Gustatus similis pullus

COMMON SENSE

HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

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STUDENTS REFLECT ON NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS *By Deshawn Lynch('10)*

STUDENT FORMATTED EDITION

It was December 31st, 11:59 pm. Most of us at HSAS were counting down the last ten seconds of 2009 and asked ourselves "what's my goal this year? Do I even have one?"

In some of us, a new motivation was born, and that was the signal that 2009 had come to a close.

On January 1st, 2010, many of us at HSAS formed a resolve to accomplish a goal this year: our New Year's resolution.

Common Sense investigates what resolutions students are making this year.

The resolutions vary from person to person; however the goal ultimately is the same: to accomplish something that we believe will make us, and possibly others, content.

Fabian Francis('11) says with much enthusiasm that he wants to "become better at everything."

When asked if that included coming to school on time he told ***Common Sense***: "I feel like I'll actually accomplish my resolutions this year."

He seemed confident on everything but getting to school on time.

N. Natera('10) has resolved to turn his academics around, before it's too late.

Jake Karpin('10) says his resolution is to "get outta the school" period.

There is a 100% chance he will be able to accomplish that of course, because he's a senior. When asked if he usually followed through with his New Year's resolutions he said he didn't, but he was definitely going to follow through with this one.

Lawrence Heller('12) doesn't know what his resolution is yet and says that he has a "tendency not to follow through on my resolutions."

However, he stated that he believed a new year's resolution was "something to encourage you and give you motivation."

While that is the case for some students, having a resolution doesn't matter to some. It's just a joke.

One such student who believes that is Sakib Ahmed('10). Sakib's

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AFGHANISTAN, AN UPDATE *By B. O'Brien('10)*

One of President Barack Obama's major foreign policy issues right now is dealing with an almost decade old and increasingly unpopular war effort in one of the most volatile regions in the world, Afghanistan.

This war effort has gotten a lot of press recently because Obama delivered an important announcement about it in December, and ***Common Sense*** wanted to see what the students thought.

In the midst of the ever rising death toll and government corruption in Afghanistan, President Barack Obama has authorized sending 34,000 more troops.

Now, along with an earlier increase of 22,000 troops this year by the President, the current authorized level is over 100,000.

It will take till the end of the year to get all the troops in country.

Mr. Obama has also set the date of initial withdrawal to begin in early 2011.

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ANXIOUS FOR FINALS *By Jacob Cintron('10)*

Chances are that most students at American Studies have taken an exam.

Final exams at HSAS come twice a year: the fall semester finals are in January and the end spring semester finals are in June.

Though it depends on the teacher, the finals are often equal to a larger portion of our third marking period grades.

Teachers often begin reviewing at least a week before finals, yet anxiety usually still runs high due to the unexpected twists of questions and wordplay used within some tests.

Doing worse than expected or even failing a final exam can not only ruin the third marking period of that semester but possibly even your average as a whole.

Some students learn how to balance their life with the stress of finals, but nonetheless, these exams remain an ever-lingering stressor over their heads.

Alberto Huerta('12) is the perfect example of one of these students.

When asked what he studied

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C'MON SON!

A New Column By Zach Jones('10)

C'mon Son is a new column in which students will be able to complain about things they feel are wrong with the school. In order to file a complaint please contact Zach Jones and he'll include your gripe.

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Timothy Watts('11) feels that it is wrong when teachers won't let you give in late homework. He shared that "with some teachers if it's even a day late it's a zero. That just makes me want to say C'mon Son!"

I agree with Tim on this one, with my own ***C'mon Son***! Not even one day late? What if a student had an emergency and couldn't do their homework that night? Late homework is one of the things that save many a student's grade, and it is just wrong to take away the right to give in late homework.

Teachers often have no idea what kind of situation a student may be in and why they missed homework. While some teachers may see late homework as a privilege, the majority of the student body, and perhaps some teachers too, believe it to be a right. So give students a second chance.

(Original image altered by Zach Jones('10))

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Ryan Kwon ('13) shared that he felt it was unfair that students aren't allowed to wear hats in school. He told this reporter fiercely "I want to wear a hat!"

I also have to agree with Ryan, at least partially, with my own ***C'mon Son!*** When asked if he knew the specific reasons behind the no hat rule, our principal, Mr. Weiss, shared that it is a D.O.E. rule and "while people may be more liberal in their hat wearing today, you would still take your hat off in a courthouse or church" as it's "a sign of respect." He added that he "imagines that's why the D.O.E. has the rule" too.

I also partially agree with Mr. Weiss. I think students should still have to remove their hats while sitting in class because, as said by Mr. Weiss, it is a sign of respect.

I agree with Ryan however in that students should be able to wear their hats in the hallways. I see no reason why this would be a problem, and it would also be a compromise between students and the administration.

(***More C'mon Sons on page 2)***