

High School of American Studies at Lehman College

Common Sense

For the students; by the students
by Tiarra Tosca

Common Sense is a new and flourishing newspaper attracting the interests of the student body. We are extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm the newspaper has received and hope it continues to grow. All and any volunteers for the *Common Sense* staff as well as written contributions will be appreciated.

HSAS is a school with a positive environment open to all suggestions. We hope that *Common Sense* will be a reliable means to voice your ideas. *Common Sense* can serve as representation for the student body and make us all aware of student concerns. Please leave suggestions in the *Common Sense* box in the main office. We hope to gain your support!

HSAS Students
Behind the Color Line
By Gloria Medina

On Wednesday, January 7th, a select group of freshman and sophomore students attended "Behind the Color Line," a lecture by Henry Louis Gates Jr. Mr. Gates is a Yale graduate, chair of Harvard's Afro-American Studies program, and the author of several books including the New York Times bestseller The Bondswoman's Narrative. The night began at 6:00 and ended by 9:00. It included a discussion between peers, dinner, a lecture summary and the formal lecture, given by Mr. Gates himself.

At one point during Mr. Gates' lecture summary, he told the audience about an all black middle class community in Georgia where the residents enjoy living, as they feel safe and their children have better role models. Mr. Gates asked the audience if this is what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have wanted. The residents of these all black communities replied that while the neighborhoods are segregated, they feel comfortable in a same race community.

Also, they argued that this wouldn't pose a problem because Caucasians would not have an interest in moving there. Students participating had varying opinions on these viewpoints. An Asian girl from Stuyvesant agreed with the residents, expressing her comfort in living in Chinatown as well as a predominately Asian school. Eric Gordon, from HSAS, contended that this living arrangement was not what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had envisioned. Instead, Dr. King dreamed of a nation where all races and groups could flourish in the same community; a nation of diversity and integration. In my opinion, single-race communities are supportable as long as everyone, despite race or creed, interacts in a tolerant and unprejudiced manner outside of their community.

The most interesting part of the experience was the discussion. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions to Mr. Gates, as well as debate with their peers. In addition, Mr. Gates shared many interesting opinions and viewpoints in his lecture.

Gates also discussed affirmative action and the decline of morale in the inner city. Gates emphasized the quadrupling of the size of the black middle class in the last 35 years, but lamented that the percentage of blacks below the poverty line has not changed. Gates feels that more needs to be done by the black middle class, who are able to take financial action.

While the program mostly discussed the situation of black middle class culture, any race could have benefited from the message contained in Mr. Gates' lecture. The event at the 92nd Street Y was both informative and engrossing to all who participated in it. The students from HSAS hope to attend more events at the Y in the future.

Remember to visit *The Patriot*, our WEB newspaper at www.hsas.ik.org.

Winter Performances by Natalie Wykowski

On December 22, 2003, our school held a concert. Our drama club performed monologues from Studs Terkel's *Working*, and the band played Holiday songs. Before the performance, there was a pizza party.

Ms. Rice organized the drama performance wonderfully. The drama students performed well and were applauded by everyone. The performers were Alicia Barnes, Jeena Choi, Juani Feliz, Debra Fricano, Derresha Harding, Gertold Hasanbelliu, Tahirah Lawrence, Akilah Matthew, Xiang Montalvo, Steven Neal, Diona Phoenix, Vanessa Sepulveda, and Chris Trentacosta. Great job!

Next, the band, led by Mr. Rodriguez, performed their songs. Debra Fricano, Madeline Wechsler, and Christy Zheng sang. The performances were wonderful and should guarantee an even larger turnout for the next holiday performance.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King Stefanie Robles

The conclusion to the trilogy, Lord of the Rings was magnificent! It tied up loose ends, and concluded, like most other trilogies...sorry, can't give it away. It was very long, about three and a half hours, but it was so worth it. The special effects were cool, and battle scenes were the best. In comparison, the Battle of Helm's Deep, in *The Two Towers*, was nothing; it cannot even begin to compare. Overall, the movie should get five stars. I cannot wait to get the Special Edition on DVD. If you haven't seen it yet, you have to see it now.

Sports by Fariza Khan and Natalie Wykowski

On Thursday January 8, our boy's basketball team played against the Bronx High School of Science. Our boys worked hard, but lost the game 50-41, despite great fan support. Top scorers were Jason Russell and Jordan Balais with 10 points each and Soji James with 8 points.

The HSAS girls' basketball team put up a good fight against Bronx High School for Law and Government's varsity squad in a 43 - 21 loss January 9. Opposing Coach Larry Greiner was impressed "This is going to be a great team! They play hard, they play fair."

The girls played Bronx Science January 13. Foul shots by Natalie Wykowski and Juani Feliz tied the game at 28 late and sent it into overtime, before they fell 33 - 28.

Return of the King: The Never-ending Finale by Sabrina Paige Enriquez Rivera

The Lord of The Rings trilogy was an excellent production but the most recent film, *Return of the King*, could stand some trimming. I would have liked it more if it were shorter. They destroyed the ring in three hours and still made you wait another half hour to see Frodo board a boat, not the most important detail. This movie had a lot more trouble grasping its theme unlike the other two movies which actually held a tight theme. *Return of the King* bored me. Before watching it I was tempted to read the book but now I think it might drag. My advice is to avoid it. If you were expecting this movie to top the harmonic beauty and thematic magnificence of the original two, you will be disappointed.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1/19 School Closed	1/20 Study Day	1/21 Finals: American and English	1/22 Finals: Foreign Language & Global Lunar New Year	1/23 Finals: Science and Math
1/26 Regular Day Girls basketball @Bronx Academy of Letters	1/27 Trip Museum of Natural History Report to school 8AM	1/28 8:15 - 1:00 PSAT prep/Seminar Basketball Home Double header, 1 st Tip off 4 PM	1/29 Trips Ellis Isl./Museum of Jewish Heritage Report to school 8AM	1/30 No school Girls Home Basketball game 4PM

Wanted

Volunteers to read poetry during morning announcements. See Mr. Murphy, Lillian Rodriguez or Sabrina Enriquez Rivera.

Volume I Number 2 January 16, 2004
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