



# The Flip Side

Lee Andersen  
Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2007

**Merced  
Scholars  
Charter  
School**

Editor: Lexie Pivrotto-Britton

## Inside this issue:

Women's History Month	1
Book Review	1
Prom at MSCS	2
Student Story	2
Single Awareness Day	2
Castle Air Force Base	3
Student Poem	3
A Stateless Society	3
The Flipside Comic	4
Video Game Review	4
Student Story	4

## Celebrate Women's History Month!

By Lexie Pivrotto-Britton

Geraldine Doyle was 17 years old in 1942, when she took a job in a Michigan metal factory as a replacement worker for the men who had gone off to war.

Doyle became the model for "Rosie the Riveter", who went on to represent the 6 million women who worked in factories during World War II.

Margaret Bourke-White was an American photo-journalist during World War II and well after. She was the first female war correspondent, as well as being one of the first woman to be allowed to work in combat zones during the war.

Bourke-White was witness to the German invasion of Moscow

in 1941 and the horrors of the concentration camps at Buchenwald.



"Rosie the Riveter"

Halide Edip Adivar was a novelist and feminist political leader in Turkey in the early to mid-1900s.

Adivar was best known for her works criticizing the low social status given to women in Turkey, as well as for

serving in the Turkish army during the Turkish War of Independence.

These are just some of the countless women that the majority of history books either say very little about, or just completely ignore altogether.

Women's History Month is a month designated every year to celebrate women! Women who have worked hard to make history. To make their lives, their society, their world a safer, more just, more equal place to be.

I urge you: go out and learn more about the women who have made history. Not just the women who have made it into the history books, but the ones who haven't.

Read more about Geraldine Doyle, or Margaret Bourke-White, or Halide Edip Adivar. Talk to the women you know: your mother, your sister, your friend. Celebrate Women's History Month!

To get more information about Women's History Month, visit the National Women's History Project at [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org), or the National Women's History Museum at [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org).

## Book Review: Truman Capote's In Cold Blood

By Tiffany Montgomery

Truman Capote's true crime masterpiece centers around the lives and deaths of six people; the Clutter family—Herbert, Bonnie, Nancy, and Kenyon—and the two men who murdered them—Perry Edward Smith and Richard (Dick) Eugene Hitchcock.

In Cold Blood was published in January 1966, less than a year after the murder of the Clutter family, and the trial and the execution of Smith and Hitchcock.

For the novel, it's said that Capote collected and reviewed over 8,000 pages of material, most unreleased to the press. He skillfully designed each page to give facts about the actual crime, as well as details about the killers unknown to the general public.



In Cold Blood is a beautiful novel that weaves together horror, comedy, and even "romance". Nothing is off limits in this one!

In Cold Blood received immediate critical response. George Steiner, a prominent literary critic, called

it "more than a book; it is happening." Steiner also cited Capote's "superb journalistic skill," and said the resulting text was "masterful."

While the critics loved the novel, some saw it as Capote's last success. "The book was the triumph of the year." Bennett Cerf, a publisher and friend of Capote's, was quoted as saying. "It topped all the bestseller lists, and reviews were rave. He never wrote anything big again. ... It's funny. It made him and it ruined him."

## Upcoming Events

**March 6th-**  
7th Grade Writing Test

**March 7th-**  
Writing Test Make-Up

**March 20th-**  
ELA/CAHSEE—10th  
Grade

**March 21st-**  
Math/CAHSEE—10th  
Grade

**March 26th-**  
7th and 9th Grade P.E.  
Testing

## Lights, Camera, Action! Prom at MSCS

By Michelle Bullock

Student Org is taking our school to places it has never been before!

This year, you'll be able to walk down the red carpet in your prom attire and enter... Old Hollywood.

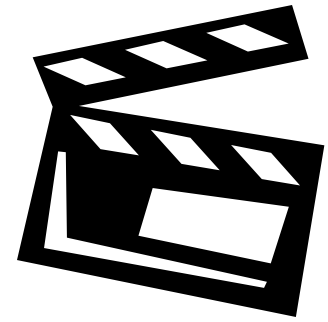
Student and Parent Org. are hard at work recreating Old Hollywood for our first ever prom. The celebration will be held in the Social Hall of the Bear Creek Community Church off of Olive Ave. and Parsons Ave. in Merced.

Prom is not exclusively for couples, so feel free to come in groups, with friends, or with a date. You won't be pressured to dance, all you have to do is come and enjoy the atmosphere!

All high school students, freshman through seniors, are allowed to attend.

Tickets include dinner, dancing, photos, and prom souvenirs at as low a price as we can go.

Contact Ms. Housley to buy your tickets, and keep an eye out for fundraising opportunities!



## Reincarnation

By Stephanie Mackey

### Chapter 2- Escapade and Sentiment

As most everyone knows, to be an apple is a hard life. And, as most everyone knows, an apple with melded stick legs has a hard time running about fashionably. This is why I, of course, as an apple quickly turning human, was having quite a hard time in this area.

I couldn't help but think to myself at that moment that it must have been quite shocking, under the scrutiny of the germ-free, hygienically sanitary neighbors, to see a quickly running fruit fly past their yards.

After dashing out the door, running past the manure pile, and well past the ruby encrusted, pink picket fence, my speedy escapade was officially under way. The world was mine. Or, at least it would be mine, if I were any larger than a shoe.

***Sidenote:** I have found a flaw in my writing, which I will reverse with an oncoming plethora of paragraphs. The problem lies, singularly, in the area of, and I quote, "the world was mine." Numerous problems arise within this quote, as half human, half produce species have not been generally popular dictators in the course of human history. They have been abundantly cruel, and should not be accounted for. For instance, it was not widely known, but a dictator by the name of Benito Mussolini was, very*



*nearly, half pear, and approximately one-sixteenth asparagus. So, for the time being, I believe it would be best to leave things to be as pleasant as possible, and, rather than replace it all together, I shall upgrade this irksome thought to a more appropriate situation.*

### Back to Chapter 2, Where our hero has already escaped... and sentiment:

The world was mine, which is quite an unfortunate suggestion, since it is quite unethical for the world to be ruled by an apple-human. Gruesome tidiness and possible totalitarianism would reign in full. So, for the meantime, rather than recommend the worst, I have decided to change what I have just written to something even less daunting. If anyone asks, you have not read this small passage. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or this. Or... that.

The world seemed to be ownable, though I can't quite say that I did own it, for who in the world would hand the world on a silver platter to a small, helpless, near-human apple? The answer is no one. This is understandable, in some way or another.

As I ran through the streets, the neighbor's fierce, one-eyed dog with a pink, ruby-encrusted eye patch picked up my scent. I was terrified, even if the dog was blind. He had a very large nose and a keen sense of smell to go with it: he could even detect an ant

buried in the snow.

I ran, avoiding large obstacles and strange sounds throughout the neighborhood. One of these obstacles included the maladjusted, screeching vocalist from the insane asylum down the road, who was wearing two pairs of squash n her feet that resembled shoes and hitting whatever crossed her path with a flyswatter. I couldn't help myself in thinking that she had murdered two of my harvest brethren. Unbeknownst to me, this was the very woman who inspired the popular singer Celine Dion to begin her singing career. A produce murderer, an inspiration?

I still have no awareness of who this singing juvenile is, but I have heard rumors pertaining to the subject. Nevertheless, I digress: I ran, avoiding large obstacles and strange sounds, through the neighborhood. I ran and ran and ran. The dog shouted something in dog-language, and I ran harder. I ran until my bark was barking, and my sides felt as if someone had modified my spine/core to resemble the anatomy of a crazy straw. I chanced to look back before stopping and saw that, ten feet away (a mile in apple-terms), was the dog.

He had stopped right before the fanatical opera singer, and yelped a her. She had taken him by the collar and was beginning to hit him with the flyswatter. I had to save this poor creature. I pitied him. This was my first swell of, in this case, *human* emotion, otherwise known as sentiment.

## Student Perspective: Single Awareness Day

By Alex Montiel

Some might say that love is in the air. Some might say that romance is bliss. Chocolates and roses are exchanged along with an intense "I love you," and a deep stare.

This is what the commercial Valentine's Day is all about, but for most people, it's when you realize just how single you are.

Valentine's Day is usually when most people wish that they had a special someone. Instead of receiving a box of chocolates from someone else, they buy it themselves and wallow in their singleness. The reality of being alone hits, and all those

insecurities that they tried to ignore come back and haunt them. To me, Valentine's Day is a day of depression.

I say, let us celebrate singles and their independence. Let's make Valentine's Day a day where it's okay to be solo, and the reality of solitude is uplifting.

I think that February 14th should be called Single Awareness Day because, in fact, most people are single, and not in love, and that's okay.



Love is never-ending and can be expressed at any time, so why make a specific day to celebrate love instead of celebrating it every day?

Singles are the ones that need special recognition. They are the ones who need to celebrate life, because they are the ones prone to depression and insecurities.

Valentine's Day should be a day where singles come together to realize that they are not alone. Independence needs to be celebrated. Life itself needs to be encouraged, no matter what

## Castle Air Force Base: Then and Now

By Krista Roberts

Castle Air Force Base opened in 1944, and provided basic flight training and military support for over 50 years until its closure in 1995.

When I entered the base in 1998, it was being used for several other things. Inside the gates stood an Aviation Challenge and Aircraft Museum which provided fun attractions for many people.

Also well known was the Sports Excellence



Center, a ministry of Y.W.A.M, or Youth With With A Mission.

Missionaries came from all over the world (Brazil, Tonga, New Zealand, Egypt, and more) to minister to the people.

The gym and workout places were available to anyone who wanted to come, and the missionaries would perform youth outreaches. They also performed at high school assemblies and their "Team Extreme" did

worldwide tours. The "Team Extreme" members were capable of breaking bricks, bending bars, weight lifting on nails, ripping apart phone books, etc.

Home-schooled kids and teens gathered together on Fridays for PE in the Sports Excellence Center, where everyone played games, sports, and much more.

Gradually, over the next two years, most of these facilities shut down, and the AFB is how you see it today.

## Beneath the Earth's Ground

By Ashley Bowen

One day I was walking through  
The fields of grass in the country  
I saw this young boy running  
He looked dark, miserable, and hopeless  
He saw me and stopped and we looked deep  
Into each others eyes

In his eyes he was dark and scared



Then I saw a tear running down his cheek

The boy pointed behind him and I saw

These two black, dark creatures who didn't

Look like they belonged on Earth

The creatures snatched the boy and covered his

Mouth and turned into shadows and went

Beneath the Earth's ground

From that day on, I never saw the boy again  
But at least he tried to be free.

**If you have a poem or story you would like to submit please see Ms. Housley**

## Student Perspective: A Stateless Society

By Rachel Timmerman

What do you think of when you hear the term anarchy?

Chaos, turmoil, unpunished crime- all of these responses are fairly typical. But what is anarchy really all about? Why is it so misunderstood?

Anarchy may exist any time a State collapses. The basic definition of anarchy is "a stateless society, a world without government".

In a situation where there has been some sort of political uprising that led to anarchy, the negative view is fully justified. No one cares about the common welfare of other people, or even themselves. Yet, few States have ever existed without government for any significant period of time.

Any time a certain circumstance emerges due to violence, it makes sense that so much negativity surrounds it. Such a circumstance could hardly be a beneficial policy. What I refer to is not anarchy as a result of violence, but anarchy as a philosophy.

Imagine living with a select few people whom you love and trust, pooling all of your resources for the common good of all, in order to improve

life and make choices based on what will make everyone happy.

Imagine not being controlled by any sort of government except that which you place on yourself. Leadership comes from within rather than being imposed upon you.



You have everything you need, so you are able to focus on creativity and self-improvement, not to mention helping others.

That is the goal of anarchist philosophy. You use whatever resources you can find to survive

and live your life in the way that makes you happy. You don't disrespect the laws of nations, they are obsolete to you because you are governed from within.

Many people have a negative view of anarchy since those who believe in it are often criminals. What we must ask ourselves is, who or what defines these people as criminals? So much corruption exists in every legal system in the world. Even locally, there are police officers who arrest teenagers for smoking marijuana, just so they can confiscate it and either sell it or smoke it.

Does it make you a better person to be in subjection to a corrupt system? Or does it make you a better person to follow principals rather than imposed rules, to do what you have to in order to survive and keep your own conscience clear?

Another misconception about anarchists is that they are an aggressive, negative breed of people. This could not be further from the truth.

Anarchy promotes peace, unity, and love above all else. The prevailing belief is that the only way to achieve all three is through self-government.

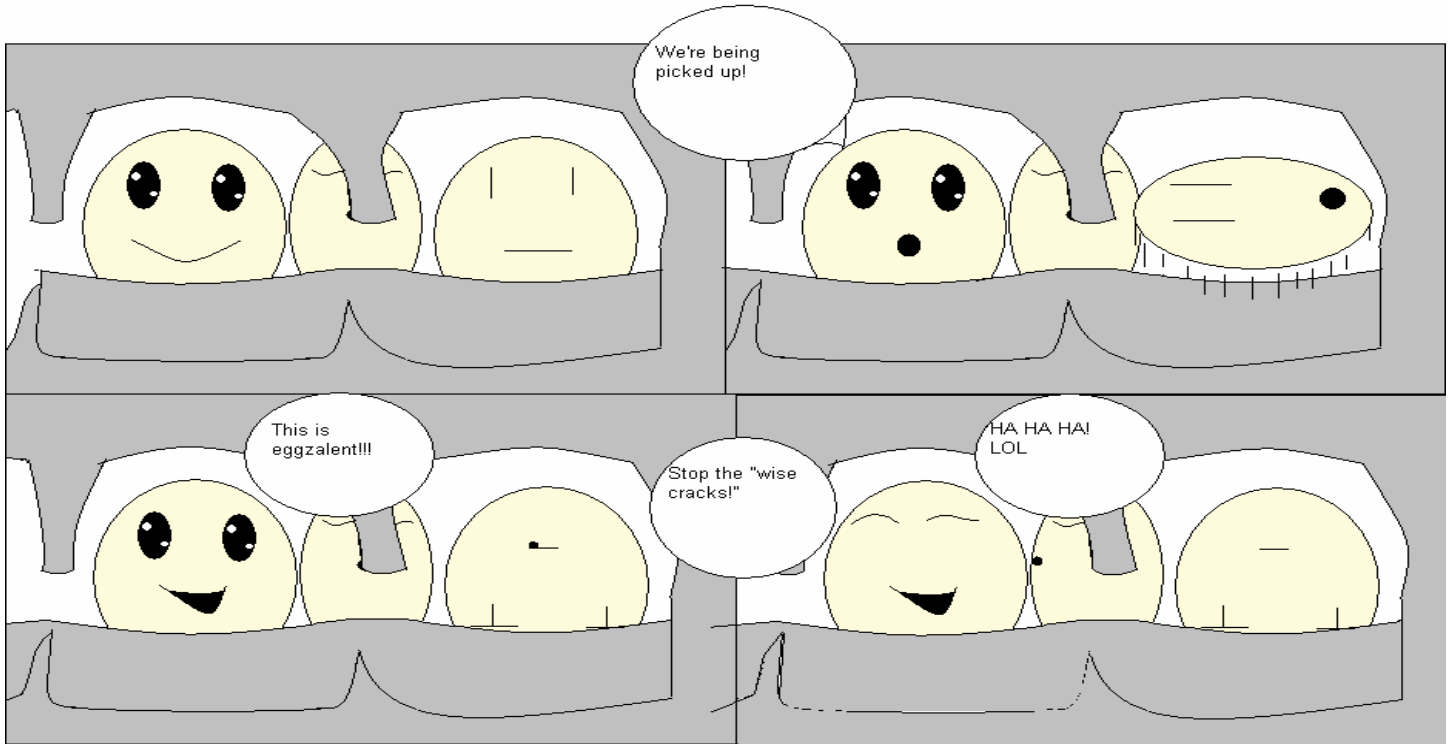
In an ideal anarchist environment, there would be rules and a certain form of government, but nothing would be imposed on the unwilling. There would be no authority except that which you impose upon yourself.

Freedom is all relative in modern society. The United States is called a "free country", and it certainly is free relative to many other countries, but is it truly free? There's very little that can be done without an official piece of paper giving you the "okay". What you actually do is seldom in agreement with what you really want to do.

The truest form of freedom is self-government, or in other words, anarchy.

# The Flip Side Comic

By Casey Barnes



## Video Game Review: Guitar Hero 2

By T.J. Roberts

This game, like many others, is a sequel that has been rumored to be a bit less mighty than the first.

Guitar Hero 2 does have its downsides, but it also has its upsides, such as its blend of neoclassical music. It has simpler hammer-ons and pull-offs, and it still brings that "chill" to your spine when you hold a note just a little longer. You also the feeling of accomplishment when you conquer a song.

Above all the other estimable attributes that Guitar Hero 2 contains, I find the most pleasing to be the way it makes you feel as if you're actually performing.

Hammer ons, power cords, and tremolos all add to Guitar Hero 2's gaming apparatus. Five buttons on the neck of the guitar allow you to strike the notes that scroll down the TV monitor. At times more than one note will strike down at the same time; these are

called cords.

Tremolos are attained by the flailing of the whammy-bar, releasing a copious amount of rock.

Guitar Hero 2 is an extremely creative way to spend your time and money, and the only abilities that you require are quick reflexes and quicker hands. MY GRANDPA IS ON DISABILITY!

## Student Story: 'Gamer of Karin'

By Jon Magboo

Maiko stared in awe. The graphics were stunning! It seemed as if he was looking through a window into a town back in the medieval days. He heard a **beep** and saw that Namukai had messaged him.

"Hey, is this game the best you've ever played or what?!"

Maiko quickly responded to his message.

"Oh yeah, this is fantastic!"

After a few seconds, he saw Namukai running toward him, the word "Hey!" above his head in a bubble.

"Hey Namu, want to join up and kill something?"

Namukai responded with a thumbs-up action and said "Heck yes, let's do this!"

Maiko equipped his weapon and started off with Namukai at his side. They left the town and ran into a level 1 spider. After a few swipes from Maiko's sword, the spider died.

So the first 20 minutes of the game passed by. Maiko and Namukai kept playing until 3:00 AM.

When Maiko finally looked at the time, he was shocked. He messaged Namukai.

"Hey man, I've got to go to bed, we have school tomorrow!"

"Oh snap, I didn't notice the time! See ya,



Maiko!"

"Later, Namu!"

Maiko logged off and shut down his computer. He lay his head down on his pillow, happy that he had been able to play 'Karin'.

