

# TRAILER TIMES

SPECIAL COLLEGE ISSUE

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## FIRST ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR

By Mehnaz Chowdhury

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, HSMSE had their first college fair at the Great Hall in Shepard Hall, organized by the 11<sup>th</sup> grade guidance counselor, Mrs. McKinnon.

"The event was a huge success with over 40 colleges present to speak with our students," said the principal of HSMSE, Mr. Asher. The 40 colleges that made an appearance included Bard College, Columbia University, MIT, NYU, Stony Brook, Adelphi University, Manhattan College, and Villanova University, among others. Two colleges that attracted the most students were Cooper Union and the new Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. These two colleges were especially popular because students were told by the college representatives that they offer free tuition once a student is admitted to the schools. The fair was well attended by students, with approximately 30 juniors and 20 freshmen and sophomores.

"I am glad I took my time to go to the college fair. It has had a big influence on which colleges I'm interested in," said Ifeanyi Nwoke, a junior and prospective college student.

Each professor or admissions officer representing his or her college gave out information about campus locations, school maps, facilities and resources, social life, clubs, fraternities, sororities, dorms and housing, and of course, number of admitted students. Useful statistics were also given out such as average SAT scores needed to be admitted to a specific college, average GPA of applicants or students, extracurricular activities, and placement in one's high school's class. All of

this information was also in the college pamphlets given out to each student who was interested. College representatives also discussed scholarships, internships, study abroad programs and most importantly, access to jobs directly after graduation.

To make the college fair complete, Mrs. McKinnon and the parents of HSMSE brought plenty of food and beverages and also added a raffle to keep the guests interested in the fair. The raffle prize was a flower arrangement donated by Mrs. McKinnon's husband.

Mrs. McKinnon hopes to expand future HSMSE college fairs by inviting several other colleges and more students. Mrs. McKinnon is also trying to bring a college representative every day to HSMSE between 11 AM and 1 PM. These representatives will meet with students in her office, open to all. Watch out for the university visiting HSMSE next!

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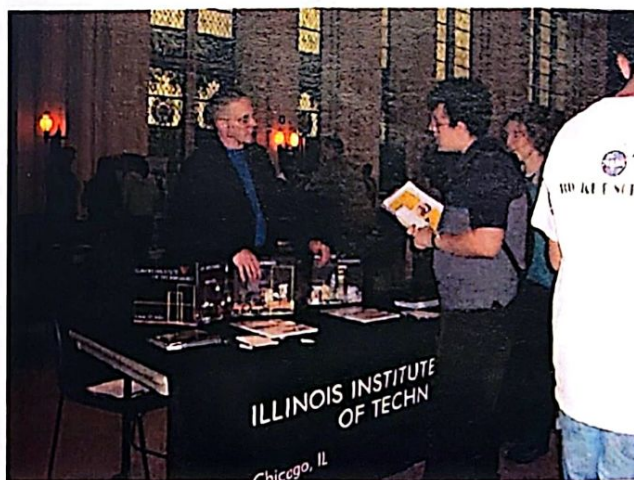
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Abraham Kasner, a junior at HSMSE, at the table for the Illinois Institute of Technology.



# THE TOP 10 COLLEGES IN THE U.S.

According to usnews.com, respective college web sites, The Princeton Review

By Yeiri Robert

1. **Harvard College** is an Ivy League college located in Cambridge, Massachusetts spread out over 4,862 acres of land. Harvard has a total of 19,731 students. The total cost to attend Harvard is \$39,880 a year and on average, \$28,000 is given per student per year in financial aid. Harvard has a ratio of 1 to 1 in relation of women to men. Like most other Ivy League universities, Harvard is member of the NCAA Division I.

**Princeton College** is the fourth oldest college in the United States. It is located in Princeton, New Jersey. The total cost to attend Princeton is \$41,380 per year, with the students from different income levels receiving financial aid. Their total scholarship budget is \$60,000,000. The enrollees received SAT scores ranging from 690pts-780pts on verbal and 700 pts-790 pts on math. On their SAT II's, enrollees received from 690 pts to 770 pts. Princeton is also a member of NCAA Division I, offering a range of different sports.

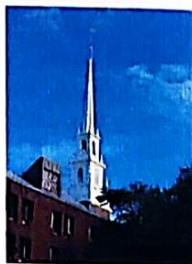
3. **Yale University** is located on 925 acres in New Haven, Connecticut. Its total cost is \$41,470 per year. For the 2004-2005 class, Yale accepted only about 10% of its 19,682 applicants. At Yale, the most popular undergraduate majors are history, political science and economics. Yale is part of the Ivy League and NCAA Division I athletics.
4. **University of Pennsylvania** is a member of the Ivy League. It is located in 260 acres in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It boasts a large undergraduate class of almost 10,000 students. Penn's cost is approximately \$42,100 per year. Some students say that Penn is the only Ivy League school where one can lead a normal life. There tend to be parties every weekend, with students studying hard during the week.
5. **Duke University** is located in Durham, North Carolina. Duke has a total of 6,522 undergraduates paying about \$36,640 a year. Although Duke is well known for its many NCAA Division I basketball championships, it also has excellent academic programs. The students like the faculty and the work is said to be manageable.

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** is situated on 168 acres in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The total tuition including room and board is \$42,700 per year. Financial aid depends on a family's financial need. MIT has 4,136 undergraduates. Four weeks in January are dedicated to an independent activity period during which activities like research, tutoring and projects can be accomplished. For the class of 2004-2005, 10,466 students applied, and only 1,665 (16%) were accepted. MIT is a member of the NCAA Division III, New England Colleges, and Ivy Leagues. Eight MIT alumni have received the Noble Prize.

**Stanford University** is located in Stanford, California. Its total cost, including room and board, is \$40,591. Stanford has 6,654 undergraduate students with 74.3% of their students receiving financial aid. 89.8% of enrollees were in the top 10% of their class; 95.9% were in the top 20 percentile of their class. 63.2% of the enrollees received 700 pts-800 pts on their SAT verbal scores and 69.4% received 700 pts-800 pts on their SAT math section. Stanford is also a member of NCAA Division I.

8. **California Institute of Technology** is located in Pasadena, California. Caltech has a total of 939 undergraduates paying \$32,682 per year. Students at Caltech have little time for extra activities. "As one undergrad joked, 'We're not like MIT, where students take homework with them on dates. We generally bring our dates to work on our homework in group sessions'" (Princeton Review:108).
9. **Columbia College** is located in New York City. Columbia University is also an Ivy League. It has a total of 23,650 students and total cost is \$40,538 per year. It awards up to 15% of tuition for financial aid to each student receiving financial aid. One of the most appealing things about Columbia is its location. Applicants are usually interested by the fact that Columbia is located in NYC. Students at Columbia have many different resources that students who do not attend college in a metropolis lack. Another interesting fact about Columbia is its hands-off attitude, "it is either sink or swim" (Princeton Review:166).

**Dartmouth College** is located in Hanover, New Hampshire. Hanover has 4,118 undergraduates paying \$38,677 per year. Out of 11,853 applicants, only 18% were accepted and 51% of those who were accepted decided to attend Dartmouth. It has a total of 34 intercollegiate teams, which are members of the Ivy League and the NCAA Division I.





# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

By Ifeanyi Nwoke

Many seniors and juniors are starting to worry about one thing. No they are not worried about the senior trip, or prom, but rather college. You know, college, that place most people go to further their education and prepare for a career. From the beginning of freshman year to the beginning of junior year, students should start thinking about what career field they are interested in and what colleges would be best suited for their career goals. The top leader in this subject, The Princeton Review, believes the following are what colleges look for in a student, in order of priority:

- Grades
- Admission test score (PSAT, SAT, SAT II, and ACT)
- Class rank

Next in priority are:

- The college application essay
- Work and extracurricular activities
- Recommendations from teachers

Lastly, schools look at:

- The interview
- A student's ability to pay

Grades are the most important for getting accepted to a college. Starting from freshman year, a student should be focused on getting good consistent grades through each marking period. It might seem cliché, but grades do matter. One might think that while at HSMSE it is difficult to keep a high average. One might also think that the students who do succeed at such a task spend endless nights at home doing nothing but homework and studying. However, it is possible to do both.

Once students enter sophomore year and most importantly, junior year, they should start gathering information about standardized tests. Guidance counselors or college advisors will have an abundance of information about these tests. The following are websites that also have information regarding the tests:

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)  
[www.collegebound.net](http://www.collegebound.net)  
[www.college-prep.com](http://www.college-prep.com)  
[www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)

During sophomore year, students should first take the Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). In association with this test is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST). By taking the PSAT, students can qualify to receive scholarships based on their performance. The PSAT also enables colleges to get information on students, thereby allowing them to send information to students about their schools.

In junior year, students have the opportunity to take the PSAT again and register to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). To take the SAT, a student must register with [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and have a parent around to provide a credit card number.

Class rank usually goes hand-in-hand with good grades. If students do well in their classes, they will generally end up higher in their class rank. However, one's rank also depends on how many students are in a class.

The essay is also very important. Usually colleges ask students to write an essay for two main reasons. First, they want to understand their writing ability. Some might view this as unfair, but in reality writing is probably one of the most helpful skills students can have in their education. Good writing skills can help in almost any subject. The second reason is to understand students as individuals. Most colleges will give a topic where students have to talk about themselves or their views in some way. So the main advice is: Be Honest. The rest is pretty self explanatory. All one can say now is good luck.

## Top 11-25 Colleges

11. **Northwestern University** (Chicago, Illinois)
- Washington University in St. Louis** (St. Louis Missouri)
13. **Brown University** (Providence, Rhode Island)
14. **Cornell University** (Ithaca, New York)
- Johns Hopkins University** (Baltimore, Maryland)
- University of Chicago** (Chicago, Illinois)
17. **Rice University** (Houston, Texas)
18. **University of Notre Dame** (South Bend, Indiana)
- Vanderbilt University** (Nashville, Tennessee)
20. **Emory University** (Atlanta, Georgia)
21. **University of California-Berkeley** (Berkeley, California)
22. **Carnegie Mellon University** (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania)
- University of Michigan-Ann Arbor** (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
- University of Virginia** (Charlottesville, Virginia)
25. **Georgetown University** (Washington D.C.)
- University of California-Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, California)



## HSMSE'S ADELPHI VISIT

By King-Fai Wong

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, students accompanied by Mrs. McKinnon and Mrs. Zanetti went to Adelphi University to take a tour around the college. Students who opted to go on this trip were able to access some special opportunities. Students explored the university and got a feel for university life: what dorms are like, how the food is, and what the university's social was like. Students also learned about the courses and majors offered in the university, as well as about some special honors programs available. Mrs. McKinnon planned the trip to give students a deeper understanding of universities, as well as to open up some opportunities for students at Adelphi. Students were advised to visit Adelphi and experience how it felt to be at a university.

Yet, the trip had a few shortcomings, and the university is not perfect. Some HSMSE students thought that Adelphi has a somewhat large, spread out campus, and those on the trip noted that few university students and residents were seen walking around the campus. Both the students and the chaperones found that the tour guide,



Stephen Prenner, was hard to keep up with as he led them across the campus. Nevertheless, students thought that the university tour was very informative, and Mr. Prenner guided the students and the chaperones to places such as the optics lab in the physics labs. Further, students found that the dorms were somewhat comfortable, and other buildings, such as the campus theatre (where students visited backstage), were an interesting site on the tour of the campus. Mr. Prenner also gave information on academics at the university, which boast an Engineering course in collaboration with Columbia University, and a 6-year law degree program. Mr. Prenner stressed that GPA is the most important part of a student's college application, and Regents scores are also important if students are applying to New York schools. Students also visited the Honors College building, which features many special programs outside of regular academic courses. These programs include research and events on-campus, as well as New York City theatre and art events, and abroad studies in Greece and Crete in the summer. Overall, students thought Adelphi was an interesting choice for an university visit, but they also felt that

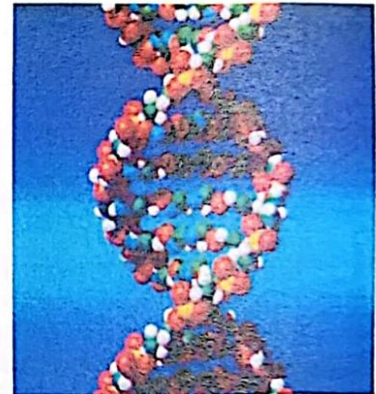
trips to some of the universities of their own choosing would be desirable.

However, despite the fact that students wanted to visit other universities that they were interested in, another planned trip, which would have taken students to Boston, unfortunately was canceled due to lack of student interest. While the Adelphi trip was indeed a rewarding experience, the Boston trip probably would have been an even greater experience. If there are universities that students would like to visit, they can visit them on their own. Also, it is likely that at some point in the future, trips to various other universities, perhaps extending beyond the Northeast, will be planned. Anyone interested is advised to look out for any upcoming trips, as one of them might be to a school of interest for students.

## USING DNA TO PREVENT AIDS

By Michael Marerro-Perna

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that eventually leads to the development of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), may be stopped with your own DNA. Researchers have discovered that a protein used to repair DNA might be able to combat strains of drug resistant HIV. With this new ability, one potentially could be immune to HIV. Geneticists think the key lies in a protein called ataxia-telangiectasia-mutated (ATM). If scientists can stop the ATM, they can prevent the spread of the virus in the body. Scientists are currently trying to determine potential side effects, but so far, little is known as to what these side effects are.



### HSMSE AWARD CEREMONIES

- HSMSE held its first annual athletics awards ceremony, June 3rd, at the CCNY Faculty Dining Room.
- HSMSE held its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on June 6th, in Aaron Davis Hall.
- HSMSE held its third annual academic awards ceremony, June 8th, at the CCNY Faculty Dining Room. (See page 11 for award winners)

**Congratulations to all of the awardees!**



# THE "EGG"CELLENT EGG DROPPING CONTEST

By Dennis Dominguez

The freshman class at HSMSE took part in a very "eggy thingy." This eggy thingy was the egg drop contest. Planned by Ms. Green, Mr. Pedroso, and Mr. Castro, this Eggcellent project sounds simple; however, once one delves into the task of creating the structure, it becomes quite complex. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the freshman class dropped an egg from 25 feet in the air, attempting to prevent it from cracking. The egg had a cardboard structure built around it. Nothing but cardboard. No glue, tape or Jell-O. The less cardboard used, the better grade the student received. If the egg was completely fine after the project had been dropped, the partnership scored twenty-five points. If the egg cracked but remained intact, the partnership scored fifteen points. If the dropped egg "eggsploded," the partnership only received ten points. Other than that, the project was graded on efficiency and aesthetics. If more than one egg survived, the project with the least weight won the "gold medal." The second lightest scored the "silver medal" while the third project received the bronze. There were also two honorable mentions. The standings were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lily Zhang and Havian Nicholas - 22 grams
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Margaret Tan and Regina Deap - 24 grams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Nandi Bugg and Jackson Brebnor - 29 grams
- Honorable Mention: Eli Scheer and Madhurya Nangia - 31 grams
- Honorable Mention: Julia Lekht and Max Goldbas - exceptional character

I interviewed one member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, Regina Deap. This is what she had to say:

**Dennis Dominguez:** How did you plan for your structure to protect your egg?

**Regina Deap:** The egg would fit in the space between the flaps. The flaps would serve as wings. When the structure falls, the flaps would absorb the force from the impact.

**D.D.:** If you could change something in your design, what would it be?

**R.D.:** I would cut off some parts so that the structure could've been lighter. Maybe make the flaps a bit shorter.

**D.D.:** What was your process of drafting this design?

**R.D.:** Well we had one original idea and we made it better each time.

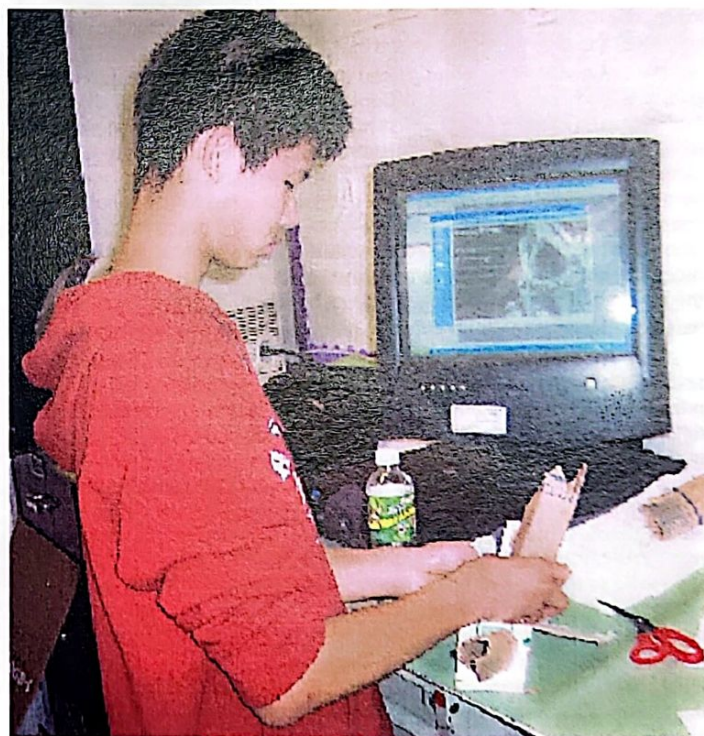
**D.D.:** Were there any difficulties in creating your design?

**R.D.:** At first, the area where the egg was placed was too big. So, we had to make it smaller and change the dimensions. Other than that, it was easy to make.

\*All puns were "eggstracted" from the Egg drop project sheet.



One of the many Egg Drop Project designs constructed by our freshmen



Yu Xian Deng, a freshman, works on his container for the Egg Drop Project



## MODEL UN: AFTER THE SHOW

By Hohe Getachew

In Model United Nations (MUN), each country has two representatives, who are on five different assemblies. The assemblies are the General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly 1 (GA1), General Assembly 2 (GA2), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Each team of two representatives researches a topic or topics and writes a position paper on it, explaining their country's view on the topic. The topics are relevant to foreign policy and world affairs.

The HSMSE Model United Nations team represented Latvia, with the following delegates: Maurizio Asperti and Karen Ko on General Plenary; Ava Calhoun and Amin Mirzaee on GA1; Celton Agpoon and Amrisha Sinha on GA2; and Yixing Li and Akisha Harley on WHO. The MUN conference directors had assigned HSMSE two new delegate positions, but only one position was filled. Mary Lu represented Brunei. She researched Nuclear Disarmament and Information Technology. Because she represented a new country, she had to write a new position paper on these topics. The delegates had written papers that represented their countries' stance on different issues, which were discussed in the various assemblies. Some delegates had two position papers to write, because their particular assembly addressed two issues.

The HSMSE delegates left school early on Thursday, May 19 to participate in the three day MUN conference, which took place both at the Marriot Marquis and at the United Nations Headquarters. The students began training for this conference after they were given their positions. There were rhetorical skills needed for this conference, because students presented their position papers, and other schools representing other countries. As a result, students had to work on their public speaking skills. On the first day, the delegates had to present speeches that lasted 42 seconds about the topics that they researched.

The students also practiced their skills of persuasion, how to convince a country of their resolution or an ally's resolution with which the students agreed. At the conference, the delegates discussed resolutions that they had written and eventually they signed the country's resolution that they felt best suited their country's wants and needs. A certain number of delegate signatures were needed for a resolution to be passed to a committee. This was like a nominating process for the resolutions. At the committee, the representatives from each country debated the different resolutions and voted on the one that best addressed the problem. If such a decision could not be reached, the students instead combined ideas from different resolutions into one final resolution.

The HSMSE team performed well at their 1<sup>st</sup> MUN Conference and Ava Calhoun and Amin Mirzaee received an Honorable Mention prize. There were many other schools present. Each was representing a different country. Although the different countries had different opinions about a particular topic, "the winning resolution was very general and could apply to most people," said Ava Calhoun. She also said that from the conference, she "gained an appreciation for the level of difficulty associated with the position of a UN ambassador." There was not as much personal debating as the students had anticipated. When asked if she would participate in the conference next year, Ava said "I think I would do a different committee, if only because nuclear disarmament can only be solved in an idealistic and theoretical setting" Amin said, "Negotiation is all about making others think they share your interests." This is what he says helped him win an Honorable Mention. Overall the delegates enjoyed their experience as model United Nations ambassadors for Latvia.



## SIN CITY

A Movie Review by Teo Ferrucci

"Sin City," made by the directing duo Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller, takes place in a dank, crime ridden world where cops are crooked, and politicians serve as dictators. The world is black and white, save the green eyes and red blood, and the city is controlled by three distinct gangs. Each group, the mafia, the cops, and a band of hardened prostitutes, coexist in a delicate circle of trust. Three different stories are intertwined to create one, a story told from different people at the same time. Characters are juxtaposed to tie the story together, but not to a state of confusion.

Bruce Willis plays Hartigan, a good cop - something rare in "Sin City" - who tracks the criminal son of a powerful political leader. Hartigan is close to death and lives off heart medication, when he comes close to saving a small girl. His partner, played by Michael Madsen, however, is just one more cop under the thumb of a corrupt politician. Hartigan's good intentions are revealed out as he sits in his prison cell, worrying about the fate of the girl.



Years pass and the girl, Nancy, grows into a woman played by Jessica Alba. Although Hartigan believes Nancy has forgotten him, she has made a bond with him by sending him letters in prison, all of which were intercepted by the prison guards. Prior to his release, she finds companionship in a criminal, Mickey

Rourke, who protects her as best he can. Mickey Rourke is perhaps the best cast role in the movie; every action, every line is perfect for the tough, scarred con. He gulps down pills illegally supplied to him through his prohibition officer, who is really as criminal as he. We feel sympathy for this brute, even as he kills people looking for the murderer of his first love, a prostitute hunted by the same attempted-killer of Nancy.

"Sin City" holds true to the comic under Frank Miller's direction and even die hard fans will be pleased. Frank Miller invited Quentin Tarantino to act as a guest director for one scene; if you have seen either of the "Kill Bill" films, it will not be difficult to identify which scene it is. A criminal trained with a katana assails five men in a car, cutting them to ribbons through the roof. Such a gruesome scene fits well with the rest of the gory fights. It comes out at a time when theaters are flooded with B-movie comic book adaptations, made for "everyone" to enjoy. Sin City is a remarkably pure film that has not undergone changes to fit the trend. So far this season, it is the most in-depth and fun comic book movie to be released.

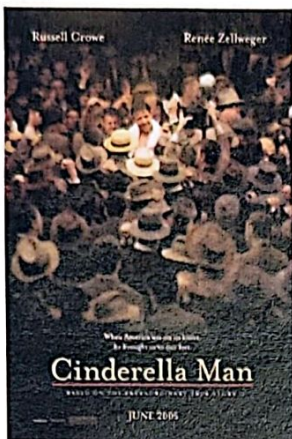


# TOP TEN MOVIES OF SUMMER

Compiled By Ifeanyi Nwoke

**Cinderella Man (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)—Drama, PG-13**

Set in New York during the Depression, this is the story of James Braddock, who takes up boxing to make money to feed his family. He ends up becoming famous in the end.



**Mr. and Mrs. Smith (June 10<sup>th</sup>)—Action/Adventure, PG-13**

A married couple is bored with their life. However, each is unaware that the other is an assassin. Their secret lives collide when each find out their next assignment is their significant other.

**The Honeymooners (June 10<sup>th</sup>)—Comedy, PG-13**

New York City bus driver Ralph Kramden and his wife Alice try to make ends meet. Soon, they save enough money to put a down payment on a Brooklyn duplex. However, Ralph uses the money on one of his many get-rich-quick schemes, instead.

**Batman Begins (June 15<sup>th</sup>)—Action/Adventure, PG-13**

Based on the original comic book, Batman, by DC Comics®. After the death of his parents, Bruce Wayne becomes a vengeful crime-fighter in the streets of Gotham. This movie tells the story of the origins of the masked knight, Batman.

**Bewitched (June 24<sup>th</sup>)—Comedy, PG-13**

This is a Hollywood interpretation of the original television sitcom. Samantha Stephens, a witch, is selected to play a



fictional witch in the movie remake of the sitcom.

**War of the Worlds (June 29<sup>th</sup>)—Science Fiction, Not Yet Rated**

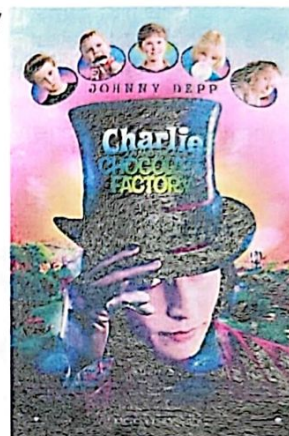
A remake of H.G. Wells science fiction adventure. This thriller reveals the extraordinary battle for the future of mankind.

**Fantastic Four (July 8<sup>th</sup>)—Action/Adventure, PG-13**

Based on the original comic book, The Fantastic Four, by Marvel Comics®. Four partners are transformed by radioactive waves into powerful superheroes.

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (July 15<sup>th</sup>)—Kids/Family, PG**

Charlie Bucket, a boy from an impoverished family, wins a candy bar contest and is given a tour, along with four other kids, of the amazing factory run by Willy Wonka.



**Pink Panther (August 5<sup>th</sup>)—Comedy, Not Yet Rated**

In this new Inspector Clouseau adventure, the incompetent detective investigates the murder of the nation's soccer team coach, while also looking into the disappearance of the famous Pink Panther diamond.

**Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo (August 12<sup>th</sup>)—Comedy, Not Yet Rated**

Deuce Bigalow enters his old pleasure-for-pay profession. When his former pimp T.J. Hicks is implicated in murders of Europe's greatest gigolos, Deuce must go back to work to clear his good friend's name.





# GIRLS SOCCER TEAM TAKES OFF!

By Yelri Robert

The girls' soccer team has come really far since their first practice and their first game. When most of the girls joined the team, they did not know any thing about soccer. They might have seen games but they themselves had not played the sport. In practice, they started with running laps and different drills that would enable them to keep control of the ball.

According to Katherin Sudol, one of the team members, practice consists of field exercises like running. Katherin said, "Speed is a highly important component of games, so we use the track to practice running and hustling." The girls also do scrimmages to practice the different skills involving soccer. Arlin Moronta, who is also part of the team, says that the girls have to kick soccer balls from one side of the field to another. While doing this, the girls have to be able to keep the ball in the area they are assigned and if they are unable to, they have to run laps around the track. The girls also have to do passing drills to build up their ball handling skills.

In their first match, some of the girls were exhausted three minutes into the game. Gradually, with practice, they were able to build up their endurance and have been able to play the full 35 minutes without getting tired.

In this first game, the girls lost 2-0 against Beacon High School, but in their second game, they tied 1-1 when they once again played against Beacon. Their third game was against A. Philip Randolph, and they won 3-2. On their fourth and last game, the girls played against John Adams High School and they tied 1-1.

The girls have come a long way from that very first practice and have worked their way up to where they are today. If the girls continue doing as well as they have so far, they will be well on their way to a really good season next year.



The HSMSE Girls' soccer team, top row from left: Katherine Morales-Tong, Nikhalla Morgan, Mary Lu, Brittney Bernard, Arlin Moronta, Jessica Wong, Lillie Armstrong, Anna Markov, Grace Lee, Erin Yang, Coach Carey; bottom row from left: Kintana Maconick, Jessica Concepcion, Katherin Sudol, Julia Lekht, Roseanna Chan, Roxanne Bochar; not pictured: Regine Blanchard, Kristina Butron, Veronica Fullard, Annie Roe, Margaret Tan



# HOW TO FAIL LIKE A PRO

By Angela Creed

Times are changing, my friends. They truly are. The new trend at HSMSE is failing. You read correctly: failing. Now, y'all who are passing may roll your eyes at the concept, but it takes a real skill to fail everything. You may be asking yourself: "But how would one fail EVERYTHING? I mean, teachers give pity grades and what would you have to do to fail even *enrichment*?" Alright, rule number one is: Nothing. You have to do nothing. Hey, an hour and a half of doing nothing is hard work.

But the real key to failing is your attitude. DO NOT THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. Who knows what'll happen in the future; why waste the present thinking about it? Don't worry about college. Plenty of people have jobs and they never stepped foot on a college campus. And hey, getting into college requires a lot of what many of us just don't have: money, fame, and connections. Without these, you're not getting anywhere. Just don't bother thinking about it.

You need the determination to maintain an attitude of pessimism and cynicism. In other words, lack ambition, effort, and determination. If that doesn't make sense, forget about it—having a "whatever" attitude is a step closer to failing.

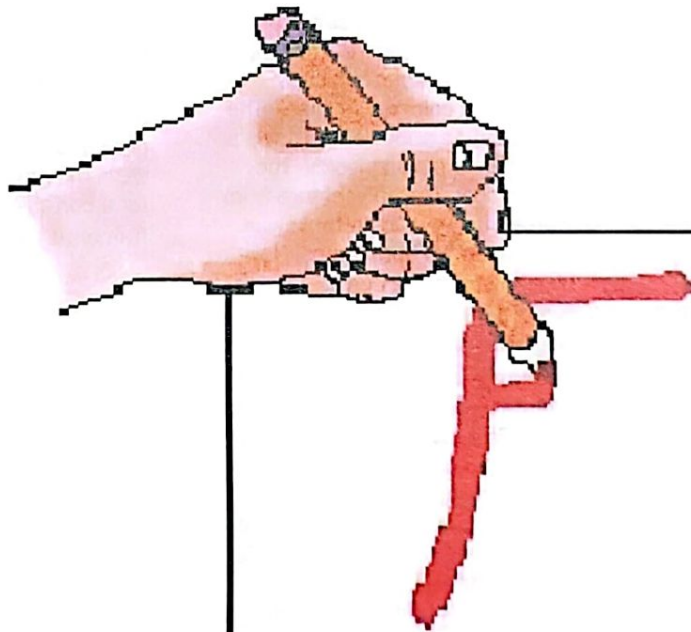
It is difficult to stop caring altogether. To keep your mind off of school and grades, reprioritize. Replace the important with the shallow. For instance, the SAT is a top priority for many of the passing folk. Switch getting a high SAT score with finding a boyfriend/girlfriend. Put shopping where college admissions might go. Homework? That should just be completely removed from your priorities. Like they say, homework is the key to passing, so, it will be a lot easier to fail if homework is out of the picture.

Now, you don't want to appear as if you're trying to fail. Do a project here and there. Hand things in late. Hand in incomplete work. Without a doubt, if you copy somebody's homework on the train, spill some coffee on it and hand it in late, you're bound to get bad grades. It's good to pass a class or two; you don't want to get kicked out of school.

If you're an early bird, then failing won't come as easily to you. Arriving to school late sets one on the path to failure. Points get taken away from class participation, attendance, and effort. If coming to school late is an obstacle, plagiarizing or hacking into the administration's computer system always works—but then you'll probably have to face the law. You don't want to go to jail; you just want to fail school.

There are two class behaviors for the failing student. One is to not participate at all. For instance, use that class time to replace the sleep you didn't get the night before. Have a Do Now? Make it a Do Never. The second type of behavior is to participate to the point of disruption. Don't bother with the whole 'raising your hand' bull, just shout that answer out there. Strike up conversations with your peers in the middle of class. Make sure to talk about really inappropriate subjects. Change the topic of class discussion. Stall the lesson. Overall, be a real nuisance.

The only thing better than failing, is to drag others to fail with you. Make sure you always have an accomplice. The more negative factors you have in your school life, the more likely you are to fail.



creed



# NFL STREET 2 UNLEASHED

Review by Max Greenberg

System: PSP

With the advent of the Playstation Portable (PSP), Playstation 2 (PS2) ports were sure to follow. A brand name in the sports arcade games industry, EA Sports Big released their portable version of the console hit NFL Street 2, aptly titled NFL Street 2: Unleashed. NFL Street follows in the style of EA Big's blockbuster title NBA Street (which is currently in its third incarnation).

NFL Street 2 for consoles actually uses the rules of the Arena Football League, in which teams of seven play both offense and defense on a 50 yard field. If a player is pinned against a wall, he is considered down. This differs from NFL play, in which there are no walls, the field is 100 yards long, and teams have 12 people on the field at a time. The basic gameplay of Unleashed remains true to the console versions, while the graphics are just about on par as well.

## Gameplay

The gameplay of the PSP's Unleashed maintains the Street style of no-holds-barred, playground sports. As in the console versions of Street, there are no team uniforms. They have been replaced instead by hundreds of articles of regular clothing, available for purchase using points earned throughout the game. In Unleashed, there are dozens more items to wear, ranging from combat boots to two caps stacked on each other (in your team colors, of course). The high-flying, wall-running, show-boating antics of the tiny players are just as entertaining as they are on consoles. The musical soundtrack is even identical. The only feature from the consoles that did not make the move to portable was the constant trash-talking by players on both teams. However, this can come as a blessing to some: due to the relatively small number of different phrases available for consoles, they tend to get boring after a short time.

All the gameplay modes available in the console Street are on the Unleashed UMD (Universal Media Disk, the proprietary disc format of the PSP), along with lots of new modes. The career mode in the game is called "Own the City," and allows players to create a character and put him through his paces as a player, creating a team and taking them to the top. The new game modes include "Street Slalom," in which you take your favorite NFL star through a back alley, littered with garbage cans, crates, walls, and other obstacles to juke, spin, hurdle, or otherwise maneuver your way through. Another mode is "Style Standoff," which is basically a game of HORSE (in which the player has to gain more points in a certain time than his opponent) using style points, which are earned by spinning, running on walls, and other feats of agility. The last new mode is "Style Point Challenge," in which your team has to outscore your opponents in style, not through touchdowns. These games and all the other minigames can be played with your friends through ad-hoc (unit-to-unit) multiplayer. Unleashed does not have internet play, although the game's case lists that it does. EA has acknowledged this error as a typo, but many gamers are skeptical.



## Graphics

The graphics in NFL Street 2: Unleashed can be summed up in one word: sweet. The attention paid to details is amazing. One of the main draws of the PSP is its near-console graphics capabilities, and Unleashed certainly takes advantage of them. The textures are crisp and clean, and the lighting on various fields looks identical to that on the consoles. The player models tend to be a little blocky, but usually it is hard to tell whether that is simply to fit in with the cartoony feel of the game. My main gripe with the graphics is the glitches: at times, players tackle others from the other side of the field; the ball sticks in the ground after a play; and sometimes, edges can be jagged or clipped. Otherwise, the graphics are all that one could hope for and more for a portable impact sports game with a constant 60 FPS framerate (which is a good thing).

## Audio

The audio in Unleashed matches the audio on the consoles, but that is not saying much. The running commentary by the players can be annoying, but at least it could be called background noise. In Unleashed, there are only grunts and the sounds of 300-pound men crashing into each other. That, and the woefully inadequate EA Pocket Trax soundtrack. Pocket Trax really would have been a good idea, seeing as the quality of the music is impeccable. Unfortunately, the choice of songs leave a lot to be desired.

## Overall

Overall, I would recommend NFL Street 2 Unleashed to someone who has not played NFL Street 2 for a console. There is not really enough new content to warrant buying Street twice, unless one is a big fan of the original. Unleashed is a solid sports title that will probably lead the PSP football field until EA's Madden 2006 comes out.

Gameplay	8/10—very familiar, no internet play
Graphics	8.5/10—incredible for a handheld
Sound	7/10—crisp quality, mediocre music choices
Overall Score	8/10—recommended for fans or newcomers to the Street series



# HSMSE ACADEMIC AWARDS

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

### ENGLISH

Ninth Grade

*Lillie Armstrong Nandi Bugg*

Tenth Grade

*Mohammad Islam*

Eleventh Grade

*Jae Sun Byun Mary Lu*

### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health

*Eric Patel Mario Luna Aleyah Soleyn*

Physical Education

Ninth Grade

*Max Tierno Jessica Wong*

Tenth Grade

*Michael Kravetz Nikhailia Morgan*

Eleventh Grade

*Jessica Concepcion Fabricio Pesantez*

### LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

German

Level I

*Julian Carrasquillo Shantall Lara Grace Lee*

Level II

*Timon Ajlan Gregory Barasch Max (Solomon) Greenberg*

Level III

*Winnie Chau Janel Martir*

Spanish

Level II

*Yannick Lopez Maya Perry*

Level IV

*Aleksey Matyunenkov*

### MATHEMATICS

Algebra/Geometry

*Roseanna Chan Carolina Mora*

Geometry

*Joachbeth Tingson King Fai Wong*

Trigonometry

*Benjamin Lipton Min Ting Liu*

### MUSIC

*Qadus Awan Juan Olivos*

### SCIENCE

Biology

*Sterling Clarke YuXian Deng Julia Lekht*

Chemistry

*YIXing LI Terry (Baote) Zheng*

Physics

*Amin Mirzaee Gil Soffer Katherln Sudol*

### SOCIAL STUDIES

World History I

*Samuel Kramer Elias Scheer*

World History II

*Eli Amzallag Hoheteberhan Getachew Bryan Wong*

American History

*Celton Agpoon Alexandra Bromley Melissa Seymour*

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Civil Engineering and Architecture

*Anthony Loreto Natalia Vela*

Digital Electronics

*Roxanne Bochar Christopher Rivera*

Introduction to Engineering and Design

*Aris Mejla Raven Varona*

Principles of Engineering

*Maurizio Asperti Alkisha Harley*

## SCHOOL-WIDE AWARDS

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

*Christine Chau Mellssa Seymour*

### OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

*Nathan Figueroa*

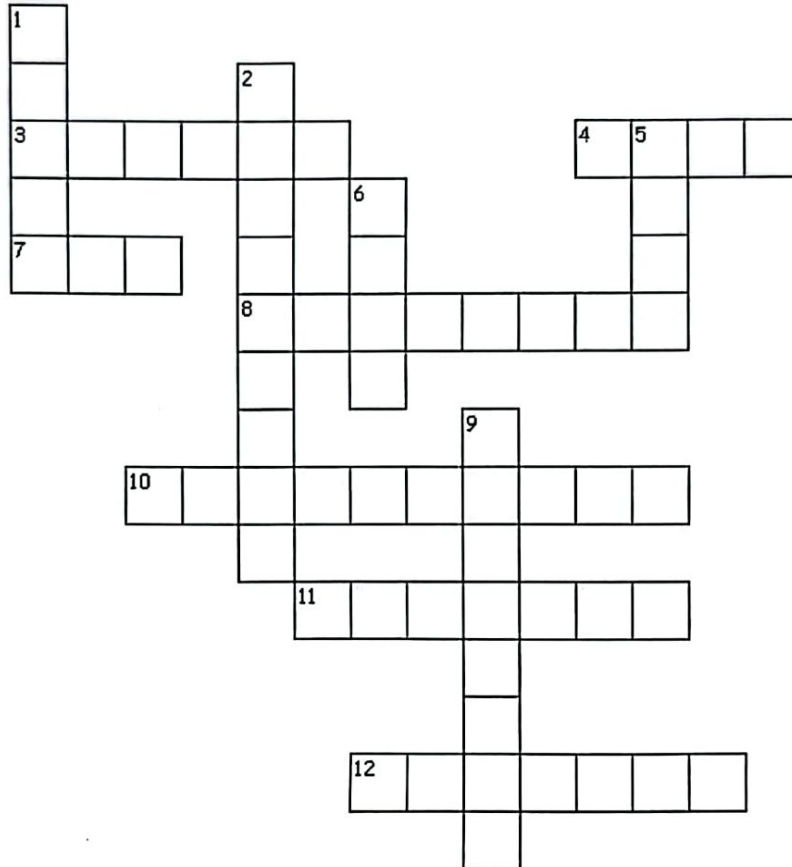
### SCHOOL SERVICE

*Roxanne Bochar Eric Patel*



# COLLEGE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY MEHNAZ CHOWDHURY



Across

- 3. One of the most well known schools, located in London
- 4. Southern school with a great basketball team
- 7. Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen go to this university
- 8. The 116th St. train station on the 1 or 9
- 10. One of the best law schools, located in Washington D.C.
- 11. This all women's college is affiliated with Columbia University
- 12. Reese Witherspoon went here in "Legally Blonde"

Down

- 1. An Ivy League named after a color
- 2. This Ivy League is located in New Jersey
- 5. You see the City of Angels
- 6. Bush graduated from this university
- 9. "Ivy League" of the West Coast