



MC Squared

Everything is relative...

Letter to the Editor of the East Hampton Star

by Dylan Kraft

Dear Editor,

When reading your piece (1/12/06) on the merger of the Morriss Center High School and the Ross School, I was disappointed. I am currently a student at the Morriss Center High School, and I have watched while other newspapers, including *Newsday* and *The New York Times*, have attempted to cover this story, and no one has yet to succeed; none of the journalists have given the readers anything but rumors. I am not writing to point fingers and blame, and if I do, well, it wasn't my original intent, because bluntly, not any of that really matters anymore. What I am here to do is tell you the real story, what is really happening behind those protective rumors, what is to come for the current – soon to be former --Morriss Center Students.

It should be said that this is not a merger, Ross School essentially bought out the Morriss Center. This was proven in *The New York Times* article, because, if this is a 'merger', then why is it that the Ross School isn't changing to accommodate the Morriss Center teaching philosophies? Or its students or teachers? Although, without Ross stepping in, next year there still wouldn't be a school, though, because of promises made by the current backers there should be. Michael Recanati, the founder of the school, had issued a statement to the students, parents, and faculty, when the rumors of the 'merger' started to arise, promising that every student currently enrolled in the Morriss Center High School would graduate: My question is, and has been throughout all of this, why say it if you don't mean it? What I find really depressing is that Recanati taught us a very compelling class on entrepreneurial endeavors, and is backing out of his very own! It comes back to financial issues: the Morriss Center High School can't continue on its own with out some kind donor, and Michael Recanati being the primary donor in the past, seemed unwilling and unable to support this dream. The class he taught was named "Thinking Outside of the Box" – you'd think he would have a greater interest in sustaining the program he helped to create.

There is also this alleged "stream-lined" process of the 'merger' that has been far from easy or "streamlined" for the students of the Morriss Center. It is less that I am upset that I have to go through the process, and more that they dare to call it "streamlined." I, and other students, would rather they stand up and tell us the truth, then for them to sit back and lie. I find it demeaning that the Board of Trustees and Dick Malone think that we don't know what's going on; that we don't understand that they are lying to our faces. At the beginning of conversations about the 'merger,' I recall Malone saying how similar the Morriss Center High School and the Ross School were, and anyone who has even a small understanding of both school philosophies know how different they are. But, it gets better; about a month ago Dick Malone addressed both the student and teacher body announcing that the merger had gone through, and warning the students that because Ross took a more traditional approach to teaching, that it would be a significant transition to move from the Morriss Center High School to the Ross School.

One thing I know, that was not at all mentioned in any of the articles, was how the parents, students and faculty of the Morriss Center have not just sat back and watched this school disappear. Individuals wrote letters to Recanati, expressing how much this school meant to us, but nothing came out of it. The same with the countless meetings our parents attended, it was as if none of it mattered to him. That the words he heard from our parents, essentially preaching the qualities of this school that they didn't want to loose, meant nothing to him.

But now it's all said and done. Next year Morriss Center High School will be the Ross School and sadly, there really isn't anything I can say to change that. But it is not as if I would go back, and not have attended the

Morriss Center High School, just to spare myself this. I think I have made it pretty clear how much this school means to me and everyone else who has *truly* been a part of it. Next year, the other students and I (if our paper-work goes through), will enter the Ross School with no feeling of resentment towards the school, with relationships, both student and teacher, that they will never touch, and with a deep understanding of what education can really mean.

Dylan Kraft
Morriss Center High School

