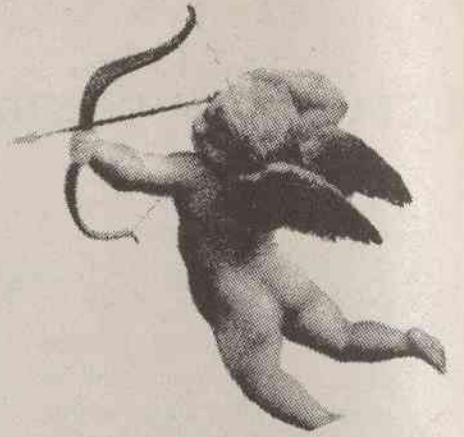




Angels are among us



George Spitzer
Design/Layout Editor

Comforting, holy, and beautiful are all qualities of angels. They have been a part of world beliefs for centuries.

An angel is defined as a celestial being believed to function as a messenger or agent of God in Christianity, Tianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

There are two different types of orders of angels. The first sphere are heavenly counselors: Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones.

The second sphere of angels work as heavenly governors: Dominions, Virtues, and Powers.

There is also a hierarchy of angels. The seven highest angels are Uriel, Tartarus, Raguel, Michael, Saraquael, Gabriel, Ramiel, and Raphael.

Each angel has a different task. Uriel rules the world. Raguel takes vengeance on the world of the luminaries. Michael is set over the most part of mankind and over chaos. Saraquael is set over spirits. Gabriel is the ruler of paradise, the serpents, and the cherubim. Ramiel is set over those who rise. Raphael rules the spirits of men.

A vast majority of students surveyed feel that angels do exist. "I do think angels exist. They are biblical and they have been sighted in human form," Angela Hayes, freshman, said.

Today some people have become enchanted by angels. It is believed that angles can help heal the soul.

Peoples of years past also believed in this principle. It has been proven by many historians.

Ancient and medieval peoples widely accepted the fact that there were angles, evil spirits, and fallen angels. It was during the middle ages that the hierarchy of angels came into existence.

Christmas is directly associated with angels. "The angels led the wise men to Jesus," James Cantey, freshman, exclaimed.

Hayes also feels angels are associated with Christmas. "The scriptures say the angels came to the shepherds and the angel of the lord came to Mary."

Just as Mary was encountered with her guardian angel, people of today feel they have one too. Ninety-five percent of people surveyed believe in guardian angels.

During this Christmas when the family is together singing songs, especially Hark the Herald Angels Sing, think of how angels have been a part of society for centuries.

FACTS ABOUT ANGELS:

Azrael



Azrael is the Islamic Angel of Death. He has four faces, one on his head, one beneath his feet, one on his front and one on his back. Also, his body is covered with countless eyes. Every time an eye closes it signifies a death. Michael is sometimes looked upon as the Christian Angel of Death. Saraquael is one contender, a seraph who is also associated with healing. The idea of an angel covered in eyes continues in at least one other called Sammael, mentioned in the Talmud. A tenth century scholar, linking Azrael to the angel King David saw threatening Jerusalem, describes an angel formed of yellowish flame, with eyes which shone with bluish fire.

Gabriel

The Archangel Gabriel, whose name means "God is my strength," explained to Daniel his vision of a ram and a billy-goat foretelling Alexander the Great's conquest of Persia and a prophecy foretelling the freeing of the Israelites. In both these cases the archangel is mentioned by name but it has also been suggested that Gabriel is the angel who wrestles with Jacob in the form of a man and that he was involved in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Enoch says that Gabriel was sent to destroy the giant children of the fallen "watchers" and did so by turning them against each other in "Paradise Lost."



Michael

The Archangel Michael, whose name means 'who is as God,' is generally considered to be the foremost of the seven archangels and the leader of the Host of Heaven. He is the prince who defended the Israelites and later, it was claimed, the Christian Church, when as guardian he may be called on (sometimes with Gabriel) to defend church doors against the devil. According to the Book of Revelations, 'Michael and his angels' are described fighting 'the dragon and his angels' with the result that 'that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him'. Hence Michael is often shown fighting or overcoming a dragon armed with spear or sword as God's Warrior.

