



Dragon Tales

Issue IV, June 2007

A President with Perseverance

By Mehnaz Chowdhury & Michael Marrero-Perna

An Interview with CCNY President Gregory H. Williams

HS MSE @ CCNY - - that's one heck of a long name for a high school and unfortunately many students don't get to the "@" part and are unaware of CCNY. However, CCNY is a vital part of the school. The college allows HS MSE to be situated on its campus and gain access to resources that not all high schools in the city enjoy.

President Gregory H. Williams, the person behind this academic institution is in charge of the benefits our high school receives. Today we look deeper into this accomplished man who leads City College.

Luckily, we were able to speak with President Williams to interview him during a hectic time of the year. President Williams shared his thoughts with us from his award winning autobiography, *Life on the Color Line*, to the relationship between City College and HS MSE.

Mr. Williams grew up in Virginia during the time of racial segregation. There he grew up in a white family. When his parents separated, it changed his life and identity. Because of the absence of both of his parents, he had to live with his father's side of the family, and was shocked when he saw them for the first time and realized they were African American. That is when he learned his father was half black, making him a quarter black. He went from living a comfortable middle class life to his grandma's house in the projects.

In his autobiography, *Life on the Color Line*, Mr. Williams explains how his life developed and changed. President Williams said the purpose for writing his autobiography "was to tell the story of a different kind of American family." And the one notion he

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Authorized Bondage at HS MSE

By Lorena Nicol

During this April, anyone glancing into Mr. Pedroso's art class might have suspected him of testing a new and torturous method of student restraint. The students were being wrapped in clear acrylic packing tape, and worst of all, inflicting these horrors upon each other at his command. But this apparent nightmare for some was actually endured for an artistic purpose. The students were assigned a project that required them to express an artistic message utilizing the human for which they were instructed to create using clear packing tape as molding material. Naturally, at this instruction, the students fell upon each other as models. In some groups there were arguments over who would provide the form for the sculptures.

There was an understandable reluctance to being wrapped in packing tape. One initial apprehension of students was the fear of suffocation, and compromised blood circulation due to the pressure of the tape. In most cases the victim to be wrapped in the tape was chosen by the group regardless of the subject's willingness.

One crucial criterion which determined the subject was size. Certain smaller individuals were automatically established as models for the sculpture to make the process as easy as possible. Though some students reacted the way they did modeling was *not* a requirement for the project. Some groups took advantage of this easier approach and avoided the distress of the wrapping process by using artificial models for the sculpture forms. For those students who chose to model their own bodies the discomfort was not only pronounced in the wrapping process itself, (which yielded the discovery of some previously unsuspected talents in amateur contortion), but most prominently during the removing of the tape.

This modeling process was almost unanimously named by the live subjects as the most uncomfortable part of the quite rewarding project overall. Because of how tight the tape was wrapped (to conserve the form of the subjects after removal) scissors were

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HS
MSE

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Contributing Outside Journalists ~

Please See Within

The Essence of NYC Captured in Poetry

By Ms. Hesseltime

After spending the first two marking periods working with poetic devices and formal structures, the Writing Poetry all-stars of HS MSE then began to explore various poetic themes, ranging from blues poetry all the way to nonsense verse. Calling upon their great cultural heritage as the citizens of New York City (thus rendering each the literary child of Walt Whitman), the students spent a week asking themselves and each other the following questions: Why does New York City serve as muse for so many poets? What are the various ways in which the city might function in a poem? What and where is your New York City? Their diverse responses, rendered here in the form of their individual poems, channel Whitman himself, who, as he looked out upon the city, wrote, "I hear American singing, the varied carols I hear...Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else...Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs."

Scattered within the newspaper is the diverse collection of insightful NYC poems described above. We hope you enjoy such wonderful works of art!

Ms. Cotter and the underclassmen of
DragOn Tales would like to thank
all the senior staff members for their
time, energy, and effort over the years.
Best of luck in the future!
We will miss you!

CCNY President Article continued from page 1

would like people to learn from his autobiography is "perseverance; be prepared to deal with set backs and misfortunes and not to let it control your goals." Aside from writing a book that received over 3000 letters of support and praise, Gregory H. Williams is the 11th president of the City College of New York.

Mr. Williams' first job was as a high school teacher, where he taught history and government. From there he went on to become a law professor, university administrator, and Dean of the Ohio State University College of Law. His inspiration for a presidential position came from his father who told him when he was younger, "You will be president one day." President Williams says he took the job as president because, "CCNY was a great school that had issues and felt he could use his experience to help restore it."

To further develop and expand the City College, President Williams has brought HS MSE to its campus. He wants to show how City College gives back to the community. He says enthusiastically, "City College is happy to have HS MSE and is pleased with the school, even with the glitches. And it benefits both the college and the high school." By 'glitches', he meant certain misunderstandings City Collège students have of HS MSE, but the reason for this is mainly due to space constraints, which he feels will be resolved once a number of construction projects are complete: the new science center that will be taking over the field or the reconstruction of the Marshak building. President Williams is optimistic and tells us he is impressed with HS MSE students. He hopes to see increased interaction between the college and the high school. Additionally, he welcomes our seniors to attend City College when they graduate.



CCNY President Gregory H. Williams

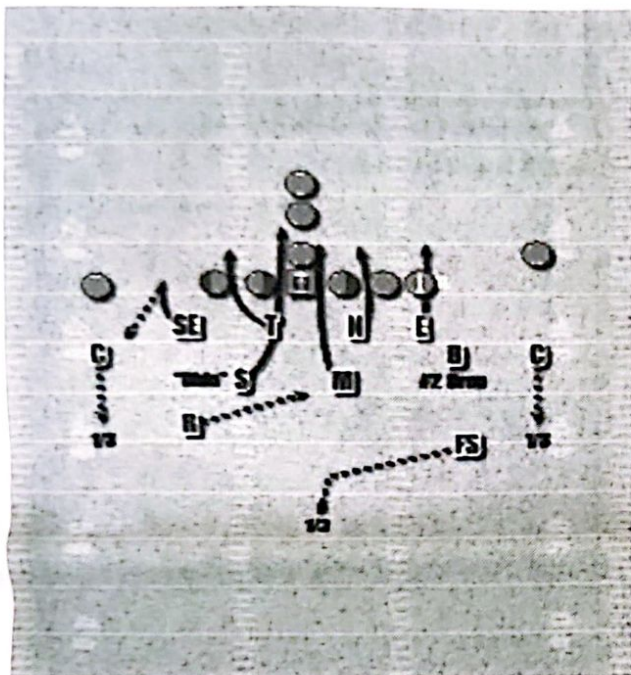
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Homework Blitz

By Nathaniel Sinckler

The intent of this article is not to bash any of the teachers in the school but to merely try and solve a current issue among all students. This problem is the level of homework that the students receive. It is not a topic of concern during one specific year, but it is a concern that happens throughout one's high school career. Students constantly feel overwhelmed with projects that they receive along with multiple assignments on top of the projects. Most of the time students end up mainly focusing on their projects and end up stressing about how they are going to finish their other multiple assignments.

A possible way to solve this problem is for the teachers and students to have a meeting. The best way to come to some sort of resolution is to have a



A diagram that displays the blitz-like nature of homework.

face to face conversation between faculty and students so that everyone's opinion can be voiced. It is important when trying to solve a problem that everyone acts as mature as possible and attempts to contribute suggestions to try and solve the problem at hand instead of just simply complaining. It is possible that the teachers discuss the level of difficulty of the assignment(s) that they give the students, along with the quantity of the work. This way the teachers can agree on a reasonable amount of homework to give the students. This will result in a better comprehension of the material by the students. This is imperative because the objective of homework is not to bombard the students with piles of work, but it is to help the students better their comprehension of the subject.

According to Gloria Guerra, a sophomore at HS MSE, the amount of homework that is given by each individual teacher is not overwhelming, but when numerous assignments are stacked on top the projects become overwhelming. Similar to this she also feels that when the students at HS MSE receive projects, the project itself is not extremely difficult. But when other homework assignments are added on to the project it makes it very difficult to complete all of the assignments. On the other hand, Wariana Contreras, who is also a sophomore at HS MSE, feels that some times students procrastinate too much and this causes their workload to become too heavy. It becomes very difficult to sufficiently complete all of your assignments when you feel overwhelmed with work and you only have a short amount of time to complete them.

Who knows? Maybe a meeting to resolve the quantity of homework given to students will occur and maybe it will help both the faculty and the students work as a cohesive unit. And maybe a tapestry of suggestions will be offered to resolve this homework issue. Maybe this will not only help with the homework issue at hand, but will also enhance the communication between students and faculty as well as build a friendlier learning environment. Only time will tell.

So, how many students at HS MSE really do drugs?

By Maha Salama

The majority of the students at HS MSE have not taken drugs. And yes, this is a good thing. Of 105 students polled, 75 reported never having taken drugs. Nevertheless, it is common knowledge that there are some students at HS MSE that take drugs. For some students at HS MSE, taking drugs is as common as buying food from the vending machines. I polled many students at HS MSE and concluded that the most common drug taken by HS MSE students is marijuana, aka "mary jane." Students from various grades were also polled to see what they have to say about the use of drugs and I received varied responses.

Many students report taking drugs "just for the fun of it," or because "I was curious." It is very common for adolescents to submit to peer pressure, especially when it comes to drugs, alcohol, and sex. However, taking drugs "because it's fun" is not a good reason. Marijuana has many harmful effects, especially on a person's brain. It can impair short-term memory and one's attention span for the duration of its effects and, in some cases, until the next day*. Out of 30 people who said they had taken drugs, 6 reported having seen an effect on their grades or how they function in school. One student noted "memory loss" and "loss of motivation" as effects of taking drugs.

It is also common knowledge that no student at HS-MSE has been caught doing marijuana. Mr. Hershinson, dean at HS-MSE, states, "I have suspected some students but I have never caught them." He also stated that he understands some of the reasons students do drugs, such as peer pressure, curiosity, and to escape reality, however he does not accept them as justifiable reasons. He states, "It's just an excuse and the student most likely does drugs to fit it because they don't have a lot of self-confidence."

The reasons for doing drugs, as Mr. Hershinson said, are merely excuses. You always have a choice whether it is peer pressure or not. No one forces you to take the drug, so it is your conscious decision to do the drugs. You could just be exposed to the drug and make the choice not to do it. For example, 79 students reported being exposed to drugs. Exposure meaning being in contact with people doing drugs but you are not doing them yourself. Exposure to drugs can be both a good thing and a bad thing. Constant exposure to drugs can impact an individual by making them more apt to try it, and as a result, they can eventually become addicted. However, constant exposure to drugs can make an individual never want to get involved with drugs because they constantly witness the devastating effects drugs have on the way one acts and thinks.

Some students do drugs, but the vast majority of HS MSE students do not. While many students have been exposed some time in their life, they have made the conscious decision not to do drugs. You should not take drugs to escape from reality, or for curiosity reasons. Even with peer pressure, you always have a choice of whether to take the drugs or not. Many students here have made the right decision, will you?



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Mt. Sinai - Senior Perspective

By: Hoheteberhan Getachew

It is commonly considered that junior year is the most academically important. However, sophomore year could actually have a big impact on a student's future. Here at HS MSE, sophomore year is the year when students decide whether or not they want to take a Biotechnology course at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine the following fall. The program is run under the Center for Excellence in Youth Education; it is headed by Lloyd Sherman, Ed. D. and taught by Ms. Estela Arras. Students who decide to participate in this program continue to take their regular required course work, but do not take the regular Engineering courses offered at MSE.

In their junior year students learn basic skills that are used in modern day biomedical research laboratories; they learn how to write scientific research papers and practice presentation skills through regular PowerPoint research presentations. During their senior year students have a chance to do two internships (one each semester) in almost any department in the hospital. For example, students can watch a surgery, conduct research in biomedical laboratory at Mt. Sinai, or even shadow a cardiologist. To better understand the experience of HS MSE students at Mt. Sinai, and the opportunities available to them, I interviewed a few seniors currently in the program.

The Experience at Mt. Sinai

When asked to describe the program, one senior responded "I think it's a good program, where you can get exposure to different jobs in the hospital." Another senior described it as "good learning opportunity." When asked to further describe her experience, one senior said "I had a positive experience because I learned a lot and my classmates are cool people." When asked about which year of the program they enjoyed most, the interviewed students synonymously chose senior year because of the internships offered then. One senior said "I liked my placement dermatology because my supervisor explained everything she was doing and let me help out with what she was doing. I got to give a chemical peel and help out with Botox." Another anonymous senior said "Our placements allow us to interact with real doctors and administrators in the building, so we get to find out first hand what it is like to work at the hospital." One senior said he, "Enjoys interacting with the patients and the doctors there."

When asked to elaborate on their experience as juniors in the program, the same seniors responded that they "learned things that are more in depth in science." A second senior said he learned about "DNA" such as "plasmids, electrophoresis and bacterial competence"

The High School Experience

A major concern for sophomores is whether partaking in this program will interfere with the normal high school experience, in particular extra-curricular activities and interaction with non-Mt. Sinai students. In reference to the question of extra-curricular activities, one senior said "I always get to basketball practice late and Ms. Robertson does not like that." On the other hand, a second senior responded that "It sort of does a little bit, but that's when organizing and planning comes in." In reference to seeing friends, the interviewed seniors' opinions are also split. One senior said, "There are people I don't see, but I still talk to them and I can see them if I really wanted to," while another said "I don't really see anyone from school, unless you like return to school or you stay for lunch which sucks because you would like to see your friends but you can't." A third student, in concurrence with the latter statement said "It sort of does, but we find ways to hang out after school."

When asked what the biggest downside to the program, the most common response was time. One senior said, "The traveling time and from Sinai. It takes time to get there and leave there." A second downside to the program one senior noted was "that we don't get to see more of the kids that are not in the program"

The Future

Two seniors who are aspiring doctors said that the Mt. Sinai program, "reinforced" their desire to enter the medical profession and one said, "it gave me more of an insight." One senior even noted that his interaction with the people through the program taught him life lessons.

As a senior in the Mt. Sinai program I really enjoyed my experience. Like some of the other seniors, it reinforced my long-standing dream to enter the medical profession. It has also provided me with an idea as to what specializations to consider for my residency. I would recommend this program to any sophomore who is just curious about genetics, interested in becoming a doctor, or not sure what career they would like to pursue.

Are you a freshman or sophomore?
Are you interested in the opportunities offered for MSE students at Mt. Sinai?
See Ms. Robertson or Mr. Klein for details.
Or seek out current juniors and seniors in the program.
Do not wait until it is too late! Students must apply for the program BEFORE their junior year.

An essay 1 A.M.

By Jackson Brebnor

*this trifle of goose hair,
sprung from my winter coat
spins on the winds of my conversation
like fizz on the rim of
an 8 oz. can of,
carbonated desperation.*

*indecisively the goose down dances
and makes gossamer glances
at the ground.*

*"should I settle?
or keep making sporadic bounds
in my caffeinated breath?"*

*in my caffeinated breath
my folderol feather and I ensconce.*

The light shining so bright is no rev'lation

By Eli Scheer

*The light shining so bright is no rev'lation
But snaking tube of firm hot steel.
The sound it makes - clackClack, clackClack - within
My heart and fibrous mind cannot repeal.
Approaching danger tinged hot fire with teal
The winding road lay under sea and stone
Destinations suffice neglect, eight wheels.
Conscious of only station glow buzztone
Conductor, still nav'gates these parts but knows
That with coming of dawn, the sun casts no shadow.
The light shining so bright is no rev'lation
But snaking tube of firm hot steel.
The sound it makes - clackClack, clackClack - within
My heart and fibrous mind cannot repeal.
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The winding road lay under sea and stone
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Conscious of only station glow buzztone
Conductor, still nav'gates these parts but knows
That with coming of dawn, the sun casts no shadow.*

Smooth Transition

By: Nathaniel Sinckler

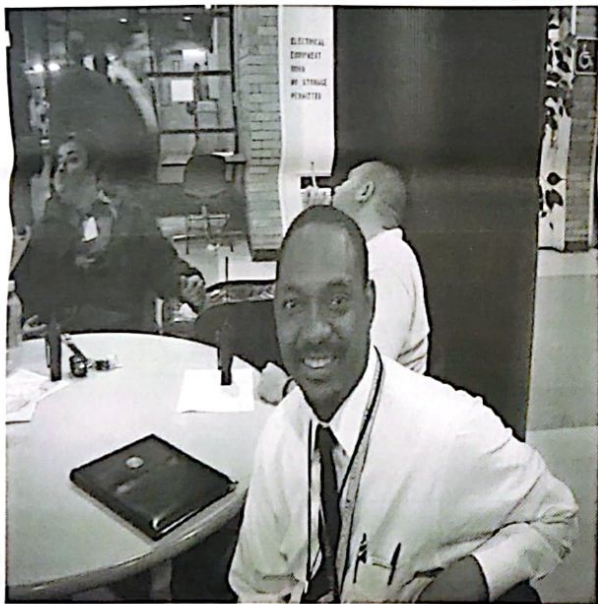
The experience of transitioning to a new school can be different for everyone, but, for most, the goals are the same. Goals such as creating a comfortable environment and keeping an optimistic mind set are the main goals of the people transferring to a new school. Mr. Burgan, the AP of Humanities and US History teacher at HS MSE, was interviewed about his new teaching position, and Gilianny Jimenez, a freshman at HS MSE, was interviewed about her current views on being a freshman at HS MSE. Whether an AP or a student, one's transition to a new school can be made easier when goals are set for that individual.

Mr. Burgan

Mr. Burgan has held other teaching jobs and has actually been teaching for the past twenty years. As a former college professor, Mr. Burgan held the title of Assistant Professor. As a result of this experience, his transition to HS MSE has been smooth, as he is teaching high school students in a college environment. If he had the time he would be making tons and tons of new clubs and enrichments to benefit the students. However, his busy administrative schedule and the needs of the department, do not allow him to teach a number of after school activities and other classes besides US History and Economics.

When asked about the faculty's impact on his experience, he stated that they are "hardworking," "collaborative" and that they "put the student's needs first." Mr. Burgan enjoys the company of the students at HS MSE thus far and likes the fact that he has gotten to know the students quickly because it is such a small school.

Mr. Burgan is a man of many visions. One of his many goals is to



Mr. Burgan strikes a smile in the cafeteria at CCNY.

help strengthen the academic career of struggling students by working with Pupil Personnel Services. Not only this, but he has also contributed his time to the Harlem Is... program after school on Wednesdays, and he played a huge role in the Diversity program at HS MSE, which is not only for the students but the faculty as well. He looks forward to next years sessions at Harlem Is...and seeing the program grow in terms of student participation.

A teacher who is open and honest is very approachable. This is exactly how one can characterize Mr. Burgan. He is always available for students and faculty to talk to and has made a great start at HS MSE and seems to be staying on the course to success.

Gilianny Jimenez

Gilianny Jimenez's first seven months at HS MSE have not been as exciting as she had planned, but she has an optimistic mind set and is looking forward to the last few weeks of the school year. According to Gilianny, the sophomores and upper classmen are nice at times, but she is bothered by being labeled as a freshman and not Gilianny, which is why she does not feel as comfortable talking to people outside of the freshmen class. However she

feels completely comfortable talking with her fellow freshman peers, which comes as no surprise because they are her age and can most likely relate to her.

In order to make her academic career at HS MSE more productive, she plans on increasing the amount of homework she does and trying to be more punctual. Gilianny also wants to attend and participate in more school activities. During her next three years at HS MSE, Gilianny wants to expand her social contacts and boost school spirit in order to have a more fun filled social life.

Her goal for welcoming next year's freshmen is to make HS MSE a more enjoyable environment and to boost the school spirit. In order to do this she will encourage the new freshmen to participate in school activities, introduce them to their fellow peers, and acquaint them with the teachers. By doing this Gilianny hopes to create a learning community that is more enjoyable for not only next year's freshmen, but the entire student body as well.



It almost speaks for itself *Gilianny poses for her spotlight picture* why Mr. Burgan and Gilianny were chosen for this article.

Mr. Burgan has already made his mark in his first year at HS MSE and will only continue to be successful. Gilianny, although not as pleased as she would like to be, has still displayed a high level of optimism and plans on spreading her optimism throughout the school. It is always great when teachers can adjust so well to a new school and be so committed to making sure that the students benefit the most. It is also great when you find students, especially in their freshman year, who have not given up on themselves or the school. Though their stories may differ in several ways, what Mr. Burgan and Gilianny do have in common is their optimism and commitment to HS MSE.

Doormat of New York

By Justin Weng

*Gliding into an airstrip in JFK
Fresh from a rustic café in Naples
Throwing luggage into a cab amidst a thunderstorm
Fresh from an Oceanside suite in Monte Carlo
Shuffling through traffic to Manhattan
Fresh from a serene Buddhist temple in Cambodia
Hearing the soft platter of rain as I pay the driver
Fresh from the lively beaches of Rio
Ding! An elevator welcomes me, soaking wet from rain
Fresh from the watery majesty of the Great Barrier Reef
The scent of subways, Broadway, and all too familiar doormat
Invade my nostrils once again
I was home*

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Is Senior Year That Bad?

By Mehnaz Chowdhury

It is second semester of the school year 2007, and the last thing seniors are thinking about is doing work for school. They would rather focus on ways to merely pass their classes, and how to have the most fun they can in their last year of high school. Unfortunately, the teachers at HS MSE are not making that an easy task. But are the teachers giving too much homework? Or are the seniors just slacking off way more than they should be?

There is a great difference of perception between the students and their teachers when it comes to the issue of senior performance. An anonymous senior says, "We have already accomplished our biggest goal, which is to get into college. We want to bask in our accomplishments now, not do more work that doesn't mean much." This senior definitely has plenty of peers backing her up. According to many seniors, teachers this semester are making it difficult for them to pass their classes by giving way too much homework and implementing quizzes more often than they should be.

Teachers of course think otherwise. An anonymous teacher of seniors says, "We are just preparing the students for college by giving more work than usual." In this particular class, there is a quiz given every single day, and much of the homework is more than the homework combined in two classes. Seniors disagree with the teacher's statement by claiming that in college there aren't as many classes to worry about as in high school, so the work in their senior year isn't exactly reflecting college work.

Seniors are disappointed that their last year of high school isn't echoing the "amazing" experience of former high school graduates across the city. Many even say it's their worst year of high school and its making them want to get out of HS MSE even sooner. Inevitably, this conflict will always be present in high school, and teachers will always have the upper hand, leaving the seniors to just suck it up in their last year.

Curious as to what classes the Class of 2007 will miss the most. Check out the chart below:

By Lenny Diaz

The Foundation of Our Future

By Adam Gomes

Time slowly crawls by,
Never-ending,
Unwavering,
Never stopping for us to catch our breath.

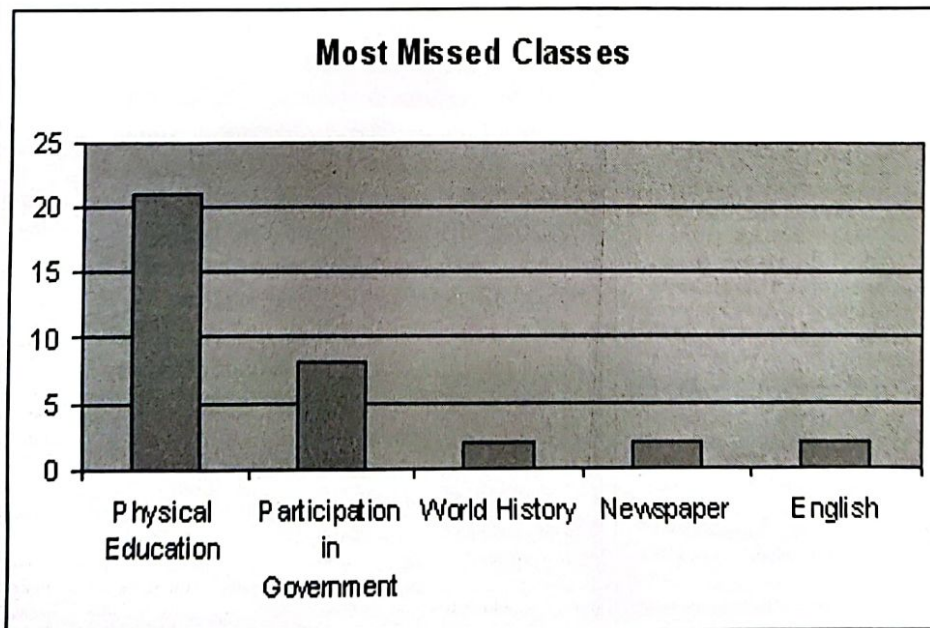
Every second that goes by
Is a second we will never get back,
An instant that cannot be undone,
And a memory that will be nothing more than that.

Four years have gone by
From the time we entered our first red trailer
To the time we will proudly put on our caps and gowns
And walk into the Great Hall.

These four years reflect our emergence -
From our immature, childlike state
To future successful adults
That will have an impact on society.

These years,
As much as they may seem unimportant,
And easily dismissible,
As we scurry down the path to freedom,
Will forever be embedded in our minds as the foundation of

Our future.



Check out pg. 20 of the newspaper for "Most Missed Teachers"

Preparing for College

By Lenny Diaz

High school is coming to an end for most seniors and it's time to look towards college. While many of the seniors are looking forward to college and to being on their own, others have decided to stay at home or in the city close to where they grew up. The seniors that have decided to go away have a lot to worry about, because for some, it's the first time they will be away from home for an extended period of time. Once they go away, they will be responsible for all of their actions and they will not have their parents to make sure they wake up for class. They have to learn to manage their money so they can buy food and basic necessities. Some will even have to get jobs to maintain themselves.

There are also other worries for graduating seniors because going to a new school means meeting new people and making new friends. Everyone has to see where they fit in and which people they can or cannot trust. The seniors also have to adjust to college level courses, but that shouldn't be such a problem since most seniors have taken, and are taking, college level courses already. What they might have to adjust to more is the size of the class, because college classes can be much larger than high school classes.

The seniors have different opinions about going to college so I interviewed a few of them to see how they feel about going to college:

Are you going away for college?

- Nikhailia Morgan: Yes
- Liliana Martich: No
- Luis Felix: Yes
- Jose Dilone: Yes
- David Ceng: No
- Gabriel Encalada: Yes
- Jeffrey Calvo: Maybe
- Jimmy Hill: Yes
- Raymond Queliz: Yes

What are you expecting the college experience to be like?

- Nikhailia Morgan: Lots of partying
- Liliana Martich: Fun as hell!
- Luis Felix: Fun, partying and education mixed together
- Jose Dilone: Like senior trip with a little studying
- David Ceng: Like super high school
- Gabriel Encalada: Great, exciting
- Jeffrey Calvo: Nothing special
- Jimmy Hill: Fun
- Raymond Queliz: Fun, exciting, stressful and rewarding

How are you preparing for college?

- Nikhailia Morgan: Buying a lot of new clothes
- Liliana Martich: Saving money, buying clothes and sneakers, trying to graduate high school
- Luis Felix: I'm not
- Jose Dilone: I'm not preparing
- David Ceng: By slacking off in senior year to conserve my energy
- Gabriel Encalada: Reading
- Jeffrey Calvo: ????

Jimmy Hill: I'm not
Raymond Queliz: Not slacking off and having fun with new friends

Do you have any plans?

- Nikhailia Morgan: To make a lot of new friends and join all the clubs
- Liliana Martich: Doing good in my classes and partying
- Luis Felix: To actually graduate
- Jose Dilone: Yes, to have fun with girls
- David Ceng: I'll work during the summer, but I haven't planned further than that
- Gabriel Encalada: Business man
- Jeffrey Calvo: ????
- Jimmy Hill: No
- Raymond Queliz: To be a lawyer and Midd POSSE 9 (Middlebury College's Scholarship group)

What classes do you want to take in college?



- Nikhailia Morgan: Biology and Chemistry
- Liliana Martich: Political Science, Psychology, Logic, Literature and Philosophy
- Luis Felix: Business classes
- Jose Dilone: Business classes
- David Ceng: Business, Architecture, Engineering and Art
- Gabriel Encalada: Business Management
- Jeffrey Calvo: Business
- Jimmy Hill: Electrical and Computer Science
- Raymond Queliz: Legal Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Microeconomics and Legal Philosophy

Do you plan to be involved in any extracurricular activities?

- Nikhailia Morgan: You know it
- Liliana Martich: Yes
- Luis Felix: Yes, baseball and football
- Jose Dilone: Yes, cheerleading squad and basketball
- David Ceng: Not yet but I probably will be
- Gabriel Encalada: Yes
- Jeffrey Calvo: Maybe
- Jimmy Hill: Yes
- Raymond Queliz: Yes, baseball, riddim, ALC, Mock Trial and student government

How do you think living in a dorm will be like?

- Nikhailia Morgan: A lot of freedom compared to living at home
- Liliana Martich: I don't know, I might not live in

- a dorm, I might live at home
- Luis Felix: It will be a new experience because I've never been away from home
- Jose Dilone: Like senior trip with clogged toilets
- David Ceng: ????
- Gabriel Encalada: Sucks
- Jeffrey Calvo: Lots of fun but messy
- Jimmy Hill: Don't care
- Raymond Queliz: It will be great, but at the same time I'm going to miss my family and friends

How will it be without your parents?

- Nikhailia Morgan: Very refreshing
- Liliana Martich: I don't think I'm going to be completely without them but when I am, I'm going to feel free
- Luis Felix: I'll miss them but I have to live my own life
- Jose Dilone: Fantastic
- David Ceng: Still living at home, might move out
- Gabriel Encalada: Yes!

Jeffrey Calvo: Unorganized

Jimmy Hill: Nice

Raymond Queliz: A lot of partying and doing things I wouldn't normally do, but I'm going to miss them and visit a lot

How will you sustain yourself economically?

- Nikhailia Morgan: I'll try to budget my money, however, if I run out of money, I'll call mommy and daddy
- Liliana Martich: Umm...Daddy
- Luis Felix: I'll get a part time job and my parents

- Jose Dilone: I'm going to get a job
- David Ceng: Job, leeching off parents
- Gabriel Encalada: Work
- Jeffrey Calvo: Work
- Jimmy Hill: Work
- Raymond Queliz: Work Study and POSSE

Are you nervous?

- Nikhailia Morgan: Hell no!
- Liliana Martich: Nope, excited!
- Luis Felix: Sort of because it's something new you're going into
- Jose Dilone: Hell no!
- David Ceng: Nope
- Gabriel Encalada: Yes
- Jeffrey Calvo: No
- Jimmy Hill: Nope
- Raymond Queliz: No, just don't want high school to end

After talking to some of the seniors, I noticed that most of them are anxious and excited about going to college and that most of them aren't nervous at all. They have been on a college campus all throughout high school. Since many of them are so familiar with being on a college campus, walking to different buildings for different classes, taking college level courses and other things associated with attending college, college isn't something so new to them and they already feel comfortable with it. IHS MSE did an exceptional job of preparing the seniors for college life.

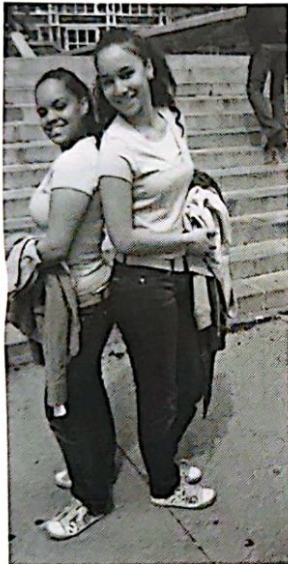


HS MSE's School Spirit

By Mariany Polanco

HS MSE finally made some changes, and SPICED up the 2006-2007 school year! No longer can students say that our school is lacking school spirit or that it is "boring". During the past few months the student government composed a set of events to get every one in HS MSE into the school spirit attitude. The events were as follows:

- *April 13, 2007: Twin day: You and a person dress exactly the same
- *April 27, 2007: Dress for Success: Slacks, suits, dress to impress
- *May 4, 2007: Blast from the Past: Recreate the fashions from the 60's, 70's, 80's
- *May 25, 2007: Wacky Tacky day: Wear Mismatching, bright colors!
- *June 8, 2007: Culture Day: Dress up in your national cultural colors and represent your country and culture



With the support of not only the school government, but Mr. Carey as well, HS MSE was able to make these long desired events a reality. Mr. Carey was asked a few questions on how he expected these events to turn out and how they actually did.

Interview with Mr. Carey:

Q. What caused HS MSE to finally make these events happen?

A. The student government

Q. How do you think the events will turn out?

A. I hope the events turn out a success, and that everyone will get with the school spirit attitude. However, the events depend on the students themselves.

Q. How will we make sure

that everyone knows when the events are happening?

A. Morning announcements, student calendars, and flyers.

Q. Additional Comments...

A. Students make it happen! I can't predict how students will respond to these activities. One of the main purposes for these events is year book, so people should take advantage.

Q. How did twin day turn out? Did it meet your expectations? Why or Why not?

A. I thought it was a success and it met expectations because the people who did it had a good time. And hopefully events like this will encourage greater participation in the future.

Q. Will this event occur again in the future? If so, would you expect the same outcome?

A. As a result of the involvement and enthusiasm of students, it is encouraging to think that future events will occur because we will probably have an even better outcome.

Q. How do you think the rest of the events will turn out based on this one?

A. Better, more students will be excited about the future events and show good school spirit.

Mr. Carey has a positive attitude towards these events and all of them have met his expectations thus far. The student government agreed that the events were a success; however, they also stated that more advertisement was needed.

As all the students can see, HS MSE is trying to get people involved with school spirit. We hope you supported the school events! Most of the students who did didn't regret it! It brought about pictures and memories ... It may have even started traditions in our school; just think about it... HS MSE went from having ZERO school spirit days to having more than five! Support the changes!

What are School Clubs all about?

By Julian Chin

Without the enthusiasm of teachers and students, clubs and after school activities at HS MSE would not exist. These clubs are created so students can join them, experience something new and have an opportunity to bring something they love into the school environment. Clubs are meant to be fun and beneficial, so students should join the clubs that most interest them. Teachers and students like Ms. Zafonte and Bryant Cuadros have created clubs that are currently up and running. I asked both of them about their experience with school clubs.

Interview with Ms. Zafonte:

Q:What are the benefits of joining school clubs?

R:There are a variety of benefits for students who join school clubs. Students get to participate in fun events and broaden their high school experience. Another good benefit in being part of school clubs is that it makes the student look like a marketable applicant for colleges.

Q:Do you think students should create clubs of interest?

R:Definitely. If students are interested in something they should take the initiative to find supporters and start the club.

Q:Why do you think that clubs in the past have failed?

R:At the very start students become very excited but they highly underestimate the commitment and responsibilities of a club. Most HS MSE stu-

dents also have an intense schedule which does not let them consistently participate in the club.

Bryant Cuadros and Manpreet Singh formed the new track club this year. The track club is a non-competitive club where people can workout at their own pace. People who plan to join the club can workout besides running on the track. Bryant and Manpreet created this club so people can workout and get fit and become healthy.

Interview with Bryant Cuadros:

Q:What were the challenges of starting a new school club?

R:The challenges were getting people to participate or even join, trying to get information about the club throughout the school, and making it interesting enough to get students to join. Finding a teacher to advise a club is a problem and the biggest challenge is getting the club approved by the school.

Q:What do you think are benefits in being part of school clubs?

R:Being part of school clubs help bring students together and make a tighter school community. You also help your academic portfolio look better by joining a club.

Continued on Page 11

What about the Freshmen??

The seniors and the sophomores have already gone on a few field trips due to the hard work and dedication of those classes of students and their teachers. The seniors went on a weekend getaway to Pine Grove Resort where they had an exciting break from school, and the sophomores went on an educational field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where they enjoyed a wide range of artwork and partook in a scavenger hunt. The juniors recently enjoyed their fun filled, Physics-related trip to Six Flags, which they planned themselves. What about the freshmen? Are we forgetting about our fresh new class of 2010? Let's see how the freshmen feel about the lack of social activity and what they plan to do about it.

Ninth grader Ioannis Morales stated that, "...Even though we are freshmen, we are mature enough to go on a trip for once..."

There are many different views on the issue. Some students think it is unfair that the freshmen are always stuck in school doing academic work without a reward. "We deserve it, we work hard. Even a field trip outside would be nice," said one freshman. Other students thought it was quite understandable that they have not gone on trips yet since they are new to the school. They believe that they will go on their first trip when they are sophomores.



Freshmen Danielle Lahee and Casey Chan desiring change and peace

Some of the upper classmen were asked how they would feel about freshmen having a trip their first year. Senior, Andrew Excell thought it would be great for the freshmen to have a field trip. "We didn't have a trip until our junior year, and we basically went to St. Nicholas Park for an engineering project." At the time, the student population was not as large as this year's freshmen class and their student government did not have as much of an influence as it does now. "If they organize a trip properly, get enough interested people, and receive support from their parents, I think they should do it," said Excell.

Overall most students look forward to fun trips to places like Six Flags, Hershey Park and Camp Get Away. However, these trips do not follow school policies. "Under school policy, all school trips have to be educational," said Mr. Carey and Dean Hershinson. In response, students like Kelsy P. suggest going to places like the Liberty Science Center. "Not only are there fun things to do there, but we can learn at the same time." It takes time to plan these trips and luckily, according to Dean Hershinson, the freshmen do deserve a trip. "There are trips planned for the freshmen class, but I don't know exactly where."

Also, the freshmen can go to their student government officials to help proclaim their cause. Student government is arranged in order to meet the demands of the

student population. Informing their student government would be the best first step. There are many other people they can go to as well. Ms. Robertson, the guidance counselor, or even Mr. Carey, who deals with student affairs, are always willing to collaborate with students on ideas to benefit the school. If we want things to happen we have to speak up and take the initiative. Remember, it's the student body that makes the school what it is.

Note: If you want to see an event or trip take place at HS SME, see your student government! Speak up! Let them hear your voice!

By Ashlee Lyte

The Pigeon

By David Wendl

*A pigeon
is just a dove
come to the city,
exiled from his forests
and mountain cliff sides
where once he roosted*

*He has left behind
his life as a symbol
of peace
for in place of his homeland
a city now stands
a city that knows him not
as an emissary of nature
but as a rat of the skyscrapers*

*The pigeon by all accounts
is not troubled by this change
for although the land of his birth
may be gone
he has fashioned himself
a new home
with monstrous soaring cliffs
and rivers of abandoned food*

*indeed
the former icon of peace
is now content
to live his life
pecking up the crumbs I drop from my muffin
instead of the seeds and berries of the wild,
and cooing melodiously
with the homeless bums on the streets
rather than the music of the forest.*

Calvo and the Jolly Volleys

By Tyler Halpin-Healy

Led by Ms. Calvo, the boys' volleyball team made the playoffs for the first time this year. With five prominent members of the team, Mike Chang, Robert Sheppard, Mark Aragonces, and the captains, Van Lam and Aleksey Matyunenkov, leaving last year the future looked bleak for the team. However, this year's team managed to improve their record from 5-7 last year to 8-4 this year. The team even managed to stand up to the Hunter boys, who had been 12-0 for the past 5 seasons. It took hard work on both the players and Ms. Calvo's part.

Notable Improvements:

First: Consistent serving by all the starting players.

Second: The setter, Michael Kravetz (captain). The team's only setter. Playing with one setter meant one less player in the back row while Kravetz was there; however, his ability to set and save wild passes more than made up for any complication from playing with one setter.

Third: Middle Hitters, Erik Shagdar and Antonio Upia. The players had 34 and 38 kills respectively; they were the scoring leaders on the team.

Fourth: Outside Hitters, Tyler Halpin-Healy (captain) and James Hill. The outside hitters learned to play defense for the middle hitters and, more importantly, were the only players on the team who ever broke the opposing team's blocks.

Fifth: Designated Servers, Maxim Kukartsev and Morgan Einig. Both players would serve and ace at least 50% of their serves.

Sixth: Right-Side Hitter, Neal From. Having 3 attacking players over 6'3" in the front at once gave our team the massive height advantage they needed.

HS MSE had an average team height of 6'2", whereas the tallest player of their opponents was barely above 5'11". The season was full of ups and downs. The most prominent are the two games against the High School for Environmental Studies (HSES). Our boys lost the first match against them 2-1.



Ms. Calvo provides her team with a pre-game pep talk

All the games were close, but their second face-off two weeks later could only be described as a massacre. HS MSE took the match 2-0, with HSES not even meeting half the score of HS MSE in each match.

After HS MSE clinched a playoff spot, they were to play against Sheepshead Bay HS in the first round of the playoffs, a team that was undefeated in their league. There was almost trouble for our boys. However, Michael managed to save many passes and Tyler saved enough plays to keep HS MSE on top. It was not an easy win for our boys. After that game, things just went downhill. The team was to play the defending champions in the next round. While it seemed we might be able to hold JFK at bay for a while, what could be best described as playoff jitters shook the team apart. Mistakes that they hadn't made since their first season happened on almost every play. Despite that, they still managed to intimidate and catch up in the second game, not enough to win the game or match though.

The future is murky as five of six starters graduate this year and Ms. Calvo departs. The good news: their replacements have been in training, so this may be the first of many playoff entrances to come.

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HS MSE Soccer Success

By Laima Tazmin

"The HS MSE girls' soccer season has been an outstanding season," states Coach Carey of the team. The Dragons' strong soccer season culminated in reaching the playoffs for the second season in a row. The team finished the regular season with a record of 8 - 3, losing only to the undefeated team from LaGuardia, an improvement from the 6 losses of last season. This year, the team welcomed striker freshman Amira Hodes, who with 13 league points became the team's top goal scorer and turned the loss of last year's star goal scorer Katherine Sudol into a comfortable transition. The next top scorer was graduating senior Roxanne Bochar, who added 6 league points. Junior Julia Lekht returned as the team's goalkeeper and made a total of 42 saves, arguably the best goalkeeper in the league. With such a strong offensive team and reliable defensive team, it came as no surprise, then, when the team arrived comfortably to the playoffs and "came second in our division," as Coach Carey explains.

And while the soccer team lost the first game into the playoffs, just reaching the playoffs was enough for the team to call the year a success. It is clear that the best attribute of the team is their team pride. "The team bonded very well and as always welcomed all new rookies to the team, which is one of the outstanding qualities of our girls' soccer team," Carey praises. Graduating senior, Joachebeth Tingson adds, "I love the girls. We're a really tight bunch." The teamwork and pride of the Dragons made the season special and undoubtedly contributed to improving the team as a whole.

The future for the team? Joachebeth predicts, "I'm sure our team will make it to the playoffs again next year, and the year after, and the year after. We have a strong team and a strong bond as a team so if we continue to have that, we'll be fine." Mr. Carey hopes that returning team members stay fit off-season and get ready for next spring. You know what that means Dragons, more running!

Right: Soccer Team Photo after a Fun & Successful Season



Michael Kravetz concentrates on his serve



Erik Shagdar goes for the spike!



Authorized Bondage

Cont. from page 1

By Lorena Nicol

used to release the models. The scissors caused scratches in a few cases, adding on to the list of temporary, yet uncomfortable effects.

The concept of these seemingly sadistic projects was not devised by Mr. Pedroso himself. It was in fact borrowed from a series of pieces previously done and popularly replicated by the artist Mark Jenkins. He has executed the concept of tape forms in various ways including a series of tape babies placed in unexpected locations. Jenkins also has a series of adult forms placed and dressed in ways to fool innocent public into thinking the people are in distress or ways that might simply seem unexpected. Some of these included a man protruding halfway from a wall, someone upside down inside a garbage can, and someone under an orange construction cone. While Jenkins has also done some work in animal forms, Mr. Pedroso's class was constrained to the use of humans. Despite this, the results yielded from the assignment were quite varied, intriguing, and successful.

For Pedroso's art class, representing the human form in such an uncommon medium was a challenging and incredible experience. And the project gained interest from the rest of the student body as finished products hung from Baskerville's ceiling and walls. For the duration of the exhibit, HS MSE students and faculty admired such hard work.



A Word from the Artists Themselves

Title: "The Floating Human" (see picture to left)

Medium: Clear Packing Tape

Artists: Nikhailia Morgan; Laura Ning, Gabriel Encalada

Description: Our installation project for art class is a human figure looking downward and pointing straight ahead. We thought this idea would be unique, yet interesting for two reasons. Firstly, it is a human clone composed by layering packing tape in the form of molds of various body parts. Secondly, the body is oriented so that the head is straight ahead. This piece is to be hung from a ceiling which makes its pointing finger protrude outwards and possibly touch unknowing passers-by. As observers look upward at the piece, a sense of eeriness is created while simultaneously provoking curiosity as to what the figure's true message entails.

A Project to Remember

By Milkiera Paulino

Last semester Mr. Pedroso's art class participated in The Memory Project, a program initiated to draw portraits of orphans in Africa. Needless to say the class worked tirelessly to make drawings that would hopefully be uplifting to the orphans who were to receive them. There was no time to make mistakes and start over and so each student, with the help of Mr. Pedroso, had to ensure that every dot of color was intentional. When the students finished they gave a collective sigh of relief and sent off their portraits with words of encouragement and letters about themselves. After the orphans received the drawings they took pictures while holding them. When the photographs got here the art class was exhilarated. The orphans had clearly appreciated the effort put into the portraits and their smiles were irrevocable proof.

Below: A Sampling of Portraits from the Memory Program



What are School Clubs all about?

Continued From Page 8

Q: How do you think you can prevent your club from failing?

R: Well, there are clubs that lose students because they just stop participating, but I think if you can keep it appealing to students, then keeping a club up and running should not be a problem.

In the past, after school activities like the "Film Club" began by Ms. Boylan, started off very well, with high attendance through the first several meetings. But as time moved on, the "Film Club's" attendance began to dwindle. As the "Film Club" proves not all clubs last or remain a success for a long period of time. This should not drain the hopes of students who want to create a club though because of the benefits a school club can have for students. Joining a school club can only be positive. If students feel that there are no clubs of their interest then they should start one like Bryant Cuadros and Manpreet Singh did with their track club.



Ms. Zafonte is the advisor for the Ping-Pong Club and New York City Unveiled

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A Razzling, Dazzling Time

By Eli Amzallag

Movies about fraud have been around since cinema began. Engaging ones, though, are hard to come by. The Hoax has a winning balance of information and style. It gets its point across without ever becoming didactic. This is that rare caper that is actually entertaining. If you're going to the movies to have a good time or to learn something, this movie will satisfy both desires.

Richard Gere, who has never been better, plays Clifford Irving, a struggling author who decides to pull a con on a publishing company by writing a fake autobiography of the reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes. That might not sound terribly intriguing, but, believe me, The Hoax is loaded with thrills.

Lasse Hallström, the Swedish director who undoubtedly won the hearts of many with *Chocolat*, paces *The Hoax* so that it feels like a rollercoaster. He keeps us focused on one man, but he also invites the interesting details of Irving's story in with some magnificent sequences. *The Hoax* is a fine piece of entertainment, whether taken as a popcorn thriller or a history lesson. Like the crime it documents, it's one for the books - and, yes, the movies.

Grade: A

Rated R for language. 115 minutes. A Miramax Films Release.



Johnny Depp has some good fake mustaches. I should call him!

The Real Boogeyman

By Eli Amzallag



Zodiac Cartoon Based On a Survivor's Description, Robert Graysmith

I expected *Zodiac* to be good. I did not, however, anticipate that it would become one of my favorite movies of all time. This is a terrific thriller, even better than director David Fincher's previous foray into the serial-killer movie arena, *Seven*. And that's not only because this time around the plot is based on a true story. It also has a lot to do with Fincher's perfection of every scene. He is known to do a bunch of takes for each shot and his work pays off. To date, he has not sacrificed his art for cheap thrills and he has proved that he is a gifted filmmaker every single moviegoer should be grateful for.

Robert Graysmith, a cartoonist for *The San Francisco Chronicle*, becomes obsessed with the Zodiac Killer, as the elusive monster continues to send out mind-boggling ciphers and commits heinous murders without any sort of pattern. The movie also focuses on two policemen, one who is played by the reliable Mark Ruffalo, and a journalist at *The San Francisco Chronicle*, an often hilarious and always excellent Robert Downey, Jr. Though they all come to a lot of dead ends in their quest to answer "Who is the Zodiac?" (and, in fact, the Zodiac was never caught) this is a pulse-pounding film if ever there was one. Each murder is depicted with such objectivity and detail that it becomes difficult to watch at times. (One in particular, a picnic gone terribly awry, may haunt you long after you endure it.) The attention to the settings, period, costumes? everything is simply stupendous. Fincher does this to make San Francisco's reality at the time ours. Few filmmakers can or have accomplished that. He makes the emotional atmosphere so cold, it's almost as if we are watching the events unfold through the Zodiac's eyes. It is a wickedly harrowing effect and very subtly done.



"Mommy, remember that teddy bear you got me?"

So don't go in expecting some CSI episode with the killer's identity revealed in the last five minutes. See it for what it is, a gripping murder mystery, a psychological dive into the depths of these men's minds, the best thriller since *The Silence of the Lambs*, and, above all, a cinematic masterpiece.

Grade: A+

Rated R for some strong killings, language, drug material and brief sexual images. 158 minutes. A Warner Bros. Pictures and Paramount Pictures Release.

Summer vacation is right around the corner...

It is time to start thinking about summer jobs or volunteer work!

If you are unsure about where to start your search, or what opportunities are available in NYC, see Ms. Robertson or Mr. Klein in the guidance offices.

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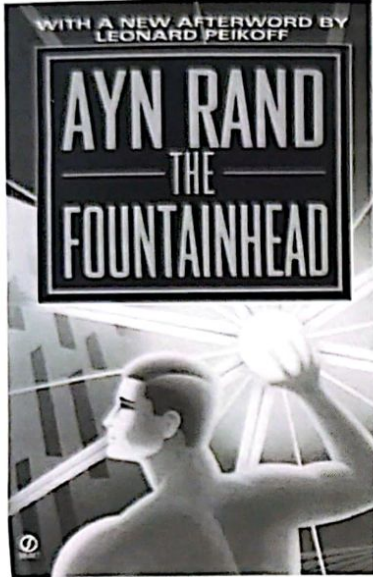
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Architecture and Literature Collide!

By Eli Amzallag

Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* has got a great story. And the philosophy that comes with it, Objectivism, wouldn't have detracted so much from its impact if Rand hadn't decided to hit you over the head with it. The fundamentals of the ideology praise the individual and denounce collectives. The extremist view taken by Rand comes from her experience under Bolshevik rule. So it is difficult to blame her for not being more subtle about what she believed in. She felt a sense of urgency to make sure the sentiments from the Red Scare gained a permanent home here. Because her books, *The Fountainhead* included, remain in wide circulation, she seems to have succeeded to some degree.



Howard Roark, the individual in this Ayn Rand work, is an architect who refuses to design buildings in any particular style. He feels that every aspect of a building should be created with that building's purpose in mind. This angers a number of people, who make up the collective in this case. After being expelled from the Stanton Institute of Technology for swimming against the current, Roark, instead of breaking down, moves on. And he does this whenever the collective tries to bring him down. Those who try to destroy him

include respected architects, the enigmatic columnist Dominique Francon, and, the most villainous, a critic named Ellsworth Monkton Toohey. Since Rand is trying to reinforce her philosophy, you can guess who wins out in the end.

But it is a worthwhile journey until you get to the climactic finish. When you first meet Toohey, he seems like the greatest guy on Earth. It's as you get to know him better that his dark side emerges. Rand handles this reversal exceedingly well and makes Toohey one of the most memorable scoundrels out there because he is familiar. Rand also uses an interesting style to reveal people's thoughts, shifting perspectives constantly and occasionally letting us know that what a character is saying is not what he or she is thinking. The prose itself can become tedious because the Objectivism is almost always present. But it is interspersed with sentences that could easily have come from Hemingway, making the reading overall enjoyable.

Of those who decide to read *The Fountainhead*, I doubt many will be taken by the philosophy, simply because of its single-mindedness. But the story, though at times slow-moving, is never boring and, on the contrary, ultimately inspiring.

Grade: B+

This book contains some violence, language, and allusions to sexuality. 736 pages (with afterword). A Penguin Group Release.

Special Note: Visit http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=education_contests_index for information about scholarship essay contests on Ayn Rand's novels.

Shattered Glass

By Eli Amzallag

J.D. Salinger's *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction* (two separate works published together) is as masterful as the author's other three books. And while *The Catcher in the Rye* remains my favorite, as I turned the last page of this book I couldn't help but realize that I'd read yet another piece of genius by a writer that seldom went wrong.

The first part is about Buddy Glass and the wedding day of his brother, Seymour Glass. After Seymour mysteriously doesn't show, Buddy ends up spending much of the day with some members of the bride's family. By turns hilarious and dark, Buddy's conversations with these people reveal more and more about his brother, without ever launching into biography mode. Why would one care at all about some guy who messed up what would otherwise have been a lovely wedding? What made Seymour ditch his fiancé at the altar? Why does that weird little old man keep staring at Buddy? Salinger maintains interest by allowing you to come up with possible answers to these questions. And, as always, he ends off with quite a few things unanswered.

The second section of the book lets us know a lot more about Seymour. This portion is a non-traditional narrative. Buddy picks out little anecdotes about and hobbies of Seymour as he comes to terms with his brother's tragic demise. It's a lot heavier on philosophy than the glance at the disastrous wedding day, but it is just as absorbing. You're left to take the pieces Buddy gives you in this segment and do with it what you will. You're presented with a tricky puzzle, but never a dull or tedious one.

Few other than Salinger have written or can write the way he did. Some authors write in the first person and forget about the reader. Salinger doesn't do that for a second. He's doesn't get sentimental about his brother, nor does he break down on the pages before you. He says what he has to say and shifts to raconteur mode at the perfect moments. In doing so he creates the best kind of book, one you'll be thinking about long after you finish it.

Grade: A

This book contains some disturbing discussion. 248 pages. A Little, Brown & Company Release.

**RAISE HIGH
THE ROOF BEAM,
CARPENTERS
AND
SEYMOUR
AN INTRODUCTION**

J.D. SALINGER

200 HOURS COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

All students wanting a HS MSE endorsed Diploma should keep a record of completed hours on the tracking sheet (this can be found on the HSMSE website under the guidance section).

Students who have completed their 200 community service hours should hand them in to Mr. Klein. If you have any questions about community service opportunities, please ask Ms. Fisher.

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El Sazón Hispano

By Aury García

El sazón hispano es muy importante para familias hispanas y para extranjeros que quieren comer un platillo delicioso. La comida hispana dice mucho de nuestra cultura y en realidad es una parte muy importante de la familia hispana. Una reunión familiar no es una reunión hasta que el morir soñado, las pastas, sancocho, y el bizcocho llegan. No hay nada más satisfactorio que una comida deliciosa alrededor de nuestros seres queridos. No importa adonde vayamos porque al final el sazón hispano es muy difícil de confundir y es ahnelado por todos, nativos y extranjeros. Para esta edición del periódico todos vamos a disfrutar las recetas que estudiantes de HS MSE pidieron ver de nuestra cultura. Preparen sus brotes del gusto porque la boca se les va hacer saliva.

Picaderas

Yaniqueques:

Esta es una picadera muy típica de la cocina Dominicana y es muy fácil de hacer en la casa para calmar el hambre de los invitados mientras la comida esta.

Tiempo: 20 minutos

Sirve: 6 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 2 tazas de harina de trigo
- o 1 cucharadita de bicarbonato de soda
- o 3 cucharas de agua fría
- o 2 tazas de aceite
- o Sal

Preparación:

1. Primero mezcle la harina, sal, y bicarbonato. Derrame el agua sobre la harina y mezcle bien. Mezcle bien la masa pero no más de lo necesario. Despues deje reposar por Diez minutos cubierto con un papel de plástico.
2. Extienda la masa hasta que obtenga una lámina fina. Córtele en círculos. Perfore con un tenedor y frianla hasta que se pongan de un color dorado. Déjela sobre un papel absorbente antes de servirla y sírvanla calientes.

Quiques:

Los quipes son muy populares en la cocina Dominicana pero muchos no saben que su origen es de procedencia árabe. Los libaneses son quien trajeron el kibbe y se asentaron en el sur de las isla Dominicana en el siglo diecinueve.

Tiempo: 35 minutos

Sirve: 6 personas

Ingredientes:

- o Una taza de trigo entero
- o 1 1/2 de carne molida
- o 2 tazas de aceite
- o 1 pizca de hierbabuena pizcada firmemente
- o 1 cucharada de pasta de tomate
- o 1/2 taza de pasas
- o 1 cucharadita de sal
- o 1 cebolla roja pequeña
- o 1 ají verde
- o 1 pizca de orégano
- o Pimienta negra molida

Preparación:

1. Exprima el trigo para sacarle el exceso de agua. Corte la cebolla en cubos Pequeños. Corte el ají verde, déjelo limpio de semillas, y córtelo del tamaño de la cebolla. Ponga la carne en un tazón, añada el ají y la cebolla, agregue el orégano, una pizca de pimienta, y una cucharadita de sal. Agregue la mitad de la carne al trigo y reserve la otra mitad.
2. En una cacerola ponga una cucharada de aceite. Agregue la carne molida que había reservado y revuélvala hasta que se mezclen. Agregue dos cucharadas de agua y la pasta de tomate. Déjelo sofreír a fuego medio. Ajuste el agua cuando sea necesario. Cuando la carne este lista deje todo el líquido evaporarse y ajuste la sal a su gusto.
3. Ponga una cucharada de la mezcla de trigo en la palma de sus manos. Aplánela y ponga una cucharadita de la carne cocida en el centro. Enrolle el trigo alrededor de la carne formando rollitos pequeños y selle los extremos. Frian hasta que estén dorados y sírvanlos calientes.

Acompañamientos y Pastelones:

Ensalada de Aguacate:

Esta es una de las recetas más fáciles y deliciosas de hacer. Aunque el aguacate contiene más grasa que la mayoría de las frutas (si es una fruta) esta no son grasas saturadas y son más saludables para el cuerpo.

Tiempo: 5 minutos

Sirve: 4 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 2 aguacates maduros
- o 2 cucharadas de vinagre
- o 1 cucharada de aceite de oliva
- o 1 cebolla pequeña cortada en tiras finas
- o 1 ají cortado en cubos pequeños
- o Sal y pimienta

Preparación:

1. Mezcle el aceite y el vinagre. Marine la cebolla y el ají en la vinagreta por una hora.
2. Corte el aguacate en rebanas finas y póngalo en una bandeja. Cúbralo con la vinagreta de cebolla y ají. Sazone con sal y pimienta a su gusto.

Pastelón de Plátanos Amarillos:

En esta receta los sabores picantes y dulces se mezclan. Para el relleno pueden utilizar polio o carne de res.

Tiempo: 50 minutos

Sirve: 6 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 6 plátanos maduros
- o 1 taza de queso mohos ella
- o 1/4 taza de mantequilla
- o 1 libra de carne de res molida
- o 2 cucharadas de aceite
- o 1 cucharada de pasta de tomate
- o 1 cebolla roja cortada en cubos pequeños
- o 1 ají cortado en cubos pequeños
- o 1 pizca de pimienta molida
- o 1 pizca de orégano
- o Sal

Preparación:

1. Sazone la carne molida con el ají y la cebolla picada en cubitos, pimienta y sal. En una cacerola ponga a calentar la cucharada de aceite. Agregue la carne molida y revuelva para que se mezcle. Agregue dos cucharadas de agua, la pimienta, el orégano. La cebolla, el ají, y una pizca de sal. Deje cocer a fuego bajo ajustando el agua cuando sea necesario. Cuando la carne este cocida agregue la pasta de tomate. Deje evaporar casi todo el líquido y ajuste la sal a su gusto. Retire del fuego.
2. Pele los plátanos, hiérvalos y agréguele una cucharadita de sal al agua. Cuando los plátanos se ablanden bien retirelos del fuego. Saque los plátanos inmediatamente del agua y májelos agregándole mantequilla. Procure que se haga una masa bien suave.
3. Ron la mitad de la mezcla de los plátanos en el molde de hornear. Cúbralo con 1/3 del queso y agregue la carne. Agregue otra capa con lo que reste de la mezcla de los plátanos y despues póngale el resto del queso. Póngalo en el horno para que el resto del queso se ponga dorado.
4. Sirva caliente con algunas rebanadas de aguacate y ensalada verde.

Habichuelas y Sopas:

Gandules con Coco:

Gandules con coco es uno de los platillos más delicioso en una mesa hispana. Es la mezcla de los gandules y una de las frutas más sabrosas de nuestras islas, el coco.

Tiempo: 35 minutos

Sirve: 4 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 2 tazas de gandules hervidos
- o 2 tazas de agua
- o 2 tazas de leche de coco sin azúcar
- o 1/2 taza de apio picado
- o 1 cebolla pequeña cortada en 4 cubitos
- o 1 cubo de caldo de polio
- o 1 cucharadita de perejil picado
- o 1 cucharadita de cilantro picado
- o 1 cucharada de aceite
- o 1/2 cucharadita de ajo majado
- o 1 pizca de orégano
- o Sal

Preparación:

1. Caliente 3 cucharadas de aceite, agregue el orégano, la cebolla, el ajo, el apio y las hierbas. Mueva y agregue dos cucharadas de agua. Cuando el agua se haya casi evaporado toda agregue el cubito de polio. Agregue los gandules y tres tazas de agua. Mueva regularmente para evitar que se quemé el fondo y ajuste el agua cuando sea necesario. Cuando los gandules estén bien cremosos póngalo a medio fuego y agregue la leche de coco. Deje que hierva hasta que alcance una consistencia cremosa. Ajuste la sal a su gusto.



El Sazón Hispano

2. Sirva con arroz blanco, ensalada y carne

Sancocho:

El sancocho es sin duda uno de los platillos más querido por el pueblo dominicano. Este plato se prepara generalmente para ocasiones especiales. Contiene muchos ingredientes y toma un poco de tiempo de preparar. Sin embargo este tiempo es el más disfrutado entre familias y amigos.

Tiempo: 90 minutos
Sirve: 6 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 1 libra de carne de chivo
- o 1 libra de longaniza
- o 1 libra de carne de cerdo
- o 2 libras de carne de res con huesos
- o 1 pollo entero de 2 libras
- o 2 libras de costillas de cerdo
- o 1 libra de hueso de jamón ahumado
- o 4 mitades de limón
- o 1 cucharada de ajo majado
- o 4 cucharas de aceite
- o 2 ajíes grandes cortados en cubos
- o 1/2 libra de yuca cortada en pedazos de una pulgada
- o 1/2 libra de ñame cortado en pedazos de una pulgada
- o 2 cucharas de apio
- o 1/2 libra de malanga cortada en pedazos de una pulgada
- o 1/2 libra de papas cortadas en pedazos de una pulgada
- o 3 plátanos verdes, 2 cortados en pedazos de una pulgada
- o 2 cubos de caldo de res
- o 2 mazorcas de maíz cortada en pedazos
- o 1/2 cucharadita de orégano molido
- o 1/2 cucharadita de cilantro
- o 2 cucharaditas de vinagre
- o 2 cucharaditas de picante o naranja agria



Preparación:

1. Coloca la carne de res en una cacerola y agregue las hierbas, el ajo, el vinagre, las especias y la sal. Revuelve para mezclar. En un caldero grande caliente el aceite, agregue la carne de res y revuelva. Cubre y espera un minuto, después revuelva otras ves. Agregue algunas tazas de agua se la mezcla se esta pegando a el caldero. Continúa esta proceso por 20 minutos. Agregue el cerdo y deje sofreír por 15 minutos. Ajuste el agua cuando sea necesario. Agregue el resto de las carnes a la mezcla, agrega los cubitos de carne de res, y deja a fuego lento (moviendo y ajustando el agua por 10 minutos más)
2. Agregue 1/2 galón de agua y llene hasta el punto mas alto de el caldero. Agrega el ñame, la malanga, y los dos plátanos que habías cortado. Deje que esto hierva por 10 minutos. Ralle el plátano restante y agréguelo al caldero. Agregue los ingredientes restantes y agregue el agua cuando sea necesario. Revuelve regularmente para que no se pegue. Deje hervir hasta que los ingredientes ablanden. Deja hervir hasta que espese.
3. Ajuste la sal a su gusto. Sirva caliente con arroz blanco.

Tubérculos:

Mofongo:

El Mofongo, que por cierto es confundido con el mondongo, es un platillo delicioso y muy fácil de preparar para cuando uno quiere comer algo rico y rápido.

Tiempo: 35 minutos
Sirve: 6 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 1 libra de chicharrones de cerdo o cualquier otra carne que desee
- o 1 taza de aceite
- o 2 cucharaditas de sal
- o 4 plátanos verdes
- o 4 tazas de caldo de res caliente
- o 2 cucharaditas de ajo majado



Preparación:

1. Sofríe el ajo en una cucharadita de aceite. En una cacerola fríe los plátanos hasta que estén dorados por ambos lados. Maje los plátanos usando el pilón y mezcle con el ajo y los chicharrones. Sirve en un pilón adornado con hojitas de perejil y acompaña con el caldo de res.

Mangu:

El mangu es uno de los platos más básicos de hacer en la cocina y muy delicioso.

Tiempo: 15 minutos
Sirve: 4 personas

Ingredientes:

- o 4 plátanos verdes
- o 4 cucharas de mantequilla
- o 1 taza de agua fría
- o Sal

Preparación:

1. Hierva los plátanos en agua a la que le has agregado 2 cucharaditas de sal hasta que estén muy suaves. Retire del fuego y haga un puré agregando la mantequilla y agua hasta que estén muy suaves.
2. Sirve acompañado de huevos o salami.

Postres:

Bizcocho de tres Leches:

Hay muchas teorías de donde originó este delicioso postre pero no hay duda que es uno de los postres mas disfrutado de nosotros los hispanos.

Tiempo: 90 minutos
Sirve: 4 personas

Preparación Previa: Unte con mantequilla un molde mediano para hornear de 3 pulgadas de alto y ponga harina en el fondo del molde. Caliente en el horno a fuego medio (200°C).

Ingredientes:

- o 3/4 taza de harina
- o 1 1/2 tazas de leche condensada con azúcar
- o 2 1/2 tazas de leche evaporada
- o 1/2 cucharadita de polvo de hornear
- o 1/2 taza de mantequilla
- o 1/2 taza de azúcar
- o 3 huevos
- o 1 taza de crema batida dulce



Preparación:

1. Bate los huevos hasta que se pongan pálidos. Añada e incorpore la azúcar bien. En otro envase acrema la mantequilla e incorpore la harina junto el polvo de hornear. Incorpore los huevos. Ponga en el molde y hornee hasta que le pueda entrar un cuchillo y saiga limpio. Deje enfriar a temperatura ambiente.
2. Mezcla la leche condensada y evaporada. Vierta esto sobre el pastel y deje que absorba la mezcla por 10 minutos. Cubra con la crema batida y póngalo en el refrigerador hasta que este bien frío. Sirva lo frío.

Morir Soñado:

Esta es la bebida oficial del verano. Es muy refrescante y nutritiva.

Tiempo: 15 minutos

Sirve: 4 personas

Preparación Previa: Mezcle el leche y la azúcar. Ponga en la nevera hasta que este bien fría.

Ingredientes:

- o 2 tazas de jugo de naranja
- o 1/2 taza de azúcar
- o 2 tazas de agua
- o 4 tazas de leche evaporada
- o 2 tazas de cubos de hielo.

Preparación:

1. Mezcle el hielo y la leche. Revuelva esta mezcla. Vierta lentamente el jugo de naranja en la leche y revuelva constantemente. Sirva inmediatamente.



Una Última Nota:

El sazón hispano es la leyenda de nuestra cultura y va a seguir siéndolo por los siglos que sigan. Nuestra tradiciones no solo son deliciosas si no que también conservan nuestra cultura. El sazón hispano nos une a todos los hispanos y atrae a nuevos amigos de países extranjeros. Disfruten estas recetas hispanas y siéntense en la mesa con sus familias a recordar el sazón hispano. En países no nativos al los de nosotros el sazón hispano es lo único que tiene sabor a nuestros países Latinos.

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Movie Capsule Reviews

By Eli Amzallag

300 (R, 117 minutes)

If you're in the mood to watch sweaty, muscular guys in slow-mo, 300 is without a doubt the movie for you. If you, like me, were anticipating the most visually stunning all-out action movie in years, I can assure you that this film is a disaster in that regard. Yes, comic-book geeks and video-game fanatics will cheer because the movie may, in fact, "live up to" the source material by Frank Miller. But, for normal moviegoers who still prefer movies like this to be fun instead of someone else's fun recorded, this is boring trash. D+

Fracture (R, 112 minutes)

This is a formula film and it doesn't try to hide it. And while there are some nice shots and crackling dialogue, I can assure you that *Fracture* overstays its welcome early in its runtime. If there's one reason you should see *Fracture* it's to experience the chills Anthony Hopkins sends up your spine, something he manages to do whether he's playing Lecter or some other creep. B-

The Astronaut Farmer (PG, 104 minutes)

Here's a small project that is surprisingly enjoyable. Peppered with funny moments, *The Astronaut Farmer* is that rare cheesy family movie that does not get tiresome to sit through. It never actually won me over, but it came close. That counts for something in a world where everything is increasingly about math, science, and engineering. B+

The Lives of Others (R, 137 minutes)

The Lives of Others is an extremely well-made movie. But don't expect a pleasant moviegoing experience because this film is unbelievably depressing. Director Donnersmack is remarkable and it's impossible that this will be the one high-note of his career. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this film, save for the very abrupt ending and a few believable contrivances. If more movies were as moving as this, it might not have been too much to handle. But since few are as thoughtful, *The Lives of Others* is a knockout that most may not be ready for. A-

The Namesake (PG-13, 122 minutes)

Mira Nair's *The Namesake* is a triumph in filmmaking, one of the few coming-of-age movies where you actually care about the protagonist's journey. It has room for improvement, but it is far from disappointing. The chemistry between Gogol's parents is, by itself, a stunning cinematic achievement. This could have been a lame and trite tale. Instead, I have no doubt that in due time it will be rendered a classic. A-

Black Book (R, 145 minutes)

Director Paul Verhoeven's latest is the most unconventional Holocaust story you'll probably ever see. It's a glossed-over schlock film. It squeezes in plot contrivances that don't always go by unnoticed. It features some graphic nudity. And it's got tons of spontaneous shootouts. Still, *Black Book* makes its way through these ridiculous moments thanks to a stunning breakout actress (Carice van Houten) and some dynamite editing. B

Spider-Man 3 (PG-13, 140 minutes)

Spider-Man 3 is a worthless piece of junk. Considering that its budget was, according to all estimates, in the ballpark of \$250 million, the movie's many failures are inexcusable. The acting is nonexistent and even the costly fight scenes are poorly directed. *Spider-Man* is apparently invincible and Peter Parker is a nerd oblivious to the emotional breakdown of his girlfriend (Kirsten Dunst), not only because of Dunst's horrible performance. The problems of *Spider-Man 3* could probably fill a few hundred pages. If you decide to torture yourself and see the "film" look for Bruce Campbell. D

The Academy Awards

By Colin Meret

On the night of February 25, 2007, the 79th annual Academy Awards were held at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. As usual, the event was a star-studded night of red carpet glamour, beautiful celebrities and a mix of both expected and shocking award announcements. Unlike last years Academy Awards, which was regarded as unusual because many of the films seemed more like independent films than the typical big budget Hollywood movies, this year's offered high-quality films to choose from, such as *Dreamgirls*, *The Queen* and *The Departed*, all of which won Oscars. It was difficult to predict who would win this year, as many of the movies selected were unique and starred well-known actors and actresses in them. This year, the most unusual nominations were perhaps for Best Supporting Actress, a category that included former American Idol contestant Jennifer Hudson and young actress Abigail Breslin. Jennifer Hudson, who played Effie White in *Dream Girls*, was voted out of American Idol by viewers in 2005, and Abigail Breslin, who was Olive in the film *Little Miss Sunshine*, is only 10 years old.

The films that were nominated were deserving, but some movies, such as *Thank You for Smoking* and *Stranger than Fiction* were completely ignored. Due to their partly comedic plot, they weren't chosen. Still, their underlying meanings and ideas were quite deep and thoughtful, for example, each addressed the right to make your own choices and ideas about fate and free will.

The Oscars this year were hosted by Ellen Degeneres who made some witty jokes. One joke was: "Jennifer Hudson is here from American Idol. America didn't vote for you and you're here with an Oscar nomination. And Al Gore, America did vote for you." Ellen presented well; she was funny, and helped create a friendly atmosphere, making the night entertaining and satisfying. Some of the entertainment for the night included Will Farrell and Jack Black who sang about how comedians never get nominated for Oscars.

Here are the winners:

The Departed, Best Picture.

Martin Scorsese, Best Director for *The Departed*.

Helen Mirren, Best Actress for playing queen Elizabeth II in the movie *The Queen*. Forest Whitaker, Best Actor for playing General Idi Amin Dada in *The Last King of Scotland*.

Jennifer Hudson, Best Supporting Actress for playing Effie White in *Dreamgirls*. Michael Arndt won Best Original Screenplay for *Little Miss Sunshine*.

Alan Arkin, Best Supporting Actor for playing Grandpa in *Little Miss Sunshine*.

William Monahan, Best Adapted Screenplay for *The Departed*.

Guillermo Navarro, Best Cinematography for *Pan's Labyrinth*.

Best Achievement in Art Direction, Eugenio Caballero, Art Director, and Pilar Revuelta, Set Director, for *Pan's Labyrinth*.

Milena Canonero, Best Costume Design for *Marie Antoinette*.

Michael Minkler, Bob Beemer, and Willie D. Burton, Best Sound Mixing for *Dreamgirls*.

Thelma Schoonmaker, Best Editing for *The Departed*.

Alan Robert Murray and Bub Asman, Best Sound Editing for *Letters From Iwo Jima*.

John Knoll, Hal T. Hickel, Charles Gibson, and Allen Hall, Best Visual Effects for *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Mans Chest*.

David Marti and Montse Ribe, Best Makeup for *Pan's Labyrinth*.

Melissa Etheridge, Best Original Song Written for a Motion Picture for *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Gustavo Santaolalla, Best Original Score Written for Motion Pictures for *Babel*.

Torill Kove, Best Animated Short Film for *The Danish Poet*.

Ari Sandel, Best Live Action Short Film for *West Bank Story*.

Ruby Yang and Thomas Lennon, Best Documentary on Short Subjects for *The Blood of The Yingzhou District*.

Davis Guggenheim won Best Feature Documentary for *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Das Leben der Anderen, Best Foreign Language Film.

Happy Feet Best Animated Film.

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The 80's Are Back!

By Adina Bauman

The 80's was a decade known for its wacky fashion, bold colors, variegated patterns and wacky hairstyles. Some people look at what was worn in the 80's and say to themselves, "What were you thinking?" And others, such as Victoria Osowaski, a student at HS MSE, think that the 80's fashion is "awesome" and "things from 'back in the day'" are cool. But, just to inform all of you, the 80's fashion is what's hot now, from leg warmers to Mohawks.

Women during the 80's had a very versatile fashion sense with prismatic colors on all types of attire and lots of accessories. How they wore their clothing and what they wore is seen today. Women wore their hair in side ponytails or with the "hump" in the front of their ponytail. They wore defined mascara and even beauty moles. Today the "beauty mole" fad has returned, not through make-up though, but through piercings. Such piercings can be found in random places around the upper lips and cheeks, predominately right above the side of the top lip.

Women of the 80's could be found wearing off-the-shoulder shirts, as well as long shirts, skinny jeans and mini skirts. Today there are plenty of off-the-shoulder shirts designed to reveal a bit of skin, and extra long shirts are everywhere. They are inescapable! These long style shirts are usually hip-length and tight fitting, but can be found in many styles. Skinny jeans, however, come in predominantly one style, but many colors. As the name suggest, skinny jeans are tight everywhere from the waist down to the ankles. Lastly, in regular attire, is the mini skirt. This item is essentially always in style, all though it seems that the mini skirt is getting shorter and shorter as the years go by.

While mini skirts may leave little to the imagination, the return of legwarmers, spandex and scrunched socks of the 80's helped to keep women's legs covered. These particular items, however, may be the most questionable of the 80's fashion styles emerging today. Legwarmers were popularly bold and pastel-colored, as well as loose and thick. Now, legwarmers are even designed with stripes and polka dots. Spandex pants, on the other hand, come in different materials and different colors, including silky and bold. Today spandex pants are worn for dancing and running, for wearing under skirts when it is cold and for lounging. Scrunched socks, however, have no real apparent function; they are purely style, and scrunched socks aren't seen as much as legwarmers and spandex in 2007.

Similarly unpractical are defining the accessories of the 80's: hoop earrings, door knocker earrings, high-top sneakers, big chains, beads, flats/wedges, and thick belts also known as Boy Toy Belts. Nowadays, these same accessories exist - with a twist. The hoop earrings that used to be thin are now thick and hollow. Door knocker earrings today are engraved with myriad of designs, and come in metal, such as gold, and plastic. Shoes like flats and wedges have expanded to include the pointy-toe, and thick belts can be found in all different colors and styles. There is the leather belt, worn tight around the upper body, just below the chest; the regular elastic belt, worn through the loopholes in jeans; and the plastic belt, usually worn over a long skirt is meant to sit on the waist.

Men's 80's fashions, while present today, are much less diverse than women's fashion:

Hair: Mohawks, Long

Face: Piercings, Glasses

Attire: Black and neon colors, Sleeveless shirts

Legs: Bright colors, Tight jeans

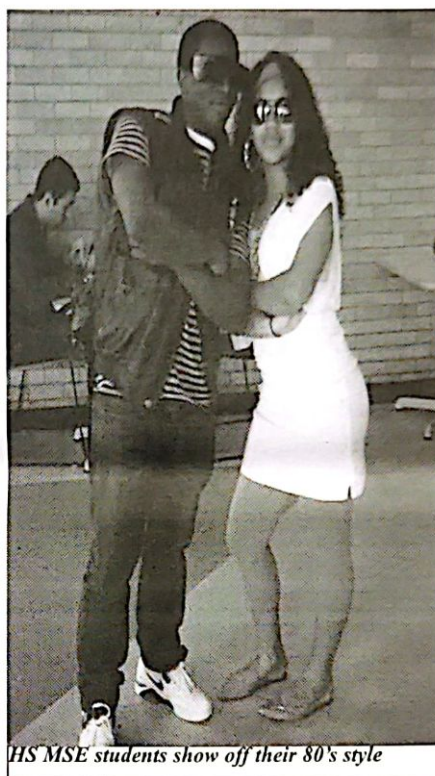
Accessories: Hightop sneakers

Brands: Vans, Adidas, Guess

These styles were declared "in" during the 80's because of famous trendsetters like Michael Jackson, Madonna, Bananarama, and Bon Jovi. Michael Jackson sported black everything and the tight pants. Madonna, --with her bleached hair-wore beads, mini skirts and the Boy Toy Belt (thick belts). Bananarama was a prime example of women's hairstyles during the 80's. Sara Dallin and Keren Woodward of Bananarama had reall short bleached hair. Bon Jovi's hairstyle is another prime example of the type of hairstyles for men.

As Sanjana Khan says "fashion always repeats itself." Some companies today have played a big part in the comeback of the 80's fashion, including Bape, Rocawear, American Apparel, H&M, Nike, and Vans. Bape has brought back the bold colors, as well as the bold patterns from the 80's, which are featured on sweaters, shirts, jeans and even sneakers.

Rocawear, owned by Rapper Jay Z, brought back Keds-now called Pro-Keds. They come in very diverse patterns and colors. American Apparel is a very diverse store which sells almost all items mentioned in women's fashion, from legwarmers to spandex, and skinny jeans to mini skirts. H&M provides everything mentioned in both men's and women's fashion. Nike is the biggest shoe company today and has every type of shoe imaginable. They are the main shoe company for high-top sneakers. Vans have never left and they will probably never leave. They are loved not only by skaters, but by anyone who wants a slip on sneaker that actually looks nice.



HS MSE students show off their 80's style

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MoSex and Mo art

By Yannick Lopez

New York City is a very diverse and wonderful place to visit. Many people have visited famous and extravagant sites, such as the Empire State building and the Statue of Liberty. However, very few have seen or heard of places such as the 11 Spring Street graffiti murals or the Museum of Sex (MoSex). Although these places are not as famous as other New York landmarks, they are certainly fascinating and exciting.

On 11 Spring Street there is a famous building among the graffiti culture named the Candle Building. This building is equivalent to an outdoor art gallery. The five story building's exterior is covered with controversial graffiti. The graffiti outside the building includes many tags (an artist street name or nickname, that he/she graffiti's) of the artist, but is not limited to only this. The building also includes a graphitized Mickey Mouse, a five leaf clover, an enormous smiley face person and many other distinct works of art. The interior is also decorated with different pieces of art. It can only be seen through invite, which makes it nearly impossible to see these works of art. There is no article or picture that would do justice to this building. The candle building is a must visit for all people.

The attractions of the Museum of Sex, on the other hand, are entirely on the interior. The Museum of Sex is not different from other museums, in that its purpose is to educate the visitors, while also providing entertainment value. This museum differs from many other museums, though, because the basis of the museum is not to provide an education on ancient civilizations or cultures, but to inform visitors of the history of sex. Although this may seem odd, it is quite an appealing place to visit. The museum does have nudity and sex toys, but these aides are said to be historically significant. So the nudity and other visual aides are all tied together to educate the spectators about sex.

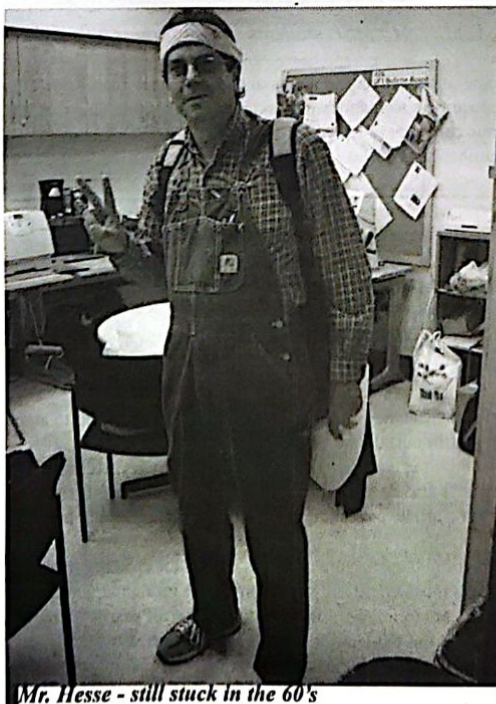
Don't Believe The HYPE beast!

By Robert Taylor, Rabab Sadman

Hype, the driving force of the fashion culture, establishes what is "cool." Hype drives people to become obsessed with a specific item, whether it be a pair of sneakers or print t-shirt. Followers of this hype, or hypebeasts, will buy into the fad regardless of the price, availability or how ridiculous the item actually looks. Sometimes as a result prices skyrocket to much higher than the retail set price. Hype is always set on the same companies and grows over time. People who follow market values for years will notice that particular sneakers' prices, for example Nike Dunk SB Low "Tiffany's", rise as the hype for them grow. Tiffanys used to sell for under \$200 for a brand new pair, and now that the hype has kicked, a brand new pair can sell for up to \$450. Hype is essentially the downfall of the sneakerhead. (A sneakerhead is a person who is very interested in or collects sneakers). Hype raises the price of sneakers and reduces their availability and makes them desirable to people with no knowledge of fashion culture. Thus the people who buy them because they actually like them look like they are following the hype.

The evil children of hype, or "resellers," take advantage of items and buy multiples of them, increasing their demand and rarity, and also causing a price raise. They can then re-sell the sneakers for more than they purchased them for. They now have money to purchase more goods for themselves, and to invest into purchasing a larger number of the next hyped up item. (The more of the product you take off the market, the higher its value and rarity is.) While this is a high-risk, speculative market where resellers have legal rights to take advantage of items, they are exploiting the culture which they are attempting to belong to. Therefore this group of people is being greatly looked down upon by their peers.

Hypebeasts, the cousins of resellers and the laughing stock of the sneaker world, buy into hype regardless of how distasteful the item is, how ridiculously high the price is or what crazy things they must go through to obtain the item. The mindset of a hypebeast is that the item will make them cool, and that obtaining it will be worth the trouble. In a city such as New York (the fashion capital of the world,) you can walk through a street (specifically 42nd, 59th, and in SoHo) and be almost guaranteed to see a handful of people, who do not even know each other, looking like identical twins. While they think this makes them cool, their shallow sense of style makes them look like fools when the next trend comes along and they have no choice but to stop wearing, or throw out, their old clothes, in fear of looking "average."



Mr. Hesse - still stuck in the 60's

Zoom* *Crash* *Bang

By Wilfredo Sanchez

*all these
sounds
around my
head
make me
wonder
why i'm
here*

*trains
airplanes
cars
an endless
disturbance*

*have to find
an escape
to this madness
or else
i'll never
be able
to sleep
to relax*

*if I leave
maybe
just maybe
i'll be
calm
peaceful*

*I left New York
Had no other choice
Finally at peace
Yet now I miss
That symphony of sounds
And guess what
I still can't sleep.*



Two sophomores with a sense of style

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Brain Teasers

By Ayinde Ricco

1) With thieves I consort
With the vilest, in short,
I'm quite at ease in depravity;
Yet all divines use me,
And savants can't lose me,
For I am the center of gravity

2) What can see nothing else when you look in my face;
I will look you in the eye and I will never lie. What am I?

3) Bright as diamonds,
Loud as thunder,
Never still,
A thing of wonder
What am I?

4) Glittering points
That downward thrust,
Sparkling spears
That never rust.
What are they?

Answers to Brain Teasers above:

1) The letter V 2) Mirror 3) Waterfall 4) Icicles

The Case of the Archaeological Dig

By Ayinde Ricco

"I've finally earned my place as assistant curator of the museum," said Bob Hobbie to Max, the chief administrator of the Belgra Archeological Museum. "I moved West of the Pakistani dig site and we've just unearthed some wonderful coin artifacts."

"Why did you start digging in a new location?" asked Max.

"One of the local natives told me that, for many generations, his family had passed down a legend of a lost village and he found a map among his father's things," said Bob. "His father recently passed away," he added. "The native followed the map and led me to this site on the condition that if we discovered anything of value he would be paid one thousand dollars," explained Bob.

"And what is it that you found buried,?" asked Max. "It's just terrific," exclaimed Bob, "we found 3 gold coins of various sizes dated 400 B.C., and after properly dusting them off I found them to be in excellent condition." "I quickly paid the native to complete our verbal contract and keep him from trying to claim a portion of the discovery," concluded Bob.

After considering for a few moments, Max told Bob that when he returns home he should look for another job!! Why?

Works Cited:

<http://www.justriddlesandmore.com/mysterycorner.html>

(Answer: Coins from 400B.C would not be labeled B.C, as the title B.C was only created after the era itself.)

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NYC POETRY COLLECTION CONTINUED...

On the Train

By Sandy-Herrera

*Stand clear of the closing doors
The man tries to sneak himself on the crowded car
Where the woman complains about how the service is subpar
The man's briefcase gets stuck in the door
"I don't need this junk anymore"
He lets it loose and he takes a seat
He looks at the people across from him with crossed legs in harmony
They are reading the paper, staying on the news beat
FLIP, they all turn the page as if it were orchestrated*

The sunrise

By Elisabeth Bichi

*When with her clouds the early dawn illumines
Any streets melancholy grow serene to bustle
As if a sleep erupts happiness and smiles,
The whole dark city intensely blooms.
I have seen it from a skylight high
As a dream it grows.
Is this Manhattan?
That in a cloud definitely glows?
Delicate like an opening colorful rose,
You can see the city with an enlightened pose.*

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

By Margarita Pokhvisheva

*From Egypt /
You jump to Asia
Then to medieval times
Where you battle to capture the unicorn

Paintings, Tapestries, Vases,
Scrolls, Armor, Sculptures,

Everything I love to explore
Miles and Miles of art
From contemporary to ancient

So many years of history and beauty

You can be lost and
Never return, but
At least you saw the WORLD.*

Bodega

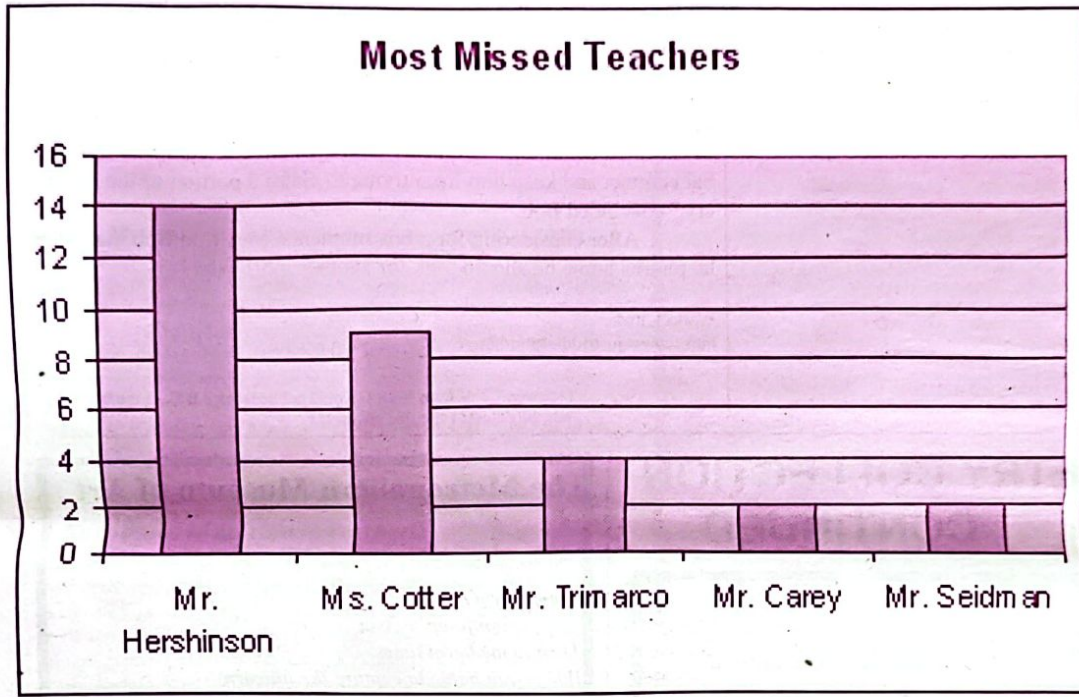
By Felix Garcia

*Caretaker of the establishment
Known for numbers and loose cigarettes
He stands there waiting
For the next solicitor
Behind the transparent wall
Surrounded by formula, calling cards, and contraceptives*

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