



Mitty's Next Step: iPads

By Omid Mirfendereski
& Payam Mirfendereski
Staff Writers

First it was a dream; then it was a plan; now it is a reality. Six years ago there was a dream that every faculty member would have a fully functioning website, that every student would have a device that could be deployed in the classroom, and that a new era of collaboration could be conducted within the Mitty classroom. Starting next year, all students will have their very own iPad for school purposes. While technology—in all its forms—is an obvious facet to education in most schools, Mitty's decision to use iPads, specifically, was not made overnight.

Six years ago there was a plan to bring wide-spread computing to the Mitty classroom. It started with building the infrastructure with a wireless network and powerful servers. Just a couple of years ago, Mitty's IT Department introduced myMitty.com for teacher use to extend educational resources in the classroom and bridge the gap between school and home for all Mitty students. On myMitty, students now find calendars and schedules, worksheets and tests, and an array of activities and forums in which they can participate. More than just improving Mitty's carbon footprint by cutting down on the number of printed documents, myMitty allows students to approach school and learning in new ways and to coordinate their studies in a rapidly modernizing world.

Last year, the administration and IT decided to further the use of technology in school, introducing the iPad pilot program. Classes from six different disciplines were chosen to experiment with a set of 32 new iPads in Room 602. The one drawback to that model was that the iPads could not be taken home and were kept in the room at all times. Still, eight teachers utilized iPads for their curricula, including **Mr. Tim Wesmiller** and **Ms. Lisa Brunolli**, Mitty's assistant principal.

The main goal was to see how myMitty, the iPad, applications, and online resources would work within the Mitty classroom. Ms. Brunolli, who led the pilot, believes that overall last year's program was a success, saying that the iPad "enhanced the classroom experience" and helped students to "explore and create content."

As a result of last year's program, more teachers were



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Students with iPads in action in Mrs. Wesmiller's World History class.

invited to participate. This year, two classes are now able to bring iPads home in a "24/7 program" established by Ms. Brunolli and Mrs. Wesmiller. As Ms. Brunolli adds, "Mitty is working hard to find digital versions of books used in classes that could be downloaded on iPads. Many worksheets, tests, and projects can also be done, and more and more resources are becoming available."

Ms. Brunolli is confident that with the iPad Mitty will be "preparing students for the world in which they live." Colleges, as well, are beginning to incorporate this type technology, and Mitty is going to be one of the *first* high schools to fully prepare students for this change using myMitty and iPads together.

Such a transition, nonetheless, requires time and patience. Both students and teachers must become comfortable with iPad use at school and, for this purpose, Mitty has been setting aside time during in-services for teacher training. This past summer, teachers joined workshops that taught them about the technology. Regarding the plan of distribution of iPads, the administration has been working closely with Apple on a strategy for supporting teacher training, student support, and the purchasing and deploying of e-resources on the iPad.

Mitty's decision on how and where students will buy

their iPad is still being examined. While the cost of the iPad is significant—around \$500—Ms. Brunolli believes that the ability to download textbooks at a cheaper price, to collaborate effectively in the classroom, and to improve curriculum will most likely justify the cost.

These past two years, a number of teachers have been able to test out the pros and cons of the iPad. **Mr. Herrera**, who teaches ECJ Native America, has found the technology a valuable tool in enhancing his classroom. Two of the main projects his students have been experimenting with are Keynote presentations and Google Earth—which they can use to search the areas they have studied. Among other things, students can research, find articles, and explore topics while in class.

Mr. Herrera also stresses the importance of controlling iPad use in order to achieve the highest potential success. Teachers must develop activities using the iPad in class to harness student creativity without allowing for the device to become a distraction. Nothing can replace the power of face-to-face interactions between a

good teacher and a class of receptive students. Mr. Herrera believes it is still sometimes a challenge to find digital copies for *all* books on the iPad, so some books may need to be in hard copy. Nonetheless, Mr. Herrera is hopeful that the iPad will allow teachers to print far fewer documents and students will get valuable experience for college.

As for the students themselves, most find the iPad fascinating and challenging. Brought up in a world in which everything is virtually at our fingertips, many Monarchs do not believe the change in the classroom will prove too dramatic. They will have access to a phenomenal amount of information and will be able to participate more than before in different kinds of interactive and creative projects. As Ms. Brunolli states, students may even know more about the device than teachers, and their cooperation will certainly play a large role in making this pilot work.

In the Fall of next year, Mitty will be one of the first schools to *fully* deploy the iPad in tandem with class websites in all classrooms. The new change might prove difficult at first—with an over 1,800 devices circulating around school—but this next step seeks to prepare students for an increasingly digital future, bringing an unprecedented level of collaboration and participation on campus.

New Faces in the Counseling Department

By Ashley Do & Shreya Louis
Staff Writers

The hallway from the foyer to the chapel contains offices vital to every student here at Mitty: the Counseling Department.

And with the addition of three new counselors, the department is even bigger and better than before. **Mr. David Lin**, **Mrs. Maria Woodruff**, and **Mrs. Tara Walker**



Mitty's eight counselors include new additions Tara Walker (3rd from left), Maria Woodruff (3rd from right), and David Lin (far right).

all bring exciting new talents and qualities to the department. For instance, Mr. Lin is coaching baseball this year, Mrs. Woodruff studied abroad in England and Spain, and Mrs. Walker was recently married.

Mr. Vargas, the Counseling Department Chair, says, "Our primary goal in adding new counselors is to make the college process more personal."

As of this year, Mitty has eight full-time counselors, whereas last year, Mitty only had six. With this new change, counselors are able to focus on the needs of each individual student since case loads are more manageable. Now, parents and students can meet with counselors more to discuss the college process and any concerns.

Another improvement in the department is the elimination of general college information nights. Instead of more than 500 parents being crowded in Aymar,

groups of about thirty parents attend meetings in individual classrooms. This allows for a more comfortable environment in which parents are able to ask specific questions and get to know the counselors. Not only is the Department making the college process for *students* more personal, but also for parents.

The goal is to make the process as smooth and stress-free as possible for both groups.

The department hosts a total of nine events during the year as well as college guidance classes in order to fully prepare students and parents. Juniors even get a head start on applications during their spring semester, when they meet with their counselors to discuss possible interests.

In addition, the Department is constantly building a relationship with colleges so that those schools are aware of Mitty and Mitty is aware of them.

Counselors accomplish this goal by visiting colleges, going to college fairs, and



Mr. Lin and Ms. Walker.

being a part of organizations that focus on high school counseling.

As **Ms. Kaltsas** explains, "The counseling department attends college fairs in different regions in order to accumulate knowledge from a direct "experience," rather than just relaying information from websites and brochures to students."

Just recently, Ms. Kaltsas, along with three other counselors, went to a conference in New Orleans. While they were there, they also visited local colleges to bring back first-hand knowledge back to Mitty. Keeping up with current information and news ensures the best possible counseling to students.

OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: The Death Penalty

SWIFT JUSTICE

By Daniel Braginsky
Staff Writer

Capital punishment is one of the most controversial issues in our government today.

While more recent issues, such as the economy and the energy crisis, have overshadowed it, there are few people that do not have an opinion on it.

There are, of course, cases where the death penalty has been wrongly applied, and that is why capital punishment should not be used as liberally as it is now. However, it serves as a strong deterrent against committing crimes, provides comfort to victim's families, and is a much more efficient way of dealing with repeat offenders.

Capital punishment will make people think twice about committing pre-mediated murder.

Not all murderers are punished by capital punishment, and only pre-mediated killings could be prevented with the threat of the death penalty, but many killings, such as multiple murders, repeat offenses, or murders for financial gain, could be stopped.

While the potential offender is planning it out, he or she will think of the consequence, and the idea of getting the capital punishment will be a strong motivator to not commit the killing.

And while there are statistics that say how states with the death penalty tend to have more pre-meditated murders, these numbers are invalid. States with a higher population are usually the ones that have capital punishment, and of course, more people mean more crime, regardless of potential consequences.

Keeping the death penalty in states with a higher crime rate helps keep that rate down, and therefore saves lives. For every violent, malicious crime committed in a death-penalty state, it is safe to say that there are others that do not occur because the potential perpetrator was afraid of the consequences. The death penalty saves innocent lives, and considering that California has only had 13 executions in the last 35 years, it seems to be a fair trade off.

In many cases, it seems that capital punishment is the only way of dealing with some extreme cases. Repeat offenders, or ones that have been particularly atrocious in their killings, have little to no chance of re-integration into society.

A finite sentence, say 10 years, will not work at all. Sociopaths will have trouble getting back into the normal world after a

multi-year stint in jail. They will be harboring negative feelings toward the state, and they also have no qualms about killing innocent people. It seems insane that these sorts of people are released back into cities full of potential murder victims.

So it appears that the other, non-lethal option for dealing with these people is a life sentence. However, a life sentence does not guarantee that the murderer cannot cause trouble. Lifers tend to become more and more violent during their incarceration. Someone who has proven

“ It serves as a strong deterrent against committing crimes, provides comfort to victim's families, and is a much more efficient way of dealing with repeat offenders. ”

is a life sentence. However, a life sentence does not guarantee that the murderer

cannot cause trouble. Lifers tend to become more and more violent during their incarceration. Someone who has proven

A NATIONAL SHAME

By Tyler VanValkenburg
Opinions Editor

On September 21 of this year, Troy Anthony Davis was executed by the state of Georgia for the murder of a police officer. Just two weeks prior, at a Republican presidential debate, Texas governor Rick Perry was applauded for having overseen a shocking 234 executions in his state.

These two recent events powerfully highlight why the death penalty in America is not simply an injustice, but a national shame that should not be tolerated by any rational citizen.

Let's begin with Troy Davis. He was a 42-year-old black man convicted by the state of Georgia for the murder of a white off-duty police officer in 1991, and he was executed late last month by lethal injection. He was put to death, even though seven out of the trial's nine eye-witnesses recanted all

decisive evidence in this case was deemed outdated and false by a renowned arson expert. Here was an execution that took place under Perry, about which the key evidence was called into question, and yet he sees no reason why he should possibly “struggle to sleep at night” after having sent this man and 233 others to death.

Well here's one reason: no matter how careful or thorough the process of capital punishment may be, in the end it is a process dependent on human beings, and human beings are flawed. They make mistakes; they carry biases. Thus, to write-off death penalty objections simply because a “very thoughtful” procedure is in place is entirely nonsense.

One of the death penalty's most well-documented flaws is its racial bias. Nationally, about one-half of all murder victims are white. Yet over three-quarters of the murder victims in cases that ultimately result in an execution are white. This alone demonstrates a significant issue with the death penalty: Due to no factor other than race, it is more likely to be used when the victim is white.

And this racial bias, while certainly applicable to the victim's race, is also applicable to the defendant's.

A recent Yale study on executions in Connecticut found that black defendants are three times more likely to receive the death penalty than white defendants if the victim is white. We are putting people to death, not based on a system of equal justice, but on a system of racially biased justice.

And yet the death penalty lives on, and Troy Davis is killed, and Rick Perry is cheered. I haven't even addressed how it costs us millions more than life-imprisonment, or how it fails to act as a legitimate deterrent. Yet even without those arguments made, the death penalty's inequity should now be obvious.

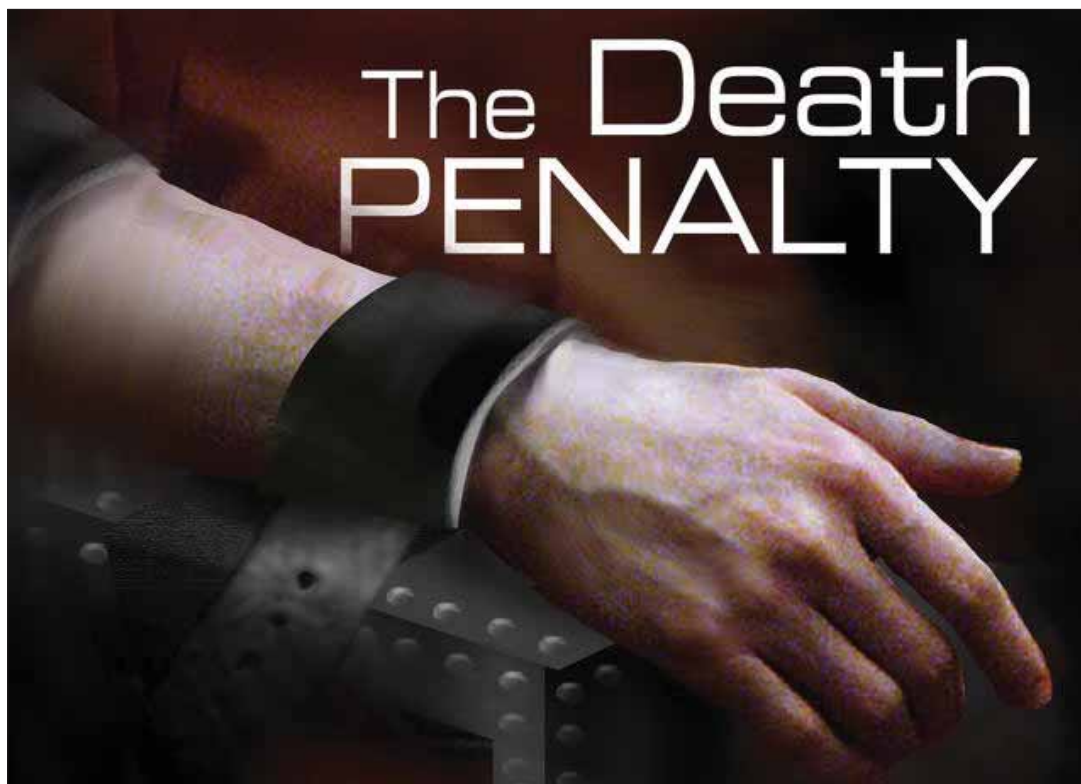
We are a nation of laws, yes. But we are also a nation of people, of imperfect human beings who, against our greatest efforts,

against even our most “thoughtful” systems, make mistakes.

If we allow ourselves the power to put another human being

to death, we allow ourselves the power to mistakenly kill an innocent human being, and in doing so commit the very act we are trying to punish.

The death penalty is not America's ultimate form of justice. Quite the opposite: it is one of the country's ultimate forms of injustice, and as long as we allow it to continue we are part of that injustice.



The Death
PENALTY

that he or she can kill, and has no issues with doing so, will not suddenly turn peaceful in the extremely violent jail environment. He will cause harm or kill prisoners until he eventually dies, or more likely, gets killed by one of his fellow jailbirds in retaliation.

The death penalty is a good way of limiting the amount of damage these hopeless cases can cause. An argument that people use is that men and women on death row do occasionally feel remorse for their crimes. I agree, and that is why I believe the death penalty should not be used as liberally as it is today.

Not only is the current system incredibly subjective, because one person decides on the sentence, but the current list of capital-punishment-worthy offenses seems to punish crimes that can be committed by sane individuals, who could potentially be safely released back into society.

The death penalty should in no way be abolished completely, just adjusted. It should be used more carefully, but still used.

or part of their testimonies, even though it seems police severely mishandled his case, and even though zero physical evidence linked him to the crime. And now, Troy Davis is dead.

Cue the applause. Here is Rick Perry, Texas' governor and candidate

for president, receiving wild cheers for overseeing the highest number of executions in the country. Worry not, though, Perry proclaims, for Texas has a “very thoughtful, very clear process in place” by which capital punishment is dealt out.

How perfect is this process, though, if in 2004, with Perry as governor, Texas put a man to death for murder even though the

“ No matter how careful or thorough the process of capital punishment may be, in the end it is a process dependent on human beings, and human beings are flawed. ”

ONE MINOR MISTAKE, ONE LIFE SENTENCE



By Kelvin Fann
Staff Writer

Only one nation in the world sentences minors to life in prison without parole. That nation also happens to pride itself on being one of the biggest advocates for human rights in the world. The United States for the past century has, undoubtedly, been a leader in the world both politically and economically. So why is a nation founded upon the ideal of fairness so unfair and unforgiving of its minors?

In 2005, the Supreme Court deemed capital punishment for minors cruel and unusual. Their reasoning? Minors are inherently ‘different’ from adults. Justice Kennedy explained it best: “The reality that juveniles still struggle to define their identity means it is less supportable to conclude that even a heinous crime committed by a

juvenile is evidence of an irretrievably depraved character.”

It is wrong to alter the course of a minor’s entire life for the crimes that they committed as kids. Different and changing mind-sets warrant different and changing punishments. The crime isn’t the court’s verdict of guilt, but the sentence—life in prison without parole.

California currently has approximately 300 inmates serving life sentences for crimes they committed in their adolescence. While the Supreme Court has, since 2005, prevented minors from being sentenced to life in prison for non-homicide crimes, 45% of the 300 inmates were not the ones who actually committed the murder. Many were mere accomplices who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

What is even more disturbing is that, nationally, 59% of the minors

serving non-parole sentences are first-time offenders. These are teenagers who made ONE mistake. Furthermore, the majority of the teenagers who serve life sentences committed the crimes under the guidance of an adult. Ironically, 56% of the teens that were influenced by an adult were given harsher sentences than the adult. ‘Unjust’ barely begins to describe their situations.

Being tough on crime does not justify being stupid on crime. Levying unnecessarily harsh punishments will not solve California’s crime issues. Our politicians must realize that most of these teens are from impoverished communities with few opportunities. The circumstances of their environment drive them to do criminal acts. Until we give them hope, until we invest in education and create prosperous communities, California’s crime level will only escalate.

A WAR TOURIST

Did UCLA student join Libyan rebel forces for fun?

By Claire Chu
Staff Writer

“Whatever you do, don’t tell my parents.”

These are the words of a teenager who has snuck out past curfew. But for Chris Jeon, they are the words of a UCLA student who spent his summer in Libya, fighting against Gaddafi’s regime alongside local insurgents.

Wanting to experience a “real revolution,” Jeon bought a one-way plane ticket to Cairo and joined the rebels in the city of Nawfaliyah.

But none of his friends were surprised—in the past, Jeon had tested his limits with catching baby alligators in the wild and taking a solo trip to Seattle with no more than one dollar in hand.

Donning camouflage trousers and carrying an AK-47 is almost like Jeon’s way of trumping his previous accomplishments. Dodging bullets while fighting a tyrannical regime? For Jeon, the pursuit of the ultimate adventure.

It might sound innocent enough, Jeon’s intentions aren’t malicious in the least. But as his former roommate points out, “[Jeon is] traversing a political and religious world with which he has no familiarity or ties.”

The situation would be different if he had

passionately believed in and had a personal connection to the Libyan fight for freedom.

But he doesn’t.

Then why is Jeon there? According to newspaper interviews, he “thought it would be cool” and would make a “sick vacation.” I’m not sure that Jeon himself even knows what he is fighting for. But what is a spectacle for the twenty-one year old, who has grown up privileged in our country’s third safest city, is a matter life and death for his Libyan counterparts.

Jeon is simply a war tourist—eating and sleeping out of the hospitality of locals, co-opting a bloody revolution for his own cheap thrills—then returning to his college mixers and midterms when the going gets tough.

Before leaving, Jeon told a friend, “if a rebel’s running at me with a gun, I won’t hesitate to shoot his head off.” But if he dies, it will be for the wrong reasons. If he kills a man, it will be for the wrong reasons.

After 42 years of oppression, the true rebels put all they had on

the line to oust Gaddafi and claim Tripoli, not to check another item off of their bucket lists.

If he wanted an adrenaline rush and a story to tell his friends, Jeon should have gone cliff jumping in Mazatlan or attempted a solo climb of Fitz Roy. The battlefield is not a tourist attraction.



WAKE UP AMERICA

By Emmanuel Villalpando
Staff Writer

In response to the terrorist attacks on multiple sites in the US on 9/11, President George W. Bush signed the Patriot Act into effect on October 26 of that same year.

With that action, he effectively opened a Pandora’s box of executive power abuse which has led to a federal authority capable of infiltrating every aspect of America’s citizens’ supposedly protected information and private lives.

All of this is done in the name of fighting terrorism, using any definition of that term that best justifies the government’s actions in any given case.

Although 9/11 was what finally convinced a panic-stricken Congress to submit to the will of the executive branch, the government and many of our citizens do not realize that the Patriot Act is neither a heartfelt nor intelligent response to that attack. In fact, it is a breach of our Constitutional protections.

This act gives law enforcement agencies the authority to search any tangible information records on anyone suspected of terrorist activities, meaning that such agencies have access to all data, from telephone calls to medical records to emails.

I’m all right with my government investigating suspected terrorists to ensure that such horrific acts never happen again.

But shouldn’t the evidence that makes someone a suspected terrorist be enough to get a regular warrant on them?

Furthermore, the definition of a “terrorist” is not just limited to a person who seeks to

harm our country in order to send a message.

Under the ruse of combating domestic terrorism, agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI are able to use the powers delegated by the Patriot Act on many individuals suspected of serious criminal actions that aren’t terrorism.

In fact, Section 215 of the Patriot Act allows the FBI “to obtain any items they deem necessary in an investigation.”

Thus, with both the loose interpretation of terrorism and this provision, the powers of the FBI have expanded to the point that they have the right to access anyone’s information for any number of ‘justified’ reasons.

It is important to note that the Patriot Act was not simply an act endorsed by the Republican Bush administration.

On May 27, 2011, Obama signed the Patriot Act Extension which delegated minor revisions to the act but still kept the most controversial parts, including Section 215.

The corruption and abuse of power that has infected our executive branch is bipartisan; this may have started under Bush, but right now both the Republicans and Democrats are in on the game.

It is thus both a responsibility and a necessity that we as the citizens of a free nation rise up in resistance. We must stop the seizure of rights and liberties, the trampling of our privacy, by this federal behemoth.

We must stop this security state before not only ‘terrorism’ is combated, but the voices of political dissent. The tools used for one can easily be used for the other.

It is time to wake up America, before Big Brother chains us to the bed.

A CUTDOWN ON SAFETY

Shrinking budget weakens police

By Kaitlin Milliken
Staff Writer

Emerging from this recent national recession, people worry over our state economy and stress the importance of saving money. Economics seems to have become the most important aspect of American life, public safety and well-being pushed to the side and buried under massive amounts of debt. But how much are we willing to sacrifice in order to balance our budget?

In order to balance its own budget, the city of San Jose has been forced to cut or reduce many of the services it provides its people. One of the services that has been hit the hardest is the San Jose Police Department.

In 2003 the city had 1,417 police officers either on patrol or in specialized

task forces. Since then, over 300 officer positions have been eliminated, with 66 officers being laid off this summer, a first in the history of the department.

With a recent pay cut and the threat of reduced benefits hanging over their heads, eligible officers are retiring and leaving for other departments at an unheard-of rate. San Jose now has 1,102 officers employed. This has resulted in a smaller officer-to-citizen ratio. For a city of close to one million, such a reduction can have significant effects.

How exactly does this affect the well being of our city? Well, the decreased staffing has resulted in the elimination of important crime fighting units. Two eliminated units were the department's Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET) and its Vice Squad. This first unit investigated gangs in San Jose. Its team was comprised of 21 dedicated officers who strove to in-



hibit crime and increase public safety. The Vice Unit dealt with gambling, prostitution, pimping, and alcohol restriction violations. With specialized enforcement units like these removed from the department, the city allows criminals to threaten the well-being of its residents.

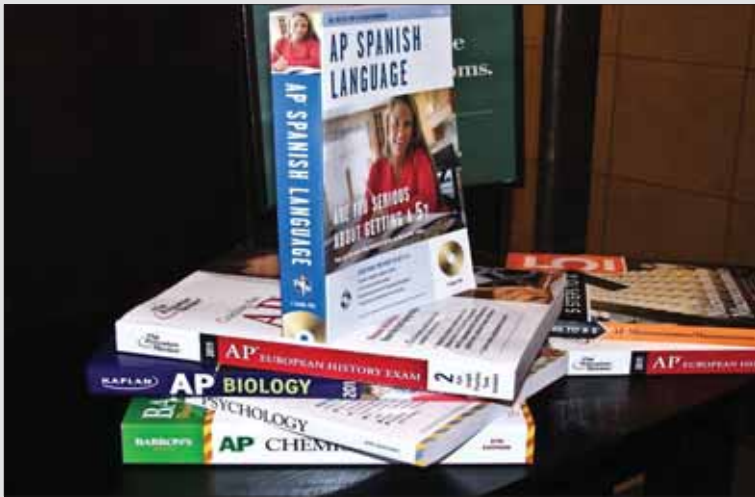
San Jose has recently suffered its 36th homicide of the year, totaling 16 more in 2011 than in 2010. Burglaries have also

increased, up 9% this year. The rise in gang activity rise can easily be seen in the rise of graffiti and tagging in city neighborhoods, that once remained clean.

Since when does saving a buck come before one's own safety? The recent cuts to crime enforcement are just beginning to show their consequences. Our city should rethink its budgetary choices before those choices significantly hurt the public.

AP COURSES

Are they worth it?



By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

We've all stayed up late finishing that project, stressing over that math test, and close reading that 300 page novel that never seems to end. That being said, each of these high school moments are only more difficult for those of us who take AP classes.

Academic expectations for AP students are higher than those for the rest of the student body. We are expected to remember more, understand more, and communicate more. College level courses are a highly regarded part of the Mitty curriculum, but are they worth taking if one is not keen on a certain field? Or should students take as many APs as they can to appear special on applications?

Countless students, most often juniors and seniors, take these accelerated classes though they may not find much appeal in the actual subject. A student planning to major in science or math may take an English AP only for the extra credits. AP classes also frequently focus less on material that would really enhance a students' understanding of the subject, with the teachers' capital intent being only to

prepare them for the exam. I personally take U.S. History AP, and rarely does a class go by without "the exam" being mentioned.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with challenging yourself by participating in advanced classes. Anxiety may grow, but we assume that it will all be worth the struggle because success in high school will lead to success in college, and success in college will lead to success in life.

Taking AP courses, in fact, may be just that extra push that will benefit any student willing to accept the challenge. Although students may assume that they have no interest in a certain subject, an AP class can open their eyes to interests they never knew they had. After all, we are teenagers, and thus what we care about, is much more in-development than we admit.

In addition, these courses prepare students for college itself very effectively. They expose students to a standard of learning that they will have to face in the future. AP classes will send a Mitty student to college more confident and prepared. So in the end, is it smart to stack up on AP's or not?

My only answer is this: Are you up to the challenge?

DEMI LOVATO:

Love is stronger than the pressure to be perfect

By Ana Montoya
Staff Writer

Before starting this article, my opinion of Demi Lovato was biased. I had automatically judged her as a spoiled pop star, overwhelmed by the pressures of stardom. She was just like every other celebrity, checking into rehab and having tantrums to get attention.

However, I soon realized that she is different. Demi Lovato, like many of us, struggles from the emotional scars left over from childhood bullying. The brutality of children can be cruel and without reason.

According to Lavato, when she "[asked] them why [they were bullying her], they would just say, 'Well, you're fat.'"

This bullying, which led to body-image issues as well, was the fuel for the eating disorder

Demi acquired at the young age of 8. It should have been obvious at that point that something was seriously wrong, and professional help should have been sought and began at that point.

Unfortunately, Demi was pushed to continue in her careers of acting and singing by adults, even when they were aware of her unstable condition. When Demi finally broke down and assaulted her backup dancer on tour, she decided to check into rehab and work on her problems.

Now, Demi has an inspiration album out about her troubles, and she's even created an anti-bullying organization to help other teenagers with the same struggles she once faced.

Every person has confronted situations in which help is obviously needed. Sometimes the person finds the courage to ask for the much needed help. More often, the teen forces him or herself through the pain, whether emotionally or physically. They think that they can handle it all on their own or, perhaps, feel that if they tell someone they will be cast out.

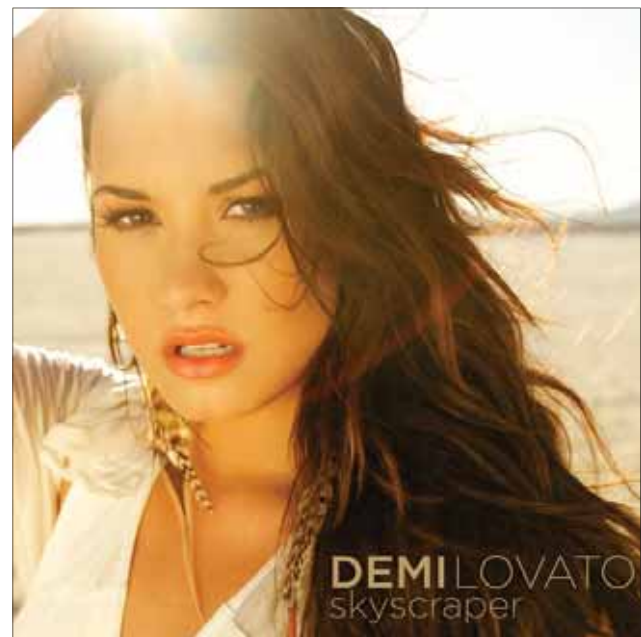
Demi proves them wrong, and she inspires people to treat themselves with love and respect. There is always something wrong with any of us: too fat, too skinny, not enough

muscle, never the right style, acne and braces are just a few of the problems.

Demi tells others to overcome these insecurities. As Demi would say, "Love is Louder" than the words that put us down. The great thing about her is

that she not only advocates these ideas, but she also lives them out and acts as an example of what can be and should be.

After learning more about Demi Lovato, I can easily say my opinion has shifted. Demi Lovato is no longer the name of an annoying teen sensation created by Disney, but a human being with struggles of her own who found a way out of a dead-end track.



Arts & Entertainment

The Royals 2.0 An inside look

By Dana Sever
Staff Writer

Auditions for the Royals are held in April every year: new hopefuls try out, and one to two weeks later the list of the new team is selected. This year, the audition process seemed the same, but the team would most certainly not be the same as before.

“Royals 2.0” as the coach of the Royals, Ms. Moura, calls it, is the new refined dance team of Archbishop Mitty. Many adjustments have been made to make the team even stronger than it has been in the past. Among those adjustments is the size and format of the team. This year the team is significantly smaller with only 15 dancers, compared with the past where there have been as many as 22 members. In addition to the reduction in the overall size of the team, there is no longer a “small” team of 6-7 girls who compete at regional and national competitions, and a performance team for rallies and games. Now the Royals are one large team with everyone competing and performing at all events.

This change has called for an increase in rehearsal time that the team will need in order to prepare and practice their four competitions routines and their multiple other dances for school events. Now a week for a Royals member looks something like this:

- Class rehearsal every 8th period
- Meeting until 3:15 on the first day of the week
- Rehearsal from 3-6 on Thursdays and Fridays.

After the new dance studio is completed later this year, the team will be able to practice even more. In addition to these rehearsals, weekend choreography rehearsals, bonding events, and technique classes have been taking place since June.

Additionally, Ms. Moura has brought in new choreographers and teachers to expose the Royals to new techniques of practicing and choreography. Among those new faces are people such as Rickey Tripp, a member of the award-winning Broadway musical, *In the Heights*. The team also works with Melissa Bulnes, a United Spirit Association judge and choreographer, Mike Seanz, a member of SJ DanceCo Dance Company, and Keith Banks, the owner of Studio 10. In addition to these professionals, the team recently had a rare and amazing opportunity to have an intense hour and half master-class session with *So You Think You Can Dance* choreographer and judge, Sonya Tayeh.

With the hard work and dedication of Ms. Moura, the new choreographers and teachers, and all the Royals themselves, a new standard is set for this year.

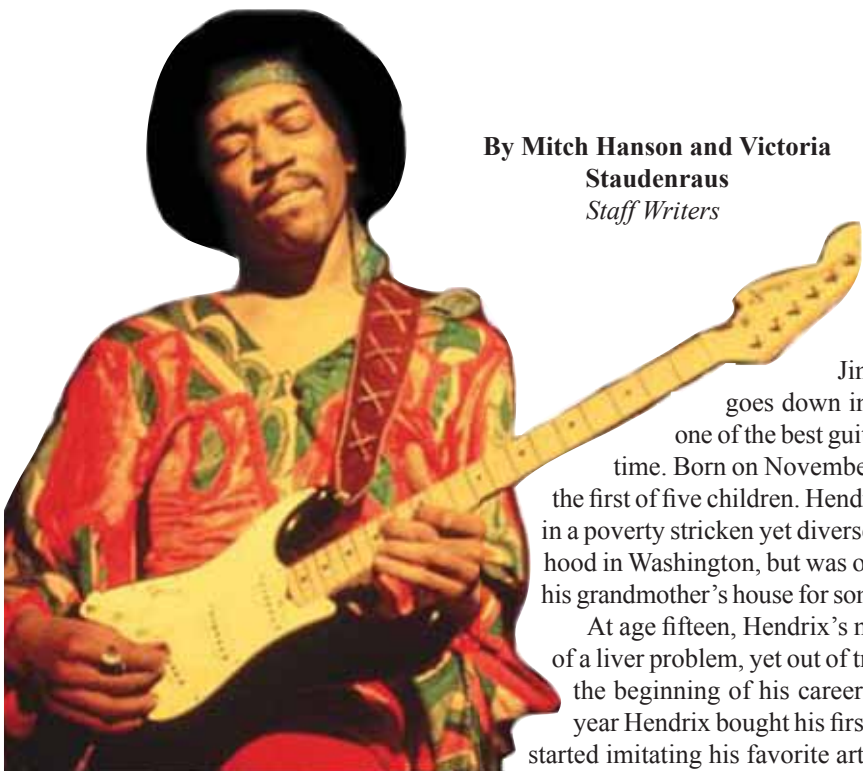
Royals 2.0 is the new and improved Royals dance team for Archbishop Mitty. Come out and see all their hard work!



Photo Courtesy of Dana Sever



The 27 Club: Jimi Hendrix and Amy Winehouse



By Mitch Hanson and Victoria
Staudenraus
Staff Writers

Jimi Hendrix goes down in history as one of the best guitarists of all time. Born on November 27, 1942, the first of five children. Hendrix grew up in a poverty stricken yet diverse neighborhood in Washington, but was often sent to his grandmother's house for some stability. At age fifteen, Hendrix's mother died of a liver problem, yet out of tragedy rose the beginning of his career: that same year Hendrix bought his first guitar and started imitating his favorite artists.

When in the army, Hendrix met his best friend and bass player Billy Cox. Together, Cox and Hendrix played venues over Tennessee, influenced much by the blues music that originated from there. Finally, Hendrix, with the help of Linda Keith, formed The Jimi Hendrix Experience. The Experience was an instant hit in Europe, but took a little time before it became popular in the US.

Hendrix headlined the 1969 Woodstock, performing Monday morning after most of the audience had left. His iconic performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” combined with “Purple Haze” fully embodied the political, artistic, and psychedelic atmosphere of Woodstock for years to come. Yet his psychedelic playing style also stemmed from his introduction to drugs such as LSD during this time, leading to an almost constant abuse that fed Hendrix's uniqueness. His friends also described him as an abusive and violent drunk, which, in conjunction with LSD, led him to his demise.

Hendrix died on Sept. 18, 1970 at the age of 27 after a night of partying. Yet even though a notable member of the “27 Club” Hendrix had already secured his place as *the* Guitar God.

Between her drug problems, alcoholism, eating disorders, abusive relationships, and chronic depression, Amy Winehouse always seemed to have some kind of drama in her life distracting from her incredible talent as a singer.

With her uncles as professional jazz musicians, Winehouse had grown up in an atmosphere of music. At age twelve she received her first guitar and a few years later she began writing her own songs. By sixteen, Winehouse was already becoming a star and singing professionally with a record deal. Her first album, *Frank*, hit double platinum status and gained Winehouse thousands of new fans.

At this time, Winehouse was known as a small-framed girl with a distinct fashion style and a strong voice. Yet her voice and hair weren't the only notable things about the rising star: Amy openly admitted to smoking marijuana and was gaining a reputation as a party girl. In 2007, she slipped into a coma after multiple overdoses, sparking a downhill cycle. She also often “bragged” about the abusive relationship between her and her husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, who is credited with introducing her to heroin and crack.

Her friends and family grew increasingly worried for her and advised her to get out of her drug-based relationship and visit rehab, but she refused. Yet throughout all this instability, her albums sold explosively, making Winehouse an international superstar. In 2008, Winehouse was the first British singer to win five Grammys for her album *Back to Black*, containing the ironically titled song “Rehab.”

On July 20, Winehouse performed at the iTunes festival in Camden with her goddaughter, Dionne Bromfield. Little did the audience know that this would be Amy's last performance. Three days later, the 27 year-old singer was found dead in her London home, seemingly from a variety of health problems related to drugs. Winehouse will be remembered for her edgy fashion sense and her impact on the music industry. Sadly, her personal problems will inevitably overshadow her life and career.



TV Picks of the Season

By Soumajit Kundu
Staff Writer

2011's Fall television shows are off to the races, but not all will come out ahead. While directors and producers are doing their best to maintain the appeal of television, some efforts have been proven to falter while others excel. Many of the new shows tread on familiar terrain, while others boast strikingly novel approaches and conventions. With all this variety, viewers are sure to be entertained.



The X-Factor. Yes, *The X-Factor*.

Amid all the hype, it has finally debuted. While the show cannot help but to walk in the well-known territory of *American Idol* and numerous other singing shows, it is meant to appeal to more mature audiences. This show greatly increases the drama, perhaps enough to compensate for its clichéd

concept. The crying, the anger, the shock, and the exuberance are all real—there is no doubt about that. The show brings back popular faces, like Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell of *Idol* fame. And *The X-Factor* is no disappointment, with shining lights, large audiences, and melodramatic reactions meant to satisfy an appetite for entertainment. Perhaps only the most cynical of viewers will perhaps take offense at its banality.

Terra Nova appears based on other shows and movies from the past, as new shows often are. Additionally, we see the familiar face of Stephen Lang, who just happens to be the perfect candidate for a show like this. The basic premise? In the year 2149, humans cannot manage the polluted earth. So, having the technology to travel to the past, humans travel 85 million years back to establish a new colony and earn a second chance to live. The environmentalist themes inherent in this show are commonplace, but the spectacular visual effects, courtesy of executive producer Steven Spielberg, more than compensate. The new world created in *Terra Nova* is quite awesome, but the show will definitely need to expand to run for multiple seasons.



Boardwalk Empire, a strong competitor for *Mad Men*, has been showing off its potential, winning multiple awards for both acting and effects, and with its Season 2 premiere, it seems off to a good start. An outstanding HBO series, *Boardwalk Empire* centers around Nucky Thompson, a political figure controlling Atlantic City, New Jersey, during the Prohibition era. Nucky mingles with famous historical figures, mobs, and the common people. However, the government's eyes lie upon Nucky, who seems to live too lavish of a lifestyle. While the show has a good premise, its popularity is the bigger issue.



If the show wants to stay cool, upcoming episodes must live up to its reputation, and the direction given by veterans Martin Scorsese and Mark Wahlberg, who lead as executive producers of the show. Given its eighteen Emmy Award nominations, HBO will definitely be promoting this series.

Costume Couture

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer



Break out the plastic masks, face paint, and fake props because it's that time of year again: Halloween. The one day a year when it is socially acceptable to run around in outrageous costumes and ask for free food. But choosing your costume can sometimes be a complicated process. There's so much to consider when picking a costume: Do I want to be unique? Would I rather spend money or time on my costume? Should it be funny? Cute? Scary? Simple? Silly? With our cluttered lives, who has time to think about it? Here are some tips to help move the process along.

1. There's a line between "classy" and "trashy." There's this misconception that when children get older, boy's costumes should be funnier and girl's costumes should be more provocative. This is not always the case. I have to call people's taste level into question when I see them pushing this line. Ladies, just because your 3rd grade costume still fits, that doesn't mean you should wear it. You can still be a Disney princess without killing the innocence of a childhood cartoon. Guys, be careful what type of funny costume you choose to go with. Even if you think it's the most hilarious thing you've ever seen, a lot of the times it can be offensive or just plain immature.

2. Use what you have! It's October 30th and you need a last-minute fix. Well, a lot of people create costumes from things they already have in their closet or lying around the house. It's simple solution if you procrastinate like me and you need to create a quick costume. A few years ago, I was in this sort of situation and I ended up being a nerd for Halloween. I just borrowed a tie and suspenders, tied my hair up, put tape on my glasses and a pen in my pocket. It worked! It's better than showing up without any costume and using the lame excuse, "I dressed up as myself for Halloween."

3. Be creative! Although you can't go wrong with a standard witch, vampire, or superhero, it's not very exciting. Halloween is the one time that you can dress any way you want. So don't be afraid to think outside the box. You can find out the popular trends by simply Googling "popular Halloween costumes." This should be on your list of what *not* to wear. It's really easy to fall into a sea of Charlie Sheens and Lady Gagas on Halloween. So don't be one of a crowd. Stand out!

4. Before buying a premade costume, ask yourself if it's really worth it. It probably isn't. No one likes to waste money on something that you're only going to wear once. If you must buy something, you shouldn't spend more than \$10. One thing you could do is go to a thrift store and find clothes you can fix up. This is easy, inexpensive, and a lot more fun than just buying a costume.

5. Everything is better with your friends. If you don't seem to have any ideas for costumes this Halloween, talk to other people. Maybe you and your friends can come up with an idea, or you can tag along in a big group costume. I guarantee that you will have more fun in a group. Just make sure this is thoroughly planned out.

Whatever your costume choice is this year, make sure that you have fun with it. Halloween isn't just about dressing up – it's meant to be fun. The spirit of Halloween isn't just in the clothes you wear but in what you do.



The Magic Continues...

By Ryan Ballard
Staff Writer

This past summer marked the end of an era. To the dismay of many-a-muggle, the final installment of the *Harry Potter* movies was released. Our current generation of high school has been largely influenced by the world of Hogwarts, living a childhood amidst the boom of the *Potter* franchise. For many, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was a bedtime story. At the end of elementary school, tears were undoubtedly shed when letters of acceptance to Hogwarts were not received, and throughout middle school, the rest of the series provided us with a means of escape from our awkward adolescent years.

After more than a decade, the narrative of "The Boy Who Lived" has unfurled completely, leaving Potterheads at somewhat of a dead end. With such an enormous fan base and \$15 billion dollars to its name, it would have been a shame to cut the cord on such a franchise. For the sake of profit, and for the millions of muggles convinced that *Harry Potter* is a work of non-fiction, the franchise lives on, but in an entirely new form: *Pottermore*.

J.K. Rowling and her marketing team have hitched their wagon to the popular wave of social networking, creating "an online experience unlike any other" in which the world of *Harry Potter* can continue to thrive. Though *Pottermore* has not yet made its official release to the general public, one million muggles are currently Beta testers for the site. As of now, *Pottermore* is a synthesis of social networking, reading and gaming. Users simply create an account and begin following each book chronologically by chapter, although

the first novel will be the only one available until 2012.

Each chapter features animations and key excerpts from the book. Within those animations are interactive games and activities—currently, one is able to shop for Hogwarts supplies in Diagon Alley or pay a visit to Olivander's Wand Shop, where a wand can be purchased. In Chapter 7, the user takes a personalized evaluation and is assigned a Hogwarts house. Throughout each section, J.K. Rowling offers additional information about characters and objects that she's supposedly been hoarding for years.

Pottermore currently lacks full-blown social networking capabilities. While users can make online friendships, the site doesn't allow a platform for communication—not yet, at least. *Pottermore* presently offers users a sort of abridged journey through the first novel, and nothing more. The rest of the series is going to be released over the course of the next few years. The site will also be the exclusive host of *Harry Potter* eBooks and audiobooks.

Fans have certainly embraced the idea of *Pottermore*, especially because it is presented as a site made by Rowling herself. However, once all seven books are available on the site, will the extent of *Pottermore's* capabilities have been met? Hopefully, the site does not disappoint. Beta testing has had a highly positive reception, but in time, will the sheer walk-through model of the site become a bore? Only time will tell what direction the *Harry Potter* franchise decides to take its new project.

MONARCH CRITICS



By Camille Friscia Contreras
Staff Writer

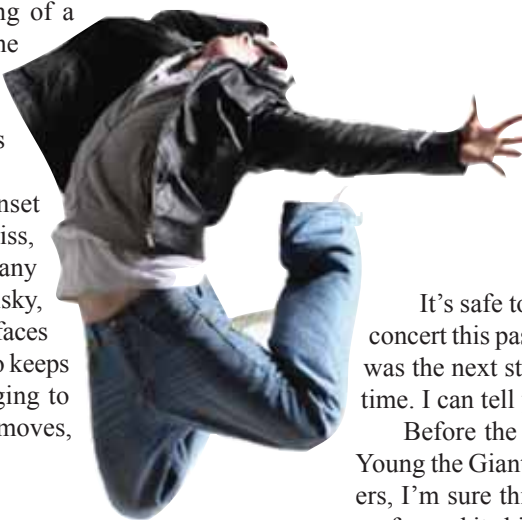
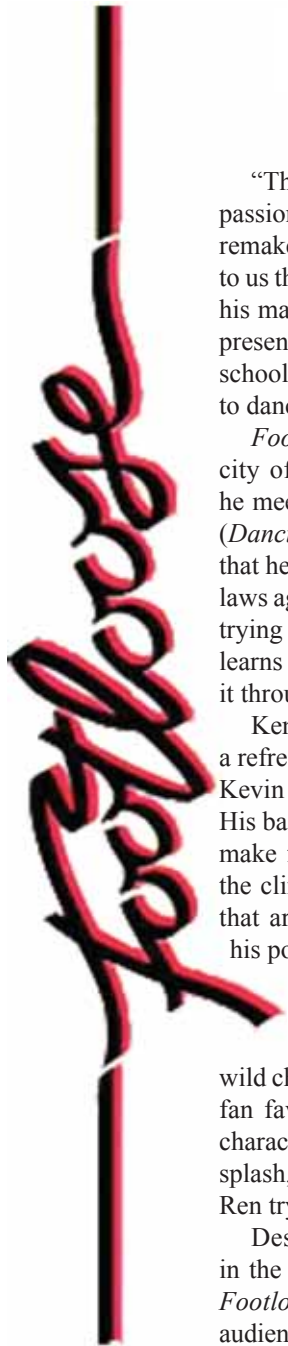
"This is our time to live," Ren McCormack (Kenny Wormald) passionately asserts to counter a law that forbids dancing in the remake of the 1984 film *Footloose*. Director Craig Brewer proves to us that it's *his* time to tell this tale of a rebellious teen who makes his mark on a small town and its strict laws. Brewer successfully presents a modern rendition of the classic movie—the tale of a high school boy who fights for something he believes in, the freedom to dance.

Footloose starts with dance-loving Ren moving from the big city of Boston to the small town of Bomont, Tennessee, where he meets Reverend Shaw Moore's (Dennis Quaid) daughter Ariel (*Dancing with the Stars*' Julianne Hough). Ren quickly discovers that he is not in Boston anymore: much to his horror, this town has laws against loud music and dancing. The plot revolves around him trying to put the rhythm and music back into the small town. He learns how to stand up for something that he believes in, and to see it through to the end.

Kenny Wormald, a relative newcomer to the acting scene, puts a refreshing twist on the iconic role of Ren — originally played by Kevin Bacon — by reinventing the famous "angry dance" scene. His background in professional dance coupled with his athleticism make for an exhilarating dance expressing teenage angst and, in the climax of the movie, Wormald gives a touching performance that artfully shows his character's passion for dancing. Overall, his portrayal of Ren contains the right amount of attitude, and his performance is believable.

Another solid performance comes from Hough, who is credible in her portrayal of the curbing of a wild child's ways. The role nicely showcases the fan favorite's dancing abilities. Supporting character Willard (Miles Teller) also makes a splash, and steals the show in moments such as Ren trying to teach him how to dance.

Despite some cliché moments, like a sunset in the background for Ariel and Ren's first kiss, *Footloose* is a fun, upbeat movie great for any audience. Although remaking a movie can be risky, Brewer introduces to the big screen some fresh faces that are both believable and likeable. Yet he also keeps the essence of the original alive while managing to bring in modern dialogue and dynamic dance moves, making the final product a definite success.



The Ides of March



By Thomas Soares
Staff Writer

Ryan Gosling, who has quickly become one of the most acclaimed actors of his generation, stars in the George Clooney directed film *The Ides of March*.

Based on the play *Farragut North*, *Ides* focuses on idealistic Junior Campaign Manager Stephen Myers (Gosling). Myers and Senior Campaign Manager Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman) are helping to run the presidential campaign of Democratic Pennsylvania Governor Mike Morris (Clooney). Morris is running against Senator Pullman, and is thoroughly trouncing him as the film opens. Pullman's campaign is being led by Tom Duffy (Paul Giamatti).

Duffy, who has been managing campaigns for most of his life, notices Myers's talent for campaigning and attempts to bring him over to the Pullman campaign during a brilliantly written conversation in an empty restaurant. Though it was supposed to remain secret, this exchange doesn't stay off the record for long. Gradually, everything starts to unravel for Myers as he develops an intimate relationship with Molly Stearns (Evan Rachel Wood), an intern for the Morris campaign. As the film progresses, Myers starts to see the true nature of Mike Morris as well as the rampant corruption, backstabbing, and even blackmail involved with running a campaign.

The Ides of March has a terrific ensemble cast. And even though the film's focus is on Gosling's character, some of the best lines about American politics are spoken by the supporting characters: Giamatti, Hoffman, and Wood give believable and noteworthy performances. Clooney's abilities as a writer, director, and actor are put on full display. He has a terrific eye for framing shots, and every close up, including the poignant shot of Gosling that ends the movie, has purpose. This final shot of Gosling staring coldly into the camera encapsulates the tremendous change his character makes during the film. Because I don't want to give away important twists in the plot, I won't say how and why he changes so much. All I can say is that he loses his idealism and ends up becoming just as frigid, mercilessly calculating, and paranoid as the characters played by Giamatti and Hoffman. It is an amazing and frightening transformation to watch in the theatre.



Lauren Alaina



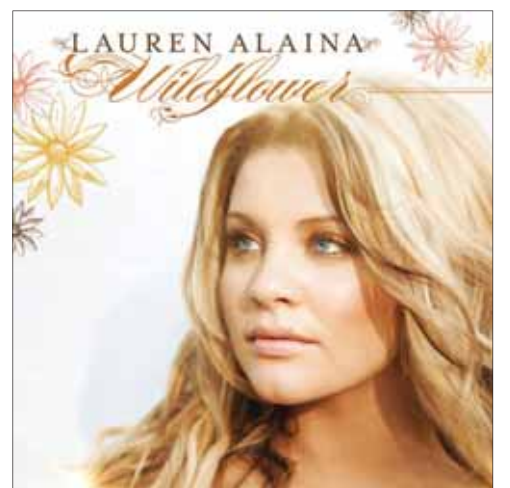
By Janani Rangarajan
Staff Writer

Lauren Alaina, the runner-up of *American Idol* Season 10, was fantastic during her time on the show. Her sweet—yet powerful—voice boasted that soft Mariah Carey twist, and she picked songs wonderfully suited to her. Who can forget her renditions of Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman" or Miley Cyrus's "The Climb"? Obviously, she had talent.

However, in her debut album, *Wildflower*, her style has completely changed. Now, her music is sadly reminiscent of all other country fare. The reason Lauren was originally so popular was her different definition of "country," but in her album, she seems to have cast it aside for something a little more mainstream.

The album as a whole is cliché: small-town country girl with big dreams, strife over a boy, etc. Many of the songs are catchy, such as "Georgia Peaches" and "The Middle," and some are inspirational, such as "Growing Her Wings," but the material seems cookie-cutter and contrived. Her hit single from *American Idol*, "Like My Mother Does," makes an appearance, a nod to her success on the show. Even the biggest hit of the album, "I'm Not One of Them," sounds like a Taylor Swift cover.

The lack of originality proves her naïveté and general inexperience: Most of her songs are about country boys, a predictable topic for a teenage girl. However, with all that being said, Alaina has undeniable talent, and after all, she can only get better.



incubus



By Taylor Law
Staff Writer

It's safe to say that I was *extremely* stoked to attend the anticipated Incubus concert this past weekend. Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, California, was the next stop for the late summer/early fall tour, so I was hoping for a good time. I can tell you right now that I was not disappointed.

Before the headlining band hit the stage, there was excitement in the air as Young the Giant opened and set the tone. For all of the religious MTV VMA viewers, I'm sure this band is not unfamiliar. During the last award show, the group performed its hit single, "My Body," and shocked audiences far and wide with its charismatic and fresh sound. It brought the same energy to Shoreline.

The opening act set up very high expectations. Sameer Gadhia, the lead singer of the rising group, was on point the entire time, hitting every note with melodious ease. There was a sizable crowd for just the opening band (of which I'm officially a fan—I feel an obsession coming on...), so at that point I knew that I had officially embarked on a memorable concert experience.

The entire venue went pitch black and screaming ensued from die-hard fans. Bright red and white spotlights circled the stage as Incubus jumped right into the music. The visual aesthetics were appealing to the eye but never overbearing. There was a multitude of stage effects and use of color to create dimension and meaning around each unique song. One could easily sense that the band is accustomed to performing live. Everything felt natural and unforced, and ultimately revolved purely around the music.

Overall, there was a variety of songs from different albums to appreciate. Personally, I feel more connected to the older songs, so I appreciated the diversity of the tracks. Incubus definitely remembered to stick to its roots and incorporate its old sound as well as the new. The latest album, *If Not Now, When?*, was understandably the biggest focus. Almost half of the set list revolved around its recent release sparking the interest of the audience. Because I haven't felt the necessity to buy this new album, I was hoping to feel a shift in this attitude by the performance of these songs. I wish that the band had taken a moment to communicate with the audience, possibly giving some background on the inspiration behind the new album and the general approach to the making of it. This easily could have triggered a more personal connection and understanding between the band and the audience.

One attribute that Incubus does not lack: power. I say power because the band displays this adjective in so many ways. The vocals are strong, the musicality and rhythm is magnetic, and the presence is immediately known. I was not shocked to hear the roaring shouts for an encore. The band graced the stage yet again, thanking its fans and their support, and made the last two songs really count. It truly was a sight to see, and a lovely reminder in a world of auto-tune and dubstep that a band can play entirely live and still pack a serious punch—even up to the nose-bleeds.



NEW MUSIC

What's a Dubstep?

By Dasha Sadovnikova
Staff Writer

There's no avoiding it. Creeping onto radio waves disguised as a comeback project or soundtracks of epic movies about large multi-functional robots, and even sneaking its way into the tracklist, dubstep has arrived to claim its place as the new chapter in mainstream music culture. It has caused a tremendous stir among today's youth, as well as considerable confusion regarding its exact definition. A high school student would probably define dubstep as rave techno music that goes "whomp, whomp, wobble." Not exactly.

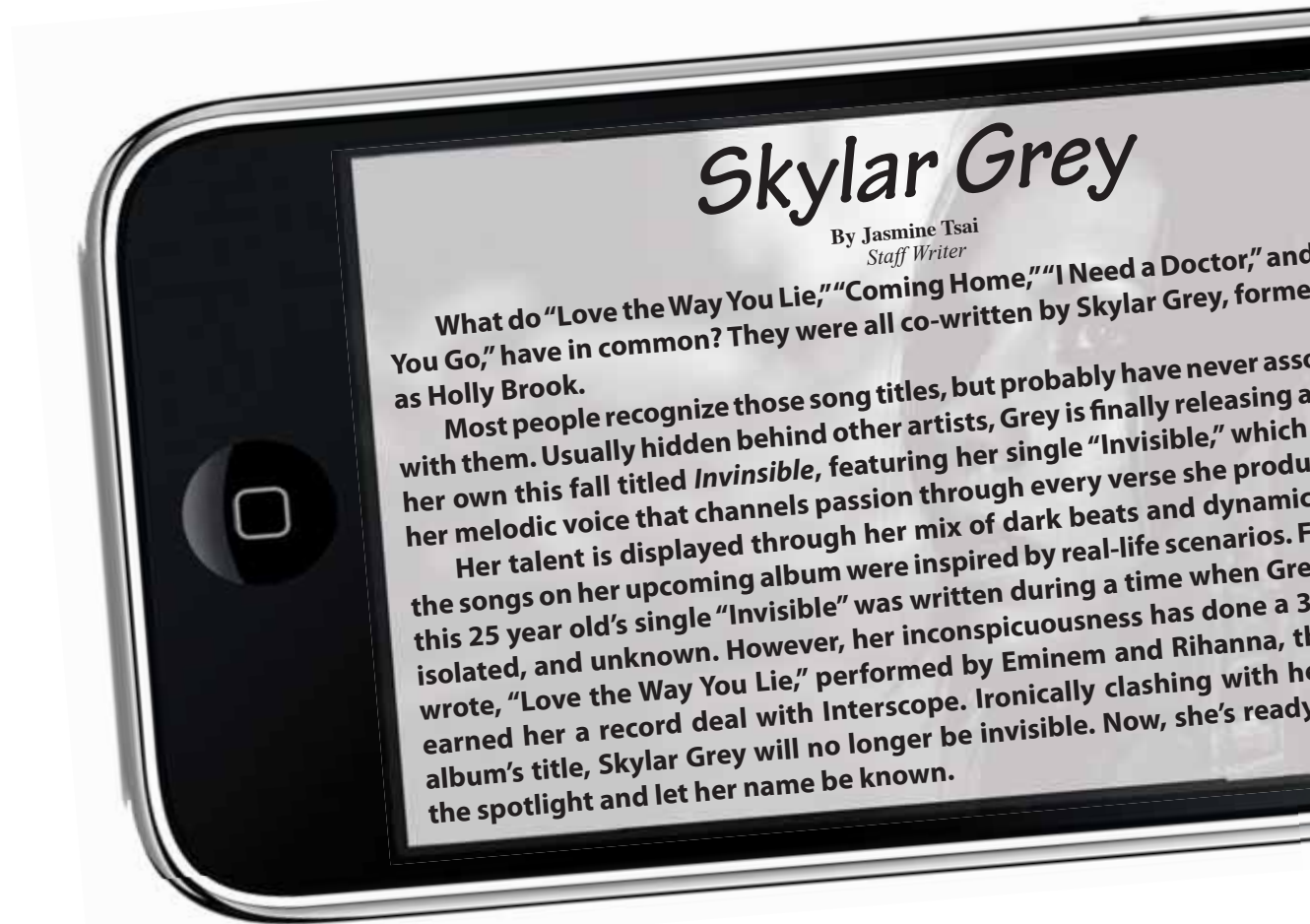


Although many current dubstep producers do rely on a characteristically distorted, prominent low or low frequencies to maintain popularity among their fanbases, this relatively new sound, officially dubbed dubstep, sounds surprisingly little like its predecessor. The dark, gritty bassline that, if assigned a human voice, would be a low, contained humming, versus the psychoactive, distorted of brostep. Dubstep is most distinguishable from other electronic dance music by a percussion pattern that is half-time, rhythmically closer to that of hip-hop than other electronic music branches such as

house or trance, which discredits its reputation as being an integral part of the "rave" scene.

This style emerged from the basements of underground London producers experimenting with elements of breaks and drum and bass in the late 90's and was brought to the surface by renown dubstep forerunners such as 16 Bit, Benga, and Skream. The difference between their musical creations, still in production nearly a decade later, and what you probably heard at the Back To School dance is significant enough to call into question calling both styles by the same name.

The broad spectrum of music known as dubstep remains a controversial topic amongst music connoisseurs today, but there is no denying that it has found its way out of an obscure network of underground currents and into the endless commercialized ocean that is mainstream. Clearly, a standard measure of success.



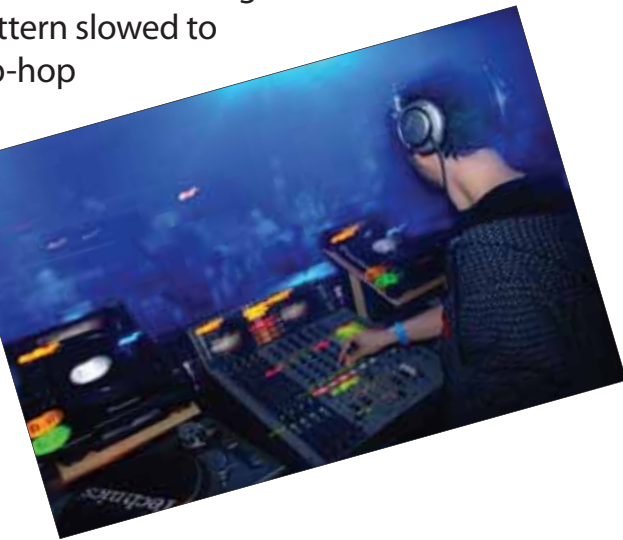
to facebook or not to facebook?

Joshua Ramayrat



Whenever we log on to the Internet, it is likely that our first impulse is to visit www.facebook.com. Have you ever stopped to wonder why Facebook has become such a possible explanation for this, each depending on an individual's perspective? For some, it is as a great way to connect to friends, family, and relatives. Others see it as a way to promote themselves or their business. Collectively, Facebook is great because of its ease to which the individual can connect to other people via the click of a mouse. However, as it grows in popularity, there are unfortunate disadvantages. Facebook's façade of friendliness can lead to spend the majority of their time on the site. Time spent on Facebook can detract from physical activity. This obviously does not help students trying to complete or fill out college applications. Sleepless nights from wasted hours spent on Facebook can negatively impact one's health. If used in moderation, Facebook can be a playful distraction, but it can also negatively impact your lifestyle. It is important to consider all aspects

of former pop queens, dominating
y into your high school dance DJ's
lture. Thus far, it has caused a
ct nature. If asked, the average high
whomp," along with the occasional
cers, such as Doctor P or J. Rabbit,
nt bassline at emphatically high
ngst the youthful majority of their
ubbed "brostep" by music specialists,
he original dubstep features a
vocal equivalent, sounds most like
pathically screeching counterpart
from other sub-genres of
tern slowed to
o-hop



?
pulse is to start typing
is so popular? There are many
ference. There are those who see it
e it as a way of promoting them-
s simplistic design and the relative
of a button. Despite these advan-
edly networking often leads people
ok leads to less time for academic
study for tests, brush up for finals,
pent on Facebook are detrimental to
ction, but if used in excess, it could
s of it before you log on.

"Reality" TV

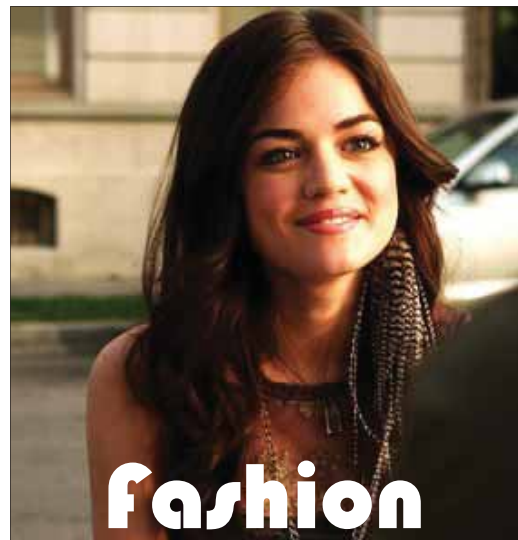
By Laila Kreitem
Staff Writer

From MTV's *Jersey Shore* and *Teen Mom* to Fox's *American Idol* and *The X-Factor*, reality tele-
vision has captivated the minds of a variety of viewers. Although aimed at different
age groups and centered on different subjects, all reality shows have one common
goal: to entertain their viewers.

Reality shows like *Jersey Shore* and *Teen Mom*
are solely focused on drama, comedy, and sex.
These shows present a foreign version of "reality",
distinctly unlike the lives of the viewers. We do
not live the same kind of hectic and out of control
lives that the *Jersey Shore* characters do, but maybe
that is why many find the show so interesting.
Shows like *American Idol* and *X-Factor* provide a com-
pletely different experience. These competitions
allow viewers to discover talented people and see
them live their dreams.



When we turn the TV on to a reality show, we usually enter a world unlike our own.
We find their lives thrilling, exciting, and adventurous. But is reality actually portrayed
in each episode? Not so much. We see people on the show struggle and fight, bicker
and argue, and eventually make up. These reality shows create an imaginary reality in
our minds that, with time, may convince us that they are more than just a show. How-
ever, the true reality of the matter is that these shows are meant to only provide us
with a sense of amusement, with a small lesson to be learned.



fashion

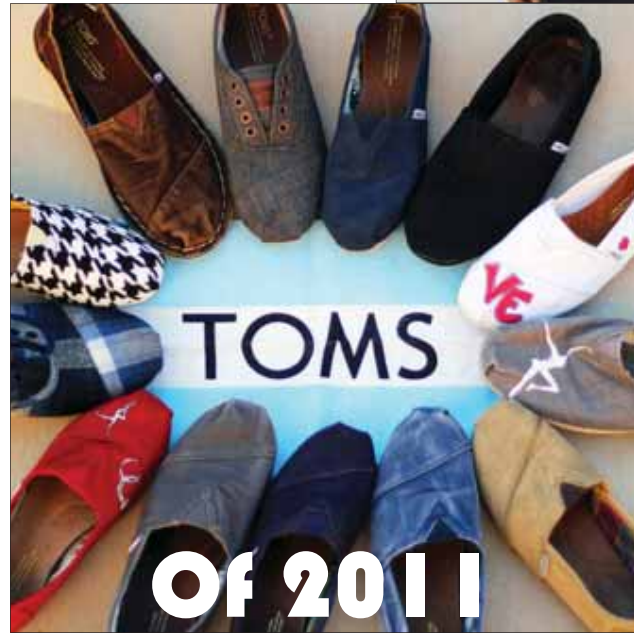
Feather hair extensions made
their way into the media this past
spring. What adds to their appeal
is the manageability factor: they
can be curled or straightened,
and treated like the rest of the
hair. Some people have a single
feather easily hidden from view,
while others wear many feathers.
Hair extensions are a significant
way to make a change in your
everyday look without being too
drastic.

Tie-dye made its big
comeback in the past
few years, and is often
the choice of dress for
many students. Popular
in the United States for
many decades, tie-dyeing
first become fashionable
during the "hippie era"
when it was originally
worn by members of
The Grateful Dead,
an eclectic rock band.
Virtually every type of
clothing can be tie-dyed,
adding to its appeal.



Trends

By Ji Soo Kim
Staff Writer



Of 2011

TOMS has a wide variety
of styles in its inventory,
ranging from classics
to wedges. The shoes
were modeled after
traditional Argentine
footwear sported by
many impoverished
children, which lead to the
company's promise of "One
for One". What makes TOMS
such a popular option for
many is its simple design
that goes with all different
types of apparel.



Hanna Tannenbaum

What inspires you to photograph?

The things that I see in everyday life and also ideas that I imagine mostly inspire me. Sometimes I see a photo or piece of art by a famous painter and I try to incorporate that into my photography.

What do you usually photograph?

I spend a lot of time taking pictures of nature. I also really enjoy taking pictures of people though; my friends make great models.

Why did you choose these photos?

I chose these photos because I think they represent the different types of photography that I enjoy most.

Describe the scene of a photo that you desire to capture.

Right now, I have an idea in my head for a creepy Alice in Wonderland photo shoot. I'm thinking of putting a girl pouring a substance in her mouth from a bottle. This would be a picture of the girl's profile. Then coming out of her mouth would be smoke rising slowly into the air. Mixed into the smoke would be eyes that represent the Cheshire cat. There are so many details in this photograph! It's more difficult for me to write the idea down on paper than it is to actually shoot it.



Through the Lens:

Monarch Photography



Rachel Wakely

What words describe your photography?

Diverse, artsy, insightful

What peaked your interest in photography?

After freshman year I was beginning to try to figure who I am, what I want to do, and what I enjoy. I realized that I have a very free-spirited and expressive personality and I love being able to express myself through photos and showing emotions and feelings through a picture. I then decided that I wanted to pursue photography and bought my own personal camera.

What is your favorite picture?

My favorite picture of mine is of my friend, Myha'la Herrold, jumping in front of the ocean with her dread locks flailing in the air.

Describe the scene of a photo that you desire to capture.

The scene of a photo that I desire to capture is in a country-like meadow. I imagine an oat field that hasn't been cut so the oats rise to about hip length. In the background, there is an old, run-down barn with an old, abandoned, discolored 1950s Ford truck in the background. I would like to take a portrait of this scene.

Far Right: “My sister was trying on her 1st communion dress and I quickly posed her by my window. Samantha is so beautiful and the black and white gradient adds to the softness and innocence she possesses.”
 —*Marrisa McPeak*

Right: “This photo especially stood out to me among the others I took of her because of the lighting. The way it hits her face from the side and draws attention to her eyelashes is really special.”
 —*Rachel Sayare*

Below: “The light inspired me to take this photo because the scene was peaceful and calm which depicted the Buddha in its true essence.”
 —*Dillan Patel*



1. Rachel Sayare



2. Marissa McPeak

How To: Portraits



3. Dillan Patel

The occasions are endless for great portrait photography in the coming months. Here are some tips for taking great quality pictures with any camera. Each tip matches up with a picture on this page, so look at these pictures to see the tips in action.

Photo #1: Lighting should be soft and natural. More light is better to take brighter pictures. However, light should not shine directly on the model as it causes glare.

Photo #2: Make the background as simple as possible. Fitting too many objects into the image will overcrowd the picture.

Photo #3: Take more than one picture and be creative. Take pictures from different angles, change the camera settings, and find new ways to experiment. The more pictures taken, the more options to choose from!

Photo #4: Be sure to capture any important details to make the picture seem lifelike. Do not be afraid to take close up photos. Pictures with the subject too far away will make the photo appear small and lifeless.

Photo #5: Focus on the eyes. The eyes of a subject will help the picture create a greater impact, add more detail, and draw attention to the subject.

Lastly, practice, practice, practice! Continue taking more pictures. Compare photo techniques with past photos, and set goals on what can be fixed. Soon you will be a master photographer!

By Lina Lalwani



4. Connor Gibson



5. Rachel Sayare

Above: “I took this picture up at Garrod Ranch. I like it because it shows Sparky’s curiosity and playfulness while in other shots you can see his determination and liveliness as he powers around the arena.”
 —*Connor Gibson*

Left: “People often say that eyes are the first feature others see, and I wanted to demonstrate that with this photo. My kitty, Toki, just happened to make the perfect face.”
 —*Rachel Sayare*

Like what you see?
 Want to be a part of
 The Monarch’s next issue?
 Send in a request to
monarchphoto12@gmail.com.

Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE



Spotlight on: MS. LEONE'S FOOD JUSTICE PROGRAM

By Esha Joshi
Justice Editor

Ms. Leone is a new staff member in our community, taking the place of Mr. Kroenung as the Director of Christian Service.

What did Ms. Leone do before coming to Mitty?

Before Mitty, she worked at a middle school for three years and was heavily involved in an after-school youth program called At Risk Youth. This program provided her and her students with the opportunity to reach out to gang-impacted adolescents in the state of California through service and direct communication. Ms. Leone's vision for community service this year includes a new project called the Food Justice Program.

How was the program started?

This year Ms. Leone, along with the help of Mrs. Fenker and her environmental science students, has created a new opportunity for community service. This program, which started simply as extra credit in Mrs. Fenker's class, has blossomed into a full-fledged project outside of the classroom.

What do students do while they volunteer for this program?

Students promote environmental justice by serving meals at Envision, a homeless shelter in San Jose. There are three different organizations where the food for the shelter is obtained: Full Circle Farm, Veggielution Community Farm, and Village Harvest. These resources empower youth to create sustainable food systems by having volunteers manually pick fresh food and fruit from the fields and cook it for underprivileged families to enjoy.

What is its goal for students?

The main goal of the Food Justice Program is to promote community and social justice through organic agriculture; its mission is to "empower people to change the way they think about food by getting their hands in the soil, connecting with the land, and tasting the fruits of their labor."

**For more information about the Food Justice Program or other Christian Service endeavors, please contact Ms. Leone or Mrs. Fenker.*

MAP

The **Mitty Advocacy Project (MAP)** is the only student-run legislative group in the state of California. MAP president Sruthi Ramaswami says, "We use politics as a vehicle to impact change and serve our communities." In the past few years, these justice-oriented leaders of the Mitty community founded Catholic Youth Advocacy Day, which over 160 high school students attended.

Various members will also be traveling to Washington D.C. this November to present at Georgetown University. There, they will take part in and lead the Ignatian Solidarity Teach In, while contributing to efforts to close the School of the Americas in Georgia. After, they will prepare for the 2012 Catholic Youth Advocacy Day, where they will address foster care, homelessness, human trafficking, and gang violence. Contact Mr. Accorsi, Mr. Herrera, Mrs. Walker, or current members for more information, or come to meetings on Mondays after school in room 101. To learn more, visit MAP's website: <http://mittyadvocacy.wordpress.com/>.

New Global
Citizens Club

The **New Global Citizens Club**, a worldwide, nonprofit organization, is committed to focusing on challenges addressed in the 8 United Nations Under Development Goals, including extreme poverty, universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability, and sustainable local economies. Mitty's New Global Citizens branch plans on calling attention to issues that occur in our own community, striving to make a difference through fundraisers, volunteer work, and collaboration with other NGC club branches in the state. To join, contact club moderator Mrs. Brody or the club presidents, Deepika Suresh and Pooja Kumar. To learn more, visit <http://www.newglobalcitizens.org/>.

J
U
S
T
I
C
E

C
L
U
B
S

Above the Influence

Mitty's Above the Influence Club (ATIC) seeks to form a community that promotes responsibility with regard to substance abuse. The club encourages abstaining from drug and alcohol usage. Under the guidance of president, Makoto Lalwani, and moderator Mr. Tom Motroni, the Above the Influence Club is partnered with the Chat 4 Teens organization. To inform young adults of the dangers of peer pressure with regard to these influences. Many people on Mitty's campus have been affected by the misuse of drugs and alcohol, both directly and indirectly. Those interested can contact Makoto Lalwani or Mr. Motroni.

The **Green Club** works to create a more environmentally friendly campus at Mitty. The Green Club has done many projects; in the past two years, the club has informed the student body of the dangers of constant use of plastic water bottles, selling personalized Green Club reusable water bottles. This year, they plan to complete more projects and campaigns, including selling reusable lunchboxes, in lieu of brown paper bags for lunches. To get involved, contact Mrs. Tirado or Katie Gray for more information.

Green-Club

INTERACT

Interact, is a part of an international organization of service clubs that fosters leadership and responsible citizenship, international understanding and peace. Last year, Mitty's district, District 5170, raised \$100,000 for Shelterbox, an international disaster relief organization that delivers emergency supplies to victims worldwide. This year, they will volunteer at various agencies and coordinate both fundraisers and service projects around the area. Contact the club moderator Mrs. Hopkins, or co-presidents Claire Chu and Areya Behrouzian if interested.

By Katrina Vokt and Jeemin Kwon
Staff Writers

Troy Davis: Murderer or Martyr?

By **Makoto Lalwani**
Staff Writer

11:08 PM, September 21, 2011—two decades after his original arrest in 1991, Georgia inmate Troy Davis was put to death by lethal injection, sparking a flurry of controversy. While Davis might be dead, his legacy lives on, as thousands of protestors across the nation have called into question the effectiveness of the American judicial system. Did Troy Davis die in vain? Perhaps, or perhaps not.

On August 19, 1989, police officer Mark MacPhail was shot and killed as he intervened in a fight between a homeless man and a man named Sylvester Coles. Nine eyewitnesses in the case named Davis as the gunman and murderer. A noteworthy detail: they accused him though there was a lack of evidence, including a murder weapon. Years later, seven witnesses recanted their testimonies, claiming they were coerced by police officers into supporting Davis' conviction.

And when one looks at the circumstances, how can this manipulation be surprising? Troy Davis was an African-American man accused of murdering a white police officer in the Deep South, a place where people still occasionally hang the Confederate flag. Furthermore, nine witnesses have claimed that Sylvester Coles, the other suspect in the case, was the one who shot MacPhail. Significantly, Coles was one of the remaining two eyewitnesses that maintained Davis' guilt.

Despite this evidence and despite support from hundreds of thousands of people for Davis' release, appeals were consistently denied by both Georgia courts and the Supreme Court. Signs declaring "I am Troy Davis," petitions, and even opposition from figures such as ex-President Jimmy Carter and Pope Benedict XVI were all for naught. In many ways, Troy Davis' fate was sealed from the moment he was arrested.

And Davis' case is not unique. Elsewhere in the U.S., two men have recently been exonerated in similar situations.

Obie Anthony, a 37-year-old man, spent 17 years in prison after being convicted of shooting and killing a man in Los Angeles. Additionally, Michael Morton, a 57-year-old man, was also released from prison, where he served 25 years in under charges of beating his wife to death. The Innocence Project, a campaign to investigate crimes that may have



resulted in wrongful convictions, aided these two men in their exonerations.

This organization uses DNA evidence to prove innocence, and has been successful in recent decades in doing so, having exonerated 273 people to date. The fact that there is an entire organization devoted to investigating wrongful convictions since 1992 illustrates that this is an ongoing issue not specific to just one person, but many that have been or may have been wronged by our justice system. Even more, it raises the question of how many innocent people are currently imprisoned or on death row, and how many more lives will be wasted if we allow this to continue.

The story of Davis and the exoneration of so many others bring up a rather alarming point: how can we be sure that our judicial system is truly providing justice, and furthermore, what quality of evidence must be present to sentence someone to life in prison—or even execution? In an era where DNA testing and other forensic technologies are available, historically unreliable eyewitness claims are no longer as necessary as they used to be.

According to Rob Warden, director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University, "Eyewitness testimony is so horribly inaccurate—even under the very best of circumstances."

If the proper cautions are not taken, one person's poor judgment can lead to the death of an innocent person—and while a prison term may be overruled, a life may never be returned.

Few no for certain whether Troy Davis was either guilty or innocent; there are too many inconsistencies surrounding the case to make such a statement. But in our judicial system, one must be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in order to be convicted. In a case where tangible evidence was virtually nonexistent, where the main sources of testimony turned out to be false, one cannot help but wonder why the death penalty was used.

It is time that as a nation, we take a step back and reevaluate the methods in which we pursue justice, so that present and future Troy Davises, potentially innocent human beings, do not lose their lives due to prejudice, carelessness, and apathy. Mitty junior religion classes teach specifically about exoneration of criminals and have showcased the Innocence Project in the past; it is promising to see that we as a school are teaching about this as a legitimate problem in the justice system today.

For more information about cases like this and others, visit www.innocenceproject.org.

Obama Pushes to Create Jobs, Revitalize Economy

By **Billy Rehbock**
Staff Writer

With the poor state of the American job market, it is common sense that new jobs need to be created. In order to make this happen, Democratic Legislators in Congress are seeking to push a bill referred to as the "Obama Jobs Bill."

Public schools have been suffering greatly, with decreasing staff and funding. The bill, which was introduced in early September, hopes to turn this around, maintaining and modernizing 35,000 schools with new technology and infrastructure. It would also prevent the layoffs of 280,000 teachers.

In addition, the bill aims to rebuild national infrastructure. Workers will be paid to maintain rundown buildings and homes.

The bill would also extend unemployment benefits for six million Americans. And finally, the bill seeks to expand employment opportunities for low-income youth and adults through training programs.

In response to the bill, many Americans tend to oppose additional taxation, while others wish to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

This split, primarily on party lines, was already seen in the Senate where, due to Republican opposition, the bill was voted down. That doesn't mean the end for its chances, however, as now Democrats are reintroducing much of it piece by piece.

In many instances, the bill cuts taxes. But how can the government fund new workers without implementing additional taxes or keeping current taxes in place? The bill states that the President will call on a Joint Committee to come up with any additional necessary deficit reduction.

This implies that other governmental programs, those likely to benefit the country, will be cut; however, eliminating them will be counterproductive to the revitalization of our nation.

With these programs cut and revenue thus eliminated, there will be far less income for the government.

Taxation is necessary for a government to operate, and if jobs are to be added, it would be ideal that taxes not be decreased, since doing so will only increase the burden on the federal government.

The intent of the bill is excellent, and the provided benefits are what the country needs to remedy the current economic situation. Major repairs are needed within the country's old infrastructure, and this bill is a step toward this change.

Cutting the taxes that businesses and employees pay is not necessary or beneficial in a down economy, especially at the cost of important government sponsored programs. A balance in this needs to be found.

We cannot create jobs at the expense of important governmental programs, as this could ultimately be detrimental to America's progress as well.



Palestine: Rallying For Independence

By **Justice Editors**

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict goes back many years, and of course still today people living in the region are encountering violence in their daily lives.

This conflict originally arose when both Palestine and Israel claimed the same area of land, where Israel and the West Bank are today. In the late 1940s, the United Nations proposed the partitioning of the land into two states: one for the Arabs in Palestine, and one for the Jews in Israel.

When this plan was subsequently rejected, Israel declared its own statehood, and as a result, conflict has been raging on for decades. The UN has intervened consistently, attempting to smooth out relations between Israel and Palestine.

Now, decades later, Palestine also wants to become an official independent state—completely separate from Israel's territory. The people of Israel, however, are divided about accepting Palestine's choice to become independent. While some realize the benefits of separate states, many others reject the idea.

The United States, because of its ties to Israel, has taken a pro-Israel stance on the conflict in the past, and is continuing to do so today.

Just last month, President Barack Obama at the General Assembly for World Leaders, explained his opposition to the Palestinian statehood: "Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the

UN. If it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now," Obama said. Obama hopes, instead, for a resolution to come from peace talks between the Palestinian and Israeli communities. Obama has been trying to create peace between these two nations—a priority from the start of his presidency. However, this approach has not worked for years, so one wonders why it would be an appropriate response now.

A barrage of violence is happening in both areas as a result of the dispute that has been going on for decades. Senior Chaddy

Georges, who has family in both areas, knows of the atrocities personally.

"My mom's 35 year old cousin was killed by an Israeli missile while at a market. The U.S. needs to step up now and support peace resolutions including Palestin-

ian statehood in order to stop the meaningless loss of life over land conflicts."

Undoubtedly, this issue affects the entire world, and needs to be resolved once and for all. Palestine has now formally petitioned for statehood in the UN, which replied that a resolution will come within about a month.

Though the results of the UN vote are still in the air, Palestine's fate will soon be decided. No matter what the answer is, there is still a long road of compromises ahead. Hopefully, these upcoming decisions will finally lead to effective, long-term solutions to a problem that has plagued the world for so many years.

"My mom's 35-year-old cousin was killed by an Israeli missile while at a market."

-Chaddy Georges ('12)

SPORTS

Cross-Country Update

By Stephen Kwok
Sports Editor

With Head Coach Dina Oakland at the helm, and the additions of Coach Lee on the women's side and Coach Kriege on the men's side, Mitty's cross-country team is poised to make a serious leap in the league standings.

On the women's side, the team has experienced unbelievable success in the early going. With an impressive performance from the Varsity team led by juniors Molly Haar and Olivia Rintala, as well as sophomore Olivia Brobst, the girls were able to nab 2nd place overall in their first WCAL meet.

The Varsity team went from being unranked in CCS to currently holding the 7th team spot. In addition, the depth of the women's team is incredible, with the JV team taking 1st place overall at both the Ram Invitational and their first WCAL race.

Coach Dan Hodgin has managed to put together a strong men's team that is certain to make its mark on the league. Junior Richard Guzikowski has been impressive, pacing under 5:20 for more than half of his races thus far, and taking 2nd place amongst all juniors at the Lynbrook Center Meet. He is supported by a young group that is continually improving. With all of these runners returning next season, the men's team should feel confident for the future.

Football: Monarchs Playing With Resolve

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

This season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the young Monarchs, but like they have done before, Mitty has embraced the role of the underdog and performed above their expectations. With a 5-2-1 record, Mitty has once again become a threat in the WCAL.

Entering week one, the Monarchs faced off against Pioneer and made a strong statement. They wanted to prove their dominance and show that they were not in a rebuilding stage.

"We came out with a lot of intensity," said junior wide receiver and safety Jacob Wesson, "showing that even without our big-name players, we're still a big-name team."

Mitty started out strong and took a 45-0 lead into the fourth quarter. When it was all said and done, the Monarchs had won 45-14.

Week two was unusual, to say the least: The Monarchs played a powerful San Ramon Valley team, who had beaten Mitty last season with a late field goal in the final seconds. This year seemed different, with Mitty capturing a 14-13 lead with 2:40 left in the third quarter. The Monarchs had regained momentum and looked to be on their way to victory.

Unfortunately, the game was suspended due to lightning and was completed three days later. San Ramon Valley recovered an onside kick to start the Monday continuation, and didn't let up; the Wolves ended up taking a 21-14 victory.

Mitty was left with only a week of preparation for its Week 3 opponent, defending state champions Palo Alto.

The Vikings had defeated the Monarchs on

two separate occasions last season, which left a bad taste in the Mitty locker room.

"Going into the Palo Alto game we had the mind-set that we were going to make up for the loss in last year's playoffs," Wesson said.

Despite their short week of preparation, Mitty played very well, and were tied 21-21

two-point conversion attempt and struck pay dirt once again. In the end, the Monarchs came away with a 22-22 tie.

After the tie, Mitty faced off against St. Francis for the annual night game. The Monarchs started out slowly, trailing 10-0 after the first quarter, but cut the lead to 17-14 at halftime.

The second half was an intense affair, both defenses clamping down and preventing a score in the third quarter.

With 8:47 left in the final quarter, Bobby Marani scored a two-yard run to take a 21-17 lead. The Monarch defense then made stand after stand, winning the game for the Monarchs, taking their record to 3-1-1.

A week later, Mitty pulled out perhaps its biggest win of the season, defeating the undefeated Serra in a come-from-behind affair that truly cemented the Monarchs status among the best in the WCAL.

Head coach Matt Haniger told the *Mercury News*, "We are under the radar, but you know what, we're fine with that. This is one of the hardest working groups I've seen in the 20 years I've been here and we're just going to get better and better."

Senior quarterback Andrew Barna leads the Monarchs with 879 passing yards and eight touchdowns. Cail McClenahen has had 113 rushing yards, 318 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Jacob Wesson has also been a factor in the receiving game with 13 catches for 346 yards and three touchdowns.

Defensively, seniors Bobby Marani and Joe DeCecco have led the way. DeCecco has 50 tackles with an interception while Marani has 51 tackles—impressive numbers by key defensive players.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Andrew Barna hands the ball off to Cail McClenahen versus San Ramon Valley.

with Palo Alto early in the fourth quarter. On the next drive, senior quarterback Andrew Barna threw a 72-yard touchdown to fellow senior Cail McClenahen. The defense held strong in protecting a 27-21 lead, and the Monarchs handed Palo Alto their first loss since November of 2009.

Mitty began WCAL play against the St. Ignatius Wildcats. In a scrappy game, SI held a 22-14 lead over the Monarchs with three minutes remaining—Mitty had one final possession to try to salvage a tie. The Monarchs drove 59-yards downfield, and were on the SI 1-yard line with seven seconds remaining.

With the game on the line, senior Bobby Marani punched in a one-yard score to cut the deficit to two. Mitty ran the same play on the

Coach's Speak

What is your pregame superstition?



Ms. Justina Williams

"The Mitty field hockey team cheer before every game is a song called 'Juice the Mitty.' It is a great tradition that has continued over the years and our Alumni team even did the cheer at our Alumni game. The superstition is the cheer must be done on the field between the white lines!"



Mr. Jason Scalse

"We always say a prayer before we introduce lineups, but the girls have the best superstition. When it is time to do the team cheer, they delay as long as they can to avoid doing it before the other team."

Mr. Bret Almazan-Cezar

"My pregame superstitions are all about caffeine. Breakfast is a trip to Starbucks for a triple, venti, non-fat, two equals, latte with a chocolate chunk cookie. Lunch and match time is usually supplemented with a Diet Coke. This superstition began in 1997 when my team beat the #1 team in the nation—Archbishop Mitty."



Ms. Dina Oakland

"I always 'dope out' our races. That means I compare our times with the other team's to predict the score. I have become a little obsessed with this at times and do it over and over. I guess I haven't come to terms with the fact that no matter how I dope out a race beforehand, the final results will never be affected by my predictions."



Chemistry Key to Success

By Erik Chu
Staff Writer

For the Archbishop Mitty women's volleyball team, this year is all about redemption. Fresh off of a heartbreaking CCS Semifinal loss against national power Presentation, the Monarchs were looking to have a bounce-back season. The Monarchs have done just that, improving dramatically and storming off to an impressive 20-6 (2-1 league) record, with marquee non-conference wins over nationally ranked Cardinal Gibbons (North Carolina) and Rocklin (Sacramento).

The team is comprised of a mix of underclassmen and upperclassmen, and Coach Bret Almazan-Cesar has done a superb job of guiding his team to victory.

Led by senior outside hitters Alex Caldwell and Katie Conroy, the Monarchs have also done exceptionally well in West Catholic League play, hanging with the likes of St. Francis and Presentation.

"We've had a couple tough losses but that's only made us stronger, pushing us to go back to practice and work as hard as we can," says Caldwell. "The only way we can reach that goal is get better in practice every day and push ourselves to strive for excellence."

The schedule is definitely no cakewalk this year. Non-league games have included neutral contests at multiple tournaments against El Camino (Sacramento), Santa Barbara, and Los Gatos. Playing in the WCAL makes every game even more difficult, and with perennial league

powers Presentation and St. Francis and the emerging Sacred Heart Cathedral having lost only a combined nine games, this season will be no exception.

Mitty faced its true challenge in West Catholic League action against one of the top teams in the league on September 28, facing Sacred Heart on the road. Mitty was able to tough it out against the Irish, winning the match 3 games to 2 (23-25, 22-25, 25-17, 25-22, 15-12). Caldwell had an amazing performance, leading the way for the Monarchs with an astonishing 24 kills.

While another team might have relaxed after such a close win, the Monarchs remained focused and easily dismantled an inferior Notre-Dame

Belmont squad at home, 3 games to 1. However, they fell to a strong St. Ignatius team two days later, losing 1-3.

The Monarchs won't have much time to mull over their defeat, however, as they face a grueling yet crucial 4 game stretch, in which they battle St. Francis, Presentation, and Valley Christian, all of which will be extremely competitive matches.

In the end, it's the team's chemistry that's inspired their success, and will carry the team to victory in the future.

"Our team is very close on and off the court, something that creates a lot of good energy when we're playing," said junior libero Anne Marie Schmidt. "We always stick together and stay positive, and manage to create this atmosphere in each match we play"



Photo courtesy of Prolmage

The team gathers in a huddle before the first serve.

Field Hockey off to Torrid Start

By Aditya Kotte
Staff Writer

It is extremely uncommon for a team to win every single match that they play. Currently undefeated with a record of 8-0 for league games and 6-0 in non-league games, the Monarch women's field hockey team is obviously defying the status quo.

Last year, the team posted a 10-3-3 record, with five of those wins in non-league games. With its perfect start, the team has improved on this excellent record, absolutely dominating its opponents this year.

This significant improvement has been highlighted many times over. Mitty defeated Los Gatos for the first time in three years, demonstrating the team's resilience and grit in the 4-1 victory.

Furthermore, Mitty avenged a semifinal loss last year, downing Gilroy 2-0.

Their triumphs over past foes highlight the team's resolve this year, a resolve that has helped them to win so often.

Among the abundance of talent and skill on the team's roster, there are a few standout players that significantly contribute to the success of this team. Senior Martha Duarte is a prime example, holding up a powerful defensive front that is the team's foundation.

Furthermore, senior Clemence Couteau has played a key role in midfield, setting up many of the team's goals. The team has also gotten solid performance from unexpected contributors. Senior Lindsay Mewes, an outstanding goalie for Mitty's soccer team, has taken her skills to the hockey field with excellent results. She's been an incredible asset for the team, just another cog in the well-oiled machine.

It's the team's chemistry that's paved the way for their success thus far this year, according to junior Kelsey Hideshima.

"I would say our unity and how close we are as a team are the main factors for our success," she says, "We can all trust each other on and off the field. I wouldn't say our team relies on any specific person. We all work really well together."

Judging by their flawless start to the season and the confidence and momentum

that have accompanied their success, Mitty's field hockey can set their goals high. Winning the league championship and the CCS title both seem within reach for this high-flying Monarch team.

As the season nears its final stretch, the women's field hockey team will do all they can to hang another banner from the rafters of the Fien Gym.



Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Claire Cecilio dribbles the ball against Los Altos.

Highlight REEL

Men's Water Polo



COACH: MR. MIKE HENDRICKSON

HIGHLIGHT: WINNING IN STRONG FASHION, 17-5 VS. LYNBROOK

BOBBY WEN: "COMPAED TO PREVIOUS SEASONS, OUR TEAM IS REALLY PICKING UP THIS YEAR. I AM CONFIDENT IN OUR ABILITIES TO PERFORM WELL THIS SEASON."

Senior Andrew Dzurko

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Women's Golf



Sophomore Kyleigh Moreno

COACH: MR. MATT GARRISON

HIGHLIGHT: DEFEATING ST. FRANCIS 202-220, WITH AN AMAZING 40.4 AVERAGE SCORE, BELIEVED TO BE THE BEST IN MITTY HISTORY

DANI AIELLO: "THE TEAM THIS YEAR HAS BEEN CLOSER AND STRONGER THAN EVER. WE HAVE SET A COMMON GOAL THAT WE HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO REACH AND ARE ALWAYS THERE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER."

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Women's Tennis



COACH: MR. JASON SCALESE

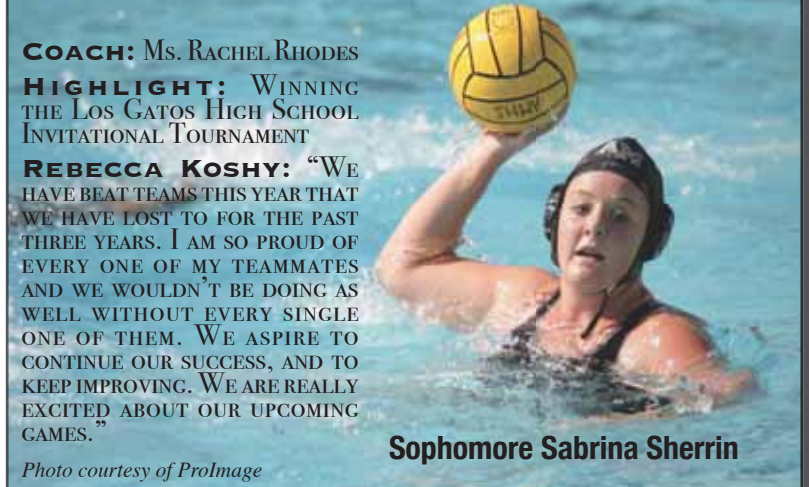
HIGHLIGHT: BEATING SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL AND ST. FRANCIS CONSECUTIVELY TO IMPROVE TO 5-0

CASSIE LIU: "THIS YEAR'S TENNIS TEAM IS DEFINITELY ONE THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF. EVEN THOUGH WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES, WE STILL BOND OVER A MUTUAL LOVE FOR TENNIS."

Photo courtesy of Tiffany Ronen

Junior Regina Chi

Women's Water Polo



COACH: MS. RACHEL RHODES

HIGHLIGHT: WINNING THE LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

REBECCA KOSHY: "WE HAVE BEAT TEAMS THIS YEAR THAT WE HAVE LOST TO FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. I AM SO PROUD OF EVERY ONE OF MY TEAMMATES AND WE WOULDN'T BE DOING AS WELL WITHOUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM. WE ASPIRE TO CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS, AND TO KEEP IMPROVING. WE ARE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT OUR UPCOMING GAMES."

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Sophomore Sabrina Sherrin

Compiled by Rebecca Casey
Sports Editor

STUDENT CENTER (RED)

Rushikesh Joshi

By Carlisle Micallef
Staff Writer

Senior Rushikesh Joshi is well-known around campus as an overall fun guy to be around and as captain of the Men's Varsity Tennis team. He claims this year's tennis team will be one of Mitty's strongest ever. Yet not only does Rushikesh lead our school on the court, but also in the area of service, where his volunteer work is nothing short of inspiring.

Every year, Rushikesh volunteers as a counselor at the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) in Occidental, California. Muscular Dystrophy is a debilitating degenerative disease that causes the deterioration of the body's muscles in children as early as two or three years old. Many affected children become wheelchair bound and fully dependent by the age of ten.

The camp Rushikesh volunteers at is a one-week excursion for such kids, with counselors taking on the role as their "older brothers." From waking up at night to turn them over in bed to prevent bed sores, to helping the younger boys through homesickness, to wheelchair-decorating, to helping the campers into the pool where they can enjoy the feeling of being weightless, Rushikesh is there every day.

One particular event that stands out to Rushikesh is the ever-famous "Gossip Box" where they poke fun at each other by exposing counselors' silly secrets during mealtimes. One year he and a fellow counselor were chosen as "The Gossip-Box People" where they would make a huge deal out of the Gossip Box, dress up in silly costumes, do crazy things and even submit jokes about their own campers. "They loved it!" Rushikesh says, "After that I had five or six campers come up to me saying they wanted me as their counselor."

Rushikesh comes back every year to witness first-hand how these boys can overcome the debilitating changes they go through year to year. Ultimately, it has given him a different perspective on life. Despite their condition, they never show remorse and live every moment to the fullest. The boys show extreme maturity in their ability to accept their condition and live with it. However, they never lose the kid in themselves and once they go to camp, "it all comes out" with pranks and jokes. Rushikesh says, "It makes me see how blessed I am, and how I should appreciate all I've been given. There are a lot of young people out there who struggle and these boys, in particular, show tremendous courage in facing the cards life has dealt them."

Rushikesh was selected as one of Archbishop Mitty's representatives to Boys' State, a conference aimed to involve youth in the political process. There, Rushikesh was elected by his peers to assume the role of Lieutenant Governor. In this role, Rushikesh was able to experience what life is like as a political figure.

Rushikesh is the epitome of a successful student here at Mitty: He shows true leadership by not only reaching his fullest potential as a student and athlete, but also reaching out a hand to those in need.



The Phreshman Phenomenon

By Sumedh Guha
Staff Writer

The beginning of the 2011-2012 school year has marked the grand arrival of the class of 2015. Along with its energy and enthusiasm, this class has the largest number of students in its individual section than any other graduating class at Mitty. With 470 students, the class of 2015 is approximately 9% larger than a typical year, which usually has about 430 students.

This increase in size is far less trivial than it may, at first, appear. With a greater number of students, Mitty seeks to bring real talent to its campus. "We hope that the members of the Class of 2015 continue to excel in all of their endeavors at Archbishop Mitty High School... Their admissions files were impressive, illustrating outstanding achievement in academic and extra-curricular arenas alike," Assistant Principal of Admissions, **Ms. Kate Caputo**, acknowledges.

The strong presence of these freshmen has already been felt at Mitty. After the departure of the class of 2011, the school has been looking toward its newest members to fill the void. Many of these students have begun to make their mark in a wide variety of activities, ranging from Athletics, Performing Arts, and Clubs to Campus Ministry and Academics.

Stephanie Tsou, a freshman, is one such student who has involved herself with several extracurriculars at Mitty. She is a member of both the Symphonic Orchestra and the Mandarin Club. "I am really enjoying being a part of these two groups... They provide me the opportunity to become more passionate about music and my culture, respectively, and also interact with new people," she explains.

Clearly, the class of 2015 is special in not just its size, but also in its potential for greatness. These students are the leaders for the future that will help guide Mitty to glory, just as the previous classes have done. We wish them all the best in their endeavors!



Photo Courtesy of Marissa McPeak

Delving into the Dean's Office

By Aneesh Akella and Anir Ramesh
Staff Writers

The Dean's Office often creates terror in the hearts of many Archbishop Mitty Students over the years; threats of hour-long detentions and trash duty after school make the office unapproachable to some. However, many know that the Dean's office staff is actually a group of fun and caring individuals.

While, among students, **Mr. Jim Fallis**, has a reputation for handing out detentions regarding various infractions of school rules, this persona directly contrasts with his reputation as a prankster among faculty. With Marvin Gaye's classic, "You're All I Need To Get By" playing in the background, Mr. Fallis can humorously recount how, years ago, he had to give out a detention to a student for wearing a rather peculiar outfit. He fondly remembers that the student was sent to his office during Spirit Week for wearing a hot dog costume. Having to confiscate the costume, Mr. Fallis couldn't bring himself to throw it away and says with a sly smile, "I may or may not have worn it."

Mr. Fallis gets perturbed that students are so intimidated by him and "turn their heads sideways or try to pull their pants up when I'm around them, and it saddens me because they don't know me as a person. I'm not like that." Really, he cares about the well-being of students and has one question for anyone who ends up in his office: "Why?"

Likewise, **Mrs. Wesmiller** hates viewing students as troublemakers and having to give out detentions. Being a teacher, she feels uneasy when she sees her own students breaking dress code and misbehaving since she tries to keep her jobs—as an Assistant Dean and as a teacher—separate from one another. To her, finding the balance between being a coffee-crazed, energetic teacher

and a dean is as strange as it is difficult. However, she can't deny the fact that being the Assistant Dean has its perks; she never has to worry about anyone coming late to her class.

But before encountering either one of these [now not so] formidable Deans, on their way into the office, students meet the lovable **Mrs. Garcia** and **Mrs. Taft**. When students visit Mrs. Garcia for being late, many immediately expect that they will be unexcused and receive a detention. However, giving out tardies is the least enjoyable part of her job. In fact, she is happy when students have *valid* excuses.

According to Mrs. Garcia, the office's main purpose is not to punish the students. Rather, it maintains order and makes sure that Mitty is a safe community. The quality of this community is evidenced by this fact.

And of course the Mitty community adores Mrs. Taft (Mrs. Garcia's sister) because every month she gives out 300 delicious cookies, described by Mrs. Garcia as "the most amazing cookies in the world."

These delectables are made by her husband, who also bakes them for 1,000 of his fellow co-workers. Besides the sweet treats, what Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Garcia love most about their jobs is the caring spirit that the Mitty Community shares with one another.

Even though we make mistakes for which we land, chagrined, in the Dean's office, with such people working there, it makes it a bit easier to learn those timeless lessons: to not be late for class, to not wear *that* skirt, and to not pull out that cell-phone.



THE MONARCH

Volume 21 Number 1

Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg & Mr. Craig Whitt

News

Gwendolyn Holst, Kelvin Leong,
Sruthi Ramaswami, & Kevin Tran

Opinions

Linda Nguyen, Anna Piatnicia,
Sarang Shankar & Tyler VanValkenburg

Arts & Entertainment

AnnaLiese Burich, Chaddy Georges,
Chitra Marti, & Melanie Mascarenhas

Focus

Alexandra Garfield, Taji Hutchins,
Kanako Shimizu, & Puja Subramaniam

Justice Awareness

Elena Georgieva, Esha Joshi,
Briana Saunders & Elise Sudlow

Sports

Rebecca Casey, Anay Dattawadkar,
Stephen Kwok & Jordan Scott

Photo

Alisha Dua, Sarah Guzman,
Tiffany Lu, & Anushka Pushpala

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