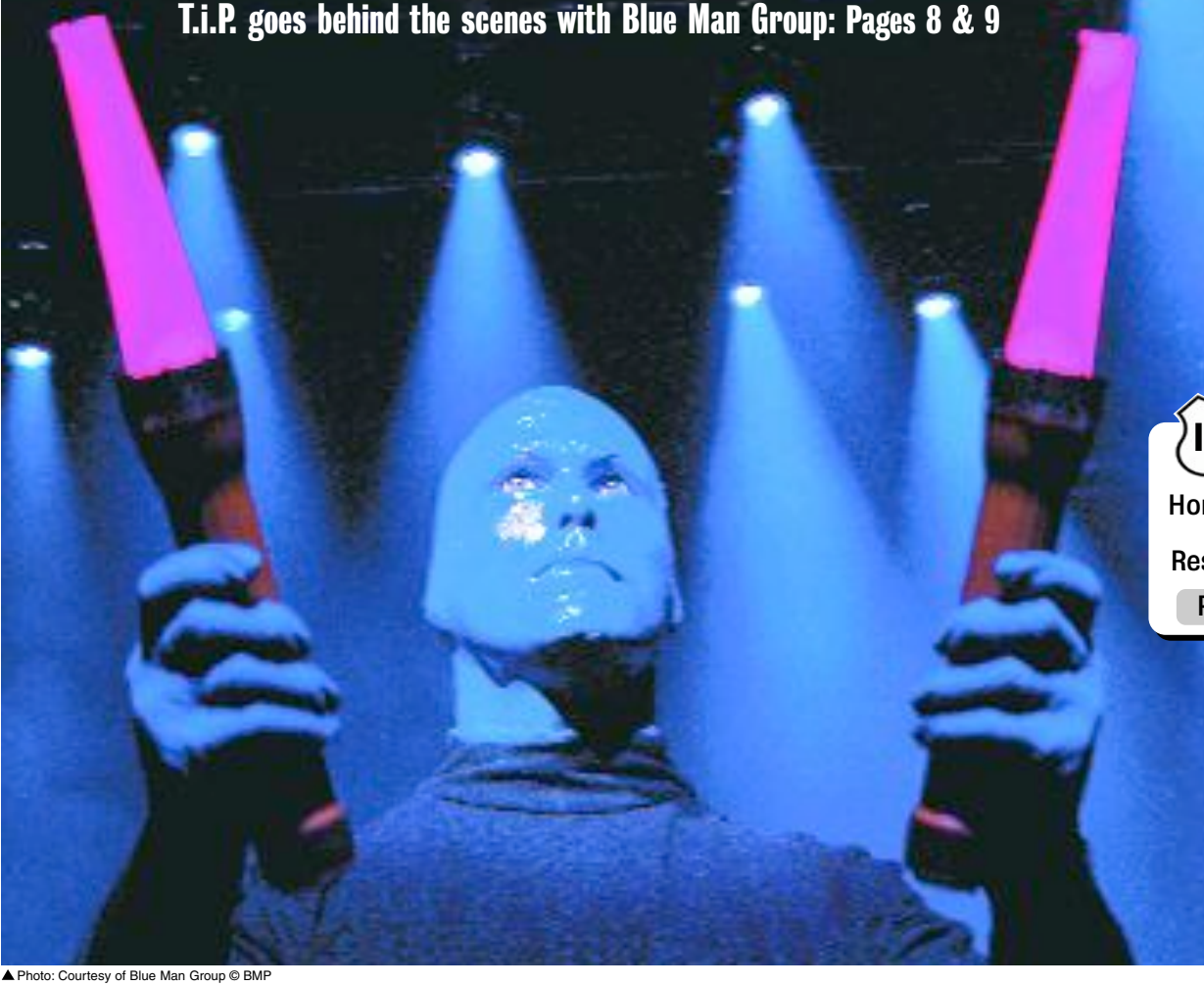


Beat the Winter Blues

T.i.P. goes behind the scenes with Blue Man Group: Pages 8 & 9



▲ Photo: Courtesy of Blue Man Group © BMP

## Evening Academy opens day program

By Dorothy Boston // T.i.P. Writer

When my family moved from New York City to Boston shortly after 9/11, I was hoping for two things. First, that Boston would provide a new start for my family, and second, that I could go to a good school.

Since then, my family has created a new life in Boston but, unfortunately for me, the same overcrowding conditions that existed in the school I attended in New York were present in my Boston middle school. Finally, in September, for me and 60 other students, Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) has made a

[ EVENING ACADEMY, PAGE 5 ]

DETOUR

## TEEN PARENTS TELL THEIR STORIES



T.i.P. report, page 16

▲ Photo: Jonathan Banks / Artists for Humanity

## The new SAT

By Daniela Cako // T.i.P. Senior Editor

For those of you who got killed with those dreadful analogies on the old SAT, you will be relieved to know there are no analogies on the new SAT. From March 12 on, the SAT will be changed dramatically.

While the analogies are gone, there is a catch. The new SAT will include a 60-minute, timed composition and writing section. Test takers will now receive three scores: English, composition, and math. For seniors, don't worry because you have already taken all the required college admissions tests. But for the class of 2006 (juniors), the class of 2007 (sophomores), and the class of 2008 (freshmen), now is the time to pay closer attention to all the writing styles your English teacher demands of you.

INSIDE

Horoscopes and Resolutions

Page 13

The new SAT also won't require you to memorize lists with hundreds of words or flashcards with SAT facts. Instead, it will test your critical reading and comprehension skills.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS), which makes up the SAT, believes these changes are going to benefit students. Colleges say it will be more effective in

measuring a student's expressive abilities because the new SAT will measure how well students think and organize their thoughts, not how well they memorize vocabulary words.

"The new test will help colleges make better admission and placement decisions," according to the ETS website, "because the new SAT is more aligned with the current curriculum and practices in high schools and colleges."

For more information on what the changes in the SAT mean to you, talk with your guidance counselor, or visit a test preparation website such as [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).

## Cloud Place showcases teen artists

By Daniela Cako // T.i.P. Senior Editor

Jessica Blaisse is a high school junior who has enjoyed many accomplishments. Besides keeping up her grades at Boston Latin Academy, she is constantly exploring her artistic side. "It was always there, something more than just words, something visual," she says as she explains her passion for drawing.

One program she has been involved with is Art à la Carte, which is supported by Cloud Place. Cloud Place is a foundation that sponsors and supports youth art. They also sponsor an annual field trip for Boston

[ CLOUD PLACE, PAGE 5 ]

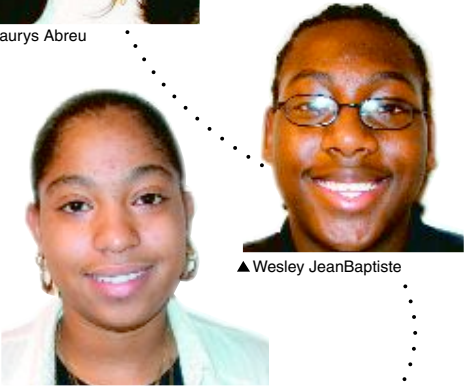
# Editors and



▲ Laurys Abreu



▲ Sarah Zeroual



▲ Ariana Diggs



▲ Wesley JeanBaptiste



## CONTENTS

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| T.i.P. profiles           | 2   |
| BSAC buzz                 | 3   |
| Street smarts             | 3   |
| Letters to the prez       | 4   |
| Opinion                   | 5   |
| Win your way into college | 6-7 |
| Blue Man Group            | 8-9 |
| Black heroes              | 10  |
| Poems/Budget Valentines   | 11  |
| Ty Law profile            | 12  |
| Friday night football     | 12  |
| Horoscopes                | 13  |
| Fashion/Entertainment     | 14  |
| Health sense              | 15  |
| Teen parents              | 16  |

# Predators



▲ Phil Donahue



▲ Monique Kelly



▲ Wendy Nunez



▲ Michael Smith



▲ Daniela Cako

### PHIL DONAHUE

**New Year's resolution:** Make more money.

**Plans for first snow day:** Like we'll get a snow day; BPS never gets out.

**Favorite TV commercial:** Geico ad with the reality show "Tiny House."

**Favorite text message:** l8er

**Most admired in Black History:** Phillis Wheatley, first published African-American.

### MONIQUE KELLY

**New Year's resolution:** Attend college without paying for it.

**Ideal Valentine gift:** Jewelry, roses, and much love.

**Most creative punishment you ever got:** No hairdresser for a month.

**Best Internet site you have seen recently:**

www.coffeebreakarcade.com

**Favorite text message:** LOL

### DANIELA CAKO

**New Year's resolution:** Get into a good college and enjoy senior year.

**Ideal Valentine gift:** A red rose.

**Reaction to Bush reelection:** It ruined my whole day!

**Plans for first snow day:** Snowboarding or ice-skating

**Favorite text message:** 143 (I love you)

### SARAH ZEROUAL

**New Year's resolution:** Don't look back in time.

**Reaction to Bush reelection:** I don't think there is a difference.

**Most unusual punishment you ever got:** Someone copied my assignment, and I got an F!

**Plans for first snow day:** Take pictures.

**Most admired in Black History:** Martin Luther King Jr.

### LAURYS ABREU

**New Year's resolution:** Make all A's and pass MCAS on the first try.

**Thoughts on Red Sox winning the World Series:** Red Sox stink! Yankees for life!

**Plans for first snow day:** Play in the snow.

**Best Internet site you have seen recently:**

www.boston.com

**Favorite TV commercial:** "Squeezed in the middle/ smack dab in the middle."

### MICHAEL SMITH

**New Year's resolution:** None; it's pointless.

**Ideal Valentine gift:** Money

**Favorite TV commercial:** Geico ads

**Favorite text message:** I can't afford a phone!

### ARIANA DIGGS

**New Year's resolution:** Make the honor roll and keep my room neat.

**Thoughts on the Red Sox winning the World Series:** I knew they could do it!

**Plans for first snow day:** Ice-skating

**Best Internet site you have seen recently:**

www.launch.com

**Favorite TV commercial:** The Carmelo Anthony endorsements for Jordan sneakers.

### WESLEY JEANBAPTISTE

**Ideal Valentine gift:** Watch from Zales

**Most unusual punishment you ever got:** "Pick a number from 1 to 45...that's how many days of detention you have."

**Plans for first snow day:** Shovel driveways for money.

### WENDY NUNEZ

**Ideal Valentine gift:** A box of chocolates and a teddy bear.

**Favorite TV commercial:** Geico ads

**Favorite text message:** LMAO (laugh my a\*\* off)

**Brand of gum that keeps its flavor:** Orbit

**Most admired in Black History:** Harriet Tubman



▲ Tito Rodriguez



▲ Marquie Cooper



▲ Martine Romulus



▲ Joshua Vaughn



▲ Leona Alston

■ **Martine Romulus** T.i.P.'s investigative reporter on increasing violence in Boston (next issue); send her your thoughts on the subject.

■ **Leona Alston** T.i.P.'s CD review goddess.

■ **Joshua Vaughn** T.i.P.'s movie & video game guru.

■ **Tito Rodriguez** T.i.P.'s artist/poet. (Stop holdin' out on us, Tito!)

■ **Marquie Cooper** T.i.P.'s "court" jester covers the sports beat.

DETOUR

# Express yourself

We want your words, drawings, cartoons, and photos in our pages!

To find out more about submission guidelines or to submit your work by e-mail, visit the WriteBoston website at: [www.writeboston.org](http://www.writeboston.org) and click on the link for "Boston Teens in Print." Or call T.i.P. Manager **Kelly Knopf-Goldner at 617-541-2665**

Here's how to submit your artwork or writing to T.i.P.

Next issue: March 2005

**Send submissions to:** Boston Teens in Print, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205; or call 617-929-8374

## What's the buzz at BSAC?

By Katherine Morales and Apocalipsis Rosario // T.i.P. Writers



With monthly meetings morphing to bimonthly meetings, the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) got down to business this year. Members planned a jam-packed schedule with newly elected officers presiding: President Apocalipsis Rosario, Fenway High School; First Vice President Natalie Cucchiara, Boston Latin School; Second Vice Presidents Phil Donahue, Odyssey High, and Diardey Fisher, Tech Boston Academy; Recording Secretary Katherine Morales, Fenway High School; and Corresponding Secretary Jaye Cooke, East Boston High School.

In September, we hosted an information session on Elections 2004. Tufts scholars Gary Van Deurse, Larry Mahl, and Kayt Norris from Tufts University College of Citizenship and Public Service shared their experiences at the New Hampshire primaries and the Democratic National Convention. Boston Latin's Lisa Jing, a winner in Lifetime Television's essay contest, presented her PowerPoint presentation, "Future Frontrunners: A Day at the DNC."

In October, BSAC members organized voter registration drives in 12 high schools. Working with Tufts Scholars Ilan Behn and Adam Rowall, along with representatives from Kids Voting and the League of Women Voters, we persuaded eligible schoolmates to register. Congratulations to these schools for doing the right thing: Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) and Another Course to College (ACC) at Taft Education Complex, Brighton; Monument, Excel & Odyssey at South Boston Education Complex; Boston Latin Academy; Boston Arts Academy; Fenway; Economics and Business Academy (EBA) & Academy of Public Service (APS) at Dorchester Education Complex; and Boston Latin School.

The Deputy Superintendent told us how BPS is converting big schools like Hyde Park and West Roxbury into small schools and learning communities. The goal is to build successful relation-



▲ Photo: Jonathan Banks / Artists for Humanity

## Street smarts: 10 tips

By Apocalipsis Rosario // T.i.P. Writer

With street crime on the rise, students on the move need to be on the lookout. BSAC staff asked high schoolers how they stayed safe. Here are 10 top picks.

1. Stay Alert!
2. Check out your surroundings! Know where you are. Make note of street names, areas, and familiar landmarks.
3. Watch for suspicious behavior. Avoid people who take too much interest in you and/or your property.
4. Leave valuable stuff at home. Is it necessary to carry all your money, credit and ID cards, and jewelry? Tone down your bling so you do not attract unwanted attention.
5. Make sure zippers on purses and book bags are up front and closed. Carry ID and keys separately. Hide money in places only you know for sure. Sneakers make good stashes.
6. Avoid walking alone. There's safety in numbers.
7. If you're robbed, don't struggle, as this can increase the possibility of injury.
8. Memorize the attacker's appearance. Know where the nearest police station is.
9. Steer clear of trouble spots. Walk only where you feel safe.
10. Use your cellphone. Alert friends or relatives when you go out. Stay on the phone with buddies or use speed dial to alert for danger. No cell? Carry a whistle.

ships with students and teach them to excel in small learning environments. Several BSAC members are on planning committees for these conversions.

We also heard how local nonprofit groups, parents, and community colleges are working together to help students pass the math and English portions of the MCAS.

BSAC is about promoting messages and expressing opinions on issues and events that affect our education and life in general. We're learning to communicate about complex problems like School Assignment and Supplemental Education Services - funding for students who need before/after-school tutoring. For more information about BSAC contact: Barbara Locurto, BSAC Coordinator, 617-212-6474, [blocurto@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:blocurto@boston.k12.ma.us); Jenny Sazama, Youth on Board, 617-741-1244, [jenny@youthonboard.org](mailto:jenny@youthonboard.org); or Keith Love, BSAC Student Advisor, 617-592-1944, [kllove@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:kllove@boston.k12.ma.us).

# T.i.P.

BOSTON T.i.P.  
Jan. 25, 2005 • Volume II # 3

**Senior Editor**  
Daniela Cako

**Associate Editors/Senior Writers**  
Phil Donahue and Monique Kelly

**Graphic Designer**  
Jonathan Vergara

**Staff Writers**

Laurys Abreu

Leona Alston

Marquie Cooper

Ariana Diggs

Wesley JeanBaptiste

Corey Moody

Shanemma Moody

Wendy Nunez

Tito Rodriguez

Martine Romulus

Michael Smith

Joshua Vaughn

Sarah Zeroual

**T.i.P. Writers**

Monivett Acevedo

Derek Austil

Shane Bass

Taneyshia Bigelow

Rebeca Boria

Dorothy Boston

Danielle D. Floyd

Javonnie Greene

Kowsar Haji

Natalie Kurpeski

Judith Leon

Katherine Morales

Valerie Nora

Apocalipsis Rosario

Thuong (Anna) Tran

Mya Tuitt

**Front page cityscape:**  
Shawn McLaughlin

**BOSTON GLOBE FOUNDATION:**

Leah Bailey, Director  
Cathy Downs, Katie Sullivan

**WRITEBOSTON:**

Betty Southwick, Director  
Amy Lantinga

**T.i.P. Manager:**  
Kelly Knopf-Goldner

**THE BOSTON GLOBE:**

**Production Director:**  
Irene Mauch

**Editor:**  
Marie C. Franklin

**Art Direction:**  
Rich Giedd



▲ Artwork: Jesse Racusen / Artists for Humanity

# Letters to George W. from tipped-off teens

**Dear Mr. President,**  
Now that you are back in office, I would like to know what is going to happen with Iraq? Are we getting our troops out or are you going to keep them there? If they are going to stay, what will you do if there is a shortage of soldiers? What about our economy, benefit programs, and health

care? What are you going to do to ensure a prosperous American economy? What are you going to do for the teenagers of this country? We, the young people of America, want to know what you have planned out for the next four years of our lives.  
—Daniela Cako, T.i.P. Senior Editor

**Dear Mr. President,**  
During your new term, I want you to help American schools. Please provide more funding because my school, and others, have no gym or art classes, language electives, or shop. The school library closes when the bell rings. It should stay open an hour to an hour and a half after school so students can do research.

Please send our troops home too. If we really need troops overseas, you should send some of them in and then after three to six months, send them home and send in different troops. Americans also need more jobs so fewer people will be on welfare, food stamps, or the streets. Thank you for your time.  
—Wesley JeanBaptiste, T.i.P. Staff Writer

**Dear Mr. President,**  
I wish for you to make some sense. You've already detoured from the main objective of catching bin Laden. You've already sent people to a never-ending battlefield to do an unclear mission without good support from almost any other country. But, if I really delve into your administration, the Patriot Act will track me to my grave. They know my type of blood, my eye color and anything else. I know somebody up there in the White House funded Al-Qaeda. I know somebody up there rigged the elections. I know somebody

up there knows the injustice of the drug penalizing system but fails to do anything about it. I know cocaine dealers get less of a sentence than crack dealers because crack is a problem in more black, urban areas whereas cocaine is a quiet, affluent, white problem.  
You only seem to care for the “war on terrorism.” If anything, we're losing that war but no one seems to notice. I mean, seriously, why don't you have a simple clue as to where bin Laden is hiding? Three years, buddy? Come on.  
—Michael Smith, T.i.P. Staff Writer

**Dear Mr. President,**  
As a citizen of this country, I congratulate you on winning reelection. We know you will do your best. My hopes for the country to be better push me to write to you.  
The number of jobless people in the country is increasing. Joblessness creates many problems: increasing violence, homelessness, and hunger. Children who may uphold the values of this country and be tomorrow's leaders are living in homeless shelters and eating at soup kitchens. We have to be aware and take action to stop this trend.

Unemployment rates only reflect those receiving unemployment benefits. What about those no longer collecting benefits but still looking for work? What about those who work two or three jobs to feed their families or work a full-time job but still can't afford rent and food?  
Mr. Bush, please try to visit low poverty areas and schools. See the starving children and homeless people in the cities and to do something about it.  
—Sarah Zeroual, T.i.P. Staff Writer

**Dear Mr. President,**  
Have you ever been forced to live on the street because of a weak and undependable economy? Have you ever felt the hurt of having your brother or son shipped off to an unknown place to fight a war they opposed?  
Your next four years should be about change, not just for us but for our children and grandchildren. I know you think what you are doing is right, but to many of us, you're mak-

ing things worse. Have you ever traveled around the country, to places that are not popular for their tourist sites, but for a high percentage of poverty and starvation? Places that have more people in the cemetery than in the streets? Well, if you haven't, it's about time you did because there is something you're missing.  
—Monique Kelly, T.i.P. Senior Writer/Associate Editor

**Dear Mr. President,**  
Since you are our President and you're “for the people by the people,” I think you should pay attention to the sweatshops used by American companies. P. Diddy has little children in foreign lands make his clothing, as does J. Crew. There should be a stop to this. I don't think it's right for peo-

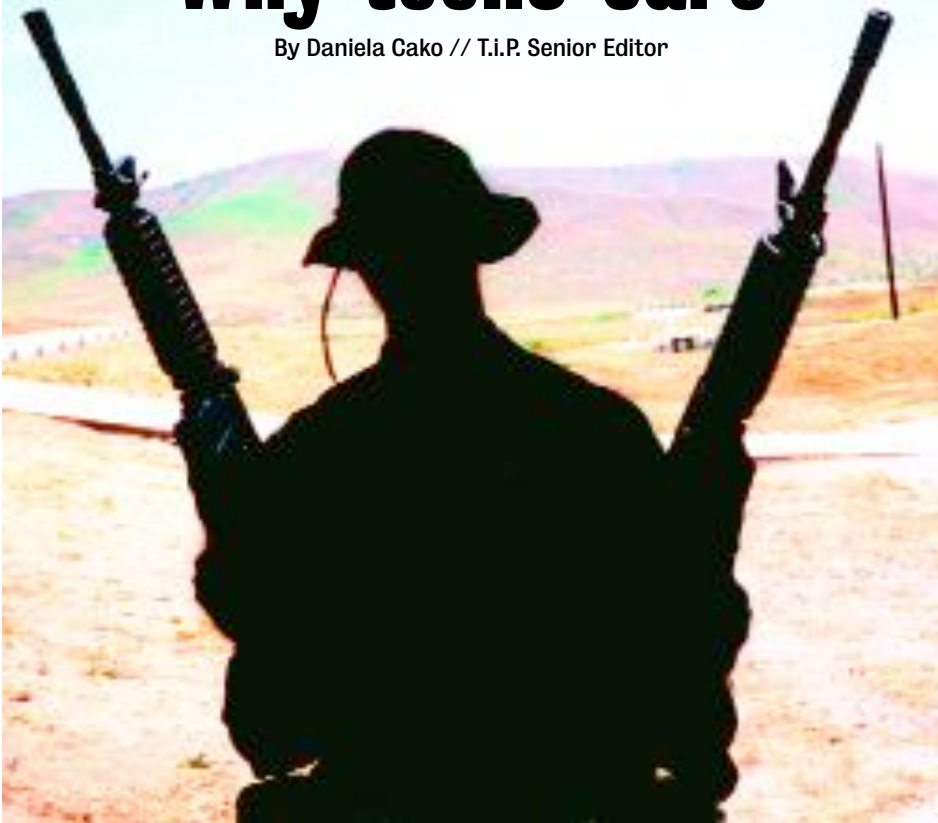
ple, especially children, to work instead of going to school. Many sweatshop employees work six days a week, 12 hours a day; They are only paid six cents an hour. If you're “for the people and by the people,” then stop corporate abuse of poor people working in sweatshop conditions.—Laury's Abreu, T.i.P. Staff Writer

**Dear Mr. President,**  
Since we are still in Iraq and things are heating up over there, when will you bring our soldiers home? Also, what exactly have you done since 9/11 to make better security systems to stop people from bringing bombs on planes and blowing them up?

Also, since a lot of people are getting killed or buying weapons here in the US, why don't you make a ban on guns and weapons and charge a fee if someone is caught with them? Finally, why is the price of gas and oil so expensive? What are you going to do about that?  
—Corey Moody, T.i.P. Staff Writer

# Unfinished in Iraq: Why teens care

By Daniela Cako // T.i.P. Senior Editor



▲ Photo: Artists for Humanity

It has been more than one year, and the war that was long ago declared “mission accomplished” goes on. Iraq still has no viable government, and the insurgents and Iraqis themselves are fighting against our troops. A war that is happening across the globe and the ocean is affecting us in many ways. Our brothers and sisters, classmates, friends, and families are being recruited to go there. Our country’s economy is being drained and for what? The reasons why we are in Iraq are still not clear. Most of us think it is because of the oil, but since we have control of the oil fields in Iraq, why isn’t oil cheaper in our country?

Then comes National Security. Saddam Hussein seemed to have been harboring weapons of mass destruction, but we have not found them. Even though the US has been in Iraq for close to two years, they have failed to turn up any biological warfare weapons. The United Nations also found no weapons of mass destruction, or evidence of plans that Iraq wanted to threaten US national security. And any connection between

Iraq and Al Qaeda was long ago dismissed. So we are not in Iraq because of 9/11. Do we really know why we invaded Iraq?

Why are we still there? One common answer is “because we have to finish what we started.” But what we started has brought upon us thousands of deaths of our troops, and the destruction of countless innocent Iraqi civilians.

With the death rate of our troops increasing, and the rebels and insurgents escalating their fight against us, young people wonder: What would happen if there really was a draft? Despite President Bush’s assurances against it, the possibility of a draft for teenagers seems to increase daily. Do the math. Our military is understaffed to begin with, soldiers are dying in Iraq, and many of the soldiers who are there are

serving back-to-back tours of duty. A call for replacements seems inevitable.

“No way am I doing it,” said Judy Leon, senior at BCLA, when asked if she would enlist in the military. Like so many teens, I believe Leon is not alone.

“No way am I doing it,” said Judy Leon, senior at BCLA, when asked if she would enlist in the military.

## Evening Academy

[ FROM PAGE 1 ]

world of difference.

All of us at Day Academy are older than average ninth graders; most of us failed to get the support and guidance we needed to succeed at school in the past. The Day Academy provides a “second chance to succeed at school and the opportunity to advance in high school,” according to Jamal Nation, a new student at the school.

The most important aspect of the school is the support of teachers and staff. Unlike our old schools, “This school is too small for drama,” says student Ja’Meisha Graham. “Teachers are able to give students attention every day,” adds Rosemarie Roland, one of my classmates. Craig Lee, a student council officer, hit on the essential difference between Day Academy and other schools in the city. “Teachers care about us as individuals. I have been able to concentrate and I have a better attitude. This school makes me want to be a good student,” he says.

Lindsa McIntyre, assistant director at BDEA and head of Day Academy, is a ded-

icated leader. She explains, “It is important that students find the right place to get an education. I love the work we are doing here and I am proud of the students who are working to succeed.”

A typical day for students in the day program consists of three classes, an advisory period, and two meals, breakfast, and lunch. The classes are different from traditional learning models. In math, we do presentations. In humanities, we learn history and language arts together. In science, we are studying DNA and doing crime investigation projects. “I like humanities because we think about and get to debate cases about our rights. It’s interesting to see if we decided the same thing as the Supreme Court,” says Judy Francois, a Day student and board member.

There are also many special programs and events for students, who, for example, attend town meetings on a regular basis. Students also started the year with a trip to Thompson Island to engage in physical challenges, like climbing a rockwall.

## Cloud Place

[ FROM PAGE 1 ]

teenagers to go to France, where they are matched up with people from different communities to experience diverse cultures. Besides showing the importance of art, the foundation gets students involved in their own community. They want Boston Public School students to appreciate the diversity of their communities and accept, embrace, and effect positive change there.

Blaisse comes to Cloud Place more than once a week to work on her drawing. “It has helped me master the skills I have, and obtain skills I don’t have,” she says.

Stephanie Pierre is another Boston student who has delved into art through Cloud Place. A student at Boston Latin Academy, she has won art awards, one of which she received for her drawing of a girl with a white dove. “I just draw by myself and it’s a good way to clear my mind to come here to the Cloud Foundation and relax by drawing.”

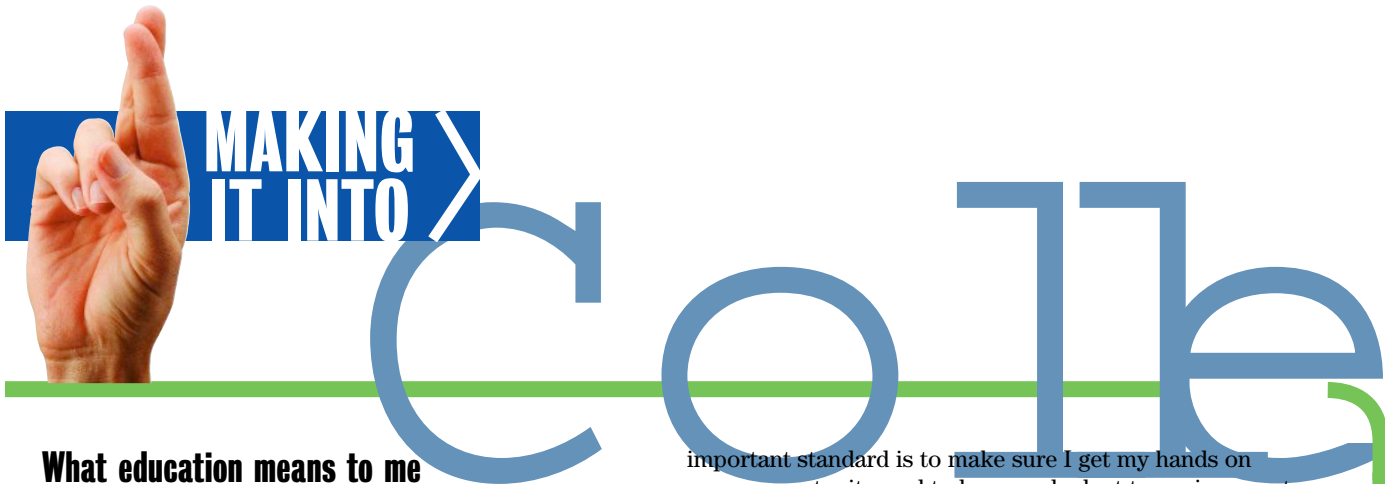
Other programs that receive support from Cloud Place: Ballet Rox, Boston Children’s Chorus, Dot Art, the Institute

for Contemporary Art, Project Step, Art à la Carte, and Teen Empowerment.

A freshman at South Boston Harbor Academy Charter School, Lauren McMahon is involved in Dot Art, where she expresses her feelings through visual art. She has distinguished herself through her art and is considering a future in the field. Her dream is to be accepted to the Boston Arts Academy.

Nicholas Leary, another Harbor Academy student, discovered his talent in a strange way. “One day, I got bored and started drawing, and I noticed I liked it, and here I am at Dot Art, drawing.” Leary is currently a freshman who is still trying to find a niche. Besides art, Leary plays guitar in a band. Photography is another interest. Leary says he wants to develop and improve all of these passions and maybe even consider them for his future.

These and other Boston teens are benefiting from the support of Cloud Place. T.i.P. congratulates the foundation for its commitment to young people and the arts.



What education means to me

By Judith Leon // T.i.P. Writer

My goal in life is to be an intelligent, educated, successful black woman. The reason I want to succeed is because I know that being female, dark-skinned, a child of immigrants, and uneducated in this world is tough. It sets a challenge for me. It's hard to say, but this is still a male dominated world. I personally think this world hasn't met me yet. I believe this young woman has a great voice waiting to be heard, and opinions and ideas waiting to be revealed. I know I am capable of being educated and accomplishing the same things men accomplish. I know this because I set high standards for myself. One very

My dilemma

By Derek Austil // T.i.P. Writer

I am leaving home to pursue an education and to build my life. It was a tough decision to choose between staying in my home country, Haiti, and coming to the United States. Basically, I had to decide between these two lives: the life I knew and one that was strange and new. It was a very difficult choice. On one hand, if I had stayed in my hometown I would have been with my friends and most of my family. But the problem was that in Haiti, where I spent most of my childhood, there are no good colleges. I would not be able to get a job if I moved to the United States after getting my diploma. Unfortunately, this diploma would have been valuable only in Haiti. On the other hand, if I chose to be in the United States, I would not know anyone except my siblings. I would not have any friends. Furthermore, I am pretty sure the friends I am about to make will not speak my foreign language. But one good thing about moving here is that if I have an American diploma, unlike the Haitian diploma, I will be able to get a good job in the United States or out of the United States, basically anywhere in the world.

In my own world

By Rebeca Boria // T.i.P. Writer

As I was reading a book, "Chinese Cinderella," I was shocked yet intrigued by the similarities the main character and I shared. This book has made me realize I have lost things I held dear over the years as the tension between my mother and I increased. The main character, Adeline, and I shared an obsession with school and busy-ing ourselves with schoolwork. Second, we both had trouble developing a self-image of confidence and self-worth. Third, we made the promise to make education the primary goal in order to achieve the prideful faces of our parents. I have come to know myself through this book. Adeline and I have connected on different levels in our lives, from striving for father's attention to our expectations of ourselves. We both share that obsession with

important standard is to make sure I get my hands on every opportunity, and to learn and adapt to environments in which educated people are respected. My mother taught me how important education is. A while ago, she did housekeeping in a hotel for a living and I saw how hard it was for her. After she accumulated a small sum of money, she made a wise decision: to return to school. After that, her life became a bit easier. I am extremely proud of and grateful to my mother for everything she did for me, but I wouldn't want to struggle the way she did. She had to struggle because she came from a country, Haiti, where education wasn't stressed.

What 10 dollars buys

By Danielle D. Floyd // T.i.P. Writer

Ten dollars is more than enough gas for a rusty golden Honda on a new spring day in southern country. With ten dollars I could rev up the engine and buy a honey bun at the PB Connect. While I pull away from the yellow sunflower sign, I'll unwrap my Little Debbie snack and smile as I lick the creamy glazed swirls. My only company would be the wind that blows my hair in unease. I may bring along the croon of a soft jazz melody just to ease the time as I surf black-paved roads. On days like this I can smell magnolia trees while winding down the country roads. Lilac flowers waft through the air as I search the lush green valleys for quiet brooks and peeping daisies. My desire is the calmness of nature and resting fields of solitude to contemplate my innermost poetry. At the end of the rambling road, I see something so picturesque I wish I had brought along a camera. Row after row of perky yellow corn bounces out at my eyes as the soft wind blows. At the edge of the corn field, appearing with soft hesitance, is a toffee-colored fawn. I hope he doesn't spot my gazing eyes in the distance. After writing, I would read one of my favorite romantic classics. "The Awakening." Later I would awaken to the fast approaching darkness and think of home. When the day has been spent, I will relax, cruising through the warm night air, listening to whatever the radio has to offer. I will smile to think of how much country air and sweet savor ten dollars bought.

school, and know it can take us away from our problems. Second, we connect over issues of self-esteem and self worth, having no one but ourselves to offer words of encouragement. Third, we both have the promise to preserve, to do well for ourselves, no matter the obstacles.

When life throws a curve

By Valerie Nora // T.i.P. Writer

In the past few years I've been through ups and downs, testing my endurance. Those things made me who I am today. I derived a large part of my identity from the fact that I was a successful student; I exceeded my expectations with excellence. I considered myself intellectual, organized, goal-oriented, and willing to learn. But what do you do when your world slowly crumbles before your eyes and you feel there is nothing you can do? Problems arose in my life during tenth and eleventh grades. I wasn't able to handle them properly because of my inexperience. So my grades went down, along with my enthusiasm for school. I didn't want to learn or bother with work. I lost interest in the things I loved and I pushed family and friends away. Those were the worst months of my life and something I don't wish upon anyone. The good that came out of that was the experience and wisdom to continue my life in an easier manner. Now I have placed these things behind me and started a new life. I changed schools so I could confidently focus on my academics. I'm in classes I feel I can handle and at the same time, I'm challenged and learning. I also took a lot of time for myself. I wanted to let go of the negativity, the worries; I wanted to be emotionally stable. Those things, along with the support of family members and close friends, helped me get back in control and make everything right while I had the chance. This school year has been great. I do all my work, and I took it upon myself to get advanced classes to challenge myself. This gives me great satisfaction and it makes me, and my family and friends, proud. My goal is to graduate with good grades and that seems more at reach now than before.

Some students get into college on their grades. Others make it in on a special skill. And some gain acceptance because of the quality of their essays. These excerpts were written by Boston teens, all students at BGCLA.

Lesson learned

By Taneyshia Bigelow // T.i.P. Writer

The lesson learned is this: Consider school as chores. If you do them when you’re told and get them out of the way, that’s one less thing that’s going to keep you from going to the mall or out chilling with your friends. When you chose to wait and say “I’ll do it later” you’re making it harder on yourself because you’re given more chores to do that take up your time for going out. By the time you’re done, your friends have gotten tired of waiting for you and have left. So you’re left to catch up with them. Don’t be the one having to catch up. Do what you have to do and everything will go smoothly.

To spend a day with Cleopatra

By Natalie Kurpeski // T.i.P. Writer

I recognize Cleopatra as an ideal woman. If it were possible, I would choose to spend a year with her because she has the qualities I want to capture as a woman. I believe she would have a positive influence on my journey to become the person I want to be.

Cleopatra was known for her beauty and for being seductive. There was an incident when she smuggled herself into Julius Caesar’s palace by rolling herself into a rug. When she presented herself to Caesar, he became her lover that very night. It’s not just her good looks that are admired; she had brains as well. As ruler of the Egyptian civilization, she was proven to be highly intelligent and a shrewd politician.

I believe Cleopatra could be a positive influence on my character and spending a year with her would be a memorable experience, perhaps the best method of learning from her. She could teach me how to speak different languages, how to debate, and possibly how to be persuasive and seductive. I believe she would open up a whole new world of independence, leadership, and determination.

I want to be a doctor

By Kowsar Haji // T.i.P. Writer

I felt a rush of emotions; my heart was torn into pieces. My aunt had died in Africa, in childbirth, because she lost a lot of blood. No, it couldn’t be true.

My aunt shared in my passion to become a doctor. We always talked about the status of medical care in African countries. I saw the disturbing reality of poverty, AIDS, malnutrition, and other diseases. In many refugee camps, I watched death become ordinary as it blended with daily life. Every day someone was dying; it became something rather normal.

It’s extremely difficult to deal with a loved one’s death, but I learned from my experiences that it helps to be spiritually grounded. The news of her

If I wrote a book

By Mya Tuitt // T.i.P. Writer

If I were to write a book, it would be about dreams. I say dreams because I believe people should always follow their dreams. Many people my age don’t believe in following their dreams. As I go through daily life, I see and hear our youth walk around with nothing to look forward to. They feel that because they come from the “hood” they aren’t going to go anywhere. They feel that because urban, TV characters are often poor, they will live their lives that way too. They don’t set goals for themselves because they believe they are not going to be anything or go anywhere. It is always a good thing for someone to dream. It means you have imagination and goals. Dreams are the gateway to the future and every time you dream, you broaden your view of the future.

Public schools lack money, supplies

By Javonnie Greene // T.i.P. Writer

Does the government have its priorities straight? This is the question I ask myself when the government of New York City spends nearly \$90,000 to incarcerate a child in juvenile prison and poor kids in the Bronx only get \$8,000 per pupil for school funding.\*

Many public schools are overcrowded and the majority of kids who attend are black or Latino. These schools are filthy and run down and the students have no other choice but to try to learn with inadequate materials. How does the government expect us to do well on standardized tests when we do not learn as much as we can because of the lack of supplies? For example, in my school, the windows are broken and they cannot shut, so in the winter we are forced to sit in cold classes and study with our coats on. The textbooks we use have graffiti all over them, pages ripped out, and, on top of that, there are not enough books for the whole class. So teachers have to make copies and the time they spend passing them out wastes learning time.

In conclusion, it seems like the government spends more money locking up the people we are afraid of. Instead, they need to cultivate our futures by funding the dreams of youth. Voltaire said, “Cultivate your garden.” The quote means that instead of complaining that the seeds will not grow, do something to help them grow. In this case, public school children are the seeds and the garden is represented by the schools. Instead of government complaining we do poorly on standardized tests, they need to cultivate the garden.

*\* Kozol, Jonathan, noted education expert.*

death is fresh in my mind and the scars are deeply rooted. I believe everything happens for a reason and life isn’t about mere coincidences. I miss hearing her joyous, heart-felt laugh and her silly jokes that always brought ease no matter how hard the situation.

I want to become a doctor because I feel it’s my duty, my calling, and because of my experience, it is my obligation. I am so grateful for the opportunities and resources that are available in this country, where being sick doesn’t necessarily mean death. I want to be part of this community where advances in science are encouraged. I want to work in a community that fights hard to sustain and prolong life. I want to play on a team that heals and brings hope to other’s lives.

AMAZING COLLEGE TIPS

By Monivett Acevedo // T.i.P. Writer

Picking which college to go to is a hassle with thousands of options available. It’s like choosing the best tasting M & M’s; you can either have crispy, peanut or almond M & M’s; likewise you can either go to a college, a university, or a vocational school. Use this guide to narrow your options.

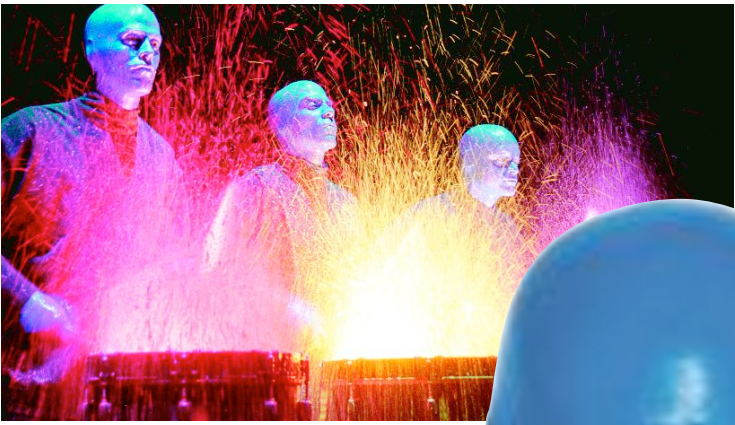
- The first question to ask is what do you want, a college or a university? A college is a school of higher learning and a university is a school made up of several colleges. Universities are usually larger.
- Next, ask yourself, do you want to go far away for school, or stay at home? This is an important decision as staying at home can be less expensive. Make a list of the pros and cons of each.
- If you have decided to leave the state, think about which region you would like to live in. For example, are you interested in the South, the West Coast, or any other region? Then think about the characteristics that are important to you. Religious, or not? Rural or urban? Public or private? Available majors? Minority population? Make a list of the things that matter to you.
- Speed up the admissions process by gathering information online. Log onto [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

FROM THE DEAN'S MOUTH

You can thank college admission deans from around the country for these tips.

1. Be yourself through the admissions process. Don't put on a persona that is not your own. (Cornell Univ.)
2. Do not make your application look like it was filled out on top of the mailbox. (Connecticut College)
3. Recommendations can help when they shed light on a special quality, experience, or talent. (Kenyon College)
4. Admission decisions are not made by gate-keeping computers but by humans who exercise a considerable amount of human judgment. (Williams College)
5. It is hard to capture yourself on pieces of paper but it's important to try because that is all the admissions office has to look at. (Swarthmore College)

Source: "Making it Into a Top College," Cliff Street Books, N.Y. 2000



T.i.P. review:

# Blue Man Group

Photos by Ken Howard © BMP

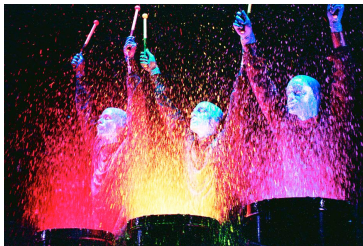


By Phil Donahue  
T.I.P. Senior Writer // Associate Editor

Blue Man Group is like the compilation CD of all shows. It has everything you could want your eyes to see, ears to hear, and emotions to feel. The performance is a marvel for the senses.

I stepped into Charles Playhouse with a curious, open mind not knowing what I would encounter. I took my seat and looked around the room. People in the audience were as young as 8 and as old as 60. On the walls were industrial-size rolls of toilet paper; that was mysterious to me. The tiny black stage stood a few feet away with a gumball machine displayed on it; another mystery. The stage also had a large TV screen on the right and a smaller elevated stage on the left with two barrels atop it.

The show began long before the Blue Men arrived on stage. While waiting, I witnessed waiters and waitresses taking orders from the audience. Servers also handed



out white pieces of streamer to be tied around audience members' heads—another mystery. Located on the surrounding walls of the stage were message bars with red words scrolled across the screens. The messages were random, and funny announcements such as “Happy Birthday to Jane Doe.”

Finally, the lights faded and the barrels pounded. A glowing, yellow light illuminated a screen, revealing the shadows of three Blue Men playing unorthodox instruments made of PVC pipe. To the left, above the TV screen, was a darkened area where a band performed along with the Blue Men's percussion.

Soon, the Blue Men's shadows were replaced by the actual Blue Men as the screen was lifted above the stage. Continuing to play the pipes like drums, the men poured neon yellow and orange paint on

the drums splashing it up after every hit of the instrument. Everything on the stage was black except for the blue heads and hands and the energetic spurts of multi-colored liquid. In another scene, Blue Men spread thick layers of shaving cream on the glass as animation on a screen explained the history of cartooning.

Along with visual aspects, there was audience participation to observe. Some was involuntary, most notably when a couple arrived late, an alarm sounded, and a large TV screen blinked “LATE ARRIVAL!” Suddenly, the screen displayed a live feed of the pair struggling to make it to their seats. This was a hilarious surprise to the audience but embarrassing for the couple.

Not all participation was involuntary. The performance took a “Whose Line is it Anyway?” spin when a woman was plucked from the crowd to be part of the show. She was given a costume with a blue chest guard and black fabric hanging from it. She put it on and became a blue woman. Later, the blue woman and the audience were hysterical when, what looked to be liquified Twinkies shot through a tiny hole in her chest guard.

The theater darkened again. The audience looked around and the drums played. Everything in the room that was white showed up as neon, pink, orange, and green due to a black light. The streamers tied to our heads gleamed neon blue and all of the light clothing in the audience glowed the same color. Neon accordion piping fell from the ceiling. Strobe lights blinked to the pulsating beat of barrel drums.

Now only one Blue Man was drumming and the other two Blue Men's location was unknown until mounds of glowing toilet paper poured from the balcony. The two Blue Men created a waterfall of toilet paper, which the audience had to transport to the stage by throwing it over to the next seat. Endless streams of tissue formed large mountains hanging over the excited crowd. It sounds foolish but it was an amazing experience. My senses were stimulated to their fullest capacity. I felt youthful in the Blue Man's wonderland.

This show is an experience of a lifetime, but you can see it almost any day. Shows are playing at the Charles Playhouse (74 Warrenton St, Boston; 617-426-6912) Wednesday through Sunday at various times, including 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows on Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. shows on Sunday. Ticket prices range from \$46-\$56—not exactly a bargain for most high school students. Still, how often do you get to have an experience this unique? My tip: See this show.

## Q&A... with a Blue Man

Senior writer Monique Kelly went backstage after the show to talk with Blue Man Eric Rubbe.

**Q. What's it like to be part of Blue Man Group?**

**A.** It's not like anything else. It's a unique job; it doesn't really feel like work. I like being part of something that has a big effect on people. It's empowering, like having a strong voice.

**Q. How long have you been in Blue Man Group?**

**A.** A little over three and a half years.

**Q. Is this show anything like the previous productions you've acted in?**

**A.** By far no! I have done a lot of different things that have certain elements of Blue Man Group but none are anything like the Blue Man Group Production.

**Q. Is it difficult not to talk during the performance?**

**A.** At first it was challenging not to communicate, but I learned how to communicate through my looks and body movements.

**Q. Are the audience members picked during your shows selected randomly, or not?**

**A.** Yes, they are random audience members.

**Q. Who comes up with the ideas for the skits?**

**A.** There are three creators, along with others, who come up with the ideas for the new material. We try it out and tell them how the audience reacts to it.

**Q. What inspires you?**

**A.** My friends, partners, family, and other actors. Photographers, artists, and other visual artists that can express how one feels by taking a picture or drawing images.

## What is performance art?

By Daniela Cako // T.I.P. Senior Editor

Blue Man Group's show is performance art, a form of art that combines elements like instrumental or electronic music, song, dance, television, film, sculpture, spoken dialogue, and storytelling in one artistic “event.” It is a powerful form of expression as well as a multimedia event. Performance artists have varied backgrounds but tend to have experience in the visual arts, theatre, writing, and dance. Typically, performance art is emotional and topical, dealing mostly with personal and political issues such as race, class, or feminism.

There are many performance artists, such as Laurie Anderson, Vito Acconci, Carolee Schneeman, and Martha Wilson, as well as monologist-writers like Anna Deavere Smith and Eric Bogosian. Deavere Smith performs a one-woman show called "Twilight Los Angeles," about the riots that erupted after the police who beat up Rodney King were found not guilty. Based on hundreds of videotaped interviews with real people in Los Angeles, “Twilight” shows her morphing from one character into another, with a simple costume change, as she talks about the riots from each one's unique perspective.



# Unsung Heroes

January is Black History Month, a time to celebrate past achievements and current accomplishments of African-Americans and people of African descent. Here are some of the people we honor.

By Monique Kelly // T.i.P. Senior Writer/Associate Editor

## Carter G. Woodson

Every year during Black History Month we hear about the same people: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X. But have you ever wondered who came up with Black History Month? His name is Carter G. Woodson.

Born on a Virginia farm, to former slaves James and Eliza Woodson, Carter G. Woodson would later be called the Father of Black History Month. Education for a poor black family did not come easily and he was unable to attend high school until his 20s because of the long hours he worked in the Kentucky coalmines to help support his family. When he finally had the chance to receive an education, the sky was the limit. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Chicago. He became fluent in French while attending Sorbonne University in Paris. In 1912, he was the second African-American to obtain a Ph.D. in history from Harvard.

He later became part of many movements such as the Niagara Movement, which would eventually become the NAACP. He was the founder of the Journal of Negro History, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and the Negro History Bulletin. He wrote more than 30 books.

In 1926, Woodson started the observance of Black (Negro) History Week in February. Woodson chose February for two reasons. First, February 12th was the birthday of Abraham Lincoln who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and February 14th was the birthday of Frederick Douglas, an American Abolitionist. Second, the news of the 13th amendment's passing, which abolished slavery in January 1865, did not reach slaves until February.

Despite being responsible for our celebration of Black History, Woodson said he hoped the time would come when it would be unnecessary because Americans would have come to accept the contributions of Black Americans as an integral part of American history.

## Dr. Mae Jemison

By Marquie Cooper and Kelly Knopf-Goldner // T.i.P. Staff Writers

People are always talking about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X. No disrespect to them, but I think that people should talk about other important black Americans, like Sydney Poitier, Edith Spurlock Sampson, and Marcus Garvey. And Dr. Mae Jemison, the first black female astronaut.

Dr. Jemison went into space aboard the shuttle Endeavor on September 12, 1992. Her desire for learning, especially in the area of science, came earlier though. She was born in Decatur, Alabama on October 17, 1956, the youngest of three children. She moved to Chicago with her uncle when her mother died. There her uncle introduced her to science. She entered Stanford University at 16 on a scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. She went on to study medicine at Cornell and then worked as a doctor here and in the Peace Corps in Africa. She was even once on an episode of Star Trek!

She founded the Jemison Group Inc., which seeks to blend science with social issues because she thinks good scientists must combine thinking with feeling. Two examples of current projects are a satellite based telecommunications system for improving medical care in West Africa and The Earth We Share, an international space camp for teens.

## W.E.B. Dubois

By Wesley JeanBaptiste // T.i.P. Staff Writer

One person you may not learn about in school is W.E.B. Dubois. William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Dubois was born in Massachusetts in 1868. He was an educated man who graduated from Fisk University in Nashville in 1888. He received two bachelor degrees, one from Fisk and the other from Harvard. He also got a master's degree and was the first black man to receive a Ph.D, both from Harvard. He wrote many books, but the one about his late son, "The Souls of Black Folk," is the most famous.

He created the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, formerly called the Niagara Movement. For the association he edited the newsletter "The Crisis" to keep people informed. He later joined the US Communist Party, moved to Ghana, and passed away in 1963.

To Dubois, education was vital to the advancement of African-Americans, and he once wrote to a young student whose teacher had told Dubois that she did not keep up with her studies. He wrote, "Ignorance is the cure for nothing. Get the very best training possible and the doors of opportunity will fly open before you."



# Trapped

By Thuong (Anna) Tran //T.i.P. Writer

4 walls  
No window, no door  
Only the ceiling and the floor  
How am I supposed to escape, when there's no exit?  
So here in the darkness all alone, I sit.

Screaming to the top of my lungs  
Waiting for someone to come.  
After 16 years of waiting,  
My hands feel no touch  
My eyes see no sight  
My nose smells no smell  
My mouth speaks no word  
My ears hear no sound  
After 16 years of living in what seems to be death,  
I start to question is this death, is this hell?  
I don't think so. So I don't hope that it is.  
So hope is still in me?  
All has been taken away; Everything I owned and  
everything I was.  
After 16 years of living in what seem to be a dream,  
I'm exhausted  
I once believed that dreaming up my own world,  
Was the only way to escape the real world.  
But ever since 16 years of being trapped,  
I want to see, touch, hear, smell, and speak of the  
real world to escape.....my world.  
Yet still I sit in complete darkness  
Feeling so isolated and so ...alone.  
One question still lies in my head:  
Is there anyone out there? I can only hope.  
Hope is all I have.....nothing else.

# Habrete (Open up)

By Monique Kelly // T.i.P. Senior Writer/Associate Editor

Habre tus ojos  
(Open up your eyes)  
And maybe you can see  
What I see  
the secret passageway  
To eternal happiness  
So we won't  
Have to paint smiles on  
in the day  
then wipe them off  
In the night  
  
Habre tu mente  
(Open up your mind)  
Wishing at times  
I can feel what  
You are feeling  
See what  
You are thinking  
Hoping that the way  
You make me feel  
Never goes away  
Wishing you could feel what I feel  
  
Habre tus oidos  
(Open up your ears)  
Oye la cancion  
listen to the song  
Tu corazon me esta cantando  
your heart is singing to me  
Contando de nosotros  
singing about us

# Ambition

By Shane Bass //T.i.P. Writer

Can it teach a lesson,  
or be someone's beloved possession?  
Is it some kind of superstition  
But it couldn't be; isn't it Ambition?  
Does it give a strong desire to achieve,  
Or convince a doubtful person to believe?  
If it forces someone to leave,  
Would that still be a way to achieve?  
Could it give the will to succeed,  
And/or fulfill many other special needs?  
Are these words hard to read,  
Or should I just slow down my speed?  
Should it help achieve a goal or an object desired,  
Or should it just be there and not inspire?  
Why isn't it bright and gleeful like a fire?



## 10 VALENTINES FOR LESS THAN 10 BUCKS

These gift ideas are for lovers on a budget.

By Phil Donahue // T.i.P. Senior Writer/Associate Editor

1. Send a message in a bottle explaining how you feel.
2. Make a mixed CD or tape of your significant other's favorite songs.
3. Give your other half a coupon for "one free foot rub" or "one free hug."
4. Write a poem and mail it to your mate. She'll be surprised to receive a gift when you're not around.
5. Get the lyrics to his favorite songs and handwrite them, so every time he reads them he'll think of you.
6. Take a walk around Boston Common and ice skate on the Frog Pond. Pack a winter picnic with hot chocolate, cookies, and snacks.
7. It sounds kindergarten, but make her a greeting card listing the things you love about her.
8. Make a collage from your collection of pictures. Don't have any pictures? Buy a disposable camera and start your gift now. By Valentine's Day, you'll have a gallery of photos to give him.
9. Make your love a dinner for two, or bake a dessert.
10. If you insist on the classic flowers and chocolates, you can still stay within a budget. Good chocolate needn't be Godiva, and a single red rose can be very romantic.

# Poetry Contest

- Do you have rhyming skills?
- Can you make someone feel what you feel through writing?
- Do you want to win great PRIZES?

## Enter the first T.i.P. Poetry Contest

DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2005

Winning poems will appear in the May edition of T.i.P.

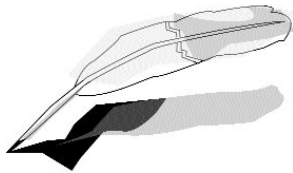
HOW TO ENTER:  
Snail mail submissions to:

WriteBoston  
Kelly Knopf-Goldner, T.i.P. Manager  
2201 Washington Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Or E-mail submissions to:  
kelly.knopf-goldner:jcs@ci.boston.ma.us

The only restrictions are:

- No more than 25 lines ● One submission per poet
- Language is all "fit to print."
- All original work (NO PLAGIARIZING!!!); Include your signature as verification of originality.



ALL SUBMISSIONS BECOME PROPERTY OF T.I.P. BY SUBMITTING YOUR WRITING, YOU GIVE US PERMISSION TO PRINT IT.

## Get outdoors this winter

By Daniela Cako // T.I.P. Senior Editor

Winter is here and it's time to go out and enjoy the season. Don't let the snow stop you. There's plenty to do in Boston in the winter.

The Frog Pond on Boston Common will be open until March 17, giving residents and tourists time to enjoy skating, healthy outdoor exercise, and fresh air. Last month, the Charles Hotel, in Harvard Square in Cambridge, opened its own lighted outdoor skating rink. So urban ice skaters now have more than one place to ice skate.

For those of us who are more into action sports, skiing and snowboarding are other cool winter sports. Advice for novices: buy short skis (three feet long) because they are easier to maneuver. Then keep your knees slightly bent, and your shoulders rounded to keep your balance. And remember: Safety comes first, so don't try anything too tricky. Go easy at first, and you will be a pro in no time.

## The real deal on Ty Law

By Ariana Diggs // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Read on for everything you've always wanted to know about Ty Law but were afraid to ask.

**Team:** New England Patriots

**Number:** 24

**Position:** Cornerback

**Actual name:** Tajuan Law

**Date and place of birth:** February 10, 1974 in Aliquippa, PA

**Height:** 5'11"

**College:** University of Michigan

**Years in the game:** Law has played with the Patriots since 1995.

**Fan quote:** "He is the reason the Pats have won two Super Bowls in three years."

**Family:** Law has two kids, a daughter Tya and son Ty Jr.

**How he survives New England:** In the off-season, Ty resides at his beautiful mansion in sunny Miami.



## The goal: Beat Miami heat

By Marquie Cooper // T.I.P. Staff Writer

The Miami Heat will be the team to beat this year for one reason and that reason is Shaq.

Shaquille O'Neal, selected as one of the top 50 greatest players in National Basketball Association history in 1996, was also a three-time, Most Valuable Player in the NBA finals after leading the Lakers there in 2000, 2001, and 2002. He was voted MVP in 1990 and 2000. He was on the all-NBA, first team every year from 1997 to 2002. He is a nine time all-star and was the co-MVP with Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs. He led the NBA in scoring and in field goal percentage five times in a row.

Now that the big man plays with Miami Heat, they have a shot at going to the NBA championship this year. Dwayne Wade is their other secret weapon. Other teams must be intimidated to play against them. The Heat have a healthy team for the season, and Shaq will penetrate the defense so other players on the team will have a shot. No other NBA team has a player big enough to guard Shaq. So teams, get ready cause when the Heat come to town, they'll bring the pain and they will bring it hard.

## Friday night football returned

By Tito Rodriguez and Wendy Nunez  
// T.I.P. Staff Writers

Because of a brawl that broke out in 1958 after a night game, city officials decided to ban Friday Night Football, a favorite Boston tradition. It has been banned ever since—until last fall. After 46 years, Mayor Menino decided to bring it back. "Teens don't have the chance to showcase their talents and I want to give teens this opportunity," Mayor Menino said in a recent radio interview.

How long will Friday Night Football last this time? How long will it take for high school students to realize it's only a game and there's no need for violence? T.I.P. hopes it goes well for all you football players and fans. City officials decided to play only six night games this year and to reevaluate before next year. After a string of successful game nights, they decided things worked out well and that teens should get a full season of Friday night games next year.

"As long as security is OK, things are running as smooth as they can," says Ken Still, BPS athletic director. "It's going to take a lot to mess this up. As long as parents attend as well as students, everything should work out."

# Horoscopes

## and resolu-

By Daniela Cako // T.i.P. Senior Editor and  
Josh Vaughn // T.i.P. Staff Writer

### ARIES

**(March 21-April 19)**  
**Symbol:** The Ram  
**Strengths:** Active, daring, spirited  
**Weakness:** Hasty, impulsive  
**Love:** Be careful of past relationships. Try new things. Who knows? You might like them. It's a new year ready to be embraced.  
**Money:** Invest your money in a college fund or savings account.  
**New Year's resolution:** Make a difference for that important person in your life.

### TAURUS

**(April 20-May 19)**  
**Symbol:** The Bull  
**Strengths:** Patient, imaginative, authentic  
**Weakness:** Stubborn, defiant  
**Love:** Someone you've known for a long time will surprise you, and think of you in a new way. Pay attention!  
**Money:** This new year is full of financial possibilities; Be on the lookout for them.  
**New Year's resolution:** Keep an eye out for new opportunities but don't take what you have for granted.

### GEMINI

**(May 20-June 20)**  
**Symbol:** The Twins  
**Strengths:** Curious, open minded, multitalented  
**Weakness:** Capricious, impatient  
**Love:** Always be yourself, and don't be afraid to ask that special person out. This new year is wide open for you, and it's time for you to blossom in your love life.  
**Money:** Try not to spend too much money. If you have a job, you can spend some here and there. Just don't overdo it.  
**New Year's resolution:** Don't be afraid to open up.

### CANCER

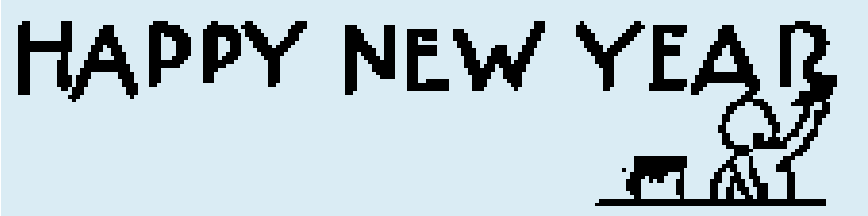
**(June 21-July 22)**  
**Symbol:** The Crab  
**Strengths:** Generous, perceptive, caring  
**Weakness:** Cranky, tempered, grumpy  
**Love:** Be more appreciative of the people around you, and show them your love.  
**Money:** Financially, this will be a better year, but you better grasp at the possibilities.  
**New Year's resolution:** Try to be happier and less irritated by little things.

### LEO

**(July 23-Aug. 22)**  
**Symbol:** The Lion  
**Strengths:** Responsible, reliable, devoted  
**Weakness:** Arrogant, crabby, self-indulged  
**Love:** Fix that relationship before it slips away! It's worth keeping.  
**Money:** Money won't be a problem. You are always responsible and know what you want.  
**New Year's resolution:** Never give up! Aim high- you know you will get what you want.

### VIRGO

**(Aug. 23-Sept. 21)**  
**Symbol:** The Maiden  
**Strengths:** Supportive, compassionate, conscientious  
**Weakness:** Unorganized, critical, picky  
**Love:** Be careful what you wish for because it might come true.  
**Money:** Money won't make you happy, but you want a chance to prove it wrong.  
**New Year's resolution:** Don't shut people out.



### LIBRA

**(Sept. 22-Oct. 22)**  
**Symbol:** The Scales  
**Strengths:** Appealing, smart, sensitive  
**Weakness:** Scheming, hopeless, coy  
**Love:** Honesty is the best policy, so tell that significant other what you don't like.  
**Money:** Money talks. Just don't let it say "g'bye!"  
**New Year's resolution:** Stay away from bad influences.

### SCORPIO

**(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
**Symbol:** The Scorpion  
**Strengths:** Intense, playful, lovely  
**Weakness:** Jealous, possessing  
**Love:** This year, old and new relationships will die and blossom; don't be afraid to change.  
**Money:** It won't come in as easily as it goes out.  
**New Year's resolution:** Wishing won't do you any good; Start working on getting what you want.

### SAGITTARIUS

**(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
**Symbol:** The Archer  
**Strengths:** Fervent, stimulating, charming  
**Weakness:** Quarrelsome, irresponsible at times  
**Love:** Be the best you can be and, if that's not enough, let that overly demanding person go.  
**Money:** Success in finance will give you the boost you need to enjoy this new year.  
**New Year's resolution:** Don't be too judgmental of yourself.

### CAPRICORN

**(Dec. 22-Jan. 21)**  
**Symbol:** The Goat  
**Strengths:** Meticulous, diligent, achiever  
**Weakness:** Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible  
**Love:** Your love life is ready for that special someone. Embrace him/her and never let go.  
**Money:** Give to a noble cause like the Salvation Army or a homeless shelter.  
**New Year's resolution:** Do some volunteer work. Start being more of a help to your community.

### AQUARIUS

**(Jan. 22-Feb. 21)**  
**Symbol:** The Water Bearer  
**Strengths:** Rational, coherent, consistent  
**Weakness:** Offensive, self-centered, immodest  
**Love:** Love is around every corner, but pick and choose.  
**Money:** Money will be of concern to you. Just be more careful and don't be obsessed with it. There is more to life than that dollar bill, and you'll find it out this new year.  
**New Year's resolution:** Keep your head high, and be proud.

### PISCES

**(Feb. 20-March 20)**  
**Symbol:** The Fish  
**Strengths:** Vigorous, daring, bold  
**Weakness:** Impractical, dreamy  
**Love:** Be careful and keep an eye open for that other one.  
**Money:** Money will just keep on coming, and you will enjoy it.  
**New Year's resolution:** Face your problems; that's the only way.

# WINTERLAND

## Shake your booties

By Wendy Nunez // T.I.P. Staff Writer

When I think of fashion in the wintertime, I think of boots. So if you're like me and you're a big fan of boots, here's what's in style for 2005.

One cute pair of boots is the slouch cowboy boots. They come to a little below the knee and are suede with a small heel. They come in pink and brown, and black and white, and are available at Macy's for \$99. Another pair to die for is Rubber Rain Boots. They come in just about every color and are worn just below the knee. The rubber material is shiny and very good for keeping out water. You can also get them at Macy's, DSW shoes, and Aldo Shoes for \$40-\$45. For less, you can shop at Payless shoes, where Rubber Rains sell for around \$28.

Here's another pair of boots every female should have in her closet: Uggs. These boots come in Easter egg colors, such as pink, baby blue, and light brown. They are made of suede and shearling (sheep's wool), and they are worn to around the shin. Real Uggs sell for \$140 at Macy's, and a cheaper, imitation version is available at Old Navy for \$24.50.



## Stylish, warm look

By Ariana Diggs // T.I.P. Staff Writer

It's getting cold outside! So get in style with a new winter coat.

Fur-hooded coats are in for the ladies, in various colors: black, blue, pink, and white. If you are willing to spend bills for your coat, J.Lo, Baby Phat, and Ecko Red will give you your money's worth. But if you're on a tight budget, don't fear; Old Navy has you covered. The coat styles range from waist and knee to ankle length. Whatever your style, the fur-hooded, puff coat is for you. These coats can be purchased at Macy's and Old Navy, ranging from \$30-\$180.

For boys, flight jackets seem to be a must have. They come in black, blue, or silver with an orange inside lining. Fellas, for a low price of \$19.99, you too can fly. Flight jackets can be purchased at New York Men, Carhartt Extremes and Hip Zepi USA stores.

Don't just sit there! If you don't have the new look, what are you waiting for? You don't want to be left out in the cold.

◀ Photo: Artists for Humanity

## CD Review: Fantasia Barrino



By Leona Alston // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Fantasia, a 20-year-old single mother from Highpoint, North Carolina, won America's most watched reality TV show "American Idol" in 2003. She was promised a recording contract with RCA Record Group, and this it. Her debut album, "Free Yourself," contains 13 wonderful tracks.

One song that caught my attention was "Baby Mama." This track is hot, with its laid-back beat and truthful lyrics such as: "Nowadays it's like a badge of honor/ to be a baby's mama!" In this song, Fantasia reflects on her real life as the single mom of a young daughter, Zion. She sings about how her life has not been a fairy tale, but says she's blessed she has come through the everyday struggle.

Another track, "Truth Is," is a slow song. The lyrics that made me fall in love with this song are: "Truth is/ I never got over you/ wish I was standing in her shoes/ when it's all said and done/ I guess I'm still in love with you!" This song talks about how the "truth is" that you never really get over a loved one once you've broken up.

"Free Yourself" also includes "I Believe," the song she crooned to go out with a bang the night of the American

Idol finale. This is a song about reaching your dreams. Even though they might seem so far away, Fantasia says you just have to believe. If you like her hit single "I Believe," then believe me, there's more where that came from on this new CD.

## Flick picks

By Joshua Vaughn // T.I.P. Staff Writer

New Line Cinema is bringing out a sequel to the classic Jim Carey movie "The Mask." It's called "Son of the Mask." When Tim Avery's son inherits some of the Mask of Loki's remarkable power, a struggle begins. Viewers can look forward to spectacular high definition, extreme special effects and great casting. Jamie Kennedy, featured in "Malibu's Most Wanted," stars. The supporting actors are big names such as Alan Cumming, Traylor Howard, Bob Hoskins, and Gabriel Botha. This movie will come to a theater near you on February 18. This action/comedy has not been rated yet.

"Daddy Day Camp" also debuts in February (date to be announced). This comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Steve Zahn, is the sequel to the popular "Daddy Day Care." People loved Eddie Murphy's day care run by a

bunch of male amateurs. By popular demand, this sequel brings the novices back to care for an older set of kids. Expect another hilarious performance by Murphy with slapstick humor and jokes about the everyday craziness of kids.

On February 4, a remake of the original horror movie "The Boogeyman" will hit theaters. This is a classic with horror movie buffs—and the stuff of childhood nightmares. The popular warrior princess, Lucy Lawless, stars along with Emily Deschanel, Barry Watson, Skye McCole Bartusiak, Robyn Malcolm, Charles Measure, Tory Mussett, Michael Saccente, and Louise Wallace. A young man from Chicago comes back to face his traumatizing childhood experiences with a monstrous entity. It's rated PG-13 for gore and language.

"Hellraiser: Hellworld," a horror/action movie, is also due to debut in February. The cast includes Doug Bradley, Kathryn Winnick, Henry Cavill, Lance Henrikson, and Christopher Jacot. This is a sequel to the original "Hellraiser." Five friends very obsessed with Hellworld.com, an online computer game, are mysteriously invited to a party to play. Suddenly, they are sent to the world of Hellraiser, bringing new meaning to the word "interactive." The movie is rated R for violence, blood, gore, and strong language.

## Face facts: acne causes, preventions

By Phil Donahue // T.i.P Senior Writer/Associate Editor

We wake up and put our pants on one tired leg at a time. We find the perfect duds to display our bodies, get our hair right, and brush our teeth for better breath and a brighter smile. Then, all of that tedious preparation cancels out when we look in the mirror and see a big fat zit.

Acne affects teens physically and emotionally. Acne vulgaris is a skin disease, triggered at puberty and caused by overactive oil glands due to hormones. As glands produce more oil, or sebum, the oil, along with dead skin cells, clogs the pores. The plug causes bacteria to grow under the skin, which creates pimples. This is a six to eight week process, which means the acne on your face took about six weeks to form.

Eighty-five percent of Americans suffer from acne, making it the leading skin disease. Acne fighting products generate millions of dollars a year. Just stroll the aisles of CVS to see dozens of products claiming to cure the disease. But do they? Can face cream, masks or scrubs cure acne?

Dr. Francis Renna, a dermatologist in private practice, says, “All acne treatment works to prevent it,” meaning there is no cure for existing acne just prevention for future outbreaks.

Don’t be discouraged. There are products that can be used to help prevent acne. If you are suffering from minor acne, affordable, over-the-counter treatments can help. Dr. Renna points out that any product containing Benzoyl Peroxide will help because “it suppresses bacteria and prevents plugging.” He says Clearasil Maximum Strength Acne Cream will also do the trick. It is an affordable product costing only \$4.99 at CVS.

There are more expensive methods for solving acne. One popular product seen on TV is the Proactiv Solution System. This is a three-step process used twice a day. The active ingredient in Proactiv is Benzoyl Peroxide. This product will cost \$39.95 plus shipping and handling, according to the product’s website.

Dr. Renna says over-the-counter treatments should be a teen’s first resort. Consulting a doctor should only be done when scarring is a problem. “Your doctor would probably prescribe the antibiotic Retin-A,” Dr. Renna



▲ Photo: Haidan Hodgson / Artists for Humanity



▲ Photo: Artists for Humanity

says, noting there is a cheaper, generic drug called Tretinoin.

Once you put a stop to acne, you will have better self-confidence as well as healthier skin. Unless scarring sets in, acne is an emotional issue that can be more scarring to your feelings than your future appearance.

DETOUR

HEALTHY DIETS:

- Eat three meals a day.
- Exercise 20–30 minutes a day, four times a week.
- Avoid comparing your weight with others.
- Balance and vary food groups.

UNHEALTHY DIETS:

- Neglecting food groups
- Skipping meals
- Crash diets (starving yourself)
- Bingeing and purging

## Safe, healthy dieting

By Wendy Nunez and Laurys Abreu // T.i.P. Staff Writers

Many teens have problems with their weight. Often they go straight to dieting as a solution, but dieters can end up neglecting their nutritional needs or, in extreme cases, develop eating disorders.

But teens battling the bulge are not alone. Experts like Brandy Cruthird can help. Brandy owns Body By Brandy fitness studio in Roxbury. Her studio provides fitness activities and classes, personal training, nutrition counseling, and strength and weight training. Cruthird’s staff is focused on helping people achieve their goals and helping “to provide a safe and effective fitness environment based on the client’s goal.”

Brandy has suggestions for safe, healthy diets. “Choose a goal for changing your eating habits, let that goal be what motivates you, and stay focused,” she says. “Poor dieters continue with their bad habits, and don’t realize they have them.” Brandy says bad eating habits, depression, and stress are the main causes of obesity. People to talk to about your eating habits are “doctors, school nurses, and physical education teachers,” she says.

## Pledging abstinence

By Wesley JeanBaptiste // T.i.P. Staff Writer

The Silver Ring Thing is a traveling event that goes to US towns spreading the word about abstinence, hoping to get teens to save themselves for marriage and using the ring as a symbol of remembrance. Last fall, I decided to go to try something new.

When we arrived, there were more people than I thought. We signed in and got our rings fitted. We went into the auditorium and the stage looked great. The introduction was cool because they took a scene from the movie “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King.” You know, the end part, when Frodo was going to drop the ring in the lava. They used a green screen to put themselves in the scene. They said, “Frodo, No! Don’t drop the ring! Don’t drop the ring!” It was really cool—and a nice connection to what they were urging us to do. Then they performed funny skits, like the one about “sax.” The setting was a music room where the leaders talked about saxophones and how not to use too many different saxophones. The comparison was funny.

Organizers allowed the audience to participate. In one activity, they took a wooden plate—which represented a heart—and asked for a male volunteer and four female volunteers. They set the scene with a story. The male was a “player” and the girls were his girlfriends. After each date, they took out a piece of the wooden plate heart with a chainsaw. At the end, the player was left with a chopped-up heart. The moral of the activity: If you don’t wait for your life partner, you will have a jacked-up heart while your life partner will have a healthy, whole one. It was also saying: Keep a perfect “heart” for your perfect partner.

Jeffrey, a Silver Ring Thing participant from Hyde Park High, says, “I learned that many African-American teens have HIV, so that made me feel like I didn’t want to become a statistic.” Fabienne, from Another Course to College says, “I learned that practicing abstinence can lead to a lesser chance of getting an STD. By the end of the event I felt more informed about the abstinence issue.” I asked a couple of people if they would recommend The Silver Ring Thing. Stevenson, from Hesser College, says, “Oh, yeah. It’s a great learning experience.” William from Charlestown High School says, “Yo, man, it’s da bomb.”

Keep your eyes out for the next Silver Ring Thing near you.



▲ Photo: Jonathan Banks / Artists for Humanity

## Teen mom: Think twice

By Laurys Abreu // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Shatara has a baby boy. “Being a teenager and a mom at the same time is hard,” she says. “Getting up for school in the morning is hard because I get up in the middle of the night. By the time I go school, I am so tired.” But Shatara still has goals and ambitions. She wants to be a Web designer and hopes to finish high school and enter college.

Shatara’s babysitters are her mom and grandmother. “While I’m in school, my mom, my grandma, and his aunt take turns babysitting.” Shatara worries about her baby when she is in school. “I can still focus in school, but it’s hard wondering how he is.”

Because of her baby, Shatara isn’t having as much fun as she used to, but she still enjoys life. “I’m able to hang out with friends sometimes. I have my fun with the baby. We go shopping and take pictures.”

Still, she admits wishing she had thought twice before having sex without protection. She regrets doing it, but not quite. “I regret it, but then again I can’t. I regret the father but not the baby.” She says she loves her baby very much.

Shatara is a busy mom with a lot of plans. “It’s hard to go to school and work and do an internship and be a mom all at the same time.”

Sometimes Shatara feels different from other girls. “They can’t really relate to my situation. Some don’t want to be my friend because I am a mom.”

Maybe the decision Shatara made was wrong, and she regrets it, but she does seem to be learning from her mistake. She loves her baby, but because of the baby, it will be harder to achieve her dreams. “Think twice before you have a child because the baby wants to be with you at all times, but you can’t be with him if you’re still in school and planning on being a somebody some day,” she says.

## Teen dad: Weekend parent

By Sarah Zeroual // T.i.P. Staff Writer

What would you do if you were 17-years-old and learned you would be a father in a few months? This is a question many teens have to think about. I asked a 15-year-old friend this question and was shocked when he yelled, “I would shoot myself!” This is crazy, but it is not a solution.

Most of us know at least one teen parent and each of us has a different view of the situation. Some think they are guilty of their situation, while others think they are victims of their society. Their stories make us curious. They also teach a cautionary lesson. Here is one teen father’s story.

The mother of his daughter was his first love. They lived in the same neighborhood. When she told him about her pregnancy he never rejected her, even though he was 17 and she was 15. When I asked him if they thought about abortion, he says, “It is against Christianity and I am a practicing Christian, so how could I ever think about it.” They decided to have the baby. He even went with her to the hospital when their daughter Jamailyz was born.

The baby’s father is working and studying hard and the mother is in school. The parents are not living together but with their parents. The baby stays with her

mother during the weekdays and with her father on weekends. On weekdays, the baby goes to day care. Their grandparents are always present when they have other engagements. Steven says this helps him stay in school.

Steven says people’s view of him changed after the baby. They treat him more as a grown up father, not as a teenager. When I talked with Steven I saw that he is proud of his daughter. He has a great belief in God and the Bible, and says he refers to it often. He goes to church regularly and does activities there and religion may be one source of his power. He is doing pretty well at school, but he says he doesn’t want to marry his daughter’s mother.

Steven is one teen parent, whose mind and way of thinking are rare. “I don’t regret having my beautiful kid, but if the years could go back, I wouldn’t choose to have a baby until at least 25,” he says.



▲ Artwork: Roman Murray / Artists for Humanity

## Writing Competition

Celebrating Evacuation Day  
March 17



**Who:** All high school students living in or attending school in Boston; must be 16 by June 1, 2005

**What:** An essay about the meaning of liberty, patriotism, and the important role of Fort Ticonderoga in the Evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776.

**Deadline:** February 28, 2005

**Grand Prize:** A two-week summer internship at Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York.

For essay **guidelines** and **rules**, contact: [mail@southbostoncitizen.org](mailto:mail@southbostoncitizen.org) or 617-817-5862.

*Sponsored by:* The South Boston Citizens' Association, Fort Ticonderoga Association, WriteBoston, Boston Public Schools, and the Mayors Office of Neighborhood Services