

ONE SCHOOL, ONE LOVE? *By Deandra Norman('08)*

In a "regular" high school, the lunch table social scene would consist of the jocks, goths, and nerds just to name a few stereotypes. Though that is a segregated scene, it's usually homogeneous in the fact that they are all in the same grade. We are completely comfortable with this being in common.

It may be that there are enough people in their class to relate to and feel comfortable with. In our school, however, with less than a hundred students to a grade, this grade level separation is difficult to maintain. Perhaps it is even undesirable.

Altagracia Montilla('08) states "people need people to talk to." It may be hard for a student from Forest Hills to be instantly attracted to a student from Bed-Stuy. When coming into a new school, is it understandable that people will gravitate towards familiar people, and in the case of our school, this includes people from different grades.

"We all got to know each other better (then)," remembers Caity Baer('08). "We put aside our differences and united in the common similarity that we all go to a small high

school, with crazy teachers, that no one's ever heard of."

Our school had its first graduating class in 2006 and the place "gelled" as the first seniors began their final year. We were a large dysfunctional family. "Riverdadians" mingled with people from Parkchester. Students from Brooklyn spoke with residents of Manhattan's "upper east side." Did this phenomenal chemistry disappear from our school as the class of 2006 departed?

"There are little inter-class relation(ships)," according to Joshua Gardner('09). He went to add that, "we're separating into different classes and only integrating within our own grade." There is a reason for this.

Could it be that our school needs the extraverted personality of Wuta Onda('06) or the friendly advice of Adesoji (Soji) James('06)? As we grow to become a specialized school alongside Bronx Science and Stuyvesant, we adopt their social habits as well. Perhaps with more school social events, we could recapture a part of this lost treasure and be one of the few schools to go against the "norm" and unite as one student body at the High School of American Studies. ☪



Kenshin Himura is a character from the anime Ruruoni Kenshin

ANIME FANS AT AMERICAN STUDIES

by Jose Gonzalez('08)

The word anime often refers to animation originating from Japan. In the Untied States, those who are now adults have not been affected much by this imported craze that is developing in this country. It has affected those who are teenagers now.

"I love Naruto!" says David Moretti('08), Naruto being a magna/anime that has greatly grown in popularity over the past year. Clearly Moretti and others have been touched by the anime craze.

A recent *Common Sense* poll taken at The High School of American Studies shows that

nearly 80% of seniors have watched some sort of anime in their lifetime. Half of these past 5 years.

"Yeah, ever since Pokemon, anime has been getting more popular within the different crowds," said Daniel Arcos('08) of the anime phenomenon. He added that he believes "anime is beginning to get a foot hold in American popular culture."

So this leaves us with another question: is anime going to fade quickly as a lot of fads do, or is it forever going to be an important part of everyone's childhood? We'll decide. ☪



The race is over for one local team?

POST SEASON PAIN

By Tyler Ehrman('08)

As October draws nearer, students are on edge about the uncertainty surrounding the chances that the New York Yankees and New York Mets have of making it into the postseason. For the first time in several years, it looked like the Yankees were at risk of failing to reach the playoffs. The team has suffered from numerous injuries to its lineup, especially in its pitching staff, and many of its "hot bats" haven't been producing well this year. Yankee fans at HSAS are optimistic.

A recent hot streak has put the Yanks at the top of the AL Wild Card. "The Yankees will make the playoffs, but with the Wild Card and not the division because the Red Sox are too good," according to Mark Menendez('08). Menendez also thinks that the team of his native Queens will reach the postseason.

The New York Mets have dominated their division this year, but caught a snag just after the All-Star break, and have played inconsistently ever since. Eric Berman('08), a Yankee fan, says, "The Mets are playing badly, but so is the NL East. The Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies haven't been able to catch them."

However, a surging Phillies team has taken advantage of the Mets' blunders and as of the week of September 19th, they pulled to 1.5 games behind the Mets in the division.

With a little less than a week left in the season, anything can happen. As for student predictions for who will do well in the playoffs:

Menendez: "The Yankees will do well if they remain hot and the Mets need a spark to get going."

Berman: "The Mets will lose in the first round and the Yankees will go all the way," and from Ariel Amaya('09): "I can't wait to see A-Rod bust up the Mets in the World Series." ☪

(As this goes to press the Mets are fighting to stay in the playoff race)

NO LOVE FOR TENNIS *By Mark Menendez('08)*

Earlier this month, the US Open came to an end with Roger Federer and Justine Henin both winning the singles championships. The two week event attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators to Flushing Meadows, home of the tournament, and millions more who tune in everyday and night on television. At least, one may assume.

Returning to school on September 4th, the school population had no idea about the world class event that was going on just across the Long Island Sound. Did anyone besides the members of the tennis team even bother to turn to CBS on Labor Day weekend and catch the best men and women in tennis?

As Joshua Gardner('09) explained "I don't even understand the rules of tennis." That explains why some students never tuned in. The rules and scoring in tennis are vastly different from other popular sports such as baseball and football.

One frustrated senior, Stephanie McCarthy('08) stated "Somewhere between the singles and doubles, after the loves and before match points, I just get lost."

After talking to various students, many gave the impression that they've never experienced the game of tennis first hand. Not that they all dislike the sport, "I never grew up with it" Gemma Purdy('09) added.

In fact, one outspoken sophomore, who chose to remain anonymous, felt that "Tennis is a game for the privileged who don't want to get dirty and can't play other sports." Tennis just isn't a sport that is as popular in the urban community due to the lack of tennis courts and the often expensive equipment.

While the tennis season is wrapping up for this year, the pros will be back next year on the Grand Slam tour in Australia, France, Great Britain, and finally N.Y.

Matt Bollatti('08) gives some good advice. "Before I played tennis, I thought it was for weenies, but once I tried it out, I actually liked it a lot." ☪

GILDER LEHRMAN *continued from page 1*

Grover Norquest and Jack Kemp, among others, on *A conservative manifesto for solving border woes*, a letter about how sensible immigration policy does in fact jibe with a conservative world view.

According to *Rightweb.org* and the *New York Times* archives, Mr. Lehrman founded Citizens for America also during the Reagan years. These sources report that it is an organization dedicated to the support of anti-Soviet guerillas world wide, including the Mujahedin of Afghanistan and the Contras of Nicaragua. For a while the lobbyist Jack Abramoff was a director of this group, but Mr. Lehrman ended Abramoff's tenure abruptly several years ago.

Lehrman even ran for governor of New York in 1980 on the Conservative and Republican lines losing to Mario Cuomo.

It is in the area of education philanthropy, where both men are the most active. There are scholarships at several colleges that bear their names.

This commitment to education comes from a firm belief in the American dream, which may explain Mr. Gilders' activism for school vouchers. The area where they have gotten the most attention recently has been their affiliation with the New York Historical

Society. They downplay gossip about the nature of their affiliation with the century-old institution. They are simply board members who donate a lot of money and resources to the Society.

According to a July 3rd, 2004 article in the *New York Times* there was, however, a lot of "controversy over the Hamilton exhibition." That exhibit's curator was a writer for the *National Review Standard*, a conservative publication. The exhibit was in many ways overly glowing. It did not include many episodes such as the Whisky Rebellion, and it had an incomplete portrayal of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Many historians including Richard Rabinowitz, president of the American History Workshop, and David Nasaw, a history professor at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York, also take issue with the emphasis on primary documents by the Gilder Lehrman Institute in that it promotes a "great man theory" of history, as surviving documents tend to be by or about great men.

The education coordinator of the Gilder-Lehrman Institute, Mike Serber, said that there is "wall of separation, as Jefferson would say" between the money men, and the "people who run and work at the institute." He went on to say that



Images like these have been catalogued by the Gilder Lehrman Institute

when it comes to the NYHS, the institute keeps its collection there but they are completely separate entities. Both Gilder's and Lehrman's association with the society is separate from the institute.

When asked why director of the Gilder Lehrman Institute, James Basker, was also involved with the Hamilton exhibition, Serber pointed out that it was a side project for Mr. Basker personally. Mr. Serber continued that the philosophy of the Gilder Lehrman institute was "simply, to promote a love and knowledge of American history as it is an essential part of being a citizen." ☞

HALO 3 ANYONE

by Serghy Valarshkin('08)

Meeting huge success with the famed initial release for the Xbox, *Halo 3* easily took the International Game Developers' Association Game of the Year Award, and since then has caught the eye of countless gamers around the world. Now, unless you have been living in a box not marked with an "X" for the past few years, you would probably know what *Halo 3* is about.

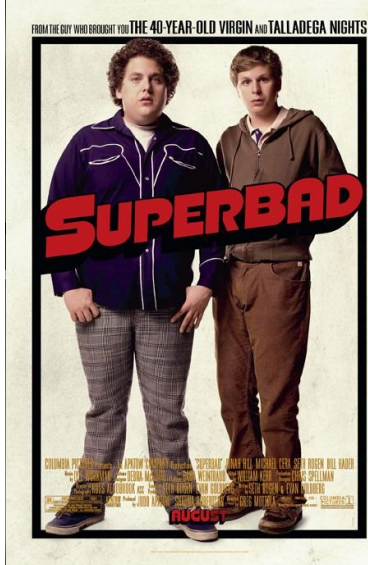
For those unfortunate few of us that do not know of the famed game *Halo*, here is a brief summary: *Halo 3* is a "First Person Shooter" style game which largely focuses on its online multiplayer aspect. In an average online game, over a dozen players battle one another using a wide array of weapons and vehicles, in all-out war. The storyline focuses on a Spartan II super soldier named Master Chief and humanity's war against an alien force which threatens to wipe out the universe. Bungie, the company responsible for the *Halo* franchise, claims that the game will be better than anything it has released up to this point. But how do students at HSAS feel?

"Yeah, I've heard of it" Stated Mirza Alam('08), a student at HSAS who considers himself a game expert. "I think it has a good plot, ya know." Upon being asked how he would rate the game based on his expectations, he replied with "a solid nine."

Jose "MC" Gonzalez('08), (we're still trying to figure out what "MC" can possibly mean), showed surprising zeal when asked for his opinions on the game. "One plasma grenade...is good. Two on the other hand, are going to kick (tush)." When asked how he would rate the game based on his expectations, he gave it an "11 out of 10."

"Master Chief is going to take off his helmet!!" Jose shouted with a fire burning in his eyes, as the class bell rang in the distance.

"I have not the slightest clue what the game is about, nor do I care," said Louis Ramirez('08) who gave the game a low mark, at which point he was yelled at by Jose. ☞

SUPERBAD GETS 9 1/2 POPCORNS by Jake Ruiz('08)

"I am McLovin," is the quote spewed out frequently by the millions of teenage kids who shelled out their 10 bucks to see *Superbad* this summer. Was *Superbad* honestly that great though? Is it really the comedic classic that many people are hailing it for?

Upperclassmen Philip Schorr('08) and countless other students seem to think that the film was great. When questioned about the movie, Philip replied, "I think that 'Superbad' was a great movie...a classic in my opinion." Noted from the start by Philip was the semi-realism in the movie. "I think that this movie somewhat portrayed accurate events in a teenagers' lives such as peer pressure from other students to have sex in high school before you

head off to college."

Christina Joubert('08) likewise held similar views, "...though there were some parts in the movie which were disgusting, I felt that the movie was very good." When questioned about the societal pressures brought up by Philip relating to sex, Christina replied, "yes I do believe that boys are put under pressure to have sex during high school, much more so than girls in that respect."

With similar reviews coming from the mouths of Jake Walkup('08) and Daniel Verdejo('08) citing *Superbad* as a "great movie," Joe Schorr added that "I loved *Superbad*!"

These students also shared their thoughts on the societal pressures placed on teenaged males. The film is a comedy classic. ☞

TABLE MANNERS

by Mirza Alam('08)

Excuse me. Are you a new incoming freshman reading this article? Welcome and keep reading; if not, find something by a better author.

Secondly, as being part of the HSAS community feel free to use our bathrooms, watering fountains, ridiculous amounts of gadgets and, of course, our café. *Mi café su café*.

While taking advantage of our school, try and be clean and polite about it, in order to avoid any problems. What problems? A problem as cited by Rachael('10) is that new students "took our chairs and when I asked for it back they gave it back with all this attitude" and she also said "don't expect to be respected if you can't respect others."

Freshmen Ariel Paulino('11) told *Common Sense* that, "I do have respect for the upperclassmen and for the most part I cleanup after myself."

Freshman, Sean Neill('11), told me that we had a "sweet café" and that "yes I do have respect for the upperclassmen and I do cleanup after myself". When asked to point to a 'less clean' freshmen, neither interviewee was able to do it.

Ms.Harris shared that, "In my experience, they are pretty clean and nice good kids." There you have it. ☞