

THE VOICE OF MANHATTAN HUNTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

News, Opinions, Entertainment, Fashion and More from MSHHS

9th Grader Campaigns to End Lead Poisoning in Schools

By Lisa Chen

On April 26, 2007, a 9th grade student at Manhattan Hunter Science High School, Kaylyn Acton Chadee, attended a news conference in Albany and downtown City Hall to talk about the effects of lead poisoning in public schools. Recently, she had been researching lead poisoning as a quality of life issue in today's society.

"I was a little nervous, but I felt relaxed," said Kaylyn.

She has been studying about lead poisoning and toxic chemicals since 2002. She explained, "Personally, I went to P.S.65 and I got affected with asthma. For many years, the city did cleaning tests, but they faked it," said Kaylyn. As she explains, the city was suppose to do cleaning tests from the pipes underground at that public school.

She also described how important this project is to her. "The reason why lead poisoning is an issue that should be addressed is because children's health [is] being affected, as well as teachers'," said Kaylyn.

During her field research, Kaylyn handed out surveys and got partitions signed. She is trying get a bill passed to the Bill Conference without voting because this problem has been ignored for many years, she said. The Bill Conference is basically a news conference discussing the passing of a new bill. Kaylyn predicts that, "[...] the bill has to be passed and set straight."

She also was influenced to expand and continue this issue from a person who is an environmental lawyer. This lawyer, "...has worked on numerous contaminated schools and he has connections with other environmental lawyers and council members. He also helped me with my awareness campaign," said Kaylyn. She set up an awareness campaign called, "The Awareness Campaign of P.S.65" to notify parents about the situation of lead poisoning.

Kaylyn knew that taking this issue would be a responsibility. "The hardships will get in the way because children need to go to safe havens," said Kaylyn.

Taking matters into your own hands might seem be difficult, but Kaylyn is determined. "This is just what I wanted to do to make a difference in the world," she said.

Kaylyn says she is continuing to do this project until she successfully lets other public schools knows the effect of lead poisoning.



9th graders William McCain and Nsima Udom search for elusive peanut butter and jelly sandwiches during Lunch and Learn. See story on page 3

Little Shop of Horrors Performed at MSHHS

By Ediberto S. Diaz

Hunter Science High School has assembled students from this school and others in the MLK building to perform a musical comedy in mid- May by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman titled Little Shop of Horrors.

During a high-spirited and entertaining rehearsal, Mr. Castillo, acting teacher and director of Hunter Science, enthusiastically explained that he organized this play because "this is another kind of world we create and [a play] a lot of students can relate to and feel."

The musical is about a poor and nerdy florist shop worker living in Downtown Skid Row who raises an unknown plant in order to avoid going out of business. The plant becomes famous and soon cloned to be sold to the public. However, the plant's hearty appetite for human flesh and blood leads to its eventual world denomi-nation.

The screenplay was composed by Menken in the style of 1960's rock and roll. doo-wop and early Mo-town. It includes thrilling songs like "Skid Row (Downtown)," "Suddenly Seymour," and others that the actors described as "a lot of fun."

Mr. Castillo is especially fond of the musical's doo-wop nature since it is rooted in folklore song with a style of vocal-based rhythm and blues he said gave it

SCHOOL AND CAMPUS NEWS

MHSHS Little Shop of Horrors cont.

“Dream-Girl like” qualities.

Main actors include: Omar and Joseph (Seymour) and Kiki and Camille (Audrey),

Some of the actors gave their reason as to why they chose to be in this musical.

“Getting more experience as an actress and an individual,” said junior Angeli De Leon during an interview at a rehearsal where she would fidget anxiously in her seat awaiting her turn to sing and dance.

“I wanted to be in a... [play] but I never could because of my sports,” explained junior Jonathan Carr-Malatzky who also said that being part of this production was “pressure-building” and filled with “anticipation.”

The play will be due out in May on the 16th, 18th and 19th. Tickets will sell for \$5 for student and \$7 for adults except for the “special Gala night” on May

19th where tickets are expected to cost more. Unlike previous Hunter Science plays, this theatrical production will feature “Dual Casting,” having each character played by two different actors. This new method will be used throughout the three nights of performance.

Staff reporter Diana Bailon also contributed to this report.



Students rehearse during lunchtime for their upcoming performance of Little Shop of Horrors.

MHSHS Shows Off Talents

By Jennifer Pineda

On March 14, 2007 MHSHS held its annual talent and fashion show with students displaying their dancing, modeling and singing skills. The audience sang along, clapped and cheered for the students on stage.

The fashion show was a big hit. Students modeled evening wear, wacky tacky, and casual wear. During the “express yourself modeling” everybody dressed colorfully. Dean Balgobin surprised everyone when he came out dressed as a banana.

“Dean was by far priceless,” said Ms. Riordan. “Modeling was my favorite,” she added. “What’s not to like? Music and clothes.”

Sophomore Nairobi Cuevas said, “That was crazy. That was nice!”

Tatiana Scott, Jessena Garcia, and Janaan Martinez, sophomores, performed a dance. When the dance ended I asked the audience for their opinions. Kennedy Degadillo, a junior, said, “It was great!”

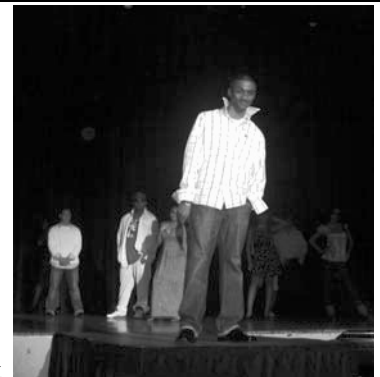
Brianna Meikle, sang a very powerful song named, “I’m changing.” Senior Samantha Akwei, recited her moving poem, “I’m afraid.” Sarah Haase and Hector Dominguez, two freshmen, played the trumpet and clarinet in addition

to singing a song from the Disney channel movie, *High School Musical*. When they were singing the refrain the audience sang along.

Eralis Ventura, a junior, sang both “Me and my Teddy” and, “The Cupcake Song.” I asked why she wanted to perform that song and she answered “because that is my favorite song since I was little.”

Paris Risbrook and Caitlin Hayes, seniors, performed a song together. There was another dance performed by Melissa Pegram, Paris Risbrook, Kelly Peacock, Shanda Lewis and Veronica Burroughs and it was a very wonderful dance as well. Veronica Burroughs also sang a song without background music since there was technical difficulty.

The whole show was a thumbs up!



Dean Balgobin models the latest fashion—this time without the banana.

SCHOOL AND CAMPUS NEWS

Students Unhappy over Lack of School Lunch Choices

by Maya Chuck

Ten students wait at the classroom door; other students charge the lunch cart. Students jump at the lunch bag. Elbows fly. Hands tear into the lunch bag! This isn't a lunch fight, this is a regular lunch period with students after the same prize: a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The fighting over the few pb&js have lead to concerns that there aren't enough lunch options for the students who stay upstairs for Lunch and Learn.

School lunch options follow a criteria based on nutrition, based on policies passed by the U.S Congress legislation, one of which is called the Wellness policy which has nutrition guidelines for foods in schools starting from 2006-07. An article published by The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity titled, "ReportCard on School snack food policies among United States' largest school districts in 2004-05: Room for Improvement" states that schools need to give more healthy options.

Guidelines suggest that lunch options should not be only supplied based on nutrition guidelines, but also to accommodate all students, students that are vegetarian, or don't eat certain foods for religious purposes. Peanut Butter& Jelly happens to be a nutritious alternative for students who may be vegetarian; but the options for students who do eat meat leave most of them running for the PB&J in a compe-

tion of survival of the fittest.

Many students choose to stay upstairs for lunch instead of going down stairs because of the convenience of extra help from teachers, or the ability to do homework in quiet classrooms.

"It's too loud and crowded downstairs" said 9th grader Kevin Walsh.

"I prefer to stay upstairs to eat lunch because I'm able to get my work done," said another 9th grader Stephanie Ferreyra.

Even though there are many positive aspects of staying upstairs, students are faced with the lack of the lunch choices and the amount of lunches available.

With most students preferring peanut butter and jelly (based on a Hunter Voice survey), a lack of those sandwiches produce conflict on a daily basis, prompting necessary changes in the way lunches are distributed. Now only some rooms receive bags of lunches containing two to five of the coveted sandwiches.

In a survey of 9th, 10th and 11th graders, students were asked what they thought should be provided upstairs for lunch. Many of them said that there should be more sandwiches options, fruits, and even the possibility of downstairs "hot" lunches.

This survey also asked whether students thought that more attention should be paid to what students wanted for upstairs lunch. All of them felt that it was important for the students who stay upstairs, to have more of a say in what lunches were to be provided.

The Voices of Hunter

by Vicky Lau

What does it mean to be American?



Piotr Teczeynski
"It's just like being Canadian...only we have stars and stripes."



Yang Liu
"To have American citizenship...to eat a hamburger"

FEATURE SECTION: IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

Did You Know?: Illegal Immigration and The Bush Administration

By Dannie Oral

One of the most controversial issues discussed today in the Bush administration is illegal immigration. With the focal point on the Texas-Mexico border, the government has recently made attempts to secure this border in particular. These security measures have been taken very seriously to secure the idea of so-called "American nationalism."

Usually due to difficult economic situations at home, immigrants move to America in search for opportunity of a better life.

"I come from a poor family. There are no good opportunities for us in Mexico. And here (in the United States), we can get work, we can support ourselves and even help our family out a little bit (in Mexico)," said Enrique, an illegal immigrant from Mexico. The biggest advantage is the value of the dollar outside the U.S., even a meager wage here translates into a small fortune back in Mexico or anywhere in Latin America from where these immigrants come from. Ever since the 1920's, however, significant restrictions on immigration make it almost impossible for many to migrate. In desperation, some have resorted to coming to the

U.S. illegally, able to avoid immigration officers.

Bush has made the policies easier for immigrants to return to their home countries, provided with amnesty, thus justifying the stricter bans on illegal immigration. "I oppose amnesty -- placing undocumented workers on the automatic path to citizenship," he declared in a speech for reform made in Washington. "Granting amnesty encourages the violation of our laws and perpetuates illegal immigration. America's a welcoming country. But citizenship must not be the automatic reward for violating the laws of America."

He has also made aims to raise the 140,000 green cards distributed to people every year that want to migrate to America. Making the pathway to citizenship will release some pressure the government faces with border-issues. citizenship.

Illegal immigrants already in the United States can only apply for the temporary worker program if they already have a job. The special status would last for three years and could be renewed once, for a total stay of six years. If temporary workers failed to stay employed or broke the law, they would be sent home, Bush said.

Immigration in America: Who Is The True American?

By Orin Pramanik



America, the melting pot, is known for its convergence of cultures that create a balance between those who migrated to America and those that are true Americans. But who is the true American?

The commonly held belief seems to be that there is a national culture and people who migrate to America must forget their own culture and take in this culture of America. This shows that the melting pot does not have space for just anyone. While most parents and elders try to preserve their culture when they come to America, teenagers and the new generations become so influenced by American society, that they refuse to reveal their own traditions.

With improvements and advancements in society, the American culture is becoming more modern everyday. Since American culture is changing so rapidly, American values are also changing. People are separating from the ethical rules and traditional values in search for a need for materialist wealth.

Some Americans feel that the only way to keep America the way it is, is for immigrants to become Americanized. When coming to America, one starts to change their clothing, their food, and schedules. Some people are embarrassed by the accent they have and try very hard to talk

proper" English. But the rapid changes immigrants face when they come to America are not always easy. People have to deal with issues such as marriage. Unlike love marriages that are so popular in America, many other countries are accustomed to participating in arranged marriages. Thus, the new generation of immigrants are against the idea of marrying someone without knowing them, causing clashes within some families. This problem has spread into popular culture. Movies like *The Namesake* and *Bend it like Beckham* are examples of movies in which characters are becoming too "American" and it is causing tension in the family.

Immigrants should try to be modern, yet at the same time hold on to their culture. This is important, because otherwise people lose their identity and will forget the accomplishments their ancestors made. The American dream is supposed to be about originality and accomplishing your goals, not imitation. And therefore, you must be true to yourself instead of trying to blend in with your surroundings.

Remembering your traditions doesn't mean you can't be modern. While dressing modern, for example, you could still wear your hijab. Or even though English is now your first language, you can still learn your parent's or grandparent's languages. Therefore, you will be a true American: someone who embraces their individuality.

SCHOOL AND CAMPUS NEWS

Girl's Soccer Team Begins First Season

By *Leanette Anzules*

Though Martin Luther King has a championship Boys soccer team, this spring is the first time MLK has had a female soccer. March 1st 2007 was the first day of tryouts for the females aspiring to join the first year of the MLK team. Tryouts were held that day by Martin Jacobson who is also the coach for the boys soccer team, whom have already won 9 championships. Thirty-five girls tried out and, because of the no-cut policy for the first year, every girl from each of the 7 schools in the Martin Luther King campus are now part of the Girls Soccer Team.

The girls soccer team comes after it had been requested for three years in a row by the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL). It is often said that New York City public schools do not provide girls the same athletic opportunities that boys get. Sensing this inequality, Martin Jacobson took substantial measures and threatened the association with a lawsuit.

"Things like this take long but it took too long so afterwards, it was instantly approved under Title IX," Jacobson said, referring to an amendment enacted in 1972 stating equal opportunities in any educational program.

As the team learns the ins and outs of soccer, the boys soccer team are now collaborating with the girls to train

them. Individually they go around and assists the girls, telling them in which areas they need help. Jacobson said, "The boys do not tease the girls of course because they understand that these ladies are not familiar with the sport."



All the team members agree that each one of them needs improvements. The coach suggests, "Touching the ball is always helpful and they just have to play as often as possible..." He clearly states that he is not concerned with the teams losses or wins its just important for them to first "...learn the rules of the game."

Manhattan Hunter Science in Photos



Caroline Mejia dresses up for the fourth annual 9th grade Indian Wedding



Jodi Duhaney and Ajani Burgess pose at the Junior Prom on May 11th

High Flying Cops in Little Olde England

by Matt Yaggy

Not much needs to be said about *Hot Fuzz* besides that it is an amazing piece of cinema. It holds a perfect balance between comedy, action, and ridiculousness. Ordinarily, not a small feat, but considering *Hot Fuzz* is coming from the creators of *Shaun of the Dead*, it is to be expected. Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright have once again created a fantastic homage to a genre full of life.

This movie shares many similarities with Pegg's and Wright's earlier feature, *Shaun of the Dead*. As well as having the same two stars (Pegg and Nick Frost), it is cut in the same way, with very quick and snappy edits. This style of editing keeps the pace fast and still looks great. Both movies draw influence from their respective genres; make numerous references to pop culture, and to other movies in their genre. *Hot Fuzz* draws a lot of influence from the *Dirty Harry* movies, *Bad Boys*, *Elektra*, *Glide in Blue*, and the *Die Hard* movies.

Hot Fuzz tells the story of a Hot Shot cop named Nicholas Angel (Simon Pegg) who is forced to transfer from London to the sleepy little town of Sandford. Sandford is way out in the country and is statistically the safest village in England. Sandford is a seemingly innocent little town. However, everything is not as it seems. Angel soon discovers that Sandford is rife with crime and dastardly deeds.

Hot Fuzz can be divided into two main sections. The first part of the movie is characterized by little police jobs. For example, at one point, Angel is recruited by a member of the village to recapture a swan. While, the movie at this point does not have any action, it is still extremely hilarious, and certain key elements to the plot are

revealed to the viewer. However, the movie soon takes a dip into the extreme. Once Angel discovers the root of the crime in Sandford the movie shifts into action mode juiced up with a full tank of nitrous. At this point, the audience is indulged in an orgy of guns, explosions, car chases, and fist fights. Even during this thrill ride, the cast and director manage to keep the audience laughing.

The cast of *Hot Fuzz* is astounding. The bulk of the cast is composed of a great ensemble of British comedians, both young and old, who keep the audience laughing. The cast includes Timothy Dalton, Jim Broadbent, Bill Bailey, and Bill Nighy among others. The movie also has many cameos including Peter Jackson.

It is no surprise that *Hot Fuzz* has a moderate amount of violence. It is an action movie. However, at some points the gore can be a little much for some. Not wanting to ruin anything, but let's just say there are falling heavy objects in the movie and not very happy people on the receiving end. The movie has some great special effects using blood spatters and explosions. This is a must for any fan of Frost's, Wright's, and Pegg's previous work. It is also a must for any fan of action movies or any fan of comedy. However, it is not for the faint of heart. If you are still determined to see it, but don't want to experience the gore, go with a friend who has seen it already. He can cover your eyes for the worst parts (Although, some of them are very satisfying).

Hot Fuzz is rated "R" for language, mind-blowing action, and bloody sequences. Not for the faint of heart, but extremely well made. Very funny and a great homage to a great genre.

The audience is indulged in an orgy of guns, explosions, car chases, and fist fights.

WHO: EVERYONE!

WHAT: BELLY DANCING, DRUMMING, FOOD, MUSIC, HENNA PAINTING, CHINESE TATTOO, AND MORE!!!

WHEN: FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2007 FROM 6PM TO 9PM

WHERE: NORTH CAFETERIA

HOW: BUY TICKETS FOR \$5 FROM THE HOPE CLUB MEMBERS

WHY: YOUR MONEY IS GOING TO AFRICA WHERE CHILDREN AND MOTHERS LACK GOOD MEDICAL SUPPORT. YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN HELP SAVE THE LIFE OF A INFANT!!!



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT: CREATIVE WRITING

You make me feel

A lot of time had passed by since you left me.
Who is the person you are smiling with now?

It was so precious that nothing else was worth.

Thankful for the time you allow me to be with you.
If I were to meet you again

I'd never regret it You're the reason why I'm getting weaker.

Yet because of you I'm stronger now.

-Jodi Liu

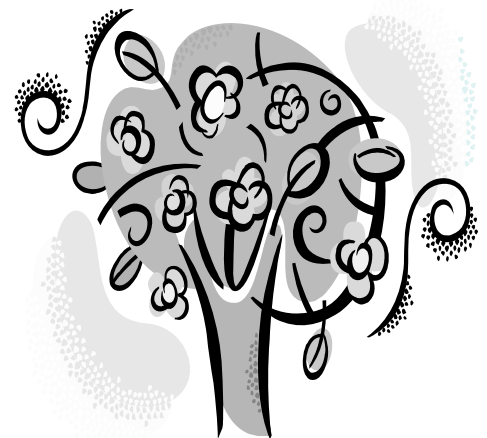


Untitled

Treading along a dirt ridden path
With myself only and a lamp
Looking down and never up
Treading with rustling leaves
Beneath
The large old oak tree,
And the quiet chilly wind
Against my warm cheeks
Never looking up, so afraid of no
moon.
No stars and no light to shine on my
little road,
Of dirt and rocks and shadows
which loom.
Seasons and come with little
change for me
Stuck on a path and there!

A forked road...or more...paths to
tread upon.

-Denise Diaz



Beautiful

I'm phat not fat
I'm valuable not horrible
I'm the future you seek
The hope that you can't see

Just because I'm black you see an
attacker
What if I was white?
Would you see me as your backer?
Yes African American not Austrian,
Asian, or Arabian

Who portrays what beauty looks like?
In the minds of the intelligent
It is nothing but a mite.

Why does everybody judge me cause of my physical appearance?
I been through a lot, so what if you are high maintenance
I would be better off if you gave me some reassurance.

I feel like this world just tries to put me down.
It is because of me or because of my background?

- Jessenia Garcia



OPINION AND EDITORIAL

My 10th Grade Year: Full of Ups and Downs

By Carolina Acon



My 10th grade year at Manhattan Hunter Science High School has been an unforgettable year because—more than any other year— I’ve learned invaluable lessons and met new people who now have special places in my heart.

I’ve learned how to: solve trig functions from Mr. Gershon; debate the pros and cons of global conflicts from Mr. Shed; write amazing short stories from Ms. Irom; speak better Spanish from Ms. Johnson; and name organic compounds from Mr. Jewram.

I also learned things about life and the long journey that I have ahead. In life, you can’t take things for granted and you should appreciate everything you have because in a split second it could be gone. A wise person once said, “Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow.” Life is unexpected with all of its ups, downs, twists and turns. There were times this year when I felt like I was on top of the world and there were other times when I absolutely hated everything about life. Although this year was challenging, I got through it

and I’ve realized everything was worth it. Learning to snowboard at Hunter Mountain with the Snowboarding Club, for example, was definitely very hard — I came back with a million bruises— but overall it was a great experience because I learned something new.

No matter what, I always had my three biggest supporters in school: Kathe, Nicole and Mauro. They were always there to help me whether it was about school, family, friends, or even hunger. Nicole and Mauro will no longer be with us at MSHSHS next school year. It’s an awful feeling to have such amazing people come into your life and then have to leave. I’m so glad I met them, but there’s one person in particular that I met this year who I will never forget: That’s

“In life, you can’t take things for granted and you should appreciate everything you have because in a split second it could be gone.”

my best friend Genesis Castillo. We have arguments that last for ten minutes, laughs that last for hours and smiles that last forever. I never knew what a real best friend was until I met her.

This year made a big impact on my life, and I am grateful for everything, even the tearful arguments, bruised knees and failed quizzes. Through it all, I became a better person and I’m glad.

To The Editor:

I am a sophomore at MSHSHS and I am referring to the editorial “Embracing All Cultures with Celebration” (March 2007) by Matt Yaggy.

I strongly agree with what Matt is saying about how there is more programs for the other ethnic groups represented in the school. A reason why that doesn’t happen is because the Caucasians represented in our school don’t ask for it. In order for you to have something, you have to ask for it and the people have to come together to the English and history teachers to discuss the situation.

My recommendation to the author & the Caucasians represented in our school is to come together talk about and plan something never seen in MSHSHS.

Sincerely,
Nixon R. Arauz

- Hunter Voice Staff**
- Managing Editors:**
- Diana Bailon
 - Ediberto S. Diaz
- Entertainment Editor:**
- Matt Yaggy
- Feature Writers:**
- Ediberto S. Diaz
 - Maya Chuck
 - Lisa Chen
 - Matt Yaggy
 - Jennifer Pineda
 - Jodi Liu
 - Jessenia Garcia
 - Leannette Anzules
 - Vicky Lau
 - Orin
 - Nixon Arauz