

High School of American Studies at Lehman College

Common Sense

Special Dance Issue

Our First Dance Kristen Wallace

On October 15, 2004 the High School of American Studies had its first official school dance. Seeing as our attempt at a school dance last year failed horribly many students were skeptical on attending this year, but opinions quickly changed as the night progressed.

In the beginning students were shy and the dance floor was empty until a few brave souls broke the ice and soon more people followed. The DJ was good and seemed to play all the right songs. The fact that the lights were on did not stop anyone from getting "down and dirty" and having a good time.

Some students hope that at the next dance people from outside the school will be able to attend, but practically all the students agree with Gloria Medina who felt the dance was "...very fun, which to be honest came as a surprise" We should thank our student council for their hard work and hope that the Valentine's Day dance will be as successful. •

Boys Basketball - Home Opener
Wednesday, December 1st, in the APEX
Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice

Girls Basketball - Home Opener
Friday, December 3rd, in the APEX
Bronx High School of Science

Come out and support your teams!

More Sports Coverage – page 7

Presidential Election – page 8

Interview with Student Government President Gertold Hasanbelliu Debra Fricano

Debra Fricano: What were your expectations for the dance, and were they fulfilled?

Gertold Hasanbelliu: [Speaking for the entire student government], We knew that this 1st dance would make our break our government. We wanted this thing to be as big as possible, and that is what we got. The dance turned out great. More than half of the students attended. The only complaints we had were that the lights were on, and there was a lack of water. Those factors will be kept in mind when we prepare future parties and dances.

DF: What are the student government's future plans for school events?

GH: There will be a talent show some time before the holiday break. Anybody is invited to participate. There will be different categories, [such as] singing, drama and comedy. [Furthermore] we want to have a Valentine's Day Party. Throughout the year, the students should expect other events.

DF: What do you need from HSAS to make these future events the best they can be?

GH: For the last dance, the committees we organized worked well, and they helped a lot. For the future events, we need students who are willing to give up some free time, and help out-whether it is to make decorations, advertise the event and send out the word (we had used a "grass roots campaign" for the last dance) or just to keep supporting the student government. Keep the school spirit alive. •

Gerold Hasanbelliu is the Student Government President. The other officers are VP Shawn Axelbank, Mark Lyubovitsky, Gina Mazlina, Adesoji James, Aaron Greenwald, and Nick Berkowitz

Music
A Different Beat
Steven Zapata
Garbage

When you put three producers and an antagonistic yet good hearted front lady together, you get bliss. Straight from their debut, to their second and third albums, their music has fascinated critics. Garbage is a hard/electronic rock band. Shirley Manson is the lead singer; she has great tones for hard songs like "Hammering In My Head" to softer songs like "Cherry Lips". Her band mates are Steve Marker, Butch Vig, and Duke Erikson, who also produced Nirvana's Mastermind Album. Shirley Manson and Gwen Stefani are good friends and No Doubt has toured with Garbage (trust me when I say these are great concerts). Though I must admit, that like aged wine, their older songs are much better in than their newer songs. Something of note is that they often re-release a CD in another region and add two bonus songs. Garbage (excluding these bonus songs) is pretty good because of its very emotional songs that keep you thinking and humming for weeks. They have been making music since the early nineties and still manage to generate an album every four years or so. Garbage shows a sophisticated level of music. Their upcoming album's working title is Hands on a Hard Body, and is set to be released at the end of this year (but I don't think that's going to happen). For more information on Garbage go to www.garbage.com.

Ashlee Simpson

Ashlee Simpson is the pop/rock-singing sister of international pop-star Jessica Simpson. Her voice is different from her sister's; she sounds a bit like Avril Lavinge but more smoky, which gives her a nice tone. She surpassed her sister in CD sales in the first week of her debut album! Though I must admit that I think only her first four songs have single potential, I still like the other songs on her CD. Her first four songs are "Autobiography", "Pieces Of Me", "Shadow", and "Lala". Interestingly, her next single was going to be "Autobiography", but because what happened on SNL she changed her next single to "Lala". Her debut album is "Autobiography" and she's planning another CD for next year. On a side note, I want to defend her on the SNL incident. A lot of people lip sync, like Britney

Spears for example (and she lip syncs a lot). For more Ashlee Simpson news, videos, etc, go to www.ashleesimpsonmusic.com.

Gwen Stefani

There is something about her; she's just Gwen, who recently broke from her group No Doubt to launch a solo career. Gwen Stefani is a charismatic, ska rocking, pop flashing, hard rock chick. Her first single as a solo artist is "What you waiting for?" "Love Angel Music Baby" is in the extended version of her video for "What you waiting for?" (This extended version is about 3 minutes longer then the regular song.) Her album is going to be released on November 22 but if you're patient, you can wait for the special edition Gwen case. Gwen's new website for her solo life is www.gwenstefani.com, in which you can watch the "what you waiting for?" video and read some news but much else. If you want to know about No Doubt you can go to her No Doubt website www.nodoubt.com. Don't worry No Doubt fans, after killing her band mates in the "It's My Life" video No Doubt still plans to make music together it's just that they're not sure when.

Zap's Ten Songs

1. "What You Waiting For?" Gwen Stefani
2. "Hotel Lobby" Utada
3. "Slow Hands" Interpol
4. "Stoned" Dido
5. "Mosh" Eminem
6. "You Had Me" Joss Stone
7. "Float On" Modest Mouse
8. "Still Waiting (Symbion Project Remix)" Sum 41
9. "Plastic Stars" Freezepop
10. "Seven Boom Medley" Freezepop

Also check out...

- Green Day
- Mars Volta
- Interpol
- My Chemical Romance
- Joss Stone
- Sum 41

If you want to respond to Steven Zapata or if you want me to check out a certain band/group you can leave him a note in the Common Sense box in the Main Office, or email him at garbagefan2424@yahoo.com

Simple Plan: "Still Not Getting Any..."

Elizabeth Robins

Simple Plan has arrived, and so have mixed feelings. The Montreal band's new album, "Still Not Getting Any..." is packed with sugar coated punk-pop goodness, which might not be such a good thing. The songs will either get stuck in your head for days, or make you want to bang your head against the wall, sometimes both. Some people find their single, "Welcome to My Life," infectiously good. You might find it more infectiously annoying. Usually, it takes a song ten or more times to get overplayed. It happened with "Welcome to My Life", and their album opener "Shut Up," on second listen.

I liked songs from their cheekily titled first album, "No Pads, No Helmets... Just Balls", such as "Perfect" and "Addicted", but there was a problem that is now reoccurring, and is much worse. Simple Plan's sound on the new album is more schizophrenic. I love the heartfelt, genuine lyrics, but they just don't fit with the bouncy feel-good music. In some cases, this makes their songs good but disposable; mediocre. You'll listen to them, but forget about them when a new hit song you like comes out.

Another minus on "Still Not Getting Any..." is that every other song basically sounds the same. Simple Plan is getting too predictable. I don't want Simple Plan to "Shut Up," but maybe they could diversify their sound a little better. If you are a pop music lover who wants to experiment with slightly rock-ish sounds, go ahead. You might like it. But avid fans of harder rock will probably be disappointed.

Movie Review

Everybody Hearts Huckabees

Elizabeth Adams

I Heart Huckabees is an unconventional comedy dealing with the concepts of post-modernism and existentialism. Jason Schwartzman (Slackers) plays Albert Markovski, an environmentalist who heads a small group called Open Spaces. He ponders the meaning of life, and after having three run-ins with the same tall Sudanese refugee, he becomes convinced there is some greater meaning to his coincidences. He thus seeks the help of existential detectives Jaffe & Jaffe (Lily Tomlin and Dustin Hoffman). Explaining his existential

crisis, they insist that everything in life is connected and that everything matters. The Jaffes also help Albert's rival, retail executive Brad Stand (Jude Law) and his girlfriend Dawn Campbell (Naomi Watts), the spokes-model who persuades consumers to think "I Heart Huckabees." This sways Albert to lose confidence in his hired detectives and switches over to the side of their nemesis, Catherine Vauban (Isabelle Huppert), a woman who also believes everything is connected, but that there is no meaning - only pain and suffering.

While this movie oversimplifies these two philosophical conflicts, and dilutes the meaning of life into categories of black and white, it is saved by the way in which the main point is explored. By taking the polar opposites of existential theory and using them to find the characters' inner meanings, the film illustrates the way in which we all go about exploring our lives in our own ways. It is touching and, at the same time, a thinking man's movie.

The film is great largely for the fact that is so funny. Combining wit, humor, and heart, it is immensely engaging. *I Heart Huckabees* works on an absurdist comedy level, because of its unusually mixed ensemble cast. Mark Wahlberg is excellent as a man struggling with his responsibility to the planet, ready to harangue anyone on the misuse of petroleum with the tiniest provocation. Wahlberg and Schwartzman work brilliantly together, playing off of each other's talent. This is especially shown when the two used the 'pure being ball thing' technique, where the two knock each other out with a big red ball. Naomi Watts was the most talented in the movie, giving an Oscar worthy performance as a Barbie spokeswoman who realizes she is living a shallow life and transforms, becoming Amish and rising above American materialism.

Overall, this movie is very humorous and yet has touching moments of eccentricity that is reminiscent of slice-of-life comedies such as "Garden State" and "Lost in Translation." While it generalizes an otherwise more complex and intricate concept, the characters develop effectively, showing realities of both human emotion and nature.

TV Reviews and Summaries

One Tree Hill

Steven Zapata

One Tree Hill – Episode #5 Season 2 - First Aired Tuesday, October 19, 2004

There are two new characters in One Tree Hill: Felix and his sister Anna. Felix came up with a dare game boys vs. girls. Felix and everyone decided to play along. Lucas was made to return women's clothing while wearing them. Lucas also had to steal three dollars from a wishing fountain (any old fountain with change in it). Lucas was also supposed to make out with a stranger and, well he did. Peyton had to eat this pink pickle thing. Brooke had an interesting one, she had to get a table in an expensive restaurant that's always booked (but Felix reserved a table weeks in advance) and order (and eat) the most expensive food and then leave.

While Lucas was returning some of his last clothes the mall security guard started to chase him and Anna helped him. They later made out to fulfill one of the dare cards. Mouth went to a karaoke bar and sang, "I like big butts." Hailey and Peyton's dare was to confess at a church that they have dreams about their neighbor's dog, but that didn't happen. Peyton actually started to talk about her mother and how she feels about it. Brooke had to go inside an open grave. Overall Felix was mostly hitting on Brooke. At the end there was a tie between both teams, and someone had to kiss one of their other members to gain extra points so Brooke looked like she was going to kiss Felix but she turned and kissed Peyton. Girls Won.

One Tree Hill – Episode #7 Season 2 – First Aired Nov. Tuesday 8, 2004

Nathan and Lucas went to a basketball game. The girls had a slumber party. Hailey told Lucas' mom about the guy that used drugs in the club she owns. She told Peyton that they could talk anytime about anything. The record store guy, Chris, asked Hailey if she would lend any vocals; it was supposed to be a date except she didn't even tell Nathan. Peyton and Anna went to Hailey's house and noticed that someone was already there. They went to the bedroom to find Brooke and Felix in bed. They told Felix to get out and he went to take a

shower (it was weird). Lucas's mom and her professor went on a date and they found Keith and his girlfriend. The girls ended up fighting. Hailey was angry at Brooke for sleeping in her bed with Felix, and Peyton yelled at Hailey for being a drug addict. Brooke called Hailey a liar and Hailey pulled a nose patch off of Brooke's nose. Peyton called Brooke a hoe. Right after Anna said, "Tree Hill got some drama."

Nathan told Lucas that their father's heart disease is genetic and that if they have it they will have to stop playing basketball. The girls finally started talking and Brooke talked about how she doesn't want the friends with benefits, and Peyton told her it's not that, and asked her what she thinks about actually falling in love. Brooke said she wasn't ready for it; eventually they had a pillow fight. Nathan started to take the test and Lucas didn't want to take it claiming he didn't want to know. At the end we learned that Felix really likes Brooke. This episode was okay but next week's sounds great. Brooke is going to find out about Chris and Hailey. Finally the story is becoming something.

One Tree Hill – Episode #8 Season 2 - First Aired Nov. Tuesday 16, 2004

There's a prom and Peyton wants Hailey and Chris to sing for the club she promotes. During the prom they played Gwen Stefani's "What You Waiting For?" Lucas went with Anna, and Felix approved of it for the first time. Chris complained that the demo that Hailey and Chris are making is only "fine" and that promoters won't accept fine. Nathan got a horse carriage for himself and Hailey, but she was recording with Chris so Nathan went by himself.

It seems that Mouth likes Brooke.. Anna found drugs in Peyton's purse when she was looking for lipstick, and when she was going to ask her but Anna and Peyton had a small fight before and Anna just went to dance. Peyton ended without a date but she and Jake were going to be something and Anna even mentioned him in this episode when she saw a picture of him on her way. Nathan and Hailey are facing problems with several things such as Chris and Nathan's parents. Anna locked Lucas in a room but Lucas told her that he wanted to be in *(cont next page)* love before he goes there again. Anna left by herself she said she needed time to think.

On the other side of this plot Brooke was fighting with Felix because she doesn't want to be with him and he's actually fallen for her. (it's a huge mess, not a surprise though), and Peyton was wearing her mother's dress but someone ran into her with wine and when she left she tried to clean her dress but she couldn't and she had an emotional break down and she almost used drugs she also rips the drawing she drew of Jake and Jenny. Anna stays over a Peyton's house like Brooke used to do and Lucas and Brooke want to be friends again. Now for the next episode it seems crazy. First Hailey and Nathan are having problems and Nathan's parents are happy, Hailey kissed Chris and Lucas tells something to Anna maybe about his past? Or perhaps it's a dumb secret that was dramatized by the preview of the next episode.

If you liked the music in One Tree Hill the series has its own CD with songs that Bethany (Hailey) sang during the show and other songs that were played on the show.

The Simpsons **Aleeza Halen**

Matt Groening introduced the Simpson family to the public. This "typical" American family first broadcasted on April 19, 1987. Their first episode was, "Goodnight", where they introduced the entire cast. Viewers seem to laugh along with the show because we can relate to the scenarios most of the time. The cast seems 'normal' compared to today's families.

The sixteenth season started off with a bang. The first episode was a Halloween special. In case you missed it, it won't air for another year or so, so here's the basic summary. The show was entitled "Simpson's Tree House of Horrors". It was Halloween Special XV. The first section was called 'The Ned Zone'. The show started off with Homer trying to get a frisbee of the Simpson household with a bowling ball. The bowling ball then bounced off the chimney and hit Ned Flanders in the head, knocking out a tumor. While he was in the hospital, he figured out that he could tell the future of someone's death by touching him or her. He shot Homer, his best friend and caused the whole town to become nothing because of the mushroom effect. The last scene is shown, as the Simpson

family along with Ned is all angels in Heaven. Marge accuses Homer of killing everyone just to get out of cleaning the garage. But, the garage joined them in Heaven and he had not beaten fate. Just then, a superior being gives Homer his green frisbee that started up this whole mess.

The second segment was called, "Four Beheadings and a Funeral". It takes place in 1890 in London. All the characters in this skit had a British accent. They were in Scotland Yard. Their motto was "What's all this then?" There was a murderer that went around killing women. He was known as the Mutton chop killer. Who was he? I won't spoil the surprise for you. There was a part where opium helped the killer's son to sleep. (Major hint)

The final sketch was "In the Belly of the Boss". It all started with The Inventions of Tomorrow. Professor Frink shrunk Maggie and Mr. C. M. Burns swallowed her unknowingly. The rest of the Simpson had to go inside Mr. Burns to get Maggie back. Homer had to stay inside Burns because the craft they came in with was carrying too much weight. He thought he was going to die, so he ate a marshmallow. Homer then expanded in Burns and lived happily ever after, without a mouth to eat his donuts or greasy and fatty foods or drink his Duff.

The O.C. **Aleeza Halen**

Season Premier: "The Distance"

The first episode of the O.C. entitled "The Distance" was good, yet bit confusing. There were way too many things happening at once. For one thing, after a whole summer of wondering about what happened to Ryan and Seth, everything is revealed in the very first episode. Ryan brings Seth back and the Cohen household is restored. Now, that doesn't seem to be very interesting. But, you probably want to stick around to see the facial expression on Marissa and Summer when they see Seth and Ryan for the first time in three months. It will be hilarious. I think that summer will beat Seth silly for leaving her for three WHOLE months?! I mean, really, who wouldn't? Marissa might be angry at Ryan, but hit it off because they love each other. Over all, the show will get better this season because of its success last season.

Common Sense Literary Supplement

The Girl Inside

The bell rings, she walks through the classroom door,
She's the pretty girl,
The girl surrounded by friends,
Do you know her?
Of course, everyone knows her.

She takes her seat, the class begins,
And as usual, she know everything,
She's the smart girl,
The confident girl,
Do you know her?
Of course, everyone knows her.

School ends, she makes her way home,
But when she walks through the front door,
We see a different girl,
A girl trying to end the war,
The war she calls home.
Do you know her?
No, Nobody knows her.

Up in her room, we see her lying on her bed,
Trying to block out the constant gunfire,
Trying to fight back the tears,
She's a fighter, she's a soldier
But she can't fight forever.
Do you know her?
No, nobody knows her.
Nobody knows the girl inside.

By: Ilise Weinberg

Do you want to submit some of your own personal work? How about poems, short stories, jokes, recipes, catch phrases, lyrics of a song or whatever? Well here's your chance. We at *Common Sense* have added a Literary Supplement, a Creative Writing Section. You can submit your writing via email; send it to garbagefan2424@yahoo.com. Make sure to include in the subject section that it is for creative writing. Or if the Internet is too high-tech for you, you can submit it to me or any other editor of *Common Sense* or drop it off in the *Common Sense* mailbox. – Steven Zapata, CSLS editor.

Video Game Review

Silent Hill 4: The Room: Scary?

Amber Rodriguez

Finally, I've been able to get my hands on a (very long) demo of one the most eagerly anticipated survival-horror games out there. Yes, Silent Hill 4: The Room. I must admit, however, this experience isn't what I expected it to be.

I was happy with the storyline, which follows the main character Henry Townsend. He wakes one day to find his door bolted from the inside with multiple chains and his windows sealed shut, leaving him with no way out of his small apartment. Predictably, Henry finds a mysterious exit: a strange hole in his bathroom wall. This being his only hope out of the apartment, he clammers into it, only to find himself stuck in a dark and very psychopathic world. The cut scenes had mediocre voice acting, but a dramatic feel to them.

The game-play is in first-person mode whilst you wander through the apartment, and mode whilst in the hole. The first-person camera angles succeed in giving an unpleasant enclosed feeling, which I felt to be a nuisance. The latter was sluggish and tedious, and I found that it ruined the horror- feel.

It was a similar situation with the "enemies" in the game, for there is a new addition to the Silent Hill franchise: Ghosts. Undead, immortal, and unlike previous monsters, ghosts cannot be killed in this game. The initial shock of seeing a ghost rise only seconds after I knocked it down was fun, but repeatedly trying to keep ghosts at bay while I tried to reach my mission objective became extremely annoying. Seeing a ghost glide after you at top speed is scary (when you haven't seen the same one fifty times).

This would be a wonderful game had it not been so good at trying one's patience. Ten being the best, I'd give this game a seven: Tediously Frightening!

Are you a junior?
Do you take photographs?
Common Sense needs you!
See Angela Fabunan

Four More Years

Elizabeth Adams

On November 3, 2004, President Bush won re-election as Senator Kerry conceded the race. Voters who stayed up late to discover the outcome finally found out America's future President around eleven o'clock Wednesday morning. President George W. Bush won the electoral vote and swept the popular vote by 3.5 million votes.

President Bush is the first Republican to be elected to the White House for two terms since Ronald Reagan. When speaking on his electoral victory, the President proclaimed, "America has spoken, and I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens. Bush won the electoral vote 286 to 252 (AP).

Ohio's 20 electoral votes gave Bush the win, however was heavily disputed due to the uncounted provisional ballots. Senator Kerry needed around 94% of these ballots to be valid and all votes for him to win Ohio, and thus admirably forfeited his campaign.

"We cannot win this election," John Kerry said Wednesday in an emotional farewell speech from Faneuil Hall in Boston. He then went on to assert that America is too divided along party lines, and must become a more unified nation. "We talked about the danger of division in our country and the need the desperate need for unity, for finding common ground and coming together," Kerry said. "Today, I hope we can begin the healing," he announced.

Bush echoed Kerry's statement, promising to unite a divided nation. "To make this nation stronger and better, I will need your support and I will work for it," Bush said. "A new term is a new opportunity to reach out to others. We have one nation, one constitution that binds. When we come together, work together, there's no limit to what we can do as a nation."

Registration and voter turnout was remarkably high this election, causing greater citizen participation and electoral malfunctions. "We had some of that here, people that are not registered to vote, went into the polling place and they issued them a provisional ballot. Those ballots will be disqualified (*cont next page*)

Sports

New York Sports Report

Evan Okin

The baseball season has ended and the long offseason has begun. The Yankees, who fell one win short of making another World Series appearance, will likely go after many free agents this offseason such as Carlos Beltran and Carl Pavano. The Mets, who finished the 2004 season 25 games behind the first place Atlanta Braves, have hired Willie Randolph as their manager. In football news, the Jets have a 6-2 record going into Week 10. Chad Pennington was recently diagnosed with a sprained right rotator cuff that could keep him out for 4 weeks. The Giants, now 5-3, must play without Michael Strahan for the rest of the year. This Sunday will be the first time in 9 years the Giants will be playing without their 6-time allstar. In basketball news, The Knicks had to settle for a 2-3 start to the season, and have a fairly tough schedule coming up, including road trips against the San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Mavericks. •

America Studies Basketball Is Here

Janay Parker

The boys' first game of the season is vs. Bronx Law and Government. This game is at home on December 1st at 4:30 pm. The girls' season opener is two days later (December 3rd), again at home, against Bronx HS of Science at 4:30 pm.

The boys roster has just been announced: Jordan Balais (Junior), Matthew Bollati (Freshman), Dimitre Boyukliev (Sophomore), Adam Diker (So), Paul Fiore (Jr), Carl Gayle (Fr), David Ginsberg (Fr), Brian Gonzalez (Jr), Michael Hamlett Jr. (Fr), Soji James (Jr), Thomas Maass (Jr), Jonathan Narine (Jr), Wuta Onda (Jr), Jason Russell (Jr), Donelle Sylvester (Jr) and Steven Johnson (So).

This season the boys are given the opportunity to back up their talk. After the opener they take on Bronx Leadership Academy, Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy, Fannie Lou Hamer, Grace Dodge, South Bronx, and the New School for Arts and Sciences. In January they face additional opponents including Jane Addams and Evander Childs.

The girls' season appears to be just as tough. After Science they prepare to take on

Christopher Columbus (December 7th), then Adlai Stevenson, Samuel Gompers, Jane Addams, Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice, and then in January South Bronx, Wings Academy, and Evander Childs. Come and show some support.

The girl's roster includes juniors Elissa Katz, Hillary Mollette, Samantha Ponce, and Natalie Wykowski, sophomores Shawn Axelbank, Alicia Barnes, Whitney Birdsdall, Juani Feliz, Sherean Marasigean, Iffy Nnaji and Allyson Rodriguez, and freshmen Vanessa Ohakam, Natasha Stanislas, and Ilise Wienberg.

Congratulations to all the girls and boys who made the teams, and to everyone who tried out. Don't forget to support our teams. Show your school spirit!!! •

Four More Years

(continued from front page)

because if you're not registered you can't vote and that's going to happen in Ohio," said Bob Smith, Onondaga County Republican Committee Chairman.

The Republican Party also won election gains in Congress. Winning four more seats in the Senate, and two in the House of Representatives, the nation's conservative takeover is becoming more apparent. Furthermore, Democratic Minority leader Tom Daschle lost re-election, making it less problematic for the Republican Party to appoint Supreme Court Justices of their choice. As Bush will be appointing up to three new justices this term, his influence over this country will remain even after he has left office. •

Tutoring Schedule in Full Swing

Academic tutoring has begun in most subject areas. Math tutoring is on Wednesdays. Science tutoring (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) is on Thursdays. Spanish tutoring is also Thursday after school

There is also tutoring for team members. This is sort of an after school homework club before games.

Our tutoring schedule will expand as finals and Regents approach. Juniors will be taking the English Regents in January. Remember, if you need help, ask •

**Interview with Assistant Principal
Martin Olivieri
Debra Fricano**

Debra Fricano: What was your educational experience?

[Mr. Olivieri supplied the following list:]

- Baruch College, CUNY, S.A.S. Certification, NYC 2002-2004
- Baruch College, CUNY, Certificate in Computer Programming, NYC 2001-2002
- City College, CUNY, MA in Secondary Science Education (chemistry), NYC 1993-1996
- Universita di San Tommaso in Urbe, Ph.L. (philosophy), Rome 1985-1987
- University of Toronto, St. Michaels' College, Honors BA, Toronto, Canada 1981-1985 Major - philosophy and mediaeval studies

DF: What has been your role in High School communities?

Mr. Olivieri: My tenure at the Academy of American Studies, where I taught chemistry and was Programming Chair, continues at the High School of American Studies as Assistant Principal. I have been fortunate to participate in schools dedicated to rigorous academic standards as part of the effort to produce truly well educated graduates.

DF: What made you come to HSAS?

MO: When the school first opened, Ms Luftman needed someone to do programming for the school; she didn't know whom to ask or who would be able and willing to do it, so she spoke to the former principal of Academy of American Studies and he recommended me.

The phone rings. Mr Oliveri's side of the conversation includes some professionally indifferent "yeah...ok...right..." remarks. Meanwhile, he takes notes and/or doodles on the corner of the HSAS letterhead. Unfortunately, this momentary break extends itself beyond this interviewer's ability to wait.

In a desperate dash to catch the Bronx Science bus, I scribble down three questions I would like him to answer. I pass him the paper with the newspaper's screen name on it, asking him to email me the answers when his busy schedule clears up. These are the responses I received

DF: Having come from a similar school, whose name is often confused with our own- in your observation- what makes HSAS unique? What are your goals for our students?

MO: Let me begin by saying that it is indeed an honor and a pleasure to continue my work at the High School of American Studies, where it is my job to facilitate the realization of our academic and civic goals for students and faculty alike. In my opinion, it is especially important in the context of the American Studies mission that our students become educated citizens who can participate fully in our democracy. We are working to reverse the trend in our country to forget about our history and purpose as a democratic, secular nation. We hope to counter Thomas Jefferson's prediction that the American populace would become less and less educated and participate less and less in our democracy. Rather, we are working to fulfill his call to maintain an educated populace that fosters the continuance of a free society.

Submit articles for *Common Sense* to an editor:
 News – Aaron Greenwald,
 Inside HSAS – Tiarra Tosca
 Events – Angelique Petropouleas
 Entertainment – Gloria Medina
 Literary Supplement – Steven Zapata
 Drop articles in the mailbox in the Main Office
 Send e-mail to Commonsense HSAS@cs.com

Share your ideas or your time

I would like to work for Common Sense

Reporter: (Check the departments you are most interested in writing for):

News Events Entertainment

Inside HSAS Sports

Proofreading

Photography

Production/Layout

I have a good idea for Common Sense: _____

Name: _____

Tear off this box and return to the *Common Sense* mailbox in the Main Office,
 Or bring it to the *Common Sense* table in the cafeteria each Tuesday

December Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
11/22	11/23	11/24 Band Common Sense #3 Step Team Club Soccer	11/25 Thanksgiving – No School	11/26 No School
11/29	11/30 HW Club for teams	12/1 Band HW Club for teams Math Tutoring Step Team Club Soccer Boys BBall Home 4:30 (Bronx Law and Gov't)	12/2 Band HW Club for teams Science Tutoring Spanish Tutoring	12/3 College Visit: Adelphi End of 2 nd Marking Period Band Key Club Club Soccer <i>Common Sense</i> Staff/Planning meeting Girls BBall Home 4:30 (Bronx Science)
12/6	12/7 HW Club for teams Boys BBall Away 4:00 (Bronx Leadership) Girls BBall Away 4:30 (Columbus)	12/8 Band Math Tutoring HW Club for teams Step Team Club Soccer	12/9 Report Card Distribution HW Club for teams Science Tutoring Spanish Tutoring Boys BBall Home 4:30 (Riverdale/Kingsbridge)	12/10 Band Club Soccer <i>Common Sense – Layout</i> Girls BBall Home 4:30 (Stevenson)
12/13 Girls BBall Away 4:45 (Wings Academy)	12/14 College Visit: Sophie Davis School of Bio- Medical Sciences HW Club for teams Boys BBall Home 4:30 (Fannie Lou Hamer)	12/15 Band HW Club for teams Math Tutoring Step Team Club Soccer Girls BBall Home 4:30 (Gompers)	12/16 Band HW Club for teams Science Tutoring Spanish Tutoring Girls BBall Home 4:00 (Jane Addams) Boys BBall Home 5:30 (Grace Dodget)	12/17 Junior Class Trip → (FDR Home) Band Key Club Club Soccer
12/20 Boys BBall Home 4:30 (South Bronx)	12/21 Common Sense #3 HW Club for teams Boys BBall Away 4:00 (New School for Arts and Sciences) Girls BBall Home 4:30 (Bronx Law & Gov't)	12/22 Band HW Club for teams Math Tutoring Step Team Club Soccer Drama Club Presentation	12/23 Band Talent Show Last school day of 2005	12/24 Christmas Eve
12/27 Vacation	12/28 Vacation	12/29 Vacation	12/30 Vacation	12/31 New Years Eve

Return to school, Monday January 3, 2005

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Common Sense