



The Flip Side

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**Merced
Scholars
Charter
School**

Editor, Lexie Pivrotto-Britton

Hurricane Katrina Devastates The Gulf Coast

By Tiffany Bailey

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, one of the most deadly natural disasters in U.S. history, struck the coast of Louisiana. It was a category 4 storm with wind speeds reaching 175 mph.

With rainfall of up to 12 inches, homes in New Orleans, Louisiana and Florida were covered by water levels of up to 20 feet. The storm surge breached the levee system that had protected the city of New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain. Most of the city was flooded by the lake's waters.

On August 28th Mayor Ray Nagin ordered a mandatory evacuation. The order was repeated on August

31st and by September people were being forcibly evacuated.

Many took refuge in the Superdome and others went to the New Orleans Convention Center. Thousands of people were evacuated to these centers, which quickly ran out of food, water and usable toilets. Air conditioning, electricity, and running water all failed, making for very unsanitary and uncomfortable conditions.

By September 4th the Superdome had been completely evacuated. Most of the individuals were bussed to the Houston



New Orleans Underwater

Astrodome and some were taken to the Houston Convention Center.

The storm left over a thousand dead and thousands more homeless.

If you are wondering what you can do to help check out the article below or ask anyone from Student Org.

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The Challenge
-Answer this and Win a Candy Bar!
What sound does a Platypus make?



What Can We Do To Help?

By Tiffany Bailey

Our school has the privilege of helping the survivors of the storm. We are collecting stuffed animals (for the children) and clothing of all sizes. This collection will last a month and all the clothes will be sent to *Central Valley Threads* in Fresno.

Central Valley Threads is an agency that was created by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce to assist Survivors relocating to the Valley. They are currently serving 70 families throughout the Valley.

What are you doing to help

the survivors of Hurricane Katrina? Please help make a difference in people's lives. You can help by donating whatever you have to people who now have nothing. Then you will know that you helped make a difference in the world!

The College Next Door

By Drew Roberts

You have been hearing about the new college in Merced for quite a while now, and all you probably know so far is that it's called UC Merced. Well I'm here to tell you more.

"Consider the benefit of being first. As a student in UC Merced's founding classes you can excel in a uniquely supportive setting where professors and staff members will get to know you by name and give you the help you need to reach your goals. You will connect with other top-notch students from throughout the world, working together to learn, explore new horizons, and establish campus traditions." - UC Merced.

I'm guessing that if you are a human that is reading this, you didn't read the quote fully, because I didn't either!

UC Merced also accepts specialized majors! So, for example, if you like experimenting with something like plasma, almost no colleges offer classes with something like that. UC Merced will, at your request, make that major available for you through specialized classes (after you become a student, of course.)

Now I'm sure you've heard it's expensive? I think it is at least \$15,209 USD per year... So I'm guessing that unless you have a lot of

scholarships or a lot of money, you might want to consider saving up or going to another college.

If you wish to learn any more information about UC Merced, visit their site at <http://www.ucmerced.edu>.



The campus of UC Merced.

Upcoming Events

By Nathan Moreno

October 3, 2005

9th Grade Career Dev. (12:30-3:30)

October 4, 2005

Magic of Electronics (10:00)

Math Lab(3:30-5:00)

October 5, 2005

9th Grade Study Skills (2:00-4:00)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 6, 2005

Art Council Class (2:30-4:30)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 10, 2005

10th Grade Career Dev. (12:30-3:30)

October 11, 2005

CAHSEE Math Review (3:30-5:00)

October 12, 2005

Biology Lab (2:00-4:00)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 13, 2005

Art Council Class (2:30-4:30)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 17, 2005

10th Grade Career Dev. (12:00-3:30)

October 18, 2005

CAHSEE Math Review (3:30-5:00)

October 19, 2005

9th-10th Grade ELA example (2:00-4:00)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 20, 2005

Art Council Class (2:30-4:30)

Leadership/Journalism (10:00-11:30)

Computer Literacy (12:00-1:30)

October 27, 2005

Business/Marketing Career Industry Day

(9:00-2:00)

'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' at Playhouse Merced

By Ben Suarez

This week at Playhouse Merced: 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum', starring Joe Fincher as conniving Pseudolus the slave and Roque Berlanga as Hero, his lovesick owner.

Hero is in love with of the dim-witted but beautiful cortesan-in-training, Philia (played by Liz Welker). To win her hand, Hero schemes with Pseudolus to distract General Miles Gloriosus (pronounced Milos) and steal back

Philia, who Miles has purchased for \$500 .

All the while, Domina and Annex, Hero's parents, have gone to see Domina's mother, leaving the slimy Dementum (played by Jerry Deal) as charge slave. They've also forbidden Hero from the opposite sex.

"It's a lot of fun, excitement, and 'comedy tonight'." laughed Joe in his

Greek toga and headband. "This really fills the gap between the audience and the actors."

With a talented cast, gripping, light-hearted story, and snazzy songs, it's ensured fun for the whole family.



Meet Adriel—Up and Coming Artist

By Michelle Bullock

I would like to introduce to you Adriel Montemayor. Adriel is a sophomore here at Merced Scholars, chances are you've seen him around, most likely he was drawing. Between schoolwork and classes he does many things. He loves sports such as football and basketball. His favorite subjects in school are Math and Science and like most teenage guys PE. He enjoys comedic and thrilling movies. Though he loves all of these things his favorite hobby is drawing.

Though Adriel wasn't too keen on giving me tons of information his mom Gina Moisa was happy to oblige. She says, "He's been drawing since he was 5. He would draw pokemon and little characters that could fit in your hand." While he says the only reason he began to

draw was boredom, his mom says that drawing runs in their family. His grandpa, aunt and his mom all draw. Yet, Adriel has now surpassed all of them, in his skill level. Of course every mother brags but if you had the chance to see his work you would know that there is a very good reason to brag.

When asked what inspired him to draw he simply said, "My mom." After interviewing her I understood why this is true. She stated that, "I knew he had the potential to draw better. I knew if he tried he could draw more than just little characters. One day I came home and he had drawn fruit and a little Mexican boot." With his

mom's confidence in him Adriel got past the little characters and began to draw everything. Most recently he has been working hard to perfect his drawings of people. Though his mom says he can draw anything. "He can draw fruit; he could draw your room! Anything!"



Adriel Montemayor

When asked if he wanted to be an artist Adriel said, "I think about it sometimes." He says that if he did draw it would be more something he did on the side for fun. However, he did say that animation would be a fun idea. Though drawing is a fun hobby Adriel says that his true goal in life is to work his hardest and to someday get married.

Connecting With Danger

By Thomas J Roberts

In the lives of beings I see, true fantasy.
 Hopefulness of wondering, into deserts
 pondering, "What is in store for me?"
 No blessing, no warning, just some more
 dreaming.
 Just as a burrow, the danger seems to
 narrow. Making it no sense to slow.

Not knowing where your going, into danger,
 life seems flowing.

No sense of fear, just a strong temper,
 and on into danger you go.

My Friends, If life seems dreary, don't be
 weary, and go into the mouth of danger.

Don't make the mistake, and make it
 delay, the course of life God has in store.

For when connecting with danger, Life
 is no more straighter.

Just a misread death is in store.

If you have a poem or story you
 would like to submit please see
 Mrs. Mary Green

Movie Review: 'Just Like Heaven'

By Lexie Pivrotto—Britton

If you want to see a movie that's pretty much the epitome of a chick flick cliché, take a gander at 'Just Like Heaven'.

Based on the novel If Only It Were True by Marc Levy, 'Just Like Heaven' is the story of Elizabeth Masterson (Reese Witherspoon), a workaholic doctor who, on the way to her sister's house for a blind date, gets hit by a truck.

Cut to: David Abbott (Mark Ruffalo) a depressed and lonely ex-landscape architect looking for a new apartment. His only requirement? That it has a comfortable couch that he can veg out on. David magically stumbles upon Elizabeth's apartment (which is being

sublet by her sister) that he decides has a comfortable enough couch, so he stays.

After a few days of lazing about the apartment drinking beer and watching home movies of his ex-wife, David is surprised (to say the least) when Elizabeth shows up claiming that his apartment is, in fact, her apartment. He's not willing to give up the apartment, she's not willing to give up the apartment, and we learn through a series of strange happenings that Elizabeth is a spirit.

David tries to get rid of her with Catholic priests and Ghostbuster wannabes, but after a while, David and

Elizabeth become friends, and he tries to help her find out who she was while also fighting his attraction to her.

I can't say the movie was terrible, but it wasn't very good either. The acting was possibly the only thing that made is bearable, and even that wasn't very good. Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo have great chemistry, but John Heder (of 'Napoleon Dynamite' fame) seems to always play the same character in every movie he's in.



Merced Scholars Charter School



A big hello From your Student Org. who wrote all of the articles in this newsletter.

Welcome

By Krista Roberts and Rochelle Miranda

Greetings! Merced Charter would like to welcome all new and returning students! We hope you enjoyed your summer and now wish you the most excellent experience at this school. Our school has many things to offer, such as clubs, student store, and more! You can take part in the electives, be a representative of your class, and even meet with other students to get to know them. We also have some really great teachers who make learning a lot easier, and we hope you personally get to meet them. Thanks for joining Merced Charter! Student Org would also like to give you special thanks for reading this Newsletter.

Home Schooled vs. Traditional School

By Thomas J Roberts and Megan Riise

For many years people have thought that home schooled students do not receive an adequate education. It may be because it's not a regular school setting like they are used to, or it may just be that they want us to get up at 6:30 every morning and finish school at 3:15 and then have hours of homework. Though recent studies have shown that

home-schooled students actually do very well in school. They also seem to focus better than some people believe.

Public schools have their advantages also. If you are a very social person, public school is a good option. Or if you would like to participate in school sports, then public school would be a better option.

Being a home schooled student I have found my schedule to be much more flexible. When you attend traditional school you do not have that kind of flexibility.

So, we have found that home schooling and traditional schools both have their advantages and disadvantages.

School Of Thought-The Flip Side of Comics

by Ben Suarez

**Attention: Student Store is
Now Open for Business**

**The FCC
has found
this comic
offensive.**

**It will not
be shown
today!**

**Thank
You!**

Big Brother is watching you.