



Up and Coming Clubs at Mitty

Speech and Debate

By **Srikanth Cherukuri**
Staff Writer

When you think of speech and debate, what comes to mind? Is it two kids with glasses, considering which *Battlestar Galactica* episode is the all-time greatest? Is it two presidential candidates discussing their stance on America's unemployment rate? Though you may be unsure, Mitty kick-started its Speech and Debate team just this year.

It all started when **Ms. Andrea Cartwright** was filling out a job application for a position as an English teacher here at Mitty. On her resumé, she included that she coached a highly successful speech and debate team at La Costa Canyon High School in San Diego for two years. With the addition of Ms. Cartwright, **Mrs. Zambo**, and **Mrs. Woodruff**, Mitty was finally able to unveil a brand new team.

Speech and Debate consists of varying events, from Original Prose and Poetry to Humorous Interpretation. As well, debate consists of team events such as Public Forum, and individual events such as Congressional Debate. Every member of the team is required to participate in one Speech Event, one Debate Event, and one Spontaneous Event (think-on-your-feet speaking).

Mitty participates in the Coast Forensics League, which consists of some of the nation's best teams. Although the competition is strong, Mitty has proven successful.

At the varsity level speech tournament, two Monarchs competed in the finals, with junior **Sarah Tsou** coming in 7th place for Expository Speaking and freshman **Riya Dange** coming in 7th place for Original Prose and Poetry.

At the second junior varsity debate tournament, two Monarch teams swept their competition and went undefeated. The teams were comprised of juniors **Puja Subramanian** and **Anir Ramesh**, and freshmen **Maxim Baban** and **Anika Gidwani**.

At the recent Stanford Invitational last week, **Sarah Tsou** took 7th place, again, in Expository Speaking and was a semi-finalist in Original Oratory. Also, **Sharvil Gupta** and **Riya Dange** were finalists in Congressional Debate.

While Speech and Debate might sound like a difficult task, it is actually quite rewarding. Not only do the students develop their public speaking skills, but they are also able to expand their knowledge of local and global events.

Team member **Riya Dange** summarizes her experience, "Being on the team is a lot of work, but it *is* worth it in the end."

After all, Speech and Debate was the springboard for **John F. Kennedy**, **Brad Pitt**, **Oprah Winfrey**, and **Chris Colfer** (who plays Kurt on *Glee*) to launch their careers.



FBLA officers prepare for the Bay Section Competition.

As a national organization, FBLA truly embraces a grand variety of competitive events, both individual and team-oriented, that grant students the chance to learn, teach, and gain recognition in the field of business. Student members gain many opportunities to attend conferences, seminars, and workshops that foster career and entrepreneurship skills vital to our modern corporate world.

As **Marti**, president of Mitty FBLA, explains, "Competitions allow students to demonstrate their abilities and become genuinely immersed in the business experience."

Mitty's future business leaders are now eagerly working on the Champions of Bay Project, designed for individual students in the Bay Area to "become more involved in FBLA" and to "encourage participation" in their local chapters.

Through ten distinct activities, which include completing a job shadow program, attending a business tour, and presenting or writing on behalf of FBLA, Mitty students are able to gain recognition at this year's Bay Section Leadership Conference.

In addition to business-oriented events, students participating in the Champions of Bay Project can display their strength and potentials through such activities as presentational speaking, community service, and the recruiting of additional members for their school.

On March 3, Mitty's own FBLA members will attend the 2012 Bay Section Leadership Conference at Cupertino High School. At the conference, each will have the chance to secure a blue ribbon symbolizing not only outstanding achievement in academics and business awareness, but also active participation in school and community.

A panel of judges will determine the merit and achievement of each but, of course, it is the journey that matters the most in shaping the self-confidence, dreams, and future of these ambitious students.

With a bright future ahead, FBLA can anticipate increasing student membership.

In the meantime, we can all wish our young business leaders success in embracing opportunities that make Mitty truly diverse, innovative, and visionary in the realm of business and career education.

Classrooms to Boardrooms

By **Payam Mirfendereski**
Staff Writer

Last year, junior **Chitra Marti** decided to initiate a chapter of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) at Mitty. This club is unlike traditional school programs that promote cultural activities and social gatherings among students. It has a broader, more decisive purpose: to promote leadership, business, and entrepreneurship skills in our school. With over 215,000 members in high schools today, FBLA is the largest business-career student organization in the world.

Now in its second official year, the Mitty chapter—or division—has made impressive progress. Supervised by **Mr. Mosunic** and led by both junior and senior officers, Mitty's FBLA has recruited over twenty members and has commenced training for local and regional competitions.

For more information:

Speech & Debate
Ms. Cartwright at acartwright@mitty.com

FBLA — www.mittyfbla.tk

The Evolution of Mitty's Yearbook: The Excalibur

By **Sankar Srinivasan**
Staff Writer

You really can't judge a book by its cover, and the Yearbook is no exception! With pages upon pages of nostalgic memories, *The Excalibur* is a high school necessity for every Monarch. Archbishop Mitty's Yearbook, to put it simply, is an epic success—a culmination of everything Mitty has to offer to its proud community. Each edition ties every Monarch, past and present, into a powerful, enduring family. Everyone who has a yearbook knows just how truly entertaining and sentimental it can be.

Looking at the colorful pages, it's hard to imagine that the book was once fully black and white. In fact, the Yearbook staff initially drafted the pages on large pieces of butcher paper before computers were implemented at Mitty. Today, the use of Adobe In-Design has allowed the Yearbook to expand from 95 to over 300 pages.

Behind *Excalibur's* fantastic content is a hard-working, dedicated team that collaborates just as one would for a major group project in the classroom. But Yearbook is no ordinary class! The atmosphere is always quirky and comical with regular jokes.

"If the Yearbook office door is open and you walk by it, you will definitely hear

us," says senior staff member **Samantha Rodgers**.

The work never ceases to be exciting as editors constantly chase people for photos and interviews for their various sections.

However, like any class, there is always stress as deadlines draw near. Regardless, members have often described their work as extremely fun and fresh—even as a getaway from the class-work they are assigned from other periods. They also get to learn a lot about the school, gaining insider secrets before anyone else receives their Yearbook.

Ms. Epidendio notes that Yearbook was originally not a class and required the staff to work after school. It was changed to a class to allow busy students to participate in the program. The editors adopt a new theme for the Yearbook every year, and the result is a creative work of art. Still a secret, this year's theme will be unveiled when the 2012 *Excalibur* comes out in May.

Like many limited-member activities, interested students must interview with Ms. Epidendio and a Yearbook editor, get teacher recommendations, explain why they want to join, and be able to create captions for various pictures.

If you are creative, social, artistic, and looking to connect a little more with Archbishop Mitty High School, then the Yearbook may just be for you!



OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: High School Relationships

WORTH THE STRUGGLE

By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

Clichés about love vary greatly, from “love hurts” to “all you need is love.” High school relationships are known for being unstable and unreliable. Statistics say that only about 10% of high school sweethearts get married and only 5% do not end in divorce.

These rather unfriendly numbers may be discouraging at first sight, but when looking at the benefits of teenage love, the high school relationship can be recognized as something worthwhile and even beneficial.

Going into a relationship is a risky, courageous thing to do. It can be an incredibly challenging task just to venture out of that ‘friend zone.’

The possibility of being rejected is always there, and no one wants to hear whispers of how he or she got turned down. In the end, though, the whole ordeal makes a person stronger because it teaches them how to handle emotional sorrow and stress.

Every high school relationship helps build up emotional resiliency. Learning to handle the realities of life becomes quite important, especially when we move on to college and need to be self-reliant.

While in high school, the family and friends that we live with serve as an emotional support system. As high school students begin the trek towards independence, however, being prepared for life is vital to moving on to the next stage of adulthood.

Many parents warn their teens not to waste too much of their social lives on finding that significant other, but this warning hardly ever stops a curious teen from trying anyway. As long as couples maintain other aspects of their lives such as academics and sports, they can have a better grasp on how to form relationships in the future.

High school relationships teach us the fundamentals of how to become more than just friends with another person. High school is the time for making mistakes, for falling—and for getting back up.

Through a long process of trial and error, teens can grow in their ability to love and be loved, because, of course, accepting someone else’s love can be just as hard as giving it.

Personally, I know what it is like to go through these stages as I have been in a relationship for over a year.

There have been times bad and times

good. Sometimes, I look back at the tougher moments and think to myself, “If only I knew,” because even now I am still learning how to communicate, how to empathize, and how to be patient.

Relationships aren’t all hard work, however. I have such wonderful memories to look back on and can honestly say that I will never regret any those times that made me smile.

Teenagers have plenty of time to live in the moment. With a world of opportunities facing you, there is nothing wrong with enjoying life more by sharing it with someone else.

Every teen should have the chance to feel the charm of love in the air and the excitement of opening up to someone new. This may seem daunting at first, but you never know what it might turn into. All high school students have had that crush that they never had the guts to ask out on a date. You never know what could be unless you try: for every teen thinking they have no chance with their crush, that very person may be feeling the same way.

Love can be found in unexpected places, even messy teenage love. So who knows, maybe you will fit into that five percent that lives happily ever after, or maybe our generation will be able to change those sad statistics altogether.

Either way, you should not shy away from taking the leap into a romantic relationship. That is part of what it means to be a teenager. It’s part of growing up.



WASTE OF TIME

By Ashley Rodarte
Staff Writer

“There you have it, folks. Young love. Full of promise, full of hope, ignorant of reality.” Last year’s romantic comedy *Valentine’s Day* presented love in many forms. The movie’s portrayal of high school relationships in particular, though, was quite accurate.

Relationships in high school are great for a short period of time, sure. They are

nice when they begin, and they give teens a sense of comfort and security, but they almost always come with trouble, and are almost always doomed to fail.

Personally, I think it is best to just avoid them. Yes, it’s great to have a definite date to homecoming, and posting

cute pictures on Facebook is always fun, but being independent is the best way to go.

For one thing, your identity can be lost. Instead of being Jack you become Jack-and-Jill. Relationships can distort the way you see yourself. When you are sucked into the idea of the perfect relationship you become what your significant other expects, or what others expect you to be as a part of pair.

You begin worrying more about how to make your boyfriend or girlfriend happy instead of yourself. Sometimes in a relationship it’s good to be selfless. But teenagers take this overboard.

Then there are the obvious parts of life that relationships can, and do, disrupt,

including schoolwork and friendships. Becoming “love sick” can and does make people forget about the other equally, if not more, important parts of their lives.

High school relationships should be a source of fun and warmth, but teenagers become obsessed with creating an idealized version of them. Instead of working on academics or hanging out with friends, couples will tend to neglect life outside of each other to their own detriment.

Being “whipped” in high school is seen as a bad thing, and yet as part of a couple you are expected to act with your other-half’s interest in mind. Striking the perfect balance between these two expectations is difficult, especially when expectations are unreasonably high.

You see, teens are like sponges, they absorb the information given to them from the media, family, and friends. And because of this many have been horribly misled. If boyfriends are not buying flowers everyday they are considered bad boyfriends, and if girlfriends don’t tolerate being ditched for a night of *Call of Duty*, they are considered bad girlfriends.

Sadly, the most inevitable part of high school relationships is that they break up. Yes, this is a part of growing and experiencing life, but teenagers are not fully equipped to handle it correctly.


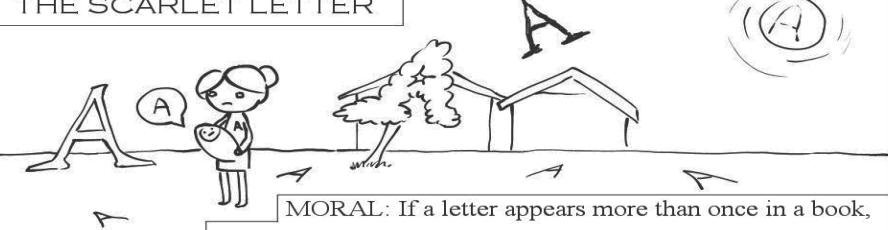

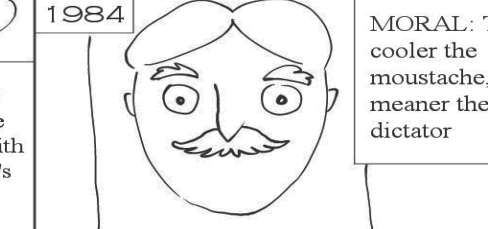
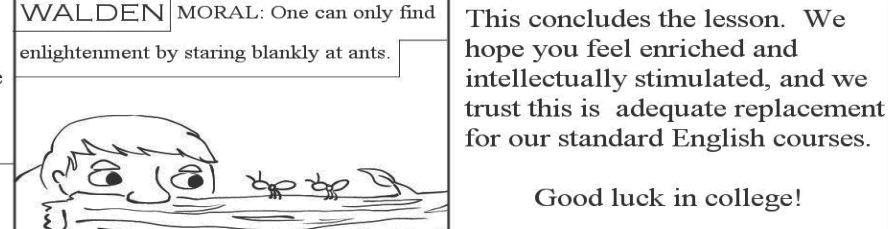
I have seen far too many relationships go on and on when clearly they are just not working. It is never healthy to stay with someone that you do not really care about, or that has hurt you multiple times. High school is a crucial time to learn about yourself, and being dragged through an unstable relationship can take a painful emotional toll on the teenagers involved.

The truth is relationships are more complicated than our adolescent minds are ready to handle. Teenagers are in a difficult period in life where so much is changing, for the better or the worse, and so it seems perfect to find someone you can hold onto through it all.

However, high school students tend to neglect balance. We over-think what we are doing or not doing, and this leads to awful arguments, and then to awful breakups.

Until we are more settled with who we are and what we care about, relationships are just not a good idea: they demand too much of us, and can seriously hurt those involved.

THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM AFTER BUDGET CUTS

<p>EASTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>Due to budget cuts, we have been forced to end the English departments at our schools. Classes will continue as usual. However, we have no instructors left to teach the standard curriculum. As replacement, we proudly present our most ambitious new curriculum reform to date:</p> <p>ENGLISH LITERATURE IN FIVE COMIC PANELS</p>	<p>LORD OF THE FLIES</p>  <p>MORAL: Children are evil</p>	<p>THE SCARLET LETTER</p>  <p>MORAL: If a letter appears more than once in a book, it will most likely become an overused symbol</p>
<p>HAMLET</p>  <p>MORAL: It's basically The Lion King with people. That's all you need to know.</p>	<p>1984</p>  <p>MORAL: The cooler the moustache, the meaner the dictator</p>	<p>WALDEN</p>  <p>MORAL: One can only find enlightenment by staring blankly at ants.</p> <p>This concludes the lesson. We hope you feel enriched and intellectually stimulated, and we trust this is adequate replacement for our standard English courses.</p> <p>Good luck in college!</p>

SUPER PACs: DROWNING OUT OUR VOICES

By Rachita Pandya
Staff Writer

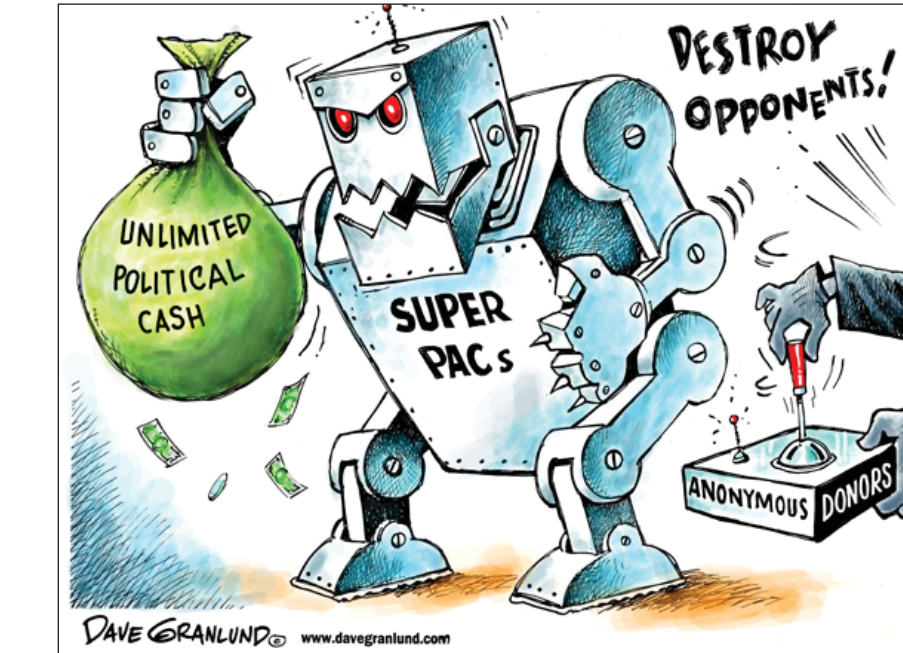
During this election season, the term “Super PAC” has jumped right onto the headlines of major newspapers, magazines, and political websites. Super PACs are political organizations that can take unlimited sums from individuals, corporations, and labor unions to spend in support or opposition of federal candidates.

Because of their ability to work anonymously and to alter the legislative process, Super PACs present an enormous danger to our society.

Such groups have already played a major role in Iowa, with a pro-Mitt Romney Super PAC, “Restore Our Future,” having run attack ads that severely damaged Newt Gingrich’s chances. From what they have already done, we can clearly see that Super PACs are threatening for a number of reasons.

Supers PACs tend to run more negative advertising because they are not responsible to voters in the way that the campaign committees are. And thanks to the many holes in our disclosure laws, we have no clue as to who is funding many of the Super PACs.

But, the greatest danger of Super PACs is that they will further distort the legislative process in the interest of their many contribu-



tors, which include big corporations, individuals, and even international organizations (not bound by US law).

To clearly understand why this will occur, we have to look back at the Supreme Court’s controversial 2010 decision in the Citizens United case. In this case, the Supreme Court held that federal law cannot prevent corporations and unions from spending their own funds to influence the outcome of

elections. Key to this ruling was the court’s statement that independent spending cannot corrupt the political process.

Following that landmark decision, lower courts and the FEC, motivated by opponents of campaign finance regulation, led the way for the creation of Super PACs. They concluded that if independent spending cannot corrupt, then an individual’s contributions to an independent group can, by no means,

corrupt. With this, gone was the \$5000 per person contribution limit to any PACs.

Secondly, they concluded that if an individual’s contributions to one of these Super PACs cannot corrupt, then neither can a corporation’s or a labor union’s contribution. However, this now allows corporations to influence elections anonymously, thus avoiding any risk of upsetting customers.

The main reason the Supreme Court should consider challenges to campaign contribution limits is that large contributions can create the reality of corruption of those candidates. A candidate who receives a large contribution will feel obliged to the contributor, and legislative policy could alter in the contributor’s direction.

Clearly, these Super PACs present a real danger to our democracy. They run massive media or mail-level campaigns to sway the public opinion. This puts tremendous pressure on those elected to then work in favor of the Super PAC. And, in turn, this then causes candidates to put the interest of contributors over that of their constituents—even more so than they already do.

We can now see what a danger Super PACs pose to free elections, and thus to democracy. If we want to live in a nation with honest elections, we have to stop Super PACs before they completely drown out our voices.

NOT EVERY CRIME IS A HATE CRIME



By Sydney Ng
Staff Writer

“Seven vs. One Asian” is a video of an Asian, male high school student being physically abused by a group of hooded teenagers. It has recently gone viral thanks to websites like YouTube and Facebook.

Many claim that this was a racially motivated assault targeting an innocent and confused young man. However, the attackers’ names were released to the public: Wesley Wu, Easley Wu, Raymond Palomino, Todd Ramos, Johnny J. Li, and Danny Hui—along with Amy Holly Feng (holding the camera).

It is obvious that the majority of these surnames are of Asian origin, but it just so happens that the one person who did remove his mask was Caucasian.

Does this mean that the motivation behind the fight was racist? Well, while the victim is clearly Asian and racial slurs were used, it has already been confirmed by the police that this incident was most likely not racially motivated.

Publicity is often used like a micro-

scope, amplifying only a small portion of the story, leaving the rest for us to figure out ourselves. We can’t read the perpetrators’ minds and discover their true intentions. All we can do is look to outside sources and try to fill in the blanks.

I do not hold it against people for immediately after watching this video, thinking, “This is racist.” I did the same thing, and everyone else who has watched the video probably did as well.

But it takes more than just clicking the play button to be able to make a well-informed judgment, and is it really too much harder to press pause and ask ourselves, “Is this the whole the story?”

People often get ahead of themselves by making assumptions about parts of a story that aren’t even really there; in this case, that assumption was racism. Don’t get me wrong, it is possible that this actually was a racially motivated attack, but based on the released information this is far from likely.

Racism isn’t leaving us anytime soon. But we don’t help the fight against it when we force it where it doesn’t belong.

IRAN: THE NEW IRAQ

America has found its next enemy

By Tyler VanValkenburg
Opinions Editor

Iran, it seems, is this year’s threat. Or at least that’s what much of our government and media have agreed upon.

Before we beat the war drums and rally the troops, though, shouldn’t we take a step back, and see if beating those drums is a good idea?

To begin with, well, *really?* That’s all I am left thinking after watching media outlet after media outlet over-hype possible, yet unproven, claims of an Iranian threat.

Really, America? Are we really ready to do this again? It’s been no more than a decade since practically the exact same claims—

possible, yet unproven and ultimately false claims—were made about Iraq. Watching the likes of CNN’s Erin Burnett and ABC’s Diane Sawyer discuss the threat Iran now supposedly poses to the U.S. should make viewers feel nothing short of an eerie déjà vu.

Yes, it is true that Iran is trying to expand its nuclear program. And yes, it is also true that Iran plans to double its military budget, though this is almost certain to not happen given the state of their economy.

But Iran’s actions, threatening as they may seem under the microscope of a media hungry for another war, must be taken in context. If Iran were, indeed, to double its military budget, that budget would still amount to less than 4% of our own.

Apart from that, we have military bases in virtually all of the countries surrounding Iran. We have also fought incredibly destructive wars in neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan. The Obama Administration has avoided serious efforts at negotiation as well, relying instead on harsh sanctions and indirect threats. On top of all this, the recent assassinations of Iranian nuclear

scientists—innocent, educated civilians—is likely to be the work of Israel acting with our compliance. With all of this, it’s not too hard to understand why Iran would seek to have nuclear capabilities of its own (though we still don’t even know if it does and though those capabilities are still in the distance).

This is why Time magazine is calling Iran “more desperate than dangerous.” As a nation, it is in a corner, forced there by America, Israel, and their allies. Let’s be honest, even if our media and government’s worst fears were realized, and Iran got a nuclear weapon, what then?

How could Iran attack the US or Israel without facing complete retaliatory anni-

hilation? For God’s sake, two buildings were taken down in New York and we responded, in part, by destroying an entire country that had nothing to do with it. If Iran launched

any attack, it would be reduced to rubble. Does anybody truly believe Iran is ready to commit nuclear suicide?

I certainly do not. And that is why I find our growing fear of Iran to be over-hyped and unrealistic. I also find the idea of another preemptive war, this time against Iran, to be the worst possible course of action. Thankfully, our current president is clearly more reluctant to drop bombs than his predecessor was. Our media, though, remains ready as ever to lead the charge.

Are we truly ready for another such war? Especially one whose lead-up so reflects the lead-up to Iraq? Haven’t we done enough damage by devastating one country in the region? It’s time for America to think, really sit down and think. We’ve done this before. In fact, we just finished doing it.

We should not be so eager to once again cause tens of thousands of innocent deaths just because we feel slightly threatened.

We’re better than this.

Are we truly ready for another such war? Especially one whose lead-up so reflects the lead-up to Iraq? Haven’t we done enough damage by devastating one country in the region?

GREECE'S LAST CHANCE

By Daniel Braginsky
Staff Writer

The developed world, economically speaking, is pretty far down the toilet. Our debt has made the value of the American dollar tank, and the decision to put off defaulting on our debt last August is comparable to a newspaper writer putting off writing an article—no matter how much you don't want to do it, at one point you'll have to. However, as terrible as it is for us to have to cut back and downgrade that Venti to a Tall, other nations face far worse. Greece in particular has real issues, and is dragging down most of Europe with it as well.

Greece, despite being known for founding Western civilization some two millennia ago, currently does not have enough money, and is severely in debt to multiple countries and international organizations. This is mostly because Greece has

received bailout after bailout from sources such as the International Monetary Fund and the EU, and yet has kept its budget hidden.

No one, in any of those international associations, found anything suspicious about this.

They were actually surprised when Greece, which has a history of failing to be fiscally responsible, did not implement the austerity measures set forth. The rules set in place to ensure that the money given to Greece would not have been better used as fire starter apparently

upset the Greek population. It so upset them, in fact, that they took to the streets.

At this point, most economic experts

agree that Greece will default. The big question is whether the country will default in an orderly manner or not. The country

has admitted that it cannot pay 70% of its debts, which is tantamount to defaulting on them. And it is in the process of doing so in an orderly, non-chaotic manner.

However, if they fail to raise 14.5 billion Euro, then the likelihood of an orderly

default goes down. The fact that their credit rating left a crater in the ground when it hit rock bottom means that they cannot simply borrow the necessary money—they have to raise most of it themselves.

Thus, Greece might face a complete economic meltdown if their defaulting does not go as planned.

This would have worldwide repercussions. The number of banks and creditors that would feel the loss could be comparable to the downfall of AIG in 2008, when millions in the U.S. and across the globe lost money.

It would not be surprising, if, much like the heads of AIG, the leaders of Greece were punished by having to settle for 7-figure personal bailouts.

However, on the off chance that Greece is handled appropriately, fairly, and responsibly, then the world's economy should continue its slow climb out of the ditch that it is currently in.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Fighting for the First Amendment

By Maxine Patwardhan
Staff Writer

In Illinois, a Catholic Charity that has placed children in families for 80 years was closed. It wasn't because the charity was putting children in families with irresponsible parents. It was for refusing to abandon its beliefs and place children with gay couples.

I am not against gay adoption. What I am against is the violation of religious rights, and the lack of concern for the children whose opportunities of adoption have now been decreased.

Though it was not Congress that forced the charity to close, what gives the Illinois government any more of a right to restrict freedom of religion?

If the charity were to ignore Catholic doctrine, it would no longer really be a Catholic Charity, just another adoption agency. By creating a law that forbids a religious charity from following its beliefs, the lawmakers are violating an essential right according to the First Amendment.

In addition, the charity does not just automatically dismiss a gay couple looking to adopt. They are referred to another agency that can help them, like the Public Child Welfare Agency. This way, no eligible couple is denied the chance to adopt a child, regardless if they are gay or straight.

A common argument is that if Catholic Charities is willing to run on its own money instead of taxpayer dollars, it would not have to close. However, that is unrealistic.

The money a diocese receives is based off of individual donations and small fundraisers. While that may be enough to keep churches running, it could never keep alive a service that assists over 1 million people a year without some monetary aid.

Catholic Charities is not the only victim here. It is the children they serve. In 2009 Catholic Charities placed 43,989 children in adoptive homes. The Public Child Welfare Agency placed 57,466 children that same year. If the closing of Catholic Charities were to occur nationwide—and it has already happened in Boston and Washington D.C., the Public Child Welfare Agency would have twice as many children to place. That means orphanages becoming more crowded with children who might now be hopping from one foster home to another.

The closing of a Catholic Charity does not help anyone. Though it was closed on the grounds of gay rights, gay couples are not getting any more help in the adoption process than they were before. Children are getting even less. It is a misguided attempt at establishing equality that instead has trampled the rights of religious establishments and children.

ADOPTION GONE WRONG

By Kaitlin Milliken
Staff Writer

What is the first thing that comes to mind when I say adoption?

The image of an orphan being saved from his or her miserable circumstances by a wonderful, loving family is what most picture. However, you are probably unaware of the fact that in China, with its barely sustainable population of 1.3 billion, adoption has taken a tragic turn.

Family planning laws have been abused by government officials in order to satisfy the demand for children in foreign countries.

To enforce the law, each town has a family planning office to curb the birth rates to prevent over-population.

Government officers threaten families who break the country's notorious one child quota with fines six times greater than their annual salaries. Most cannot afford these prices and are forced to give up their children.

Those who resist, even when faced with threats, confront an even worse fate: they are physically harmed and beat into submission. They are victims of violence until they break and surrender their child. They are left not only with physical wounds, but also a broken family.

Officials sink even lower and trick parents—often impaired and illiterate—into signing away their parental rights. This occurs mainly in rural areas of China where there is little access to education.

Parents believe they are putting their names on legal documents that will allow them to keep their newborns, putting their

trust in officials, only to be betrayed and stolen from.

Child trafficking also shows the corruption of the Chinese adoption system. Between 1996 and 1997, many orphanages began participating in a program, still used today, in which they received \$3,000 per child as a donation from adoptive parents overseas.

The high demand for babies in foreign countries, especially America, coupled with the money craved for by orphanages is a problem with the decreasing number of abandoned children.

The rise of the standard of living, increased abortion, and increased urbanization, which allows girls to provide for their families, leave fewer children on the streets. With fewer children in orphanages, the system turns to one group:



child traffickers.

In order to cover up trafficking, orphanages falsify records of where infants were found "abandoned."

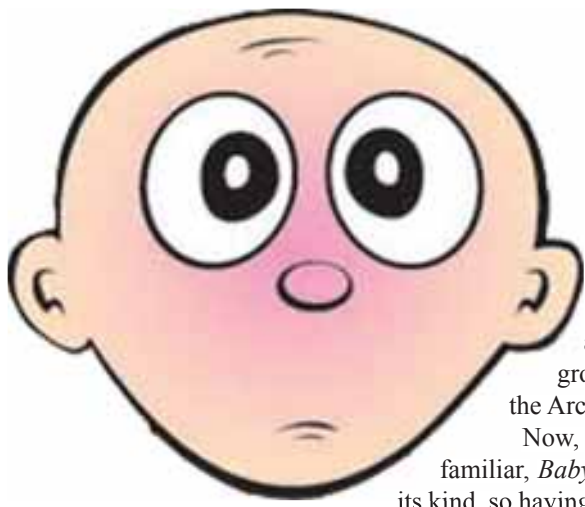
Evidence pointing towards record falsification can be seen in the case of one baby girl from Guanxi. She and eleven other girls came from the same orphanage. All of these girls had the same extremely detailed file verbatim.

The Chinese adoption system is in need of reform, but the problems that need addressing are often covered up with the idealized idea of adoption that we maintain. The first step to fixing these abuses is realizing that they in fact do exist.

By becoming aware of adoption's shortcomings we can work toward reform and bettering the system as a whole.

Arts & Entertainment

Baby Wants...Mitty? Professional Improv. Comes to the Kinkade



By Ryan Ballard
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, the critically-acclaimed musical-improvisation group *Baby Wants Candy* paid a visit to the Archbishop Mitty campus.

Now, although the name may not sound familiar, *Baby Wants Candy* is among the best of its kind, so having them here in our very own Kinkade Theater was a rare and extraordinary opportunity.

As a member of *Pardon My French*, I was fortunate to be one of thirteen students who participated in a two-day workshop with the group, and on behalf of the sketch team—and I don't mean to sound sappy—I can honestly say that it was a life-changing experience.

Just so you get an idea of how big *Baby Wants Candy* really is, their list of alumni includes cast members of *SNL*, *Mad TV* and *30 Rock*. The group not only has a touring cast, but also has permanent locations in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, where the group was first conceived. They also credit themselves as the founders of musical-improv, a trend that quickly went viral. When Mr. Santana was told that *Baby Wants Candy* was willing to host a workshop and joint performance with *Pardon My French*, he didn't hesitate to accept the offer. And to say the experience met our expectations would be an understatement—it surpassed them.

The Harker School had dibs on the whole extravaganza since they made the initial contact with the group. So they workshoped Friday and performed Saturday—this left Mitty with a Superbowl Sunday workshop and a Monday night performance. Since the performance was nearly sold-out, a couple hundred or so of our Mitty students did experience *Baby Want Candy*. But to us, it was really just the rousing culmination of the group's stay here.

In all, *Pardon My French* spent about nine hours with *Baby Wants Candy*, most of which no one else saw. In fact, not even our mothers were allowed to enter the building during the workshop—that's how big they are. On the first day, we spent three hours with Jody Shelton, a gifted piano improviser, and Al Samuels, one of the founding members of the group. At the beginning of the workshop, all of us *Pardon My French*-ies were uncharacteristically timid. One of the first games we played involved rhyming lyrics, and at first, we were a bit of a train wreck. However, after a couple hours of coaching, we were

performing a completely improvised, twenty-minute musical entitled "Summer Camp." Was it coherent? Hardly. Our plotline was all over the place, but hey, we did it—complete with rhyming lyrics and spontaneous choreography. The second day, we revisited more musical-improv games, and then prepared for that night's show alongside the other members of *Baby Wants Candy* with whom we'd be performing. These people are masters of comedy—witty, articulate, and everything that I could ever aspire to be as an actor.

But while being on stage with them was phenomenal, one of the best parts of the workshop was the Q & A offstage. While talking to them, we learned that the particular mix of people that visited us did not usually perform as a unit—in fact, some of them had never even met before their performance at Harker. They collaborated so well it was as if they had been well acquainted with one another for years.

They spoke a common language—improvisational theater. It's really a much larger community than I would have ever thought, and as they mentioned, it's becoming more popular.

"Hone your craft," Al Samuels told us. "As more people start to enter this, there will be a lot more competition, and you'll have to stand out."

Samuels was a fountain of advice over the course of the workshop. We learned a lot about "creating tension" between char-

acters and emphasizing emotion in scenes. He taught us that scenes are built on human relationships, and the interaction between those characters. His advice, however, was not only specific to improv, but also applied to the broader reality of life.

"Control what you can control," he told us. "Be on time. Be prepared." If nothing else from this workshop sticks, those words certainly will.

So, what does *Baby Wants Candy*'s visit mean for *Pardon My French*? Right now, we're not quite sure. Our second semester show will still be a rehearsed sketch musical entitled *The Little Platypus That Could*, the second show of its breed following last year's *After Ten Years In Siberia*. By next year, however, we may evolve into a more improv-based group, and perhaps even tackle *Baby Wants Candy*-style musical improv. While "Summer Camp" wasn't yet Broadway caliber, we showed definite potential. And now, with training from the best of the best under our belts, anything is possible for *Pardon My French*.



Photo Courtesy of Mason Kimont

Upcoming this Season

By A&E Editors

Winter Concert: February 27, 7:30

You've heard the "Our Father" spoken during mass but have you heard it sung in Swahili? No? Didn't think so. Dust off your trusty translators and come see the Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Orchestra perform Christopher Tin's *Calling All Dawns*, a cycle of 12 songs, each in a different language (don't worry, English translations will be provided).

Performing Arts Assembly: March 9

It's everyone's favorite—admit it. And if it isn't, then too bad, because you have to be there anyway. This year the assembly will feature the golden vocal chords of the Concert and Jazz Choirs, the rockin' and rollin' of Exodus, the jazzy jams of Jazz Band, the hilarious shenanigans of Pardon My French, the sophisticated arrangements of the Orchestra, and the cinematic tributes of the Wind Ensemble. So whether you want to be there or not, prepare to be amazed.

Into the Woods: March 16-24

You know the characters—Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack with his beanstalk—but we guarantee you've never seen them like this. An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? This is not your typical bedtime story, so throw away everything you thought you knew about fairytales, put on your big kid diapers, and get ready for a thrilling evening of danger, deceit, and death. This Broadway smash hit and winner of several Tony Awards comes to the Kinkade on March 16. Be there or the witch will get you.



Music From the Heart

By Taylor Law
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is seen as the one day to confess our love for each other, the day where it's completely okay to be a tad over the top with emotions, and the day that many look forward to (but many more dread). But most importantly, Valentine's Day is the day where it's acceptable to hit play on those cheesy ballads with the equally cheesy lyrics and feel no shame.

Indulging in the love songs on this one holiday is not a crime, and if it is, I am guilty as charged. Whether they make us reminisce, swoon, or break down in tears, love songs will always hold a place in our hearts because of the classic guidelines they follow.

Repetition. The use of repetition is a signature quality of the cheesy love song. A modern example is

"You're Beautiful" by James Blunt. Blunt uses the phrase "you're beautiful" a total of nine times, and proceeds to state, "It's true." Well put, James. It's almost inevitable to not get the tune stuck in your head—a common goal that songwriters aim for. Don't have much to say? Just repeat a sweet phrase repeatedly and it'll become a smash hit.

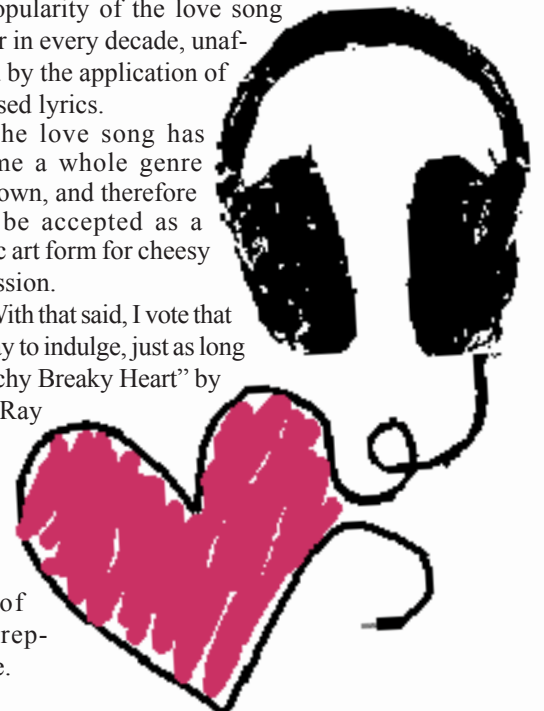
Hyperbole... to the extreme. I'm talking directly to Bruno Mars and his song "Grenade." As much as many will appreciate the exaggeration and be surprisingly flattered by the suicidal temptation Bruno has without love in his life, it's a tad dramatic and unrealistic (to anyone interested, Bruno will not catch a grenade, throw his hand on blade, or even jump off a train for you anytime soon). Regardless, the use of hyperbole is common in the world of love songs and ballads of heartbreak, even if the singer has no intention of following up on his or her claims. Many people find this romantic, so this trend is not dying out anytime soon.

Cadence. Music in history is shown to change in sound around every decade. But within each decade there is a common stamp left behind: the love song. From the smooth-talking Frank Sinatra to the bold Trey Songz, artists of love songs truly classify an era in music. In the spirit of cheesy love songs, it is fitting to discuss the eighties.

The eighties was a period that was infected by the radioactivity of synthesized love ballads, especially relevant in romantic flicks of the time. "Take My Breath Away" by Berlin (*Top Gun*), "I Will Always Love You" by the late Whitney Houston (*The Bodyguard*), "She's Like the Wind" by Patrick Swayze (*Dirty Dancing*), and a song from one of the most memorable movie scenes of the decade, "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel (*Say Anything*, the boom box scene), are just a few from the endless list. The evolution of sound allows the popularity of the love song to soar in every decade, unaffected by the application of overused lyrics.

The love song has become a whole genre of its own, and therefore must be accepted as a classic art form for cheesy expression.

With that said, I vote that it's okay to indulge, just as long as "Achy Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus does not become part of your repertoire.



OSCARS

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer

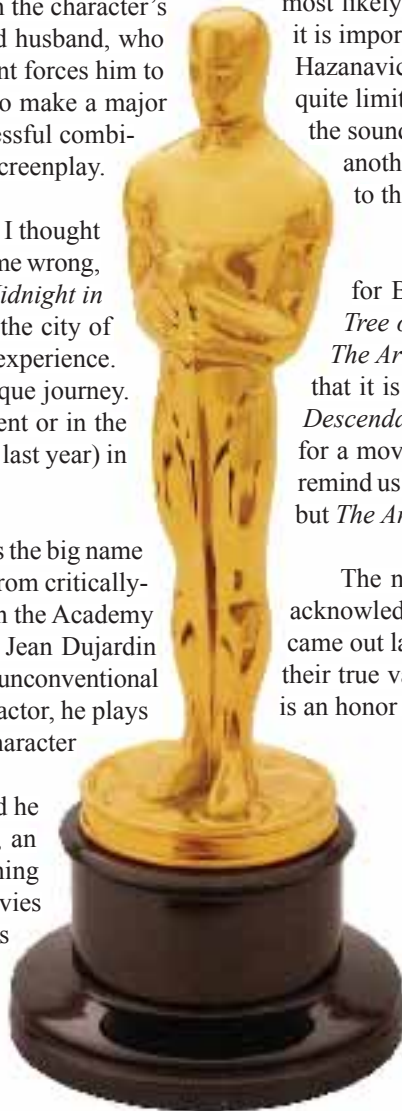
Once again, it's that time of year: Oscar season! It's amazing that every year a single night can create so much buzz. The air is full of talk and excitement as people begin to anticipate who will win. But there is more to Oscar night than just celebrities in sparkling dresses and already rich filmmakers receiving awards. The Academy Awards is a cultural tradition that celebrates the true artistry that is movie magic. 2011 was one of the biggest years for the film industry and it is only fitting that we take a night to salute all those who made it possible.

A great movie begins with a great screenplay. Some of the most-talked about movies of the year were nominated for **Best Adapted Screenplay**: *Moneyball*, *The Descendants*, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *The Ides of March*, and *Hugo*. Each movie in this category deserves to be here. Yet I predict a win for *The Descendants* because it is so accessible to a large audience. We come to appreciate stories where we can identify with the character's struggle. *The Descendants* focuses on Matt King, a struggling father and husband, who is the major trustee of a large portion of a Hawaiian land. A tragic accident forces him to raise his two daughters alone, to search for answers from his past, and to make a major decision that affects both his family and the people of Hawaii. The successful combination of laughs and tears makes this soul-searching story a noteworthy screenplay.

The other major writing category is **Best Original Screenplay**. Now I thought *Bridesmaids* was cleverly written and laugh-out-loud funny. And don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of *The Artist*. But this award is, hands down, meant for *Midnight in Paris*. It's the story of Gil, a daydreaming writer who falls in love with the city of Paris and finds an escape from the present through a surreal nighttime experience. Woody Allen's creativity shines through and takes the audience on a unique journey. *Midnight in Paris* makes us ask ourselves: is it better to live in the present or in the past? It considers the idea of reality (ooh *Inception!* Just kidding that was last year) in a humorous and entertaining way.

The nominees for **Best Leading Actor** are evenly matched up. There's the big name actors like George Clooney and Brad Pitt. But then there are performers from critically-acclaimed movies like *The Artist* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. Although the Academy has a thing for George Clooney and may end up choosing him, I think Jean Dujardin deserves the Oscar. Although his performance in *The Artist* may have been unconventional as he had but one line and pantomimed the whole movie like a real silent actor, he plays his role masterly. It's not an easy task to convey a story and develop a character when the actor cannot use words. But Dujardin pulls it off.

It's quite clear that there's an undeniable charm to him on screen, and he captures our hearts with his expressive face. He plays George Valentin, an outdated silent movie star who loses his career to talking pictures. Flashing his debonair smile, Dujardin reminds the audience of those classic movies many have come to love. The tap dance number at the end of the movie is quite frankly one of the best movie moments I've seen in a while. That scene instantly reminded me of Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. He's got the looks, moves, and charisma of an already great actor.



The women nominated for **Best Leading Actress** have truly proven themselves worthy of such a title, a range of nominees from the always great Meryl Streep to the young, up-and-coming Michelle Williams and Rooney Mara. But it seems that Viola Davis will walk away with the Oscar this time. Her performance in *The Help* has already won her the Best Actress SAG award and it will be no surprise if she wins the Oscar. *The Help* truly wouldn't have received the amount of attention it has without the help of Viola Davis. Her role as a hard-working nanny and maid who bravely helps Skeeter write her controversial newspaper column has moved audiences nationwide. Although Davis is a good choice for best actress, I would love to see Michelle Williams accept the Oscar. Even though her portrayal of Marilyn Monroe in *My Week with Marilyn* received some critical reviews, she did an exceptionally good job. If it wasn't a striking performance, she wouldn't have been nominated. She even won the Golden Globe for this role. It takes a lot of courage and attention to detail to portray a legendary icon like Marilyn Monroe, and Williams proves she can take on this role with such precision and dedication.

Best Directing will most likely go to Michel Hazanavicius, the director of *The Artist*. Even though Martin Scorsese won the Globe for best directing in *Hugo*, that movie will most likely win art direction instead. When making a silent film like *The Artist*, it is important that the director has a firm grasp on his characters and his vision. Hazanavicius' direction in *The Artist* is different from any other movie and is quite limited in terms of variety. It's in black and white and the only sounds are the sounds of a musical piano track over the film. Yet these restrictions require another dimension of creativity and resourcefulness that Hazanavicius brings to the table.

And finally, the prize of all prizes—**Best Picture**. This year the category for Best Picture ranges from the adventure in *Hugo* to the depth of *The Tree of Life*. But in reality, this is going to be a head-to-head race between *The Artist* and *The Descendants*. Both pictures are so different in many ways that it is hard to name one of them the best movie of the year. Although *The Descendants* connects to the audience, the film industry was in desperate need for a movie like *The Artist* to come around. Movies like this are rare, but they remind us that movies should be genuine and special. Maybe it's simple nostalgia, but *The Artist* has reaffirmed my belief in the film industry's potential to inspire.

The nominees of this list are all winners in their own respect. We can all acknowledge them as the best of the best. Out of the hundreds of movies that came out last year, these were chosen from among the many because people saw their true value. Whether or not the people we anticipate winning actually do, it is an honor to be nominated.

Reality TV? Get Real

By Bella DiLisio
Staff Writer

It's so easy to turn on your TV today and see a reality show. It's even easier to see networks portraying seemingly ordinary people, especially women, as outrageous animals, catty and always causing crazy drama.

Take, for example, one of the most popular reality shows on Bravo: *The Real Housewives*. This series features women from various regions of the U.S. such as New York, Orange County, New Jersey, and recently Beverly Hills.

The show gives viewers a behind-the-scenes view of supposedly "real" middle-aged women, who spend their days shopping and gossiping and organizing events where they'll likely to encounter women whom they detest—a perfect setting for a catfight, which means higher ratings for Bravo.

So, according to this series, "reality" means women occupying themselves in such petty drama while their husbands earn the money for them to do it? If all grown-up women are like this, I'm staying in drama-free high school forever.

Of course, it's not just the women who label themselves as "housewives" who generate such controversy. Take *Toddlers & Tiaras*. This gem takes viewers into the depths of the pageant world, where one can find not only mothers dealing with impatient toddlers, but also the added travesties of heavy makeup, thousand-dollar bedazzled dresses, and spray tans that would give the cast of *Jersey Shore* a run for their money. And then we get to the kids. Mothers feed their kids "pageant crack"



(Pixie Stix), just so they—I mean their kids—can get the big shiny trophy at the end of the night. Moms living out their dreams through their kids? Sign me up!

And how could we leave out *Jersey Shore*? For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past few years, this infamous program documents a group of eight twenty-somethings who spend their summers at the shores of New Jersey (with the exceptions of two seasons in Italy and Miami), sharing one beach house. The audience gets to see the group cooking, clubbing, and "GTL-ing" together (their Gym, Tan, and Laundry routine, for those of you scratching your heads). Even better, we get to see the outgoing sides of the girls (Snooki, JWoww, Jolie, and Sweetheart).

Cameras are sure to capture the excessive drinking, skimpy outfits, and the brash confrontations the girls get involved in, playing up the "white trash" view that most Americans have contrived of Italian-Americans. Apparently impetuosity starts in a woman's 20s.

When it comes to reality TV, networks know what brings in the ratings, and they know how to get them: they gain America's interest by taking ordinary people and saying, "Hey, want me to show you something weird about other people that will make you feel more sane?"

Though they will, in fact, make you more comfortable about your own mental sanity, these shows will also reinforce a view of women, young and old, as malicious, catty, and insane.

Worst of 2011

By A&E Editors

With the awards season quickly approaching, and with people dressing up for such events, we wanted to join in the fun—editor style. The selection committee always seems to choose the same movies: dramatic, profound films that hold some kind of meaning. But we're not the selection committee. In the midst of our winter blues, we are feeling a wee bit cynical. And so the Golden Raspberry Awards, a.k.a. the Razzies, the campy awards show for the *worst* movies of the year, is calling our names. We put our heads together and came up with our own nominations:

Just Go With It: We all love Jennifer Aniston, but why does she end up in these absolutely awful movies? Then again, Adam Sandler's feeble attempts at "acting" make Jennifer Aniston seem like a modern-day Audrey Hepburn.

Bad Teacher: As nearly every critic has said: "Bad Teacher? Bad movie!"

The Roommate: Not scary. Not even close. But not unscary enough to be good.

The Change-Up: Don't see this movie with your mother. Or grandmother. Or anyone else. Better yet, don't see it at all.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1: Breaking teenage girls' hearts everywhere: Taylor Lautner only took off his shirt once. And that was the high point.

No Strings Attached: Friends-with-benefits turn into lovers-with-more-benefits. If you want strings, go play with a yo-yo. You'd be more entertained.

Cowboys and Aliens: The writers couldn't decide if it wanted to go with Indiana Jones or James Bond. So it did both. And failed.

Arthur: Helen Mirren, the Queen, should not be in a movie with Russell Brand, the plebian. This time, we are not amused, Your Majesty.

How do You Know: The lack of a question mark in the title is only one of the many points of major confusion.

Zookeeper: *Mall Cop* with talking animals. And that's it.



MONARCH CRITICS

Big Miracle

By Elexis Breitbart
Staff Writer



Oh, the turmoil of having to save three whales while still maintaining high box office numbers!

The film *Big Miracle*, directed by Ken Kwapis and starring fan favorites Drew Barrymore and John Krasinski, is an occasionally heartwarming movie based on the true story of Operation Breakthrough. However, the final product does not live up to its name, and it sadly falls short of being a “big miracle.” This movie features reporters, an oil driller, the President, and a humanitarian attempting to improve their reputations by saving three whales: Fred, Wilma, and the baby, Bam Bam. The whales are caught under the thick ice of Alaska and are unable to swim the five miles to reach safety. A compelling story? Yes. Unfortunately, this story does not translate to a very compelling movie.

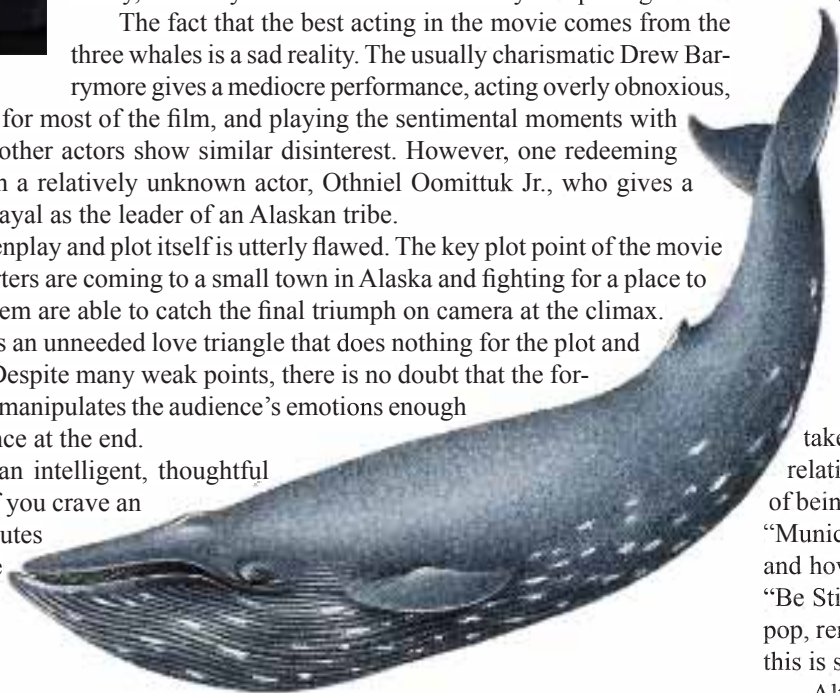
The fact that the best acting in the movie comes from the three whales is a sad reality. The usually charismatic Drew Barrymore gives a mediocre performance, acting overly obnoxious,

screaming at the camera for most of the film, and playing the sentimental moments with an icy detachment. The other actors show similar disinterest. However, one redeeming performance comes from a relatively unknown actor, Othniel Oomittuk Jr., who gives a grounded and solid portrayal as the leader of an Alaskan tribe.

In addition, the screenplay and plot itself is utterly flawed. The key plot point of the movie is that international reporters are coming to a small town in Alaska and fighting for a place to broadcast, yet none of them are able to catch the final triumph on camera at the climax.

Additionally, there is an unneeded love triangle that does nothing for the plot and little for the characters. Despite many weak points, there is no doubt that the formulaic, feel-good movie manipulates the audience’s emotions enough to lead to a happy audience at the end.

If you want to see an intelligent, thoughtful movie, stay away. But, if you crave an hour and forty-seven minutes of sentimental, saccharine fun, *Big Miracle* is the perfect film for you.



The Fray

By Camille Contreras
Staff Writer



The “How to Save a Life” guys are back! The Fray has returned with their new album, *Scars and Stories*, on February 7. Although very serious and at times dark, this new album remains true to their soft and pleasant sound. Yet the album, thematically chronicling the difficult times the band members have been through personally and collectively, also represents the growth of the band over time into more than just a one-hit-wonder.

Among the standouts is the second track “The Fighter,” one of the most touching songs. The key line “But somehow they both know / He’s not coming home,” is the epitome of the song, illustrating the hardships of being married to a soldier. Another is “1961,” which personifies the Berlin Wall and describes two German brothers separated and at odds with each other literally and physically on opposing sides. The story leaps forward in time to 1989 and parallels Isaac Slade’s personal life, and then builds up to an intense moment as seen in the lines:

*We’re torn up and we’re shattered
We turn back on each other
The moment that it mattered
The curtain is shaking
It’s bending and it’s breaking
And I’ll be with you in the end (until the end)*

An intense metaphor for the walls people build to keep others out, the song takes a unique spin on historical events and uses them as allegories for human relationships. Overall, the tone of the album is exactly as the title says and has songs of being scarred by love and loss, as well as of experiences that spark hope. The song “Munich,” another historically-themed song, addresses the mystery of our existence and how we hold it all together. The first and last songs, however, “Heartbeat” and “Be Still,” are signature Fray-style songs with beautiful melodies and guitar driven pop, reminding the listener that, yes, they’re still listening to Isaac Slade’s voice and this is still The Fray.

Although the band’s style is nothing new, in contrast to the usual love songs, they have more genuine and thought-provoking tracks. On the whole, “Scars and Stories” is an enjoyable and diverse pop-rock album that any remote fan of The Fray would enjoy.

Van Halen

By Thomas Soares
Staff Writer



I have always loved Van Halen and have always preferred the David Lee Roth era more than the Sammy Hagar era. That is why I was excited when, in 2007, I heard that David Lee Roth had ended his feud with Eddie Van Halen and the band was going to tour again.

Unfortunately, I was unable to see Van Halen when they came to the HP Pavilion back in 2008, but I promised myself that I would see them the next time they played in the Bay Area. I was also excited when I heard that they were releasing their first album with David Lee Roth since 1984.

A few months ago, they released their first single, “Tattoo,” from their new album and after several listens I can easily say that the song “Tattoo” is the worst song Van Halen has ever released as a single. This song is more terrible than the junk off of the *Van Halen III* album with Gary Cherone. I have never heard a chorus more annoying, a guitar riff with less originality, and a rhythm so poorly mixed: it sounded like they recorded trash can lids being bashed together. But the main problem with this song, as well as the album as a whole, is the vocal work. David

Lee Roth’s voice clearly shows its age and he lacks the range he showed earlier in his career.

One of the most important aspects of Van Halen was the bass work and backing vocals of Michael Anthony, who broke up with Van Halen and is currently in the band Chickenfoot. His singing was the key piece of all of the soaring choruses on songs like “Runnin’ with the Devil,” “Feel Your Love Tonight,” “Panama,” and “Jump.”

Wolfgang, Eddie Van Halen’s son, is a poor substitute for one of the all time great bass players in rock history. His bass work and vocals are barely audible on most of this album’s songs.

If there is one positive thing that can be said about *A Different Kind of Truth*, it’s that not every song is as

bad as “Tattoo.” Most of Eddie Van Halen’s solos on this album actually sound very good (but then again, I enjoy anything Eddie does with the guitar).

There are also some solid rockers like the song “Blood and Fire,” which has a cool, low key opening that launches into a killer guitar riff. But the problem with even the best songs on this album is that they lack any originality.

Even Sammy Hagar has made statements saying that, “(they) didn’t actually write new songs. They took old stuff from previous sessions.” I think it is safe to say that none of the songs on this album are instant classics. If you are a fan of Van Halen, you will certainly find this album disappointing.

Even though I do not like this album, it does not ruin my love of this great band. To be perfectly honest, my expectations were very low. However, I am still very optimistic for the new tour and I am still trying to get tickets for their upcoming concert at the HP Pavilion. I only hope they don’t play “Tattoo,” but I doubt that’s going to happen.



The Woman in Black

By Janani Rangarajan
Staff Writer



Now that the *Harry Potter* series is over, countless die-hard fans of the story have recently been looking forward to Daniel Radcliffe’s latest movie, *Woman in Black*. However, most of the fans used to seeing action-packed, fantasy-like, comedic movies like *Harry Potter* are in for a big surprise. *Woman in Black* is, in fact, a PG-13 horror flick, so unless you’re used to that genre, it’s unwise to watch it.

The movie starts off with an exciting opening gambit of a demonic possession of three girls. The focus then shifts to Arthur Kipps (Daniel Radcliffe), a lawyer in the 1800s, who is left with a son after his wife has died. He is given one last opportunity to prove himself by retrieving the exact will of the infamous and mysterious Alice Drablow. The villagers warn him not to meddle with her and her family’s affairs, but he doesn’t take heed, and goes to the house. There, he hears voices and sees inexplicable horrors; intrigued, he begins the hunt for answers. But, unfortunately, along with said answers comes a terrible price: the wrath of Alice’s insane and dead sister, the dreaded woman in black.

This movie is an adapted version of Susan Hill’s thriller novel and definitely does the book justice. However, portions of it are repetitive. The apparitions and noises keep coming up at a rapid rate, with no explanation, and do not relate closely to the plot. After a while, the sheer amount of them lessened their thrill. But with that minor detail aside, the overall plot and acting were brilliant. The child actors were mature, poised, and professional, a rarity in the industry.

As for Daniel Radcliffe? His performance was convincing and far more nuanced than in *Harry Potter*. Though both movies are dark, it seems to me that Radcliffe has found his niche in horror rather than action.

So, if *Harry Potter* fans are looking for a replacement for the series in *Woman in Black*, they definitely won’t find it. However, the movie itself is thrilling and leaves its mark on its audience.



FOCUS ON

Behind the Black and Gold

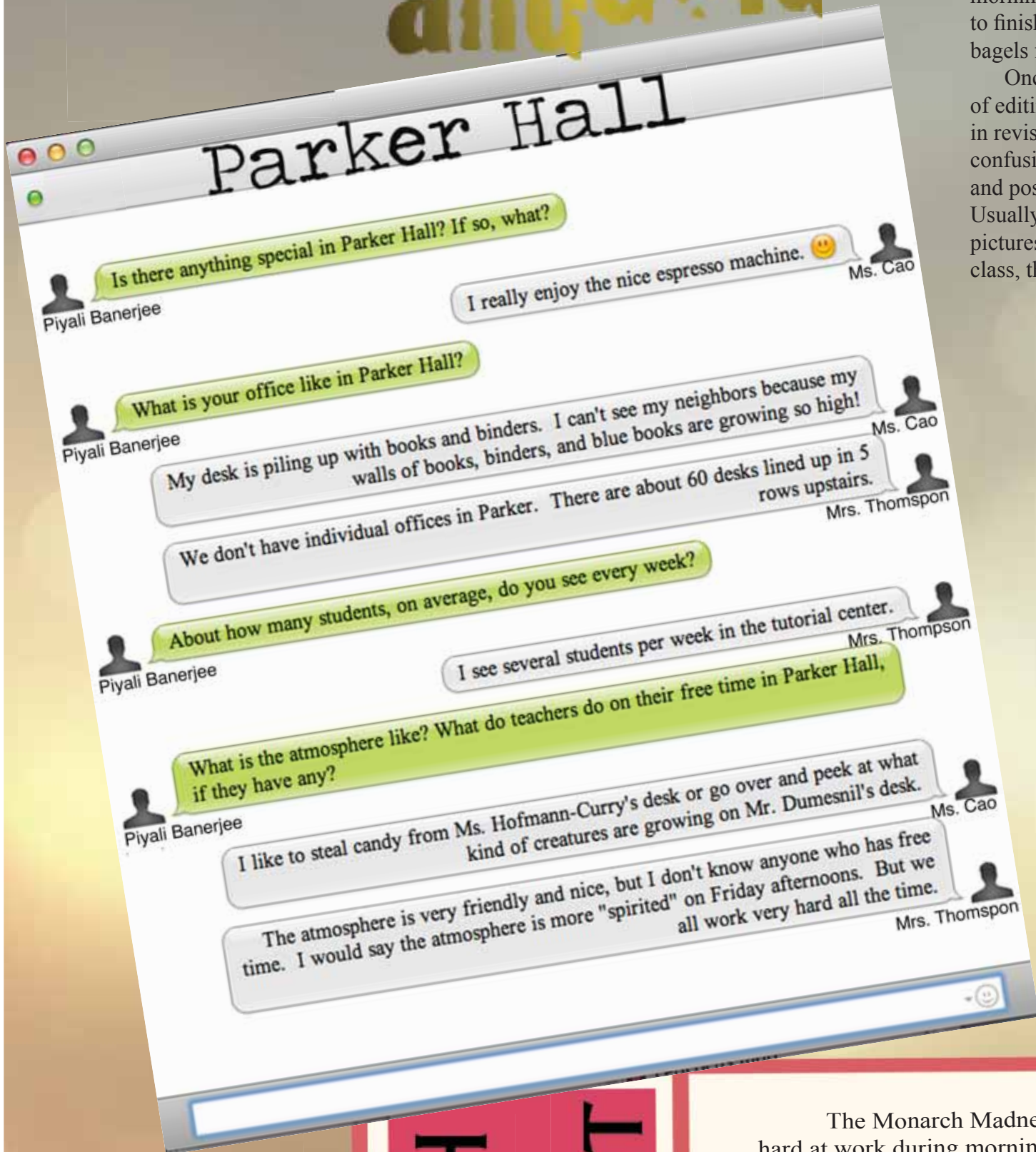
NEWS

By Puja Subramaniam and Kanako Shimizu
Focus Editors

If you were to walk past a 600 wing classroom expect to hear? Perhaps the low hum of a vacuum lecturing students on subject-verb agreement? No—twenty-eight keyboards and the rhythmic clicking of

The collaboration of both junior and senior editors at this very moment: *The Monarch* Newspaper. Upon mornings, editors stumble in a sleep-induced haze to finish their sections. In an effort to fuel their creative bagels for the editors every Saturday.

Once the editors come up with a basic layout for editing their writers' articles, as they pedantically in revising these articles is staying true to the writer's confusion. After finalizing the articles, editors move on and positioning the text in InDesign and Photoshop—Usually, it takes editors two 3-4 hour sessions to complete pictures, text, and headlines. However, once everyone in class, the newspaper staff knows that their hard work



CAMPUS

By Billy Kim
Staff Writer

To the eyes of the Mitty student body, it appears that Campus Ministry's functions are to organize and lead retreats and liturgies.

However, there is much more to Campus Ministry that goes on behind the scenes. For one, the student-run birthday card program, one of the biggest projects, includes the signatures of every person who spends time in the 300 Wing to help celebrate the birthdays of every student at Mitty.

Campus Ministry teachers also



MONARCH MADNESS XXI TICKET

By Ji Soo Kim
Staff Writer

The Monarch Madness XXI season is well under way, with everyone hard at work during morning and weekend practices. At practice sessions, all classes' team members, alternates, moderators, and Student Government representatives gather in the Fien Gym for a prayer and general guidance given by Mr. Walker. Depending on the time, the classes then separately head out to their specific location. During morning practices, two classes each go to the Fien or the MacLean Gym, while during the four-hour weekend practices, each class occupies the Fien, MacLean, foyer, or Events Center. The classes rotate locations after two hours. Team members are currently learning the introductory dance, couples' dance, and more instructions and strategies for the games, which will significantly affect final scores for the night.

One notable change in the structure of the Monarch Madness is a new policy for alternate members. When a spot on the team becomes available, not only is the alternate member's rank (order of selection) taken into account, but their participation thus far is as well. The class of 2012 is coming off of an exciting MMXX win by putting an unconventional twist on the "happily ever after" story with their theme of Villians. Junior classes are showing promise with their magical Aladdin theme, while the sophomores are showcasing the darker side of Red Riding Hood. The class of 2011, with their theme of Scooby Doo, is getting ready to show their stuff come 2012. Good luck, Monarchs!

Reporter

at 8 am on a Saturday morning, what would you cleaner? Or maybe the instructor of an SAT class instead, you would hear the ceaseless tapping of their mice.

ors is what produces what you hold in your hands n arriving on the empty campus early on Saturday o the computer lab of the 600 wing, determined ivity, Mr. Whitt and Mr. Van Valkenburg provide

r the section, they move on to the meticulous task scrutinize each phrase. Their biggest challenge s original piece, while adding details to minimize on to the daunting responsibility of finding images —programs that are still foreign to new editors. mplete the full layout—which includes adding the ne sees the final product printed and passed out in k is appreciated.



Teachers' Menu


By Kasturi Kulkarni
Staff Writer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Garden salad w/ tomato, cucumber, and carrots <input type="checkbox"/> Salad Sides: Egg salad, cottage cheese, sliced beets, and kidney beans <input type="checkbox"/> Pizza – pepperoni, cheese, or mushroom <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh cut seasonal fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Butter lettuce salad w/ tomato and cucumber <input type="checkbox"/> Salad Sides: Cottage cheese, broccoli florets, sliced beets and walnuts <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted sandwiches on rustica rolls, wheat bread and wraps. <input type="checkbox"/> Veg. soup with chips <input type="checkbox"/> Homestyle cookies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spinach salad w/ egg, croutons, and mushrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Salad Sides: Feta cheese, garbanzo beans, dried cranberries and walnuts <input type="checkbox"/> Batter fried fish, baked fish, French fries, and cole slaw <input type="checkbox"/> Brownies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Garden salad w/ tomato, cucumber, and carrots <input type="checkbox"/> Salad Sides: Tuna salad, cottage cheese, sliced beets, and walnuts <input type="checkbox"/> Beef and chicken fajitas or Spanish rice <input type="checkbox"/> Tortilla chips with salsa, guacamole, and sour cream <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh cut seasonal fruit

MINISTRY

Rehbock
Writer

provide counsel to students who come to them, even when they may not necessarily be the specific counselor assigned to the student. Campus Ministry seniors also take part in many of the drives that Mitty participates in, such as the Food Drive at Thanksgiving, as well as the annual Blanket Drive. Campus Ministry plays an enormous role in both the forefront and background of student life at Mitty, and is one of the core programs that make our school an amazing place.




Painting by Prianka Giridharadas

Visual Arts

By Joshua Ramayrat
Staff Writer

It's not that the general student body of Mitty doesn't appreciate art. It's more that the story behind the Department of Visual Arts isn't completely understood. Mrs. Lemak, the head of the department, has been working on projects for twenty-one years. From giant planes to minuscule cats, those involved in the Visual Arts Department put in hours of effort in order to create beautiful works of art. One project—giant dinosaurs—even required the disassembling of doors at Mitty in order to move the projects out of the Art Building. Such art requires dedication and weeks of work, but students rarely get recognition for their work. However, their art projects are everywhere—from the displays in the foyer to the trees in Christmas in the Park in Downtown San Jose. Without a doubt, the Visual Arts Department takes imagination above and beyond through their spectacular work.

Under the Stage

By Elena Georgieva
Staff Writer

In every musical theater production, the audience is always aware of the obvious: the songs, the acting, the costumes, the set, and the special effects. Yet somehow, in the midst of all this, the instrumental music that supports the entire production often goes unrecognized. The real power of music is that it can affect us, whether we are aware of it or not. Every musical theater production involves live music played by a pit orchestra, seated below the stage. At Mitty, these student musicians, mostly selected from the orchestra and wind ensemble classes, spend countless hours rehearsing music to accompany the actors as they perform on stage.

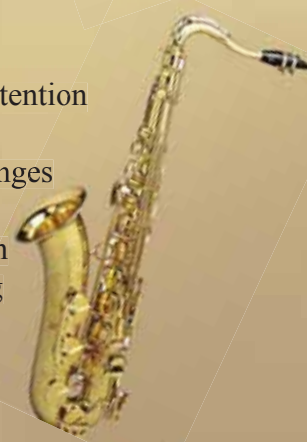
Participating in the pit orchestra is always a positive experience for student musicians, as it helps them discover a new genre of music. Musical theater style is less traditional than the music students would typically encounter in their ensemble classes at Mitty, and it sometimes features complicated rhythms and techniques that the student instrumentalists have never experienced before. Sometimes, reed players are expected to play as many as four or five different instruments, all in the same show!

The pit orchestra provides live music in the show, and this gives every production a feeling of spontaneity that is unique to live theater. The musicians and actors on stage have to actively pay attention to the conductor, so they can stay together and make the show successful. With a live orchestra following them, actors have the ability to keep their performances flexible, and they can make changes in their singing based on what feels right in the moment.

So while a live orchestra may not seem as important as the acting, scenery, or special effects on stage, a pit orchestra is what makes any musical theater production engaging and truly entertaining for the audience.

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Carlisle Micallef



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

I would really like to do portraits of unique people. Not your typical beauty shots but more interesting people with different clothing, backgrounds, or a quirky facial structure. I've always wanted to capture that quirk in a photo that makes them individuals.

What words describe your photography?

Eccentric and interpretive.

What do you usually photograph?

I usually take pictures of people. It's like a quick snapshot into their lives, and I love to capture their character in a single shot. I've also taken lots of pictures of nature and buildings, but they're not nearly as fun or interesting.

Why did you choose these photos?

I chose these photos because when I look at them, I get some intense feeling or emotion.

What inspires you to photograph?

I photograph what I experience daily and the interesting things I see. The best photographs that I've seen have been images of unique people and their lifestyles. I am inspired by people—what they do and how they live.



Through the Lens:

Monarch Photography



Rachel Sayare

What inspires you to photograph?

Honestly, I'm usually just inspired by what I see, especially if a particular color or pattern stands out to me.

What do you usually photograph?

I love to photograph things that are unique and different—things that stand out from the usual.

Why did you choose these photos?

I chose these photos because most of them have emotional weight for me, and I personally think that makes the best photos.

What peaked your interest in photography?

Photography has always interested me because I fell in love with the idea of being able to capture feelings and emotions in a static representation of the moment.





Caitlyn Jackson

Marissa Mcpeak



Motion

How To Capture Motion

- **Use a slower shutter speed.** (Shutter speed is the time that the shutter stays open when taking a picture.) A slower shutter speed causes the photo to become more blurred, which helps show the motion in the photo.
- **Avoid having too much light,** as using a slower shutter speed can cause excess light to enter the photo. However, this can be solved by decreasing the aperture (light exposure) or ISO (film speed) setting.
- **When focusing on scenery, keep the camera completely still,** as the entire image will become blurry if it isn't. Using a tripod is highly recommended.
- **When focusing on the object in motion, follow the object with your camera.** This method is called panning.
- **Practice.** Though taking motion photos are said to be difficult, continue to practice and you will surely improve!

By Lina Lalwani
Staff Writer

Rebecca Koshy



Dillan Patel

Connor Gibson



Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE



Spotlight on: CLAIRE CHU

By Jeemin Kwon
Staff Writer

As a college preparatory school, Archbishop Mitty High School offers a variety of clubs and activities. Adhering to the school's higher purpose in contributing to a peaceful and just world, many of these clubs are very service centered with a defined purpose towards building and maintaining community. Claire Chu, a senior at Mitty, carries out our school's mission statement with enthusiasm and optimism as she leads the GlamourGals, a newly formed club at Mitty.

What exactly do the GlamourGals do?

"GlamourGals members regularly visit Belmont Village, a local assisted living facility, to provide makeovers and companionship to the residents. We also do arts and crafts, play cards, and participate in holiday themed activities with them. At the moment, we're planning our Little Dresses for Africa project—anyone who's interested can join us on March 23 to sew pillowcase dresses that will afford little girls the dignity and security they deserve. We're also organizing a "Night in Paris" themed senior citizen prom!"

What else have you and other GlamourGals members gained from this experience?

"Despite the huge age gap, GlamourGals provides students with the opportunity to interact with senior residents and promote solidarity in the community. Not all of them are interested in getting their nails or makeup done, and prefer playing card games or just reminiscing about their own teenage years. Hearing a senior citizen admit, 'If I knew I'd live this long, I would've taken better care of my body,' we are humbled by our teenage perceptions of immortality. Likewise, being told, 'You're so lucky you still have an entire lifetime,' inspires us to aspire for greatness because we still can."

How do the GlamourGals promote justice in our community?

"Senior citizens are largely viewed as a liability rather than an asset. Those who are retired, elderly, ill, or unemployed tend to be looked down upon because they are not productive citizens of our consumption-obsessed society. Aging is generally associated with deficiency and decline, and the needs of elderly people are overlooked and even taken advantage of."

Rather than acquiring volunteering hours by simply attending the events organized by the student club, Claire Chu and the GlamourGals give hope to these senior residents. By restoring to these aged citizens a sense of dignity and worth, the GlamourGals empower both themselves and the senior citizens in our community.



Music Takes Action: Interact Benefit Showcase



By Catherine Gong and Rasika Raghavan
Staff Writers

At Archbishop Mitty, our diverse range of clubs is one of the best ways to explore the endless possibilities our school offers. The Interact Club—an international organization for service—is a recent addition to the school, but has certainly set an example for the campus by leading charity dinners, volunteering at thrift stores, supporting environmental restoration, and organizing events.

Now, they are hosting their first ever "Music Takes Action: Benefit Showcase." According to Claire Chu, co-President of the club, "Music is a universal language, and a musical showcase is accessible and provides a relaxed atmosphere for students."

Interact has been working on this project since the end of the summer, and the senior leaders are hoping to set a precedent for future Interact events.

The idea for this showcase came when multiple members showed their interest in music and were inspired to raise money through a concert benefit. In fact, Mitty's own student, sophomore Angelo David, will be featured in the showcase. Interact also managed to book YouTube performers with large fan bases, such as Michael Alvarado, Kierra Folsom, Carissa Rae, and Jam Zumel.

However, the road hasn't been easy—Interact has had some difficulty in fund-raising to pay for the expenses of the venue and the performers who are flying in from Los Angeles and Oregon.

By attending Music Takes Action, you will be able to enjoy a night of music by various YouTube stars while helping people in need. All proceeds from this event will be going toward Mary's Meals and Firelight Foundation—two institutions dedicated to lending a helping hand to children around the world.

Mary's Meals aims to set up daily meals in schools, assisting children who are not able to receive an effective education because of immense hunger. The Firelight Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of African children affected by HIV and AIDS.

This benefit will be held at the San Jose Repertory Theatre on Feb. 25, from 6-10 p.m. The price for one general admission ticket is \$15. You also have the option of VIP admission (\$30), which

has the extra benefits of a meet-and-greet after the show, an event poster for autographs, and priority seating.



For more information:

Go to the Facebook event page titled "Music Takes Action: Benefit Showcase," or contact Claire Chu or Areya Behrouzian.

Shopping with a Conscience

By Katrina Vokt
Staff Writer

What are the different factors that influence your choice in making a purchase? Price? Quality?

Chances are a few factors that may not cross your mind is where and how the products you are purchasing came to be.

Corporations do an incredible job at crafting a shield between the producer and the consumer. By drawing in potential buyers with flashy advertisements and interesting catch phrases, companies create an illusion. Not far beneath this superficial surface, though, lies the truth. What really goes into those \$1.99 headbands that make customers say "Wow! What a great deal"? They most definitely did not appear by magic—those headbands, as well as a large number of other products sold in America, are often created by the hands of a modern day slave.

Slavery, as inconceivable as the thought may be, is still prevalent. In fact, there are over 27 million slaves in the world today. No, not the same type of slaves from the 1800s. But modern slaves. Slave laborers: people forced to work for little or no pay, who are being economically exploited, and who are physically unable to walk away. Such people work countless hours in sweatshops facing hazardous conditions with no rest

or pay, making our Apple iPods, Levi's jeans, and Nike Shoes. In order for people like you and me to have a great pair of shoes for \$20, they live through day after day of abuse. But the truth is, we can do something about this.

One way to end this injustice is to spread awareness. Tell your friends and family, co-workers and classmates how workers are mistreated in other countries for the benefit of others. The more informed we all are on this issue, the more positive change we can make. Like most situations, knowledge is power—a power that can help lessen something that should not exist.

Another way to improve this situation is by making ethical purchases. Ethical purchases include buying fair trade products not made in sweatshops around the world. Fair trade purchases help to foster the growth of business in developing countries. It's true, fair trade products cost a little more, but it is a simple sacrifice that will drastically improve the lives of those living on the brink on impoverishment.

Buying groceries this way is easy. You know about Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, and stores of the kind that support local businesses and farmers. Chances are, though, that you buy your clothing at the closest mall and call it a day. So here are a few places where you can make easy fair trade purchases for clothing, accessories, and more:



1. Mata Traders: Mata Traders sells women's clothing and accessories, similar to styles at Forever21, but ethically produced! All products are originals, handmade by women's cooperatives in India and Nepal.

Visit: <http://www.matatraders.com/>

2. Earth Divas: Earth Divas sells unique clothes and accessories made for women, by women, all over the world.

Visit: <http://www.earthdivas.com/>

3. Etsy: Etsy is a community of small, local businesses owners, who are given the opportunity to sell their own products. Similar to Amazon, a variety of products are available for purchase from home goods to beauty products.

Visit: <http://www.etsy.com/>

4. People Tree: Endorsed by Emma Watson, this UK organization sells clothes made of hand-woven fabrics and hand embroidery.

Visit: <http://www.peopletree.co.uk/>

5. Trade as One: All Trade as One products are made free trade. Products include everything from clothing to coffee, chocolate, and decorations.

Visit: <http://tradeasone.com/>

Discrimination: Not Just an Issue of the Past

Makoto Lalwani
Staff Writer

The 1960's will forever be remembered as a decade of social unrest and turbulence—but also as a decade of progress and change. Through the efforts of activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Betty Friedan, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed: a decree granting equality to all American citizens, regardless of race, sex, and other historically dividing factors. Thus, the era of legal segregation had come to an end. And today, we live in a world that provides the same freedoms and opportunities to everybody without fear of discrimination—or do we?

While all people may be considered “equal” under the law, it is evident that our society still continues to retain some ugly traditions of the past. Take, for instance, the subtle racism that permeates our “War on Drugs.” A black community is far more likely to be subjected to a police raid, and its inhabitants arrested for minor, non-violent drug crimes than is a white community, such as any major college area, though drug use occurs in essentially the same rate in both. Additionally, statistics from New York City’s “Stop and Frisk” program reveal that by virtue of being a racial minority, one is far more likely to be suspected of breaking the law or being a criminal.

Having been selectively targeted, once imprisoned, a person is more or less deemed a second-class citizen for life. A non-violent drug conviction can lead to drastically limited job opportunities, disenfranchisement, and social stigmatization. Regardless of one’s true innocence, incarceration is a brand that one carries from then on—we have created a society in which there are largely no “true” second chances.

In more extreme scenarios, however, the consequences are even more severe. In trials involving murder or other heinous crimes, African American defendants are far likelier to receive the death penalty than defendants of other races—in fact, the darker your skin color, the greater likelihood of being deemed guilty. Furthermore, any defendant has a greater chance of being sentenced to death if the victim is white, but is less likely to receive such a sentence for cases involving a minority victim.

But discrimination cannot be relegated to one spectrum, such as the legal system; it is present throughout the entire fabric of American society. African Americans and Latinos

have the highest unemployment rates—a product of historically discriminatory practices, a failing education system in poorer communities, and the present biases regarding the justice system. And proponents of the crackdowns on illegal immigration in Arizona and Alabama have justified their actions as a way of protecting the interests and opportunities of legal American citizens. But at the same time, the topic of illegal immigration has become political fodder: a means for politicians to appeal to certain voting blocks, as shown by Mitt Romney’s promise to repeal the Dream Act if elected president.

And though Barack Obama was elected president, he was opposed by many Americans solely based on his race—with the Birther movement insisting that he was not an American citizen.

America prides itself on being a nation of equality, a land of freedom and opportunity for all. Unfortunately, despite the progress it has made through the centuries, prejudice and discrimination still remain obstacles that must be overcome.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once spoke of a dream that his children would “one day live in a nation where they [would] not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Fifty years later, King’s vision remains just as relevant. So while we celebrate the progress made during this Black History month, we must remember we still have a long road to travel to true equality. Now it is up to us, the next generation, to finish what he started, to pass down the dream: to create a world in which discrimination is truly a thing of the past.



Out of Iraq After nine years, military withdraws

By Billy Rehbock
Staff Writer

President Obama promised in his 2008 campaign that he would end America’s long-standing presence in Iraq. He held true to his promise, and on Dec. 18, the last convoy of troops finally left the country and returned home. But there is much more behind the U.S.’s departure than what has been officially stated by the government.

Most importantly, the president actually wanted to stay in Iraq. Prior to the final withdrawal of troops, the U.S. had been asking the Iraqi government to grant immunity to American soldiers so that they could be pardoned of various crimes. This also included mercenaries that were working for private corporations, such as Private Military Companies (PMCs). After a CIA agent was accused of murdering an Iraqi citizen, the U.S. was prompted to begin negotiations for the immunity of Americans on Iraqi soil. Iraqi citizens feared that if immunity were to be granted to soldiers, they could kill innocent people without any repercussions from either country’s government.

After negotiations failed to lead to a blanket grant of immunity for American military personnel in Iraq, President Obama issued a statement that all troops would return to the United States before the end of the year. The choice to bring the troops home really did not come down to the discretion of the U.S. In reality, it fell to the Iraqis. Top military advisers suggested that 10,000 to 15,000 troops should remain overseas, but since there would be no immunity, the President had no choice but to pull out the remaining soldiers.

A significant additional factor that contributed most to the Iraqi government’s desire for the American presence to cease was the invasive use of drones that fly overhead and monitor ground movement at all times. Totaling 24 in number, these drones remained a constant presence during the U.S. occupation, causing a great feeling of unease amongst

Iraq’s government and citizens.

The withdrawal does not mean that the American presence in Iraq will be reduced to zero. Far from it, in fact. According to official figures, some 20,000 Americans will remain working either with the State Department at the huge American embassy in Baghdad’s Green Zone or as private security contractors (or “mercenaries”) for companies such as Blackwater and Halliburton. And this new civilian-only operation in Iraq will continue to cost American taxpayers over three billion dollars.

Still, now that military troops have left Iraq, the lives of returning American soldiers will be allowed to return to a greater state of normalcy. However, the same cannot be said about Iraq. The day the last troops were withdrawn, Iraqis across the country celebrated with their families and loved ones—many, of course, did not want American soldiers to be there in the first place.

And of course Baghdad still remains a war zone in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion. In January, *The New York Times* reported over 400 killings within only a month of the U.S. departure. American products still litter the city’s streets, and the evidence of U.S. presence in Iraq is far from gone. The amount of resentment toward the United States is still incredibly prevalent, especially because of the Iraqi sentiment that the violence and destruction was brought upon them by a foreign force from whom they did not ask for help. The damage to their country is irreversible, and it is no small wonder that immunity was not granted to U.S. military personnel in Iraq.

Without question, it is a good thing for the United States, as well as for Iraq, that the war has ended. However, we must not forget the circumstances under which the conflict was terminated. Iraq has been left in a very poor state, and the United States must assume a large degree of blame for damages caused to lives there in the aftermath of its invasion and occupation.

Threats to Internet Freedom

By Carlisle Micallef
Staff Writer

As Wikipedia and other popular Internet and video sites went dark on Jan. 18, public attention was suddenly turned to active legislation going through Capitol Hill.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA) were bills that sought to provide enforcement measures for copyright infringements. Due to growing governmental concerns about illicit online activity, these bills have now become a topic of concern for Internet users nation wide.

SOPA/PIPA, introduced to Congress in 2011, would give copyright holders the power to enforce their policies by enabling them to block sites from search engines, block funding, or pull the plug on the site altogether. Not only are the Rights Holders given power, they are also given “Immunity from Liability” should they voluntarily choose to cut off a site at a moments notice.

However, the nature of these bills sends the absolutely wrong message internationally to governments attempting to control the Internet. By supporting this bill, the government is admitting to the public that they are trying to control what is available to all on the Internet, essentially encroaching on our need for the free flow of information.

Some oppressive governments are already embracing this mentality by controlling what information is available to the public. Ironically, the U.S. condemns other countries from filtering the Internet such as the censorship of sites that speak out against oppressive governments.

SOPA/PIPA is legislation that is completely open for Rights Holders interpretation. For example, websites like YouTube and Tumblr have clips, pictures, and references to copyrighted material of movies and television series.

Although these sites have taken steps to supervise “illegal” streaming content, the U.S. Department of Justice would have the right under SOPA/PIPA to pursue the activity on such sites and shut them down without due

process. The accused would be presumed guilty and have to prove their innocence

Though sites like You Tube and Tumblr are covered by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, an act that provides sites protection from prosecution as long as material is being monitored, SOPA would demolish the protective barrier companies have and hold them accountable.

The question is, what is considered illegal? Quoting a Disney Motion Picture? A struggling artist blog that is similar to a more mainstream version? Taking word for word information from other sources (Wikipedia

would have trouble with this)? Or doing a cover of a copyrighted song on YouTube? If SOPA/PIPA were to have passed, sites would potentially have been held accountable for the above and possibly shut down.

This would obviously cripple the free flow of content and information online today, discourage new sites from emerging, and potentially infringe on our freedom of speech.

The fight against SOPA/PIPA was not a fight launched solely by large companies, but also by small businesses and independent internet activists. Outcries included a broad range of internet users from high school students to entrepreneurs. It was a joint effort that made a huge impact on the voting of SOPA/PIPA. The vote was postponed due to the massive public response, suggesting the people *do* have influence on Capitol Hill.

Yet just days later, the government seized and shutdown Megaupload based on yet unproved accusations in an indictment. Additionally, the government seized or froze the company’s assets, all based on yet unproved accusations. These are some of the exact powers that those fighting against SOPA/PIPA sought to curb, and yet they already exist in part due to the 2008 PRO-IP Act.

Yes, it turns out the key power many feared in SOPA—the power to seize and shutdown websites *without trial*—already exists.

So clearly the struggle for a free internet is far from over, and now more than ever all of us need to remain vigilant in this fight.



SPORTS

Women's Soccer Team captures WCAL title

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

After a 16-1-3 record in the regular season, the 2011 Women's Soccer team successfully defended their WCAL title with a dramatic victory over Presentation on penalty kicks.

The team has gained national recognition for their excellent season. This year, the Monarchs have started a trend of success that they aim to carry into the CCS playoffs.

A major part of the success is the superb play of senior forward Ana Marija Sola, who has a team-leading 11 goals and 15 assists on the season.

However, Sola believes that a forceful senior core, along with solid contributions from underclassmen, have contributed to this excellent season.

"It's hard to pinpoint any key players, but definitely the returning varsity players, especially the seniors, will be pivotal players on the field," said Sola before the season. "Still, a lot of our success will rely on the newer girls, such as the freshmen and first year varsity players, and their ability to step up into the roles which are available to them."

The team is extremely well-rounded, as the Monarchs have outscored their opponents by over thirty goals this season. This dominance was due to a combination of excellent forward and midfield play, and a stellar defense.

Standouts include the spectacular goal-tending tandem of Lindsay Mewes and Natalie Ogden, who boast a .373 goals-against average. Their game-plan banked on their defensive strength creating opportunities on the offensive end.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Junior Gabrielle Vargas surges downfield.

"This year, our quick forwards were able to put balls in the net. We have very smart and imaginative 'playmakers' in our midfield," senior Sarina Soriano said, "Lastly, our defense was made up of good, solid players that are used to playing with each other."

With only eight seniors on the roster, their leadership has been an important key in guiding new players to the varsity level.

"Since we are a very young team this year, the seniors tried to make everyone feel welcome," senior goalie Mewes added, "We stepped up as leaders so that we get everyone on the same page and going in the right direction."

The quality season has caught the eyes of not only local, but national media.

Maxpreps.com has the team currently ranked 8th in the nation and 6th in the state, while ESPN Rise ranked the Monarchs as the 10th-best team in the country

until they fell to St. Francis in a 2-0 loss. This defeat ended a 16-match undefeated streak, but even after the loss the Monarchs were currently ranked as the 22nd best team in the nation.

Their team play has been key throughout the year. In fact, many of the Monarchs have described this as pivotal to their strong performances on the field.

Soriano put it well when she said, "I think the key to our success this season has been working together as a team and not just as individuals."

Mitty will now look to defend their Division II CCS title when they open the playoffs this Saturday, Feb. 25. Given their potent combination of youth and experience, the Monarchs are certainly to hang even more banners after this campaign.

Men's Basketball Hungry for a repeat

By Anay Dattawadkar
Sports Editor

On Jan. 21, Jordan White made two free throws in the final seconds to give the Mitty Men's Basketball team a 3-point lead over Sacred Heart Cathedral, and the Monarchs held on to edge the Irish 62-59.

Three weeks later, on Feb. 11, Aaron Gordon made a frantic shot with four seconds left in overtime to propel Mitty over the Irish, 60-58.

On Feb. 18, it was again White's turn to come through in the clutch. In a situation eerily similar to his performance a month before, he sank two free throws with 12.8 seconds left in the WCAL finals. Three games against Sacred Heart, two huge performers, one WCAL title.

The games against the Irish exhibited perfectly the style of this 2011 Men's team: play hard, play unselfishly, and be poised when it matters. The formula certainly worked here, as the team went a stellar 24-3-0 en route to its second straight WCAL title.

"Although we lost some key players, we've made the necessary changes to get back to the top," said senior forward Thomas Peters, "Every game someone new has stepped up and performed."

And it showed throughout the regular season, as new starters Jack Biebel and Thomas Peters worked seamlessly in unison with Neil Vranicar, White and Gordon.

The Monarchs dashed any fears of a State Title "hangover" when they rattled off six straight wins to begin the season before losing to Serra 61-59 on Jan. 14.

Prior to the Serra game, Aaron Gordon had been battling mononucleosis, which kept him out of practice and left him weak and fatigued on the court. Serra was able

to capitalize on Gordon's illness to barely edge Mitty on a late jumper.

With the win, Serra took possession of the top spot in the WCAL. The Monarchs then lost their next game against De la Salle, dropping to 12-3. However, the team dashed any fears of a protracted slide, with strong wins over Sacred Heart, Bellarmine, and St. Francis.

That set the stage for a huge home game against Serra, which was still stubbornly clinging to first place. A win would vault the Monarchs over the Padres and back into first place.

And the Monarchs came out ready to win. Their man-to-man defense stifled Serra, and an almost-recovered Aaron Gordon absolutely dominated with 29 points.

With the 60-42 win, the Monarchs were firing on all cylinders as they destroyed the struggling



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez.

Senior Jack Biebel drives to the hoop.

Valley Christian Warriors 66-48 on February 9. On that same day, Serra lost to St. Ignatius, clinching the WCAL title for the Monarchs. Nonetheless, the team was still hungry in their final league game. And the team, like it has all season, did not disappoint.

With their league season having come to a close, the Monarchs now set their sights on the CCS and State competitions. Their WCAL title and tournament win point to another big run by the team—and that's clearly where their focus lies.

"I'm proud of what we've accomplished so far," Neil Vranicar said, "but we know we're after bigger and better things than just league games."

The Monarchs begin their CCS title defense on Feb. 25, drawing the #1 seed in the tournament.

Wrestling: Talented Squad on the Rise

By Jesselyn Wang
Staff Writer

Wrestling at Mitty undoubtedly faces a wide variety of challenges. For one, the team must always compete with other school activities to use the cafeteria for practices.

Furthermore, as sophomore Chandler Ramirez explains, "Wrestling is a sport that doesn't get a lot of credit from other people. [But] as a three sport athlete, [I feel] that wrestling really requires the most discipline."

But despite these obstacles, the Monarchs have definitely impressed, posting incredible numbers in both dual meets and the most competitive of tournaments.

Both Coach Curry and Assistant Coach Wicht nod in agreement that this year's team is the best they've seen in the past 10 years.

"We've got a stellar sophomore class," notes Coach Curry, "and combined with the experience of the seniors,

we expect to finish top three in league and top ten in CCS."

The team is well on its way in achieving this goal as the Monarchs have placed in the Top 5 in a host of Bay Area tournaments, including the Peninsula Invitational, Cupertino Memorial Tournament, and the Jim Root Classic. Though the Monarchs have some tough competition from St. Francis and Bellarmine, senior Alex Lewis is positive that "if we [can] fight through our fatigue and focus, then we are sure to [be] victorious."

The Monarchs have high hopes to send at least 2 of their Varsity team wrestlers to compete for the State Championship in California. Furthermore, Mitty will send 13 representatives to the CCS playoffs this year, a school record. As the regular season wraps up and WCAL rounds begin, the Monarchs look to continue fighting hard and pushing to exceed expectations. This season will surely be a memorable one.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Sophomore Shane Triantos pins his opponent.

Men's Soccer Finishing Strong

By Erik Chu
Staff Writer

For the Archbishop Mitty Men's Soccer Team, this year was all about improvement. After last year's tough CCS Semifinal loss against Burlingame, the Monarchs were looking to have a bounce-back season. And they have done just that, improving dramatically to an impressive 15-6-2 (9-4-1 league) record, while capturing the WCAL Playoffs with a 1-0 win over St. Francis on a goal by sophomore Andres Ochoa.

The Monarchs have a wealth of experience, as they have 9 players returning from last year's squad. Second-year Coach Cesar Sanchez has done a masterful job of guiding his team to victory, led by top goal scorer junior Connor Kurze and senior Noah Pederson.

"This season has been very successful, especially for a team as young as ours. The younger players on the team have definitely stepped up their game," says Kurze.

The Monarchs found themselves challenged by an extremely difficult schedule. Non-league games included away matches against nationally-ranked De La Salle and Willow Glen. Although the Monarchs lost both of these games, they were extremely competitive, gaining valuable experience for league play. The



Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Sophomore Eric Espinoza drives the ball.

difficult non-conference schedule clearly helped the Monarchs in league play, as they earned victories over Valley Christian, St. Ignatius, and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Mitty faced its greatest challenge in WCAL action against St. Francis, one of the top teams in the league. In an extremely tight regular season contest at home, Mitty edged the Lancers, winning the match 3-2. That day, Ochoa had an amazing performance, leading the way for the Monarchs with two goals. The win propelled the Monarchs to third-place in the WCAL.

In the first round of the WCAL playoffs, the Monarchs defeated arch-rival Bellarmine 1-0, then went on to defeat Serra 3-0 in the semifinals. The victory over St. Francis in the WCAL finals on Feb. 16 sets the Monarchs up nicely for a CCS run.

"I could not be more proud of the group of guys that I play with, because without their hard work and dedication all the success we've had so far would have not been possible," says senior Sebastian Zuniga. "As our season continues into CCS we will continue to work hard and strive for success."

The Monarchs are the sixth-seed in the CCS Division II playoffs and will open with a match on Wednesday, Feb. 22, against eleventh-seeded Yerba Buena at home at 2:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball Seeks Revenge

By Jordan Scott
Sports Editor

Even though the Monarchs seemed to be defeating their opponents with ease this season, there was one glaring loss Mitty wished to avenge: a trip to San Francisco that resulted in a disappointing 55-49 defeat at the hands of St. Ignatius during league play.

When asked if any positive benefit could come from the loss, senior Courtney Lisowski said, "We are using that loss as motivation and are learning from our mistakes."

Well, consider the lesson learned. The Monarchs dominated SI in the WCAL Playoff finals, winning 63-47. Kelli Hayes had 19 points and Vanessa Garner 16 as Mitty won their third straight WCAL Playoff Final.

Together with an emotional and successful Senior Night victory over Sacred Heart Cathedral 69-42 that brought a share of the WCAL league title, the Monarchs have shown once again that they are an outstanding team.

Throughout the second half of league play and playoffs head coach Sue Phillips stated the team's goal "is to increase our offensive efficiency by taking better care of the basketball and taking high percentage shots."

Mitty's current record is 11-1 in WCAL league play, and 21-5 overall. One of their greatest assets is intense defensive pressure. With a highly athletic group of athletes, the team's offense is sparked by their defense.

Junior point guard Vanessa Garner and

sophomore Kelli Hayes know how to apply key ball pressure when needed in the full court. Garner leads the team with 2.6 steals per game and 50 steals overall, while Hayes leads the team in scoring (14.3) and blocks (32 for the season). The Monarchs are leading the WCAL in rebounding with 38.2 rebounds per game on the strength of 9.6 per game from senior Amanda Lovely.

The versatility of the players is the dominant strength of this team. They can play many different positions and different styles.

Lovely can dominate in the center at 6'3, but can also play guard when needed.

Junior guards Emily Dinger (5'10) and Kalyn Simon (5'9) can slash to the basket and out-rebound many of the opponent's tallest players.

The team as a whole is hard to match up against, and a different player can step up each game. The depth at each position allows Coach Phillips to substitute freely and eventually wear down the other team.

"This group of young women has excellent team chemistry, is hard working, extremely talented, unselfish, and intelligent," Phillips said, "They are an absolute pleasure to coach."

The players are no doubt looking forward to moving on to the CCS tournament, and hopefully to the Northern California Tournament after that.

They begin their pursuit of those titles on Feb. 25, as the #1 seed in CCS Division II play.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Junior Kalyn Simon initiates the offense.

FEATURED ATHLETES



VANESSA GARNER

JUNIOR POINT GUARD

10.8 POINTS PER GAME
49.6% FG SHOOTING
27 3-POINTERS

"Our team has grown so much throughout the time we have spent together. Each of us shares a common goal of wanting to win and become the best. We all work hard and play well together due to our team chemistry which sets us apart from many other teams."

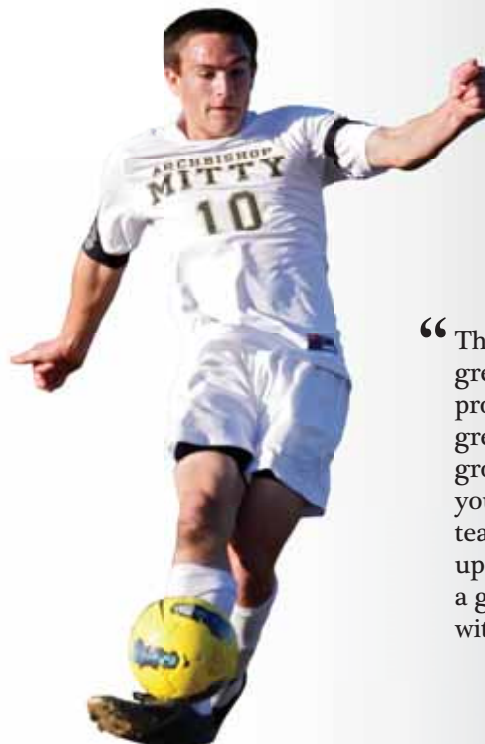


ANA MARIJA SOLA

SENIOR CAPTAIN MID-FIELD STRIKER

11 GOALS
15 ASSISTS
37 POINTS

"This season has truly been a blessing. I know that as I continue my soccer career at UC Davis, these four years of playing will be greatly missed as will those amazing teammates who have made my experience playing soccer at Mitty so remarkable."



CONNOR KURZE

JUNIOR CAPTAIN FORWARD

13 GOALS
7 ASSISTS
33 POINTS

"This year has been a great year for our soccer program. The team has greatly improved and grown together. The younger players on the team have really stepped up their game. It has been a great experience playing with this team."

Compiled by Rebecca Casey, Anay Dattawadkar,
Stephen Kwok and Jordan Scott
Sports Editors

Photos courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Shakespeare: Playwright, Commoner, Monarch

Teaching the Bard

By Kelvin Leong and Kevin Tran
News Editors

Starting next year, the English department will provide a new senior elective called “The Good Man Will and the Rebel Shakespeare.” Taught by **Ms. Brunolli**, the course will make characters come alive for students and also provide new ways to make this legendary wordsmith more accessible.

As a long-time admirer of Shakespeare, Ms. Brunolli has been excited to help craft this new course. Over the past year, she has spent time researching and developing the curriculum, one that she hopes will captivate and interest students. Although making the course was time-consuming, she believes she “has been preparing [her] whole educational life for this.”

One topic the course delves into is the fascinating concept of the playwright himself. Ms. Brunolli explains, “What’s intriguing about Shakespeare is this duality that he had... a commoner... [and] a successful playwright.” She continues, “As we read his plays, there’s that voice that in one moment can praise the status quo and in the next moment question it.”

This contrast between Shakespeare the traditional historical figure and Shakespeare the rebellious playwright will be one of the many aspects on which this new course focuses. The understanding of the duality, Ms. Brunolli acknowledges, is instrumental to unlocking the richness behind Shakespeare’s language. And when students finally break down that language, they will realize how relevant his plays are today. In particular, the way Shakespeare dealt with modern-day issues, such as the controversies of interracial marriage and racism in *Othello*, only adds to the complexity behind the man.

Furthermore, in addition to reading classic Shakespeare plays, students are also highly encouraged to browse through the course’s myMitty page. By posting resources such as the Oxford Shakespeare Library and various renditions of Shakespeare’s plays, Ms. Brunolli hopes to encourage students explore Shakespeare. She even notes that to truly understand the plays, students should watch different interpretations of the same play. With the implementation of the iPad next year, students will be able to do so with greater ease than ever before.

Given the potential to interactively impart Shakespeare to a new generation, Ms. Brunolli hopes that the passion she has for Shakespeare translates to students because she wants them “not to just appreciate Shakespeare, but to love and to really enjoy his works.”



Photo Courtesy of Ms. Epidendio

Mitty students perform in *Twelfth Night*

For the first time ever, Archbishop Mitty staged a work from our language’s most famous playwright this January. Putting on Shakespeare has been a thought the Performing Arts Department entertained for the past few years, but the allotted timeframe—three weeks split around the winter break—had always impeded this plan given the difficulty of Shakespeare’s language. However, with the talent present in this year’s twenty-eight participants, the Performing Arts department believed Mitty was finally ready to take on this challenge.

Out of Shakespeare’s thirty-seven dramas, why *Twelfth Night*? The Performing Arts department wanted a comedy, since comedies are accessible. *Twelfth Night* thus became a clear choice, given its similarities to **Mr. Santana’s** favorite movie, *The Princess Bride*.

With the decision made, the adaptability of Shakespeare opened the doors for Mr. Santana’s artistic expression. “As a director, it is like having a blank canvas: You can do anything.”

The versatility of *Twelfth Night* is incredible; it works well in settings as diverse as an escape into fantasy or a trip to the Wild West. No high school in the area had done *Twelfth Night*, so Archbishop Mitty’s choice was bold.

Mitty’s interpretation of the characters was particularly memorable. The three main clowns, Fabian, Sir Andrew, and Sir Toby—played by **Sophia Gonsalves**, **Shawn Clifford**, and **Ryan Ballard**, respectively—really came alive, as they were inspired by the three main slap-stick clowns of the world-renowned circus group *Cirque du Soleil*. On the other hand, Cesario and his band of pirates were cast to be romantic and nondescript, exhibiting the hallmarks of *The Princess Bride*.

Significant time was also spent to select the perfect accompanying songs. After sifting through 300 to 400 Elizabethan-era Irish and British songs, Mr. Santana selected 16-18 songs he thought were relatable and best fit the archetype of the traveling musician.

Despite the technical challenges of a comedy like *Twelfth Night*, the show successfully entertained its audience through its multiple sold-out performances. Even those who were otherwise unfamiliar with Shakespeare could take away valuable lessons from Mitty’s interpretation of his work.

Mr. Santana summed up *Twelfth Night’s* impact, saying, “The potential for educational experience is immense, it was time to go for it, and I am glad we did.”

STUDENT CENTE(R)ED

Tausif Ahmed

Lending his VOICE to the community

By Omid Mirfendereski
Staff Writer

Among its many graduation requirements, Archbishop Mitty calls upon students to complete 100 hours of Christian service by the end of their senior year. Usually, most people find an opportunity to assist their communities on an individual level; however, a few students, like junior Tausif Ahmed, take their service to the next level.

Through dedication and leadership, Tausif has not only made significant contributions to the Bay Area’s needy, but has also increased social consciousness and participation in our community as well.

Tausif completed his junior year’s Christian service hours last summer at San Jose Family Shelter. This offshoot of Family Supportive Housing, Inc., which provides services ranging from health care to parent classes for homeless and needy families, gave him the opportunity to put his beliefs into action.

Every week, Tausif engaged himself in the available tutoring program, helping students from preschool to the sixth grade with their English and math assignments.

This allowed him to form healthy relationships with children who often felt shy about asking for help, but who were clearly happy with the assistance and care they received.

During his time at the shelter, Tausif saw himself as a veritable part of the community, which mo-

tivated him to create VOICE, a club aimed to provide “meaningful ways for students to get involved in [their] community.”

Short for Volunteering Out in Community Everyday, VOICE brings together individuals from various high schools to make a concrete difference in the Bay Area.

The club’s members meet twice a month to organize activities and plan future programs. Tausif explains that so far, they have had movie nights, art workshops, and brunch services.

As part of their Holiday Donation Drive, he and fellow club members collected \$1000 in new bed sheets and pillows for the San Jose Family Shelter.

Tausif’s main goal is to increase student participation at the shelter, where he coordinates many of his club’s activities. In addition, he wishes to get more local teenagers involved in Family Supportive Housing, Inc. and Voice.

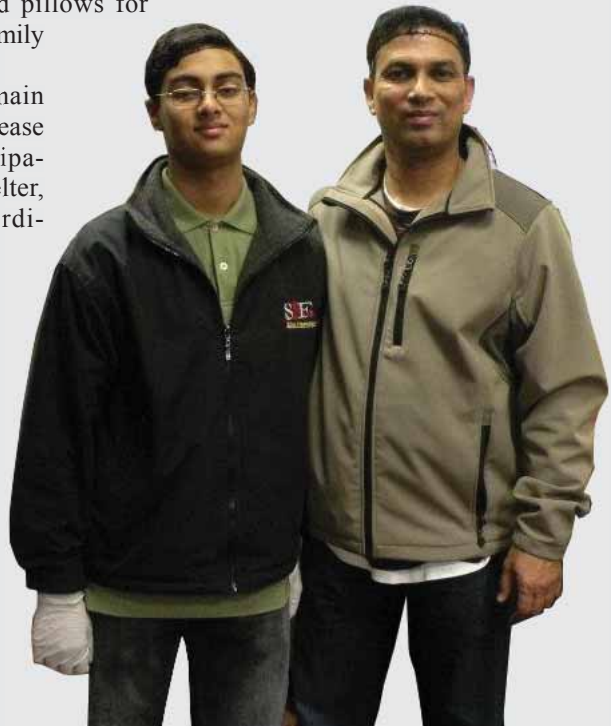
He admits that his group is small

and “self-run,” but he has hopes that it will grow in numbers and productivity.

Tausif explains that if more students from Mitty and other local schools join VOICE, the club will be able to help not only San Jose Family Shelter, but also other charity groups and organizations.

Possessing a truly admirable work ethic, Tausif has found a great way to lead his community. We can all learn from him to expand our horizons and put our faith and hopes into concrete action.

For more information about VOICE:
www.voicesanjose.org.



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Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg & Mr. Craig Whitt

News

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

Opinions

Linda Nguyen, Anna Piatnicia,
Sarang Shankar & Tyler VanValkenburg

Arts & Entertainment

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

Focus

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

Justice Awareness

Elena Georgieva, Esha Joshi,
Briana Saunders & Elise Sudlow

Sports

Rebecca Casey, Anay Dattawadkar,
Stephen Kwok & Jordan Scott

Photo

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

5000 Mitty Way,
San Jose, CA 95129

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