



## HAVE NO FEAR OF FRESHMAN FRIDAY

By Ariana Solis('10)

Few know exactly what Freshman Friday is all about. Questions range from who's allowed to carry it out to why people even do it. This reporter went out to the halls – well, the hall – of HSAS to find out what is Freshman Friday.

Many people have a lot of different ideas as to what exactly is Freshman Friday. One of our current freshmen, Lili Gelfand('13) thinks "it's just a stupid rumor that people started just to scare the freshmen." Unfortunately, she is quite mistaken.

At many schools Freshman Friday is very real. The *New York Times* even had an article about it an issue from December 12, 1893, meaning it can be traced as far back as the late 19th century.

The age-old question many people have is why the upperclassmen would even want to hurt the freshmen.

Alumnus Yannis Trittas('09) shared with *Common Sense* in 2007 that, "there's no malice behind making fun of freshmen." He continued that, "it's purely looking back and seeing ourselves as having become more mature

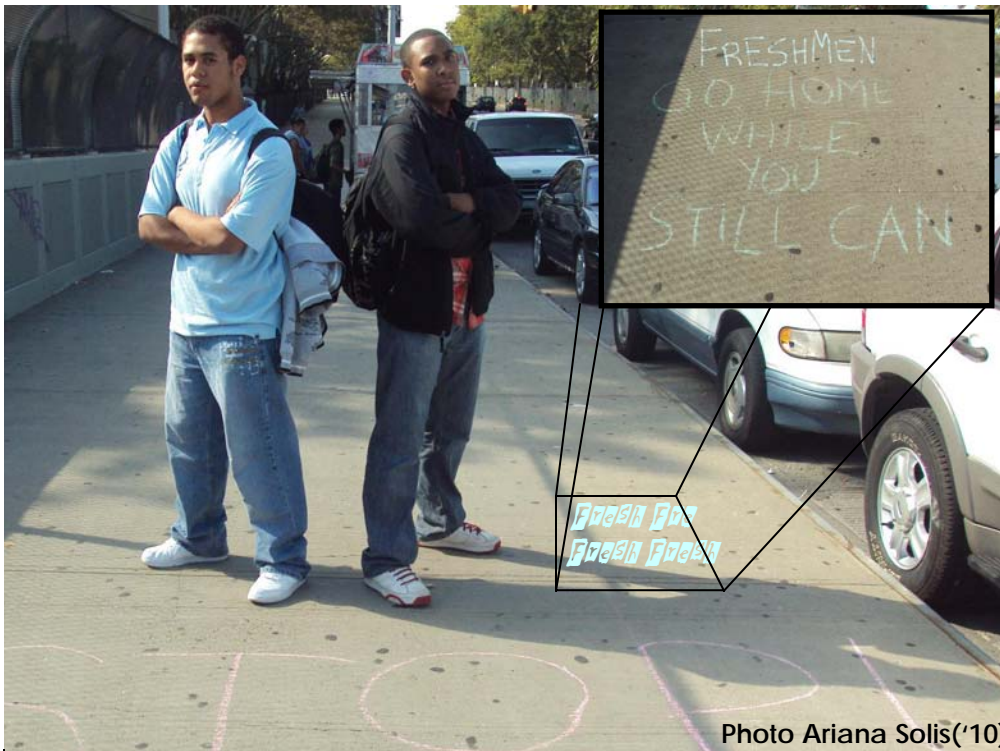


Photo Ariana Solis('10)

American Studies does not have a Frosh Friday the way lesser schools do.

and wanting to make fun of everything we left behind."

Freshman Friday, however, has sometimes gone beyond just teasing. Back in 1937, the *New York Times* reported on a Freshman Friday gone horribly wrong at the University of Delaware, where three Jewish students were branded with a swastika. Have things changed since then?

Jordan Lamarche('10) told *Common Sense* about one of the

ideas some of the current seniors had. It was to make brownies, cupcakes, and baked goods containing a couple of "secret" ingredients.

The baked goods were to be handed out to all the freshmen during 4<sup>th</sup> period lunch as a "welcome" gift. This plan, however, was not put into action as it is illegal.

Charisse Thompson('10) "didn't expect our grade to do anything because we're just not bad-ass enough." (Continued on page 2)

## A HEALTHY NEW YEAR?

By B. O'Brien('10)

As young as most of the readership of this article is, even the youngest freshman at HSAS lived through several of the most important and dramatic moments in this country's history. Today we are confronted with a new issue, that of national healthcare reform.

This decade alone saw the election of an African American president, a direct and deliberate attack on American soil and lives, such as hasn't been seen since Pearl Harbor, and an economic collapse that some economists say we will never fully recover from.

Ironically, the issue that directly affects the largest part of this readership the most seems to be the least understood.

The health care bill being debated in congress has the power to partially fix or entirely break our economy. The bill could even raise America out of its rank of 37th among the world's health systems.

Many Democrats argue that healthcare reform is the most important social legislation

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## SOME IMPORTANT FROSH ADVICE

By Juan Garcia('10)

While our school is graced by the presence (in fact, it's what makes us) of straight A, on-track, rightly motivated students, many of us seem to overlook those students who are performing below average. There are students that, for whatever reason, seem to lack the scholarly motivation of their peers. These are the kids who hear homework and ask: "What is that?" *Common Sense* investigates.

We are all the same on day one. At the time of the specialized high schools admission test all of us met the criteria and had the capability that brought us into a school like this one. However, some students are caught off guard by the rigorous curriculum while others embrace it with agony.

Frosh year, this reporter was a free spirit. Back then the importance of going home each day to a few hours of studying and homework didn't seem all too real for me.

In my Sophomore year, I hit a rough patch, along with some

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## THE "A" IS FOR AMBITION AT HSAS

By Alex Emmanuelli('10)

Student ambition at HSAS is certainly quite high. However, it may be surprising how few of us actually have an idea of what to do with that ambition.

Those who were here last year may recall the extensive advertisement of our 29<sup>th</sup> ranking in US World and News Report for the top high schools in the nation.

College acceptances of the past four graduating classes have been quite promising. HSAS alumni are attending schools such as Harvard, Macaulay Honors Program, and other competitive programs.

When surveyed, most students were unable to specify what their goals are beyond this school year. According to a recent *Common Sense* survey, the most common responses among underclassmen were to "do well this year," and among upperclassmen the common goal is to "do well on SAT's and apply to college."

When asked what his goals were for the future, Ian Turley('11) stated that his plan is "don't fail this year, and get a job I like."

Jake Karpin('10) seemed pretty unconcerned about his future and



Photo taken by A. Emmanuelli

The ambitious Jake Karpin('10) plans global domination after graduation, or something similar to that involving a modest size globe.

simply said, "I want to rule the world!"

There were students who did have a few long-term ambitions to share, such as Harley Geffner('13) who would like to "be a sports writer, and work for ESPN."

Ulices Rodriguez('10) was another student that was able to go in depth about his goals, stating, "I want to get over a 102 average, maybe 103."

Ulices added that he would also like to major in engineering in college, and hopes to work for NASA one day.

Jared Rosenthal('12) also managed to share his life plan saying, "I want to do well in school, get into a great college and become a filmmaker."

When this reporter went to the head of HSAS operations, Mr. Weiss, about his ambitions for the school, our beloved principal stated: "Our ambition is to continue developing the curriculum with new and interesting electives and to continue pushing our students to do well."

It is the belief of this reporter that these ambitions will be answered. ☞