



Mitty Claims Two State Titles



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Sophomore Kelli Hayes sets up the play.

By Cameron Schott, Anay Dattawadkar,
and Stephen Kwok
Staff Writer and Sports Editors

SACRAMENTO—The Women's Basketball team returned to their championship-winning ways this year, defeating J.W. North-Riverside High School 56-54 in the CIF Division II State Championship. The win was Coach Sue Phillips's fifth state title, but was the first for all of the members of this year's team.

The Monarchs faced a J.W. North team on the apex of a remarkable turnaround. The Huskies went 4-21 last year, but they were a gritty opponent throughout the game. They made several threats to Mitty, none more potent than their fourth-quarter run capped off by Kamille Diaz's 3-pointer with 13.4 seconds left. The shot brought J.W. North to within three points, 55-52. However, junior Emily Dinger made a clutch free throw seconds later, putting the game out of reach for the Monarchs. Dinger had a team-leading 16 points, as did junior guard Kalyn Simon.

The Huskies had been threatening throughout the fourth quarter, knocking down threes and fouling the Monarchs aggressively. Mitty was able to take its biggest lead of the fourth, 49-40, with two minutes left. However, the Huskies then went on a surge, capped off by Diaz with less than 15 seconds left.

The game was a hard-fought contest from the start, but Mitty managed to cling to its narrow lead throughout. However, with 3:50 left in the third quarter, J.W. North seized a 29-28 lead. The two teams grappled back and forth for the rest of the quarter until a Kalyn Simon three-pointer gave Mitty the lead for good.

Along with Dinger and Simon, sophomore Kelli Hayes scored 13 points, and senior Amanda Lovely grabbed 12 rebounds. In all, it was a fitting end to the team's phenomenal year.

The Monarchs went 20-5 in the regular season, defeating nearly every WCAL team they faced. They met St. Ignatius in both the WCAL and CCS finals, and produced the same victorious result in each meeting. In the first matchup, the Monarchs won comfortably, 63-47 in the WCAL finals. However, their next meeting, in the CCS finals, did not go as smoothly. Mitty trailed the Wildcats 34-29 headed into the fourth quarter, but went on a huge 16-4 run to take a 47-43 with 53 seconds left. The Monarchs held on to win, 49-48, behind 25 points, six rebounds, five steals, and four blocks from Hayes.

see **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** in **SPORTS**, p. 14

the San Diego State-bound wing for La Costa Canyon shot an impressive 5 for 11 from the field, he was unable to put up many shots over the 6-8 Gordon.

Departing seniors came up huge as well. Jack Biebel put together a solid game, scoring 9 points while limiting the team's turnovers to only 8 in the entire game. Thomas Peters also chipped in 9. And Neil Vranicar had one of his best games of the season, scoring 14 points in the contest.

"Gordon was awfully good but so was the supporting cast," Head Coach Tim Kennedy told MaxPreps, "We had other guys making plays and open shots, and they've been doing that all year."

The team's run began in the WCAL playoffs, where Mitty knocked off Valley Christian and Bellarmine to get off to a great start. The Monarchs then defeated Sacred Heart Cathedral in a narrow three point victory to advance to CCS, and then from there on to their second title.

see **MEN'S BASKETBALL** in **SPORTS**, p. 14

Men Go Back to Back

SACRAMENTO—The Men's Basketball team repeated its triumph from last year, defending its state title in a 78-57 win over La Costa Canyon in the Division II State title game. The final result of the championship game was almost never in question as the team put together a dominating performance. The win gave the Monarchs back-to-back CIF state titles, the first time this feat has been accomplished in school history.

The saying, "Big time players perform in big time games" could not have been truer in the title game, as junior Aaron Gordon scored 33 points and grabbed 20 rebounds in the contest. The 20 rebounds were just one short of the state record that Gordon himself tied in last year's championship game, while his 60.8% shooting from the field led the way for a very efficient Monarch offense.

On defense, Gordon was stellar once again, limiting La Costa Canyon's star player Matt Shrigley to just 13 points, including only one in the first half. Even though



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Junior Aaron Gordon nails the 3-pointer.

The Mystery of the Disappearing Books

By Eunice Kim & Sruthi Ramaswami
Staff Writer & News Editor

We're all familiar with the day in freshman year when we travel as a class to the Brosnan Library and listen to Ms. King's introduction to the library's unlimited resources. The Library is our home when we rush to print our homework before class, do some last minute studying for a midterm, and socialize with friends.

While our school has gone through several changes, including the introduction of iPads, and the construction of the Schott Family Music Center, Caputo Dance Studio, and "Helen's Hut," not surprisingly the library is changing as well.

Over the past few months, the librarians have decided to utilize the library shelves to make way for the growing technology at Mitty by removing select nonfiction books from the collection.

These books will be donated to Internet Archive, a non-profit digital library based in San Francisco, that will convert these books to online versions and later find homes for the print versions.

"Students no longer use encyclopedias and other books for research. It's all on the Internet now," states Ms. King.



Ms. King recognizes that students are more interested in fiction, as they find an emotional connection to the stories. The library will still keep nonfiction, but shift to a focus on contemporary nonfiction.

As students use personal iPads next year, the dynamic of the library is bound to change. Laptops will not be available to check out, and there will be few desktop computers to use.

Ms. King adds, "I'm excited for the iPads, and I think we should all be proud of how Mitty is moving forward."

Indeed, iPads will facilitate the use of online research databases such as Gale, Questia, and ProQuest. Questia's interactive library, according to Ms. King, will be especially useful for the iPads, as "one may highlight and create notes, create a bookshelf, and bookmark the pages."

Currently, Ms. King is working on finding online books for students to be able to check out next year. Compared to where it was fifteen years ago, the Brosnan Library has dramatically changed due to Ms. King's efforts to modernize its systems. While the cleared shelves may disappoint some, the library's new electronic opportunities are something we should all be looking forward to.

OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: The Power of Students

STUDENT POWER IS REAL

By **Tyler VanValkenburg**
Opinions Editor

From the get go we're told that we can do anything. We're told to reach high and to achieve, that we can get anywhere we desire as long as we work hard enough.

But then, as we enter high school and move on into the rest of the world, the tone changes. Suddenly, the world is not at our fingertips; suddenly, we begin to have realistic limits placed on our hopes

“We still all have an individual viewpoint that we bring to the world. And we still can, by projecting that viewpoint, have a significant impact...on the world.”

and dreams. Yet rather than be discouraged by this humbling realization, we should be encouraged by it.

The world is, in fact, much bigger than we may want it to be, and it is, in fact, continually evolving and changing with or without us. However, none of that in any way means we are completely powerless.

Far from it.

We still all have an individual viewpoint that we bring to the world. And we still can, by projecting that viewpoint, have a significant impact, no matter how small it may seem, on the world. And one of the best ways we can do exactly that as Archbishop Mitty students is by using the clubs and programs offered at our very high school.

I have experienced this firsthand through the Mitty Advocacy Project, or MAP, and through writing for this newspaper.

As a member of MAP, I have had the opportunity to speak with Congresspersons and their staff, advocating for issues I and other students care about, and in a real way making our voices heard. I even took part, along with a few other MAP members, in a direct meeting with San Jose Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren in which I had to advocate for a specific bill. During the meeting I was able to actively engage the Congresswoman, addressing her concerns about the bill while also pressing her to support it.

On the Monarch Newspaper, I have written and edited multiple articles that have clearly voiced student opinions of all varieties. I have covered stories ranging from Obama's Nobel Peace Prize to the recent fear-mongering over Iran, and through each of these articles I have, though the audience may have been small, projected my voice into the world.

These roles that I have taken on at Mitty, while small in the grand scheme of things, unmistakably show how we teenagers can make ourselves heard to an audience we might not have thought we had.

Apart from my own experience, Mitty offers other opportunities for students to make a difference in the form of volunteer clubs, ranging from Interact to MICA. These

clubs allow for students to significantly give back to their communities, as well as to support others in need.

Through these service clubs and advocacy groups, Mitty does a pretty great job of giving its students the tools they need to impact the world around them.

And beyond Mitty the options are far from sparse. Just look at the current Occupy movements across the country, in major cities and on major college campuses.

These protests are bringing people of different backgrounds and viewpoints together to collectively seek a better society.

Now, it is true that as winter spread the movement began to literally freeze out. However, protests are beginning to revive their numbers as the cold recedes, and aside

from legislative goals the Occupy movement has been an evident success in terms of affecting the national discourse.

STUDENT POWER IS LIMITED

By **Claire Chu**
Staff Writer

When students receive an extension for an assignment, or when they stumble in the door a minute late to class, they are sometimes excused and told not to expect the same leniency when out in “the real world”: the world that commencement ceremonies welcome graduates into, the world where, apparently, “real” people live.

But it is precisely this differentiation of life during and after high school that has caused the passivity and apathy in students that older generations bemoan.

It's as if little that students do matters. After the Occupy College movement resulted in general failure, “I told you so” resounded from critics. Why didn't students take more radical action? Why did they allow the movement to fade into nothingness?

When KONY 2012 took the media world by storm, inspiring legions of tweets and Facebook statuses, many scoffed at the idealistic “slacktivism.” They laughed that

they're often challenged by authority and shut down because schools too often create environments in which students have little real power.

Although the 1969 Supreme Court case of *Tinker v. Des Moines* held that students don't lose their Constitutional rights at school, schools do have the authority to discipline student speech that causes or reasonably threatens, “substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities.”

I understand the obligations that schools feel to implement in students the basic responsibilities of self-discipline and cooperation.

Yet in the process of doing so, they often lead students to care but remain passive, to ‘care’ without proceeding on to any *actual* action. To challenge or question the system is to destabilize our futures, because the path to success has been paved. No matter how many times Ellen Degeneres reminds us that she became successful without a degree, and no matter how many iProducts college drop-out Steve Jobs churned out, everyone else has to spend at least the first decade of their lives in the mass education environment and play by its rules.

What exactly denies students in various stages of schooling, presence in the “real world”?

Let us speak in terms of college. Colleges are arguably real, “having verifiable existence,” (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary). Students attend classes with authentic professors.

While at college, students often rush off to work “real” jobs under actual employers, receiving real incomes that they spend on real products, which inevitably contribute to the existing economy. A vanishing fraction of undergraduates are truly enjoying carefree, blithe years in college.

Perhaps even more, we should take a look at the people whom we believe do exist in “the real world.” There are legal adults who practice “citizenship” rather than “citizenship,” who sit around and taunt presidential

candidates for politics they neither support nor participate in.

After my classmates and I graduate, we will be entering a world inhabited by these



Are These Student Making a Difference?

Members of the Mitty Advocacy Project at the State Capitol. (Left to Right: Utsav Ahuja, Kelvin Fann, Michele Garlit, Grace Hase, Sruthi Ramaswami, Stefan Vukicevic, Gwen Holst, Sharvil Gupta)

Economic injustices that were previously non-existent in major news networks' reporting have now gotten long-deserved attention, and that's in part because some college kids (who will soon be us) took action.

That shows you the power you wield.

And that is the point: that you have power. That no matter how tiny and inconsequential it may seem, you possess a certain influence over the events of your world, over what happens and what doesn't.

Realizing that we are limited in how much power we have shouldn't dissuade us from taking action. It should empower us even more. Yes, it is exceedingly hard to have a real impact on this modern world, but that should only be reason to try harder, to organize, to go out and change. And more than anything, to not give up.

We have that opportunity in our world. And we have that opportunity right now at our school.

one can't “sincerely help capture a fugitive warlord from behind an iPad on Google Earth.”

Comparisons have been made to students of past generations, to civil rights activists, to leaders of mass civil disobedience. What is “wrong” with us, they ask?

Part of what is wrong is the sense of learned helplessness that has been encouraged and reinforced in high school. Students feel that although they have passions and beliefs, big ideas and big dreams, they have to wait until they're grown up and in the “real world” to make a difference. Their ability to contribute is limited in school, and their motivation to make a difference is tempered. If they do try and stir up change,

“Yet there will be no magical moment when we spin in a circle and in a puff of fairy dust, fit in. Why? Because the actual, real world is not already made.”

very adults. Yet there will be no magical moment when we spin in a circle and in a puff of fairy dust, fit in. Why? Because the actual, real world is not already made. It's a fluid entity that we continue to create with our beliefs, our words, and our actions.

“Go to school, get a job, and by the way, why aren't you leading a revolution?”

US INTERVENTION: SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE

By Anay Dattawadkar
Sports Editor

In Syria, the government crackdown on the Free Syrian Army is engulfing thousands of civilians in a hellish firestorm. Less than a thousand miles away, the Iranian nuclear program is sparking increasing Israeli fears. And far away in America, citizens, claiming that we bear an ideological burden to ensure freedom and peace in these regions, are clamoring for the United States to get militarily involved in each incident.

Of course, military intervention in foreign countries is no new idea—since 1890, the United States has used military force outside of its borders 127 times.

These interventions have ranged from the well-known—such as World Wars I and II—to the rarely mentioned—like the close air support that helped the Philippine government fend off a 1989 coup. It is clear that the United States has long seen the use of military force within the borders of a foreign country as a necessity.

Several common threads link these incidences. In each, the United States has gone to war under the claim that it was acting in the interests of freedom and democracy. However, there have been underlying, generally monetary motivations for really going to war. And finally, most of these interventions have been illegal and have had an enormous civilian cost. Here are a few examples.

After the Cold War ended, there was the U.S.-led occupation of Somalia in 1993, which resulted in the Mogadishu disaster immortalized in the book—and film—*Black Hawk Down*. Somalia is today perhaps the world's most lawless country.

American rationalization? The intervention was necessary to promote stability and assist in the distribution of

humanitarian aid in the country. The underlying motive? Two-thirds of Somalia's oil territory was owned by American companies Conoco, Amoco, Chevron and Phillips, who would have lost it all if a rebel government had taken power.

In 2003, the United States, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, famously invaded the Middle Eastern country. It took over eight years to formally leave the country, leaving behind



a government in shambles, a war-ravaged populace, and over 180,000 deaths. Today, 68% of Iraqis have no access to safe drinking water, and 60-70% of Iraqi children suffer from severe psychological problems. America's explanation for the invasion? Iraq allegedly possessed weapons of mass destruction (no such weapons were ever found). American interests benefitted because of the war? Iraq's government awarded massive oil contracts to several key American companies.

A bare examination of these examples, along with those of Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua makes it clear that the United States' invasions of other countries have not pre-

served freedom and democracy, but have instead promoted repression and instability. The U.S. has repeatedly entered into foreign conflicts in order to promote its own interests, and this has had a negative effect on these regions.

Further destroying this illusion of America as a "global force for good" are the Rwandan, Yugoslavian, and Sudanese genocides—heinous conflicts which the United States in no significant way even attempted to prevent.

Even more perplexing is that aside from a handful of wars, namely the First and Second World Wars and perhaps the Cuban missile blockade, all of these incidents were acts of aggression in direct violation of international law.

Time after time, America has interfered in a foreign country to uphold its self-serving greed. It has acted with arrogance and impunity, and has left behind a trail of bodies, of instability, of misery. And in the end, it is extremely difficult to argue that these interventions have made the world a better place.

And so, as there is once more agitation for the United States to go to war, we must detach ourselves and examine the underlying reasons for why we, in particular, want to go to war.

Is it really to prevent another Homs, another Idlib from happening? Do we sincerely

believe that Iran is developing nuclear weapons to use in anger? In other words, do we really want to intervene because we believe that we will have a tangibly positive effect on the region? Or is the desire once again monetary? Note the fact that Iran and Syria together possess the third largest oil reserves in the world.

Before we act, we must look back at our history, at all of the wars and military interventions of our past, and ask ourselves a troubling question: Will our military involvement truly have a positive effect? One look at the trail of bodies and broken nations we have left in our wake should be answer enough.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: RUSSIA'S BLACK HOLE

By Daniel Braginsky
Staff Writer

Russia's president was recently re-elected in an election that many considered corrupt. This corruption was not-so-subtly demonstrated during one of the primaries, when the official result stated that 140% of the Russian population voted for Vladimir Putin. It appears that the political advisors decided that, since everyone in Russia knows that their government is rotten, it is pointless to actually check their numbers.

The people marching through the streets of Moscow? They are doing so not only because they are being led by those who cannot do basic math, but because of Putin's complete disregard for human life, as well as his questionable political strategies.

Putin is ex-KGB (the USSR's version of the CIA). This has apparently caused a streak of ruthlessness that one would not want to see in a ruler of one of the largest nuclear powers in the world, a ruler who frequently demonstrates his complete apathy towards his fellow humans.

Witness the Beslan School Hostage Crisis of 2004, in which more than 1,100 people were taken hostage—777 of them children—by a group of Islamic extremists.

The Russian government decided to take out the terrorists. In the chaos that followed the authority's decision to storm the school to save the hostages, tanks, machine-guns, and flamethrowers were used. In the end, the body count included over 300 hostages, with hundreds more severely injured. Most of those deaths and injuries came from the fact that the Russian government did not properly consider potential collateral damage or civilian deaths before unleashing 120mm cannons on an elementary school in which hundreds of children were held captive.

A similar event happened in the Moscow Theatre hostage crisis. In 2002 Islamic militants demanding Chechnya's independence took over a theatre full of people. After a standoff of several days, the Russian military gassed the entire theater. Once they entered the theatre and engaged in a lengthy battle with the terrorists, the bodies



of over 100 hostages were among the casualties, most killed by the toxic substance authorities had pumped into the hall. The lack of any immediately available medical treatment also contributed to the hostages deaths.

Who wouldn't want a president with a habit of using kill-all orders to resolve potential problems for the government?

Putin enjoys his power, and refuses to relinquish it. Unfortunately for him, Russia has a term limit: 2 terms in a row, 4 years each. So, after being elected in 2000, he was forced to leave office in 2008. Putin then put his puppet into office instead: Dmitry Medvedev.

However, while Medvedev was in office, he quietly passed a law that increased the length of terms from 4 years to 6 years, valid the next term. So Medvedev finished serving his 4 years as Prime Minister and then Putin stepped in again, with the increased term length. So he can stay in office for 12 years, instead of 8! Gee, wasn't that a lucky coincidence.

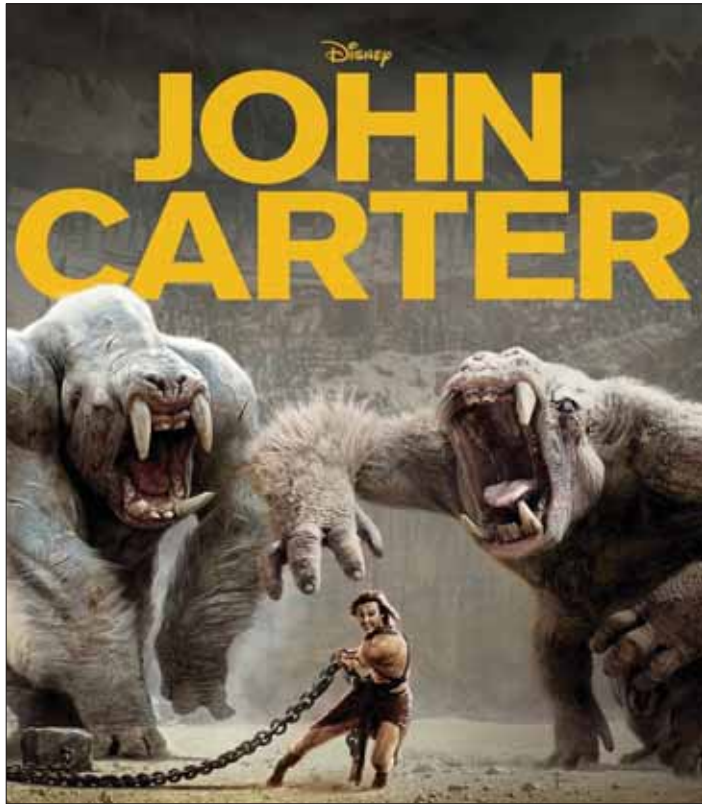
Putin also has a tendency of throwing his political opponents into jail on trumped-up charges. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, an oil magnate, was thrown into jail without due process for fraud and embezzlement.

This was, also coincidentally enough, right after he accused the Russian government of being corrupt. Putin also froze all of Mikhail's assets,

which were plentiful, considering he was the richest man in Russia at the time, and then 'sold' Mikhail's oil company to his friends and himself at a far, far below market price.

Recently, Khodorkovsky was set to be released—until they discovered another embezzlement charge, and added 22 years to his sentence. Then the man was denied parole, partly due to, according to *The Times* (London), his "refusal to attend jail sewing classes." Apparently in Soviet Russia, sewing classes are a requirement for parole.

All in all, Vladimir Putin's presidency plays out like something straight from a bad political satire. No one can stand up to him, because they will be thrown in jail. Unless the entire nation rises up, then Putin will reign until he passes away. And then we'll get someone who is just as bad, if not worse, and Russia will continue in its downward spiral.



HOLLYWOOD'S DOWNFALL

By Soumajit Kundu
Staff Writer

In the past five years, you would have had to make an effort to not take notice of the decline of American film quality.

I mean, sure, one could argue that there are certainly great directors out there, such as David Fincher (*Fight Club*, *The Social Network*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) and Christopher Nolan (*Memento*, *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*).

Unfortunately, there's only so much time left before these are the only two directors/writers doing their best to carry Hollywood on their shoulders.

If there is anything Hollywood now revolves around, it is purely money. Surely, Hollywood must make revenue from its mega-blockbusters, but Hollywood's monetary avarice has clearly come at the expense of intelligence and originality.

Film used to be such a versatile medium for communicating and connecting to the public, all the while entertaining them too.

Today, film seems to be a wasteland of overused ideas that are completely vapid. And this fact is definitely starting to be

understood by the public too.

As noted by journalist Kevin Drum in *Mother Jones*, the number of tickets sold at the box office has dropped roughly \$300 million since 2002, and might just keep declining.

Drum's major explanation for this is that "casual audiences, the type of people who read reviews and wait to hear what their friends say, are becoming increasingly difficult to lure to the multiplex."

Additionally, Hollywood simply has lost its artistic appeal.

Films aren't what they used to be.

We colloquially call them "movies" more than anything now, and they've simply become events just as casual as going to a fast food restaurant—digital projections that we indulge in from time to time to feed Maslow's hierarchy of needs. They are usually, but not always, limited to sex, humor, (elusive) happiness, and friendship.

We go to see those cheesy chick-flicks and rom-coms to get a kick out of them, nothing more.

As long as it's scary or funny, the story doesn't matter, because it's bound to be a recycled plot.

LIAR IN CHIEF

By Kelvin Fann
Staff Writer

After eight reckless and convoluted years with President Bush, many sighed with relief when Barack Obama took office.

The promise of "the most transparent and accountable" presidency promised hope for a new "change" in the government. Who could resist such optimism after the Bush-era policies that withheld so much crucial information from the public, including hiding information that could have kept us out of a war.

Yet now, nearly four years later, I and many others look back in disappointment. Although Obama has achieved much during his term, he has failed to uphold one of his most important promises: transparency.

Take a look at the following example. In February 2011, Pres. Obama contacted the President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, regarding the pending release of reporter Abdulelah Haider Shaye from prison. Obama protested Shaye's release to the dismay of human rights and press freedom groups, on the grounds of Shaye's connections to Al-Qaeda.

While Shaye had had a history of interviewing Al Qaeda leaders as a journalist, he was, in fact, hired by Western media outlets such as *The Washington Post* to do so. And Shaye had been disregarded by the White House until he discovered something that would put him on the president's radar.

When Shaye visited Al Majala, a Yemeni village three years ago, he found the remnants of Tomahawk cruise missiles and cluster bombs with "Made in the USA."

Strangely, the Yemeni government had claimed responsibility for the strike that had killed innocent civilians, though the leftover shells were exclusive to the US military arsenal. The village held the remains of 14 women and 21 children; none of whom were Al-Qaeda militants. The Yemeni government wanted to take credit for the slaughter to shield America

from responsibility for the attack.

Shaye endured multiple threats from the Yemeni government in the aftermath of the cover-up that he was bringing to light. Nevertheless, Shaye persisted in learning that the strike had indeed been American—a discovery that tellingly happened just before he was sent to prison.

Detaining journalists is not unheard of; governments don't want their improper actions brought to light by the media. But given its broad promises of transparency, the Obama Administration would not dare to actively participate in the detainment of any journalist, especially one who was revealing the truth of what had happened to innocent women and children.

Yet between the Yemeni government lying and taking the blame for the attack and the timing of Shaye's arrest, there is clearly a hidden agenda on Obama's part. Even the White House's public response to the case is ambiguous: "We remain concerned about Shaye's potential release due to his association with Al-Qaeda...that is all



we have to say about this case."

But Shaye *has* no connection to Al-Qaeda, and the administration's only goal in keeping him in prison is to maintain a cover-up.

Obama's transparency has thus been something of a joke. The Shaye case is only one example of the many failures by Obama to provide a more open government.

His inability to declassify Bush's past military files as promised, his record-breaking prosecutions of whistleblowers in the supposed name of national security, and his constant battle against the Freedom of Information Act, have all gone against his pledge of a "deep commitment to transparency."

I applaud Obama for much of what he's achieved. However, Obama's complete failure to uphold his promise for a "new standard of openness" leaves me wary of what else our President could possibly be hiding.

UNETHICAL TECHNOLOGY

By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

Practically everyone has a smartphone, and at this point in time, it is not a trend or accessory; it's a way of life.

Many smartphone owners rely on their phones for every task imaginable: to play games, listen to music, look up something, or communicate with friends.

However, would you feel as comfortable with this so-called necessity if you knew that workers from third-world countries were being mistreated at the expense of mass-production?

It is a shame how technology is being unethically made. Companies such as Foxconn in Taiwan are hiring people at less than minimum wage and are allowing for people to work around dangerous chemicals that often cause detriment to workers' health.

As if the thought of adults being affected daily by noxious fumes is not

troubling enough, children are being sent to work in these mass production factories as well.

Countries like China and Vietnam are even worse than Taiwan and Korea, because existing labor laws are not being strongly enforced. Countries like Taiwan and Korea at least choose to honor their labor laws to some degree.

Though one may be slightly better than the other, they are all simply different variations of the same kind of exploitation.

As Andrew Leonard, a writer for Salon.com, stated, "For every smartphone manufacturer, the model of globalized production is fundamentally similar."

For those of us who choose to acknowledge the wrongdoings being committed in the process of making smartphones as with other technology, there is no way of avoiding becoming a mediator in the process.

There are just so many technological products made unethically that there is little way to keep yourself from ever using them, even in the quest to obtain an ethical smartphone.

Although this may come as a shock, most mass production in the past has used unethical methods. Since the most highly desired items created currently revolve around technology, this really should come as no surprise.

If this is the way that our high-end companies operate, then what can we possibly do to change that? Individually boycotting Apple or Windows products is part of the answer, but more can be done.

Post about it on Facebook, send a mass text, or just talk about it at lunch. No matter how you do it, spreading the word is key, because as Leonard proclaims, "We might end up surprised at how fast things can turn around."

Arts & Entertainment

OUT OF THE WOODS

The Narrator's Narrative...

By Kyle Jackson
Staff Writer

The far-off kingdom of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack, and Little Red Ridinghood is very near indeed. It is our own life, our reason for living, intertwined with our own place of mystery: Archbishop Mitty.

Once upon a time – seven years ago, to be precise – in the spring of 2005, Mitty put on the first production of *Into the Woods*. I was sitting in the red chairs during every single performance, dreaming of the day when I might perform on Mitty's stage. And all I really remember is the fire alarm going off one night when the tech crew used too much fog.

Once upon a time the journey into the woods took place again. But for me, there was more to the performance this time than the fire alarm (which went off two days before opening, for the exact same reason). The protagonist baker and his wife learn by experience that wishes take work to come true, and the same was true for all the actors wishing to put on the play.

Wishes started at the announcement of the play, at the end of the 2011 school year, and dreams were far-off, impractical, and distant. Then along came a witch, with both good and evil intentions, who informed us dreamers how our wishes might come true. This witch was personified by auditions on the second day of school, and the posting of the cast list, that—like the witch—had the power to make or break happy endings. Such is the power of the woods. Such is the power of theater, a place where comedy and drama become reality. That power is why people enter the woods and the theater in the first place.

On January 17, into the woods went the crew, cast, orchestra, and parent staff under the guidance of the omnipresent Mr. Kimont – much like the cow, the cape, the hair, and the slipper that must somehow fall together into the baker's possession. And we, like Little Red, had only a blind faith that the path we were following would lead to our destination. We conquered the path one step at a time, or should we say, one scene at a time. Sure, there were setbacks, when it appeared the entropic nature of the woods would overcome our beloved order. It is never easy to conquer the woods.

The baker, in the show, has a deadline by which he must gather his items: three midnights. For this production, the first midnight struck on February 16: the first run of Act One. Opening Night seemed very distant, and we were hardly far enough into the woods to see everything pulling together.

Princes in jeans, cows with eyeglasses, and tape-recorders blasting the score hardly made for a convincing play, but we trusted the path—until the second midnight, February 27, when Act Two was run for the first time.

Panic set in for many, and few imagined that we would get out of the woods before nightfall, and have the successful Opening Night that had been our wish for a year. But the determination of a small but resolute group would not be overcome by the woods; after all, the woods were just trees, and the

trees were just Styrofoam.

And so it came to pass that all that had seemed wrong was getting fixed. The curtains that lined the stage for every performance, I can remember, were dropped, and chicken wire was strung up to form unconvincing trees. Every day offered a new setting, much like would have happened in the real woods; Rapunzel's tower in the mossy knoll, the three oak trees over Granny's house, and the path of flowers came into view little by little. The chicken wire became pale muslin, the pale muslin became brown muslin, and the brown muslin became trees.

And with the dawning of a figurative new day (thanks chiefly to the lighting crew), we discovered that our narrator had left the story, and the woods was writing itself by the Monday before Opening. We started to make our own wish come true, not because of anyone else's compulsion but our own—our storybook (the script) became secondary when the costumes, props, and music sprang the show to life.

They say it is impossible to escape destiny—the storybook—but the storybook would have deemed it impossible to perform on Friday. Yet the cow, the cape, the hair, and the slipper came together on the Mitty stage, and a transformation happened—not of the witch into a beautiful woman, but of a group of students into a *performance*. The third midnight, Opening Night on March 16, was a dream come true, and it seemed that all might live happily ever after.

But not all wishes come true, as people find out in Act II. We had a giant looming over our head: closing on March 24. We were not venturing into the woods this time, but rather out of them, and the adventure would be missed. The second giant is harder to conquer because everybody who brought *Into the Woods* to life is alone, never to be brought together under the same circumstances.

Sometimes people leave you, and the seniors departed from the story entirely, only recalled through a fondness for the fleeting moments in the woods, much like the prince's meeting with the baker's wife before she leaves the story. And as much as we tried to avoid it, the last midnight struck, shattering the gentle spirit of the woods in the same way that the giant crushed Cinderella's mother's tree, in the same way that that very tree was destroyed after closing night. All wishes have consequences: if Jack steals from a giant, the giant descends on his world, and if a group wants an Opening Night, there must be a closing descending on the world of the woods.

Into the Woods is perfect for a high school. We are all trying to find out how to make our wishes come true, and what path to follow. We all have our dark moments when we are tempted by our own wolf. Moments when we are lost, suspicious of others, determined to get out of the fog that makes fire alarms go off in our heads. Moments in love and out of love, as the baker and his wife oscillate too. Moments when we feel abandoned or trapped by our parents – symbolized by the mysterious man and Jack's mother, respectively.

And there are moments when we want to climb our own beanstalk and live in the clouds, away from high school life.

Into the Woods is our story, the story of those who seek answers, willing to work hard for them, and be content when answers are found. Both princes and wolves wait in the woods: both glory and temptation, sometimes found to be one and the same (both were played by the same actor, in a bit of irony).

In teenage years, there is not always happily ever after. We get a more sobering message: no one is alone. If all we know and used to know is fading away before us—teenage years in a nutshell—we are left with the baker's child, hope for the future generation. And as we exit out of our own woods into a lighter world, it is our story that we tell to others that defines us, more than our wishes.

Wishes have consequences unintended. The story that we tell does as well: consequences on the audience. According to the witch, children won't listen, but at the end, she decides that they will. It does not matter; we need our story more than they do. That is why we are not alone. We have our experiences, our story.

The story that we told was one that had been told in the past, seven years ago—all that changed was the audience. Children will listen, then children won't listen. They change. Audiences change. I was a child seven years ago. And a childlike spirit is the one thing we cannot lose in life, because that is the only thing that offers us hope. And we need that hope in order to wish. And with wishes comes a journey into our woods: the woods of the human spirit.

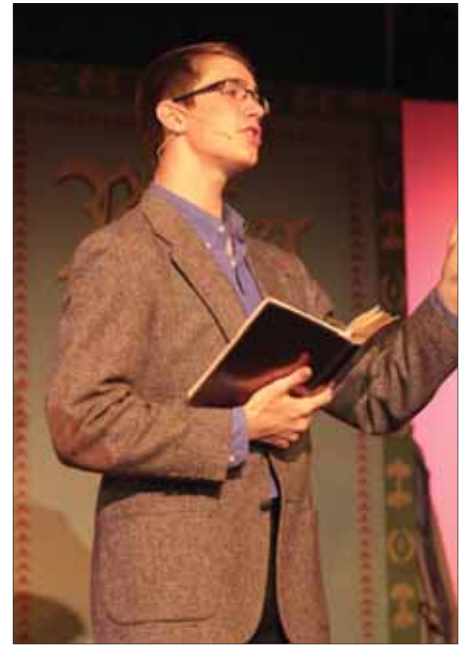


Photo Courtesy Mrs. Katie Epidendio

AM
PERFORMING ARTS

Upcoming this Spring...

By A&E Editors

The Little Platypus That Could: April 4, 2012

Your favorite sketch team, Pardon My French, is back, still basking in the glory of their previous hit, *Baby Wants Candy*. What is next for the group? Well, if you remember, at the end of their November performance, they drew from a hat the name of their future, the name of their fate: *The Little Platypus That Could*. With this title in hand, the students have been working every morning to create magic—they have been writing, of all things, a musical. Yes, that's right, you will be treated to an all-original musical, presumably about a spunky platypus.

Jazz On The Green: May 5, 2012

Ah, spring. The prettiest time of year. The flowers are blossoming, the birds are chirping, and the barbecues are firing. The only thing that could make the mood more perfect is beautiful harmonies and vocals from beautiful people. Well, have I got good news for you. On May 5, you too can live the dream. Jazz choir and jazz band, in all of their splendor, will be performing for *you* on the fantastic Mitty campus. We know it's a tad early, but we don't want you to forget about this fantastic event. My only tip? Bring an umbrella so the seagulls don't get you.

HUNGER Craze

By Thomas Soares & James Peoples
Staff Writers

The Hunger Games tells the story of a post-apocalyptic world where boys and girls are forced to compete in gladiatorial combat. The popularity of the novel has led to a film. There has been a tremendous amount of hype surrounding the new release, so in light of the phenomena we thought we'd share our own two cents on the topic.

The Books. The fans of *The Hunger Games* enjoy the series because it is so different from normal teen fiction, which has been dominated by vampires and one-dimensional love stories for far too long. It has gripping suspense, it creates emotional connections with the protagonists, and it proves to be a quick read. Even though some fans have a problem with the series' gritty, brooding, and depressing nature, I find this to be one of the things I enjoy most. Despite the simplistic writing style, which is another criticism of the novel, there is a depth of feeling and realism to the character's relationships. The rawness of the writing parallels the rawness of the apocalyptic world. The writing style works because the story is told in the first person—in the perspective of Katniss, an aggressive, no-nonsense protagonist. And the writing fits her personality perfectly: it is aggressive, and it is no nonsense. It is her. However, the style *is* problematic when it comes to character development. Throughout the trilogy, there are characters and plot points that are not developed fully. A major example of this is the last book in the trilogy. It is rushed and everything is wrapped up a little too neatly. I feel that the ending would have been far more effective if Collins had taken more time and explained things better.

The Film. *The Hunger Games* is directed by Gary Ross, and stars Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss. I consider this to be a terrific casting choice. Lawrence has already given an Academy Award nominated performance for her role in *Winter's Bone*. I cannot give the same praise to Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth who play Peeta and Gale. Neither of these actors seem right for their parts. I do not think they will be any good because I have never seen them give decent performances leading up to this film. I hope they prove me wrong, but I doubt they will. I can't complain too much because Woody Harrelson is playing Haymitch. Not only is this ideal casting in my opinion, but I will watch anything that Woody Harrelson acts in, even duds like *Money Train* and *Semi-Pro*. My primary concern with the film is with the PG-13 rating, which I worry may force out some of the more violent, bloody, and gruesome death scenes from the book.



Radio for the New Age

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer

Several decades ago radio was the center of entertainment. It broadcast music and news across the country, filling houses with game shows and sitcoms. Of course with the rise of film and TV, this all changed. In the words of the famous Buggles' song, "video killed the radio star."

The video revolution quickly swept up the majority and threw them into this world of instant gratification. Other forms of entertainment were shelved and pretty much forgotten about. In most ways, video still dominates our world. But for the few those who wish to broaden their horizons a bit, I'm here to tell you about something different—podcasts.

What is a podcast? A podcast is an audio or video file that can be downloaded to a computer or mp3 player. You can either watch it on your computer or sync it to your iPod to take it on the go. And the best part is: it's FREE! You are free to download to your heart's content.

How is this different from talk radio? Well, you *choose* what you get to listen to. I get tired of listening to people continually talking about things that I don't care about, and having to listen to commercials every five minutes. In addition, radio has all these rules about political correctness and corporate standards. People can say whatever they want on a podcast: anyone who wants to be heard can be heard.

How are podcasts different from video broadcasting on YouTube? In order to watch a video on YouTube, you must have an Internet connection, wait for it to buffer, and then read the stupid comments. But with a podcast, you can get it anywhere you want: in your car, over the river and through the woods... Plus, every time I go on YouTube, I'll log on wanting to see a cover of an Adele song and end up looking at cat videos for 10 minutes. I'm not kidding.

What do podcasts have to offer? There are so many podcasts out there that it is impossible to not find something that interests you. I used to completely buy into the video revolution and think, why would I want to listen to someone talk?

You may not want to listen to random people talk about pop culture, but many other

big broadcasters host podcasts that they regularly update. There are NBC and CNN podcasts along with The Onion and The Soup podcasts. Even CollegeHumor has a podcast!

Podcasts serve for both information and entertainment purposes. They range from business, religion, and politics to stand-up comedy, technology, and sports, and include more practical podcasts that relate to fitness, health, and cooking. People who make podcasts are well-educated on their subject and do a terrific job addressing the issue. It's not just a rant that continues to ramble on and on, but rather a well-thought out discourse that often opens your mind further.

Podcasts are special because they target a smaller, more focused audience. I normally stick to the arts and entertainment podcasts, but I think that the beauty of the podcast is that the people who really care are going to listen. Here are a few I consider podcast gold:

NPR: All Songs Considered – NPR hosts discuss their favorite songs from the week and given suggestions on what's next to download.

Doug Loves Movies – Last Comic Standing Comedian Doug Benson records a live stand up show where he invites guests and talks about movies.

Celebrity Playlist – Multiple celebrities talk about music they are inspired by and compose a playlist of their most loved songs.

This American Life – Each week a theme is chosen and short stories relating to this theme are recited and showcased.

The Filmcast – A weekly broadcast of new movies, film news, and television that are debated and discussed thoroughly.

Yoga Today – A quick ten-minute workout that's easy to do and fits on my iPod so I can use it anywhere in the house.

Podcasts are truly something that you have to try before you decide if you like them. What I like isn't going to be what you like. And yes, for all you who love the video revolution, video podcasts are also available with a huge variety.

So now you have no excuse to not look at the iTunes podcast library. Happy Hunting!



I LOVE THE '90s

By Bella DiLisio
Staff Writer

"You are my fire, my one desire..." It would be unnecessary to tell you that that lyric is from the Backstreet Boys' hit song "I Want It That Way," considering that the song is iconic. I'm sure as soon as you read that phrase, you started singing it to yourself (and now it's going to be stuck in your head all day). But this little ditty was not the only emblem of the '90s: this magical span of ten years was filled with a plethora of talented entertainers. And, with the decade getting farther and farther in the past, we should not, and cannot, forget its legacies. So, let's take a trip down memory lane:

Britney Spears. This pop star still manages to appear in the tabloids today, whether for falling off of the tracks or making another hit album. Say what you want about her now, but in the '90s, she was the "It" Girl. With a natural talent for entertainment, she starred in *The Mickey Mouse Club* TV show alongside a few stars we obsess over today, like Ryan Gosling and Justin Timberlake. But her real fame came when she signed to Jive Records and started recording her instant classics, among them "...Baby One More Time" and "Oops! ...I Did It Again." It was this kind of music that brought her the attention of adoring teens who simply wanted to dance and sing along to songs performed by performers who looked like one of their peers.

N' Sync. And who could forget about these guys? I don't think we could ever forget Justin Timberlake's ramen noodle-esque hair. When boy bands seemed to rule the world, these guys were kings: Chris Kirkpatrick, Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Joey Fatone, and Lance Bass were every girl's dream. Not only did they look good, but their dynamic

performances, coupled with their catchy songs, took them straight to the top of the Billboard charts. Among their famous songs are "It's Gonna Be Me" and "Bye Bye Bye." It's safe to say that these boys set the bar pretty high for future boy bands, a standard to which no other group—not even our newly coveted One Direction or late favorite Jonas Brothers—could compare.

Hip-Hop. You all know that this trip down memory lane would be incomplete without mentioning hip-hop. These were the good old days, the days of Montell Jordan's iconic song, "This Is How We Do It" playing at weekend parties, when Notorious B.I.G. fought with Tupac Shakur for the spotlight. There was Run D.M.C. and Dr. Dre, A Tribe Called Quest and the new kid, Eminem, known for his unique style and different cultural background. There were the kings we revere today, Kanye West and Jay-Z, and there were the soulful and sassy women like Mary J. Blige and even Queen Latifah (before her acting career took off). These rappers and hip-hop artists all made history through their ability to skillfully sing poetry of their hardships and joys, all the while demonstrating their cultural identities and making their voices heard.

'90s music, while extremely entertaining for its considerable simplicity and relaxed feel, marks an era of fun-loving and laid-back artists, artists who were willing to go the extra mile to entertain without bordering on certified insanity (ahem, Lady Gaga). We can't go back to the '90s, but it's never too late to pull out our Britney CD's, crank them up, and sing along into our hairbrushes.



MONARCH CRITICS

Say Anything

By Chitra Marti
A&E Editor



In their new album *Anarchy, My Dear*, Say Anything has created a not-so-subtle political commentary album.

Says lead singer Max Bemis, "*Anarchy, My Dear* is our first attempt to write a true 'punk' record. Thematically speaking, it's a collection of songs about subverting society and destroying the boundaries humankind has placed upon ourselves both physically and in our minds. Coincidentally, it also happens to be the first record we've made in years where we had total freedom to explore our 'edgier' side and present a raw picture of what the band is truly about onstage."

With lines such as "Burn America if you've got a soul!" in the opening song, appropriately named "Burn a Miracle," Say Anything stays true to their punk-emo roots while attempting to explore more significant themes, and making some progress, though not a lot.

Anarchy, My Dear goes back and forth between old anger and new introspection, indulging old listeners with a sequel to 2004's "Admit It" with the new "Admit It Again," a totally warranted rant against Hipster posers ("You were listening to my band in 2004 though you claim you were reared on the Stooges"). "So Good," "Sheep," and "Peace Out" form a trio of sweeter "love" songs (or as close to love as Say Anything can get), but are punctuated by "Overbiter," yet another rant about "suckers who have wronged me."

Say Anything tries so hard to explore something more meaningful and significant than hipsters, but their old punk-emo roots keep coming back to them, and in the end, they're still the same angry kids who released...*Is a Real Boy* back in 2004. Their attempts to write saccharine love songs ultimately fail.

They end up as sarcastic torture fantasies with random words thrown together to supposedly signify something. Perhaps what Say Anything is trying to say finally comes through in "Of Steel" where Bemis asks, "Can you save me, cause I don't wanna end up like they are."

No one wants to stay in the indie scene for too long, least of all Say Anything, with its bitter hatred of hipsters. And so, their first attempt at a political album marks an in-between between the punks that released...*Is a Real Boy* and the artists that are releasing *Anarchy, My Dear*.

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

By Camille Contreras
Staff Writer



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen may not be mainstream but it's certainly worth seeing! This Lasse Hallstrom film is about a British fisheries expert (Ewan McGregor) who is approached by a consultant (Emily Blunt) with a project for bringing the sport of fly-fishing to the deserts of Yemen. McGregor's character Dr. Alfred Jones, immediately thinks the idea is absurd and impossible. However, Sheikh Muhammed (Amr Waked) believes his vision can work, and it's up to Harriet Chetwode-Talbot (Blunt) to help convince Dr. Jones (McGregor) to join the project. The real story is about the journey they all take in achieving something that seems impossible.

Blunt and McGregor's characters make an unlikely pair, as he is an introverted scientist and she is a vivacious investment consultant. However, as they get to know each other through the salmon project, they become good friends and, against all odds, fall in love. Their relationship is like bringing salmon to the Yemen: it's unlikely that they can thrive in the desert, but by some miracle they do. The salmon represent faith, which both characters struggle with, and how faith is necessary to achieve one's goals. The portrayal of these two characters by Blunt and McGregor is both excellent and believable. A relatively unknown Egyptian actor, Amr Waked, plays the wise billionaire with passion and a sense of hope. He does a fantastic job of being the majestic man that helps Dr. Jones and Harriet on their journey of faith. Another great character is the prime minister of England's press officer, played by Kristin Scott Thomas. Thomas's character brings humor to the film through her sarcasm and manipulative antics.



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen is a great film of going against the current, and the rise of the underdog. The story is captivating and likable but also shows the reality of tough relationships. Despite its title, this film is not a dry documentary but a warmhearted story enjoyable for all ages. The film reminds us that with faith miracles can happen, so be sure to catch this movie!

Cafe Campbell

By Grace Hase
Staff Writer



Right in the middle of historic downtown Campbell lies one of the best kept secrets of Italian and European cuisine in the Bay Area: Ristorante Cafe Campbell. You've probably driven right past it numerous times and never bothered to take a look into this plain, stone building that's unstriking on the outside. But on the inside, Cafe Campbell is an epicenter of European art and culture in California, giving even the most unseasoned traveler their own little taste of Italy.

Walking through the door, diners are greeted by friendly faces and the welcoming aroma of freshly baked ciabatta bread. The atmosphere reflects that of a little cafe in Tuscany, enriched with beautiful warm tones, and enhanced with classical Renaissance style works of art. Every last detail down to the tiling on the counters is absolutely perfect. While the atmosphere of Cafe Campbell is a flawless fine dining experience, the food gives even more reasons for patrons to return.

From the homemade Gioie di Ricotta—a lasagne based pasta filled with layers of fresh ricotta cheese adorned with a fresh tomato sauce—to the finest and freshest fillet of fish—in this case sole—you will ever lay your eyes on, the cuisine is something to take note of. Each dish is thought out precisely in not only flavor, but also in presentation. The contrasting colors of their most popular appetizer, "Bruschetta Three Color" lights up the senses with its array of beautifully spread tomatoes, mozzarella, and pesto. But most popular to diners of all ages is Cafe Campbell's

extensive dessert menu: Sorbet, gelato, crepes, and crème brulee are all delectable choices.

A wave of Italian "grazies" and "pregos" overcome you as you walk out the door. In an instant your day has moved from a European vacation to back home once again. For a diner looking for a quick escape, Cafe Campbell is the place to go. This family owned business holds the key to success for European cuisine, and will no doubt continue to prosper in years to come.



By Elexis Breitbart
Staff Writer

One Direction has that "One Thing" in their album that keeps fans "Up All Night" wanting to hear more. Personally, their album made me become a "Directioner," also known as a fan, from the very first song. One Direction is a band of five British and Irish boys who recently started living their dreams.

The band members, Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, and Louis Tomlinson, each auditioned individually for the X-Factor 2010. All five of them were supposed to be eliminated until the judges decided to keep them on the show if they formed a group.

Even though none of them really knew each other, they quickly became friends and dubbed themselves "One Direction." Despite placing third on the show, Simon Cowell signed them a record deal. With the X-Factor tour as their debut, they released two singles making their popularity skyrocket.

One Direction's first album, *Up All Night*, was released on March 13, 2012, and quickly rose on iTunes' top charts. While listening to their album, there was no doubt in my mind that these boys deserved to be famous. Their sincerity and honesty in the songs is enhanced by the group's amicable UK charm. The album is a compatible mix of ballads and upbeat tempos, keeping it forward moving.

However, upon finishing the album, I realized that the album is not perfect: many of the tracks seemed to blend together, due to their similar beats and lyrics. Despite this, the overall result is positive. I find myself replaying the songs over and over and over again—the catchy tunes are addictive.

One Direction's songs are filled with emotion. The album as a whole has an incredible emotional depth and variety of subject matter. One song that definitely stands out to me is "Taken," a sad and poignant love song.

On another note, the songs are very relatable. Everybody has moments when they feel like they do not live up to society's standards of beauty, and One Direction captures this emotion well. "What Makes You Beautiful," the first song on the album, shows that one can be beautiful and perfect even if he or she does not realize it.

Overall, their bashful and sincere songs make for a strong album, and I will definitely continually look out for what they accomplish in the future. From here, their only "direction" can be up.

NOT SO HAPPILY EVER AFTER

By Jasmine Tsai
Staff Writer

Everyone grows up watching Disney movies. We remember classics such as *The Lion King*, *Cinderella*, and *The Little Mermaid*, and the happily ever after that each story ends with. However, did you know that many of these classics aren't written by Disney itself? Most of them are adaptations of fairy tales or stories written by other authors.

The popular movie, *Cinderella*, features the stepsisters trying to cram their big feet into the glass slipper. The original story, written by the Brothers Grimm, actually has the wicked stepsisters disgustingly cut part of their feet off to fit the shoe.

Another Disney film, *The Little*

Mermaid, depicts Ursula, the sea witch, giving Ariel legs in exchange for her voice. However, Hans Christian Andersen, the original author, has Ariel cut off her tongue in order to gain legs. The gruesome tale clearly differs from the G-rated movie.

Although some Disney movies are originals created by Walt Disney, the knowledge of the dark origins of others creates a twist on the tales. Knowing the original version of the folktale might freak many people out, but rest assured, Disney will never tell the story using the horrifying details listed above. Instead, the company will continue to produce pleasantly delightful endings.

WALK

By Piyali Banerjee
Staff Writer

Earlier this March, **George Clooney** went to Washington D.C. and protested about the atrocities occurring in Sudan. He was arrested during the second day of the protest for crossing the police line and paid a fine.

United Nations Good Will Ambassador **Angelina Jolie** goes to places such as Iraq to aid oppressed refugees and Kenya to help villages alleviate poverty and disease-related issues.

The ARTIST

By Sarah Godwin
Staff Writer

It captured critics' and audiences' hearts alike, sweeping all the top Academy Awards this season along with the collective love of moviegoers everywhere. Even now, some five months after its premiere, *The Artist* remains the most buzzed about film. But what is it that makes the film so very special: the subject of seemingly every moviegoer's conversation as of late?

It's been suggested that *The Artist* captured so many awards—notably, the Oscar for Best Picture—simply because it was the best of what turned out to be a rather lackluster set of choices.

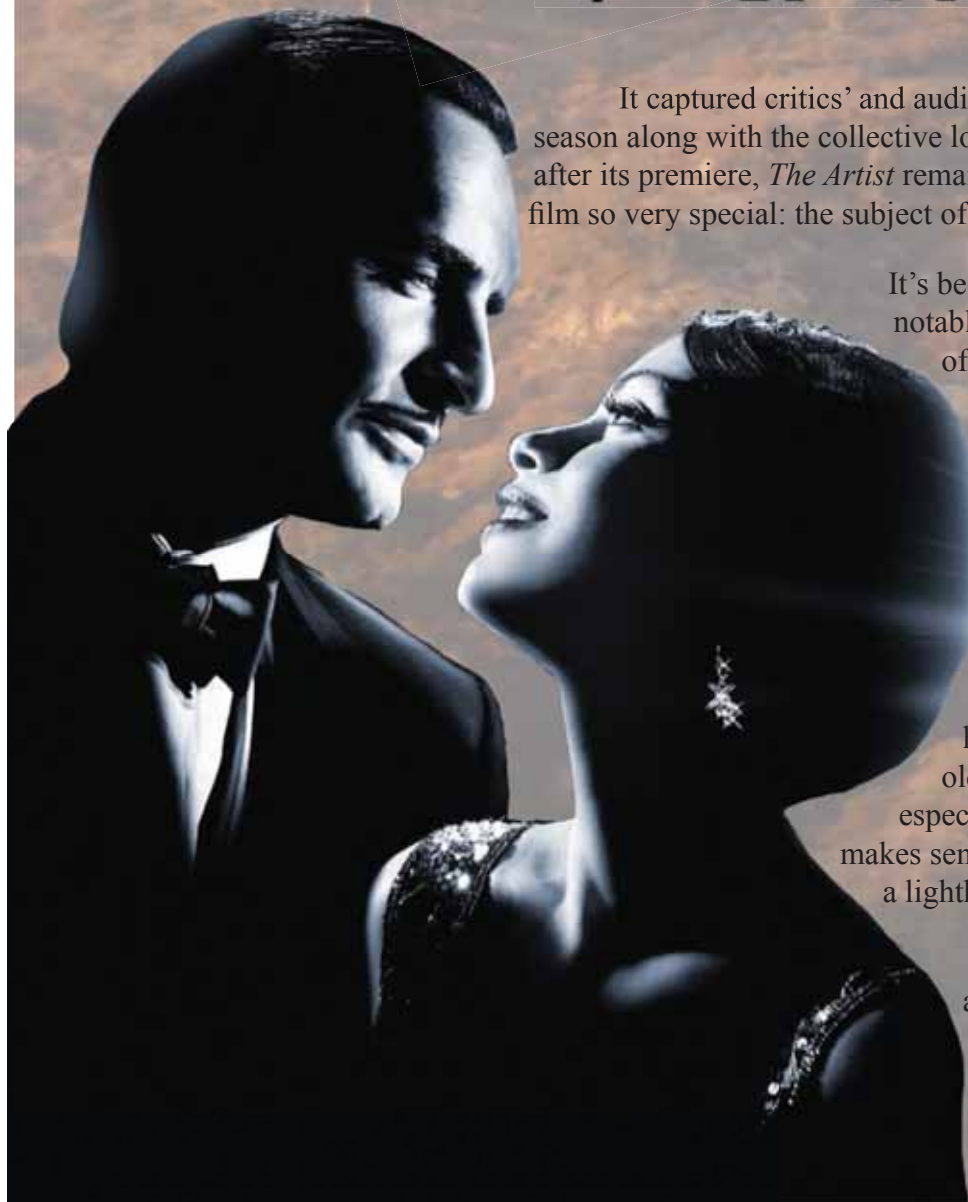
But I beg to differ; *The Artist* won not because it was the "best of the worst," but because it captures something unique, something which resonates with audiences and Oscar voters alike as a work of timeless art. It's never pretentious or proud, and viewers get the sense the film was as much a joy to make as it was to watch. Adding to that irresistible charm is its "back to basics" notion, the idea that what makes the film so fresh is the way in which it hearkens back to the glamour and carefree lifestyle that was old Hollywood. And people resonate with that joyful nostalgia, especially in today's world of economic and political stresses; it makes sense to revert to a time in which one could truly lose oneself in a lighthearted film where the happy ending is guaranteed.

A great filmgoing experience doesn't happen very often, and when both critics and moviegoers concede that a movie has supplied something so special, the result is—as it has been with *The Artist*—truly remarkable.

Recently in that hits theater picture event" really add to the experience? N

3-D effects sometimes enhance a few moments in the movie, perhaps making the scenery more lifelike. But more often than not, they make it harder for viewers to

3-D movie the typical film focus on the 'pop' effect. H



HALL OF SHAME

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer

Along with fame and fortune, celebrities accumulate a wealth of “stuff.” There are the usual expenses like cars, mansions, and enormous closets but sometimes celebrities have so much extra money that they begin to make ridiculous purchases, driven by what can only be suspected as boredom.

Beyonce - \$100,000 Gold Pants: Yup, you read that correctly...\$100,000...on a pair of pants. They were designed by Balenciaga and covered in gold. Are you surprised? It's Beyonce! Flashy is what she's all about. But of course it was a one-time only kind of deal. The gold pants have been MIA since the 2007 BET Awards.

Lady Gaga - \$50,000 Ghost Detector: Lady Gaga is always quite the scandal from her outlandish clothing to the outrageous music videos. But hey, you know she's crazy when she spent \$50,000 on some gadget that keeps away “evil spirits.” For a woman who can wear raw meat as a dress, you would've thought she could handle the ghosts herself.

Charlie Sheen - \$250,000 Barbie Foosball Table: This former *Two and a Half Men* actor bought a limited edition Bonzini Babyfoot Barbie Foosball Table for his own personal use. Where do I even start? This is not only weird, it's downright creepy. It's nice to know he's “winning” his foosball games.

Nicolas Cage - \$276,000 Dinosaur Skull: This actor out-bid Leonardo Di Caprio on a 64 million year old dinosaur skull for \$276,000. Cage supposedly owns a pyramid tomb and two castles.; the skull only adds to this bizarre menagerie that he is building. Who does he think he is? He does a couple of *National Treasure* movies and all of a sudden he's the next Indiana Jones.

Kim Kardashian - Multi-Million-Dollar Wedding: How can she spend so much on a wedding? Engagement Ring: \$2 million; Jewelry: \$10 million; Flowers: \$2 million; 3 Vera Wang Dresses: \$20,000 each; Bachelorette Party: \$50,000; the whole world laughing at her bogus marriage: priceless.



...has been a spokeswoman for...
...friendly and effective...
...also has joined the...
...“Stars in the...
...which aims to save...
...of children suffering...
...terrible illnesses.

FOCUS ON HOLLYWOOD 3-D DILEMMA

By Carlisle Micallef
Staff Writer

It seems like every movie these days is a “3-D motion picture.” But what do 3-D effects do for the average movie-goer? Not much.

make other parts of the movie harder to see and sometimes leave viewers fatigued. Additionally, the 3-D effects usually take away from the storyline. Some movies now focus more on action,

fighting, and large explosions (i.e. *Avatar* and *Transformers*), than actual plot.

We can all agree that 3-D is appropriate for some movies, but most productions shouldn't even touch 3-D effects.

So Hollywood, please find the distinction before we have to ruin any more good movies like the ever-famous *Titanic*: which is due to come to theatres once again this April—yes, in 3-D.



...take the movie seriously. ... are slightly darker than ... n to help the 3-D glasses ... subject and activate that ... However, these glasses also

based on a true story

By Kasturi Kulkarni
Staff Writer

As you walk down the corridor to your theater, you observe the movie posters plastered around you. You read the tagline, look at the cast list, and see, listed at the bottom: based on a true story. Directors and producers work tirelessly to create movies with strong plot lines, characters, and settings to captivate viewers. However, slapping this phrase on is another sneaky technique that they can use to entice us..

Movie viewers love the suspense of seeing “real events” blown up on the big screen and extra elements of drama and comedy only add to the excitement. However, these tales of adventure portrayed in movies often turn out to be just small, forgotten events of the past. These events are usually stretched to the point where being based on a true story means that they no longer are based in reality. Remember “The Social Network,” the story of the founding of Facebook from 2010? Even Mark Zuckerberg himself criticized the film for its inaccuracies.

So why do filmmakers continue to churn out these “true-story” movies? It's the same reason why they continue to make any movies. Truth or not, people continue to buy tickets because these movies, just like many others, offer an escape from reality. “Based on a true story” just seals the deal.

Melanie Mascarenhas



Why did you choose these photos?

I love these particular photos because of their vibrant colors and the varying degrees of light in the images.

What inspires you to photograph?

I'm really drawn to the idea of being able to capture a moment or a feeling in a photo and remember it forever. This year, I started Project 366, called Carpe Diem, which has been really wonderful. I take a picture of something small or significant every day. It's a great way to remember the little things that make my life amazing.

What words describe your photography?

Cheerful. Colorful. Random. Life.

What do you usually photograph?

I enjoy taking pictures of objects that I find to be unique or memorable in some way. They usually fit along the theme of "sometimes the little things in life turn out to be the big things!"



Through the Lens:

Monarch Photography



Lucas Wedge



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

One photo that I really want to try taking is a Milky Way shot (not the candy-bar). I have always loved night photography and I think that getting a good shot of the night sky would be amazing.

What is your favorite picture?

My favorite picture to date is my hummingbird. I took at least 100 pictures of this hummingbird flying around the patch of flowers. When I got back to my computer almost none of them turned out except for this one. I really like this picture because of the color and detail captured in the photo.

What peaked your interest in photography?

When I went to Peru last summer, I met a pro-photographer at Machu Picchu; he gave me some tips on how to use shutter speed and aperture, and ever since then I've been hooked.

PHOTOSHOP



4 & 5: Mr. Steve Scott



1: Denise Beldia

PHOTO EDITING TECHNIQUES

Have you ever seen those posters of a woman with skin as smooth as silk? While a complexion such as this is impossible for most to achieve, it is possible with Adobe Photoshop, one of the best image-editing programs. Adobe Photoshop can do just about everything. Here are a few commonly used techniques that correspond to the photos on this page:

1. **Contrast:** Contrast is the difference between the tone or color of a photo. Enhancing contrast can help improve the quality of the photo, and make the image appear lighter or darker.
2. **Monochrome:** There often is a “one click” button in photo editing software to make a photo black and white. However, using saturation to make this change instead can keep a photo monochrome, yet add a touch of color for vibrancy.
3. **Saturation:** Increasing saturation makes colors which may appear very light to look more intense. Decreasing saturation lessens the amount of color for photos that are too bright.
4. **Sharpening:** This helps make a photo much clearer and improve the quality of a blurry photo. However, refrain from overusing the sharpening tool, as it can make a picture look over-edited.
5. **Softening:** Softening parts of a picture, such as the background, can add more attention and focus to the main object in the photo.
6. **Vignette:** Adding a vignette blurs the corners of a photo, and helps add focus to the center of the photo.

You do not have to be a professional photographer to use this amazing program. Anyone who is interested in photography can. Just snap a picture, use Photoshop, and get ready to be impressed by what you see!

By Lina Lalwani and Kerri Yen
Staff Writers



3: Miguel Vargas

6: Rebecca Koshy



2: Connor Gibson

Justice Awareness

LENTEN DRIVES



Operation Rice Bowl and Blood Drive

By Catherine Gong and Rasika Raghavan
Staff Writers

Lent is not solely a time to give up things in our life; we must also devote ourselves to helping others in our community. Hopefully for all of us, lending a helping hand will extend well past the end of the Lenten season and continue as a facet of our everyday lives.

Every year Archbishop Mitty takes part in Operation Rice Bowl, a project set up by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Money raised will directly benefit underprivileged families around the world. CRS supports people living in Madagascar, Vietnam, El Salvador, Zambia, and India through development projects such as microfinancing. These projects strive to improve health, education and the overall living conditions in these countries.

In addition, 25% of students' contributions will go towards the funding of local diocese programs that work to alleviate hunger and poverty. It is very easy to get involved with Operation Rice Bowl—give that 25 cents leftover from the cookie you bought in the cafeteria, or better yet, skip it and donate the entire dollar to the Rice Bowl! This money will be collected until Easter Break (the Rice Bowls are passed around *daily* in all religion classes).

Also, Mitty has been organizing a Blood Drive in conjunction with the Blood Centers of the Pacific. A Mitty student can help directly by donating blood, a process that will be assisted by a medical professional.

In order to donate blood, students must be at least 16 years old—and sorry world travelers, you may not be able to donate for a couple of years. Based on countries you have visited, you can ask if you are eligible to donate this year. Also, you must reach certain height and weight requirements, so inquire about these things beforehand. If you aren't eligible, don't worry; you can still spread the word to friends, or be a part of the committee by contacting Ms. Leone in Campus Ministry.

Either way, students should truly consider all the positive impacts they will have on a person's life. Having a readily available supply of all blood types is essential for all hospitals, and your donation will go directly to patients at local hospitals in need of transfusions. Without the right blood type, a person in need of blood will have close to no chance of surviving.

Even though the Blood Drive comes to Mitty every year, do not miss out on the opportunity to participate now, as blood is always in demand. So literally give of yourself, a pint to be exact. Even more important than just giving up chocolate this lent, do something. Be on the lookout for posters reminding the school about the Blood Drive that will happen during Holy Week, the first week of April.

WANTED: JOSEPH KONY

By Katrina Vokt
Staff Writer

Chances are you've heard the name Joseph Kony by now, from watching the KONY 2012 videos or from friends.

With over 80 million views and growing—the fastest growing viral video in history—Kony is now a widely recognized villain. This video, created by Invisible Children, highlights the evils and horrors that Kony has created in Africa, including the mass murder and kidnapping of children. Kony has turned kids into child soldiers and killing machines, preying on their easily influenced minds. He has forced these kids to rape other children and murder—sometimes even their own parents.

Invisible Children began when three young men went to Uganda in 2003 looking for a story.

Jason Russell, Bobby Bailey, and Laren Poole found their story—an unimaginable, long standing war. The war in Africa has been raging for decades, and as the longest running war in Africa, they began a mission to bring it to an end.

Additionally, they wanted to bring a specific issue out of the dark—children, *unheard* children who are forced to hide and flee for their lives for fear of being captured by the rebels, or the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Many of these children are forced to night commutes, moving to safe places at night away from their homes, often packed into buildings like sardines. This problem, largely unknown to the world, led to their creation of an organization called Invisible Children.

So, *how* did Kony rise to power? Amidst political turmoil in Uganda, Kony saw a political opportunity as a spiritual leader among his people and he gained rapid support with his "mystical powers" and charisma, but maintained this power with fear.



Presently, we know that Kony fled back to Sudan around 2006 and has not been back to Uganda since. Many are wondering why Invisible Children is after Kony then, but the truth is that atrocities are still rampant in Uganda, and throughout all of Africa.

The practice of kidnapping children and turning them into child soldiers is spreading in Africa, down to the Congo and further. Since the war has been going on so long, the first child soldiers are now much older and creating new child soldiers—a vicious cycle. By capturing Kony, a figurehead of this brutal practice, a message will be sent: this oppression will not be tolerated by our generation, and we are going to fight until it ends, starting with the downfall of one man.

This video has informed millions, so what can we do to make sure it isn't just another passing trend? As students, there are several things we can do to help. Mitty used to have a club focused on Invisible Children a few years ago, which was eventually disbanded. As students, we can come together to make this a reality again—but it needs to start with you.

Additionally, what makes the KONY 2012 video unique is that it uses social media to engage young people in social activism, moving thousands to awareness with the click of a URL. Spreading this awareness is free, so spread the word and engage in ideas to bring this to an end.

Lastly comes the event. On April 20, 2012, the KONY 2012 campaign is having an event called "cover the night", where people are encouraged to put up posters and stickers all over town showing Kony's face so that all people are aware of his presence. The goal is to put up these posters at night, so that on the morning of April 21, Kony's face will be seen all over the country. You can buy 25 posters for just \$5, or an entire package, on the organization's website, invisiblechildren.com.



The Threat of War with Iran

By Billy Rehbock
Staff Writer

Anyone who drives has noticed the massive spike in gas prices in recent weeks, but few people have considered the true source of this unprecedented rise in costs. Naturally, one would assume that it must have something to do with the Middle East, but the rest seems vague.

In a similar way that the invasion of Iraq began with a supposed claim of weapons of mass destruction, tensions are rising across the globe because of Iran striving to build up its own nuclear program. Its neighboring nation of Israel is loudly protesting this development, and an impending war seems to be looming.

However, this ongoing conflict is beginning to grow beyond the borders of the two countries that have historically been at odds with one another. The U.S. has long supported Israel, and it is certain that if a violent conflict erupts, President Obama will militarily commit to the support of the Israelis.

The possibility of American backing, augmented with the existing hatred of the United States by Iran, has driven oil prices up beyond the norm that occurs prior to summer most years. In the case of war, these costs would escalate further. Britain and France have already been isolated

from the Iranian oil exports, and the United States could be next if this conflict continues to increase in magnitude.

Despite the recent retreat of American forces from Iraq, the possibility of a new commitment of troops to Iran seems all too real. President Obama and the British Prime Minister David Cameron have both strongly dissuaded Israel's government from striking Iran with its military; however, Obama has still kept his word that the United States would back Israel in order to deter Iran. Mr. Cameron, however, has stated that Britain will not support Israel if it instigates the attack.

This is frighteningly similar to the situation that led up to the invasion of Iraq, and The United States' involvement in the case of an Israeli strike could be devastating to the American economy and to its relations in the middle east. Invading other nations is clearly not a way to make the lives of U.S. citizens easier, and it certainly will not drop the prices of oil.

Our government must reconsider the position it takes in foreign affairs, and realize the harm that could be done to its people as a result of its involvement. We have all heard that we will not succeed in the future if we do not look to the past, and perhaps we should learn from our past mistakes in Iraq in order to make an informed decision on the Iranian conflict.

Life-Emmaus: Mustard Seed Project

The Mustard Seed project is a new project for Campus Ministry's LIFE-Emmaus team this year. It started in September when a Mitty benefactor stepped forward to support the school by giving money to students. This was done in the hopes of empowering students to use their own talents and pursue their own projects that would benefit the lives of others.

Inspired by the parable of the Mustard Seed, students were given \$50 (the "seed") to fund a project that would help change the world. In this way, students are able to take action in their community by coming up with a variety of ideas that will make a difference.

Grace Hase, Marie Chetcuti, Sarah Crowley, Amy Jacobson, Emily Schlafer and Kellie Jahncke formed a group to use their \$50 dollars to make toiletry kits and distribute them through the Georgia Travis Center. Georgia Travis is a day center for women and children that is run by a Mitty alum. For these types of centers, toiletries are always needed and they hope to resolve this problem.

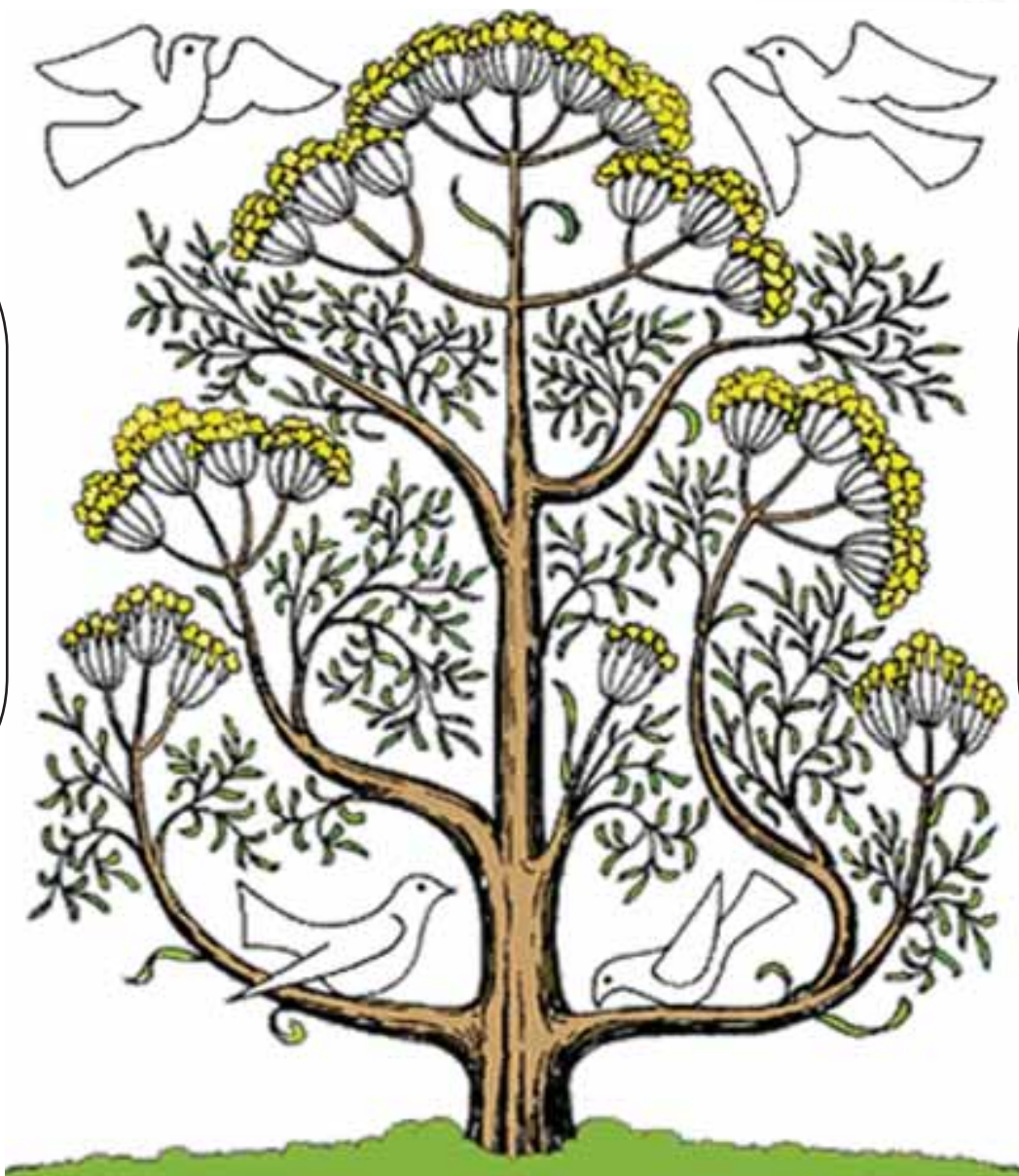
Areya Behrouzian bought art supplies and board games for kids at the children's hospital. He then got Mitty's Interact Club involved in the project by making Valentine cards with the supplies he bought. Areya and several students went to the hospital to give the cards to patients and play board games with them. Kids not expecting to receive Valentines cards were able to feel loved and special that day.

What project could **you** do that would benefit your community? It's never too late to make the effort to make a difference.

Anushka Pushpala used her \$50 to help people less fortunate by cooking and delivering food to those who don't get to have a dinner every night. She prepared a variety of meals and distributed them to homeless shelters or people on the streets. For example, she made sandwiches and traveled around San Jose handing them out to the homeless.



Nikhil Bellamkonda and Aeron Monsale are taking a unique approach to the project. They plan to spend their money on childrens' percussion instruments and use their musical talents to perform an hour show. The show will be performed at a hospital or medical institution for long-term child patients. The children will be able to sing along to the songs and use the instruments the boys purchase.



By Carlisle Micallef
Staff Writer

Stemming from the ECJ: El Salvador immersion trip this past summer, **Elise Sudlow, Vince Kelsey**, and many other seniors are setting up a project to benefit the village of Guarjila in El Salvador. Made up of students who went to El Salvador, and others who did not, this group plans on sending supplies with this year's class to benefit the small medical clinic in the village. This new clinic is not equipped to handle many basic ailments, so it is their hope that their supplies will help get this clinic off the ground for the small population of Guarjila.



Christine Hatch, Marissa McPeak and Julina Ly are working together to help young children. Their latest idea is to use their \$50 dollars to collect teddy bears for the police department who can give the bears to children on scene in the event of a tragic accident. Kinks have yet to be worked out, but they may use a teddy bear drive to collect as many teddy bears as possible.



SPORTS

Women's Basketball

Continued from Page 1

In their state title run, the Monarchs would meet two powerhouses: Carondelet and St. Mary's of Stockton. In the state quarterfinal against Carondelet, Mitty won 54-51, led by 21 points from Hayes. The following week, the Monarchs were able to strike gold again, pulling off a huge upset, 53-51, against St. Mary's, a team that at the time was ranked 8th in the nation. The two wins set the lofty stage for Mitty's victory in the state final game.

On the year, Hayes led the Monarchs in scoring with 15.2 points per game and 500 points total, and Dinger made 47 three-pointers to lead Mitty.

Senior Amanda Lovely led the team in rebounding with 102 offensive rebounds and 224 defensive rebounds. The Monarch offense was guided by junior point guard Vanessa Garner, who had 75 assists on the year.

As is evident, each member of Mitty's cast played an integral part in the championship, the culmination of this season's hard work and dedication.

Ultimately, the Monarchs finished the season 28-5, ranked 4th in the state and 16th in the nation.

"This season was worth more than words can describe," junior Emily Dinger said, "The player and coaches that make up our team all love each other on a level beyond the court. This team chemistry is what provided the foundation to our success."

In all, it was a joyful end to a Cinderella season, one that sent a charge through the school, the WCAL, and the state.

"This team is one of a kind. We are sisters [who] have each others' backs," senior Courtney Lisowski put it, "We always continued to believe in each other and the system helping us become champions."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

The men's and women's basketball teams celebrate their state title wins.

Men's Basketball

Continued from Page 1

In CCS, the Monarchs cruised past Aragon, Mountain View, and Serra to hang another banner, and began the real test in the state playoffs. The big stage did not affect the battle-tested squad, as Mitty easily surpassed Windsor and Chico to advance to the Northern California finals. There, the Monarchs faced Newark Memorial in

a rematch from earlier in the season, in which Mitty had come out on top, 60-40. This time, however, was much different.

Newark Memorial took a 42-37 lead over Mitty into the fourth quarter, but the Monarchs would not give in. They went on a 10-0 run in the fourth to take the lead, and never gave it back. The Monarchs walked away with a 63-58 win en route to their faceoff with La Costa Canyon in the title game

With the successes of the last two years, and star Aaron Gordon returning next year for another run at the state title, the team looks to continue its excellence in the future.

The heavily recruited Gordon has rightfully been

showered with accolades, including Bay Area player of the year by multiple news organizations. Powered by his performance in the State Finals, the ultra-skilled and unselfish Gordon also rose from 5th to 2nd in MaxPreps.com's Class of 2013 recruiting list.

Gordon relishes the prospect of winning three consecutive titles, and the Monarchs are eager to come out running on all cylinders next year.

"This team had to learn a lot more basketball than last year's team," Gordon said, "But by the end we were all on the same page and clicking as a unit."

With this crucial team chemistry evident throughout this year's playoff run, the Monarchs will head into next year knowing exactly what's needed to three-peat.

Winter Sports Wrap Up

Monarchs capture 2 soccer WCAL titles, wrestling finishes strong

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

With Mitty's long tradition of athletic achievement, it would be hard to pinpoint a single season as the most successful in school history. But with the numerous accomplishments the Monarchs have compiled this winter, there is no doubt that this has been one of the most dominating seasons ever.

In Women's Soccer, the Monarchs capped off another banner year by winning the WCAL title and being named co-champions in CCS. Their playoff run began by winning the WCAL championship in penalty kicks. The Monarchs then defeated Valley Christian and Live Oak to qualify for the CCS title game where they met Aragon.

Unfortunately for Mitty, they were forced to play most of the game with 10 players after a red-card, but this did not negatively affect the young squad. The game was tied 1-1 after two halves and extended into overtime, where the Monarchs gave up a late goal in the session. In dramatic fashion, junior Stephanie Rebagliati scored the tying goal in the final minute to give the Monarchs a 2-2 tie as both teams were crowned

as co-champions.

"Despite a one player disadvantage, our team refused to quit which was seen by our goal in the final minute," junior Abi Leedeman, who scored the first goal of the



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

The Women's Varsity Soccer Team celebrating their second CCS title in a row.

game, said, "In the end, our hard work and perseverance paid off with a CCS title."

The Men's Soccer team experienced significant success as well, adding a WCAL title of their own. After finishing third in league play, the Monarchs went into

the postseason focused and determined. They knocked off Bellarmine, Serra, and St. Francis to win the league tournament despite being the number three seed. However, Mitty was then upset by Yerba Buena in the first round of the CCS playoffs, 1-0.

"I felt that we had a very successful season by capturing a WCAL title and showing even more promise for the coming seasons," said junior midfielder Connor Kurze, "It was an experience that I'll never forget."

Last but not least, the Mitty wrestling team had one of its most successful campaigns ever.

In the CCS championships, the team far exceeded all expectations as they took 8th place, the best showing the program has ever had in CCS.

In addition to an impressive team performance, the Monarchs had several stellar individual performances as well. Senior Diego Gaxiola and sophomore Chandler

Ramirez both placed, while senior Alex Lewis took 3rd and moved on to the CIF State Championship. With a wealth of young talent returning to the team next year, wrestling looks to build upon this season's campaign and continue its success next year.

Baseball Looks to Turn Tide

By Anay Dattawalker
Sports Editor

As the timeless adage goes, winning never gets old. Good thing, because the Men's Baseball team has done a lot of winning in the past few years. Two WCAL championships, a 2010 CCS title, and the 2010 National title have kept the program on the national map as a force to be reckoned with.

Last year, the Monarchs went 26-6-1 en route to a WCAL title. They finished the year ranked 36th in the final MaxPreps poll, and were led by a dominating cast of characters, including 5 players named to the all-WCAL first team. These included WCAL Pitcher of the Year Tyler Davis and the team's leading hitter, Gordy Madej, who both played a huge role in the 2011 team's success. However, as is always the case in high school sports, these players have departed, and it is the responsibility of this year's team to fill the vacuum left by their departure.

"Tyler, Gordy and the entire senior class for that matter had great seasons last year and were big contributors to our success," said senior outfielder Preston Caldera, "but this year we are going to look for players, from the senior class all the way down to the freshman class, to step up and fill their roles."

The highly touted Caldera is one of the seniors who will play a huge part in this year's team. He is one of the best hitters on the team, having hit .378 last year, with a .525 on-base percentage. He is also a sure-handed fielder, having recorded a .951 fielding percentage last year. Caldera is joined by a group of seniors that

includes pitcher-infielder Sean Downey, utility man Cail McClenahan, and pitcher Neil Vranicar.

These seniors look to lead a relatively young team, which features 12 juniors, none of whom were on last year's varsity team. They mainly seek to do so by letting their work on the field during practice and in games inspire their fellow teammates to succeed.

"I am looking to lead by example through my hard work and hustle at practice and in the games," Caldera said.

Fellow senior Spencer Deale echoed this statement, saying, "I'm personally one of the quieter guys on the team, so I'm trying to lead by example and inspire my teammates with my hard work."

This year's team looks to be a very balanced one, with offense and defense both very important to the team's success. However, with changes to the league rules in the interest of improving player safety, defense will be more emphasized by the team.

"There have been

some changes in league rules that have weakened bat strength to make games safer and closer," Deale stated, "so our team is going to have to step it up defensively and limit our opposition to as few runs as possible"

This year's team has gotten off to a mixed start, winning big at Homestead and Serra but also slipping to 1-5 in league including losses to Bellarmine and Valley Christian. They currently sit at 4-7, but with a long season ahead, there is plenty of time to build momentum and push toward a title.

As Caldera put it, "We have the potential to be successful if we stay focused throughout the entire season."



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Junior Dakota Goularte winds up for a pitch.

Softball Takes Aim at Title

By Erik Chu
Staff Writer

For the Archbishop Mitty Women's Softball team, this year is all about redemption. Fresh off a disappointing early exit in last year's CCS tournament, the Monarchs are looking to have their usual dominant season.

The Monarchs have done just that, improving dramatically and storming off to an impressive 11-1 (5-0 league) record, with marquee non-conference wins over nationally-ranked Clovis West (Sacramento) and Westmont (San Jose).

The team is mainly comprised of upperclassmen, so the Monarchs are more experienced and have good chemistry.

"We're such a close team, and we push each other to the fullest," junior pitcher Vanessa Alvarez told CalHi Sports earlier this year, "We're all returning so we trust each other to the fullest."

Head Coach Brian Yocke has also done a superb job of guiding his team. This leadership has shown, as the team has stormed to the top of the West Catholic Athletic League and is currently ranked 7th in the state.

Led by seniors Chiara Biagini and Vinchenza DiBeneditto, the Monarchs will face stiff competi-

tion in the WCAL, with the emergence of St. Francis and Valley Christian as potential contenders.

Mitty faced its first challenge in West Catholic League action against one of the top teams in the league on March 13, facing the Valley Christian Warriors at home. Mitty was able to shutout the Warriors, 2-0.

Junior Catherine Calloway had an amazing performance, leading the way for the Monarchs with a clutch 2 RBIs in the 4th inning. Vanessa Alvarez's 7-inning shutout made that small lead seem insurmountable.

While another team might have relaxed after such a close win, the Monarchs remained focused and easily dismantled an inferior Burlingame squad at home, 7-0. The Monarchs didn't have much time to celebrate their blowout, as they faced a stretch of five crucial league games in ten days. No problem: the

Monarchs swept the competition in five consecutive shutouts. Combined with the previous three games, the Monarchs outscored opponents 55-0 over the eight-game span.

In the end, it is the team's talent, dedication, and chemistry that has inspired their success, and will hopefully propel the Monarchs to their 6th CCS title in seven years.



Photo courtesy of ProImage

Sophomore Katarina Pance looks to first.

Highlight REEL

Women's Track

COACH: Ms. DINA OAKLAND
HIGHLIGHT: SWEEPING NOTRE DAME BELMONT 117-15
PAIGE HAAR: DOING THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS SO REWARDING AFTER A GOOD RACE; THERE'S NO OTHER FEELING LIKE IT!

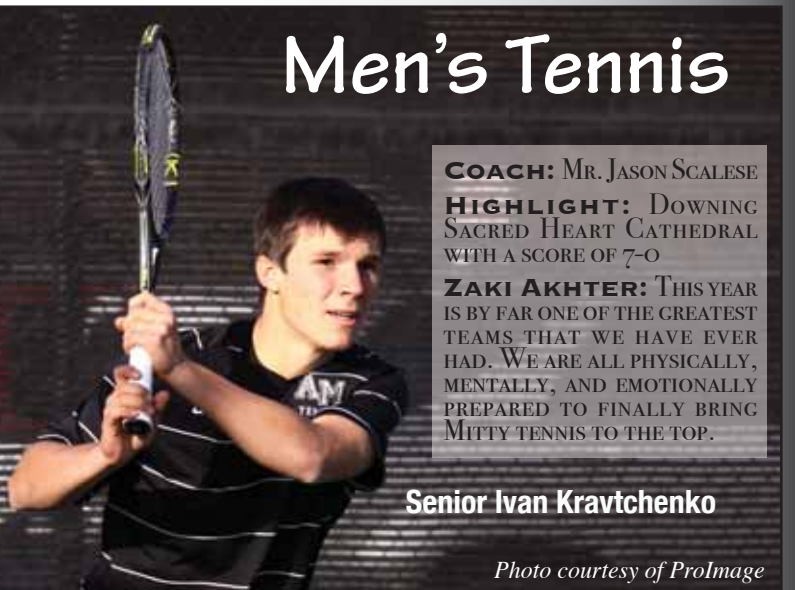


Junior Olivia Rintala

Photo courtesy of ProImage

Men's Tennis

COACH: MR. JASON SCALESE
HIGHLIGHT: DOWNING SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL WITH A SCORE OF 7-0
ZAKI AKHTER: THIS YEAR IS BY FAR ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS THAT WE HAVE EVER HAD. WE ARE ALL PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY PREPARED TO FINALLY BRING MITTY TENNIS TO THE TOP.

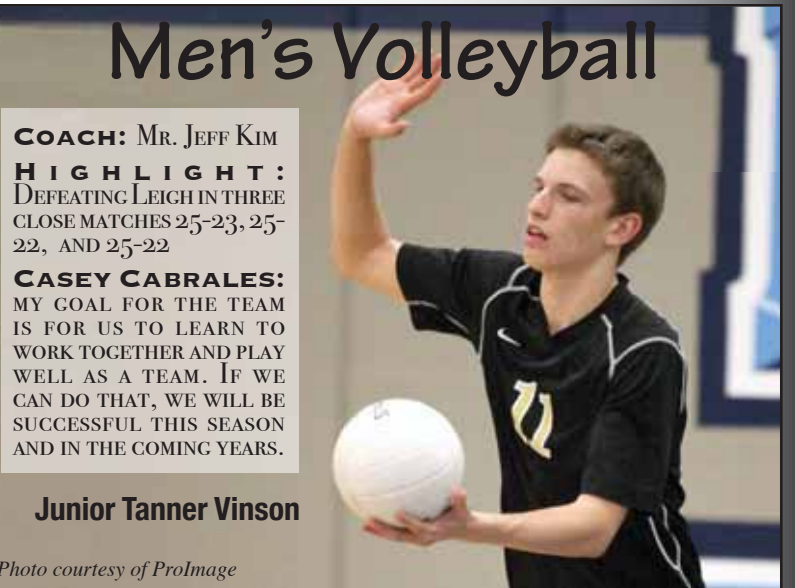


Senior Ivan Kravtchenko

Photo courtesy of ProImage

Men's Volleyball

COACH: MR. JEFF KIM
HIGHLIGHT: DEFEATING LEIGH IN THREE CLOSE MATCHES 25-23, 25-22, AND 25-22
CASEY CABRALES: MY GOAL FOR THE TEAM IS FOR US TO LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER AND PLAY WELL AS A TEAM. IF WE CAN DO THAT, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL THIS SEASON AND IN THE COMING YEARS.



Junior Tanner Vinson

Photo courtesy of ProImage

Men's Swimming

COACH: MIKE HENDRICKSON
HIGHLIGHT: DEFEATING SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL 102-38
BILLY REHBOCK: I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP COMPETING TOGETHER AS A TEAM AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES, AND THAT WE ALL MAKE IMPROVEMENTS ON OUR TIMES.



Sophomore Kyle Phalen

Photo courtesy of ProImage

Compiled by Rebecca Casey and Stephen Kwok
Sports Editors

Hearts on Fire: The LIFE of Senior Year

By Katya Lohngoer & Gwen Holst
Staff Writer & News Editor

8 a.m.: You're arriving for mass in the Fien Gym, and you see a line of students wearing black shirts decorated with red, orange, and yellow geometric shapes. They represent the LIFE (Living in Faith Experience) Team, a group of seniors who have committed themselves to setting their "hearts on fire."

"Hearts on Fire" is the official motto of LIFE Emmaus, inspiring Mitty students to be grateful for the gifts of life and compassion. Hearts can be set on fire by kind words from parents, student collaboration, service in action, or any other heart-warming experience. Each LIFE student writes a personal mission statement at the beginning of the year detailing how they hope to set "hearts on fire."

Prior to 1996, LIFE Team consisted of a small group of ten people who attended a Marianist retreat. As student interest grew, Mr. Steve Scott and other Campus Ministry leaders expanded the program to be more inclusive.

Any senior can sign up to be part of LIFE Team. From that pool, a smaller group of about 60 students is selected to serve in LIFE Corps. Both groups play an important role in the Mitty community, but members of LIFE Corps dedicate a greater amount of time to Campus Ministry through leading retreats and attending additional meetings and liturgies. To plan each liturgy, a small class of LIFE Corps members meets once a

week during second period and discusses how to make the services more interactive.

This year's LIFE Team has brought back the birthday card system first instituted two years ago. Students have acknowledged how receiving a card personally signed by others "makes their day." To make sure that all students receive cards, half-birthday cards are sent out to those students with summer birthdays.

Another development in LIFE Team is the Mustard Seed Project, which gives members the resources to seek justice in their communities (see **JUSTICE** for more).

One of the highlights of LIFE Team is the Base Community, or "B.C." for short. Base Communities are groups of approximately 10 students and one faculty facilitator who meet once a month for dinner, prayer, and discussion. These nights are opportunities to get to see other members of your class you may not otherwise meet, forge friendships that extend across campus, and create a support system for handling the stress of the final year at Mitty.

Senior **Spencer Deale** agrees, "My base community has given me a close-knit group of friends that I have come to know a lot better this year. We've had some great times over monthly dinners, and I think we'll continue to stay close even after we graduate!"

LIFE Team is a special light in a senior's final chapter at Mitty, and an experience that brings students together under the guidance of amazing faculty leaders.

"Family" **"Community"** **"Connection"** **"Love"** **"Inclusive"** **"Service"** **"Unity"**

Photos Courtesy of Marissa McPeak



STUDENT CENTE(R)ED

Zane Moore

By Maheen Akhter
Staff Writer

While many may know senior Zane Moore as the "French Horn maestro," his true pastime is truly a remarkable one.

Whenever he gets a chance to, Zane travels to nearby forests and local mountain ranges to go tree hunting. What is even more impressive is that he has already set four world records for tree heights within just half a year.

In retrospect, Zane never thought that tree hunting would become such a large part of his life, but after reading some articles about discovering tree heights in *National Geographic*, he knew he just had to try it for himself.

Since recorded trees' locations are undisclosed, Zane took it upon himself to go out and find these trees in the vast forests around California. He began his first search in 2010 in the redwood forests between Eureka and Crescent City, looking for secret groves of redwood trees. Zane discovered the Methuselah tree, a Bristlecone Pine Tree, which is currently the world's oldest tree at 4,844 years old.

He has also trekked through

thirty-four miles of forest over seven days to find the world's tallest redwood: Hyperion. In addition, Zane found uncharted eucalyptus groves in California, and set four world records by discovering the



world's tallest California Sycamore, Tanoak, California Bay Laurel, and Pacific Madrone trees.

Zane's advancements in tree discovery would be impossible without some of the latest technology in tree hunting and dendrochronology.

One of the many devices he uses is a laser range finder, which helps him locate specific trees within a given area. Another type of range finder helps him measure

the height of a tree, as the laser reads accurately to the inch. To date trees, Zane uses an increment borer, which is a large, hollow drill to retrieve a pencil-sized core. With that core, he goes home and uses a high-powered microscope to not only count and measure the rings, but to also study the physiology of the specimen.

In addition to his passion for tree hunting, Zane is also a consultant researcher at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. At the Park, he works with Dave Kutty, an expert on Henry Cowell's trees, to further his knowledge and to organize more "hunting" expeditions.

He also finds, classifies, and quantifies rare albino redwoods, whose exact locations are undisclosed to the public, as there are only about fifty known in the world.

His next adventure involves finding the world's oldest poison oak tree and a tree older than the Methuselah tree.

Zane has truly manifested his passion for nature into a unique and exciting hobby. His persistence and determination in searching for the world's most impressive works of nature qualifies him as an exceptional student at Archbishop Mitty.

THE MONARCH

Volume 21 Number 4

Advisors

Mr. Mick VanValkenburg & Mr. Craig Whitt

News

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

Opinions

Linda Nguyen, Anna Piatnicia, Sarang Shankar, & Tyler VanValkenburg

Arts & Entertainment

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

Focus

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

Justice Awareness

Elena Georgieva, Esha Joshi, Briana Saunders, & Elise Sudlow

Sports

Rebecca Casey, Anay Dattawadkar, Stephen Kwok, & Jordan Scott

Photo

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

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