

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION... *Continued from page 1*

with an emphatic "I don't know."
 This was a common response, and yet a legacy student is 11% more likely to be accepted into an Ivy League institution than a minority student.
 Now the question becomes whether this should be a factor.
 Andy Bell-Baltaci('12) said "people should have to work their way towards an education." While it's true that a legacy student still has to be qualified, it does give them an advantage.
 Mr. Weiss seemed to agree when he said "I don't think it (being a legacy) should be a factor."

legacy affirmative action?
 Christopher Izaguirre('11) believes it could be that accepting legacy students ensures, "the college will keep having the same type of people."
 Despite what we may think, it's doubtful this practice will change, and maybe we should just be glad it's not practiced to the same extent it once was.
 As Brendan O'Brien('10) said regarding the practice, "it's not fair, but you can't tell a college what to do."
 Odds are legacy students are going to keep their advantage. ☞



27% of the Harvard Class of 2010 are "legacy" affirmative action recipients.

There are reasons for this practice. A large portion of college funds come from donations from alumni and many believe that an alumnus would be less likely to donate if their kids were rejected.
 Christopher Izaguirre('11) shared this belief by saying "if it's for funds, it's understandable."
 However, the average per year donation by a single alumni at Harvard is only \$571 and there are about 200 people accepted a year at least in part due to their legacy status. This means that even if their parents were to stop donating it would only result in a loss of around \$14,200 a year.
 Are there other reasons for

REMEMBERING THE CLASS OF '09... *Continued from page 1*

Last year's seniors believed that with their exit, the heart and soul of this school would leave. Contrary to their thoughts, the school is still up and running.
 Faculty members such as Mr. Blitz shared that this senior class (the class of 2010) "...has some characters who stand out, but they won't be as much trouble."
 It seems as though we have something to prove to everyone, and we shall.
 Julian Watts('10) stated that "The Class of '09 did nothing but cause a ruckus." He also declared that our grade is the loudest at school

functions.
 Some students such as Melissa Olivo('10) are under the impression that the Class of 2010 is "a lot less active"; but that is debatable.
 She continued to say that "all beef must be squashed" this year because "this is our school now, we need to go out with a bang!"
 When asked who she felt was the face of the senior class, Lauren Fuller('12) quickly replied "Julian (Watts)" and that she had a strong friendship with the young man.
 Perhaps Julian will rise up and step into these shoes; after all he is President of the Senior Class

Basketball prodigy in the making Samiru Mutawakil('12) told this *Common Sense* reporter that he "couldn't see us as seniors." Samiru also felt that we have "big shoes to fill."
 When questioned on who he thought represented the senior class, he answered "BBB('10)...Jemaalcito('10) and Zach Jones('10)."
 No bribes were made in the acquisition of this quote.
 Even the freshmen are beginning to notice the Class of 2010.
 Some freshmen are getting to know the senior class through the amazing fall A-Studies teams.



Will this year's graduating class receive the adoration that the Class of 2009 received?

VALENTIN... *Continued from page 1*

other officers," shared Toni-Anne Drummond('12). Toni added that both she and her mother "are happy that she's teaching kids now."
 Mr. Blitz, when asked how he felt, shared: "I'm gonna miss her; she was a good person... but people can always be replaced."
 Mr. Weiss has stated that he is setting up a going away party for Officer Valentin, because "she likes you all enough to actually want to come back to properly say goodbye." ☞

Others like L'Eunice Faust('13) quickly made friends with seniors, calling the senior class out as "awesome and friendly".
 When Fabian Francis('11) first met the class of 2010, his first impression was that "they were very comfortable with their sexuality." When asked if this has affected him in anyway, Fabian took a moment of silence and replied "yes" then he giggled.
 The Class of 2010 is definitely going to be different compared to the previous seniors. This will surely be an interesting year. ☞

LATENESS DETENTION... *Continued from page 1*

without a legitimate excuse (college class or being held after by a teacher), he or she will receive a 55 minute detention after school.
 If a student cuts a class, he or she will receive two detentions after school.
 If by some chance a student skips their detention, others will be added, so instead of one detention, he or she will have two.
 If the student absolutely refuses to go to detention, he or she will be suspended.
 When Jazz Hooks('12), a chronic late comer, was asked about his opinion on the subject, he stated that it may help "resolve problems in the future such as trips and dances and help cut down lateness."
 Safety Officer Maloney agreed with Jazz Hooks' statement saying:

"It's good because now they think about it (coming late) twice."
 Both René Cardona('10) and Jacob Cintron('10) became outraged when asked their opinions about the new late policy.
 "Things happen, and sometimes you can't avoid being late" said René.
 Many students would agree with him completely. When Yuliya Muradova('11) was asked about the new policy, she could not help but shouting an expletive.
 It is the opinion of many students that this new policy should be revised. Being late to school is something that can become a bad habit, but it does not merit detention after every single offense. ☞

CREATIVE WRITING CORNER *Kevin Martinez('10)*

We are looking for poets, artists, or any comedians that may exist in HSAS. If you have a poem, a drawing or a funny joke that's clean and original, you should speak to Kevin Martinez or E-mail him at kevinmartinez8@hotmail.com
 Due to the fact this is a relatively new thing for this school year there is only one author, me, Kevin Martinez('10).
Time:
 By Kevin Martinez
 TICK-TOCK GOES THE CLOCK
 IF ONLY TIME WERE TO STOP
 THIS TEST WOULD BE CAKE
 WHY DIDN'T I STUDY?
 I RAN DOWN THE CLOCK FOOLING AROUND
 SO NOW LIKE THE CLOCK GOES TICK-TOCK
 MY GRADES GO TICK TICK TICK BOOM



Hope
 By Kevin Martinez
 ON EVERY CLOUD THERE IS A SILVER LINING
 THERE IS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL
 IT IS ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN
 WHEN IT IS DARK ENOUGH YOU CAN SEE THE STARS.
 NO MATTER HOW YOU SAY IT
 NO MATTER HOW YOU PHRASE IT
 IT IS THE THING YOU MUST KEEP ABOVE ALL
 FOR IF IT IS LOST ALL IS LOST
 NO MATTER THE BATTLE
 NO MATTER THE CHALLENGE
 NO MATTER THE ODDS
 YOU WILL TAKE YOUR CHANCES
 THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT ON THE DARKEST NIGHT IS HOPE ☞



REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

By Rene Cardona('10)

September 11th is a day that many have called the "darkest day in American history." An estimated 2,985 people lost their lives, and thousands more were affected by the attacks. *Common Sense* reflects on this day following the eighth anniversary of the attacks.

On that day, a group of Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jetliners, two of which were used to fly into the Twin Towers here in New York City.

The effects of the attacks were felt throughout the entire city. The subway system was temporarily diverted and transit in to and out of Manhattan became limited for a while. The psychological effects were felt too.

The North Tower and South Tower opened in 1970 and 1972. They were a sign of hope for New York City and it's (at the time) uncertain future.

The first attempt by terrorists to destroy the Twin Towers was in 1993, when a truck carrying explosives was parked in the basement of one of the towers. This attack was unsuccessful in dealing significant damage to the towers, but six people died and 1,000 people were injured. No one expected that, eight years later, the towers would be attacked again and

done away with.

When asked how she felt on that tragic day, Daryl Ramirez('11) said "It was like having a blur of emotion. I didn't know what to feel."

The impact of the attack was felt world-wide and especially among those who knew people that died on that day.

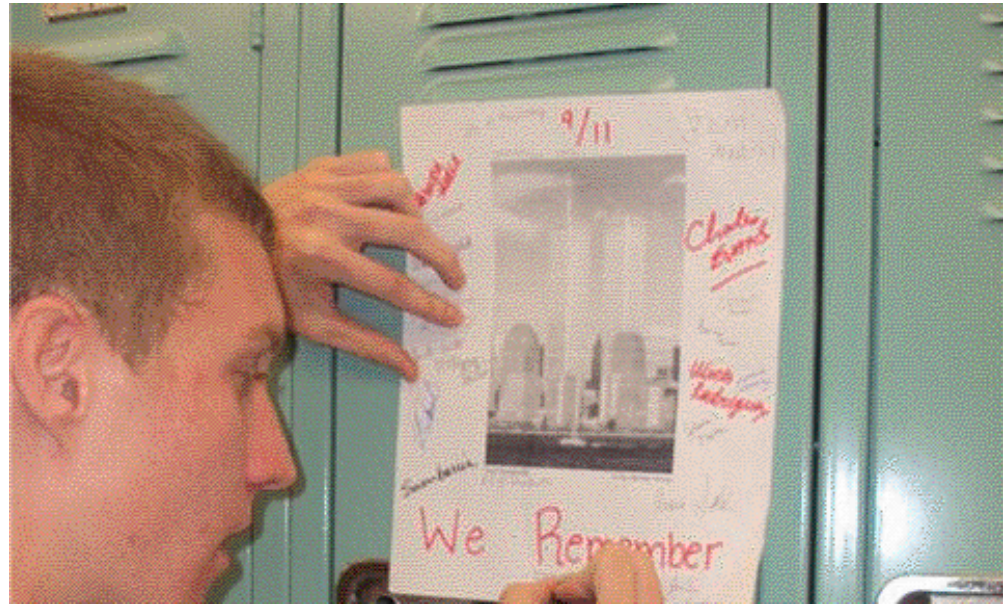
Melissa Olivo('10) stated that it was especially sad for her because one of her closest friends lost a family member. She shared: "my best friend Anthony's dad died on September 11th. It was sad to see someone close to me lose someone that they love."

Some American Studies students speculate that the Federal government could have potentially prevented the terrorist attacks.

Noah Sider('12) disagrees and believes that "it was a horrible thing, but I don't see how the government could have prevented 9/11."

Not only did the attack take away a symbol of our city's strength and prosperity, but it instilled distrust in the hearts of many. "It makes people feel nervous and insecure," said Rebecca Torres ('11).

The memory and images of that day will resonate with many for the remainder of their lives. When asked how she felt that day, Officer Ventura shared: "It was very sad



Students commit their signatures to a makeshift memorial for 9-11.

because so many innocent people died. When I saw the people flying out of the windows, I could feel their desperation."

L'Eunice Faust('13) recalls fearing that her mother had been hurt that day. She recalled for *Common Sense* that: "My mother didn't come pick me up. My grandma did. So, with all the panic, I thought that my mother had died!" This was not the case.

The city has come a long way since then. Recovering took the efforts of many and the cooperation and patience of the entire city. The Freedom Tower sky-scraper will mark where the twin towers were and will forever serve as a symbol, so that New Yorkers may not forget where we came from and where we're going. *CS*

CROSS COUNTRY...

Continued from Sports Page
everyone that we're working hard to capture that Bronx title."

There was no doubt or uncertainty in his voice.

The one thing that is for sure is that our school's Cross Country team they will continue to work hard day by day on the strong foundation that their dedication has built.

So come out to Van Cortlandt Park for the next race and support your school's athletes. You can giggle at the green, just don't embarrass us.

"This will be the strongest men's and women's programs we have ever put together at our school," shared Coach Elinson.

His words in June to the aspiring team invited students to "be a part of this team, not simply a member this year," and to "contribute, encourage and be a part of what will be one of our school's greatest achievements." *CS*

MLB PREDICT

Continued from Sports Page

World Series:

The Yankees would win a match up with the Cardinals 4-1. The Yanks have home-field and a great hitters' ballpark with an exceptional bullpen.

The Dodgers would defeat the Yankees 4-3. The Dodgers would edge it out because of the Joe Torre Factor. He knows the Yankees inside and out. *CS*

Bronx II 2009-2010 Standings

School Name	Wins	Losses
Bronx HS Of Science	5	0
HS Of American Studies @ Lehman College	5	1
Manhattan Center for Science & Math	4	2
A. Philip Randolph Campus High School	3	2
South Bronx	2	4
Bronx school/Law, Govt & Justice	1	4
Taft Educational Campus	0	7

American Studies' Bowling sets its sights on the playoffs in its first regular season.

VARIED MUSIC TASTES AT AMERICAN STUDIES *By Matthew Berdeguez('11)*

Here at HSAS, we have a very diverse group of students, and a very diverse group of music is listened to at this school. Whether its rock or rap, country or jazz, *Common Sense* found it being played in the ears of students at American Studies.

According to a recent *Common Sense* poll, it was discovered that sophomores and seniors tend to listen more to hip hop and rap, juniors listen to mostly soft rock, while frosh students tend to listen to pop music.

When asked what some of his favorite artists now are, Samir Mutawakil('12) responded: "Naz,

Fabulous is doing good right now with 'Throw it in the back.'"

Juniors preferred to listen to more rock than rap.

"Led Zeppelin and other things like that." Casey Simring('11)

Casey Simring('11) shared that she listens "to Jacks Mannequin, Jimmy Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane, Led Zeppelin and other things like that."

Some students tend to have a taste mixture in their music.

For example Fabian Francis('11) announced "I like listening to rock and hip hop, and my two favorite artists are Linkon Park and Kanye

West."

Some students taking AP Spanish are interested in the Spanish music recently used in class.

***It's so catchy, even though I don't know all that she is saying.* – Julia Brown('10)**

Julia Brown('10) said "I like that song that Ms. Genao played in Spanish class, Loba by Shakira. It's so catchy, even though I don't know all that she is saying."

Frosh students like Harley('13) seem to have a varied taste in music. When asked what type of music he

listens to he responded by saying: "Okay well, I listen to a lot of music. Like a really diversified spread, everything."

Most students at HSAS tend to listen to music as a hobby, and only a few are pursuing it as an art.

No matter what type of genre it may be, students at this school like everything that music has to offer. *CS*

