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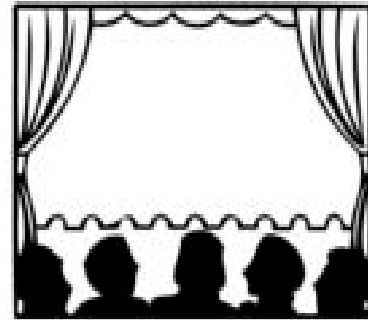
PAGE 1 NEWS

Actors Take Pride in Their Production From Austen Novel

By Thomas Willett
Editor-in-Chief

There was plenty to celebrate as the curtains rose for Millikan's fall play, 'Pride and Prejudice'. From the opening scene, the audience was captivated by the story of finding true love despite prejudice from others.

The three-act play portrayed 19th Century attire and lavish, colorful scenery representing Victorian British lifestyles. Despite a complex vocabulary, the actors presented each line with ease and comfort.



The struggles to define independence shined strong as the Bennet sisters Jane (senior Rory Woodbury), Elizabeth (senior Anissa Loer), and Lydia (junior Ariana Beaver) fought to keep their mother (Samantha Bartz) from assigning them suitors. Mr. Darcy was played by senior James Monroe.

The play was also a class project, where the actors had to research the play as well as provide and create their own script and costumes to fit the 1802 time period.

They also practiced long hours for six weeks. With all of the hard work, it was no wonder that they were excited and that they hoped that all of their hard work would pay off.

"The play took on a life of its own. I felt they interpreted it extremely well," said director Wendy Atwell. "I am proud of their dedication to learn and master their love of the stage."

There is little time to rest, though. The drama department has already held auditions for the spring musical, 'Fiddler on the Roof.'

New Librarian

By Jessica Daniels
Ass't Editorial Editor

Hopefully I'll stay here for a very long time," says Christin Haake, Millikan's newest librarian.

Haake wasn't always a librarian; she started off as a teacher in Nebraska. She first began to be interested in the library when she took her students to them to check out books. So, she went back to school to get her master's degree in Library Science.



Haake enjoys running, playing with her baby, canning vegetables from her garden, and reading. Her favorite author is Madeline L'Engle and her favorite book is *The Arm of the Starfish*.

This month makes ten years that Ms. Haake will be a librarian. She has worked at at least ten libraries including both public and school libraries.

Haake is very dedicated to her job. This year she plans to teach students how to use the library effectively. She also plans to encourage students to come to the library.

Visions Opens Up to Other LB Schools

By Thomas Willett

Editor-in-Chief

Visions has done a lot to raise support for the arts. There was plenty of proof at their second Open Mike, held on December 14 in the Black Box Theater. It was filled with poetry, music, and performance pieces. The hosts, juniors Paul Murufas and Kendall Brinkley, kept the crowd energized.

Students from other high schools, such as Wilson and Renaissance, also performed. Many were amazed at the positive energy.

"It was packed, standing room only," said teacher D.D. Wood. "They had a blast as always."

The event was a success, and they hope to form a tight bond with more schools.

Habitat For Humanity Assists Local Families

By Maricruz Sanchez

Editorial Page Editor

The houses being built in this neighborhood are special because they are built with love. They are from the Habitat for Humanity Jimmy Carter Work Project. 30 houses are being built, 16 in San Pedro and 14 in Vermont.

On Oct. 28, 2007 the Jimmy Carter Work Project started with a big festival in the San Pedro port. The festival had lots of family fun and great food from local restaurants.

At night the festival ended with dinner and with some very important guest speakers.

The host was Paige Hemmis, host of 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition', and the speakers were Ricky Martin and Mayor Villaragosa. However, the most important guest was President Jimmy Carter. He talked about how happy he was to be able to help build some of the houses.

Early the next morning, all the volunteers came from all over the country, ready with hammers, to start building. The day began with a prayer and a healthy breakfast. After that the volunteers went to their assigned houses to meet the members of the families who were helping build their own houses as well.



Salud Becerra, owner of a new house, said, "All the volunteers were so nice and helpful. I wish they would have stayed longer."

The week ended with the closing ceremony a week later. President Jimmy Carter gave thanks to all the volunteers and gave blessings to all the home owners. It was also announced that day that the Jimmy Carter Work Project will now be known as the Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Smith Carter Work Project.

PAGE 2 EDITORIAL

Teen Drivers on the Loose

By Jessica Daniels

Ass't editorial editor

The leading cause of death among teens is auto accidents. The longer teens have been behind the wheel, the better equipped they are to deal with unexpected circumstances. One reason they tend to get into a lot of car accidents is because they're on cell phones, listening to loud music, texting, and talking to their friends.

"Teen drivers with one teen passenger face twice the risk of having a fatal crash than when driving alone," states Keep the Drive program, a Chicago-based, teen-led driving program. Therefore its best if you drive alone. Passengers have a big influence on the driver and can be a distraction.



In serious vehicle crashes involving teen drivers, excessive speed is almost always a factor, too. A parent's biggest fear is getting the phone call or the knock on the door telling them that their child isn't coming home.

Alcohol consumption by minors, even in small quantities, leads to slowing of

reflexes, and impaired judgment. These effects can be deadly when an intoxicated teen is behind the wheel of a car.

The more you know about driving, the better skilled you are.

Point & Counter Point: Abortion

To Abort or Not to Abort?

By Jaden Netwig
Staff Reporter

A surgical instrument is inserted into the womb of a young woman and, finding its target, dismembers and mutilates its tiny victim as methodically as an industrial supply line.

At first a reader might attribute this savagery to bygone days of tribal or cultist ritual long erased by newly ingrained American civility. Unfortunately, this form of latent infanticide is commonly known as abortion, and is practiced throughout the United States and other countries.

Why is the elective murder of unborn babies becoming a true American afterthought? How is it that still witnesses 3,700 abortions per day?

Rooted deep in the pro-choice movement are misunderstandings of the definition of life and where it begins, along with semantic attempts to modify its meaning.

Life is defined as the “property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from dead organisms and inanimate matter”

In light of this definition, no honest person could deny that unique DNA, markedly human body shape, and its the ability to feel pain, are exactly those distinguishable qualities. Furthermore, it must be noted that potential human life begins at the moment of conception, when that tiny human sperm joins with the ovum.

The mere statistical chance that this zygote has to develop into a healthy human baby should present an alarming hurdle for pro-choice advocates.

With the exception of capital punishment and ceasing life-sustaining treatments for terminal patients, it has never been a person’s choice to purposefully destroy another life.

Not only do abortionists violate the fundamental right to life, they have the audacity to cite a woman’s right to choose as their justification. Considering that a fetus is by

definition an entirely separate entity from its mother, its rights cannot be encroached upon to serve a mother's cruel decision.

Preserving the Painful Choice

By Karen Dewey

Staff Reporter

Motherhood is one of the universal joys of being a woman; most girls dream of starting a family someday. But for some girls and women motherhood is an impossibility. If they should find themselves to be pregnant, they must be allowed to make the choice, however painful, to end their pregnancy.

There is nothing appealing about abortion. Ending the life of a fetus is hard to think about. Many people think that no one should be allowed to kill a potential human being, ever, and that's easy enough to understand.

However, we cannot ignore the women for whom bearing a child would be disastrous. Pregnancy complications can threaten a woman's life, even with all the medical technology affordable in the world today. A mother must not be forced to die just so that she will bear a child.

Women become pregnant through rape and incest. Young women and girls raised in strict families may be thrown out on the streets, banished from their families for becoming pregnant out of wedlock. The trauma that they would suffer can be lessened if they will only be allowed to have an abortion and start their lives again.

Before 1973, when abortions were illegal in the United States, women still attempted to perform abortions. Illegal abortions were often extremely dangerous, carried out without professional assistance or supervision. Even today, www.emedicinehealth.com attributes 13% of deaths of among women to damage inflicted during an illegal abortion.

For centuries, women all over the world have been regarded in many cultures as good for nothing except bearing children. America cannot express this horrifically mistaken idea. May the law in this country never proclaim that the life a woman, a human being, is less important than that of an unborn, potential human being.

Breathing this Could Cause Your Last Breath

By Kyle Ng

Sports Editor

Air: the newest substance the lethal drug family. Unknown to many, inhalants have

already been proven deadly.

Most of us will take a can of compressed air for granted when cleaning and dusting electronics. Others see it and abuse it as a drug.

Campaigning Against the Harmless Cleveland teen Kyle Williams was dead March 2, 2005 He was 14. Kathy Williams woke up early to awake her son before she went to work. However, she walked in only to see her motionless son with a can of Dust-Off in his hand.



Huffing and sniffing are problems just as serious as the abuse marijuana, cocaine, and other known drugs. Inhaling high concentrations of solvents, gases and nitrates may give an intoxicating feeling, but it has also been proven to cause irreversible effects such as hearing loss, limb spasms, and damage to the central nervous system and bone marrow. Tests on inhalant abusers show significant shrinkage to their brains. The main damaging effect abusing inhalants has a on an individual. Hypoxia refers to the storage of oxygen in the body. Hypoxia can come from a change in altitude as well as putting a bag over your head. There repeated abuse of an inhalant will cause hypoxia which can ultimately end in ones demise.

Other effects include liver and kidney damage and blood oxygen depletion. However, these effects are potentially reversible.

The causes of inhalant abuse are just the same as other drugs: depression and peer pressure.” Inhalants are gateway drugs,” says Scott Allen, Chemistry teacher.” They contain carcinogenic substances found in other drugs. Carcinogenic substances cause cancer, an example the ones found in cigarettes.”

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most inhalant abusers have been found to be between the ages of 14 and 15, with usage declining by age 17 to 19.

Inhalants themselves are different than other substances. Not only are they cheaper, spray cans also pass as regular household products. There are many symptoms to identify whether someone has been huffing. Chemical scents, small sores and marks around the mouth and nose are a few. Allergies, colds, scratching, and signs of dizziness are also symptoms.

To combat the abuse of their product, Falcon, the company that makes Dust-Off, has added a bittering agent to the product. On the actual product is printed in big red letters: “Inhalant abuse is illegal and can cause permanent injury or be fatal. Please use our product responsibly.”

Campaigning Against the Harmless

By Jaden Netwig
Staff Reporter

The United States government deigns concern for its people, similar to the nurturing hand of a loving parent. It is only when this concern oversteps its boundaries and leaks into the realm of personal freedom that a problem arises. The long history of drug enforcement is an example of this conflict.

An annual outflow of 20 billion dollars is spent nonviolent drug offenders, let alone the 1.2 billion dollars that is ripped from the pockets of taxpayers. In 2003, the Department of Justice reported that over half of those in federal prisons were drug offenders. Because of overcrowding, incarcerating the prison system has prematurely paroled murderers and rapists to allow room for nonviolent drug offenders. And this begs the question: Are we, as a nation, directing our efforts in the appropriate direction?

Marijuana is one of the many drugs that the government as wants to stamp into extinction, although its adverse effects on society's well being are exaggerated. Studies from WebMD.com show that marijuana poses no public health impact in relation to mortality. In addition, the US Drug Abuse Warning Network reports zero deaths from marijuana each year, yet seemingly harmless anti-inflammatory drugs, like aspirin, are directly linked to 7,600 deaths and 76,000 hospitalizations in the United States alone. In the end, marijuana doesn't live up to its DARE-inspired reputation.

Ironically, alcohol and cigarettes remain easily accessible to the public. Both commodities are far more harmful than marijuana, and are complemented by a gripping physical addiction that leads to major health problems and even death. Still, surrounded by the stench of its own hypocrisy, the marijuana legislation does not budge.

It is evident that the country's illegal drug laws need to be reformed. For years we have fought drugs in futility, curbing neither consumption nor production.

PAGE 3 FEATURE

The Top 10 Worst Presents Ever!

By Maricruz Sanchez
Editorial Page Editor

As the holidays approach and you start to make your wish list, wouldn't it be funny if you got these ten items? We asked people around the school what they're definitely



putting on their lists. (And they asked to remain anonymous).

1. Underwear. They don't fit and they can go alongside my other 20 pairs that my grandma got me last year.
2. Socks. I have plenty of those already also.
3. Exercise DVD's. I would really enjoy this present if I didn't think that you were trying to call me fat!
4. Stick of gum. Thanks, that's exactly what I wanted. Did you find it in your pocket this morning?
5. Fruitcake. When was the last time that you saw me eat fruit? Never! Trash can, here it comes.
6. Concert tickets for Britney Spears' Comeback Tour. I already saw the preview on the MTV video awards. I really can't wait to see the second part. Sike.
7. Used movie ticket. What good is this stub going to do me now? I can't walk into the movie theaters and say, "I saw this movie two weeks ago and I really liked it. I'm coming to watch it again with this old ticket!"
8. Grandma-knitted sweater. Thanks, Grammy, but why is it so scratchy?
9. Bus Token. Because I can't find a dollar on my own.
10. Furbies. It only took you a century to get me one.

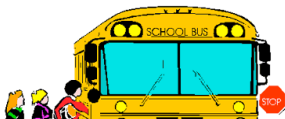
Your Choice Is Your Future

By Karen Dewey
Staff Reporter

There is such a thing as too much pressure, however well-meaning. As high school students, and maybe even when we were in middle school, many of us have been bombarded with urgings and suggestions and questions about our future, and especially about college. Although it is easy to assume that you will attend college after high school, it would be pure folly not to consider all of the available options.

Four types of schools for higher education are community colleges, universities, trade and technical or vocational schools.

If you have already decided on one of these four options, the



next step is to determine which institution you want to attend. Look for clubs, activities, or sports programs that are important to you. It's a good idea to visit the campus of a school that catches your eye. It may not look the way you imagined it.

Consider the size of the school; there may be too many people or too few.

And of course, always keep in mind the cost and location of your choice. It's pointless to choose a great school that you won't be able to pay for.

Be sure to contact the Career Center or ask a counselor or teacher if you want more information about the choices available to you.

The Man, the Music. . .the Buffalo?

By Jaden Netwig

Staff Reporter

Avi Buffalo Music has captivated the local music scene with indie-folk harmonies, dynamic vocals, and a novel stage presence. A five-piece high school ensemble comprised of lead guitarist Avi Buffalo, vocalist Rebecca Coleman, rhythm guitarist Joel Jasper, drummer Sheridan Riley, and bassist Andrew Celik make Avi Buffalo Music one of many aspiring bands in Long Beach that has achieved widespread local acclaim. Buffalo, Coleman, and Celik are currently students.

After their previous Zeppelin-esque group at Millikan, Monogram dissolved, Avi Buffalo Music emerged as the new music project for Buffalo, who wants the band to be "a good balance of our most appreciated genres while maintaining wholesomeness."

Meanwhile, other band members have a completely different set of goals. "I want fame and utter wealth," declares vocalist Coleman with a facetious grin.

Avi Buffalo Music's main influences include Broken Social Scene, Wilco, Light Music, and The Original Colonies. These inspirations, coupled with an original Avi flavor, provide the vehicle for their exceptional sound. Buffalo seeks a unique tonality that offers its listeners a "pure and sincere musical experience." Jasper adds, "I want our audience to appreciate our music, and maybe relate to it."

Most of all, Avi Buffalo Music would like to impress the crowd so that they'll attend all of their shows.

What sets Avi Buffalo Music apart from the countless number of other Long Beach area bands? Coleman was quick to answer with, "I'm in it," again, with a classic toothy grin.

“We pay attention to detail more so than other bands,” added Buffalo, who is as meticulous a frontrunner about song perfection as any professional.

Avi Buffalo Music is currently engaged in discussion with Deep White Sound, Look Again Media, and Drive Thru Records for possible label opportunities. On December 4, Avi Buffalo Music opened for The Nels Cline Singers at Di Piazza’s restaurant.

Travel Log: Puerta Vallarta, Mexico

By Brianna Looney

Staff Reporter

Imagine a scene where a riverbed flows on your left, and you can see the shimmering rocks beneath the water’s surface. There’s a jungle thick and wild on your right. The vegetation is all a vibrant green, with the lush brown tree trunks. Looking forward, you see and hear other people speaking a foreign tongue as they clutch the reins of their horses.

They’re speaking Spanish, the language of Mexico, and you’re on horseback, riding on Puerto Villarta’s lovely trails. I recently returned from a family vacation where we took a cruise and spent seven days seeing the magnificent land of Mexico.

During my trip, I learned about the country’s history and its traditions. I tasted foods that you couldn’t find in America, or any other place on Earth. The lively atmosphere of Mexico made me want to explore every inch.

As my horse was riding through the rough trails of the forest, I thought of what other beautiful places like this I would visit in the future.

Writers Strike A Chord

By Thomas Willett

Editor-in-Chief

Television has been around for over 70 years to entertain us. Its variety of programming makes millions laugh, cry, and even think on a daily basis.

Many believe that it’s all due to the actors, but TV would be nothing without the writers. Despite their great importance, though, writers lose millions annually from media sales.

That’s why on November 5, members of the Writer’s Guild of America (WGA) grabbed picket signs and declared a strike. They have solved to discontinue work until

their demand of four cents per sale is met.

The previous strike held in 1988, ran 22 weeks and aimed for profit from TV reruns. Even with all of the hard work and negotiations, the demands were not completely met and left few residuals. As a result, there was also reduced pay for foreign country reruns.

This strike hopes to fix all of these problems as well as receive revenue of sales from TV, DVDs, and online videos.

As a result, shows such as ‘The Tonight Show’ and ‘The Office’ are on hiatus because actors are refusing to film in support the strike.

If the strike’s consequences are the same as the one in 1988, viewers may grow disinterested and find other outlets for entertainment. During the strike, ratings for main channels dropped increasingly and shows were cancelled. By the time the shows returned, ratings dropped 10%.

Senior Joe Tippet is one viewer who senses trouble. “I think that even though this strike will improve things, I believe it will be a while before it does.”

This may also increase popularity of Internet video sites such as funnyordie.com and youtube.com. Online web shows may finally get an audience from viewers craving something besides reruns.

PAGE 4 SPORTS

Surf’s Up Rams

By Jaden Netwig
Staff Reporter

Millikan’s die-hard group of surfers never ceases to stagger out of bed at 5:30 in the morning, despite intimidating open ocean swells and frigid 50-degree water.

The hard work put into practicing has paid off, most noticeably in competition with other beach-area schools. For the first time in two years, Millikan has consistently won competitions, including those against Mater Deu and Santa Margarita high schools.

As with all team-oriented sports, it is necessary for the athletes to function as a family and display consideration and sportsmanship. “We have really nice kids on the team,” says Coach Mark Woelm, with an air of admiration. Woelm also prides his students on being unfussy and steadfastly dedicated to the sport.



Enabled by the revision of the Millikan schedule this year, surfers can now enjoy an entire 90 minutes of surfing every morning. “The younger kids have become strapping and have learned how to shred swells,” commends senior Dakota Pitts, who is a respected and skillful member of the Millikan surf community. Tyler Salners and Tanner Lowry, part of the aspiring underclass talent on the team, look ahead to a bright future, along with sophomore MVP Jacob Hastings, who awes the judges with seamless style and fin-out hacks.

With the coming year, Woelm hopes to attract a larger, racially diverse crowd of Millikan surfers to join the team. Better schedules, motivated students, and the increasingly positive attitude out in the water have made 2007-2008 one of the best years in the history of Millikan surf.

Girls Soccer Kicks Off the Season

By Khalyssa Marshall
Staff Reporter

The Millikan girl’s soccer team is more than ready to start their league season. Over 120 girls tried out for the team. So, after long, hot, summer try-outs and soccer camp, the final cuts left 60 players.

This year’s coach, David Christenson, and his assistant, Andrea Itson, have been preparing these girls to get out on the field to have some fun and win some games. “This year, Millikan fans can expect good results [from] skill and dedication among these girls,” said Itson.

Tiana Bierman, Anna Rea and Nicole Wenzler are the captains for the varsity team this year. They were selected because of their dedication, athletic ability, and leadership qualities.

“My goal for this season is to play intelligently. Anybody can play an aggressive game, but it takes great skill to play smart. That’s I want my girls to achieve as we play more games throughout the season,” Itson states.



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what

Christenson and Itson are coaching a young team this year consisting of mostly freshmen.

“I am proud of the team because they show a lot of qualities a team should have and they play really well,” Itson said. “I just really want support from the students at Millikan. So come on out to the games and let us show you what we can do!”

Tennis Nets New Players

By Haley Nielsen

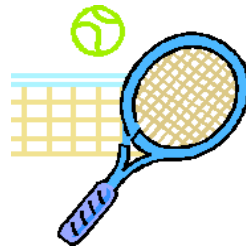
Staff Reporter

We started off the season rough,” said varsity coach Bernie Barretta. Junior varsity coach Torie Frapwell added, “It was tough losing more than half our varsity team, but this year was a year for rebuilding.”

Although the varsity girls team had a league record of 2-7, it did not stop the girls from having a great season and sticking together through the tough times despite the loss of many key players.

The junior varsity team also went through a rough season with a 1-8 record, but that did not stop them from playing their hardest and enjoying their season.

Top singles players Olivia Lawrence and Kramer shined throughout the season. Mimi Masters had an outstanding doubles season.



Barbara “Bob” Rogers and Katie

Robert Stone, assistant coach shared, “there is lots of young blood on the team, and many enthusiastic young players with much potential.”

Coach Barretta mentioned how in sports, teams go through rebuilding years. This only means they have high hopes for next year.

Kramer contributed her view on the season, “It was a great time, and there was great relationship building.”

Finishing the interview with a laugh, Sonia Tran added, “Next year we are going to be CBK (Come Back Kids)!”

Rams Go to Rose Bowl

By Karen Dewey

Staff Reporter

Fans attending this year’s UCLA vs. USC football game were graced with a grand performance by the Rams Marching Band and Kidettes team. Millikan, among 28 other high schools, was selected to march in the halftime show at Pasadena’s famous annual football game.

A crowd of 83,000 should have been nerve wracking for the band and Kidettes, but Mary Beebe, a member of the band, was more excited than apprehensive.

“It was in front of the entire stadium. There were so many people,” stated Beebe, who plays flute in the band. “It was really cool playing on a full-size field.” She added, however, that it was tiring work wearing harnesses and uniforms while playing music. Millikan’s band and Kidettes are on a roll. On Tuesday, November 19, both groups competed in the Baldwin Park Field Tournament and won first place for their division.