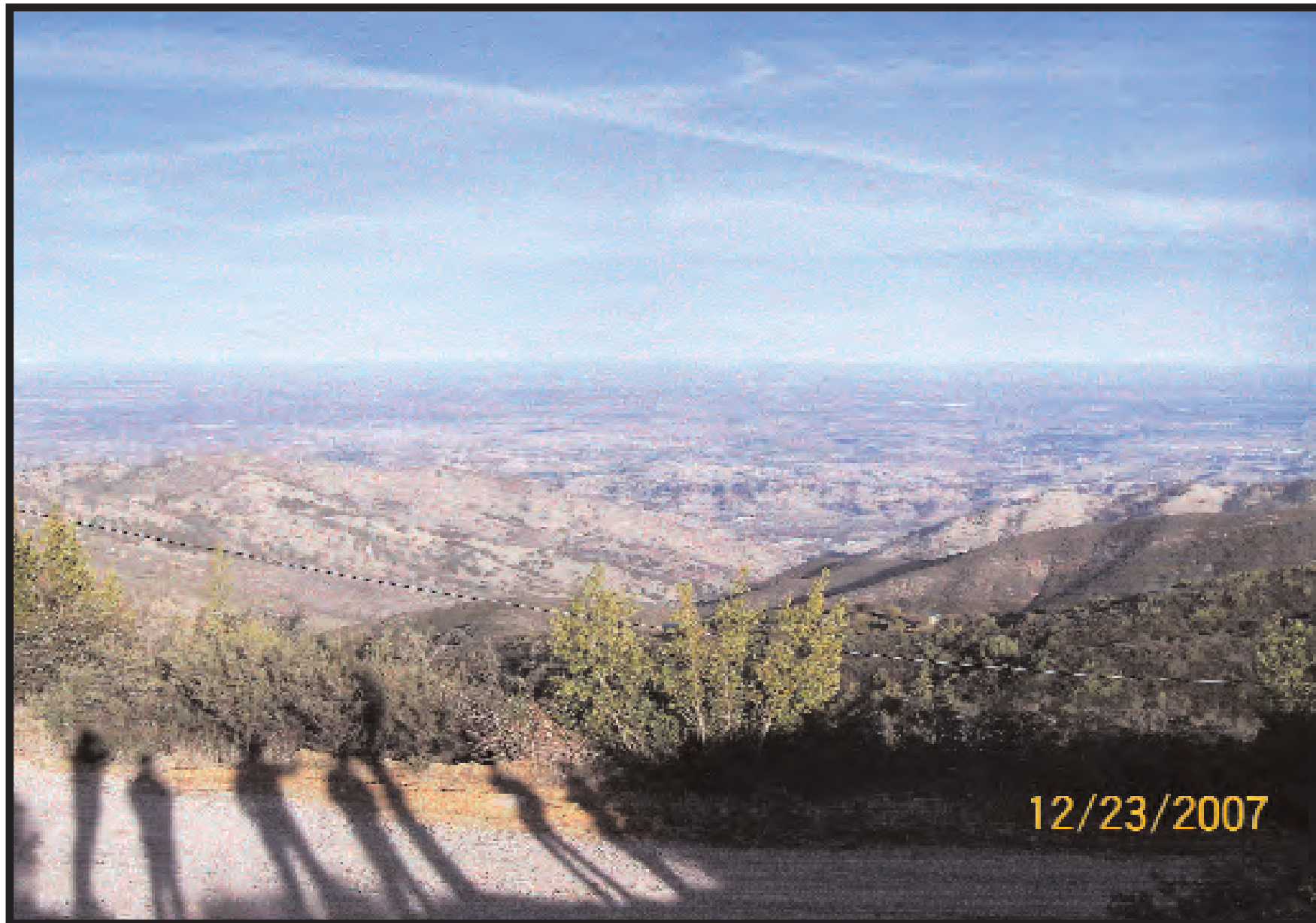


# In the shadows of grandeur



## Sun paints a picture atop Mount Vaca

Student photographer Marcy MacDonald captured this award-winning image, which shows the shadows of her family and friends standing atop Mount Vaca. The photo earned her a third-place honor in the high school division of the

photojournalism category of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Marcy was an eighth-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted to the competition in February 2008.

# Movie brings poem to life

By Paul DeMorais  
 Third Place, Opinion Writing  
 Division: High School

If you're craving the excitement of a centuries-old epic poem but are too lazy to read it, the movie "Beowulf" is perfect for you.

Starring Ray Winstone as the faulted hero and Angelina Jolie as his seducing temptress, this movie is packed with action and gore.

Although entirely animated, this movie is definitely not for children and features a disturbing and almost psychopathic troll, a completely nude Beowulf (but don't worry; the fight scenes are perfectly choreographed to hide certain body parts) and crude language.

Although the storyline is excellent, and how well it coincides with the poem I'm not certain as I haven't completely read it, when one watches this movie it must be remembered that these are animated figures and not the actual actors.

Animation has its limitations, and some of the gestures the characters make seem a bit abnormal.

One in particular is when Beowulf greets the king with a hug; it's like some awkward cross between a hug and a pat on the back.

It just doesn't compare to real human gesticulations.

Then again, I can understand how it could be difficult to have a live Ray Winstone swimming in an ocean and battling a swarm of sea monsters, jumping up on top of their heads and stabbing them in the eye, but this is Hollywood right?

Overall though, the movie is pretty good. I award it four stars. If it weren't animated however, I'd say it was a five.

And if you decide to watch it, there's a moral to the story beyond the blood curdling screams and flying guts — so pay attention.

*The author was a senior at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted to the Campus Star student journalism contest in February 2008.*

# Web access is a test of a child's responsibility

By Nicolette Ellis  
 Third Place, Opinion Writing  
 Division: Middle School

Many debate over the popular Web site, MySpace. Some say it is just an entertaining place where teenagers can socialize and meet new people. Others argue that MySpace is a very dangerous site and that it should be deleted from the Internet immediately.

I personally agree with the former of the two opinions.

When I made a MySpace account of my own, I had a chance to rekindle old friendships and speak with classmates that I had not seen for many years. While I agree that naive children can get hurt on this Web site, I also assume that these children should be old enough to be able to protect themselves from harm.

MySpace only allows those who are

14 years old and older to join. This age is when teenagers normally begin to grow out of their childhood ways and start to mature. It is also when they start to learn boundaries and when to suspect that something is wrong.

Parents who feel that their child is not ready to have a MySpace account should be able to trust that they raised their son or daughter well enough to be able to protect themselves.

My mother and father look at this Web site as a test; a test to learn whether or not I am ready to branch out on my own. This test will inform them if I have listened to their lessons about life, and if I can judge if a person is trustworthy or not.

Those who do not permit their children to have MySpace accounts are either too afraid or over-protective. They need to learn to trust their son or daughter.

Children can also have their MySpace accounts set to private. This will only allow

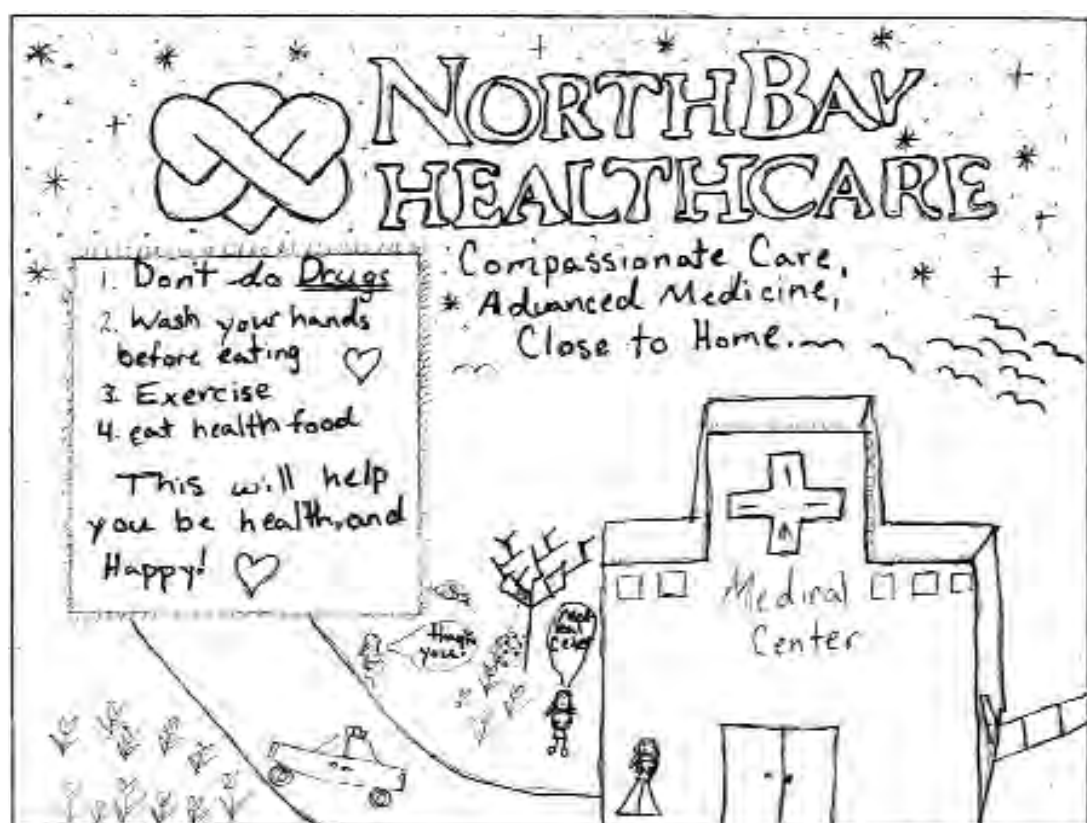
their friends to view their pictures and read the information that they choose to put on their profile. By setting their account to private, they ensure safety and protection.

MySpace accounts can be very dangerous, but only if the user allows it. Although millions of people use this site, there are number of ways to be safe and still have access to an account.

MySpace has made many changes in their policies and rules to avoid younger users being abused or kidnapped. The Web site has become as safe as possible. This fact alone should reassure worrisome parents, but unfortunately it does not. Why should the children be punished because their mothers and fathers cannot trust that they have taught us our life lessons so well?

*The author was an eighth-grader at Holy Spirit School in Fairfield when this was submitted to the Campus Star competition in February 2008.*

## Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement profiling the compassionate care of NorthBay Healthcare earned Lofipolo E. Uesi a second-place honor in the 5-6 Grade Division of the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Uesi was a fifth-grader in Richard Oates' classroom at Padan Elementary when this entry was submitted in February.

## Puzzles, Games, Comics winner



Help the mouse find its way through the maze and get his cheese!

## Mouse in the house

Eunice Pelago earned a third-place award in the middle school division of the puzzles and games category in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Eunice was an eighth-grader in Ms. Battiste's class at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this entry was submitted in February 2008.