

Newark Tech



All
Eyes
on Us

2009

Handwritten names in a circular arrangement, including: Sharon Lee, Tariq S. Ika, Jessie Freeman, Kataravia J. Lunda Lopez, Kijarah M. Elijah P. Janilez, Sarah J. Jose Andres Morales, Karen Hernandez, Widemonde, Masiell Made Senora, Reggie Byedsoe, Tynisha Miller, Patrice Murphy, Charge' Woods, Reyna Nava, Marlen Gonzales, Marketta, David M. Phipps, Carolyn Almonte, Jessica Saso, Tyshawn Noble, Dayana Loach Amin, Sadayah Cirigosa, and many others.

VANITY BELNES
DANYEA B.P.
DANIELA

SOY PEVEZ ANDRE TELERAN
NO SHIPING
STEVENS

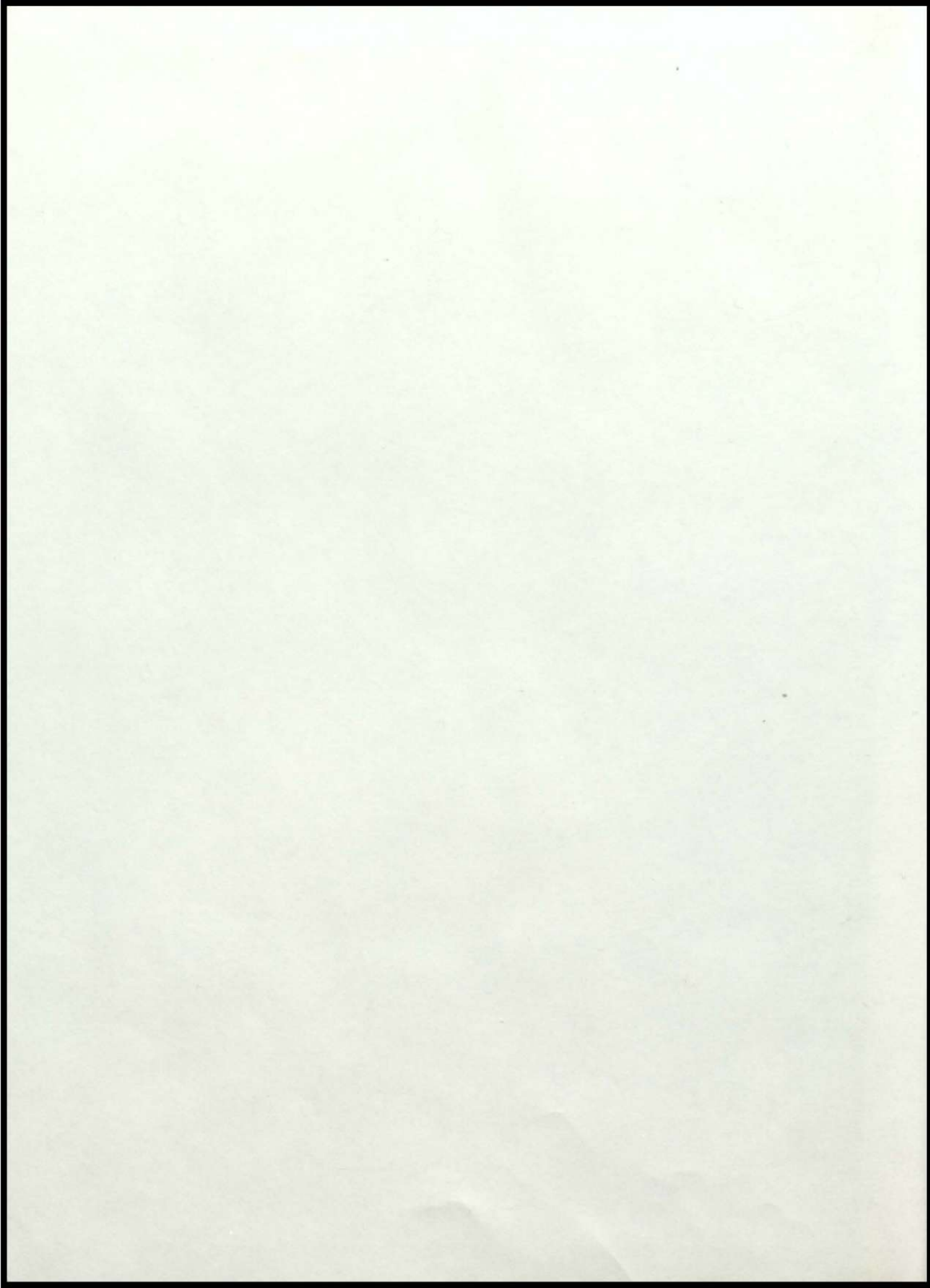
YOUNG
LAFON
MAY
CITIZEN
DORIAN
KELIS
TARAN

WASHIRA

CLARK

El Amin Mannan

Samira T. Houston & Cody C. M. Smith
Naimah Clemons
Glady's D.H. Khadijah M.
Tiara P. Yamayra
EDWIN E. AUGUST
Marissa Scott
Ismael Veronica
C. Darlene Perry
Khan Reddick
Marguisha A. Edwards
Jahad Spruill
Deborah de Jesus
Jared Clarke
Shanique Royal
Royal
Ivelva
Elijah Holden
Raven Dover
Quindora Booker
Lady Love
Dulce Hughes
Tashem
Patrick McClain
Yoi McRae
Tashia
Keshenne
Clarese J. Alexis Janssen
VALERIA M.
Kanisha Anthony
Samiyah Slade
Crystal Acevedo
Dante C.
Zymon Aguilera
Manilla
Luis Guimaraes
Sohat Reategui
Albaco Clard
Suzana
Diana D. S.
Dionna Harris
Shomari M.
Lander C.
Cliffon M.
Monica Spence
Luis Guimaraes
Deshawn
Kiana
Tiffany Jenkins
Deshaun
Kiana



Newark Tech

91 West Market Street Newark, NJ 07103

(973)412-2204 www.essextech.org

Ranked One of the Best Schools by US News and World Report

IT GETS NO
BETTER THAN US!



NEWARK TECH



CLASS OF 2009





Seniors

Class of 2009



Crystal Acevedo



Zymon Aguila



Jorge Aguilar



Carolina Almonte



Ismael Alvarez



Kanisha Anthony



Waverly Antwi



Karen Arce



Karen Armstrong



Rosemary Asante



Kashana Ashford



Delphine Assibour



Maria Atencio



Hugo Ayala



Joshua Bailey



Christian Balboa



Katherine Barboza



Joanne Beaudin



Reginald Bledsoe



Cherron Boisselle



Quindora Booker



Donyea Bradley



Kyle Brown



Veronica Caguana



Yomayra Camacho



Ashley Cannady



Cody Charles



Naim Cheatham



Taron Clark



Albaro Claros



Naimah Clemons



Danielle Coleman



Lander Coleman



Kristal Cordero



Maria Cordova



Jared Crarke



Desiree Crespo



Monica Cubero



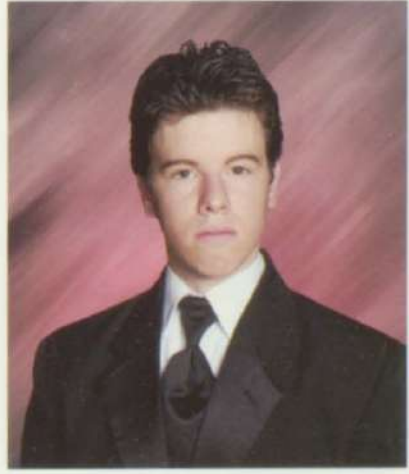
Judith Damtey



Deborah DeJesus



Juan Denizac



Federico Depauli



Raven Dover



Marquisha Edwards



Asia Estes



Gladys Feijoo



Yessenia Figueroa



Candida Fobih



Mel Gibson



Jahqui Gilles



Jamil Godley



Linda Gomez



Edwin Gonzalez



Joshua Gonzalez



Marlen Gonzalez



Sadayah Griggs



Jeffrey Gyan



Deja Harris



James Harris



Dante Harrison



Johnathan Hayes



Damaris Hernandez



Karen Hernandez



Flavio Hiciano



Elijah Holden



Isaiah Holmes



Samira Houston



David Hutchinson



Teiania Ingram



Dejon Inocencio



Clarese Jenkins



Tiffany Jenkins



Andre Johnson



Gionah Johnson



Latavia Johnson



Phillip Jones



Safwan Jones



Senora Jones



Tiffany Joyner



Sarah Kamara



Dorian Keys



Widemonde Lafond



Crystal Lamarr



Addie Lewis



Takia Littles



Dayana Loachamin



Darleny Made



Masiell Made



El-Amin Mannan



Anthony Manson



Khadijah Marshall



Valeria Martelo



Patrick McClain



Jalisa McConnell



Shomari McGee



Shante McLeod



Shanika McNair



Marketta McPherson



Toi McRae



Mufee Melvin



Cesar Merino



Mayyadah Miller



Tynisha Miller



Kenya Mills



Kiarah Moore



Jose Morales



Clifton Mosley



Pedro Moyano



Patrice Murphy



Quadreyah Murray



Diana Narvaez



Reyna Nava



Da'shod Neukirk



Tyshawn Noble



Andreah Oglesby



Ruby Okaijah



Felix Ortiz



Niurka Ortiz



Nashira Parker



Vipul Paruthi



Yumary Paz



Tiara Pearson



Desmond Peeks



Joy Perez



Aleemah Perry



Elijah Pogue



Luis Quinones



Osvaldo Quinones



Khari Reddick



Steven Robinson



Shaniqua Royal



Cosmas Sarbeng



Samuel Sarphe



Jessica Saso



Marissa Scott



Darnell Simon



Tariq Sinclair



Samiyyah Slade



Marvin Smith



Dulce Soledad



Carmelo Sosa



Mariella Sosa



Monica Spence



Jahaad Spruill



Nicholas Stamp



Deshawn Statum



Vanidy Stuckey



Kofi Takyi



Alexis Townsend



I'drionna Turner



Aaron Varnado



Efren Vasquez



Jennifer Veix



Angelo Viera



Josue Vigil



Courtney Voorhees



Hysheem Walker



Lamar Walker



Shaquan Ward



Hasinayah Washington



Daquan Williams



Martha Williams



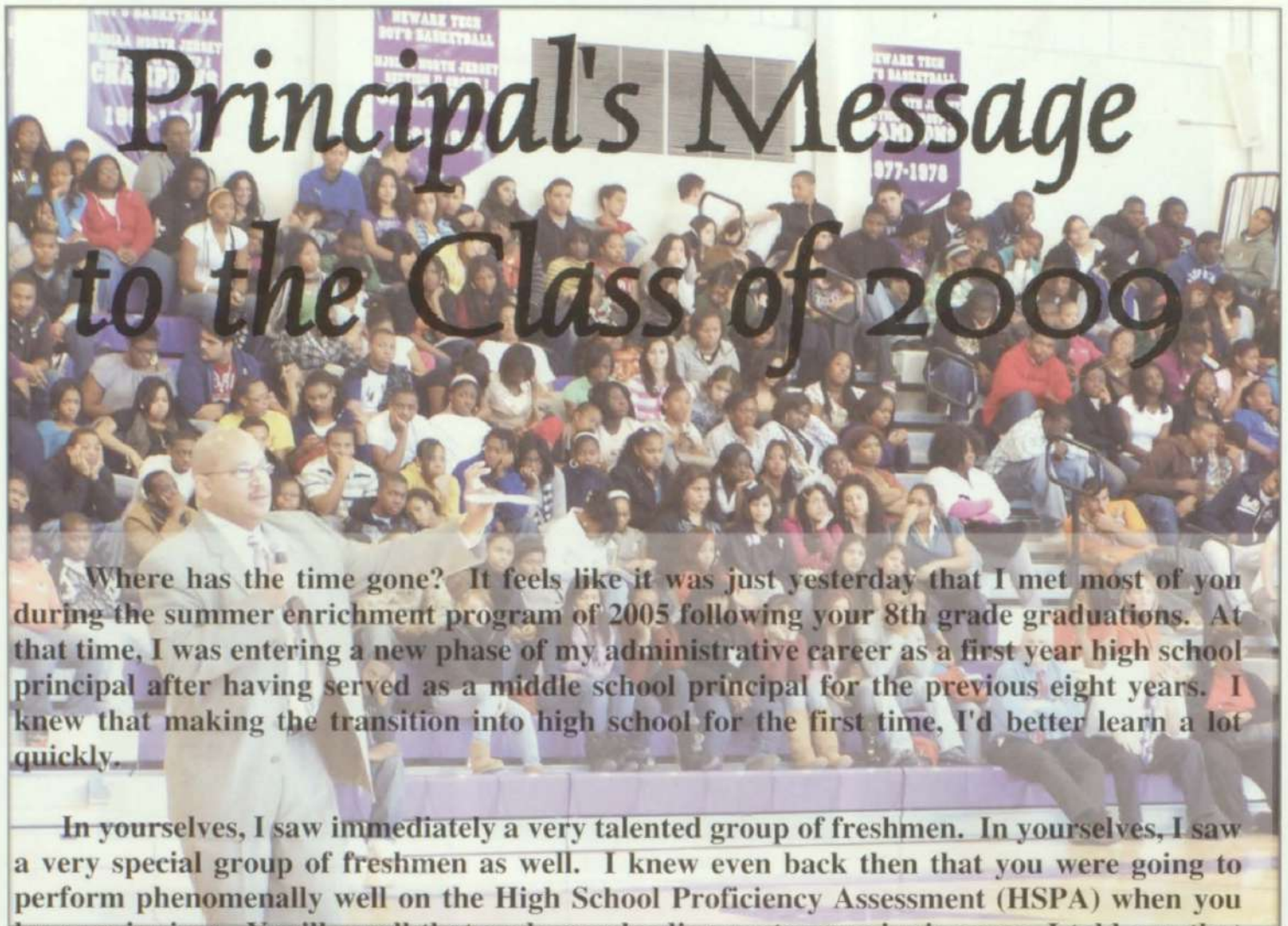
Wilmot Wilson



Charae Woods



Da'lainee Younger



Principal's Message to the Class of 2009

Where has the time gone? It feels like it was just yesterday that I met most of you during the summer enrichment program of 2005 following your 8th grade graduations. At that time, I was entering a new phase of my administrative career as a first year high school principal after having served as a middle school principal for the previous eight years. I knew that making the transition into high school for the first time, I'd better learn a lot quickly.

In yourselves, I saw immediately a very talented group of freshmen. In yourselves, I saw a very special group of freshmen as well. I knew even back then that you were going to perform phenomenally well on the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) when you became juniors. You'll recall that each year leading up to your junior year, I told you that you were going to do exceptionally well. Each year, you did in fact perform exceptionally well leading up to the HSPA. Then in March of 2008, you took the test. When we got your results back, there was no surprise. You did what was envisioned and expected. In fact, you did extraordinarily well. Your performance on the HSPA was the highest in the history of the HSPA at Newark Tech! Words cannot express how proud I am of each of you.

In what feels like such a short period of time, you are now preparing to move on to the next level in your various different capacities. I am confident that each of you will experience enormous success if you maintain a vision for achieving enormous success. I am confident that each of you will maximize your potential if you maintain positive attitudes and make wise decisions along the way. I am also confident that there are students within your class whose names will become household names due to you making a difference either in your communities, state, country or even the world! That level of talent exists in the class of 2009.

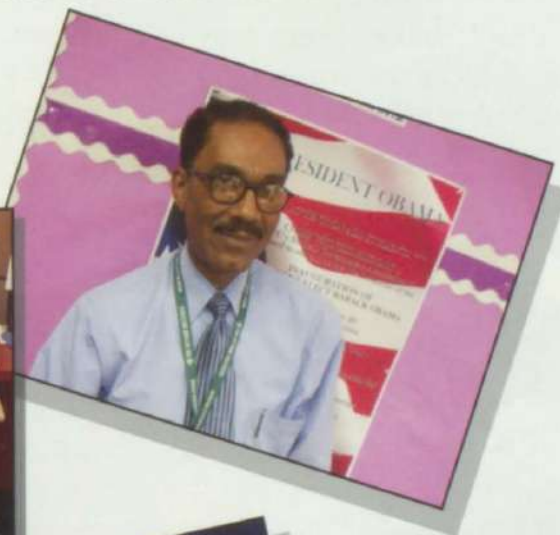
I will always remember the class of 2009. You are the class that entered Newark Tech with me. As I watched you grow as young adults over the past four years, you simultaneously watched me grow as a high school principal. I wish you well in all of your future endeavors and I urge you to stay connected to Newark Tech and to continue to be a part of our Young Men's and Young Women's Empowerment Programs for years to come.

HOTEP!

Faculty and Staff



We send you off with our best wishes for a happy and successful future.
With Love, Your Teachers



Project Boys

Now, WAIT

Dahlings! You look
Fabooosh!!



Hallway Girls:

KNIT IT OUT



We'll
always
be...



Friends

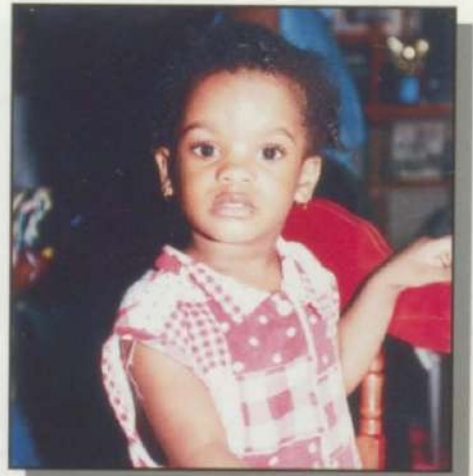




*You've come a long way
babies!*









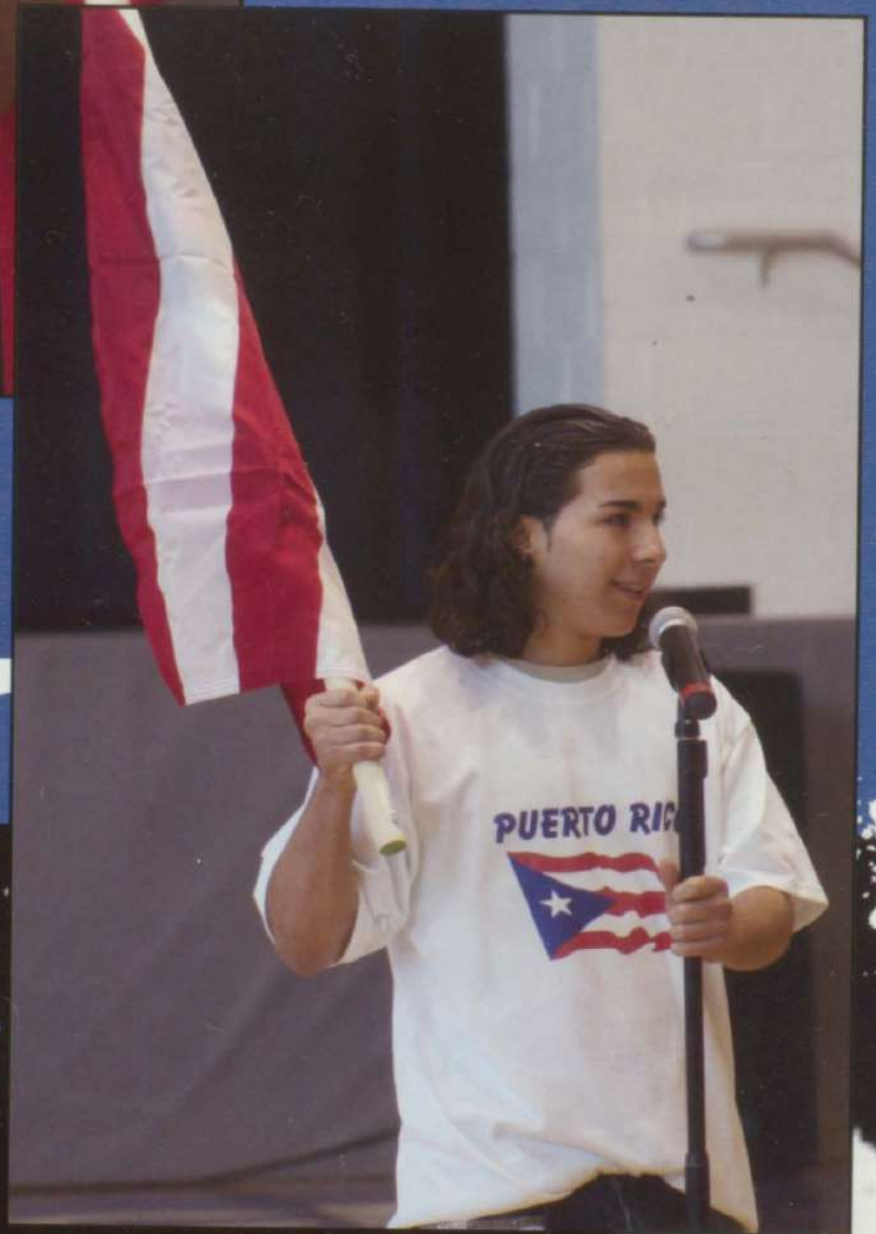
Cute and Innocent Us!

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Niurka Ortiz | 15. Vipul Paruthi | 29. Joshua Vigil |
| 2. Mystery Boy | 16. Marquisha Edwards | 30. Yessenia Figueroa |
| 3. Senora Jones | 17. Gladys Feijoo | 31. Elijah Pogue |
| 4. Ismael Alvarez | 18. Marketta McPherson | 32. Toi McRae |
| 5. Vanidy Stuckey | 19. Flavio Hiciano | 33. Addie Lewis |
| 6. Isaiah Holmes | 20. Niurka Ortiz | 34. Nashira Parker |
| 7. Andre Johnson | 21. Shante McLeod | 35. Sadayyah Griggs |
| 8. Samiyyah Slade | 22. Reyna Nava | 36. Tiffany Joyner |
| 9. Cosmas Sarbeng | 23. Kenya Mills | |
| 10. Crystal Lamarr | 24. Ashley Cannady | |
| 11. Andreah Oglesby | 25. Cherron Boiselle | |
| 12. Joy Perez | 26. Ruby Okaijah | |
| 13. Mariella Sosa | 27. Monica Spence | |
| 14. Jeffrey Gyan | 28. Joanne Beaudin | |

HISPANIC
HERITAGE
CELEBRATION

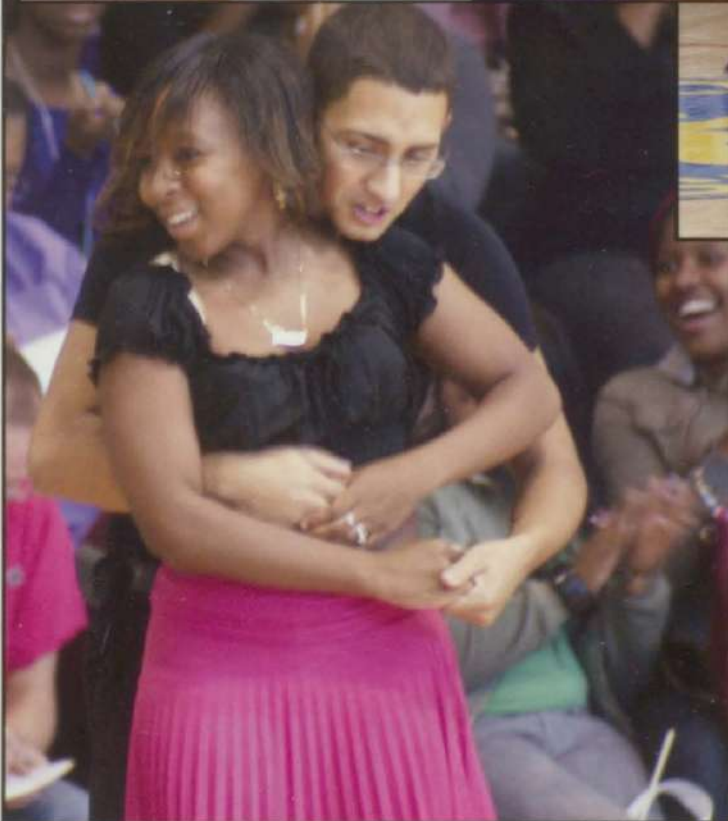


Muchas
gracias,
señoras
Mellakh y
Diaz y señor
Gary!



QUE LINDOS

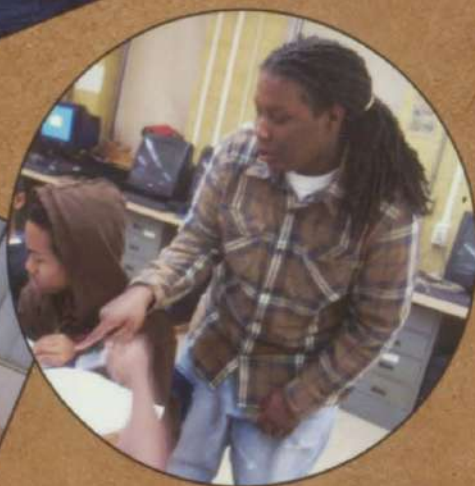
JOS SOL SUC FI CA C T O S

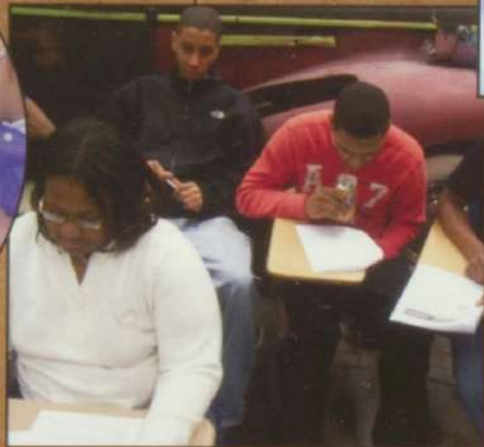


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about

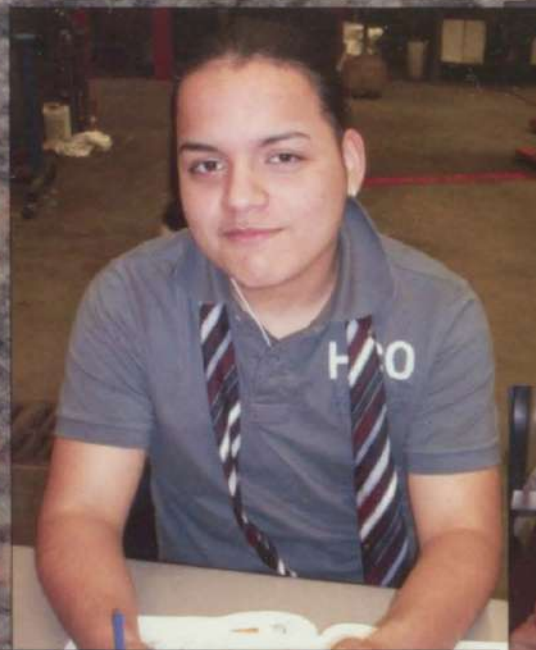
Allied Health, Auto Body, Auto Tech,
Business, Carpentry, Computer Technology,
Dental Assistant, Drafting, Electricity,
Electronics, Music Production, Plumbing,
Welding

SHOP

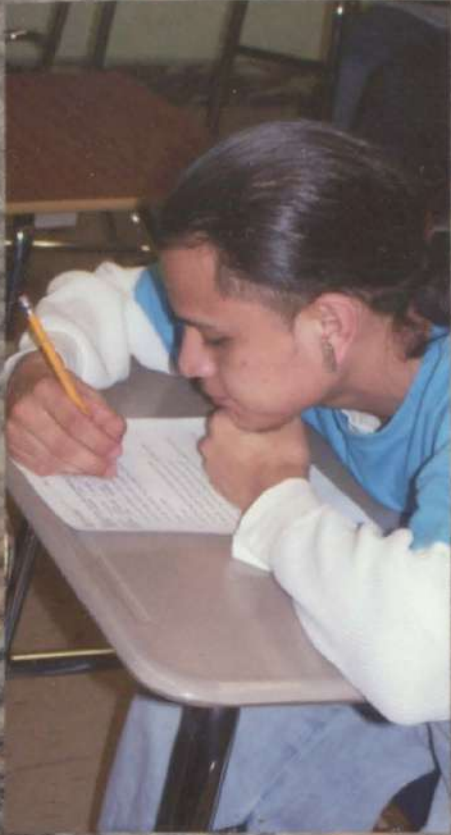




Los Mejores Años



Lo Hicimos





Now this is school spirit!!

Fall Pep Rally

Mr. Ramos--Step out of your vehicle and put your hands up!



Primo...the purple puppy... Who let the dog out? Who-Who, Who-Who??!!



Girls please...I don't have time to sign autographs now.

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2009



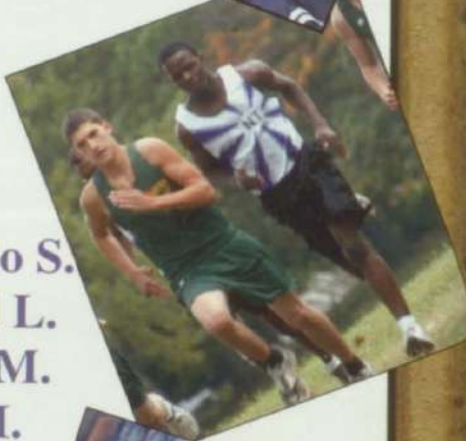
Run Tech Run

**Coach
Mr. Constantino**

Team

**Mel G.
Wilmont W.
Dorian K.
Caroline A.
Daquan W.**

**Carmelo S.
Crystal L.
Keyna M.
De'jon I.
Joshua B.**





TEAM CAPTAIN
COSMAS S.
GOAL'S
ACHIEVED IN ALL
SEASONS 74



JAHAT R.



DAVAUNI
B.



ISMAEL A.



ISMAEL A.



ALBARO
C.



HUGO A.
&
ZUBERU
S.



EFRAIN
G.



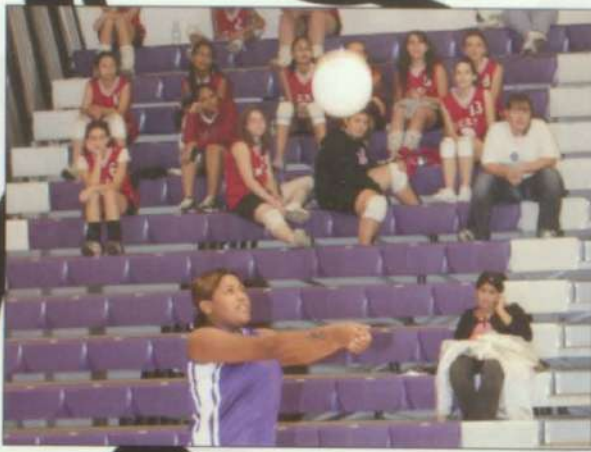
ALBARO
C.

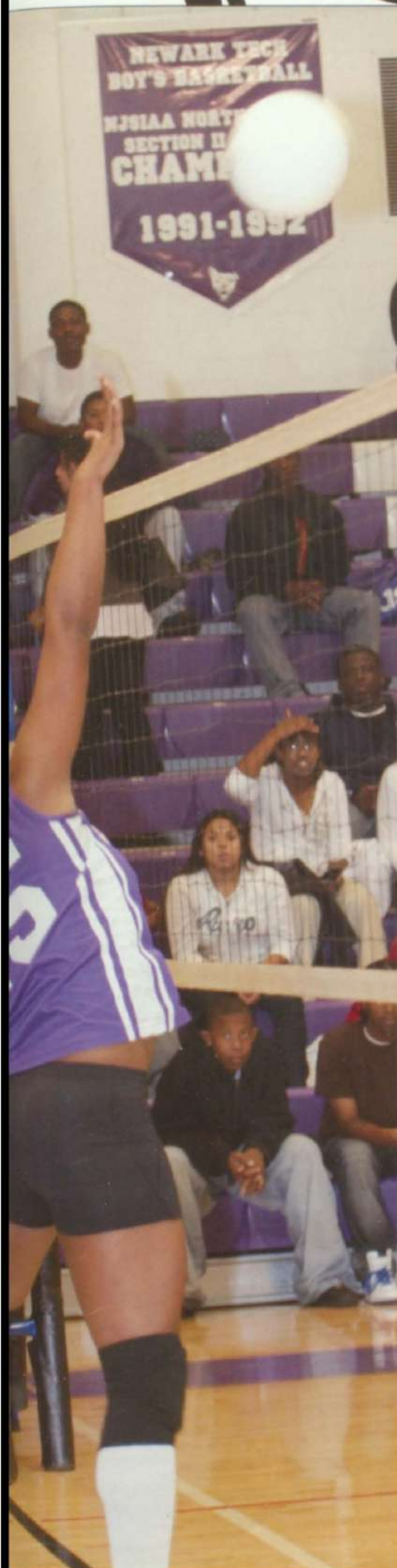


COACH
HERBERT
RAMOS



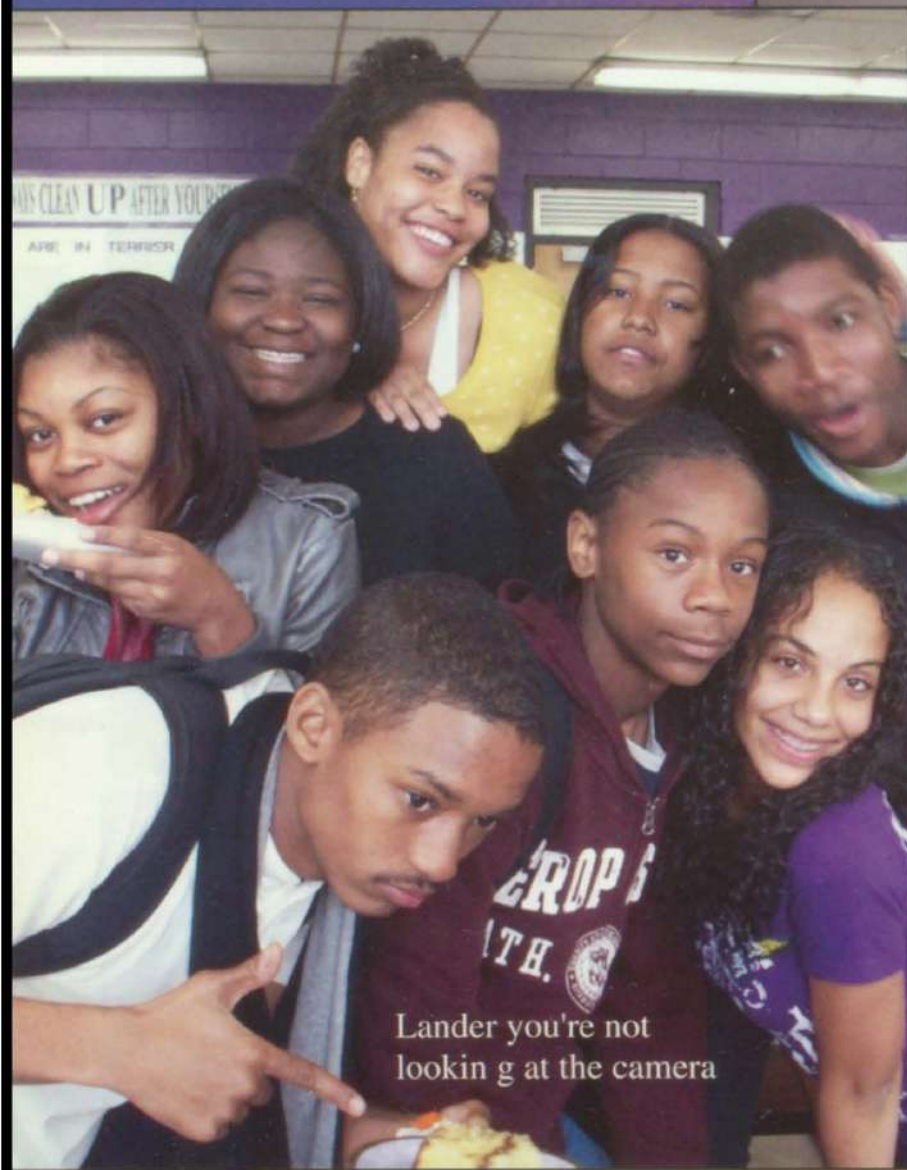
2008 NJTIL CHAMPS



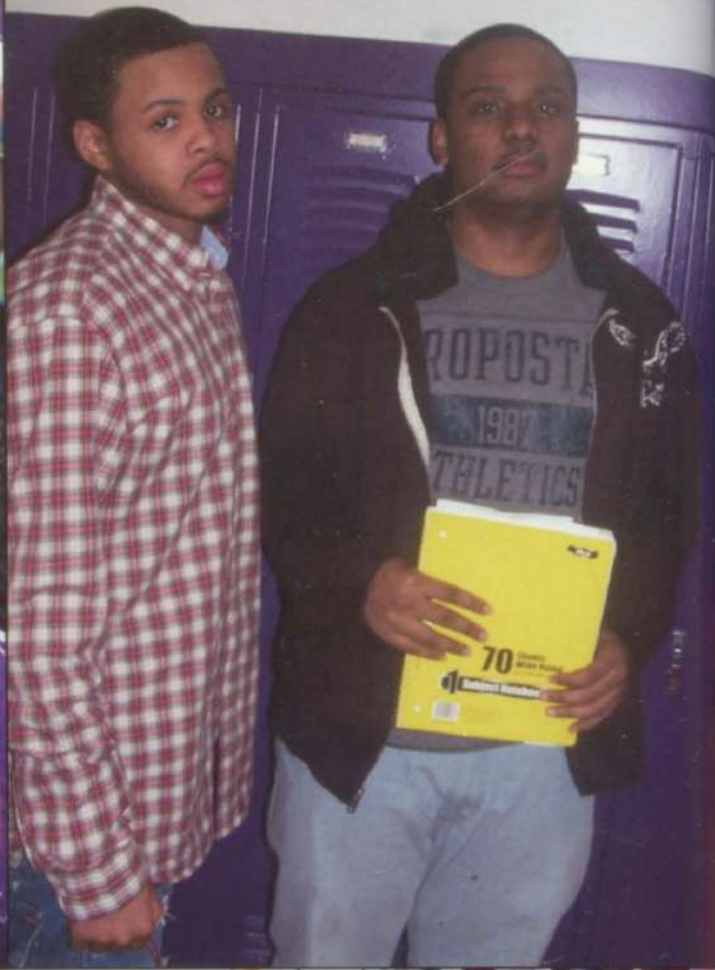


*A Championship Season...
Anthony, Turner, Perry,
Ortiz, McRae, Spence, Griggs*

We can explain why we're not
in class...



Lander you're not
lookin g at the camera



ticktickticktickticktick....
Git it! Git it!



We know it's hard to believe, but
we're no angels



Now where else can you get an education and some love?



Lights Out, it's
bedtime



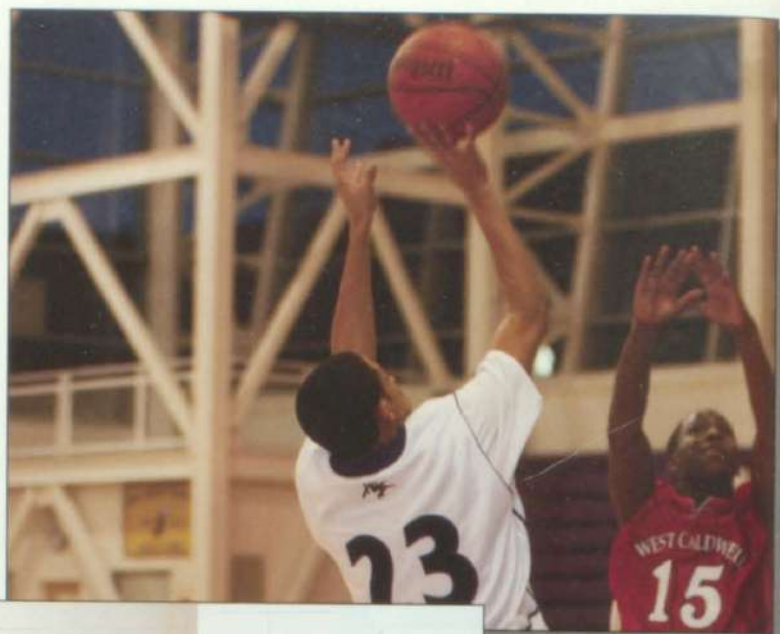




2008/2009 NJTIL Champs



2009 Boys' Basketball Team



Senior Players:

- Jamil Godley
- Shomari McGee
- Khari Reddick
- Marvin Smith





2008/2009
NJTIL
Champs



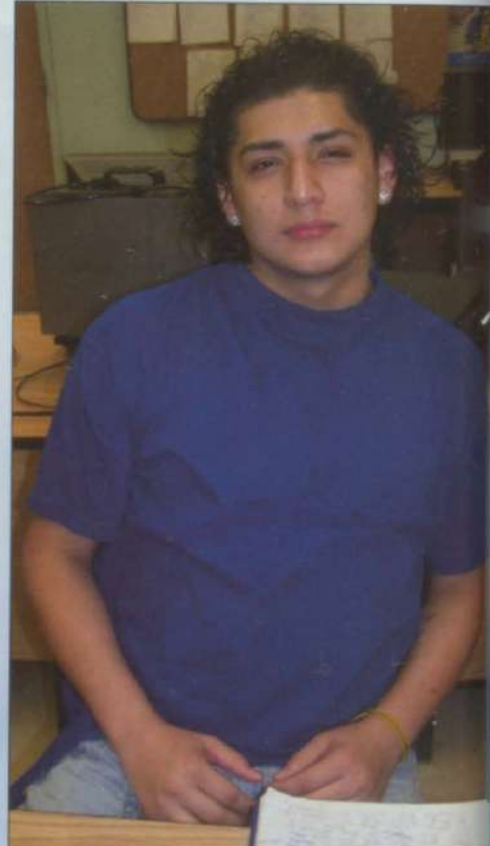
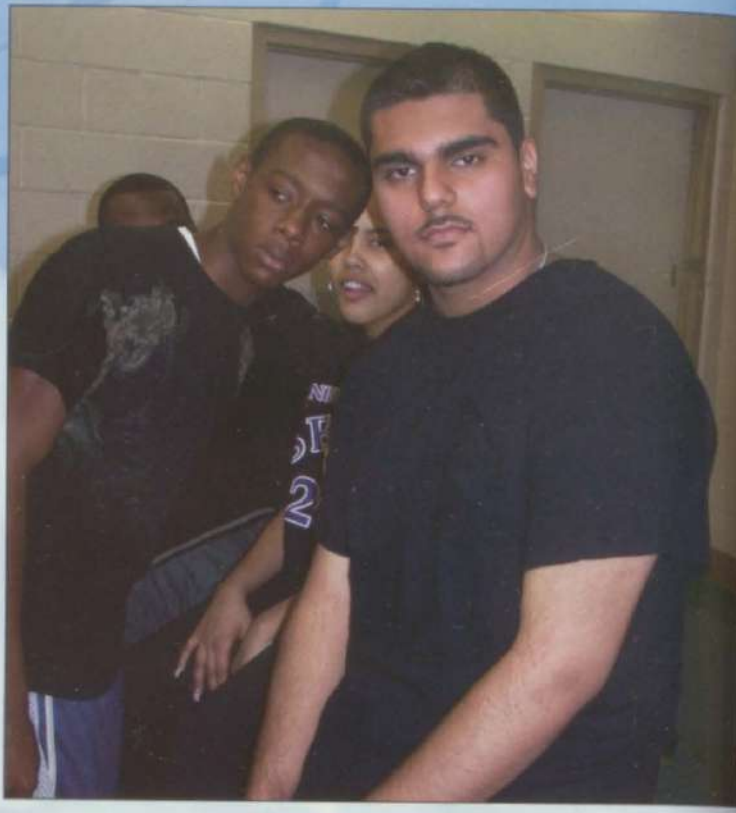
Our Record:
14 & 8



Varsity Coach:
Mr. Jordan

JV Coach:
Mr. Benton

These are just a few of our future leaders!



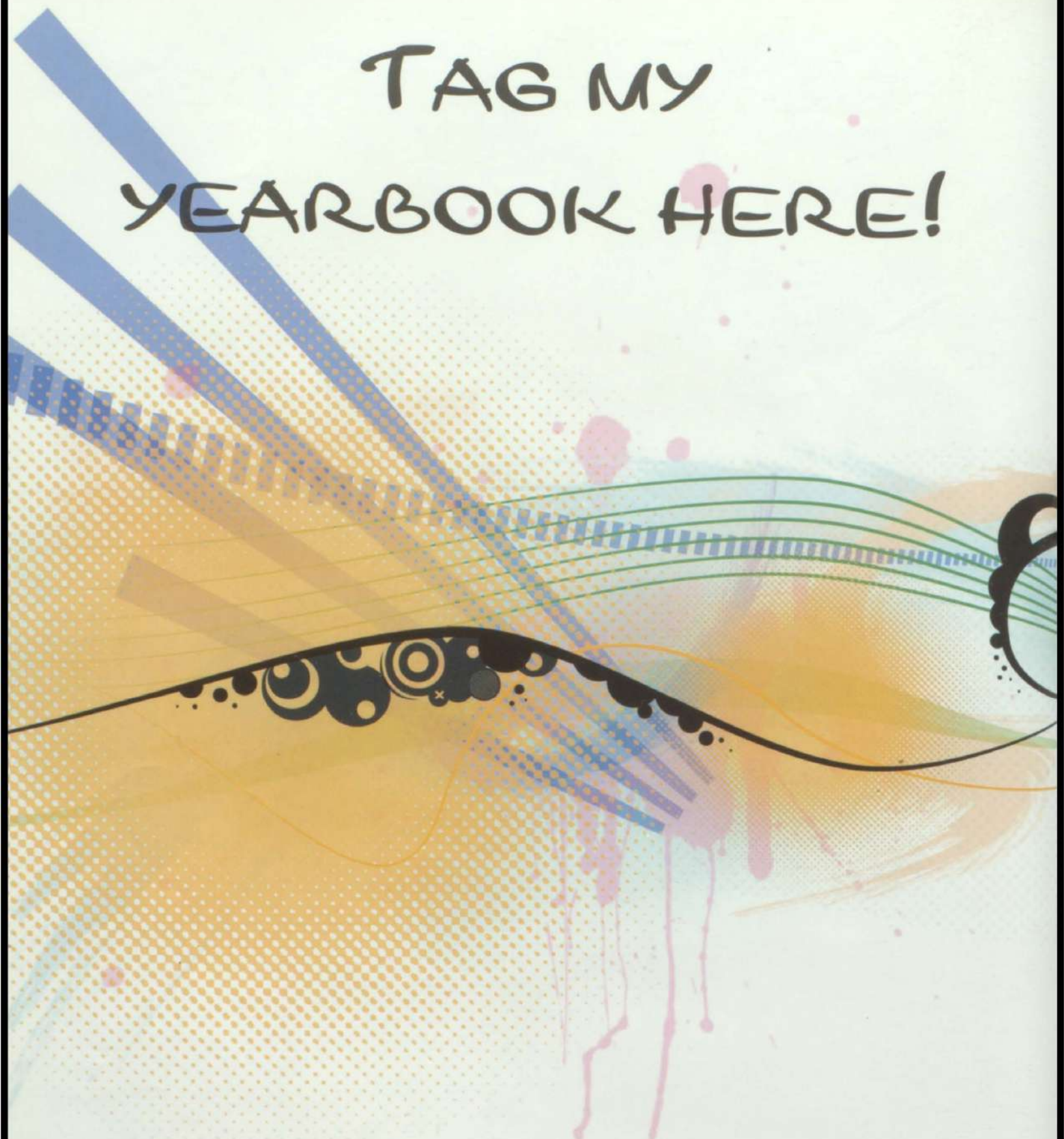


The universe is filled with Newark Tech stars!





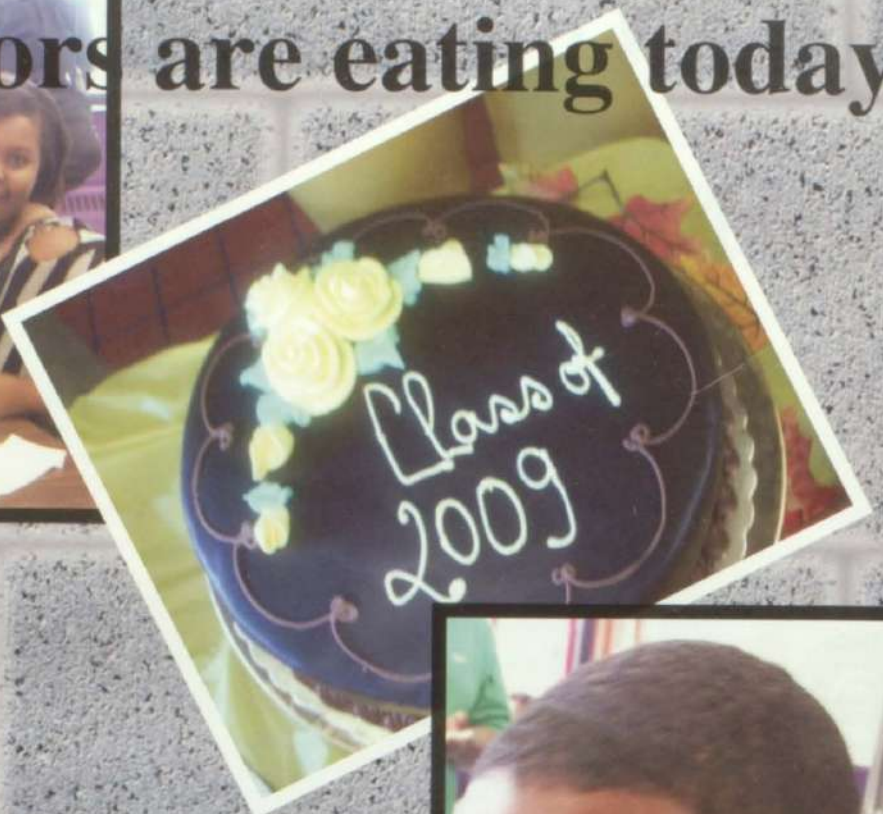
TAG MY YEARBOOK HERE!



FOR MY FRIENDS
ONLY.

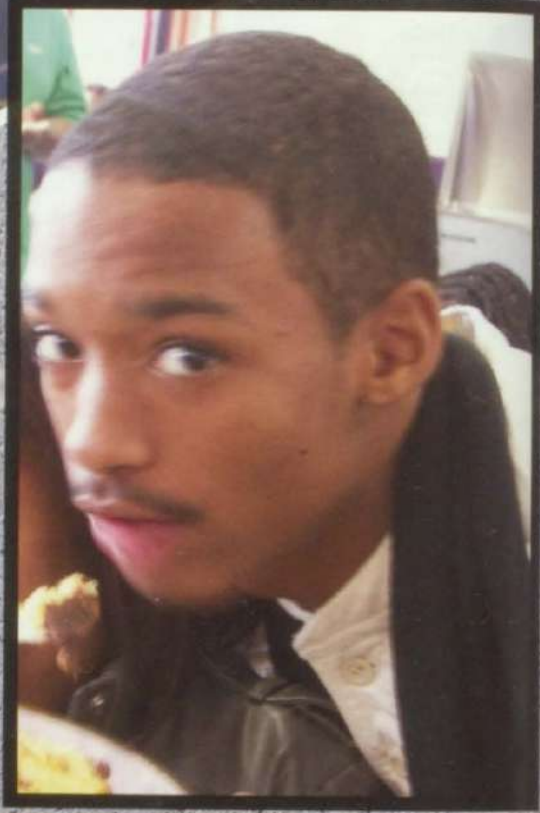


I wonder what the seniors are eating today...



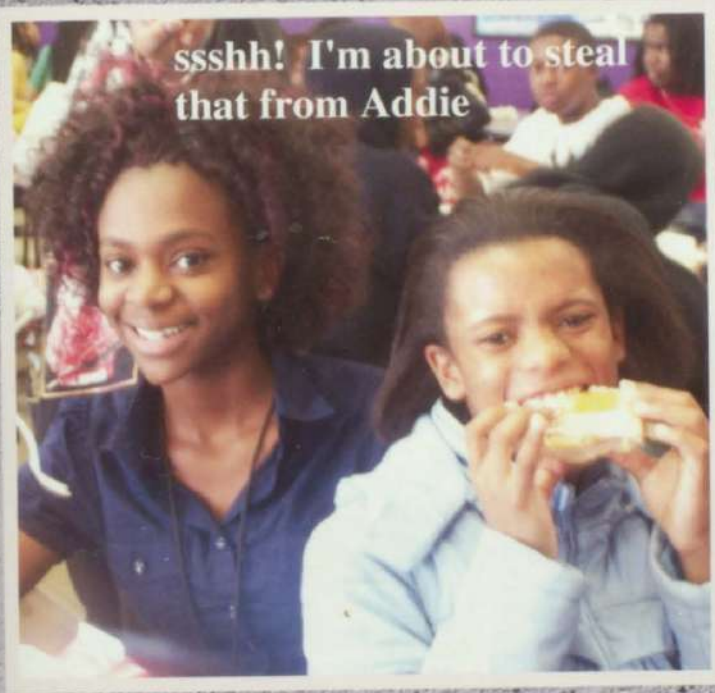
Mr. Kafele claims, "The cake is ON FIRE!!!!"

Fander, step away from the cake!



THIS IS FUN AND ALL, BUT HOW COME KASHANA GETS TO BE IN TWO PICTURES ON THIS PAGE? TELL ME NOW! I'M WAITING!





ssshh! I'm about to steal that from Addie

No girls, I will not give you a bite!



Are there any leftovers?



Yum Yum!!! What's that Kashana?

VOTES ARE IN

Most Popular

Most Athletic



The Loudest

Best Smile



The Quietest



Best Looking



Most Manipulative



Best Dressed



Best Friends

Most Outspoken



SENIOR SU

Future Mr. & Mrs.



Most Annoying



Most Conceited



Class Clowns



Best Couple



Teachers' Pets



Teachers' Terrors



Most Likely to Succeed



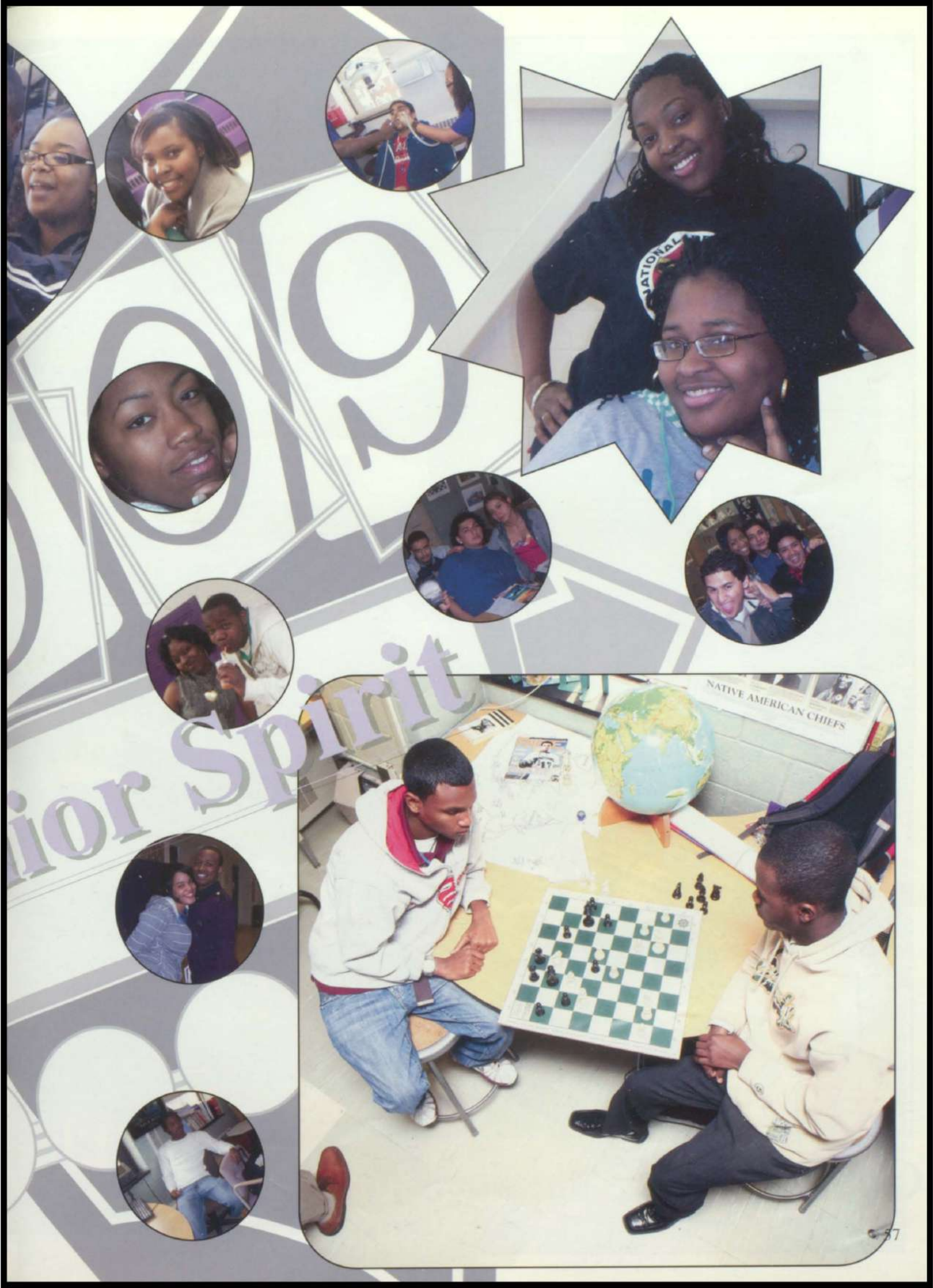
Drama King & Queen

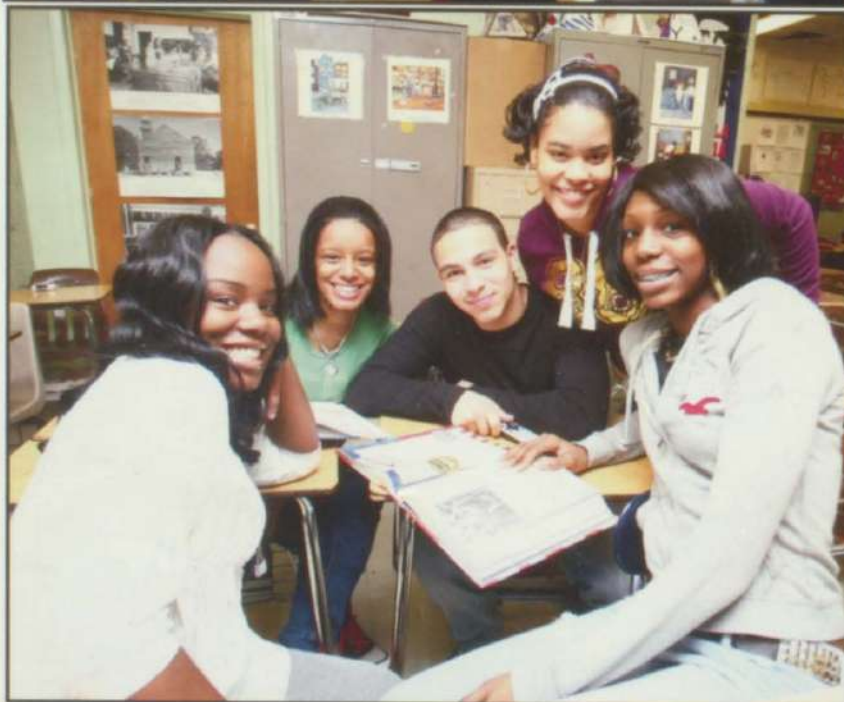


PERLATIVE

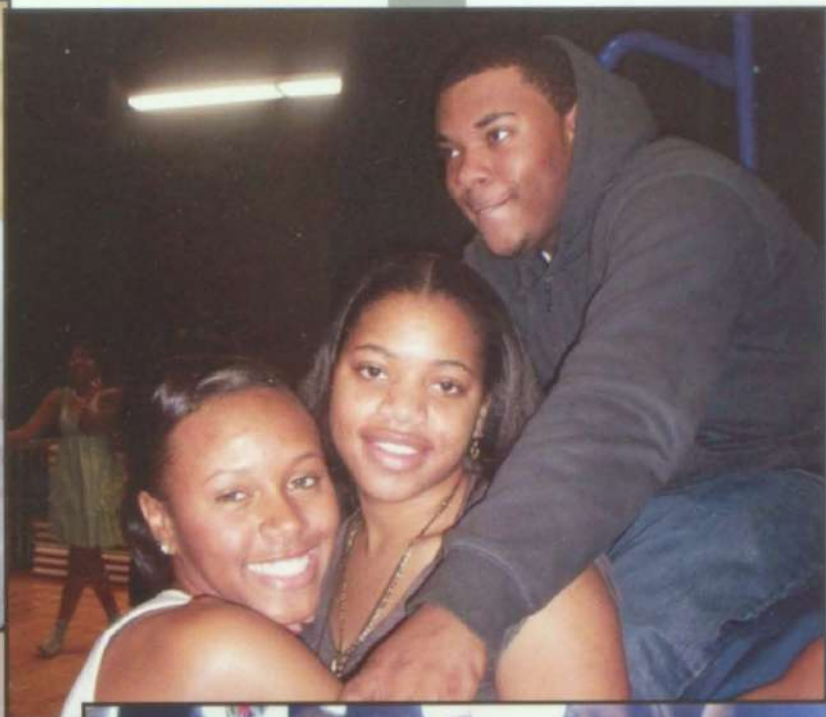
It is
what
it is...







Gotta admit we did have fun!



Beam me up, Scotty!



Oh, this? It's a flier seeking information as to Samira's whereabouts



One Two Three! Blast Off!!



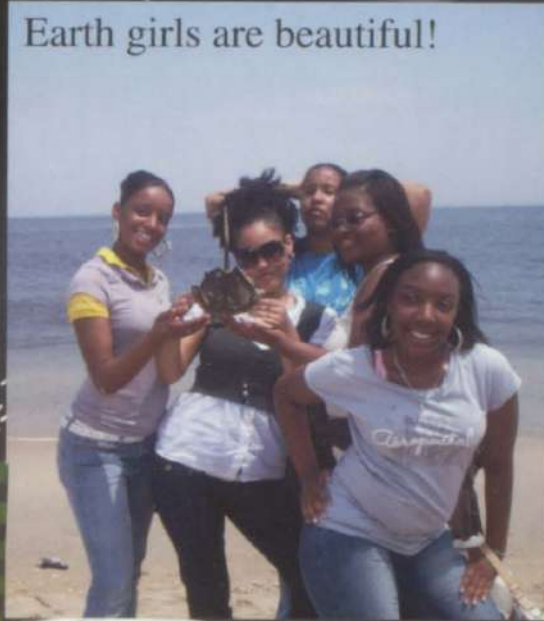
We call this the Stanky Leg!



We are out of this world

Have you seen my ride? No, not the bus, The Star Ship Enterprise

Earth girls are beautiful!



Take us to your leader!

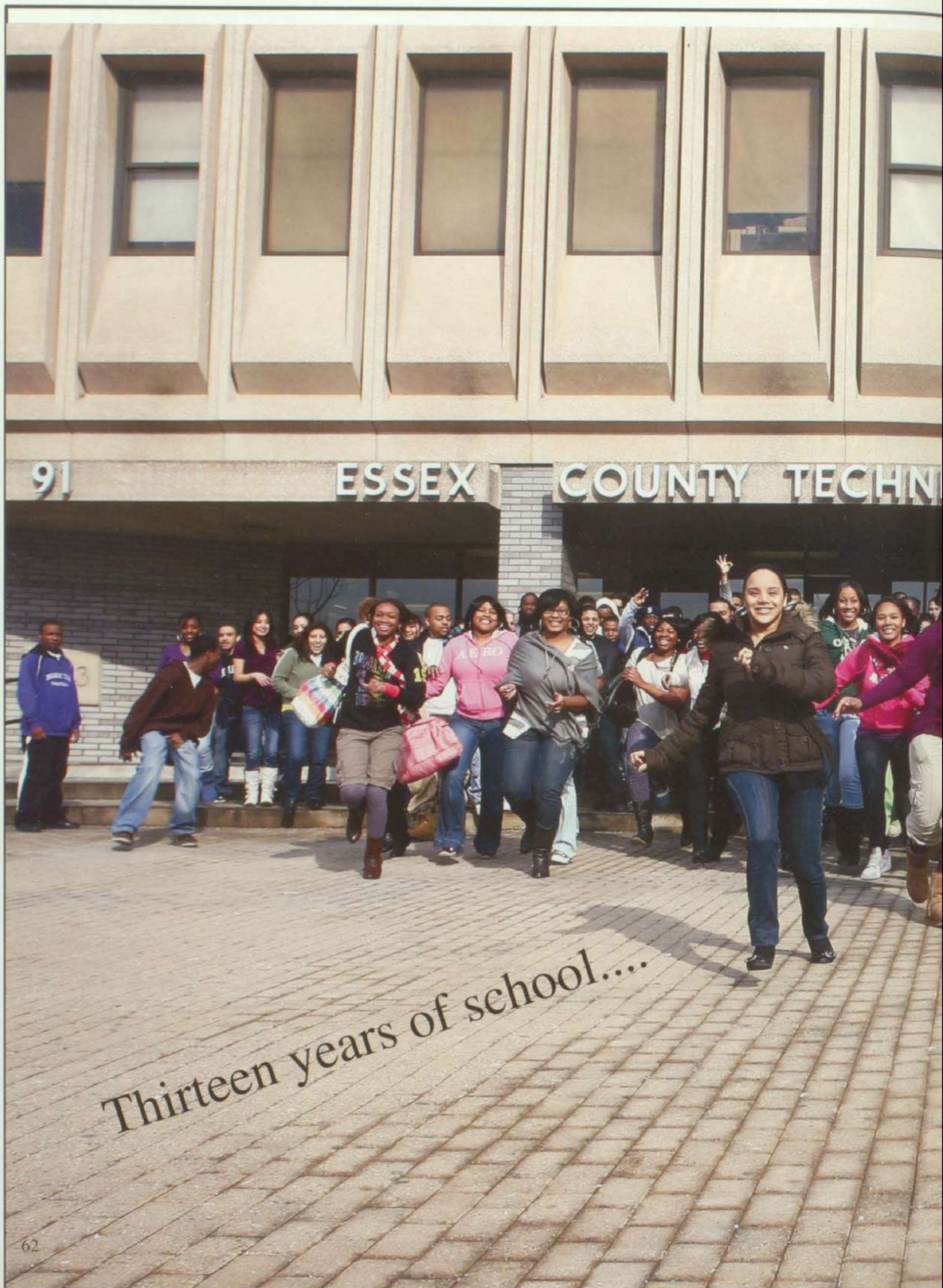


We can fix any problems we encounter, even in space



No need to run, there's room for everyone!





Thirteen years of school....

WE'RE
OUTTA
HERE!

AL CAREERS CENTER

91



Hotep

I will never forget:

Beating the HSPA

Mr. Kafele playing basketball and missing foul shots.

Snacks in Ms. Shoop's class

Junior year in Mr. Kay's class

Dancing in front of the school

Being the mascot

Allied health class: the laughs, the arguments

Aaron's busted butt in Stiehler's class and being late

My Newark Tech family

Martha falling at pep rally 07; sliding across the floor

Hasinayah's Henrys and Staceys

People hiking on each other during lunch

People hiking on the food in the cafeteria

Running out at fall pep rally 09

Mr. Kafele's morning announcements

Tripping Ashley in the hall in 10th grade

Desmond gunning people

Marvin's hair cut

Our junior year rioting with the 10th graders

Drama Drama Drama Drama Drama Drama Drama

Locked bathrooms

Good times I had in school, laughing, hanging out

Basketball team beating Bloomfield Tech

When Elijah dropped Quadreya in Auto Tech

Clifton in biker shorts

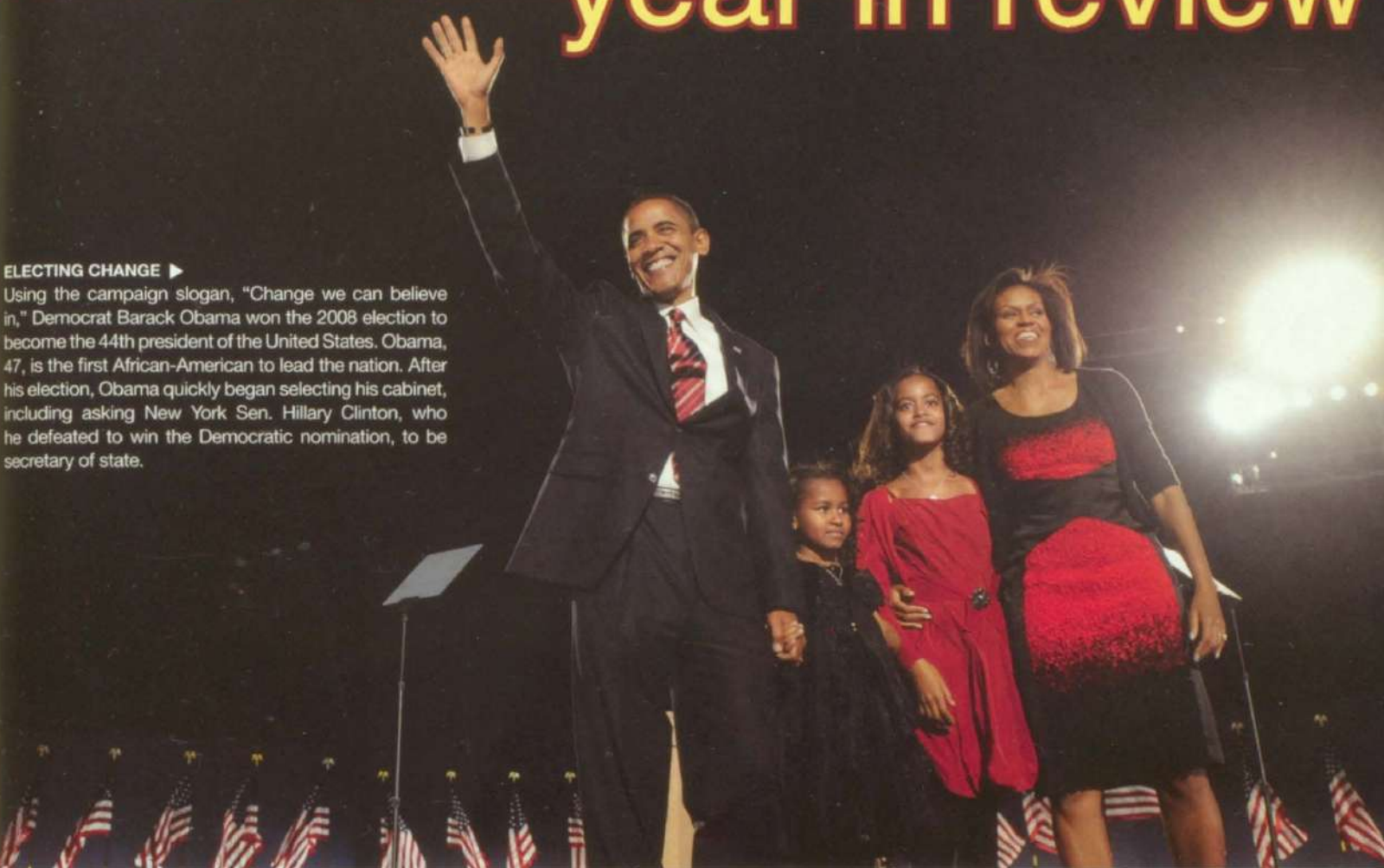
Marketta's morning announcement voice

2008-09

year in review

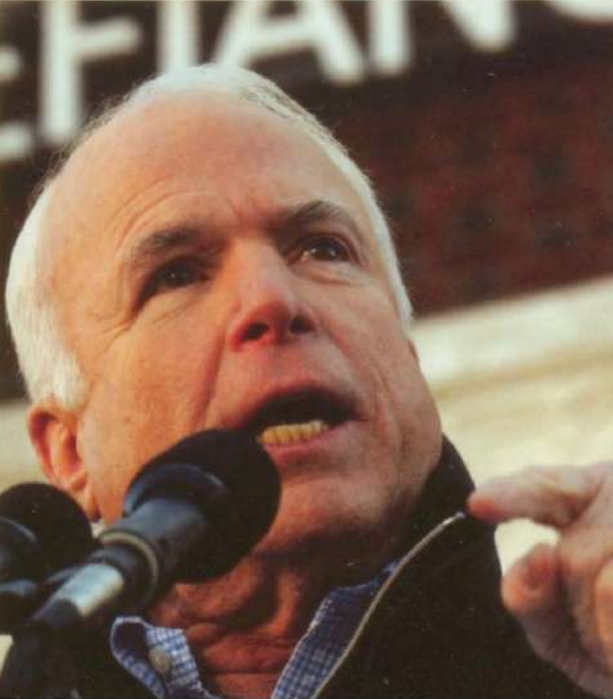
ELECTING CHANGE ▶

Using the campaign slogan, "Change we can believe in," Democrat Barack Obama won the 2008 election to become the 44th president of the United States. Obama, 47, is the first African-American to lead the nation. After his election, Obama quickly began selecting his cabinet, including asking New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, who he defeated to win the Democratic nomination, to be secretary of state.



THE TECHNOLOGY STUMP ◀

Campaigning style changed with Obama's use of the internet. Obama had about four million "friends" on Facebook and had collected about 10 million email addresses. He used texting to announce his vice presidential pick – Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware. His campaign website morphed into a transition website within 24 hours of his election.



MAVERICK RIDES OFF ◀

To win the election, Obama, a Democrat, beat Sen. John McCain, a Republican from Arizona. McCain's running mate was Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the first woman to run as a Republican vice presidential candidate.

LIVE FROM NEW YORK... ◀

Nobody took advantage of the election season more than the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live*, which brought back former cast member Tina Fey due to her resemblance to VP nominee Sarah Palin and rode Fey's impersonation to its highest ratings in years.

Photo credit: [unreadable]

HISTORIC ELECTION ▶

To win the Democratic nomination, Obama defeated New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, the former first lady and the person considered the front-runner of her party. The highly charged campaign included five other serious Democrat candidates. The Republican field was even bigger, with McCain coming from behind to best eight others to win his party's nomination.

DRAWING A CROWD ▼

People came to hear Obama speak during the campaign. His Democrat Party nomination acceptance speech was held at Invesco Stadium, about two miles from the convention center in Denver, to enable more than 70,000 people to attend. On election night, Obama held a victory rally in Grant Park, attended by 225,000 people.



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Jenna and Barbara Bush, the daughters and granddaughters of President George H.W. Bush and President George H. Bush, wrote a letter to Malia and Sasha Obama that included this advice:

- Get hugs from Ramsey, smiles from "Smiley" and talk football with Buddy, three of the White House ushers.
- Slide down the solarium banister.
- Have swimming parties.
- Get comfort from your pets.



PARTY HARDY ◀ ▼

Washington, D.C., was packed with more than two million people on Jan. 20 for the historic inauguration of the nation's first African-American president. Despite the cold weather and the need to huddle together, the crowds remained enthusiastic. Obama took the oath of office with his hand on the Bible used by President Abraham Lincoln during his first swearing-in ceremony.



SEEKING VOTES ▲

Candidates would do a lot of things on the campaign trail in pursuit of votes. Obama got winded playing basketball with the University of North Carolina's team. Mike Huckabee, a Republican candidate, played bass in his rock band Capitol Offense and even took a turn trying to rope a fake steer at the Fort Worth Stockyards.



VOTERS TURNED OUT ▲

In the general election, a record 127 million votes were cast, with about 31.7 million voting early for the first time in 30 states. However, as a percentage of voters, turnout was about 61%, versus the record of 67% in 1960. Long lines to vote, either early or on Nov. 4, were orderly. Lines were also orderly the next day as many people snatched up newspapers carrying the results.

POLITICIANS BUSTED ▶

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich faced federal corruption charges for allegedly trying to sell or trade Barack Obama's Illinois senate seat. U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska was convicted of trying to conceal home renovations and other gifts from an oil industry contractor. And Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick pled guilty to obstruction of justice and resigned amid a sex scandal.



Jobs Center



WHO ARE YOU? ▲

The fight against insurgents continued in Iraq and Afghanistan. While violence decreased in Iraq, Defense Secretary Robert Gates revealed plans to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan to battle the Taliban. Deployment of American troops meant tearful farewells and joyful homecomings. Sometimes, servicemen returned to meet new family members.

GRIM ECONOMY ▲

The faltering economy instilled fear worldwide. Americans felt the recession as home foreclosures, job layoffs and food prices increased. The stock market drop of 44% in the past year stripped college and retirement investments for many people. The federal government in October approved a \$700-billion bailout plan for the nation's financial system to try to get the economy moving. In February, President Obama signed a \$787-billion economic stimulus bill to pump more money into the economy.

MAKE IT TWO FOR TIM ▼

Quarterback Tim Tebow led the Florida Gators to their second college football national championship in three years, when they defeated Oklahoma in the BCS title game, 24-14. However, the championship did not come without debate. Several other teams – including Utah, Texas and USC – continued to question why there was no playoff system and staked their own claim to the crown.

GAS UP, GAS DOWN ▼

After a record high of \$4.11 per gallon on July 17, gasoline prices were down 60% to a five-year low of \$1.63 during the last week of December, according to the American Automobile Association. Prices began rising again in early 2009. Despite the lower prices, Americans continued to drive less.

GREENING OF AMERICA ◀

Going green affected several aspects of daily life. Reusable shopping bags became a fashion statement. Buying locally produced food saved on gasoline and meant fresher tastes. And at home, more people began buying compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) as incandescent bulbs will be phased out in a few years. CFLs save energy and add a new shape to lighting fixtures.



BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT ▲

The comeback of actor Robert Downey Jr. from a serious drug problem became complete this year when he landed the lead role in the hit movie *Iron Man*. Downey followed it up with another critically praised role in the comedy *Tropic Thunder*.

A MORE URGENT NEED ▲

Rising oil prices and continued climate changes made the search for alternative, renewable sources of energy a more prevalent topic of discussion. Solutions like wind farms, using large turbines, became more common.

WHO CAN YOU TRUST? ▲

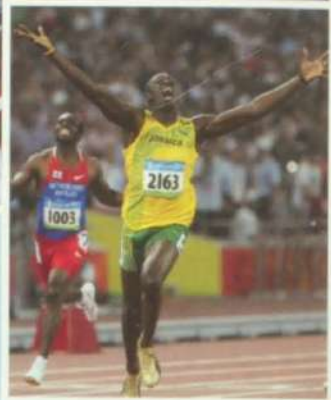
Investors ranging from small charities to major international banks appeared to have lost about \$50 million in a fraudulent investment allegedly devised by a former chairman of the Nasdaq Stock Market. Bernard Madoff, 70, was charged with securities fraud in what might be one of the biggest fraud cases ever.

GAMES TO REMEMBER ▶

American swimmer Michael Phelps made history at the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, by becoming the first athlete ever to win eight gold medals at one Olympics. During his breathtaking week in the pool, seven of Phelps' eight victories were new world records.

But Phelps was not the only American making history at the Beijing games. Kobe Bryant led the men's basketball team, dubbed the "Redeem Team," to a gold medal and helped vindicate U.S. basketball after a poor showing four years ago. Nastia Liukin won the women's gymnastics all-around and tied the American record for most gymnastics medals at one Olympics with five.

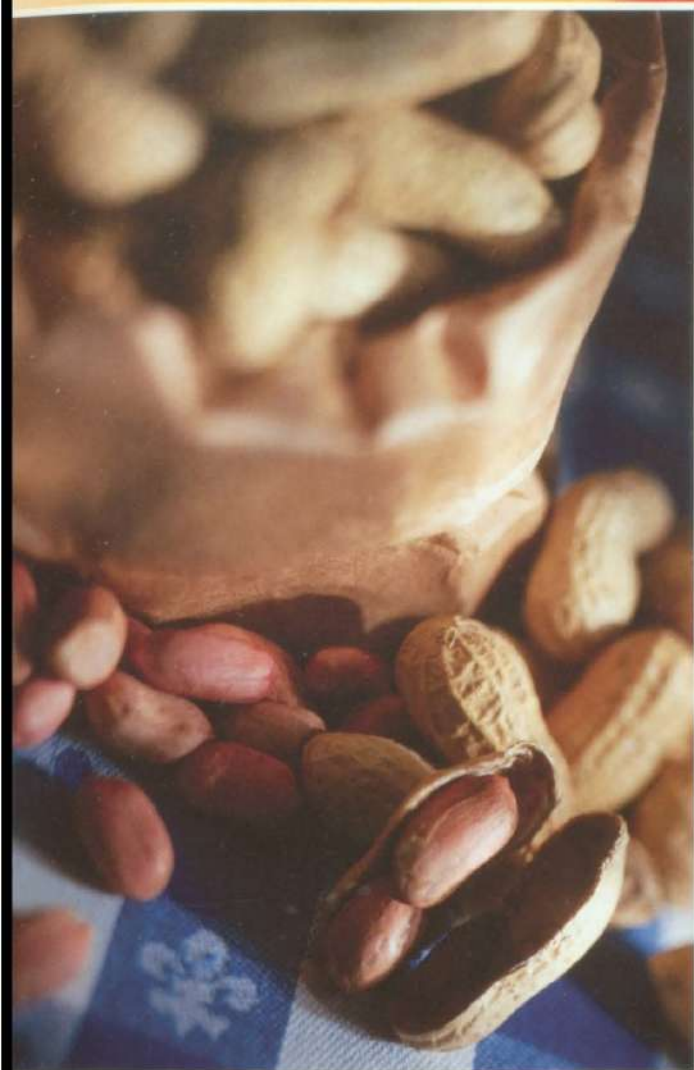
Perhaps the fastest-rising star outside of Phelps' pool was Jamaica's Usain Bolt, who ran a 9.69 in the 100 meters to win the gold and shatter the previous world record.



2008 OLYMPICS MEDAL COUNT

	TOTAL	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1 - United States	110	36	38	36
2 - China	100	51	21	28
3 - Russia	72	23	21	28
4 - Great Britain	47	19	13	15
5 - Australia	46	14	15	17





PEANUT WITHDRAWAL ◀

Peanut butter products were recalled in 43 states after salmonella was found in peanut paste made in a Georgia plant. At least six people died and more than 485 people got sick. Peanut paste is a product used widely in snack foods, leading to goodies such as crackers, cookies, nutrition bars and ice cream leaving store shelves. Most peanut butter brands were not affected.

TIME FOR A SWITCH ▼

Governments around the world, including the United States, continued the mandated switchover from analog television broadcasting to digital. In the U.S., an original February 2009 deadline was pushed back to June when Congress deemed that millions of people weren't ready. The switch to digital was being done to allow for more advanced services, like high-definition TV, and to free up radio spectrum bandwidth.



NEW NUMBER ONE ▲

Rafael Nadal finally completed his quest to replace Roger Federer as the number one tennis player in the world. The rivalry reached a new level at Wimbledon, where Nadal defeated Federer in a five-set, five-hour classic that some sportswriters called one of the greatest matches of all time. Six months later, Nadal did it again when he beat Federer in another five-set marathon to win the Australian Open.

CONTAMINATED FORMULA KILLS ◀

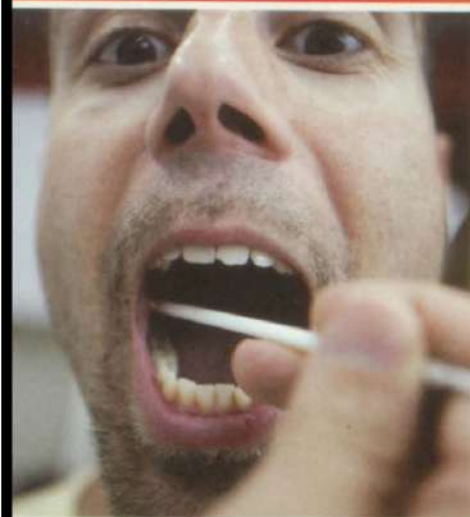
In China, several babies died and more than 12,000 were hospitalized after drinking baby formula contaminated with melamine. Melamine also was found in chocolate and other products exported from China to other countries, including the United States. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration began limiting imports of Chinese dairy products until they were free of melamine.

DNA SELF TEST ▼

Over-the-counter home DNA tests could now be found at the local drugstore. Kits and results could be purchased for as little as \$200, and all they required was a swab of saliva. However, debates raged on the accuracy of the tests, as well as the ethical concerns.

GREEN MACHINE ▼

The Boston Celtics re-emerged as the dominant team in basketball when they defeated the L. A. Lakers to win the 2008 NBA title. Then, the Celtics picked up where they left off by beginning the new season winning 27 of their first 30 games.

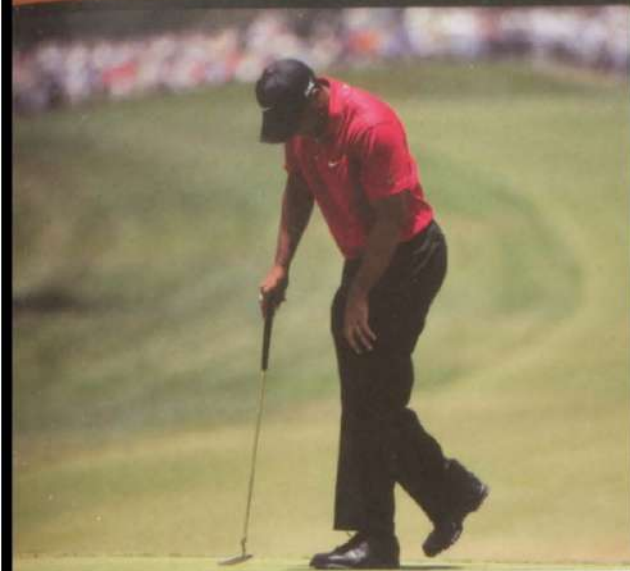


NO JOKE ▲

Anchored by the haunting, tragic final performance of the late Heath Ledger as the Joker, Batman sequel *The Dark Knight* drew rave reviews and shattered box office records. Earning more than \$500 million, *The Dark Knight* became one of the most commercially successful American movies ever made.

ROCKETS AND RETALIATION ◀

Israel declared war with Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza, in an effort to stop continued rocket attacks from Gaza into southern Israel. Israeli officials said they were targeting militants in its air and ground assault of Gaza, while Hamas said it would continue to defend its people against Israeli aggression. The Israeli offensive lasted 22 days.



EPIC WIN ◀

Despite playing on what was later found to be a torn knee ligament and a stress fracture in his left leg, Tiger Woods played through the pain and won his third U.S. Open title, defeating Rocco Mediate in a playoff. Afterwards, surgery on the leg forced Woods to miss the remainder of the season, the first extended absence of his pro career.

CREATIVE CLASSROOM FUNDRAISING ◀

Needing money to print tests, a California calculus teacher began selling ads on his quizzes, tests and exams. Tom Farber of Rancho Bernardo High School sold ad space on the bottom of the first page to parents and businesses. Parents and students enjoyed the ads, but Farber said he did not plan on using the fund-raising method permanently.



SULLY SAVES THE DAY ▲

An experienced pilot, Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, was hailed a hero when he crash-landed his US Airways plane into the Hudson River in New York after the engines failed during the takeoff ascent. All 155 passengers and crew on board survived by escaping onto the wings, where ferries and U.S. Coast Guard boats rescued them. Birds were initially blamed for blowing the engines.

PHOENIX LANDING ▲

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft became the sixth vehicle to make a successful landing on Mars. Phoenix conducted more than five months of experiments before losing contact, more than expected, and discovered the presence of ice on the red planet.

STILL ON TOP ◀

Despite ratings being down slightly, American Idol was still the most watched show on TV, averaging more than 27 million viewers a week. David Cook was chosen the winner of the 7th season, and changes were made for the show's 8th season when producer Kara DioGuardi was added as a fourth judge.

BOX OFFICE NUMBERS

<i>The Dark Knight</i>	\$530 million
<i>Iron Man</i>	\$318 million
<i>Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull</i>	\$317 million
<i>Hancock</i>	\$227 million
<i>WALL-E</i>	\$223 million

Source: boxofficereport.com

Photo credits: Newscom

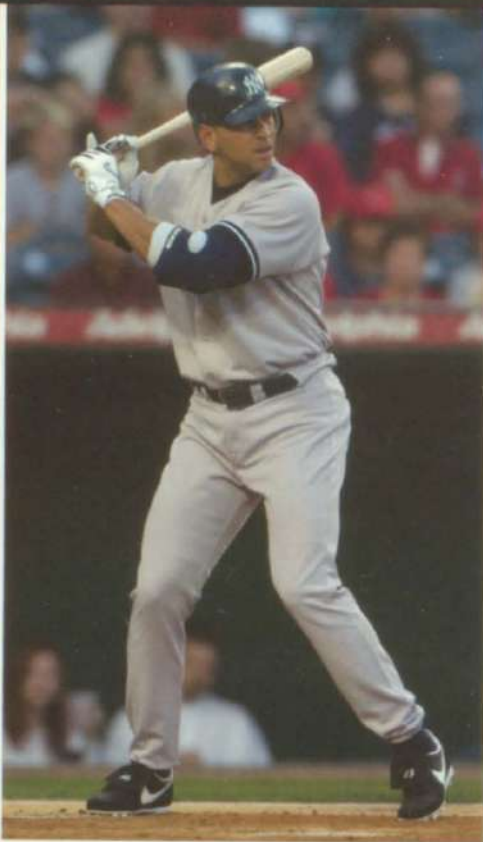


ANOTHER TROUBLING ADMISSION ▶

New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, a 12-time All Star and three-time MVP, shocked many when he confirmed published reports indicating he had used performance enhancing drugs during the 2001-03 seasons. Rodriguez's admission came after news surfaced that he had failed a confidential drug test in 2003. Despite his apology, Rodriguez's legacy was immediately debated.

PRESERVING THE PLANET ▶

The Global Seed Vault was built in Norway, where it holds and preserves thousands of seed types from around the globe should a major catastrophe strike the planet.



DRIVER DISTRACTION ▲

Investigators said a Los Angeles Metrolink train engineer appeared to have been texting on the job prior to a crash that killed 25 people and injured 130 in September. It was not immediately known whether the engineer was texting at the time of the crash, however, investigators said the brakes were not applied before the crash.

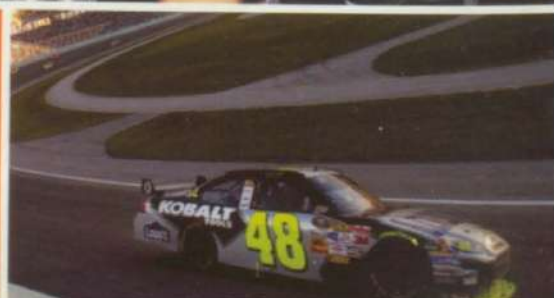
MILLIONS GO SLUMMING ▶

Slumdog Millionaire, the story of an inner-city teen from India who strikes it rich on a popular TV gameshow, won Best Picture at the Oscars. The rest of the nominees included *Milk*, *The Reader*, *Frost/Nixon* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.



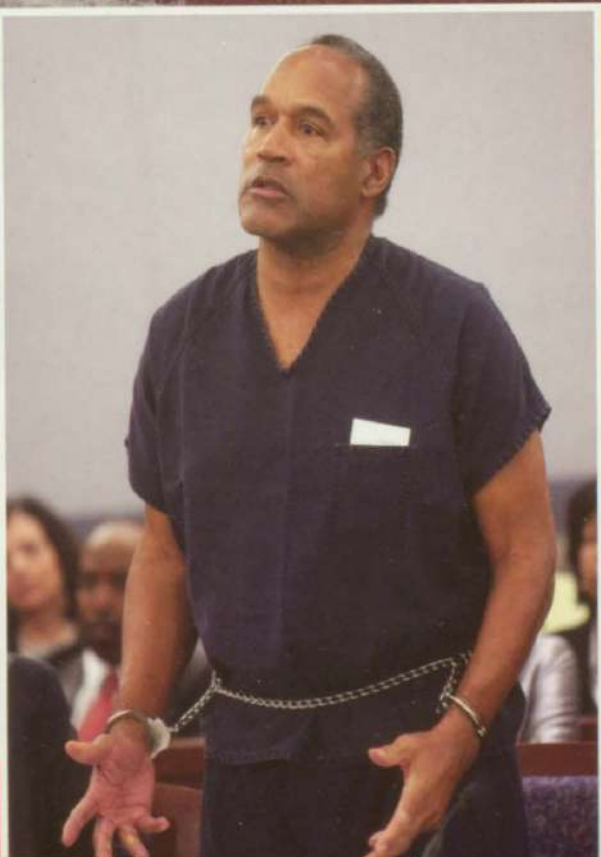
HARD TO STOP 48 ▶

Jimmie Johnson became just the second driver in NASCAR history to win three consecutive season championships, when he put together a 2008 that included seven race wins and five runner-up finishes.



SIX-BURGH ▼

The Pittsburgh Steelers ended a memorable Super Bowl XLIII when wide receiver Santonio Holmes grabbed the game-winning touchdown in the corner of the end zone with less than a minute left in the game to defeat the Arizona Cardinals, 27-23. It was the sixth Super Bowl victory for the Steelers, the most for any NFL team.



SOME JUICY GOSSIP ◀

Gossip Girl, the TV drama based on the series of books of the same name, continued to get strong ratings from the teen crowd. There were even rumors that the show, centered on the lives of socialite New York City teens, could lead to spin-offs.

JUICE GOES TO JAIL ◀

Former Heisman trophy winner O.J. Simpson began serving at least nine years in prison for his conviction in the robbery of sports memorabilia from dealers in a Las Vegas hotel room in 2007. The trial garnered fewer headlines than his 1995 trial, in which he was acquitted of the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ron Goldman.

FAR-REACHING STORM ►

Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston, Texas, when it hit Sept. 13, and caused damage and power outages in at least 10 states from Texas to Ohio. At least 34 people were still missing at the end of January. Also in the wake of the storm, the southeast U.S. experienced grave gasoline shortages.

NOT QUITE SASQUATCH ▼

Two Georgia men, Rick Dyer and Matthew Whittton, fooled much of the country when they claimed to have found the infamous Bigfoot in the northern Georgia hills. The two even went as far as producing a deceased body, fooling several news outlets and collecting reward money. Very quickly, the body was found to be a costume and the entire story to be a bad hoax.



PARENTS ABANDON CHILDREN ▲

Nebraska's legislature revised its Safe Haven Law after parents abandoned 35 children, some of them teens. All states have Safe Haven laws regarding infants, but Nebraska's original law allowed parents to drop children as old as 18 without fear of prosecution. Some parents came from other states, including Teri Martin of Michigan, who faced parental termination rights in Michigan.

NOBODY BETTER THAN ANNIKA ►

Annika Sorenstam announced her retirement from competitive golf. She ended her career as the winningest female golfer of all time with 90 career tournament wins, including 10 LPGA major titles.





FINDING AN AUDIENCE ◀

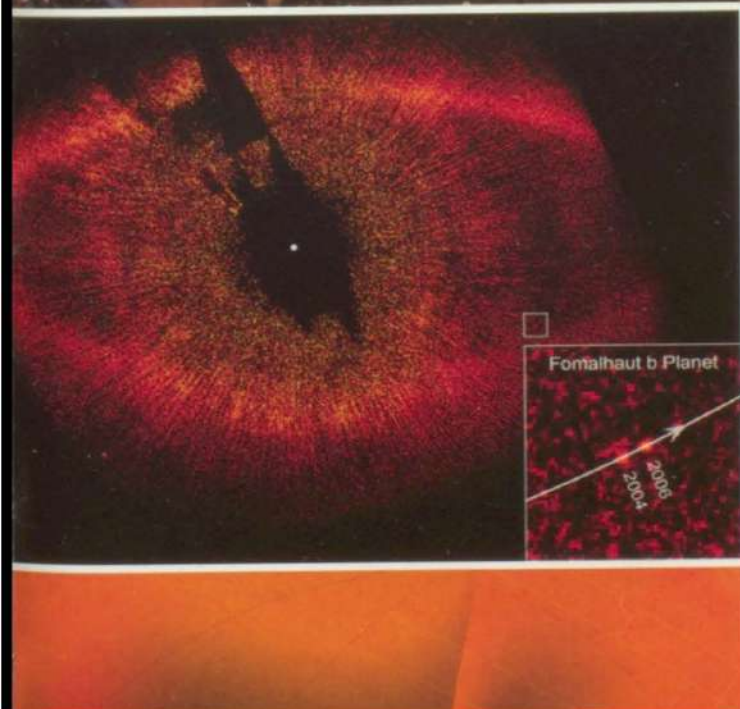
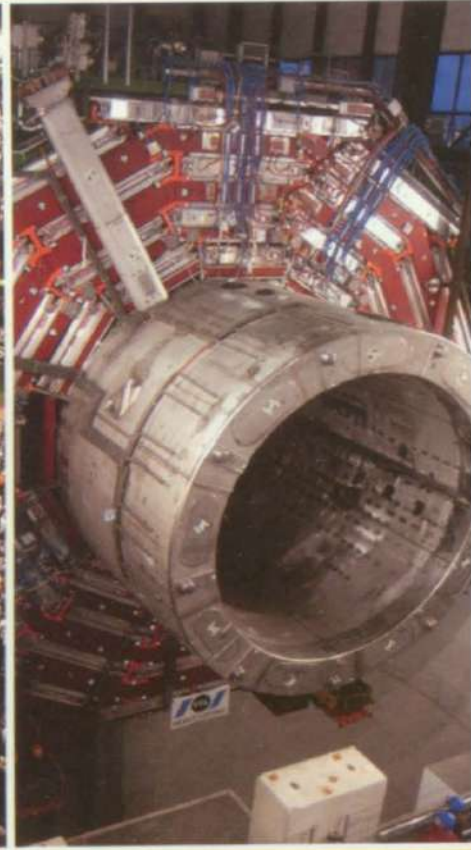
For the second straight year, critically acclaimed sitcom *30 Rock* won Outstanding Comedy Series at the Emmy Awards and began to slowly gain in the ratings, possibly getting a boost from the fame star Tina Fey gained during the presidential election.

ONE LAST PITCH ▼

After 85 years, the original Yankee Stadium closed its doors to make way for the new stadium being built for the New York Yankees. The final game was played in the "House That Ruth Built" on Sept. 21, 2008, against the Baltimore Orioles, with the Yankees winning 7-3.

SETBACK FOR THE LHC ▼

European scientists build the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, a giant particle accelerator designed to study advanced physics and unlock many of science's mysteries. Before the LHC's launch, conspiracy theorists speculated that the machine's power would create a disaster such as a black hole. While that did not happen, the LHC did suffer a malfunction shortly after becoming operational, which delayed the project's work.



THEY'RE OUT THERE ◀

Astronomers have known for several years that exoplanets, or planets outside of our solar system, existed. But it was not until this year that a group of astronomers from the U.S. and Canada were able to produce photographs of two of these planets in actual visible light.

A BOLD EXPERIMENT ◀

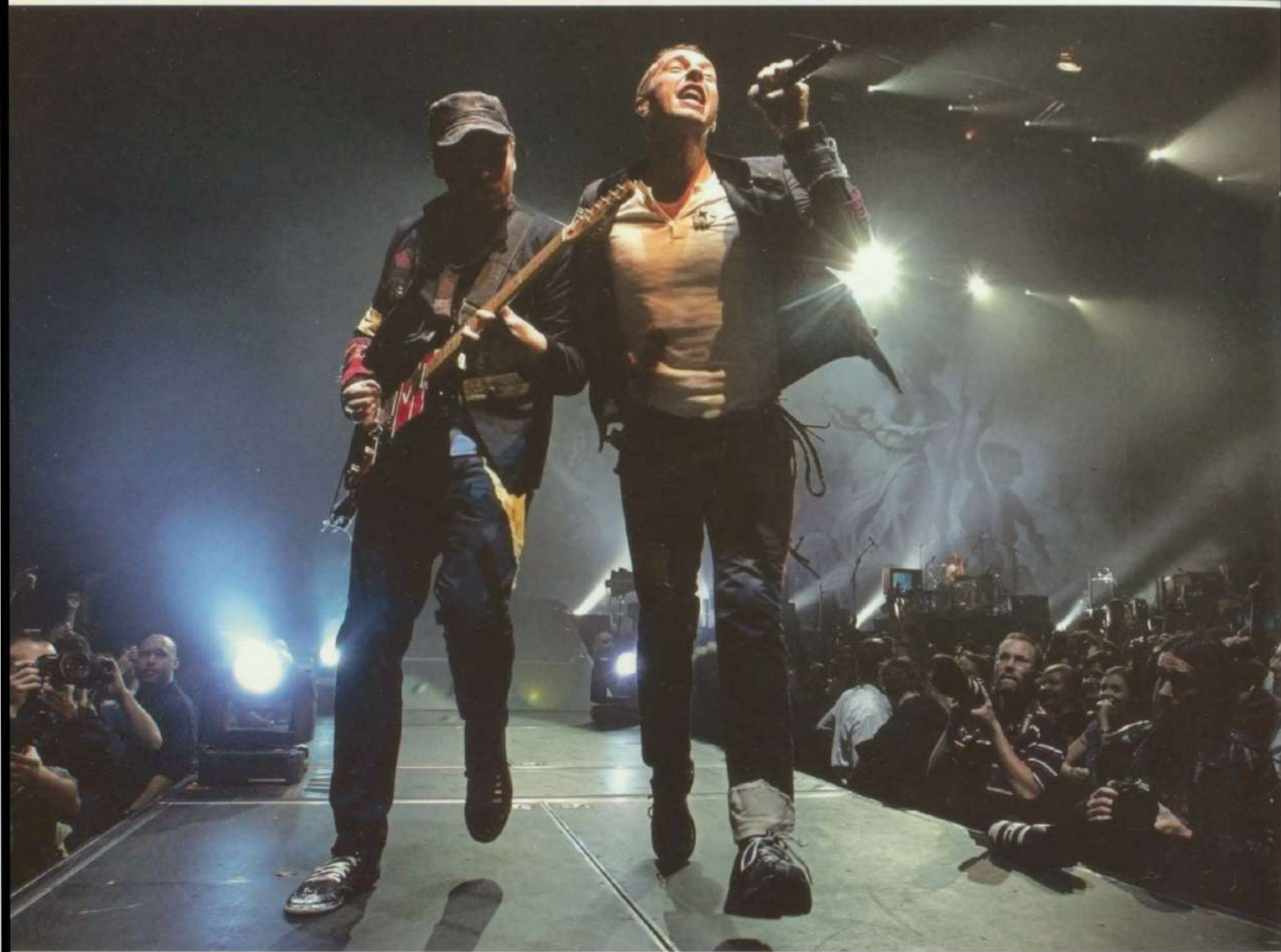
Kanye West, the most commercially successful rap star of the moment, released an experimental pop album titled *808s and Heartbreak*. West surprised his fans and critics alike by choosing to sing, rather than rap, on most of the songs. The heavy use of drum machines and an audio processor to alter West's voice brought mixed reviews, but earned the star praise for innovation.

PIRATING FLOURISHES ▶

A multinational task team led by the U.S. Navy was cracking down on pirates off the coast of Somalia. In February, the U.S. Navy made its first arrests of pirates on behalf of the team. Piracy has become big business and a big nuisance in the Gulf of Aden. In 2008, pirates attacked almost 100 vessels, hijacked at least 40 and received an estimated \$150 million in ransoms.

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE ▼

British alternative rock band Coldplay released the album they spent the previous two years working on, *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*, and it became one of the best selling records of the year. The quartet also landed seven Grammy nominations and launched a successful tour.



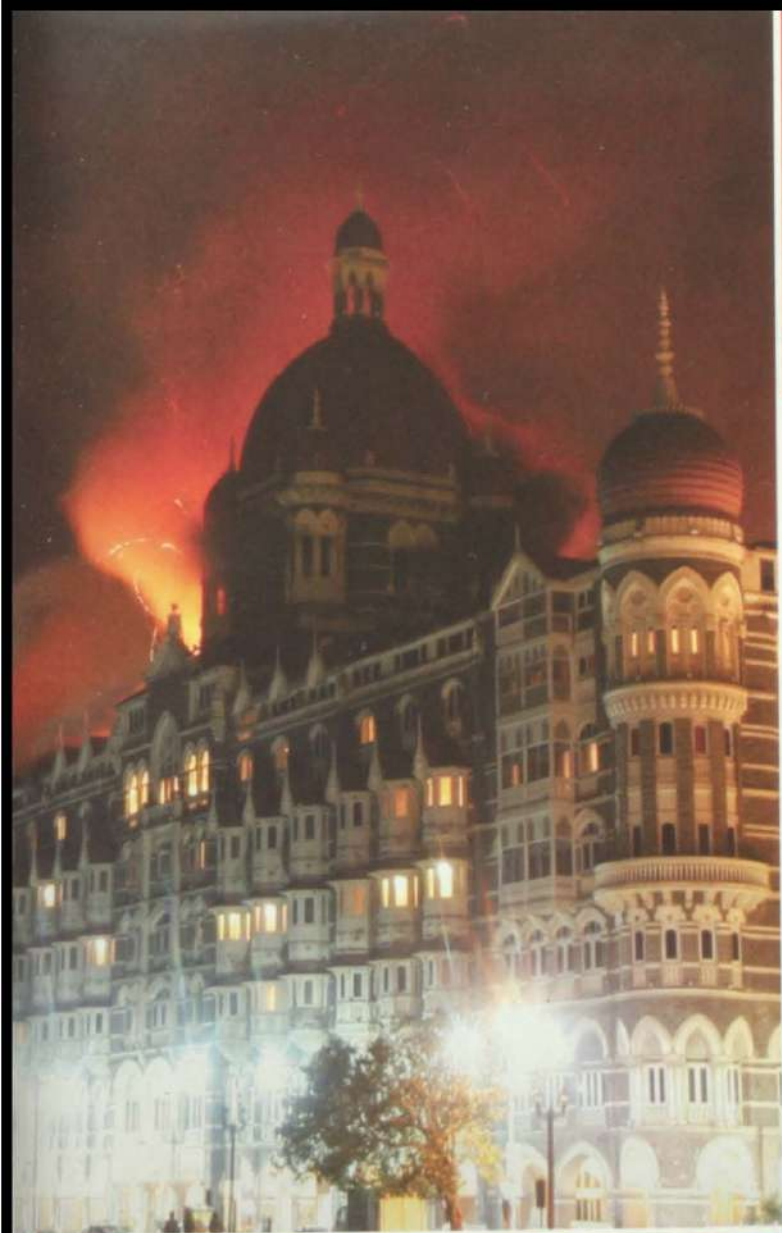
BY THE NUMBERS • According to various surveys:

Half of primary care doctors said they would change careers because of paperwork in their practice. A shortage of family doctors was predicted by 2025.

About 2.5 million grandparents act as parents to their grandchildren. Parents who moved in with their adult children increased 67% between 2000 and 2007, mostly for financial reasons, not age.

About 25% of American adults are obese. Obesity rates for children remained the same after a 25-year increase. About 32% of children were overweight, 16% obese and 11% very obese.





RAMPAGE IN INDIA ◀

More than luxury hotels and a hospital were damaged in the bombings in Mumbai, India, which killed almost 200 people, mostly Westerners. The fragile relationship between India and Pakistan was strained. Indian officials demanded that Pakistan turn over the suspects. While Pakistan officials said no evidence linked the terrorists to Pakistan, they promised to help with the investigation.



THE FUTURE OF COUNTRY ◀

At only 19, young country star Taylor Swift became Billboard's highest-selling country artist of the year when her second album, *Fearless*, joined with her self-titled debut record to pass five million in sales. Swift later won Favorite Country Artist at the American Music Awards.



CARRY IT ALL ◀

Big purses were one of the big fashion statements of the year. Neutral or multi-colored, girls and women could carry almost anything they needed with them. Scarves and boots remained must-have accessories. For boys, the slightly spiky look was being worn in short to medium hair. In college, showing up to class in sweats was cool.

IS IT SAFE? ◀

Governments struggled to get a handle on the potential dangers of Bisphenol A, or BPA, an organic compound present in some plastics used to make products such as baby bottles. When new studies showed that exposure to BPA had links to many diseases, Canada and several U.S. states moved for legislation to ban the use of BPA in bottles.



QB SHUFFLE ▶

It was an NFL regular season where big name, veteran quarterbacks made big headlines. Green Bay's Brett Favre decided to end his retirement and coaxed the team into trading him to the New York Jets. At 37, Arizona's Kurt Warner had his finest season in years and led the Cardinals to the Super Bowl. Meanwhile, New England's Tom Brady missed virtually the entire season when he was knocked out in week one with a knee injury.

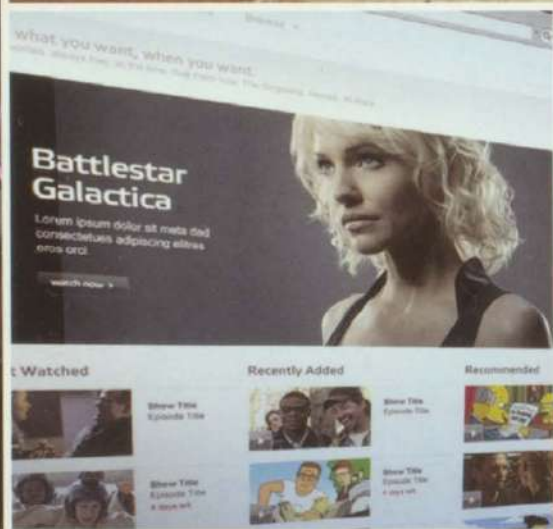


A LONG TIME COMING ▶

The Philadelphia Phillies won just the second world title in their 125-year history by defeating the Tampa Bay Rays in the World Series. By winning a rain-soaked Game 5 that was delayed for two days by storms, the Phillies ended Tampa's hopes of going from the worst record in baseball to the championship.

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM ▼

Rapper Lil Wayne's latest album, *The Carter III*, was one of the best selling records of the year, going platinum five times. It also earned him eight Grammy nominations, more than any other musical artist.

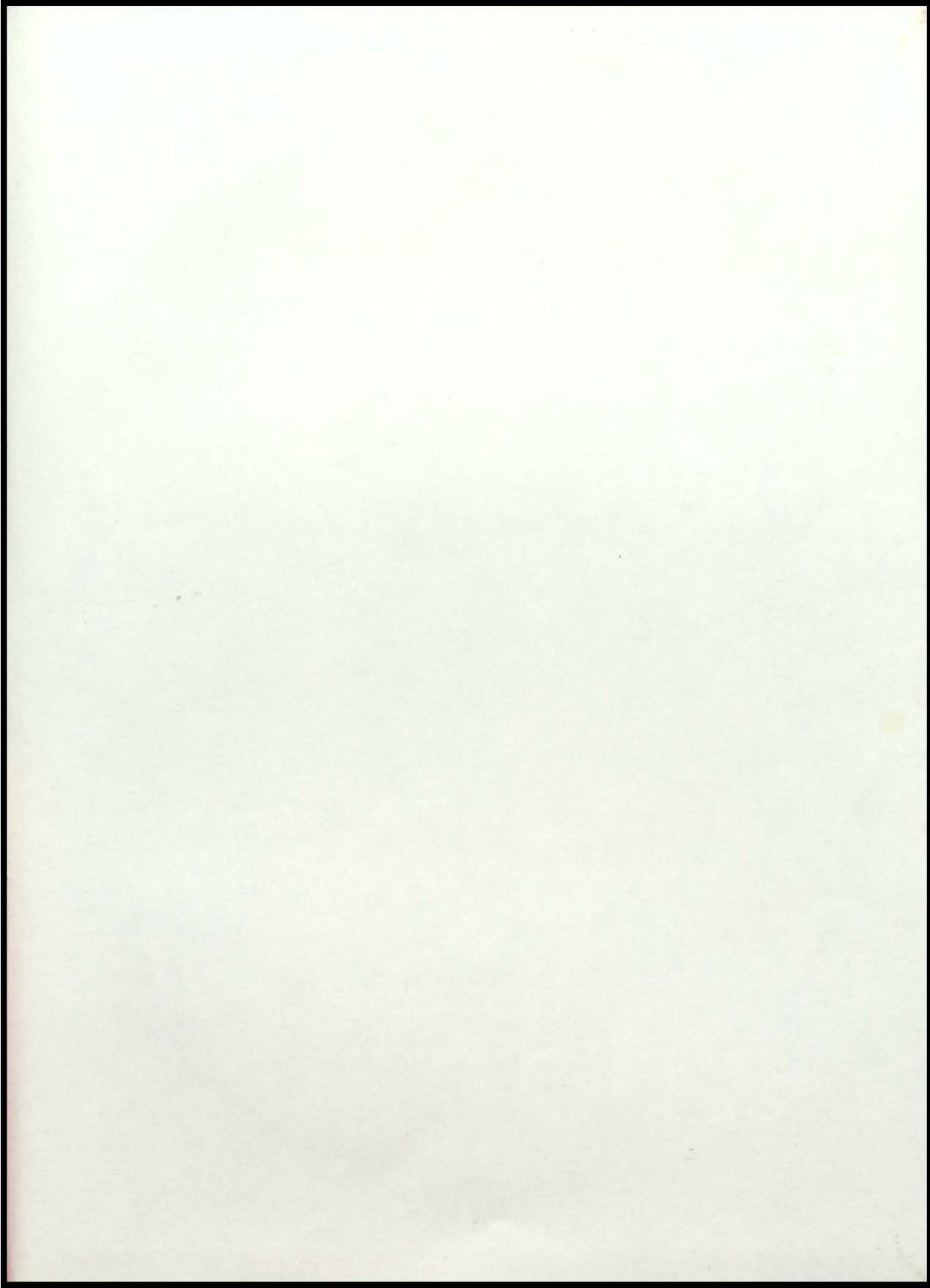


IT'S ON HULU ◀
When NBC and News Corp. launched their streaming video website Hulu.com with almost no content, there were skeptics everywhere. By the end of the year, once full episodes of TV shows from a variety of channels was up on the site for free, Hulu.com had become one of the most popular destinations on the internet and a rival to YouTube.



NO MORE BRATZ ▲
The makers of Bratz dolls were ordered to stop making them after Mattel Inc., makers of Barbie dolls, won a four-year legal dispute. MGA Entertainment, which manufactures Bratz, planned to appeal the decision. The federal court order cited jury findings that designer Carter Bryant developed the Bratz doll concept while working for Mattel.

VAMPIRE TALES ◀
Twilight, the first novel in the popular "Twilight" series about a teenage girl who falls in love with a fellow high school student who is a vampire, was made into a movie that drew huge box office numbers.



Samira T. Houston & Cody C. M. Smith
Naimah Clemons
Gladys D.H. Khadijah M.
Tiara P. Yamayra
EDWIN ESTELLE
Marissa Scott
Khan Reddick
Ismael Vewnica
C. Darlene Perry
A. S. Aleemah
Jugnu
Margushia Edwards
Debra Williams
Dorothy
Camellia
Juwana
Jugnu
Elijah Holden
Raven Dover
Jahad Spruill
Deborah de Jesus
Jared Crarke
Shaniqua
Royal
Joelva
Quindia
Booker
Lady Love
Dulce
Tashum
Wade
Patrick McClain
Tashanna
Turner
Yoi McRae
Tashanna
Alexis
Jumason
VALERIA M.
Shomari M.
Kanisha Anthony
Samiyah Slade
Crystal Acevedo
Lamas Walker
Courtney
Diana Navarro
Zymon Aguilera
Maniella
Luis
Gonzales
Sohat Reddy
Albaco Clard
Sorenz
Anura
Diana
Phyllis
Diana
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Gonzales
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