



# DRAGON TALES

Issue VI, January 2008

## Under One Roof: HS MSE's Final Expansion

By: Julian Chin

For the first time, HS MSE will have all of its classes and offices located in one building: Baskerville Hall. With an agreement between Mr. Dugan, CCNY, the New York City Department of Education and CUNY Central, HS MSE will expand to the first and second floors of Baskerville by September 2008. Currently, HS MSE classes are held in the basement and cellar of Baskerville and on the 4th and 5th floors of the CCNY North Academic Center. The school has always been located in multiple buildings; in the early days both students and teachers had to trudge across campus from approximately 130th to 140th Street through rain, sleet and snow to be on time to class. In addition to protection from the elements, Mr. Dugan predicts that "having the school in one building will make communication between staff and teachers more fluent and frequent." A natural benefit will also be a more developed school culture and identity.

The school announcements have been a good addition, but they are not 100% effective, as some students who have class in the NAC are unable to hear them. Such problems will be a thing of the past when students are housed in one building. When HS MSE moves to the first and second floors, students and teachers alike hope that school pride and spirit can flourish more than it does today. Mr. Dugan hopes that "a solid school culture [will] spread [and] a stronger school pride and spirit can become a reality."

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*Baskerville Hall, where most HS MSE classes are currently held.*

## HS MSE's Roots

By: Hector Burgos

HS MSE has now reached the ripe old age of six! In six short years, it has changed much. Our great school came from humble beginnings, with only about 107 students and 12 faculty members, all of whom unanimously said that they "loved the trailers." Several founding faculty members are still with us: Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Boylan, Mr. Podell, Mr. Pellegrino, Ms. Florian, Mr. Dugan, Mr. Hershov, and Mr. Pedroso. In their words, HS MSE was and still remains "exciting", "madness", "small", and "lots of fun." Sounds like a description of our faculty, if you ask me!

**In the beginning, there were the trailers...**

During the first years at our school, classes were held in a series of dark-red trailers located on south CCNY campus by the athletic fields in

what is now a construction zone. Mr. Pedroso recalls that "you were able to step outside after every class and just get some fresh air." In the winter of 2002-2003, snowball fights had yet to be banned and they were regularly enjoyed by all. Ms. Florian describes the trailers as "huge rooms with lots of windows...[and] computers in all the rooms. Everything was brand new!" HS MSE no longer uses the trailers and the transition from the trailers to the NAC was hard. "The south trailer complex got swept out from under us, two weeks before [Winter] break." In the middle of finals and wrapping up the semester, circumstances changed and though our school leadership fought hard to maintain our space, we lost it in the end. Recalls Ms. Florian, "It was awful [but] looking back, the trailers were greatly loved and are still missed."

**One issue after another...**

HS MSE was not always the smooth running school we know it to be. "What kind of problems didn't occur in the beginning?" said Ms.

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**Kaws' has a style all his own.**

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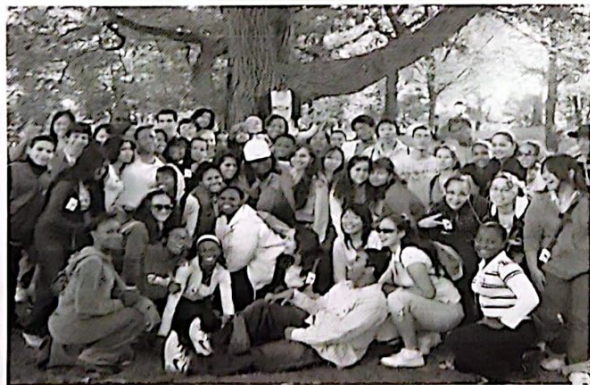
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HS MSE participants in Central Park just before the walk began.

## HS MSE Makes Strides

By: Willie Diaz

On October 21, 2007, sixty HS MSE students accompanied by faculty members, Mr. Carey and Ms. Doucette, walked five miles in Central Park to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. Ms. Doucette stated that "the 'Making Strides for

Expansion is a difficult task though, as Mr. Dugan, CCNY, the DOE and CUNY Central must agree on a final design for the first and second floors. Currently they are past the preliminary design plans that must conform to the rules and regulations of the DOE for both floors. Once all parties agree, renovations will begin. The final design will place the two lab rooms, three classrooms and the offices from the NAC on the first floor and the last three classrooms on the second floor.

The school's expansion may bring with it some controversy. Most HS MSE students know that our relationship with the college students is strained. Last year student leadership campaigns like AAA ran on a platform to move HS MSE off campus. Clearly that has not and will not happen but the expansion fuels their frustration at losing space, the unfortunate result of finding a home for our high school.



Baskerville's first floor, where classes currently held in the NAC will be located.

## Honor Roll for HS MSE

By: Willie Diaz

After years of research, surveillance and critical analysis, the New York City Department of Education evaluated and graded all of the public high schools. HS MSE received an A and the highest numerical grade out of all the specialized high schools. As a specialized high school, we attract some of the best students in New York City. In core subjects, our students have better grades than most other public high schools and our graduation rate is an amazing 100%.

The NYC report card system takes a broader approach to grading and considers school environment a factor as well as giving

special attention to student improvement. Programs like Saturday Success Skills and before and after-school tutoring along with individual attention from academic advisors and guidance counselors have helped our students actually improve their grades giving HS MSE the push it needed to make the NYC honor roll. Mr. Burgan, the Humanities Department Assistant Principal and the administrator in charge of at-risk students at HS MSE "is proud of our school's success" but notes that "we have more work to do in order to maintain our high standing."

Breast Cancer' walk was a great experience...even more enjoyable being a breast cancer survivor myself." Thousands of New Yorkers undertook the exhausting journey as volunteers clapped and waved to help motivate walkers. HS MSE students raised a total of \$750

dollars. The walk was a tiring yet a pleasing experience for a good cause. I recommend it highly because though you may feel very tired after finishing the five-mile trek, you will have a good feeling knowing that you contributed towards finding a cure.

# C-Day a Must See Day

By: Mariany Polanco

October 26, 2007 marked the first of this school-year's mandated HIV/AIDS and drugs/alcohol education workshop. Ms. DiPaolo and Ms. Paradise were in charge of the C-day event. HS MSE hired comedians to expose the pressures of alcohol. Ms. DiPaolo and Ms. Paradise stated that ten percent of the educational goal was missed, because the comedians did not focus on drugs and alcohol awareness. They agree that they will take a new approach to liven up C-Days and make them a learning experience. After "Comedy Aware" Ms. Paradise's elective dance class performed self-choreographed salsa and hip hop routines for their peers. The end of the day was marked by Mr. Carey and Ms. Robertson sharing student announcements encouraging students to get involved in earning the much talked about 200 community service hours. The "Dream It, Do It" workshop will allow students to launch their own community service projects.



Ms. Paradise's students from the dance elective class show their moves in a self-choreographed number performed for the school.

# Winter Dance A Smash

By: Willie Diaz

The HS MSE Winter Dance, which was held on December 14, 2007, was a great success. It was the first dance of the 2007-2008 year and had the biggest turnout the school has seen thus far. The NAC ballroom was dark, the only illumination being the neon lights and laser display on a wall, with the occupancy increasing steadily as time went on. The DJ stage was like a revolving door, with school aides taking turns at the turntables and even Ms. DiPaolo's friend having a go at controlling the music. The awesome music played was a wide mix of techno, meringue, salsa, bachata, reggaeton, and hip hop, with a large crowd always on the dance floor. Freshmen and Sophomores kept mostly to themselves while Juniors and

Seniors socialized freely.

Surprisingly, the freshmen showed outstanding school spirit having bought the most tickets, with the sophomores coming in second. Some teachers were in attendance as chaperones, such as Ms. Doucette and Mr. Zara. Thankfully, the night went without any major hiccups, and some of the highlights were the massive human trains powered by Keith Coleman and none other than Mr. Carey. On the whole, the dance was a great and I recommend that those who didn't attend this time should make an effort for the next one. It'll be a night you won't soon forget.

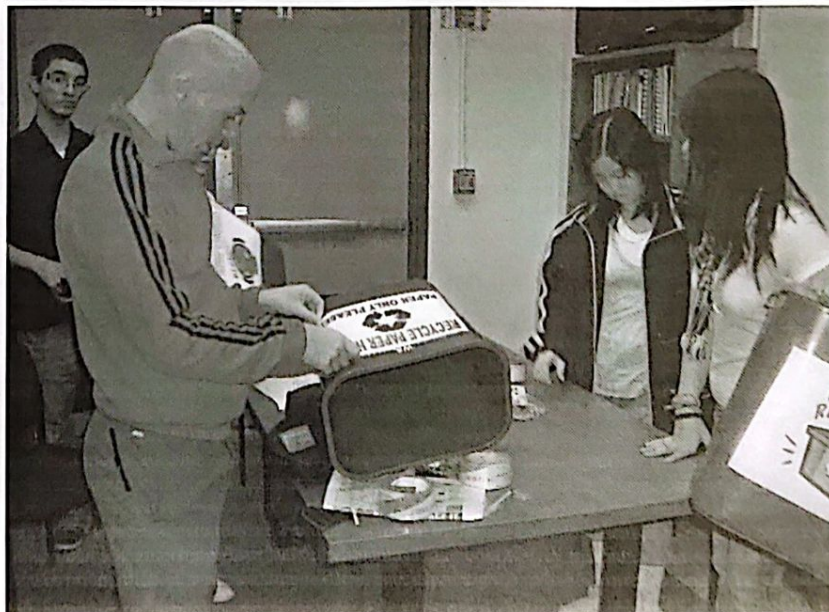
*"The freshmen showed the most school spirit..."*

# Green Dragons?

By: Colin Meret

HS MSE is going green! Each classroom now has paper recycling bins and the entrance to Baskerville Hall contains receptacles for cans and bottles. Previously, the recycling bins were mixed with regular trash due to a lack of CCNY cooperation. An agreement has been reached and now, the HS MSE Recycling Project Team collects the recyclables every morning, and CCNY gives them to the NYC Sanitation Department. Mr. Carey, who in part leads the team, projects that "If you don't recycle, by the time you are my age you will all be swimming in garbage."

Keep those bins full, Dragons!



If you'd like to be a part of the HS MSE Recycling Project Team, contact Mr. Carey!

He'll be happy to put you to work.

# Slaughter is the Latest Trend

LAURA NING



Americans are the most obese population in the world. That isn't surprising, considering we're a society that actually believes eating nothing but red meat will contribute to weight loss (i.e. The Atkins Diet). Even if, in some alternate universe, eating loads of red meat will make you supermodel skinny, ask yourself: is it really worth it? What you put in your mouth is part of a 100 billion dollar industry that brutally slaughters hundreds of thousands of animals on a daily basis. Before your steak was served to you in all its gory perfection, it was the limb that enabled an innocent cow to prance around and graze... until that cow was put on a conveyor belt with thousands of its kind, waiting for its limbs and head to be severed, waiting for a giant hook to pierce its body and propel it upwards onto an elevated belt and bleed it dry. But maybe you don't care. Maybe you like rotting carcasses too much to completely cut meat out of your diet. But that doesn't mean animals should be brutally murdered in the billions each year just so you can quench your bloody thirst.

Under the Humane Slaughter Act of 1956, animals are supposed to be stunned and rendered unconscious before they are shackled, hoisted and their throats slit. However, this is the meat packing industry we're talking about. On an average day, workers are required to kill as many as 1,100 hogs per hour. Do you really think they'd slow down production just to make absolutely sure that every animal is killed "humanely?" The answer is no. Working conditions in slaughterhouses are so bad that factories often have a shortage of workers and hence must resort to hiring inexperienced employees. These workers are often frustrated and under pressure to keep production numbers up. Luckily for them, they have defenseless creatures right in front of them to torture and abuse.

Krysta Jenson, a former worker at Circle Four Farms near Milford, Utah recalls her experience: she had started off on feeding the pigs; then she was thrown straight into neutering them. "You pick up the pig, cut the sac, pull the nuts, clip the tail, clip the ear, give them two

shots and put them back in the pen. I had no veterinary experience that would qualify me to perform such medical procedures." She remembers crying and feeling immense guilt as the pigs squealed in pain. "We kept asking for tools that were sharp enough to get through the sacs quick so you wouldn't have to rip and tug. We never got those. They just said you have to use what's there. No anesthesia was used."

Like many other former slaughterhouse workers, Krysta Jenson quit her job as an inflictor of pain and gave up eating meat altogether. As one former slaughterhouse worker reveals, "In all the barns, including the kosher barn, I witnessed chickens who wandered out into the open being kicked and stepped on by workers, then left to die with damaged legs and broken wings." None of these labels- kosher, halal, organic- are completely true. The USDA doesn't actually go to every slaughterhouse in the country and check or even care if the factories are killing animals "humanely." And even though there are some factory workers who are compassionate enough to quit and tell their stories, there are many who feel as though animals are inferior and cannot feel fear or pain.

If you're one of those people who only care about him/herself, you probably have no pity for the animals that are ripped apart and tortured to ease your hunger. So if you're still unconvinced that consuming meat does more harm than good, take a bloody bite out of this: deaths from food borne illnesses have quadrupled in the past 15 years. Federal records show that plant employees soaked chickens and hams in chlorine baths to remove slime and odor. Plant managers repeatedly fight to allow some contamination (namely feces, grease, hydraulic oil, maggots, metal, and floor residue) in meat and poultry.

Understand this one, simple concept: slaughterhouses do not abide by the codes of the Humane Slaughter Act, nor do they care that you get sick from contaminated meat. As long as you continue to buy meat, you are supporting the slaughter of billions of animals a year and you are accumulating toxins in your body by eating that meat. But who cares, right? The world is overpopulated anyway.



PETA / Kameron

# Curiously Analytical

MAX  
ANSBRO



Most of the English classes that I have taken followed the same basic outline of reading a story, play or novel, analyzing it in class and then writing an essay. As I noted in the previous issue of *Dragontales*, textual analysis is completely overdone. It amuses me that after all the time and effort put into analyzing the metaphors, puzzling out the ambiguities and reading into the subtext, everything we notice is apparently put in there, intentionally, by the author. Most of analysis should be reading into the story what isn't there. As such, if one were to read a children's book with such analytical eyes, one could find just as much philosophical meaning and literary elements that teachers love to attribute to the big classics read in class. This I can demonstrate using *Curious George*, by Hans Augusto Rey and Margret Rey.

George is a monkey who is always getting into and out of trouble. He comes to the "big city" and now lives with "The Man with the Yellow Hat." George's character has a childlike innocence about him and his curiosity consistently gets him into trouble. Also, George is without a tail, an unusual trait for a monkey, which makes him appear more humanlike. As such, the reader can identify George with humanity at large in its more innocent form as it struggles to simply stay out of trouble. Naturally humanity's curious nature poses consistent trials through which the protagonist must learn and subsequently triumph.

Throughout all the *George* stories, the mysterious and nameless "Man with the Yellow Hat" serves as a father figure, who is present when George most desperately needs him. The presence of this yellow-hatted man serves as a metaphor for the relationship between man and God. This God-figure, who ultimately delivers George from his trials, represents an almost certain prediction that humanity will be delivered from its seemingly

unsolvable problems. Perhaps the reason George can get out of trouble is that he is always in touch with the Man with the Yellow Hat. In this case, the books could be seen as a message to humanity that peace will come from building a closer relationship with God.

This is a very small sample of how much over-analysis can be put into literature by just looking at the broad themes of the story. *Curious George* is a picture book and the target audience is little kids learning to read. With that in mind, is it likely that it is supposed to be about God and his relationship to humanity and its struggle for balance with survival and emotions? No. And yet, one can make an argument that this is the meaning of the story.

In a seeming effort to avoid putting words in the author's mouth, teachers and critics try to keep all analysis founded in direct quotes from the text. However, where some part of the text doesn't agree with the theory of the critic, it usually gets disregarded. An example of this comes from my class's analysis of the short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. We spent a class in discussion of why Gilman wrote the story. We then read an essay by Gilman herself entitled "Why I Wrote the Yellow Wallpaper" which stated directly, in detail, why she wrote the story. We then read another essay by a literary critic about why Gilman "really" wrote the story. Who would know better than the author why the author chose to write a story? If we are not going to trust the author when she gives us the answers directly, why should we delve into her story for her hidden meaning?

With the infinite possibilities and interpretations of almost any text, it is difficult to determine which theme is most valid for exploration. So for those who, like me, see the "more analysis" comment all over English papers just remember that analysis is nothing more than the point where the author stops inventing the story and the critic takes over.

# Raise the Alarm and the Fire Will Stop

NOAH  
BRECKER-  
REDD



It has been more than four years since the tragic genocide began in Darfur and still the horrific conditions continue. In the wake of President Bill Clinton's foreign policy error in judgment when he did not provide U.S. support to help stop the genocide in Rwanda, President Bush claimed that genocide in Darfur would not happen on his watch. Bold statements, negotiations and good intentions have not stopped the killing, raping and destruction of a people.

The United Nations raised the alarm on the crisis in Darfur in 2003 and has set as a top priority finding a lasting resolution to the conflict. The UN's efforts, however well-intended, have not been backed up with enough support from member states to bring a measure of peace to the region. The UN needs to pressure member nations, specifically the UK, Russia and China, to contribute to the effort of the joint United Nations/African Union peacekeeping operation. Countries can contribute the helicopters and airplanes that Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, has requested. Additionally, there must be severe consequences for UN soldiers who violate their mandate to keep the peace by raping Darfuran women. Without punishment for such actions the UN will not be able to convince its member states that it is devoted to ending the conflict in Darfur.

The U.S. government needs to renew its resolve to end the genocide in Darfur. Congress and the President must provide adequate funding for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid efforts in Darfur. Congress should pass legislation to ensure that our tax dollars are not used to support the genocidal government in Sudan. Congress must provide appropriate oversight of Administration efforts to address the crisis in Darfur to ensure that all parts of the federal government are working together and that Darfur is correctly prioritized within U.S. foreign policy. Bush claims that he is devoted to ending the genocide in Darfur, but the progress is insufficient.

Public awareness must increase about the situation in Darfur. There are organizations working hard to bring peace to the region and their efforts have made a difference. Sudan's President, Omar al-Bashir, is sensitive to media coverage of public outrage against his policies. Making sure these voices of protest are consistently reported in the media will have an affect. But if the public is unaware, does not raise its voice in protest and demand that Sudan's government stop its genocidal campaign, the killing will continue as it has for the past four years.

We have to do our part as citizens, make the U.S. government

aware that we, the people, care about the genocide in Darfur because a government's greatest fear is its people. As students at *HS MSE* many of you probably believe that you can not do much to make a difference in a country half-way across the world. This is not true. If you are curious about the specifics of Darfur you can attend NYC Coalition meetings the first Wednesday of every month. You can personally write letters to President Bush, your U.S. senators and Representatives and The United Nations Center for Human Rights. You can attend vigils on the first Tuesday of each month. Companies that do business with Sudan are some are the largest financiers of the Sudanese government. As buyers, you can stop consuming their products to send them a message that you won't tolerate supporting such atrocities. Contribute to relief organizations that provide food, water, shelter and medicine to Darfuris. Finally, be aware that China is Sudan's largest foreign investor and trade partner. It is the largest provider of the weapons that are used to commit genocide. Promote the China Campaign; lobby your NY City council member to pass Resolution 0954-2007, which would pressure American sponsors of the 2008 Olympics to press China to coerce Sudan into ending the genocide before the Olympics begin.



Activists call for a U.N. peacekeeping force at a Global Day for Darfur rally in Central Park.

Editorials

# Seniors

## Letter From the Edge

By: David Marrett

After the letter I wrote in the last issue was published, I was advised to see Mr. Klein. We took inventory of my credits and what I need to do to graduate. Fortunately, it is possible but my first marking period grades were lower than I thought.

When the last issue was released, I was sitting alone during lunch reading my letter. After finishing, I sat, reflected on and worried about my article being "out there." Suddenly I heard "AWWWW... DAVID!" People came up to me, gave me hugs and got my phone number. The next night, a few people hit me up on AIM to tell me they read my letter or to check up on me. The next day random students yelled at me to tell me to do my homework. Ms. Doucette even offered to help me, even though there wasn't much she could do considering she's a Chemistry teacher and I don't have Chemistry. But I thought that was nice of her. I realized that it was an audacious thing to put myself out there.

On October 24th, in advisory, Ms. Florian asked us to write letters to ourselves that we would send after graduation. I was pessimistic while writing it, wondering "What if I don't graduate? Do I still receive my letter? Will there be any point to the letter then?" After I started though, I regained a positive attitude, finished my letter and handed it in. That night, I had a dream that I (as future David) woke myself up on graduation day. Future me said, "David, get up! It's the big day! It's time to graduate and get out of high school. Remember the day you wrote that letter for advisory? Well, I'm the

David from that day. Just want let you know you made it! The bad news is that there are a lot of things you could have done differently from that time so I'm going to send you back to the day after you wrote the letter."

So I'm back and I've been doing a lot of thinking. Some nights, as I lie in bed, I almost have no worries. I think about what has to be done, when it has to be done and how I am going to get it done. Even though I've got a plan, I practically have no intention of doing anything except lying in bed, staring at a wall and pondering life. When rare determination surfaces, I can get it done, as long as I don't get distracted. I get easily distracted though, so when I want to do work it takes longer than it should, which makes me not want to complete it.

I'm trying a new strategy to help me this year. I decided to try out for the basketball team. This is something I should've done freshman year, at least that's what other people tell me. I have to make sure to be academically eligible for extracurricular activities. I see no point in joining a club or team if I can't truly be part of it. I see this as a challenge. The faster I get my grades up, the faster I get to play basketball for HS MSE.

Some of my teachers have given me opportunities to make-up work. There is progress in some cases and my grades seem to be picking up a bit. The biggest problem is that I still dread literature classes (no offense to my teacher or "reading group"). My grades are terrible in both classes because I sleep in class, am always behind in reading and rarely do the writing assignments. I'm not intrigued by the literature and I experience a sincere and seemingly uncontrollable, overwhelming wave of drowsiness. I'm working on this one.

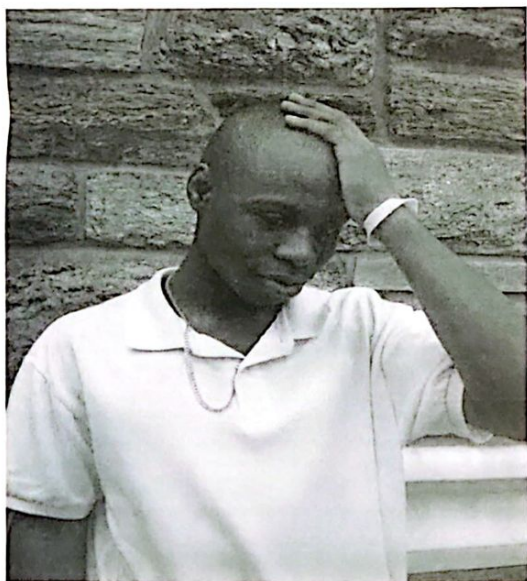
Another thing that still needs work is lateness, though I've improved. If I'm late it's only by 10 minutes. It's not perfect but it is better. I guess the real problem is misjudging my time and not getting ready fast enough.

*I'm close to the edge.  
Can't look down.  
From where i'm standing  
I can see no ground.  
Back against the wall  
Hope I don't fall  
Life's intimidating.  
I feel like im only 2 feet tall*

On a more positive note, during the Saturday Skills/Credit Recovery Program, Mr. Burgan chased me down to ask me if I would be willing to talk to the freshmen and sophomores about my article. He said Ms. Doucette read it aloud to them and wanted me to talk about my "situation." It made me feel like I might actually

inspire someone to choose a better academic path.

The path I've chosen is difficult and complicated. Now I have to worry about things I won't even begin to name and sometimes it's overwhelming. I wish I could just go in a box for an hour and when I come out I'd be worry free.... but that would be too easy. I guess I just have to stick it out for now and do what I can and slowly step back from the edge if I don't want to fall.



Class Groups

## What's Up With...

### What's up with...College Applications?

"Mad Expensive. Mad Tedious." Sandy H.  
"I'm already behind. It's a lot of work." Malcolm M.  
"It's a deterrent. College should be required just like any other grade."  
-Estil P.  
"It's a lot of hard work and stressful, especially with all the work we're already getting in school." -Shantall L.

## Eavesdropping...

### You never know who's listening!

A group of seniors sit in the NAC cafeteria. A teacher approaches them:  
Teacher: "Was that a phone you had?"  
Boy1: [quickly puts phone away and points in random direction]"Phone? What phone? DO ya'll see a phone?"  
Teacher: Well good. What were you doing anyway? Texting Someone?"  
Boy 1: How can I text w/o a phone? I told you I don't have a phone, but if I did, I would've been texting. But good thing I don't have one..."

# Juniors

## Striking a Balance

In New York City, ethnicity is a major issue wherever you go. It can be from just going to the grocery store and noticing someone is Hispanic or Asian to actually engaging in debates about race and stereotypes. HSMSE is no different, 18 of 50 Juniors asked identify themselves as Hispanic and 49 out of 50 report frequent exposure to the Hispanic culture. This is no surprise at a school with 30% of its population reported as Hispanic. You just have to open your eyes to see our differences and open your mind to try and understand how other people live. This is the first in a series of articles that will highlight student experiences as it pertains to their ethnic background, in order to promote understanding and communication. In this issue, Mara Quezada, an HS MSE Junior, gives her perspective on Hispanic culture and how it plays a role in her school, home and personal life.

Life is hard to balance as a Dominican. Dominican culture is family-based and those families are extensive with close relationships like aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins being just as important as school. Dominicans also seem to have a natural drive to improve themselves and progress which leads to our vibrant and outgoing personality. There is never a moment of boredom or silence in a Dominican household. With two younger brothers and a younger sister I can barely hear myself think. In no way possible can I get away from the never-ending excitement and energy.

From Monday to Friday I mostly try to focus on school but I still have many responsibilities around the house. On Saturdays though, I don't have school and that means I need to dedicate my time to my family and household. Have you ever gone to Washington Heights on an early Saturday morning and heard Latin music blasting through every window?

Yes? That is the typical Dominican family getting ready for a long day of cleaning. It's the unofficial cleaning day of ALL Dominicans and it's safe to say Latinos in general. This means that I have to wake up at around 10am (instead of sleeping till the afternoon as I would like to do), turn up the radio to some merengue or bachata, and clean the entire house including



*"Even if I did want to go out after cleaning so much, Dominicans (especially girls) have limited freedom."*

windows with my mom. In other words Saturdays are not a good day to go out unless it's really late at night.

Even if I did want to go out after cleaning so much, Dominicans (especially girls) have limited freedom. If I get permission to go out at

By: Mara Quezada

all I have to be home pretty early and most likely have to bring one of my little brothers with me. Most Dominican girls can't date until after their Quinceañero and even then there's a problem. A Quinceañero is the "passage to womanhood". It's like a sweet 16 except in the Dominican culture you "become a woman" at 15 instead of 16. It is a really big deal but, if it IS such a huge step forward then why do parents still refuse to let their 15 year old daughters date? As a "woman" shouldn't they trust you to make the right decisions? It's a mystery I will never understand. I would much rather have my daughters tell me they're dating than have them do it behind my back anyway. For some reason though, Dominican boys are allowed to date as soon as they're born! Stereotypically, Dominican parents seem to be very stubborn but I guess we all are...especially when it comes to school.

School is a big part of a Dominican's life, especially given that drive to improve ourselves and I am one who worries now about my future. I'm not satisfied with an 85% average, and neither are most of the Dominicans I know in this school. With extra-long days in school and emphasis on education in my home, school takes up about 75% of my time.

The remainder of my time almost always goes to family. Essentially in order to have a successfully balanced life as a Dominican, you need to get your priorities straight. For me that would be school, then home/ family, and then everything else. Of course, while juggling all my different responsibilities, I sometimes drop things but the Dominican in me says to pick it back up and start again. It's hard to balance my life but it's manageable. My drive to improve and progress holds it all together so...I love the fact that I'm Dominican.

**CLASS GROUPS**

## What's Up With...

### What's up with...UTexas?

"I think that maybe they should find a better website that's more reliable." - Rajiv G

"I think it has really good potential but I don't think the school has learned how to use it yet." -Evan M.

"I hate getting negative points for trying to do my homework." -Adam M.

"The UTexas system is obsolete. It uses CGI to render response data which makes it error prone and subject to server failures. Due to this, whenever there's a problem it is difficult to debug and ultimately fix." -Max K.

"I like it because it's instant gratification knowing you have the right answers." -Andre F.

"It's not a true representation of what you really know." -Nathaniel S.

## Eavesdropping...

### You never know who's listening!

A group of juniors standing in front of the AIDS testing room in Party for a cure.

Girl 1: "Yay! I'm negative!!"

Girl 2: "Well duh you're negative! You're a virgin!"

*All break out into laughter*

Girl 1: "I don't get it...ok well whatever. Look at this free stuff I got!!"

# Sophomores

## What's Up With...

### The upperclassmen?

"Some of them are cool and some are just there. My favorites are Luis Sosa (because we have the same birthday) and then David Maret." - Dranell A.

"They're cool. If you approach them they will never turn you away."

"I'm especially cool with the upperclassmen in dance." - Gillian J.

"The juniors are boring. I like the seniors." - Natasha A.

"They're cool. Daniel was my first upperclassman friend. Keith is cool and BIG" - Rosemary S.

## Eavesdropping...

### You never know who's listening!

A group of sophomores sitting in Chemistry.

Teacher 1: "Ionic Compounds are hooked in such a way that you can't tell which particle is hooked to which."

Girl 1: "Who does that remind you of?"

Whole class breaks into laughter

Boy 1: "Oh I get it like at the dance??!!!"

# CLASS GROUPS

## Sophomore Setback: Chemistry Regents

By: Jessica Peña & Aury García

Passing the New York State Regents Chemistry examination is a great concern for sophomores attending HS MSE. 35 out of 42 sophomores polled feel they will not be prepared to take the exam. Many sophomores are curious as to why HS MSE's Chemistry Regents scores are not as high as they would like and what they can do about it. These questions are not simple and have quite a history. When HS MSE first offered chemistry in Fall 2003, it had a rough start as the original chemistry teachers did not fulfill their job requirements. With a strong correlation to engineering and math courses, however, HS MSE stayed the course, has improved, and is one of the few schools in New York City that requires its students to take the chemistry course and the Regents exam. Some context is required to fully appreciate this struggle. HS MSE has a young program with only four groups having taken the Chemistry Regents; we have not had enough time to drastically improve our scores. Principal William Dugan helped us find the following statistics from state and city reports regarding our school's chemistry Regents scores over time.

According to the NYC Department of Education, HS MSE's 2006-2007 Regents chemistry scores consist of an 80.5% passing rate. That means only 99 out of 123 students scored above a 65. Of the 99 students who passed the exam only 24 achieved mastery, which is a score of 85 or above. The city report, however, shows that in the year 2005-2006, the NYC passing rate on the chemistry Regents was only 58%, whereas our school had a passing rate of 78.4%. Based on this data, the city would say that HS MSE is doing very well compared to other NYC schools. So why are our students upset with our scores if we are apparently doing so well? Perhaps it is because these students believe that by coming to

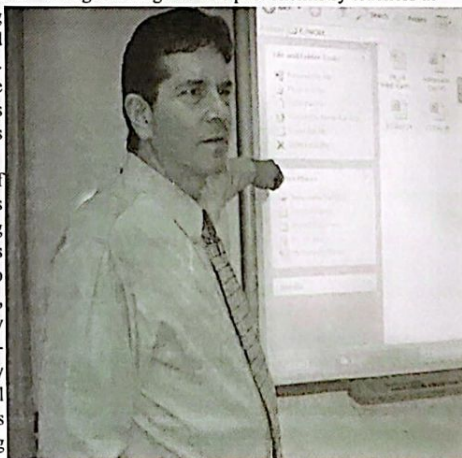
a specialized high school they would have a greater chance of achieving mastery on all Regents. In New York City, 50,000 more students take the Global History and Geography Regents (other sophomore exams) rather than the Chemistry Regents. We have our work cut out for us for continued improvement.

New York State reports suggest that HS MSE's Chemistry Regents scores improved between the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. These were the two years in which Ms. Doucette and Mr. Hesse joined the HS MSE Science Department. In 2004- 2005, 74% of students scored a 65 or above compared to 78% in 2005-2006.

Given all the information regarding the HS MSE's history with chemistry, what are we doing to change it? The past chemistry teachers at

programs now exist before, during, and after school. Sophomore students can find Ms. Doucette in room 5/215 (the lab room) from 3:35 pm - 4:05 pm. Mr. Hesse, is in room 5/215 every morning from 7:30 am - 8:00 am and Tuesday afternoons in room B6 from 3:35 pm - 5:00 pm. He voluntarily posts tutoring times on the PTA Yahoo group listserve so parents can be aware as well. You may seek help from either one of them regardless of who your teacher is. Another addition to HS MSE's chemistry curriculum is our new white review books. These books were recommended by Mr. Hesse, who used them when he taught chemistry at the Bronx High School of Science. As opposed to distributing the books one month before the Regents, Ms. Doucette and Mr. Hesse distribute them at the beginning of the year. The purpose of this early distribution is for students to study for the Regents properly and independently.

Sophomores: our advice to you is to recognize that you need to study more than the instruction you receive in class. Don't wait for the teachers to tell you that you are not doing well or are failing. Don't be afraid to admit that you do not understand a concept when it is taught in class. Don't wait until a week before the Regents to pick up review books and expect to do well. The Chemistry Regents is known to be one of the most difficult Regents exams offered, so make it your business to form study groups, read through review books during long vacations (i.e. mid-winter break, January Regents week, spring break) and go to tutoring whenever you can. When looking through the review books find your strengths and continue to enforce them whilst working on strengthening your weaknesses as well. If you truly care about the score you'll receive on the Chemistry Regents, you must go out of your way and not solely rely on the teachers and classes.



Mr. Hesse shows his smarts on the smartboard.

HS MSE are gone and the school made an effort to replace them with better teachers. Tutoring



# Freshmen

CLASS GROUPS

## What's Up With...

### Physical education in HS MSE?

"I HATE GYM!" -Camille C.  
 "Too much running." -Chartia C.  
 "It's the easiest class ever. All you have to do is run and you get a good grade."  
 -Andrew B.  
 "I actually like physical education. It's cool." -Shaquasia M.  
 "It keeps the students active but it's hard to keep up with the teacher." -Kia S.



## Eavesdropping...

### You never know who's listening!

A freshman boy tries to find a mirror to put on mascara:  
 Boy 1: "Do you have a mirror??"  
 Girl 1: "No..."  
 Boy 1: "Do you have a mirror??"  
 Girl 2: "No..."  
 Boy 1: "Does ANYBODY have a mirror??"  
 Girl 3: "I do..."  
 Boy 1: "OK! Good....can you help me put this on?"  
 Girl 3 laughs: "Suuuuure....look that way and open your eyes."  
 Boy 1: "AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH that's is crazy get it off get it off!!!"

Clubs and publications need YOU!

Freshmen are their future!

Several organizations are potentially facing their last year as most of their members are seniors.  
 Show your school spirit...  
 Join something today!

## From the Office of the President

By: William Calhoun

As the HS MSE freshman Class of 2011 enters the world of High School they are immediately faced with the problem of how they are going to be heard. That is why every year each class picks two representatives who will voice their opinions and concerns about school and HS MSE life in general. Although this is a rewarding factor of High School life, freshman are forced to vote for a representative at a point where they are unfamiliar with each other and therefore don't know who would best represent their opinions. While this might be true, the officials elected do try hard to fulfill the role that they have been given. The Class of 2011 has voted and two very capable students are now at the helm: William Calhoun, President and Tahmid Chowdhury, Vice President. The following is a letter from your President:

Dear Class of 2011,

First of all, thank you for getting involved and voting, especially for me and Tahmid. I will try my best to make you proud. I promised to help the recycling program, generate support for school activities like the dance, which was held in December, and to help your voices be heard in the school. Already some of these things

are on their way and during my first semester at this school, I love the campus, teachers, and the sheer spirit that this school generates. HS MSE rocks and I am so happy that I can just be here as a student to enjoy it. It's different than my other school.

My junior high school was Rodeph Shalom, a private Jewish institution. While I liked my junior high school, HS MSE is a new delightful surprise because it allows me to experience different types of learning. I can't wait to help improve our already incredible school.

If any freshmen have any comments or suggestions that they want put forward I'm always available to listen. For my final words, I would like to reiterate that HS MSE rocks (and so do I)!

Sincerely,  
 William Calhoun  
 President, Class of 2011



**Unexcused Lateness**

By: **Tobi Lieberson**



Got a hidden artistic talent?  
Let it out!

Dragontales always accepts submissions for original artwork.

HS MSE's distinguished art faculty is happy to work with you individually to develop your ideas.

See Ms. Florian or Ms. Lombardi for details.

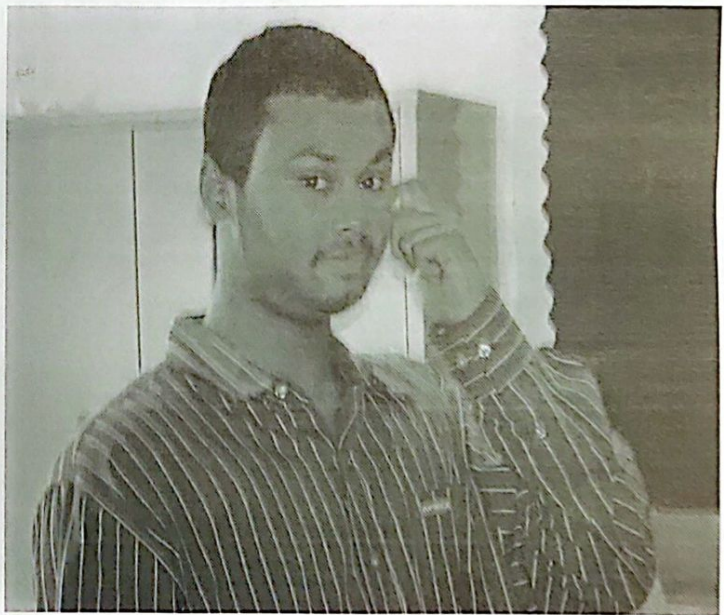
**Caption Contest**

Think you can write a more clever caption than the Dragontales staff? Then get creative and write an original caption for the picture below. Email your suggested captions to Ms. Florian (rflorian@hsmse.org) by February 14, 2008. The winner will be featured in the next edition of Dragontales.



**Contest Winner**

Congratulations Max Ansbro!

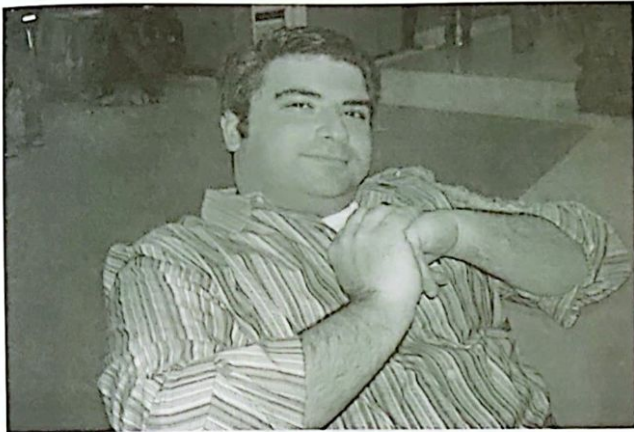


**Teacher to student:**  
"Do you even have an enrichment you are supposed to be in?"

# Holla Back Hershinson

By Jacob Traub

This issue's guest advice columnist is HS MSE's dean, Mr. Hershinson. Most of us know him as the scary guy who hauls those "in trouble" out of class for a variety of reasons but he also teaches a mediation class that gives him the background to give us some solid tips on situations in which we find ourselves.



Holla back, Hersh. I don't want to find myself arrested and I don't know what to do.

Yours truly,  
New in the Hood

Dear New in the Hood,

This is a good question. I'm glad you're trying to figure out what to do instead of letting your emotions take over. Try talking to them to find out why they hate you. They may not know how to relate to you or they may not know anything about your culture, helping them understand who you are may resolve this problem. Knowledge is power!

Sincerely,  
Holla Back Hershinson

Yo Hershinson!

I just know you'll know what to do. I've got a really good group of friends. We hang out all the time, have fun and even keep up on our work. I'd say we're a pretty good bunch of kids. My friends and I have a problem with this one individual in our group though. None of us like that person for all different reasons. We don't want to be mean but we also don't want to hang out with this person so much. How can we let that someone down easy?

Signed,  
Nice in New York

Dear Mr. Hershinson,

I have a serious problem and I can't figure out what to do about it. No one can tell me apart from my brother!  
Please holla back! I need help!

From,  
Anxious & Confused

Dear Anxious & Confused,  
I'd go for simple. Get a scar or haircut, whichever is easier.

Sincerely,  
Holla Back Hershinson

Dear Hersh,

This is serious. I just moved into a new neighborhood and it's nice and all but it's a lot different than my old neighborhood. It's not as diverse and it seems like all the white kids hate me. When I walk down the street and all their eyes follow me I get so mad. I think, "take a picture it lasts longer!" How do I avoid a fight?

Dear Nice in New York,

This is a tough but common situation. You could phase him/her out by not calling or emailing back as much. You could introduce this person to some other people you think would be a better fit and hope it works itself out naturally or sometimes being honest with people is the best practice. It may sound harsh but it is better than talking about them behind their back. Good luck.

Sincerely,  
Holla Back Hershinson

If you have something with which you need help, then write it down and drop it off with Jake Traub or Ms. Florian. The next issue will highlight "DiPaolo's Decides" featuring our illustrious PhysEd teacher, Ms. DiPaolo.

## What's Your Sign?

**Capricorn** (12/22 - 1/19) Beware the desire to purposefully make yourself outshine your peers. You can do it without trying if you let hard work and labor choose your path for the rest of the month.

**Aquarius** (1/20 - 2/18) You have an inventive mind and you are inclined to be progressive. A situation in your crew needs your calm response to make the peace. Don't let them push you around and you'll come out as the reliable one of the bunch.

**Pisces** (2/19 - 3/20) Your vivid imagination can lead you to paranoia if you're not careful. Neither the CIA nor the FBI are following you...this month. Let your fascination with secrets guide you to being the friend who can keep confidences.

**Aries** (3/21 - 4/19) Be careful not to disapprove of people and be sure to take advice when it's given. Watch your temper and be patient because with your nice personality, things could go your way this month and the sun will shine on you.

**Taurus** (4/20 - 5/20) You are a practical and persistent workhorse that many perceive as stubborn. Being wise with finances doesn't mean you should obsess. If you focus on your inner strength, happiness and money should rain in your parade.

**Gemini** (5/21 - 6/20) You are a quick and intelligent thinker with a unique perceptions of the world around you. At times you can expect too much for too little so resolve this month to be generous and good things should come your way.

**Cancer** (6/21 - 7/22) Expect people to need your

sympathy and understanding. Give wisely and don't allow yourself to be taken advantage of. Continue to stick close to home and family and don't be surprised if winter romance heats things up.

**Leo** (7/23 - 8/22) A born leader, others can perceive you as power hungry. Sometimes your confident behavior can be mistaken for vanity so be aware that confidence coupled with humility help to bring success.

**Virgo** (8/23 - 9/22) You are the logical type and hate disorder. This obsession that you have with perfection can annoy the people around you, but your ambition for excellence will gain you happiness this month.

**Libra** (9/23 - 10/22) You are the artistic type and have no trouble with accepting the truth. Libras have much experience in relationships and connecting with other people. Chances for employment and gaining money are excellent.

**Scorpio** (10/23 - 11/21) Don't let your creativity land you in the center of personal drama. Though problems and rain clouds seem to hover above your head, you shall be granted the umbrella to shelter you from the storm.

**Sagittarius** (11/22 - 12/21) Your optimism and enthusiasm temper your reckless tendency to rely on luck. Travel is always good for your soul and this month, the experience of not so far-flung places could lead you to discover a new individual.

## Sudoku

By: Amari Carpenter

	7	2				9	
5			8			6	3
	3	9			1	2	5
7			1			4	6
	4						2
2	9	6			4		8
4		5	9			3	7
	8	1			7		4
	2				3		8

JUST FOR FUN

# Drop the Game and Put Your Hands Behind Your Head

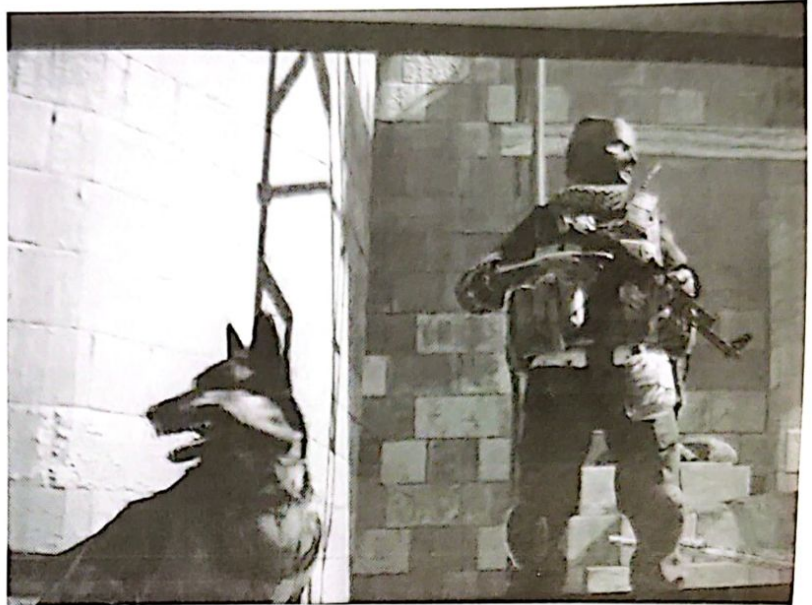
By: Ian Gamble

The Grand Theft Auto series is extremely popular among HS MSE students and with the upcoming release of the 8th installment, gamers everywhere want to get the low-down. The biggest news isn't the game's new features though, it's the anti-videogame violence platform being promoted by many prominent politicians, lawyers, and average Joes who are scared their little tyke, or teen for that matter, will grow up to shoot people because it was fun in a game.

According to a study about violent games conducted by the on-line newsmagazine NewsScientist.com, people who play violent video games are more aggressive, more likely to commit violent crimes and less likely to help others. Psychologist Bruce Bartholow, of Missouri-Columbia University, gathered data indicating that people who play violent video games have a lower response to real violent images. Promoters of violent games countered those statements by pointing out that violent people obviously like to play violent games and also by saying that the average person can tell the difference between real and game violence. They purport that if someone wants to commit murder then he or she doesn't need to get the idea from a game; he or she could get it from CSI, other violent shows, or even the news.

Of the 24 HS MSE students questioned, the majority support the opinions of the game promoters. They think that violent games should be sold to teens but not small children and also that violent games can only negatively influence people who are already violence-prone. A few say that violent games have no influence whatsoever on the gamer so they can be sold without restriction.

Hillary Clinton, a current U.S. presidential candidate, is strongly opposed to the Grand Theft Auto series and violence in games and on TV in general. She wants to prevent the sale of games like Grand Theft Auto to children. Clinton believes that violence in games and on TV is most detrimental to children because they cannot judge right from wrong in this context. In a speech that Clinton gave, she said



A screen shot of call of duty, another intensely violent shooter game in the hot debate.

"if your child... [is] playing a game that encourages them to have sex with prostitutes and then murder them, you know, that's kind of hard to digest."

An HS MSE student, who wishes to remain anonymous said that he is a big fan of Grand Theft Auto and that he would allow his children to play it "as soon as their hands were big enough to hold a controller" but he also said that he would make sure that his child understood that real violence

was not acceptable. When asked his opinion on Clinton's view on game violence. He agrees with her that game violence can negatively affect children if they don't understand the game, but he does feel that young children are perfectly capable of understanding the difference between real and game violence.

While we can't dispute the graphic nature of the images themselves, the effect

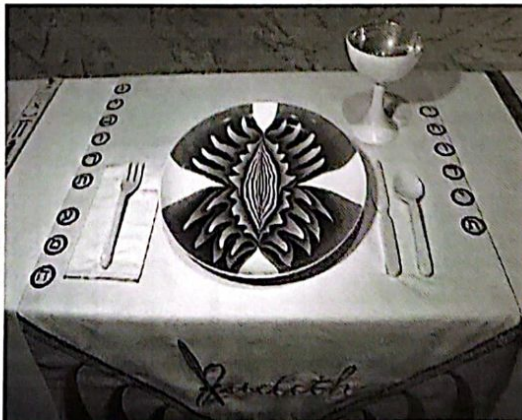
of those images will continue to be hotly debated. In that debate it is also important to consider that those games do have deterring messages because even in the game people can not get away with their video crimes. Above all, this is an issue of personal choice, of which parents should be in complete control for their children with the help of a rating system.

## Designs for China

By: Jackson Brebnor

Feminism at HS MSE is a subject studied by circumstance: Lysistrata is kind of about women; Frankenstein just happens to be written by a woman; and Silas Marner was written by a woman who pretended to be a man for publishing rights. The closest an HS MSE student gets to explicit feminism is reading "The Yellow Wallpaper," "Roman Fever," and *The Awakening*. If you have any interest in true, raw, feminist art, check out the Brooklyn Museum's Center for Feminist Art, which houses "The Dinner Party"-a piece featuring stereographic vaginas.

The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum acquired this piece for long-term installation. "The Dinner Party," by Judy Chicago is an assembly of Queens, Artists, and Goddesses of yore participating in a meal. What is most interesting about this meal is not the motley crew of ghosts, nor the potential vichyssoise of opinions, but the plates. Unlike the purely white spoons and forks, the plates are all designed with florid "butterfly" patterns, which are stylized versions of these women's personalities. This exhibit should be particularly refreshing



for the average HS MSE student, whose concept of female anatomy may be limited to the realms of medicine. Here it represents intellect, art, music, and power.

But it's not all about the abstract vagina: the exhibit provides a wealth of feminist history in an adjacent room. Profiles of women like Cleopatra, Sojourner Truth, and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley are set upon a big mural along with their contributions to the general feminist movement. This part of the exhibit proved to be too much information for one with very little knowledge of the field.

Seeing this exhibit will, however, definitely make your literary life a lot spicier and *The Story of an Hour* a lot funnier. It examines the pre-classical roles of women to modern ones in the same way that HS MSE's Literature department does. Queen Bodiceia led armies, Hildegard de Bingen wrote music, Georgia O'Keefe painted, and after "The Dinner Party," you will realize how subversive it was for women to hold out, write books, feign transexualism, and die when they heard their husbands survived a train accident.

# Table Tennis Anyone?

By: Manpreet Singh

Every Monday in C2, the doors to HS MSE ping pong heaven open. The HS MSE ping pongers roll in and gather here to play. The atmosphere is competitive yet friendly. The club is run by Ms. Zafonate, who is responsible for making the club a fun place to be. It is not just for the talented table tennis players but rather a place for both beginners and experienced players.

If you want to relieve stress from the long HS MSE school day, this is a great place. The members seem to love the club. One member says, "The Ping Pong club is the thing we look forward to every Monday." The environment is very friendly and relaxed, as students unwind by having competitive games. Due to space restrictions, the school only has two ping-pong tables, but HS MSE students are resourceful and they make due by creating extra tables using regular desks. Two or three games can be played consecutively and Ms Zafonte's experience makes her an excellent pick as ping pong instructor.

Ping pong is a sport similar to tennis. It is played on a court

divided into four sections, the horizontal section created by the net in the middle of the court, and the perpendicular sections divided by a white line that goes from end to end of the table. The objective of the game is to hit the ball to the opposite side of the net, so that it bounces on your opponent's side in a position where the other player cannot return your shot. There are many good ping pongers at HS MSE. Wenyi Wang is one of the better Ping Pongers in the club. Wenyi is from one of the best table tennis countries, China. To learn or play against stiff competition, the Ping Pong Club is the place to go.

If you are unable to attend Ping Pong Club due to scheduling, there are places around the city that can satisfy your table tennis craving. One table tennis place recommended by Max Tierno is Wang Cheng Table Tennis at 250 W 100 Street.

# Arcade Night

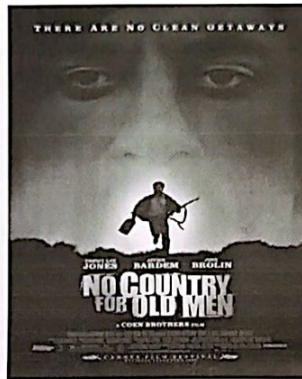
By: Colin Meret

On October 19, 2007, students unanimously said that it was "fun to be at school." HS MSE and The National Honor Society, through World Vision, a non-profit organization, hosted an Arcade Night in Baskerville Hall to sponsor a child who has been affected by AIDS in Africa. The event included consoles such as The Nintendo Wii™, Gamecube™, and the Xbox 360™, and games such as Halo 2™ & 3, Wii Sports™, and Dance Dance Revolution™. The event took a month to plan and was organized by 8 members of the NHS community

service board. Approximately 80 students attended, raising a total of \$744.55, \$284.55 more than the \$460 needed to provide care for a child in the Hope program for one year. Every cent counts. The extra money amounts to over 250 days of extra care for Hamimu Nkondo Omari, an eleven year old boy from Tanzania. He will be provided with food, education, and medical care. When asked whether this type of occasion will happen again, Ms. Robertson said, "Yes, we hope it is going to be a tradition to continue every year."

# No Country for Old Men

By: Colin Meret



This film by the Coen Brothers (Fargo, 1996) is almost sure to be nominated for an Academy Award this year. The movie is about a man (Josh Brolin) who, in the desert, stumbles upon some bodies and a suitcase filled with money. He takes the money home and ends up on the run from a psychopathic killer (Javier Bardem) with a pneumatic cattle gun. Tommy Lee Jones stars in the movie as a sheriff nearing retirement, on his last case trying to catch the killer. The cinematography and storyline will keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.

4/5 Stars, Rated R for strong graphic violence and some language.

# Lions for Lambs: A Sedentary Tritptych

By: Jackson Brebnor

Meryl Streep (The Devil Wears Prada 2006), Robert Redford (Oscar Award winning actor/director), and Tom Cruise (Mission Impossible - Series) star in this politically charged

war film. Meryl Streep plays a journalist whom a senator (Tom Cruise) calls into his office to write an article about a new strategy for the war in Iraq. Streep, believing the article to be basic propagand-

is, reluctant and reminds the Senator of similar strategies, which have failed throughout American war history. The Senator, in his youth and ambition, does not heed her warning.

A parallel story involves Robert Redford, who plays a political science professor at a prestigious California university. He convinces a bright but privileged student to become more active in his studies by relating a story of two former students who, tired of passively learning about politics, join the army.

These stories blend as the two students, now bloodied, broken-legged, and half buried in snow, are shown stranded on a mountain, with members of the Taliban. The boys speak of the future while the senator protests "it's not like we're putting two guys alone on a mountain" and the professor lectures about hope.

Overall the film is well done, touching on themes like class, what it means to be an American, the value of history, and friendship. Judgment is reserved for the viewer as Redford, a true craftsman, places the responsibility on us.

3/5 Stars, Rated R for some war violence and language.



Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise give outstanding performances in Lions for Lambs.

# Los Latinos y La Universidad

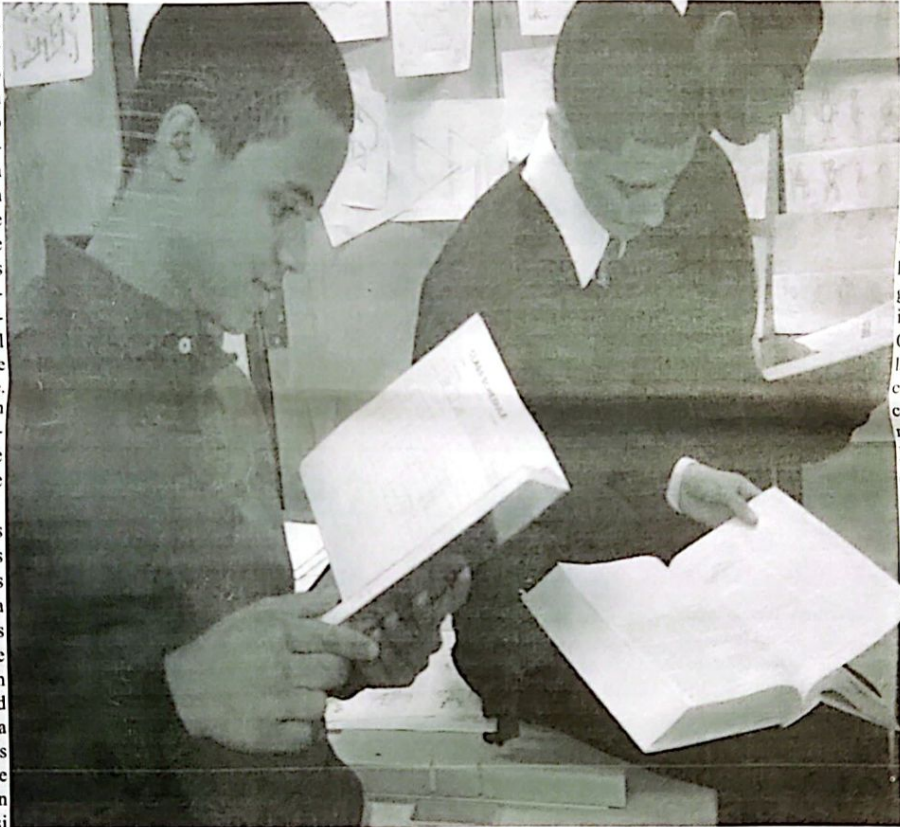
Escrito por: Aury García y Mariany Polanco

Los Latinos, los norteamericanos que hablan español, son el grupo étnico con la tasa más baja de asistencia a la universidad, y de obtener el diploma de licenciatura universitario. Esto refleja la dificultad con que los Latinos se enfrentan para aprobar el bachillerato y también refleja la poca cantidad de inmigrantes latinos que obtienen una educación. Los inmigrantes tienen otras tareas y no priorizan correctamente. Muchos de ellos no hablan el Inglés necesario para conseguir una buena educación. Algunos son ilegales y tienen miedo de pedir ayuda. El hecho de que los latinos son el grupo étnico menos educado demanda atención. En los Estados Unidos los Latinos tienen una mayor oportunidad de recibir ayudas económicas para asistir a la universidad por ser una minoría, sin embargo no lo hacen. En especial las mujeres Latinas, por ser una doble minoría (mujeres y Latinas), necesitan esforzarse para no aprovechar las oportunidades que están a la vista. Con todas las oportunidades que este país les ofrece a los Latinos, ¿Por qué no asisten ni se diploman en la universidad?

A muchos latinos se les hace difícil asistir a la universidad porque no terminan el bachillerato. Algunos trabajan porque tienen que mantener a sus familias. Muchas veces los padres de hispanos no pueden trabajar y dependen de sus hijos para cubrir todas sus necesidades. Esto les pone mucha presión a los adolescentes para darle un nivel de vida apropiado a su familia.

Otras veces no conocen que oportunidades hay disponibles. Cuando los latinos asisten a la universidad no lo hacen a tiempo completo. Cuando a muchos les dan la oportunidad de avanzar dentro de sus comunidades varios de ellos prefieren ir a la universidad municipal porque se les hace más fácil graduarse. Muchos no piensan en seguir su educación después de los cuatro años de la universidad.

Las mujeres Latinas tienen hijos pequeños, lo que les impide asistir a la universidad; otros Latinos tienen que mantener el orden entre la universidad y el trabajo para ayudar a sus padres y hermanos porque la situación económica casi



nunca es buena. A menudo los Latinos deben dejar la universidad por un tiempo y trabajar a tiempo completo para poder cubrir sus necesidades básicas como comida y ropa. La raza Hispana es la raza con menos motivación para prosperar. Muchos hispanos no aspiran ejercer profesiones que requieren asistir a la universidad por tiempo completo.

Según el Instituto para Educación Urbana y de Minorías, a la edad de 26 años los latinos tienen la misma oportunidad que tienen los europeos para asistir a la universidad y graduarse con un diploma de 2 años. Al igual que los europeos solo 10% de latinos terminan 2 años en la universidad pero solo 16% terminan el bachillerato comparado con los 37% de europeos que se gradúan. Entre los 18 y 24 años los cubanos tienen el porcentaje más alto de asistencia a la universidad con 45%, después los mejicanos, 33%, y último los portorriqueños 30%. Los latinos que asisten a la universidad asisten a universidades municipales. Esto tiene mucho que ver con el porcentaje de cuantos latinos asisten al bachillerato y en donde.

Se estima que en unos años, el veinticinco por ciento de los Estados Unidos va a estar compuesto de hispanos. Uno, como el hispano, debe tratar de superarse no por sí mismo sino también por la comunidad.

Nosotros como hispanos consideramos el tema de los Latinos y su baja asistencia a la universidad muy importante. La comunidad debe tratar de mejorar

el porcentaje de hispanos que obtienen una educación. Para conseguirlo hay que informarles que uno debe darle más importancia a la educación para superarse, tienen que tener confianza en sí mismo y tener motivación. Muchas veces los Latinos escogen grupos de amigos incorrectamente. Cuando esto pasa los latinos se dejan influenciar fácilmente y no cumplen con sus metas.

Estos Latinos deben escoger sus amistades con más cuidado. Deben pensar más en lo que quieren en su futuro y cómo pueden conseguirlo. Muchos pueden trabajar después de la escuela o en los fines de semana pero no pueden cogerle más amor al dinero que a la escuela. Su futuro depende de su educación.

"Yo voy hacer la primera en asistir la universidad en mi familia. Yo quiero asistir no solo para mejorar a mi familia sino para prosperar como un ser humano." -Jessica

"Es raro ver un hispano ser profesional porque muchos de nosotros no tenemos una oportunidad para estudiar porque tenemos que atender a nuestras familias. Pero estamos progresando." -Gloria

"Hispanos tienen que tratar de mejorar el porcentaje de licenciaturas de la universidades porque tenemos que tratar de superar la raza." -Yubelka

"Mi hermano esta en la universidad y si el lo puede hacer yo también puedo." -Hector

"Hispanos deben tratar de ir a la escuela porque con una educaron tienen mejor oportunidades a conseguir trabajos" -Eric

Hay que comenzar a buscar información sobre las universidades ahora.

No esperen hasta su último año del bachillerato para pedir ayuda.

Pueden visitar al consejero, Señor Klein si tienen preguntas.

# Identität als die Poesie

## “Darf ich mich vorstellen?”

Jeden Tag muss ich drei Stunden tanzen,  
Oder ich habe für zwei Stunden Turnen,  
Aber ich habe immer Zeit für Hausaufgaben.  
Nike ist mein Lieblingsfabrikat,  
Nacht ist meine Lieblingszeit des Tages,  
Aufgrund der Hillel ist immer sehr schön.

Bitte, sei pünktlich, weil Verspätung mich ärgert.  
Regelmässig gehe ich ins Fitnessstudio.  
Englisch ist nicht meine Muttersprache.  
Creme ist mein Lieblingessen.  
Heirat gibt mir Angst, weil es ewig ist.  
Erkunde ist ein Schulfach, die ich schwer finde.  
Rauchen verboten! Es ist gefährlich.

### Von: Joanna Brecher

Winter ist meine geringste Lieblingsjahreszeit.  
Ich mag die Schokolade und hasse die Milch.  
Natürlich kann ich chinesisches.  
In meiner Freizeit will ich zur Battery Park gehen.  
Familie ist mir sehr wichtig.  
Rose ist meine Lieblingsblume.  
Eis ist der beste Nachtisch, wenn ich traurig bin.  
Der Eiffelturm ist der beste Turm.

Lachen macht mir viel Spass.  
Als ich weinte, waren meine Augen rot.  
Obwohl ich oft lächle, bin ich sehr traurig.

### Von: Winnifred Lao

Thunfisch ist mein Lieblingsbelegtesbrot  
Oder so ähnlich  
Brotscheibe mit Erdnussbutter  
Ist auch sehr gut.

Lieblingsfarben gibt es viele, aber meine ist orange, und  
Interessanterweise habe ich viele orange Hemden, und  
Eine orange Jacke. Ich finde Blau auch sehr schön.  
Esse ich frühstück jeden Tag? Ja.  
Rosin Müsli esse ich gern.  
Schule ist ein langweiliger Ort, aber ich komme um zu lernen  
Nach der Schule spiele ich mit meinen Freunden.

### Von: Tobi Lieberon

Am Morgen esse ich Müsli zum Frühstück.  
Rot ist meine Lieblingsfarbe.  
Yoga ist zu schwierig für mich.  
Am Nachmittag besuche ich meine Freunde.

Tic Tac Toe ist mein Lieblingsspiel.  
Am Abend mache ich meine Hausaufgabe.  
Bora Bora ist mein Traumurlaub.  
Amerika ist aber mein Heimat.  
Toys "R" Us hat sehr coole Spielzeuge.  
Architektur ist meine Lieblingsklasse.  
Besuche ich mein Familie im Sommer? Ja!  
Am 5. Februar habe ich Geburtstag.  
Ich werde eine gute Note in Deutsch bekommen.

### Von: Arya Tabatabai

Jetzt ist er 16 Jahre alt.  
Oktoberfest ist mein Traumurlaub.  
Niemals besuchte ich Deutschland.  
Absprechen mit meinem Vater von Politik.  
Trinken Cola manchmal.  
Haben zwei Schwestern und ein Bruder.  
Arbeiten in der Chelsea Piers im Sommer.  
Noten sind sehr gut in der Schule.

### Von: Junior Deutsch Klassen

Schlafe ich am Wochenende? Viel!  
Computer ist kaputt.  
Hören viele Musik von Rock bis zum Blues oder Jazz.  
Wasser ist das Lieblingsgetränk.  
Auffassen für Mathematik ist sehr gut.  
Religion ist jüdisch.  
Tragen Turnschuh für Sport.  
Zuerst lernte ich in der Calhoun Schule.

### Von: Jonathan Schwartz

Manchmal mache ich viel Sport,  
Aber ich muss andere Sachen erledigen.  
Xylophon spiele ich nicht.

Komme ich jeden Tag zur Schule? Na klar!  
Unendlich ist mein Potenzial  
Kamerad der Russland bin ich  
Amerikanisches essen mag ich ein bisschen  
Rot ist meine Lieblingsfarbe  
Theatern finde ich so so  
Sankt Petersburg habe ich besichtigt  
Eis ist ein Lieblingessen von mir  
Verantworte ich für alles, was ich tue? Ja.

### Von: Max Kukartsev

Farren ist fünfzehn Jahre alt. Seine Augenfarbe ist hellbraun.  
Rechtständig ist Farren, und kein Rauber ist er.  
Eisbecher schmeckt seinem Magen gut.  
Nein, Farren hat keine Tiere.

Embryo war Farren einmal, aber Schimpanse ist er jetzt!  
Mineralwasser finde ich schlecht. Ich bin Australier und ein sette Person!

### Von: Farren Esman

## Der König der Eifersucht

Von: Nigel Frazier

Wer spaziert so spät durch die Stra?e und Wind?  
Es ist der Junge mit keiner Freundin;  
Er geht allein die Stra?e entlang.  
Er fühlt sich immer schlecht und einsam.

Er möchte wirklich ein Mädchen zu haben  
Aber sie wurden ihn immer nicht daten.  
"Ich hasse mein Leben" er schrie so höhnisch  
"Warum?" fragte die Himmel so fröhlich

"Ich will mit einem Mädchen sein.  
Ein Fräulein, das ist schön und fein.  
Ich liebe sie so und sie soll mit mir..."  
"Ach so, warum gehst du nicht zu ihr?"

"Es ist so unbillig. Sie gehört zu mir!"  
"So warum ist sie nicht mit uns hier?!"  
"Es tut mir weh, wenn ich es sag,  
Dass sie ein andere Junge mag."

"Oh mein Gott. Das ist so traurig!"  
"Und der Junge, er ist so langweilig"  
"Er denkt, er ist so stark und hei?,  
Aber wirklich ist er nur ein Stück von \*\*\*\*\*

"Was hat er, dass du hast nicht?"  
"Es ist nicht ein nett Gesicht."  
Zu ihr werde ich immer wie ein Bruder  
Wir werden nie mehr als Mitschüler."

"Ich erzähle dir, was du machen soll."  
"Ich habe Angst aber ich bin aufgeregtvoll."  
"Du wirst laut deine Liebe ausrufen"  
"Und dann wird sie dich sehr gut küssen."

Morgen ging er und fragte sie aus,  
Sie sagt ja, und leben sie in Saus in Braus,  
Die andere Junge war sehr blutlich und rot  
Ein traurige Unfall und er war tot.



# HSMSE's Roots: The Founding Faculty

*Continued from first page*

**By: Hector Burgos**

Florian. There were many issues like obtaining supplies for the school. "We had nothing, and I mean nothing. No books, no chairs, no tables, we had a bunch of trailers as classrooms," said Mr. Podell. Space still remains an issue. As the school grows, more space is needed to house the students and staff to teach them. Mr. Dugan adds that "we look to get a mix of seasoned teachers and newer teachers" to get the right blend of creativity and skill. Amazingly, when HS MSE started, many of our teachers were new. "A handful of the hired teachers were first year teachers... so we didn't really have a lot of classroom management experience... or any sense of what was to be expected at a school," said Ms. Boylan. They learned quickly how to calm their classrooms with ease and now are counted among the more seasoned bunch in the school.

**The good times...**

HS MSE has seen its share of crazy things. Mr. Hershov, it seems, "did have a strange smell in [his] classroom; it smelled like there was a dead body in there." Ms. Donnelly had interesting math memories including "a student [who] did an interpretive break dance on the quadratic formula" in an effort to get extra credit and the 100 that he'd been searching for all year. The dance was good but not good enough.

Ms. Boylan had by far one of the craziest moments during their first year. One day during dismissal, a student's mother called to report that there was a city wide red alert (this was a year after 9/11) "and so, all the kids begin to panic. They start running around, and they're practically running into each other. I get up on the desk I'm like 'EVERYBODY, SIT DOWN, WE'RE GOING TO HANDLE THIS, THERE IS NO RED ALERT, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE UPSET ABOUT, IT'S FINE!' The door swings open [and it's] Mr. Pedroso, he looks at me and I look at him, and we make this dramatic eye contact; I from the top of the desk; he, from the corner of the

trailer. All the kids are looking back and forth, and he looks at me... 'IT'S A RED ALERT!' and the kids lose it completely." While admittedly not her most graceful moment, it was one neither Ms. Boylan nor her students will ever forget. Fortunately it's funny for them both in hindsight. Things don't get too crazy anymore. It's the price of a maturing school.

**How things change...**

Several faculty members' positions at HS MSE have changed over time. For Ms. Boylan it seems that "for some strange reason [she's] taken on more responsibility." Instead of solely teaching History (what?) she teaches English, runs several clubs and represents her colleagues in the UFT (United

Federation of Teachers).

Believe it or not, Mr. Pedroso used to be the Spanish teacher. While he loves his culture and language he "made it known every single day" he saw Mr. Asher that he hated teaching the class. Apparently his strategy worked. He's teaching mostly architecture classes and "doing [other] stuff that [he] like[s] even more than when [he] started." Mr. Podell, of course, is now an Assistant Principal, yet for other teachers, some things remain the same; Mr. Pellegrino still has a moustache! The most dramatic change must be Mr. Dugan,

who "started out as a biology teacher [and] became the Assistant Principal of Science" before becoming the amazing principal we now have.

HS MSE has evolved immensely over the past 6 years. All the faculty members agree that the school as a whole is doing a great job and moving in the right direction. They are proud of the hard work the students have put into making this school great, and interestingly most of them credit "the amazing students" for the reason they've stuck with teaching and stayed at this school. Thank you to the founding faculty and we are glad you stuck around to see the school grow into what it has become today.



HS MSE's founding faculty from left to right. Back row: Mr. Dugan, Mr. Pedroso, Mr. Hershov, Mr. Podell. Front row: Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Boylan, Ms. Florian, Ms. Fisher, Mr. Asher

# That Sawney Smile and the Class of '08

**By: Jessica Peña**

As this is their last year in HS MSE, the class of 2008 must be anxious to finish college applications and make this school year one to remember. They need a leader who can guide them through the decision-making process for the class. Fortunately, the seniors have a very responsible and caring president with enough drive for the position. Not only does Kion Sawney take on the challenges of advanced classes and college applications - he carries the wants and needs of his peers on his shoulders as well.

With these wants and needs in mind, what is Kion planning to do for HS MSE's seniors? I found time in his busy schedule (and during a noisy lunch period!) to see what he had to say.

Q: What do you have to do as senior class president?

A: Well, my job started last year, before I was elected. One of the main goals was to improve communication, which improved because we created the Class of '08 Yahoo! group.

Q: Why do you think you make a good president?

A: I have a lot of leadership experience. I was junior vice president last year so I knew the responsibilities. I was a Key Club lieutenant governor for Manhattan and the Bronx. I worked with Mr. Dugan,

faculty, and the PTA on the SLT committee. Also, I was an incoming student from Long Island, so I have a different take on what high school can be.

Q: Why do you like being president? (Assuming you like being president.)

A: One of my main goals is to make my class' year the best one possible and by being president, I feel a greater amount of respect and responsibility for my grade.

Q: What are some of the things you're struggling with as a senior?

A: Lack of sleep!!! Not enough caffeine!!!

Q: Is it difficult for you to balance typical senior duties AND presidency?

A: Yeah. But I learned from junior year to plan, delegate, and schedule things in advance. It decreases the stress.

Q: What are some things you think seniors would like to do before they graduate?

A: I've heard the seniors mention unique school spirit days, "Senior Week", a camping trip, and a senior track jacket.

Q: How do you plan on carrying out these ideas?

A: With the help and support of the rest of the grade, the faculty, and parents.

Q: How has the school changed during your time here?

A: Well, we're obviously in a building now. With that we have more responsibilities but we also have a stronger community of students.

Q: What do you hope your legacy will be?

A: I hope I'll be remembered as a student who hoped for his high school to be the school he desired to be in.

Despite Kion's difficult responsibilities, he manages to flash his signature huge smile and let out a warm laugh among his friends and the rest of HS MSE. Judging from his enthusiasm throughout the interview, it's obvious that he cares much about his class and the activities he'll help organize for their last year. This is definitely going to be a fun experience for the class of '08. Keep it up, Kion!



The Class of '08's fearless leader.



# Politics of Fashion

By: Brian Ho

In the song "This Ain't A Scene, It's An Arms Race (Remix)", Kanye West politicizes fashion by saying "He dress white, so we gon dress whiter." In this context fashion becomes a part of racial relationships. What does it mean to "dress whiter?" I'm not exactly sure but interviewing several people, in and out of our HS MSE community, yielded some interesting results.

**Question 1** - How would you characterize "White Clothes"?

- I would characterize "white clothes" as what "white people" wear. I think they are brands like Abercrombie, Armani Exchange, Express ...

- I would characterize these clothes as clothes worn by "white people." I personally don't know what they are and I generally don't talk about clothes anyway.

- I would characterize these clothes as what white people have and show others that they have it. I think they are brands like American eagle, Abercrombie, Hollister, etc.

**Question 2** - Why do you think this term is used?

- I think this term is used because people like to use it. They think it is just a type of phrase that is "cool" because many of their "cool" friends use the term.

- I think this term is used because people like to generalize certain types of clothes.

- I think because people use this to characterize a certain group of clothes mostly worn by "white people."

**Question 3** - Do you think that this is a racist term?

- No, because everyone generally uses this term and even "white" people use it so since they use

it to characterize their own type of clothing I think it is not racist

- No, because it is against the clothes not the people.

- No, because it is against the clothes and not the people that we are characterizing.

**Question 4** - Do you use this term? Why? Why not?

- No, because even if everyone uses the term I personally just call it by whatever they are.

- No, because I generally don't talk about clothes.

- Personally, no, but some of my friends call people they know who have these types of clothing white boy or white something even if they are not white. I don't generalize clothes I just wear what I like.

**Question 5** - Do you know where this term came from?

- I think it is from people who use it to describe "white people."

- Well I don't know where it came from but I know it's not from white people.

- I think this term comes from people who like to generalize these clothes and have an influence in society.

Even if the term isn't perceived as "racist" and just "cool" it is definitely from a stereotype. Stereotypes can lead to prejudice and then onto racism in some cases. Don't just listen to music like Kanye's, or joke about the types of clothes you or others might wear...think about it! I'm sure Kanye wasn't the first to use the term and he certainly won't be the last.



Kanye West looking dapper in urban chic.

# Shedding Light on Kaws

By: Yannick Lopez

Since many young fashionistas follow the once exclusive street brand culture, it is now essential to expose the average HS MSE student, who may not follow or know what that is, to the extraordinary design talent of Brian Donnelly, better known as Kaws.

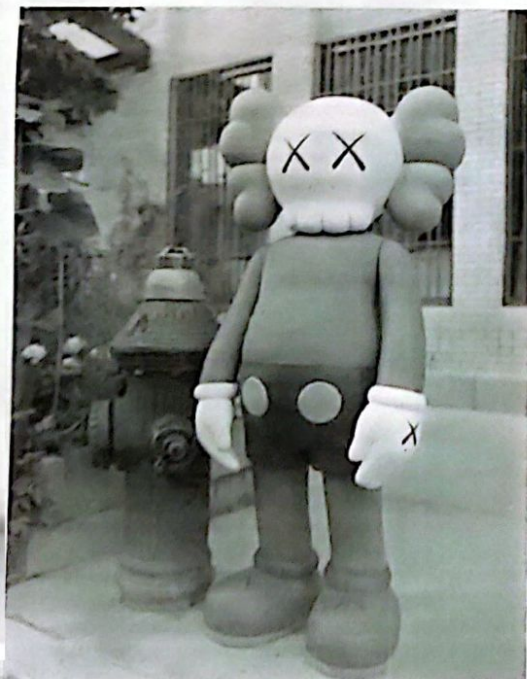
Raised in New Jersey, Kaws' first interest in graffiti art surfaced in the mid-80's, but it wasn't until the early 90's that he gained recognition as most

graffiti artists do by bombing (writing his tag name on the wall). New Jersey didn't have the spotlight that New York did, but it had walls, freights, and billboards, which Kaws loved to tag. In order to get the kind of publicity that he wanted, he found time to go to Manhattan where Soho offered the space and reputation that he needed. From the exposure he found there he broke into the professional art arena. Kaws attended New York's School of Visual Arts and gained experience as a freelance animator for Disney. With his skills, Kaws revolutionized the graffiti culture; not only was he writing his tag on walls, but he added a new strategy of removing displayed advertisements, adding his signature figure and replacing the advertisements for display.

Workers quickly removed bus shelter pieces, in which he placed X's over eyes or other body parts. Finally in 1999, Kaws took his graffiti skills to a new level and established his brand Original Fake, which produces clothes, toys, and accessories.

The brand started as a collaboration with Bounty Hunter to create a model of Kaws' signature skull and crossbones figure. He revisited his bus stop pieces, which showed a bus stop advertisement blacked out and replaced with the skull and crossbones figure, with a small model as well. After establishing himself as a toy maker, Kaws collaborated with Medicom Toy to produce his clothing line Original Fake. Kaws added his skull and bones or sperm bendy figure to people's pictures and put them

on shirts. His association with Disney reappeared with Mickey Mouse style gloves with X's added to skeletons. As his brand progressed he introduced a new symbol, known as Chomper. It's a red colored gum with rounded out teeth. Added to the zipper of the garment, it didn't overwhelm the cut of the actual piece. Simplicity is the key to Kaws' international success. He now has a store in Tokyo where his stuff sells like hot cakes!



One of Kaws' signature figures: Skull bone.



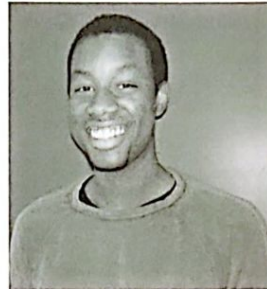
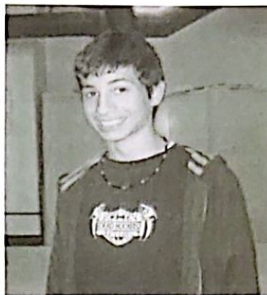
Sperm bendy figure.

STYLE

## JSA Speakers Awarded High Honors

By: Darlin Alberto

Two HS MSE students were recently awarded a Junior Statesmen of America "Best Speaker Award" along with a congratulatory gavel and plaque. Farren Esman and Mwanzaa Brown, both part of the HS MSE chapter, participated in a "thought talk." Participants conducted an open discussion in which they examined how the United States can reduce its dependency on foreign oil. Instead of debating, they considered and talked about different ideas. The discussion occurred on Sunday, November 18, 2007 in Boston with other HS MSE Junior Statesmen in attendance; Farren Esman was grateful for their attendance. Additionally, when asked about the victory, Esman said "I do feel happy." The best speakers of the discussion were chosen at the end of the discussion. The honor bestowed upon the two HS MSE speakers was especially satisfying because the best speakers were chosen by their peers and the other participants in the discussion.



Top, Farren Esman, bottom, Mwanzaa Brown

## Mock Trial Needs You!

By: Julio Estevez

Raise your hand if you know what Mock Trial is! Mr. Trimarco, the club's faculty advisor, explains that it is a "city-wide legal tournament." The participants work with an attorney from a Manhattan law firm to prepare an assigned legal case. Then they compete against other schools in presenting their case at the courthouse downtown. Mock Trial was started here in 2005 by some eager HSMSE students and would be lawyers. Like many other clubs, Mock Trial needs new younger members to learn the ropes as many of its members are seniors. Mr. Trimarco is optimistic about the future because this year several underclassmen have shown interest in the club. Mr. Trimarco says that Mock Trial is a great way for students to "sharpen their writing and presentation skills and to learn how the legal system works...It's a lot of fun too!"

Mock Trial meets Mondays after school in B2.

## Robotics 2008

By: Ben Lipton

HS MSE will enter its fourth team under the name Omega 13 into the FIRST robotics competition. This is a six-week, national competition between thousands of teams to design, build, program, and operate a robot to play a specified game as well as possible.

Our past games have involved moving PVC pyramids, stacking inflatable pool tubes, and tossing foam basketballs around. The rules of the

game are released at the kickoff event on January 5, 2008, which is held at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn. Teams then have one month to build their robots using the parts, which are given to all FIRST teams at the kickoff event, as well as many they will purchase specifically to fit their design.

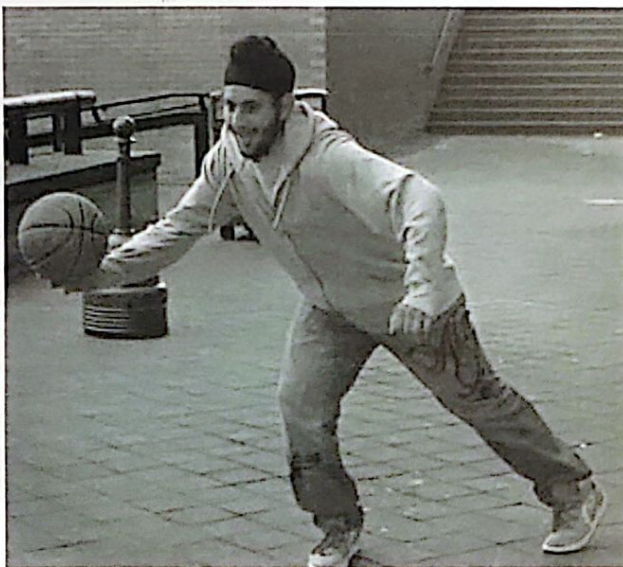
At this point, a team has been selected from the members of Mr. Henning's weekly robotics club, and contains students from each grade.

During the build season, the team will work every day after school in the cellar of Steinman Hall, and the lab will be open to visitors on Thursday afternoons, so come by if you're interested in seeing what they're working on! For more about the team, check out their website at [omega1520.googlepages.com](http://omega1520.googlepages.com), or send an email to [omega1520@gmail.com](mailto:omega1520@gmail.com).

## Athlete Spotlight: Manpreet Singh

By: Max Tierno

Many people at HS MSE are familiar with "what" sports HS MSE has to offer, but few are familiar with "who" plays on each respective team. In an effort to inform the school about the athletes who represent them, every issue will include an "athlete in the spotlight." This issue's athlete is a varsity Basketball player in his junior year. Coming off of a couple magazine covers, Manpreet Singh has been a dedicated dragon for the past two years, and enters his junior season with a chance of playing big minutes. Although Manpreet might not be your typical superstar, he's got a confidence that shines. I had the not so unique pleasure of having a conversation with him in which he let his game speak for itself.



**How many points did you average last year?** *Manpreet's legendary cross over.*

That's a bad question. (PSAL says .06 pts per game...iiiiiiiiice.)

**How do you feel about the up and coming basketball season?**

I'm expecting to step-up this season and help my team win...by scoring.

**How have you worked during the off-season to improve on your game?**

I used to run everyday, to improve my stamina. I have played five on five games in the park against people that are bigger and better than me. I also do drills to work on my skills and improve my game. I'm also working on flying. (That should help on the rebounds.)

**What parts of your game would you say have improved?**

Let's see...shooting, ball-handling, defense, quickness, stamina, situational basketball, set plays, free throws, fast breaks, triangle offense, Princeton offense, one-on-one skills, post moves, dunking, clutch-situation shooting, passing, jumping, rebounding, running and...no...I think that's about it.

**What can we expect from you in the up and coming season?**

Besides flying, I expect to score 30 points per game.

**If you could compare yourself to an NBA player, which player would you choose?**

I would say that there is no comparison to an NBA player, because I'm better! But if I had to choose, I'd combine, Shaq's strength, Iverson's quickness, Jordan's clutch shooting, Ron Artest's defense, Kobe Bryant scoring ability, J.J. Redick's jump shot, and LeBron's athleticism. I'm a combination.

**Do you see yourself pursuing basket-**

**ball beyond the high school level?**

Yes, I plan to become an NBA legend, after attending either, Duke, UNC, or some other little-known program.

Will Manpreet live up to his own hype? Only the upcoming basketball season can tell. Attending Boys Basketball games is the only way to find out. For information on basketball game dates, check [psal.org](http://psal.org).

# The Puck Stops Here

By: Manpreet Singh

The crowd is on its feet as the third period winds down. The puck is loose; it's at center rink and the game is tied. Players from both teams skate furiously toward it, knocking down every player in their way. Suddenly a fight breaks out! Fists fly, helmets fall to the ice and the benches clear as teammates join the fight, which quickly becomes a brawl. Sounds like a tough game for tough athletes. This is not a game for the faint of heart. While hundreds of thousands of Americans enjoy hockey, it lags behind football, basketball and baseball in popularity. It's definitely

more common in the northern (and colder) states, like Minnesota and Michigan but in New York City, if you're a high school student interested in playing, good luck!

The Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) does not even offer hockey as an option. But don't worry; they have cricket. (Who plays cricket?!) One could argue that it's too difficult to find a hockey rink and the gear is too expensive but the size of the

rink and cost of gear is similar to that of football. And those fancy white sweaters and special cricket bats can't be cheap. Jonathan Schwartz, an HS MSE junior, who plays both football and hockey (not cricket) reasons that perhaps "it would cost too much to maintain" hockey as a sport in the New York City system. Swimming pools, tennis courts and baseball fields don't come for free, but the PSAL supports them. Schwartz also thinks that "there would be too many injuries." Fights are part of the hockey game, yes, but a massive collision of bodies on the field is



Jonathan Schwartz eats hockey (not cricket) for breakfast!

part of the football game. So is hockey being discriminated against or is it just not as popular as cricket in NYC? It's a mystery.

Those, like Schwartz, who want to play hockey join private leagues. There are many like him in the NYC school system. Shouldn't the PSAL make an effort to organize hockey games in public schools? Hockey fans seem to think so.

# Skating Meets new Heights

By: Julio Estevez

Skateboarding has enjoyed increasing popularity among minority populations like Hispanics and African Americans. This may be the result of professional skaters like Paul Rodriguez Jr. and Terry Kennedy. Rodriguez, who turned pro in 2002, became the first Hispanic athlete to get a Nike shoe, the SB Zoom Air, named after him. Terry Kennedy, an African American, originally turned pro for



John Camacho shows off the "pop shove it" trick.

Element, now he is on the Baker skateboard professional team. He currently has a pro model shoe on the Ice Cream footwear label. In my Washington Heights neighborhood and on CNY campus, skaters are following the trail such athletes blazed and skating is becoming a way of life. It was even proposed to be an event in the 2012 London Olympics.

Not the Olympics but just as important to students in NYC, skating is used as a mode of transportation as well as personal expression. Skaters like HS MSE's own Steven Carter, John Camacho and Luis Sosa, have the ability to get from the subway stop to school faster while wowing passersby with unique spins on tricks. Often these

students show us a significant part of skateboarding lifestyle, which is the clothing. Urban-wear designers such as Ecko and LRG sponsor professional and amateur skaters, showing that companies see skating as a growing industry, an industry where they can make a lot of money because of its increasing popularity in neighborhoods like mine.

In some communities such as San Jose, California, where skating has been popular a lot longer, skating is illegal downtown because skaters destroy property, such as benches and rails, by riding on top of it. Many people perceive skaters as delinquents, punks and vandals, which is a huge stereotype. John Camacho, a skater from this school was Key Club student of the month. This award is given for raising the most money and for attending multiple projects.

I, as a Hispanic teenager, am glad to see this sport getting more diverse coverage and interest. It's not just filled with people who "vandalize" public property; I see it as skaters using public property as part of their sport, almost like artists!

# 66 Hot Dogs in Twelve Minutes

By: Max Tierno

When one thinks of a professional athlete, people like Takeru Kobayashi and Joey Chestnut do not come to mind. Who are these guys? They don't play basketball, and they're not in the NFL. They don't compete in Olympic-sized stadiums, and you won't find them in the latest Nike commercial. They're professional eaters and as competitive eating increases in popularity it is guys like these that are becoming accepted as athletes.

Competitive eating has gone from a recreational carnival activity dominated by massive 300 pound hot dog, chicken wing, and funnel cake consuming monsters, to lean muscle bound "athletes" who can consume more hot dogs in 12 minutes than some people eat in a year. As the sport becomes more popular, the competitions become fiercer. Like most professional sports, winning an eating competition is not just based on performance, but preparation and strategy. As the sport evolves and strategies are revealed, it's been proven that when dealing with the best eater, their size does not matter.

It is difficult to understand what makes someone a great competitive eater. Throughout the short history of the sport, we've seen incredible eaters who come in

all shapes and sizes. Take Takeru Kobayashi, probably the most famous eater in the world, he weighs only 131 pounds. Although the average person might think that this is just some natural God-given gift, it's not. Competitive eaters train vigorously and Kobayashi is no -different. He eats cabbage and lettuce in order to expand his stomach, and then chugs water, up to a gallon in under three minutes. Constantly starving himself and refilling, eating for Kobayashi is a 365 day sport.

From a strategic standpoint, Kobayashi introduced the "wiener-dunking method," where the eater separates the hot dog from the bun, allowing the bread to be dunked in water, making it go down easier. Methods like this as well as the "Solomon" technique (breaking hot dogs in half before consuming) are the small things that make a little man like Kobayashi one of the greatest eaters of all time.

So next time you find yourself in the NAC cafeteria and you order a hotdog, picture 65 more (equivalent to the 66 hot dog world record) sitting on the edge of your plate. Hopefully the thought of all this food will encourage you to tune in to ESPN 2 or petition the PSAL for a new high school "sport."



Free food for "healthy" competition.

Sports

# The 411

## You Should Know...

### HS MSE Final Exam Schedule

Jan 7/8	English / Science
Jan 9/10	History
Jan 11/14	Math
Jan 15/16	LOTE/Health/Music
Jan 17/18	Engineering/Other

Attend your classes as usual; there is no alternate schedule. Final exams will be administered during your regularly scheduled class time. Don't forget to bring both pens and pencils!

### NYS Regents Exam Schedule

Regents are scheduled city-wide from January 22 - 25, 2008. HS MSE will administer the Comprehensive English Exam. See your school guidance counselor if you wish to take another exam.

Jan 22 1:15 pm Comprehensive Eng  
Jan 23 1:15 pm Comprehensive Eng

Arrive one half hour early! Bring a pen.

## Tricks and Tips

By: Max Ansbro

### Freshmen

"Never try to explain to Mr. Podell why you are late."

"Don't worry, if you know nothing but how to type stuff into a calculator, you will get mastery on the Math A."

### Sophomores

"There is nothing you can learn from a textbook you can't learn from Wikipedia faster."

"Read the Chem Regents article...fast!"

### Juniors

"Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one" -Charles Sykes

"There's no such thing as "Junioritis" so don't lose steam already."

### Seniors

"School isn't optional."

"A "thank-you" to your college recommendation writers goes a long way...or so I've heard."

Funny on Fridays!

### HS MSE Comedy Club

Fridays 3:30 pm in C2

Find your sense of humor

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Zara

Entrance fee: FREE!

*Unwind after a long week and enjoy improv games, stand-up and side-splitting fun!*

Audience members wanted.



Dragontales welcomes its newest staff member...

### Isabella Grace Lombardi a.k.a. "Bella"

Born on November 6, 2007 at 9:48 am  
6lbs. 15oz. 21 1/2 inches

She's 6 weeks old and weighs a whopping 10 pounds!

Ella is very alert and definitely strong! She loves to talk baby talk and smile!

She's got daddy's eyes and mommy's coloring.... the rest TBD!

Use these at the CCNY cafeteria!



To use the discounts above you must present the coupon (cut out) at the CCNY cafeteria at the time of your purchase. Offer expires 3/30/07



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