Drivers Ed Driven Off Track

By Carolina Navarro

If you take Driver’s Ed at your school, you will ultimately get your restricted license and be able to drive yourself around and not have to bother your parents or grandparents to take you wherever you want to go.

But there’s not all. When taking drivers education at school, you get a discount on your automobile insurance. Taking Driver’s Ed at school is also convenient because you don’t have to go anywhere else to learn to drive. You also get hands on driving experience and high school credits for taking the class.

Sounds too good to be true, right?

Right. As of the end of last school year, the Driver’s Ed course at Miami High is no longer a part of the school’s curriculum.

But before you start pointing your shame fingers at the administrators and trying to tear off their heads, you have to know it wasn’t their decision. It was the School Board’s. According to MHS principal Dr. Tosado, it was all because of money. Assistant principal Ms. Garcia explains that funds are short across this school district this year, and other programs were more important than Driver’s Ed.

Now to make a decision this big, there had to be a proper procedure to it. The people on the School Board didn’t just pick

The Freshmen Board is no more

By Karina Bermudez
Sports Editor

Freshmen… not many people give them the time of day. You may think that the administration would at least give them some privileges; however, this year the freshmen have lost out even more. They no longer have their own freshman board.

The reason has to do with budget cuts. According to activities director Ms. Quintero, “We can’t afford to have it. If we did, we’d have to eliminate the clubs that are actually active.”

Many upperclassmen felt that having a freshmen board was helpful when they were in 9th grade. Pedro Rodriguez, a junior, said, “Yes, because it helped me feel like we’re part of the school.”

Alex Martinez, a junior, said, “Of course, it’s basically how you get the information throughout the school year. Freshmen are usually lost. Now without it, freshmen are going to get even more lost.”
By Richard Bazails  
Editor-in-Chief

A library... a place to go escape the travesties of the real world and get lost in the many worlds books offers us. And books are important. Indeed, our principal Dr. Tosado says himself says, “Reading is very essential.” The question is, does Miami Senior High’s library offer students enough books that they can relate to or is our selection here seriously outdated?

Here at Miami Senior High School with its enrollment of 2,926 students, media specialist Ms. Estefani said we have about 26,000 titles, over thirty medals, and most valuable player. Once a champion, always a champion. Indeed, our principal Dr. Tosado said, “Here books are updated regularly,” said librarian Ms. Estefani. “Just last year we ordered about 1500 new books.”

The library at Coral Springs High School in Broward County, with a student enrollment of 2400 students, has 35,000 titles, 70 computers, and all books there are within ten years of publishing. “In fact,” says their media specialist Ms. Madruga, “we spent approximately $1,000 last year on getting new books.”

At Coral Park High School, with its 3408 students, media specialist Ms. Pazos said, “We have about 31,000 titles and 25 computers for student use as well as 100 extra computers in the labs. We underwent renovations two years ago and updated all our books. We had funding and we got about 1,200 – 1,500 new titles.”

Students here at MHS voice different opinions on whether the library is outdated or not. Vicky Morales, a sophomore, said, “They have good books, but they have no follow ups versions to those books, like all the Harry Potter books.”

Once a champion, always a champion.

By Maribel Lucero  
Copy Editor

With two trophies, a rookie of the year, a most valuable player, and over thirty medals, the Miami High debate class finished last school year with triumph. “They worked very well together and taught each other,” stated the proud debate teacher Mrs. Ransom. “I’m so proud of the way my students worked together to help each other. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

This year, the veteran debaters in the class are doing all they can to defend their title as the undefeated champions of the Urban Debate League (UDL). Unlike last year with one class of thirty-five students, this year there are two debate classes comprising a family of sixty debaters.

To become champions, last year’s debaters went to most of the monthly tournaments of the Urban Debate League from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays at the University of Miami.

Waking up early, doing research, making speeches and thinking ahead of others may seem like hard work, but once they started the debates, everything paid off. Christian Diaz, a second year debater, stated, “I wouldn’t say it is hard. I would say it was very rewarding.”

According to Alexander Reyes, a junior and second year debater, the tournaments were exciting. “Mind-opening,” is how Isabel Muñoz, a senior and second-year debater, describes the tournaments. Christian Diaz, a junior, considered the tournaments more fun than the actual class.

When asked about this year’s new debaters, Alexander Reyes responded, “They have a lot of potential. If they practice they’ll be perfect.”

Alexandra Viera, a first year debater, worries that she will get too nervous while Jonathan Mora’s biggest worry is messing up as he’s reading.

One worry the first year debaters do not have is being prepared for the tournaments. Joshua Cid, a sophomore and first year debater, has confidence that the second year debaters will act as good mentors. “I know the debate team is good so I have faith that I’ll be taught well,” he said.

As of October 1, 2008, the Urban Debate League sponsor University of Miami has not released its tournament dates for this school year.

“Here books are updated regularly,” said librarian Ms. Estefani. “Just last year we ordered about 1500 new books.”
Service or Grad Night?

The process to complete the project is: 1) Get a community service form from your social studies teacher; 2) Fill out the form with all the information about the project you'll be doing; 3) Get the project approved and signed by your social studies teacher; 4) Do the project; 5) Summarize your community service experience by answering some questions in essay form; 6) Make a copy of everything. For example, the form, the essay, the activity log, etc.; 7) Return your form, essay, and activity log to your social studies teacher.

The Miami High Times

STEPS TO COMPLETE THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

1) Get a community service form from your social studies teacher.
2) Fill out the form with all the information about the project you’ll be doing.
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6) Make a copy of everything. For example, the form, the essay, the activity log, etc.
7) Return your form, essay, and activity log to your social studies teacher.

By Richmar Flores

“OMGGGGGGGG!!” Time is running out! Did you do it already? “No! I haven’t done it yet.” When are you going to do it? “I’m not sure.”

These are some of the concerns of students, especially seniors, when it comes to community service.

According to Miami High’s community service coordinator Ms. Seale, community service is a project that helps the community. It must be non-profit, and students must dedicate their own time.

And in case you’re wondering how many hours students must do in order to complete their project, here’s the best part: A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF HOURS IS NOT REQUIRED!!!

Students must keep in mind, however, that it is a graduation requirement. According to activities director Ms. Quintero, besides not getting a diploma, seniors that don’t complete the project won’t be able to go prom or Grad Night.

By Margarita Meshini

Summertime for most teenagers means staying up late, going to the beach, and most importantly, feeling liberated from school and everything that comes with it. However, for many of this year’s Advanced Placement (AP) students, summer was a little different.

Through the collaboration of Miami Senior High’s AP teachers with the College Board and school administrators, the Advanced Placement summer camp was organized to give students a preview of what was to come in early August. Though the camp’s survival was tentative due to budget cuts, Dr. Tosado, Miami High’s principal, was able to find enough funding to make the summer camp possible.

“It was a great thing to look at so many schools in Miami Dade County that couldn’t even get summer school, yet here was Miami Senior High—with an AP Summer Camp,” said AP Coordinator Mr. Hueck.

The camp was divided into two sessions. The first went from July 2 to the 15th, featuring: AP English Language and Composition, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Statistics, and AP History. The second session of AP summer camp went from July 17th to July 30th. This time hosting: AP Calculus, AP Biology, AP Psychology, AP European, and AP Spanish Language.

Classes began 7:30 A.M. and ended at noon. If the student was taking only one AP class, he or she would stay in that class for the entire day. However, if students were taking two AP classes, then they would switch to their second class 10 A.M.

Students spent hours doing things such as the plant-lab in AP Environmental, going over tone and attitude in AP English, or refreshing their memory on the polyatomic ions in AP Chemistry.

So, was it all worth students’ prized weeks of summertime? Angel Lopez, a senior, said, “I’m glad I attended. My favorite class was AP Environmental with Ms. G because I actually understood the material she was teaching.”

Erick Jarquin, a junior, said, “When I first signed up, I had two AP classes: Chemistry and Calculus. But when I started attending the classes over the summer, I realized if I wanted to do really well without feeling overwhelmed and pressured, I would just take one class. So I dropped Calculus.”

Kelly Gomez, a senior, said, “I didn’t attend the summer camp, and as of now, I’m not having too much difficulty in my classes. But I definitely see the difference when the teacher asks a question or opens a discussion and most of the hands that go up are mainly from the people that attended the summer camp.”

Even teachers who taught in camp see the difference. Dr. Yoham, AP Biology teacher, said, “There’s a major improvement in study skills, and most students who attended the camp are excited about the course.”

Over all, you can say the Advanced Placement summer camp was a success. Though the final question remains: Will it be done next summer? According to Mr. Hueck, there is hope, but only if funds allow it.

By ManYi Chiang

“You are late,” your teacher yells as you enter the class thirty seconds late. “You have to go get a late pass.” Is that fair? Many students think five minutes is not enough for the passing time to get from one class to another.

Melissa Arias, a senior, said, “I think it is not enough because some people have classes which are far away. And there is always traffic of the people in the hallway. I spend minutes just to get to the third floor from the second floor.”

Vanessa Moreno, a junior, said, “I think five minutes isn’t enough because some students want to drink water and go to the bathroom during the passing time because the hall passes are limited during class time.”

“My 2nd period and 4th period classes are far apart and I always get late to my 4th period. I think they should extend it to 7 minutes or 8 minutes instead of 5 minutes passing time,” said Jessie Cardoza, a senior.

Can the five minutes be extended? Ms. Gloria Garcia, assistant principal, said, “No, because we have timed it from one side of the school to the other side of the school and five minutes is enough for the passing time.”

What if students have to go to bathroom during the five minutes passing time? “They have to do it fast within the five minutes,” said Ms. Garcia. “It is sure five minutes is not going to be enough if students are walking slow or talking to their friends.”
Why So Late? Busted!

by Orlando Padron

“Wake up! Wake up! Remember that we have a long drive ahead of us,” says John’s mother as they prepare to drive from their home in the Miami Jackson attendance zone to come to Miami High. A lot of students that attend Miami High are not supposed to be here, yet they manage to come by using fake addresses.

“The only way that a student that does not live in the attendance boundary can legally attend Miami High is by applying to a magnet,” pointed out Ms. Mendez, assistant principal of Miami High. There are two magnets available, law and teaching. People not in a magnet try to get around this rule by using a relative’s or friend’s address.

There are several ways that a student using a fake address could get caught. According to Ms. Mendez, when students are going to enroll in a school, their parents must provide a light bill to verify their home address. If they don’t provide this information, then the school sends a social worker to see if the student and their parents actually live where they claim they do.

Another way that students could get caught is if they have attendance or disciplinary issues such as getting in trouble often or coming late, noted Ms. Mendez. In that case, the school sends a social worker to check their address.

There is a reason why schools have attendance boundaries, and one of them is because some schools get too crowded, which makes it harder for teachers to help students learn or pay attention.

Not everyone is bothered by students sneaking into Miami High’s attendance zone. “As long as the students behave and do well in school, I don’t care where they came from,” declared Ms. Sierra, English 1 teacher. “It means that they want to be here to learn.”

Using a fake address has its advantages and disadvantages. The good thing is that you are able to avoid the particular school you’re supposed to go to, and you get to go to the one you desire to attend. The bad thing is that if you get caught, they kick you out of the school you’re currently attending, and they put you in the school you’re supposed to attend.

Miami High’s Attendance Boundaries

- On the North: N.W. 11th st
- On the South: U.S. 1
- To the East: S.W. 8th ave
- To the West: N.W. 37th ave

To see the exact school boundaries, go to: http://www.wadesschools.net/schools/schoolinformation/school_boundaries.aspx?id=7461

How Short Is Too Short?

by Joanna Ruffin

“Wow I can see your underwear.”

“Underwear?”

“Yeah, your skirt, it’s too short!”

During class time, you may notice your fellow classmates in their extracurricular activity uniforms. As you sit there, you notice many of the cheerleaders, Stingarettes, and majorettes wear skirts. You wonder why the lengths of their skirts do not comply with the student uniform policy at Miami High. According to the Miami High website regarding the uniform policy (http://mhs.dadeschools.net/students_uniformpolicy.html), skirts, as well as Bermudas, are to be no more than 2” above the knee. However, as you look around the hallways or in the classrooms, you may notice that the skirts worn by Stingarettes, cheerleaders, and majorettes don’t comply with this rule.

Many people see this as a case of special treatment. “School policy says skirt length must be close to knee-length,” says senior Adriana Benitez. “It’s not fair the rule does not apply to them.” Sophomore Silva Mores said that their uniform skirts are too short for the eye’s comfort.

However, others see things differently. The cheerleading outfit shouldn’t comply with the student body’s policy regarding uniform. “Our cheerleading skirts are fine,” says Ms. Morales, head cheerleader coach. “Cheerleading is a sport and it requires our girls to jump a lot, and our skirts give them that room to jump.”

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I think our skirts aren’t short,” says, Jnesia Williams, a senior and Varsity cheerleader. “Wearing our skirts is a requirement plus it has restrictions. We must maintain good behavior when wearing them.” “Our skirts are school-approved,” said senior and majorette Valerie Perre. “Plus, they help us maneuver better when performing.” Some students felt that the skirts should be longer. Silva Mores said, “When some of them sit down their skirts fly up, and you can see certain things that are not meant to be seen,” she replied.

Senior Stingarette Yara Morales agrees, sort of. “I think our skirts are appropriate, but I feel that that our skirts should be longer. When we dance at pep rallies, sometimes you kind of feel exposed because our skirts fly up,” she said.

Activities director Ms. Quintero said that new skirts were actually purchased this year because the old ones were too short. The girls themselves grow, she added, making the skirts seem shorter. Skirt length really depends on the individual, she said. One skirt might look longer or shorter on different girls.

Million Dollar Band Back In Action!

by Yara Morales

Miami High welcomes a new Stingarette to Sting Town. Mr. Steven Patrick Williams is the new band director for this year’s Million Dollar band. Miami High is the new band director for this year’s Million Dollar band.

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All Miami-Dade County Public Schools have been under budget cuts. This has also affected the band. According to Mr. Williams, they don’t have money to get to all the football games and band competitions. They also lack funds to replace instruments that need to be fixed. Mr. Williams said he is not allowed to coordinate fundraisers, but band parents can take charge of finding a way to raise money so it doesn’t have to come out of students’ pockets. Band parents are thinking of fundraising ideas, but none have been put into action just yet.

In spite of the obstacles “The marching band is doing a great job,” said Mr. Williams. “They’re caught up with other bands that have been practicing all summer long.” Mr. Williams likes that the kids from Miami High keep him going whenever he is having a bad day because they are very motivated and enthusiastic to learn. His expectation for the Million Dollar Band is that they aim to be the best band they could possibly be.

“For each member to strive for the highest, to be the best within each of their abilities, to give maximum effort, and for our best to become the best,” he said.

Many of the band members are glad to have Mr. Williams as the band director for the 08-09 marching season. Ofelia Gonzalez, a Stingarette, said, “I am mostly happy because of the fact that the band program has endured because of him.”

Claudia Alfaro, a Stingarette for the marching band, said, “I believe that this year’s band director has had some trouble accustoming to the Stingarette tradition, but he’s done an overall fair job of carrying out this band program.”

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Quiz Time!

1. WHAT IS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR’S MARCHING BAND?
   A. CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
   B. PANDEMONIUM
   C. GOLDEN PANTHERS

2. WHO IS THE NEW BAND DIRECTOR?
   A. STEVEN WILLIAMS
   B. CLAUDIA ALFARO
   C. LEO ALTAMIRANDA

3. HOW DID THEY DO AT THEIR FIRST COMPETITION?
   A. OVER ALL FIRST PLACE
   B. FIRST PLACE IN CLASS 1A
   C. DID NOT PLACE
By Katrina Aloma

This year drama is back on stage with Miami High’s drama teacher Ms. Perdomo. After taking off part of the last school year from teaching, she has been welcomed back by her students and Thespians. Hoping that she would be given a position at Miami High as a guidance counselor, she came back. “I’m really happy about being back,” she said, even though she wasn’t given the job.

She worked as an intern in guidance counseling and studied mental health while away from Miami High.

Ms. Perdomo said that she has recently gone through changes and now views things differently. Keeping busy is one of her main plans this year. Although she thinks that it wouldn’t be wise to anticipate anything, she’s very hopeful that she will accomplish many things this year. Now Ms. Perdomo believes that she is much more thoughtful and has begun to have a more positive outlook on life. “If you have joy, you see things more clearly,” was one of her positive statements. Her positive outlook, she believes, was more likely due to her attending a workshop of The Work, a positive outlook program. “If you have joy, you see things more clearly,” was one of her positive statements. Her positive outlook, she believes, was more likely due to her attending a workshop of The Work, a positive outlook program. They follow the rules and learn easier, she said, even if they have to work harder. “I hate assigned seats,” said Joel Vila, a sophomore in her Drama 1 class, “but it doesn’t matter to me. I still get to work with cool people and get to act in class.”

A lot of students are wondering exactly what happened to Ms. Perez, last year’s drama teacher. Her husband, Mr. Gonzales, who also happens to be Miami High’s wrestling coach, stated that she went to teach first grade in Miami Children’s Museum Charter School.

By Jorge Rovirosa

Starving artists are painters, singers, or actors who sacrifice money or material comfort in order to pursue their art. Many would not associate the term starving artists with high school students, but many Miami High Thespians do refer to themselves as such.

Thespians are an internationally known club that deals with theatre and drama. Members in the Miami High chapter of Thespians have the privilege of showcasing their talent at Hialeah Senior High in certain competitions such as One Acts, in which the club chooses a one act play and produces it in front of three judges; and Individual Events (I.E.), where students prepare a performance or certain tech work such as set design without school influence. Like One Acts, students are judged by three representatives. If a high rating is awarded in either One Acts or I.E., then the club and/or student enjoys the right to compete in state level competition where the best performances are judged again.

This is where seniors have the opportunity to audition for scholarship money, but these privileges and opportunities do not come without a price.

Preparing and registering for these competitions cost serious money. According to Ms. Perdomo, the drama teacher and club sponsor, Thespians pay about $45 to register for One Acts or I.E. To go to state level competition, it costs as much as $250 per member for registering, bus, and hotel. “The hardest thing is receiving the money on time,” says Ms. Perdomo.

To Play

One Acts/I.E. (Individual Events):
Registering- $45
Estimated Lunch- $5
Estimated Total Cost- $50

State Level Competition:
Registering, bus, and hotel- $250
Estimated Spending Money (food, souvenirs, etc.)- $200
Estimated Total Cost- $450

By Jorge Rovirosa

Perdomo's drama class rehearsing monologues.

Thespians: Starving Artists

The hardest thing is receiving the money on time,” says Ms. Perdomo. She also says that most students have to choose between these competitions and other expenses like yearbooks and class ring.

“I am not here to teach business,” Ms. Perdomo continued, “yet I am forced to learn along with the students.

It would be nice to live in ancient Greek times when the state paid the actors and the honorary citizens paid the chorus. The entire community supported the production.” She states that this is the most stressful part of her job.

Not only is it stressful for the sponsor, but also for the Thespians. Senior Cody Mentelos, the current Thespians president, said that paying for competition means, “More sacrifices for me and my parents.” He almost did not attend one of the competitions last year due to the fact that he had no spending money for food, but luckily he raised enough money just in time for competition.

Unfortunately, this year, due to major budget cuts, Thespians will receive little to no support from the school administration. Thespians will be on their own. School performances are major fundraisers for Thespians and help out these “Starving Thespians”, then attend their shows.

Drama News Brief

Ms. Perdomo’s beginning drama students are working with open scenes. The students receive a set of dialogue and have to create an original scene with the set lines using different factors such as tone of voice and body movements. She and her advanced students are reading a play entitled The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail by Robert Edwin Lee and Jerome Lawrence. It is based on the early life of the titular character, Henry David Thoreau, leading up to his night spent in a jail in Concord, Massachusetts. The play deals with the philosophy of Transcendentalism and is being discussed as a possible performance piece. (By Ibrain Zirini)
It’s so hard to say goodbye! After 22 years at Stingtown and 13 others in the private sector, Business Technology Education teacher and department chair Ms. Sarah Mason retired on August 29, 2008. Ms. Mason was a dedicated teacher who always put others before herself, and she was a role model for her staff whom she called her second family. She believed all students should learn about business to better prepare them for the real world.

Business Technology teacher Ms. Spicer said, “She was always professional and knew how to get things done.”

“Above and beyond the professionalism she possessed,” departmental colleague Mr. Perez stated, “she was a gentle person whom I will admire and emulate during my tenure and personal life.”

Fellow Business Technology teacher Mrs. Rainelle added, “The word professional gets thrown around a lot. However she personified the word.”

New Business Technology department chair Mrs. Benavides’ added, “Ms. Mason was not only a true professional, but a class act, a true lady. She set a good example for everyone around her.”

But the professionalism was only part of who she was. Before Ms. Mason left I was able to ask her a few questions about her time here at Miami Senior High.

What was your most memorable moment here at Miami Senior High?

Ms. Mason: When F.B.L.A. was reestablished at Miami Senior High again in 1987.

Will you miss Miami Senior High?
Ms. Mason: Yes I will miss the Miami Senior High family that I have grown to love.

Which classes did you teach?

What are you going to do now that you have retired?
Ms. Mason: I am going to relax and enjoy life.

Are you wondering who are these new faces you see around the school? No, I am not talking about the freshmen; I am talking about the new staff members at Miami Senior High. Some came from other schools, and others from the district office, but they all have one thing in common...They are new in Sting Town!

Joining us this year are reading coach Mrs. Elizabeh Quiñenes, P.E. coaches Mr. David Rivera and Mrs. Shelly Coon, and band director Mr. Steven Williams.

Some of them had time to talk to the school newspaper. Known as “Ody” to friends and relatives, Ms. McKinley, our new reading coach, loves it here. “Everyone I’ve met among the faculty, staff, and students has made me feel as if I’ve been here my whole life!” she said. Before coming to MHS, Ms. McKinley was working for the school district as a curriculum support specialist.

You might see her dancing with great attitude at the gym. Ms. Coon came from North Beach Elementary, where she worked as a P.E. teacher. She thinks Miami High is great and that everyone is nice. She hopes to develop the best aerobics class this school has ever seen so that her students can lose weight and tone up, she says. For now her plans are “just going with the flow.” This all-around joyful lady has a large number of pets which include one dog, two birds, one turtle, and many fish!

Mr. Rivera, located down in the gym, says his opinion about MHS so far is wonderful. “I like the school’s atmosphere, and I enjoy coming to work everyday,” he said. Mr. Rivera was working at Miami Jackson Senior High before becoming a Sting. Now at Miami High he is the new assistant baseball coach and the girls JV volleyball coach. Mr. Rivera’s expectations for the year are to take MHS to a higher level and hopefully get baseball to win state.
By Melida Ortega

Imagine going to a place where people hate you because you have an accent when you speak, or being bullied because you wear a turban over your head or because you are a shade darker than your classmates. Would you ignore it or would you do something about it?

According to the website for the Anti-Discrimination League (www.adl.org), which is sponsored by Partners against Hate, racism can be defined as the hatred of one person by another—or the belief that another person is less than human—because of skin color, language, customs, place of birth or any other factor that “supposedly” reveals the basic nature of that person. Racism has fueled conflicts which have led to wars and slavery. Now ask yourself, does racism exist in Miami High?

For some, racism does not exist in Miami High. Chris White, a multiracial senior, feels that it’s not really racism; it’s just that people are more comfortable being with other people from their same race or ethnic background.

Michelle Calderon, a Hispanic sophomore, personally feels that MHS is an easy place to feel welcomed because the majority of the students are Hispanic so there aren’t too many differences between people. This may be true considering Miami High’s student ethnic makeup is 92% Hispanic, 5% Black, 3% White, and 1% Multiracial, according to Miami Dade County Public Schools (www.dadeschools.net).

But not everyone feels the same way. Jonathan Dixon, an African-American senior, has not only witnessed racism, but he has been a victim of it. “During summer school there was an incident where fireworks went off in a trash can. A security went into my classroom and assumed me and my friends did it. I felt that it was because we are African American students.”

Charlie Vallina, a Hispanic junior, says, “Like it or not, it’s around, and in my opinion, it’s not right to be judged on how you look whether it be your skin color or heritage.”

Marie Petion, a Haitian-American senior, says that since her arrival at MHS, she has seen many acts of racism and discrimination. She admits to having ignored it, but other times it has stirred sorrow and anger inside her. “In my freshman year I was working on a project with my friends who are African American in the library. The group across from us was being very disruptive and the librarian approached us and said, ‘You people need to be quiet. This is not the ghetto.’ As a student and human being, we should all be welcomed and treated equally. We should not be judged by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character,” she said.

Randy Perez, a senior, says the he hasn’t experienced racism but he’s seen how a lot of teachers, especially Hispanic ones, give a harder time to African American students.

Now what should you do if you feel discriminated against in Miami High? Mr. Ballard, SCSI teacher, says that a student should go to the administration, and discuss the situation with their parents as well.

Principal Dr. Tosado, said, “A problem you don’t share is your problem,” so the answer is to tell someone. Tell a counselor or an assistant principal, he suggests.

Whether or not racism exists in Miami High is debatable. But one thing is certain: people are still experiencing racism and discrimination in today’s society.

Love sees no age, no race, no religion, and certainly no fear. But does fear cause homophobia? Homophobia, according to Webster’s Dictionary, is unreasoning fear of or antipathy toward homosexuals and homosexuality.

Does homophobia exist here in Miami High? Or is it just a mild rumor that roams behind these halls? A proud homosexual junior, Brian Villa, says, “I do believe homophobia exists in Miami High because I’ve had many incidents in which homophobes do come to me and say some harmful things. But it doesn’t bother me, because it’s their opinion. There are some gay people that actually take it to the heart and they don’t feel like a part of society. It hurts to know that people judge us because of how we feel towards someone. They would take us away from society. They dislike us for how they feel towards us. They would usually say something like, homosexuality affects religion and society and children, but they don’t ever bother to know if it affects us. We are people. Treat us like you would like to be treated.”

Is that racist?

• Telling jokes directed against people from particular groups.
• Telling people to go back where they came from.
• Expecting students from a certain culture to do better or worse than others in schoolwork.
• Not respecting people from different cultural backgrounds.
• Stereotyping people because of their ethnicity.

Source: the Australian Department of Education and Training (http://www.racismnowway.com)

On the other hand, some students don’t see homophobia in Miami High. Tania Jarquin, a junior who is straight, stated, “The closest I’ve come to a homophobic at Miami High is in a book. Honestly, I might get shocked once in a while if I see two guys holding hands walking to class or if two girls are making out, but I seriously don’t think being shocked should affect anyone.” She also said, “I have plenty of homosexual friends, and I treat them the same way as I would treat any other friends of mine.”

Meanwhile, students such as Francisco Urena, a junior, object that homosexuals should have an open relationship. “I think that homosexuals in an open relationship set a bad example for the children. How homosexuals feel towards other gay people is not normal at all. And if I found out that one of my friends were to become homosexual they would have to change the way they feel or not be my friend at all. Make a decision whether you’re a sheep or a wolf,” he said.

So how do we answer our question whether homophobia exists in Miami High? Though phobia is a fear, many students don’t fear homosexuals. The majority of the people I interviewed said or insinuated that they’re not homophobic; they simply dislike homosexuals and would not hang out with them.

However, as Webster’s Dictionary reminds us, part of the definition of homophobia is to feel antipathy towards them, or to dislike them. And as some students said, they feel uncomfortable hanging out with homosexuals or simply talking to them. Though some students might believe that homophobia doesn’t exist in Miami High, because they don’t believe they’re homophobic, the definition of homophobia makes us realize that homophobia can exist anywhere, even here in Miami High.
Is a bad teacher a real teacher?

By Cynthia Shogreen

Teachers are defined as instructors and are meant only to teach, or should they be more? Teachers aren’t forced to be caring or to be nurturing, yet should it be implied with the job title? Some students feel that their teachers are either unfair or impatient towards them and/or their class. I believe we could all agree that something should be done about the poor attitudes some teachers have towards their students.

Students feel there are certain characteristics a good teacher should have. For some, it’s a caring nature or a positive attitude, and for others, it’s just the ability to be polite. Enrique Gamero, a freshman, says his favorite teacher is Ms. Perdomo “because she’s a relaxing teacher that doesn’t give too much work.”

Ninoshka Chang, a senior, said, “Ms. Waters is the best. I love her. She is nice, fun, and has a unique teaching method.”

Unfortunately, for all the good teachers, there are also some bad ones. Students voiced their despair towards teachers who they see as less qualified than the ones mentioned above. Harlle Duarte, a senior, said, “Some bad qualities in some teachers in Miami High are unfairness, rudeness, uninteresting teaching techniques, and their lack of interest in the students.”

Jorge Hernandez, a freshman, said, “Some teachers are too emotional and should cut back on their outbursts.” Many students feel that their teachers should leave their bad attitudes at home and come to school to do their jobs, not to spread their moods on to their students.

Amazingly, students seem to be much more positively inclined towards MHS administrators. Kassandra Hernandez, a sophomore, said, “The administration is very in tune with our needs, and they have our best interests at heart, even if they can go overboard sometimes by judging the few by the many.” Jorge Hernandez said, “The principal seems like a pretty cool dude, even though I don’t know him that well.”

Not all students, however, believe that administration is perfect. Harlle Duarte said, “Administratively, kids are really hard, yet they don’t spend enough time with the students to know what we want and need.”

“My guess is that the student body prefers the administration over the teachers because they spend a lot less time with administrators, meaning students don’t have to experience most of their bad moods,” said Ninoshka Chang.

6 secrets to becoming a magnificent teacher!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>According to Ms. SIERRA</th>
<th>According to Ms. WATERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>”They might not remember what you taught them, but they’ll remember how you treated them.”</td>
<td>Remember your students are human and have faults and make mistakes.</td>
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<td>Come in with a good attitude.</td>
<td>Don’t be cold or have a stone face.</td>
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<td>Make your class fun.</td>
<td>Remember your dealing with people, not just numbers.</td>
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A BICYCLE MADE FOR PARKING

By Gerardo Barrios

Bicycles serve several purposes, transportation and beating the French being the main ones. If one were to walk around Miami High with the intent of finding some sort of bike stand or bike rack, one would come up empty-handed.

This problem has gone on long enough. More than enough students and school employees have bicycles for it to be a problem that needs to be addressed by the administration. One bicycle owner that most students don’t know about is one of those administrators. Dr. Daniel Tosado, that’s right, the principal, has a bike. However, he doesn’t agree that there should be any bicycle parking. “There’s no call for it,” he says. “We haven’t had any problems with it before.”

Those brave few who do come on bicycles to school have to risk leaving them chained to fences or light posts, where there is no guarantee of the property’s safety by the school.

Students generally share the same point of view on bike parking. For example, senior Jonathan Mora said, “I really don’t care.” Senior Carlos Mantilla said, “I think it’s stupid. Get a car.”

Obviously, the absence of bike safety has created a high demand for a location for bicycle parking, which it can only be hoped the administration can supply.

So whether the reason to ride a bike is to be a lesser threat to the environment or just because you like how the wind blows across your hair, there’s still the possibility that after a long day of brutal lectures given by unrelenting teachers, you go to where you chained up your bike and it’s gone.

This is actually one of those situations where people like to wait for a real incident to act, and that’s completely fine unless you’re the one without a ride home.

WHY IS THE WORLD SUCH A PERFECTIONIST PLACE?

By Jennifer Gonzalez

Do you know what being perfect is? According to Stephen Manes, author of Digital Tools, “Perfect is never doing anything wrong – which means never doing anything at all. Perfect is boring! Trip over your own shoelaces! Laugh! Let somebody else laugh at you! Perfect people never do any of those things.”

To me, perfectionists are always worrying about making the right choices, when the only thing that should be troubling their minds is making a choice. I think everyone has a perfectionist inside. Some may have it deeply hidden, and only let it out on rare occasions.

Have you ever wondered why everything has to be so perfect? I know I have. In fact, I always think that to myself when I see things happening around the world that involve people making changes to make things seem perfect. For example, at the opening ceremony of the summer Olympics in Beijing, a 9 year old girl named Lin Miaoke appeared to be singing. The real singer Yang Peivi, however, was in the back singing the patriotic song “Hymn to the Mother Land”. The Chinese people preferred to display Lin because they believed Yang Peivi was unattractive and had buck teeth. Can you believe that? Doing that to a 9 year old is devastating! And as a matter of fact she wasn’t ugly at all.

Another place where you see perfectionism is school where some students want to be like models, starving themselves to look good and be a part of a clique. The truth is that people come in different sizes and different shapes, and that’s what makes everyone different from one another.

Well, maybe now you are wondering how people become this way. According to the article “The Perfect Trap”, posted on the website for Revolution Health (www.RevolutionHealth.com/healthy-living/relationships/isself/emotional-wellness/perfectionism), which is a consumer-centric health company, perfectionism can be caused by anything that demands you to be better. Parents can influence the way that perfectionism takes. Some parents, without even noticing, indicate to their children that the children are not good enough. This makes kids try to make it “perfect.” One example is when parents say, “Wow, you really got better at reading, but you should try reading faster next time.” What parents are trying to do is get their children motivated, but what they are actually doing is simply making the children no longer try to please their parents, but to demand perfection from themselves.

“The Perfect Trap” also says that to flee from the cruelty of perfectionism, you first need to get rid of the thought to get things “Exactly right.” Perfectionists have many things in common. They think that if they can try to make something perfect, then they will be approved, and finally stop worrying. Perfectionist people also think that if they don’t do something perfect, the way something is supposed to be, that they are stupid and worthless.
Keep the Flesh Fresh

By Daniela Barboza

If you ever truly paid attention to the people around you, you would notice how unclean this world truly is. Just sit in your classroom and watch them. Don’t make it obvious, but do observe their every move. One student sneezes. Watch him as he looks around to see who is looking while he wipes the snot and saliva off his hands and onto his jeans. His neighbor asks for a pencil, and that same sneezer gives out the pencil that he had just put into his mouth. Accidentally, the neighbor also puts the pencil in her mouth. Sick. The class is soon over and the sneezer doesn’t bother to get any Kleenex or hand sanitizer but does go into the bathroom. Will he finally wash his hands? He goes into the stall, comes out, but no way... the bell rings and there is no time to wash. ‘Who cares, I didn’t pee on my hands,’ he thinks to himself. He walks into class, and then, ugh... He offers you some Skittles. And you eat them. That is the sad truth of this dirty, bacterial world.

One of the most important factors in staying clean is washing your hands. Because you touch your eyes, nose, or ears with your hands, the bacteria on your hands can get inside your body and cause illnesses such as the flu and diarrhea. There is a process you need to follow when it comes to washing your hands. First, rinse your hands with warm water. Rub your hands together thoroughly with soap until you create lather. Do this for twenty seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” twice). Wash in between your fingers. Then simply rinse off your hands with warm water. Dry your hands using a paper towel or a cloth. Paper towels are preferable—You can turn the faucet off using the paper towel in place and that if you wipe from back to front, you are adding the harsher bacteria from your anal area into a sensitive place, thus possibly creating an infection?

There are absolutely nothing wrong in being cautious and safe about your personal health and hygiene. In the long run, it helps you stay alive longer. But there is a limit to everything. Don’t limit yourself to believe that it is impossible to be clean. Limit yourself from believing that you will always be clean.

Though all of this is very important, can being too clean be too much? Is it possible to go overboard on cleanliness? According to Senior Antony Hernandez, being a clean freak is just being a freak. “They whip out their hand sanitizers before they walk into the bathroom and come out sanitizing their face too,” he said. You won’t live life if you are so worried about avoiding the unclean and the too filthy. It gets in your way to think that living in a bubble is a good idea. Bacteria are everywhere, even in the air.

Our body is like our temple. We need to maintain it clean and in tip top shape. Unfortunately, at Miami High, the Asylum, our gymnasmium, is often dirty and always humid and hot. Don’t take it the wrong way—the gym is one of the most loved places at Miami High. But it is not too easy to stay fresh in a place not well kept. There is no one else to blame but ourselves. But the main concern here is not that it is dirty. The concern is that because of its dirtiness, many students have gotten ringworms. Ringworm is not a worm at all; it is a contagious fungal disease. Ringworm affects only the skin, only the skin, after a small itch and gradually growing into a circular ring that will continue to itch and be passed on to another person if not treated.

There are many consequences to not being clean such as being of horrifically bad odor or looking disgusting. Others may be a little more serious, such as infections and illnesses. Candidiasis, also known as yeast infection, is a vaginal infection caused by not washing. Its symptoms include redness, itching and burning. Other vaginal infections can be caused simply by wiping wrong. Ladies, did you know that your vagina is a sensitive place and that if you wipe from back to front, you are adding the harsher bacteria from your anal area into a sensitive place, thus possibly creating an infection?

There is absolutely nothing wrong in being cautious and safe about your personal health and hygiene. In the long run, it helps you stay alive longer. But there is a limit to everything. Don’t limit yourself to believe that it is impossible to be clean. Limit yourself from believing that you will always be clean.
Is Green Really the New Black?

By Gina Denis
Graphics Editor

Imagine riding your bike home from school because you don’t have gas to run your car. Once home, by habit you turn the light switch on, but there’s no electricity. Sounds like a nightmare, right? Wrong. It is a world we could be facing in the not-too-distant future, but that’s if we don’t do something about it now.

So what can we do to avoid this horrible future? We can go “green”. Whether it’s a trend or a genuine effort from people who actually care for the environment, the “green” message is coming across loud and clear.

Going green can mean different things to different people. According to junior Kasey Avalos, “Going green is using earth-friendly products and not wasting away re-usable things such as bottles, paper, and cans. It also means saving energy in your home by turning off the lights when they are not in use, unplugging the phone charger once your phone is fully charged, and not leaving the TV or computer on overnight.”

Math teacher and environmentalist Mr. BrBorich recycles whatever he can. “When I recycle plastic bottles, I take the tops off since they cannot be recycled. I also leave the window shades down in my house so it gets cool and the air conditioner doesn’t have to work so hard,” he said.

Did You Know That..

+ Every ton of paper that is recycled saves approximately 17 trees.
+ Turning off the water while you brush your teeth saves four gallons a minute.
+ Turning off the water while you shampoo and condition your hair can save up to 50 gallons of water a week.
+ A five minute shower uses 6 gallons of water while a bath uses 21 gallons.
+ Of the 15 billion batteries produced and sold each year, only a fraction of those are recycled. Use rechargeable batteries instead.

Source: Treehugger website (http://www.treehugger.com/green-basics/)

So what can you do to help? By doing little things you can actually make an impact in the world. The website Tree Hugger (www.treehugger.com), which is sponsored by The Discovery Channel, gives you these useful tips. If you use eco-friendly light bulbs, they last a lot longer than regular ones, and using just one will save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes a year!

Senior Abel Fernandez helps out in different ways too. “I carpool with friends to save gas and I go to beach cleanups like Baynanza,” he said.

“I don’t litter and clean up after any messes I make,” junior Carolina Cerrato said. “I also buy eco-friendly materials like recycled paper.”

Are we too late to save the world? AWARE club adviser and marine biology teacher Mr. Uperco thinks we are. “We are starting way too late, but the world can still be salvaged. It will definitely take more than the United States’ efforts; the rest of the world needs to help out as well.”

LET’S GO VEGGIE!

By Anthony deMalas

Ever wonder about the veggie world? Have you tried legumes with a fresh side of broccoli or faux meat? Have you had the satisfaction of losing weight and keeping your body clean and healthy at the same time? Well, if you’re a meat eater, you probably don’t know what this is about.

People’s definitions of vegetarians vary. For some, a vegetarian is a person who only eats plant products; however there are different types of vegetarians. There are pescatarians whose diet consists of mainly fish and produce. A fruitarian’s diet consists of mainly fruits. Vegans have the strictest diet, no meat and no-animal by-products such as milk and eggs. There are even vegetarians who only eat vegetable dishes from their home country! So, the vegetarian world isn’t as bland and boring as you thought it was.

Vegetarianism has its advantages. It can lead to a healthier body. It can prevent certain cancers or even high cholesterol problems. Although it can’t cure these ailments, it can stop them from happening. Another good thing about being a vegetarian is healthy weight loss. In other words, more produce and less meat can do your body wonders. Don’t believe me? Well, Maria Archilla, a freshman at MSH, said, “Since I went vegetarian my skin cleared up and I lost a lot of weight.

If you’re wondering about the protein issue, thinking that protein comes from only meat, then, your friend, you are sadly mistaken. You can eat things like tofu, a soft cheese-like food made from soybeans. Soybeans are a good source of protein, so you can use tofu to replace meat.

Some people say that eating produce and fake or faux meat is boring, that you’re not giving your body options. Then if your one of those people, you might agree with Freshman Yosseling Martinez, who said, “If you eat plant produce or fake meat all the time, wouldn’t your body get bored?”

If I’m not mistaken, wouldn’t all our bodies want a clean slate of health? Meat isn’t as good as it was before. According to the website Peta2.com, eggs are unfertilized baby chickens, pigs teeth are cut in half along with the tail to make your bacon, Grade A beef has a thousand parasite larva in every cubic inch, and 96 percent of chicken has detectable levels of E coli, meaning there’s poop in your chicken... Milk has pus in it—if you don’t know what pus is, it’s that liquid that comes out when you pop your pimples. Guess what? The United States, where we live has the highest permitted upper limit of milk pus concentration in the world, almost twice the international standard of allowable pus cells.

Okay, so if I still haven’t convinced you yet, then, here is another reason why you should go vegetarian. Are you by any chance an animal lover? Well, if you haven’t seen the videos in health class or on the internet, then read the following: meat is torture. The O! McDonald style farm doesn’t exist anymore. You won’t see a chicken here and moo-moo there. You’ll most likely see cattle robbed of their testicles here, drugged over-weight chickens there, and misery everywhere else. Sooner or later the poor chicken, pig or cow will make a trip to the dreaded slaughter house. The process includes hanging the animal upside down, slitting its throat and then skimming and finally cut it into pieces. How would you feel if someone kept you against your will in dark, dirty places and then turned you upside down, slit your throat and skinned you so you could be sold and packaged at $1.00 a pound? Not exactly the way you want to live your life.

In the end, meat eating is not a healthy consumption. It leads to obesity, skin problems and the occasional diarrhea. The vegetarian diet may not be the thing Jesus would do with the price of plant produce these days, but it’s better than eat. So what do you so say? Let’s go Veggie!
Students Juggle Work and School

By Ralph Rodriguez

Do you come to school exhausted from a long night at work? Although it may seem like students sleep in class because they’re bored, it might be because they are tired from working. Many freshmen and sophomores might not work, but a large percentage of juniors and seniors are employed part-time.

Senior Martín Zambrana just started working at The Home Depot in Coconut Grove. “My best friend’s brother works there, so all I did was apply online,” he said. “Then came in when they asked me to for an interview. The clothing store in Cocowalk. “I got lucky,” he says. “I was automatically hired.”

“I then came in when they asked me to for an interview. The following day at the interview I was asked when I could start working. I knew I got the job at that moment.”

Another way students could find a job is through the OJT (On the Job Training) program at Miami High. “If a student doesn’t need anymore credits,” says senior Haisun Corea, “they should just take OJT so that they have time to work and go to school.” OJT instructor Mr. Perez agrees. “I think it’s an advantage to have a job and go to school because you get to show colleges you are able to multitask well,” he says.

Working, however, can have a negative effect on students. According to the website A Parent’s Guide: Your Teen in the Working World (www.oberlin.edu/faculty/ iadling/transition/group27/balance.html), more and more teenagers are working an abundant amount of hours and spending less time on schoolwork. This becomes a huge disadvantage for the students that do have jobs because they have less time for studying, doing homework/projects, etc.

Senior María Torres, who has been looking for a job for about 3 months, said, “I think it’s an advantage for me to not have a job because I have so much free time on my hands that I actually get to study.”

Not all teen workers feel the same way. “I love my job,” Nelson Sanchez stated, “and I don’t think it works as any disadvantage towards my academic life, since my classes aren’t even so difficult.”

What do parents have to say about this? Senior Rodolfo Sylva, who is currently working at Party City, said, “My parents were really proud of me when I found a job. They say I act more mature now that I have responsibilities.”

On the other hand, senior Viviana Chacon’s parents reacted differently. “I worked at The GAP in International Mall for about 4 months and I liked it, even though I used to get out at 11 on school nights. I had to quit when my parents said I started to get behind on my schoolwork.”

Getting Ready for the Real World

By Mackenly Etienne

The real world is approaching rapidly. When it arrives, will you be ready? Some seniors got ready over the summer at a College Summit held at Nova Southeastern University.

According to English teacher Ms. Herrada, who led NHS students to their Summit on June 19-22 and June 26-29, College Summit is a national nonprofit organization working to increase the college enrollment of low-income students.

At a College Summit, students get the opportunity to spend 4 days and 3 nights on a college campus experiencing the college life. They attend workshops where students get the chance to create their own colleges with qualifications people must have to attend.

They also participate in rap sessions where students get together to express their real life issues. Students also have the opportunity to speak with a counselor that can help in choosing a university that deals with the area of work that they want to be in.

While attending College Summit, students attend daily activities which include writing sessions to begin on their personal statement, which is an essay that describes a struggle that student has been through and how they conquered it. Such essays are often required by colleges in the US.

By attending College Summit students also learn ways to apply for financial aid. Students can get help to pay for college with different types of financial aid including grants (awards that are usually based on financial need and don’t need to be paid back); scholarships (awards that are usually based on merit or achievement); loans (awards that need to be repaid with interest); and work study (money that has to be earned through working on the college campus).

Miami High students who attended benefited in many ways. Douglas Guerrero, a senior, said, “I opened my eyes to the real world, because it made me realize I was going to college.”

Wandy Saintilien, a senior, said, “It showed me how college life would be. Also it enriched my mind to empower others with my knowledge.”

Eileen Amaya, a senior, said, “It made me think positively towards college life. Before I was taught negatively towards college because I was lazy, but ever since I attended College Summit, my perspective about attending college has changed.”

Kristian Mendoza, a senior, said, “It showed us how to improve our writing. Writing workshops helped me to be more fluent. Lastly I learned how to improve my time management and to join extracurricular activities.”

Shakidha Jean-Baptiste, a senior, said, “It taught me skills to help me survive college, and it got me more interested in attending college.”

Matthew Jean-Juste, a senior, said, “It allowed me to get over my fear of speaking in front of peers because in the real world, you have to be able to speak in front of a group of people.”

College Summit feels that it can help kids showcase their talents to achieve their goal of college. They believe that students can accomplish anything they set their minds to.”
Piercings, Awesome, but Risky

By Joel Vilá

Many people at Miami High are amazed when they see another student with a piercing. Students will often ask, “Did it hurt?” or “How much did you get it for, and where?”

All these piercings can be purchased at tattoo parlors or at the USA Flea Market, with prices ranging $25 to $125, but make sure you clean them well after you get it done. You don’t want to risk catching an infection.

People should be aware of the dangers a piercing can cause. Miami High student clinical nurse Susie Lopez said that the probability of infections depends on where you get it done, and the person you’re getting it done from. “Make sure that it’s a clean environment,” she says. If not, leave, and go somewhere else. She also said that alcohol and anti-septic will dry the pierced hole and make it heal faster. For cleaning a piercing in your mouth, Nurse Lopez recommends Listerine or salt water; a good example is the beach.

Sophomore Valeria Zapata has a piercing called a cartilage, which is on the top of the ear near the cartilage area. She said that the people that pierced her ear gave her an anti-bacterial liquid, which she used with a cotton swab. She said that she couldn’t change the earring in the piercing until four months had passed. “I felt nervous at times, because I didn’t want it to get infected,” she said. And it did not.

The infection perichondritis is common among people who pierce their cartilage area. According to the Perichondritis website (http://healthabepedia.net/perichondritis/332628. html), which is sponsored by Testreference.net, you can cure this with anti-biotic, but if a collection of pus is trapped in the pierced hole, then you most likely need to get surgery to drain out the fluids and remove any dead skin in the hole.

Sheila Rodriguez is a sophomore with an Industrial piercing, which is two holes near the cartilage area. You can place a bar through both holes. Sheila said it hurt a little bit, and said that if she didn’t clean it, she could get an infection. “It’s your responsibility to clean your pierced hole,” she said.

Freshman Katherine Valenzuela has three lip rings; yes that’s correct, three. She said, “I did it myself. It didn’t hurt at all. I did it with an earring. I numbed my lower lip and put alcohol around the part I was going to pierce.” She said to clean her lip ring pierce, she uses anti-septic such as mouthwash. A lip piercing can be pierced on the lip either on the top, middle, or the lower lip. I myself have a piercing. It’s a lip piercing. I can vouch that when you get your body pierced, it won’t hurt. It will just feel like a pinch. Then afterwards, it will sting and swell up for 1 to 5 days, depending on your skin texture. Some people fear that it would hurt a lot, but really, it depends how you do it or who does it for you.
Press to be skinny?

By Nikelle Chavarria

Pressure- that’s one word people can relate to. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from, what color your skin is, all humans go through it. Especially teenage girls, dieting pills, and surgeries to remove excessive fat. Monika Aparicio, a 12th grader, isn’t the skinny girl around, but her personality makes up for it. She said, “I’m happy with my appearance, but society tends to think otherwise.”

Christine Michel, a 12th grader, said, “Be yourself, don’t change for anyone. Don’t follow the downfalls of society. Rise above them.”

如何去追求自己的风格

The Various Styles of MHS

By Jo-Lyn Dixon

Hollister, Lacoste, American Eagle. Do any of these names sound familiar to you? If so, these are the brands that appear on the majority of polo’s worn in Miami High’s hallways.

The school uniform policy has undergone some changes since the beginning of the school year. In past years, you could’ve gotten away with wearing sandals as long as they were secured to your foot with a back strap, but not this year, said assistant principal Ms. Mendez.

Another adjustment that’s being enforced is the showing of undershirts. It shouldn’t be longer than the school polo for the guys. For the ladies, the uniform shirts shouldn’t expose too much of your chest or else it’s time to button up.

Even though the uniform policy is enforced at our school, some students have found ways to showcase their style without violating the policy.

“I believe that the polo’s we wear show our style more because we have more ways to adjust it to our liking,” said 12th grader Christy-Ann Durandisse.

Jessy Valasquez, a sophomore, says, “I buy acceptable shirts. Junior Yamila Rached said, “I buy my shirts from places like Hollister and American Eagle to advance my style. The tops are really cute and sometimes expensive. Besides that, the quality of their polo’s and jeans are way better than other department stores.”

Some students feel as though adding their own style isn’t necessary. Brandon Eckford, a senior, stated, “Brandon doesn’t need any accessories or expensive clothes to show my style. It’s a natural given gift and my uniform isn’t considered boring whenever I’m wearing it. Those department stores serve no justice for a guy like me.”

Senior Christopher White says, “Lacoste and Hollister are the two main stores where I get the uniform polo’s and jeans from. I’m not into having accessories so I just let the clothes talk for themselves.”

When walking down Miami High’s hallways, you can’t help but notice the logos popping out from students’ shirts. In an informal survey conducted amongst the interviewees, the vast majority chose Hollister as the number one store that they use to showcase their style.

Reasons for choosing this brand include its appearance, quality, and durability.

Class of 2011

Class of 2011 has meetings every Tuesday at 2:40 pm in room 189. “So far people are attending our meetings and appreciating our class,” said Treasurer Carla Iraheta. President Andres Martinez adds, “We want to start selling our class shirts as soon as possible. Another goal is to save money to reward good students and those who are active members of the sophomore board. We’re working now to prevent financial problems in our senior year.” Ms. Cruz, class sponsor, said, “It’s an exciting experience; they’re my Baby Stings. Our main focus is having successful events in the future for the class.” (By Joel Vila)

Movie Makers

Dr. Underwood’s Movie Maker class is working on a nine minute video on the history of Miami High. The video is divided into four sections: student life, architecture, sports, and tradition. Dr. Underwood said it will take a lot of hard work and dedication for these students to put together this nine minute piece by December 1st, which is the deadline. This documentary will be shown on WLNR during December. (By Ralph Rodriguez)

F.B.L.A.

F.B.L.A. is proud to announce its officers for the 2008-2009 school year: President Brandon Eckford, Vice President Dominique Paul, Secretary Angelica Ramirez, Treasurer Noel Ruiz, and Historians Francis Padilla and Jonathan Del Rio. The officers went to an officer’s breakfast at the F.I.U. campus on October 3, 2008. F.B.L.A. is having a district breakfast on November 6, 2008. (By Jattie Branch)

The Various Styles of MHS

By Jo-Lyn Dixon

Hollister, Lacoste, American Eagle. Do any of these names sound familiar to you? If so, these are the brands that appear on the majority of polo’s worn in Miami High’s hallways.

The school uniform policy has undergone some changes since the beginning of the school year. In past years, you could’ve gotten away with wearing sandals as long as they were secured to your foot with a back strap, but not this year, said assistant principal Ms. Mendez.

Another adjustment that’s being enforced is the showing of undershirts. It shouldn’t be longer than the school polo for the guys. For the ladies, the uniform shirts shouldn’t expose too much of your chest or else it’s time to button up.

Even though the uniform policy is enforced at our school, some students have found ways to showcase their style without violating the policy.

“I believe that the polo’s we wear show our style more because we have more ways to adjust it to our liking,” said 12th grader Christy-Ann Durandisse.

Jessy Valasquez, a sophomore, says, “I buy acceptable shirts. Junior Yamila Rached said, “I buy my shirts from places like Hollister and American Eagle to advance my style. The tops are really cute and sometimes expensive. Besides that, the quality of their polo’s and jeans are way better than other department stores.”

Some students feel as though adding their own style isn’t necessary. Brandon Eckford, a senior, stated, “Brandon doesn’t need any accessories or expensive clothes to show my style. It’s a natural given gift and my uniform isn’t considered boring whenever I’m wearing it. Those department stores serve no justice for a guy like me.”

Senior Christopher White says, “Lacoste and Hollister are the two main stores where I get the uniform polo’s and jeans from. I’m not into having accessories so I just let the clothes talk for themselves.”

When walking down Miami High’s hallways, you can’t help but notice the logos popping out from students’ shirts. In an informal survey conducted amongst the interviewees, the vast majority chose Hollister as the number one store that they use to showcase their style.

Reasons for choosing this brand include its appearance, quality, and durability.

Class of 2011

Class of 2011 has meetings every Tuesday at 2:40 pm in room 189. “So far people are attending our meetings and appreciating our class,” said Treasurer Carla Iraheta. President Andres Martinez adds, “We want to start selling our class shirts as soon as possible. Another goal is to save money to reward good students and those who are active members of the sophomore board. We’re working now to prevent financial problems in our senior year.” Ms. Cruz, class sponsor, said, “It’s an exciting experience; they’re my Baby Stings. Our main focus is having successful events in the future for the class.” (By Joel Vila)

Movie Makers

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1. Who is the Clown Prince of Crime?
2. How much money did the sequel, The Dark Knight, earn in domestic gross?
3. Who played The Joker in the original Batman and the sequel?
4. What is Batman's true identity?
5. What do The Penguin, The Riddler, and Poison Ivy all have in common?
By Yessica Ardila

Mr. Waugaman walks into coaching girls soccer!

What? There’s a new ladies soccer coach?! Who is he? What’s his name? Is he old? We’ve never heard of him. Is he mean? Can somebody please give me the 411?!

Well, you asked for it, so listen up, soccer chicks. Big things are coming your way! Coach Waugaman has officially announced try-out dates. Pre-season tryouts were held September 8. The first official tryout will be October 13 so mark you calendars. The ladies soccer team will head to a preliminary exhibition tour on October 28th and 29th.

Mr. Waugaman is also an English teacher who came to MHS from St. Thomas University where he used to work as an assistant director of admissions. He’s more than glad to be here. He’s “ecstatic!” He noticed that the students are affectionate towards learning, and that’s where he used to work as an assistant director of admissions.

He has many plans for the team this year. He wants the team to have enough discipline, and he doesn’t want them to regret the choice of playing the sport they love. He wants them to succeed in it, and he wants them to show a sense of pride and confidence in both students and athletes.

But he’s not the only one with high expectations for the soccer team, Andrea Seballos, a junior and a veteran on the team, expects coach Waugaman to give them discipline because that’s needed in a team, as well as encouragement, technique, and spirit in wanting to play.

Coach Waugaman did not expect to be the new soccer coach at Miami High. With eyes popped wide open, he chuckled and said “It was a complete surprise, but I accepted with much enthusiasm!” There are both advantages and disadvantages to being both a teacher and a coach. For instance, in Mr. Waugaman’s case, he mentioned that it would be an advantage as a teacher to be an academic influence on athletes. On the other hand, a disadvantage would be getting a clear separation between the field and classroom environment. There’s always a fine line between both, and there’s a way to balance the situation out. You just have to be able to apply it. In other words, leave the game in the field and leave the books for class.

Coach Pardo’s leaving must be a great disappointment and change for the ladies. It turned out that family matters got in Coach Pardo’s way, and living at a long distance from the school was just making it all the more difficult for him. He’s disappointed to stop coaching the girls soccer team since they were making such progress, but he remains at Miami High as a teacher of weight training.

“I wanted to see them develop in what could’ve been the best season,” he said. He believes that they’ll be better with a new coach that has fresh ideas and new concepts. As for him, he sees himself transferring back to a school closer to where he lives and picking up sports again.

Andrea Seballos doesn’t like the idea of changing coaches because she mentioned them being adapted to a routine. However, she also says, “It’s something good too, because that way we can learn new strategies.

Last year the team had a little complication when the team broke down as soon as the senior ladies from 2007-2008 left, but this year, according to Andrea, the first soccer meeting was full of girls! She said “New girls, new team, a new change. I won’t know the outcome of it….I just hoping for the best.”

Fast Facts:
• Pre-season tryouts were held September 8
• First official tryout will be October 13
• Preliminary exhibition tour on October 28th and 29th

The Rivalry: Stingtown vs CavCity

By Kenneth Jimenez

High school rivalries are among the most intense experiences you can have while you are in high school, especially here in Dade County where athletics are everything. The most talked about rivalry in Stingtown is the Coral Gables rivalry.

This hardcore fight has been going on ever since Gables was built in 1950, and it has not stopped. Ms. Sierra, English teacher, said, “This was going on when I came to this school and I am class of ’80.”

Throughout history these two schools have had a rich tradition in football. This year Miami High’s Homecoming game on November 7 is against Coral Gables, and with a new strong team, the Stings should put up a really good fight, at least a better one than last year when Gables blew out the Stings.

Why is it that Stings and Cavs hate each other so much? Is it the completely opposite colors, Gables with red and grey and Miami High with blue and gold? Or maybe it’s the area we live in. Coral Gables has higher class neighborhoods while Miami High is in Little Havana with middle class neighborhoods. Whatever it is, the rivalry has always been big.

According to both schools’ websites, the Stingarees and Cavaliers dominated the 1960s winning a combined 7 national championships. This made South Florida a powerhouse in football. Now when any Miami High team plays against Gables, students show more school spirit than on any other day.

Many football players now in the NFL attended both schools. Gables especially takes pride in Frank Gore from the 49ers who won a national championship with the University of Miami in 2001. Miami High does not come short with pro talent. The Stings have produced Andre Johnson, the stud wide receiver for the Houston Texans who was also on the 2001 Hurricanes championship team.

On the basketball court, Miami High has completely dominated winning several state championships, while Gables has never won a state title in hoops.

There are students who have been to both schools. Gary Porto, a sophomore, said, “I definitely prefer Miami High any day of the week because of all the fun activities Miami High has to offer. Gables was just too dead.” Another former Cav, Jenny Zamora, a sophomore, said, “I wouldn’t go back to Gables even if they paid me because it was just too boring and didn’t have anything going on that was exciting.”

By Yessica Ardila

Cross Country

A new year for the boys cross-country team means new runners and with that comes new triumphs. In the opening race against Miami Springs, Coral Park, Region, and Hialeah Miami Lakes, Miami High placed fourth overall, “We’re looking forward to how we do in GMAC and districts this year,” said head coach Marcus Carreno. “With top runners like Andrew Raposo, Rafael Pancho, Dela Torre, Jessica Viera and Danel Gonzalez, Miami High may run their way to the top this year,” he said.

By Orlando Padron

Football

Miami High’s football team has been having an awesome season. The team’s record is 3-3, according to Coach Walsh. Top players so far have been Wandy Santiago, Fritz Fenelon, Matthew Jean-Janse, David Alvarez, Freddy Odonez, and Dalis Rume. “It has been a good season,” said Coach Walsh. The big upcoming games are against Miami Springs on October 23, Christopher Columbus on October 30, and Coral Gables on November 7.

By Karina

Boys Basketball

Coach Carreno reports that the basketball team is conditioning right now to get physically ready for practices which begin November 3. “The team has looked good so far during their workouts,” said Coach Carreno, “but they’re eagerly awaiting the arrival of team members currently playing football.” Games start November 3rd and the team hopes to see everyone there.

By Richard Bazais

Golf

According to boys golf coach Mr. Uppercit, golf season started in the beginning of the school year and will run until the middle of October. The girls’ golf team, which is coached by Mr. Torossian, has been playing well. There are currently two seniors and a junior who will be going to districts. The boy’s team has a senior, Robert Reyes, who is playing excellent and will most likely continue playing in college. Last year the girls got a second overall due to a lack of players. “Golf is the most played sport in the United States and it leads to the business world,” said Mr. Uppercit.

By Richard Bazais

Boys Basketball

Miami High’s bowling teams have had mixed success. The girls have a 3-1 record while the boys have struggled at 2-4. Bowling coaches Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Gonzalez would like to congratulate Vanessa Moreno, a junior, from the girls’ team and Angel Lopez, a senior from the boys’ team, for their outstanding performances in the game against Hialeah. The season began in August and will end in early November.

By Margarita Mesin

Wrestling

Wrestling coach Mr. Gonzales said anyone who wants to join the Miami Senior High wrestling team must pass by room 178. Practice has already begun for the season.

By Manny Valdez

Volleyball

The girls’ volleyball season started September 17 against Miami Central Senior High. Coach Vela replaced former coach Ms. Yanes, who decided to leave to spend time with her new child. The Varsity team has 10 players with 3 returning from last year. Coach Vela is not the only new girl on the team. The new team has a record of 7 wins and 5 losses. “The girls’ volleyball team has come a long way since the beginning of July when we started conditioning,” says Ms.Vela. Major improvements, she said, have been shown by players such as juniors Daifi Perico and Olivia Ruiz. The season ends on October 29th against Jackson Senior High. Ms.Vela bids farewell to the team’s seniors: Melanie Garcia, Daniela Barboza, Daniela Bonilla, Amanda Moraled and Yasinayre Garrido. (By Daniela Barboza)

By Cindy Bobadilla

Swimming

The swim team started out their season on September 2, 2008. According to Coach Tornillo top swimmers include Catherie Latens, Elena Nieto, Adrian Lorenzo, and Christian Lazareto. “The swim team has improved a lot from last year,” he said. “They practice a lot.” The swim team is going to Districts on October 29th. GMAC will also be held this month on the 23rd and 24th.

By Cindy Bobadilla
Drivers Ed Driven Off Track

FROM PAGE 16
cram-machin-moie-moe to choose who or what they were going to cut. Dr. Tosado said that there is a group of people appointed by the Board who make recommendations or proposals about what to cut to save money, and then the School Board makes a decision about these recommendations. Also he said that Miami-Dade County was one of the last districts in the state to cut out Driver’s Ed from its curriculum.

Asked if we might get Driver’s Ed back, Dr. Tosado said he doubted it because it asked for money. On the other hand, Ms. Garcia says that there would be a group of people appointed by the Board who make recommendations or proposals about what to cut to save money, and then the School Board makes a decision about these recommendations. Also he said that Miami-Dade County was one of the last districts in the state to cut out Driver’s Ed from its curriculum.

What Ms. Garcia is proposing, however, won’t be seen, until some time into the future. So what will students do now, in the present, if they want to learn how to drive? She says that, on their own, students could take online courses or just take the class privately.

Dr. Tosado has another alternative. “Run next to a car and watch people drive,” he joked. “More seriously,” he said, “you can go to private classes through the American Automobile Association or go online.”

Even with these alternative options still open to them, students still can’t help but feel a little disgruntled. Vonette Prospere, a junior, was extremely mad when Driver’s Ed was taken away because it was her first elective. She said that taking Driver’s Ed at Miami High would have been easier than going somewhere else, especially for people who have to take the Metro Bus.

Sophomore Christopher Rapalo said, “The class was helpful by it being in school and teaching us about safety and cars.”

7 Unlucky Clubs

FROM PAGE 16
Ms. Quintero, who started the Computer Club twenty years ago, can sympathize. She said that she is disappointed that because of the lack in funding the club had to get cut.

Many students and club members also were disappointed. Senior and former treasurer of World Issues Susana Perez said, “It’s unfair that they cut down such a helpful and determined club. The club had a lot of plans for this upcoming school year, to help out those in need. Personally I think they should bring the club back and give us our time to shine.”

Senior Claudia Osorio stated, “It is disappointing that they had to cut such influential clubs.”

HOSA

Club sponsor Ms. Turner reports that HOSA collected clothes and canned food for victims of the hurricane in Haiti.

HOSA will be going into competition in Orlando soon, but right now the club is preparing. The categories they will be competing in are still to be determined but they are in a variety of clinical and administrative categories. HOSA will also start fundraising to pay for the buses and the trip to Orlando.

They are also fundraising to be able to hold a banquet for the students who complete the senior medical program. (by Carolina Navarro)

GSA

Every year on the week of October 12, vigils remembering the death of Matthew Shepard are held across the country. Matthew Shepard was a gay student who was brutally attacked by two males near Laramie, Wyoming. This was a hate crime against homosexuals. Miami High’s own Gay Straight Alliance held its own vigil on October 12, 2008, at club president Josie Ovalle’s house. (by John Torres)

Science Honor Society

The Science Honor Society meets on Mondays, biweekly at 2:30 pm after school in club sponsor Dr. Yoham’s classroom, room 020. The overall GPA required to join is 3.0. Club members tutor those who need help in science, and last they do science fair projects with elementary schools students. (by Jennifer Gonzalez)

Math Club

Math Club members will soon prepare for competitions that will take place in January. Club sponsor Ms. Gonzalez commented that members will also start tutoring after school to support school efforts to improve FCAT scores. “Finally, we are getting pretty cool club shirts,” she said. (by Gary Porto)

Circolo Italiano

“The purpose of the Italian Club is to provide knowledge of the Italian language and culture and to promote spirit throughout Miami High,” says Circolo Italiano club advisor Ms. Miranda. “By learning another language we can seek a greater understanding of other people and other cultures. Think about how many more people and places you could really get to know, newspapers and books you could read, TV programs you could understand, and websites you could visit.” She would also like to thank the club members that participated in the Caribbean hurricane relief efforts. (by Frank Sangineto)

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