



The Flip Side

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**Merced
Scholars
Charter
School**

This is a student generated newspaper.

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The Challenge

Submitted by Drew Roberts

What's the only 15 letter word that never repeats a letter?



9th Grade Career Leadership Conference

By Samantha Mendoza

In elementary school, do you remember asking yourself, "What do I want to be when I grow up?"

At first, I was undecided about my future. But after attending this class, I know exactly what I am going to be, and I can finally answer that question.

I felt like I didn't need to go to this conference, because it was for Freshman, and I'm a Sophomore. I soon learned how much quality information was being offered to us, and how much was still left out there.

After answering some questions, Mrs. Guizar had a few

games and prizes in store for us.

Once we finished all of those, we began to figure out what

we wanted to do, or would be good at doing for a living. We answered a sheet of simple yes or no questions to figure out what Career Pathway we fell under. The funny thing was

that all the outcomes were exactly right on for each person.

The Career Pathways included agriculture, arts, media, and entertainment, business, engineering, technology, health careers, home economics careers and technology,

industrial technology, and public and human services, the category that I myself fell under.

After finding out our career pathway, each student looked up career information on Eureka. By just typing in the occupation, you were given all the information you would need about it.

The purpose of this class was to help us succeed in life, to assist us in finding out what we want to be, and, lastly, to encourage us to go to college.

I can honestly say that all of the information given to me was very helpful. I encourage all of you to attend these career conferences if you're given the chance.



An Introduction from the President of the Student Organization

By Lexie Pivrotto-Britton

Hi, I'm Lexie Pivrotto-Britton, the President of the Student Organization. Student Org. consists of 17 students, grades 9 to 12, with different backgrounds and personalities who all work together to try and make the school and the community a better place.

The mission of the MSCS Student Organization is to act as a voice for the students, to organize and increase school activities and events, and to inform the students and community members about what's

going on in the school.

The members of Student Org. write The Flip Side, a student newspaper, and we organize events to promote communication and socialization between students.

This year will be the first year that MSCS will sell yearbooks as well as school shirts and sweatshirts. We're also in the process of organizing an Old Hollywood-theme prom to be held later in the year, Spirit Weeks to be held on every 3rd week of the month, and a trip to Camp Green Meadows for a

three-day leadership and nature retreat.

Not only do we encourage you to attend all of these events, but we also encourage you to help us plan them.

Student Organization meetings are held every Wednesday from 9 AM to 12 PM. There is also a sign up sheet on the Student Org. board in the hallway for the Prom Committee, as well as one to buy a yearbook. So please, if you want to get involved, come by and join us!

There's a new artistic director at Playhouse Merced... and his name is Lars Tatom

By Casey Barnes

I recently sat down and chatted with Lars Tatom, the newest Artistic Director of Playhouse Merced.

Playhouse Merced is a live theater company that features local and national talent. They perform plays and musicals that range from adult dramas to family-oriented shows. In addition, Playhouse Merced is a conservatory that offers classes in acting and voice, as well as ballet, tap, hip-hop, and jazz dancing.

When I met Lars for the first time, my impression was "Who is this really tall guy looking at me?!" I mean, who wouldn't be intimidated by a man who's 6'5" tall with a booming, thunderous voice? I soon found Lars to be very hospitable and easy to talk to.

He found some time to answer a few questions for me.

Casey: What is your position at Playhouse Merced?

Lars: I'm the new artistic director.

C: What are your responsibilities?

L: I am one of the two bosses. I'm responsible for picking directors for the different plays, I pick the plays and what season they'll fit in, and I help hire the staff and take care of the money.

C: Where did you work before Playhouse Merced?

L: I worked in Cairo, Egypt doing the same kind of job.

C: What brings you to Merced?

L: I was raised in Sacramento and I was interested in getting into the directing business in California.

C: Are you planning any changes for Playhouse Merced?

L: Well this is the beginning of our 13th season and I'm here not to change Playhouse

Merced, but to help it grow.

C: What do you see for the future of Playhouse Merced?

L: Playhouse Merced is in a great position for growth. This city is going crazy with new people and new houses!

C: Do you plan on doing any of your own plays in the coming seasons?

L: No, I won't be doing any of my own plays for now.

C: I read that you've performed a lot of Shakespeare.

L: Yes! In April, we're doing "Much Ado About Nothing". It's so good to have Shakespeare.



ATTENTION MSCS STUDENTS!

For more information on any classes or shows going on at Playhouse Merced, you can get more information by calling 1(209) 725-8587, or visiting www.playhousemerced.com.

Upcoming Events

October:

October 6th—11th & 12th Grade Career Conference

October 16th—Canned Food Drive Begins

October 19th—Business Career Industry Day

October 20th—11th Grade Oral History Presentations

November

Nov. 10th—Veteran's Day

Nov. 14th—Arts and Communication Career Industry Day

Nov. 17th—10th Grade Career Character Speeches

Nov. 20th-24th—Thanksgiving Break



Fall Fashion

By Alex Montiel

Fall is coming, so pack away your summer clothes and pull out those long-sleeved shirts and retro jackets! For girls and guys alike, vintage, urban style clothes are going to be a fashion must. Try going for earthy toned shirts, and add a little splash of color with colorful accessories like big belts, earrings, and chunky bracelets. Guys, try spicing it up with a funky hat or brightly colored tie. Look for comfy, worn looking jeans. Forever 21, American Eagle Outfitters, and Hot Topic are all great places to look for these new fall fashions.

Restaurant Review: Cool Hand Luke's

By Tiffany Bailey

I recently had the pleasure of dining at one of Merced's newest restaurants, Cool Hand Luke's.

Luke's has a wide selection of food, from steaks and seafood to soups and salads. I can say from personal experience that the salmon is fantastic! If you're a vegetarian, Luke's offers wonderful soups and salads for you to choose from. They also offer you beans and sourdough bread with your meal, both of which



are delicious.

If you're still hungry after your wonderful meal, Luke's offers a mouth-watering variety of desserts to choose from. If you're a cheesecake lover like me, Luke's offers an incredible raspberry cheesecake. They also have a scrumptious-looking

chocolate cake and various other chocolate desserts.

The atmosphere in Luke's is nice and subtle, and it gives you the feeling of being in

the old west. The lights are dim and candles are lit on every table. What was nice was that you don't even have to dress up to go and eat at Luke's; it's very casual.

The prices are a little higher than most restaurants, but I think that the meal is worth it.

All-in-all, I would give Luke's an A on everything! When you go to Cool Hand Luke's you come in hungry and go home happy. I challenge you to go and try out Luke's for yourself. You won't be disappointed at all!

Movie Review: 'The Illusionist'

By Michelle Bullock

Have you ever seen a movie that had a great beginning... then a rather boring middle, but when it came to the end you thought, "Wow! I need to see that again!" ? The Illusionist leaves you thinking just that.

The movie seems to be your classic love triangle: the betrothed women forbidden to see the man she really loves. However, a sudden twist leaves you reeling and thinking otherwise.

In turn-of-the-century Vienna, Eisenhiem and Sophie (Edward Norton and Jessica Biel) meet as children, when Sophie takes pity on the "special" young man.



The love story is poorly set up, but if you can believe that these two people are, in fact, in love then the story begins to pan out.

Forbidden to see Sophie, Eisenhiem departs on a journey around the world, returning as a famous and talented illusionist. At a show one night, Sophie's fiancé, Crown Prince Leopold (Rufus Sewell), volunteers her to assist in one of Eisenhiem's illusions. The childhood friends are reunited, and their romance rekindled.

Now the task at hand is to escape Prince Leopold, who is known to have beaten and even murdered some of the women he had previously been involved

with.

Though the accents and some of the acting are terrible, the movie itself is intriguing.

Norton will win you over as Eisenheim, the illusionist pining after the woman that he loves. Paul Giamatti brings life to Chief Inspector Uhl, who makes the transformation from bad cop to good cop. Special effects provide entertaining magic shows throughout the picture.

If you go into the theater thinking you know what's going to happen, you'd be wrong. However, if you go in with an open mind and a willingness to endure the incredibly tedious middle of the movie, then you might just find yourself discovering the mystery of The Illusionist.

Become Aware of Animal Abuse

By Tiffany Montgomery

Every year, millions of animals are severely abused and even killed for "entertainment" (i.e., dog fighting), lab testing, and even by owner negligence. People often lose sight of the fact that these animals are living beings, not machines. Forgetting this can often lead to serious injury and death of these poor creatures.

Simply leaving your dog inside the car for a few minutes can be deadly. On an 85 degree day, a car's interior can reach up to 120 degrees in just 20 minutes, even if it's parked in the shade with the windows down. Some may argue that these deaths are accidental, but accident or not, it's a needless death.

However, that's just what we hear about in the newspapers. What's being kept a secret is far

worse.

Many companies lock rabbits, cats, dogs, primates, rodents, and many other kinds of animals into tiny cages and use them to test make-up and skin care products, as well as cleaners like 409 and Pine-Sol.

Rabbits and rodents have drops of these chemicals forced into their eyes, while dogs, cats, and primates have tubes inserted into their necks and stomachs that pump the chemicals directly into their bodies.

Worst of all, is that these poor animals die for *no* reason, because testing done on animals is found inconclusive as to whether the product would be harmful to human beings. They can test all they

want on our furry friends, and still companies often have to remove or recall medication, make-up, skin, and cleaning products due to human illness and even death. Over 500 companies have completely banned animal testing of their products, but there are still some that continue to harm these defenseless creatures. For a complete list, visit www.peta.org/living.

My reason for writing this is not to scare you, nor am I attempting to convert you to vegetarianism. My goal is to simply make you aware of what's going on.

If you want to help bring these abusers to justice, please visit www.peta.org. If you've witnessed animal abuse, please contact your local SPCA or Animal Control unit.

Student Writing

By Rachel Timmerman

How easy it is to believe in the happiness of love when you know nothing of the pain of it! Love has made me weaker than you can imagine. After all the pain, all that mattered was that I was alive. All this led me to ask: "What good is it to love when you're trying so hard just to make life worth living?"

Samuel Butler said that sometimes, we have to "kiss the earth", yes, even with a vengeance, to gain strength and discover ourselves. More often than not, what we discover is that love is what makes life worth living. Yes, it makes us weak, it hurts us, and it humbles us. But more importantly, it teaches us who we really are. It teaches us the importance of forgiveness, even when forgiveness is valueless to those who we're forgiving. It gives us independ-



ence and allows us to think for ourselves and live life the way we want to.

First love always lasts forever, if only in our hearts. This is very important, because if pain and bitterness overtake us, and no other love exists in us, that first love still lives on in our hearts. Even amidst all the ice we build up around ourselves, that love keeps us warm, and often, we don't even realize it. It's what enables us to keep going; even when we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel, we know it's there and that darkness will pass.

Life is ultimately a string of people and objects that we love. If we cease to love anything at all, life loses its value. We live for what we love, and if our lives are full of enough love, life itself becomes beloved to us, and we value it greatly.

That's the way every person should view life: as a precious possession.

Perhaps the reason love makes us weak is that we give in to things we otherwise wouldn't. These actions have a profound effect on our lives. Either they cause great happiness, or they bring great difficulty and pain, which makes us stronger and gives us wisdom. So the conclusion is that the ultimate outcome of love is always positive, no matter how terrible it may seem to be hurt by love. For me, through all the hardship and pain, love proved that life does have value. As long as you love, life is always worth living.

If you have a story or poem that you'd like to submit to the newspaper, please contact Ms. Housley.

The Flipside Comic

By TJ Roberts



Student Story Series: 'Gamer of Karin'

By Jon Magboo

Maiko was a 16-year-old American exchange student in Japan. He was an avid gamer, and as he lived in Japan, he picked up on a few rumors about underground up and coming Japanese games.

The rumor he paid the closest attention to was about a game called 'Karin' that was unfamiliar to him. It was rumored to be the best game ever, and the website where it was available for download had just published online.

One day, Maiko was just about to leave his English class when his friend Namuki burst through the door.

"Hey Maiko! Guess what?! You'll never believe what I just heard!" Namuki's words came out in one breath.

"What, Namuki?" Maiko said, rolling his eyes.

Probably just another stupid rumor, he thought.

"'Karin' just came out!" Namuki shouted, startling the people next to them with his sudden outburst.

"What?!" Maiko exclaimed, the words flying out of his mouth. He didn't even remember the slightest detail of what he was thinking about before this.

"It only came out a few minutes ago!" Namuki exclaimed.

Maiko dropped his bag and ran as fast as he could back to his host family's house. He threw open the door, not even bothering to take off his shoes, and flew to the computer. He searched for the 'Karin' homepage, made an account, and downloaded the program.

His cell phone rang.

"Hey man, you downloading it?" It was Namuki.

"Yeah, it's installing right now!" Maiko said, full of suspense.

"Woot!" Namuki shouted, and received a yell from his mother, who was trying to put his brother down for a nap.

Finally, Maiko's download reached 99 percent, and he unexpectedly hung up the phone. He waited for the last percentage to appear... and as soon as it did, he bolted up the game and logged on...

TO BE CONTINUED...



Announcements

If you missed getting your picture taken by Lifetouch Photography, be sure to bring a headshot of yourself into Ms. Housley before March 16th. Seniors, if you had special portraits taken, please bring them in so we can use them in our first ever yearbook!



Our holiday Canned Food Drive will begin on October 16th and will last until November 17th. Please bring all non-perishable food items into Ms. Strange's office

If you would like to be a part of the MSCS Prom Committee, Yearbook Committee, or School Spirit Committee, please see Ms. Housley for more information.

From April 23rd to the 26th, MSCS will be going to Camp Green Meadows for

three days of team building, leadership exercises, and nature studies. If you are interested in participating in this trip, please call the school or sign up with Ms. Housley or Ms. Strange.

