



FREE

## KNOWING OUR RIGHTS AT A-STUDIES By J. Garcia('10)

“Mansdorf gave everyone in the class detention that same day because the majority of us didn't do our homework, he said if we couldn't attend he'd have to talk to our parents” shared Zach Jones('10), expressing his concern over a common occurrence at HSAS.

*Common Sense* has decided it is worth taking a look at the rights a student has and how the whole penalty system works at American Studies.

One might wonder if in a school such as ours if there is a set understanding of the disciplinary code between those who enforce it and those who are affected by it.

In a small community where we all know and recognize the faces in our single hallway, and the teachers are not so unfamiliar can there be a middle ground? An official document we can refer to or check when in doubt about the things students can and can't do?

Furthermore, if a student gets in trouble, can they know what the proper punishment is going to be before being punished?

“What I am aware of, is this



Picture staged by J. Garcia('10)

Will our school ever have a real students' bill of rights?

huge book of school law, but you guys wouldn't necessarily be interested in that, nor do we look at that very often either” says Mr. Olivieri.

This huge book of school law is probably not specific to HSAS, and the closest we have to an actual document is that lengthy DOE blue book some students use as a food tray at lunch or as ammunition for paper ball warfare seen in the lower classes.

While this disciplinary book satisfies the justification for disciplinary rulings, that's all it does. It establishes no indication on those things we can do while in school nor does it list our protections from the school's authority.

Now that such document is in question, and Mr. Olivieri goes on to say: “I'm sure it doesn't exist for our school, there might be a generic one for the DOE but I have to look it up myself, (Continued on page 3)

## NO BAKE ZONE

*By Danelia Dillion('10)*

One dreadful day in October the school received a memo from the Department of Education banning all bake sales in public schools between the hours of 7:00AM and 6:00PM, claiming they were doing this to make schools healthier for students.

*Common Sense* investigates.

Ariana Solís('10) said, “It sucks! They suck! You have to be a really bitter person to ban kids from getting their sugar fix, and they're going to be fat whether you sell them the sweets or not; so why ban it?”

Our president, Karnisa Aya('10) also disagrees completely with the Department of Education. She thinks “it is a very stupid decision, and it makes no sense to ban bake sales. She added that “the only ones it is hurting is the schools,” because the schools are the ones losing money.

Casey Simring('11) was also sad. She believes the ban “is awful. I loved the bake sales and the baked goods were sooooo much better than the cafeteria food.”

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## HSAS, WHERE THE BOYS ARE

*By Zachary Jones('10)*

When walking through the halls in our school, there seems to this reporter to be more boys than girls. *Common Sense* investigates whether students even notice a difference in numbers.

This reporter had a little sit down with Mr. Weiss to find out the actual percentage of boys to girls on our school. It turns out that there are more boys.

Mr. Weiss seemed surprised when the numbers came up on the screen of his desktop confirming that the makeup was 56% boys and 44% girls, “Oh, I thought the numbers were closer!” he exclaimed. “Good luck getting a girlfriend with those odds,” our principal added jokingly.

*Common Sense* went on to find out if students actually notice the difference

A recent *Common Sense* survey reveals that most students feel that more boys attend our school. Only one student, Fabian Francis('11), felt that there were more girls in the school.

When asked what he felt the percentage was Fabian commented “I think it's like 60 (Continued on page 2)

## INTER-CLASS COLLEGIALITY

*By Devin Mullin('10)*

The difference between a senior and a freshman is probably the biggest difference in life stages that you'll encounter in a traditional school setting. Freshmen are just arriving to high school, while seniors are preparing for college and an entirely new lifestyle.

*Common Sense* examines whether this fact means that these students can't get to know each other.

According to Mr. Weiss “it makes sense for a new student to first make friends with other new students.”

Everyone else already knows each other, so it's hard to just thrust yourself into an already existing group of friends. Therefore, according to our principal, freshmen will be fairly insulated at first.

The problem is that this reporter has discovered that many seniors can't even tell a freshman from a sophomore. When asked if he could tell the difference Jemaal Alexander('10) responded, “I know the taller ones are probably sophomores.”

This trend actually goes further than seniors being oblivious, because a great deal of juniors also don't know the freshmen. A

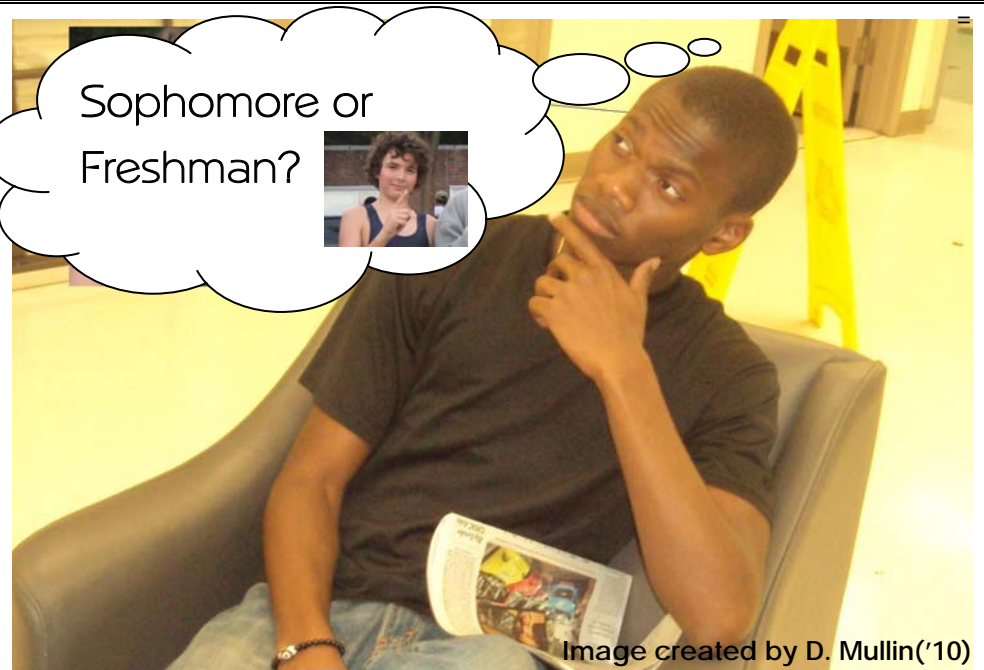


Image created by D. Mullin('10)

J. Alexander('10) only knows the youthful looking N. Sider's('12) grade level because they compete on the same athletic team.

*Common Sense* survey discovered that the majority of students only know people not in their grade due to circumstance.

Most people knew the class directly above or below them, because, as David Kim('12) said, “we interacted during lunch.”

Those who knew people more than a grade apart from them usually knew them through club or sport participation.

People don't seem to have any drive to know underclassmen. When asked if he felt any drive to meet the lowerclassmen, Jemaal Alexander ('10) responded “not at

all; they mean nothing to me.”

There has been some effort by the student government who recently revived the ‘adopt-a-freshmen’ program.

This program assigns every senior a freshman whom they're supposed to talk to and introduce to the school. This program has had some success, but many seniors don't actually want to deal with their freshmen.

According to Mr. Weiss, when compared to other high schools, this problem is actually “less prevalent in this high school, and seniors

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