



Mitty Celebrates Unity with “One Day”

By Gwen Holst, Melanie Mascarenhas,
& Sruthi Ramaswami
News Editors

If there’s one song that defines Archbishop Mitty High School, it’s “One Day” by Matisyahu. The song is the epitome of everything the school stands for: justice, hope, courage, and community.

How was such an amazing song chosen to represent the school? **Mr. Steve Scott**, Director of Campus Ministry, stated that songs must support Catholic/Christian identity, be sing-able and pastorally suitable, and have an appropriate tone and message.

However, he acknowledges that these criteria are quite broad, so administrators end up spending considerable time listening to and screening potential songs. Initially, a long list is compiled of songs that anyone—students and faculty alike—have submitted to Campus Ministry. This list is then narrowed down to twenty or twenty-five songs, until eventually, one is chosen. This past year, “One Day” stood out as the obvious choice among all teachers who screened songs.

Mr. Scott believes that the song’s appeal comes from not one, but several aspects. “Matisyahu’s voice is strong and sounds fresh, and raw—instantly adding to its appeal. The song conveys a sense of hope, which in my opinion, is what Mitty fosters.”

Now let’s face it: we’ve all had those days when everything that could possibly go wrong, does go wrong, and all we want to do is forget, escape, and stop caring—those days that can only be bettered by long, hot showers, ice cream, chocolate, and listening to music. Most everyone has had those evenings where “overwhelmed” becomes the sweeping view on life.

As students at a college-preparatory high school, athletics, performing arts, academics, and extracurriculars consume our lives, sometimes leaving little time for ourselves and others. AP classes require hours of preparation and study, and intense athletic training or rehearsals after school only make life more stressful.

“One Day” has a peaceful effect on all listeners, inspiring them while providing temporary relief from the whirlwind of life.

Freshman **Jessica Dean** believes that “One Day” is a reflection of the support she finds from the Mitty community during times of stress. She states, “[“One Day”] showed me that even when times get difficult, I can rely on anyone



Photo Courtesy of the Yearbook Staff

in our school community. Starting high school was a huge transition not only for me but the whole freshman class. I appreciate this song so much for giving me hope that we can make a change in our world. The smallest things make the biggest impacts and this song showed me this is true.”

Indeed, the song’s lyrics capture the importance of slowing down and appreciating all that life has to offer. “One Day” details the importance of basking in the utter serenity of the good times in life. It prompts us to live for the moments that take our breath away and the conversations we have with the people that make us smile.

Along with “One Day’s” uplifting mood, its theme of unification distinguishes the song. Teachers and students alike agree that the school has come more together as a result of the song.

Senior **Bianka Bubic** believes that the song “is a call for everyone to unite to make the world a better place and stand up for what they believe in.” To seniors, the song takes on a deeper meaning as they prepare to embark on their collegiate journeys and explore new opportunities for

solidarity and service.

Senior **Liz Sowers** adds, “To me, “One Day” really shows that we can do whatever we want to make the world a better place—no matter how long it takes. But shifting away from the lyrical sense, “One Day” definitely brought us together as a class and a school this year. No matter how long after we’ve graduated, if any of us ever hears “One Day” played again, we’ll think of our class and our last and best year here at Mitty.”

Seeing the entire student body sing the song in unison itself is a unique and inspiring experience. **Mr. Bill Abb** states, “It really warms my heart when I see students get up and sway during the assemblies; I think ‘we got the song.’” Class allegiances are put aside and worries are forgotten as the melody resonates throughout the Fien Gym.

Mr. Scott says, “It’s what happens to people when they hear the song that stands out. Something happens emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. I see people holding hands, hugging, and swaying with the music—such is the power of this song.”

Robotics: A Great Season Gears Down

By Eunice Kim and Gwen Holst
Staff Writer and News Editor

Fear not if your walk by the 800-wing after school has ever surprised you with the whirring of tools and the clanging of metal; these sounds signify the onset of the exciting build season for the Mitty Robotics team.

Mitty’s eight year-old Robotics team is registered as Team 1351, but is commonly known as TKO. This acronym stands for “Tenacity, Knowledge, and Opportunity,” the team’s motto, which emphasizes the values of learning and perseverance for the pursuit of the best quality of work possible. Each year, the team travels to San Jose State University to showcase the robot it has worked hard to build and to compete in a day of intense contests.

The Robotics team works year-round, but its primary productivity occurs during a six-week span from January to mid-February. The long but rewarding hours members log six days a week during this “Build Season” are spent building a new robot from completely from scratch. During the “Off Season,” experienced members train new members and the whole team prepares for new projects and the off-season competition, Cal Games, against local teams.

The team has had a particularly successful season this past year. At its competition at San Jose State, the team

won its sixth KPCB Entrepreneurship Award, meaning that it was run like a real-world company.

In March, at UC Davis, the team advanced to become a quarter-finalist at the Silicon Valley Regional, where they once again secured a regional website award; the winning site can be viewed at amhsrobotics.com. Also, for the first time, TKO won the Underwriters Laboratories Yellow Hat Safety Award for its 82-page safety manual.

Much of the current success has come from team expansion. From the original roster of 16, the team has grown to include 52 members. Tasks can now be delegated, which allows for more in-depth attention to the various facets of the program.

The engineering work usually falls into four distinct categories: EVOM (EnVirOmentalManipulator), Chassis, Electronics, and Programming, each of which are headed by two co-leaders.

Vice President of Operations **Indira Bhattacharjee** reflects that TKO’s gains have demonstrated “the potential to go all the way next year. We are very proud of having come as far as we have.”

EVOM co-lead **Makoto Lalwani** expands on this ambition, asserting that the team is “set on winning a regional and making it to Nationals.”

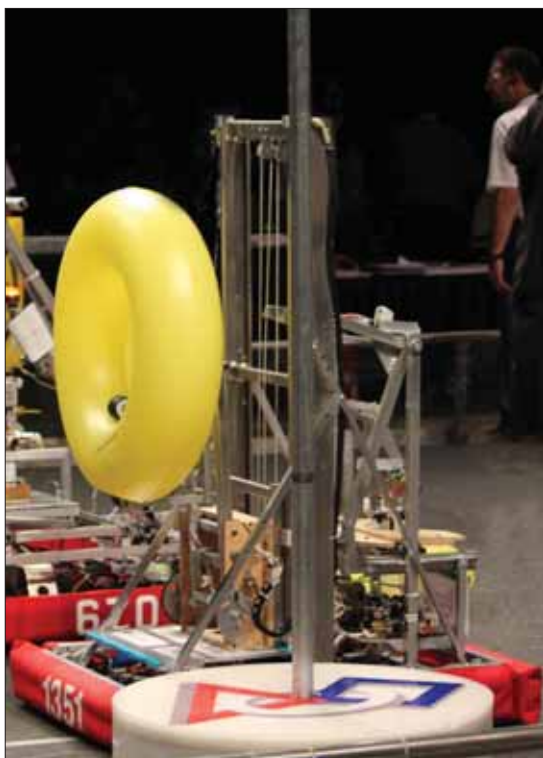


Photo Courtesy of Rohit Kavukuntla

TKO Robot in Competition.

OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: Prom

DARE TO QUESTION

By Michelle Brown
Staff Writer

When my friends and I had an anti-prom party last year instead of going to junior prom, many of us often found ourselves confronted by shocked classmates who anxiously demanded, “Why aren’t you going? You’ll miss out on all the classic high school memories!”

My own mother remarked, “Anti-prom? That’s so... antagonistic. Couldn’t you just have a Not-Going-To-Prom-Party?”

But as the senior ball rolls around and history begins to repeat itself, it’s time to clarify: it’s not about being against prom, and it’s not going to ruin our high school experiences, either. For some of us, prom just isn’t our scene.

There are people who enjoy shopping for uncomfortable dresses and even less comfortable shoes, and there are people who don’t. Some girls shell out hundreds of dollars on dresses they’ll never wear again. And this is on top of the money it costs for a limo, the \$120 dance bids, and everything else you need.

There’s nothing Mitty can do to reduce the price of the dances, but paying for a pizza and a group reservation at LaserQuest (at a much less heart-stopping price of \$9 a person) for an anti-prom party definitely looked more appealing to us.

And what about the drama? Who can you ask? How can you ask them? What if no one asks you? How are you going to cope when the guy you’re sure is going to ask you whips out a bouquet of roses to ask the girl sitting next to you at the lunch table instead, sending you sprinting for the bathroom, bawling, with your self-esteem in tatters? Not to mention that even if your four-year crush finally does want to go to the dance with you, your romance has a guaranteed expiration date, since you’re both going to different colleges in three months.

And once you’ve got your date and your matching dress and tux, the drama’s not over. Someone who thinks you’re

friends has invited themselves to sit at your table. Great, you can have them sit right next to your ex, who’s also going to be at your table, since he’s going with your friend. He and your current date can spend the evening trading glares over dinner.

And finally, “The Experience.” Can anyone really, in good conscience, graduate from high school knowing they never attended their junior prom, or their senior ball? What about the memories?

Honestly, the time I spent last year on the night of the prom with my friends, sitting around in sweat-pants, eating junk food and playing Rockband, gave me some of the most precious memories I’m going to take away from my time at Mitty.

If the point of going to prom is to have a night to remember with people you care about, why not choose to do it the way you’d prefer?

That being said, if the senior ball is that comfortable environment for you, don’t let me get you down!

Just remember, the next time someone tells you they don’t want to go to prom, it’s not a personal failure on their part. All you want is to be able to look back on your final high school experience and think, “I made the right choice” regardless of what that choice was.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

By Katya Lohngoen
Staff Writer

Prom. This one word can make someone’s day, or ruin it instantaneously. It comes around twice during high school—each time it’s a frenzy of excitement and hope. It’s the one night that is specifically devoted to the upperclassmen. It’s the forbidden dance that everyone looks forward to and fantasizes about.

It’s great to see how someone will be asked or who might ask whom. For example, this year Gabriel Gonzalez asked Christina Collins to Senior Ball by jumping on a lunch table and serenading her.

Now this isn’t just a highly effective technique to be repeated in the future (almost 100% success rates, barring the unpredictable), but it’s

also a thoughtful way to show someone you care.

In the idealized world of movies, prom is a magical night when everyone imagines a knight in shining armor with the heroine against a stunning backdrop. Now this sort of picturesque setting doesn’t always happen—we’d be kidding ourselves to say it did.

Typically, prom is the awkward date with a guy or girl you hardly know, during

which you end up leaving them for your friends by the middle of the night, and subsequently crush their hearts.

The people who have the most fun at prom tend to be those who go with their boyfriends or girlfriends, their friends, or even a ‘just friends’ guy. It isn’t really about the date and the romantic atmosphere that the movies incessantly indoctrinate our minds with.

And those awkward dates may never cease being awkward, all the way to the end of the night. It can easily ruin a night if you don’t know the person very well, they ditch you for their friends, or they ignore you most of the night.

I can attest to this considering I didn’t find my dream date, but I had one of the best nights of my life because I’ve known my date my entire life.

Prom is about how you’ll remember it, whether it was your fabulous dress that everyone complimented you for, the great fun you had with your friends, or the memorable date you had: the night was perfect, a night devoted solely to you.

Now to those who refuse to join the bandwagon of prom, a common argument is that high expectations inevitably lead to greater disappointment. It remains true that these high expectations enable an obsessive compulsion to control all of the smallest details. For those who want to make prom the best night of their high school experience, it won’t take much for their plans to be offset since everything is so clearly laid out from the pre-prom picture-taking arrangements to the seating at the tables.

Yet the point to be made in all of this is that prom is not a single detail or unexpected twist, it is the accumulation of all things planned and unplanned.

What makes it “a night to remember” is our expectations for something great, and the willingness to accept any form of this “greatness”—whether or not it was initially part of the plan. Prom doesn’t have to be the perfect fairy-tale, it just has to be your own story.



EDM: A RAVE REVOLUTION

By Dasha Sadovnikova
Staff Writer

If you browse through your local Hot Topic store today, you will find a section devoted to a morbidly comical cartoon mouse with X’s for eyes sporting the logo “Deadmau5”.

Deadmau5 is an electronic dance music producer and DJ who specializes in Electro/Progressive House, and while he may differ significantly from most music artists whose merchandise Hot Topic tends to carry, they share one common characteristic: their music has crossed the line into a field of success of “mainstream” music. Deadmau5 is

among the first of electronic dance music or EDM producers to be classified under this category, and surely won’t be the last.

Although it has been enjoyed by fans for decades, EDM has experienced a significant increase in popularity over the past several years. It is so varied that arguably the only mutual factor of all subgenres is that, as the name suggests, production requires the use of electronic equipment. The appeal of EDM, however, stems not from the technicalities of its production but its induction of powerful emotions in the listener, despite its composition of a series of relatively simple, repetitive musical riffs.

A skilled producer will layer har-

monious patterns until a sufficiently complex product is formed, and the effect can be tremendous. Music festivals such as the Electric Daisy Carnival in the US attract thousands of EDM lovers each year that congregate in celebration and, to a degree, in worship of the purely mechanical, purely divine synchronization of sounds being spun off of turntables by various headliners.

Talented DJ’s such as Netherlandian Trance master Armin van Buuren or Santa Cruz based Dubstep producer Bassnectar act almost as deities in their ability to mesmerize an audience through auditorial perception into a state of unadulterated euphoria. EDM is so completely man-made,

the producer being in ultimate control of its creation, that it arguably achieves a level of perfection unreached by its music genre predecessors.

Ian Vernon, a local DJ who provided the playlist for the last EDM-themed Bel-larmine mixer, credits his love for DJ’ing to “the feeling of being united through a pulsating beat with hundreds, even thousands of people... through the power of the ‘universal’ religion that is music.”

Be it through spiritual connection or simply a love for dancing, listeners will continue to propel EDM to the forefront of the music industry, although for now it remains promisingly entitled as the music of the future.

LIFE AFTER BECK: HOW WILL AMERICA SURVIVE?

By Varun Agarwal
Staff Writer

At times, the government and society can be endlessly and unforgivably perplexing. At times, we common folk are left with our own ignorance unable to judge the truth from lies. At times, we rely on the sharpest and most intuitive in our society to simplify what is most complicated and to expose the hidden truth.

Glenn Beck is that person, that unsung hero of the modern times. And today, it is with great remorse that I bear the news of the end of his Fox News show.

Glenn Beck was first introduced as part of Fox News's regular programming in January, 2009. Like his contemporaries, he aligned himself as a conservative while bringing his passion to TV each day. Since the start of his reign at Fox, he has brought 3 million viewers to his show alone. The self-proclaimed realist bears the hallmarks of the great revolutionaries—his erratic behavior, as some call it, only serves to display his genuine thirst for justice. His enormous appetite, which seems to be in constant search of the communists, of the terrorists, and of conspiracies, is in need of satisfaction.

Mr. Beck always has seemed to be the only one able to identify such conspiracies, oddly each relating back to either the late-Osama's, excuse me Obama's, oh so secretive terrorist agenda or a communist takeover from overzealous liberals funded by al-Qaeda.

For those unaware of his most ingenious theory: The Oligarch Conspiracy was where Mr. Beck used the first letters of the words "Obama," "Left Internationalist," "Graft," "ACORN," "Revolutions," and "Hidden Agenda" to form the a mnemonic of absolutely unrelated concepts into the word "Oligarh," which according to Mr. Beck actually spells "oligarch" and thus carries a secret message as to the future of President Obama's goals.

One may question the relation between any of these words, however that's besides the point—with his hushed tone and chalkboard, coupled with the reading glasses he oddly hinges on the tip of his nose, he gains the freedom to make any outlandish comments and present them as truth. This fact is indisputable.

After only two years of being on air his viewership dropped by over 1 million viewers and thus, prompted his recent removal from Fox. It seems like just yesterday that



Mr. Beck was feigning tears over something completely pointless and esoteric.

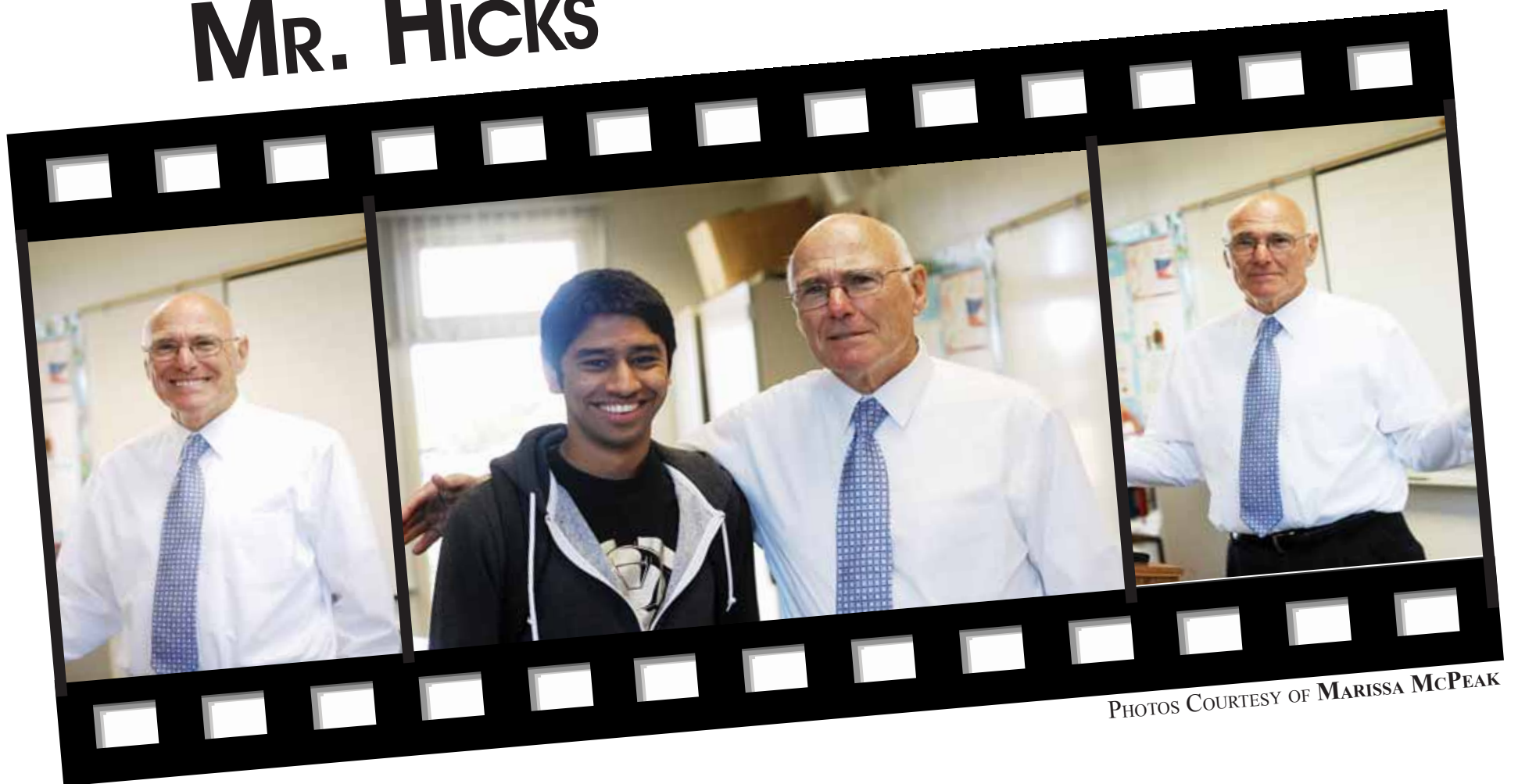
Who can I count on now to draw lines and circles on a chalkboard, to illustrate the latest vague and nonsensical conspiracies in cleverly misspelled mnemonics? I can say confidently, that no one else can spew as much profundity in such a small time slot.

The tragedy in this story is that more than 1 million people were still willing to listen to Glenn Beck, after such comments as his saying Obama has "a deep-seated

hatred for white people," and comparing the President to terrorists and extremists simply because of his name.

I suppose that Mr. Beck can live easily with himself, as I can liken him to the committed KFC fan. He may have the arteries of a morbidly obese paraplegic and, yes, sometimes when he gets cut, liquefied meat seeps out in lieu of blood. But he can revel in the fact that he has consumed, in his life, thousands upon thousands of animals and, thereby, imbibed their strength and power.

MR. HICKS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARISSA MCPeAK

A RENOWNED GURU *The Man on Campus*

By Makoto Lalwani and Ritty Zhai
Staff Writers

He is the guru of American history. He is a sage of wisdom, a bearer of true intellect within the Mitty community. But most importantly, he is a friend to all—yes, even you, freshmen. Could this be God Himself? Not quite, but he may be just as ancient—he is none other than the wonderful Mr. Hicks.

Now, being one of the most loved and revered individuals on the Mitty campus is by no means an easy task. It requires long hours of roaming around campus, disrupting

random classes, purposely getting kicked out of the library, and starting up conversations with anyone who is willing to engage in one. However, with such intellectual prowess, not to mention the ravaging good looks and charm, he is bound to attract attention—from students and faculty alike.

But when he is not busy responding to autograph requests from all those mesmerized students, Mr. Hicks enjoys jogging at unimaginably early hours, taking strolls on the beach, climbing coconut trees, reading the American Pageant for the 10,001st time, and, of course, grading students' essays.

Oh, and one more thing—it is hard to pass off as a simple coincidence the fact that Mr. Hicks just happens to magically appear in prominent events throughout U.S. history: he has signed the Declaration of Independence, been to the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, witnessed the assassination of William McKinley, and even shaken hands with Abraham Lincoln himself (Check your history book if you don't believe us). If it shows up in a history book, he's been there; or at the very least, he knows everything about it.

However, as surprising as it may seem, there is more to Mr. Hicks than just his knowl-

edge of American history. In fact, most Mitty students will get to know him not inside, but outside of the classroom, through random encounters (or are they?) around campus. One of Mr. Hicks' biggest goals is to eventually meet every single student at Archbishop Mitty High School, and he certainly makes the effort to achieve it!

Of course, being the witty man that he is, an unfortunate individual will occasionally become the butt of one of his running gags. However, none of his jokes should ever be taken to heart, because whether you are one of his students or not, he genuinely cares about each and every person he encounters on campus.

THE MIDDLE EAST:

Spotlight on Bahrain

By Daniel Braginsky
Staff Writers

Unless you live under a rock, you've been hearing quite a bit in the news about the seemingly ceaseless troubles in the Middle East. However, our blinkered media is focusing primarily on Libya and Egypt, and ignoring other countries with similar problems, such as Bahrain, Yemen, and Syria.

All of these countries are experiencing severe issues, including the near collapse of their social structure, but one in particular, Bahrain, has its problems compounded by the lack of internet.

While most of these countries possess the ability to stream and broadcast the news and Twitter, Bahrain has limited access to the Internet. This lesser-known country has even gone insofar as to prohibit foreign news reporters from entering their countries. By detaining writers, reporters, and cameraman, Bahrain has effectively left



the government's brutal treatment of dissenters unsung by the outside world.

What about all those other equally important countries? Many of you probably did not even know that Bahrain existed, much less that its government was detaining doctors for giving people aid. That's right,

doctors were either imprisoned, or simply disappearing, just for helping treat wounded dissenters. Yet our media doesn't report on this at all.

We can never get a full, detailed report of what is going on, simply because Bahrain's government

is stopping international reporters from entering the country. However, in this day and age, it is still very easy to get information thanks to the presence of organizations such as Wikileaks

It appears that our media simply doesn't care, simply because we don't care. The public's notoriously short attention span shifted from the Middle East, to inconsequential trivialities like Obama's birth certificate.

TEEN PREGNANCY:

Bristol's Hypocrisy

By Sneha Singh
Staff Writer

Only in America would we ever see such blatant displays of hypocrisy. Within the last year, 20-year-old Bristol Palin "earned" more than \$262,500 promoting abstinence in an effort to "raise awareness" for the hardships that accompany teen pregnancies. While all this was going on, the Candie's Foundation, the organization Palin works for, spent only \$35,000 on grants for teen pregnancy prevention.

Scrolling through these pictures of tax documents, the only positive aspect of this entire debacle—that I can decipher—is the fact that she is actually working and paying taxes. There is no reason on earth why she should be paid enormous sums for her utter lack of judgment.

Palin stated, "I don't think anyone realizes how difficult it really is until you actually have a screaming baby in your arms and you're up all night." Well of course not! How is anyone supposed to get an accurate depiction of teen pregnancies when the media does nothing but glorify these undeserving teenagers?

Besides, Bristol must have the most difficult life ever. A quarter of a million dollars in one year, and she is seriously complaining

about her life? And who takes care of her son when she is up and down the country "preaching" to a younger generation? I have my doubts on whether or not she actually cares for her child, but with that kind of money, I guess she no longer needs too.

In an interview earlier, Palin remarked, "I think I'm extremely blessed to... have this sort of life experience publicized so that others can learn from my story."

But what is it that others are really learning from Bristol Palin's experiences?

Sure, the common belief is that "your life ends when you get pregnant," but this woman has made more money in a year than some people will make in ten years!

This is the message that she sends to young girls: If you want to get rich, have a baby, and then talk about how

much you regret it.

I rarely express sympathy towards infants, but I have to make an exception for poor little Tripp. He is going to grow up and see that his mother made a fortune indirectly saying that she would have been "happier" were she not impregnated with him at age 18.

So if Bristol Palin can publicly advocate abstinence, well, maybe now Rebecca Black can teach us all how to sing. And as you can see in the story next door, Rebecca is doing just fine as well.



CLOUD GIRLFRIEND

Relationship Status: Virtual

By Claire Chu
Staff Writer

It's easy to manipulate your identity online. Social networking allows you to create profiles under any name of your choice. The lack of tangible interaction means that you can t@Lk LyK3 d!\$, exclusively post pictures taken in flattering angles, and 'like' music artists whom you've never heard of before. You can transform your looks, personality, interests, and speech without internet friends being any the wiser.

This convenience lets people thrive as their altered selves, making it possible to fabricate friendships and relationships under online personas through services such as the new and controversial Cloud Girlfriend. A California-based start up, Cloud Girlfriend "blurs the lines between reality and imagination," says co-founder David Fuhrman, by "allow[ing] people to define their ideal self, find their perfect girlfriend or boyfriend and connect and interact as if that person existed."

The free service promises to fulfill the four steps defined on its landing page, which are as follows: 1. Define your perfect girlfriend. Step 2: We bring her into existence.

Step 3: Connect and interact with her publicly on your favorite social network. Step 4: Enjoy a public long distance relationship with your perfect girl.

The founders say that the service allows clients to choose a cloud girlfriend from a library of photos and complete her with interests and a personality to match. If you want a Megan Fox look-a-like with a Mother Teresa heart and Tina Fey sense of humor, you can

create and date her...but only online.

Cloud Girlfriend obviously prides itself in providing users with companions whom are not only attractive, but intelligent, compassion-

ate, worldly, witty, and wealthy...in other words, a perfect significant other.

But even though the profiles that users communicate with through Facebook are "ideal," won't the experience of being in a 'relationship' with such a compatible and faultless specimen create impossible expectations when the user encounters a real life relationship?

This raises the question of whether the existence of an alternate, virtual persona is possibly beneficial...or only detrimental to people's senses of fantasy and reality.



REBECCA BLACK GETS THE LAST LAUGH



By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

We have all heard of Rebecca Black. Many have even bought her songs because they think that the horrid and scream-inducing noise that comes out of her mouth is "catchy," and that the excessive use of Auto-Tune is something to be appreciated. Although she might not be famous for all of the right reasons, Rebecca Black is thriving on the mockery made of her work.

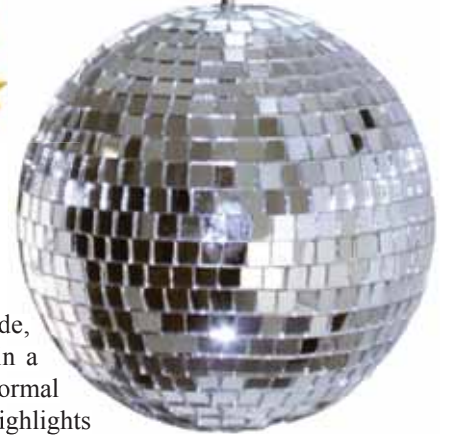
Throughout her recently discovered fame, Rebecca Black, a normal 13 year-old girl, has been genuinely working hard to make music that people enjoy listening to.

Rebecca's audience does not like her music, and because they dislike it so greatly, they proceed to buy it. This has

caused her to make tens of thousands of dollars. Within a week of being released on iTunes, Rebecca Black's hit single "Friday" was launched into the Top 20 song sales chart. As of April 30, 2011, the video had amassed over 125.2 million views, 2.7 million comments, and 2.4 million "dislikes" from YouTube users. This makes me wonder if an individual even needs to have talent to become a distinguished figure in our superficial world. All together, she has gained around \$200,000 from her single.

What does this tell us about how fame is achieved? Through creating possibly the worst song known to man? Through paying \$4,000 to a private label to make yourself famous? Either way, Rebecca Black has done it. She has achieved fame, and in the end, Rebecca is getting the last laugh.

Arts & Entertainment



What the Entertainment Industry Says

By Steffie Ko
A&E Editor

Short for promenade, defined as a leisurely walk in a public place for pleasure or display, this formal event has quickly grown to become one of the major highlights of one's high school career. Yet, why is this so? Perhaps it's watching two of one's fellow classmates become Prom Royalty. Or perhaps it's the allure of the fancy dress, the tuxedos, the corsages, and the hinted grandeur promised to the class. One can assume that it stems from one of the following reasons listed above. However, when examined closely, one can see the source lies within the world of entertainment.

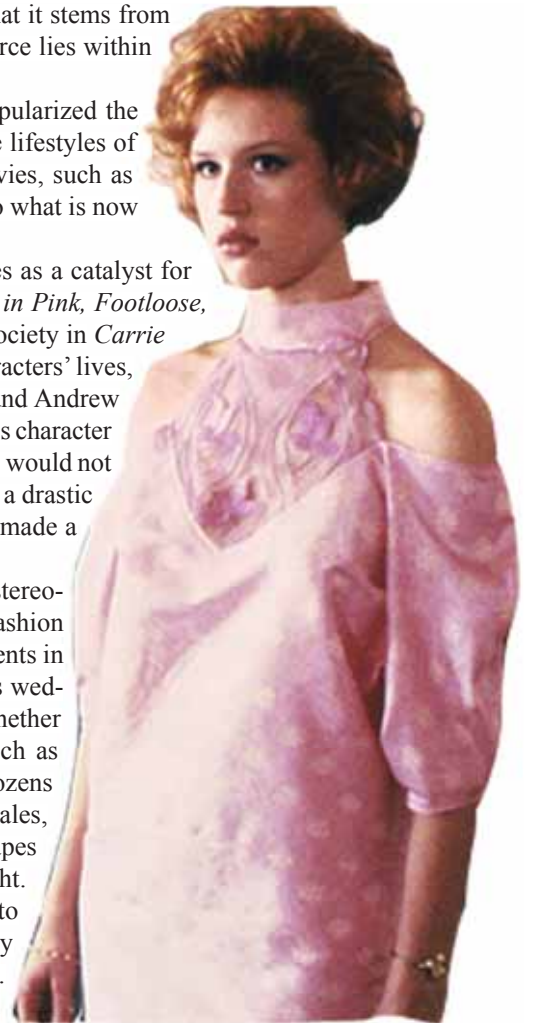


This is most evident in regards to the film industry. John Hughes originally popularized the genre of high school/teenage film in the 1980's with his series of films depicting the lifestyles of teenagers and reflecting upon the many stereotypes in society. Since then, his movies, such as *The Breakfast Club*, *Sixteen Candles*, and more, have been carefully constructed into what is now considered to be the formulaic, cliché teenage film.

When delving further into the plotlines of movies in this genre, one finds that prom often serves as a catalyst for the climax of a film. This can be seen in the recently released *Prom*, or even in more classic films such as *Pretty in Pink*, *Footloose*, *Never Been Kissed*, and more. Whether it's finally getting supernatural revenge on the evil members in high school society in *Carrie* or breaking away from socioeconomic barriers in *Pretty in Pink*, prom has been the defining moment for the characters' lives, influencing audiences worldwide to view prom with greater importance. For without it, Molly Ringwald and Andrew McCarthy's characters would never have been reunited in *Pretty in Pink*. The truth regarding Drew Barrymore's character in *Never Been Kissed* would never have been revealed; *Footloose's* entire premise would not have occurred and the iconic teenage horror film *Carrie* would have undergone a drastic shift in its plot line. Therefore it can easily be seen that the film industry has made a significant contribution to society's idealized image of prom.

However, Hollywood is not the only factor in the formation of the many stereotypes and conceptions regarding prom. It can also largely be attributed to the fashion industry. Nowadays, people often state that generally, there are two grand moments in which one will find themselves in magnificent gowns or tuxedos: prom and one's wedding. And the fashion industry has not faltered in taking advantage of this. Whether they are featuring sweeping ball gowns or silk long dresses, magazines such as *Seventeen* or *Teen Vogue* annually create special prom editions, featuring dozens of different styles of dresses. Department stores such as Macy's, Bloomingdales, and Nordstrom, further take advantage of this, stocking hundreds of styles, shapes and sizes, promising girls that the perfect dress will help ensure the perfect night.

Prom. A night where expectations run high and a class comes together to celebrate the end of another year. However, unlike the movies, the food may not be perfect. The DJ may play songs that are incapable of being danced to. The limo driver may arrive late. The corsage may wilt too early. But the most important aspect of prom is to enjoy it. Savor the remaining moments together with classmates that you have grown with over the last four years. Sure, it may not be like the movies or the magazines articles, but it will definitely be a night you won't forget.



Behind the Scenes: EXODUS

By Chaddy Georges and Zoya Qureshy
A&E Editors

You've seen them at assemblies, liturgies, and other Mitty events. You know them as a group of extremely talented vocalists, instrumentalists, and percussionists. But what goes on off the stage? We talked to some of the members of Exodus to give you a behind-the-scenes look at the band.

The members of Exodus constantly change each year—an obvious consequence of having a high school band. Therefore each year, Exodus has a different dynamic, one that is built on the relationship between the band members. Every 7th period, this band rehearses under the musical direction and guidance of our principal, Mr. Brosnan. And in their rehearsals and performances, each member brings his or her own original vibe to the stage while looking at past members of the band as inspiration.

As one of the lead singers, senior Michelle Martinelli says, "I grew up watching amazingly talented girls like Chelsea Stock, Danielle Medeiros, Julie Thomas, and Catherine Brady on stage at CMT. They were my role models, all of them were on Exodus during their Mitty careers."

But this year, Michelle and the other members of Exodus are making their own mark on the group. Senior Nick Schott knows that personality and character translate on the stage, and is unafraid to "act kind of ridiculous when performing if it means the crowd will like it." Likewise, Sophomore drummer Aeron Monsale likes to bring his own style of percussion to the group, which he has developed through his work with both the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir.

The true magic behind Exodus' electrifying performances, though, does not just lie in the individual talents of each performer. Rather, the band shares such a strong behind-the-scenes bond that their time on stage transcends that of just a group of musicians—it becomes that of a group of close friends.

The band is known to take a break from the stress of performances by going out to dinner with Mr. Brosnan at places such as The Counter, Chili's, By th' Bucket, and more, according to senior pianist Chris Wu.

Senior bassist Ian Early comments that "as a group we all stay very close."

In regards to this relationship, Nick says that "Aeron, Ian, the Wu-ster and I have been playing together for a while now, so we feel pretty comfortable with each other and I think we all jell well."

We all remember the ridiculous Performing Arts Assembly, where the percussion four-some treated us to some impromptu head-banging and dancing in their rendition of Katy Perry's "Firework" (though their crazy antics during last year's performance of Journey's hit "Don't Stop Believin'" might constitute the wildest performance the Fien Gym has ever seen).

There is no doubt that the friendship between the members of Exodus translates beautifully onto the stage, and audiences are graced with the opportunity to see their chemistry blossom into musical art.

The senior members, looking back, have found that Exodus has been an extremely enriching experience. Bassist Ian Early notes that playing on Exodus has allowed him to "push himself" as a musician and conquer music ranging from rock classics to gospel hymns.

And as senior singer Adrienne Eller says, "Exodus has helped me be able to learn music more quickly and experiment in different genres. Exodus has taught me to be a versatile singer, and also to be able to be prepared at very early hours in the morning."

Next year, as the many Exodus seniors will be pursuing their dreams at different colleges, the band will again receive a makeover. But as we have all seen, the seniors this year, some of whom have been a part of Exodus for most of their career at Mitty, have masterfully showcased their amazing talent. As drummer Aeron puts it, "their legacy will stay in Exodus as they set the bar high for future members to place theirs as high or even higher than them."

And as for sophomore Ryan Ballard, Exodus will never be the same without the seniors. "I'll definitely miss Ian, Nick, and Chris, who all like to play RUSH songs before, after, and often in the middle of our rehearsals. Michelle and Adrienne are both fantastic musicians and performers, and I would like to think that a little of their talent has rubbed off on me. Both girls are incredible vocalists and hard workers. I'll miss not having them around to learn from—they've really both been mentors to me."



Principal Brosnan directs Seniors Nick Schott and Ian Early.



Music's Never Been Better

By Andy Vo
Staff Writer

Real music is dead...Not! In a world filled with Tom's-wearing hipsters as the tastemakers, pretension runs rampant in today's hipster culture. These people have plagued our minds with the idea that quality music no longer exists. On the contrary, music has never been more exciting.

Cultural acceptance has allowed people to experience music in ways previously unheard of. If we just take a look back, most recognizable performers during past decades were Caucasian and African-American. Now we have a plethora of ethnically diverse artists breaking ethnic boundaries. Far East Movement, an Asian rap group who have revolutionized hip-hop with their unique blend of bass heavy electro-hop, and Natalia Kills, a British-Jamaican pop star who is slowly introducing her brand of noir film inspired dark pop, are examples of just how much the industry has changed.

You may ask, "How does having ethnically diverse musicians relate to whether or not music is still thriving?" Well, it has a lot to do with it. Just look at M.I.A.—she's the perfect example of why it's important. When "Paper Planes" hit the radio sound waves, no one had ever heard anything like it. M.I.A.'s Sri Lankan heritage has a clear and strong influence on her music and is part of what makes her music so captivating. Foreign artists have the ability to draw from different musical and cultural backgrounds to create music previously unheard.

In the past, the radio limited what was available. With new technology, the way we experience and hear music has changed for the better. In the past most radio stations simply played Top 40, which though not necessarily bad, is a bit limited. But now there has been an increase in radio stations catering to people with different music preferences, playing a wider variety of music.

From alternative stations to classical music, the availability of different kinds of music allows for people to hear music from artists they wouldn't have normally discovered. With the emergence of radio stations play-

ing music other than "mainstream," musicians like the indie-folk group Mumford and Sons and the alternative-folk goddess Florence + The Machine have found a place on new stations and reached new audiences.

And improvements are not limited to radio, but also include advances in recording devices. Amazing inventions like the vocoder microphones and synthesizers, have allowed people to manipulate sound in many interesting ways. This new technology has allowed for the development of entirely new genres of music. Genres like house, dub-step, and industrial have introduced a plethora of new music that is refreshingly different from the music of the '60s and '70s. Deadmau5 is one of today's most exciting musicians and attributes the success of his music to his use of modern day instruments like the Korg Kaossilator, a portable synthesizer.

These new instruments are being used in tandem with traditional instruments, allowing for new and interesting musical creations. Say what you will about the current state of today's music, but whether you choose to acknowledge it or not, it is undeniable that it is more exciting than ever. Give it a chance and you'll love what you find. Don't limit yourself to listening to mainstream radio. While I personally find that Lady Gaga is the most exciting recording artist since Cher, pop might not be your flavor. Finding music that appeals to you takes searching and hard work, but once you find an artist you love, it's easy to find other artists with similar sounds.

If you normally listen to alternative music, why not give Oh Land a try? Or if you normally listen to hip-hop music try listening to Her Majesty & The Wolves? Experiment and you'll love what you may find! Real Music hasn't died; it's just grown up.



Not Another Blockbuster

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer

With the highly anticipated premieres of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, *Transformers 3*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean 4*, there is no doubt about it: Summer 2011 is guaranteed to have multiple box office successes.

But what will you watch?

Although there is a definite allure to blockbusters, there is a whole other side of the movie industry that most people do not venture into—the indie film world. Indie, short for independent, is a realm of film unseen by many who don't venture beyond the major films. But sometimes, indie films have proven their strength to a wider audience. Two years ago (*500 Days of Summer*) was released as an independent film and now it has grossed millions of dollars at the box office and in DVD sales. Who knows, perhaps your next favorite movie will be an indie movie.

Good indie movies are sometimes hard to spot. Here are four independent movies that are causing a lot of buzz and catching the attention of the critics and crowds.

The Tree of Life

Starring academy award nominated actor, Brad Pitt, *The Tree of Life* is a heartfelt story about three young brothers who take the journey from childhood to adulthood, learning what it means to grow up in a world of that often brings them sadness and pain. A classic coming-of-age story that is sure to bring out emotions and remind everyone that despite all of life's difficulties, we can find hope in the smallest things.

Written and directed by Terrence Malick (*The New World*), *The Tree of Life* premieres May 27.



The Future

A light-hearted drama, *The Future* focuses on married couple Sophie and Jason Linklater. It is a charming romance that shows that love and relationships are never certain. Interestingly, the writer decided to take the point of view of an adopted cat. Very unorthodox and unconventional, the writer puts a quirky twist on a very realistic story. Written and directed by Miranda July, *The Future* premieres July 29.



Terri

Starring actor John C. Reilly (*Step Brothers*) and Creed Bratton (*The Office*), *Terri* is a story about an adolescent boy, Terri, who feels isolated and alienated from the rest of the world until he finds friendship in the vice principal of his school. This friendship teaches Terri that life should be enjoyed. Directed by Aza-Zel Jacobs and written by Patrick deWitt, *Terri* premieres July 1.



One Day

Based on the #1 Bestseller, *One Day* follows the complicated relationship between Emma (Anne Hathaway) and Dexter (Jim Sturgess). The film reveals how each person is managing on their own and how their friendship grows each year 20 years after meeting each other. It is a heart-warming story that portrays the love, heartbreak, and complications commonly seen when two people grow apart over a long period of time. Directed by Lone Scherfig and written by David Nicholls, *One Day* premieres July 8.

This summer you can chose to watch *Harry Potter* five times or you can step outside your comfort zone and give these independent movies a chance. Although they may seem unfamiliar, good-quality films should not be ignored by the public just because they are unknown. Releasing indie movies during the summer is very risky for studios due to all the hype over better-known movies. But don't you want to see something different, something that isn't just another blockbuster? The choice is yours.



Today's Television: Where's the Variety?

By Christina Collins
Staff Writer

You've heard it a thousand times; be it from your parents, grandparents, or aunts and uncles, you can never escape the inevitable comparison of their childhoods to yours. If there is one familiar phrase that brings instant shuddering from everyone under the age of 25, however, it is this: "When I was a kid, there were only three television channels!"

What is it about the phrase exactly that invokes such horrors? Is it the lack of program variety? If so, the nightmare hasn't exactly gone away. Although satellite networks such as DirecTV and Dish offer thousands of channels (no, really) to the average TV connoisseur, it seems that modern television networks are solely targeting specific audiences with limited programming, creating a myriad of different channels with small target groups. Wherever you look, this trend has definitely grown in recent years.

The Disney Channel has always appealed to a limited audience, since its programming is targeted mostly at tweens; they have dramatically cut their audiences, however, since the evident gender-split of the network. Its main programs, such as *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Good Luck Charlie*, and *Shake it Up* are clearly targeted to pre-teen girls. These shows feature bubbly, prominent female characters that young girls naturally aspire to be like, glorifying high school dramas such as prom, the importance of friendship, and boyfriends to appeal to this captive audience. On the other hand, Disney has created a separate entity for the male half of the tween population with Disney XD. Shows such as *Zeke & Luther*, *I'm in the Band*, and *Kick Butowski* all conversely feature male protagonists. And so episodes include such issues as setting a new skateboarding record rather than getting first kisses.

The trend does not just stop at the Disney Channel, however; major networks such as CBS and NBC have unfortunately jumped on the stereotyping bandwagon. **NBC** has latched onto a block of singing programs, with competition shows such as *The Sing-Off*, *The Singing Bee*, and its newest gem *The Voice*—all gracing the prime-time schedule in less than three years. **CBS**, on the other hand, is on a completely different track; most CBS programs are generally focused on detective work and crime solving, with shows such as *CSI*, *Criminal Minds*, *NCIS* and *Hawaii Five-0*, for example.

With two prominent networks limiting their audiences, viewers are looking towards other stations to fulfill their entertainment needs. One could turn the station to the **CW**, where shows like *90210* and *Gossip Girl* reign as the champion female dramas. **ABC Family**, on the other hand, limits itself to *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* and *Pretty Little Liars*, appealing mainly to tweens and teenage girls. Look no further if spinoffs are your game; **BRAVO** hosts several varieties of the *Real Housewives* series and their counterparts like *Bethenny Ever After* and *Watch What Happens Live*.

With this limited array of shows on networks that continually minimize their audiences, the future of TV and its variety look extremely bleak. Whether or not channels will continue to target small groups in the future is up in the air, yet there is no real reason to think that things will get better. Maybe the "good ol' days" weren't so bad, after all.



MONARCH CRITICS



Atmosphere

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Alyssa Caban
Staff Writer

“Atmosphere finally made a good record. Yeah right, that almost sounds convincing.” This line can be found in Atmosphere’s witty track “Trying to Find a Balance” on their 2003 album *Seven’s Travels*. Well, ladies and gents’, Slug and Ant didn’t

“finally make a good record” with the *Family Sign*—released April 12—but *once again* made an album of pure, raw tracks.

The Minneapolis, Minnesota-based duo of Sean “Slug” Daley and Anthony “Ant” Davis make up Atmosphere and started back with their debut album “Overcast!” Slug admits, “It’s obvious that I’m trying so hard on “Overcast!” and you can see through it and tell it’s more of an attempt at trying to fill the niche. It was like I was trying to prove to myself that I was a rapper.” Known for his smooth rhymes, Slug proves to have found himself throughout Atmosphere’s 6 albums, 4 EP’s (extended plays), and 2 compilation albums.

Their latest release, *Family Sign*, features a gloomier tone and an increase in slow piano melodies, lacking the upbeat rhythms found in their previous records—nonetheless, their notable heartfelt messages were present as always. Stories of fatherhood, loss, love, disappointment, and abuse flow through the album ranging from songs that are deep and heavy on the heart like “The Last to Say” to more lively beats in “Just for Show.” A common theme in the lyrics is apparent: the effects of family and relationships.

Although Slug’s clever and humorous rhymes are not showcased in the latest record, a cohesive sound is unmistakable in Ant’s DJ-ing productions and Slug’s introspective rapping style, making for inspiring songs that creates imagery through the words. *Family Sign* is an album that needs to be listened to carefully more than once in order to understand the messages conveyed. Atmosphere never fails to keep their listeners on edge; their songs often start off with general situations causing listeners to wonder, “Is he talking about an ex-girlfriend, his daughter, or his wife?” By the end of each song, the answer is revealed, and the pieces fall into place.

This is why Slug is more than a rapper: he’s a storyteller. With his current album release, he reveals his most personal moments yet—a mood notable for it’s poetic emotions yet missing Atmosphere’s passionate, energizing beats. Sure, it has its faults, but it’s a great escape from the monotonous pop singles on the radio. No one can tell Slug that his voice and his lyrics aren’t “worthy of something so beautiful,” as the song “Something So” depicts because his music *is* something beautiful: pure creative, ingenious beauty.

African Cats

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Megan Baggett
Staff Writer

Disney Nature’s newest movie, *African Cats*, gives the viewer a whole new perspective on the lives of lions and cheetahs living in a savannah in Kenya. The documentary was filmed in the Maasai Mara National Reserve over the course of two years. It tells the true story of two rivaling lion prides, as well as a single mother cheetah, on opposite sides of the Mara River in Kenya and their struggle to survive their hardships.



When examining the film, cinematography is clearly the strongest aspect of this film, with its stunning images and close up looks into the animal’s lives. The extremely high quality of the images makes it a movie that one should see in theaters, rather than waiting for the DVD release.

An additional strength is the heartwarming moments in the story. Disney focuses on the theme of the power of a mother’s love through the persistence and dedication that the cats have when protecting their cubs.

Other than the cinematography and touching moments, the film does not have much to offer. Because the film is aimed towards a younger audience, it is narrated for easier understanding. However, at times, the narration, done by Samuel L. Jackson, can be melodramatic.

Furthermore, there are many times when an ending appears suitable, but the filmmakers attempt to extend the length of the documentary.

With that being said it is still an interesting movie to see if you are curious about the behavior and lifestyle of Mitty’s beloved mascot. While many facts are presented within the film, the documentary retains more of an adventurous tone rather than simply an educational one.

African Cats is a mediocre film at best, although its spectacular cinematography helps to redeem and make it worth seeing.

Water for Elephants

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

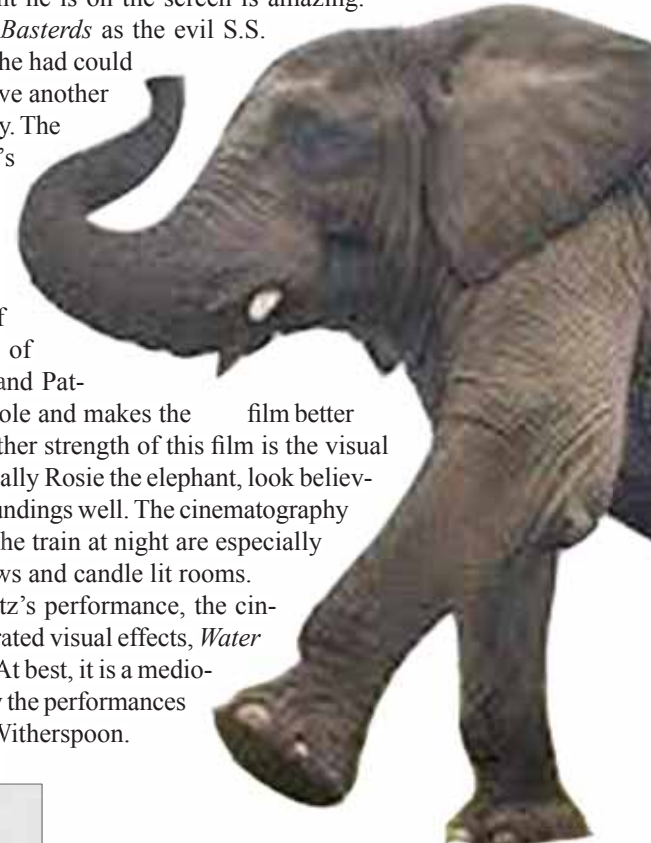
By Thomas Soares
Staff Writer

Jacob Jankowski (Robert Pattinson) is a veterinary student about to take his final exams when he receives heartbreaking news. His parents, Polish immigrants, have just been killed in a car accident. To make matters worse, it’s the Great Depression and his house is being foreclosed by the bank. With nowhere else to turn, Jacob joins the circus. By gaining favor with the boss, August, (played brilliantly by Christoph Waltz) he becomes the vet for all of the circus animals. But the Benzini Brothers circus is facing hard times, like the rest of America during the 1930s. Because of this, August decides to purchase a new main attraction to sell more tickets. At first the new elephant, Rosie, seems to be a disaster for August, who beats and abuses it with a bull hook because it won’t obey commands. After one extremely severe beating, Jacob realizes that the elephant will obey commands if you speak Polish to it and he eventually trains Rosie to become a great circus act. Additionally, while working for the Benzini Brothers circus, Jacob develops a relationship with Marlena (Reese Witherspoon), the star performer who performs acrobatic feats while riding the elephant. The only problem is that she is August’s wife.

The major problem with this film is that the love affair between Pattinson and Witherspoon lacks chemistry. Together, they are not interesting to watch. Although Witherspoon has her share of problems, a lot of the blame has to be placed on Robert Pattinson. Neither actor is believable in their roles. Witherspoon isn’t a convincing circus performer and Pattinson doesn’t portray the intelligence needed for his role as a vet. The only piece of great casting in the film is that of Christoph Waltz as August. He is, for lack of a better term, scary good. Every moment he is on the screen is amazing.

After seeing him in *Inglorious Basterds* as the evil S.S. officer Hans Landa, I knew that he had could act, but I didn’t expect him to give another performance of such a high quality. The way he portrays the character’s schizophrenia made me feel both sympathy and dread towards him. One moment he could be joyful and polite, but the next moment he could throw you off of a moving train in the middle of the night. Unlike Witherspoon and Pattinson, he is exceptional in his role and makes the film better with every scene he is in. The other strength of this film is the visual effects. All of the animals, especially Rosie the elephant, look believable and interact with their surroundings well. The cinematography is also very good. The shots of the train at night are especially effective, due to the dark shadows and candle lit rooms.

Despite Christoph Waltz’s performance, the cinematography, and the well-integrated visual effects, *Water for Elephants* is not a good film. At best, it is a mediocre movie being brought down by the performances of Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon.



J. Lo

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

By Shivali Singh
Staff Writer



Beloved pop icon Jennifer Lopez, commonly referred to as J.Lo, is back in the music industry with the release of her latest album, *LOVE?*. Having extended her resume with her new role as a permanent judge on the FOX’s *American Idol*, she has found time to create her seventh studio album.

Jennifer Lopez has come a long way since her days of early stardom. Known for hits such as “Waiting for Tonight,” “Love Don’t Cost a Thing,” and “Jenny from the Block,” she continues the trend of catchy dance singles—only not as well as before.

Ultimately, *LOVE?* is not representative of Lopez’s true capabilities. The twelve-track album opens strongly with the catchy hit single “On the Floor” (featuring Pitbull), but then peters out as the songs continue. The rest of the tracks alternate between deserving commendation and skirting mediocrity. J.Lo herself has participated in the making of this album, co-writing “One Love” and participating in the production of “Invading My Mind.” Despite the assistance of many top producers and writers, such as RedOne, Lady GaGa, and Taio Cruz, the album fails to impress. A few of the better songs include “I’m Into You,” “Invading My Mind,” and “Starting Over,” mainly because they have more unique sounds than the rest of the album’s songs.

Unfortunately, though *LOVE?* contains numerous danceable beats, the album lacks anything noteworthy or memorable. The majority of the songs are attempts at dance tracks fit for the club, and most of them have too similar of a sound to be distinguishable. They blend together too much for the album to bring something inventive to the table. Even with her hit single, the album will likely fail to make an impact in the music industry.

J.Lo could have made so much more of this release. She falls short of showcasing the versatility for which she is well known: instead of reminding the public of her talents, the album does not meet the expectations associated with her. Rather than pursuing her own distinct sound and evolving from the past, she follows the overused styles of many, losing her individuality. For someone as much of a legend as Jennifer Lopez is, a more legendary compilation is to be expected.



Information

Networks: Archbishop Mitty

Current City: San Jose

Birthday: August 21, 2007

Friends



Music Player



Song: One Day
Artist: Exodus



Senior Highlights

By Jocelyn Tan
Staff Writer

World, get ready.

Archbishop Mitty High students coming through!
Four seniors reminisce on the days
that culminated their Mitty experience:

Focus Editors: Time flies, but we all have our fave Mitty moments. If there was one that you could relive, which would it be?

Celine Guenard: The first day of school freshman year! Watching our classmates evolve over the last four years would cast those first hours of school in a completely different light. I'd love to see who everyone first hung out with and how we dressed and behaved.

Amit Aggarwal: I would relive Junior Prom, because it was so fun! The whole experience of it was once-in-a-lifetime, and I had a great date—she taught me how to dance, and I got awesome pictures and food. What more could you ask for?

Focus Editors: We believe. We believe that we can win. When was your proudest moment to be a Monarch?

Shannon King: Winning the softball CCS title my sophomore year was a definite highlight. I felt so proud to be a Monarch, to have AMHS on my jersey, and to have made my own contribution to Mitty's renowned legacy!

Dillon Zelaya: My proudest moment as a Monarch was right after the last showing of *The Drowsy Chaperone* this past year. After seeing how much effort everyone had put into the show and sensing the bittersweet feeling of watching my last Mitty production, I realized how amazing Mitty is!

Archie Lion: I LOVE my seniors!!! 😊

Wall

Info

Photos

+

What's on your mind?

Attach:

Lani Ng



When discussing the spirit of the Class of 2011, can we first address the elephant in the room? Several moments of defeat, specifically an unexpected Spirit Week tie and a painful Monarch Madness game. I had no idea what a commitment student government, and specifically Monarch Madness, would be. Once I became fully immersed in the student gov life, I was ready to take on anything for my class.

Flashback: the MM of our junior year, Monarch Madness XIX, what seemed like a close call. The 2010 turned out to be the turning point for our class spirit. Kendra Otis' musical chair victory, the tug o war team's total domination and other successes left us screaming with joy.

Fast-forward to the 2011 MM season, the epitome of our class excitement and all that we had worked for. The camaraderie and class pride that we had hoped to build in the first place. By March 3rd, our dance was the best ever created in our four years. Our spirit was at an all time high and I was inspired by how well our class performed.

Throughout my four years at Mitty, I have come to realize that the moments of undeniable, pure unity are the most precious. Metal, any victory list on the school website. To me, the most inspiring, valuable achievement for the class is the fact that we continuously kept fighting on—that is where the Class of 2011 finds its glory and spirit.

André Adricula



You wait in silence, eyes focused on the scene unfolding before you. You've seen it countless times before—through the haze of time, brighter, the characters not so poised and the setting not so defined. Past the wall, you hear murmurs; is this the end? For possible imperfections—hair unparted, tie uncentered, shirt untucked—for soon the attention will change. The invisibility from wandering gazes, the light fades to black, and you walk: the paint stains familiar to your leather shoes, overused, and your spot on stage ready for you as white floods you.

I never thought I would be so comfortable on the stage. When I entered the doors to the Mitty foyer to perform, I had no idea what to expect. I was an awkward kid with awkward tastes, desperately taking awkward strides to find my way. I didn't know what I wanted to do, nor did I know what I was capable of doing, so I submitted myself to following in my footsteps. How I ended up in the Concert Choir, under the direction of Mrs. McCormick. As the year flew by, my shy personality became more and more solos as they appeared, garnering quite a few compliments from the choir students of the school. Mrs. McCormick, which—for lack of a better term—bluntly stated her desire to cut out my vocal cords and implant them in a different body. In my jazz choir my sophomore year, I became accustomed to having that musical/performing aspect in my life.

It wasn't until my junior year, however, that I completely broke out of my shell—and I have the music to prove it. The outside, the theatre community at Mitty seems like a clique: the garbled, show-infused conversation, the loud, sometimes obnoxious singing tendencies. We are a pretty eclectic group, to say the least. Representing the most renowned high school performing arts department in the Bay Area, we've grown a reputation, regardless of age or years of experience. With such a supporting cast and crew, I have never been so comfortable on stage as I do.

So, willkommen, bienvenue, welcome: who's to say that the stage isn't waiting for you, too?

Emily Campi



"Hearts on fire." It's a phrase spoken often in Campus Ministry, but I never really understood it until I became involved with the LIFE-Emmaus Corps Team.

For the Corps Team, the year kicks off in mid-August with a retreat, where I got to meet my friends from the Base Community, a small group that meets throughout the year, for the first time. This was my first "heart on fire." Though we are all involved in different things at Mitty, my small group has helped us pour our lives to each other without hesitation.

The next experience that set my heart on fire was the September Kairos retreat. The retreat was a time of reflection and the people around me, and it was exactly what I needed to begin my senior year with a tight-knit community.

Two more major "heart on fire" experiences came with leading the November Awakenings and January Awakenings. It is incredible, but I discovered through leading that sharing my story with that many people is an extremely rewarding experience. Thank Campus Ministry enough for those opportunities.

Spending time in Campus Ministry, with LIFE Team, and with the Campus Ministry teachers has taught me a lot, but I think the most important is that my heart can be on fire in more than just a spiritual sense. My heart is on fire when I see my underclassmen how to use the tools in the set shop. My heart is on fire when I'm laughing with my friends about a joke on fire at my volunteer work every Sunday.

Most importantly, my heart will be on fire for the rest of my life as I meet new people and have new experiences beyond. Campus Ministry and LIFE Emmaus Corps made my senior year a truly incredible time in more ways than one. Thank you to all the people who were a part of this experience.

Connor Gorman



Sports at Mitty are the real deal. There aren't any other schools around that work as hard as we do. My career on the Freshman A basketball team with Coach Smith. In order to compensate for our lack of talent, we practiced incessantly. We ran liner after liner—mostly because we had made mistakes, but other times we were just tired. I was initiated into Mitty athletics through pure exhaustion. The practices were the hardest I've ever experienced. On the team rose to challenge. Coach Smith pushed us to our limits, and we always responded.

Then, I transitioned to JV with Coach Dumesnil. He screamed less, but wasn't any less demanding. He broke pens, and crushed full cups of water when he was upset. For me, he was a steady presence at the top of my game, he pushed me to excel.

Finally, I had Coach Kennedy. He coached toughness and physicality, so that's what I became. I was the star in the game against Woodcreek in the NorCal semifinals. I was a six foot player guarding a six eleven giant. It wasn't easy, but it was effective. To me, this is what basketball was all about. I wasn't going to be a super star and that's okay. I had something to the team.

Basketball gave me the understanding of what it meant to be a team player. When I played within my means, I was able to see what a lot of people don't get to see. I saw my effort pay off during the season in the form of a championship. We captured the NorCal Championship title.

FOCUS

ON class of 2011

900 hours ago



Advice to Underclassmen

FINISH STRONG
-Trevor Bates

My intention is not to scare anyone when I say that senior year is not at all lax or easy; in fact, for me, it was the most difficult, testing year of them all. It became abruptly clear in the beginning of this year that all preconceived notions I had about senior year were dreadfully off. Being a senior is not an opportunity to have a remiss attitude and to make a few feeble attempts at tackling schoolwork. The amount of obligations that will be thrown at you (namely, the laborious and gnawing pursuit of higher learning) will call for your utmost determination. This is not, by any means, the year to slack off. It is, indeed, the culmination of your Mitty career, so you'll want to make the most of it by working hard. Take senior year seriously, but—of course—have fun while doing so.

Contrary to popular belief, it is possible to do both!



GET INVOLVED—THE RIGHT WAY.
-Ekta Partani

Often times when we think of the words “extracurricular activity,” they’re generally followed by the words “college apps” and “résumé”. Yes, we’ve all been guilty of it. We all know what it’s like to take on yet another activity or commitment in order to bolster our resumes in the hopes that adding another line might impress the college of your dreams. But if there’s one thing I’ve learned after these past four years at Mitty, it’s that the activities we take on in high school, whether we know it or not, are meant to be so much more than another line on a résumé.

I remember about three years ago, I walked into Room 502 for Mock Trial tryouts because I figured having another afterschool commitment couldn’t hurt. Today, I’m sitting here writing this article and smiling at my naiveté, because I never imagined that Mock Trial would end up becoming something that would leave me with lasting memories, friendships, and dreams. So, I’d like to leave you with this advice: don’t underestimate the power of extracurricular activities and don’t be blinded by that resume/college application driven mentality. Get involved because you love and are passionate about something, not because it’ll give you a competitive edge. Dedicating yourself to an activity shouldn’t just be about getting ahead—it should be about pursuing your passions, enjoying what you do, and appreciating the diversity that surrounds you. And don’t worry about falling behind the game because you’re dedicating yourself to something you love rather than dividing up your time between thousands of mildly interesting clubs. When you truly fall in love with what you’re doing, trust me, the colleges will notice, too.



CAMPUS MINISTRY: On a Monday morning at 7:20 AM, it is early, and like everyone else, I wish it would be the weekend already. However, just as I set foot into the foyer between Student Activities and Campus Ministry, I am comforted by the loud shouting of students across the table, the frantic requests for homework help, the smell of freshly brewed coffee, and Mrs. Lopez’s magical candy jar (that always manages to fill up unexpectedly!). Despite all the craziness that happens in Campus Ministry, I always feel welcomed and included with the wonderful staff and students that are involved. In Campus Ministry, I’m at home.
—Natalie Nguyen

YEARBOOK OFFICE: Why yearbook? For me, it’s because I work in there every 5th and 6th period. But also (as long as it’s not a deadline day) it’s a great place to relax. Plus, Ms. Epidendio is one of my favorite teachers on campus. Whether we’re trying to name the top 100 baby names of the last century on sporele.com, sharing our favorite songs on Youtube, or just talking, everyone and anyone can walk in and feel at ease.
—Elizabeth Sowers



STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Student Activities is one of my favorite places on campus. It’s always a great place to talk to your friends or do your homework. Everyone there is always ready to help, whether its an ASB member, Mrs. McCabe, or pretty much anyone else. It can get busy sometimes, and it can fill up fast with freshmen playing some kind of game or arguing about something hugely trivial, but if you’re lucky you can get some peace and quiet—maybe even take a nap!
—Michael Slevin

AYMAR EVENTS CENTER: Ahhh the Aymar Center, the nostalgia is hitting me like a “Slapsgiving” slap. Far too many memories have been formed there throughout the years ranging from the strange conversations of my Freshman days to intensive cramming right before a physics final. How could one not enjoy it? The Cafeteria has always been a prime spot to just kick back and relax, perhaps savor the flavors of the overpriced food. Though in the end, the Cafeteria’s success can be attributed to its ability to host all of your friends at one table to laugh an otherwise boring off period away.
—Brandon Roosenboom

Senioritis is Real

By Kate Coffey
Staff Writer



It’s the second semester, Senior Ball is fast approaching as well as the rest of the Senior events, and most importantly: Graduation. By this point, every senior has made his or her college decision, and when this happens, it’s difficult to think about anything other than the near future in college. However, what many consider a fake illness used by high school seniors to justify slacking off at the end of their fourth year is real and can seriously damage the period of transition to college. Senioritis: it affects millions of seniors every year and sometimes even ends with a revocation of admission to college. So how do you avoid contracting it?

First, look at the big picture. Studying for AP tests and finals or even coming to class may seem like a waste of time and you may be counting down the days, but putting effort into learning the material will come in handy once you start your college courses. Also, even if you’re not planning on using Calculus or French ever again in your life, the study skills you need to keep up in your classes will better prepare you for your college courses. If you plan on dropping a class that you don’t think will benefit you in any way, make sure it is not required to take a specific course that you want to take in college.

The biggest threat that comes with having Senioritis is having your admission to the college of your dreams rescinded when they find out your grades have dropped significantly since the time of your admission. Each year, colleges are admitting more students to cope with the highest number of applications in history and the limited economic resources. This makes it more likely that colleges will later deny a student’s acceptance because of a significant academic decline or disciplinary problem.

So, just remember that college is not the only thing that should be on your mind and that the hard work required to finish high school and keep your acceptance letter will definitely pay off.



Miki Ohata

How did you start your interest in photography?

I initially started on family vacations and road trips. I was the designated family photographer, and I took snapshots of everything around me.



Why did you choose the photos you submitted?

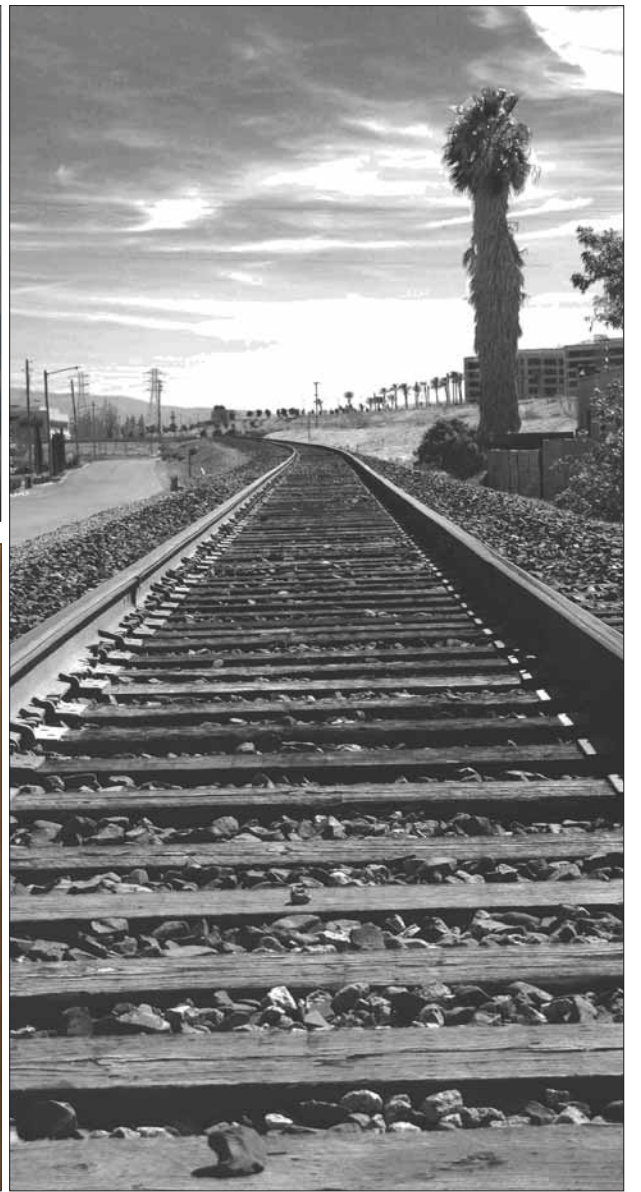
These photographs represent the diversity of the world around me and capture the best images I could get from the perfect lighting.

What intrigues you about photography?

Photography, for me, is one of those eternal arts, a way to capture a moment forever. I love that it is a way to express yourself, and I love the fact that you are in total control. Photography tells a story and shows the simplicity of life.

What three words would you use to describe your style?

In the moment.



Through the Lens:

Monarch Photography



Jonathan Reyes

How did you start taking pictures?

After using disposable cameras for quite some time, my family got its first digital camera when I was in 6th grade.



Soon enough, that camera became my own. Ever since then, I've been characterized by my peers for my avid use of the camera.

What do they say about your style?

I'm not the sort of person that takes artsy photos on a daily basis—for one thing, I use a simple Sony CyberShot digital camera over a fancy DSLR. But from time to time, I find that my pictures can come across in that artsy kind of way.

What three words would you use to describe your style?

Spontaneous. Candid. Uncontrolled.

What intrigues you about photography?

Photography allows me to look back at many memories and to keep them with me forever.



Above: "At the Turn Back the Clock game in Oakland last season, the A's displayed the three World Series trophies they won in the 1970s. I wanted to get all three in one shot as they really compliment each other." —**Kyle Payne, Senior**



Above: "I spent Christmas in the Philippines with my family for my cousin's wedding. This was taken from the beach where my mom grew up. The boats were the neighbors', and shortly after, the fisherman came to set sail, and invited his daughter to come along. It was just as the sun was setting, so it was very sweet to see." —**Liz Sowers, Senior**

Left: "I took this picture during that unusually warm week in February earlier this year. I noticed that this tree in my backyard had blossomed and had to take a picture of it. Not long after this, it rained and all of the blossoms fell to the ground." —**Rebecca Casey, Junior**



Above: "I'm not one who is typically interested in photography, and I didn't know what to expect when taking the photo; however, I found it to be very beautiful and simple. And, in the end, that is all that matters." —**Betsy Thomas, Senior**



Above: "This is one of my better pictures, shot at Mission San Miguel during a rain shower. The coolest part of this picture is the drop on the left side, right as it splashes into the water." —**Michael Sywyk, Senior**

Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE



Mitty Advocacy Project: A Focus on JUVENILE SENTENCING

By Heather Lee
Staff Writer

The Mitty Advocacy Project, or MAP, was a program created to address making progressive changes in California through legislative action. Most recently, the group held Catholic Youth Advocacy Network Day in Sacramento, leading many other schools from across California. One issue of many covered there was SB 9, with regard to juvenile life without parole. **Sarang Shankar** ('12) and **Elise Sudlow** ('12) speak on behalf of the Mitty Advocacy Project to give us a little insight.

How did Catholic Youth Advocacy Day work?

"Catholic Youth Advocacy Day brought students together from all over California. The first part of the day, we had guest speakers who talked about the importance of advocacy. Then students of MAP led workshops in their respective issues [like SB9]... [Later,] we ourselves went to legislators' offices and lobbied for these bills."

What is SB9?

"It's a bill that banishes life sentencing without parole for juveniles. SB9 gives juveniles sentenced to life without parole the chance to have their cases reviewed."

Is this advocating leniency in the justice system?

"The misconception about SB 9 is that we will just be letting offenders back out into the world. SB 9 does not release juvenile offenders, but it simply gives them the chance for review. In this way, those who have reformed will have a chance to perhaps become productive members of society and turn their lives around."

Do you think that these juvenile offenders can actually change?

"Yes, the juvenile offenders can absolutely change. Many of them come from scarring family situations or situations of peer pressure that lead them to their crimes. Sentencing them as adults and giving them life throws them into the adult prison system, a system with no form of rehabilitation that will further corrupt youth. The juveniles essentially have no hope of turning back; if we let this continue, we really are throwing these kids away."

Out of all the other bills, why did MAP choose SB9?

"We chose SB9 because it is a bill that is often misrepresented and that people do not generally understand. People may not like it because it advocates for the abolition of a certain type of punishment. People like to be excessively tough on crime, so they dismiss this bill entirely. [But] we don't believe that the justice system's approach to life without parole for a juvenile is justice at all."

What is the biggest lesson that MAP and working with juvenile justice has taught you?

"MAP has taught us that it is actually possible and rather easy to make a tangible difference in your community. Legislators are understanding and listen to us—not in spite of the fact that we are teenagers, but because of the fact that we are young and are actually using our voices. High school teenagers are trying to make changes in legislation and it's actually working."



Due to recent budget cuts, Mrs. Johnson could no longer afford to squander school funds on the less significant decades.

Libraries: A Thing of the Past?

By Heather Lee
Staff Writer

With the national debt soaring over \$14 trillion—and California alone totaling around \$42 billion in debt—it's no wonder that California governor Jerry Brown wants to enact deep budget cuts, even going so far as to target libraries. Brown's recently proposed budget doesn't just cut state spending on public libraries; it eliminates it as a whole. Three of the California's most important public library programs: the Public Library Fund, Transaction Based Reimbursement, and the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Service.

While the only library you may access is Mitty's, what effect will this have on others who are not as fortunate to have the resources of a library at their fingertips daily? While these cuts will result in about \$30 million saved, they will also take away from those who use the library as a source of education, support, and employment.

According to California Library Association's President Paymaneh Maghsoudi, "the timing couldn't be worse for the governor's proposed \$30-million cut to public libraries."

Due to our tough economy, an increasing number of people are accessing public libraries for resources such as computers for resume writing, high speed internet for job hunting, workshops on credit repair, and tutoring for struggling students.

The public library's efficacy can be summarized in one comment made by Maghsoudi, "In 2007 alone, more than 20,000 adult learners participated in the state

literacy program, benefitting native English speaking adults who have never learned to read; where do they go when the K-12 schooling system has failed them?"

If Gov. Brown's proposed budget is ratified, it may endanger library staff positions, library hours, and even the state's system of borrowing and loaning books that has existed for over three decades. These cuts could potentially deteriorate the very foundation that makes a library great, forcing some libraries to charge for library cards rather than issuing them for free.

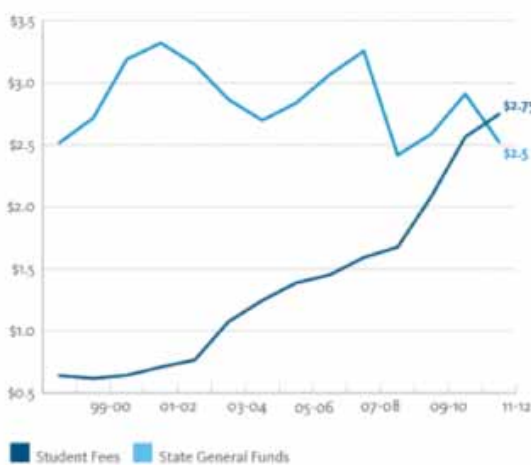
Even with California's total number of cities topping that of any other state, California failed to earn a place among the nation's "Top Ten Most Literate Cities," according to a 2009 study conducted by Central Connecticut State University. Cutting library funding is obviously not a path to increasing literacy rates.

America has a great reliance on desk jobs, which also provide resources for employees. Many American families now often have more than one computer in a household, perhaps even one per person. To us, this obviously seems to diminish the significance of the need of libraries. Imagine, however, others who don't have such resources, such as those in poverty, for example.

It seems that the only place for these individuals is public libraries, and California would be doing a great disservice to them by cutting these vital avenues of learning and opportunity. We cannot forget that: Although libraries seem superfluous to us as we have more than enough resources for success, the days of our greater society needing them are far from over.

Students Pay for UC Cutbacks

State Support for UC Versus Student Fee Revenue (Billions)



By Varun Agarwal
Staff Writer

California is currently facing one of the largest economic downturns of any state. With a debt of \$77 billion, California has taken itself out of the list of leading economies, ranked 8th in GDP profit prior to this economic collapse.

So as the state searches for solid footing, the natural course of action is to cut programs and funding to in turn cut the deficit and build up the state.

This may seem contradictory—cutting back with the goal of building up. But according to the state Republicans this is the best course of action to take and historically always has been, in a fiscal panic such as this. And though Democratic Governor Jerry Brown has

traveled the state lobbying for a propose vote on a tax hike to help the schools, he has also proposed a budget that cuts about \$1.4 Billion on top of the \$500 million already deducted from UC funding. UCs are now somewhat paralyzed in terms of their financial options.

From the perspective of a student, such cuts are pressing concerns regarding class choice, graduating on time, and even the quality of education as faculty and resources are being cut back. Predictably, the UC acceptance matriculation rate is a record-breaking low this year with less than 40% of those accepted to one of the UC campuses actually planning on enrolling there.

Rumors of 400-person classes in large impersonal lecture halls and graduating in 5 years are becoming realistic fears. Sadly, student interests aren't well represented in Sacramento, and they are put in a precarious situation: not only are students now forced to pay double the tuition from about 7 years ago, but they are receiving fewer and fewer benefits.

Even with the UC budget cuts enacted, the system serves as a still very viable option for many college bound seniors. It may be increasingly difficult for a student to get the classes he or she wants, but it is possible for a determined student to graduate in 4 years.

Even as the costs to the system increase, the approximate \$30,000 total cost for an in-state resident student is still well below the cost of that of a private school of close to \$60,000 a year.

Additionally, the UC system collectively has the largest number of academic notables and Nobel laureates worldwide, displaying their commitment to a good education.

However, one cannot help but wonder the future of education in California. As budgets continue to be cut, students wonder what will be sacrificed next.

Japan: A Status Report on a Stricken Nation

By Makoto Lalwani
Staff Writer

March 11, 2011—An earthquake strikes near the northeast coast of Japan, setting off a tsunami of enormous proportions throughout the Pacific Ocean. The results: Over 14,000 people dead, over 160,000 homeless, an economy in shambles, and three leaking nuclear power plants. As Japan struggles to recover from one of its worst natural disasters to date, many questions are still being pondered. How bad is the damage? How will the nation be affected, short term and long term? And most importantly, what is being done to help Japan in its time of need?

To recap, the catastrophe began with an earthquake of magnitude 9.0—the fifth most powerful earthquake ever recorded. The epicenter originated from the northeastern shore of Japan near the Miyagi Prefecture, home to the populous city of Sendai. According to NASA, the quake was so powerful that the Earth's axis of rotation has been tilted by about 6.5 inches, and the day shortened by 1.8 microseconds. However, much of the damage resulted not from the earthquake, but from the oncoming tsunami, which let loose incredible destruction everywhere it reached.

As 30-foot (or higher) waves reached land, rice fields,

cars, houses, airports, and even entire towns were swept away by the powerful currents. All in all, the damages are estimated to exceed 25 trillion yen, or \$309 billion—almost the equivalent of the cost of four Hurricane Katrinas. Additionally, the main earthquake was followed by aftershocks of magnitudes higher than 7.0, which have continued to rock Japan and have killed four additional people, weeks after the original tremor.

What does this disaster mean for the future of Japan? First off, there's the matter of the economy, which has already been experiencing a steady decline since the 1990's. While Japan still possesses the third-largest economy in the world (after the United States and China), the damage caused by the earthquake could very well push the country into a deep recession. Industrial giants, such as Sony, Toyota, and Kirin, have been forced to close numerous plants as a safety precaution; since Japan's economy is based on the exporting of goods, a sudden drop in products will undeniably set back any potential growths. Fortunately, Japan was spared a further crushing blow by the fact that the earthquake and tsunami did not puncture its industrial center, south and west of Tokyo.

However, the economy is not the only thing in jeopardy; thousands of people have been displaced in the aftermath

of the devastation. Thanks to Japan's stringent construction regulations and emergency broadcasting, further casualties were prevented—even so, the damage remains enormous. As of April 15, 138,000 people still remain in shelters, while 59,000 buildings have been completely destroyed. The shutdown of numerous power plants, especially Fukushima's nuclear reactors, has also led to extreme shortages in power, resulting in approximately 2.4 million left without electricity. Supermarkets have quickly been emptied of bottled water, snacks, and other foods and beverages as panicked citizens hurry to stock up on emergency supplies.

Undoubtedly, it will take extreme effort and lots of time for Japan to recover from this horrendous disaster. As bodies continue to be recovered from underneath the rubble and as aftershocks still shake the country, one can only hope that relief efforts will be administered as quickly as possible. Thankfully, international help is not lacking—nations such as the United States and France have pledged to commit troops and technology to aid stranded Japanese citizens, as well as to combat the ever-present nuclear crisis. The earthquake and tsunami have caused immense devastation, but with foreign aid and its own self-determination, Japan can come through this crisis with as much dignity and fortitude as the circumstances allow.

Japan's Nuclear Crisis: The Next Chernobyl?

By Gabriel Gonzalvez
Staff Writer

On March 11, 2011, three Japanese nuclear complexes were rocked by the aftershocks of the Tohoku earthquake. Almost immediately, the plants were shut down and security measures kicked in, in an effort to contain the damage. Though there did not appear to be any catastrophic core destruction, hopes soon turned sour when massive explosions began to tear through the Fukushima plant.

These blasts confirmed the public's greatest fears: the nuclear cooling systems were all but destroyed. Suddenly, the core had no means by which to regulate its temperature. A meltdown was imminent, and Japanese engineers and technicians began a battle to encapsulate radioactive leakage that rages to this day.

So the world asked, what will be the immediate consequences of this unprecedented disaster, and what is being done to handle the situation?

As it stands, the most pressing concern is the prospect of a nuclear meltdown. A nuclear core is kept stable through cooling rods that lie inside the reactor. These rods are doused with a constant stream of water that prevents the reactions from progressing out of control. Unfortunately, the earthquake's impact destroyed the off-site power plants that keep this cooling system running. As a result, reactors started shutting down in the wake of the aftershocks. While the on-site generators were able to keep everything running for a few days, they were soon burnt out.

Japan has finally been forced to admit that volatile chemicals such as

cesium-137 and iodine-131 were present as temperatures begin to rise within the plant.

Although Japanese officials initially insisted that there would be no immediate danger, thousands of employees were evacuated from the plant and citizens in a 6-mile radius surrounding the plant were encouraged to stay indoors and take extreme precautions to avoid exposure to radioactive particulates.

It is important to note that nuclear engineers build their plants with cataclysmic meltdowns in mind. The main reactor is housed with a Russian Doll housing, with the active fuel rods inside an inner case inside an outer case. At this point, the central reactor is actually not the biggest concern. In reality, the concern is the spent fuel rods. This nuclear refuse is not kept in the same degree of safety as the active fuel rods, sitting right on the unprotected sur-

face of the plant. If Japanese emergency personnel are not able to manually cool the plant, there is a risk of a dramatic meltdown that could equal Chernobyl in terms of severity and the amount of radioactive materials injected into the local community.

Japan is currently enmeshed in a deadlock with their nuclear facilities. The situation is undoubtedly grim, with a formidable amount of unbound radioactive materials to deal with. Still, no final judgment can yet be passed. The longer the fuel rods are soaked with lined-in water, the more dangerous material is allowed to decay, reducing the risk of complete reactor failure. At this time of uncertainty, Japan and the rest of the world await to see what's in store for the future of this latest nuclear crisis.



Food Shortage in Japan: An Opportunity to Help

By Esha Joshi
Staff Writer

Katsumi Hosokawa prays in darkness, in shivering nights, sniffing constantly. He resides on a rectangular thin piece of cardboard, on the second-floor of an elementary school, as a temporary accommodation for living. His home, along with thousands of others, was destroyed on March 12, 2011.

Mr. Hosokawa, along with hundreds of thousands of elderly Japanese, has been forced to live in such primitive conditions due to the 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that took Japan by surprise this past March. Despite drastic situations, doctors are staying hopeful and coming up with new and creative ways to cope with freezing weather, insanitary conditions, and the depleted food and medical resources in Japan.

Poverty and hunger are not uncommon in Japan. Today, the poverty line is considered one half the median income, or \$2.3 yen million per year (1 U.S. dollar = 81.9 Japanese yen). The current poverty rate for Japan is 15.7%. In other words, an astonishing 19 million people live below the poverty line.

This once proudly agrarian nation still held the belief that their population was uniformly middle-class. However, in the wake of this devastating event, the Japanese have been forced to reexamine this certainty only to discover that Japan's poverty rate is shockingly close to that of the United States' 17.1%.

After the earthquake and tsunami, many people have become desperate about their financial status with some even resorting to theft to obtain food for their families. Living in destroyed areas, some remaining survivors compete for

food and medicine.

Japan's access to food has in some cases been cut off because supermarkets have been hit by a combination of hoarding shoppers and a breakdown of the supply food chain. Along the east coast, anxious shoppers have waited in long lines to buy vast amounts of kerosene, food, and water from one of the few surviving supermarkets. In the hopes of not exhausting stores of food for the next few weeks, victims are only allowed to purchase a maximum of 10 items.

"Hoarding," says Japan's agricultural minister, "[has made] it even harder to get supplies to those most affected by the quake and tsunami."

Additionally, many roads, bridges, and railways have also been destroyed. At this point, Japan is relying on international aid in the hopes of remedying this escalating food crisis. America is to some degree helping to fill Japan's supermarkets with necessities. However, most countries offering aid such as the U.S. have drastically cut down on food exports.

Japan's prime minister firmly believes that "sitting down with the international community is the only way to come up with short-term relief measures." Furthermore, richer nations must help their less privileged counterparts to "produce more food and become self-sufficient."

Finally, Mitty students can join in this fight against global hunger in Japan and elsewhere by participating in organizations such as Operation Rice Bowl, which Mitty promoted during Lent.

Even simpler, taking quick quizzes at <http://www.freerice.com> provides food and aid to the Japanese and others. In this devastating time, all support is welcome.

SPORTS

Track and Field Excelling

By Patrick Le
Staff Writer

The men and women's track and field teams have been working hard to build upon previous years' success in WCAL meets. The women's team in particular has enjoyed the glory of four consecutive WCAL Women's Round Robin titles, and Coach Dina Oakland attributes their accomplishments this season to the team's depth: "We have at least two athletes in each event that are ranked in the top of our league."

Seniors Mary Kriege, Kamillah Davis, and Cortney Wood are leaders of the squad in Oakland's opinion, as they have led the team to a 5-0 record in dual meets thus far.

Meanwhile the men's team is showing signs of dominance this year. Matt Wong and Greg Ruiz star in the long and triple jump events as Wong has broken two school records as a sophomore. Richard Guzikowski also broke the frosh-soph 1600 and 3200 school records.

Coach Kevin Dunn is confident in his team's ability to win a league title this year, especially with veteran leadership from many of his athletes: "When we lost a key athlete to an injury last year, the team seemed to flounder. I focused early on holding people accountable."

With the end of the season nearing, the coaches' philosophies will be put to the test, and the athletes will have an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Softball Streaks to the Finish

By Ariq Chowdhury
Staff Writer

When building the foundation for a championship-winning team, coaches look at two main criteria: defense and depth. With thirteen consecutive league titles and a consistently nationally-ranked powerhouse here in San Jose, the Monarchs softball team has found that these objectives really do constitute a winning formula. Though the team has a new coach this year, Brian Yocke, they have employed much of the same team philosophy and strategies, and as a result, are once again a team with championship aspirations. The Monarchs are 22-2 heading into the WCAL playoffs, and are heading in with a full head of steam having won their last 14 games.

Obviously, to win games, teams must out-pitch their opponents, and no team in the league is better than the Monarchs at doing so. Mitty leads the WCAL in ERA and strikeouts, and is second in both categories in the CCS. Junior Vanessa Alvarez and senior Berlyn Rippentrop lead the way, with a 0.83 and 0.28 ERA, respectively. Alvarez has started 18 of 24 games for the Monarchs, and has been an ace in the pitching rotation since her freshman year. As a result, the team has had 13 shutouts and has never given up more than 2 runs this season.

However, as evidenced by many teams (see: 2011 San Francisco Giants), great pitching can be cancelled out by an error-prone defense. Fortunately, Mitty's fielding percentage leads the league. The veteran experience that the team has and the communication they have with one another on and off the field are key components to the strength of the team defense. Senior Erica

Afanador echoes these thoughts as she says "We're a very close team so we're able to trust each other on the field to make the routine and hard plays." Junior catcher Chiara Biagini and other members of the infield, including seniors

While the team is built around its renowned pitching and defense, it also needs to outscore the other team, not just outpitch them. Scoring 7.5 runs a game and leading the league in batting average, home runs, slugging percentage, runs batted in, on base percentage, and stolen bases—virtually every major offensive category—the Monarchs have proven they have built a juggernaut that is prone to barrel over teams. The team depth is especially important for the offense, as the underclassmen make equally potent contributions to the team as the upperclassmen. Freshman Jazmyn Jackson is batting .438 with 27 RBIs, sophomore Ashley Chestnut is batting .476 for the season, and sophomore Kiersten Nordin has 3 home runs and 15 RBIs. Combined with the experience and ability of the upperclassmen, the Monarchs truly do have a team that can do some major damage in the upcoming playoffs.

The Archbishop Mitty softball team had won five CCS championships in a row until last season, where they won the league championship but fell short of a section title.

However, as they are a team with high expectations after years of success, the Monarchs believe they can and will go deep in the playoffs once again.

Afanador says, "I think we have a good chance for a championship; we've been working hard, and we expect nothing less. It's been our goal as a team to redeem ourselves from last year."

When a team comes away with a league championship the previous year and is still looking for redemption the following season, it's obvious that you're looking at a team built for excellence and success.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Senior Berlyn Rippentrop sets up for a pitch.

Sylvia Lamas, Shannon King, and Dani Pianto, have contributed greatly to the consistently solid defense and great run scoring differential that the team has accumulated over the season. The Monarchs softball team has amazingly outscored opponents 171-17, and is looking to add to that total over the playoffs.

Tennis' Future Looks Bright

By Rushikesh Joshi
Staff Writer

Battling through tough matches in the waning weeks of the regular WCAL season, the men's tennis team managed to clinch second place in the league with a decisive 4-3 match win over league rival Saint Ignatius.

This has been a significantly different year for the Monarchs so far, due mostly in part to the team's youth.

The influx of five new freshmen to the varsity squad this year has presented the team with a fresh and deep roster, one capable of challenging even the most elite opponents in the competitive CCS Division.

This year, for the first time, the Monarchs played in Division I at the Annual Fresno High School Tennis Classic, competing against the likes of Saratoga, Menlo, and Los Gatos, as well as a host of other top high school programs from around the state.

The team has posted a record of 15-6 overall, and 11-3 in league play this year. Most memorable this season is the fact that fifteen wins was the goal set by coach Jason Scalse at the season's start. The fact that the team was able to attain this lofty goal is telling of the team's true talent and ability

and led to high expectations for the ensuing CCS playoff run.

Coach Jason Scalse attributes the success of the team to the camaraderie present between the players, reflecting that "The bond shared between the veteran

players and the new freshmen has allowed the team to come together and battle its way to join an elite squad of highly competitive CCS teams. This has been the men's tennis program's second highest finish since we won league in 2004, and the boys have gone above and beyond my expectations."

In retrospect, the Monarchs have notched many noteworthy wins this season; including a win over SCVAL champion Leland.

The Monarchs swept the season series against league rival St. Ignatius, a goal left incomplete for the longest time.

The men's team also recorded an impressive showing in the postseason with seven All-League nominations, and a fantastic 4th place finish in the WCAL Individual Singles Tournament by freshman Everett Maltby.

The team lost in the second round of CCS playoffs, concluding an impressive season that lends optimism to next season.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Freshman Andre Dang goes for a forehand.

Badminton Finishes Undefeated

By Erik Chu
Staff Writer

Fresh off of taking a very respectable 3rd place finish in the BVAL Santa Teresa Division last year, the varsity badminton team seeks to improve from last year and is working toward another banner season.

The Monarchs have done just that, storming off to an impressive 12-0 record in the highly competitive BVAL.

The year has been highlighted by victories against Del Mar and Oak Grove, who are the premier teams in the league.

On the men's side, the Monarchs are led by freshman Brian Lin, senior Tony Bae, and freshmen Morgan Chien-Hale. Both Brian and Morgan currently have a 15-0

overall record and are on their way to league finals and CCS. Their opponents are averaging a miniscule 5 points per set.

As Lin says, "I feel that we are having a strong season with our undefeated streak. I hope that our team will continue to keep this streak and bring home the banner. I also hope that as many people as possible will make it to CCS, especially the seniors, this being their last year. I look forward to our upcoming games and finishing off our season strong, just like we started."

On the women's side, the Monarchs are led by juniors Marielle Cortez and Beverly Chang. Their dominant #1 doubles pairing has resulted in a 9-3 record, among the top in the league. The Monarchs' regular-season success has them poised for success in

league finals, which begin on May 18.

Third-year head coach Wilfredo Vargas has praised the success of his squad, stating, "I am thrilled with our season thus far. Everyone on the team has contributed to our success and as a coach I could not be more pleased. Our goal from the beginning of the season was to win a second league championship. We'll need to stay committed and focused in order to reach our goal."

Similarly, assistant coach Antoinette Cao notes, "This season has been amazing for so many reasons. We are lucky to have such talented and dedicated players. Our goal is to win the league championships, and in order to do that, we need to play for the team as a team. We have been able to do that successfully so far."

Given the team's unbelievable performances, Badminton will undoubtedly be in contention for not only a BVAL title, but also for CCS.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Tony Bae drives the birdie.

Baseball Pushes for Playoffs

By Kyle Payne
Staff Writer

With just a few weeks remaining in their 2011 season, the Mitty baseball team is setting itself up for another storybook ending. Only this time, no one is going to be surprised.

After getting out to a 6-3-1 start, the Monarchs have gone on to win 16 out of their next 17 games, giving them a share of the league title. That task alone would be an impressive one—judging by the talent and depth found in the WCAL. However, simply taking the WCAL would not be enough for these Monarchs. For them, the only acceptable way this season can end is by winning all three championships: the WCAL Regular Season, the WCAL Tournament, and the CCS Championship.

Star pitcher and third baseman Tyler Davis explained, “The overall goal is to make sure that we’re in a position to win every single championship possible. And when we get there, the goal is to make sure we can come through with it, and come home with the crown.” Davis, who is sporting a .355 batting average and an incredible, league-leading 1.04 ERA on the mound, will be headed off to the University of Washington to continue his career. Asked why he chose Washington, he replied, “I wanted to pick a place where I knew I would be able to go and have a great time, not just in baseball, but academically and socially too.”

Joining Davis at the next level of baseball will be first baseman and pitcher Brett Fuller

and Gordon Madej, the team’s starting shortstop. Fuller, who will also be looked at by pro scouts in this year’s MLB draft, is joining San Jose State, while Madej, is headed to the University of Albany-SUNY.

Senior infielder Kyle Alwyn leads the Monarchs’ offensive attack, with a .397 batting average and a .616 SLG on the season, which puts him 4th and 1st in the WCAL, respectively. Mitty has another league leader in senior Stefan Fahrner, who has a .500 batting average for AMHS.

While the 2011 Monarchs feature many key seniors, the success couldn’t come without big contributions from the juniors on the team. Pitchers Sean Downey and James Soares have both had

impressive seasons on the mound this year, and seem set to take over the Monarchs pitching staff next year. Starting right fielder Preston Caldera has a .500 OBP and is leading the team with 11 stolen bases. Junior Cail McClenahan has continued his solid year at the plate, giving Coach Bill Hutton yet another piece to build upon next season.

Although Mitty has no shortage of offensive talent, its real strength comes yet again in the form of the pitching staff. The Monarchs have an eye-popping 1.92 ERA on the season, and have hurled four shutouts.

In baseball, offense tends to bring regular season success, while pitching wins games in the playoffs. The Monarchs have an abundance of both, poising them for yet another year of success.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Kyle Alwyn records another hit.

Highlight REEL

Diving



Sophomore Julianna Cassara

Photo courtesy of ProImage

COACH: MS. JENNIFER LARSON
HIGHLIGHT: FINISHING 1, 2 AND 3 AT THE PRESENTATION WCAL TRI-MEET

KIRBY ERDMAN: “EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY YOUNG TEAM WITH ONLY THREE UPPERCLASSMEN, EVERYONE HAS STEPPED UP AND IS WORKING REALLY HARD. AS A TEAM, WE HAD FIVE ATHLETES QUALIFY FOR CCS WHICH IS MORE THAN WE’VE HAD ANY OTHER YEAR, WHICH PROVES THAT OUR HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF.”

Men’s Volleyball

COACH: MR. KEVIN CORRAL

HIGHLIGHT: DEFEATING THE DEFENDING CCS CHAMPIONS, BRANHAM

TANNER VINSON: “ALTHOUGH OUR RECORD MAY NOT SHOW IT, WE WORKED HARD AS A YOUNG TEAM AND HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YEARS TO COME.”



Senior Mike Witt

Photo courtesy of ProImage

PLAYER PROFILE

Jeff Peters

Senior Swimmer Leading the Team

By Neil Jariwalla
Staff Writer

Q: What has been your favorite part about swimming at Mitty?

A: My favorite part of Mitty swimming happened last year at the Clovis Invite. Many guys on the team stepped up and swam amazing races. We finished the meet in 2nd place, the best we have ever done.

Q: How has the team lived up to expectations this year?

A: This year, we have shown that we are ready to compete at a very high level at CCS with many guys who have the potential to be in the top 8 in multiple events.

Q: What are some of the main strengths of the team?

A: Our main strengths are the relays. We have enough depth to put multiple relays in the top 8 at CCS.

Q: How important has the team been in supporting you?

A: The team support has been tremendous. Swimming really is a team sport and the Mitty guys always come together in a big way.

Q: After high school, where do you plan to take your future in swimming?

A: Next year I will be swimming at the University of the Pacific on a scholarship.



Men’s Golf

Sophomore Sean Guzman

COACH: MR. JOHN MOSUNIC
HIGHLIGHT: DESPITE HAVING AN UNHEARD OF FOUR TIES, THE TEAM HAS EIGHT WINS AND HIGH HOPES FOR PLAYOFFS

SHINTARO BAN: “THIS SEASON WAS FUN, ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS ABLE TO PLAY WITH MY BROTHER. I’M HOPING WE HAVE A GOOD RUN AT PLAYOFFS AND MAKE NOR CALS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY.”



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Lacrosse

Senior Vincent Giglierano

COACH: MR. CARLOS TRUJILLO
HIGHLIGHT: DEFEATING ST. FRANCIS

JUSTIN ALENS: “DESPITE OUR STRUGGLES, WE SHOWED POTENTIAL FOR OUR UPCOMING SEASONS.”

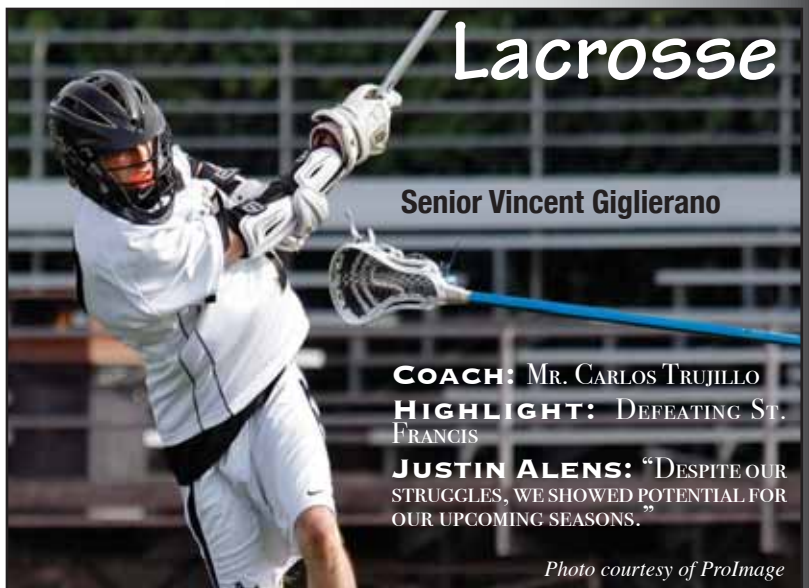


Photo courtesy of ProImage

Compiled by Owen Lin, Cameron Schott and Neil Jariwalla
Staff Writers

Moving on From Mitty: Teachers Retiring



Mr. Billy Ray

Retiring After: 16 Years
Math Department

Q. What's the most memorable part of Mitty?

A. State Championships are the most memorable. I go to a lot of sports games.

Q. What have you been involved in during your time at Mitty?

A. Awards Coordinator for the Undergraduate and Senior Awards Ceremonies.

Q. Do you have anything to say about your retirement from Mitty?

A. I'll miss it. The kids are great. You could always be having a rotten day but they'll brighten you up.



Mr. Ungta Thun

Retiring After: Over 30 Years
Maintenance Department

Mr. Costanza says:

"When you look around Mitty you can see that Ungta took great pride in keeping the school grounds beautiful. Over the years just about every field, lawn, planter box and landscaped area has been touched by Ungta. In 1996, the High School Baseball Coaches Association awarded Mitty with the High School Baseball Field of the Year and Ungta with the 1996 Baseball Groundskeeper of the Year Award."

Mr. Hutton says:

"He would go above and beyond the call of duty to help out."

Compiled By Maheen Akhter and Ryan Kapur
Staff Writers



Ms. Sandra Mack

Retiring After: 33 Years
English Department

Q. What will you miss the most about Mitty?

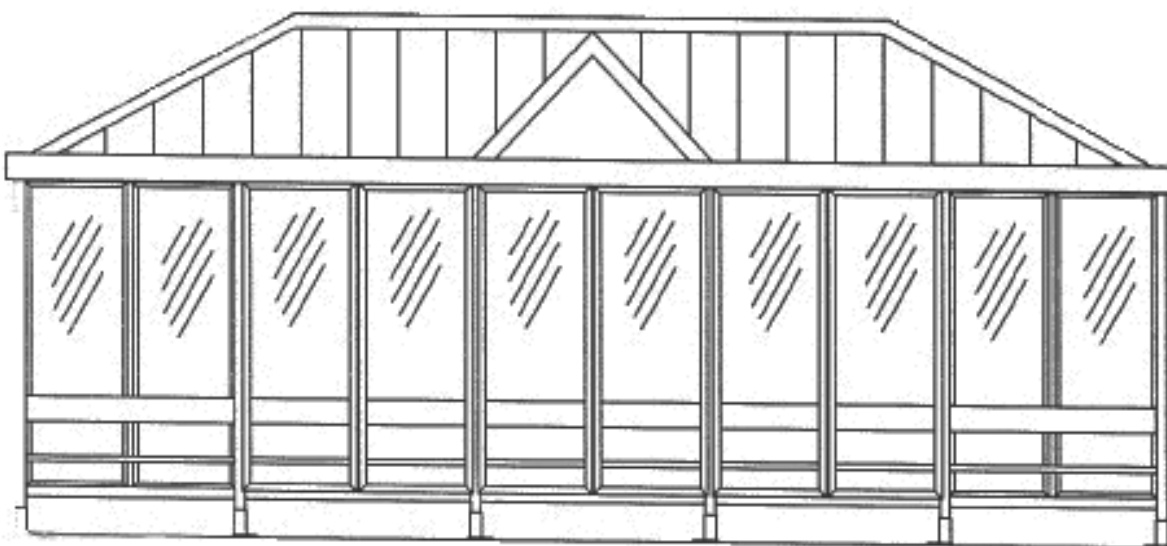
A. The whole atmosphere, its philosophy, the students, the fact that everybody's committed to learning.

Q. What have you been involved in during your time at Mitty?

A. Scholarship Committee, Senior Class Moderator

Q. Do you have anything to say about your retirement from Mitty?

A. Leaving Mitty is bittersweet. I'm looking forward to my retirement, but I will genuinely miss the happy memories.



Mitty's New Senior Lot Waiting Area

By Omid and Payam Mirfendereski
Staff Writers

Anyone who has been worrying about following foyer regulations and enduring weather conditions after school can be relieved by the good news: Archbishop Mitty is currently designing a waiting area for student comfort and convenience by the west parking lot.

According to the current schedule, Mitty's latest construction project should rise near the west (senior) lot by the start of the coming school year.

The idea of a waiting area has been the product of a committee focused on the betterment of campus and student life. The members—**Mr. Brosnan, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Caputo, Ms. Hilton, Ms. Brunolli, Mr. Jorge Helmer, and Mr. Andrew Helmer**—have decided that in order to put available resources to the best use, the waiting area will be constructed along the side of the Thomas Kinkade Center for the Arts. Mr. Andrew Helmer, Mitty's project manager, has received a legal permit from the city, as well as approval from the Diocese of San Jose for the construction. He has been working to schedule the various dates

required for such an endeavor and also to move on the design of the structure.

The waiting area is going to be a glass-enclosed building measuring 24.5 feet by 13 feet. The edifice will essentially be a rectangular room with aluminum benches—such as those found in bus stops—surrounded by large glass panes for a creative effect. Two open walkways and AM logos will frame either side. Dressed in Monarch colors, the new waiting area will naturally fit in with the school environment. As part , a significant portion of plants by the theater will be removed so that a concrete foundation can be established.

Work will be completed by the middle of the upcoming summer. Cementing the area will take one week, and erecting the rest of the structure will take only a few days.

Although students will not be able to use this area during the course of the school day, it will provide a nice alternative to sitting in the foyer or various outdoor spots on campus after classes end. Hopefully, everyone will appreciate the staff's efforts to improve student life at Mitty and will make the best use of this newest construction project.

THE MONARCH

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