

COMMON TURKEY



HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

Vol. V... No. 5

NOVEMBER 2007

ON LINE NOW AT: www.hsas-lehman.org

TRYP THE LIGHT PHANTASTIC *By Isaac Salander('08)*

There are times when one eats a meal and it feels as if one has just fought a *Balrog*, a large mythical demon-like creature, or even climbed Mt. Everest. One feels victorious and tired. But the good kind of tired, like the feeling of a person who has accomplished something. An overall sense of well being fills the soul.

There is one meal in particular after which his feeling is really quite pronounced. When the leaves begin to turn and the wind begins to bite, extended families gather to eat turkey, potatoes, gravy and all the fixings. Thanking their Lord that they live in America and not elsewhere.

People listen to Arlo Guthry's classic hit, *Alice's Restaurant*, they eat, and they watch football. Somewhere between the food and the second quarter people become filled with that sense of amniotic oneness with the universe and fall into a deep and wholesome nap.

Because of this phenomenon and



I. Salander('08) ponders the effects of the chemical tryptophan the amount of turkey people eat, we blame the turkey and its tryptophan for affecting serotonin levels and our mood.

Is turkey really to blame though? Do other food stuffs have tryptophan, and how do people feel when they eat turkey in general?

Mr. Weiss, our principal, says

that he feels "tryptofantastic" when he dines on turkey.

Mr. Rodriguez adds, "that all the chemicals and crap that they put in turkey make me tired, when watching the game I miss the cheerleaders because I pass out." When asked about Thanksgiving turkey, Stephanie Fox('08) recalled

a cruise commercial that jingled "tryptophan, trip to Tahiti, trip to Nassau."

Walt Bonne('11) says that he loves turkey but that it makes him feel the way "any other sandwich" does when he eats it.

A junior at HSAS, who wishes to remain anonymous for various reasons, says that "turkey makes him full." Ronald Girshman('09) then motioned with his hands the feeling of full.

When people think turkey they seem to think about two very different things. Either we think of that traditional turkey dinner served with mashed potatoes, gravy, and all the fixings, or people think about a sandwich with lettuce, maybe onions, mayonnaise, Russian dressing, or mustard, or some combination of all of those enter our minds.

People seem to put a huge gulf in their minds between these two ideas of turkey and they seem to experience it very differently. This suggests that tryptophan is not the
(Continued on page 3)

ENDANGERED TURKEY

By Sergey Valarshkin('08)

"Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because it's one of the few times in the year when the family gets together. It's a generally relaxing holiday," replied Mr. Thoman, a HSAS teacher, when asked how he felt about the upcoming holiday.

"It's a good time to get together with the family - an opportunity to share a meal," agreed Mr. Gilbert, a fellow teacher, when presented with the same question. The students gave similar responses.

"It's very nice," stated David Myers('08), a senior, with food in mind.

However, beginning in 1621, Thanksgiving has been a symbol of death and despair for many turkeys throughout America. As reported by the US Census Bureau, 256 million turkeys of every size, color and shape met their maker on this fateful holiday in 2006 (some even being stuffed with chickens which are in turn stuffed with ducks, for a triple death combo). Some call this genocide.

"I eat it because it's there," shrugged David Myers when asked why he chose to consume turkey on Thanksgiving.

Mr. Gilbert on the other hand replied, "It's a tradition, and I enjoy

it" when asked the same question.

David Moretti('08) contributed to the conversation stating that "The turkey completes Thanksgiving," in a matter-of-fact tone.

The next question was obvious. "What would you say if somebody told you that Thanksgiving was really turkey genocide?"

"Hahaha, it's ridiculous! They are bred to be eaten," chuckled an amused Mr. Gilbert.

Mr. Thoman seemed to agree when, after laughing, he pointed out that, "there are still plenty of turkeys on this planet."

"I've had 'tofurkey' and it tasted terrible."

Surprisingly, and rather ironically, David Myers' reply to the question was two sided, "I'd believe them. I feel guilty, but it tastes so good!"

Nikita Yakimov('09) stated that "I guess I would agree because turkeys are raised specifically for that day just to be sold and devoured."

David Moretti, on the other hand, offered a different theory. After a rather long pause, he calmly explained that, "cows and chickens 'get it', so why not turkeys?" -- Well made point. He also expressed holiday-related confusion when, at the end of the interview, he inquired as to "What was the purpose of cranberry



Image created by Eric Berman('08)

Are there alternatives to a turkey on Thanksgiving?

sauce?" The answer eluded me as well.

When asked what could possibly replace turkey on Thanksgiving, Matt Joseph('10) pointed out that "I've had 'tofurkey' and it tasted terrible."

Matthew Berdeguez's('11) preference was to eat "pig." Although he did confess "Turkey tastes mad good." Nikita chose another approach, "Jaguar."

The conclusion was obvious. If turkeys did not want to be eaten, they would not taste so darn good.

☪

**COMMON SENSE IS
ON LINE NOW AT:**

[www.hsas-lehman.org
/common_sense.html](http://www.hsas-lehman.org/common_sense.html)

**Current and archived issues
are available.**

Check it out today!