



# DRAGON TALES

Issue IX, November 2008

## Cut to the Budget

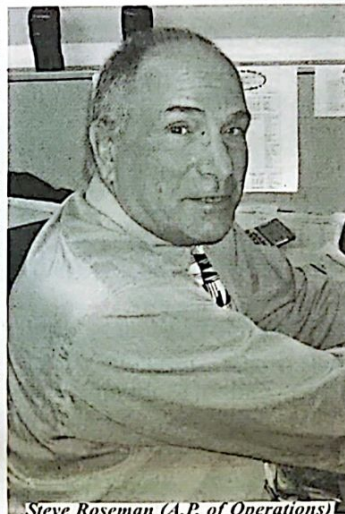
### An Inside Look at HS MSE's Money

By: Stephen Barnard

HS MSE has an annual school budget of roughly \$5 million. This wealth is visible in the small class size, the abundant supply of computers and software, and the newly renovated Baskerville building. But why is the school so wealthy? Where does the money come from? Is it well spent?

The school's budget is broken down into three major sources. The most substantial of which is tax levied money. When spending this money, a school's first priority and greatest expense is the teachers' salaries. The salaries are based on the teachers' levels of education and the length of time that they have been teaching. Once the salaries are met, the school is free to spend the remainder on other necessities like desks, stationary, and appliances.

Another source of school income is the New York State Textbook Law [NYSTL.] This money comes from New York State, and is allocated per each student in a school (e.g. \$20 per student.) The school has almost no flexibility on how this money is used. Every dollar must be spent on state approved textbooks and software (a stamp



Steve Roseman (A.P. of Operations)

indicating the state's approval can be found on the covers of such materials.)

The rest of the school income comes from grants. Grants are written by the A.P. (Assistant Principal) of Operations of a school (in our case, Mr. Roseman) and most are paid out by New York State, although some are paid by private donors. Grant money is similar to NYSTL money in that there is no flexibility in its spending. If a grant is written to buy computers, every dollar of that grant must be spent on computers. This explains why a school can have excess in one resource and a need for another.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Roseman and Mr. Dugan have saved up roughly \$750,000 for the school over the past several years. The plan was to spend this money renovating and furnishing the second floor of Baskerville, allowing the high school to move out of the NAC. Another good reason to save this money is so that the school can withstand budget cuts and not have to excess teachers. With the country on the verge of a recession, these budget cuts are coming. According to

Continued on page 3

## The Boys' Bathroom

By: Max Kukartsev

### The Circumstance, the Controversy, and the Culprit

Ever since the boys' bathroom in Baskerville's cellar mysteriously closed during the last school year, HS MSE male students have had to relieve themselves in the men's bathroom on the first floor, if not resort to more desperate measures. What this means for most of them is that they have to drag themselves up the stairs and through the hallway to get there. The adventure back, however, is not as trivial. One has to correctly identify the proper set of stairs, which for most of the boys is easier said than done, considering that the up stairwell directly precedes the down one. "This is completely unacceptable," says Max Ansbro, "completely... unacceptable." Often the widely open first door cleverly obscures the latter, enticing students to engage in a navigational lapse.

Moreover, HS MSE students are not the only ones who use the upstairs Baskerville bathroom. Often they have company from a group of college students, apparently members of the CCNY Islamic club. As part of their religion, they wash their bodies, doing so in the sinks. This

is something that most HS MSE students (and some faculty) find displeasing.

In stark contrast, the cellar boys' bathroom looked nothing short of a war zone. On September 12, 2008 the restroom was mostly empty save for about a dozen typical utilities for such a place. It is hard to not notice the effects of renovation, though. Compared with its previously grim and dark appearance, it is no longer scary to look around, although it

is not very likely for any of its future customers to be dumbfounded in awe. It would be a crime however, to ignore the causes of this condition.

Theories exploded and suspicions confirmed in the face of fact: the users of the boys' bathroom are responsible for its dysfunction. Mr. Dugan was kind enough to provide information about the situation there. "The bathroom was damaged by student vandalism. The inside partitioning wall looked like it had been kicked in by a foot, or many feet, I should say," he said on September 12. It seems that on



A student dares to enter the boys' bathroom downstairs

Continued on page 5



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If you have not yet completed college applications-You must complete them during Thanksgiving vacation! Most college applications are due Monday, December 1st!!!

### DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST - Applications with December 31ST & January 1ST deadlines
2. SAT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 26TH for the January 24TH SAT and Subject Tests

### PLANNING AHEAD...

1. DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH - Applications with a January 15TH deadline
2. DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH - Applications with a February 1ST deadline
3. ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 6TH for the February 7TH exam
4. SAT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 10TH for the MARCH 14TH exam (SAT Critical Reasoning Test only- No SAT Subjects Exams given)

### TESTS

Please note: Selective colleges usually will not accept SAT, SAT Subject Test, and ACT scores after January 1, 2009

## Senior College Deadlines: Do Not Miss Them!

By: Mr. Klein

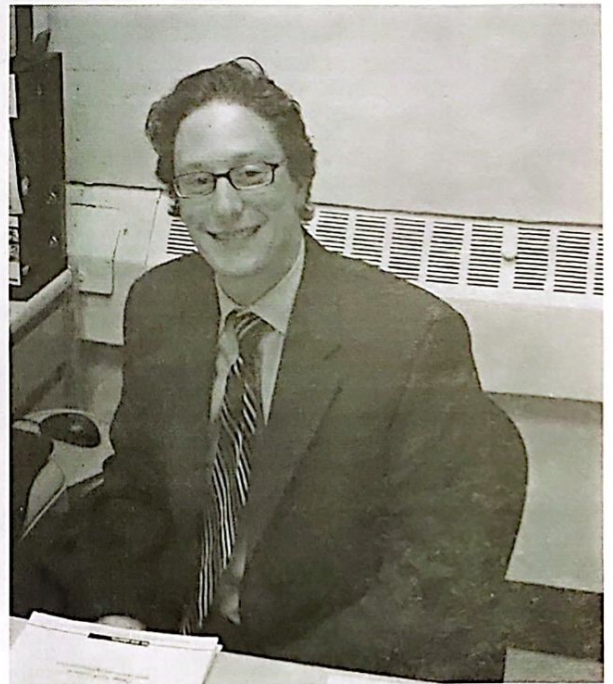
### WHAT TO DO IN NOVEMBER:

1. Complete and submit CUNY and SUNY applications (including SUNY SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS...if required)
2. Remember that many SUNY Universities and Colleges have supplemental forms to their applications (Part II). For a list of schools that require a supplemental application, please visit: [http://www.suny.edu/Student/apply\\_supp\\_apps.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/Student/apply_supp_apps.cfm)
3. Complete private and out-of-state college applications.
4. Take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT (again, if necessary).
5. Check the open house and school visit postings. Investigate scholarship opportunities at colleges and with community organizations. Check for scholarships in the college office or go online to: [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com); [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com); and [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com).
6. Visit colleges to tour the campus and attend open houses. Attend college visits at school.
7. Maintain excellent grades. Many colleges may request a 2nd marking period report card.

### SPECIFIC NOVEMBER DATES:

1. DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd - CUNY Application
2. SAT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 5TH for the December 6TH SAT and Subject
3. ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 7TH for the December 13TH exam
4. DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH - SUNY Applications (Including SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS...if required)
5. DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - Applications with December 15TH deadlines
6. DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - CUNY MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE Application

Below: Mr. Klein, Senior Guidance Counselor





# School Budget

By: Stephen Barnard

Continued from the first page

the N.Y.C. office of management and budget, Bloomberg will cut \$185.4 million from the education budget this year, and that figure will be closer to \$330 million next year. With hard times coming, saving \$750,000 may turn out to have been a very good idea.

With the departure of Mr. Carey, Ms. Dipaolo, Ms. Doucette and Mr. Wang, rumor had it that they were laid off due to the 2007 budget cuts. This is impossible for two reasons. For one, teachers cannot be laid off. Teachers' contracts prevent that. If the school cannot afford to pay them, they can only be sent, or "excessed" to another school that can. More importantly, the budget cut in 2007 decreased the school's funding by only \$70,000, and HS MSE had a surplus of \$750,000 by that same year. Clearly money was not the issue. The teachers left for personal reasons.

While our \$5 million budget seems like a lot, it's important to keep in mind that we have several teachers for each subject, and relatively few students (on average, fewer than 25) per class. This could be one of the reasons for HS MSE's success as a school. It received an "A" in the New York City progress report of 2007 and was ranked the #2 high school in the city by the Department of Education (Townsend High School was ranked #1.) Whether or not this success is completely due to the size of our faculty is debatable.



Studies like the "Tennessee STAR" (Student Teacher Achievement Ratio,) Wisconsin's "SAGE" program (Student Achievement Guarantee in Education,) and Indiana's "Project Prime Time" relate small class size to better academic performance in elementary school students. However data about high school class size is inconclusive. This may suggest that at some point small class size becomes less of a requirement and more of a personal preference. HS MSE is known for its small classes, so it is likely many of the school's applicants simply prefer that. Either way, if small classes aren't the best option, they are at least the most expensive. Small classes mean more teachers; more teachers mean more salaries to pay.

Mr. Dugan doesn't know what the full effect of the coming budget cuts will be, but he said that he would try to preserve the teacher student ratio and instead cut back on supplies like Smartboards. The Baskerville renovation may also be put on hold. Hopefully these sacrifices will be enough, but it is still too early to tell what the full impact of the budget cuts will be.

*This could be the last of the 3D printers in our school if budget cuts continue.*

# Where's Our Spirit?

By: Adrian Anderson

The new school year is here and students and teachers are both surprised to notice new changes. One change that seniors, juniors, and even few sophomores can't help but notice is the absence of the admired Ms. Dipaolo, the maverick Mr. Carey, the mastermind Mr. Wang, and the celebrated Ms. Doucette. These teachers were all vibrant parts of the HS MSE school spirit, and will be remembered in the hearts of their fortunate former students.

So why did Ms. Dipaolo, Mr. Carey, Mr. Wang and Ms. Doucette all leave the school? Contrary to rumors about excessing and budget cuts they all left on their own accord. They were not involved in the excessing of hundreds of NYC teachers by the DOE due to substantial budget cuts. Fortunately for HS MSE however, only one of our staff members was, (a

secretary), actually excessed.

So what are Ms. Dipaolo, Mr. Carey, Mr. Wang, and Ms. Doucette up to? Currently Ms. Dipaolo works in an all girl private school. Mr. Wang now works in a private enterprise. Ms. Doucette, who was unable to get her license to continue teaching in New York, is working on obtaining a New York teaching license. She still claims to "Love her little children," which may bring smiles to the faces of many juniors and seniors. Mr. Carey has recently relocated to Bali, Indonesia where he now teaches at an International School, grades 5-12.

So what did HS MSE have to say about the missing teachers? According to Simon Boyce, Ms. Doucette will be remembered for always saying "Ms. Doucette loves the kids" and having a fun chemistry class. Mr. Carey will be remembered for audaciously wearing shorts in 32°F weather, and for his rigorous no nonsense gym class. Mr. Wang will be remembered by the juniors for having no emotion while teaching. In fact, Kory Campbell, remembers Mr. Wang for having three facial expressions "Angry, Happy, and Neutral." Ms. Dipaolo will be remembered for her laid-back and fun approach to teaching P.E.

It is agreed that Mr. Carey and Ms. Dipaolo left lasting legacies with their dynamic character and their passion for teaching Physical Education. So what about the new gym teacher and Ms. Paradise? Can Ms. Paradise and Mr. Diunte live up to Mr. Carey's and Ms. Dipaolo's legacy? Both Ms. Paradise and Mr. Diunte show promise to reach the level of these legends. Perhaps Mr. Diunte can lead the boys' soccer team to a reverential position in the PSAL, or at least a victory.

So will we be able to cope with the changes? Ms. Doucette, Mr. Wang, Ms. Dipaolo and Mr. Carey will be sincerely missed by the entire HS MSE assembly. Their absence from HS MSE, combined with the stress of starting a new school year and lots of homework has left many students distraught. The departed teachers have left us with memories of fun and enjoyment, and will be remembered, along with current teachers, as founders of the HS MSE school spirit. Go Dragons!!!!



Left: The Class of 2008 shows off their spirit



# Another View of Obama

By: Max Ansbro

People are always talking about how Barack Obama is the first black man to run for president. This confuses me. If we are going to force the issue one way and not go half and half, couldn't it be said that Obama is the first white man to run for president with a black father? Martin Luther King Jr. (another left wing leader) once said that people should not judge one another based on the color of their skin but on the content of their character. Why is it that now left wingers force this distinction with Obama?

People also always talk about Obama's lack of a resume. Why this inexperience is appealing to voters escapes me. The Presidency must be the single worst place for on site training in history. All right, he is younger than John McCain which means he can sign bills into law or veto stamp them with a little more gusto. That's about it.

Many of Obama's policies also confuse me. Obama plans to cut our dependence on foreign oil by perusing alternative energy fuels and more efficient cars. This seems like a brilliant idea; now why hasn't anyone else thought of it before? Why hasn't some enterprising young engineer made untold billions of dollars for inventing the alternative to oil? Why are we still buying oil when we have all these new technologies just waiting for Obama to get into office and start using? Plain and simple, because they do not exist yet.

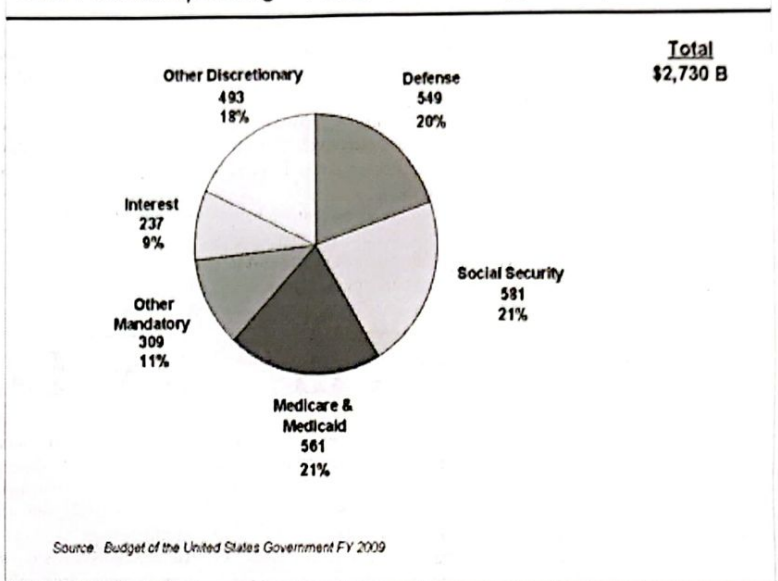
While we are waiting for the technologies to start existing, wouldn't it be a good idea to encourage U.S. oil companies to drill off U.S. shores thus sending less money to the middle east? Apparently not, as Obama is vehemently opposed to more drilling.

In economics, Obama plans a grand sweep of reforms ranging from universal health care and tax cuts for 95% of Americans. As a distinction, 40% of Americans don't pay taxes and you can't make cuts on nothing so the figure is closer to 55%. However, he states, "fact that we're spending \$12 billion every month in Iraq means that we can't engage in the kind of infrastructure improvements that are going to make us more competitive, we can't deliver on the kinds of health care reforms that Clinton and I are looking for." This expense in Iraq comes to \$144 billion a year. Shown below is a rough breakout of the federal budget from 2007. In total the federal government spent 2.73 trillion dollars, 5.2% in Iraq according to Obama's estimate of \$144 billion annually.

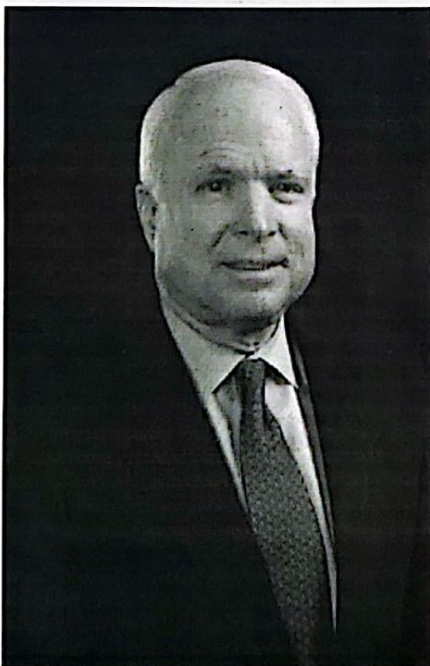
As seen in the graph, the federal government is currently spending 21% (\$561 billion dollars) on such health care plans as Medicare and Medicaid, which gives aid to 83 million Americans (about 27% of the total population). Thus it is seen that the cost of providing health care to roughly 1/4th of America is about 4 times greater than the cost of the Iraq war. Obama wants us to believe that the reason the other 73% of Americans don't have government health care is because of the expense of the Iraq war? Something doesn't add up.

In order to finance his reforms Obama purposes tax cuts for 95% of Americans, increased taxes for the other 5% and the elimination of tax loopholes for large corporations. What kind of a situation does this create? Well where would this money be going? New programs, for example health care and economic relief to Americans suffering from recession. Who benefits from these programs? Everyone benefits equally from them. In this way the

U.S. Federal Spending – Fiscal Year 2007 (\$ Billion)

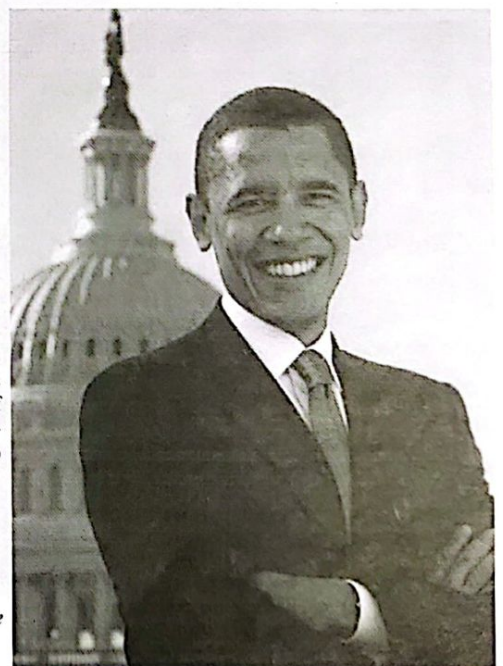


An overview of the federal budget.



government is taking money from the wealthy and redistributing it to everyone. This sounds familiar from history class. It's called socialism and while it looks really good on paper it doesn't actually work. Why does it make sense that America, land of opportunity, is imposing a tax on being successful?

Looked at from another angle, who loses when these large corporations targeted by Obama's new taxes attempt to cut their losses by restructuring, downsizing and outsourcing? Like it or not, large corporations pay many people's salaries. If the large corporation starts making less profit, what happens to those people's salary?



Is our next President on the left or right?



Continued from  
the first page

## The Boys' Bathroom

By: Max Kukartsev

### The Circumstance, the Controversy, and the Culprit

One mighty fine day some angry clown kicked the wall, leaving a foot-shaped cavity in its structure. As time went on, the wall had been anointed with more such generous decorations all around its perimeter, as somebody was clearly attempting crude demolition work, and didn't seem to realize that the floor isn't the only thing holding that wall in place. Amounting to a critical condition, this vandalism to the bathroom effectively put it out of business. However, it seems there is still some light at the end of the pipe, as the place has just finished undergoing repairs.

Mr. Dugan estimated that October is the earliest that the bathroom would be ready for use. This is thanks to the contractors that have been working to renovate the disaster area during the summer and up until recently. Some of the new additions include new sinks and toilets, and... the usual fancy sophisticated equipment. With all of its new looks and same old pop-

ular function, it would be very saddening to see it fall to a similar fate as its ancestor. Nevertheless, starting from its grand opening on October 10, 2008 it continues its dedicated service to human resources.

The impact on the HS MSE male student population will most likely be minimal, as few of us tend to notice transitions to the better in the same way as we notice those to the worse. Maybe there will be students who miss the workout up the stairs and the navigation challenge to return, and maybe there won't, although this doesn't mean they don't have the option of continuing the tradition.

## The Lunchroom's New Look

By: Leo Chen

This year, the cafeteria in CCNY's NAC has gained a completely new look. A short interview with CCNY's Food Service Director Joe Gallopini, confirmed that the renovations to the cafeteria occurred over the summer. In fact, the renovations are still in progress. Mr. Gallopini explained that the windows are currently being redone and that even the ceiling will eventually be renovated. He stated that the Facilities department headed the renovations while working under Vice President Santos. Santos hired consultants to design and arrange the new look for the cafeteria. While Mr. Gallopini, many students, and faculty members agree that the new design of the cafeteria is rather pleasing, there is another issue to be addressed.

The NAC houses a seemingly large cafeteria, when empty. However, there just does not seem to be enough tables during lunch. In the past there were a lot of people inhabiting this space at once, but there was always "room for one more," so to speak. The old cafeteria tables were long rectangular tables that seated thirty-six people maximum. There were fifteen of these long rectangular tables on one side of the cafeteria. The other side had slightly smaller ones that seated approximately six per table. However, there were twice as many small blue tables to compensate for the size difference. The cafeteria was able to seat a whopping 720 people with room, albeit only a little space to spare for people to circulate around the cafeteria. Due to the renovations, seating has been cut down severely.

HS MSE students have recognized this change in seating and have consequently altered their lunch habits. As soon as the bell rings for lunch, many of them burst out of the classrooms and rush down the hallways to get to the cafeteria early enough to find a seat or more importantly, a table. HS MSE students have now realized that seating in the cafeteria is very limited and that there is simply not enough space for them because CCNY college students are there as well. Friends in general, but students in particular tend to want to sit together. However, it is difficult to find a table that can seat them all and sharing a table with unknown strangers seems to just be out of the question. This leads to a lot of table hoarding which only furthers the spatial concerns. For an unknown reason, students believe that if one or two people are sitting at a large table, the entire table is "unavailable." Students will continue to circulate looking for an "available" table. Consequently, a "full" cafeteria will have many empty seats that no one is willing to take.

Many HS MSE students make due by finding seating outside, as the indoor staircase is only reserved for College students. What will happen to these same students when the weather gets chilly? Students won't be willing to spend the winter eating outside. The congestion in the cafeteria is almost at an unbearable rate now, and the winter months will only add to the severity of this issue. With the frigid conditions slowly creeping upon the buildings of CCNY's campus, something must be done quickly to fix this problem.



*A stylish new look for the CCNY cafeteria.*

Editorials



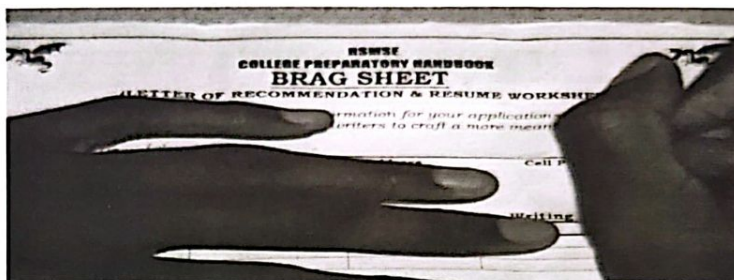
# Seniors

## Do We Really Have to Listen to Mr. Klein???

By: Kashif Harris

Since the first day of school Mr. Klein has been talking to some of us seniors about getting prepared for college. He constantly reminds us of deadlines for brag sheets, recommendation letters, and early applications. But is everything he asks us to do really that important? Is it really going to affect us that much in the long run? Well he thinks so, and some of the alumni agree. Lyndonna Munroe, a 2008 graduate, insists that "Mr. Klein knows exactly what he is talking about". I recently interviewed Lyndonna. Here is what she had to say about the college application process.

Kashif: What school do you attend?  
 Lyndonna: CCNY  
 K: Was this school your first choice?  
 L: Nooooooo.  
 K: What school was your first choice?  
 L: Clarkson University, I wanted to major in engineering.  
 K: Did you have the grades to get in?  
 L: Yep.  
 K: Well why didn't you get in?  
 L: I got lazy, didn't really feel like filling out the applications, especially the FASFA  
 K: What do you think about Mr. Klein's deadlines?  
 L: I didn't really think much of them until they rolled around and then I was like....Oh, right... I didn't not do stuff on purpose I was just in a steady spiraling downfall.  
 K: What has this taught you?  
 L: A lot  
 K: Ok, if you could give one piece of advice to the class of 2009 what would it be?  
 L: LISTEN TO MR. KLEIN!!!! He knows exactly what he is talking about. He is not dumb and he is only looking out for us and our butts!!  
 K: Do you know anyone who actually benefited from listening to Mr. Klein?  
 L: Of course, lots of people listened to Klein and got into great schools just by applying early and getting that grace period.  
 K: Did you listen to Mr. Klein at all???  
 L: Yes, and that got me here. I mean it was a little late to start listening but CCNY is a great choice engineering wise. Plus I see people from elementary, junior high and high school so for me it is a very comfortable environment.  
 K: What are you up to now that you're in college?  
 L: I am trying to create a National Society and Black Engineers Pre-Collegiate Initiative (NSBE PCI) chapter with HS MSE and CCNY. My relationship with MSE will obviously help me in this process

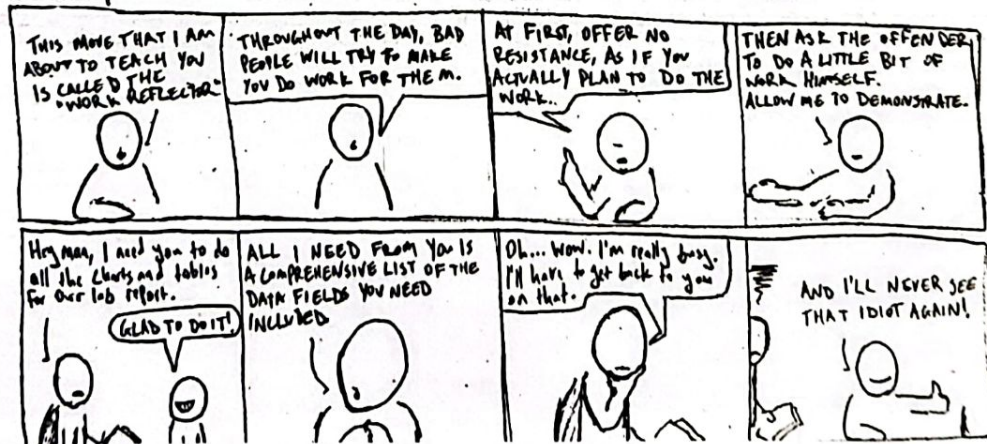


Well there you have it from an accomplished alumnus. So the next time you see Mr. Klein in the hall and he reminds you of the deadlines, take heed of what he is saying. He is looking out for us. Let's try to make his job easier and get all of our college stuff together on time (if not early). I'm sure he wouldn't mind.

## Working Smarter, Not Harder

By: Farren Essman

WORKING SMARTER,  
 NOT HARDER  
 TIP#1





# Juniors

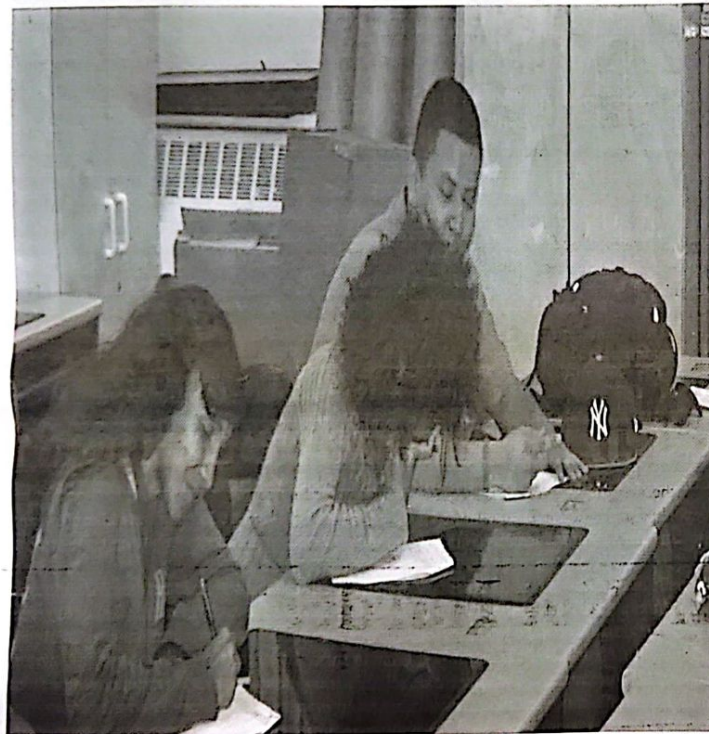
## Challenges Ahead...

By: San Jean Mc Laren

After returning from summer vacation and beginning a new school year, the typical high school student is most devastated by his/her fading tan line, the number of friends in his/her new science class, and his/her assigned time frame for lunch. However, this is not the case for most HS MSE juniors. It seems that the main concerns among the junior class is handling the work load, adjusting to new expectations set forth by teachers, and meeting requirements to pass each class. Along with these concerns, one of the most talked about change, in junior year, is the addition of POE (Principles of Engineering).

When several 11th grade students were interviewed about POE, their opinions were mixed. During the last two periods of the day, 11th grade students have to sit in their assigned POE room for three hours because physics immediately follows POE, in the same room. "It bothers me," says 11th grade student Arianny Suriel. "It's the hottest room in Baskerville and I get really tired of sitting in one spot for three hours. It's unbearable!" On the other hand some students, like Jony Rozon, are content with this new schedule change. He states, "It's alright, if you think about it only as ninety minutes...twice, then it's just fine." Along with the new adjustment of staying in one room, for a large time frame, the majority of students that were interviewed agree that the biggest complications in the 11th grade year are work load, time management, and online U Texas homework.

One of the well known facts at HS MSE is that the 2008-2009 class set really high standards for the classes to follow. One of those standards was their amazing results on the Regents exams. For instance, last year on the English Regents the class of 2009 had a 100% passing AND mastery rate and 100% passing and 96% mastery rate on the U.S. History Regents.



Junior students hard at work.

However, even with high standards to uphold, the junior class feels that they can live up to these expectations, or even exceed the previous year's results on the examination. When asked if the standards can be met, 11th grade student Janet Oluwole responded, "Yes, we're smart too!" Even though this is a great challenge, it seems that the grade is ready to tackle anything that comes at them in the next few months. This also includes SATs and college prep.

Although this year is rumored to be the most challenging at HS MSE, many students agree that there are teachers who make the long school day rewarding. The top three favorite teachers among the juniors are Ms. Boylan, Mrs. Lombardi, and the winner, Mrs. Wheeler (the German teacher). She is said to be "the funniest, most easygoing teacher." On the other hand, some of our pupils miss the teachers from sophomore year. When she was asked who her favorite teacher was, Jeleine Toussaint exclaimed, "I miss Ms. Zafonte...so much." Even though the teachers are different, the students are all sure that the assignments will be just as challenging.

Although it is the beginning of the year, the juniors are looking forward to the end of the 2009 school year and the beginning of senior year. For the most part, the students are satisfied with the new classes and eagerly anticipate the day that they will have bragging rights on new standards for the class of 2011 to live up to.

CLASS GROUPS

B	G	A	M
G	R	U	E
F	H	S	Y
P	K	N	I

## Boggle!!!!

By: Amari Carpenter

Find as many words as you can in the grid, according to the following rules:

1. The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'. (Letter cubes in the chain may be adjacent horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.)
2. Words must contain at least three letters.
3. No letter cube may be used more than once within a single word.



# Sophomores

## Sophomore Students Offer Advice to the Freshmen

By: Sophomores

The transition between eighth grade and freshman year may feel like a very confusing and complicated journey. Fortunately for this year's freshmen they have the sophomores to help. Many were willing to provide suggestions on how to make your first experience at HS MSE productive and enjoyable.

Don't let Mr. Podell catch you coming late.

Do not slack off in Kerzner's class once you take the regents you'll understand why.

Do not procrastinate in drafting.

Do not cut classes, if you get caught you get suspended, you miss a day of classes, and ultimately just bring more work upon yourself.

The signs on the stairwell... READ THEM! If you don't get caught one day, Mr. Podell will definitely catch you another time.

Do your homework the day it's assigned.

Never ever be late to Ms. Hesseltine's class.

When you do your homework don't chat online; it'll give you at least two hours more of your day back.

Bring your own lunch; you spend too much money in the cafeteria. And do not get the pizza!

Don't sleep in class and do pay attention, the day of the test it'll pay off.

Sleep at night, not in class.

You're in a college environment, book bags with wheels are a hassle.

Do not choose gastronomy as your enrichment, it's a senior elective.

Join after school clubs. Especially JSA.



*A sophomore hugging a freshman.*



# Freshmen

## Double Trouble By: Brian Durant

Brian: What's your name?  
Unknown: Dylan  
Brian: What's your name?  
Unknown: Brandon  
Brian: Are you two brothers?  
Dylan and Brandon: Yes, we're twins.

In the year 2005, HS MSE accepted their first set of twins. This was done through the work of two parents who, with the memory of 9/11 in their hearts, wanted a place where they could find both of their children quickly. Now, three years later, in the year 2008, another pair of identical twins, Dylan and Brandon, enter HS MSE, the school renowned for its student scores. Who are these twins? What are they like? Let's find out.

Brian (Q): What borough do you live in?  
Dylan (A1) and Brandon (A2): Bronx

Q: Were you born there?  
A1/A2: Yes

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?  
A1: Play video games, read-  
A2: -and play basketball.

Q: Are you good at basketball?  
A1/A2: We can beat anyone together.

Q: Ok. What school did you used to go to?  
A1: The worst school in the universe.  
A2: Holy Family

Q: Was the work in that school challenging?  
A1/A2: No

Q: Do you think that the work in that school prepared you for HS MSE?  
A1/A2: No

## Eavesdropping...

Freshman A: Hey (B), lets sit over here!  
Freshman B: No, let's sit over here: there's too much sun over there!  
~3 minutes later after much debating~  
Freshman A: Fine then, but I'm staying here.  
Freshman B: Fine.  
~Freshman C approaches~  
Freshman A: Hey (C), this is our table. Sit with me.  
Freshman B: No! Sit over here!

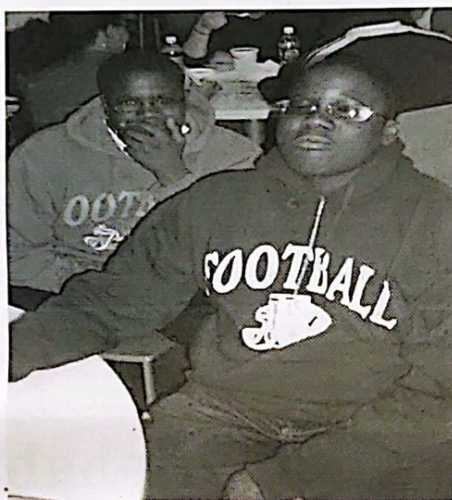
Q: Do you think that the specialized high school test was challenging?  
A1: Some of it, but not all. I did some studying.  
A2: Somewhat

Q: Knowing that the course load will only get harder, how do you plan to stay ahead of the game at HS MSE?  
A1: I plan to do my best, study, and ask my friends for help.  
A2: Ask for advice and do all my work ahead of time --\*saying this while he does his drafting homework, knowing that he has drafting today\*-

Q: Do you have any classes with each other?  
A1: Yea, drafting, physical education, bio lab, and astronomy.

Q: When people interact with you and your brother, do you feel that you are being identified as a unit? Or as an individual?  
A1: A unit  
A2: Half and half

So there you have it: Dylan and Brandon. The new twins at HS MSE. Will they live up to the expectations of their classmates, their teachers, and themselves? Will they follow in the footsteps of the "twins of 2009"? Guess we'll have to wait and see how these twins make a name for themselves as the year goes on.



Above: The Twins!

## New Kids on Convent's Block

By: San Jean Mc Laren

Going from middle school to high school is quite a transition. With new classes, new faces, and just about everything unfamiliar, HS MSE freshmen anticipate an exciting, yet challenging school year ahead of them.

A survey was handed out to a group of students who represent the freshman class. In the survey, questions were asked of the freshmen's impression of HS MSE. Many wrote that the atmosphere of school is "hectic," "rushed," and "peculiar." On the other hand some students stated that they enjoy the campus. One student described the environment as "beautiful" and another referred to it as "a large campus."

One aspect all HS MSE freshmen agree on is that class periods are too long and the time between periods is too short. Students agree that because classes are lengthy it makes it hard to stay focused on one subject. A student wrote, "They are long! There is too much algebra and not enough time to get to class." Another student wrote, "The school hours are way too long! And there is no free time or study hall." Another unanimous opinion of HS MSE freshmen are the faculty members. Here are some responses from the students about the staff members: "They are cool. The teachers are helpful. All (teachers) are funny. The teachers are very supportive and corny but entertaining."

When asked how they feel about the other freshmen and the upperclassmen, the majority of students state that they do not see or speak to their peers as much as they anticipated. In order for everyone to get a better perspective of a freshman student at HS MSE, Christian Johnson volunteered to share some of his opinions on his first year in high school.

*Christian Johnson's Bird's Eye View:*

*At HS MSE it's easy to meet new people. There are different programs that make getting accustomed easier, such as Big Siblings and Freshman Friday. Some upperclassmen help me out and give me a lot of tips on how to survive in HS MSE. Also the teachers are very nice and have very different personalities. Mr. Hershow teaches grammar. He loves talking about politics, which is the main source for all his random tangents. Mr. Wille, my Algebra 1 teacher is a very intelligent man. He loves to give a lot of homework and gets very engaged in class. Mr. Martinez teaches my elective, acoustic guitar. He is a great musician and loves to play. Overall ninth grade is shaping up to be a very exciting year that we expect to be difficult, however in the end it will all be worth it.*

Overall there are many positive reactions to HS MSE despite all the improvements the students feel the school needs. These improvements include adding a study hall, extending the time it takes to transition from one class to another, making the lunch periods longer and shortening the school days. As a word of advice to the freshmen, these are all a part of the change from middle school to a high school like HS MSE. Good luck!



# What's Your Sign?

By: Amari Carpenter

**AQUARIUS** January 20-February 18  
Try not to worry too much about whether or not you're stuck in a pothole. That is almost never true for you! In fact, this month brings a little bonus of some kind that seems to make life even better.

**PISCES** February 19-March 20  
It's a good time for you to get out in the world. You may not be able to travel on your own quite yet, but you can at least roam as far as you can and take in all the sights and sounds that you can.

**ARIES** March 21-April 19  
Your blistering energy is perfect for starting - or even restarting - romance. If you have your eye on someone, you are seeing someone already, now is a great time to show them how you really feel.

**TAURUS** April 20-May 20  
Feel free to mix it up with people this month - it's practically guaranteed that there will be struggles, so you might as well take a chance dive in headfirst. Nobody has any guarantees, so things could look a lot different positively or negatively afterward.

**GEMINI** May 21-June 21  
Something big will change your financial situation - and there are chances it might not be for the better. Try to get a handle on it quickly, because even if it seems good at first, there may be really weird consequences. Spend your money wisely!

**CANCER** June 22-July 22  
It's all about you right now, even if someone else has the audacity to complain about their personal problems. You may feel a bit of concern, but deep down you know you should focus on yourself first.

**LEO** July 23-August 22  
Your natural modesty is taking over now, which could mean that you let someone else take the credit for a recent victory. That's cool and nice - but you still should collect at least some of the loot for yourself!

**VIRGO** August 23-September 22  
Let things happen over this month. Yes they're not to your liking, maybe, but opposition is pointless. If you heed to the advice, you may be able to manage your schedule a bit to fix things up in the end.

**LIBRA** September 23-October 22  
You're feeling a bit too much emotion over an incident that almost everyone else has moved past, but don't cover up how you feel. Express yourself even if nobody knows what you mean.

**SCORPIO** October 23 - November 21  
It's time to really pay attention to that one person in your life that is usually so difficult to understand. Right now, you can read him/her much more easily than usual - watch and learn!

**SAGITTARIUS** November 22-December 21  
You and a friend or family member aren't getting along so well right now; you just need to accept that sometimes things aren't all that great. Expect a big boost in the very near future because the night is darkest before the dawn.

**CAPRICORN** December 22-January 19  
You're facing reality in a new way this month. Things may be more vibrant and noticeable to you compared to any of your friends. It's a good time for you to slow down and really take a hard look at the situation in your life.

## Sudoku

By: Amari Carpenter

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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

## Alphabet Sudoku

By: Amari Carpenter

Instructions: Solve the 12x12 Sudoku so the letters A to L appear once in each row, column and 4x3 box.

	E		H			A					K
		F				C			B		J
J	B			G	L		F				
K							C		B	G	D
		A	D	H							
	J		G	B			E				C
D				E			I	L			C
							K	I	A		
F	H	L		J							B
				F		G	L			H	K
	I		K			H			J		
	F				B			E		L	



# Yo Yanakis!

By: Julian Chin

Dear Yanakis,

I have a tough decision to make and I need to hear your opinion on what I should do. I am being accepted into several colleges, some being in the city and some located out of state. Should I go away for college or stay home in the city?

Sincerely,  
Should I Stay or Should I Go.

Dear Should I Stay or Should I Go,

This decision is entirely up to you but consider things like what if you need some family help or company, will you be able to reach them or they reach you? Are you ready to take another step towards independence? Do you like home cooking? To what extent will your expenses be taken care of - did you plan how emergency cash will be made available to you? Who will feed your goldfish, iguana, kangaroo, etc. when you're gone? Can you handle responsibilities like laundry, food, time for schoolwork, cleaning, exercise or does someone always chase after you? Try doing as much of these things as you can right now just to simulate what it might be like.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Yanakis

Dear Yanakis,

There is someone I like for some time now and I don't know how to approach her to get her attention. Oh I forgot to mention the person is already in a relationship with someone else, but it seems that this relationship is going nowhere. Should I move on or try to get with this person?

Sincerely,  
She belongs to me

Dear She belongs to Me,

Been there, and yes, done that. If you're interested go for it, unless she's with a friend of yours then lay off. Now if you don't like the guy she's with - full speed ahead. Start talking to her regularly. Since their relationship is rocky, you have a chance to cheer her up or take her mind off the other guy. As far as getting her attention is concerned, you'll have to figure that one out - just don't do something crazy like dress up in a costume and sing opera (never worked for me).

Sincerely,  
Mr. Yanakis

Dear Yanakis,

I get nervous thinking about being committed to a major that I know will be a very difficult course to take in college. How did you handle the difficult work and commitments with your major in audio engineering and still make a career out of it?

Sincerely,  
I need a Career

Dear I need a Career,

I didn't work as an audio engineer but I studied, tutored and used the knowledge for my own endeavors - but that's not important here. First off you have to be interested. You then have to be resolved to work at it and start managing your time more keenly. Remember, commitment and persistence beat difficulty anytime. Regularly and honestly assess how you're doing and make changes to improve. Continue like this and you will succeed.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Yanakis

Dear Yanakis,

A project was assigned to me in class today and I got stuck with a partner who I do not like at all. On top of that he wants to input all of his ideas ignoring all of my ideas. What should I do?

Sincerely,  
My Grade is on the Line

Dear My Grade is on the Line,

Welcome to the club. Politely and unemotionally confront him. Tell him he smells of old wet rags (just kidding). Let him know that he hasn't been letting you participate and how that's making you feel. Tell him that the acceptance or rejection of any idea should be discussed and approved by both of

you. See if you can get him to agree. If he does, thank him and carry on. If he falls back into old habits (as most people will do), just remind him. If the bad behavior persists, talk to or write a note to your teacher and get him/her involved in a discussion with both of you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Yanakis

Dear Mr. Yanakis

I want to get in better shape and build more muscle. I really don't know where to start. What foods should I eat? What workout regiment should I follow to build more muscle?

Sincerely,  
I want to look Better

Dear I want to look Better,

Alright, let's get big! It's going to be tuff answering this in one article. Teen years are a great time to start thinking about putting on muscle - the trick is avoiding time wasting and injury producing mistakes. Building muscle optimally requires addressing the following areas:

1. Training
2. Diet
3. Rest
4. Consistency
5. Cycling

Training

Training should take 40 minutes to 1 hour. Every body part should be trained 1 to 2 times per week and your workouts should stress different muscle groups. A sample breakdown might look like the table below. On the 4th day just start from 1 and follow through the list.

Training Day 1	Chest, Biceps, Triceps, Abs
Training Day 2	Shoulders, Back, Abs, Cardio
Training Day 3	Legs (Quads, Hams, Calves)

The weights you should be using should restrict you to 8 - 12 repetitions per set. Legs should be worked for 16 to 20 reps per set. Rest for 60 to 90 seconds between sets.

Diet

Each meal should consist of sufficient quantities of proteins, carbs and fat. As far as protein is concerned your goal should be one gram of protein per pound of lean bodyweight per day. If you're thin use your actual weight, otherwise subtract anywhere from 15 to 25% to get your lean weight. Eat 4 to 6 times a day if possible spaced 3 to 4 hours apart. You may have to invest in a protein powder or meal replacement (from a muscle supplements company - no slimfast stuff). Keep fat low. Meats should be lean, and all types can be. Carbs should come from beans, rice, sweet potatoes, yucca, and potatoes - bread, pasta and sugars should be in small infrequent quantities.

Rest

You must sleep well at night, at home. This means that those occasional naps in class gotta go. Sleep quantity doesn't matter as much as quality and depth so if you want to force yourself to stay awake often to hang out with friends, play games, etc.; you're wasting precious muscle building opportunities. Aim for the standard 6 to 8.

Consistency

Skipping workouts, taking layoffs and losing motivation will work against you.

Cycling

I'm not necessarily talking about bicycles here. After 3 months of consistent training take an active break for a week and just do cardio (bicycles are OK) and abdominals. After that, restart your workout with lower weight and double the repetitions for about 2 weeks, then go back to normal. You should be able to train with heavier weights at this point.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Yanakis

JUST FOR FUN



# New York's Racetrack Riches

By: Ian Gamble

If you have ever watched *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* or the more recent *MTV Cribs*, you've seen the fabulous Ferraris and Lamborghinis. And if you are a car aficionado you never pass up the opportunity to get up close and personal with a classic car. A few weeks ago, I got just such an opportunity. At the time I was out on one of my frequent explorational spins in my own car when I came across a shack on the side of the road about two or three blocks away from the Kensico dam in Kensico, NY. The shack itself looked like it was on its last legs, but when I saw what was in the shack I did a double take: there was a Ferrari 250 GTO right in the window. I drove up onto the sidewalk in front of the place to do a little window shopping and I spied another 250 GTO, a pair of '56 Porsches, a Ferrari GT 250 Lusso (like in Ferris Bueller's Day Off), a 1984 Ferrari Testarossa, a Lamborghini Miura and most importantly, a 1966 Ford GT40.

The GT40 (nicknamed the Ferrari eater) was built for one reason and one reason alone: to beat Ferraris at extreme endurance races. The GT40 packed a 289cid V8 engine that produced just over 300 horsepower and is one of a hand full of 60's cars with a 5-speed transmission. Because of a feud raging between Henry Ford II and Enzo Ferrari, Ford attempted to beat Ferrari, who had won five consecutive years in a row (1960 to 1965), at the world's greatest endurance race: 24 hours of LeMans. Ford turned to his associates, Lotus, Cooper, and a company called Lola for help. Each of the companies came up with ideas but in the end Lola's was chosen. The prototype that was built was a mid-engine car with a Ford V8, called the Lola MK VI. Even though on paper the car looked like an extreme race car, Enzo's Ferrari 250P crushed it and, sadly the MK VI didn't even finish.

Ford's staff then went back to the drawing board, but they didn't want to completely scrap the MK VI so they worked off 2 MK VIs. The next year the first Ford GT40 showed up at Nurburgring, Germany, one of the hardest endurance races in the world. Finally Ford thought they were ready for the LeMans race, so the GT40 was entered in the 1964 race. Unfortunately Ford was forced to forfeit due to mechanical problems and then lost again in 1965. In 1966 some subtle modifications were made and the GT40 became the GT40 MK II. The MK II won every 24 hour LeMans race from 1966 to 1969, some of these were 1-2-3 wins (meaning that all 3 of the MK IIs entered won, they took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd). 1-2-3 wins don't happen too often, so it would be a rare opportunity to see a car that is that high-quality.

I highly recommend taking a trip up to Kensico to soak up some race car history; it is an important part of American culture as well as Italian, British, and German. It could easily be considered as fascinating as any other art form because it reflects a quality of craftsmanship that is lost in many parts of the world. Today people just buy Japanese cars, which are built from the lowest of low end parts thrown together absentmindedly, only for fuel economy. I would sooner hang an etch-a-sketch on my wall and throw a Picasso in the trash. Soon cars like the one feature in Kensico will disappear. This might just be a once in a lifetime opportunity... why not take it?

*Below: The '66 Ferrari Eater*





# The Clutch Factor

By: Noah Brecker-Redd

On the first Sunday of October, when the dew settled and the air was crisp, many New York sports fans only had one game to look forward to the following week. For the past decade Yankees fans, old and new, have been spoiled by the outstanding success of the Yankees in October. This year, for the first time in 14 years October was Yankee-less. While Yankees fans complained about the playoffs, or lack thereof, Patriots fans booed the Patriots off the field when they lost their first regular-season game in 21 games. That brings to mind a question: who is more spoiled? Yankees or Patriots fans? But I digress. This October while the Red Sox were running their postseason promoting "Soxtober" commercials and the Tampa Bay Rays were basking in their first post-season berth in the history of their franchise, the Yankees sat at home with their million dollar wives, without a golden ticket to the Fall-Classic. (I can't believe I am saying this, but I am rooting for the Tampa Bay Devil, er, "The Rays" to win the World Series. Anything to go against Boston, right?)

Fans are scrambling to find excuses for the Yankees 2008 season: some claim it's the insertion of the new manager, Joe Girardi, some look to the departure of Joe Torre (Does anyone else think it was stingy when the Yankees didn't celebrate Joe Torre in the closing ceremony of Yankee Stadium), and some even blame it on injuries. However, the real reason the Yankees missed the playoffs this season is because everything that could go wrong - did.

During spring training the expectations for the starting rotation were high. Phil Hughes had been regarded as the "Number One Pitching Prospect in Baseball" and scouts predicted that he would have a great year. Ian Kennedy was projected to have solid year, but there was no reason why. Near the end of 2007 Kennedy started four respectable, but not great games. But scouts know best right? Andy Pettitte was expected to have a solid year, and coming off of two straight 19-win seasons, Chien-Ming Wang was deemed the ace of the staff. The expectations for Mike Mussina were well below average. He was regarded as "the weak link" and many assumed that within two months he would be removed from the rotation. What happened in reality was quite different: Mussina was the MVP of the staff, Phil Hughes and Ian Kennedy combined for zero, that's right, zero wins and Chien-Ming Wang struggled with injuries and finished with 9 wins. If you told Yankees fans that for a good portion of the summer three of the starters in the rotation would be Sidney Ponson, Dan Giese and Darrel Rasner, they would probably have said "who?"

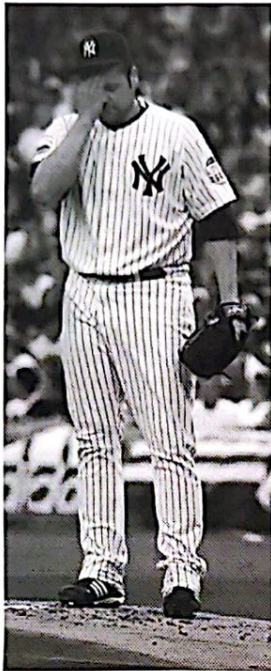
Despite the pitching rotation imploding, the rotation had an average year and posted a middle-of-the pack ERA, 4.28 vs. 4.49 last year. Prior to the 2008 season many scouts projected that the Yankees offense would produce 950 runs. Instead, the Yankees lineup didn't even score 800 runs. Many made the excuse that the Yankees faced an unbearable amount of injuries.

Hank Steinbrenner claimed "it happens to everyone, this year we faced the injury bug." In fact, the Yankees did face an astonishing amount of injuries: A-Rod was out for a month, Matsui missed the majority of the year, Damon missed a month with a shoulder injury, Jeter was playing at 50% after a pitch hit his guiding (left) hand for about 5 weeks and Posada started behind the plate in only 21 games. The injuries aren't an excuse though, with a payroll over \$200 million the Yankees should have been equipped to overcome injuries.

There are a couple of reasons the Yankees failed to reach the post-season for the first time since 1993. When fans look back at the 2008 season many will remember the clutch hitting of A-Rod. I apologize, that was not a typo it was a joke in poor taste that probably made Yankees fans cringe, A-Rod's inability to get a hit when it was needed most is one of the main causes of the failed season. A-Rod only hit homeruns when the Yankees were up by 4 runs or down by 6 runs, led the league in "add-on runs" (runs that are scored, but have no effect on the games outcome, aka A-Rods specialty), and batted an astounding .246 with runners in scoring position, but he wasn't the only Yankee to bat poorly in clutch situations. The only Yankees that batted above .300 with runners in scoring position were Johnny Damon and Derek Jeter, consequently the Yankees 1 and 2 hitters. The Yankees ranked in the bottom third in getting the runner in from third with less than 2 outs.

Although the lack of clutch hitting may seem like the prime reason there are other factors to blame for the Yankees missing the playoffs, such as "The Stache" and "The Golden Thong." Giambi's good-luck charms, weren't. When it became public knowledge that Derek Jeter, Jason Giambi and Johnny Damon strap up for games wearing a golden thong under the beloved pinstripes, a disturbing image was created in fan's minds. Even worse than that image, was the celebration of Giambi's stache on "Mustache Day". Has the Yankees organization really fallen that far that it hands out artificial mustaches to fans to promote all-star voting? Watching Yankees fans roam around the stadium rockin' fake porn-staches angered the Baseball Gods. Robinson Cano's play made as little sense as my Giambi bash. Cano can be blamed for closing the greatest stadium in American history without a postseason appearance. If he was replaced with any average second baseman I guarantee the Yankees would have reached the playoffs. Robby Cano, a consistent .300 hitter, batted .269 this year, tanking the Yankees 2008 season. Cano has the potential to be the best 2nd baseman in the MLB, and for the past couple of seasons some argued that he was the best. However, his constant partying before day-games and lack of focus and consistency seriously damaged the Yankees potential to compete in the postseason.

The Yankees 2008 season was abysmal, embarrassing and wasteful, but there is a first time for everything. Next year, hopefully, the results will be exponential greater, like maybe a World Series.



## Bitter-Sweet Closing of Yankee Stadium

By: Noah Brecker-Redd

The closing ceremony for Yankee Stadium was majestic, awe-inspiring and historic. I had the privilege of being there, and it was one of the most amazing events I ever witnessed. There were a couple of questionable aspects missing from the Yankee history montage however. First off, the Yankees couldn't manage to create a manager montage to represent all the great managers throughout their history, Billy Martin and Casey Stengel just to name a few.



Yankee Stadium has seen its last game

The absence of a manager montage was puzzling, but even more so was the lack of Joe Torre and Roger Clemens' presence. I vaguely understand not putting Roger Clemens in the ceremony, as he is assumed to have used steroids to boost his performance and putting him on the big screen might arouse some boos. But, this is the same guy who won two World Series with the Yankees and was probably one of the greatest pitchers of his era. Joe Torre is another story. Joe Torre is one of the greatest Yankee managers ever; he has won over 1000 games with the Yankees and to not put him in the ceremony because of a disastrous exit from the organization.

Although the ceremony was beautiful and unforgettable it left a bitter-sweet taste in Yankees fan's mouths. A stadium that hosted over 40% of the World Series in baseball history ended without a World Series or even a postseason. Yankee Stadium is the greatest sports venue in American history, it is more than just a baseball stadium, it is an American landmark.

On October 30, 2001 in Game 3 of the World Series President George Bush threw out the ceremonial first pitch, it was not an ordinary first pitch, though. It was a mere two months after one of the most fatal attacks on America, "9/11" and the President throwing out the first pitch made a statement to the world that American was not going to back down to terrorism. That moment in Yankee Stadium was an example that sometimes sports is more than just a game.



# Barcelona

Barcelona está localizada en Cataluña, en el noreste de España, en las orillas del mar Mediterráneo. Es una de las ciudades más pobladas en España y de la Unión Europea. Barcelona es un lugar lleno de partes turísticas por ejemplo, museos, restaurantes, centros comerciales, playas, y recintos deportivos.

Teatro-Museo Dalí

El Teatro-Museo Dalí está localizado en Figueras, la ciudad en donde nació el artista español Salvador Dalí. Después de la Guerra Civil Española el edificio del teatro fue destruido y Dalí se encargó de arreglar el espacio. Cuando terminó de arreglarlo el teatro fue transformado en el museo que existe hoy. En el teatro se encuentra la colección de Dalí más extensa y diversa en el mundo. Se pueden encontrar colecciones pequeñas de otros artistas que Dalí coleccionó. También alberga el cuerpo de Dalí adentro una cripta en el sótano del edificio. La combinación de pinturas, esculturas, y hasta el diseño del museo hará una visita muy agradable.

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Barcelona

Si usted prefiere visitar un museo con una gama más variada de artistas, el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Barcelona sería una mejor opción. La arquitectura del museo refleja el movimiento Modernista con sus



Barcelona

By: Mariany Polanco

líneas sencillas y su extenso uso del vidrio. Dentro del museo se encuentran tres periodos de arte empezando en los cuarentas y terminando en arte contemporáneo. La gran mayoría de los artistas exhibidos son artistas españoles aunque hay algunas obras de artistas extranjeros. El museo también es famoso por otras cosas como un área favorita de mono patinadores. Entonces si quiere disfrutar, del arte moderno, el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo es un lugar para explorar en su visita a Barcelona.

Catedral de la Santa Cruz y Santa Eulalia

Si usted quiere mantener su alma religiosa durante su viaje a Barcelona, un lugar que tiene que ver es la Catedral de la Santa Cruz y Santa Eulalia. La Catedral, que está dedicada a Santa Cruz y Santa Eulalia, es el asiento del arzobispo de Barcelona. Como muchos lugares de Barcelona, la arquitectura de la Catedral con su construcción gótica es muy impresionante adentro y afuera. Dentro la Catedral se encuentra un pequeño museo en donde uno puede ver pinturas dedicadas a Santa Eulalia y San Olegario.

Para aprender más sobre Barcelona hablaremos con el Señor Martínez, que visitó este maravilloso lugar este verano.

- ¿Por qué visito a Barcelona?

- Yo tengo muchos amigos y familiares allá y quería verlos.

- ¿Son diferentes las personas en Barcelona comparado a Nueva York?

- Las personas son mucho más humildes. Pero Barcelona está lleno de turistas especialmente durante el verano.

- ¿Disfruto usted su visita?

- Sí. Barcelona tiene comida deliciosa, es el lugar perfecto para disfrutar de la vida. Está lleno de muchos placeres sofisticados. Tiene lugares con miles de vinos cual uno pueda aprobar. También tiene colecciones de arte muy impresionantes, como el museo de Dalí.

- ¿Recomienda que otros visiten Barcelona?

- Depende. Hay muchos lugares de moda y de compras. Las noches son más largas que el día. Es un lugar muy sofisticado.

- ¿Trajo algo para sus estudiantes?

- Yo siempre les traigo muchas cosas para enseñar, pero depende en el interés de los estudiantes.

## Información sobre El Museo Picasso:

<http://www.bcn.cat/museopicasso/es/museo/presentacion.html>

El Museo Picasso de Barcelona es el centro de referencia para el conocimiento de los años de formación de Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Abierto al público en 1963, acoge un fondo de más de 3.800 obras, que componen la colección permanente, y ofrece una dilatada programación de exposiciones temporales.

Pero el Museo Picasso también es el testimonio de su vínculo con Barcelona. Un vínculo estrecho e inseparable, forjado en su adolescencia y su juventud, y que se prolongó hasta su muerte. La máxima expresión de su fuerte vinculación con la ciudad es el propio Museo Picasso de Barcelona, creado por voluntad personal del artista: gracias a la voluntad de Picasso y de su amigo Jaume Sabartés, Barcelona dispone hoy de la obra de juventud, así como de la serie completa de Las Meninas, de uno de los artistas más significativos de la escena artística del siglo XX.

El museo, que ha pasado por sucesivas ampliaciones y remodelaciones, está iniciando una nueva etapa de despliegue, con la apertura de nuevos programas y líneas de acción, para convertirse en un espacio básico para el conocimiento y la educación en el sentido más amplio, que fomente el espíritu crítico y la participación del visitante. El museo quiere ser un espacio de diálogo, activando lecturas críticas y ofreciendo nuevas perspectivas en torno a Picasso y la colección en general. Ver presentación del director del museo.

### El Museo Picasso en China, EE.UU. y Japón

La presencia del museo en el mundo, más allá de la línea de los préstamos internacionales, se está intensificando. Tres actuaciones de este otoño dan impulso a la proyección exterior.

El departamento de Colecciones del Museo Picasso de Barcelona está presente el mes de octubre en China, donde imparte unas conferencias organizadas por el Instituto Cervantes, en Beijing y en Shanghai. Con el título de "Las musas de Picasso" y "Picasso y Barcelona", estas charlas forman parte del programa de actividades "Picasso en octubre" con las cuales el Centro Cultural quiere rendir homenaje al artista en el mes en que murió. El programa lo forman un ciclo de conferencias, proyecciones de cine, una exposición de cerámicas de Picasso y una muestra de trabajos escolares de alumnos de 9 a 12 años del distrito de Dongcheng sobre cómo ven la figura y la obra del artista.

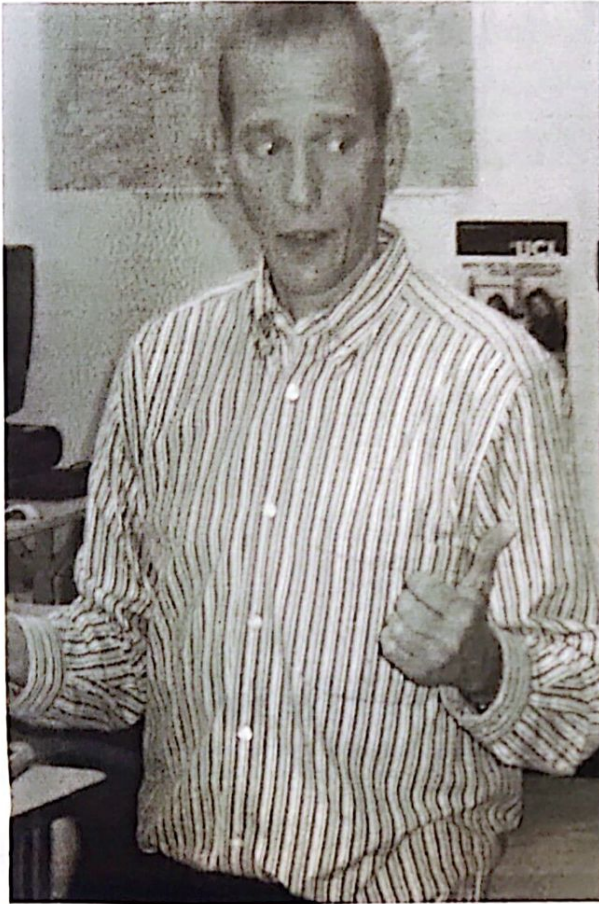
El museo ha sido asimismo invitado a formar parte del Comité de Programa internacional para la próxima edición del Congreso Museums & the Web 2009. Forman parte del Comité representantes de los más prestigiosos museos, entre los cuales el Victoria & Albert de Londres, el museo Van Gogh de Amsterdam, el Smithsonian American Art Museum, el Getty Conservation Institute o el Exploratorium de San Francisco, así como representantes de universidades como la Panteion de Grecia, el departamento de Museum Studies de Leicester y la Universidad de Australia del Sur.

En el marco de este Congreso, de celebración anual y de referencia en todo el mundo, se presentó el pasado mes de abril la nueva web del Museo Picasso. Y en Japón, el reportaje dedicado al Museo Picasso de Barcelona ha abierto el número monográfico que la revista Pen (nº 231, 2008) ha dedicado a la figura de Pablo Picasso, titulado "Traveling Picasso". En entrevista al director, Pepe Serra, se explica al público nipón el origen del museo por la propia voluntad del artista y la estrecha vinculación de Picasso con Barcelona.

El público asiático constituye el de más afluencia entre los visitantes del Museo Picasso de Barcelona.



# Freshmanmeinungen zu Deutsch I



Herr Piper

Von: Will Galmot

In H.S.M.S.E., müssen die meisten ankommenden Freshmans Deutsch I machen. Der riesigen Mehrheit dieser Schüler und Schülerinnen, ist das ihre erste Begegnung mit der eigentlichen Sprache. Aber abhängen von früheren Begegnungen mit der allgemeinen deutschen Kultur, sind diese Erlebnisse unterschiedlich. Weil ich mir ein gründliches Verständnis für wie die Neuntklässler über ihre neuen Deutschklassen meinen besorgen wollte, verteilte ich zwei Probengruppen eine Umfrage.

Alle Freshmans schrieb auf, dass sie ihre Deutschlehrer (d.h., Herr Piper und Frau Rapp) einigermaßen sympatisch fanden. Jedoch, aber ihre Meinungen über die eigentliche deutsche Sprache waren gar nicht so einmütig. Viele finden, dass die Grammatik, die Aussprache, und in einigen Fällen, der Wortschatz ziemlich schwierig sind.

Was vergangene Fremdsprachen betrifft, antworteten viele Freshmans, dass sie Spanisch entweder in ihren früheren Schulen oder zu Hause gelernt hatten. Andere Fälle schlossen Französisch, Japanisch, Russisch, Polnisch, und ein Paar andere Sprachen ein. Während viele meinen, dass Deutsch schwieriger als Spanisch ist, sagten andere, dass es einfacher war. Als sie gefragt wurden, ob sie Deutsch in der Zukunft weitermachen möchten, antworteten einige, dass sie gar nicht so machen würden. Viele andere sagte sie, dass es nachdem sie so in MSE machen würden.

Im Allgemeinen, während ein bedeutsamer Anzahl Deutsch-I Schüler und Schülerinnen schrieb, dass sie nicht so interessiert für Deutsch waren, antworteten andere dass sie die Sprache gern hatten, und eigentlich Deutsch weiterlernen und beherrschen möchten. Wie jedes andere Jahr davor, haben die Freshmans, die Deutsch I machen, eine gemischte Reaktion auf sowohl den Kurs als auch die Sprache.

## Die Besten und die Schlechtesten in HS MSE

Von: Sophomores in Frau Rapps Klasse

Das beste Ding in der Schule ist Mittagessen. Ich mag Mittagessen, weil ich mein Lieblingessen bestellen kann und das Essen ist super! Sind sie viele Dinge machen. Ich spiele Karten mit meinen Freunden. Ich mag Karten spielen. Das schlimmste Ding in der Schuler ist die Zeit. Jeder Unterricht ist zu lang. Die Schule ist zu lang. Ich möchte ein kurzere Schuletag.

-Andrew Sosa

Ich meine Schule das beste Dinge ist das Essen. Frau Rapp ist meine Lehrerin. Ich habe fünf Unterricht jeden Tag. PE ist gut. Das Meisteste ist der Tag ist sehr lange. Also, Unterricht ist sehr lang. Schule ist so so.

-Andre Simmons

Das beste Ding in die Schule ist Sport und Band. In Sport spielen wir Fu?ball und das ist mein Lieblingssport. In Band spiele ich Klavier und ich spiele Rock Musik gern. Ein Anderes bestes Ding in die Schule ist die Pause für Mittagessen. Ich spreche viel mit meinen Freunden am Mittagessen und wir lachen. Das beste Ding in die Schule sind die Lehren. Sie sind lustig und intelligent.

-Giselle Panheco

Ich denk meine Schule ist gut weil wir intelligent sind. Meine Lehrer sind sehr brillant und sehr nette Leute. Sie unterrichten wir viele nützlich Informationen. Seit es ist ein klein Schule wir alle wissen einander und wir sind ein groß Familie. Jedoch es gibt ist etwas schlecht ungefähr der

Schule. Wir haben Freistunde nicht. Ich denk wir sollen zugeben mehr Leute in wir Schule so wir können diversifizieren wir Schule.

-Oishi Gomes

Wann das Mittagessenklingeln klingelt, bin ich froh. Ich liebe Essen. Während Mittagessen kann ich unter die Leute gehen. Meine Freunde haben auch das Mittagessen. Ich kann auch Chinesichessen bestellen. Wir Schulerin dürfen drau?en Sein. Mittagessen dauert nicht lang genug.

-Camille Cameron

Das WahlfachKlingeln ist die schönste Musik, weil es meine Lieblingskategorie des Tages ist. Wann das Klingeln um zehn Uhr fünf und fünfzig hören, ich bin froh. Das WahlfachKlingeln ist der halbe tag. In Meinem Walfach kann ich leise arbeiten. Dann habe ich Mittagessen und das ist eine nette Pause: Ich kann in die Mattagzeit schlafen oder essen oder arbiten. Also, das WahlfachKlingeln ist die schönste Musik.

-Leo Chen

Am besten ist Chor weil ich Musik und singen mag. Ich bin auch mit meinen Freunde. Wir sind manchmal laut aber es macht Spaß. Die Lieder, die wir singen, sind manchmal langweilig. Andere sind sehr schön zu hören. Herr D'Alessandro ist lustig auch. Der bester Teil ist daß, das Zimmer nie ruhig ist.

-Kathleen Lopez

DEUTSCH



# Rediscovering African-American Literature: A Teacher's Perspective

By: Stuart Hershov

When I was a sophomore in college, I noticed a book entitled *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in a room at Jones Hall, one of Haverford College's grey-stoned dormitory buildings. I looked at the cover which showed an artistic rendering of a young black woman gazing up at the stars. I did not recognize the name of its author, a certain Zora Neale Hurston, and as I had many pages to read and term papers to write for my professors, my thoughts drifted away to more pressing concerns.

Still, that encounter with the book's cover became imprinted on my mind. In my senior year of college I registered for the course "African-American Literature I" with a visiting professor from the University of Nebraska. A brilliant, young African-American scholar, she attracted much student interest in her courses. We read slave narratives, including Olaudah Equiano's autobiographical account from the late eighteenth century and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. I remember studying the short stories of Charles Chesnut collected in a large beige and brown hard-cover edition that I still have in my library today. We also read from an anthology entitled *Black Voices*, a collection of poetry and prose which included pieces by Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, and Langston Hughes that would grow to become among my favorite American poems.

The educational value of African-American poetry was evident to me from my earliest days as a teacher. Poems such as Hughes' "Ballad of the Landlord" and Brooks' "We Real Cool" have a crisp, incisive tone that teens can relate to. However, it has been primarily here at HS MSE that I have learned to incorporate African-American novels, short stories, essays, and biography in English class. Dr. Stern, our Departmental Chair in English, has played an important role in my learning and development in this area.

Last year, Dr. Stern completed extensive doctoral research on the use of Black English (i.e. the vernacular English spoken by African-Americans) by students in their discussion and writing about African-American literature. She has shared her research with her colleagues and during a summer course I recently took at Teachers College Columbia University which she taught. When Professor Stern taught her lessons on the Harlem Renaissance she arrived to class with a suitcase of books, pamphlets, and archival collections. We passed around the class special editions of Harlem Renaissance literature and photographs of 1920's Harlem and its star writers, poets, and scholars. I had not realized how vast and extensive this movement was until I leafed through this amazing collection. And it was in this course that I finally had the opportunity to study Hurston's acclaimed novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. My encounter with this novel had come full circle - and I could finally speak with understanding and compassion about the trials of its protagonist Janie Crawford.

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Janie tells the story of her search for love and identity in conversation with her sisterly friend Pheoby. It is "Pheoby's hungry listening" that "helped Janie to tell her story." (10) Hurston's narrator alternates between Janie's voice in the black vernacular of West Florida, and an omniscient narrator that describes and explains in beautiful Standard English. Janie's tale is a love story, and this novel of a young black woman's gradual discovery of love through trial and error is very moving. I feel for Janie because she is so innately good and stoically persevering in a world cruel and indifferent to a woman of color. The granddaughter of slaves, Janie is born into a deeply patriarchal and racially segregated America. Yet, she creates for herself a remarkably free and independent life. Janie transcends the limits imposed on her (represented by her grandmother's post-civil war attitude) that restricts a black woman's place in marriage, ownership of property and social position.

Hurston captures the essence of romantic love with both philosophical observations by the omniscient narrator, and in dramatized scenes between Janie and her lover Tea Cake. The novel's chapters often begin with dream-like prose, filled with hope and possibility. In the beginning of chapter three, the narrator asks "Did marriage end the cosmic loneliness of the unmated? Did marriage compel love like the sun the day?" (21) How wonderfully the author uses the adjective "cosmic" before loneliness - it conjures a great dark existential void that, like for Hemingway, can be best fulfilled by love. By raising questions, the author invites speculation about the events in Janie's life. Hurston pays great attention to diction, as evidenced by her skillful use of simile, asking whether "marriage" brings "love" the way the rising "sun" brings "day." These are complicated and searching questions that Janie must ponder as she grows as a woman.

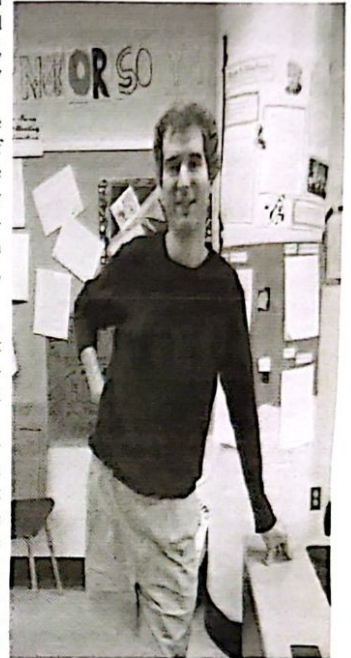
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* is ground-breaking because it portrays African-Americans as multi-faceted individuals, proud of their heritage and customs, and not the mere victims of white America. Hurston went on to write other novels including *Moses, Man of the Mountain* (1939) and *Seraph on the Sewanee* (1948). She was an established figure of the Harlem Renaissance when Ralph Ellison, who would become a great black novelist, arrived in New York City in 1936. Ellison had come to New York at age 22 to earn money after training as a musician in the south. He joined the left-wing New York City intellectual scene of the 1930's and 40's, eventually becoming a scholar, essayist and professor.

Ellison's fame rests primarily on his novel *Invisible Man*, a semiautobiographical work first published in 1947. My own engagement with this novel has reminded me of how essential rereading and reflection are in any serious study of literature. In my first reading of *Invisible Man*, I was as dizzied and bewildered as the protagonist himself, careening from the bizarre to nightmarish reality. From humiliation at high school graduation, to unjustifiable expulsion from college, to dangerous employment in a paint factory, and then onto the underground political scene in 1930's Harlem, the narrator tells what he did "to be so blue." (14) I was sure that this man is African-American, and that he bares some connection to Dostoyevsky's "Underground Man," but beyond that I wondered.

A month later I reread the novel. I detect pattern, notice symbol, and recognize allusion. The novel "opens" for me when I realize that the paint factory is an intricate web of symbols. The narrator is hired by a paint company with the logo "Keep America Pure with Liberty Paints." (196) Another slogan reads "If It's Optic White, It's the Right White." (217) Liberty of mind and body is a central concern of Emerson; liberty also stands in contrast to slavery. White paint, no doubt, has something to do with "white" European Americans. This paint company specializes in making a white paint called "optic white." The use of the word "optic" catches my eye, because to be "invisible" is an "optic" illusion.

How ingeniously Ellison takes ordinary words and embodies them with deeper meaning. He uses symbols as codes, just as leading American writers had earlier. Although symbols in literature date back to ancient myth and poetry, such American authors as Melville, Hawthorne and Fitzgerald were obsessed with creating nuanced symbolic patterns. Ellison mastered this literary technique and re-employed it for his saga of the black man in America. I think, I sit with my books, and return once more to Dr. Stern's office. Once she completed her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Stern considered teaching the full African-American literature course that she has taught at Teachers College Columbia to her high school seniors. She describes her academic purposes in the course as "an explicit desire to prevent the stereotyping of African-American literary texts." Dr. Stern wishes her students to appreciate the "complex, debatable, and shifting ideas" among black writers and scholars. She emphasizes that there is no single line of thought in African-American discourse, but rather a complex web of ideas and texts which resist simplification.

As I think about it, I am humbled by how much there is to know. I recognize how fortunate I am to be a part of a small, specialized high school on the City College campus. Here we are, by St. Nicholas Terrace, overlooking the "promised land" of the early twentieth century - the Harlem that was the stuff of dream. It is the place where the greatest black writers once lived and wrote their stories and poems for generations to come. It seems fitting that we should teach, study, and enjoy their work, and pass them on to the next generation.





# What are They Thinking?

By: Zadaai Gonzalez

New York City is known as one of the fashion capitals of the world, yet that does not mean that all New Yorkers are in fact fashionable. This can be demonstrated by current fads at HS MSE, where guys have taken it upon themselves to wear skinny jeans over and over again. Though this trend has been "fashionable" in NYC for about three years, it seems that the guys at our school do not know how to wear them.

There are a few problems with guys at HS MSE wearing skinny jeans; one being that most of them end up buying skinny jeans that are too tight. "If a guy wants to wear skinny jeans I am okay with that, I just think that skinny jeans are meant for skinny and long people. From what I can see in school most guys can't pull off skinny jeans," said Tia Coptias (sophomore). Another potential problem is the shoes that they wear with the skinny jeans. The type of shoe that is paired up with the jeans can either complete or destroy the look. A tip to skinny jean users, if you are going to wear skinny jeans make sure your shoes are not bulky because then you will look like "Big Foot".

Now, what is the difference between a HS MSE guy wearing skinny jeans and a model doing the same thing? The difference is that models have the right body for it. If a guy has big thighs, skinny jeans are not going to help his body type. When worn with a thick sweater or a shirt



## Quick History of Skinny Jeans

*The skinny jean fad actually began in the 1970's when many rock stars began wearing them; this influenced teens. The fad then disappeared around the late 80's the instant that light washed denims were introduced. In 2006, like most trends from the past, skinny jeans were brought back. The main focus went towards girls, but guys were pulled along around 2007. Recently major fashion designers have included skinny jeans (mostly black skinny jeans) in their fall collection. Thanks to the fashion designers of the fall collection, skinny jeans have made a comeback.*

that emphasizes your shoulders, the overall shape is an upside down cone. For this reason skinny jeans should be paired with a band shirt or just a plain t-shirt. This gives them the focus. Other alternatives would be to find straight legged jeans. Straight legged jeans are almost the same as skinny jeans, yet they give one more flexibility in wearing them.

When some girls from HS MSE where surveyed, 80% of them said that the guys at HS MSE should not wear skinny jeans. Most girls said the same thing: "They take it to the extreme." "We don't want guys wearing baggy jeans that are to their ankles or skinny jeans that make their legs seem like they can't move." So in general those who do like the style should know how to wear it by following the guidelines.

## Teenagers & Fashion : A Timeless Duo

By: Nimesha Perera



Above: Joseph Brito shows off his skinny jeans.

When teenagers and fashion come together, they can either create an ingenious force or a mess. Children usually wear what their parents make them wear, adults tend to wear work oriented clothes and we, well, we wear what we want. In the past, certain trends have defined a generation of teens, helping them rebel against what is expected of them by their parents and society.

A lot of the trends stem from the 60's, 70's, 80's & 90's. And, it seems a lot of those trends are making a comeback into the average teenager's wardrobe. Skinny jeans or any kind of tight pants, baggy sweaters, bright neon colors, gym sweatbands, high-waisted jeans and suspenders are just some of the many fashion choices that have helped teens to get with the "in crowd." Fashion is a part of history, and it is said that history does repeat itself. My question is, what do these trends mean to the people who wore them first?

To learn more about today's trends from the past and who wore them first, I decided to interview some of HS MSE's own faculty and ask them about what they used to wear, why and some mistakes they felt were made. The teachers I interviewed were Mr. Piper and Ms. Rapp. I approached HS MSE's only male German teacher with questions about what trends and fads he used to follow when he was in a high school. Mr. Piper recalled clone-like wardrobe in his school days with an early 70's uniform of tight "slacks" and button down shirts. Penny loafers were the kicks of choice and the style was considered very preppy. "The only freedom anyone had to express themselves was through their hairstyle," Mr. Piper explained. He described long straight, pre-blow dryer hair cuts for boys and girls. When asked why, Piper replied with "Cause that's just what everyone wore."

Ms. Rapp described trends and styles that are more identifiable in today's fashion world. However, when I asked Ms. Rapp about fashion mistakes she made as a teenager, I got some disturbing answers. The answers included the much detested mullet and a ritual in Arizona dubbed as "double socks" where one wears two different colored socks on each foot over the opposite color. Other popular trends included pegged jeans and stirrup pants. Backpacks HAD to be worn over ONE shoulder and the color palette for the clothes was one we see almost daily now: neon! Jelly shoes, Keds and Vans were footwear choices in Ms. Rapp's high school and we are seeing many students wear them today.

Today, as products of the very diverse NYC, we can wear whatever we want and are not usually socially ostracized for it. It's rare to see any group of young people wearing the same exact thing at HS MSE. Though not all these trends are popular today, many have made their way into our closets. So, even though you might think your teacher is giving you a dirty look, he or she might just be reminiscing about all the ugly things he or she used to wear at your age.

STYLE



# What Is Harlem Is...

By: Harry Winick

Here at HS MSE we have many after school clubs in addition to our ordinary curriculum. One of these clubs is Harlem Is. Harlem Is is a city-council funded program in select schools whose purpose is to help educate students in many artistic fields. The program offers a good outlet for high-school students to expand and show off their creative abilities. Harlem Is is run after school by Mr. Burgan, and Mr. Choi and it attracts many different students in the school for a multitude of reasons. Harlem Is programs include visual arts, film making, poetry, and spoken word. Since the beginning of the club's presence at HS MSE it has been one of the favorite clubs among faculty and teachers.

Kenny Lewis, the voice of HS MSE, is a part of Harlem Is and says it is a lot of fun. He works in the poetry division of the group and says that working in Harlem Is offers freedom of creativity that is not always present in other aspects of a student's life. He meets with the group for two hour sessions, but says there is no strict schedule to how they work, and it is mostly based on them having fun. For each project the members of Harlem Is work on, they spend a portion of their time doing their required work and the other portion working on creative compositions. Kenny enjoys the poetry division because there is so much freedom allowed.

Kenny says that some of his friends come with him to the meetings. However, everybody becomes close when they are working in the club. Kenny is part of the poetry portion of the club, and strongly suggests poetry to newcomers; however, all the parts of Harlem Is offer terrific experiences. Another aspect that Kenny likes about the club is the laid back attitude and commitment of the teachers that help with Harlem Is. The teachers encourage students to write and work on what they want, and they accept the different methods of work that students choose. In addition to allowing students this freedom, they also teach the students how to expand their horizons artistically and to look at things in different ways.

Mr. Burgan, who took over Harlem Is after his predecessor Ms. Eichler left, receives a grant from the city council to fund the branch of Harlem Is at HS MSE. I interviewed him to learn more about the Harlem Is program.

Question: What kinds of activities are included in the Harlem Is curriculum?

Answer: In addition to the artistic presentations we put together, the city council donates a professional artist who helps out with the students in class. The council also donates a community hero who is someone from Harlem who has had a large positive impact. The students have the opportunity to meet and interview him/her.

Q: When does Harlem Is meet?

A: Harlem Is meets on either Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday from 4-6 after school. There are at least 15 sessions after the Christmas break and it ends with a presentation of the students' work.

Q: What is your favorite part of the club?

A: My favorite part of the club is the Hero Program because it allows so much interaction between the students and the hero. Artistically I enjoy the poetry and spoken word the most because it allows not very artistic people to express themselves.

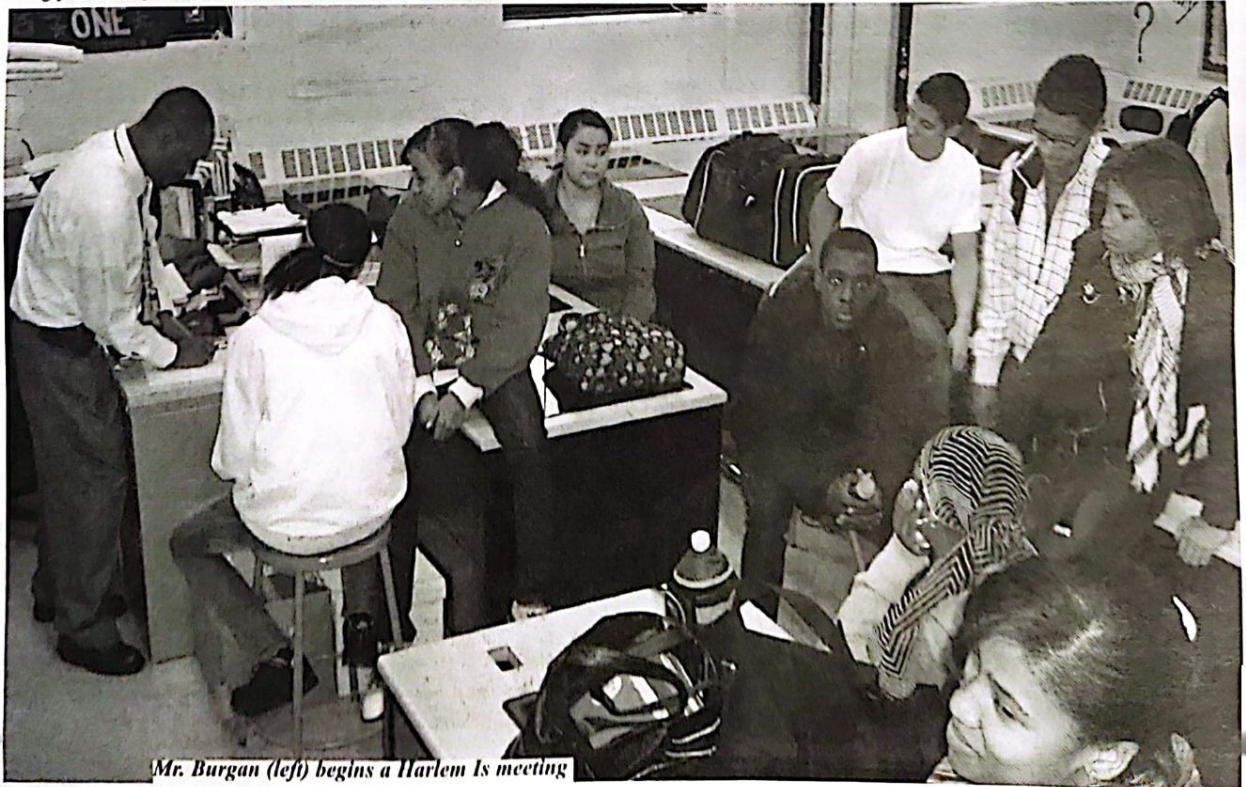
Q: How many students here at HS MSE attend Harlem Is?

A: We have between 30 and 40 students but because it is a city funded program we need to maintain a certain amount of people. Although we would like to have between 60 and 80 kids attending, we are successful enough in this school to maintain the funding. We especially need more kids to join the film-making branch.

Q: Why should students join Harlem Is?

A: People should join Harlem Is because it allows students in a very math and science based school to be a little more artistic. Even though it does require a lot of commitment, the work done is more fun than hard. It gives students the opportunity to expand their talents, learn from professionals, and gain expertise. Members also get to speak with a community hero, which many people find very interesting.

For people not currently in Harlem Is, or those thinking of joining, the program is a terrific way to escape typical school work and do things you may not have done before. It also allows you to join a community within the school. If you want to create or develop a skill outside of school, I would strongly consider joining Harlem Is.



Mr. Burgan (left) begins a Harlem Is meeting



# Lady Dragons: A Force to Reckon with this Year?

By:  
Santiljan  
Vuka



Emily Martinez, Senior Captain

The girls' basketball team is going to be a force to reckon with in the 2008-2009 basketball season. Playing in the extremely competitive PSAL's (Public Schools Athletic League) Manhattan B West Division, the girls' team has shown significant improvement and development in the last few years. With a great deal of commitment, dedication, and hours of practice, the girls' basketball team will have a tremendous season.

Although the Lady Dragons are often overshadowed by the boys' (0-18) basketball team, the girls are determined to leave their mark as a team full of extremely hardworking athletes. When asked for predictions on the upcoming season, Coach Treubor replied "We're looking forward to it. We have a team that has a good foundation full of solid players who will come together and play well."

Many students at HS MSE do not realize the ability and potential of this young team. When some were asked whether they knew anything about the girls' team their responses were surprising. Ioannis Morales said "Nobody cares about girls." Simon Boyce said: "It's mad dry." This perception is something that the girls hope to change this upcoming season. After all, the girls did put up an impressive nine win (.500) season.

"We will work on our full-court press, defense, and overall conditioning," said Coach Treubor. Some people actually express interest and support for the team's future. Joseph Brito stated: "They will do well because Catherine Hernandez is a low post presence."

Coach Treubor says that the team will follow Captain Emily Martinez's example as being "a strong fundamental player." She also says that the "Junior Trio" of Catherine Hernandez, Kelsey Paul-Stubbs, and Stephany Lorenzo will contribute tremendously to the offensive gameplan.

With good key players returning to play, the team hopes to make the playoffs. However, without the support of the school, they will have a hard time gaining complete confidence. So readers, please go out and support your HS MSE Lady Dragons. This will truly be an exciting season.

## Basketball Bonanza!

By: Simon Boyce

It's no secret that here at HS MSE the preferred sport for most students is basketball. We play it during gym and even after school; even those who don't play love to cheer on our Varsity Boys' basketball team at every home game. Many HS MSE students also have passion for basketball away from school and they enjoy watching professional basketball. With the NBA season opener approaching, I decided to go around school to get some "educated opinions" on how this NBA season might unfold.

Q- What player do you expect to win the league MVP?

Joseph Perreux-Grade 10: Dwayne Wade aka D-wade, he killed in the Olympics, plays for team USA, and his team has also improved to help him score.

Louis Deleon-Grade 11: Chris Paul, he's a great player, young, and gets better and better every year

Kashif Harris-Grade 12: LeBron James, he is just a beast on the court.

Q- What rookie do you expect to make an impact on their team and league?

Joseph Perreux-Grade 10: Greg Oden cause he is tall, and a good rebounder. Also being paired up with Marcus Aldridge makes him a huge low post presence with help.

Louis Deleon-Grade 11: Brook Lopez, because the nets don't have a good center. So he will get to play a lot and have a chance to make a difference.

Kashif Harris-Grade 12: Derrick Rose from the Bulls, because I really like what I have seen from him. He knows when to pass and when to take it himself and score. He's just the best players I've seen in this year's draft.

Q- What team do you expect to be better than people expect?

Joseph Perreux-Grade 10: The Knicks, they should trade for Darko Millicic to lower their salary cap, and their new coach, Mike D'Antoni will really help their offense.

Louis Deleon-Grade 11: The Rockets, everybody talks about the other Texas teams, like the (Dallas) Mavericks and the (San Antonio) Spurs, the Rockets will fly under the radar.

Kashif Harris-Grade 12: The Clippers, because they traded for PF Marcus Camby who will help out on defense, and PG Baron Davis. They also added rookie SF Eric Gordon. People will sleep on the Clippers because of their notoriously bad history.

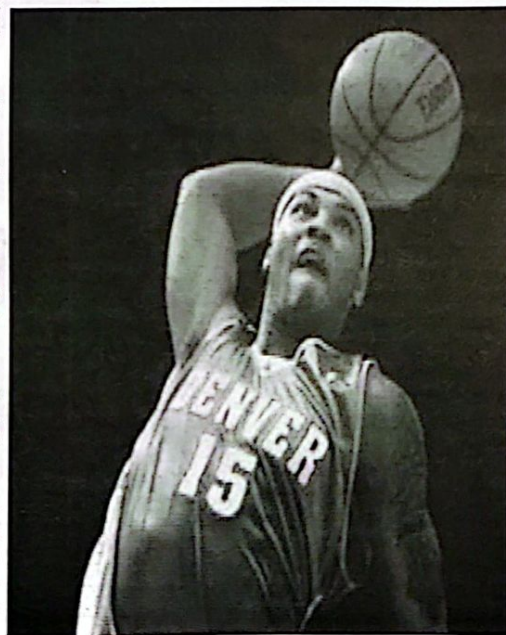
Q- What team will win the 2009 NBA Championship?

Joseph Perreux-Grade 10: The 76ers because Elton Brand and Samuel Dalembert are two great big men. Also they have high flying Andre Iguodola. The 76ers will surprise everyone and win the NBA finals

Louis Deleon-Grade 11: Hornets, if they play as good as last year they will be contenders and a threat to win it all.

Kashif Harris-Grade 12: The Boston Celtics, KG (Kevin Garnett) is a beast, Paul Peirce is a beast, Ray Allen is a beast and Glen Davis is getting up there too. They just have too much overall talent. Plus they wear green.

Three different fans in three different grades, and all different opinions. I guess we will have to wait until the end of the season to see which fan, and which grade had the most accurate opinions. No matter who is right and who is wrong I'm sure everyone will agree that this year's NBA season will be an exciting one.



Slam Dunk!

SPORTS



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