

THE MONARCH

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Remembering Katie Reich



Teacher, Mentor, Coach, Friend

Katie Hatch Reich, beloved Biology and Environmental Science teacher and cross-country coach, was diagnosed with melanoma on April 1, 2008. She passed away peacefully at home on October 3, 2008. While the Mitty community mourns the loss of this loving teacher, coach, and friend, they also look back in remembrance on the profound influence Ms. Reich's life had on them.

"Katie's passions were apparent to all who knew her in the way she spoke, her hobbies, even her key chains. Her personal key chain had a beetle that had been encased in acrylic. I recall her enthusiasm for it and wonder as she asked me, 'Isn't it beautiful?'" On her work keys, Katie had typed up her commitments to teaching young adults on a small card and laminated it. She said she carried it with her as a reminder of her goals to always be the best teacher she could be... and it is apparent she always was."

—Leslie Zuffi

"My strongest memory of Ms. Reich was from a freshman-year Rancho workout. In spite of all our complaining, she ran with us. That may not seem too remarkable, except for the fact that she had run the Nike Woman's Marathon the day before—26.2 miles—and was out with us the next day. Ms. Reich was always there for us, every step of the way."

—Katherine Edgecumbe, '10

"One of my many fond memories of Katie, besides her love of running, is her work moderating Amnesty International. She had a deep concern for the plight of political prisoners, the tragedy of child soldiers and for a global perspective on justice and peace. Our world is a better place because of her."

—Richard Howard

"Ms. Reich was the kind of person I aspire to be. She ran, she traveled and she clearly was passionate about her work. I only hope that as I grow older, I will learn to radiate the same passionate, positive energy as my teacher. Thank you Ms. Reich, I admire you so much."

—Katie Helland, '09

"We have lost an angel on our campus. Katie Reich was an inspiration and a mentor to many of our students. What bothers me is the fact that so many of our future students will never have the opportunity to learn about biology, learn about our earth, or learn about life from this amazing person. We have all been blessed for such a short period of time to have had Katie as a colleague. May our memory of her live long."

—Ron Nicoletti

"She had a passion for biology and running and, as any of her students can tell you, when she got rolling on a topic, the bright glow of excitement showed through her eyes."

—Alisa Strayer, '09 Cross Country Captain

"God sent us a miracle in Katie herself—in the time we had to share with her, to laugh, to hug, and to learn. Katie is a miracle and we are all better for having known her. Katie—you are such an inspiration to me. I will cherish our friendship forever. Keep smiling and watch over all of us."

—Katie Frise

"Katie Reich has left a bright and beautiful imprint on my heart forever. I was amazed by her incredible enthusiasm for helping students, her meticulous organization, and her passion for life. I loved working closely with her during our first year teaching at Mitty, and I will miss her greatly."

—Theresa Hannon

"Ms. Reich to me will always be the smiling face when I reach the top of the hill; (the) epitome of optimism, happiness, and love."

—Jenn Campbell, '09

"My entire sophomore year, I don't think I ever saw Ms. Reich not smiling. Even after she was diagnosed with cancer, I remember her coming back to class one day, jumping up on her desk, crossing her legs like a little kid and asking us, 'Hey! Anyone got any questions for me?' with a huge smile stretching across her face. She truly is and was a beautiful person who could bring joy to anyone's day, no matter how bad a day they were having. She will forever be loved and missed."

—Kendall Whitham '10

"Thank you for being such an inspirational teacher, runner, and friend. I will always remember our late nights training on the track at Los Gatos High School, as you raced around the bend—always with that beautiful smile on your face. I am so grateful for the time we spent together. You will be the wind at my back always."

—Katie McCormick

"Katie was a person of detail.... She was a great teacher because she paid attention to the detail that was within her students and she adjusted in response to that. She was an amazing person because she paid attention to who you were and what you were about. God is in the details and she understood that and because of that she touched so many peoples' lives. She will be sorely missed."

—Tom Motroni

"I have never run as far or as fast since we started running together. There is not an inch of the Campbell trail, Rancho San Antonio, or of the streets surrounding Mitty that does not remind me of her. I miss her so much."

—Caroline Cable

"Every new teacher should be blessed to have a teacher like Katie Reich to learn from. Her mind was always working to improve lessons and try new things. She would do anything to help students understand biology because she knew that only then could she lead them to love her subject. Her passion for teaching science was contagious and so her love lives on in the 300 wing."

—Sigrid Jacobsen

"I am definitely not a natural runner, but nonetheless, Ms. Reich stuck by me throughout the season with a smile on her face. Even when times got rough, she constantly motivated me to keep pushing through. I believe that she is in a better place and I hope that she will here—after look down on us, as I have always looked up to her. May angels lead you in, Ms. Reich."

—Kendra Breunling '09

"Katie was an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who enjoyed every facet of her teaching days and the time she spent with her students. Sometimes, people prove what caliber they are in how they live their life. Other times, people show what they are made of in how they face adversity. Katie certainly lived her life with dignity and honor and faced her illness with courage and grace. She will be missed by all."

—Sandra Mack

In memory of Ms. Reich's life, donations may be made to the Katie Hatch Reich Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Archbishop Mitty High School, 5000 Mitty Drive, San Jose, CA 95129.

OPINIONS

Election 2008:

John McCain Vs. Barack Obama

READY TO LEAD FROM DAY ONE

By Christina Jones
Sports Editor

Progress is made when people set aside their differences to reach some middle ground. In politics, one must reach across the aisle in order to secure an agreement for the common good. John McCain has attained such compromises by bringing together the ideologies and desires of liberals and conservatives alike. As President, he will do the same, working with a liberal Congress to benefit our society.

It has been shown that partisan politics from the White House does not help solve the complex problems that America faces. Arguably some of our history's best presidents, most recently Reagan and Clinton, were renegades to their own party for the betterment of the country as a whole. In the Senate, John McCain has demonstrated that this characteristic is essential for progress. *The Washington Times* reports that in just the last two Congresses, 55% of McCain's co-sponsors of legislation were Democrats. This percentage of bipartisanship is extremely high; during the same period of time, Senator Obama has only worked with Republicans on legislation 13% of the time.

Aside from just statistics, McCain's proposed legislation has included controversial issues including global warming and campaign finance. Obama employed bipartisanship in areas not typically associated with polarizing views, such as honoring Rosa Parks through a memorial postage stamp.

Barack Obama's campaign may be the one touting change, but Obama simply cannot deliver on that promise the way McCain can. Obama's political ideology differs more drastically from that of the current administration, which may indicate to some voters the ability to change society. However, Obama lacks the ability to transform his version of change from an idealistic dream to a tangible reality. If his ideas cannot be passed by a Congress that will include Republicans, they will not become reality and the public will not see results behind the rhetoric.

Though Bush and McCain both call themselves Republicans, they are far from ideological brethren. For instance, McCain stringently opposes torture of detainees, while Bush supports water boarding and other coercive and, some would argue, inhumane interrogation tactics. He fundamentally disagrees with Bush on hot-button issues ranging from immigration to energy to congressional spending and even defense expenditures. Even the left-leaning *New York Times* considers McCain "the only Republican who promises to end the George Bush style of governing," and acknowledges he appeals to "a broader range of Americans."

Though a supporter of the War in Iraq, McCain remains outspoken about what he calls Bush's "mismanagement" of the war. A military man himself, McCain understands the war tactics better than Bush or Obama ever could. As commander-in-chief, McCain would run the war the right way, ensuring victory. McCain supported the troop surge in Iraq in January 2007, which has proved to be a successful initiative. Obama, on the other hand, refused to support the increase in troops to try to stabilize Iraq, and continues to deny its efficacy even when General Petraeus says it improved the situation and achieved its objective.

Democrats take issue with the fact that McCain has consistently supported the war and voted for its funding. Whether you agree with the premise of the war or not, the fact of that matter is we are involved in it. It would be irresponsible to simply hand an Iraq over to an inexperienced military, ill-equipped

to resist the insurgents trying to destroy the fledgling democracy developing in the tumultuous region. It would be even more reckless to publically announce a timetable for the withdrawal of troops. Should the U.S. leave Iraq prematurely, it would only be a matter of time before anti-democratic forces from Iran and elsewhere seize control of the country, leaving it in an even more chaotic state. McCain will not leave until the job is done, but unlike Bush, McCain will see that the job is completed satisfactorily.

Foreign policy clearly entails more than just the War in Iraq. John McCain sent a strong message: he will not negotiate with terrorists or those who support terrorism. Iran has sponsored Hamas and Hezbollah, and its president wants to demolish Israel. McCain will take decisive action to halt the growth of Iran's nuclear weaponry, such as imposing political and economic sanctions. Unlike Senator Obama, John McCain knows that simply talking to the leader of Iran without preconditions will not resolve the problem; McCain has the experience to know the actions he needs to take to diminish the threat of Iran and other countries.

To say the economy is currently in turmoil is an understatement. McCain understands that the situation requires swift government action, and he needs to be involved in the solution. After the debate, Obama went back on the campaign trail, placing his own election as a higher priority than the economic situation that plagues the country. John McCain plans on reducing government spending and reforming governmental financial institutions to prevent future problems.

McCain is a true leader who can institute societal change. His policies will differ from those enacted during Bush's tenure. He knows how to manage a war, and has the experience necessary to deal with volatile foreign affairs. He places his own self-interest second to the interest of the American people, at times working against his party to get things done (such as in the case of global warming and finance reform). He is indeed the maverick he says he is, and his bipartisanship indicates he has the ability to actually implement his ideas into legislation that will be passed by Congress. A man who has dedicated his life to the service of his country, McCain is ready to lead.

CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN

By Ian Davis
Staff Writer

The decision voters will make on November 4 will be an important one; it will shape and mold our nation for the next four years. We are at a critical point in our history—we need a leader who can unite us into a nation to face the challenges of the 21st century. That is why we must elect Barack Obama as President.

After eight years of President Bush, our country cannot afford another bumbling Commander-in-Chief. We need a leader who can inspire the nation to solve the problems of our foreign affairs, our economy, and our failing political system. Obama is such a leader.

The Bush administration has nearly ruined our international reputation by starting a war in Iraq without provocation or proof. Obama was one of the few who opposed this failed war from the beginning, and he has a clear timetable for withdrawal that a majority of the Iraqi people support.

More importantly, Obama's multicultural background makes him uniquely qualified to represent a global America and to regain our international standing. Many foreigners view him as the change that America needs to reclaim its position as a world leader that the multinational community can look to.

His policy of talking with foreign leaders we disagree with will help our nation vastly more than the conservative approach—refusing to come to the table until they meet our demands—which promotes the arrogant American attitude that got us into this mess in the first place.

Of course the most important issue facing the American people this year is the economy. Obama is clearly better suited to lead us in this challenge as well.

Weeks ago, after the Dow Jones fell over 700 points, McCain stated in a town hall meeting that "the fundamentals of our economy are strong." While many middle income families are losing their homes to foreclosures, he cannot even recall how many he has. His only method of increasing federal income is by cutting out the earmarks, which account for less than 1 percent of the total budget. Clearly, this man is out of touch with this crisis.

Obama, however, realizes that the American people need help. His tax plan closes

corporate loopholes, reclaims the record profits from oil companies, and taxes only those in the highest income brackets—those making over \$250,000 a year. He then invests this money back into the American people, providing relief to the middle and lower classes in the form of tax rebates, and by improving the schools through creating early childhood education and making college affordable for everyone. The latter is an issue that those of us here at Mitty in the middle class—who are not rich enough to pay for college ourselves but not poor enough to qualify for extensive financial aid—find especially appealing.

Now, I know that many of you are in those upper income brackets, but I urge you to take the moral high road and support this plan. The extra couple thousand you are forced to pay will not bankrupt you, but the few thousand that the middle class saves will be their rescue from these challenging economic times.

But by far the biggest difference between these two candidates—and the chief factor voters should consider—is not how they handle issues but how they will lead.

In this respect, Barack Obama is far superior. He is inspiring and energizing in a way that has not been seen since John F. Kennedy. He alone has the capacity to bring together the Red States and the Blue States to form a truly United States. He has the potential to lead America through these trying times and bring us into a new era of greatness.

Obama's decision-making process is one key factor in how he leads. He creates a panel of strong advisors whom he encourages to disagree with him. He is inclusive of every opinion and judges them all carefully before issuing a verdict. This way, he gets the full representation of all sides and all arguments, and has people who can correct any errors he may have made in his thinking.

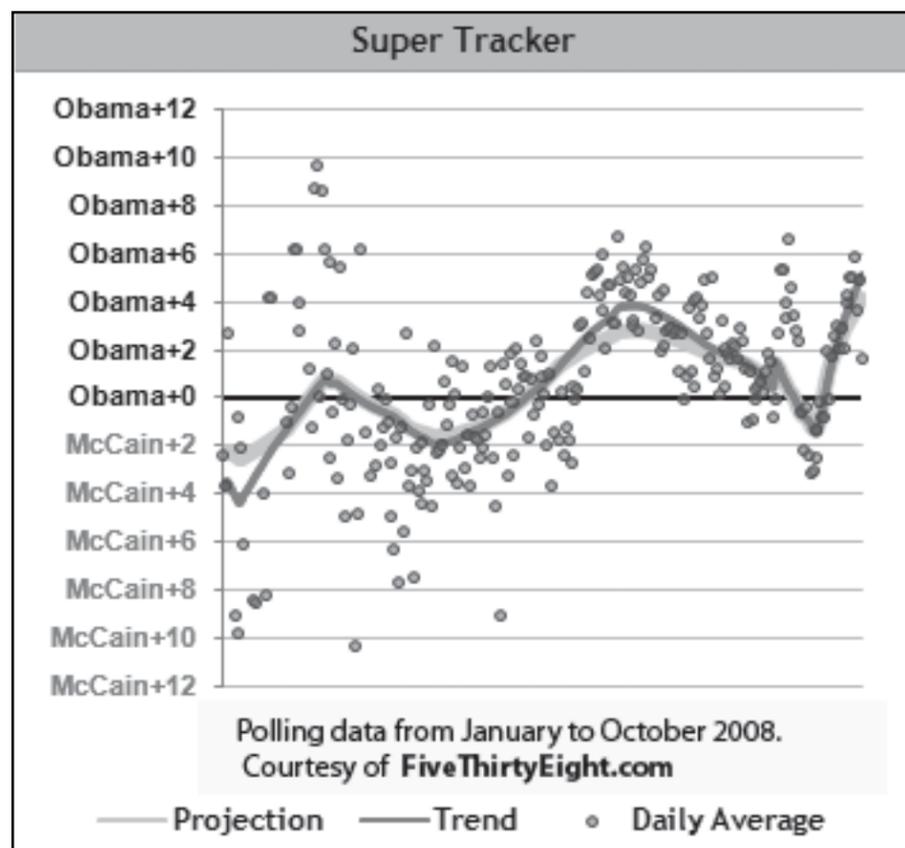
By contrast, John McCain is, as he himself says, a maverick; he makes choices without the support of his advisors and shows no respect for dissenting opinions. In fact, to him, someone either agrees with him, or is a corrupt member of the Washington elite. There is no middle ground. This generalization and division has not been seen since the era of McCarthyism, when any dissenters had to be communist sympathizers.

Obama is also much more level-headed than McCain. The latter candidate has a strong temper with a short fuse. Just recently, he made an accusation toward the chairman of the SEC, threatening to fire him, without knowing the facts of the situation. Imagine the consequences for America if President McCain is sitting across the table from another world leader and starts making unsubstantiated accusations.

Many argue that John McCain's greatest strength is the ability to take charge of the country during a time of crisis. But is it? Obama clearly has the better leadership style and the ability to calm the nation with words of sympathy.

Conservative commentator George Will summed up McCain's response when he wrote, "Under the pressure of the financial crisis, one presidential candidate is behaving like a flustered rookie playing in a league too high. It is not Barack Obama."

While I may think that Barack Obama's policy plans for restoring our international image and managing our domestic crisis are far superior to McCain's, some on the right may disagree. But one thing that every American can agree on is that we need a leader. President Bush has led us down the wrong path, and we need someone who is capable of steering the country back to the right one. And the truth is that Barack Obama is that leader.





Mrs. Palin Goes to Washington

By Ally Lockwood
Staff Writer

Sarah Palin deserves our commendation. Round of applause, anyone? Not since Hillary Clinton has any woman on the recent political scene managed to rouse such passion and fervor, or quicken the pulses of both Republicans and Democrats alike. Republicans have been clamoring with unparalleled excitement and vigor over Palin, whose nomination for vice president has added a much needed spark to a Republican campaign that was beginning to look as dried up and withered as an Arizona dried pepper. Who would've guessed a few months ago a completely obscure governor from Alaska would be thrust into the national spotlight before she even had a chance to complete her first term in office in the last frontier state?

Palin's nomination has largely become a media frenzy not only because of the circumstances of her nomination (the fact that she's a woman, lacks any previous foreign policy experience, and is from a state that remains a mystery to a majority of the country is enough to boggle any political analyst's mind) combined with her family drama—yes, it is enough to make anyone question how exactly Mrs. Palin has gotten to where she is. Yet it seems the circus surrounding the absurdity of her nomination has been more than enough to distract from her ultraconservative policies (e.g. creationism taught in public high schools and raising questions about banning books when she was a mayor). Instead, the focus has turned to her glossy copper-highlighted up-do and chipper demeanor. Oh that Sarah. She's so darn cute.

The real rationale behind Palin's nomination was to motivate the conservative right voting block—the Republican base—which in no way had flocked to McCain like democratic supporters to Obama, and to add charm to McCain's campaign. Because, let's face it, Palin was clearly not chosen for her sound resume. Indeed, McCain made a political move that seemed sure to have Obama strategists sweating through the polls to November.

After Hillary Clinton's loss at the primaries, the Republican campaign assumed the heartbroken feminist voters would automatically want to seek refuge under the wings of the nearest female candidate. In essence, they assumed dejected Hillary-ites would be stupid enough to blindly follow a candidate based solely on her possession of two X chromosomes. However, Hillary voters are not dumb, and Sarah Palin is obviously no Hillary.

Sarah Palin's policies are averse to those of Clinton, and look to destroy much that has been achieved over the past century in terms of women's rights. Sarah Palin does not believe in a woman's right to choose, not even in cases of rape or incest. If Palin were to accompany McCain into office, Roe vs. Wade would definitely be on the chopping block. Any hope same-sex couples ever had for equality would be thrown out the window and years of advancement for feminists would no doubt end in a similar plight. In addition, Sarah Palin supports abstinence-only sexual education programs, despite the American Journal of Public Health's recent report that abstinence-only is ultimately misleading and ineffective. But if the numbers aren't enough, I'm sure we can just direct our attention to Palin's seventeen-year-old high school daughter, who was surely practicing abstinence when she was impregnated five months ago, right?

Much is to be said about Sarah Palin's accomplishments: Alaskan pageant queen, avid hunter, working mother of five and reform champion of the cutthroat world that is Alaska's city councils. Palin is one tough cookie. However, being the mayor of an obscure town with a population of less than 7,000 and looking like a Lenscrafters model hardly make you qualified to hold the second highest office in our nation. Twice over the last eight years too many Americans have bought into the idea of voting for a candidate because they are "just like us." It is too often in this country that the politics of personality trump those of policy. Votes should not be cast for those who make you feel good, but for those who can make intelligent decisions and make a change for the better in the oval office.

Rarely in history have presidential races been won solely by the vice presidential candidate, and now is no time to start. Sarah Palin's beliefs are detrimental to the progress made within the past few decades in woman's rights. Now is not the time to vote for a candidate because she simply reminds you of your sweet aunt who works as a greeter at Walmart. Essentially, we need intelligent decision makers who have a much wider aperture than Sarah Palin.

Does the U.N. Benefit the U.S.?

On the United Nation's corrupt desire to become a world government with the power to change anything and everything

By Jacque Scharre
Staff Writer

Our war in Iraq, which is vastly unpopular even here in the United States, is condemned worldwide for a great number of reasons—most especially because America is acting without the approval of the United Nations. The obvious insinuation is that our choice to invade Iraq is illegitimate without such approval, but that it would in fact become legitimate if only the UN were to support the war, even if only in words.

The Bush Administration decided that it would act on the situation in Iraq with or without consent from the UN, and despite numerous attempts by the government no approval has been given. Many may notice the irony of the situation because one original justification for our invasion is that we are trying to enforce United Nations' policies. The job of the United States is not to be the world's policeman. That, in a sense, is the job of the UN since they implemented the Global Strategy to Counter Terrorism. This strategy is intended to prevent and take the necessary measures to fight terrorism. But when the United Nations, that intends to become a supernational government, does not follow through, who is left to help the world in times of need?

United Nation planners do not care about national sovereignty, and herein lies the problem. They plan for the UN to expand into a true world government, capable of taxing and controlling laws. If this is how the UN is to proceed in coming years, the United States must make a choice: we can choose to follow our Constitution or submit to the will of greedy, global governance. American national sovereignty simply cannot and will not survive if we allow our domestic laws to be superseded by an international body.

Congressman Ron Paul shares these ideals as well and believes that the United Nations has absolutely "no authority to make laws that bind American citizens, because it does not derive its powers from the consent of the American people" which means that UN authority over U.S. people "directly violates the Constitution." As a strong advocate for restoring Constitutional rights, Ron Paul has campaigned for complete withdrawal from the UN for many years.

Perhaps it is finally time to rethink the necessity and validity of the supernational government that is the United Nations and reexamine America's place in the global community. We are not policemen and we should not concern ourselves with the problems of other nations. As cold as that sounds, it is the truth: we cannot sacrifice our well-being for the sake of other countries and global harmony.

Alternatives Exist Two Party System Offers Too Little Choice

By Eugene B. Glass
Staff Writer

What do you call a political system in which only two of the thirteen people running for president are given equal time to voice their platform? Not a democracy.

What do you call a political system that consistently ignores those other eleven candidates who are all registered on the ballot in every state? A travesty.

Could it be that Americans have seen their political views simplified that two increasingly similar and increasingly inert political parties are all we can keep track of? Or is it because Republicans and Democrats have dominated the American political landscape for more than one hundred years with few notable exceptions that we have simply grown accustomed to our politics being manipulated by these bloated, monolithic entities? People refuse to see beyond the monolithic nature of the Republican and Democratic parties.

The American political process and American culture need an infusion of fresh perspectives and fresh ideas to combat the idle politicians who take for granted the lack of a prominent alternative. To bring about this change does not require revolution and a total upheaval of Washington. It requires us to use the means guaranteed by the Constitution: voting.

That's right, all you have to do is vote for a third party candidate to show the "Washington elite" that their days of idle philandering are numbered—granted probably not in this election. However, California is not a battleground state by any stretch of the imagination. On election day, to the polls to vote for Ted Weil, Ralph Nader, Chuck Baldwin, Brian Moore, Charles Jay, Gene Amondson, Róger Calero, Gloria la Riva, Alan Keyes, Cynthia McKinney, or Bob Barr. Those are the names of a candidates that offer an alternative to two party politics.

Right now, a win for any of them would be as improbable as the two parties enacting real change. However, what they need is a greater profile and if they receive more votes, they will receive a greater share of the national spotlight.

After all, the plurality provided to the political process by third party alternatives makes our democracy genuine and free.

Newsflash: Celebrities Get One Vote (just like the rest of us)

By Cerena Chen & Marlena Vasquez
Staff Writers

"I really cannot bite my tongue anymore when it comes to Sarah Palin," Lindsay Lohan wrote in her MySpace blog last month. "Is our country so divided that the Republicans best hope is a narrow-minded, media-obsessed homophobe?"

From LiLo to Matt Damon on the Democratic side, and Britney Spears and Daddy Yankee for the Republicans, celebrities, like many Americans, can have some pretty strong opinions when it comes to politics. And they're not afraid to voice them, either. As the election heats up, Lindsay's recent blog entry is just one example of what seems to be a flurry of celebrity endorsements and criticisms surrounding the presidential race.

Hollywood seemed particularly deserted around the time of the national conventions, what with many of the A-listers such as Jessica Alba and Kanye West flocking to Invesco Field to either perform or simply show their support for Obama. That didn't leave many stars for the Republicans, but then again, with the exception of country singers, the party doesn't seem to hold celebrities in high regard.

McCain caused quite a stir among Americans when he released an attack ad comparing Obama to the likes of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. Because if there's one thing America hates, it's celebrities. Of course. So how effective was this ad? Well, for starters, Britney Spears is an avid Republican herself, and the Hilton family donated the maximum \$4,600 to John McCain's campaign. Needless to say, McCain's antics displeased some of his more influential patrons. Way to bite the hand that feeds you.

But McCain may not have created the Obama attack ad in vain. According to a CBS News and *New York Times* poll, Americans are divided as to whether Hollywood celebrities ought to get involved in politics, with 49% of those surveyed saying celebrities should stay out and 46% thinking they can get involved if they choose.

Actor-director Tim Daly has something to say to those 49%. He is the president of the nonprofit Creative Coalition, a group that brings together stars to discuss issues ranging from the economy to health reform. In response to criticism of celebrity involvement, he says that "Performers are citizens and in the U.S., we are allowed to talk about our beliefs... The interesting thing about celebrity involvement is that they're the only group of so-called lobbyists who stand to gain nothing from what they do, except to support the causes they believe in."

Good point there. In our opinion, celebrities are being pretty darn good citizens, not only expressing interest in politics but getting other people to do the same, especially young adults. Because, personally, we do love celebrities, especially those that go out there and make a difference like Brangelina. When they make that kind of effort, we want to hear what they have to say.

Four years ago, MySpace was just getting off the ground, and YouTube didn't exist. Nowadays, along with the traditional mediums of talk shows and tabloids, celebrities have found even more ways to voice their opinions online. How wise is this? In a country obsessed with Hollywood, celebrities are the molders of popular culture, designating the trendiest brands, the coolest clubs, the hippest diets. Considering their clout, it's possible that celebrities' influence also could be having a significant impact on popular opinion when it comes to politics.

How significant? Last year, in a poll conducted by CBS, only 11 percent of respondents felt that celebrity endorsement would influence people they knew to vote for that candidate. Still, political celebrities may have more leverage than many Americans are willing to admit. Just take the recall of California governor Gray Davis back in 2003. Davis was replaced with actor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Few would argue that Schwarzenegger's celebrity status largely contributed to his victory.

Neither would it be hard to believe that when the hostess of the highest-rated talk show in history voices her political opinion, people are going to listen. In May 2007, Oprah Winfrey announced that she would be supporting Barack Obama, the first time she has ever endorsed a political candidate. In the same CBS poll, 31 percent of voters said that people they knew were more likely to vote for Obama because of Oprah's support for him.

Even McCain is not immune to celebrity influence. When informed of Heidi Montag's endorsement of him, he told a *Time* magazine reporter "I'm honored to have Heidi's support and I want to assure her that I never miss an episode of *The Hills*, especially since the new season started." We can hardly bear to watch Speidi ourselves, so we've got to hand it to McCain, he's a tough guy all right.

It seems like everyone in Hollywood is jumping on the bandwagon (or into their luxurious limousines) to get people like us to vote. Earlier this month, the cast of *Greek* got together with nonpartisan nonprofit Declare Yourself to remind the lucky students at the University of Florida, among other colleges, to get out there and register to vote. Rebecca Logan is, after all, a senator's daughter (Ohio senator Ken Logan).

The legendary Kal Penn from the *Harold & Kumar* movies is more vocal about who he supports—Obama—and makes rounds at on average six colleges a day to stress the importance of voter registration as well. At Michigan State University, Penn noted that "Michigan is a battleground state, but there is a disproportionate number of college students here. We can shift the presidential election many times over just by college students voting." Think of all the power that is in our hands, people. If Kumar thinks we can change the elections and thus the face of America, we're all for listening to what he has to say to us.

At the end of the day, it comes down to celebrities being just like us: they are political and are impacted by elections. The only real difference is that the general public is alerted when they make up their mind. Make up your own mind and let the celebrities make up theirs.

"But Mr. Fallis, It Took Me Sixteen Years to Grow This!"

By Neal Deot
Staff Writer

A common phrase that we Mitty students hear every year is that "we are all made in the image and likeness of God." However, let's think of one the first images that comes to mind when thinking of God: Jesus. Another image is of a handsome man enriched with a deep and inspirational voice.

However, one aspect we often overlook of Jesus is the luscious and prominent full-faced beard that compliments his face in many iconic images. If we are indeed made in the image and likeness of God, why is it that we are not allowed to style such beards at Mitty as Jesus did himself?

According to several teachers, the reason for the ban on facial hair for students is "to prepare us for professional environments such as jobs." This seems like a reasonable justification but how about the several teachers at Mitty who fashion these forbidden

beards. Is being a teacher an exception to this "professional environment"? Or is the Mitty facial hair rule arbitrary?

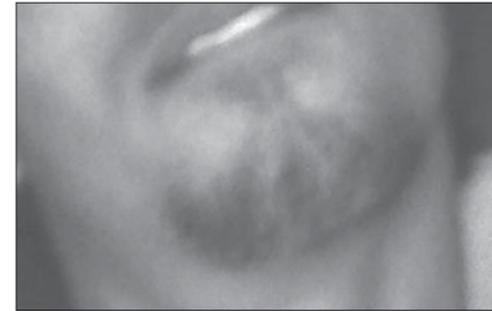
When confronted with these concerns, Mr. Fallis level-headedly responded that teachers are not held to the same standard as students, and it helps the students focus on "academics solely." Fair enough, but the question remains: Even if we are not adults, how much focus in school

would be lost as a consequence of facial hair?

Moreover, with all of the other dress violations currently enforced, time fretting over something as harmless as facial hair might be wasteful.

Perhaps the policy should be reconsidered—or at least modified.

Though, if Mr. Fallis convinced me of anything, it's that certain things are not worth losing sleep over—even my goatee and soul patch.



On the Fence How Much Security at Mitty Is Too Much?

By Manasi Patel
Staff Writer

If there's one thing high school students can rely on, it's the freedom to make their own decisions. And while, yes, "with great freedom comes great responsibility," one can always argue that the idea works both ways.

Archbishop Mitty students are without a doubt some of the hardest working students in the area. We juggle many responsibilities, from practice to rehearsal to meetings to clubs.

And in return we've always enjoyed a certain level of freedom. But most of us may have noticed a small change to the junior parking lot.

Make that a rather conspicuous change. A five foot tall green fence around the side of the junior parking lot that isn't exactly discreet.

So why put it there? What effect will it have on the students? Would they be offended by a gesture of confinement or reassured by an enforced feeling of safety?

The general response seems to be confusion. As junior Morgan Heller puts it, "I'm not even sure if it is supposed to keep people off campus or students on campus during school hours. Isn't that what the parking lot supervisor is for?"

Most students seem to heed the closed campus policy, so why build such an imposing and expensive structure?

"It's not the most aesthetically pleasing thing either," says Heller.

In response to these questions, Mr. Fallis explains that the fence was built primarily to keep the campus secure when the school is closed in order to reduce unauthorized use of the school facilities and fields during non-school and weekend hours.

Cases of vandalism, such as one specific case near the baseball fields last year, served as a major incentive to reinforce a private campus.

Mr. Fallis also clarified that the fence was intended to continue the policy of a closed campus during the school day.

Although this responsibility is usually delegated to parking lot supervisors, the fence reduces the area that needs to be overseen, thus making it easier for supervisors to protect students.

Essentially, it is intended to regulate who comes onto our campus, not who leaves. Yet, while the reasons for building the fence seem plausible, one must question its true effectiveness.

The fence only covers the outside perimeter of the school's front lawn and fails to cut off access to the lot. Additionally, the entry door remains unlocked during school hours allowing passage to essentially anyone. So why have a fence if it doesn't fulfill its true purpose?

In response to these questions, Mr. Fallis reiterates that its purpose is to protect our facilities—during the day and especially late at night.

Additionally, he adds that maintenance is, indeed, in the process of putting locks on the gates and securing the east side along with the west side.

And of course, there is the case of Mitty's closed campus policy. Mr. Fallis maintains that the closed campus policy helps not only to keep the campus safe, but also encourages students to make the most use of Mitty facilities.

"We want students to remain on campus as a community," he says.

However, the closed campus policy has not been around forever. Mrs. Garcia in the attendance office recalled that Mitty adopted the closed campus policy around 1999 and originally only applied the rule to certain grades.

Although the closed campus policy has proven effective in preserving and protecting Mitty's community, perhaps it would be beneficial to reconsider other options than fences in securing our campus.

Arts & Entertainment

How Far Has MTV Fallen?

By **Rahul Pandya**
A&E Editor

MTV, it is safe to say, has become the focus of entertainment for many young people today. Once famous for being one of the only channels to air music videos, it seems that, within the last decade, and even more so recently, MTV has lost track of its priorities.

After years of broadcasting strictly music videos and music related programming, the transition away from this style proved at first successful when most of their original series were considered entertaining. There were little glimmers of hope with these shows, though most ended up lasting too long.

But now, all that's shown on MTV are a slew of reality shows, dating shows, and the sad hour of television they call TRL (airing its final episode in November).

As Music Television, they really do have the responsibility to air music videos. Album sales are dropping with each passing year and MTV could help change that trend. Even when file sharing networks became accessible, artists, especially those under MTV's spotlight, like NSYNC and Eminem, were still selling tens of millions of albums.

Yet with their reputation and the number of viewers they attract daily, they do not seem obliged to play music. They hold a position from which they can make almost anyone famous. That is the type of power you are supposed to take advantage of, not back away from. But MTV backs away.

Instead, they focus not on music but on reality and live programming. One such staple of the network is the award shows. While the MTV Movie Awards have had their moments, historically it is the Video Music Awards that have provided some of the most enjoyable—and most controversial—moments to ever be aired on television.

Traditionally the show has been aired from either New York or Los Angeles, featuring an entertaining and of-the-moment celebrity host. Throw in some great musical performances, and MTV has had a recipe for success.

But lately, MTV has been trying to outdo itself with



these awards shows, and it is simply not working. Since 2004, there have been two shows in Miami, and one in Las Vegas, and this year's show took place in a curiously small studio in Hollywood.

For each of these events, MTV pulled out all the stops to create hype for the awards, promising enormous surprises. But the end product has almost always been sloppily done, with little organization, poor hosts, and the only memorable moments being the bad ones. These shows once worked well, but not anymore.

It has not gone unnoticed that MTV has suffered such a downfall. Viewers and celebrities alike have constantly voiced their opinions about the lack of videos being aired. This past year, the network finally responded, promising FNMTV, a whole 60 minutes "devoted just to playing music videos," set to air once a week.

But instead what viewers have gotten is a show with a celebrity host, a live audience, a critics panel, and of course the occasional music video. The music itself seems to favor certain genres and leave others in the dust. And, at times, it appears as though only established artists are able to benefit from any attention.

It used to be that a song became popular after the video premiered. However today, despite their alleged

attempts at a new and improved version of the network, MTV doesn't even begin playing the video until the song is already popular.

Is there not a simple solution to MTV's music video problem? Could they just clear a three-hour block of programming every day to make room for videos? Could they not return to their roots and agree to showcase the talent of up-and-coming artists as well as established, popular ones. Isn't that what VH1 and BET both do? With the success of a music-based show like *America's Best Dance Crew*, shouldn't it be clear that music matters?

Hopefully some type of solution is in the works. Otherwise, it looks like we'll have to live with this current mess for a long time.



Heroes: Season 3 Preview

By **Diana Avina**
Staff Writer

The beginning of this fall was marked by several returning and new television shows, including the popular science fiction drama series, *Heroes*.

After the highly praised first season, fans were severely disappointed at the underwhelming writing and the unnecessary characters of the second season. Nonetheless, those still loyal enough to sit through the lows of Season 2 prayed for a great kick-off to Season 3 to really pull the show out of its sophomore slump.

In the exciting season premiere, many cliffhangers were answered. Right away, we discover the assailant of Nathan Petrelli, and the motivation to silence his revelation of the "heroes."

Loveably naive Hiro Nakamura is growing bored with newly inherited wealth and power and he partakes in a series of frivolous shenanigans with his sidekick Ando. Hiro and Ando still function as the show's much-needed comic relief. However, the writing leaves them with little of the charm they had in the first season, and much of their storylines seem unimportant.

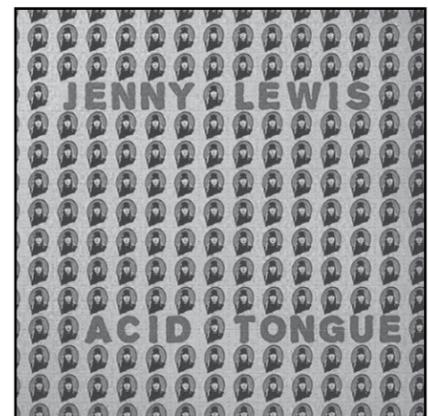
In the premiere's bleakest moment, it is revealed that unpopular characters Mohinder and Maya are living together, both having undergone major makeovers to give them more sex appeal. Mohinder injects himself with a substance that ends up giving him super powers, causing him to grow abs and a new, macho attitude.

Although Season 3 thusfar still lacks the brilliance of the first season, this was an interesting enough beginning and an upgrade from last season.

Season 2 lacked the mystery, suspense, and character-driven plotlines of the first season, and for now Season 3 is still up in the air, though it looks like some of the mystery is returning. Because of this and still-familiar characters, perhaps you could spare some room on your DVR for the new season. However, I predict it will take more than superpowers to please demanding fans and get the show back on track.



Under the Radar: Jenny Lewis



By **Geraldine Slevin**
Editor

In her second solo album, Jenny Lewis, lead singer of Rilo Kiley, blurs the lines between musical genres even further, showcasing her soulful and sometimes hauntingly sweet voice through delicate melodies and country-tinged ballads. From the dark yet whimsical "Pelican Bay" to the soaring, gospel-influenced "Trying My Best to Love You," which also features vocals by Zooey Deschanel, *Acid Tongue* is anything but one-dimensional.

Collaborations with other artists such as M. Ward, Johnathan Rice, and even the legendary Elvis Costello also appear throughout the album, making for a richly diverse and unique collection of songs.

You can experience Lewis' talent live when she performs at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco on October 28 and 29.

Toronto Festival Opens the Oscar Season

By Grey Traynor
Staff Writer

For over 27 years in Toronto, the first Thursday after Labor Day has unofficially initiated a season. Not the fall season, but the Oscar season. The Toronto International Film Festival is widely considered the event that invites an influx of Academy Award contenders.

This prestigious festival has been active since 1976, and is currently the most attended film festival worldwide. Filmmakers from countries far and wide flock to the event for the chance have their film shown, in hopes that their art receives the credit and praise that they believe it deserves. The cutthroat entry competition is due to such critical and commercial success stories from past TIFF selections as *Crash*, *American Beauty*, *Sideways*, and *Chariots of Fire*. All four of those films were nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards, and three won in their respective year.

That said, in the past few years many film festivals have come under fire for “selling out.” Toronto, Sundance, and Cannes Film Festival have been attacked for heavily catering to mainstream movies featuring famed actors and directors versus unknown filmmakers whose films need the attention.

Also, many cinephiles feel that the larger film festivals have become more about the celebrities and parties than the actual films. Many feel that this new trend deters from the reason film festivals were created in the first place. The original objective was to expose independent film and encourage up-and-coming talent in a film culture that was, and still is, concerned solely with making a pretty penny. In reality, these festivals are beginning to contradict the reason they were created.

However, until the TIFF realizes the error of its ways, moviegoers are stuck with overtly mainstream though admittedly well-crafted films that the Toronto International Film Festival has preferred to showcase as of late.

The biggest films in terms of buzz at the 2008 TIFF, which ran in the beginning of September, were *Blindness*, from director Fernando Meirelles and *Slumdog Millionaire*, by Danny Boyle.

When it was revealed that Meirelles, director of *City of God* and *The Constant Gardener*, would be directing an adaptation of the famous novel about a mass epidemic of blindness in a large city, people were ecstatic. The star-studded cast consisting of Julianne Moore (*The Hours*), Danny Glover (*The Color Purple*), and Gael Garcia Bernal (*Amores Perros*) were another contributing factor to the buzz for *Blindness*. The buzz didn't translate successfully: *Blindness* averaged a 1.3 out of 4 and became one of the most critically panned films at the festival. The critics all have their take on the problems with *Blindness*, but many consistently sum it up with one word: “mess.”

In contrast, *Slumdog Millionaire* entered the competition with luke-warm expectations and eventually won the highest award at TIFF, the Cadillac Audience Award. This drama about a teen contestant on the Hindi version of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” and the story of how he gets there, is expected to be a heavy-hitter come Oscar night.

There is also much talk of which actors will see nominations for the films shown at TIFF. In the Best Actor category, Mickey Rourke (*9½ Weeks*) is getting a good deal of praise for *The Wrestler*. It seems Rourke has a chance for a career comeback with this new film from visually daring director Darren Aronofsky (*Requiem for a Dream*), which follows a washed-up wrestler who refuses to give up.

In the Best Actress category, Anne Hathaway (*Princess Diaries* and *Brokeback Mountain*) is gathering acclaim for her performance in *Rachel Getting Married*.

Rachel, about a black sheep daughter who comes to her sister's wedding after repeated failed stints in rehab, is garnering Hathaway some of the best reviews of her career. *Rachel* also marks the return of two legends, director Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*) and actress Debra Winger (*Terms of Endearment*).

Whether you believe the Toronto International Film Festival is an over-commercialized party or a true salvager of art-house cinema, there is no denying that some great films make their way to Toronto each year. Toronto is what keeps the critics predicting, the bloggers buzzing, and the moviegoers marking their calendars. Here's hoping for another great slate of movies next year at the 2009 TIFF.



Game Preview: Borderlands

By Scott Whitman
Staff Writer

Twenty-eight years ago in 1980, the low-budget film *Mad Max* was released, starring a little-known Mel Gibson as the eponymous character. This story of social breakdown, murder, and vengeance became the highest-grossing Australian film ever, and inspired something of a cult following among many fans. Now, in 2008, *Borderlands* brings that spirit to XBOX 360, PC, and PS3, combined with elements of in depth role-playing and intense shooter action.

Many years into the future, the remote and desolate planet of Pandora, where *Borderlands* takes place, is the site of a busted “gold rush” for valuable minerals that has resulted in the majority of the population devolving into chaos and lawlessness as they fight for what few resources remain. The player is thrust into this maelstrom in the role of any of three different characters, as they embark on a quest to discover an alien artifact of unspeakable power before it falls into the wrong hands.

The epic story isn't the only thing *Borderlands* gets right—it also features an online co-op mode for four players, massive amounts of loot and items to plunder, customizable characters, and over 500,000 unique weapons.

No, that was not a typo; the game will indeed feature over half a million guns you can use. Developer Gearbox has accomplished this insane feat through the construction of a system that procedurally generates each item from various component parts. *Borderlands* will also create significant variations in the landscape that promise excellent replay value. The sheer scale and detail of the *Borderlands* system is simply unprecedented.

In a demo of *Borderlands*, two characters roam the landscape in an armored vehicle, teaming up as driver and gunner to lay waste to everything in sight before exploring an ostensibly abandoned mine that turns out to be filled with a multitude of irate near-do-wells. Even in a short demo, it was clear that the game runs quickly and smoothly without any loading screens.

Unfortunately, *Borderlands* won't make its way to the U.S. until March of next year. In the meantime, head over the Blockbuster and grab the *Mad Max* trilogy.

Everything at Mitty is Thoroughly Millie!

Fall Production of musical comedy set to debut on October 16

By Logan Breitbart
& Christine Freschi
Staff Writers

Watch out Archbishop Mitty! In mid-October, the story of a small town girl leaving the slums of Kansas for the Big Apple will be arriving on the stage of our very own Thomas Kinkade Center for the Arts. The heroine of the popular 2001 Tony Award-winning musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* will be tapping her way across 1920's New York City for two straight weekends of jazz-flavored comedy.

Millie is a traditional musical with a splash of modern humor. “Millie is my favorite show!” says choreographer Whitney Janssen. “I saw it on Broadway and absolutely loved it. It is so funny and the dancing is absolutely fantastic.”

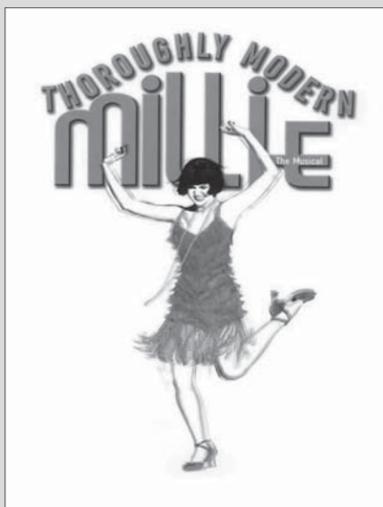
It's true: this show is laden with intricate choreography throughout. “It is a mixture of tap and jazz,” explains sophomore cast member and dancer Bianka

Bubic, “Although the tapping can be difficult, the finished product is something to be proud of!”

In addition to the spectacular dancing, *Millie* is chock-full of over-the-top, hysterical characters.

They range from ditzzy stenographers to members of the New York crème de la crème, from cartoonishly evil hotel managers to stunning, though naive heroines.

For the sensual lounge singer Muzzy Van Hosmere, senior Mia Dessenberger says a creative inspiration is none other than Queen Latifah. “Her celebrity persona and larger-than-life attitude lend themselves well to Muzzy's character.”



And sophomore Megan Griffin is inspired by one of our very own Mitty faculty. For the especially comedic Mrs. Flannery, a woman repulsed by the “modern” movement, Megan evokes her bio teacher, Mrs. Saunders.

Senior Joey Dippel is quick to exclaim, “All my lines are in Mandarin!” Joey's character is a Chinese henchman,

requiring that he learn all of his lines in Mandarin. Mitty's own Mandarin teacher, Ms. Wang, was recruited to give Joey and Ethan Fang, playing the other Chinese character, some basic pronunciation lessons.

Millie has been a unique experience

for each cast member, from those leading the show to members of the ensemble, as well as for those understudying.

As ensemble actors in their first Mitty show, freshmen Tiffany Dills and Davelyn Couch are on a whole new journey: “The maturity level is so high and everyone is so tall!”

Sophomore Trevor Bates has his work cut out for him as he understudies the supporting role of Bun Foo in addition to playing other smaller parts. This means, according to Bates, that he has to “learn several ensemble roles as well as a featured Chinese-language role I will take on for one performance.”

Clearly, the cast of *Millie* will be working hard to pull off an exciting performance.

Millie opens October 16 and runs through October 25.

Student and adult tickets are on sale now, so come and support our talented staff and students by enjoying a night of classic comedy!

MONARCH CRITICS

Pussycat Dolls

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Steffie Ko
Staff Writer

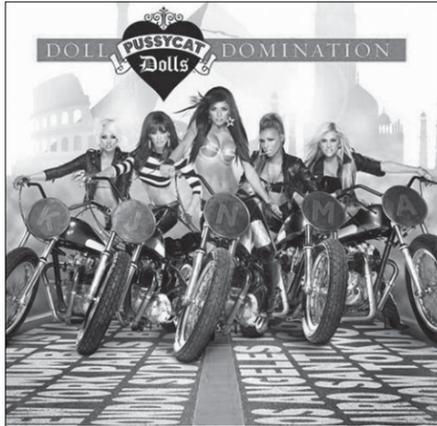
Nowadays, it's practically impossible for one to not know of the Pussycat Dolls, who have dominated the charts since their breakout. Three years after the release of their first album, *PCD*, which went triple platinum on the World Album Charts, their sophomore album hit stores on Sept. 23.

With sixteen new tracks on *Doll Domination*, the Pussycat Dolls, featuring one less member than before, have created an infusion of new pop and R&B sounds in songs both slow and upbeat.

However, the songs from the main release, including "Takin' All Over the World" and "Bottle Pop," featuring Snoop Dogg, sound disappointingly unoriginal and overdone.

The highlights of the entire album can be found on the deluxe edition, which includes six additional songs, on which the members of the group who are usually overshadowed by Nicole Scherzinger are finally able to break free and show off their vocal abilities in solo songs.

That's not to say that *Doll Domination* itself does not have some amazing tracks. From their first single "When I Grow Up" to the slow ballad "I Hate This Part (Right Here)," the Pussycat Dolls show once again why they are so beloved and so popular. With this new group of songs, the Pussycat Dolls send a clear message that they are truly ready for doll domination.



Eagle Eye

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Marguerite Metzger
Staff Writer

Jerry Shaw (Shia LaBeouf) is an assistant at "Copy Cabana" who has recently suffered his brother's death and Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan) is a single mother of a beloved son.

These two strangers are thrown together by an anonymous woman who, through ominous phone calls, threatens their lives and those of their families and forces them to execute a series of increasingly dangerous "missions."

As the situation escalates, the two characters become the U.S.'s most wanted fugitives and are framed as terrorists. They must work together to find out what is happening to them, and most importantly, why.

On the whole, *Eagle Eye* is a well-plotted "race-against-time" thriller—the story itself is engaging and disturbing at the same time and plays upon paranoia of technology going wild and "coming to life." The setup is fantastic, but the follow-through is less satisfying.

The action sequences are heart-pounding, but often confusing, and the frequent use of close-ups ruins some of the action. Additionally, the whole idea of the mysterious voice on phones is intriguing at first but becomes predictable towards the end. Shia LaBeouf once again pulls off the "innocent guy tangled up in a mess not of his own making" believably. Michelle Monaghan also does an exceptional job.

Overall, despite some flaws, *Eagle Eye* is a solid movie with exciting and thrilling action.



Lakeview Terrace

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Zoya Qureshy
Staff Writer

Hitting number one at the box office in its first week running, *Lakeview Terrace*, directed by Neil LaBute, is a thriller describing the struggles of an interracial couple, Chris and Lisa Mattson, to survive in their new neighborhood.

Samuel L. Jackson plays Able Turner, a LAPD cop and single parent who acts as the watchdog for his neighborhood. Able is disturbed by the interracial relationship of his next-door neighbors, and attempts to drive them out through constant harassment. This causes instability in Chris and Lisa's marriage, and soon the conflict escalates to violence.

In a parallel to the main storyline, massive wildfires surround Los Angeles, closing in on the city. These fires are a major metaphor of the movie, yet they remain subtle enough to avoid being obnoxious. As the flames grow, so does the anger, hatred, and violence.

Terrace missteps in its characterization of the cop, getting a little carried away with his ironically vigilante behavior, and thereby jeopardizing his credibility. His personality is too extreme to be realistic and soon grows dull.

I would still recommend this movie, though, because of its strong storyline and amazing cast. Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington have good chemistry as Chris & Lisa Mattson. Their disputes and struggles to achieve happiness make them intriguing and believable. And although Able's character had too extreme a personality, nobody could have played him better than Jackson.

Despite its small flaws, the movie as a whole is thrilling, keeping viewers on the edge of their seats throughout.



Metallica

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

By Manosai Eerabathini
Staff Writer

Nearly 17 years after the release of the remarkable *Black Album*, the heavy metal band Metallica has found a way to make it back to the top of the music industry.

Their most recent album, *Death Magnetic*, proceeds at a breakneck pace as energetic guitar riffs combine perfectly with the thrashing drums.

As the first track of the album begins, the listener might be deceived initially until the haunting song with a slow guitar build explodes in six different sections. "That Was Just Your Life" is just a warning of what's to come in the album as a clear pattern emerges. It seems as though each song follows the standard of intro, bridge, verse, and chorus. The first couple of songs reveal another album of exceptional music, although there is a discernible lack of variety.

However, this isn't to say that *Death Magnetic* is not a solid album. Metallica reminds us of their classic greatness in "The Day that Never Comes," featuring a spectacular intro, beguiling vocals, and a deadly solo. And in "All Night Long," maddening and thrashing guitar riffs make the song legend-worthy.

It's songs like these that make *Death Magnetic* a true comeback album. Despite its weak points, *Death Magnetic* is replete with a menacing bass, great percussion, electrifying guitars, and resonant vocals, once again bringing Metallica back as the true gods of heavy metal.



Nights in Rodanthe

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

By Morgan Hunter
Staff Writer

The Notebook is the ultimate chick flick. It has it all: loss, passion, and most importantly, undying love. So when I heard about this film, also based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks, I was naturally excited to see it.

Nights in Rodanthe follows Adrienne Willis (Diane Lane), a woman whose husband has just left after having an affair and who agrees to take care of for her best friend's inn for the weekend as an escape from her hectic life.

The movie also stars Richard Gere as Dr. Paul Flanner, a man who has chosen his career over his wife and son. His wife has recently left him and his son is in Ecuador and refuses to speak to him. After his wife leaves, Paul moves out of his house and into the inn Adrienne is watching for the weekend.

This seemingly good romantic plot line, unfortunately, has a poor editing job. Lengthy crying scenes could have been just as touching if much shorter. The beginning of the movie was particularly slow, drawing the viewer to various flaws on the screen and away from the plot.

Gere and Lane are skilled actors, but honestly even they could not save the viewer from boredom. The end finally took the plot in a somewhat unexpected turn, and Adrienne's obnoxious family finally became more kind and realistic. Overall, though, this movie is not worth paying to see, but might be fun to view on TV when you're watching your favorite show and need something to busy yourself during the commercials.



Choke

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

By Tessa Krey
Staff Writer

"Think *Gilligan's Island* meets *Groundhog Day*... in hell."

Choke was originally a novel written by Chuck Palahniuk, best known for writing *Fight Club*, another novel turned popular film.

Though they are quite different from one another, Palahniuk's signature touch of weird and twisted plot is still present here. *Choke* is not an average movie by any means, and the peculiarities of the characters and the plot make it unpredictable and very strange.

This is a dark comedy that tells the tale of a sex-addicted loser, Victor (Sam Rockwell), who works as a re-enactor of colonial times. In order to pay for his mother's (Anjelica Huston) hospital bills, he pretends to choke on his dinner at a fancy restaurant, and plays off his savior's heroism for his own financial gain.

The acting is great: Rockwell nails the part of anti-hero Victor, Huston is, as always, brilliant, and Kelly Macdonald, who plays Victor's no-nonsense love interest, is also enjoyable.

Yet it's the bit actors who get the most laughs, especially Heather Burns as one of Victor's dates, and Clark Gregg, who plays a co-worker of Victor's and also wrote and directed the film.

At times *Choke* feels rushed, and it is not able to capture the same tone as the book, but the twist ending and subtle humor really manage to shine through. This is a film for fans of bizarre and risqué humor, and fans of the author should look forward to the next Palahniuk adaptation, *Invisible Monsters*, in 2010.



WANTED: GREEN LIVING

By Seethim Natchker
Staff Writer

Did you know that, of the **220,000,000 tons** of solid waste material that the United States produces every year, approximately 75% (165 million tons) is recyclable? Do your part to help. There are hundreds upon thousands of tips and tricks for simple green living that can be easily molded to fit your daily lifestyle. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Reduce, reuse, and recycle! Recycling bins are scattered all over our campus—scrap paper here.

Plastic: Plastics items marked with a #1 or #2 (or #4 on grocery bags). These numbers indicate that the material is recyclable, as not all types of plastic can be melted down and reused.

Glass: Unbroken, clear glass containers are acceptable, but col-

ored or broken glass is difficult to sort and has little value.

Paper: Most commonly used paper items, such as the newspaper or white office paper can be recycled. Make sure such items are not contaminated by food or moisture, and are not coated with any type of adhesive of wax (as is present in many candy or food wrappers).

Metals: Anything that's made from scrap aluminum (which is usually found in beverage cans), or anything that's made from steel.

And some general tips:

- Bring your own re-usable bags and totes for grocery shopping.
- Donate old pairs of running shoes at your local Nike store.

• For those who have pets at home, try out some of the new eco-friendly and recycled products available on the market. There are pet beds made from recycled materials, "green" pet-care grooming products, bio degradable toys, and many more.

For artists and scrapbookers: Buy eco-friendly art supplies, which now include a variety of different things, including paints, colored pencils, and bags. Save plastic containers and bottles, and use them to hold paintbrushes, pencils, paint, and other odds and ends.

For more suggestions and tips that can be implementing everyday at home or at school, go to www.fypower.org.

KEEN ON GREEN THE NEWEST FAD

By Jennifer Campbell
Staff Writer

According to Dictionary.com, a fad is defined as "a temporary fashion, notion, manner of conduct, especially one followed enthusiastically by a group." Unfortunately, because of the huge influence of the media, the idea of being environmentally conscious has conformed to such a definition.

Just take our society's trend-setting, flawless, gods and goddesses, for instance (also known as celebrities). This elite group of people who live lavish lives that are completely disassociated with ordinary America are the "models" for what we should aspire to be. This lustrous world demands the most expensive cars, the latest fashion, and the smartest investments—and the newest, coolest thing to be now is "green." And while it seems morally incorrect to classify a good-intentioned social movement as a mere fad, that's exactly what it is.

Look at, for example, just how many ordinary people are installing solar panels in their houses or buying hybrid cars. Both of these things are heavily promoted by almost all celebrities, ranging from **Paul McCartney** to television's own **Emily Deschanel**.

Seriously, the 2007 Honda Civic Hybrid has a starting manufacturer's retail price of more than **\$22,500**. This is \$4,800 more than a 2007 Civic LX, which has almost the same mileage and almost all the same amenities.

And it's not just limited to cars or technology. There are stars like **Natalie Portman**, who glorify the benefits of organic and earth-friendly materials for clothing. In fact, some designer labels like **7 for Mankind** have capitalized on this interest and have started their own lines of eco-friendly fashions, taking their conventional lines of denim jeans and adding an "organic flair."

Sure, the celebrity support is vital to the success of any social movement. But the huge, almost mindless following that the green movement has garnered is ridiculous. It has become a mere option of fashion rather than a revolutionary lifestyle. One day you could wear a metallic shoe and then proceed the next day wearing a vegan shoe. You're not truly committed to bettering the earth—rather, you're merely following a fashion scheme with revolutionary undertones.

Then again, such is the life of celebrities. Paying off harmful emissions by planting **10,000 mango trees** in India is a temporary solution for Coldplay's Chris Martin. Ultimately such trees don't lock in enough carbon to truly offset the energy utilized by the release of *A Rush Of Blood To The Head*, although it does provide for a clear conscience.

And perhaps that is the ultimate goal of the green movement. It's not a trend that people are willing to commit to (as Martin's actions show), but it's still a popular fad that's promoted by our "superior" celebrities. But then again so is going to rehab.

The Presidential Candidates Address the Environment

Barack Obama's Plan

By Maria Palma
Contributor

John McCain's Plan

McCain's Lexington Project a comprehensive energy and climate strategy will be geared to:

The Obama-Biden comprehensive New Energy for America plan will provide:

1. Short-term relief to American families at the gas pump.
2. Help create 5 million new jobs by investing \$150 billion over the next ten years.
3. Put one million Plug-In Hybrid cars on the road by 2015, built here in America.
4. Ensure 10% of electricity comes from renewable resources by 2012 and 25% by 2025.
5. Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050.



1. Produce more power.
2. Push technology to help free the transportation sector from its use of foreign oil.
3. Address climate change.
4. Ensure that Americans have dependable energy source.
5. Initiate a cap-and-trade plan for fighting climate change calls for gradual reductions in U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions from utilities, transportation fuels, and large businesses, with a target of cutting emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
6. Clean up the air.



Gorgeously Green

By Manisha Eerabathini
Staff Writer

You may have sat through the hour-long infomercials of Bare Escentuals. Or you may have skimmed through a *Seventeen* article about "green" makeup or something. And you probably didn't pay very much attention. But did you know that the use of organic makeup is actually quite common?

According to a survey conducted by www.thegreenguide.com, women actually prefer eco-friendly makeup to conventional brands. Eco-friendly makeup—or "green" makeup, as it being called now—is usually derived from fruits or minerals. These natural ingredients convey a natural look and are good for your skin.

Many of the ingredients in ordinary cosmetics act as irritants and are harmful for your skin in the long term. For a list of harmful ingredients, refer to www.theorganicmakeupcompany.com.

For example, did you know that Sephora's eye make-up remover contains small amounts of propylene glycol? This chemical causes severe allergic reactions and rashes in some women. Many liquid foundations have propylene glycol too. Also, a lot of makeup has **petroleum derivatives** and petroleum-based materials—that's just gross.

So instead of heading straight for the brand names, why not check out some of the cute and new places at the mall that are offering alternative makeup options?

For example, try out **Lush Cosmetics** right in **Valley Fair**, where you can get fresh and **fruit-scented** handmade soaps, hair products, moisturizers, and perfumes. Not only are these products made with fresh, organic ingredients, such as **papaya** and avocado oil, they come in packages that can easily be recycled and contain no preservatives.

Using makeup with natural ingredients is the right way to go. It's not just better for your skin, it's better for the environment.



Green Chic :)

By Rebecca Organ
Staff Writer

Organic clothing. What do you think of? Maybe some scratchy-looking sacks with little tags saying "made by hippies?" Or maybe just clothing that looks and smells weird? These stereotypes are very typical of how the average teenager (or indeed, the average person) perceives eco-friendly clothing. And they couldn't be farther from the truth.

Environmentally friendly clothing (and jewelry!) is actually pretty mainstream. Many large retail stores and chains carry "green" clothes and jewelry, which are available in a broad variety of styles and colors. Some examples of such chains are **H&M**, American Apparel, **Luciana**, and **REI**. Actually, as of last year, H&M began to promote eco-friendly clothing by releasing an exclusive line of clothes made from 100% all natural and organic cotton.

So, what is organic clothing? Basically, eco-friendly clothing is clothing that fits any of the following requirements:

1. Be made from **traditional organic fabrics** (such as cotton, silk, or wool).
2. ...Or from nontraditional fibers (like **hemp**, bamboo, or soy).
3. Be synthesized without the use of damaging chemicals, such as pesticides, dyes, and certain fertilizers.

Check out the pictures of the gorgeous organic products we've added at left, and don't forget to **buy organic!**

LIVING LA VIDA VERDE

By Jocelyn Tan
Staff Writer

Transportation: The easiest way to travel green (and save money as well) is to carpool! Seriously, take advantage of Mitty's carpool program and snag a space at the parking lot for yourself. Another suggestion is to drive less overall or opt for public transportation.

Farmer's Market! Have you ever thought about where your food comes from? Did you know a typical mouthful of food travels 1,200 miles to get on your plate? Shopping at your nearest farmer's market not only encourages a healthy diet, it supports those farmers who cultivate their crops in less than a 100 mile radius. And, as an added bonus, bring out the 100% recyclable, canvas tote to hold all those delicious edibles.

Appliances: It's always great to purchase electronic household appliances with a 'green' labels. However, here are some tips

that you can implement right now to reduce energy consumption. First, try to use all major appliances, such as washing machines and dishwashers, after 7 p.m. Also, wash dishes and clothing on a cold water setting, since 90% of the energy these appliances utilize goes to just heating water.

And lastly, always unplug small electronics such as laptops and cellphones as soon as they have finished charging. These seem like small steps, but here's a statistic to put things into perspective: if all the people in California just unplugged their electronics, it would be the equivalent of taking 120,000 cars off the road. **So, just do it. :)**

When it comes to living a more eco-friendly life, knowledge is truly power. Keep up-to-date on buzz in connection to global warming and the environment.

Green Living 101

By Andrew Yen
Staff Writer



Suggestions to make your home more eco-friendly: A simple way you can help the environment is by buying green-powered products. Such products rely more on renewable energy sources. One month's worth of green energy can save **10,800 lbs** of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. Go to the Green Power Network website to get more information today!

Another easy way you can make your house more eco-friendly and help the environment is to air dry your clothes. For every load that you *don't* put in the dryer, you prevent **3.35 lbs** of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

Also, there are different types of "green" insulation for your home. One suggestion is **HempFlax insulation**. The hemp-base is naturally resistant to moths and beetles and it works just as well as ordinary insulation.

Since some conventional insulators release chemicals and toxins in the air that, in certain instances, can even cause cancer, the benefits of natural and effective insulation are self-evident.

Moreover, skylights, solar panels, and other features that take advantage of the sun's heat energy can lower energy costs, and therefore, save money.

Both of these may cost a lot of money up front, but you will save money in the long run. These features that utilize **natural light** instead of light bulbs can definitely be cost-effective, as well as benefit the environment.

So, overall, there's a lot of options out there. And while some of them may seem a little out of reach for the ordinary teen, it's important to be aware of the creative innovations that are happening everyday in the world of "going green."



Justice Awareness

A Large Step for Small Footprints

By Kanishka Khanna
Staff Writer

Co-creators of the newly-formed Mitty Green Club, seniors Ian Davis and Will Callas discuss their plans for the Mitty Community.

HOW WAS THE GREEN CLUB FORMED?

We created the green club because we wanted to take a stand on the issue of the environment. Then we talked to Mr. Accorsi, an active environmentalist. After that, we let people know about our idea, and they got really excited. It just kind of grew from there.

WHAT IS THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE GREEN CLUB?

Our mission is to create a student body that is aware of their impact on the environment. We work with the school administration to implement projects that make the Mitty community greener by targeting ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

WHAT KIND OF CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ON THE CAMPUS?

Our campus is actually very environmentally friendly, especially compared to some others in the area. But we can still do better. We think that the cafeteria should replace Styrofoam with recyclable material. We think that reusable water bottles should be available for sale at school. Nalgens, practically indestructible, are only about 10 dollars each, meaning that the average student could buy one every two weeks for the price he or she pays for bottled water.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE CLUB AND ITS ISSUES?

One of our philosophies is that the most important aspects in saving the environment is getting out and enjoying it. That is why we plan to have fun outdoor activities—like hiking, camping, and on-campus meetings. Another trip we are discussing is a “Pick Your Own Fruit” farm, where you take the fruit right off the tree. We will also offer a newsletter type notification for our members, which will include easy tips on how they can reduce their personal environmental impact.

Bleak Prospects for Battered Haiti

THE ESCALATING FOOD CRISIS

By Isabel Sausjord
Staff Writer

Four siblings have torn apart Haiti in the last few weeks, and their names are Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike.

These tropical storms have proven catastrophic for the people of what was already the poorest country in the Americas. Flooding roads, collapsing bridges, and destroying farms, the legacy of these storms threatens to plunge Haiti into chaos and mass starvation.

Poverty has characterized Haiti for centuries. When the island colony achieved independence from France in 1804, it was forced to pay the former slaveholders for the loss of their “property.” Haiti began as a nation in debt, and little has changed in two hundred years.

Until recently, however, the country was still able to feed its people with the output of small peasant farms.

Then, when Haiti desperately needed a loan in the 1980s, the International Monetary Fund required that the nation lower taxes on imported food and goods as a condition for receiving its funds.

American companies, with their efficient systems and government subsidies, soon filled the Haitian markets with cheap imported rice, corn, and other staples.

Local peasants, with no way to compete, lost their

farms and their livelihoods, and Haiti became dependent on imported food.

This makes Haiti even more vulnerable to the global food crisis of today. Last year, the high price of oil, which is used in fertilizing and transporting crops, and use of biofuels caused food prices to skyrocket worldwide.

The people of Haiti, already living with barely anything to eat, watched prices grow so high that peasants could no longer feed their families.

Food prices have risen here in America, too. But Americans only spend about 10% of their income on food, while food is about 80% of a Haitian budget.

This means that the people of Haiti feel the increase much more painfully.

AROUND 80% OF THE POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN \$2 A DAY.

This April, Haiti was the site of brutal riots caused by the extremely high price of food. Since then, agreements have been made and stability

has been to some degree reestablished.

But now, tropical storms threaten to plunge Haiti back into turmoil and horrific destitution. In the past month, four tropical storms have hit the island, destroying this year’s harvest, washing away topsoil, and damaging the irrigation system. The storms have wiped away all the progress the country was making towards stability and development.

In the end, Haiti will need the help of America and other great world powers to heal from this destruction and become a secure nation.



A young girl hardly scrapes by every day, especially as food prices soar uncontrollably.

Profiles in Justice

SPOTLIGHT ON JUNIOR MONICA ORTEL



Junior Monica Ortel volunteered through a church group in Peru.

By Lena Tayo
Staff Writer

Through her Bethel Church of San Jose youth group, junior Monica Ortel stepped out of her comfort zone by traveling to the village of Iquitos in Peru. During her two-week stay, working six to seven hours a day, her church group conducted assemblies in various schools, where she talked and interacted with the youth. Her church group also organized and performed skits and dramas to promote morals such as avoiding drugs.

Stepping out of familiar territory, Monica had an exciting and unforgettable experience in a culture so different from that of America.

Afterwards, Monica and her church group traversed through parts of the Amazon, near Brazil, surrounded by the vast rainforest and exotic animals.

Monica’s visit opened her eyes to an issue that sadly dominates normal life for the Iquitos citizens: the water shortage. This issue seems unfathomable to us, where water is readily available for the public. However, the citizens of Iquitos and other similar places sadly deal with scarcity of water on a regular basis.

By visiting countries in need, as Monica has done, critical issues like these can begin to be addressed, spreading recognition of the conditions of native peoples and the need for solutions.

1 RUSSIAN AID TO VENEZUELA

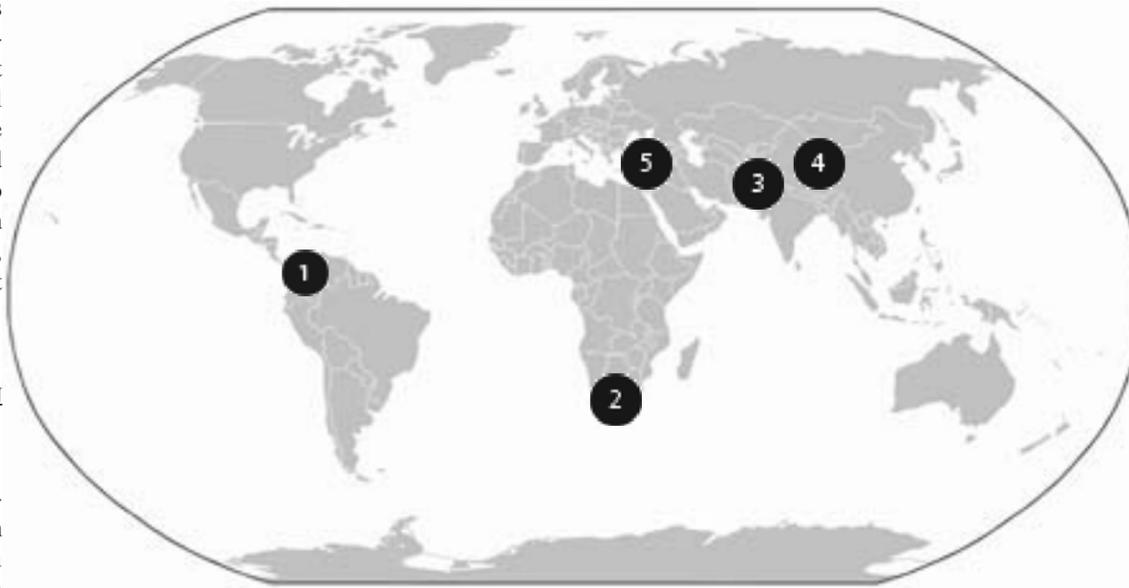
Mirroring their actions toward Cuba in the 1960s, Russian aid has come to support Venezuela in their fight for Latin American freedom from capitalism. This aid includes \$4 billion and a weapons contract to supply aircrafts, helicopters, and Kalashnikov assault rifles. Five of Russia's biggest oil companies are looking to increase Latin American operations and to build a \$6.5 billion refinery to process Venezuela's oil. Such an investment could help Venezuela, already the world's ninth-biggest oil producer.

2 SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT RESIGNS

During a televised address, South African president Thabo Mbeki formally resigned but the African National Congress will determine when his resignation takes effect. During Mbeki's presidency South Africa has sustained economic growth and has reached out to the indigenous people of South Africa. Most recently Mbeki has helped gain peace between Zimbabwe's political rivals who signed an agreement in order to end the violence and crisis since the elections in March. Now that Mbeki has stepped down from his position, his political rival Jacob Zuma will be able to run for office in the spring.

WORLD AFFAIRS

By Michelle Sohnlein & Meera Bose
Staff Writers



3 MARRIOTT HOTEL BOMBED, PAKISTAN LEADER SAFE

On Sept. 22, a suicide truck attacked the hotel, killed 57 people, and wounded more than 250. The Pakistani president, prime minister, and other leaders were scheduled to dine at the Marriott hotel but instead changed plans and dined in the prime minister's compound. Questions were raised of who was responsible for the attack, as well as if the government had known about it. But the Marriott owner denies the government made reservations for the night and the audio tape that they have does not give much information about the perpetrators.

5 13 INFANTS DIE IN TURKEY

An investigation is being held in Ankara, Turkey to determine the cause of the death of thirteen premature infants. The government has appointed doctors to investigate the deaths, said to be caused by an IV treatment infection. Other doctors have suggested that the hospital being understaffed had increased the risk of infection due to neglect. After the thirteen deaths the hospital was placed under quarantine and no new premature babies are being admitted.

4 FREE TIBET

The Summer Olympics held in China brought light to the plight of the Tibetans. China had agreed to improve human rights in Tibet if they received consent to host the Olympics, but went against their word just months before the games. Over one million Tibetans have been killed, 6,000 monasteries have been destroyed, and thousands of protesters have been imprisoned and tortured. Despite Tibet's territorial status as an independent nation, China's genocide of the Tibetan people and culture is a major issue the world has yet to resolve.

An Emphasis on Service: LITURGIES NOW CENTERED AROUND A THEME

By Olivia Tran
Staff Writer

Every year, Mitty students good-naturedly sing along to their liturgical theme, often without much reflection as to what exactly the song means. At the Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 17th, Exodus showcased their musical talent, with the 2008-2009 liturgical theme song, Nickelback's "If Everyone Cared." But more than simply enjoying Chad Kroeger's melodious, gravelly tones, Campus Ministry's Mr. Scott and Ms. Simms hope that this song can truly become relevant in students' lives.

At the same mass, students also probably took note of their classmates proceeding through the aisles. These students, who participated in Mitty's Ethics, Culture, and Justice immersion trip classes earlier during the summer, did not speak during the Mass of the Holy Spirit—but we can watch out for them in future liturgies this year, as they pass on what they gained from their immersion trips.

This year's liturgies, according to Mr. Scott and Ms. Simms, will be the first in Mitty history to connect via a common theme—in this case, bringing students together by urging "everyone to care."

Each liturgy will deal with a different international immersion experience, incorporating concrete examples and anecdotes of charity.

"Immersion trips offer real examples of how students have encountered God through service and through meeting people who have cared," says Mr. Scott.

Participating students, in sharing their reflections, ask themselves how they can keep caring after they have left South Africa, El Salvador, Los Angeles, and Tijuana. And with the belief that a good liturgy calls us to move the world forward, these students can inspire the Mitty community so that we may all share in the experience of faith, hope, and love, and become that "prophetic voice of change."

All students are encouraged to attend the upcoming Senior Divisional Liturgy on Wednesday, October 29, which will focus on the Los Niños immersion trip—and perhaps be moved enough to go out and serve the world.

A Dirty Deal

TOXIC CHEMICALS FOUND IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROPERTY NEAR VALLEY FAIR

By Angela Hodge
Staff Writer

The Bay Area Research and Extension Center, a seventeen-acre crop research area in Santa Clara, has been useful to agriculturists throughout the Bay Area since 1952. Operated by the University of California, it was functional as a so-called proving ground for new crops being introduced to the climate of the California coast. In 2000, the University of California decided to sell BAREC's plot of land back to the state for an extra \$2 million a year to support one of the university's programs.

That was eight years ago. So what does this have to do with Santa Clara today?

Well, recent statements from the state officials now in charge detail a plan to build a new housing development atop the old research farm. The land has been declared firm and safe enough for such an endeavor, after a series of soil tests for dangerous pesticides still remaining in the earth.

What concerns neighboring families and in particular citizen Angela D'Orfani is that these soil tests were neither thorough nor the results entirely honest.

The tests for some chemicals, including the carcinogen dieldrin, reached only to six inches under the surface. D'Orfani conducted a personal test of the dirt at the border of her yard and BAREC's border. Twelve inches under, she found six times the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable percentage of dieldrin. Following her research, two of D'orfani's neighbors discovered levels of dieldrin four and five times the EPA's limit.

"[The agency] wants to do testing in the most limited way possible because they don't want to get bad

results," says Ted Smith of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, regarding the inadequate measures taken by the official surveyors of the plot. "They have a strong financial interest to do as little as possible."

The state may well have a financial interest. But D'Orfani and her neighbors have their own interest: an interest in the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones. Following her soil tests, D'Orfani was naturally concerned about the chemical state of the area. So she surveyed her neighborhood to find the repercussions of the heavy pesticide levels.

The results were dismal. Among the relatively small series of houses by the research center, D'Orfani documented 49 cases of breast cancer, lymphoma,

prostate cancer, kidney cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, colon cancer and leukemia. Most victims had been living there for over twenty years.

There are 49 documented cases of cancer in residents of the BAREC research site who've been living there for the past twenty years.

"The pollution problem is huge because it represents a public health concern by disturbing the soil at all," environmental scientist Cameron Colson says about the situation. "If there is a known pollutant on that site and it escapes, [elected officials] need to understand what they're exposing the public to," he says.

BAREC's land plot is closer than you may realize. In fact, the seventeen-acre area is less than a mile from Westfield Valley Fair Mall and airborne fumes spread quickly and lethally. If you or your loved ones live nearby, there is a fairly high chance you are being affected. So imagine the possible effects on citizens living directly on top of that toxic soil. Without further testing and deep cleansing of the region, and perhaps even with it, building a housing development on top of the old research fields is dangerous and unethical. In this case, as in most, humanity is simply more important than a wad of cash.

Through the Lens

a close-up look at Mitty's photographers



"The streets of Rome, Italy in 2007."



Alex Vekich



"One of the Cathedral's stunning lamp fixtures in Rome, Italy in 2007."

Alex Vekich is a Junior at Mitty. She grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has been going to art schools her whole life. Alex moved to California a day before school started this year and now resides in Willow Glen with her parents and her dog, Destiny.

What drew you to photography in the first place?
I have always liked the idea of being able to capture moments: those moments where you think to yourself, "Why isn't anyone taking a picture of this?" Those are the moments I capture.

What is your favorite thing to photograph?
I love photographing real life, real people. I love how much you can tell about a person, just by their eyes, their smile, the wrinkles on their skin. It's something pretty amazing.

Where do you find inspiration?
Usually before I take a picture of someone, I ask their permission, which leads to a conversation. And I learn about all these different kinds of people, and knowing them makes it a lot easier to capture their personality in a picture. Also, my best friend, Sarah Bonneville, always has her camera with her, and gets the perfect moments. Looking at her pictures and her style has taught me a lot about photography and different styles and genres.

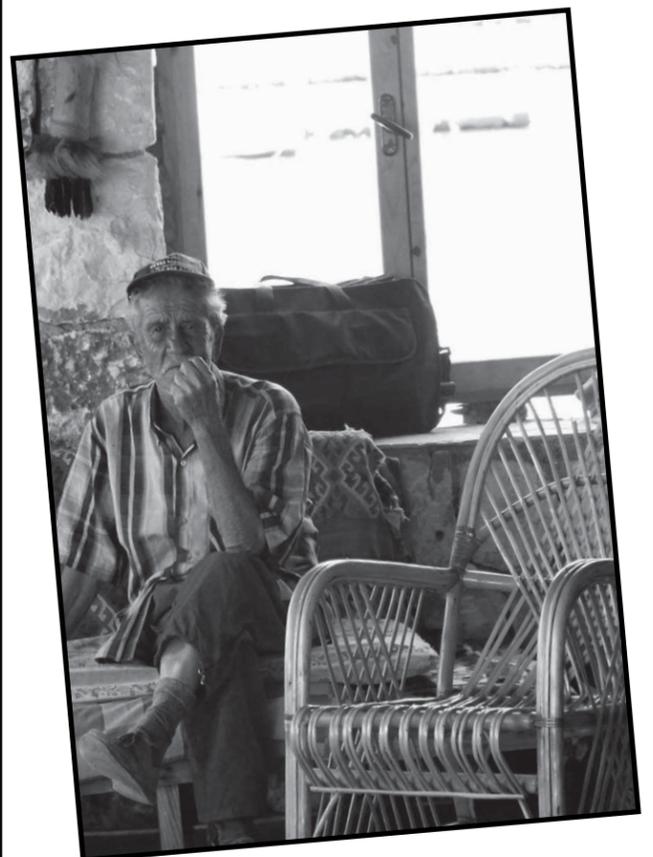
Describe the favorite photo you've taken.
I would have to say the Turkish man in a fish market (shown at right). I believe that picture is what really led me towards pictures of people more than landscapes and things of that nature.

Where do you plan to take this hobby?
I actually want to take this so-called hobby into my future. I want to be a photojournalist and travel the world, and really enlighten people with my pictures. It's a far-fetched dream, but hey, dreaming never hurt anybody. Right?

How would you describe your style?
It's not pretty. It's real.



"Protesting for peace in Spring of 2008."



"A Turkish man sitting in a fish market in Antalya, Turkey."



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Rickard

"A falling leaf, taken in my backyard."



Photo Courtesy of Nicholas Tran

"Harsh afternoon sunlight was avoided by shooting in the shade, developing a timeless, melancholic mood."

Snapshots



Photo Courtesy of Kimberly Niedermaier

"Dog tags from Vietnam outside a church in Boston."



Photo Courtesy of Sebastian Wendell

"Taken in my front yard and inspired by the 'everyday' item used with the macro mode. Overall, I think it makes for an artistic picture."

"Taken for the 'beautiful light' assignment in Mitty's Digital Photography class. I thought it would look cool to catch the detail of the babushkas at a close angle and straight on from the ground."



Photo Courtesy of Sabrina Miller

Like what you see?
 If you would like to be a featured photographer in *The Monarch*, send your photographs to photomonarch@gmail.com and your work may be shown in an upcoming issue!

SPORTS

Volleyball: Monarchs Off to Strong Start Mitty In the Hunt for State Championship

By Christina Jones
Sports Editor

With a record of 20-1, the Archbishop Mitty Women's Volleyball Team has had a phenomenal start to the season. For five consecutive years, the Monarchs have claimed WCAL, CCS, and NorCal Championships, and the team is poised to continue that tradition of excellence.

Following last season's successes, expectations were high for this year, despite losing five seniors last season, including the renowned middle blocker Amanda Gil who

now plays for UCLA. This change in the roster has translated to a new game plan.

Junior outside hitter Rachel Williams, who has been pivotal in the Monarchs' success, explains, "While height was a big factor in the last two seasons, this year we know we have to be scrappier because of the smaller block."

In addition to the change in the style of play, the heart of the team is different this year, as Williams says, "This year we have a bond, or chemistry, that is much closer than before. Chemistry means everything. It is the reason we want to do well for each other rather than ourselves. We have more drive to redefine success for ourselves."

Head Coach Bret Almazan-Cezar aptly states, "The faces change, but the AM over the heart remains the same."

New leaders have emerged on the court this year as well. Junior outside hitters Kristina Graven and Rachel Williams, as well as right side hitting senior Taylor Smith are the driving forces behind the Monarch's offense with their powerful swings.

Junior setter Joan Caloia-ro provides her hitters with the perfect opportunities to rack up kills, and has so many weapons at her disposal that it keeps teams guessing.

Defense is crucial to their game plan as well, with senior Morgan O'Neill and junior Ryan Shaffer manning the backcourt.

"This is a strong group of student-athletes with a lot of positive intangibles...selflessness, sacrifice, a genuine care for each other...On the

court, there's just a lot of fire power from so many places," states Coach Almazan-Cezar.

Hailed by some as the most physical and powerful team in the nation, the Monarchs opened the season by winning the Milpitas Spikefest, not dropping a set while cruising to the championship.

Mitty then defeated Woodside, and was pushed into a fifth set against Menlo before pulling away with the win.

Traveling to Las Vegas, the team competed in the Durango Fall Classic, finishing with in an impressive third place. In this tournament, the Monarchs triumphed over Mira Costa for the first time in five years. In the past three state championship games, Mira Costa defeated Mitty.

Head Coach Bret Almazan-Cezar expressed great relief after this monumental win, expressing, "It's just a win, but it's been a long time coming."

Despite this great triumph, the Monarchs suffered their first loss of the season during the tournament. Mitty, ranked second in the nation by Prepvolleyball.com, fell to top-ranked La Costa Canyon.

This was the first loss the Monarchs have suffered this early in the season since 2003. Still, the team won the state championship that season.

The team took lessons from this crushing defeat, according to Williams, who explains, "We need to stay strong in the second game. We can't let our opponents back in to the game because we pull off the throttle. We have to continue to persist and not let up until the match is over."

The Monarchs enacted this plan, dominating the Archbishop Mitty Invitational Volleyball Tournament. Mitty defeated Analy from Sebastopol, league rival Sacred Heart Cathedral, and Harvard-Westlake from Hollywood, to advance to the championship match, where they handily defeated Santa Barbara High School.

Mitty has since defeated Sacred Heart Cathedral again in league play, St. Francis, and St. Ignatius, and holds the top ranking in the WCAL.

The Monarchs have been adequately prepared by their grueling preseason schedule, which is the seventh toughest schedule in the country according to MaxPreps.

States Coach Almazan-Cezar, "We're ready for everything."

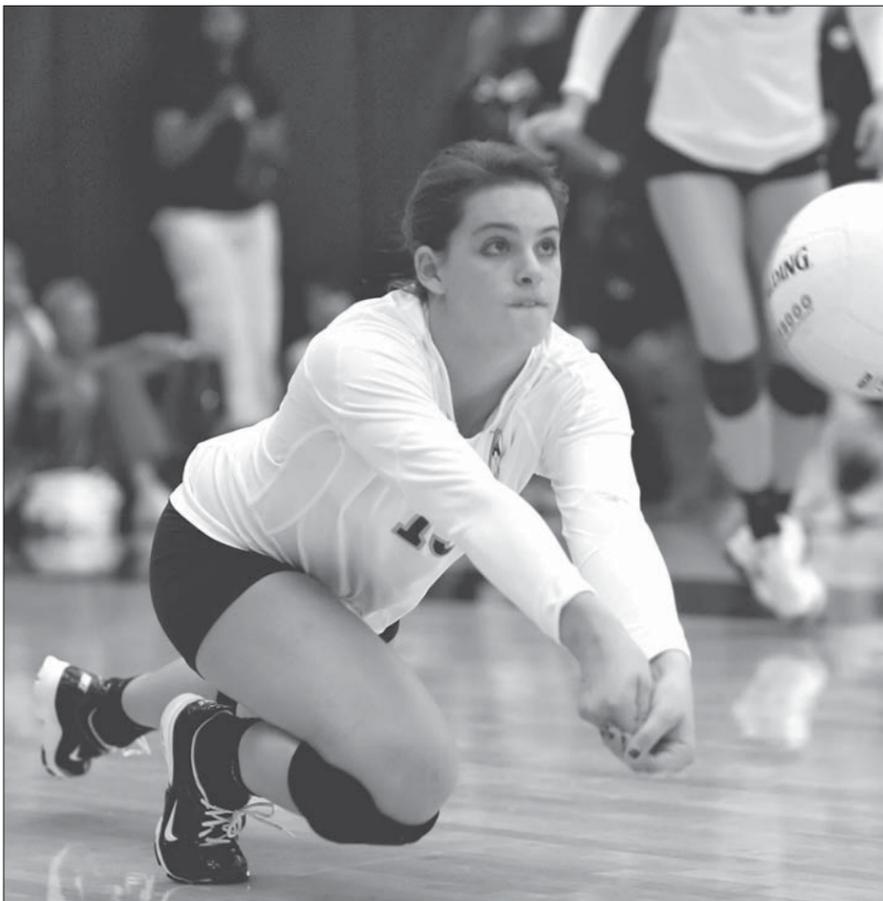


Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Morgan O'Neill lunges to make the dig.

Player Profiles

Maya Raman: Women's Tennis

By Mona Patel
Staff Writer

Q: How has the loss of the last graduating class affected the team?

A: We lost our number 1 doubles team and captain, and we miss them. However, we have many strong players.

Q: How would you assess the competition you will face in WCAL?

A: There are a couple top teams like St. Francis and St. Ignatius, and the games against them are always competitive.

Q: What would you consider the highlight of your season so far?

A: When we played Corona Del Mar at the California Classic. We had won three tough singles matches by Stacy Yam, Stefanie Ton, and Samantha Poley and we had lost three doubles matches. So it was down to the deciding match and Tayler [Davis] was last on the court with a hurt elbow, but she pulled through to win us Division I of the California Classic out of 96 teams.

Q: What draws you to tennis?

A: I like how you need to use both your mind and physical strength to win. I also like that even though it's a team sport, your individual game is your own and it depends only on your performance.

Alaina Thomas: Field Hockey

By Josh Ferguson
Staff Writer

Q: How has your season been so far?

A: After the Willow Glen jamboree, we saw our true capacity as a team—each player is equally talented and the whole bench can start.

Q: What position do you play and what's your impact on the team?

A: Right Midfield. It's a key position since I'm an offensive and defensive player. However, I depend on the team to switch fields.

Q: Which team are you most excited to play?

A: This year, in particular, our league is very elite. Any game will be a good game to watch—we have great competition.

Q: What has been your favorite moment in field hockey?

A: On a warm-up, when Jackie Faylor was tripped into the cage.

Q: How long have you played field hockey?

A: I ran cross-country, but discovered field hockey sophomore year.

Q: What is the hardest part of playing field hockey?

A: Getting in position and knowing where you are supposed to be.

Football: Speed, Determination Key For Monarchs

By Arjun Ravishankar
Staff Writer

This season the Monarchs hope to unleash new talent despite the absence of past team leaders. The team mentality has changed in order to cope with the tremendous obstacles that are ahead.

While off to a rough start, the Monarchs are focused on playing one game at a time.

Many new senior leaders have emerged this year. Wide receiver Mitch Haniger advances the Monarchs' speedy game plan and middle linebacker Andrew Bigelow led the defense, prior to his injury.

The players seem to be fired up, as Haniger notes, "This year should be great and I am looking forward to being a leader on this team."

All of this excitement has translated to performance on the field, as he had managed an impressive 35 receptions and 405 yards through five games.

Despite the success, Mitty has not managed to achieve a win so far at 0-5

The Monarchs were close to rallying for a comeback win against Las Lomas in the first game of the year, but fell just short in the end, losing 21-19.

Mitty's fourth game appeared promising as well, though a close game ended in a loss at the hands of Archbishop Riordan, 25-22.

While in previous years the strategy included power and strength on offense, this year brings in a new mentality.

As both running back DJ Bush and Head Coach Matt Haniger confirm, this year the offensive system has changed.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Senior Mitch Haniger leads the Monarchs in receptions through five games.

That means more focus on the team strengths which entail speed and quickness, in order to effectively wear teams down during the later part of the game.

This approach requires both the ability to stretch defenses wide on the field and efficiency in the passing and running game.

Despite the team's 0-5 record, Coach Haniger considers this new game plan "a work in process that should soon pay off."

With all of the new and improved schemes added to the

Monarchs' playbook, the youth of the team does play a factor.

Although it possesses star seniors, the team has many young players, such as sophomore and junior running back tandem Rocky Meszaros and DJ Bush.

Running back/cornerback DJ Bush has emerged as a team leader and Rocky Meszaros has contributed to the swift running attack of the Monarchs by racking up 44 carries and 213 yards rushing through the first five games.

Although off to a mediocre start, the Monarchs will continue to stay motivated.

As Bush says, "Even though the season hasn't started off how we would have liked, I think it has made us better as a team and better prepared for the league."

This outlook should lead to promising results. However, with powerhouses such as Bellarmine College Preparatory and Valley Christian in the league, it won't be so easy.

The Monarchs have yet to face other WCAL rivals, including a strong St. Francis team, as well Sacred Heart Cathedral and Serra.

The long-standing rivalry between Archbishop Mitty and Bellarmine is once again hyped up to be an incredible game.

While the team is taking the season step by step, the Monarchs cannot help but to look forward to the Oct. 31 matchup.

"The stage is set," Bush says. "With a brand new remodeled stadium, it's looking to be a great matchup."

Says Coach Haniger, "The team is definitely motivated and we are looking for success this season."



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Field Hockey

COACH: JUSTINA WILLIAMS

RECORD: 2-2-1

4-0-1 WILLOW GLEN TOURNAMENT

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: NICOLE MESTICE, AMANDA GIMENEZ, KAT MULLER

QUOTE: "OUR TEAM IS EXTREMELY DEEP. ALL 19 PLAYERS ARE VERY SMART ON THE FIELD AND HARDWORKING. WE ARE EXPECTING TO DO VERY WELL THIS YEAR." -COACH WILLIAMS

Men's Water Polo

COACH: MIKE HENDRICKSON

RECORD: 3-13; 0-3 WCAL

KEY CONTRIBUTORS: WILL CALLAS, ALEX BALOG

HIGHLIGHT: BALOG SCORED AN IMPRESSIVE GOAL AGAINST SAN BENITO

QUOTE: "OUR MAIN STRENGTH IS OUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND OUR DETERMINATION TO WIN."

-NOVA WANG

Highlight Reel

Compiled by Brigette Latno-Mosunic, Jaslyn Johnson, Ayman Ullah

Women's Water Polo

COACH: SCOTT BLAKE

RECORD: 6-6, 1-2 WCAL

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:

KIM MCCOMAS, SARAH SLUGOCKI

BIG GAME: 2ND PLACE IN THE

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

HIGHLIGHT: GAME AGAINST PALO ALTO

WHEN KIM MCCOMAS' SHOT

PUT THE MONARCHS IN THE LEAD

QUOTE: "THE SENIORS HAVE REALLY STEPPED IT UP THIS SEASON DUE TO OUR YOUNG TEAM. THEY BROUGHT US REALLY CLOSE AND RAISED OUR SKILL TO THE NEXT LEVEL." -HILARY HUNT



Photo courtesy of Mr. Luie Lopez

Tennis

COACH: JASON SCALESE

RECORD: 13-0, 7-0 WCAL

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:

SENIORS TAYLER DAVIS, STEFANIE TON

HIGHLIGHT: WINNING THE CALIFORNIA CLASSIC

QUOTE: "WE'RE VERY COMPETITIVE, ESPECIALLY WITH ST. FRANCIS. WE TOPPED THEM IN THE FRESNO TOURNAMENT AND BEAT THEM IN OUR FIRST LEAGUE MATCH 5-2, BUT WE WEREN'T PLAYING OUR BEST TENNIS. WE WERE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR THIRD MEETING, AND WE DEFEATED THEM 7-0." -NORIELLE ADRICULA



At six feet three inches tall, Kerri Walsh was hard to miss, even in a crowd of admirers.

Kendra Breunling

Kerri Walsh Returns to Mitty Donates Volleyball Court to Alma Mater

By Katie Helland
News Editor

When eighteen-year-old Kerri Walsh walked across the graduation stage with the Class of 1996, she never imagined that she would be returning to Archbishop Mitty High School as an inspirational speaker. In fact, the two-time, gold medal Olympic champion hates public speaking.

"I feel like a fish in water when I play volleyball," said thirty-year-old Walsh as she signed cell phones, student planners, shoes and one young man's arm. "Public speaking in jeans and sneakers is much harder," she said.

Walsh visited Mitty Sept. 10 to dedicate a beach volleyball court to her alma mater. The court is funded by Walsh's foundation, *Chasing Stars* and Larry Harper's foundation, *Good Tidings*.

The event received media coverage on NBC Bay Area News, in *The Mercury News* and in *The Santa Clara*. After her surprise appearance at the school's morning assembly, Walsh served the court's first volleyball at a ribbon cutting ceremony during first period.

On the new court, members of the volleyball team will earn community service hours for teaching beach volleyball to students from less privileged schools. The court will also be used for P.E. classes and for the volleyball team's defense.

"Mitty's going to have something that no other school has—cross training," said Walsh.

With two gold medals and three Olympic competitions behind her, Walsh knows a little bit about the athletic American dream. She says she has looked through the dictionary for words to describe the Olympics and can't find them.

"It's the most profound, wonderful thing because it means dreams come true... it's the whole world coming together," she said between taking pictures with Mitty fans.

To honor her visit, Archbishop Mitty High School retired her jersey number at the morning assembly. Junior Kristina Graven, once number nine, is now number twelve.

"I was excited for her, because to get a number dedicated is exciting. To have her number before was great," said Graven.

In early 2008, Mitty Volleyball Coach, Mr. Almazan-Cezar learned that Mitty was going to have a beach volleyball court. "We knew she was building it at some point, somewhere in the South Bay," said Mr. Almazan-Cezar. The volleyball team had helped Walsh fundraise for her foundation, *Chasing Stars* at Reach for the Stars, a BBQ and raffle held in Saratoga Springs.

But there were a few complications, said Good Tidings' founder, Larry Harper. Because the new grandstands were being constructed during the same summer, Joseph J. Albanese Incorporated had only two weeks to get all the dirt out and all the sand in.

The court sand is one foot deep and is the same type of sand that Walsh plays on professionally.

"Extra, extra clean beach sand is what it is," Harper said.

Harper mentioned that he had worked with many sports stars on projects, but especially loved working with Walsh. "Kerri is so genuine. And she really represents your school so well."

Walsh's senior year physics teacher, Mr. Motroni expressed the same sentiments saying, "She is highly energetic... there is no ego associated with Kerri. Kerri is just Kerri. She's just a genuine person."

In addition to being a competent athlete who "did her homework," Walsh was also known for her energy—starting in high school. "She used to literally run in to class every day because she had a competition with another guy and so they would compete to see who could run and sit down in class first," said Mr. Motroni. The losing student received a "swat on the backside."

"I played sports here and that was my life," said Walsh. Her involvement in traveling teams kept her so busy that it meant she had to make special arrangements with her team to get a weekend off for Senior Ball.

At fourteen years old, Walsh met her then favorite player, Misty May at a high school volleyball game. Walsh remembers asking May for an autograph. "Some people say that I was tearing up—but I wasn't. I was just excited," she said.

May, of course, would become Walsh's beach volleyball partner and fellow two-time Olympic gold medalist.

Walsh played sports all four years and was Mitty's Athlete of the Year for three consecutive years. She was equally strong in basketball as volleyball. As a senior, she was named Gatorade National Player of the Year.

Although Walsh's talent brought her fame and attention early in life, she still remains close to her roots at Mitty. With 25 family members that have gone to Mitty and five cousins currently attending Mitty, Walsh makes a point of visiting the school's volleyball games.

"The (volleyball) kids are used to seeing her every so often because she comes around every few months... to a couple of matches," said Mr. Almazan-Cezar.

The Olympian fondly remembers a strong sense of school community and "A lot of time being here on senior hill—hanging out on the grass—being weird."

"I have my best friends for life that I met here," she said.

In her dedication speech, Walsh told students, "This life—because we are so blessed—is about giving back."

At the school that once taught Kerri Walsh to dream, Walsh has now given back a beach volleyball court that will help teach others to dream.

Joyah Spangler's Amazing Siblings on The Amazing Race

By Morgan McEnergy
Staff Writer

Ever dream of knowing a TV star? One of our very own Monarchs has a connection with the hit reality TV show, *The Amazing Race*.

On Sept. 28, Joyah Spangler, a senior, saw her older brother and sister, Nick and Starr Spangler, compete as a team on the 13th season of *The Amazing Race* and for those of you who watched, you know they already they won the first leg.

For those of you not familiar with the show, 11 teams embark on a 23-day race, covering 30,000 miles and spanning five continents on an expedition to reach the finish line and ultimately win the grand prize of \$1 million. This season promises to be one wild ride. Brand new settings including Kazakhstan and a floating city.

Joyah, the baby of the family, has followed in her brother Nick's footsteps in attending Mitty and being a member of Exodus. What you probably don't know is that Nick was the first to spark the theatre flame that burns in the Spangler family.

"Since birth I've been submerged into the theatre culture. My brother had already been bitten by the theatre bug by the time I could walk and talk, so I was always watching him perform and practice and eventually just joined in," said Joyah Spangler.

Recently, Nick has performed in an Off-Broadway musical called *The Fantasticks*. Although Starr was not involved in plays, her theatrical blood soon landed her a spot as a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader.

"They are mostly excited, they just didn't want to be the first to get out! They are very competitive people so they just couldn't wait to get started," said Joyah Spangler.

Nick and Starr believe that this show is an opportunity to rekindle their relationship after being separated for so many years. Starr came up with the idea, and she quickly flew to see Nick. "They made an audition video in one night and the rest is history!" said Joyah Spangler. *The Amazing Race* will allow them to catch up on years of missed memories as they work toward the finish line of the competition.

To watch as team Spangler attempts to conquer *The Amazing Race*, be sure to tune in on Sundays at 8 p.m. on CBS.



Amazing Race siblings, Nick and Starr Spangler.

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