

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN...*Continued from page 1*

Soon after his press conference, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stressed that the scale of the drawback would be entirely dependant upon conditions on the ground and could be minimal.

Upon being asked about the recent troop increase, Harry Divak('10) seemed more or less content with the judgment of our commander-in-chief. He said that he liked that we "now had an ultimate goal of withdrawal" and that we "can't be there forever."

Our President "has the best intel and is most informed."
-Ian Turley ('11)

Ian Turley('11) expressed a similar trust in judgment, saying that if there were other options he'd take them, but he believes that the president "has the best intel and is the most informed on the subject"

Henry Comes('10) however is more critical of the decision and stated in certain terms that he wants the President to pull out now because "the war will be detrimental, because many more

American troops will die and (the war) will probably become a quagmire like Vietnam."

The President's decision has just plain shocked a lot of people as well. Ms. Morel said that she knew more troops would be sent, but she didn't expect such a large number to be deployed.

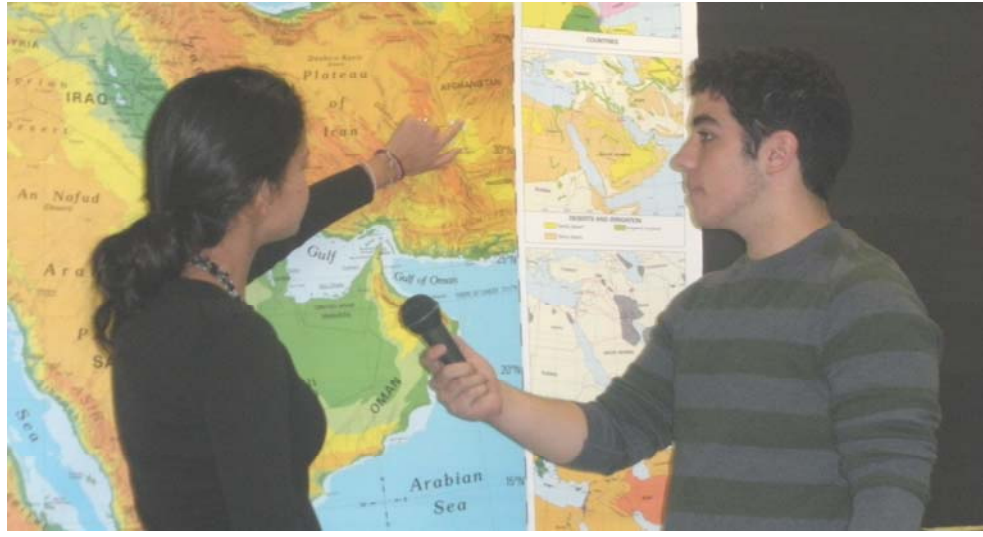
Molly Donovan('12) however was surprised that any more were being sent at all, citing a perceived dovish political philosophy on the president's part.

There are many that still have little to say on the issue.

Sarah Paisner('13) said that she hasn't really been following the news much and didn't know much about the issue. As a busy freshman adjusting to high school she has plenty reason to be preoccupied, as do many reading this paper.

However, there are many here in this school for whom it is possible and important to follow issues that could affect them greatly.

The more we all know about these issues, the better decisions we'll all be able to make voting for representatives, and our country could be better for it. ☞



Ms. Morel is asked to identify Afghanistan on a map, COULD YOU?!

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS...*Continued from page 1*

resolution was to "not get caught cheating." He was laughing deviously as he spoke.

Ryan Kwon('13) believes that most people "don't make the effort to go through with resolutions." This seems to be the case for most people. Some people don't follow through due to a lack of willpower, while others simply don't have a resolution.

Still some people still say they have a resolution regardless, because some believe it to be a statement of personal reflection.

Our Assistant Principal Martin

Olivieri may have summed it up when he said: "Any opportunity for self reflection is a worthwhile one, and when the time comes for us to make resolutions, I think we should go for it."

We see here that while some students may not take resolutions seriously, there are people who use them as a means of reflecting upon their previous year of life, and as a source of motivation for the new year.

Regardless, a new year is always something to look forward to. ☞



Jake Karpin('10) & others will push through their exams next week.

C'MON SON...

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Another problem with hats is that some people seem over anxious to tell you to take your hat off. To that I offer another *C'mon Son!*

If I just walked in the front door is it really necessary to shout at me to take off the hat? Will it really make a difference if I walk two more feet with my hat on?

We need to come to a compromise about hats because we all know everybody likes a nice WOOL HAT!

Okay, that's all for this issue.

Remember if you have any complaints or issues you want to talk about, please contact Zach Jones. I hope this issue touched some key complaints students have and that you enjoyed it.

C'MON SON! ☞



FINAL EXAM ANXIETY HITS THE HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES... *Continued from page 1*

for the most he replied "I try to study for my hardest classes, usually history, and touch up on all of the rest."

He went on to say he often does get a little stressed, but still tries to "keep cool and relax."

Most students at American Studies seem slightly more prepared than the average student, allowing them to remain calm and poised, all while studying for their classes.

"I don't really get stressed out, and I always manage to study a decent enough amount." -M. Min('11)

For instance, Matthew Min('11) reportedly never gets nervous before final exams.

"I don't really get stressed out, and I always manage to study a decent enough amount" he told

Common Sense.

Even frosh students don't seem too stressed out about their first finals here at HSAS.

"I'm probably just going to study until I feel comfortable, and I figure I should do fine."
-Victor Vasquez('13)

"I'm not really too nervous" one Víctor Vásquez Jr.('13) can be quoted as saying. He added "I'm probably just going to study until I feel comfortable, and I figure I should do fine."

"It's (already) a week before finals?" - Ariana Solis('10)

Then there are those seniors at HSAS, having been here for long enough already that they remain aloof towards the whole subject of finals until a day or two before they

start.

"It's (already) a week before finals?" asked Ariana Solis('10) when she was asked how she felt about the upcoming exam period.

Ariana added with a smirk: "Study? For finals? Maybe a period or two before the actual test starts."

This reporter did not follow up and ask Ariana how well this strategy has worked for her.

However, when final exams come around, students aren't the only ones faced with preparing for the week to come. Teachers, too, have to work hard, creating tests that will challenge the students to remember the previous semester's curriculum while taking up as much of the little over two hours allotted as possible.

"The whole process isn't only a stressful one; it's incredibly boring." -Ms. Peterson

Ms. Peterson, after being asked

whether the job of creating final exams was a stressful one, pondered over her response for a moment then shared: "It's not really as much a stressful job as it is just time consuming to create that perfect test."

When asked how stressful grading the test was, a scowl flashed across Ms. Peterson's face.

"The whole process isn't only a stressful one; it's incredibly boring reading the same thing over and over and over again so many times."

So it seems that at American Studies the teachers have a harder time than the students when it comes to finals.

When this reporter went out looking for how stressed students were about final exams, no stressed students were to be found, and everyone seemed to have their 'anticipation' under control. ☞

YOU'RE HOT AND YOU'RE COLD By A. Solis ('10)

“You’re hot then you’re cold,” said one of the happy freshmen, quoting one of Katy Perry’s songs, when she was asked how she felt about the weather.

Sabrina Fennelly('13), on the other hand, expressed how she believes “it’s cool to have nice weather and wear lighter clothes instead of having to carry heavy coats.”

Students such as Akeim Griffith('10) are slightly frazzled by the weather and are expressing concern for their health. “I usually never get sick, but the weather keeps changing all the time, and it’s making me sick, literally!” said Akeim.

On a global scale, however, the weather is affecting much more than just what people wear and whether or not they catch the sniffles.

Some major crops are at risk of being destroyed, which can make entire economies collapse. “People think the environment is a completely separate issue from the economy, but it’s not,” said Raquel Leslie('11).

For example, in Italy, the rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall are causing domestic durum

wheat production to slow down, and will eventually stop completely. That means NO MORE PASTA!!!

Another example is French wine. To make good wine, sugar and acidity must have a good balance, but the weather change is affecting the product negatively. The cold makes the grapes more acidic, while the heat makes them too sweet.

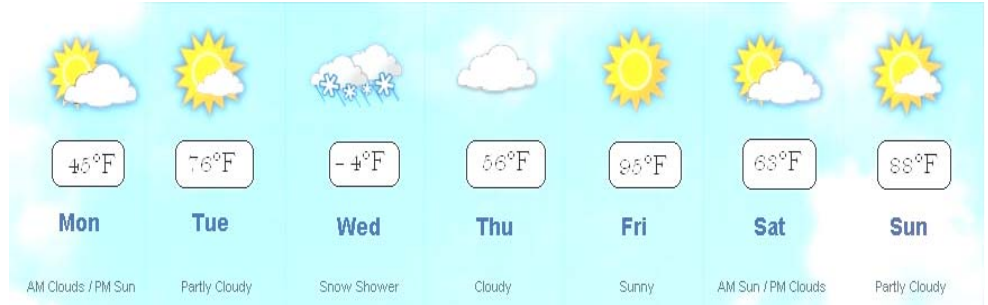
“We have recycling bins; so use them.”

–Steven Hamburgo ('12)

Argentina, the leading honey-producing country, is constantly being flooded, making it difficult for their bees to survive in the low-lying hives. Also, since there are wetter winters and rainier summers, bees cannot go out and collect enough nectar nor spread more pollen. That means many other crops are at risk as well.

The list goes on and on. Time Magazine even wrote an article on December 4, 2009, titled, “Top 10 Endangered Exports,” listing the previously mentioned exports as their top three.

Many diplomats, activists, journalists, business people, and celebrities have decided to hold a



WHAT WILL COME NEXT?????



Image created by Ariana Solis('10)

conference, the Copenhagen Climate-Change Conference, to work out how to lessen the emission of greenhouse gases and lighten the carbon footprints that are left behind.

Steven Hamburgo('12) expressed his beliefs to *Common Sense* that “the students have to be more active about helping their environment. Every little bit counts.” He concluded with making sure students understand that “we have recycling bins; so use them.”

Mr. Thoman’s thoughts: “We’re doomed.” ☪



Students of all grades prepare for finals in their way.

SECOND SEMESTER IS SET TO BEGIN

By Danelia Dillion('10)

The second semester is just around the corner, which means that the school year is just about half over. For seniors that mean that there is only about four months left in HSAS. Next school year we will be in college, hopefully.

“Everyone who applied to college (will) get into at least one of their top five schools.”

–Ms. Wise

By the second semester seniors should have already finished their college applications and any other forms necessary for the application process such as financial aid forms etc. Now all they need to do is sit back and wait for their acceptance

letters.

Ms. Wise said she expects “everyone who applied to college to get into at least one of their top five schools.”

She also said she hopes the seniors get into a lot of wonderful colleges and have too many to choose from. Like the seniors, Ms. Wise really doesn’t know what to expect of the college process.

“It is going to be a lot harder and very stressful since it is the second half of junior year.”

–Jessica Lu('11)

The other grades don’t have to worry about the college process; but

they do have to worry about all the tests they have to take.

Jessica Lu('11) said that “it is going to be a lot harder and very stressful since it is the second half of junior year.” She also thinks students are going to be freaking out because of all the tests they have to take.

Stephanie Cataquet('10) said that “the second semester should be easier because it’s senior year.” This shows the differences in schedules between the two grades.

Emily Adler('13) said she wants to raise her grades. She then went on to say that “it [the second semester] should be harder because everyone says high school gets harder as it goes on.”

Russell Lowe('12) also said he wants to raise his grades. He states that he will be more focused because he knows how much it matters.

Although it will be challenging he feels he will be able to manage because he will be more knowledgeable.

For the second semester Ms. Wise also hopes that the juniors will sign on to Naviance soon; and that she and Ms. Harris will get to know the freshmen and the sophomores better.

There are a lot of exciting new things to expect in the second semester such as new classes, more dances and other fun activities.

There is also better weather to be expected next semester. So we just have to sit back and see what the second semester has in store for us.

☪

**WELCOME BACK!
HOPE YOU ENJOYED
THE TIME AWAY
FROM SCHOOL.**

**CLASSES ARE NEAR
AN END.**

**FINALS BEGIN NEXT
WEEK**



**SIGN UP FOR
JOURNALISM
SEMINAR
NEXT
SEMESTER!**

**Open to all students not
currently enrolled in the
Journalism Elective.**

