Merciette announces new editors
by Melissa Hayes & Olivia Schlager ‘08

The time has come for a change here at the Merciette. As the senior editors, it is time for us to hand over the reign of the newspaper to the new editors, Leah Clancy and Amanda Kelley. Though it will be sad for us to leave the Merciette, we are very confident in our choice of next year’s editors because of their dedication and passion for the paper. In the past years, they have shown signs of being not only great journalists, but great leaders as well.

As the new editors, Leah and Amanda will be taking on a lot of responsibilities. As the end of the year nears, we will show them all the tools and resources used to put the paper together and share with them some of the helpful hints we have discovered during our reign. Eventually they will take over behind the scenes, ending the year by putting out the last issue of the newspaper.

Next year, Amanda and Leah will meet over the summer and put together a schedule and plan of attack for the 2008-2009 Merciette. During the year, it will be their responsibility to assign articles, set deadlines and stick to them, and issue an enjoyable newspaper each month. Though this may not seem like a difficult task, in reality, it can be very challenging and they will certainly have their hands full. But we are certain that they will be great editors and keep the Merciette tradition alive.

Michael Bublé comes to Buffalo
by Olivia Schlager ‘08

On April 14, Michael Bublé dazzled a captivated audience at HSBC Arena with his smooth and soulful voice. At only 32 years old, the Canadian-born singer from an Italian family in British Columbia has exploded into stardom recently. His catchy tunes, including “Home” and “Everything” which have become international number-one hits. Although Michael may be widely recognized for these songs, his is also known for doing his own renditions of the classics by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, and Elvis Presley—just to name a few. Anyone who knows me knows that I have been a huge fan of Michael for quite some time, and this month I was fortunate enough to attend yet another one of the stops on his Call Me Irresponsible Live American Tour. Judging by the amount of Mercy girls that I saw at the show, I can tell that I am not the only one who is a fan. For those of you who weren’t there, it was truly an excellent show, and I’d love to share some details.

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Important days in April

by Leah Clancy ‘09

Of course, to kick off the month of April is April Fool’s Day on the first. On the 2nd in 1976, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak formed Apple Computer. In 1956 on April 5th, Fidel Castro declares war with the President of Cuba. On the 7th in 2003, Baghdad is captured by U.S. troops, and Saddam Hussein’s regime falls two days afterwards.

April 8th, 1867 marks the first World’s Fair, which was held in Paris. On April 12th in 1861, the American Civil War begins when Confederate troops fire on Fort Sumner in Charleston, South Carolina. Abraham Lincoln dies on April 15th after being shot on the 14th in 1865. An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 struck and destroyed much of San Francisco on April 18th, 1906. The Columbine High School Massacre occurred on April 20th, 1999, where two gunmen killed 13 people, injured 24, and then took their own lives.

April 24th is the traditional date that is believed to be the anniversary of the Greeks entering Troy in the Trojan Horse in 1184 BC. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant experienced a horrible nuclear reactor accident in Ukraine in 1986, coming to be known as the world’s worst nuclear disaster. On April 27th in 1974, 10,000 people marched in Washington, D.C., to support the impeachment of the current president, Richard Nixon.

On the 30th of April in 1900, Casey Jones dies in a train wreck in Vaughn, Mississippi, while trying to make up time on the late Cannonball Express.

SAT words of the month
(with help from Dictionary.com)

**nem·e·sis**

-noun
1. an opponent or rival whom a person cannot best or overcome.

**a·vant-garde**

-noun
1. the advance group in any field, esp. in the visual, literary, or musical arts, whose works are characterized chiefly by unorthodox and experimental methods.
Mount Mercy and Canisius High School travel the world

by Anonymous Abby

Mount Mercy Academy and Canisius High School students spent Easter vacation traveling through Spain and Portugal. While visiting Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Seville and Lisbon, six Mercy students explored the windmills of Don Quixote, the castles of Toledo and the Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima over a ten day period.

The trip of 28 people included many families as well as individual students from both schools and Mount St Mary Academy and even Miss Luhr’s cousin Sarah from Maryland! A tour guide was with the group the entire time and helped everyone with such tasks as using a foreign ATM and ordering lunch. The students and adults participated in a treasure hunt in Toledo, a medieval city south of Madrid, searching for items such as the famous El Greco painting and mini swords. One afternoon the group visited a bull ranch where some of the finest bull fighting animals are bred. Yes, Mercy girls were out on the ranch with some pretty angry looking bulls, or as senior Liz Ofenloch said, “That bull just keeps looking at me.” No sudden movements there! The group visited a vineyard to see how wine was made (no samples for students!) and an olive oil factory (we now know more about olive oil than Rachel Ray).

The last day was spent in Fatima, just outside Lisbon, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. In 1917, the Blessed Mother appeared to three young children and implored them to pray the rosary. Students were able to visit the site where Our Lady appeared, light candles and visit the church where the three children are now buried.

Next year, Mercy and Canisius are again planning for their annual trip, this year to the south of France and through Italy to Florence and Rome. If you would like information about next year’s trip. Please see Miss Luhr or email her at cluhr@mtmercy.org

“SENIOR WILLS”

Reminder for all Seniors to submit all wills to the Merciette by April 30th so that they can appear in the May edition!
Well Mercy girls, your Teacher of the Month is Ms. Mullane! Many of you probably have had her for Biology. This month I asked her some questions so that everyone at Mount Mercy could get to know her a little bit better.

KL: How long have you been teaching at Mt. Mercy?
KM: I have been teaching at Mt. Mercy since September 2001.

KL: What is your favorite thing about working at Mercy?
KM: I enjoy working at Mt. Mercy because of the sense of community.

KL: Where did you go to college?
KM: I received my BS in Biology from SUNY of Geneseo and I received my MS of Secondary Education from Canisius College. Also, I spent the summer of my senior year at the Biological Station of the University of Michigan – taking graduate courses in Biology.

KL: Why did you decide to become a teacher?
KM: I enjoy sharing my passion for the natural world with people. My hope is that some of that passion will help others learn to appreciate our natural world too – my belief is that if more people know even just a little bit about our natural world, maybe they would appreciate it a little more so they would be less likely to destroy it and other living creatures we share the world with.

KL: What is your favorite book? Favorite movie?
KM: The Count of Monte Cristo and its sequels by Alexander Dumas. My favorite movies are On Golden Pond, with Katherine Hepburn and Henry Fonda, and It’s A Wonderful Life, with Jimmy Stewart.

KL: What is something you like to do in your spare time?
KM: I like spending time with my family, hiking and bird watching.

KL: What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
KM: Mint Chocolate Chip.

KL: What is something people might be surprised to learn about you?
KM: I am one of seven Mullanes (I have three brothers and three sisters) and we are all much closer today as adults – my family members are my greatest support!!

KL: Who is someone that has been extremely influential in your life?
KM: My mother, who instilled values I have maintained throughout my life, values such as respect for others as well as for the natural world, compassion, cooperation, and integrity.

I would like to thank Ms. Mullane for answering my questions.
Chocolate Quesadillas

by Tara Bodziak '08 (with recipe courtesy of The Hershey Company)

**Ingredients:**
- 4 (7 to 8 in. each) flour tortillas
- Non-stick cooking spray
- 1/4 cup REESE’S Creamy Peanut Butter
- 1/4 cup marshmallow creme
- 2 small bananas, sliced
- 1/2 cup HERSHEY’S Milk Chocolate Chips, HERSHEY’S SPECIAL DARK Chocolate Chips or HERSHEY’S Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

**Directions:**
1. Lightly coat one side of each tortilla with cooking spray. Place tortillas on clean work surface, coated sides down.

2. Spread 1 tablespoon each peanut butter and marshmallow crème on half of each tortilla. Arrange 1/4 of the banana slices and 2 tablespoons chocolate chips over marshmallow crème; fold each tortilla over to cover filling.

3. Heat large non-stick skillet over medium heat 1 minute. Add two quesadillas; cook 1 to 2 minutes or until tortillas are golden brown and crisp, turning once. Repeat with remaining quesadillas. Serve warm. 4 servings.

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Michael Buble continued from front page

An a cappella group named “Naturally 7” from New York City opened for the show and I can honestly say that it was the best opening act that I have ever seen. When I sat down at the concert, my initial thought was to skip the opening act and go grab something to eat, because let’s face it, who really wants to see an opening act anyway? Boy, was I wrong. This group was comprised of seven men who sang harmonies together and performed extensive beat-boxing vocal play—translation: they sounded exactly like they were singing along to music from instruments when in fact the instrumental sounds were coming from their own mouths. It was absolutely fascinating…check them out for yourself on YouTube or their website.

On to the main event: Michael Bublé had the audience on their feet after the first song. His show was captivating from beginning to end—everything from the dazzling lights and set to the live band that accompanied him on stage was a joy to watch. I found him to be an excellent performer not only because of his musical and vocal talent, but also because of his humor, wit, and the attention that he gives his fans to make his show even more special. After an exciting night filled with high-energy songs, beloved classics, new tunes, and relaxing melodies, Michael closed his show with what impressed me most: he came close to the audience and sang a cappella without a microphone, speaker, or amplifier of any sort—no lights, no music, nothing—in front of an audience of 8,000 plus to show us audience his genuine appreciation for everyone being there. To me, that is what makes a great performer. I would highly recommend him to anyone.
Entertainment

The Other Boleyn Girl
by Kerry O’Connor ‘08

Ok. Now, I have reviewed quite a few movies over the course of this year. And honestly, I have given most of them a pretty good review. If you’re sick of those nice reviews, then don’t read this article because I’m about to give a great review.

Over spring break, senior Christine Regula and I went to Arizona to visit my relatives. And on a boring night, my cousin, Tine, and I decided to go see a movie and the only PG-13 movie out there was “The Other Boleyn Girl.” We didn’t think it looked too bad so we decided to see it. I am so glad I did. With its mix of history, romance, betrayal, and amazing acting, this movie is by far one of the top movies of the year. At least by my account anyway.

The Other Boleyn Girl stars many big names including Natalie Portman, Scarlet Johansson, and Eric Bana. It also stars that hunk from Across the Universe and “21” Jim Sturgess as the brother of the two Boleyn sister, Portman and Johansson. Portman plays Ann Boleyn, the vindictive, calculating daughter of an average nobleman searching to move up in the world. When the King comes to visit, Ann’s father tries to push her onto him to get him to fall in love with her and move her into the castle. Instead, King Henry VIII falls for Ann’s married sister, Mary Boleyn (Johansson). Ann will do anything to get revenge and win the king’s heart, even if it means hurting her dear, sweet sister.

The movie is very thrilling and intriguing. I was not bored once while watching it. I can’t believe how much I enjoyed it! All the actors gave great, heart-felt performances. In the end, I even felt sorry for the revengeful Ann. That’s how good of a job Portman did. I would definitely recommend this film to anyone looking for an instant classic. Go see it ASAP!

Billboard hot 10 singles
(taken from www.billboard.com)
1. Mariah Carey: “Touch My Body”
2. Leona Lewis: “Bleeding Love”
3. Madonna featuring Justin Timberlake: “4 Minutes”
4. Lil Wayne featuring Static Major: “Lollipop”
5. Usher featuring Young Jeezy: “Love In This Club”

FreeRice.com
by Olivia Schlager ‘08

Some of you may have heard about a website entitled FreeRice.com. From its name, it may not seem like the most...well, exciting thing, but when I went online to see what all the fuss over this “free rice” was about, I was pleasantly surprised at what I found. All that you have to do basically is play a word game. A vocabulary word is given to you and you are presented with four possible answers...sort of like a vocabulary quiz in English class. For every answer that you get correct, twenty grains of rice are donated to the United Nations World Food Program. That means that every time you play, you are helping to end world hunger. To date, over 28 billion grains have been donated. Be a part of the effort to end world hunger and go online to play today!
Spring sports have finally begun! To start of the new sports season, Danielle Vacarro is the athlete of the month. As a softball player Danielle shows her dedication to the sport by not only playing for Mount Mercy, but like a few of her other team mates she also plays for the West Seneca Magic travel team, and trains year round. Danielle hope to continue to play softball in college.

Q: How long have you been playing softball for?
A: I have been playing softball for nine years.

Q: What position do you play?
A: I usually play as a pitcher, but I also play outfield and first base.

Q: How long have you been playing on Varsity?
A: This is my second year on Varsity.

Q: What goals do you (or your team) have for this season?
A: This season we just want to work hard and have fun.

Q: Any team pre-game rituals?
A: We don’t have anything really, except we just try to pump each other up before each game.

Q: Most embarrassing moment playing?
A: Probably when I gave up four homeruns in a tournament last year.

Q: Proudest moment playing?
A: Hitting a homerun last year in a tournament.

Q: Position you wish you could play?
A: I have always wanted to be a catcher, I always thought that that we be fun!

From sixty five teams, there are only four teams left in March Madness. The final four teams are Kansas, UCLA, Memphis, and North Carolina. Each team was rated number one in its bracket at the start of the tournament, so unfortunately there will not be an underdog winner this year. Kansas is now going off to play North Carolina, leaving UCLA to face Memphis. The winners of these games will face off to see who will be the champion of the 2008 NCAA tournament. Most bets for the winner this year are on North Carolina, but Memphis is making people think differently. I’d personally love for UCLA to win, but we will see what happens!
FASHION

This month’s article will feature Cameron Diaz and Lindsay Lohan.

Lindsay’s Look:

This Face Foil Flower Tee can be found at Wet Seal for only $12.50

These Alicia Skinny Jeans can be found at Forever 21 for $32.00

This black Deux Lux Perforated Foldover bag can be found on sale at www.Urbanoutfitters.com for $49.99

To top this look off add any pair of white oversized sunglasses!

Cameron’s Outfit:

The black and white striped tank top can be found at Urban Outfitters for $7.99.

The striped metallic scarf can be found at Forever 21 for $7.80.

The dark blue skinny jeans [called The Flirt] can be found at Old Navy for $29.50.

The yellow “fairy tales are true” shoes can be found at Urban Outfitters for $28.00.