

## WHERE THE BOYS ARE... *Continued from page 1*

percent girls and 40 percent guys." Perhaps Fabian has a problem with numbers though because all the other students felt the numbers leaned towards males.

Casey Simring('11) said she felt like there were more boys but also added, it doesn't really matter though, because most of them are weird."

In fact it seems none of the females in this school feel at a disadvantage because of her sex. Lily Shoulberg('13) said that she actually enjoys the higher percentage of males because there are "better pickings."

***"I have more choices for prom, and there are other advantages to more boys."*** – L'Eunice Faust('13)

L'Eunice Faust('13) agreed saying "I have more choices for prom, and there are other advantages to more boys."

Most of the males in the school disagreed with the female perspective.

Joey Kuzniar('12) stated "I don't know what the exact numbers are;

there seems to be more guys, but I'd prefer more girls."

Some students didn't really notice a difference in numbers.

***"I'd like more girls, you know, supply and demand."*** – Devin Mullin('10)

Devin Mullin('10) said "I never really noticed a big shift either way" but also agreed with Joey, adding "but I'd like more girls, you know, supply and demand."

So it would seem that most girls are happy with the current percentage, and most males agreed with Mr. Weiss' assessment and want more females; however the current numbers are pretty close to 50-50 and that seems best for both sides.

***"When I walk through the hallway I don't see females or males. I see a group of unique individuals."*** –Deshawn Lynch('10)

Deshawn Lynch('10) seemed to sum it all up saying: "When I walk through the hallway I don't see females or males. I see a group of unique individuals." ☞



Image staged by Z. Jones('10)

The American Studies female population sees advantages to the school's sex ratio.

## INTER-CLASS COLLEGIALITY... *Cont'd from page 1*

actually care more" at American Studies.

It is not difficult to believe that there's an ambivalence between upper and lower classmen.

This isn't actually the case. But it's a fairly prevalent attitude among seniors and also, it seems, juniors.

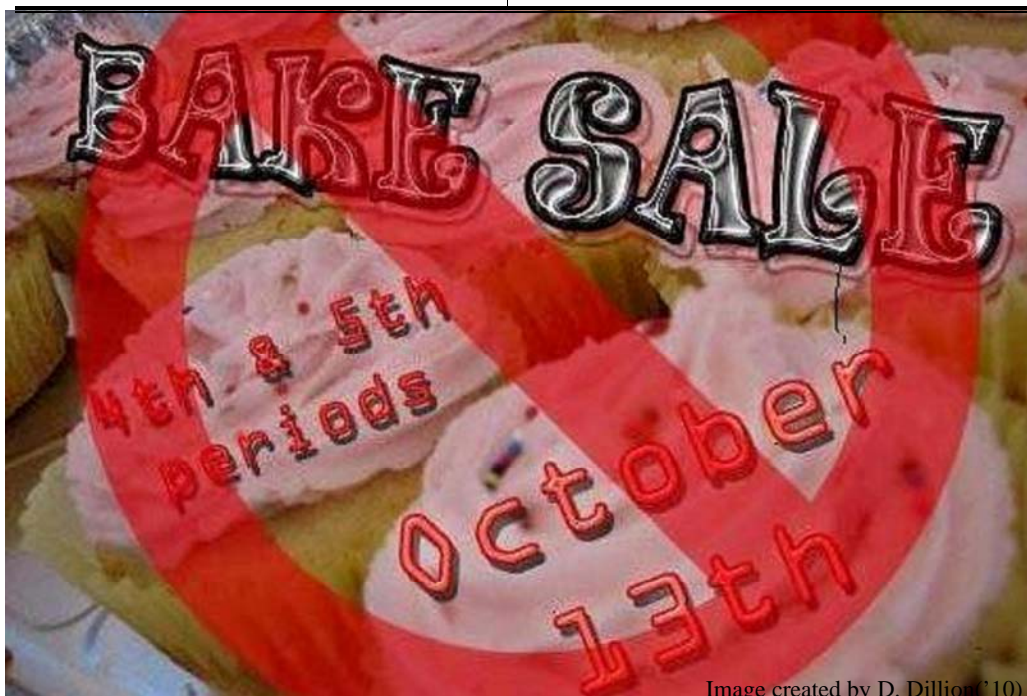
***They're just not "his kind of people."*** – T. Watts('11)

Timothy Watts('11) also believes that because of the growing popularity of our school

resulting in a lot more applicants there is "a change in the type of people who are allowed in," meaning they're just not "his kind of people."

Whatever the reason is for this trend, it doesn't seem as if it's going to change, either this year or in years following.

A sign of this is what a freshman said when asked if, as a senior, he'd interact with freshmen. James Novik-Smith's('13) response of "no, why would I care about them," is a pretty good indicator that things may not change. ☞



Bake Sales are banned in NYC public schools as of October 2009.

## STATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

By Rene Cruz('10)

Student government: We've all heard the rumors about how it's just one big popularity contest. Some even run their campaigns as if it were a comedy show. However, many HSAS students feel that there is more to these elections than a simple vote on whom everyone likes the best. *Common Sense* investigates.

Senior Representative, Rebecca Smith('10) thinks people voted for who they thought was the best fit. She shared how "Karnisa Aya('10) and Fanta Ngom('10) became President and Vice President not because everyone likes them, but

because they have experience. They've been in government since freshman year!"

Senior representative Danelia Dillion('10) accredits the senior government with making the school "fun and entertaining."

Perhaps students voted for people who they thought would be a more fun member in government than others.

Sophomore representative Skyler Smoke('12) shared when asked how he feels about our current student government: "I think we're doing a better job than last year because we're getting a lot more stuff done."

When asked if he thinks these past June elections were a popularity contest, he believes "it's a mix." He added that "some people got there because of experience and other people almost bought their spot!"

As it turns out, a large number of goods was offered to voters last year from numerous candidates, perhaps in an effort to bribe the voters.

Malik Akbar('11) believes that "bribing with candy bars and baked goods should not be allowed to take place during the elections in order to get into office and if it is discovered, the person shouldn't be elected."

Not everyone agrees with Malik. Some emphasized that the candy and baked goods did not influence their vote.

Matthew Cocco('13) was surprised at the outcome of the freshman elections. "I thought Jonah

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## NO BAKE ZONE IN NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS...

Roman Velez('12) was also outraged and had this to say "WTF!! That's terrible. Why would you ban good food?"

Mavis Dankwah('13) a freshman who didn't get the chance to taste any of HSAS's baked goods thinks "it's stupid because bake sales are bake sales." She sees "no harm in having it."

Kadacia Cooper('10) too shared her feelings about the issue saying that "the ban of bake sales was a terrible move for the DOE."

Without bake sales, there is going to be a very big problem for fundraising because bake sales played a huge role in raising money for the different activities in our school. Karnisa pointed out that, "it will limit our means of getting funds."

Kadacia shared a similar opinion as most of the students when she said, "as a graduating senior I have a lot of dues that have to be paid and the bake sales helped make this financial burden easier to bear."

As a senior, this reporter also shares those same feelings.

Although the ban will limit fundraising, Ms. President (Karnisa) does not think it will limit the number of activities the student government puts on because, "the government will find a way to make sure the ban doesn't affect them."

According to their website the Department of Education chose to get all healthy on us because they are trying to limit obesity, and a good place to start was in the public school.

Roman disagreed with this idea saying that "it's because they are

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(*expletive*). People aren't getting fat. How much can a person actually eat at a bake sale?"

Mr. Weiss doesn't think this ban was necessary. He said he "would advocate for a change in policy."

He does understand the need to encourage better nutritional habits but thinks, "if our school had the chance to come up with our own nutritional plan we would have done so in a more creative way."

This *Common Sense* reporter could not find evidence that the banning of school bake sales will stop obesity.

The Department of Education needs to revise the memo and find a better way to work with the kids and achieve their goal. ☞

## I HEART THE MTA By Vlad Barbu('10)

Delays, problems, and simple frustration. These are all effects of a particular system that has been functioning for decades, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). *Common Sense* explores whether the pros outweigh the cons.

It's such a successful and large system that many don't really pay much attention to it. For most of the people that ride MTA buses and trains, it is just a way to get from point A to point B without having to be driven and without wasting any gas and without having to take a taxi.

The MTA is quite possibly the cheapest mode of transportation in NYC, besides walking and biking. Walking from North Bronx to South Bronx, or from one side of Brooklyn to the other, or from the upper west side of Manhattan to the lower east side isn't very convenient.

There are posters on the train that show statistics to prove that the fastest way to get around Manhattan is to bike, yet it's pretty annoying to mess up your new suit because you had to ride a bike to an interview for a new job.

Mr. Holmes responds "ummmm,

I like it," when asked how he felt about the MTA trains.

Jonah Eastrez('13) stated, "I don't mind it," when asked the same question.

So people like the MTA, yet we all have friends who come into school late and complain about how they have to serve detention just because the Bx10 bus was late or the B line got stuck in a tunnel.

**"[The train is] better than the bus, but smellier."  
- Jake Karpin('10)**

The MTA is a good system, but it can use some improving.

Jake Karpin('10) says he thinks, "[the train is] better than the bus, but smellier." And Mack Friedman('11) thought that, "they (the MTA) don't do enough for the busses."

But even with all the improvements that the MTA system should be making, they really don't change very much.

One thing they did change though is the fare. It used to be \$2.00, and now it's \$2.25. Sure that's not a very big raise in price, but as some may remember, the fare used to be even lower than \$2.00.



A. Emmanuelli('10) uses mass transit daily.

One junior thought that it was no big deal though. Fabian Francis('12) said that, "only dumb dumbs buy cards less than \$8.00."

**"Only dumb dumbs buy cards less than \$8.00."  
- Fabian Francis('11)**

The larger the amount of money you spend on one metro card, the cheaper each individual ride becomes.

In the end, there are plenty of problems with the MTA, and there

are plenty of people that get frustrated every day by trains getting delayed and buses being late.

The MTA system is still the most convenient, unless you don't mind walking across town, or you have the will of Mr. Thoman and can bike to school everyday. ☞



**Winter Dance**  
is on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2009  
In the East Dining Room  
from 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Tickets are \$3.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door.  
Soda & Pizza included  
Participate as a Bake Off judge for an additional \$2.00

## KNOWING OUR RIGHTS... Continued from page 1.

no one's ever asked"

That is except until *Common Sense* asked.

Jake Hazen('11) of last year's student government gave some insight and informed us that an actual document of student's rights used to be in the works.

"When I was in Amanda Buckley's('08) government we started a school constitution," shared Jake. He added that "we finished it when Jake Glickman('09) was president, we had it posted outside for like a week." Even Jake Hazen, a designer of the school's constitution, didn't really know the specifics of it.

Most students probably overlooked the constitution when it went up and it's not clear if the creators of it made a real effort to get it out there and let students

know about it.

Nevertheless, our assistant principal, Mr. Olivieri, "had no idea."

Karnisa Aya('10) of this year's student government was asked for some clarification about the constitution that had been previously drafted.

"We started it our sophomore year and it was completed last year," shared Karnisa. She added that "we had it posted around the school, but it's really just stuff for the student government, what it's about and what we're doing and trying to do."

However, Karnisa explained that this constitution had "a sort of a judiciary board for students where if they have a problem they can come to the student government and we'll try to talk to the teachers and the administration so if there's a problem we can try to solve it."

One can go in to the office at any time and try to speak with a school official directly, who is not busy at the time.

Questions in the minds of HSAS-ers may still remain as far as what merits detention.

Hearing "take off that hat," or "wait till the bell rings before you can go to your locker," may not be violations that lead to detention. Or they may lead to detention.

Uncertainty is very common, especially in the lower grades. Those who might still be adjusting to the school and are simply not aware of everything concerning how the school runs, find they are at a disadvantage when navigating the rules.

"If one is quiet and adult, things won't get noticed the same way as if one is rowdy" says Mr. Olivieri.

This is true, but we are dealing with a crowd of 350 students, ranging from the ages 13-18, in a single crowded hall, in the prime of their teenage years. *Tomfoolery* is bound to happen.

*Common Sense* asked students if American Studies needs a constitution, with an explicit Bill of Rights

Samiru Mutawakil('12) says "I think it would because the students would feel like they were part of making it, so they're going to act in a way that makes sure all the rules follow through."

Ryan Kwon('13) thinks such a document "from the students and the teachers, would be more fair than the disciplinary code that we have now." ☞

## STATE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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and Ryan were going to win. Everyone said they were going to vote for them!"

Matthew contended that "bribes do not have anything to do with the student elections. It's all about how popular you are."

***The hard work should begin "after the bribes and the wins."-Mr. Mansdorf***

Mr. Mansdorf says, "everyone should continue to campaign after winning to make themselves known." According to him, the hard work should begin "after the bribes and the wins."

Ariana Solis('10), the treasurer of our student government, reminded this reporter that the student government "isn't for profit."

She added that "we get money and we spend it on the next events. If we don't have bake sales, we don't have as much money. If we don't get the money, we don't have events."

Mr. Iurato emphasized that all the members of this year's student government are working extremely hard to make this "a good year for all of us."

It seems that the student government has its share of problems this year, but despite everything, our elected officials are trying their best to make this year yet another good one for the students of HSAS. ☞