the backbone of the team. His understanding of wrestling and ability to push his teammates has been invaluable," Curry notes.

Even though only 10-12 players compete for the Monarchs, as opposed to the 14 on a full lineup, this has not slowed the team down. As senior Justin Evans put it, "This year we have finally begun to come together as a team. We are now placing in the top ten at tournaments with only half of a team!"

For the Varsity team, this banner year stems from the work and effort put forth by each member of the team. Senior Michael Swywk sums it up by saying, "This year, we have had more varsity wrestlers place in tournaments than any other year, which just goes to show that you definitely get out what you put in. In this case, we have put our time, energy, and sweat into this season, and as a result, we have been the victorious underdogs."

Swywk's words were confirmed with the team's results at the Cupertino Varsity tournament, where the Monarchs placed 3rd as a team.

The Frosh-Soph squad has also reached previously unimaginable heights. They are currently undefeated in league play and look to be one of the first Mitty teams at that level to finish atop the standings. Jackson's fondest memory is of the performance at the Los Gatos Tournament. He commented on the experience, "Even though our team consisted of freshmen and sophomores, our team won the whole tournament...that night showed me that character is more important than experience."

Soaring Their Way to Success

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

Coming off a 2010 CCS title and a state-title run, the men's basketball team entered this season with high expectations. With their 25-2 record and WCAL title, the Monarchs have not disappointed.

The 61st ranked team in the country according to Rivals.com and the 8th in California, the Men's Basketball team has had an incredible year.

As electrifying sophomore forward Aaron Gordon says, "It's been a good year. The reason we're winning is because we are always there for each other."

Gordon has played a key role for the Monarchs. The 2010 Mercury News Freshman of the Year has experienced the same unbelievable success this year as well. His 6'7" size makes him an extremely difficult match-up for anyone and has the home crowd primed for a slam-dunk almost every time he touches the ball. His astounding defense makes opposing teams timid to take the ball down in the post and his presence alone forces them to the perimeter. His play has deservedly earned him the WCAL Player of the Year award.

However, even the best of players can't do it all alone. Junior forward Neil Vranicar attributes the team's success to the "seniors' consistent play. Brent [Younger] and Connor [Gorman] have played great night in and night out."

In addition, Kyle Toth has been an exceptional perimeter player on offense, while senior Colin Wan has played the point guard position to perfection.

Seniors Brandon White and Brent Younger have also been huge contributors. Younger has found great success playing the post while White's versatility is nearly unmatched.

Coach Tim Kennedy feels that, "We have all the pieces to be a great team. We have multiple offensive threats, experienced players and a group of guys who are just winners."

Even the best teams, however, have room for improvement. As Coach Kennedy added, "There are a large number of areas we

need to improve on if we are going to reach our goals. Two of the most important areas are our defense and our rebounding. We have had too many breakdowns on defense that have not cost us games, but will hurt us if we do not improve in this area. And we need to continue to share the ball and run in transition. We are at our best on the fast-break and make it difficult on the opposing defense when we share the ball because we have so many players who can score."

The coach's sense of urgency is definitely warranted. In their second meeting against St. Ignatius, the Monarchs seemed to struggle against the Wildcats' 2-3 zone defense. St. Ignatius' ability to crowd the paint pointed out weaknesses in the Monarchs' offense. The Wildcats' zone focused on both defending the middle and double-teaming Aaron Gordon. This strategy struck the Monarchs to the core.

Although Mitty pulled out the victory after a late run led by Colin Wan, the game provided a good blueprint on how to stop a seemingly unstoppable Monarch team.

But unstoppable is exactly how the Monarchs have appeared, as they've ridden a thirteen-game winning streak on their way to the WCAL title.

In the postseason the Monarchs destroyed Valley Christian in the first round of the WCAL playoffs, 80-43. They then blew out Bellarmine, 63-44.

The title game was anything but a blowout, however. The Monarchs dramatic and down to the wire 46-45 victory over Serra was led by Gordon's stat-sheet filling 15 points, 19 rebounds, and six blocks. And it was Gordon's put-back in the final minute that provided the margin of victory.

The team will enter the CCS playoffs as the number one seed in Division II on their quest for a State title.

Gordon said of the postseason, "We hope to go undefeated the rest of the year and win the title."

He proceeded to tap on the wall, saying, "Knock on wood." If the team performs as it has throughout the season, though, that won't be necessary.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Sophomore Aaron Gordon slams the ball down.

Athletes Speak

What was the most crucial match of the season?



John Zdankus, Senior

"I believe we have had several great victories this season including our games against Santa Cruz, Bullard, and Valley Christian. Thanks to our wins we will have over a 500 record, giving us a good chance of qualifying for CCS playoffs since Santa Cruz and Bullard will likely win their leagues."



Connor Gorman, Senior

"Our most crucial game of the season was defeating St. Ignatius. After losing to them in our previous game, we knew that we had to step up to the challenge and give it our all. Out of the gate we were ready to play, and were successful in throwing them off their game plan. We beat them by over 10 points."

Michael Sywyk, Senior

"In the Cupertino Tournament, I had to wrestle someone from St. Francis who I had already beaten by a slim margin of 9-6 earlier that day. I was nervous and tired, but went out there and wrestled the best match of my life, beating him 8-0 and making no mistakes. Because I beat him by 8, it counted as a major decision, giving us an extra point. Out of 36 teams, we took 3rd place by that single point."



Ana Marija Sola, Junior

"Our greatest victory this year would have to be our 2-1 win against Valley Christian. With only 30 minutes to go and down by one goal, we held it together, and after two clutch goals secured the league championship and yet another banner for the Women's soccer program. Our performance in this critical game was exhilarating and displayed the heart and determination which our team possesses."



Compiled by Rebecca Casey
Sports Editor

Hard Work, Selflessness Carry Women's Basketball

By Ariq Chowdhury
Staff Writer

The Archbishop Mitty Women's Basketball team has enjoyed a great deal of success over the last few years, and is well on its way towards another banner season this year.

Last year's squad played dominating ball on their way to Western Catholic Athletic League and Central Coast Section titles, before falling in the California Interscholastic Federation Championship game. The fact that several key players from the team that went undefeated in league play have graduated might seem an indomitable impediment. However, this year's Monarchs have proved so versatile and deep that they are certainly capable of eclipsing the triumphs of last year's team.

The Monarchs just added another WCAL title with a 66-59 victory over arch-rival Presentation on Feb. 19. With a balanced attack led by 13 points each from senior guard Ashley Watson (just named WCAL player of the year) and freshman Kelli Hayes, the Monarchs shot nearly 60 percent from the field.

Now 20-7 overall and having finished 9-3 in league play, the team defeated Notre Dame-Belmont 57-34 in the WCAL quarterfinals and blew out St. Ignatius 68-48 in the semifinals.

Their regular season triumphs included defeats of Bishop O' Dowd and St. Francis, two of the strongest teams in the division. Their most stirring victory, however, must be their overwhelming 28-point defeat of Valley Christian in the last game of the regular season.

Simply put, the Monarchs know how to win. Seniors Ashley Watson and Vanessa Leo, veterans of multiple



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Sophomore Vanessa Garner scans the court.

championship teams, have offered invaluable leadership to this year's young squad. Watson not only leads the team in scoring with 14 points per game, but also runs the offense from the key point guard spot. Sophomore guard Vanessa Garner and freshman Kelli Hayes are just a few of the many players on the team who can put up big numbers any given night.

Energy and athleticism are crucial for the fast-paced and hardworking team, especially in tough games against teams with similar up-tempo styles. The hard work put in during practice certainly pays off, as the players have enough left in the tank down the stretch to beat their opponents late in games. Size and speed are two main qualities in a proven winning formula, and the multifaceted Monarchs have proven they have enough of both to be as successful as past teams have been.

Coach Sue Phillips has led the Monarch Basketball program admirably through the years, amassing over 500 wins, an incredible total. She has coached numerous star players in the past, and knows how to get the most out of her team at any given time.

Repeating and exceeding last season's success is certainly no easy task, but Coach Phillips believes that with heart, this team can definitely be a champion. Her belief that "winning and losing are products of team play, focus, effort, and intensity" reflects the prevailing ideology that she instills in her squad each day.

All has not been rosy for the Monarchs this year, however. They have lost their fair share of heartbreakers, including a 61-60 defeat to Dougherty Valley. However, they have not fallen prey to adversity. Their veteran experience has helped to pull the team together as they look to make a torrid final run at the season's end.

Versatility and a repertoire of skilled players will be the most beneficial assets to the Monarch women as they seek to continue the tradition of winning that has become expected of Mitty athletes as part of one of the most decorated sports programs in the nation.

Balance Key to Men's Success

By Neil Jariwala
Staff Writer

With its amalgam of youth and seniority, the Archbishop Mitty Men's Soccer team is on the move, looking to make a big statement and compete for the CCS title.

The Monarchs record at press time stands at 10-8-3, including a recent impressive 2-1 victory over Valley Christian on Feb. 9 that closed out their regular season.

The year was highlighted by victories against Valley and Archbishop Riordan. The Monarchs also showed their toughness and grit all season, winning several close games by a single goal.

On offense, the Monarchs have implemented a fast-paced system with a heavy emphasis on ball control. According to senior sweeper and captain John Zdankus, such a system allows the Monarchs to "maintain strong possession and push forward to score, wearing out opposing defenses."

On the other side of the ball, Zdankus notes, the Monarchs pressure opposing offenses by "shifting players to have numbers up at all times," allowing them to regain possession and continue on the attack.

Up front, the Monarchs are led by senior forward Joey Dei Rossi (9 goals and 21 points), and senior midfielder Zac Downey (8 goals and 19 points). The Monarchs are anchored on defense by senior captain Evan Leedeman, senior defenders Keith Rose and Joseph Chizanskos, and goalkeepers Edwin Robbins and Anthony Moreno.

First-year head coach Cesar Sanchez has praised the success of his team on both sides of the ball, noting, "We have a balanced scoring attack on offense, but have also suc-

ceed in limiting our opponents' offenses." The success of balancing a potent offense with a dominating defense was demonstrated repeatedly throughout the season, in the Monarchs' remarkable six shutout victories.

However, the Monarchs do have room to improve next season. Downey, who notched his 7th goal in the win over Serra, concedes that the Monarchs have been "somewhat inconsistent" at times.

Big early-season games against St.

Ignatius and rival Bellarmine generated much respect for the team, but the Monarchs have also been beset by tough losses throughout the season.

Zdankus notes that certain weaknesses have led to many "up and down" games. However, the team has its sights set on the future, and is looking to finish the season on a positive note.

While the club is mostly comprised of juniors and seniors, Downey is quick to praise the work of

the team's younger players. "We have a really young team, with five sophomores and two of the youngest coaches in the league. Everyone has stepped up to do his job when needed to."

Center midfielder Shane Luna, midfielder David Escobar, and forward Connor Kurze are among the sophomores who have contributed significantly to the team's success this season, combining for 23 points.

As such, the future looks bright for the Monarchs, who have overcome early inconsistency to play a hard-nosed, competitive game that has only strengthened with each match. With both offensive and defensive, depth and versatility, the fourth-seeded Monarchs hope to make a run in the Division II CCS playoffs, a goal most definitely within reach of this tough, hard-working team.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Senior Evan Leedeman drives the ball.

Women's Soccer Scoring Big

By Patrick Le
Staff Writer

Managing both sides of the ball is a challenge that plagues many great teams. This year's Women's Soccer team believes in accepting this challenge and, thus far, has lived this creed out. The Monarchs are notorious for their high-flying offense and their ball-hawking defense.

This has already proven a formula for success, as the women won the WCAL playoffs for the first time since 2008 with a 1-0 victory over St. Ignatius.

The Monarch Women's Soccer team looks to continue its trek in the postseason where they fell just short of bringing home a banner last year. After finishing last season with a 14-6-3 record, the Monarchs sought to dominate in the WCAL playoffs. Their 5-1 rout of Sacred Heart definitely made a statement at the time, but the women lost to St. Francis in the semifinals the next game, and a 1-0 loss to Burlingame brought an end to the Monarchs' fruitful 2009-2010 campaign.

This Year, Coach J.T. Hanley aimed to improve overall performance in the team's game; they definitely hit the ground running. The Monarchs routed Antioch and Notre Dame 7-0 and 6-0, respectively, on their way to a 13-2-4 overall regular season record. Players maintain that the equal emphasis on offense and defense is one of the most important parts of their astounding success.

"We find a balance," states senior captain Alana Sooy. The UC Irvine-bound defender promotes the values of team chemistry and hard work—clearly, the rest of the squad agrees.

The mindset they share is to "stay calm

and keep possession of the ball, while looking to be dangerous in the attack," as senior midfielder Kelsey Foo says. Even with their vast success this season, the coach and players are still striving for improvement in the technical aspect of the game. A controlled, yet quick pace keeps opposing defenders off balance, but an organized backline helps to protect their own goal.

With the implementation of such techniques, the Monarchs seek to "simply dominate," stated midfielder Ana Marija Sola. Fundamentals and execution are key in producing tangible results. Players give their full effort every practice, which pays dividends in their on-field performance.

Along with their veteran leadership and strong bonds among teammates, there is one integral aspect that the Monarchs unanimously share: commitment.

Recovering from a devastating MCL injury, Sooy said she "would rather fight through the pain than have to sit out." Through and through, the team's core of leadership is excellent. Sooy shows her drive when she states, "I would like to maintain my determination to win every single game. Ever since I was a freshman, I have always wanted to hang a banner up in the gym and earn the respect women's soccer deserves."

Given the team's performance, women's soccer undoubtedly will fight for a CCS banner to go along with their WCAL banner which will hang from the gym's rafters.

The team's leadership and drive to win is definitely evident in Sooy's proclamation, "One goal that I know is on everyone's mind is to not only go to the CCS finals, but to win it too. Winning in CCS would be the absolutely best reward possible."



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Senior Michaela Matulich spins past defenders.

Not-so New Faces at Mitty: Transfers

By Omid Mirfendereski and Sankar Srinivasan
Staff Writers

With the sheer number of Monarchs running around Mitty's campus, some of our newer members, transfers, are virtually indistinguishable in the crowd. This diverse group is nonetheless important to our vibrant community. Many transfer students have discovered just how much Mitty can give them in terms of both opportunity and life values.

Many students had clear reasons, often stemming from Mitty's pleasant and hopeful atmosphere, when they made their decision to come to Mitty. From a wide range of sports to a huge variety of clubs, Mitty offers a spectrum of extracurriculars.

Transfer students: Nikki Panditi,
Rebecca Koshy, Willie Olivas



Sophomore
Rebecca Koshy, who has been

able to pursue her love of water polo, believes that Mitty allows "students to express themselves by joining whatever they want to."

The application process for transfer students can be quite difficult and stressful. Last year, there were about 100 applicants competing for a limited number of spots. They were screened not only for academic achievement, but also for extracurricular involvement, GPAs, schedule rigor, school records, and an interview.

After being accepted around April and May, transfers attend Transfer Orientation (in August) to become familiar with the school.

Junior **Sarah Godwin** recounted her experience transferring to Mitty. "Mitty made transferring very smooth for me," she remembers. "I was a very late transfer, so the process was sped up."

Ultimately, transfer students have seen that making it to Mitty was well worth it. "I have to say transferring to Mitty was one of the best decisions of my life," says **Mariah Hallacy**, who like many others, felt welcomed after arriving. Transfer students see Mitty as, in their own words, "supportive," "excellent," and "pivotal."

Adapting to Mitty has not been as difficult as it seems due to the help and support from the community. Trying to print in the library and finding the 400 Wing are a few issues that have been quickly made simple by seasoned students. Differences in schedules and upgrades in campus size may seem like daunting changes to the normal high-school routine, but in reality, many have found these aspects refreshing.

Sophomore **Nikki Panditi** emphasizes the importance of becoming part of the community and advises other transfers to "try an extracurricular activity at Mitty." After joining the MICA program, Nikki has found amazing friends that she otherwise would not have met.

Transfer student **Gabriel-Jaime Gonzalez** says, "It's the people that make the places, and it's the friends I've made at Mitty that have really changed the way I see and carry myself."

Changes

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courses offered at Mitty also focus on global issues and implications; therefore, the two disciplines will compliment each other.

The changes in the English Department will mirror those in the Social Studies Department in that World Literature classes will temporarily disappear next year. Again, the American Literature courses sophomores and juniors will both be taking will be separated by grade, this time in order to create a homogeneous atmosphere that is considerate of varying student creativity and knowledge.

Juniors of the class of 2014 will be eligible to take two semester-long English electives—meaning four *total* semesters of electives once those already offered for seniors are added in—but the options will be different for the two years. In addition, junior electives will be designed to have an emphasis on a specific geographical region, such as a course on British, Latin American, or Middle Eastern literature.

"A plethora of choices," in Mr. Brazelton's words, will remind students that we live in a global world and give them the opportunity to explore a subject they are passionate about.

Mr. Robinson explains that "it is more interesting and exciting for students to choose their own classes," and that teachers will be able to teach material in which they are specialized, so lectures will be more accessible and entertaining. The specialization of courses will expose students to a greater variety of subjects.

Other changes in the English Department include a redesigned freshman class that incorporates technology and exposes students to more writing styles, such as nonfiction, as well as incorporating rhetoric. English courses will continue to include outside reading, grammar, and vocabulary as parts of their class curricula.

myMitty.com will be extensively used and subscription libraries, newspaper articles, and other resources will be used to research information, which Mr. Brazelton explains, is significant because they "will be used in college and beyond."

STUDENT CENTE(R)ED

Student Focus: Carlisle Micallef

By Alisha Dua
Staff Writer

Carlisle Micallef, a freshman who moved to California from Singapore in 2010, speaks fluent Mandarin, and has visited eleven countries. Her story begins when she moved to Singapore after her dad's promotion. What was supposed to be a three-year stay became five-years, making Singapore the country she considered home.



What was key about Carlisle's life in Singapore was the fact that it was a "transit place," as she calls it. Thus, she was able to "travel every chance [she] got." The openness of Singapore is what allowed her to take multiple family expeditions to eleven different countries: India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia, Japan, China, Singapore, Thailand, the Maldives, and Hong Kong.

She not only visited Harajuku, an urban city where Japanese denizens come out at night in bunny

costumes as if every day were Halloween, but she also had opportunities to visit rural areas and learn from cultures unknown to many. One such experience occurred in a provincial village of Northern Thailand, where she met the Kayan people.

The Kayans place rings around women's necks, for the purpose of stretching them. Carlisle was able to see this practice first hand while, for most people, such an experience is something of a fictional book.

Among all of her experiences in Singapore and the surrounding countries, Carlisle's most shocking and profound was a school trip to Cambodia, where a recent civil war had ravaged the country.

She visited torture chambers and killing sites that had been a part of the genocide. In addition, she was able to help the community by building houses for the Cambodian people.

At one point, when talking to survivors on the trip, she met a man with no face. She still vividly recalls the pain and suffering that were prominent in his voice.

Carlisle now realizes that the big picture is more important than the little problems, and that we need to step out of our comfort zone to help those around us who are less fortunate. After having experienced the suffering in other parts of the world, Carlisle has concluded that everything she has "has a completely new meaning."

Carlisle epitomizes a worldly person after living and visiting so many places. Her insight into religion, politics, and culture reveals a maturity found in someone far beyond her years.

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Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg
& Mr. Craig Whitt

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Opinions

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Rebecca Casey, Anay Dattawadkar,
Arjun Ravishankar, & Ayman Ullah

Photo

Avantika Abhyankar & Nikita Nathan

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