



Volume 6, Issue 3

Volume 6, Issue 3
December 2007

Lee Andersen, Superintendent
Merced County Office of Education

**Merced
Scholars
Charter
School**

Editor: Robert A. Fuentes

Ask Megan

Dear Megan,

What do you do when you are asked out by your friends ex flame?

Your most loyal reader,

Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend,

Well this is a tough one. I think it depends on the situation. Were your friend and his/her ex serious? Would your friend be mad if you decided to accept his/her ex's proposal to go out? If this is the case, I suggest you decline his/her offer. On the other hand, your friend may be totally cool with you hooking up with his/her ex flame. Then the real question would be are you interested in him? So I suggest that you talk with your friend about it to find out how he/she feels.

-Megan

Want to ask Megan a question?

Just write your question on any piece of paper and enclose it in a sealed envelope. Then give it to Sherry Housely (Vice Principal), who will then give the questions to Megan.

NFL "The Top Five" By: Robert Fuentes

Who are the top five teams in the NFL? Who's looking like they got a chance for the Super Bowl? The teams that stand, as the top five from number one to 5, are New England Patriots, Dallas Cowboys, Green Bay Packers, Indianapolis Colts, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Each team; strives to be the best of the best in the NFL, and making there way to the Super Bowl.

The New England Patriots, having a record of (9W-0L). Leading the Patriots to the Super Bowl is, number 12, Tom Brady, the QB of the New England Patriots. He suffered an injury not long ago on his right shoulder, however if he plays or not the team will come together and work hard. Having an outstanding defense and offense, they will come through any obstacle.

Next coming in as the second of the "The Five" is the Dallas Cowboys. The Dallas Cowboys having a record of (8W-1L) continues on there road to the Super Bowl. Leading the Dallas Cowboys is the teams QB, number 9, Tony Romo. Along with the great help of Terrell Owens,

number 81 wide receiver, the team has a really good chance. Not only these two are a help the team itself having a good defense and offense they persevere through any obstacle in there way to reaching there goal.

Coming third in the "Top Five" is the Green Bay Packers, with a record of (8W-1L). Leading there team is the outstanding QB, number 4, Brett Favre. Wanting to play more for the Packers, many though he was washed up and couldn't play. Many said he was finished and out of it, however he wins the first game. Then he wins the second and goes on and on reaching the record they have today. With there spectacular offense and defense they continue on and Brett Favre continuing to leading his team to the Super Bowl.

In forth of the "Top Five" is the Indianapolis Colts with a record of (7W-2L). Starting as an undefeated team, they played against the New England Patriots, an undefeated team. Coming head to head, QB, number 18, Peyton Manning, the QB of the Colts and Tom Brady, form

the Patriots clash into a game that would be hard to win. Playing there hearts out, the Colts loose, however Peyton shows promise and continues on with his team aiming for the Super Bowl and staying at the top of there game.

Last but not least in the "Top Five" is the Pittsburgh Steelers. Playing from day one the team and there leader, QB, number 7, Ben Roethlisberger play to there today's record (7W-2L). The Steelers having a good offense and a good defense they manage to keep going on. Being in the "Top Five" says it all and they are one of the top teams. They are going to hold it down and move on working and practicing harder and play there way to the top.

Coming to an end, the "The Top Five" are the teams to beat. Looking at there records, offense, defense, the players, and much more each team has a great chance and has much as a chance as anyone else does. Who will make it to the Super Bowl? No one knows we just watch T.V. and cheer out teams on and hope for the best.

Santa Claus! No, Wait Pilgrims By Alex Montiel

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and all the Fall decorations are in the stores. Not! It seems that

every year it's the same.



Right after Halloween, the Christmas trees go up and Santa Claus comes to town.

In the American society, we forget about

the importance of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the celebration of the founding of this country and unity between races. We should not let it get lost in the Christmas season but rather give Thanksgiving the respect it deserves.

That Candy Sure Looks Good.....

By Michelle Bullock

As student org was compiling our list of goodies we would like to provide in our student store we were faced with the dilemma that schools are no longer allowed to sell soda or candy due to the rising level of obesity in growing kids. Personally it seems a shame that it has to come down to schools to control the appetites of today's youth. Now I can understand the idea of not wanting to offer sugar filled



items to children of a certain age. However I do think that once a teenager reaches high school they should be aware enough of their own body to make healthier decisions. We should be able to look into that metal cupboard see the candy bars, cookies, and chips and decide for ourselves whether or not we should really go for that second Butterfinger. Therefore it should not be the schools responsibility or the states to control the diets of our adolescents. Instead it should be on the shoulders of each and every individual to decide for

themselves if they want to stay healthy or if that Dr. Pepper is really worth it.



Bear Hunting Story

By: Corey Avalos

When I was 15, my best friend Stevo and I spent most of our summer weekends camping in the thick woods behind my friends' family's farm house. We'd pitch our tent next to the fishing pond and would spend the weekend in the great outdoors.

While we imagined we were living off the fat of the land, we were really living off the larder of my friends farther: Once or twice a day we'd go to the house, a mere quarter mile away, share a meal with my his family, and stock up on chips, snacks and thermocouples of sweet iced-tea. On Sunday mornings we would breakfast at the house for Sunday was the day that his father ventured into the kitchen to make a batch of his famous biscuits-and-sausage-gravy.

It was one of these Sunday mornings that the great bear hunting incident took place.

We woke early one morning and set upon the task of fishing. If we were lucky we could catch a few fish before going on up to the house for

breakfast. It was a peaceful day and we were enjoying the silence until we were disturbed by the clamor of something moving in the woods. Quiet at first but increasingly louder, the raucous noise quickly proved to be nothing than us and forest.

As soon as he was gone, Stevo and I eagerly started winding our reels in. Both our stomachs were growling at the thought of the meal to come. Just as we were setting our poles next to the tent, we heard a scream that was obviously his dad. Stevo and I ran down the path, towards the noise, going just a short distance before seeing his dad who was tearing back down the path towards us.

"I saw a bear," he sniffled between excitements and pointed down the path. "There's a bear down there."

Now, to teenage boys looking for adventure, the thought of catching a bear was, well, almost unbearable. Without saying anything, I ran back to the tent to look for anything even remotely useful to bear-catching. The best I could do was a fishing pole and an old

Army blanket. I raced back to where his dad and Stevo were waiting. "Okay," I said, "show us where this bear is."

We walked, slowly but every so staidly down the road to where the bear was waiting.

The narrow path curved and angled up. Stevo and I stepped carefully, attuned to every sound. Just at the top of the hill his dad whispered, "THERE!" and pointed to a thicket of blackberry bushes.

Stevo and I peered into the thicket. Something was in there, that's for sure, but we couldn't tell what. We were not, however, going to go through all of this without having *some* story to talk about so we quickly formulated a plan: Stevo would take the fishing rod and I would take the blanket. We'd approach from two different sides of the bear quickly, to surprise him, and I'd cover the bear with the blanket and Shane would beat the poor animal down.

Dreams of the Future

By: Gabriella Thatcher

In order to have dreams for college you need to have the proper college prep education to fulfill the dreams. No one can expect to just get their dreams of education, job, and future without some hard work and education of a college prep standard. That is why I am taking classes in order to get into the school of my choice which may or may not be prestigious. Colleges of higher quality nowadays have a low acceptance rate, so if you want to get into any private school or big name school, you will have to be a hard worker and leader to pursue your dreams for college. After high school my dream is to go to a prestigious four year school and get my BA in Nursing. Then I want to transfer to Yale to get my Masters in Nursing for a teaching credential and specialize in Medical-surgical. After this I would like to go to Africa and use my knowledge to help all the people in need there and spread my knowledge through teaching. I chose this career because it will be worth all the effort, time, sacrifice, money, and life for I am both doing a job not only for my own gain, but also to help the people in the world.

Get to Know the Staff

By: Alex Montiel

Monica Maldonado has been hired at MSCS as an Office Assistant. She keeps track of school attendance, answers phones and helps the V. P. and the secretary with whatever they need help with. Monica enjoys working her and feels that the staff has welcomed her with open arms. Prior to working at



MSCS, Monica worked as a Loan Officer out of her house and still does part time.

In her spare time Monica likes to spend time with her family. She has

been married for nine years to her high school prom date. She has two children, BriAnna eight and Brandon five. With her family, Monica also enjoys going to church. She goes five times a week and says that it is a big part of her family's life. "Going to church has brought us, my family, together. It helped my marriage succeed and my family life flourish. I see a difference in my life all around."

POPS Concert Orchestra

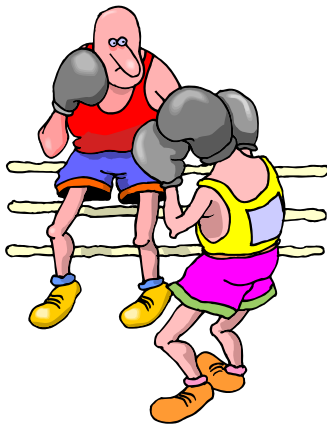
By: Gabriella Thatcher

The Pops concert is held by the Music Guild of Merced. This, professional, concert is put on by the musicians. This concert is annual, once a year and is used to raise money for music scholarships for the youth. I have benefited from this by having gotten numerous music scholarships pursue my dream of music. The Merced Music Guild uses this to "stimulate, cultivate, and promote and appreciation of quality music in Merced County". This year, going on my 10th year of playing violin, I had the honor of being asked to play in the 47th Annual Pops Concert. The conductor of this wonderful concert was Ken Taylor who managed to put a hard set of music together, in a short amount of time, with a magnificent result. The name of the concert was Autumn Rhapsody. The Pieces that we played were Instant Concert peter Gynt Suite No. 1, Les Miserables, Bugler's Holiday, and Piccolo Bolero. This was done for all the wonderful and talented musical artists' out there who are in need for scholarships to fulfill their dream, and dream of music. If you wish to pursue a dream of classical music, the music guild could be the key to unlocking your dream

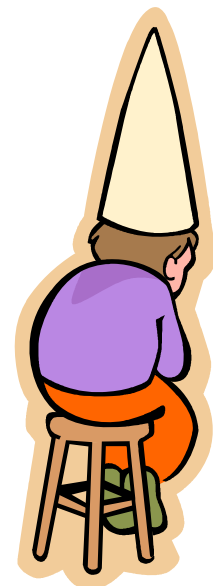
Attending Different Schools

By: Tony Foulks

There are plenty of different kinds of schools that keep their kids in line all sorts of ways. The schools all the way across California need big help. The kids get no discipline, whatsoever. That is why there are fights all around different high schools. I've been to the most violent schools in California, and trust me, all you do is go straight down, instead of getting somewhere. All the other students want to do is make a name for themselves. I myself have fallen into that negativity, and it was nothing but a big



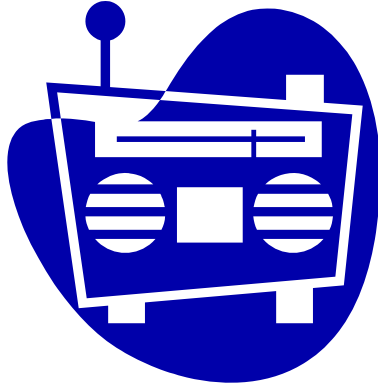
mistake. That happened at a continuation school for kids who are on probation or something like that. We need more help with those types of schools, because they are going into nothing to circles. We need to involve the students in more activities, so that way that they won't worry about making a name for themselves, and getting into trouble.



The Principals of Starting an R&B Career

By: Adriel Montemayor

The start an R&B singing career, you obviously have to have a voice to do so. You also have to be able to want to get up and not be lazy to deal with the pressures of this type of career just like any other type of career. Financial plans are needed too if you don't have money then you're good for that part. You also have to have transportation, if not in a place or city that has promotion studios to get your voice heard, out in this world and also to give



you a start on things. It's really not hard to write songs if you really put your mind to it, like me, I mostly write songs about my very own life experiences. Happy times, sad and depressing times, weird times, and sometimes even other people's experiences in their lives and whatever comes to mind. So if singing is what you like and you have a good voice then

approach that path.

Myspace Suicide

By: Alex Montiel

On Oct. 16, 2006 Megan Meier, a 13-year-old girl, committed suicide over losing the friendship of a Myspace friend. Megan suffered from depression and ADD and was constantly getting teased by people from her school.

A mother of a neighborhood girl, who was once friends with Megan, created a Myspace and posed as a young boy by the name of Josh Evans. She befriended Megan and after a month of being in contact with the girl, told her that she heard that she wasn't a good person and that "the world would be better without her." The very next day Megan committed suicide by hanging herself from her bedroom door.

Megan's parents are trying to seek legal justice but law enforcement has said that there is nothing that can be done, because the woman who posed as Josh Evans did not do anything against the law.

There are many opinions, concerning the story of Megan Meier. Many people feel that the woman should be dealt with, and that the woman should not have been involved in her daughter's drama. It is believed that the mother who presented her self as Josh Evens online should have been above the influence of teenage issues. If she had been, Megan Meier would be 14 year old freshman in high school and enjoying life. Megan's parents would not be celebrating their second Christmas without their daughter.



Top Five Songs

By: Robert Fuentes

Here is the so called top 5 songs so far. I think there should be rock songs in here but its all good. Anyways the top five!

- 1] Crank That (Soulja Boy) - Soulja Boy
- 2] Kanye West - Stronger
- 3] Alicia Keys - No one
- 4] Colbie Caillat - Bubbly
- 5] Fergie - Clumsy

Top Five Books

By: Robert Fuentes

The Top five books in all of America. These are all really good books from ratings and much more. Anyways the top Five!

- 1] Water for Elephants: A Novel
By: Sara Gruen
- 2] A Thread of Grace
By: Mary Doria Russell
- 3] Edges: O Israel, O Palestine
By: Leora Skolkin-Smith
- 4] The Kite Runner (Riverhead Essential Editions)
By: Khaled Hosseini
- 5] The Thirteenth Tale
By: Diane Setterfield