

# EXTRA EXTRA, IS ANYONE READING

By Mark Menendez('08)

It is six P.M. on a school night, the CBS evening news is about to start, and as we gather around the television, southern California is on fire. Americans are tuning in to learn more about the disaster and the state of the relief efforts. Or are they?

In actuality, many students in our school do not seem to follow national news. After speaking to numerous students, it became clear that many were unaware about the fires and that a part of the student body did not follow the news of our nation on a frequent basis.

It was surprising that our school, a school which prides itself on knowledge of history and of our government, seemed to have students who don't follow national issues.

After the New York Times front page picture on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, of the California to blazes, most students then seemed have at least some knowledge of the infernos out west.

Belinda Falk('09) states, "I have heard a little about the fires, but I usually just don't have enough time to watch the news. I'm either busy with track(team) after school or piled up with the infamous junior year workload."

Many other students had the same response. Victoria Rella('10) added "I barely have time to do anything else besides homework and extra curricular activities. I'm lucky if I

can even get on the computer at night to talk to friends."

Some students from our school are overloaded with the work load and just cannot find the time to read a newspaper or watch the news on television.

However, there were other students who seemed to think otherwise about the motives behind our peers' lack of knowledge of current events.

One such student, Yana Izrailov('10), feels that "many students don't care about events which don't affect them." This makes sense because the fires out west had basically no immediate impact on our lives here in New York.

Alexander Niculescu ('09) exclaims, "southern California is on fire, but I live in New York, so why should I care?" He feels that unless the news has a direct impact on our lives, our fellow students most likely will not care.

Although there is a percentage of the school that does not seem to follow the news, there are many students who do like to stay informed. Results from a recent *Common Sense* survey reveal this split in our student body.

Alexander Niculescu comments, "I read the newspaper because I like to stay informed."

The survey also reveals that upperclassmen were more likely to follow the news rather than under



M. Menendez('08) ponders how students use the newspapers around them.

classmen. This explains why many students report they had too much work, a likely reaction to the shock of the freshman year work load.

Our school has students who are always informed but it also has students who are never informed.

Many take it upon themselves to know what is going on, while others are tied down with school work. Either way, it's important that we can all stay somewhat informed.

There are many issues that face us all, which are ignored. Niculescu concludes by saying, "our school needs to watch the news, because we can't be ignorant and disregard the rest of our country." ☞

## YULE BALL 2007

**Our student body will be holding its inaugural semi-formal on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

**To guarantee the event's success and to encourage the planning of future events we need to buy our tickets NOW. More pre-sold tickets means a better event.**

**See your student government officials today or seek out Mr. Iurato for more information.**



Dr. Benmoussa expresses concern over his fatigued students.

## THE A-B-Z'S OF HSAS

Do you get enough sleep at night? Do you find that throughout the day you are tired and irritable? Are your family and friends concerned about your well-being? If so, then this is the article for you.

In any situation in which academia is a serious part of one's routine, it is said that three elements make up your life: school, sleep, and a social life. The catch is that you are only allowed to be successful in two, and the other has to be sacrificed.

Collette Spagnolo('08) shares "I used to sacrifice sleep and everything was all well and good, then I got sick [with chronic fatigue syndrome] and I'm still trying to figure out which

one to sacrifice between school and socializing, but they've both taken hits from me being sick really...so I would sacrifice sleep, if I could."

Perhaps not the wisest decision, but most students agree with it and do it on a daily basis. One can go online between the hours of 12 and 6 AM to find at least a few people they know who are awake.

This leaves us with one thing to do: make up lost sleep. Consequently, there only seems to be one place to do it: school.

While the majority of in-class napping takes place before lunch, it is still the biggest chunk of the day.

Some who reside nearby have the

luxury of sleeping late and just coming into school late, but most of the HSAS students do not.

We all often see those who seek to fulfill their need for sleep with occasional cat naps and power naps throughout the morning.

When asked on the best way to sleep in class unnoticed, Spagnolo comments that although it's an "acquired skill" she personally likes the "head down while pretending to write approach. Good thing about it is that it goes unnoticed much longer, bad thing about it is that you have scribbles all over your paper from pretending to write."

Another student who is notorious for sleeping in class, Philip Schorr('08), says that on average in

**"I've dozed off in class."**

the past four years he's slept in "at least two classes a day."

When asked on his preferred style that helped him effectively sleep in class, he said he did so "mostly openly" in plain view of the teacher but "sometimes I'd sit behind someone large at the perfect angle so that I'm directly behind them from the teacher's point of view. Then I'd make myself as small as possible."

Other times, Schorr added, it is better to sit up and put his hand on his head covering his eyes so it didn't appear he is passed out on the desk. This skill allowed him to get away with taking a nap during

the AP American History exam, but such behavior is not recommended.

Alana Menendez('11), while still adjusting to our school's demanding life style, adds "I've dozed off in class before but I haven't fully fallen asleep."

Naomi Weisz('10) adds that "I usually get between five and seven hours of sleep a night but I still have yet to sleep in class." When asked why she doesn't sleep in class, even though she does not get the recommended amount of sleep for someone of our age group, she responded "because I don't want to get in trouble, plus I get a little nap on the bus in the morning."

Clearly, for some, there are ways and means to squeeze in the extra sleep. Everyone can agree that all teachers handle the sleepy situation differently. Mr. Elinson says that his response to a sleeping student is "person specific." If someone has a history of constantly falling asleep, the response should probably be harsher as opposed to someone who may have had a long night.

If you really need the extra zzz's, then sleeping in class isn't the best way to get them. Perhaps, curl up on a couch conveniently located in the hallway.

Establishing the right balance is the best way to go about the situation. ☞

## INTERVIEW WITH OUR PREZ & VP (PART II)

**Amanda Buckley:** There are several things designed to get students more involved with student government, with ideas such as town hall meetings, open to all to attend and have a voice in student government. Additionally a constitution which will set up firm boundaries for student government in general. And also there is an email address *HSASStudentgov@gmail.gov*, which can be used by anyone that has any suggestions to share with student government

**Theresa Palacios:** To get students more involved in school. We have a lack of school spirit which is unfortunate.

**How well do you lead/organize?**

**A.B.:** Pretty well. Everyone's opinion gets out and I know how to compromise and balance ideas.

**T.P.:** I'm very good at making people listen to what I say and act, and I personally went out and got a really expensive binder for student government so I can keep track of everything.

**How many other responsibilities do you have that hinder you?**

**A.B.:** Cross county which meets almost everyday of the week, but I don't think it will conflict with student government. I can still meet with student government regardless.

**T.P.:** I'm Treasurer for Spanish

honor society, a member of ARISTA and on the Softball team. It hasn't conflicted with my role in student government and I don't think it will.

**Have you ever had any managerial experience in the past?**

**A.B.:** I was manager at Hägen Daz for one and a half years.

**T.P.:** Hmm... I volunteer at my church and work at CCD. I work with the 6 and 7 year olds pretty well.

**How much wood can a wood chuck chuck?**

**A.B.:** If a wood chuck could chuck wood

**T.P.:** I don't know, a lot.

**How many ideas are you open to?**

**A.B.:** Everything, get your voice heard.

**T.P.:** I am really open minded. A student told me about putting vending machines in the lobby and I am giving it serious consideration

**What are your thoughts on "grinding" at dances? Are you a Nick Berkowitz in sheep's clothing?**

**A.B. & T.P.:** No comment!

**Could you rephrase?**

**A.B.:** It will not deter me from holding a dance.

**T.P.:** No comment.

**How does it feel being in office with a former opponent for student rep?**

**A.B. & T.P.:** Good

**Lastly, anything you want to add?**

**T.P.:** Thanks for voting for me. ☺



The HSAS Moot Court Team 2007 will compete in the finals on 12/11/07

## LAST THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING

By Michael Lam

Thanksgiving is a holiday which was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November of this year. It has traditionally been a source of stress and hectic times for some people, while being a time of freedom and relaxation for others. For Jared Fertig('11), the best thing about Thanksgiving is "the food."

This reporter's own mother has commonly preached every year about how strenuous the process of making dinner can be on such a festive occasion. On the other hand, chefs such as Julia Child always seem to stress how simple Thanksgiving and cooking in general can be.

Making a Thanksgiving dinner and the turkey for these chefs always seems so simple but in reality, is it? Things that are also greatly emphasized during this occasion and even time of year are commercialism, family values and overindulgence.

Come Thanksgiving time, what do we see? On a grand and commercialized scale, there are football games, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and even the widely criticized and widely available, packaged Thanksgiving day TV dinners. However, getting pass all the make-up

the surface of things, there is always family and friends. Many people actually look forward to seeing their uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers and everybody in between. The very fact of family coming home from college and elsewhere just can put a smile on many people's faces and really just lights up their hearts. Sidney Mintz, an anthropologist and Professor at Johns Hopkins University has stated that "commercialism does not terminate or eliminate deeper values. Food in celebration is always food in celebration with emotionally significant others. They're usually family; but needn't be."

So, what will people be doing this Thanksgiving? Daniel Karaban('09) says he is, "going to eat his ass off with his relatives." In addition, Isaac Salander('08) also describes Thanksgiving as a "feel good holiday" filled with "good food and family." While many have created their own plans in either exhibiting commercialism or family values, it is essential that everyone be happy. In the time of joyousness, why not show off a different and more family oriented side as a countless number already have? In the words of Julia Child, "bon appetit." ☺



J. Ziegler('08) dreams of a new and improved Hess Truck.

## THE NEW HESS TRUCK BRINGS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON By Phillip Schorr('08)

The end of the year holiday season is a time for many seasonal items and songs. One such item that has been around for over forty years, that is now a tradition, is the Hess Truck.

The tradition started in 1964 by Leon Hess, the founder of the Amerada Hess company, an oil and gasoline producer, transporter, and refiner. Leon Hess wanted to give families something that would be cheap and fun around the holiday season.

The first truck was launched in 1964 and became an instant success because of the detail that was put into the toy and its affordability, the original model only costing \$1.29, including batteries. The Hess Truck has continued to be released almost

every year since 1964 in many different designs.

The Hess company uses the jingle "The Hess Truck's back and its better than ever!" Several major changes to the truck since its original design are the introduction of working lights, lighted Hess logos, and a new color scheme of white with green highlights.

**I loved when they started making them into coin banks.**

The design of the Hess Truck has also received several complete make-overs since its original design, to the point at which it is a different vehicle all together.

Some different vehicles that have been used are the standard oil

tanker, a fire truck, a Hess training van, an emergency truck, a Hess truck with helicopter, Hess Truck with a race car, two race cars, a race car and motorcycle, and even a space shuttle.

With all these changes from the original success of the standard Hess oil tanker, are today's Hess Trucks better than ever? John Zeigler('08) said, "of course they are getting better. I loved when they started making them into coin banks. I keep all my change there. I just love it!"

Matthew Berdeguez('11) begged to differ saying, "I think they should have kept it old school, the older trucks that my dad has are way cooler!"

"Better than ever" is relative and subjective. New features to the truck

that are now staples are a multitude of working LEDs (lights), a cleaner design with a new white and green color scheme, and usually friction powered sub-vehicles.

Alex Messana('09) has her preference saying, "the originals are always my favorite. They only add a new helicopter design or car design."

You can be the judge of whether or not the Hess Trucks have gotten better than ever. However, they certainly have become more modern, though today, oil tankers are not likely to carry motorcycles, or even race cars for that matter.

As Katie Adrian('10) put it, "it seems like it only gets more elaborate each year." ☺