

High School of American Studies at Lehman College

Common Sense

Politics Come Alive at HSAS

Christopher Cruz

The High School of American Studies is picking up on the political trail as both Republican and Democratic clubs have been formed. The clubs, under the supervision and guidance of Mr. Elinson and Mr. Wong, are beginning to hold meetings on a regular basis and become more active in the actual process of self- government.

The Republican Club, having already held 5 or 6 meetings, had their elections for Cabinet positions on December 13th. The Cabinet consists of President Keith O'Donnell, Advisor Liz Borodkin, Secretary Mark Lyubovitsky, and representative Chandradat Motie.

The Democratic Club is not far behind. Despite starting out a bit later, the club has an active Cabinet consisting of Co-Presidents Jennifer Horowitz and Nick Berkowitz, Co-Vice Presidents Dominique DiCola and Stephanie Gonzalez, Treasurer Logan Grant, and Secretary Kendra Danowski. The club will hold official elections in February.

In past meetings of the Republican Club, the members have read aloud news articles from newspapers and websites, such as CNN and FOXNews, and discussed the issues at hand. They have also engaged in deep discussions about their own personal political beliefs, making for a unique experience. The discussions will soon change however.

Secretary Lyubovitsky claims: "Since our election we have a new agenda, we plan on discussing the history of the political party and how it developed, how it changed over time...We also hope to get more involved in NY Politics in the City."

The first meeting of the Democratic Club was a chance for the members to explain the rules of the club, as well as the procedures for voting.

They also found time to begin a discussion of the current issues in Iraq and how they will affect the future of American politics and economics. The club hopes to eventually welcome guest speakers, perhaps a congressman, and someday even campaign for local officials.

When asked what the goals of the club were, Co-President Horowitz replied: "To inform and educate the kids of the school about the issues, and what's going on in the world and how it's going affect them in the future, if it hasn't already... get people interested in their future, promote the Democratic Party, and get kids interested in politics and democracy and practicing their rights as Americans."

Changes in the Supreme Court? – page 6



Jason Drives.

A. Vo

More Sports Coverage, photos – page 7

Both clubs open the door to members of the opposing club, to promote debate and discussion on certain issues. The Republicans meet every Monday at lunch, and while the Democratic meetings have yet to find a set day, they met last Thursday. Both clubs would strongly like to encourage students to drop by and get involved in the discussions, or just listen and absorb information.

Inside HSAS
Arista Induction
 Sandra Prieto

The candle lighting ceremony was the highlight of our first Arista induction. Earlier in the evening there was a guest speaker, Dr. William Tramontano (the dean of Natural and Social Sciences at Lehman College), several band performances, and a beautiful melody played by Ms. Barber on her viola. The inductees had to have a minimum of an 88 overall average, and were interviewed to make sure they had the proper character qualifications.

The teachers (also former Arista members) then proceeded to light candles in representation of the four qualities of Arista membership. From these candles, the new members lit their own small candles. Those inducted were Jordan Balais, Arnel Batoon, Christina Chew, Joanne Eng, Debra Fricano, Stephanie Gonzalez, Kathy Liu, Danielle Narov, Stefanie Robles, John Paul Siruno, Irina Vinnitskaya, Wen Wen Yang, and Christy Zheng. After the ceremony there was finger food for those who wished to stay a little later. Congratulations to all involved.

American Revenge
 Kristen Wallace

History teacher Mr. Wong has been making a mistake that most of us has made one time or another-confusing one person for another. Day after day he called Mark Lyubovitsky "Aaron" and called Aaron Greenwald "Mark." So he made a deal with his afternoon American History class (Chicago): If he confused the two again that class (and only that class) would have permission to call him Yao Ming for the rest of the period. Now they sit in class each period hoping that he'll slip because wouldn't it be fun to call Mr. Wong Yao Ming?

Room 127 Ding Count
 Debra Fricano

Thursday, Period 4	50
Thursday, Period 6	16
Thursday, Period 7	51
Friday, Period 4	174
Friday, Period 7	11

Thank you for your continued cooperation.



Acting up in class.

A. Halen

Drama Seminar Coverage
 Amber Rodriguez

This fall the drama seminar did not prepare a play, but rather a variety of monologues. Each seminar participant wrote a monologue that depicts a profession within the school (such as teachers, students, etc.) The pieces were switched around the room, each person getting another's written work. After much rehearsing, they performed at last night's Winter Celebration. The Celebration occurred after Common Sense went to press, but the actors believed it was going to be a performance that everyone could relate to.... Maybe even janitors...



The Band takes five.

A. Halen

Honors Society Adopts a Child
 Rinda Ko

On December 14th, I interviewed Ms. Villani, advisor of the Spanish Honors Society.

The Spanish Honors Society has just adopted and is now sponsoring a little 6 year old girl from Guatemala. Guatemala is a poor agricultural country in Central America.



Last minute studying. Tsk. Tsk. A. Fabunan

The girl, Yeimi Mishel, is the youngest of 3 siblings. They live with their mother. Her father died 2 or 3 years ago and her mother is raising her family of 4 on a meager wage of \$80 a month. The living conditions of the Mishels are terrible. There is no running water, heat, or electricity, and the floor is made of dirt.

The Spanish Honors Society is sending \$20 a month to Yeimi. Most of that money will go to Yeimi's education, food, and to improve her living conditions. In order to send the \$20 a month, the students in the Spanish Honors Society have held bake sales.

Club has tutored elementary school students after school, and donated Christmas gifts for children. Currently the Key Club is holding a coat drive and a toy drive. The Club will also be buying Christmas gifts, especially toys, for children with the money that was earned from fundraising. Last week the Key Club held a bake sale on Tuesday, and participated in Christmas caroling with the Spanish Honors Society Wednesday.

The Key Club holds meetings with members every other Friday. The next meeting will be on January 7. All are welcome.



Whee! It's pajama day. A. Fabunan



Key Club makes Xmas cards for kids. A. Petropouleas

Key Club Jenny Ng

The Key Club at the High School of American Studies at Lehman College continues to be active. Last year the Key Club made sandwiches for the Midnight Run, participated in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, and made Christmas Cards for veterans. This year the Key



Bedtime for Soji. A. Fabunan

Movie Reviews

The Incredibles- **Angelo Labate**

The Incredibles is a fun, action filled comedy the entire family will love. The movie takes place in a world where being a superhero is something you should not be proud of. Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson) lives a life in a witness protection-type program for superheroes; he and his wife Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) hold a quite suburban life, with their three superhuman children. Then Mr. Incredible is called back into action when a madman begins to take over the world. The Incredibles is without a doubt the best animated movie of the year. It is filled with action, suspense, and of course loads of comedy. The only negative thing about this movie was the running time. For a cartoon it was a little longer than I thought it would be.

Bonuses- Before the movie you would see a small Pixar cartoon about a jackalope and a sheep. You may also be delighted to see a sneak peak at the upcoming Star Wars movie, Revenge of the Sith.

Grade- A+

Alexander- **Angelo Labate**

The bio-pic of Alexander the Great has its pros and cons. The movie stars Colin Farrell as the young conqueror who rules over most of the known world. His father King Philip (Val Kilmer) and his mother Olympias (Angelina Jolie) teach him to be a king. Then when Philip dies Alexander must take over as the head of Macedonia. He then goes on an intensive campaign against Persia and India. The movie was very nicely put together and filmed. Some memorable moments were the fight against Darius of Persia, and a battle against war elephants of India. Alexander's stars put an awesome performance, Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie put on the best performances of their careers. The film however was missing something. It would get boring and tiring then it would pick itself up and you would fall in love with it, then it repeated the cycle over and over for three hours. I think it could have used the talented Anthony Hopkins more, come on he

was Hannibal Lecter. The movie was overall a good movie, except for the two reasons above.

Grade- A-

Television

Desperate Housewives **Alicia Barnes**

Before you turn the page READ THIS!!! The new break out hit Desperate Housewives is awesome. Full of twists, action and even murder this nighttime soap opera is bound to suck you in to it's spell. The show takes place in a small, wholesome little town called Wisteria Lane. In the first episode Mary Alice (the narrator of the show) kills herself leaving her family and friends with no reason as to why she killed herself. Her four friends then try to find out why she killed herself. This road leads them on a weird mystery and along with trying to solve Mary Alice's suicide they try to keep up with their own hectic lives. The last episode (episode 8) almost reveals the secret. In this episode, Bree (the perfect wife) tries to deal with her divorce and hide the fact that her son ran over someone with his car and left the scene of the crime. Gabrielle (the rich wife) tries to keep up hiding her affair with her 16 yr old gardener (played by Jesse Metcalfe from daytime soap opera "Passions") but is caught by her mother in law, who is then hit by a car (Bree's son). Susan (the single mother) goes to her mysterious boyfriend's house and then finds stacks of money and a gun. At the end of the show the most shocking surprise of them all is when someone is murdered!! The nosey neighbor next door is murdered by Mary Alice's husband. To find out more answers to Desperate Housewives turn to channel 7 ABC on Sunday nights at 9.

Music

A Different Beat **Steven Zapata** **Three Days Grace**

This band has been together for a while. They got their first big break in 2003 when their self-titled CD was released. The band members are Adam Gontier (Vocals, Guitar), Barry Stock (Guitar), Brad Walst (Bass), and Neil Sanderson (Drums, Vocals). Their songs are either a little too similar, or miss a climax. A couple of songs left me thinking, "O.K so..." but Three Days Grace did have a few good songs like "Now or

Never", "I Hate Everything About You" and a few others. If you're really into alternative hard rock you'll like Three Days Grace but if you're more into pop/rock Three Days Grace isn't for you. Overall they're good but they still seem like a band only a few people will really like. •

Green Day

Green Day is made up of Billie Joe Armstrong (Guitar, Vocals), Mike Dirnt (Bass, Vocals) and Tre Cool (Drums, Vocals). Green Day has been making music since before I was born. Their latest CD, American Idiot, was named one of the top 40 Albums in its first weeks. Their songs reminded me of a mix of old school punk with neo-punk. I was surprised to find some good slow songs in their album, American Idiot. After hearing "American Idiot" a hundred times I didn't expect to find any slow songs. In this album they have these really long songs that in reality are several songs put together. Their next single is "Boulevard Of Broken Dreams", one of my favorites on that CD. I also liked their album, International Superhits. Green Day has had a long run in the industry and still has it. If you have a little punk in you or you are punk you're bound to just love Green Day. •

Thrice

Thrice is composed of Dustin Kenstrue (Guitar, Vocals), Teppei Teranishi (Guitar), Eddie Breckenridge (Bass), and Riley Breckenridge (Drums). Thrice sounds as if they put in a very little bit of Slipknot, 90's alternative rock. My favorite thing about their songs is how they change slightly in so hat they keep your attention like one of my favorite Thrice songs "Deadbolt". It starts out moderately and then it slows down but the electronic guitars change and then speed up a little bit. This happens in a lot of their songs. Overall their songs are short and so are their albums but it's still okay since their songs all sound different and very unique. Their lyrics sound like sad poems made into songs. When I was listing to Thrice sometimes it felt like Thrice is singing a story because of how the song changes and how the vocals change. Thrice is one of my new favorite bands and if you're into rock you can quickly get into becoming a Thrice fan. •

If you want to respond to Steven Zapata, leave him a note in the Common Sense box in the Main Office, or email him at garbagefan2424@yahoo.com

Top 10 Hard Rock/Metal List Paul Paldino

1. Fire Garden Suite: Bull Whip/Pusa RD. /Angel Food/Taurus Bulba by Steve Vai from the 1996 album Fire Garden
2. La Villa Strangiato by Rush from the 1978 album Hemispheres
3. The Ballad of Buckethead by Buckethead from the 1999 album Monsters & Robots
4. Professor Nutbutter's House of Treats by Primus from the 1995 album Tales From the Punchbowl
5. The Salaminizer by GWAR from the 1990 album Scumdogs of the Universe
6. Bells of Lal Pt. 2 by Joe Satriani from the 1989 album Flying in a Blue Dream
7. Echidna's Arf (of you) by Frank Zappa & the Mothers from the 1974 album Roxy & Elsewhere
8. Wish by Nine Inch Nails from the 1992 album Broken
9. Juke-Joint Jezebel by KMFDM from the 1995 album Nihil
10. Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck by Prong from the 1994 album Cleansing •

Happy Holidays!
And Happy New Year
From the *Common Sense* Staff

Akilah & Co. Top Ten Hip Hop/ R&B Akilah Matthew

This list is my opinion. If you disagree let me know what you disagree with and why.

10. Let Me Love You, Mario, Turning Point
9. I Got Your Man, Lady Saw, Strip Tease
8. Soldier, Destiny Child, Destiny Fulfilled
7. What U gon' do, Lil Jon and the East Side Boys, Crunk Juice
6. This Is How We Do, Game feat 50 cent
5. Only U, Ashanti, Concrete Rose
4. Bring Em Out, T.I, Urban Legend
3. 1,2 step, Ciara feat. Missy Goodies
2. Drop It Like It's Hot Snoop Dogg feat. Pharrell R&G - Rhythm and Gangster, The Masterpiece
1. New York Ja Rule feat. Fat Joe and Jadakiss R.U.L.E •

News

Will Bush Remake the Court?

Stephanie Marie Gonzalez

Every President has the Constitutional power to appoint judges to the United States Supreme Court and President George W. Bush will soon have the power to exert that right. If such a thing should happen, the balance of power in the Supreme Court, many say, will shift dramatically towards the Republican Party.

According to Bush opponents, the most direct threat to the balanced court that exists today is the appointment of three new judges. One to replace Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who is currently being treated for advanced thyroid cancer, another to replace Fellow Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who is undergoing treatment for colon cancer, and lastly one to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1988. Bush intends to replace these judges with, "strict constructionists," as he claimed in the campaign debates.

With issues like gay marriage and abortion as hot topics in our nation, the appointment of three conservatives to the Supreme Court could lead to the hindering of the gay fight for equality, change in environmental policy, and the overruling of *Roe v. Wade*. Perhaps the replacement of Rehnquist may not be such a big deal, since he is a strong conservative who is likely to be replaced by another strong conservative. However, the replacement of swing voters such as Sandra Day O'Connor is much more of an issue because unlike today, when the center sometimes wins out, there would be a conservative majority that would be very unlikely to split. Nominees to be a Supreme Court justice will undergo as much scrutiny and debate as did the presidential election. These 9 men and women are the deciding factors on so many of our lives, and it may therefore lead to bitter conflict between liberals and conservatives. President Bush nominates justice, but it is the Senate that must confirm them. After the last election, the Republicans have increased their majority in the Senate.

President Bush has already made it clear that the appointment of a new judge would mean adding a strict constructionist to the Supreme Court panel. As CNN reported on Monday, October 25, 2004, President Bush stated, "I

would pick somebody who would not allow their personal opinion to get in the way of the law," adding that there would be "no litmus test except for how they interpret the Constitution."

The nine members of the Supreme Court Panel have been together a decade, the longest continual duration in almost two centuries. We must therefore pay attention to the news and follows the media polls, because a slight change in the balance of power on the Supreme Court panel could mean a change in our lives forever. •

Arafat's Death: New Window for Peace

Aaron Greenwald

Yasser Arafat, 75, died on November 11 in a French military hospital. Over the past four years, the path to peace between Israel and the Palestinians has been greatly scarred by violence and terrorism. The death of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) founder and longtime Palestinian leader has seemed to provide a new opportunity for peace on both sides.

Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's personal histories of violence and opposition to peace provided an additional conflict in negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. Now with his death, and Sharon's commitment to withdrawal from Gaza within the year, a new window of opportunity has been recognized by all parties. Diplomats from the United States and Europe have taken the initiative to reopen peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel that have not been active since the new Intifada began in September 2000.

The favorite to succeed Arafat in the January elections is Mahmoud Abbas who has a more conciliatory background. On December 3, Abbas attended sermon at a mosque in the Gaza Strip, in which the cleric stated, "We must respect the human mind, recognize the 'other,' respect his humanity and show tolerance to him." This message follows a trend of easing of tensions on the airwaves and in the mosques and synagogues between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Palestinian media has toned down the use of negative terms used for Israeli soldiers and in some cases scaled back violent programming intended for children.

Yigal Carmon, an Israeli who is the president of the Middle East Media Research Institute said Abbas has delivered, "a clear declaration of intent against incitement." This kind of optimism is a very good sign for both sides in the reopening of peace dialogues. •

An Interview with Mr. Wong **Stephanie Fox**

By all appearances, Mr. Wong seems like a regular history teacher, but what is he really like? Could it be that Mr. Wong has a life that does not revolve around the Reconstruction Period or the Indus Valley Civilizations? My interview uncovered the real Benjamin Wong.

We quickly established that Mr. Wong is from San Francisco and received his history degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He recently decided to teach at our school because he felt our students are active learners and enjoy the pursuit of knowledge. He also believes that high school students are at a mature enough age where they are ready and willing to accept academic challenges.



Someone to look up to

A. Fabunan

I then asked Mr. Wong what type of movies or television shows he enjoys viewing. His favorites are action movies, especially "The Bourne Identity" and "The Bourne Supremacy."

As many of you are aware, Mr. Wong teaches the New York City's History Seminar. He is fascinated by urban history and appreciates that living in New York City allows us to visit important historical sites. His favorite area of the city is Riverside Park because it is a pleasant environment where nature is mixed with hidden historical landmarks such as Grant's Tomb.

An interesting side note that this reporter can reveal is that Mr. Wong was featured on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" four years ago. Unfortunately the question he lost on was, "which animal has three hearts?" (The answer is the octopus.) Thankfully though, the \$64,000 he won allowed him to attend graduate school and become our teacher.

In closing our interview I asked Mr. Wong the one place he would want to visit in the world. His reply was Zurich, Switzerland in order to set up a Swiss bank account like Mr. Bourne. We can assume he is still dreaming for the one million-dollar prize. •

The PENCIL Experience **By Stefanie Robles**

On December 1, 2004, Christina Chew, Xiang Montalvo, Jeena Choi, Stephanie Gonzalez, Arnel Blake Batoon, Irina Vinnetskaya, Eva Chan, Ms. Walsh and I went to Roseland, on West 52nd Street to honor many principles and watch live performances by Stacie Orrico and Ricky Fante- and of course, a dinner. Mind you- this was all free, and it was a nice filled evening. PENCIL stands for Public Education Needs Civic Involvement in Learning. During that evening, PENCIL awards were given to "business and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the New York City public schools."

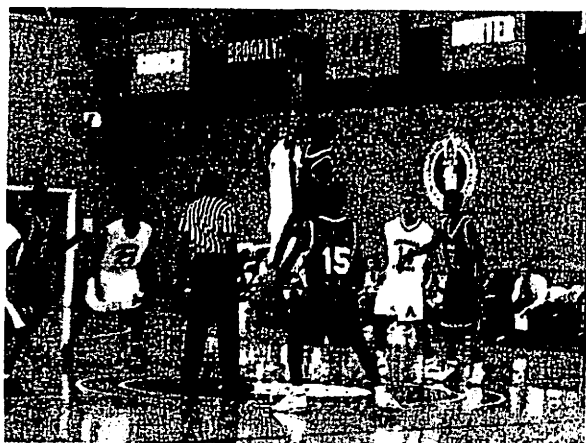
There were a bunch of other schools there, and we got to watch these other business people eat gourmet foods downstairs and drink wine and champagne. We all watched from above, and personally, I think it was the better view anyway. You could have gotten better food at McDonalds, but it was free, and there was a nice performance- not to mention many mouths to feed dinner and dessert. For those who don't know, Stacie Orrico is a pop singer, and Ricky Fante is a "new soul sensation". They were both pretty good. The awards ceremony was cute, and some of the principals and individuals who received awards had their schools there, showing their gratitude and love for their principal. Unfortunately, that is where they lost a lot of the audience's attention, but you could feel the gratitude and thanks and the meaning of the award. Overall, the night was a nice evening. It ended with goodie-bags and a long and fun train ride home. •

Sports

HSAS Senators: Just how good are they?

Evan Okin

The Senators boys basketball team began the season 1-2 and a 6th place tie in their league of 10. However, there are signs that show that they are better than their record indicates. They lost their first two games by a mere total of 6 points, including a 30-31 loss to the Bronx Leadership Academy. The Senators' first win came on December 9th. Riverdale/Kingsburg Academy led the Senators 67-66, but guard Paul Fiore swished a three-point buzzer beater to give the Senators a 69-67 win. Through the first 3 games, Fiore has 14 points. Other large contributors on the team include Adesoji James (49 total points), Jason Russell (29 total points), and Dimitre Boyukliev, who has a consistent 10 points per game average. ■



Dimitre wins the opening tipoff

A. Halen

Boys Game Summaries

Janay Parker

Opener

At the beginning of Game One all fans were on their toes not knowing what to expect. Matt Bollati scored the first official points in HSAS history for the Boys against Bronx School for Law and Government. Law and Government Coach Taylor was eager to get the game started. "This should be an exciting game, both teams are young and entering their first year in the PSAL active division." The first quarter ended with the boys leading by 2 points (12-10). Adesoji James contributed 9 of the 12 points. At halftime the score was 25-36. The boys went on a drought and eventually lost, but the game was very entertaining. Soji led the offense with 21, followed by Jason Russell with 10, Jordan Balais

with 10, Matt with 6, and Dimitre Boyukliev with 2.

BLA 31 – HSAS 30

The boys' second game was an away game against Bronx Leadership Academy. The boys held the lead until the 4th quarter, but lost 31-30. Dimitre scored a game high 12 points, followed by Soji with 6, Jordan and Matt with 4 and Jason with 2. ■

HSAS Victorious

The first victory of the season could not have been a better game. The boys defeated Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy in a game that felt like the NBA playoffs. The boys started off slowly, falling behind 13-16 in the first quarter, and trailing 28-32 at the half. The third quarter was a strong offensive effort as the boys managed to score a combined 17 points that cut RKA's lead to 8 (45-53.)

The fourth quarter was the most memorable; the boys tightened their defense and sparked a contagious offensive run. They trailed by 7 with two minutes remaining. Soji's first three point attempt of the quarter was blocked and Dimitre turned over the ball causing the arena to second guess chances of a victory. However, with 25.5 seconds left Soji hit a three which brought the boys within 4 points. Paul reentered the game and shot a three pointer, which brought them within only a single point. RKA was able to sneak in a shot, but just as Michael Jordan used to do Paul shot a three point buzzer beater with just under two seconds left in the game. Everyone rose to their feet screaming and cheering for the win. The boys tackled Paul.

"I am very, very, very happy about today's performance. The team is working hard. Our main goal this year is to improve and learn how to win close games like this one," said a cheering Coach, Chris Ballerini after the victory.

You really missed out if you missed any of these home games. Come and support our teams; fan support can help bring a championship. ■

Schedule and Outlook

The Boys play most of their games in January on the road. Come support them January 6th, in their only home game of the month. ■

Lady Senators Janay Parker Opener

Bronx Science beat the Lady Senators in the season opener. Their Coach, Mr. Gregory, characterized his team as similar to ours "young and improving." Whitney scored our first two points, about two minutes into the first quarter. Strong defensive efforts were turned in by Shawn Axelbank and Samantha Ponce. They repeatedly chased after the ball, often diving to the floor to beat their opponents to loose balls. The offense, however, faltered, and American Studies dropped the game.

Tough Road Loss at Columbus

The Senators faced a distinct size disadvantage against the Columbus' Girls varsity team. Natalie Wykowski (#10) scored the games first points. The girls had a disastrous offensive second quarter, scoring only two points but the Explorers weren't doing much better. The halftime score was just 4-8. After half time the Senators were no longer intimidated and yelled "TEAM" from their huddle loud enough for the whole gym to hear. The girls were finally ready to play ball. Whitney Birdsdall (#25) and Hillary Mollette (#13) led the way with good defense plays deflecting the ball and setting up fast break points. Natalie shot two consecutive three pointers and the girls were back in the game. Unfortunately, we were unable to stop Columbus' top scorer. Considering the great amount of pressure the girls played a good game. The leading scorer was Natalie with 10, followed by Whitney with 4, Sherean Marasigan with 3, and Alicia Barnes, Allyson Rodriguez, and Samantha all with two.



One point for us

A. Petropouleas

Victory Back Home

The third game of the season was the Lady Senators first victory. They defeated Stevenson High School 31-30. The girls led the way straight through halftime 17-10. Yet, in the third quarter Stevenson began to press. The Senator's offense could not handle it, and fell behind 22-24.

The fourth and most crucial quarter was the most exciting of the game. The Senators may have allowed Stevenson to catch up in the third, but they roared back in the fourth. Samantha made the shot that brought the girls to 31-30. With 3.2 seconds left in the game Stevenson rebounded a missed foul shot. Shawn was able to steal back the ball to regain possession and finish the clock. They really earned the win! Samantha led the team with 12 points, Natalie with 9, Natasha Stanislas with 6, Whitney with 3, Shawn with 1.

Coach Tracy was pleased: "Our team is young and learning everyday. We are working to build our strength as a team; in time will be among the best."

Professional Sports Report Evan Okin

In baseball, there have been some nice acquisitions and transactions. David Wells signed a 2-year deal worth up to 16 million with the Boston Red Sox. Rumor has it that shortstop Edgar Renteria may also end up in Boston. The Yankees acquired much needed pitching. They traded for Felix Rodriguez and Mike Stanton. These two will fill the role of set-up man from the 6th inning through the 7th, as needed. The Yankees also signed Jaret Wright (3 year/\$21 million) and Carl Pavano (4 year/\$39 million.) In football news, the Jets lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers 17-6, but they are still 9-4 and are in position to get a wildcard spot in the playoffs. The Giants, who started off the season 5-2, lost 6 straight games including a 14-37 loss to the Ravens. In basketball news, the Knicks are 10-10, 3rd place in the Eastern Conference. The Knicks are 7-2 at home, but need to improve their record on the road to be a true competitor. Now that Allan Houston is back from the disabled list, many Knicks fans believe they can contend in the weak Eastern Conference. And for any hockey fans, better luck next year. There is no sign of the season starting due to the ongoing contract standoff

Girls' Team Leaders

Evan Okin

POINTS

Natalie Wykowski 21
Samantha Ponce 16
Shawn Axelbank 13
Whitney Birdsall 10

REBOUNDS

Samantha Ponce 16
Natasha Sanislas 16
Shawn Axelbank 13
Whitney Birdsall 10

Violence In Sports

Stephanie Sanchez

November 19th 2004, the people of America were aghast, as a violent confrontation between Indian Pacers- Ron Artest- and a bitter fan, erupted in Auburn Hills Michigan. The fan who was found to be John Green, threw his drink at Artest after he fouled Detroit Pistons player- Ben Wallace. An enraged Artest ran into the stands and began to punch at who he thought threw the cup.



Sports reporter twins

A. Fabunan

Other players, including Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O' Neal, joined Artest in his violent response to the crowd. Eventually more fans and more players joined in this brawl. This resulted in many fans needing medical attention and harsh consequences for the players. The leader of this chaotic mess- Artest- is to be suspended for the rest of the season. His accomplice - Stephen Jackson - is to be suspended for 30 games. Jermaine O'Neal on the other hand is suspended for 25 games. Ben Wallace is suspended for six games and Anthony Jackson is suspended for five games. Many were shocked at this resulting violence from bad sportsmanship. But what do the students of American Studies think?

Overall most students in American Studies didn't think that there was a big problem with violence in sports. Stephanie Gonzalez, an overall sports fan said, "I don't think there is any real problem in sports, unless alcohol is involved." Whitney Birdsall of the girls basketball team also spoke to us and said, "There's no problem in sports. There's a problem with the fans; they get out of control and act 'retarded'." The crazed Giants fan, Christina Hughes told us, "there's no problem with violence in sports. Sports involve a lot of contact and things are going to happen, violence is expected- just get over it and get used to it."

So what should be done about it? Wuta Onda doesn't think a thing should be done, "If the crowd starts the problems then it's all fun." Basketball player Michael Hamlett thought, "More laws should be put against fans instead of players, because most of the time the fans are the ones to start the problems." But what does the "king of sports" in our school think? "I think what the Commissioner did to those players was perfect and appropriate. Players should never enter stands and should be punished if they do," Mr. Schulman stated.

Well, do you guys think we can expect a reenactment of the violent turmoil at our school? "Of course not," Whitney Birdsall told us, "Unless someone throws something at me." I think we can all agree that nothing as violent as that will happen at HSAS". "Violence happens when athletes are not educated or disciplined," Schulman told us. "With our very disciplined and educated athletes, it doesn't look like there's going to be a problem with violence in sports, in our school anytime."



What's the next step?

A. Petropouleas

Common Sense

Literary Supplement

Birthing Onto a Canvas

By: Angelina Wills

Birthing onto a canvas
Art, Creativity from the heart
Giving and getting back
A feeling of pride inside
To feel the paint in your hands from palm to fingertips

Sweat dripping from your brow
Feeling like somewhat of a god, you wonder how
How could you create such a creature?

If only you could hear it cry,
But deep down you already know it's alive
Pushing Pushing Pushing from deep inside
When you see your baby you felt the utmost
Since of pride

Feeling like somewhat of a god
Giving all in birthing something beautiful onto a canvas
It feels with color, gives back
And you know now that it's alive

He Was

Written By: Tiara Tosca

He was perfect, cute and smart
But always left in the rain
She was there to hold his hand
And forever pushed away
In school and home he was the best
Helpful, quirky and always at rest
In his own world, cluttered and clumsy
He found solitude
Whenever the stars reached out to him
He huddled further away, in a corner

Whenever he needed her most, her comfort
He secretly wished her away - a sad sin
To everyone he was an image of perfection
To himself he was the devil's creation
Then one day he sacrificed it all
For something he didn't do
He left behind the smell of misery
He welcomed the recipe of confinement
The small world of flaws was swept away

And as it happened, he discovered himself
that night
In a cramped, moist cell
This time, there truly was no one beside him
Welcome to his life
Welcome to his truth

When I Look Into Your Eyes
(I Fell Deep Inside)
By: Ilise Weinberg

Let me gaze into your eyes,
Closer then the closest distance,
For me to experience the wonders within,
Let me hear you whispering your poems of pure romance.
For me to smell your breath's compelling fragrance
Let me kisses play your eyes with the soft embrace of music,
For me to witness life in one consuming trance,
Let my headrest on your shoulder; imprison my soul in your arms
To blend the music and poems with constellation's sweetness and charms

Shadows

By: Anonymous

We lurk deep in the shadows
Waiting, watching, waiting
Everyday the light reaches us
And everyday we turn it away
It becomes boring
In the shadows
Without friends, love, nature, and emotion
Only mostly dankness, fragile and powerful
Constantly overpowering our every move

O Winter Day
By: Angelina Wills

O winter day, such a dreary display
Leafless, lifeless, shrouded in gray
You chill the air and power the breeze
Eclipse the sun and cause us to freeze
We profess to be hardy and stay on the go
But you wipe out our confidence with blankets of snow
Give us some distance to admire your beauty
We imagine vibrant autumn, jovial summer, and serene spring
But you're here instead, what joy do you bring?
Dear old man winter, why are you still intact?
While I strive to be free, you just keep coming back

First Day of Summer
By: Angelina Wills

I woke up and wanted to play sports
So I headed to the basketball courts,
And got challenged to a game by some guys wearing shiny pink shorts
And right when I was about to play these guys
They fouled me, bounced the ball in my face and I cried.
It gave me two black eyes
I took a seat at the top of the bleachers, but the whole thing collapsed.
I got up with a broken back
Then I left to go home
But when in the middle of the street
I got cramps in my feet
Today I had some really bad luck
Because right there I was stuck
Just when I got that cramp I couldn't move and got hit by a truck
Then it started to rain and there was lots of thunder
Then I got hit by lightning, that was the first
Day of Summer

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.

Principal's Corner

Debra Fricano

I sat down with Ms. Luftman earlier this month and asked her if she had any thoughts so share with the student body. Here is part of her message - Debra

Because of our good attendance during June of 2004, our school has won a monetary award from the Department of Education. We have decided to use this money to make a holiday luncheon on December 23- right before the talent show. Grade Meetings held Tuesday December 7 were very successful. They are a good way to disseminate info- such as announcements for events, and recruitment for clubs. The juniors also discussed the exciting prospects of Graduation ring orders, and prom and yearbook themes. Our next grade meeting session will be on January 4th, where classes will discuss the final exam schedule.

Congratulations to the students who made the honor and the high honor roll- Keep up the good work! To the sophomores and juniors who had high psat scores; many of you will be notified on your eligibility to take college classes. In addition, please take advantage of these scores as an opportunity to hone in on what may be your academic weaknesses. Not only do most of the teachers have tutoring sessions, but the Arista Society will be establishing a peer tutoring network. Therefore, we would also like to congratulate the 14 Arista members on their induction and election. Spring application is open to the sophomores and juniors who wish to apply for this prestigious organization.

Spirit week was a hit, and those who showed their spirit really looked great. Ms Luftman would like to give a special commendation for creativity to Jared who was a founding father.

HSAS is currently looking for students to work in the main office before or after school. This will count as service credit towards filling the requirements for the National or Spanish Honors Society. For more information, please speak to Ms. Garcia.

Have a fun, relaxing vacation, and happy new year to you and your families.

Calendar

A full January calendar is not available, however, keep in mind:

Monday January 3rd – first day back

Tuesday January 4th – Grade Level Meetings

Home boys basketball game: January 6

Home girls basketball games: January 7,13,19,

Afterschool tutoring: most days

Monday, January 17 – MLK Jr Day, no school

January 18 and 24 – Special Study Day Schedule

January 19, 20, 21 – Final Exams

January 25 – 28 – Regents Exams. Only students taking exams will be in attendance

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