



Mitty's Impact on Capitol Hill

By **Sruthi Ramaswami & Gwen Holst**
News Editors

Working for the benefit of the common good. Giving the oppressed a voice in society. Making the world a better place. These are all lofty ideals on which Archbishop Mitty High School's Mitty Advocacy Project (MAP) is founded. What began as an annual day-trip to Sacramento for Catholic Lobby Day, an event organized by the California Catholic Conference, has become a campus presence, calling forth students from all grades who are passionate about leadership, government, and service in the 21st century.

The 2010-2011 school year was key to the organization's growth, and left MAP with two major accomplishments: meeting with several of the nation's leaders in Washington DC through the Ignatian Solidarity Network (ISN) conference at Georgetown University and hosting an advocacy event in California's own capital, Sacramento.

In partnership with the California Catholic Conference, MAP created Catholic Youth Advocacy Day to promote advocacy among high school students. MAP spent months researching four bills on human trafficking, food stamps, juvenile sentencing, and the DREAM Act, and preparing interactive workshops for the attendees.

Preparation for the event involved compiling talking points, creating a video on food stamps, and building a curriculum with San Jose Police on human trafficking. On March 22, 2011, 160 high school students attended these sessions, and went on to use their lobbying skills in fifty legislative meetings. Indeed, the students had an impact: Governor Brown just signed three of the four bills MAP lobbied.

Last year, MAP students made a lasting impression at the 2010 ISN conference, and followed up with a similarly impressive showing at the nation's capital this past November 11-15. Sixteen students—seniors **Gwen Holst**, **Alisha Dua**, **Amanda Dillon**, **Megan Linney**, **Vince Kelsey**, **Taji Hutchins**, **Jay Serrano**, **Elise Sudlow**, **Tyler VanValkenburg**, **Caroline Staudenraus**, **Grace Hase**, junior **Stefan Vukicevic**, sophomores **Erika Kawaguchi**, **Carlisle Micallef**, **Michele Garlit**, and **Katherine Kirst**—and teachers **Mr. Accorsi** and **Mrs. Walker** embarked on a journey to expand the network of Catholic advocates.

Highlights of the trip included senior Elise Sudlow's main stage presentation on the formation of advocacy events in other states. Elise addressed over 2,000 college students and professionals at the Georgetown Conference Center. She encouraged listeners to "hold whatever [they're] in love with in [their] hearts, challenge [themselves] today to become advocates in [their] areas, and



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Accorsi

Mitty Advocacy Project students last month in Washington DC.

create a networking and advocacy day in [their] states... It's a different, but tangible way that we can manifest that love into action." Her presentation served as the basis for the rest of the day, with participants constantly referring to Elise's inspiring and motivational words.

The day before, Mitty students conducted a workshop titled, "From the Classroom to the Capital: Establishing an Advocacy Program on Your Campus." Seniors Alisha Dua, Amanda Dillon, and Megan Linney were the key presenters who facilitated and led this interactive session.

They challenged workshop participants to choose an issue present in their communities, and create a six month timeline that includes basic research and high-power lobbying to establish permanent solutions to our local problems. As senior Caroline Staudenraus put it, "When you take an issue from the ground up, and bring it to the highest level it can reach, that's more than just speaking out about an issue. It's genuine concern turned into action."

After presenting at Georgetown University, the students demonstrated their passion and hard work at five legislative meetings with many members of the legislative staff, including Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's legislative assistant Blake Hulnick, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's legislative assistant David Shahoulian, Congressman Mike Honda's legislative assistant Mark Nakamoto, Senator Dianne Feinstein's legislative assistant Christine Epres, and Senator Barbara Boxer's legislative assistant Denise Braemer.

Every year, MAP students choose four state and four federal bill of importance through a democratic process. Students have the opportunity to propose ideas that are gradually narrowed down through voting. This year, the federal bills that Mitty students focused on were S.1060, S.411, H.R.806 (improving conditions for returning and homeless veterans); S.598 (human trafficking); H.R.2012 (foster care); and H.R.1820 (gang reduction).

Veterans' affairs is an especially sensitive issue to the Mitty community. Archbishop Mitty alumna Jennifer Jergens (Afferback, Class of 2010) supported MAP's efforts in this area, as her husband Brian was severely injured on duty in Afghanistan. She wrote an impassioned letter explaining her situation and provided photographs to bolster Mitty's arguments.

Efforts on this issue were especially rewarding in the meeting with Senator Barbara Boxer's office, as her aide described the Senator's proposal for a \$3.00 optional tax donation on this year's tax form that will benefit homeless veterans. The timeliness of MAP's meetings could not have been better, as our students presented on this issue just days after Veterans' Day.

Mitty students came back from the trip with a newfound appreciation of civic engagement. MAP moderator Mr. Accorsi explains, "I'm so proud of each of our students, especially some of our youngest members. I'm not sure if they fully realize the power of the meetings they were in. Standing outside a Senate office is the closest you can get to the White House. It's about as high up as any lobbyist can get, and our students carried themselves with utmost professionalism and confidence—like expert lobbyists."

Sophomore Carlisle Micallef remarks, "It was really liberating to communicate our concerns to politicians who can pass legislation. It felt like we were really making a difference; not just thinking about how to stop these issues, but actually making a change and informing politicians about what we care about and want to change."

For more information, go to www.mittyadvocacy.wordpress.com or contact Sruthi Ramaswami, President of MAP: sruthiramaswami12@mittymonarch.com.

Spreading Christmas Joy: Teens for Teens

By **Katya Lohngoen**
Staff Writer

The reading of Christmas wishes at our annual assembly is a season highlight for many Archbishop Mitty students, but for several teens and families in the Bay Area, gifts during the Christmas season are not such a guarantee. As we celebrate the holiday season at school, our annual CSF/NHS Teens for Teens drive aims to help underprivileged families and homeless teenagers.

Mitty alumna **Katherine Edgecumbe** (Class of 2010) began Teens for Teens in 2006. Chaired by **Mrs. Janie Falcone**, Teens for Teens is an initiative run primarily by the Counseling Department, under the jurisdiction of the National Honor Society (NHS) and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF).

Senior **Sruthi Ramaswami** has also been active in organiz-



ing the drive, having led it for the past two years.

Although many students may have been unaware of this charitable cause or simply thought, "I'll just do it next year," as they walked by the bins in the Counseling Department, it is continually important to recognize the incredible benefits of this drive to countless families. Every student is highly encouraged to donate to this and other causes this Christmas season. Desired items are typically indicated on wish lists posted around campus.

Sruthi Ramaswami states, "It's disheartening to know that others can't enjoy the holidays like we do, but with collective efforts, we can certainly change that."

Last year, Mitty donated over 5,000 dollars worth of gifts to the Bill Wilson Center and Sacred Heart Community Services. With the expansion of this drive, let's hope for another year of continued success!

OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: Mitty's Drug Policy

AN EFFECTIVE POLICY

By Linda Nguyen
Opinions Editor

Everyone at Mitty is certainly aware that a student who brings drugs on to campus will be dismissed.

It does not matter who the student is, what year he or she is, or how involved he or she is at Mitty. The use and abuse of substances such as alcohol or drugs jeopardizes the safety of the Mitty community.

What many students are unaware of

is what happens behind-the-scenes. The administration does not openly discuss previous cases out of respect for students' privacy, making it difficult to understand why a student may have been dismissed. Thus, most of the information students have is based on hearsay and rumors.

One such rumor would be how this policy does not get imposed fairly. Mr. Brosnan clarifies: "This is simply not true. Everyone is treated the same, inclusive of athletes, AP students, and children of major donors and Board members."

The rumors are based on sensationalism, as everyone always wants to point a finger somewhere. Without knowing what truly happens in the Dean's Office, we cannot fairly judge the administration's application of the policy as unfair.

As imposed, the policy is not only fair, it is necessary. There can be absolutely no graduation regarding the policy about bringing, using, or selling drugs on campus. It is unacceptable, not to mention illegal.

If the administration did not implement this policy, what message would this send to the other students?

As students, we have to put ourselves in the administration's shoes. They are in charge of 1,680 students, all of whom they have a responsibility for, especially on campus, where parents expect their sons and daughters to be in a clean and safe environment.

Students have to realize that in reality, there are health, legal, and societal ramifications for becoming involved with drugs.

The implementation of this policy is not because the administration is unforgiving, or does not care. In fact, it is quite the opposite. They care deeply for the students, and only want the best for them in the long run.

As for making the policy a two-strike with suspension, giving one student a second chance will open the door for second chances for all students. It becomes a slippery slope, and the policy is no longer setting a precedent for taking responsibility for one's actions.

To anyone who argues that Mitty's policy is not consistent with the teachings of Jesus, Principal Brosnan and Mr. Fallis argue that this misses the point. The faculty and administration act in much the same way as parents who love their children. Loving parents set up reasonable limits for their children, and the violation of those limits usually brings appropriate consequences.

In addition, Mr. Fallis and Mr. Brosnan are quick to point out that school officials,

much like parents, don't just impose consequences. They counsel, they educate, they encourage positive change—often working with students behind the scenes to help them avoid making really poor choices.

If a student, for example, were to come forward on his or her own accord with a personal substance abuse problem, he or she would be given support and encouragement to change. However, if that same student were to violate school discipline policies, he or she would experience the same consequences.

The administration takes care to review the policies and consequences thoroughly in the Student Handbook, at freshman orientation, and with the sophomores, juniors, and seniors

at the beginning of every school year. Therefore, the administration expects that because students know the clear consequences for using drugs, students will refrain from any involvement with them. This policy *does* act as an effective deterrent and helps students make better choices.

Without a doubt, this is not an easy process. Tears will be shed, and someone will have to sacrifice the privilege of graduating as an AMHS student. It is a painful process, and we all wish these students could remain at Mitty.

We have to remember that they are not alone. As with all things Mitty, everyone is involved. Parents, relatives, friends, and teachers all care about individual students and want to support them wherever they may go.

Mr. Fallis and Mr. Brosnan appreciate fully the pain that individuals and their families experience when a student is dismissed from AMHS. However, ultimately the concerns for the wider community sometimes demand the imposition of difficult consequences.

A SECOND CHANCE

By Ashley Rodarte
Staff Writer

Kicked out: a phrase we should not—but too often do—hear.

In my four years of attending Mitty I have seen a number of my peers dismissed because of drug-related issues. Many are and were my friends.

Every time I have heard that one of my friends would be facing the Review Board, I grew angry with those same friends. I would think, "Why would you do this?" and "Why weren't you smarter?" What I failed to also do was question our school's policy.

My intentions in this article are not simply to criticize our school's current rules, but to recommend an alternative system. I completely understand the rationale for a zero tolerance policy; however, I am not sure such a policy is entirely effective.

After seeing a few of my peers who were dismissed go down a road that has involved more drugs, I have begun to ask myself whether or not

abuse at our school. But most eighth graders have never had to face situations regarding these influences.

In high school there are a number of pressures that come to every teenager—pressures meaning school, friends, and family life. All of these things are difficult to balance for a developing adolescent who then can make critical, life-changing mistakes.

I argue that we should give such students a second chance. Or that at least we should give the Review Board the option of granting such students a second chance—especially if the student's explanation and apology seem more worthy of help than of punishment. If this second chance were violated, the student would obviously have proven that he or she was not willing to change to fit the criteria of an Archbishop Mitty student.

Such students would be dismissed immediately.

Some would certainly argue that such a policy would only make Mitty look like a school that tolerates drug use. Perhaps if a student were given a second chance, parents would complain, saying they do not want their children around other students affiliated with this kind of behavior.

But if such a policy were in place, the privacy of the student would be protected while he or she was counseled and assisted.

It is expulsions that make the issue of drugs more public, not a policy of understanding and counseling. The more expulsions we have in a year, the worse we look.

Schools that give second chances change students lives and create more mature members of society, instead of leaving kids to deal with their own problems at a different school.

I talked this over with my parents and other parents and they agreed. I would argue that dismissing students does not decrease potential drug use by students. If anything, it just moves it to a different environment where it can continue to fester and grow.

Every year as a Catholic school we are taught to follow Christ: to forgive, to love, to understand. We should follow this in our policies.

Countless times we are told if a student has a problem to go to a counselor, but as teenagers we observe the zero tolerance policy and are unsure if going to an adult is

the path that we should take.

I love this school. I enjoy receiving a good education. I do not at all intend to demean the authority at our

school, but I think it's necessary to help troubled students restore their full trust back to that authority.

I ask those in charge to consider this alternative to better not only our school, but also the students who could benefit most.

“ This policy *does* act as an effective deterrent and helps students make better choices. ”

“ After seeing a few of my peers who were dismissed go down a road that has involved more drugs, I began to ask myself whether expulsion is really the best approach. ”



THE GOP: THEIR DEGRADATION LAID BARE

By Daniel Braginsky
Staff Writer

It's that time again. The time when millionaires fight to go all the way, to earn nation-wide recognition, and to get money. The Republican Party is soon going to elect its candidate for the race to the presidency. So, let's take our anti-nausea medication and look through all the candidates for the first time. And realize just how doomed the nation is.



Herman Cain – Former Leader in the polls. Suspended his campaign on Dec. 3 after coming under fire for harassing women and for an alleged thirteen-year affair. Clearly his attempt to convince voters that the women were harassing him failed. “Joked” about electrocuting illegal immigrants during a speech—then said it wasn't a joke. On top of that, ran a bizarre campaign ad that featured his chief of staff smoking a cigarette and talking about how great Herman Cain is. Oh, and Herman Cain, the creepy, eight-second smile at the end of the ad did not make us want to vote for you. It made us want to notify local authorities.



Michelle Bachmann – This presidential hopeful announces her candidacy in Waterloo, Iowa. Refers to Waterloo as a name being synonymous with victory. Waterloo's claim to fame? The place where Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated. She goes on to state how she will have the same spirit as John Wayne, who, as she states, was also from Waterloo, Iowa. The John Wayne she spoke of was the famous actor, who actually grew up in a different Iowa town, Winterset. However, there was a John Wayne who grew up in Waterloo. He was well known for having sexually assaulted and killed 33 teenage boys and young men. Finally Ms. Bachmann, the Soviet Union does not exist anymore; stop trying to say that it is current “threat to America.” And do you *really* think that Hezbollah is trying to build nuclear missile sites in Cuba?



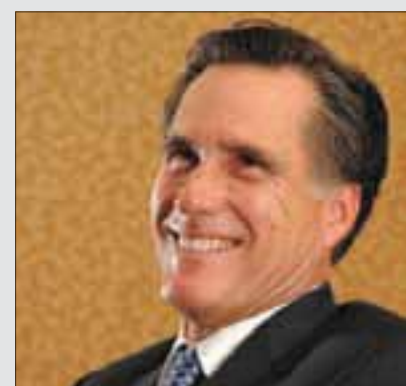
Newt Gingrich – Current Leader in the Polls. Married three times. First married Jackie Battley. He then has an affair with Marianne Ginther. Divorces Jackie Battley,

Marries Ginther six months later. While married to Ginther, begins having an affair with House of Representatives staffer Callista Bisek. He continues this affair while heading the Republican investigation for the Lewinski-Clinton affair. Divorces second wife, marries the woman he was having an affair with. Again. When asked about his past indiscretions, Newt Gingrich replies, “There's no question at times in my life, partially driven by how *passionately* I felt about this country, that I worked too hard and things happened in my life that were not appropriate.” If he becomes president, his current wife better hope he remains dispassionate. Given his track record, however, this seems unlikely.

Rick Perry – Current governor of Texas. During a GOP debate, the moderator pointed out to Perry that while he was governor, the state of Texas executed over 200 more inmates than any other state. Rick Perry proudly stood behind his podium while the crowd's tumultuous applause washed over him. Oh, and what were those three agencies of government? The uh...uh...uh...Oops!



Mitt Romney – Former Governor of Massachusetts, and while governor, had state-provided health care. So, it was pretty much Obama-care. Not only is it hypocritical of him trying to stop Obama-care from passing when he had Romney-care in his own state, but it is also interesting to watch a man lose popularity for helping millions of disadvantaged people gain access to life-saving treatments.



Sarah Palin – Contrary to what her tour bus painted with the most patriotic images Google Search can give her suggests, she in fact declined candidacy. Going from state to state in her tour bus, building up hype, making speeches, and garnering popularity seemed to be one large publicity stunt. It seems that Palin has decided money is the route for her. She quit mid-term her office as Governor of Alaska to have a reality television show, during which she expressed her love for the environment and the life of animals by shooting caribou. Presidency seems to not fly with Sarah Palin, despite the fact that she appears to be the most air-headed and confused person out of the entire party. Which means that she would probably win.



So, as we see, the GOP primary is full of people who are unable to differentiate between their elbows and their bottoms. Looking ahead to the election process, I suppose we must do our best to keep our heads up, and to not lose faith in all of humanity.

GREECE'S FALLOUT: IS THE EURO IN DANGER?

By Rachita Pandya
Staff Writer

Banks shut their doors. Shelves at shops go empty. The rich pack their bags with dollars and head for the border. The middle-class abandons their jobs and offices, and join the protests on the streets.

The president has fled from his palace. This is the current situation in Greece, the product of their debt binge.

Due to this issue in Greece, many financial markets are beginning to ponder the stability of Greece's government bonds. Many investors do not believe that Greece will be able to deal with its enormous debt, let alone the accompanying market speculation.

This poses a bigger question, however, for the other sixteen Eurozone nations: Could this Greek crisis be the end of their common currency, which just eight years ago issued its first bills?

The answer to this question truly depends on whom you ask. If most practical economic experts doubt the feasibility of Europe's monetary union, though, then this indeed is



a critical situation.

“This is a very deep crisis for the euro and all of Europe because what we have is a terrible debt and deficit problem that virtually all European nations share and no collective structures to deal with any of it,” says

Philippe Moreau Defarge, a European affairs expert at the French Institute on International Relations.

He continues, “Europe is being forced to recognize it isn't as rich or as well-organized as it thought, and faces several long, hard

years of finding its way back to solid ground.”

And what about the euro, about the common currency itself? Bob Hancké, an expert on European political economics explains, “I think it's quite possible we could see the euro gone in several years — or at least reduced to a currency only used by France, Germany and a few small nations keeping it alive.”

Furthermore, Hancké describes a situation in which the continual doubting of the Greek market could lead to the junk status of the Greek government bonds, stopping all foreign efforts for Greece's bailout.

This in turn would pressure, and eventually force Greece to abandon the euro as its currency, before the euro becomes worthless.

“At this point, even if a core of countries continue using the euro after others have left, the currency will have lost its main original function as being the means by which greater European integration and common governance is attained,” explains Hancké.

Evidently, the euro's days are slowly diminishing. There is a very small chance that the euro will survive given the severe situation that Greece is trapped in currently.

OCCUPY: A MOVEMENT FOR SOLIDARITY

By Tyler VanValkenburg
Opinions Editor

“Occupy Wall Street” started simply as a protest in New York City on Sept. 17, 2011, aimed at proclaiming frustration with political corruption and political failure. Today, the movement has spread from New York City to all other major US cities. But why the protests? And what do they intend to achieve? Let’s find out.

The movement, at its core, is protesting injustice, particularly economic injustice. It’s protesting inequality, but maybe not the kind you think.

Many assume from the “We are the 99%” signs carried by the protesters that the movement is opposed to inherent inequalities in capitalism. However, such inequalities have always been accepted—and still understandably are. Were Americans angry at Steve Jobs for making huge sums of money off his products? No, because the economic inequality bred by capitalism has always been understood by most as fair, and even righteous. The assumption behind the acceptance of such success, though, is that the system treats all individuals equally, and thus that any inequalities are earned and legitimate.



But right now, there is an increasing sense in America that the most recent (and growing) economic inequalities are not the product of a fair set of rules, but of foul play. Americans, perhaps especially Occupiers, understand that the field is tilted, the game fixed. They are seeing that everyone does not have the same opportunities, that hard work may not be enough, that playing by the rules will not benefit the common man

precisely because those rules are set against him. And they’re not wrong.

The heads of our financial industries remain without punishment after ransacking the nation through fraud and failure. Multi-billion dollar companies like GE go virtually untaxed. Pres. Obama’s closest advisors are former corporate and financial executives. And all of this while America imprisons a greater percentage of its population than

any other country, while it conducts an extremely destructive War on Drugs, while its citizens rights are continually limited in the name of security, and while many protests are met with swift and brutal police action (for more on this abuse see Billy Rehbock’s article in the *Justice Awareness* section).

Writer and constitutional lawyer Glenn Greenwald explains it best: “The law has been completely perverted from what it was intended to be—the guarantor of an equal playing field which would legitimize outcome inequalities—into its precise antithesis: a weapon used by the most powerful to protect their ill-gotten gains, strengthen their unearned prerogatives, and ensure ever-expanding opportunity inequality.”

That is the inequality Occupy Wall Street is protesting, and that is what it seeks to change.

These aren’t whiny good-for-nothings seeking to steal the well-earned money of others, these are everyday Americans who want a government that actually is for the people, want a legal system that acts on the basis that all men are created equal, and want their country restored to its core values. These Occupiers are fighting for justice, and for that they deserve nothing less than our admiration and support.

MITTY CLASS DIFFERENCES

By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

If sophomores are wise but still young and freshman are, well, just young, then what are juniors and seniors? A hunger for this knowledge led me to all four corners of our school in search of what exactly makes each class unique.

To start with, freshman year is the year that most students look back on with hearts full of nostalgia.

Freshman year is the year of firsts. It is a new beginning, a chance to make new friends and to navigate uncharted waters. Some join sport teams and clubs, others take it slow until they complete their transition from middle school to high school before they take on any additional responsibilities.

According to freshman Megan Hopkinson, “Freshman year is exciting and fun. I have made friends in

homeroom. I was comfortable going to Mitty within a week”.

After the freshmen come the sophomores. The sophomore homework load is significantly heavier than that of the freshmen. Sophomore Diego Barriga says that “Freshman year was easier. There was much less homework.” Teachers expect more from the students, and students expect more from themselves.

After a year of attending Mitty, bonds between friends are stronger, and confidence is higher. The high school environment is less intimidating, and students are

generally less tense.

As for junior year, the third and possibly most stressful year of high school, there are new adventures to be had. One such adventure that juniors claim to especially enjoy is driving. A new freedom, as well as a big responsibility. And of course, every junior takes pride in being called an upperclassman. The workload this year, however, is at its toughest.

Junior Chitra Marti expresses this clearly: “The work is harder, it takes longer, and the pressure is greater.”

Finally, the seniors reach their last year at Mitty. Emotions tend to vary from the excitement of starting their own lives to the fear of new responsibilities, to the sadness of leaving their friends and

family. Compared to juniors, seniors are more relaxed. Sleep is actually attainable, and only first semester grades are important for colleges.

A positive aspect of senior year is that groups of friends are

not as defined. Everyone is more comfortable with one another, and because of this new friendships usually ensue.

As senior Tyler VanValkenburg explains, “Things are more laid back this year, both socially and academically.”

So there you have it, the specific experiences of each class. Even with these differences, though, we are still all Mitty students walking through the same hallways, eating in the same cafeteria, learning in the same classrooms, and coming together to make up one united Archbishop Mitty High School.



KIM KARDASHIAN Worth More than You Think

By Pratyusha Javangula
Staff Writer

Kim Kardashian is the ultimate Hollywood celebrity, a glamorous socialite who spends the great majority of her time under intense public scrutiny, most particularly with her recent love life.

Dubbed “relationship girl” by the press, her latest relationship with New Jersey Nets player Kris Humphries ended as a flop. Unsurprisingly, many have raised doubts about the couple’s ulterior motives.

Was it really for love? Or did Kim marry and divorce Kris as a publicity stunt? Was it because they genuinely had feelings for each other? Or was this just a way for Kim to raise more money for her corporate empire?

Despite these baseless accusations against Kim, the true Kardashian fans, the ones that actually watch her reality show *Keeping up with the Kardashians*, know that Kim unquestionably married for love.

In her reality show, there is a genuine connection and love between the two that goes beyond the tabloid headlines and superficial reality show gimmicks.

And in response to the public’s accusa-

tions of Kim divorcing Kris for fame, or that she only wanted to keep the 17 million dollars that her family received for taping the wedding, the “lamestream” media should be ashamed of itself for being so harsh on someone who simply realized she was blinded from the truth.

Kim and Kris divorced due to “irreconcilable differences” that had to do with the way they lived their lives, not for anything material.

Kim is public and completely exposed, and Kris just doesn’t live like that. Everyone makes mistakes and poor judgments, but Kim doesn’t deserve to be called shallow or greedy or fake just because she realized that her early happiness prevented her from seeing the flaws in her relationship.

We all make mistakes,

but the person who is willing to show people her life and be honest is being penalized.

It’s not fair, and before people call Kim Kardashian shallow, they should try having a relationship, getting married, having a business, a television show, a clothing line, fragrances, a store, and many, many photo shoots.

And all the while perpetually under a media microscope.



Arts & Entertainment

Student in the Spotlight: Chrysanna Daley A Budding Artist in Our Mitty Community

By Taylor Bernard
Staff Writer

Should you ever find yourself in possession of a notebook belonging to Chrysanna Daley, take a look inside. You'll be hard-pressed to find a page that doesn't contain some sort of doodle or sketch in the margins of her notes. You might see a flower with extensive detail in the shadows of the petals and leaves, a staring eye that is almost frightening in its comparison to an actual eye, or even just a flowing line that somehow manages to pass itself off as art. If you're lucky, you might find one of her rare, daVinci-esque completed sketches, more likely than not to be a drawing of some sort of feline. You'll probably be shocked that this infamously shy girl with the notable 4.32 GPA possesses such an incredible artistic talent.

However, what you didn't know was that art has been her passion since before she even knew it would one day be her most prized talent. When we—her peers—were learning the concept of coloring inside the lines, she was already progressing to unicorns and rainbows.

While we were learning to draw stick figures, the art form that most of us are forever doomed to be confined, she was perfecting her techniques for drawing wolves and cats, both still her favorite animals and go-to sketch objects.

When we moved on to the excitement of "sports" (i.e. kickball, basketball, and walking in circles around the track), she preferred to remain behind to dutifully work with new art projects and mediums.

"I just loved it," she explains. "I could always depend on my pictures when words weren't enough to explain how I felt."

Her fascination with art carried her through the entirety of elementary school, junior high, and into Mitty, where she's taken virtually every visual arts class. She has been taking additional art classes and even teaching them to younger kids for over three years as an intern at Lord of the Light, an art studio and gallery in Almaden.

She's had an account on deviantART, a popular art website, for years to post her random but always amazing works, and has even earned a bit of money off of commis-

sions. She gives her friends hand-made animal sculptures for their birthdays and draws the cards to go with them. Teachers know her for the drawings she presents to them each year as a thank-you gift.

What few people know is that Chrysanna's talent is far beyond a pastime. She has entered the University Art Contest twice, a competition that receives hundreds of entries from around Sacramento and the Bay Area. The first time she entered the kid's category as a sixth grader, she won first place with a fun drawing of children at a zoo. She again entered this year in the more professional group of the contest, and placed first in the "Emerging Artists" category with her charcoal drawing of the famous Greek statue "Venus de Milo", a portrait that she titled "Ageless"; this prestigious place was awarded to her at an awards night on Sept. 9 in Sacramento.

This great accomplishment is the best example of her incredible talent. She works with abstract forms and realism, pencils and paintbrushes, landscapes and portraits; all of which are contributing to a portfolio as she takes the biggest step in her experience with art: pursuing it as a career.

Chrysanna has been working for months in preparation for applying to prestigious colleges of art: Yale, UCLA, Scripps. At the top of her list, however, is RISD, one of the top art colleges in the nation located as the sister school to Brown University in Rhode Island. While she may not yet have decided on a specific art-related career, she knows that it will always be a part of her life.

"Art is my ultimate form of expression," she states simply. "I can turn nothing into something meaningful, and it inspires me to keep creating, to convey how I see the world. There are so many possibilities it offers, challenging me to open up my mind and watch a simple, blank canvas evolve into a work of art. I let my paintings speak for me, and frankly, I can't imagine doing anything else."

So, when you're done going through her notebook, be sure to mention how great her drawings are. She'll promptly respond by turning bright red, fingering the edges of the papers nervously, and squeaking out a modest thanks. It's this modesty that makes her so admirable even beyond her intellectual gifts and artistic talent. She's the type of person that you can never envy, because you can only be thankful that such an honest, caring, but ever-modest person has such a remarkable gift.



Music Video Mayhem

By Taylor Law
Staff Writer

Let's face it—the music industry has become primarily focused on appearances. The image of the artist has become just as essential to success as the actual sound that the artist produces. Many media platforms are obvious advocates for this growing trend, one key example being music videos.

A generation ago everyone was huddling around the record player or listening to the radio. There was no enticing image to the music; it was just about the sound.

The audience listened, and personally interpreted the sound to create a visual. Music was about imagination.

But this is today. And today's Internet Empire—an imposing world of social networks, blog spots, and message boards—undeniably forces the music industry to turn to new marketing techniques. To grab our short attention spans and satiate our need for dynamic visuals, they turn to video vixens, overbearing visuals, questionable themes, and confusing plots. Unfortunately, this is not always successful. Have you ever heard a song, decided to look at its corresponding video, and found yourself questioning the original meaning of the lyrics? Is this necessity of putting an image—any image—to music really so important that the quality of the product can be sacrificed?

Take "California Gurls" by Katy Perry, for example. The entire video consists of the ingénue stuck in a candy wonderland, walking aimlessly with a wide-eyed look. Although the artist can literally do nothing and still get a whirlwind of views, it seems odd that her music video entitled "California Gurls" has nothing to do with California. Many are also familiar with Mumford & Sons. With such a provocative song like "The Cave," one would hope for a meaningful music video. This assumption, unfortunately, is not the case—the intriguing setting of old-fashioned soldiers by the sea goes nowhere, and there is no plot to speak of. These two music videos are representative of the majority of contemporary music videos: potentially meaningful videos fall flat, more phoned-in corporate pieces than lovingly created, thoughtful works.

Of course there's the other side to music videos. Artistic and expressive videos that accentuate the meaning the song, truly doing it justice, still exist. It's difficult to argue, however, that the masses actually see these videos. Besides, like most entertainment platforms, the most scandalous receive the most views—a skewed reality, but one of the biggest marketing techniques. And what one may interpret as poignant may bore another. There really is no way to fulfill every viewer's expectation (just look at the passionate comments on YouTube).

I say let the music speak for itself. And with that, let the audience interpret its meaning within their own imaginative context. Music, after all, is mostly about discovery. The art is an expression in its most organic form, assuming that the audience member sees and hears, as well as actually listens.



Upcoming
this
Winter...

By A&E Editors



Winter Dance Recital: December 9, 7:30

Have you been wondering what the dance classes and the Royals are up to? Want a night of inexpensive, good clean fun? Well, have we got the solution for you! Come watch the dancers of Mitty in the Kinkade Theater in their spectacular winter showcase. You don't want to miss this!

Mitty Takes Over Christmas in the Park: December 16, 6-9

Like Christmas Music? Like Jazz? Like Christmas in the Park? If you said yes to any or all of these questions, come join Exodus, Jazz Choir, and Jazz Band in their annual romp in the park. Bring your family, friends, and a blanket, pick up your trademark Christmas in the Park hot chocolate, and cozy it up as you listen to these wonderful musicians perform all of your favorite holiday tunes. Come witness the Christmas miracle that is Mitty Performing Arts as they perform to the heavens.

Twelfth Night: January 13-14, 19-21, 7:30

This is not your typical Shakespearean drama! Add together the swashbuckling nature of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the campiness of *The Princess Bride*, and a dash of gender-reversal slapstick, and you've got a deliciously zany production! Have no clue what it's about? Well, if you've seen *She's The Man*, you know more than you think. That Amanda Bynes favorite is based on *Twelfth Night*: the first Shakespeare show to grace the Kinkade stage. And students—crew and actors alike—are working hard to make it a magical experience. Plus, you'll feel really cultured and sophisticated attending a Shakespeare show. You won't regret it!



Holiday Fashion

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer

I always get a little smile on my face when the weather starts getting a little colder and TV becomes a 24/7 Christmas advertisement. There is no better time of the year to dress to impress. During the summer and spring, all you can really do is put on a dress or a pair of shorts. Autumn, you're in that awkward stage where it's too warm to wear a jacket but too cold to go without one. Winter is different because you have so many options to choose from: scarves, jackets, gloves, hats, boots, leggings, sweaters, turtlenecks, the combinations are endless! Let's find out what's "cool" this season:

One word, fur: I'm not even exaggerating when I say that fur is all over the fashion world right now. Many big name designers, like Michael Kors, John Richmond, Burberry, and Gucci, have at least one piece with some fur detailing in their winter collections. It's a mini fur flurry! Fur isn't just in clothes but in bags, shoes, gloves, and hats too. But this look isn't for everyone. Fur is a statement that stands out and demands to be noticed. It may just be the trick for someone who wants to add a little more edge on their winter style.

Vintage: Feeling nostalgic? Well you're in luck! Popular TV shows like *Mad Men* and ABC's new *Pan Am*, have taken the lead in fashion. Inspired by these shows, runways have put more emphasis on past decades, especially the '60s and the '70s. Outerwear from the '60s, such as the cape, has been revamped and tweaked for the woman of today. Polka dots, color blocking, and shift dresses have been spotted for the upcoming winter season. Fashion is always recycling itself. A timeless, classic look is just the kind of ready-to-wear look people can easily find.

Menswear for Women: Who says you can't have the best of both worlds? Androgyny has come a long way since the '80s and is now a well-established, classy look. Blazers, pant suits, trousers, loafers, and boots are all on trend this winter. Alexander Wang, Hermes, and Moschino have taken the tailored element in menswear and brought it to women's clothing, especially in outerwear. My experience with this look is that it's trendy but maybe too trendy. If you're going for originality, this may not be your style

Colors: Ah yes, the ongoing battle between colors and neutrals. Sorry neutrals, but colors seem to win this winter season. You can see color accents on shirts, jackets, pants and solid colored suits, pants, sweaters. Some promising colors this season are peacock blue, lemon,

magenta, and orange, sometimes in a multitude of prints. Usually during the winter, these bright colors feel like a big risk. But this year, go ahead and wear that peacock blue coat you bought but never used. Colors have dominated the season.

Winter is a season full of fashion. There are going to be other people and commercials telling you what you want to buy. But fashion is subjective. Develop a style and take your stance.

Spotify vs Pandora

By Chitra Marti
A&E Editor

It's the latest application to take over Facebook versus the seasoned website that lets you create playlists. Spotify and Pandora are the two most popular free music services, but what exactly distinguishes them?

Social Integration

As I'm sure you've seen, Spotify can upload whatever you're listening to onto Facebook or Twitter (if you choose to enable this option). Even if you don't want to connect to Facebook, you can send songs to your friends simply by clicking a few buttons, or collaborate with them on playlists.

Pandora can connect to Facebook so you can see what your friends are listening to, but this is nowhere near as polished and intuitive as Spotify.

Winner: Spotify

Free Versions

For free, Spotify lets you listen to any song for up to 20 hours a month for the first six months. After that, you get 10 hours a month and you can only listen to a song 5 times. Spotify comes only in the desktop mode, which requires an Internet connection and has 30 second ads about every six songs.

Pandora also has ads, and you can only listen to 40 hours of music per month. The mobile app is also free, unlike Spotify's, which is a great perk to get for free.

Winner: Pandora



Platforms

For free, Spotify is available as a desktop app, very much like iTunes, except that it requires an Internet connection. If you choose the premium plan, you can access Spotify on any mobile device and on your desktop without an Internet connection.

The free version of Pandora is available both online and as a mobile app, both of which are easy to use.

Winner: Pandora

Christmas in the Bay

By Bella DiLisio
Staff Writer

It's finally here—the time where we all can finally break out our ugly sweaters and sing Mariah Carey's Christmas hits. Christmas season is (and has been since Dec. 26 last year) in full swing, and who says the Bay Area isn't a great place to celebrate the holiday season. While the Bay Area is full of fun activities, students fall into their usual routines of going to the mall, walking around Santana Row, or catching a movie. But don't be tempted to settle for mediocre entertainment! It's your winter break—why not spend it doing something new and fun? Here's some ideas to make this winter unforgettable:

Christmas in the Park: Everyone's favorite classic holiday celebration! Open through Jan. 1, this tradition takes place in Downtown San Jose and includes countless displays of Christmas trees, animated exhibits, food vendors, fake snow machines, and a giant Giving Tree right in the center. Nearby is the Winter Wonderland. Hop on the Ferris wheel to get a spectacular view of Christmas in the Park and the Downtown Area.

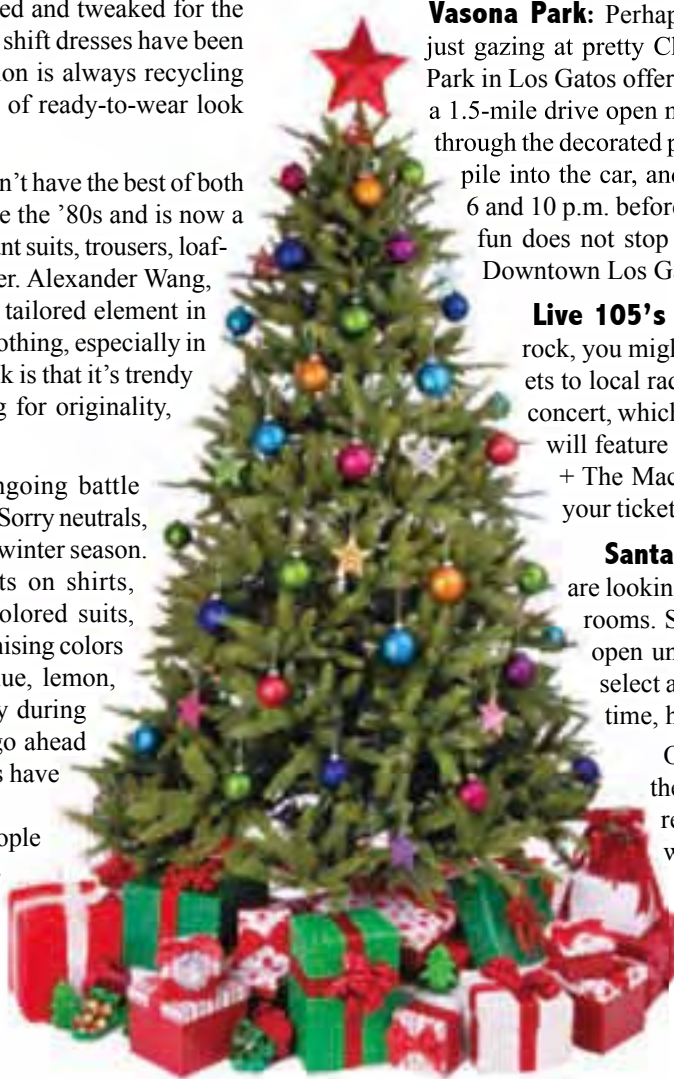
Downtown Ice: Across from Christmas in the Park and Winter Wonderland, Downtown Ice is another Bay Area winter favorite. This year, it opened with a special ceremony that includes Kristi Yamaguchi, the Olympic gold-medalist figure skater herself. Downtown Ice is a great way to top off a fun evening at Christmas in the Park. Just head on over to the Circle of Palms, pay \$15, and skate the night away—just try not to fall too much. Downtown Ice stays open until Jan. 29, so take advantage of its lengthy stay!

Vasona Park: Perhaps you're interested in just gazing at pretty Christmas lights. Vasona Park in Los Gatos offers the Fantasy of Lights, a 1.5-mile drive open nightly that takes guests through the decorated park. Grab some friends, pile into the car, and head on over between 6 and 10 p.m. before it closes on Dec 31. The fun does not stop there! Horse carriage rides are also available in Downtown Los Gatos.

Live 105's Not So Silent Night: If you're into alternative rock, you might be interested in grabbing some last-minute tickets to local radio station Live 105's "Not So Silent Night." This concert, which will take place Dec. 9 at Oakland's Oracle Arena, will feature popular artists such as Jane's Addiction, Florence + The Machine, and Mumford & Sons, to name a few. Buy your tickets and celebrate the holidays with awesome music!

Santa's Tree Farm and Village: By now, most of us are looking for that one special tree that will grace our living rooms. Santa's Tree Farm and Village in Half Moon Bay, open until Dec. 23, is a fun place to take your family to select and cut down your very own tree. If you have extra time, hop on the train for a fun tour.

Once finals are over and we've all burst through the hallways with *High School Musical*-esque choreography, make sure to visit one of these fun sites with your friends and family. Though it might be tempting to sit on your couch and stay glued to Netflix trying to catch up on *Gossip Girl*, get your friends, throw on your favorite warm sweater, and head off to these holiday activities.



Discovering Music

Pandora won't always let you listen to the exact song you want, but it will offer you something really close, so that you end up listening to songs you didn't know you liked. Pandora's Music Genome Project was designed especially for this—it analyzes over 400 attributes of each song to find similar ones. It's like a radio station, since you can't choose every song, but one that is tailored to suit your taste.

Spotify does have a radio mode, but it's nowhere near as sophisticated as Pandora's, and more often than not, its music suggestions are completely random.

Winner: Pandora

Paid Versions

If you're willing to spend money on your music (gasp!), Spotify has two levels for you to choose from. For \$4.99/month, you get unlimited listening time, Spotify radio mode, and no ads. For \$9.99/month, you get enhanced sound quality, offline mode on your computer, and access to Spotify on your mobile device.

Pandora has just one premium option, called Pandora One, for \$36/year (or \$3/month), which gives you unlimited listening time and no ads—not much extra.

Winner: Spotify

Music Selections

Spotify has over 15 million songs for you to choose from, ranging from all of Beethoven's symphonies to Drake's latest album.

Pandora, on the other hand, has about 800,000, though it too encompasses all styles of music. Thankfully, neither is illegal, so there are no concerns of piracy.

Winner: Spotify

Though Pandora and Spotify tied with three categories each, in my opinion Spotify is the winner. It lets you choose your own music and share it too, and its music library cannot be rivaled by anything except iTunes—and who wants to pay for music?



MONARCH CRITICS

HUGO

By Thomas Soares &
James Peoples
Staff Writers



Hugo, based on the novel *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, is by far the best live action 3D film we have seen. The film opens with a terrific panning shot over 1930s Paris, complete with snowflakes that come right out of the screen. Then we zoom in on a Paris train station, where we meet young Hugo Cabret, played brilliantly by Asa Butterfield. He lives and works in the station fixing clocks. When he is not tinkering with clock gears, he is stealing food and other things to survive and avoiding the Station's security officer, played both threateningly and humorously by Sacha Baron Cohen.



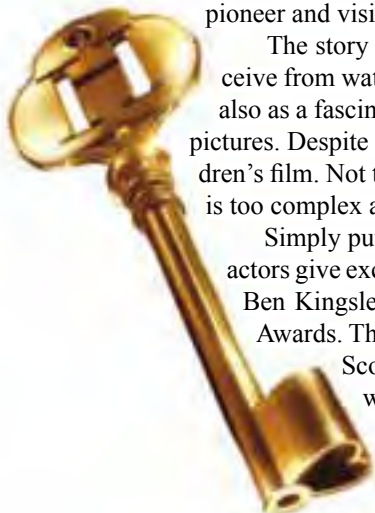
One of the places Hugo steals from is a toy shop run by an old man played by Ben Kingsley. He steals windup toys and other parts because he is trying to fix an automaton that his clock making father (Jude Law) had found in a museum. We learn a little about the automaton, as well as how his father died, in a flash back sequence. After Hugo is caught in the act of stealing a windup mouse toy, the shopkeeper takes away his father's notebook, which included a great deal of information about the automaton. Out of anger, the old man threatens to burn it. Hugo follows him to his family's apartment where he meets the old man's granddaughter, Isabelle (Chloe Grace Mortetz). She is a bookworm and loves adventures and the two become friends. Using a heart shaped key that the girl possesses, Hugo is able to turn on the automaton, which draws a picture signed by George Melies, Isabelle's grandfather and the owner of the toy shop. As Hugo and Isabelle continue to investigate, they discover that her grandfather was also a pioneer and visionary of early filmmaking.

The story of *Hugo* focuses on the importance of film and the joy we receive from watching movies. *Hugo* not only works as a great family film, but also as a fascinating and entertaining history lesson on the creation of motion pictures. Despite what the trailer suggests, *Hugo* is definitely not simply a children's film. Not that the film features any adult or mature content, but the story is too complex and has dialogue that might bore young children.

Simply put, *Hugo* is truly a movie for those who love movies. All of the actors give exceptional performances, especially Asa Butterfield as Hugo and Ben Kingsley as Melies. Both of these actors are deserving of Academy Awards. The story of Hugo is captivating, as are the images put on screen.

Scorsese is a master at his craft, and it shows. We expect Scorsese will also be receiving many nominations come awards season.

Every one of his shots has purpose and the 3D is vibrant, captivating, and truly enhances the film.



Rihanna

By Ryan Ballard
Staff Writer



On November 18, 23-year-old Rihanna released *Talk That Talk*, her sixth studio album to date. It is a zesty mishmash of R&B, hip-hop, Caribbean, electrohouse and dubstep influences, making for a very unique sound. Its songs are infectious, with catchy melodies and syncopated rhythms that will surely put you in the dancing mood. "We Found Love [featuring Calvin Harris]," the album's first single—released in late September—peaked at number one. Considering the success of Rihanna's prior albums and the magnitude of her present fame, her new album will likely climb the charts.

However, despite *Talk That Talk's* inevitable commercial success, is it really a credible work? Unfortunately, beneath those catchy tunes and contagious tempos lies a crude and tasteless center. When one takes the time to actually listen to the lyrics of these songs, the true nature of the album is revealed.

In "Talk That Talk," the title song, for example, Rihanna pleads to a male, narrated by Jay-Z, to "talk that talk to [her] all night"—she begs him to give her the sexual pleasures she craves as well as provide her with "big homes" and "big money." Many of the other songs on the album stick to a similarly raunchy theme—most notably, "Watch n' Learn," "Roc Me Out," "Do Ya Thang," and "Cockiness (Love It)."

Through these lyrics, Rihanna conveys the persona of a misbehaved floozy desperate for the physical perquisites of love—not necessarily love itself. As if to compensate for her promiscuity, she sprinkles in seemingly innocent love songs such as "We All Want Love," "Fool in Love," and the aforementioned number one single, "We Found Love."

Sorry, Rihanna; throwing in a few songs about how you need a man doesn't deceive anyone into thinking you're a respectable girl, nor does it justify your overtly lecherous lyrics.

Risque content is acceptable in moderation and in good taste; *Talk That Talk* fails to display either of these. Will the album crash and burn? Of course not. It will soar to commercial success, because, lyrics excluded, many of the songs are great, and its range of musical genres will appeal to a broad spectrum of listeners—or at least to radio DJs.

But does *Talk That Talk* deserve overall merit based on its content? Well, it certainly isn't a work of poetry.



Drake



By Laila Kreitem
Staff Writer

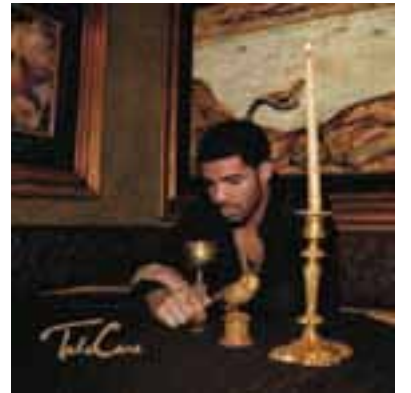
The new Prince of Hip Hop and R&B has done it again. After the success of his first album, *Thank Me Later*, Drake has come back with the sophisticated *Take Care*, a treatise on his reaction to fame and his own personal state, something the current aggressive rappers are rarely willing to do.

Part of the album's success stems from Drake's ability to sing well, as shown in songs like "Over My Dead Body" and "Marvin's Room," expressing the depth and passion he puts into each song. Drake is not afraid to assert himself through rap, but it is a softer rap than anything by Kanye West or Jay-Z, a rap that is relatable because it talks about more than women and money, as shown in songs like "Take Care" and "Under Ground Kings."

In subject matter, perhaps Drake most resembles Eminem, another rapper who has a tendency to psychoanalyze himself. For much of the album, Drake laments his regrets on "Look What You've Done," wondering if all his glory is worth it if he still has to pay taxes. By the end of the album, though, Drake is willing to laugh at the life he has made for himself, as shown in "HYFR," featuring Lil' Wayne.

Now that Drake is on top of the music world, he could have succeeded on his raps alone, but when juxtaposed with his singing, the end product is mature and accomplished. Collaborations with Rihanna, Birdman, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, and other major artists ensure commercial success for the album.

Take Care incorporates not only meaningfully composed slow jams, but also fast rapping, bass beating, feel-good hip hop tunes as well, displaying his sheer versatility. Drake has not held back in his sophomore album, and is willing to express what no other rapper is willing to and to go where R&B and Soul don't. *Take Care* is a work of sophisticated, psychedelic, aggressive, unexpected art that critics will laud for years to come.



THE MUPPETS

By Mitch Hanson
Staff Writer



After its good reviews in the paper and 97% on Rotten Tomatoes, a site I religiously rely on for movies, I walked into *The Muppets* with high expectations. Needless to say, they were *not* met.

The film is about a man named Gary (Jason Segel) and his Muppet brother Walter, the world's biggest Muppets fan. On Gary and his girlfriend's (Amy Adams) tenth anniversary, the overly giddy and obnoxious pair treat Walter to a tour of the Muppets studio. After seeing its decrepit state and hearing the plans to demolish the failing studio, Walter makes it his mission to get the old Muppets group back together in order to raise enough money to buy the studio back.

After seeing Jason Segel star in work such as *How I Met Your Mother*, *I Love You Man* and *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, I was expecting a lot from his performance, but I have to say that I think this is his worst movie. He was not funny, and his usual awkward and childish self was contrived. For some reason, the producers of *The Muppets* thought it necessary to force musical numbers upon the audience that were nothing more than hokey disasters. The songs appeared in unnatural places, and the lyrics, supposedly deep and emotional, were—well, let's just say that they were the only comical things in the movie.

In the movie, TV producer Veronica (Rashida Jones) says, "The Muppets just aren't famous anymore." I wholeheartedly agree with this. As much as the movie tried to bring back the old comedy that the Muppets once brought, it wasn't funny. In an attempt to make the movie "cute," they lost all sense of comedy. The jokes were minimal and bland, the dancing was unnecessarily over the top, and the singing was just awful. My theory is that the producers of *The Muppets* hoped that if they name-dropped enough, mass audiences would pay to see the movie, a film that, in my opinion, did not deserve the ten dollars.

Actors such as Selena Gomez, Whoopi Goldberg, and Neil Patrick Harris made cameo appearances for no apparent reason. A movie shouldn't have to have a bunch of famous people in it to be good, *especially* if said celebrities only say two lines. In a puppet film like this one, the live actors should be able to stand alone. Unfortunately, the actors of *The Muppets* fail to be memorable.

Although it might be a cute movie for a family looking for mindless entertainment for their children, it is not recommended for anyone above the age of ten. If you're looking to think, or even looking for a laugh, *The Muppets* movie is *not* the movie for you.





Ever since the American Revolution, there have been misconceptions about our allies across the pond. Apparently, all British people have bad teeth, drink unhealthy amounts of tea, and speak like well-to-do snobs. Yet growing up in the United Kingdom, I learned that, in America, the only chocolate was a bar of wax called Hershey's, all Americans drank ketchup out of the bottle, and no one had the attention span to watch proper football. You see? Stereotypes go both ways. So, if you plan on traveling to the United Kingdom and don't want to look like a complete tourist, have no fear! Here are some of the most common misconceptions about the British debunked:

Being British does not always mean you are from England

The term *Britain* generally refers to the island of Great Britain, which includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island. If you are from England, then you are English. That being said, when you are from the United Kingdom, there is no language being spoken called "British". We speak the same language across the pond as Americans do. Seriously, you would be surprised how many times I have been asked to say something in "British"—it's just as bad as asking a Californian to speak in "Surfer."

British people drink an unhealthy amount of tea

If you were to rank countries on how much tea they drank as a whole, the UK would rank about tenth on this list, following the majority of Asia. We drink just as much coffee as we do tea. Also, the world does not pause at four o'clock just because it's tea time. The majority of British people don't have the time to sit down and drink some tea with little cakes and biscuits like people tend to imagine. When a British person invites you round for "tea," we aren't literally asking you to come and drink tea with us, we're just asking if you want to "hang out."

British people sound stuck up when they speak

When I ask Americans to picture someone speaking in a British accent, many imagine a stuffy old man wearing a suit and top hat saying, "Ello gov'na! Tea and crumpets! Jolly good!" The fact of the matter is if you were to walk up to any British person and say "ello gov'na," you would be slapped. No one, let me repeat, *no one* speaks that way. Many believe that the English sound too proper when they write or speak, like we take ourselves too seriously, but the truth is that we speak just like everyone else does. Nor do we drawl out our words. We don't say "rawwwwther" instead of "rather"...we just speak in our local dialect.

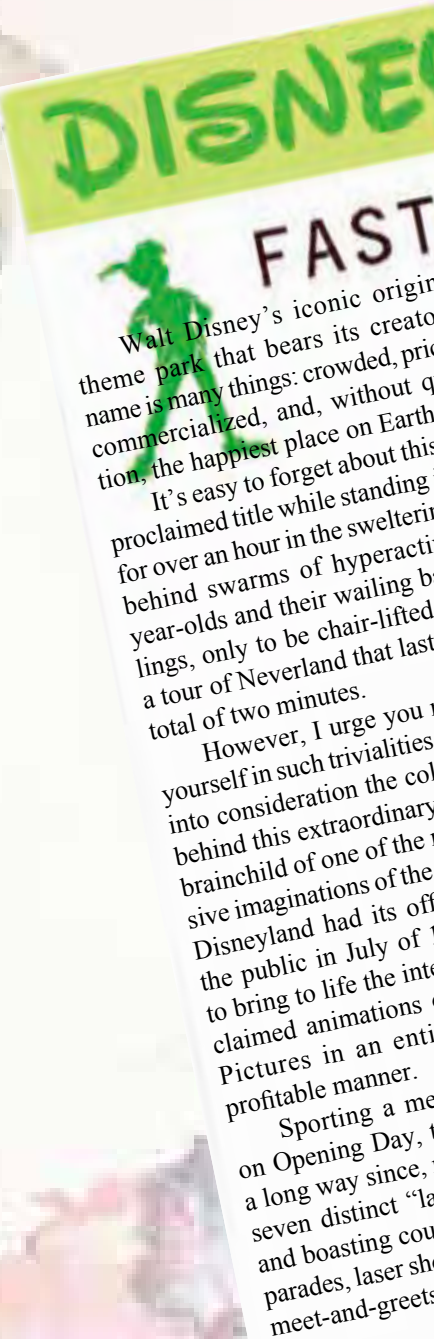
And there you have it! So the next time you plan on hopping across the pond to the UK, just remember these three things: One, your passport. Two, drive on the "wrong" side of the road or simply take the tube. And finally, Hogwarts is not located in London, so please stop asking the locals where platform nine and three-quarters is. Cheers!

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

By Emily Schlafer
Staff Writer



- 1. Rome, Italy:** With wonderful food, the best gelato, and home to the famous Vatican, it is definitely a great place to visit. While it not only attracts history buffs from around the world, the culture of Rome appeals to everyone, and people are drawn to the city because of its unique charm.
- 2. Barcelona, Spain:** In Barcelona, there is beautiful scenery and countless works of art everywhere you turn. This city proves to be a top travel destination where you will want to stay for as long as possible!
- 3. Paris, France:** Seeing the City of Lights may be just enough to attract new visitors and keep them coming back for more! Although the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre may be the best known attractions, Paris is the place where fashion, food, and love come together.
- 4. New York City, New York:** Times Square, Broadway, and the bustle of people rushing back and forth—this is a place you won't want to miss! New York is truly a city unlike any other.



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Walt Disney's iconic original theme park that bears its creator's name is many things: crowded, price commercialized, and, without question, the happiest place on Earth. It's easy to forget about this proclaimed title while standing for over an hour in the sweltering behind swarms of hyperactive year-olds and their wailing bellings, only to be chair-lifted on a tour of Neverland that lasts a total of two minutes. However, I urge you to immerse yourself in such trivialities and take them into consideration the color behind this extraordinary brainchild of one of the most creative imaginations of the 20th century. Disneyland had its official opening to the public in July of 1955, and it has since brought to life the imagination of Walt Disney Pictures in an entirely profitable manner. Sporting a parade on Opening Day, it has come a long way since, and now boasts seven distinct "land" and boasting colorful parades, laser shows, and meet-and-greets.

ECJ: CHINA

By Kanako Shimizu and Puja Subramaniam
Focus Editors

Seat | Place



Name |

Seat & Class |

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To | Destination

Remarks | Observations

Class |
ECONOMY CLASS

Flight & Date

We see China as the media portrays it: a rapidly modernizing country characterized by big, metropolitan cities such as Shanghai and Beijing. Popular belief is that the Chinese people place emphasis on technology and let it overshadow the many other facets of society. But behind this technologized, technologically focused China is a country desperately clutching onto the remnants of its oldest religion class, Ethics, Culture, and Justice: China, shows both sides of this coin. The students learn not only about its current position as a world power, but also about its history. Along with the major metropolises in China, students will also see what life is like in the rural areas of the country when they visit this coming summer. Though portrayed as a modern society in the past, China is largely composed of charmingly rural areas, alive with diverse dialects, cultures, and customs, all of which our students will learn about and experience on the ECJ China trip.

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could ever possibly want in guilt-free, family-friendly entertainment. The main factor in Disneyland's appeal, however, is its power to inspire sincere happiness in visitors young and old alike through its larger-than-life replication of the fantastical reality only existent in the innocent minds of children.

Though the chipper atmosphere may appear forced to cynics, it ensures that even the most scrupulous of fanatics can search every nook and cranny in the park and find subtle bits of childhood nostalgia around each corner. From the unassuming wishing well overshadowed by the grandeur of Sleeping Beauty's Castle to the happiest custodians on Earth who surprise guests with their masterful use of trash cans as percussion instruments, its little things that combine to make Disneyland the unimposing, painstakingly genuine world of fantasy that attracts millions of park-goers each year. For those yearning to experience that magical sense of whole-hearted happiness evoked by storybook fairytales, look no further. As stated simply and self-explanatorily on a park holiday billboard, "Joy is here," in the small world of Disneyland.

By Dasha Sadovnikova
Staff Writer

SAFARI

By Taji Hutchins
Focus Editor

Michael Kors, Tory Burch, Jean Paul Gaultier, Gucci, and many other brands have used safaris as a source of inspiration for their summer and fall lines. Khakis, animal prints, traditional African symbols, and tan colors are uniformly present among each brand's designs. But what is the meaning behind the fashion?



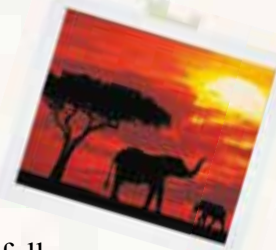
African safaris are not about carefully coordinated items of clothing. They are not about wide-brimmed hats and pants that come in various shades of brown, nor are they about stylish boots and shirts or dresses with

an absurdly large numbers of pockets. They are about stepping out of our largely culturally-unaware and technologically-obsessed lives and embracing nature, possibly for the first time in a while.

A typical African safari day involves animal and nature observation from dawn until dusk. Whether on foot or in a vehicle, a significant portion of the animal kingdom can be explored over the course of a few hours. Excursionists can see wildlife as diverse as lions, buffalos, leopards, elephants, and rhinos.

The natural landscape varies based on where in Africa one visits; some areas of Africa, such as Botswana, are known for their flat terrain, while others, like Namibia, feature eroded canyons and sandy valleys. However, the natural beauty of the country is ubiquitous, no matter which part of Africa one chooses to explore.

Safaris give people a clear lens to view the natural world through. They give people the chance to become explorers and the opportunity to live out an adventure. But most importantly, they expose people to a world that is rarely recognized and never fully appreciated. While some people may continue to only see safaris as a mine for fashion trends, those who take a closer look will realize the true beauty and wonder of this small bit of tourism in the beautiful and wonderful country that is Africa.



Jonathan Borst

What words describe your photography?

Defined, insightful, fun.

What peaked your interest in photography?

What peaked my interest in photography is that after seeing others take photos, I was inspired and my attention was grabbed. So then I thought to myself, "I could do that!" At first I started with a small digital camera and eventually—after saving up—I got myself a nice DSLR.

What is your favorite picture?

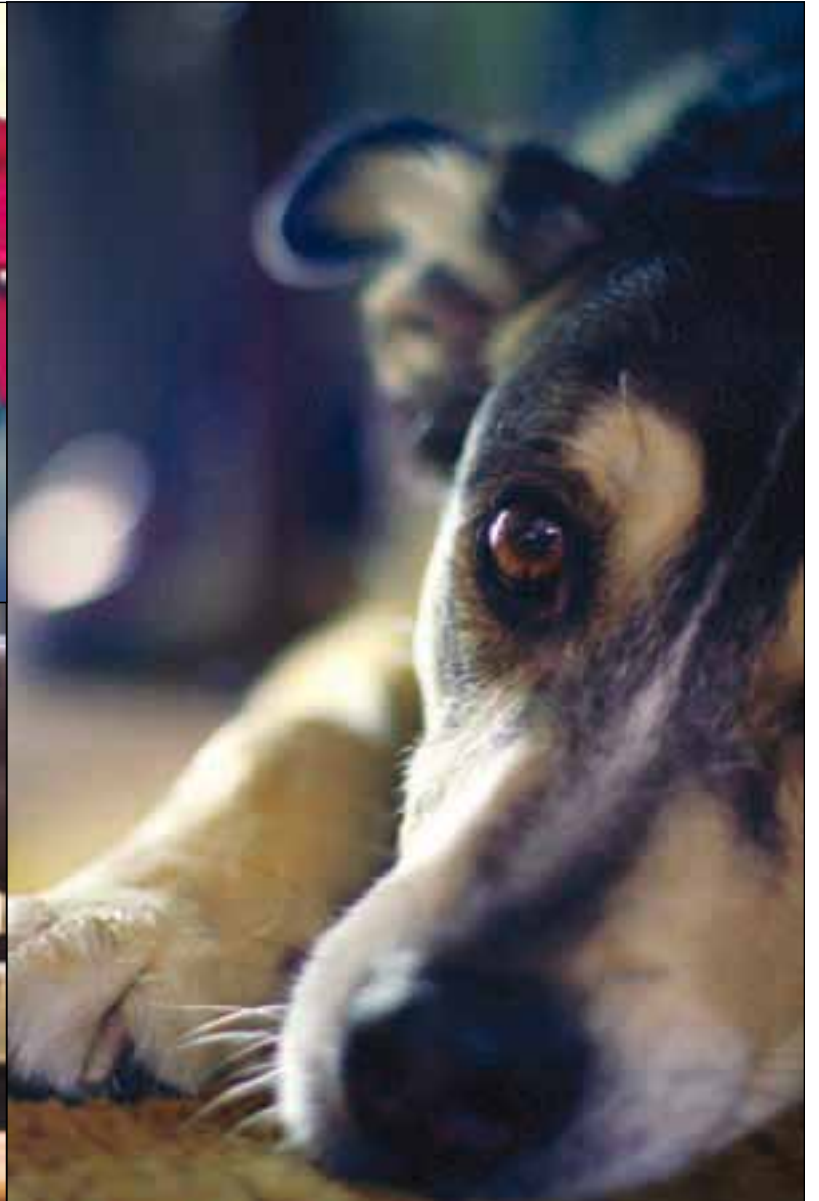
The picture of my dog is. Not only did I spend a lot of work on this by adding my own light at various angles but also by getting the right focus and depth of field. Both factors were very challenging. Nothing makes me happier than when I am challenged and I succeed.

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

The scene I desire to capture would be on a beach. Near shore would be a boat and the sunset would be right above the boat silhouette and the people upon the boat enjoying life. Collectively, this would make for a beautiful scene.

What inspires you to take photographs?

What inspires me is seeing other people's work, and getting ideas from them and challenging myself to duplicate it to learn their techniques and add my own style to it.



Through the Lens:

Monarch Photography



Mrs. Nicole Limoges



How did you become interested in photography?

I have always loved every aspect of art. I'm a big fan of capturing a great moment. I love to look at a photo and almost feel like I'm there. When you catch a great image that shows emotion, the viewer does too. I love to find a photo that makes me smile with it.

What are good ways to take bright, colorful pictures?

Lighting is everything. The best lighting to take your most vibrant photos is at sunset, sunrise and an overcast day. It really allows the color of your subject to come out.

How do you incorporate or enrich colors in a photo? (ex: Photoshop tips)

In Photoshop, adjusting the levels of color, along with the curves, allows you to manipulate your photo in a natural way. It is easy to go too far and make it look fake, so be careful.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to prospective photographers?

Angles, angles, angles. Shoot as many as you can. For every 50 photos, expect 5 to be good and 1 to be close to perfection.



Carlisle Micallef



Hanna Tannenbaum

COLORS

Famous Photographer: **ANDY WARHOL**



Sruthi Ramaswami



Born on August 6, 1928, Andrew Warhola would grow up to be the most influential icon of the pop art movement, better known as Andy Warhol. Warhol, a painter, printmaker, and filmmaker, is most famous for his work in combining elements of pop culture with the elegance of fine art. His use of vivid, neon colors, in combination with his portraiture photography, produces a visually stimulating, almost blinding style that truly allows his images to jump out. Especially notable is Warhol's four panel images, where he replicated the same photograph of a single celebrity on four separate panels. He then painted each image with a different combination of mismatching neon colors. The result is a thought-provoking image that provides four different perspectives on one individual. One may question his or her own likeability of Warhol's style, but there is no question that these images have captivated a worldwide audience with his bright, eccentric use of color.

By **Tiffany Lu**
Photo Editor

Chloe Stevens



Marissa McPeak



Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE



5 Little Known (and good!) Places to Do Your Community Service

By Catherine Gong and Rasika Raghavan
Staff Writers

Angels on Stage:

This organization pairs volunteers with disabled children to prepare a musical production together. It is a fairly new program entering its third year, located in San Jose. Once paired, they rehearse every Saturday morning to prepare for the musical production. According to a freshman Buddy Coach, the best part of Angels on Stage is when they have a showcase, which is similar to karaoke for the Angels. The applications for the Season 4 production, *Alice in Wonderland*, are available online at www.angelsonstage.org, with performances the first week of March.

The Children's Discovery Museum:

Located in downtown San Jose, volunteers can do creative activities with children, like making puppets and finger painting. Also, volunteers can take "field trips" with the kids to places like retirement homes and community ministry organizations. As freshman Annie Hunt reflected on her experience, "It was wonderful to see these activities making the children so happy and I feel I put my time to good use here." If you wish to volunteer, send an email to volunteers@cdm.org for more information.

Westwind 4H:

Located in the Los Altos hills, Westwind provides horseback riding instruction for children with physical handicaps. Horseback riding is a recreational activity that is both therapeutic and soothing for the children, and also builds a strong sense of confidence in them. Volunteers don't need prior experience in order to participate. For more information, visit www.westwind4h.org.

Sunnyvale Community Services:

Sunnyvale Community Services is an independent agency with a mission to prevent homelessness, hunger, and untreated medical problems for low income families and seniors facing temporary crisis. Along with the help of volunteers and clients, this agency primarily focuses on providing financial aid to prevent foreclosure evictions and help working homeless families regain permanent housing. When volunteering, one can fulfill many of the emergency assistance jobs—loading emergency food bags, vanity kits filled with toothbrushes and toothpaste, and backpacks filled with the necessary items for an education. To volunteer, contact mtran@svcommunityservices.org or call (408) 738-4321.

HOPE Services:

You may know HOPE services from leaving donations for them on your doorstep, or perhaps you know it as an organization that helps mentally and physically disabled adults. They also have a relatively new after school program for youth ages 14-22. Now in its second year, clients here are taught the proper etiquette of interactions, various social skills, and are given an opportunity for leisure and recreational time to make friends with peers. If you are interested in volunteering, email cbouchard@hopeservices.org.

Occupy Movement: Combating the 1%

By Billy Rehbock
Staff Writer

It all started September 17, 2011. This day cultivated an ongoing series of demonstrations—protesting economic inequality and corporate greed—known as the Occupy Wall Street protests.

Much of the media coverage and early protesters' demands emanated from New York City's Zuccotti Park in the heart of Wall Street's financial district. Though the protesters have come from different backgrounds and statuses, their slogan, "We are the 99%," refers to the difference in wealth between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of the population. During the last few months, the Occupy Wall Street protests have gained momentum in major cities in the U.S. as well as worldwide coverage.

The movement is driven by the common sentiment that America's economic system is grossly unfair towards those who do not belong to the fiscal elite of the country. According to *The Nation*, the oldest published weekly U.S. magazine, there is no specific central goal. Every protester and demonstrator joins the movement having their own plans and hopes in mind. Demonstrators are also dealing with local issues such as education, the death penalty, and the environment, although the prevailing issue has been the failing state of the economy and the unequal distribution of wealth in America.

After nearly two months from the inception of the movement, on Nov. 15, hundreds of New York Police Officers were given permission by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg to tear down the encampment that protesters had spent two months building and living in. According to the UK newspaper, the *Guardian*, Mayor Bloomberg only ordered these evictions because he believed that there had been and there would be deteriorating health and safety concerns in the coming winter months. Additionally, some parts of the movement have been taking place on private property, in which case freedom of assembly would not be protected by the First Amendment.

The movement has spread to California, where protest-

ers in Oakland have been organizing similar demonstrations. However, the Occupy Oakland protesters were met with more violence. In some instances, Oakland protesters were in fact unyielding against authority, but in other instances, it seems as though there was an extreme degree of force used by police.

In Berkeley, policeman in riot gear were instructed to break up what UC Berkeley students called the "Occupy Cal" movement. Students and residents peacefully protested on an

issue more close to home with them: current tuition hikes. Although they were not given the permission to establish an encampment on campus, they did not comply to this demand. Students pitched tents and brought other household items to "protest financial policies they blame for causing deep cuts in higher education spending."

Nevertheless, policemen were ordered to disband this camp and did so using force (shown). Archbishop Mitty graduate and first year Berkeley student Andre Adricula

says, "Listen, the police may batter our bodies, but they will never break our spirits. We will fight, and our voices will be heard. And that's not ridiculous: that's truth."

A similar outbreak of violence occurred at UC Davis shortly after, when a police officer pepper sprayed several peaceful protesters. This occurrence received even greater news coverage, as it brought the level of violent responses to this movement to seemingly new heights. The officer was put on paid leave.

This widespread display of American dissatisfaction—much of it so close to our homes and school—shows that something needs to be done to bring about a greater equality in the United States. Perhaps the Occupy movement will serve as a wake up call to politicians on both sides of the political spectrum, transcending the divided partisan attitudes currently delaying much needed change.

The politicians are not the only ones who should be concerned; as students, we should be focused on this movement as our interests are being directly supported by the protesters on college campuses, as well as within the confines of any other city the movement has reached.



Libya Post-Gaddafi

By Makoto Lalwani
Staff Writer

Following a NATO air strike on a set of military convoys, Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi is found hiding in a sewage pipe in his hometown of Sirte. Soon afterwards, he is captured, beaten, and eventually killed by National Transitional Council (NTC) rebel forces.

Thus, a dictatorship that lasted 42 years is finally ended, but the ordeal is far from over. As the NTC hastens to rebuild a nation ravaged by civil war and violence, the whole world watches: Will the country revert back to chaos? Will radical sects take over the power gap? Or will this great democratic experiment succeed—and perhaps, pave the way for progress in surrounding nations as well.

Some of the actions of the NTC have been, needless to say, questionable. In an apparent attempt to appease the critics of Gaddafi's brutal murder, several of his killers will be put on trial. Under pressure from foreign leaders such as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Britain's Secretary of Defense Philip Hammond, the NTC has committed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the former dictator's death. Hammond has remarked that the Libyan revolutionaries' image has been "a little bit stained" by Gaddafi's death, and has urged Libya to "get to the bottom of it in a way that rebuilds and cleanses that reputation."

However, this decision has sparked an outcry from Libyan citizens, who believe that Gaddafi's killers should be hailed as heroes instead of condemned as murderers. Student Ali Mukhtar has angrily declared, "The fighters who killed Gaddafi are heroes. They should be given medals, not put in prison. There will be mass protests against this if they are brought to court."

While NATO air strikes certainly helped quell Gaddafi's forces and paved the way to Libyan independence, such a victory would not have been possible without the efforts of the citizens. However, when the U.S. demands that Gaddafi's murderers be tried in court after its own systematic assassination of Osama bin Laden in May, charges of hypocrisy may follow. Thus, a clear conflict is presented here for the NTC: should it acquiesce to the demands of its European allies, or listen to the will of the people?

Of course, not all of the new decisions undertaken by the NTC are controversial. For instance, they are paving the way for the formation of an interim government within a month. In

about eight months, elections will be held to create a constitutional assembly, as well as presidential and parliamentary elections in the following year.

Due to Libya's close proximity to Europe, it could become a crucial link between the Western world and Middle East; however, it must be able to engage in negotiations regarding its vast oil reserves as well as conflicts

stemming from thousands of African refugees migrating into Europe. As rebel military personnel continue to round up Gaddafi's supporters and secure his massive weapons stockpiles, we can only hope that they are treated with dignity and respect, unlike prisoners during Gaddafi's regime.

The new government will follow principles of Islamic Shari'ah law, but Libya's small but youthful population is bound to integrate modern reforms alongside traditional practices. All in all, despite the struggles that are inevitable for a post-revolutionary country, the fledgling Libyan government will hopefully be able to rebuild and reform the nation into a healthy, prosperous, and dictator-free haven for its deserving populace.

Student Ali Mukhtar has angrily declared, "The fighters who killed Gaddafi are heroes. They should be given medals, not put in prison. There will be mass protests against this if they are brought to court."

Co-Curricular Immersion Trips



Appalachia

"I would say that Appalachia is one of the most popular immersion trips, and for good reason," says senior Karen Cheng, "there were two amazing things everyone on the trip can agree on: the people and the surroundings. Everyone we met was so friendly, open-hearted, compassionate, and proud of their home. After only one week there, none of us wanted to leave. Most of us saw fireflies and sat outside during an awesome thunderstorm show for the first time, and everywhere you looked it was green. The hills and land every were green, and I've never seen such well kept grass".

Evidently, the Appalachia immersion trip is an incomparable experience. Appalachia is a cultural region in the eastern United States.

For the immersion trip, students are taken to this region for one week, specifically West Virginia, to work with the poor.

Karen Cheng says that on this immersion trip, "The thing we mostly did was physical labor. There was a lot of interaction with the people that lived there, like the elderly, but we did a lot of labor, like painting sheds, washing RVs, and loading trucks. It was hard, but it was a lot of fun, especially knowing that we were helping others, like flood victims."

If you would like to be immersed in a culture that is simple, peaceful, and surrounded by nature, this immersion trip is for you.



ST. ANTHONY'S

On the St. Anthony's immersion trip, students get a chance to work with this agency in San Francisco and see the city at the same time. What makes this immersion trip unique is that students are able to explore poverty in their backyards. While students stay in the International Youth Hostel, they can really see for themselves that poverty is never far away from home. The hardest part about this trip, according to Brian Nguyen, is "seeing so many people wait in line to get meals for the day and see how much time they are wasting in their life just for a single meal." Students on this five day trip get to work in the Diner Hall, the Clothes Closet, the Senior home, or at Meals on Wheels while interacting with everyone they get to help. What is truly inspiring about this immersion trip is that "all the people... were always hoping for the best when chances are slim. They made us realize how if they haven't lost hope yet, we shouldn't as well."



Habitat for Humanity

Relatively new at Mitty, the Habitat for Humanity immersion trip takes a group of students for six days to the Pacific Northwest to work to build a house for a family in need. Last June, thirteen students headed out to Medford, Oregon, to complete this task. According to senior Kellie Jahnce, what made the trip most memorable was "being able to meet the family that would soon be living in the house. Their gratitude for all that we were doing made this experience so much more worthwhile." Asked what to expect of this trip, Kellie said, "Be ready to do A LOT of painting! But most importantly, go into the immersion trip with an open mind. It is usually on these trips that you learn the most about yourself and others in your community. At the same time, you are making a huge, positive impact on someone's life. That is the best reward anyone can receive in life".



Environmental Challenge

This immersion trip, centered around the Monterey Bay, focuses on informing students about where exactly our food comes from. Students explored the impact that our food sources have on the animals in the ocean and also on the environment. While visiting various farms and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, students also learned that the food we eat causes ethical concerns and often has devastating effects on our environment. The participants of this immersion trip discovered *why* society stresses the importance of practices such as eating locally, avoiding food packing, and recycling.



URBAN PLUNGE

The Urban Plunge immersion trip gives students the opportunity to experience poverty by living like the homeless for five days—right in San Jose. During this trip over Easter break, students will live simply, and work in solidarity to help homeless. Standing in line to receive help from various service agencies and working on neighborhood projects, students on this trip will directly experience poverty, and will doubtless leave the immersion trip with a new view on the homelessness going on right in our backyard.

Dolores Mission

On the Dolores Mission Immersion trip, students traveled to Boyle Heights in East Los Angeles during Holy Week to serve the poorest parish in Los Angeles County as well as its affiliated school, and learn about Homeboy Industries, one of the largest and most successful gang rehabilitation centers in the world.

Engaging in the Holy Week activities at Dolores Mission Parish, these students also cooked and served food for the homeless men that sleep in the church each night, tutored students at Dolores Mission School, and helped in the day care center.

They also had an opportunity to

tour Homeboy Industries, and meet with Father Greg Boyle, the founder of the gang rehabilitation program and former priest at Dolores Mission.

Briana Saunders ('12) says of her experience, "This immersion trip was a profound experience. My favorite part was tutoring the children in the after school program, Underwings. Even though most of the elementary students come from impoverished families, they all had a smile on their faces and were grateful to have us there helping them. I also had a lot of fun playing soccer with them. Those kids are good! I would highly recommend that anyone interested apply for this immersion trip."



SPORTS

Fall Sports Wrap-Up: 2011 Season Finals

By Erik Chu, Stephen Kwok and Anay Dattawadkar
Staff Writer and Sports Editors

The 2011-2012 Monarch **Football** season was truly entertaining. The team opened the season with a dominant win over Pioneer, but then fell 21-14 to San Ramon in a Week 2 game that was delayed for three days due to lightning. However, they then went on a hot streak, winning 3 of 4, including a 21-17 victory before a rabid home crowd. The team then alternated wins and losses en route to a 36-0 dismantling of San Benito in the CCS playoffs. The Monarchs won their first playoff game since 2002, and held San Benito to zero first downs in the game.

The Monarchs, however, fell to Bellarmine 29-0 in the second round on Nov. 25. Several key penalties led to the team's fall, including a crucial holding call at the end of the first half that erased a huge passing play and stole away Mitty's momentum. It was a difficult defeat and a tough way to bow out of the CCS playoffs.

Nonetheless, the Monarchs can reflect on the year and be content with their performance. They were able to step up and perform when few expected them to. They proved their doubters wrong, finished with a winning record, and laid a firm foundation for continued success in the future.

The 2011 Monarch **Women's Volleyball** team had an excellent season, finishing the year with a 25-12 record. Their season's highlights included a third-place finish at the Archbishop Mitty Volleyball Invitational, as well as a second-place finish at the Los Gatos Invitational.

The team went 1-2 in the regular season against arch-rival St. Francis, but did lose to Presentation four times on the year. In the first round of the CCS playoffs, the Monarchs destroyed Lynbrook, winning 25-11, 25-16, and 25-9 against the overmatched Vikings. Moving to the CCS semifinals, the Monarchs once again faced the Lancers.

Both teams split the first four sets of a terrific match, which ended up as an intensely close contest. The Monarchs fell behind in the first set, and their comeback effort fell short, and they lost 25-23. The Monarch comeback proved successful in the second set, coming back to win 28-26.

The third set was again spirited, but St. Francis was able to emerge victorious. Mitty then seized the reins, breaking

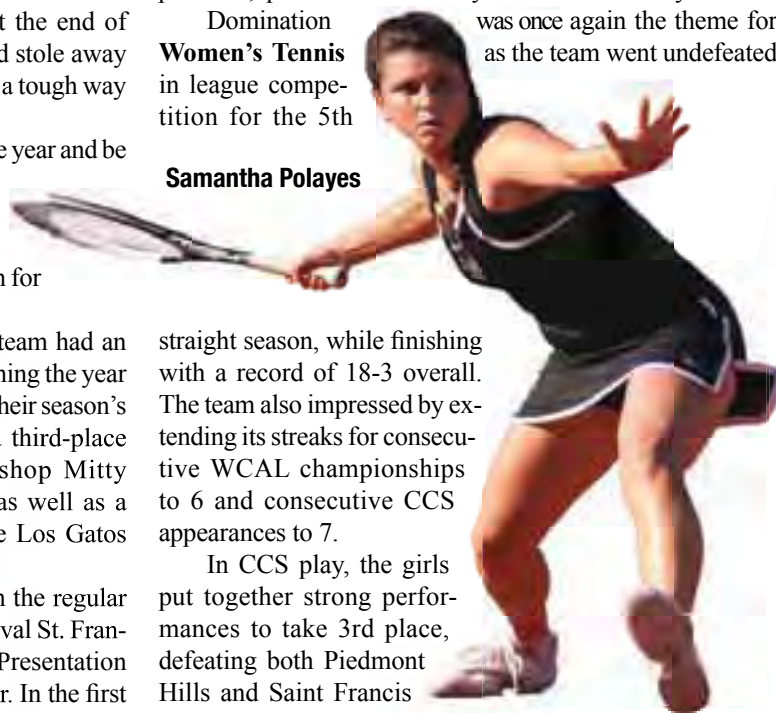
out to destroy the Lancers in the fourth set, 25-9. However, in the fifth set, St. Francis was able to come out victorious, winning 15-10. It was a grueling, hard-fought game, but the Monarchs ultimately fell short.

The team was led by seniors Katie Conroy and Alexandra Caldwell, as well as sophomore Clare Powers. Caldwell tallied a year's worth of kills with 365, Powers had 316, and Conroy had 292. Senior Dani Bozzini was the top server, scoring 40 aces. On defense, junior libero Anne Marie Schmidt led all Monarchs with 757 digs.

In all, the Monarchs performed splendidly, recouping from the loss of several of their top players to graduation. Their chemistry as a team, as well as their intense effort in practice, paved their way to this successful year.

Domination was once again the theme for **Women's Tennis** in league competition for the 5th

Samantha Polayes



straight season, while finishing with a record of 18-3 overall. The team also impressed by extending its streaks for consecutive WCAL championships to 6 and consecutive CCS appearances to 7.

In CCS play, the girls put together strong performances to take 3rd place, defeating both Piedmont Hills and Saint Francis in the process.

They were led by senior Samantha Polayes, freshman Felicity Maltby, and junior Kennedy Davis, who were all named to the All-WCAL First Team. Seniors Sruthi Ramaswami and Anushka Pushpala, as well as junior Nicole Del Rio also had big roles in the team's success and were named to the All-WCAL Second Team.

With a wealth of talent, bottomless pool of depth, and strong leadership returning next season, the Women's Varsity Team is certain to continue its tradition of excellence.

The Mitty **Women's Field Hockey** team had a historic season, finishing with an overall record of 20-1 and a BVAL League Title. With over 8 seniors leading the team and an influx of young and energetic talent, the Monarchs were able to dominate the Bay Area in unprecedented fashion.

Their dominance continued until the CCS playoffs, where they were shocked by St. Francis. The Lancers, whose record was 14-7 coming in, were able to prevail against the Monarchs, stunning the team.

Nonetheless, the team isn't dwelling on this defeat. "Our expectations before the season were met because we became a better team than we thought possible," said

senior goalie Lindsay Mewes, "Although we didn't reach our goal of winning CCS, we accomplished something that no other Mitty field hockey team has."

The highlight of the year came during the team's trip down to San Diego, in which the Monarchs defeated national field hockey power Scripps Ranch by a score of 1-0.

The team has high expectations for next year, when many key players who have experienced the sensation of winning will return for another quest at the title. Although they didn't reach their goal of a CCS title, their complete command of every opponent shows that only one word defines this historic team – dominant.

Both the **Men's and Women's Cross-Country** teams showed vast improvements over last season. The men sent two runners to the CCS Finals, with freshman Matthew Remaker pacing 5:47 and taking 59th overall. As expected, junior Richard Guzikowski impressed again with a pace of 5:29, good for 23rd place. With both runners returning, the team can expect to scale new heights next season.

For the women, a strong team effort helped propel them to a 3rd place finish in CCS Finals. Junior Molly Haar led the way with an amazing 6:20 pace that helped her take 7th place overall. She was supported by sophomore Olivia Brobst, who took 15th, and junior Olivia Rintala, who finished 17th. Ashley Noronha, Ashley Dattalo, Haley Weiner, and Montana Loveday all put in great runs as well to help the team qualify for the California State Finals.

The **Men's and Women's Water Polo** teams both finished strong to cap off the season. On the men's side, both the players and coaches are pleased with the way they overcame a tough start to find success.

"The water polo team performed quite well this season with our win against SI. We also won our last tournament, defeating Monte Vista High school in the finals" said senior Ken Koltermann, "We played well as a team, and finished each game strong."

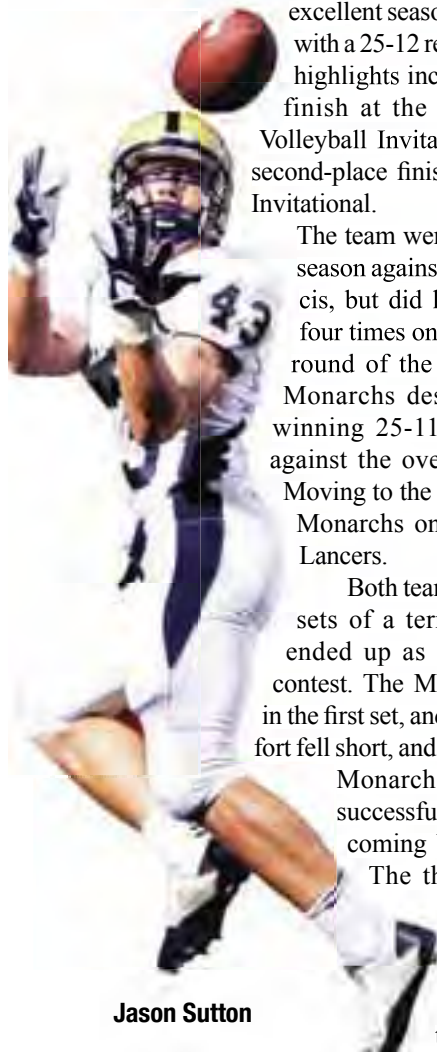
The women's team also found success of their own, ending the season with a strong finish in the CCS playoffs.

The **Women's Golf** team also had an excellent season, taking first place in several tournaments. They placed third in the WCAL tournament, and earned a place in the CCS championships.

The team was led by seniors Lauren Salazar and junior Kyleigh Moreno, as well as junior Dani Aiello.



Kelsey Hideshima



Jason Sutton

NCAA Signing Day



Photo courtesy of Howie Chang

College recruits gather in the Fien Gymnasium on November 9, 2011.

By Ritty Zhai
Staff Writer

For most high school seniors, committing to a college is one of the biggest decisions they will make in their high school careers. All of their hard work over the course of their four years in high school culminates to this one final decision. For high school athletes, the NCAA signing day not only marks the next chapter of their lives, in which they declare their decision to continue their sport on the college level, but it is a celebration of the success they have achieved in their sport thus far. It is, indeed, a large stepping-stone in each of these athletes' lives.

Women's Golf

Lauren Salazar, *Clemson University*

Women's Tennis

Samantha Polayes, *Gonzaga University*

Women's Volleyball

Alex Caldwell, *University of Pennsylvania*

Women's Basketball

Courtney Lisowski, *Colorado State University*
Amanda Lovely, *Pepperdine University*

Baseball

Preston Caldera, *University of San Diego*

Softball

Vanessa Alvarez, *UC Berkeley*
Chiara Biagini, *Santa Clara University*

Men's Swimming

Howie Chang, *UC San Diego*

Women's Swimming

Haley Oosterhouse, *UC San Diego*
Charlotte Ruby, *University of North Carolina*
Ritty Zhai, *Columbia University*

Winter Sports Previews

Monarch Seasons Getting in Gear

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

After a long and triumphant campaign from last season, the Mitty basketball program returns to the floor with their eyes on another state title.

Last season, the Monarchs finished with a dominating 32-2 record and a 13-1 mark in league play. They defeated Casa Grande, Las Lomas, Woodcreek, and Summit en route to their first State Championship.

The Monarchs have lost nine players from last year's team, but will return seniors Thomas Peters, Jordan White, Neil Vranicar, and Jack Beibel along with the Cal-Hi Sports State Sophomore of the Year, Aaron Gordon. Gordon will be the centerpiece of the offense, with Peters, White, Vranicar, and Beibel being threats from the perimeter.

Regarding this year's team, Coach Tim Kennedy said, "I feel like we have a lot of work to do for this season. We lost nine seniors so we lose a lot of experience that we took for granted. With that said, we return two starters and two other seniors who played significant minutes and we have some young players who

are hungry. We need to learn to be consistent with our effort and execution and if we do, we have a chance to be pretty good."

"This year we are a lot younger and a lot less experienced, but we have a lot of potential," Vranicar added, "Last year we could solely rely on seniors and Aaron to carry us and this year we are going to need a lot more help from our juniors, because we only have five seniors as opposed to nine last year."

After last year's success, ESPN has already recognized Mitty as the 20th best team in the country in their Powerade Fab 50 Rankings. Despite the early hype, the Monarchs are focused on their own success rather than what the media thinks.

"We're flattered as a team to receive the recognition and preseason rankings are great, but it's really the rankings at the end of the year that we care about," said Vranicar. "We don't put banners up here for having a high preseason ranking."

Despite the relative inexperience, the Monarchs look to be on track for another successful year. High expectations have now become a norm in the Mitty basketball program, and Gordon summarized the team's focus by saying, "Our goal is to repeat our success from last season and win another state title."

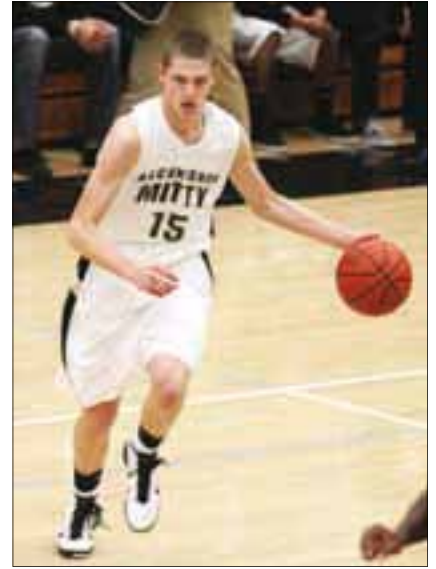


Photo courtesy of ProImage

Senior Neil Vranicar drives toward the basket.

Men's Basketball

Women's Basketball



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Sophomore Kelli Hayes lines up for a free throw.

By Jordan Scott
Sports Editor

Next time you're walking through Fien gymnasium, lift your eyes and gaze upon the multitude of banners hanging from the rafters. 24 WCAL titles, 22 CCS titles, 8 Norcal Championships, and 4 C.I.F. State Titles. Those are the accomplishments of the Women's Basketball team throughout the years.

The 2011 varsity team will strive to continue this tradition of excellence. This year's Monarchs are preparing for the WCAL and CCS playoffs by facing the toughest preseason schedule in Northern California, which includes games against highly ranked St. Mary's Berkeley High and St. Francis of Sacramento. Coach Sue Phillips, entering her 20th year of coaching at AMHS, believes that each opponent will present the Monarchs with a different set of challenges that can only make the team stronger.

Senior forward Courtney Lisowski feels one of the challenges facing the team is quickly getting the new varsity players up to speed with the level of intensity needed to compete in this demanding preseason.

Led by seniors Amanda Lovely, Margaret Sun, and

Lisowski, the team is looking to stay healthy and compete at a consistent level in order to have a successful season. Not only does the team have great chemistry, but it is also blessed with outstanding athletes. As Lovely states, "We must use our athleticism to our advantage at all times during a game."

Lingering in the back of both the coaches and returning players' minds is the devastating loss to St. Mary's of Stockton in the second round of the C.I.F. Championships last year. Defeated by only one field goal, the team is looking to get the most out of every offensive possession.

"The ball is golden," said Coach Phillips, "Our focus is to want it and take care of it." One lost possession can cost the team the game and end their season prematurely.

"Wins and losses are a by-product of a team's quality of character, work habits, and attention to detail," Phillips said, "There must be a daily emphasis on an individual and collective level to pursue excellence with our hearts and our minds."

Under the lead of their dedicated coach, this year's Monarchs are doing everything in their power to hang a few banners of their own in the Fien gym at the end of the 2011-2012 season.

By Stephen Kwok
Sports Editor

Last season, Head Coach Cesar Sanchez of the Men's Varsity Soccer team accomplished an amazing feat in what was only his first year as head coach at Mitty. He took a team that had gone 4-12-4 in the previous season and made it a force in the WCAL. The Monarchs finished 11-9-3 overall, and 6-5-3 in league competition.

Better yet, the team was able to advance all the way to the CCS semifinals, before they were defeated 3-2 in a close match against Burlingame. This upcoming 2011-2012 season, the members of the Men's Varsity Soccer team are looking to build upon their great turnaround last season and reach the next level of CSS playoffs.

The Monarchs definitely have reason to be excited for great things to come. With nearly half of last year's team returning to the field, the team can look forward to getting things going early on.

"I'm expecting the team to start clicking," said senior Joshua Campista when asked about his expectations for the season, "we

want to be stringing together passes on offense and covering for each other on defense."

Talent-wise, the Men's Soccer team has a very solid core of key players. Juniors Connor Kurze and David Escobar are both returning after putting together impressive individual performances last season. Kurze was named to the All-WCAL honorable mention team, while junior Shane Luna was named to the All-WCAL second team and received an honorable mention from the San Jose Mercury News. Despite these awards, the players understand that talent alone will not be enough.

"I believe that in order to be successful, the team as a whole needs to put in effort and dedication," junior Maiki Rainton noted, "Soccer, like other sports, requires the whole team to work together and contribute. Last year we made it to the CCS semifinals and surprised everyone. Hopefully this year we'll do even better."

Undoubtedly, the Men's Varsity Soccer Team is ready to elevate its game. With a relentless work ethic, solid passing, and an alert defense, the Monarchs have no reason to believe they can't get to the next level of the CCS playoffs.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Sebastian Zuniga prepares for a pass.

Men's Soccer

Women's Soccer



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Senior Sarina Soriano looks down the field.

By Anay Dattawadkar
Sports Editor

As befits an Archbishop Mitty team, the 2011-2012 Monarch Women's Soccer team is aiming high coming into this season. Led by a strong cast of characters including senior captains Lindsay Mewes, Ana Marija Sola, and Madison Salom, the Monarchs are coming off a 2010-2011 season in which they went 18-2-4 and won the WCAL and CCS Division II championships.

Despite the loss of graduating seniors Michaela Matulich and Kelsey Foo, this year's seniors intend to step up and lead their team.

"As seniors on the team, we're all leaders in the eyes of the underclassmen," said Sarina Soriano, "We're always trying to give advice to the other girls at practice and are always willing to answer any of their questions."

The seniors, who have already won a CCS championship, claim that this experience will help them going forward into the season. They plan to lead by example, and hope their effort and striving for success will push the younger members of the

team to achieve more as well.

"The seniors are key to teaching the younger girls how we do things in terms of traditions and work ethic," said Sola, "This year, the leadership from all our returning varsity players will be crucial to our success as a team."

The team this year is a young one, and as such, is still developing its offensive and defensive character. There are also several injured players, including senior Mikelle Foster, who is recuperating from a torn ACL. As such, they plan to focus on defensive consistency at the season's start.

"At the start of the season, we're stressing our defensive shape and overall ability to play defense," stated Sola, "By securing our back line and defensive tactics, we can construct and develop our offense."

Nonetheless, with the team's abundance of talent, they expect to become more adept at attacking and goal scoring as the season goes on. Overall, the Monarchs are not fazed by the loss of so many players from last year. They're looking to build off each other, work together as a team, and ultimately add another banner to the rafters of the Fien Gym.

Black and “Solid Gold”

By Kevin Tran and Anir Ramesh
News Editor & Staff Writer

From show-stopping performances to celebrity guest stars, it's clear that the Black and Gold Gala has grown to become Mitty's premiere social event for alumni and faculty. What was initially started by students 20 years ago as a way of gathering together the Mitty Community has now become an all out production much like the ones found in Las Vegas or on Broadway.

Held at the plush Fairmont Hotel's banquet hall and dining room, this year's Gala was truly a sight to see. Throughout the entire night, it was clear that no detail or expense had been spared in order to create the best possible showcase for Mitty's talent, while raising funds to continue the school's standard of excellence.

Before the show, guests sipped fine wine and exchanged small talk while Mitty's own Jazz Choir entertained them with a mix of classics and contemporaries.

Junior **Steve Kim** later revealed the extent of the choir's preparation, saying, "It's hard practicing for so long sometimes; we spent weeks learning the songs after school. But it's worth it when you realize that you're helping create something special for all the faculty and alumni who come."

Even more rigorous was the preparation for the main event, a heart-throbbing medley of classic 80's songs following the theme of the hit show *Solid Gold*. This performance was a joint effort by Exodus, the Royals, and the Jazz Band. Students involved had been preparing for the six weeks prior to the performance. On show day, the crew met at 9 a.m. to run through the entire show several times.

Director of Performing Arts **Mr. Mason Kimont** af-

firms the extent of these preparations, saying, "It's really stressful when you realize that so much is riding on providing the perfect show for almost a thousand people."

The frenzy continued backstage that night, with people scrambling to get costumes changed in time or practicing their dance moves at the last possible second before having to come back on stage for the next act. It's hard to believe that the smiling faces on stage had been at it for over twelve hours nonstop.

Topping it off was a performance by celebrity comedian and impressionist, **Frank Caliendo**, best known for his appearances on *Mad TV* and Fox's NFL telecasts. Providing hilarious impersonations of Barack Obama and John Madden, he was another example of Mitty's ability to provide students, present or past, with the best, be it education or entertainment.

Said Caliendo, "I'm just astounded at the amount of attention given to everything tonight. I almost feel bad for the guests, having experienced a night of such glamour and entertainment, and having to end it watching me do voices for 45 minutes."

It's hard to imagine that 20 years ago, Black and Gold was a simple get-together of a little less than a two hundred people. Student performances weren't even featured, as they were spontaneous ten minute performances that contrast greatly with the massive productions of today.

The evolution of Black and Gold mirrors the evolution of Mitty. In two decades a simple school function has been elevated to the social event of the year for all things Mitty. No doubt Black and Gold will continue to be the showcase of Mitty's excellence.



Photo Courtesy of Yearbook Staff

Members of Exodus perform at Black and Gold.

STUDENT CENTE(R)ED

Enrique Guerra

By Omid Mirfendereski & Payam Mirfendereski
Staff Writers

Of the many dynamic Monarchs we see every day, freshman Enrique Guerra is truly one that stands out. He is not only hardworking and dedicated, but also an embodiment of one of our most demanding ESLRs: leadership.

Enrique has devoted himself to the welfare and progress of the Latino community. Offered the opportunity to address the stereotypes about his culture, he has responded with optimism and enthusiasm, speaking to a number of schools on his community's behalf.

This past October, Enrique traveled to San Francisco to deliver an inspiring speech at the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents' (ALAS) summit on Hispanic education. The speech focused on his own struggles in achieving academic success, as well as on the power of commitment and choice.

Enrique has been asked to be a keynote speaker again in February, this time for a Latino student convention at San Jose State University. The conference, Enrique states, will be "comprised of around 1,000 Bay Area Latino students and their parents." In addition, Enrique has been invited to speak at Tucson, Arizona, in April, at local middle schools and high schools. He is excited to offer a message of hope to those around him and participate in his community's progress and well-being.

Enrique admits that he is always a little nervous before a big speech, but once he stands before the audience and begins to speak, the words flow right out. Enrique recognizes that his opportunity to live as a leader and a role model for his community is a gift from God, one that must be especially appreciated in life.

He explains, "I really believe that God has given each of us a gift. But our gift back to God is what we do with it. I feel the need to reach out and do what I can for my race, and if I can even change one person's life, it is worth it." For Enrique, what matters the most is the journey: continuing to spread the message of hope, dedication, and perseverance to his peers and fellow classmates.

At Mitty, Enrique involves himself in diverse activities, as both one who serves and one who leads. He is a member of LASU (Latin American Student Union) as well as the Romero program.

He states, "The Romero program has taught me about culture, leadership and commitment to our education. It pushes me to be a better student and role model."

Dedicated and optimistic, Enrique also aspires to become a part of the Mitty Speech and Debate team. "Who really knows," Enrique adds, "maybe I'd even like to start my own motivational speakers club."

Enrique Guerra is truly one of Mitty's most promising students. A leader in the truest sense of the word, there are no bounds to what he can do in these four years and the future. We can all wish him the best in his efforts and endeavors to come.



Showcasing Mitty at Open House

By Ryan Kapur & Aneesh Akella
Staff Writers

Archbishop Mitty hosted its annual Open House on November 20. Nearly 3,000 prospective Mitty students and their families were given an exciting glimpse of our Mitty world. Booths and tours offered an extensive look at all aspects of Mitty, including admissions, academics, athletics, performing arts, counseling, clubs, the campus, and more.

This year's presentations focused on two developments that the class of 2016 will help pioneer. In the gyms, faculty and students guided visitors through sample lessons on the electronic resources—the "iPad Revolution"—Mitty will be implementing. Then, on tours, visitors learned about the 3,500 square foot Schott Family Music Center, scheduled to be completed on Dec. 16.

Student dedication plays a large part in the success of Open House. Many students arrive early and stay at school later than usual the week leading up to this important event; additionally, students dedicate many Sundays to ensure everything is smooth, efficient, and inviting for all our guests.

Such students are motivated because of their immense school pride. Senior Bryce Currey helped at the Campus Ministry booth where he confided that he "enjoy[s] helping Campus Ministry in any way [he] can because of the great teachers, students, and opportunities there," and his service "gives [him] a sense of fulfillment."

In the 800 wing, senior Makoto Lalwani showcased Robotics because he wanted "to bring to light one of the awesome programs Mitty has to offer, and show what students are capable of accomplishing when given the freedom and resources to innovate."

Seniors Megan Linney, Alisha Dua, Rushikesh Joshi, and Neil Vranicar were featured presenters who explained the school's mission and elaborated on how Mitty has provided them with ample opportunities.

Joshi stated, "By sharing my experiences during my time here at Mitty with prospective students, I feel like I am able to give back to the school that has done so much for me."

Given the enthusiasm at Open House, Ms. Kate Caputo, the Assistant Principal of Admission, "loves watching Mitty through the eyes of new students and seeing our kids share their exciting stories."

THE MONARCH

Volume 21 Number 2

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Chitra Marti, & Melanie Mascarenhas

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

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