



clique



hall monitor looks back on ...

'06

War in Iraq, the World Cup, Borat, Bill Gates, sunglasses, summer movies – throughout the year, we've asked you in Hall Monitor about your habits, preferences and opinions on a variety of subjects. With the end of the calendar in sight, we sent our teen correspondents out to find out from local teens what they thought were the highs and lows of 2006. It's been an event-filled year, with war overseas and midterm elections at home, and the Winter Olympics and World Cup on top of the regular lineup of sporting events. Scandals cropped up from Washington, D.C., to Hollywood, and celebrities were just as busy entertaining on screen as off, thanks to a slew of high-profile babies and breakups.

We spoke to close to 50 teens, and they had no shortage of opinions, finding consensus in some areas – Borat – but not in other – Ugg boots. They also took a look ahead for us to 2007. Here's what they had to say.

Person of the Year

Hail to the chief

George W. Bush (5 votes)

- Mom (4)
 - Oprah (3)
 - Bill Gates (2)
 - Dad (2)
 - Jesus (2)
 - Jon Stewart (2)
 - LaDainian Tomlinson (2)
- Other notables:**
Our soldiers;
YouTube creators
Chad Hurley and
Steve Chen



George W. Bush edges Mom (herself, a 2-to-1 favorite over Dad). The president's impact was undeniable, but this certainly was not a popularity contest.

QUOTES:

"George Bush, not in positive way but in a big way."

Aristotelis Iatridis, Clifton, 17

"George Bush, because he has made the most dramatic and immediate changes pertaining to our environment, our government, our daily lives and the Middle East."

Victoria Santarsiero, 15

"Rachael Ray, because I love food and she exploded onto the scene this year."

Sonam Rana, 16, Passaic

"Lance Bass. He totally blew everyone (and his boyfriend, literally) away with his coming out. He's adding to the cultural revolution that this country needs to go through."

Joshua Rivera, 17, Egg Harbor Township

"Tom Cruise's baby, and that's just sad."

Julia Colucci, 15

"Dr. Anderson, who performed a huge surgery on my sister, removing four tumors and saving her life. Truly a miracle worker!"

Silvija Demo, 17, Paterson

"Travis Pastrana would be my person of the year because he pulled a double backflip during the X games. It was the sickest thing I have ever seen."

Brian Piccirillo, 15, Little Falls

Biggest scandal

Foleygate

Rep. Mark Foley's inappropriate messages to congressional pages and the subsequent controversy over possible cover-ups garnered the most votes, but **Christine Chong, 17, of Glen Rock** hit upon a trend when she responded, "All these people sleeping with their nannies and getting divorced is just a real shame." When viewed collectively, celebrity breakups and Jude Law's and David Beckham's indiscretion with their children's caretakers, drew a whopping 15 votes.



Also of note was the scandalous behavior of **Britney Spears and her ex, Kevin Federline**. Three respondents mentioned their breakup; one cited K-Fed's attempts at rapping; **Massiel Sepulveda, 16, of Clifton** was outraged by Britney's "disturbing lack of panties," and another respondent by Britney's negligence (presumably referring to her childcare practices and not her underwear).

And Foley wasn't the only political figure facing scrutiny. The Bush administration's handling of the War in Iraq, wiretapping and the Guantanamo Bay detention camp received votes, as did scandals involving Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff, Rep. Tom DeLay and Vice President Dick Cheney's errant shot on a hunting trip.

Others receiving multiple votes: Steroids, Ryan Phillippe cheats on Reese Witherspoon, Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie-Jennifer Aniston love triangle, Jude Law Nannygate (2), Jessica Simpson-Nick Lachey breakup, Jay-Z cheats on Beyonce

Photos by the Associated Press

Most exciting sports event

World Cup

Others receiving multiple votes: Clifton vs. Eastside at Giants Stadium, Super Bowl, various local Thanksgiving Day football games, Rutgers football season and upset of Louisville, watching the Yankees lose.



Movies

BEST: "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan"

WORST: "Happy Feet"

Others receiving multiple votes for best movie: "Saw III," "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," "Jackass Number Two," "John Tucker Must Die," "Casino Royale," "Happy Feet," "Click," "Step Up"

Others receiving multiple votes for worst movie: "The Grudge 2," "The Omen," "The Break-Up," "Lady in the Water," "Superman Returns," "Scary Movie 4," "Snakes on a Plane"

Appearing on both lists: "Saw III," "Jackass Number Two," "Happy Feet," "Little Man," "Final Destination 3"

Favorite song

"How to Save a Life" by The Fray

Other songs receiving multiple votes: "Smack That," Akon; "Wind It Up," Gwen Stefani; "Kingdom Come," Jay-Z; "Promise," Ciara; "Fergalicious," Fergie; "Sexy Back," Justin Timberlake; "Dani California," Red Hot Chili Peppers; "We Fly High," Jim Jones

Musicians receiving multiple votes: Christina Aguilera, Mary J. Blige, The Fray, John Mayer, Regina Spektor, Justin Timberlake

Breakout star

Daniel Craig

Britney Spears actually edged out the gritty new James Bond for the highest vote total, but last we checked, she's been a star for some time now.

Others receiving multiple votes: Beyonce, Sasha Baron Cohen, Akon, Channing Tatum, Panic! At the Disco

Favorite celebrity couple

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, aka Brangelina

Others receiving multiple votes (despite some breakups): Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, Jay-Z and Beyonce, Britney Spears and Kevin Federline, Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn

Favorite celebrity baby

Suri Cruise

Others receiving multiple votes: Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt, Maddox Jolie-Pitt, Coco Arquette, Violet Affleck

Interviews by Nada Awad, Melissa Hoffman, Marta Paczkowska, Arti Patel, Rhodri Patmore, Melanie Tolomeo.

Interviews compiled by Nathan Hale.



Trends

Crazy '80s

It probably shouldn't come as much surprise that of all the questions, this one had the least consensus. Cool to one person is a catastrophe to another. One voter, who shall remain anonymous, said she loves the look of tucking jeans into mid-shin furry boots but absolutely hates Ugg boots.

She wasn't alone on the latter. Ugg boots, followed closely by brightly colored, rubber Croc sandals were among the most disliked trends of 2006. Suspender haters came out in force as well.

But suspenders and Uggs had their supporters, too. And battlelines were drawn over leggings, skinny jeans, belts, huge sunglasses, and oversized shirts and sweaters. It's enough to make you think you'd stepped through a time warp to the 1980s (one voter even piped up in favor of mohawks).

Receiving multiple votes for best trend: Skinny jeans, leggings, Uggs, headbands, belts, purses, vintage/retro clothing, being different/yourself, (Product) Red campaign by Gap, doggy chains, big sunglasses, fitted hats

Receiving multiple votes for worst trend: Uggs, Crocs, suspenders, skinny jeans, big or sparkly belts

Non-fashion items receiving votes: Emo (best), Kabbalah (worst), Guitar Hero video game (worst), PlayStation 3 (worst)



QUOTES:

"Layering polos is sooooo stupid."

Sona Bhavsar, 17, Fairlawn

"Flip flops in winter. We live in New Jersey, not California, people. Wear shoes."

Bianca Vazquez, 18, Maywood

"PlayStation 3 – definitely not worth getting shot over and waiting in a line for days."

Bilal Mian, 18, Clifton

"OK girls, I know a lot of you think leggings are the "it" thing, but I have to say it's the "not" thing. If you haven't shaved your legs, then feel free to sport them. In fact, I insist you do. But if you have nice legs, don't cover them with things so hideous."

Joshua Rivera, 17, Egg Harbor Township

Most important news story

War in Iraq

There was strong consensus here, as the war in Iraq amassed 13 votes. That was more than double the combined total of the various E. coli scares that suspended spinach sales and more recently closed several Taco Bell restaurants.

Hurricane Katrina remained a top story more than a year after devastating New Orleans in September 2005. The deaths of Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter," TV mogul Aaron Spelling; and Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle (in a plane crash) all received votes, as did the birth of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' baby, Suri. Sports fans were impressed by Kobe Bryant scoring 81 points in a game and LaDainian Tomlinson breaking the NFL single-season touch-

down record, while expressing disappointment about steroid usage.

Top local stories included the NYPD shooting death of groom-to-be Sean Bell, the debate over building a new high school in Clifton, the new block scheduling at JFK High School in Paterson and the murder of student Imette St. Guillen after a night of partying in New York City.

Others receiving multiple votes: War in Lebanon and Hezbollah, Dems win Congress, Pluto no longer a planet, Kobe scores 81, Steve Irwin dies, continuing aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

QUOTES:

"Taco Bell's E Coli scare, because I eat there religiously."

Jenny Choi, 17, Wyckoff

"The global warming reports, because we are destroying our planet and don't seem to care."

Daniel Kim, 17, Hasbrouck Heights

Best memories of 2006

Cutting school to sleep in. Those moments of sleep were precious.

Mona Sisodia, 17, Passaic

My Sweet 16 was the greatest night of my life.

Sonam Rana, 16, Passaic

Winning the league championships for Volleyball.

Jenny Choi, 17, Wyckoff

My 18th birthday was one to remember.

Jay Panchel, 18, Little Ferry

Jumped into a friend's pool off the roof in the summer.

Christine Aziz, 15, Clifton

Starting college.

Debra Maffei, 19, Franklin Lakes

My football team winning the state finals.

Hector Milete, 16, Clifton

Seeing the Raconteurs open for Bob Dylan.

David Cavagnino, 18, West Milford

"When my cousin said no to a guy."

Amena Chouhury, 15, Paterson

Upward Bound program.

Afzal Hussain, 15, and Adnan Miah, 14, Paterson

"It'll be the best when it's over!"

Johnny Lupe, 17, Carlstadt

Winter snow.

Ahmet Tas, 16, Paterson

Going to the Caribbean with my boyfriend.

Jessica Ruiz, 16, Paterson

When I came to John F. Kennedy High School.

Kyla Ali, 15, Paterson

Scoring a soccer goal.

Arturo Martinez Jr., 15, Paterson

When I passed all of my exams this marking period.

Jasmine Valerio, 15, Paterson

When I kissed this boy I had a crush on.

Rashnilad Ah'kmevad, 17, Paterson

Being down at the Shore with my family and friends.

Angela Strignile, 15, Totowa

Plans and premonitions for 2007

I'm going to finally get my license!!

Mona Sisodia, 17, Passaic

I'm going to graduate FINALLY!!!!

Neepa Rana, 17, Passaic

I get to drive at last!

Sonam Rana, 16, Passaic

I'm going to go to college!

Sona Bhavsar, 17, Fairlawn

It's Prom time BABY!

Jenny Choi, 17, Wyckoff

We'll be paying \$10 a gallon at the gas station.

Steven Ocampo, 18, Clifton

We'll find and capture Osama Bin Laden, and we'll find a cure for AIDS.

Hector Milete, 16, Clifton

The United States will invade North Korea.

David Cavagnino, 18, West Milford

Brad and Angelina will break up (like every other celebrity couple).

Joanne Gorzelany, 19, Wyckoff

There will be peace on Earth!

Francis Useusebo, 15, Clifton

The world will end thanks to Bush.

Aristotelis Iatridis, 17, Clifton

Bush will be hated more then ever, tensions in the Middle East will rise to a whole new level, gas prices will rise all over the world, Barack Obama will run for the presidency, Hillary Clinton will too, hurricanes will tear apart the southeast part of America, and the new Harry Potter book will come out and fans will cry in revolt when J.K. Rowling kills Harry Potter.

Bilal Mian, 18, Clifton

It's going to be 100 degrees in December.

Christine Aziz, 15, Clifton

I'll move up in the world.

Robinson Cerat, 15, Nassau, Bahamas

I will graduate and get engaged.

Rita Hamade, 18, Clifton

I shall learn to tie my shoes with one hand.

Ahmet Tas, 16, Paterson

I hope we figure out a plan for the war in Iraq, and people keep their resolutions because a lot of people usually don't.

Christina Giaquinto, 15

Nothing much will change.

Arturo Martinez Jr., 15, Paterson

A lot of new things.

Jasmine Valerio, 15, Paterson

