



The Team Behind the Screens

Mitty's Instructional Technology Department Revealed

By Omid Mirfendereski and Payam Mirfendereski
Staff Writers

Walking through the Mitty campus, one might not come across the IT Department, concealed upstairs in the 600 wing. Thus, most do not know that the three hardworking individuals who comprise this department do much to keep our extensive school network up and running. From helping baffled teachers to installing important software to managing iPad affairs, they give their all to locate potential problems and engineer lasting solutions.

Mitty's Information Technology Department is administered by Eric Anderson, Maura Fennelly, and Brandon McArthur, each of whom has a specialized and yet versatile role in keeping the technological system working.

Mr. Anderson, the director of IT, has the job of overseeing major projects and operating all the electronic devices.

In his own words, he makes sure that "whatever plugs in the wall" is practical and functional. Additionally, he ensures proper functionality of the servers and network connections including Wi-Fi and the internet.

Ms. Fennelly, a technical support specialist, has the role of installing new software and programs in our computers. Whenever a major update comes out, everything needs to be re-downloaded and installed in a process called re-imaging.

The software available is used for creating and modifying applications, and it help both teachers and students in their work. Mr. Anderson explains that the most common software is Keynote, Microsoft Office and Adobe InDesign—InDesign being crucial to both yearbook and newspaper activities.

Mr. McArthur, also a technical support specialist, works with computer hardware and repairs the capricious devices that often frustrate and annoy us. He also takes care of Audio-Visual services and fixes projectors, microphones, and the equipment we use in classrooms.

In assemblies, Mr. McArthur is the one who makes sure that speakers, Exodus, and the Jazz Band have all they need. Mr. McArthur is also the one who manages the informative displays in the Aymar Events Center and the library.

According to Mr. Anderson, the IT Department works similarly to an Apple service provider. Of course it manages servers, such as the digital locker, MyMitty, and the yearbook server, and lets computers transfer files and meet the needs of students and teachers.

But it also has a help desk line, which aims to resolve any IT problems. People can email help@mitty.com, and any of the three IT workers can respond to their concerns. Thus, the IT Department has a vital role in keeping everything functioning and ready for use.

For the past five years, the IT Department has been occupied in preparation for Mitty's

iPad debut. This preparation includes anticipating, visualizing, and refining the idea of iPads in every student's hands, as well as expanding the wireless system on campus.

The department has managed to develop the new and advanced servers and networking systems vital to this great undertaking, and after much hard work—and busy, specialized meetings—Mr. Anderson is confident that Mitty is more than ready to embrace iPads this coming school year. In fact, Mr. Anderson confirms that there have been no significant

problems, whether technical or physical, with the 250 iPads already on campus, and that the competence of current software has proven both the efficacy and reliability of the iPad for educational purposes.

In light of an imminent iPad-oriented Mitty, the IT Department has pledged to reduce the number of computers on campus.

"Students should be able to do everything on the iPad that they do on the computer," explains Mr. Anderson. The introduction of iPads, of course, will have the greatest impact on the work of the school's three IT specialists.

Yet while it may take time for each and every student or teacher to adjust to the iPad, Mr. Anderson believes such a shift in technology will not increase (if not actually decrease) the work load of the IT Department.

As the Department of Information Technology constitutes the hidden backbone of a Mitty student's educational experience, many students fail to recognize its direct



Ms. Maura Fennelly helps keep Mitty running. How many technological instruments can you find?

correlation to their academic lives.

Indeed, most take the present technology for granted, and unknowingly expect all to work out well, efficiently and productively—without much time or effort on their own part.

The one issue that does intrigue countless students is whether the technology specialists actively monitor their Monarch emails. Mr. Anderson explains that while the department has the capability to survey everyone's accounts, it has not been needed due to the maturity and wise judgment of the majority of Mitty students.

When discussing his own experience, Mr. Anderson states that the IT Department receives about 5-10 calls per day, which has not really changed in the eight years he has been at Mitty, and that it probably has the largest workload on A-week Thursdays. Although most of the installing and updating is done over the summer, the department has much to do throughout the school year. Nevertheless, Mr. Anderson states that he enjoys his work and finds the faculty and students at Mitty friendly and supportive.

The IT Department is truly a vital part of our Mitty community. It does much of its work "beneath the surface," but as Mr. Anderson hopes, a new employee and a move to a more central office next year will give it a more conspicuous role in school affairs. Knowing that the department is what makes our daily technological lives possible, we should indeed give it the appreciation it deserves.

Mitty Hosts Summit on Climate Change

By Sruthi Ramaswami
News Editor



Dr. Peter Joseph speaks at Mitty.

Global warming may be cliché to many, but not to Dr. Peter Joseph, an emergency physician trained by Al Gore's Climate Reality Project.

On a mission to educate the public about impending climate change and the environmental and ecological future of Planet Earth, Dr. Joseph presented "Science vs. Denial," the latest scientific findings of the global climate crisis, at Mitty's Kinkade Theater on Monday, April 30.

"We have created a magnificent civilization through collaboration of ideas, creativity, and technology. It's impressive. Impressive to the point that we're facing this crisis," opened Dr. Joseph.

He continued to describe the global climate crisis from environmental, economic, and political standpoints, revealing to

Mitty students that this problem will not be an easy one for our generation to tackle.

Dr. Joseph also highlighted the severity of global warming and its contribution to the loss of the cryosphere, or "cold world." Even though glaciers and icebergs may seem distant to our non-Titanic enthusiasts, their loss presents a huge threat to global water storage. Mitty students contributed to the discussion by defining the greenhouse gases that are responsible for this phenomenon: water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

If the Greenland Ice Sheet were to fully melt, our sea level would rise by 20 feet—a frightening but potential obstacle to the growth of the human population. In addition, melting permafrost is beginning to release abnormal amounts of methane into our atmosphere, which has been proven to be 75 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO₂.

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OPINIONS

Opposing Viewpoints: Obama's Presidency

PRO-BAMA

By Sarang Shankar
Opinions Editor

It has been three years since President Obama took office and it will be barely over one that he will be up for re-election. Putting aside our partisanship (as difficult as that has proven to be), the questions that should occupy every voter's mind are these: What has he accomplished in his first term of office, and do these accomplishments merit a second term?

Now these questions are difficult to answer fairly. A majority of Americans *already* believe that Obama has achieved very little, if anything at all. His first term was dominated by ugly stalemate with a GOP-controlled House. His goal to scale back the entrenched partisanship in Washington has failed, if not backfired. The economy is weak. Our troops are *still* in Afghanistan. His compromises with Congress undermine his credibility, and his illegal drone strikes in Yemen taint his integrity.

However, he is not the first President to make unfulfilled promises or break the law, and he certainly won't be the last. Yes, a little more experience would have helped this president, especially with his bipartisanship debacle. But even with his mistakes and mishaps, if you were to compare Obama to *other* presidents, needless to say his predecessor, anybody—assuming that partisanship has been put aside—can see that he has gotten more done in raw legislative tonnage than any other president *since* LBJ.

He signed the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to cover 32 million uninsured Americans. He agreed to a \$1.2 trillion dollar deficit reduction and major update to food safety laws. He signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (2010) to increase regulation on Wall Street and to eliminate the corrupt, corporate practices that led to the financial collapse in 2008. He repealed “Don’t ask, don’t tell”, allowing gays and lesbians to openly serve their country in the military.

He reversed Bush's *illegal* “enhanced” interrogation techniques—torture—and ousted the banks from Federal Student Loan programs, streamlining the process for students to get the money they need for education. He doubled fuel efficiency standards, signed the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia, and revived the dying U.S. auto industry. Not to mention the fact he averted a second Great Depression.

But even with these accomplishments in just *one* term of office, Obama still faces an uphill battle come this election season. Why? The American public.

Galvanized by his slogan of change, we expected a messiah that would solve all the problems the last president left us, and solve them immediately. The problem therefore is not what Obama has or has not done, but how the public measures him as a leader.

We criticize him as a president by the conditions of our everyday lives, not by his merit. But even if we were to judge the president fairly, most of his accomplishments come with a built-in delay. The full effect

of his policies will only occur years into the future, and thus leave a future fraught with possibilities. Simply because the “change” has not occurred now does not mean that it will never occur in the future.

Even our most beloved presidents' achievements went unrecognized or were only fully realized *after* their first term of office.

When Roosevelt passed Social Security in 1935, the program offered barely any benefits, excluded domestic workers and other professions largely occupied by African American voters. It was only decades later that the program became successful when the benefits were raised and expanded.

Even his G.I. bill was met with fierce opposition until it was later realized that it “was fueling the growth of America's first mass middle class.” And when Harry S. Tru-



man decided on containment of communism instead of rollback aggression (starting wars where communism existed), his approval rating at his exit from office tanked to 32%. It would be much later before the public would realize that the precedent he set prevented World War III.

Obama's achievements are no different. To argue that he has done nothing, *just* like the opponents of Truman and FDR did during their terms of office, is absurd. While the public has yet to receive the complete “change” Obama promised, it is only a matter of time before that change will be fully realized.

But if he isn't re-elected this November, that change will never come. Obama's would-be legacy will be systematically dismantled legislative piece by legislative piece. Thirty-two million Americans will lose their health insurance. Corruption on Wall Street will run rampant *again*. Gays and Lesbians may be prohibited from serving openly in the military. The economy will worsen. And we'll stay in Afghanistan longer than we would with the current president.

The progress that was made in the last three years will be reversed, and our country will return to the atrocious state of 2008. That is not the “change” we need.

NO-BAMA

By Tyler VanValkenburg
Opinions Editor

Before I explain why I feel that Obama's presidency has not just been a disappointment, but a betrayal, let me first address a reaction my criticism of him may cause.

Many Obama-fans have the gut impulse, when reading a progressive such as myself criticize their leader, to say that I have set the bar too high, or that I expect too much. This is simply not true. In this article, I will only hold our president to a standard set by his own promises, and of course, in addition to those, to the Rule of Law.

Let's begin with the issues our nation faces domestically, and how he has addressed them. As by now most of you know, in 2008 our country experienced a deep economic recession that we are still recover-

and his Department of Justice have also, on more than one occasion, attempted to fully shield the industry from any serious investigation—let alone prosecution—justifying such immunity under the eerily Orwellian slogan “Look forward, not backward.”

It appears, thus, at least on economic issues, that Obama is not the bringer of change one might have voted for back in 2008. But what about on international issues?

Well, when it comes to foreign policy, Obama somehow fares even worse. Remember that he is—or at least appeared to be back when he was campaigning for office—a liberal. And yet look now at what a mighty, GOP-worthy Warrior of the West he has become.

Obama has maintained both our nation's major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for most of his first term, only beginning to end the latter conflict because he was bound by a Bush-era timeline to do so. In fact, Obama tried to fight that timeline and expand our stay in Iraq, but in the end wasn't able to do so.

That's right folks, George W. Bush had to—through a previous legal engagement—tell Barack Obama to stop playing Freedom Fighter. I shouldn't even have to point out what a dreary, if not ironic, picture that paints for our nation.

Aside from Iraq, Obama has proven himself worldwide to be one of the most militarily aggressive presidents ever. Whether it be via unauthorized wars (Libya), secret air campaigns (Yemen), or cold-blooded drone strikes (Pakistan), our president clearly can't get enough of dropping bombs on innocent people—oh, but he gets a few bad guys, too, so it's all okay! (For more on this, read Claire Chu's article on Page 4.)

He has also become the first president—at least officially—to legalize and carry out the assassination of a US citizen, acting as judge, jury, and executioner all in one. The lawlessness of such killing needs no explanation, apparent to even the most common of sense, and yet our Constitutional Law Scholar of a president feels it his right.

On top of that, while Obama might have officially declared an end to US torture, he has continued and expanded our government's power to indefinitely detain anyone without a trial if they are suspected of Terrorism. I say anyone because, under his approval and guidance, our Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act, an exceedingly authoritarian bill that expands our government's already scary power of indefinite detention onto its own citizens.

It should be obvious now that Obama did not bring the change he promised when he stepped into office. Not even close.

In fact, the only thing he's really changed is how the game's played, and he's changed it for the worse. In the past four years Obama has taken many of the worst and most wretched economic, social, and foreign policies of the Bush administration and converted them into the norm.

By continuing them he has condoned them, and in doing so has put our country on a fairly grim path indeed.

ing from today. Though multiple complex factors helped cause this, a key player in the recession—and in the mortgage crisis that it centered around—was fraud. I'm not talking about some small time cooking the books here and there, either. I'm talking about widespread, institutionalized fraud at the core of our nation's financial sector, fraud that was allowed to take place in part because of an ever more deregulated economy, and also because what little regulations remained were weakly enforced.

This was (and still is) the case because, as AP Gov. students will gladly tell you, of the Revolving Door of American politics—the idea that those who lead the financial industry are able to later get government jobs regulating that same industry, and vice versa. The obvious conflict of interest this breeds is overwhelming, and yet still virtually nothing has been done to curb it.

While Obama ran on a platform of economic justice and financial reform, he has done little in office to make good on those campaign promises. In fact, he has done just the opposite. He immediately filled key economic positions with ex-financial sector executives (some of whom come directly from the very same companies that helped cause the mortgage fraud crisis), ensuring that the Revolving Door just kept on spinning. He

NATIONAL SECURITY: AN EMPTY GOP STRATEGY

By Rachita Pandya
Staff Writer

As the Republicans begin to congregate around Romney, the Grand Old Party is flailing around trying to find the right issues to center on for their campaign to capture the presidency from Obama.

During the primaries, Republican candidates turned to the classic campaign theme of national security. The candidates rebuked President Obama, saying that he was being too timid about Iran and promising that if elected, they would be willing to use force against Iran.

The fact that the GOP is trying to bring its “tougher on defense” argument into the campaign is truly nothing new. This has been a traditional theme for the Republican Party ever since the end of World War II, when conservatives in the party argued that President Harry Truman was not tough enough against the Soviet Union, and then claimed in 1949 that he was responsible for China falling to communism.

In both good and bad times, Republicans have continually used this argument to undersell the political strength of Democrats. At certain moments such as the election of 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson, or in 2004, when President George W. Bush defeated Senator John Kerry, national security has worked as a favorable issue for the GOP.

However, constructing some mythical national security crisis before the election in November will surely not work. The polls have made it quite clear that voters are primarily concerned about the economy.

According to The New York Times, in every state



on Super Tuesday, a majority of voters told pollsters that their choice of candidate was based primarily upon the economy. As James Carville’s slogan said, “It’s the economy, stupid.”

However, the public’s focus on the economy is not

the only reason that Republicans will have trouble using national security as their winning strategy. Like Clinton, President Obama has taken a series of actions that have reduced the ability of the GOP to discredit their opponents as weak on defense.

He has certified the use of drones against al-Qaeda that has helped to severely weaken the structure of their network. The president agreed to use air strikes against Libya that helped bring down their government. And, of course, it was Obama who got Osama.

Another key factor is the consequence of the Iraq War, a war that weakened the Republican advantage on national security and raised questions about the leadership of the GOP on foreign affairs. The cost of the war and its consequences challenge the public’s confidence in this kind of military operation against rogue states.

Given the fact that the Iraq war started under a Republican president, the GOP will not easily be able to alter the public’s memory of how the unpopular and controversial mission began.

Just as Democrats were burdened with the responsibility of the Vietnam War, Republicans have seen their name tarnished by the Iraq War. It overshadows the memory of Ronald Reagan, whose strong stance against the Soviet Union was credited by many Americans for ending the Cold War. Overall, if the GOP invests its campaign capital in national security, the chances are very strong it will come up empty.

PROM: IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

By Jessica Dumov
Staff Writer

What do you think of when you hear the word “prom”? Extravagant dresses? Dates? Dancing? Based off all the hype in the months prior, I know that some students may question whether or not prom is worth it.

The first thought that may come to mind is the price tag. Prom is expensive, especially for girls. Girls typically spend a day at the salon for a professional hairdo, makeup, and manicure the day of the event. They also have to purchase an expensive dress and shoes, well in advance. There is always the annual drama of finding the perfect dress and making sure that no one else has the exact same one.

Adding to this drama are the Facebook groups. These exclusive, all-female groups are made just for the sake of showing which dresses have already been taken and, of course, for the pleasure of criticizing the choices of every girl who posts her dress. The more “likes” the picture gets, the more confident she is that she has made the right decision for arguably one of the most momentous nights of high school.

To top it all off, there is the prom ticket that needs to be covered. Sometimes, the guy may pay a tribute to chivalry and offer to pay for both tickets, but that isn’t always an option. This would be true especially if you are going with a group of girlfriends instead of a date. The burden of prom does not lay solely on the girl either, as the guys have a tuxedo to rent and a corsage to buy.

Money aside, another issue is the pressure of getting

a date. For high school students, a very prevalent topic of concern is who is going with whom. Did he have the guts to ask her? Does he like her? Does she like him? Are they just going as friends? These are all very common questions that can be heard in every corridor around school during prom season. The pressure that comes from friends, and even



sometimes parents, to get a date and to ask according to an unspoken set of rules never fails to take its toll.

There are always a couple of guys who go all out when asking a girl, which amps up the expectations girls have for any upcoming asks. This puts the pressure on the poor

guys who now have to do something even more spectacular.

For those who originally set out on going single, being constantly asked, “Who are you going with?” makes it hard for them to have confidence in doing so. They want to go, but often worry that they will be judged or feel awkward for going single.

With all of these conditions, who could ever think that prom is actually worth it?

Prom is actually something every high school student should experience, and going in a group of friends instead of with a date can have its perks, such as avoiding the potential awkwardness of being stuck all night with someone you might not know (or like) that well. And, of course, prom can be an absolutely amazing evening for couples or dates. It feels more special than any other school dance and lives up to most people’s expectations.

Though there may be some setbacks, prom is a high school tradition. It is an event that has been held year after year and never seems to get old. Getting dressed-up with your friends, taking countless pictures beforehand, and arriving in style in a limo can make any girl feel like a princess. As for the guys? They get to see their date in what is probably the most beautiful dress she has ever worn. Not a bad deal.

Prom is a night to have a great time with your friends, and gives you a memory that you will have forever. And of course, you will have that classic prom picture for your kids to look at one day when you’ll have to try to convince them that, yes, your hairstyle was actually considered cool back then.



By Alexander Ruzek

DRONES: DETACHED MURDER

By Claire Chu
Staff Writer

“The conception has become prevalent that war is not a contest between whole populations, but only between the armies of the belligerent states,” wrote Hans Morgenthau, one of the leading twentieth-century figures in the study of international politics.

This distinction between combatants and noncombatants should make the killing of civilian populations a moral transgression, because they are simply not participants in the armed contest.

Others argue that no civilian is exempt from the horrors of war, because it is they who support the underlying political agenda and develop the necessary artillery of their nation’s warring army. Regardless, world powers have been bombing, shooting, burning and torturing civilians since the Thirty Years’ War, when we witnessed the rise of professional armies.

Aren’t drone attacks, our system of “precision strikes against high value targets,” just another weapon of war? Why, then, are some outraged by such strikes?

After all, Saad bin Laden, one of Osama bin Laden’s sons, was killed by a drone sometime before July 2009. Allegedly.

However, a significant problem with such reports is that they are often initially announced, then later proven to be untrue. Such was the case when the supposedly dead Saad bin Laden was reported alive in December 2009—five months after his “death.” These drone success claims were made by the CIA and by US counter-terrorism advisor, John Brennan—the same official who told us that only around 45 civilians have been killed as byproducts of their primary objectives.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism later showed an estimation more between 392 to 781 *civilian* Pakistani deaths attributed to US drone strikes—all denied by the Obama administration. With drone attacks,

given the conflicting reports, we don’t even know with certainty who we are killing. We just have to trust our government.

And drones don’t just make it easier to kill; they make it easier to kill innocent people.

In October of 2011, 16 year old Tariq Aziz and his 12 year old cousin were on their way to pick up an aunt, when their

targets, many being “suspected militants” with unknown identities. But honestly, how can we even rely on those as being justified when the true identities of the victims aren’t even fully known?

And yes, drone technology is generally more precise and selective than other US weapon systems. But is that really saying much considering the number of civilian

guilt as old as war itself. Add to this the soldier’s sense of shame for having fought in actions that resulted, indirectly or directly, in the deaths of civilians.”

A former Green Beret described the killing of a young enemy soldier: “I just opened up, fired the whole twenty rounds right at the kid, and he just laid there. I dropped my weapon and cried.” It is then, in the aftermath of combat, that humanity peeks through and looks them steady in the eye, almost challenging them to justify the bloodshed.

But with drone attacks, there is no human eye that can internalize what has happened and ultimately bear responsibility for it. Instead, there is a shiny plastic joystick.

When you can’t kneel down next to the weeping father of three Iraqi children, all killed when cars ran the trigger lines at vehicle checkpoints; when you don’t have to answer to the grieving crowds gathered around victims in blood-soaked blankets; when you don’t hear the nine-year old girl confide in a reporter about having witnessed her grandfather and grandmother’s murders...a sense of detachment dampens your perception of the actual brutality.

The technological innovation of warfare encourages emotional alienation between killer and victim, while protecting the killer from potential dangers of the battlefield.

It makes the brutish business of killing a little easier and a little tidier.

To a drone strike operator, the clear distinction between fantasy and reality is removed. The explosions that were once computer generated, pixilated, fun are now the charred and mutilated remains of village populations. Maybe manning a drone in *Call of Duty* is all fun and games—but when a similar detached attitude is applied to the execution of actual drone strikes, there are no longer limits to the amount of brutality we can inflict. All while lounging in an air-conditioned control room sipping on soda.



View from a Reaper Drone.

car was struck by a drone. Just three days earlier, Tariq had been the youngest of 60 villagers gathered at the Islamabad jirga, calling for an immediate and peaceful halt to the drone attacks. Tariq went from being a soccer-loving teenager to part of a statistic that I can quote—and that our government can deny.

Yes, there have been “successes” with drones accurately taking out their intended

corpses that have also resulted?

There are men who can snuff out lives without a twinge of regret or remorse. But more prevalent are men who, despite their honorable conduct, come home broken and anguished because the fog of war had played havoc with their moral compasses.

Vietnam veteran Philip Caputo recalls that, “There is the guilt all soldiers feel for having broken the taboo against killing, a

HIGH SCHOOL JOBS

Work can be the key
to meeting new people



By Ashley Rodarte
Staff Writer

People will tell you to get a job for the extra cash, or the work experience, or the life experience. And that’s all great. Rolling in dough is fun, and so is knowing that you can handle real-world responsibilities.

I mean I’d encourage you to go get a job for one, because it makes you less dependent on your parents. For example, if you ask to go out to the movies or a concert and their excuse to not let you go is the cost, well you can cover that now. It feels good knowing you can pay for your own things, manage your own expenses.

Getting a job in high school also makes getting a job in the future a lot easier because you have work experience. Being able to put previous employers on a resume is of huge benefit. Another bonus to having a job in high school is simply having something to do outside of your education. If you are in some kind of club, or sport, or any extracurricular, you probably already know what this is like.

However, many high school students only have school work and social life on their agenda. And having these two as your only priorities can be disadvantageous.

So I’m here to tell you that the real reason you should get a job in high school is the people you will meet.

In high school you surround yourself with the

group of people that are not out of your comfort zone, friends that in key ways are just like you. As a high school senior preparing for college, I have realized that there are a lot of my peers who do not know much about the people outside of Mitty. If you have never gone on an immersion trip then it can be hard to know life outside of Monarch society.

If my mom had never taken me (unwillingly, I might add) to a job interview at Great America, I may never have known such extended social diversity outside of my high school. I have met so many interesting people and have developed deep friendships with them over our time working together.

They have shared with me issues they face in their lives, their triumphs and their failures. I have met people who have struggled with being homosexual, people whose parents are not citizens, and people who must work several jobs to help out their family. These are real issues—ones from the world outside high school— that, being confined to the lives of teenagers, we rarely get exposed to. And if we do it is only through a religion class or program.

We need to be made aware of the world outside of school, and a job allows for this. There are several benefits to having a high school job, even if it’s just a part time one; the point is to get out of your normal routine, to go out into the world, to meet new people, to hear new stories. But most of all, the point is to make new friends.

Arts & Entertainment

AMHS Performing Arts: The Year in Review

By A&E Editors
with
Ryan Ballard
Staff Writer

AM
PERFORMING ARTS

Upcoming Next Year...

By A&E Editors

How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying—Oct. 2012

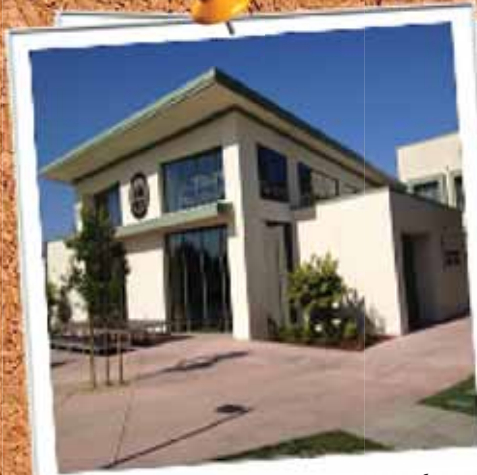
As Mitty students, you all are undoubtedly interested in success. And who better to learn it from than J. Pierrepont Finch, the spunky and charismatic young man who works his way up from the mailroom of a major company to the tippy tippy top? Even though it sounds dry and informational, this feel-good musical is *anything* but. It takes place in the 1960s and is bursting with upbeat dance numbers, hilarious comedy, beautiful singing, and terrific characters. Does this sound familiar to you? Well, if you are a fan of Daniel Radcliffe or Nick Jonas, you might know that Radcliffe recently finished his stint as Finch on Broadway, and Nick Jonas is currently playing the role. So, this is seriously good stuff. See it in the fall.

The 39 Steps—January 2013

Do you like Alfred Hitchcock? Do you like fast-paced, witty, high-octane dialogue? Well, then this show is for you! Based on the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 movie by Alfred Hitchcock, this is one witty spy, adventure, mystery play that will be unforgettable. Traditionally played with 4 actors, stay tuned to find out how Mitty works its magic to expand the cast!

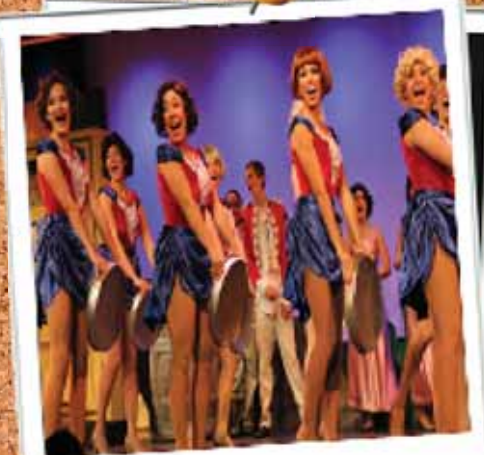
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee— March 2013

No, Mitty is not hosting a real spelling bee. *Spelling Bee* follows a handful of zany elementary school spellers (played by your favorite Mitty actors) and their adventures throughout the bee. From Leaf Coneybear, the adorable and distractable youngster with a cape, to William Barfee, eccentric nerd extraordinaire, to Marcy Park, a little girl who feels pressure from her parents to succeed, to countless other memorable characters. G-O spells GO!



The Music Center

January 2012: Schott Family Music Center opens. After over a year of planning and months of construction, the new Music Center finally opened for use. It brought with it not only a graceful addition to our beloved campus, but also an array of opportunities for current and future music students. From a recording studio to giant windows, the new building has appeal for everyone.



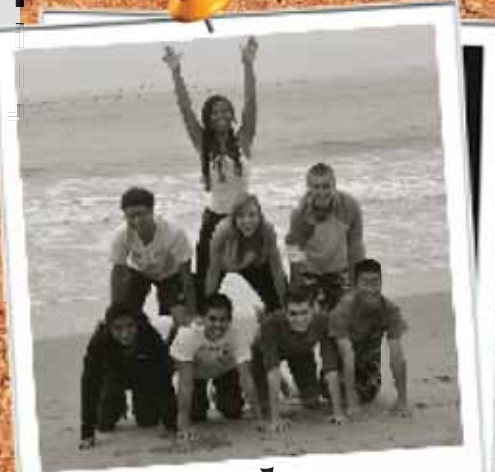
The Shows

In October, we kicked off the season with *Crazy for You*, a Gershwin show that took audiences back to the Golden Age of Broadway. Next, we tackled Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* adding pirates, musical interludes, and, well, lots of farts to make it more accessible to high-schoolers. Then came *Into the Woods*, the classic Sondheim show that was masterfully and magically performed by our Mitty actors. All in all, great season!



The Royals

The Royals dance team is thriving, not only wowing throngs of people at Mitty's games, but also the judges at competition! The Royals made quite an impression at regionals where they took 3rd place in jazz, 2nd in character, and 1st in hip-hop! At Nationals, they also made the top ten in lyrical, and three of their dances were recognized in the championship division. We can't wait for what's to come in the future!



Exodus

Exodus had a major face-lift this year with only two returning members. No problem. Exodus has had a rousing year, with memorable performances from emulating the Jackson 5 at Black and Gold to performing at liturgies. And, even when they're not performing for you, they are performing for children at concerts or for other schools in the area. Want more? They'll be back and better than ever next year!

Thriving on syncopation and bluesy chords, the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir have had an incredible year. Earning superior ratings at local jazz festivals, working with such jazz legends as Gordon Goodwin and lowa-based vocal group Audio Radiance, and bringing quality music to the public at the annual Jazz on the Green, Mitty jazz has flourished this year.



Jazz Band & Choir



Food Truck Nation

By Christine Kelly
Staff Writer



Attention all who love good food, full wallets, and adventure! The food truck craze is the solution to that hunger that won't be satiated and the pain of paying an extravagant price for a less-than-extravagant meal.

Food trucks have been slowly on the rise for several years and have more recently spread to San Jose. What is a food truck? It is a mobile venue that sells hot, cooked food, usually catered to specific meals. It's exactly what it says it is, a truck full of food! I'm sure you've already passed by a food truck festival and not even realized it. Remember that time when you drove past a parking lot and a bunch of drooling people were lined up outside of what you suspected to be a trailer park? That's what a food truck festival looks like.

The food truck has moved from a practical choice to the "cool" choice these past years. This recent rise in popularity could be attributed to the need for something healthier than McDonalds but also something cheaper than a restaurant. Moving past practicality, the food truck has become one of the fastest growing trends in San Jose. Almost each individual food truck has a Twitter account and Facebook page, many with 1,000+ likes and/or followers. The ability for the food truck to adapt to the modern age through this technology and social media has surely captured the attention of "foodies" everywhere. Most have their own websites that give a menu (including prices), nutritional facts, locations, opening and closing times, recent tweets about, pictures, and a link to their reviews on Yelp. And like everything in life, there is an app for that. The TruxMap Food Truck Map comes free for both iPhone and Android and gives access to all the information mentioned above.

Even some high schools have caught on to the trend and began to host food truck fundraisers. The most recent local high schools that have hosted these fundraisers are Piedmont High School and Evergreen High School. And it is quite common for certain food trucks to give a portion of their profits to charity just as Edgewood Eats in Palo Alto



does. Many other trucks in San Francisco also commit to using organic ingredients and giving more money back to those farmers who grew that food. Food trucks have found a way to impress not only the foodies but also the activists who fill the Bay Area.

One of the most exciting parts of food trucks is the search for your favorites. They're like Easter eggs: not always easy to find but fun to look for. Personally, I'm the type of person who enjoys the little things, and a really good meal can make or break my day. So my advice is, don't be picky! Food trucks are just like finding good restaurants: you have to try them first! Try the Soulness mac and roll (mac and cheese inside a fried spring roll), and then you can have an opinion about it. It's actually not bad.

Now with summer just around the corner, you'll have more free time and when you do, check out these local food trucks:

Moveable Feast: Garden City (Saratoga Ave) 11:00am-2:30pm, Lunch, Every Saturday

Moveable Feast: Southside (Blossom Hill) 5:00pm-9:00pm, Dinner, Every Wednesday

Moveable Feast: Willow Glen (Curtner Ave) 5:00pm-9:00pm, Dinner, Every Friday

Bigg Shrimp'n: A good place where shrimp is in almost every dish. I recommend the Grilled Shrimp Bahn Mi and a side of garlic fries

Fairycakes: A truck that sells baked sweets and different flavored cupcakes. Go with the carrot cake and golden vanilla flavor, you can't go wrong

KoJa Kitchen: A Fusion of Korean and Japanese food at this truck. I'd order the Kamikaze fries and the KoJa sandwich.

TreatBot: 2 words, ice cream and karaoke, what else do you want? If you want to try a new flavor, order the peach cobbler flavor.

Edgewood Eats: (Palo Alto) 5:00pm-8:30pm, Dinner, Every Tuesday

Out On the (College) Town: Having fun next year when you're not studying

By Bella DiLisio
Staff Writer

Ah, city life! The ever-desirable atmosphere, filled with skyscrapers, hipsters, strange smells, and grumpy people trying to get to work. And lucky you, seniors! A majority of you will probably get to experience this life next year when you go off to college! But joking aside, there is a reason why real estate is so expensive in cities: it houses some of the most popular (and hidden) hotspots in the nation, good for studying, hanging out with friends, going on a date, dancing, shopping, and many more activities. However, rather than telling you to go do the obvious tourist-y activities—Broadway in New York City, Rodeo Drive in Los Angeles—we want to tell you about fun and affordable (trust us, you'll be used to the broke college student lifestyle in no time!) entertainment in your area so that you'll be the ultimate hipster, with all the knowledge about great secret spots around the city!

San Francisco – you're probably thinking you know the ins and outs already, since it's right in our backyard. But there's always more to discover, especially if you're going to be living there for four years. Some cool places to check out include Café Royale on Post Street, a Parisian themed café which hosts karaoke, jazz, open mic, poetry slams, and film screenings—great for a Friday night out with friends! Golden Gate Park is also home to



a variety of wonderful events, somewhat resembling a less-famous version of Central Park in New York. This 1,000+ acre park includes a Japanese Tea Garden, the DeYoung Museum, the California Academy of Sciences, the Conservatory of Flowers, and even a paddock of buffalo...that's right, buffalo! Speedway Meadows is also a popular concert venue during the summer; it's been known to host FREE concerts, featuring artists such as OneRepublic, Michelle Branch, Parachute, and Matt Nathanson! Lastly,

if you're up for some strange fun, try the concrete slides on Seward Street in the Castro. Bring your own boxes and slide to your heart's delight!

Chicago, the windy city! Try a visit to the Art Institute of Chicago and spend a day



marveling the mix of classic and modern pieces. Not a particularly big fan of art? Go anyway and pretend you're Ferris Bueller. If you're feeling more like Ron Swanson and Leslie Knope from NBC's *Parks and Recreation*, you might want to stop by Victory's Banner for breakfast, previously rated #1 breakfast house in Chicago for their friendly service and fresh ingredients. A great venue for top-notch performances is Links Hall Studio on N Sheffield Avenue, a great place to see Chicago's smaller scale artists. Who knows? You could be watching a future Broadway star, or hearing the next John Mayer play!

Los Angeles, arguably the most famous city in our beloved home state of California, is home to an array of hotspots, from the very expensive (thank you, celebrities!) to the very affordable. One such event is the Farmers' Market on West Third Street, right next to The Grove shopping center, open every day of the week! Here you'll find many fresh fruits, veggies, meats, breads, flowers, and more available for your selection, as well as cooked food vendors like Mongolian BBQ (yum!). Not only is it a great place to get cheap ingredients for cooking (let's get real, you're going to be a broke, hungry college student and you'll NEED affordable, fresh food), but it is the perfect chance to take a group of your new friends and spend your Sunday lounging outside, trying delicious foods and visiting The Grove next door to fill the void left by not being able to visit Valley Fair.



New York, New York! The city that never sleeps certainly has a lot to offer. Firstly, get yourself a Metro Card! Subways are the transportation from Heaven – instead of blowing money on a Taxi (which can get stuck in traffic), hop on the local or express train and get to your destination in 5 minutes! It doesn't take long to memorize the map of where the different trains go, but if you need a little help, just download a subway trains map app on your smart phone. How simple is that? If you're closer to Columbia (Morningside Heights region, right above the Upper West Side), you're only a short subway ride away from Central Park itself! Here you'll find the center of New York leisure, a destination boasting a lake with boating, a zoo, restaurants, meadows, and nature trails. It's a great place for when you want to study in the fresh air or just relax on a sunny day! While you're down there, be sure to stop by Alice's Tea Cup—it's a small franchise, meaning they're just about everywhere, which is good news since they have the best scones in New York! If you're lower in Manhattan, towards NYU (The Village, near Midtown South), the locals recommend Blue Note Café, a cozy place that features jazz musicians and offers discount tickets to students for shows.



Now that you're a little more knowledgeable about your future city's surroundings, you have all the tools necessary to be not only the best outings organizer, but also make new friends easily with your infinite knowledge of hidden gems within your new college town. So stop stressing about Mitty finals and start celebrating – you now know all the perfect places to do so!

MONARCH CRITICS

The Five-Year Engagement

By Elexis Breitbart
Staff Writer



A movie is probably not the best if the audience is constantly rechecking Facebook updates or lazily playing "Temple Run."

The Five Year Engagement, directed by Nicholas Stoller, a romantic comedy starring Jason Segel and Emily Blunt, centers on Tom (Jason Segel), proposing to

Violet (Emily Blunt). However, they put off the wedding to move to Michigan for Violet's career. After many turns of events, they break up, and, of course, get back together.

In the beginning, the movie seems to be engaging (pun intended), featuring a young couple in love. This ends once they move to Michigan, and everything becomes quite drab. The pacing is slow, and the writing seems to falter at this point. The very final scene is relatively interesting, but it ends too quickly.

The Five Year Engagement is supposed to capture what a modern couple goes through in an attempt to get married. In an interview, Jason Segel, the writer, says that he did not want the romance between the two characters to be like a movie relationship where everything is perfect; he wanted to describe a contemporary, real relationship. Yet instead of seeing the beauty in the relationship, I only see the sadness as more and more events tear Tom and Violet apart.

Unfortunately, there were few memorable moments that aren't dominated by Jason Segel's overgrown facial hair. To begin, there is not one viable reason why the couple, Emily and Tom, did not just get married when they moved to Michigan, except that Tom "didn't like it there." One of the supposedly comical subplots is the fact that the grandparents continue to pass away as they are waiting for Tom and Violet's wedding to finally happen. The irony of the first grandparent passing is just barely humorous, but it soon becomes just sad as they die one by one until there are none left.

The only standout performance was by Chris Pratt, who played Alex, a clumsy friend of Tom's. Pratt has unrivaled comedic timing, yet is also able to capture sentimental moments and remain a true friend to Tom throughout. Emily Blunt's performance is sweet, but easily forgettable. Also the couple is never faced with more serious dilemmas than moving to a different state.

Since Jason Segel wrote and starred in the movie, it seems to be geared towards him and who he is as an actor: more of his real personality is depicted in this role instead of giving him a challenging acting job.

I had very high hopes and high expectations when I walked into this movie due to the cast and the very entertaining trailer. Unfortunately, I was quite disappointed. *The Five Year Engagement* will ultimately turn out to be one of those Friday night movies that you fall asleep during and don't bother finding out what happens in the end.

The Lucky One



By Camille Contreras
Staff Writer

The Lucky One is a story about a young marine named Logan Thibault (Zac Efron), who finds a picture while on his 3rd tour in Iraq that strangely saves his life. He sets out to find the woman in the photo, and somehow repay his debt to her. Logan learns that the woman is Beth (Taylor Schilling), and goes to meet her, but hesitates to tell her his story. He ends up getting hired for their family run kennel, and despite Beth's complicated life, a romance blooms between the two. Logan attempts to tell Beth several times why he came to Louisiana, but simply cannot find the words. He realizes that he is repaying his debt by helping her and her son, Ben, to heal, after their loss of her brother, who died on his first tour as a marine. Beth's jealous ex-husband, Keith, (Jay R. Ferguson) who is sheriff of their town, is on Logan's case from the minute he arrives, eager to find a way to cut him out of the picture.

Efron's performance is surprisingly mature, and not as cliché as one might think. His portrayal of a scarred marine is spot on and very believable. Taylor Schilling, a relatively unknown actress, plays her role perfectly, and makes it easy to empathize with her. Overall, the couple's chemistry is definitely there, but slightly awkward considering the age difference. Knowing that Schilling is a bit older than Efron, makes their romance very off-center, but also real and believable. Ferguson's performance as the harsh ex-husband/officer is notable, and he is the perfect villain. The story's beautiful scenery and lovable story similar to *The Notebook*, and *Dear John*, really put the cherry on top. Go see this unique romance for a heartwarming story!



Carrie Underwood

By Monica Love
A&E Editor



Carrie Underwood fans have been anxiously waiting for a new album from the country superstar for two and a half years. Now she is finally back with her fourth studio album, *Blown Away*.

In her new album, Underwood claims that she is taking a departure from her previous work in that "there's a little bit of a darker side to it...It's just stormier." Although this is true for some of her new songs, most notably the title track "Blown Away," there are also songs that are similar in style to her previous hits, such as "Good Girl" and "Cupid's Got a Shotgun."

Although it opens the album on an upbeat note, her songs turn dark as Underwood sings about such risqué topics as alcoholism and murder. However, it soon mellows out as she sings about more conventional topics like lost love, such as in "Wine After Whiskey."

"One Way Ticket" is the weakest note of her album. Appearing halfway through, it awkwardly disrupts the flow. "One Way Ticket" completely clashes with the other songs in both style and subject matter and should not have been included. In it, Underwood sings about how "maybe it's time to take a break" and to "get your feet up, just kick it." This laid back and carefree attitude does not go well with the rest of the album.

That being said, the songs "Good Girl," "Blown Away," and "Two Black Cadillacs" are worth listening to. "Good Girl" is a tune that is fun to sing and dance along to as Underwood advises a girl to stay away from a guy who will only break her heart. "Blown Away" is about a girl whose father is an alcoholic, in which Underwood sings about how "there's not enough rain in Oklahoma to wash the sins out of that house." "Two Black Cadillacs" tells the story of two women who attend the funeral of a man whom they both were involved with and sought revenge against together.

Although not particularly memorable, Underwood's new album is enjoyable. Her fans will be pleased.

The Raven

By Thomas Soares
Staff Writer



Where do I even begin?

I knew going in that this movie was going to be bad. My interest in seeing *The Raven* was in the curiosity in finding out what type of bad movie this was going to be. People like me, who idiotically subject themselves to a copious number of terrible films, know that there are essentially two different types of bad movies. There are movies that are either so bad that they're good, or movies that are just boring eyesores. I was hoping for the former.

Starring John Cusack as Edgar Allan Poe and directed by James McTeigue (*V for Vendetta*), *The Raven* partly focuses on the mystery surrounding the final days of Poe. After several murders inspired by his writings take place in the city of Baltimore, Edgar Allan Poe is wrapped in the investigation, trying to stop the serial killer before the next murder. Luke Evans co-stars as the hammy chief inspector who shouts most of his lines as though his big toe has just been smashed with a hammer. The stakes are raised when Poe's love interest is kidnapped by the killer at a masquerade party hosted by her father (Brendan Gleeson). In order to rescue her, Poe must use the clues left by the killer. We all know that Poe's search for her will lead to his death, since the first scene of the film is Poe breathing his last on a park bench in Baltimore.

Although there are some aspects of this film that completely fail and are enjoyable because of their failure (the definition of a "so bad, it's good" film) *The Raven* is essentially a boring eyesore. The film looks like it was cheaply made. Most of the gore, including a particularly poorly made homage to "The Pit and the Pendulum," is computer generated and looks more fake than corn syrup and latex. Even though the script has some clever moments, especially when it relates characters and events of the film to actual aspects of the history of Edgar Allan Poe, it has many obvious flaws. Almost no screen-time is spent on essential questions of the plot. How is the killer able to pull off these murders without leaving a trace of his identity? What is his motivation for committing these murders? As the film went on, no sense of real tension or suspense was maintained which made it impossible to stay invested in the story. Although there was some grotesque Poe-influenced imagery, I cannot call *The Raven* a scary film.

The acting, especially John Cusack's performance, is ridiculously over the top. The thing that truly surprised me about *The Raven* was the amount of entertainment I would get out of watching John Cusack (already one of my least favorite actors). He emotes more than I have ever seen him emote before, especially in scenes where Edgar Allan Poe is barefaced drunk. This gives the film some camp value, but not enough to save it.

All in all, I regret seeing *The Raven*. This film will disappoint fans of Edgar Allan Poe's writings, as well as fans of horror cinema.



FOCUS ON CLASS OF 2012

Transfer Students



By Sarah Godwin
Staff Writer

You're most likely to spot them the first week of school - parking in the wrong places, venturing into the wrong classrooms, and desperately trying to make each mistake look as though it was actually on purpose. Just last year I was one of those very people. Moving to California was strange at first. I got lost. A lot. But so did every other transfer. Because Mitty had staged a transfer orientation the week before school, it was a relief to realize I wasn't alone in all that confusion. The transfers would all stick together, and when we got lost, we found solace in the fact that at least we weren't alone.

When I finally did muster the courage to venture beyond my "transfer clique", the result couldn't have been more positive. The number of people who would simply walk up to me and introduce themselves was, albeit overwhelming, very reassuring. And each time I'd have to stop and ask directions, or would refer to the wrong wing, everybody was so incredibly good-natured. Not once was I chastised for asking a stupid question or (embarrassingly) walking into the incorrect classroom, and for that, my initial experience was all the more positive. Since then, I've more or less established myself here at Mitty, and I can safely say Mitty is one of the most accepting communities that I've been a part of. As corny as it is to say, I could not have picked a better place in which to experience all this than Mitty, and for that, I know all this has truly been so incredibly worthwhile.

Diploma of To the Class

As your moderators, we would like to take a moment to say a few words about your class. Ms. Cao would first like to apologize in advance for butchering everyone's name in the past four years.

We've been lucky to have awesome reps for the four years we have moderated and an awesome group of students to work with. It has been a special opportunity for us to see students come together to work diligently outside the classroom and off the field.

What makes moderating so special is that it gives us the opportunity to see four hundred students come together for a single purpose—to celebrate being a Monarch. As first time moderators we really enjoyed our jobs because of you all! Who knows if there will ever be a class who will win so many spirit weeks and Monarch Madnesses again.

To take full advantage of this opportunity to address you as a class, we would like to take a moment to share some of our favorite memories.

When it comes to dancing, you guys are second to none. Who can forget Areya's role as Lord Licorice and the "Bounce" dance? This is when everyone realized

Yearbook

In order to find my niche at Mitty, I turned to a room tucked away in student activities to provide me with a sense of community: the yearbook office. I was intrigued by the ideas of designing layout and creating something to help remember the school year forever, so at the end of freshman year, I sent in my application and crossed my fingers.

Now, I am a second year editor who has worked on over 40 spreads and revised half of the pages for this year's book with senior Rebecca Casey and Ms. Katie Epidendio. Looking back on my experience, I can clearly see that there are several aspects of being on the *Excalibur* staff that I will remember.

Through yearbook, I have become more connected with the Mitty community. This past fall, I was assigned the varsity football spread. I attended every game to take photos and while documenting the season, I felt as though I was almost a part of the team. This same feeling has happened to me with musicals, concerts, newspaper, and so many more events; I've been exposed to parts of Mitty that I normally would not experience.

The most important thing I have taken away from my experience is the relationships that I formed with my staff members. We bond during workshops, at sleepovers, and over tension at deadlines. We always help each other out, and it is this teamwork that has helped us grow.

As I reflect back on my years at Mitty, no activity stands out more than yearbook. Next year, there will be changes occurring for the yearbook; the current office will become an IT office, and we will be moving up to the 600 wing. Regardless of these changes, I know that I'll always return to Mitty to visit the yearbook staff, for the bonds between us are unbreakable, and I will always be proud to call the Mitty yearbook office my home.



By Caroline Staudenraus
Staff Writer

SONY

There's something about stepping onto a stage that feels like coming home. At least, it's something that has always been true for me, and I would presume for most performing arts students.

Performing on stage becomes a part of you until it is hard to imagine your life without it. As a graduating senior, it is going to be hard to leave Mitty's Kinkade Theater behind because it has been such a part of my time here at Mitty. I have laughed, cried, and run into more set pieces than I'd like to admit all in the name of art. Some of my best memories from my time at Mitty have been in the wings and dressing rooms of that theater. Every year the musicals, winter plays and sketch shows have been important dates in my calendar either because I was in them or because I was waiting to see what my friends had been working on them for months.

Now, after four years of this excitement, it's hard to believe that this could be my last time on the stage. That being said, I couldn't have asked for a better experience. From performing in Vocal Ensemble freshman year to running around in *Pardon My French's* shows, I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful group of people.

As the seniors prepare to move on to a new adventure in college, we can look back at our times at Mitty and know that we have a great group of people who have supported us and now hope that we "break a leg" in the next chapter of our lives.



By Alexandra Garfield
Focus Editor

Graduation Class of 2012:

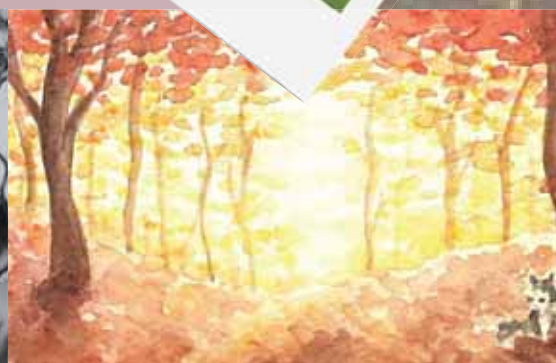
their unlimited potential to be a creepy stalker... you killed it Areya.

Or how appropriate was it when Mikey, as god of the underworld, did the Burning Man dance (or is it Bernie Man)? You can't forget Alejandra getting sassy and whipping her hair around. Nor can you forget Marco's sharp, clean choreography and committed facial expressions (when someone wasn't getting it, we'd tell them to watch Marco). And then there are people who you can't miss for an entirely different reason... Thomas "TP" Peters. We mentioned this in the most loving way possible—you are always a crowd pleaser.

Lastly, don't share our secret about how to kill it in the hula-hoop relay—you guys got better every single time you used the "method"!!

Unfortunately we can't get into all the memories over the past years in this letter. We want to say thank you for being open to our comments, criticisms and personalities. Good luck to all of you.

—Ms. Cao and Mr. De Palma



By Chrysanna Daley
Staff Writer

ART

Even before I first joined the Mitty community as a freshman, the art room was like a home to me. I was immediately captivated by the material taught by Mrs. Lemak and Mrs. Cable; the projects were original and engaging, and every activity drew me further into the art world.

Mr. Eagleson's freshmen class taught us the basics of art, and his instruction gave me the crucial foundation on which to expand my understanding of the subject. During my sophomore year, I took Drawing with Mrs. Cable, and was amazed by the creativity and ability of all those around me. In 11th grade, I was in Mrs. Lemak's Painting class, where we utilized more advanced forms of painting with watercolor and acrylic. This year, I was determined to end my Mitty artistic career by taking as wide a variety of courses as possible. In the fall I took Western Art history, and had proportionately too much fun for the astonishing amount of information I learned about Western civilization's cultural progression. Now in my final semester as a senior, I'm taking Mrs. Lemak's 2D/3D class, which focuses on techniques such as collage and sculpture. Our projects are the ultimate medley of every kind of traditional media, and she challenges us to produce our best work while enjoying the class by coming up with creative subject matter that appeals to every type of artist: altered books, clay figures, and gigantic paper-mache objects.

All of these art classes have certainly rounded out my elective education, but if I could, I would take and retake every class available. Mitty offers an outstanding array of visual arts courses, including Graphic Design, Photography, and Book as Art, all taught by inspirational and dedicated teachers. They manage to bring out the best of the abilities of every single one of their students, and the result of their countless hours devoted to us is demonstrated by the phenomenal displays we pass by everyday in the foyer, as well as in the online gallery. I'm incredibly pleased to have participated in the Visual Arts department, and my experiences in these classes have been a remarkable addition to my four years at Mitty. I appreciate and cherish everything I have learned, and will use it through college and beyond.



ATHLETICS

By Lindsay Mewes
Staff Writer



Mitty has an excellent reputation both inside and outside the classroom, so being a part of a team here means becoming a part of a legacy. My experience with Mitty athletics defined my high school years.

Throughout the soccer season, I grew closer to my teammates, both upper and underclassmen alike. I knew what it was like being a Mitty athlete—it's not just about hanging banners in the gym; it's about the work put into each season, whether it produces a banner or not. And if it does, it is about being able to look up at that banner with pride for yourself, your teammates, and your school.

Being a Mitty athlete means learning lessons, making memories and growing through the love for a sport. I used what I learned as a freshman and continued to grow as an athlete and as a person over the next few years, experiencing both triumph and disappointment on the soccer field. My senior year, I joined the field hockey team and was introduced to a new sport and some amazing teammates and coaches. The girls I met there combined with the people I met through soccer made my experience one I will never forget.

Though my time as an athlete here is over, I will always be grateful to the athletics for giving me the chance to play sports I love, for a school I love, with people I love.



Dillan Patel

Why do you enjoy photography?

My photography can be described as a passion, a time where I can escape to a new world and be this different character as a photographer.



What peaked your interest in photography?

What peaked my interest in photography is when I used to go to San Francisco and see all these artists sell their works and see their big cameras, and thereafter I told myself, "Hey I should give that a shot."

What is your favorite picture?

I don't have a favorite picture because all my photographs are distinct in their own way and therefore beautiful and send their own message.

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

A scene of a photo I desire to capture is when the sun is setting and I am up in the mountains at the skyline, able to see a bed of clouds with rays of sun shining through it. Nice beautiful nature surrounds the scene and further in the back lies the never sleeping city.



Through the Lens: Monarch Photography

Mr. Steve Scott

What inspires you to photograph?

Photography helps me to discover the sacred in the midst of daily life. It provides a visual history of my desire to see God in the world around me. Photography is an art, which invites me to wake up in the present moment. This art of seeing is an essential dimension of my spirituality.



What peaked your interest in photography?

As a child watching my mother, a professional photographer, print pictures in her darkroom was a magical experience. For me, so much of photography is putting myself in a position where I am open to the unfolding mystery of life.

What type of camera do you use?

I heartily agree with Chase Jarvis in believing the best camera is the one that you are carrying. That being said, my iPhone 4 gets a lot of use. In addition, I have a Nikon D7000.





Caitlyn Jackson

Rachel Wakley



NATURE



Miriam Willis

Famous Photographer: **Bob Langrish**



Bob Langrish is one of the most famous equine photographers in the world. Langrish has been taking photos of horses for more than 38 years and is best known for taking pictures of horses in their natural and wild environment. In every photo, Langrish incorporates excellent lighting, vibrant colors, and a very beautiful horse. Langrish is also famous for having been awarded the MBE (Member of the order of the British Empire) in 2011 by the queen for his excellent equestrian photography skills; he is the first equine photographer to have ever received this award. Furthermore, his pictures have been used in many of the top equine magazines in the world and in over 300 books. Within his equestrian photography library, there are more than 400,000 pictures of the horse, ranging from headshots to galloping shots. To this library, he continues to add thousands more each year. Because of Langrish's skillful captures of these majestic creatures, one can only feel awe at his breathtaking equine photographs.

By Kerri Yen
Staff Writer



Anna Shah-Nazarian

Connor Gibson



Justice Awareness

PROFILES IN JUSTICE

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

By Elise Sudlow
Justice Editor

Color Me Rad: Do you like rainbows? Do you like running and personal fitness? How about supporting charities? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Color Me Rad is for you! This is a 5K (that's 3.1 miles) that you can do with your friends. You start out with white clothing, and along the way there are machines that will shoot color onto you and make you a mobile rainbow. With several dates and locations throughout California, you can pay a small fee to have fun with friends and benefit a great cause. For more information, you can go to www.colormerad.com.



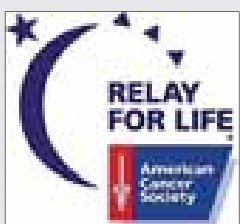
The Humane Society: Do something a little different this summer and volunteer at the Humane Society, which is an independent, non-profit animal shelter. There are volunteer programs for high school students grades 9-12, as well as a different program if you are 18 or older. Many of you can get a jump on your service hours and if you end up loving it, make it a year round commitment. For more information, visit www.hssv.convio.net.



Charity Fitness Classes: If you want to stay in shape this summer, you can make a point to go to certain fitness classes. Many gyms and fitness clubs offer classes with proceeds going to local charities. For instance, Bikram Yoga San Jose offers a class once a week with the drop-in rates going to all different charities. So try something new and help out the local community at the same time! Visit the website of your local fitness centers or yoga centers for more information!



Relay for Life: Many of you probably know what this is, but for those who don't, Relay for Life is an event held by the American Cancer Society all over the U.S. every year to benefit cancer research. There are events on several days in various areas all over the Bay Area. This is a 24-hour event, and while it is too late to form an official team, you can form an unofficial one with your friends, collect donations from friends and family, and give them to the American Cancer Society at the event. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org.



Trayvon Martin: A Prolonged Path to Justice

By Katrina Vokt and Jeemin Kwon
Staff Writers

Many would think they are safe when walking home after buying candy and tea from a convenience store—this was not the case for Trayvon Martin. Trayvon Martin's death has been in the news for some time, but as this tragedy has unfolded, America has been forced to face the fact that racism is still very much present in today's society.

For those unfamiliar with the case, Trayvon Martin was like any other teenager: the seventeen year old African-American went to high school, played sports, and had a girlfriend.

On Feb. 26, however, on a walk through his father's neighborhood after a trip to the convenience store, he was fatally shot by George Zimmerman, the community watch coordinator. Trayvon was unarmed, only holding his candy. Incredibly, his killer even admitted that he did not know whether Martin was armed or not.

Florida's gun laws allow a "stand-your-ground" defense, meaning that civilians are left to judge the potential threat of a situation. In this case, Zimmerman claimed to have acted out of self-defense; when in reality, as evidence has demonstrated, he chased Martin down. Florida, as well as twenty other states that support these laws, will have to reexamine the underlying flaws due to what Trayvon Martin's death has exposed.

Electing an African American president does not mean centuries of discrimination can be forgotten—discrimination still happens each and every day. The racism that Zimmerman displayed in profiling Trayvon Martin became such a controversial issue that President Obama has come out strongly about the issue, saying, "My main message is to the parents of Trayvon Martin. If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon. I think they are right to expect that all of us as Americans are going to take this with the seriousness it deserves and we're going to get to the bottom of exactly what happened."

Initially, it had seemed that Zimmerman would escape the consequences of his actions. However, thanks to public outrage and protest, especially backed by Change.org, Zimmerman was charged with 2nd degree murder and is currently pleading innocent while in custody.

Garnering over 2 million signatures, often times at 1,000 signatures per minute, Change.org's online petition provided the means for people across the nation to voice their opinion and call out for justice.

In response, Martin's parents gave their thanks, saying, "When Trayvon was just nine, he ran into a burning house to save his father's life. He may be gone, but he is still our hero. We are so thankful to all of you who fought to honor his memory."

While this is a testament to the power of the people's voices in America, the fact of the matter

is that this should not have happened in the first place.

As President Obama said, "I think all of us have to do some soul searching to figure out how does something like this happen."

Now, America holds its breath, awaiting the results of Zimmerman's trial. Trial proceedings may take as long as a year.

Despite the national stir this case has caused, it has also hit close to home as well. As a response to the controversy, Mitty held an open meeting that many students attended to learn about the social justice issues concerned. Mitty facilitated a discussion between students and faculty to consider why this tragedy occurred, as well as what Mitty can do to aid the situation.

On April 2, the Mitty Advocacy Project (MAP) joined with AASU, LASU, and other members of the Mitty community for a successful meeting. Junior Rebecca Koshy attended the meeting, and said about it, "I am glad I attended as because the discussion was extremely engaging and educational—I really got to hear my fellow classmates express their opinion about the entire situation."

North Korea: Cold War II?

By Billy Rehbock
Staff Writer

When North Korea constructed a rocket that was supposed to place a satellite in orbit, many believed it was more likely designed to test the possibility of carrying a nuclear warhead. At this time, the world held its breath but also chuckled, knowing that the project would likely be a failure.

North Korea did not disappoint as their rocket exploded 12,000 meters into the air after it was launched, commemorating the transfer of power to Kim-Jung Un, the son of the country's recently deceased dictator. Despite the comedic results of the launch, it still raises concerns because it demonstrates North Korea's continued aggressiveness and hostile nature.

The failed launch indicates incompetence within the program's engineering staff, but it nonetheless demonstrates that North Korea is vying for a position of power in the world. It is unlikely that they will discontinue their work after one unsuccessful test.

As the country has ramped up its nuclear capabilities, North Korea has become the eighth strongest country with regard to nuclear power. It is only natural that they would want to amass vehicles in which to transport their weapons

over great ranges, especially in an attempt to show their country's prowess.

Unfortunately, within the unjust system of North Korea's government, dissenters who wish for a more peaceful country will more than likely not be able to reverse the direction Kim-Jung Un is going.

The state prevents its people from expressing concerns on any sort of legislation, and as a result, this nuclear and long range missile program will continue to go on unchecked.

In a way, the United Nations and other global peacekeeping forces are partly to blame. Not much has been done to quell North Korea's recent activity, and despite any agreements made with the United States, the totalitarian nation will potentially resume its

betrayal of any disarmament pacts.

The United States can improve upon a tense situation by coming out even more forcefully against North Korea, as this would encourage Kim-Jung Un to slow his nuclear armament oriented policy. The world cannot stand for such hostile and violent behavior; arms races should be considered things of the past (the Cold War ended more than twenty years ago). Overall, North Korea must be condemned and reprimanded for its recent behavior, and steps need to be taken to prevent a hostile amassing of arms that could possibly lead to large-scale global conflict.



Seniors in Justice

Interact

Co-presidents of Interact, Areya Behrouzian and Claire Chu, were inspired by Natalie Nguyen, the founder of Mitty's Interact Club. Through Interact, they empower students with the motto "service above self" and also want them to know that being young isn't an obstacle—it's an opportunity. Their largest event this year, "Music in Action," was a benefit concert put together entirely by students at local high schools. Its success is a testament to the power of students and testimony to the permanence of Interact at Mitty.

The co-presidents look to Interact's bright future with excitement, saying "Looking at the Interact sign-up sheet from the club faire, next year's club will be filled with underclassmen, and I think it's fantastic. I can't wait to watch them surprise themselves with what they can do, and realize what a tremendous driving force their passion can make."



Glamour Gals

In these past four years, Claire Chu has worked with the Organization of Special Needs Families, St. Elizabeth's, World Vision, Emily's List, Walden West, local schools, and more.

"I think it's so important to provide leadership opportunities to students, and to help students realize that they *can* inspire others and they *can* enjoy nonprofit/service work" says Claire.

Something she started on her own, though, has blossomed at Mitty this year.

GlamourGals, a club devoted to working with senior citizens, is only in its first year, and the club already has committed members who have extended themselves to establish the club on campus.

The members love creating friendships with senior citizens over stories about their teenage years and beyond, shown by the Senior Citizen Prom they put on recently. Every time they serve, they are reminded that they have their whole lives ahead of them to make a difference, ensuring their return in the future.



Rushikesh Joshi

Rushikesh Joshi first learned about the Muscular Dystrophy Association when he volunteered at an administrative office on Mitty's pre-approved Christian Service list—little did he know that this would blossom into so much more.

He was later invited to be a camp counselor at the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association. The MDA summer camp is organized for kids from ages 6 to 17 who are diagnosed with various types of Muscular Dystrophy and other neuro-degenerative diseases.

"It is an incredible volunteering opportunity," says Rushikesh, "It has been truly rewarding and inspirational for me these past two years to see these kids overcome their obstacles every day without complaining or giving up.

It's really tough to come back to the camp and see how relentless the progression of Muscular Dystrophy is."

This is just one of the many things Rushikesh has participated in these last four years, undoubtedly touching lives of many kids in this camp and through his other works as well.

2012 Legacy

Mitty Advocacy Project

Mitty Advocacy Project started very small, back when our seniors were freshmen. Mitty had been sending students to Catholic Lobby Day for some time, but a group of small students decided to create something new. From this came the idea for MAP, which has grown every year since. MAP now has full classrooms for Monday meetings, has sent students to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators, created Catholic Youth Advocacy Network Day in Sacramento for students in California, and more.

This is obviously a program that is making real change in the world with a new political approach to advocacy, and one that will last long after the seniors' upcoming graduation, proving that change can start with just a few people who share a simple idea for justice.



Shelby Crespi

Shelby spends her summers working with young children at the Roosevelt Community Center in downtown San Jose. She first started volunteering there the summer after her freshman year and planned to just do the required 25 hours of service, but ended up doing over 1,000 in her four years. Shelby says, "I got there and after my first day with the kids I absolutely loved it. The kids were funny and brought me a whole new perspective." Shelby also volunteers with children ages 6-12 at Camp San Jose. Many of the kids are on scholarships, and go to the camp at a subsidized rate. Through her volunteering, Shelby has gotten to know many of the children and underprivileged families that go through Roosevelt Community Center.



SPORTS

Men's Volleyball: A New Beginning

By Stephen Kwok
Sports Editor

After finishing last season with a 12-18 overall record and a 3-9 mark in WCAL play, the Monarchs showed a vast improvement with a 19-9 record including a 6-6 finish in the league this year.

Mitty started the season with a strong 16-3 record, but unfortunately went on a 4-game losing streak to close out their regular season. They were able to recoup, however, winning three straight in tournaments before losing to Homestead and Bellarmine to finish out their year.

Junior captain Adrian Williams led the team with 131 kills, while senior Mitch Gravelle led the way with a 58% kill percentage. Sophomore Ian Aguilar was the leader in blocks, with 23, while senior captain Casey Cabrales had 19 blocks of his own along with a team-high 14 aces.

"I expected our team to do well," said Adrian Williams at season's close, "I look forward to getting another chance to play the WCAL teams in the playoffs and seeing many of the good teams that we have heard about in the CCS tournament."

The Monarchs unfortunately lost to Bellarmine in the WCAL playoffs. They lost 3-1 (17-25, 25-22, 21-25, 18-25). The loss brought an end to what looks to be the beginning of a bright future.

The team has shown marked improvement from last year, and hopes to carry its success into future years. The squad is fit to be even scarier next season, as they will return 10 players of their 13 man roster.

"I think we achieved more than we expected" said junior captain Tanner Vinson. "Coming off a below-.500 season and then finishing 16-7, I'm very happy with our season."

Softball: Dominating the Competition

By Jordan Scott
Sports Editor

The 2011-2012 Archbishop Mitty softball team continues their journey toward claiming their 7th CCS title in the last 8 years. The Monarchs have already shown their dominance in the WCAL over the past decade by claiming their 10th straight WCAL title.

They have proven the program is a true dynasty of the sport in the Bay Area throughout the past decade. The team is currently ranked 1st in CCS, 5th in the state, and 11th in the nation by Maxpreps.

The Monarchs have only lost two non-league games on their way to currently posting a 23-2 record. One of these was a heart-breaking loss to the number-one ranked team in the nation, Amador Valley, in the Livermore Stampede Tournament.

"The loss at Stampede helped us realize that we couldn't take any opponent lightly," sophomore Kata Pance said, "Every team is out to beat us and just because we have the name 'Archbishop Mitty' on our jerseys doesn't mean the opposing team will just give up because of our reputation."

The Monarchs understand they have a reputation to uphold and this tournament loss allowed the players to understand that. They recouped very well, however, going on an 8-0 tear to close out the season. Throughout the WCAL season, the Monarchs posted some very impressive statistics.

The team is undefeated in the league

with a 12-0 record. The Monarchs have held every single league opponent to less than three runs all season. This includes 8 shutouts, proving the effectiveness of Mitty's strong defense and dominant pitching.

Over 25 games the Monarchs have only yielded 40 runs. A key player behind

Mitty also has a powerful offense. The Monarchs have scored an impressive 7 or more runs in 15 of their 25 games. The team is currently batting .372 as group. Sophomore Jazmyn Jackson and Alvarez lead the team in batting average with .536 and .488 respectively.

Senior Vinchenza Dibenedetto has contributed with 31 runs batted in for the year. The Monarchs' base running has been excellent with the team stealing successfully on 39 out of 42 attempts.

"In our lineup, you can never go wrong," standout Sophomore Jazmyn Jackson said, "In addition to a coach that pushes us to do better every day, we have the speed, the power, and the execution needed in almost every situation possible."

"In order to continue to win in the postseason, we need to keep the high level

of dedication we have shown all season," Junior Catherine Callaway states, "Each player will put in as much time as necessary to be ready for the next game."

"As long as we continue preparing as we have done all season," Coach Brian Yocke says, "we should continue to be successful."

The Monarchs secured their 10th WCAL Title, and begin CCS playoffs in late May. Mitty is seeking back-to-back CCS Division II titles. Good luck to the Monarchs in the postseason!

Corrections: Mitty was CCS champions in 2010-2011. Pitcher Vanessa Alvarez is a senior. The Sports editors apologize for these errors.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Junior Ashley Chestnut makes contact with a tough pitch.

this success has been senior pitcher Vanessa Alvarez.

Alvarez, who will be attending UC Berkeley on an athletic scholarship next year, has played in 22 of the Monarchs' 25 games and has pitched 137.2 innings thus far. In these innings she has racked up 157 strikeouts compared to only 23 walks. This outstanding control has contributed to her ridiculous 6.82 strikeout to walk ratio. In comparison, San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum only has a 2.66 ratio. Alvarez also has held opposing batters to a paltry .158 batting average, contributing to her miniscule 0.92 ERA.

In addition to its lockdown defense,

Athletes Speak

What is the most rewarding part of your sport?



Howie Chang, senior

"The most rewarding part of swimming is getting a personal best time. Regardless of the level of each swimmer, every time a best time is reached, you just jump for joy!"



Beverly Chang, senior

"Since I play doubles, the most rewarding thing in badminton is to practice and win with Lindsey Scheller in a really tough league. After a good half of this season, I have realized that our team work has improved tremendously, and it is hard to imagine that we have only played together for two short months."

Everett Maltby, sophomore

"The most rewarding thing about tennis is probably winning tough matches by playing the best I can at that time, even if I'm a little off that match."



Cecily Agu, junior

"Having the opportunity to meet and work with different people is very rewarding. You can form friendships that you might remember when you are older and reflecting back on your younger days. Track is a sport that tests one's perseverance and strength, and it's rewarding when all that hard work and effort pays off when it's crunch time."



Compiled by Rebecca Casey
Sports Editor

Baseball Gaining Momentum

By Cameron Schott
Staff Writer

After a slow start, the Monarch baseball team has put together a good run and looks to keep rolling into the postseason. They finished the year 16-11-0.

Mitty started the season 4-7, but then captured the Lion's Tournament and Crown Classic titles over Spring Break. Along the way, the team emerged victorious over a favored Valley Christian squad.

The Monarchs kept the streak going with another win over Valley Christian in West Catholic Athletic League play, but their nine-game win streak was snapped with a heartbreaking 5-4 loss to St. Francis.

Mitty has shown that they can play with anyone and could be poised for a major run in the postseason.

"We have performed admirably," said head coach Bill Hutton. "We faced big challenges with graduation and players coming out late. We have stuck together really well."

Despite the loss of pivotal players from last year's campaign, the team has more than held its own on the strength of several key contributors.

Pitchers Neil Vranicar and Davis Messer have put together excellent seasons after winning a state title with the basketball team title,

and currently have 2.40 and 2.76 earned run averages respectively. Freshman Tommy Hudson leads all pitchers with a 1.71 ERA, and freshman Brett Foley has a 2.47 ERA through 39.2 innings.

Offensively, seniors Nick Jackson and Doug Gimenez have powered the Monarchs with .367 and .361 batting averages, respectively. Senior Preston Caldera leads the team with 16 RBIs along with 11 stolen bases.

"As the season progresses, I feel we are becoming a stronger team," said Messer. "Our goal is to be playing our best ball by the end of the year and I feel like we are getting better each game, if not each day."

Mitty will look ahead to capture the WCAL playoffs and then a CCS title. The path to reaching these goals is much easier said than done, but Mitty won't use that as an excuse to

back down.

"I hope we can be a hot team at the end of the season and be a tough team in the WCAL and CCS playoffs," Hutton finished.

Watch out for Mitty to make a surprising run in the postseason, as the Monarchs have the potential to fly under the radar and into the CCS championship. After winning the National Title in 2010 and the WCAL championship in 2011, the team should feel confident that it can replicate this success in the playoffs.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Preston Caldera looks to drive the ball downfield.

Women's Swimming 4-Peat

By Anay Dattawadkar
Sports Editor

Just two points ahead with one last race to go, the women's swimming team screamed their lungs out behind the blocks at St. Francis High School, urging their teammates on.

The 400 Freestyle Relay team, consisting of Charlotte Ruby, Ritty Zhai, Sarah Shimomura, and Marie-Pierre Delisle, was caught in a ferocious battle with the Lancers. With such a slim difference separating the teams, the winner of the race would take the meet.

On the final lap, the Monarchs were able to escape with a half-second victory, taking the meet and winning the WCAL. The twin victories unleashed euphoria for Mitty, who won the league outright after having to share their title with St. Francis last year.

"All of us can honestly say that we probably screamed louder for our four girls than we screamed at Monarch Madness," said senior Karin Cheng.

It's events like these that highlight the incredible chemistry that these girls share, one that has allowed them to build off each other and

reach the incredible heights they have.

"Starting with team bonding [earlier this year], I think this is the closest the team has ever been," said senior Dorothy Ren, "This year has just been so much fun."

This sentiment was reiterated by nearly every top swimmer on the team, a testament to how close the group really is.

The weeks after their WCAL league title will hold more challenges yet for the team. Mitty has won the CCS title for the past three years, and aims to do so again this season.

Though they face a significant challenge due to their relatively small varsity squad of only fifteen swimmers,

the Monarchs are not fazed.

And if their incredible success thus far is any indication, they have no reason to be. Looking ahead to next year, the Monarchs look to have a bright future ahead.

"We definitely want to go for another win and it looks promising, but we still have to work hard and train," said Cheng, "I have no doubt that our girls will be working their butts off to have a great 2013 swim season."



Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Senior Charlotte Ruby surges toward the finish.

Highlight REEL

Men's Track



COACH:
MR. KEVIN DUNN
HIGHLIGHT:
DEFEATING SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL 76-57
CAMERON VACA:
TRACK IS A CONSTANT BATTLE. EVERY DAY YOU TAKE PLACE IN A HEALTHY COMPETITION AGAINST YOUR PEERS, YOUR OPPONENTS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUR WORST OPPONENT.

Sophomore Kyle Evans

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Men's Golf

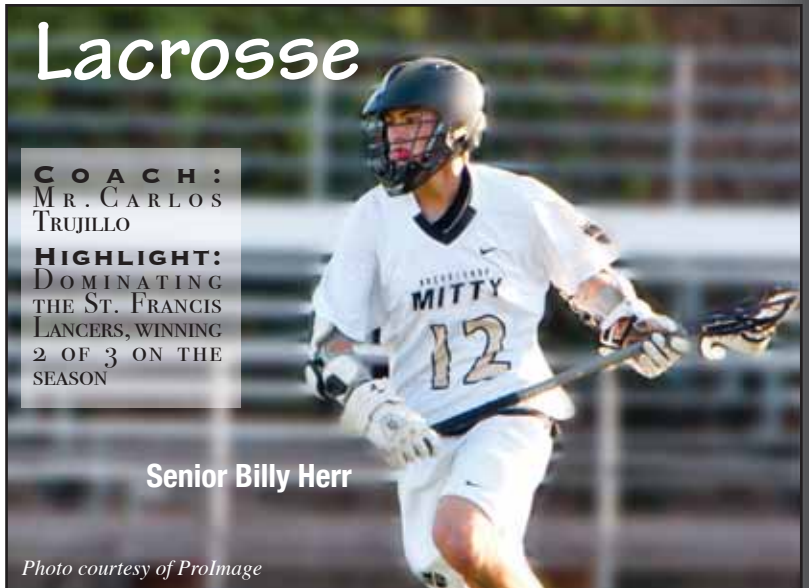


COACH:
MR. JOHN MOSUNIC
SHINTARO BAN:
I LOVE GOLF BECAUSE IT'S FULL OF NEW CHALLENGES. YOU WILL NEVER HAVE THE SAME SHOT.

Junior James Ra

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Lacrosse



COACH:
MR. CARLOS TRUJILLO
HIGHLIGHT:
DOMINATING THE ST. FRANCIS LANCERS, WINNING 2 OF 3 ON THE SEASON

Senior Billy Herr

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Badminton



COACH:
MR. WILFREDO VARGAS
HIGHLIGHT:
DEFEATING PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL
TIFFANY LU:
IT'S BEEN A PRETTY CHALLENGING SEASON SO FAR. WE MOVED UP A LEAGUE LAST YEAR, SO THE COMPETITION HAS DEFINITELY GOTTEN TOUGHER. BUT THAT JUST MAKES OUR INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM WINS THAT MUCH MORE EXCITING.

Freshman Irene Yu

Photo courtesy of Prolmage

Compiled by Rebecca Casey and Stephen Kwok
Sports Editors

Sleeping Over Spring Break? New York Thinks Not

By **Maheen Akhter**
Staff Writer

While many Mitty students and teachers journeyed no farther than their living room couches over spring break, a group of fifteen seniors flew across the country on an excursion to the Big Apple. Chaperoning them were the renowned **Mr. Silva** and **Mr. and Mrs. Brosnan**.

Over the course of five days, the group explored much of New York City, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the 9/11 memorial, the college campuses of Columbia and New York Universities, Central Park, Little Italy, Chinatown, SoHo, and of course dozens of other tourist hotspots including Times Square, Broadway, Wall Street, and Ellis Island.

For seventeen years now, the New York trip has offered Mitty students the opportunity to discover an amazing city. Immersion in a society in many ways different from the Bay Area is a key part of the trip; such exposure is not only an important part of Mitty's philosophy, but it also encourages students to grow by discovering a new environment.

"Mitty has always encouraged our students to explore the world and gain new perspectives about how others live and interact," says Mr. Silva. "New York, more than any other city, is a dynamic combination of culture, business, and history all located on a single island. The ever-changing nature of this city and the sheer amount of energy that never ends creates a cultural phenomenon unlike any other."

"Forget Disneyland," explains senior **Marco Hernandez**. "After the week I spent in New York under the exceedingly knowledgeable mind of Mr. Silva, there is only one location that I will ever call the Happiest Place on Earth: New York City, New York."

Marco, along with the rest of the students, found

the Metropolitan Museum of Art especially captivating. "The museum was incredible. There was so much beauty, culture, and pure art. It was overwhelming."

Over the course of the trip, the students were kept busy by unforgettable highlights that included the recently completed 9/11 memorial pays tribute to the fallen World Trade Center Towers and their victims.

Later, the students forged memories on the steps of Time Square, watched Broadway's best performances, and went shopping in the city. As a break

from the energetic bustle of the trip, the students were able to relax and enjoy the calm, beautiful nature of Central Park.

For Mr. Silva, the most exciting part was seeing the reactions of the students and being able to share a city that he loves with them.

"During this trip one of my favorite moments was the evening our group and

the surrounding crowd sang happy birthday to Alyna Aguilar in Times Square," says Mr. Silva. "It was a memorable way of celebrating her eighteenth birthday."

He also relished teaching the students how to haggle and bargain on Canal Street, a knock-off district for buying designer items.

Senior **Ashley Mackenzie** agrees, "My favorite part of NYC was the whole city itself. It truly lives up to the phrase 'the city that never sleeps.' I'm thankful that Mitty offers this kind of opportunity, and it's one that I'll never forget."

Over the years, the annual senior trip to New York has been extremely successful and continues to enlighten students.

Experiencing new places, perspectives, and cultures, as well as learning about some of the most important landmarks in our country, are powerful ways that Mitty helps students broaden their world. Without a doubt, the New York trip will continue to inspire those who have yet to explore the Big Apple.



Tea-time with "Alice in Wonderland" characters at Central Park.
Photo Courtesy of Mr. Carl Silva

CLIMATE continued from page 1

Many of our current energy extraction practices are not sustainable to the growth of our population. Deep sea oil drilling, fracking of natural gas, and mountaintop removal for mining consume far too many fossil fuels and threaten biodiversity.

While many of our eyes widened in shock at the facts he presented, the real question was this: What could we do about it? Weren't we running out of time? Dr. Joseph acknowledged that it was perfectly normal to be overwhelmed by the information he presented, but he hoped to send home an inspirational message to drive change.

He encouraged the Mitty community to participate in Revolution 2.0, his name for the environmental movement that would be critical to global sustainability. "Action is the antidote to despair," stated Dr. Joseph. "Start now. Create a revolution. It's a problem that your past generations have left to you, but I know you're strong and intelligent enough to find a way."

Simple changes to daily lifestyles such as water and electricity conservation would be the first step to sustainability, as buildings utilize 72% of the electricity we generate. Dr. Joseph encouraged us to educate our peers and promote change within our local communities.

Senior **Daniel Phan** left the presentation feeling empowered: "Hearing everything [Dr. Joseph] had to say about our Earth's condition was disappointing, but I now feel that I'll be able to take the next steps when I head off to college next year."

Mrs. Saunders and **Mrs. Fenker**, two of Mitty's teachers who arranged for Dr. Joseph to present here, hope to continue expanding Mitty's science curriculum beyond the classroom.

"Reading about an environmental challenge is one thing, but hearing from a leader in the field is another," believes Mrs. Saunders.

Indeed, we can look forward to more educational experiences like this at Mitty as we become leaders in local and global environmental issues.



THE MONARCH

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Mr. Mick VanValkenburg & Mr. Craig Whitt

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Justice Awareness

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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.

A Drive to Save Lives

By **Sankar Srinivasan**
Staff Writer

While Campus Ministry runs many drives, few save lives as directly as does the Blood Drive. A relatively new program, the blood drive began four years ago when Campus Ministry wanted a new and unique way to help people and give back to the community. The Blood Centers of the Pacific hosts our annual drive on campus. This year, Director of Christian Service **Christina Leone** stepped up to lead this event.

The goal of this drive is important because, as she explains, "Every three seconds someone needs a blood transfusion. One pint of blood from one donor can save up to 3 lives."

Four and a half million Americans would die each year without receiving life-saving blood transfusions.

Cancer patients, sickle-cell patients, victims of traumatic injuries, and many others need blood transfusions several times a year. The number of blood transfusions increases by nine percent a year, yet only five percent of eligible donors donate blood.

This year, 66 people signed up to donate, and the drive collected a total of 52 life-saving units of blood.

"Since each unit of Whole Blood can be broken down into the 3 different components, the blood collected can help up to 152 patients in our community," says Ms. Leone.

Dedicated student involvement is key to the success of the Blood Drive. Eleven students volunteered their time to make a change. They created advertisements, including thank-you cards, posters, and Mitty minutes. They were also instrumental in facilitating donor check-in and working directly with the Blood Center staff over the course of this two-day drive.

Some of these volunteers have genuine personal reasons that drove them to serve.

Senior **Anushka Pushpala**, one of the leaders of the committee that organizes the Blood Drive, reveals, "My mother and I have blood conditions, and we want to do whatever we can to help those who need it most. One of my good friends actually just got diagnosed

with a blood disease and I know what he is going through so I want to help him and others like him."

With volunteers and donors stepping up from all corners of Mitty, the Blood Drive program is certain to have a bright future in Campus Ministry and, for many patients nearby, it could be the difference between life and death.

