

Embracing All Cultures With Celebration

by Matt Yaggy



In the midst of Black History month, our school held an assembly accompanied by an essay contest. This follows our schools' celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Eid.

Last year, our school had a Chinese New Year's Potluck dinner. Well, all the ethnicities seem to be covered, right?

That's not entirely true. A major group of ethnicities has been left out. This group includes people with ancestry in the U.K., Europe, and Americans with the aforementioned ancestry.

While this population may not be a minority in the outside world, they are in our school. In case you haven't noticed, there are far more Asians, African-Americans, and people of Hispanic heritage than there are "white" people. Not to sound racist or anything, but what about the "white people"? Of course, not everyone with ancestry from the U.K. and Europe

considers themselves "white." However, I am getting away from the point.

Celebrating heritage of these cultures would be almost as simple as having an Eid dinner. When St. Patrick's Day rolls around, wear green, and join the crowd or serve soda-bread in the lunch room, and maybe teach a little about the history of the holiday. Hey, you could even get some performers to dance and sing to Celtic or Irish songs. Celebrate Russian heritage by reading excerpts from Tolstoy and Chekov. Serve Pelmeni in the lunchroom and finish off the day with Bronenose's film, *Potyomkin*.

I know, I know, you can't please everyone. Here's a solution, if it gets to be too complicated to celebrate everyone's individual heritage, the school could have an all encompassing celebration with a huge feast containing foods from all different heritages. There is nothing wrong with celebrating one's heritage in a school setting. Just don't leave out anyone's heritage because that might as well be racism.

Manhattan Hunter Students Hit the Slopes!



Jina Lee, junior, and John Lee, sophomore, practice their snowboarding and skiing skills at Hunter Mountain with the Ski and Snowboard Club. Jealous? See Ms. Irom — The club is planning another trip in March!



Hunter Gets a Break?

Gov't Proposes Lunch Outside; Jeans on Fri.

By Eddie S. Diaz

The student government of Manhattan Hunter Science High School is discussing implementing outdoor lunch privileges on the terrace of the Martin Luther King Building on Mondays and Wednesdays and a choice of pants on Fridays.

When asked why the students were getting these privileges, Kiki Suhadi, president of the student government said, "This is a give and take. The [uniform code] in this school requires us to wear uniforms everyday but we deserve to get something in the end and the same goes for outdoor lunch."

Word of school changes first spread in a newsletter written by Student Government Secretary Anna Pae that was distributed in advisories. It discussed upcoming events in February along with news of an opportunity to spend lunchtime on the terrace. Students may not bring food to the terrace, must be in uniform, and must not have behavioral problems.

The Student Government held a lunch meeting on February 7th to confer about how these changes were going to be implemented.

Travis Bristol, faculty advisor to the Student Government, outlined the plan. He explained that 95% of the student body would need to wear uniforms during a given week. If statistics show that the students achieved this, then a choice of pants on Fridays would go into effect.

Kayln Acton, 9th grade representative and the main force behind outdoor lunches said, "Students told me they wanted recess. We're cooped up in this building all day long; We want to socialize in an open space." Acton spoke with the principals of the schools throughout the building and she said they are, "supportive of the idea and plan to participate as well."

MSHHS students seemed pleased with the plans.

Michael Ginzburg, Junior, said, "It's a great idea to have recess. It will be something to look forward to, especially in the spring. It will give us a breath of fresh air."

Junior Arafath Hussein said that the new uniform policy would, "motivate [students] to wear the uniform the rest of the week."



Foul Play? See page 5 for full coverage of the Senior Vs. Teacher Basketball Game

Locker Room Lockout

by Maya Chuck

Two weeks before the 2006 Christmas vacation, the gym locker-rooms were shut down. Some students were informed and others weren't, which caused the spread of some alarming rumors throughout the student body at MSHHS. But in the midst of it all, the situation was handled with the cooperation of a group of MLK principals. The principal of MSHHS, Ms Kreisman, explained in an interview that the true cause of the locker room shut down was the lack of supervision in the locker rooms.

Ms. Kreisman and Physical Education Teacher, Mr. O'Connor, offered an explanation to the cause of the shut down that was less dramatic than the rumors. Ms. Kreisman said, "After the rumor of a 'shaking down' plus wanting to help the physical education teachers...it struck me as a conservative, protective thing, to not allow the kids to change alone in the locker rooms."

The "shaking-down" rumor in the locker rooms was not a MSHHS incident.

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SCHOOL AND CAMPUS NEWS

MHSHS Celebrates Black History Month

by Radenko Sarac

On Friday, February 9th, Manhattan Hunter Science High School had an assembly which honored Black History month. Numerous groups performed.

At the start of the assembly, all students stood up for the Black National Anthem. One of the seniors Samantha Akwei performed an original spoken word poem where she mentioned people who were, “hungry for our freedom.”

Ms. Persaud’s advisory prepared posters showing African American people who made great contributions to today’s society. They were ordinary people who found ways to make people’s lives much easier. Without their contributions, we wouldn’t have such amazing innovations in our society.

A rap artist performed and talked about the controversial use of the N-word. He proposed to the audience a question he had after conversing with his friend. He said, “Who do you effect when you say something like that?”

Additional performances included a group called the Ballet International Africans that performed West African cultural dance through by and playing drums. The performers even allowed some students to feel the rhythm by allowing them to beat the drums.



Ms. Persaud’s 9th graders perform a play about important inventions by African Americans.

Spotlight on Culture

The Garifuna: Who are they?

By Nixon Arauz

The Garifuna people left St. Vincent in the 1630s and were shipwrecked near an island called Roatan off the northern coast of Honduras. Out of the original 5,000, only 2,000 of them survived the trip to Roatan. They later migrated to the northern coasts of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and in Nicaragua— where they remain today.

The Garifuna are descendants of Arawak Amerindians and African people. Their language emerged from Arawak and African languages. The Garifuna population is estimated to be around 200,000 worldwide.

I am a Garifuna who was born in Santa Rosa de Aguan, Honduras. I came to the United States when I was twelve years old. I speak three languages and understand Portuguese.

My people are known by their famous dance called Punta. Punta is music and dance performed by a band or a solo singer. Punta Rock is hardcore Punta. It

sounds like Rock. We dance it during Garifuna festivals. We also dance it when someone dies, which is like a tribute to them and a way of saying goodbye.

Punta is not the only type of music played by the Garifuna. We have Charikawi, Paranda, Fedu, Maripoll, Dugu, Chugu. Charikawi is a traditional mimed dance used by hunters. Paranda is music for older people and its basically is the genre that tells a story. Fedu is special music because its only played on holidays like Christmas and during community fairs. Fedu is also used to tell someone’s story. Dugu and Chugu are similar because they are used in rituals to bring a loved one’s spirit back.

The Hudutu is my favorite Garifuna dish. This main dish is made of plantain accompanied by a fish or crab soup. Another favorite is the Cassava bread which is made of yucca.

It feels good to be a Garifuna because its great to be unique and different than everybody else. Want to know more? See me!!

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

You Can Be In Uniform—And In Style

By Leiry Santos & Maya Evans

Many students in Manhattan Hunter High School aren’t aware that they can be in style and still wear their uniform. Fashion is very important. Being in a school where uniform is required, however, can



make it very difficult to express who you are. Here’s how you can show off your sense of style and still wear your uniform.

Accessorizing is a fine way to start off your uniform transformation. You can wear green hoop earrings with a nice green zip-up sweater. Or, you can buy a green chic bag to

go with your earrings. Colors like lime green; brown burgundy and earth tone colors are in style this year. “No bright colors in winter!” says Imari Camargo-Sealy, junior.



When you are shopping, look for anything but black and white accessories.

This improves the variety of colors that are used. “It is hard to show individuality when everyone looks the same,” says Cassian Thompson, senior. This is exactly why it is important to accessorize and stand out. Cassian also said, “If you have on your

white and black that’s all that matters.”

Teachers interviewed for this article echoed that statement, saying that accessorizing does not change

anything as long as you have your black and white on.

History Teacher Ms. Moore expressed gratitude for the uniform’s effect on students’ behavior. “I am glad kids have to wear the uniform because it enforces some kind of discipline and rules. When students are out of uniform, they can be more devious.”

“Just because our school requires uniforms doesn’t mean we cannot express our taste or style.”

Devious or not, there are certain fashion faux pas that should be addressed. First and foremost you should feel comfortable in school. Wearing high heels isn’t necessary: We are here to learn not to over-dress. “You are not in church nor are you a teacher,” said Cassian. If you are going to wear heels for school, they should be comfortable and easy to walk in.

Accessorizing the school uniform can be fun. It can also boost your creativity. Just because our school requires uniforms doesn’t mean we cannot express our taste or style. This winter, try to switch it up a bit and express your own style: Even a stylish scarf can change the way you look. Try it!



Hunter students wear their black pants and white collar with style.

Counter Clockwise: Junior Kiki Suhadi, Sophomore Tamika Roberts, Junior Sharrie Huang.

SCHOOL AND CAMPUS NEWS

Locker room continued.

One sophomore student, Sumaiya Tasneem, commented on a rumor she heard about the cause of the locker-room shut down, "I heard that peoples lockers were broken into."

Another student spoke of another rumor. "I heard that people in the other school got into fights or something," said Diana Gualpa, a sophomore at MHSHS.

The combination of MLK's metal detectors and five other schools, with rumors of violence in unsupervised locker rooms, may have fueled a concern for some students. But after about two weeks of not having to worry about changing into gym clothes, or being marked unprepared, students may have actually enjoyed this temporary break from the routine. Even though some students may have felt frightened about the possibility of a harmful situation in the campus, others were quite content and felt safe in their surroundings.

Ms. Kreisman explained that the reason why students from each school weren't allowed into the locker rooms was because of the lack of personnel to supervise the students in the locker rooms. She explained that the reason why, after the situation was under control, students were allowed back into the locker rooms without a school-aide to supervise the students. "The principal of another other school refused to release the

school-aide, I guess that it was the middle of the year...it's hard to let go of someone doing a certain job, without knowing that you have someone to replace them."

Mr. O'Connor explained that the students' break from the locker rooms was more of a financial issue than a safety issue, "All the principals have to chip in because campus supervision (for locker rooms) costs money. You have to hire them." He also stated how the decision to close the locker rooms was made, "A plan was put forward by the principal. The principal decided to close the locker rooms because of no supervision." This reassured the safety of the locker rooms once again.

Now students can be assured that the new school aides will provide the proper protection and assistance needed in the locker rooms.

Hot News:

49 Hunter sophomores out of 56 got accepted to the NYC Science Academy Expo, which is considered the gateway to all science competitions in the City. That's amazing considering that there were 23, 000 applications and our classmates were of the 200 accepted! Good job Hunter!!!

The Voices of Hunter by Vicky Lau What does friendship mean to you?



Alberto Jimenez
Junior, 17
Manhattan, NY

"The meaning of friendship is spending time with someone you like to talk to...having trust in a person..."



Keyla Burbano
Sophomore, 17
Bronx, NY

"...friends that stick together through the good times and bad times...they understand each other...able to fight but [reconcile]...friends that stick together forever!"



Dan Yi Zhao
Sophomore, 16
Bronx, NY

"It's like you're not alone. You have someone to talk with...someone's there to help you."

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Step Aside Troy, 300 Is Here

By Muhamed Islam

How many Spartans does it take to make millions in the box office? Frank Miller would say about 300. The eagerly awaited *300* is based on Frank Miller's novel about 300 Spartans defending their city against the army of the Persian Empire.

Set in 480 B.C., the story revolves around basic Spartan life: men in military and women in other things. The plot centers on King Leonidas (played by Gerard Butler) who leads a small unit of 300 Spartan soldiers into a battle against a couple of hundred thousand Persian soldiers. Throughout the movie there is the constant shadow of a looming battle of immense proportions full of gut-popping, mind-blowing action and what promises to be some of the best special effects of 2007. If you liked *Troy*, you are going to love this movie.

Miller's *300* will be in theaters and in IMAX on March 9th. Don't even think about buying some \$5 DVD on the street: *300* demands the big screen.

Bored out of your mind and can't decide what to watch?

Here is a little help from the *Hunter Voice Journalism Staff*:

Diana – *Finding Nemo* (DVD)

Vicky – *Napolean Dynamite* (DVD)

Jodi and Amanda – *Apocalypto* (DVD)

Mason – *Pirate of the Caribbean* (DVD)

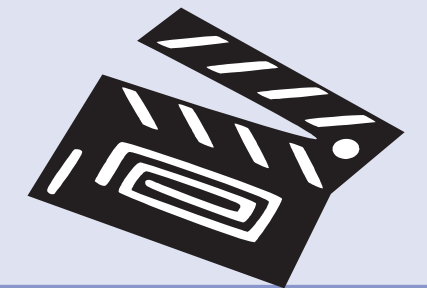
Radenko – *Ghost Rider* (In Theaters)

Eddie – *Bridge to Terabithia* (In Theaters)

Muhamed – *Ghost Rider* (In Theaters)

Badrul – *Stranger Than Fiction* (DVD)

Amanda – *Apocalypto* (DVD)



In the Heights Treats Theater-Goers to a Unique Perspective

By Amanda Hiciano

With an off-Broadway musical finally putting Latinos on the theater map, *In The Heights* was bound to be exceptional. Unlike anything you've seen on-Broadway or off, *In The Heights* gives you the story of a variety of characters living in Washington Heights and follows the various struggles they go through.

The play takes place on the hottest day of the summer, right before Independence Day. Usnavi, played by Lin-Manuel Miranda (who is also the writer of the musical) portrays one of the most realistic bodega owners you will ever see on a stage. The women at the Unisex Salon gossip, and give a true-to-life feeling of being in a Salon in Washington Heights.

With amazing rhymes, songs, and instruments, this musical blows the crowd away. The character Vanessa, played by Karen Olivo, has one of the best voices you will ever hear. Her portrayal of the girl next door trying to better her life is beautiful and emotional.

One member of the audience at a recent production said, "I thought it really showed a picture of what Washington Heights is really about, and not its Dominicans only stereotype. It showed Latin heritage and how Washington Heights is not just one culture: It's many different people coming together to make one neighborhood."

As the off-Broadway musical awaits the critics' responses, they should expect nothing less than amazing reviews. This critic believes *In The Heights* deserves all of the greatness for being completely different from anything else on or off-Broadway and for opening the eyes of many New Yorkers.



Did You Know? What is Darfur and Why Should We Care?

By Jessenia Garcia

Thousands of Africans have been struggling for four years now as they're being violently killed and thrown out of their homes by the Arab militia in Darfur, a place in east Africa, in the country of Sudan.

For some time now we have tried to prevent genocide from happening again, we cringe at the word when we hear it, but to the best of our intentions it's happening all over again.

According to the Genocide Tribune, in an article written by Eric Reeves, a professor at Smith College and an expert in Darfur, this horrific incident began unnoticed because of the war in Iraq in 2003 and it killed between 350,000 to 400,000 people in 29 months. The Arab militia known as the

"Janjaweed" is invading African villages and completely destroying them, killing everybody including women, children and men.

According to Reeves competition between Arab and African tribal groups over a small portion of land and water in the Sahel region began the conflict. Because of Khartoum's failure to respond to their needs the conflict between tribal groups, it got worse. Four hundred people die each day by means

of violence, malnutrition and disease and if we don't do anything to help these people then who would?

"The world has the capability to do something," said Benfine a leader of STAND [Students Taking Action Now Darfur]. The African Union in charge of keeping the piece in Darfur started to send a small number of monitors to stop the use of guns in Darfur. According to Reeves, The African Union hasn't been able to save the civilian population due to the need of troops and equipment and the ones paying the price for this are the humanitarian workers and the civilian

Want to help? See Junior Camille San Pablo who is raising money for the International Rescue Committee's efforts to help the refugees.

Who is Looking at Your MySpace?

By Karen Encalada & Leanette Anzules

MySpace is a popular social network on the internet where people share their personal life for everyone to see, but some don't realize that may include college administrators.

Everyday after school, students are on the MySpace sharing details with their friends and talking about what happened that day. Many people find Myspace very addicting. Senior Mark Chmielowiec said, "I check my Myspace like every hour." Students spend hours updating their profiles, messaging their friends, uploading new pictures and roaming through other students' pages.

Marcos Luna, sophomore, agreed with the addiction to Myspace. "Yeah it's addicting because all of your friends are part of it and its fun to be updated," he said.

Although this site helps students keep in touch with their friends and allows them to meet new people, students may not realize that their new pastime could affect their acceptance into college.

While the profiles of underage kids are set to be private; one thing students may have not known is that adults — from your school, law enforcement and even colleges — may be looking at your page.

When it comes to applying to colleges students work very hard on applications, recommendations, and their school work. But students should also be aware that ac-

ceptance may also be based on your profile, according to a article in *The New York Times*. Some colleges have started using profile information to get an impression of the life students live outside of school.

Sophomore student Matthew Salha stated, "I don't care if colleges view my page." Another student who wished to remain anonymous said, "I don't think its fair that they pry into our social life." Students who have been interviewed for college said they would change their profile if colleges are basing their acceptance on MySpace.

"The process is legal because you place your profile on the internet for all to see but the colleges don't realize that it is wrong and useless," said Alberto Jimenez, junior. "Colleges don't realize that they are hurting themselves by not accepting certain students who are capable of meeting their criteria."

Senior Edward De Leon adds that, "there is no way to evaluate a person's intelligence from a personal profile." Some students have already been denied admission because of their blogs on MySpace, according to National Association for college admission counseling.

Senior Victor Leger suggests, "students should be notified about this process because I didn't know this...unless everyone agrees on this; colleges should leave out our personal lives."

Seniors Bring Their A-Game

By Diana Bailon

On February 2, 2007, MHSHS had its first student vs. faculty basketball game. There was a lot of commotion over who would win. Before the game many things were said by members of both teams. Faculty member Mr. O'Conner had a message to the students, "They should stay out the way because an object in motion stays in motion."

Students had a lot of confidence before the game started. "Bring the defibrillator" said senior Victor Leger. "Hope you guys took your heart medication" said senior Justin Colon to the teachers.

The game began with Senior Mark Chmielowiec making a three point shot giving the students the lead. In the break of the moment after Mr. Rosser tied the game, the score changed tremendously.

By the end of the first quarter the score was 4-16, with the students in the lead.

The second quarter ended in 7-12, with the faculty left behind. The third quarter was intense. Students were roaring and the teachers were panting since the difference in score was huge.

With five minutes left in the game there was a fire drill. Everything got quiet since no one knew whether to stay or exit the building, but Ms. Kreisman cleared everything up by telling everybody to continue.

At the end of the third quarter the score was 20-37 with students in the lead.

When the final quarter came, you can say it got crazy on the court. The teachers were doing anything to get the basketball and score, yet the students had the advantage. They



were at the top of the game. Mr. Drouin was sliding in front of the students holding the basketball. Luckily no one was hurt since he missed his targets. At the end, it was 40-49. You have to give it to the teachers they made a good comeback but the students had won! Teachers could not believe it.

"We let them win because we thought it would be good for their moral," said Mr. Bristol unconvincingly. But the students had a totally different perspective. "I knew we were going to win...The teachers aren't on our level yet," said Victor Leger.

Money raised from the game is going towards helping out in Darfur (see page 4 for more information).



A winning pose for the seniors

Congratulations Seniors!



Teachers enjoying a break after a grueling game