



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PRESSURES By A. Solis('10)

Advanced Placement classes have a reputation of being extremely difficult classes, only offered to those elite students with good grades. However, that is not so at the High School of American Studies. *Common Sense* investigates.

"I think it's cool that our curriculum allows every student the opportunity to take an AP course, even if the student isn't on honor roll" said Charles Roberts('11).

Some might say that allowing the entire school to take an AP test makes the school run the risk of having low test scores.

Mr. Mansdorf, who teaches about half of the AP US students told this reporter that approximately 85% of the students who take the AP US History test get a 3 or above.

Ms. Mosco believes one of the reasons for our success is because "the kids here are better test takers."

One student, Toni-Anne Drummond('12), seems to think that there is an unfairness in the treatment between the regular classes and the APs. While



Picture staged by A. Solis('10)

Roman Velez('12) weighs the personal costs of AP courses.

currently in the honors global class, non-AP, Toni Ann says, "Mansdorf makes us feel like we're in the dumb class."

"Toni-Anne just got a hundred on an exam" replied Mr. Mansdorf and asserts that he has told students numerous times that they are in fact as smart as those enrolled in Global AP. He added that "the reason students are in non-AP Global is because of a work ethic issue in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and their intellectual is just

as high as those enrolled in AP"

The non-AP classes have more time to cover the same curriculum and often reach into a topic with greater depth. Next year when all students are reunited in AP US History the non-AP Global students will match their AP Global counterparts.

Our high school offers many of the 32 AP courses offered throughout the US. Currently our school teaches *(Continued on page 2)*

## CELEBRITIES FALL

*By Jahaira Flores('10)*

There is a curse placed on our favorite celebrities. This year, some of the best in the music, film, and political business have passed away, leaving only their memories in our hearts and bewilderment in our minds.

Michael Jackson died on June 25, 2009. During the summer, Billy Mayes passed away due to a drug overdose. On September 14, 2009, Patrick Swayze passed away after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Ted Kennedy also died this year which it was seen by many as a major loss to our senate.

All the celebrity deaths this year have spurred uproar among many.

According to a recent survey of American Studies students conducted by *Common Sense*, almost half felt that Michael Jackson was the biggest loss of all the celebrities. Those who voted for Michael Jackson wrote that he was a major influence in their lives.

Kadacia Cooper('10) shared that "he was a hero to African Americans and entertained us for decades." *(Continued on page 2)*

## HSAS IS TOO SANITIZED

*By Jacob Citron('10)*

By now, as we are well into the second month of school, we have all seen the seemingly out-of-place hand sanitizer stands both in our school and around the Lehman College campus. *Common Sense* explores the connection between the new hand sanitizers and the swine flu.

We've all heard of this new, rapidly spreading swine flu. There are a plethora of advertisements for products to protect you from the sickness. There are even warnings on billboards, websites, and television.

Originally, many considered it to be a great plague of our generation. But according to Harley Geffner('13) it no longer poses any kind of serious threat.

"I had swine flu and I was only sick for about a week," claims Harley. He went on to say that the doctor only recommended that he miss one day of school.

According to accredited medical sources at [www.momsblog.com](http://www.momsblog.com), if the alcohol content of the hand sanitizers is between 60% - 90%, it should kill 99.9% of germs.

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## NEW FACULTY AMONG US

*By Matthew Berdeguez('11)*

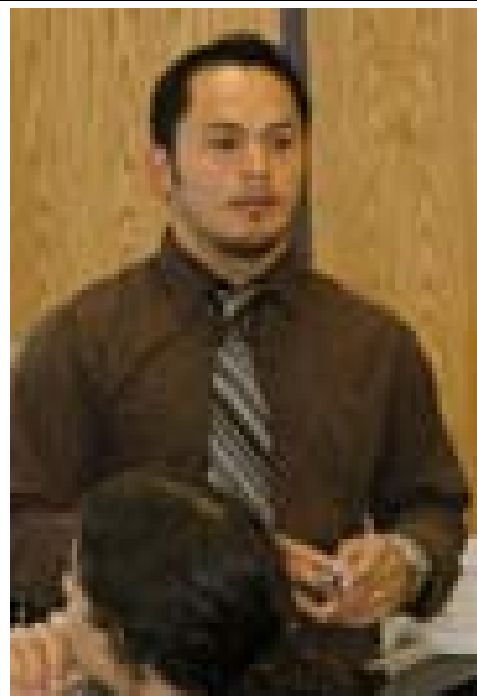
As most students already know, there are two new teachers this year at American Studies. Last year, Mr. Rockfeld and Dr. Benmoussa both relocated. Both had been teachers in the science department, and they both needed to be replaced.

HSAS recruited two new teachers: Mr. Palatulan, our new biology teacher, and Mr. Uziel, our new physics teacher. *Common Sense* profiles both.

Students have different views on these teachers. Kat Mallery('13) shares that Mr. Palatulan "is a good teacher and he expects a lot out of the freshmen."

Nathan Kahn('11) had this to say about Mr. Palatulan and Mr. Uziel, "They're alright. They just don't know how the school works yet. For example I had to explain to Mr. Palatulan how the attendance worked. It was interesting watching him adjust."

Both teachers were commented upon harshly on by Noah Krimstein who said ('12). "I don't like 'em." Since Noah has neither teacher this year, he was asked why he had such strong feelings and he responded by saying he didn't like the way they look. Noah agreed that this was both



Mr. Palatulan & Mr. Uziel join our faculty.

an unusual and non-credible comment.

The seniors seem to have a different opinion about the new teachers.

Jake Karpin('11) says: "Uziel looks like a cool guy. I would've liked to have him."

He added that "Yo, I think Benmoussa was the ultimate man, but Mr. Uziel looks like a cool physics teacher."

When Mr. Uziel was asked about what he thought about the school after being here for a couple of months, he had this to say: "I like it, and I don't know

what else to say."

He added that "in some ways it's better than where I used to teach, and in some ways it's worse. Students are pretty much the same."

Mr. Uziel likes the quality of the students, and that this is a small school, much smaller than Bronx Science.

His lone critique was that teachers are always "going from room to room because this is such a small school."

This reporter did not interview the other new teacher, Mr. Palatulan, as he was only required

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