

# SPRING FLING DANCE 2008



**SEND ANY AND ALL PICTURES FROM SCHOOL EVENTS TO *COMMON SENSE* SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN PHOTO SPREADS LIKE THIS ONE.**

## GETTING A JOB WHILE AT AMERICAN STUDIES

*By Frances Thom('08)*

For some teens, working a summer job is nearly a necessity. As we grow older, many of our parents want us to realize that money simply does not grow on trees; and if we want some greenery to "blow" on movies, shopping excursions, and other mediums of entertainment, we must go out there and earn it ourselves. *Common Sense* looks at whether we need jobs.

Many students plan on moving out after high school, and others believe that it is their responsibility to put themselves through college. According to a *Common Sense Survey*. The value of the U.S. dollar is not getting any stronger, and lots of students are pulling double duty

throughout the academic year in order to get ahead financially.

HSAS students that have experience working after school shared some of their job stories with this reporter.

Keslie Carrion('09) tragically informed me that, "I used to be a stripper. I had to pay to get through med school." This reporter chose not to ask if she was joking.

When asked if she had ever been denied a job, she said, "yes. I couldn't be an adult phone line operator because of λ." This reporter knew what she meant but will not share with the reader.

Tyler Ehrman('08) shared that, "I was a ball-boy at the US open when I

was 16. It was a lot of fun." He also said that he works as a busboy at a restaurant during the summer, where he makes seven bucks an hour plus "mad tips."

Nikita Yakimov informed me that he makes about ten dollars an hour by selling stuff on his *Ebay* store. He also discreetly shared with *Common Sense* that he is involved in some business exchanges that cannot be printed because of legal issues. Robert Galarza('09) said that although he worked at a homeless shelter over the summer and made about a thousand dollars, his career plans for the future were simply "Drugs". When asked to clarify, he said, "that's just what my

plan is."

Most of the Junior class believes that "pimping" or "getting that guap" will be their future career. They were not joking.

Christina Hughes('08) shared that she, "was an intern at a law office." She added that "it was horrible. I earned \$8 an hour sitting in a musky basement putting entries into a computer and answering the phone to talk to annoying, ignorant clients with extreme attitudes."

Michael Hamlet('08) said that he took a job at the medical library of St. Barnabas Hospital for minimum wage because, "I wanted (Continued on page 5)

# REFLECTIONS ON ST PATRICK'S DAY

By Kimberley DeJesus

Every March 17, the streets are flooded with white, green and orange as New Yorkers commemorate St. Patrick's Day. But while we may wear the colors, flash the shamrocks, and scream the "luck of the Irish" throughout the streets, the truth is many really don't know the history behind the day we so enthusiastically celebrate.

Michael Dei('09) may have said it best when he admitted, "I don't know much about the history behind the day, but I'm interested in finding out."

St. Patrick's Day first originated in Ireland, in honor of the late St. Patrick. Patrick was born in Britain and at the age of sixteen he was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders and held captive in Ireland (where he became a devout Christian) for six years.

Patrick escaped after he believed God spoke to him and told him to leave Ireland. He headed back to Britain only to have another dream in which an angel told him to return to Ireland as a missionary. To prepare for the job, Patrick underwent religious training for fifteen years in France, becoming a priest, and then he returned to

Ireland to convert its citizens to Christianity. Patrick died on March 17, 460 A.D.

St. Patrick's Day became a public holiday in 1903 in Ireland. By the mid 1990's, the Irish government pushed for more wide-spread recognition of the holiday, creating the Saint Patrick's Day Festival, a celebration that now lasts five days from March 13-17 in Ireland.

Today St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in numerous countries throughout the world, with parades being held in Argentina, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Russia and Mexico. The first celebration of St. Patrick's Day here in the United States was in Boston in 1737. Now, our largest cities take part in the day's festivities from Las Vegas, NV to Chicago, IL.

The most extensive parade in the United States is right here in New York City where an annual parade has been taking place since 1762.

Every year millions, of spectators watch their TV's or line up to watch the 69th Infantry Regiment lead the parade along Fifth Avenue. The parade takes place during school hours so students are forced to miss out on the festivities, sometimes.



Dangerous Wildlife at HSAS? Re-read this article and others on-line at [www.hsas-lehman.org/common\\_sense/index.html](http://www.hsas-lehman.org/common_sense/index.html)

HSAS students such as Angie Marines('11) still celebrate the day "usually by wearing green." Similarly, Katie Adrian ('10) shares with us, "I wish I could hang out and be Irish, but I just wear green and enjoy the day" here at school.

Matt Bollati('08) who is of part Irish descent, noted that he spends the day with his family "laughing and eating corned beef."

Whether you are of Irish ancestry or not, people of all races and backgrounds enjoy having fun and celebrating a day so rich in culture.



## GET A JOB... Continued

money and my parents are grimey." When asked if he currently has a job, he replied, "chill, that's a work in progress."

According to a recent *Common Sense* survey, only about 1% of all freshmen and sophomores reported having a job, or being interested in getting one. Many did not hand in their surveys, forcing assumptions by this reporter.

If you are under the age of eighteen, you first need to obtain working papers to work in New York. Ms. Garcia will explain the process to students needing working papers. She tells *Common Sense* that, "you may be fourteen to receive your working papers, however, you will have to re-apply all over again for a new set after you turn sixteen."

The New York City Department of Youth and development web pagelists job opportunities for teenagers. The most open one would be their summer Youth Employment Program, which is eligible to students ages 14-17. Students participate in entry levels jobs at schools, hospitals, summer camps and law firms.

Students earn \$7.15 per hour, and can work up to 25 hours each week. 41,804 students were enrolled in this program last year according to their website. It may be a good idea to look into working when you are a teenager. Not only does it look good on your college application, but you'll have extra money around, which *Common Sense* discovered students see as a good thing.



Mr. Blitz reminds E. Gaviria('09) to "get a job!"

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: TENNIS ANYONE?

(Edits in RED have been added by *Common Sense* to clarify the letter's message.)

I am writing this letter as a huge fan of *Common Sense*. You guys do an outstanding job, and I am always quick to get a copy and read it cover to cover. However, over the past few issues I have been very disappointed to find not one article covering the Girl's Tennis Team.

I am (a) die-hard fan of the team and wonder why a group of ladies who put a tremendous amount of time and effort into their sport and do such a great job representing their school get no coverage in the school newspaper.

Instead we get a review of the NFL season.

When I approached a few of the members of (the) school newspaper

staff to address my concern I received such answers such as, "did you win a chip?" or "the girl's tennis team is whack."

The ironic thing about those comments is that after winning two straight ("B") CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS (No other sport at HSAS has won [a "B"] one!) our girls now play in the prestigious "A" Division.

Only the Best 24 teams in the entire city play at this level. Not only did they compete at the highest level but they qualified for the playoffs and came just a game away from beating the #4 ranked team in the city. (The writer of this letter left out the name of their opponent. We

assume it is a true statement.)

This is the equivalent of the Boy's Basketball team playing "AA" Lincoln HS or Boys and Girls HS in the playoffs and loosing by 1 point.

The other funny thing about those comments from your staff is that they came from members of athletic teams who combined in the last 4 years have one one playoff win between them (the letter writer was not specific so we assume he is telling the truth).

The seniors on this year's Tennis Team have lost 6 regular season matches in their entire 4 years (3 years were as a "B" team).

Compare that with the 7 losses the

Basketball team had just this last season (again the letter writer does not distinguish specifically Men's or Lady's Basketball, we assume they are being accurate.)

We are calling this year's B-ball season the best in school history and giving them a full back page with picture! (*Common Sense* gave half a page with pictures and stats of multiple teams.)

I understand (the) other teams' jealousy towards the Girl's success, and I understand that their coach can be a bit annoying at times, but don't use that as an excuse not to give these terrific young ladies the recognition they deserve.