

T.i.P.



BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ SPRING 2005

Teens aid tsunami victims

By Sarah Zeroual
// T.i.P. Staff Writer and
Yan Emily Yuan // T.i.P. Writer

In December, an enormous catastrophe occurred and the event has made headlines ever since. The most powerful earthquake in 40 years exploded under the Indian Ocean near Sumatra. The giant, deadly waves crashed ashore in nearly a dozen countries from Thailand to Somalia, killing more than 226,000 people and destroying the lives of millions.

People from around the world united to help those affected by the tsunami. Several BPS high schools, including Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) and Boston Latin School, have contributed by raising money for victims.

Students at BCLA collected clothes and cleaning materials. When the American Red Cross told students they most needed money for transportation and medication, the students

[TSUNAMI AID, PAGE 5]



▲ Artwork by: Massiel Grullion / Artists for Humanity



▲ Photo by: JFK Library / Tom Fitzsimmons

Russert meets the T.i.P. press

NBC's "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert (center) poses with T.i.P. staff after a recent forum on press and politics at the JFK Library.

From left: Josh Vaughn, Laurys Abreu, Dwight Lawrence, and Daniela Cako asked the TV host questions during a press conference after his speech.

DETOUR Youth say stress drives smoking

The bad news: one in five teens smoke, according to the US Center for Disease Control. The good news: cigarette smoking among high school students is down, from 35 percent in 1999 to 22 percent today. Inside, T.i.P. examines why teens smoke despite the health risks, which include cancer and early death.

[TEEN SMOKING, PAGE 16]



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

Ugh! Prepping for MCAS

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

The MCAS is coming this spring, and if you're a sophomore, you're probably stressing already. You're not the only one. Teachers have to prepare for MCAS too—by preparing you.

Sandra Faioes, a 10th grade English teacher at BCLA, said, "My feelings about MCAS are both good and bad. The good is that MCAS has made teachers look more closely at

their instruction. It also lets us measure how students in this district are doing in comparison to others. What I have a problem with is that so much depends on MCAS, like whether the students will graduate or not. It is only one

method of assessing students."

Faioes teaches her class everything there is to know for the language arts portion of MCAS.

"I concentrate more on getting students ready for the next level, but we cover so much more than MCAS requires." Ultimately, Faioes doesn't worry. "I have confidence in my students to showcase their knowledge, and MCAS is an opportunity to do that," she said.

Ann Doucette, an English language arts teacher at Odyssey High School, said, "Every year since I came to Boston, I make sure that I teach to the standards." Standards are mandated by the state and are objectives that teachers use to create curriculum and to measure achievement. Doucette said, "Then I work very hard with them on their writing so their responses for the writing process will be well perfected by the time they take the test." She also wants students to recognize what to do when the MCAS is in front of them. "I make sure my tests

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JFK library
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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fourth issue of T.i.P., Boston Teens in Print, a citywide newspaper created and written by Boston public high school students. You have probably become familiar with T.i.P. by now, and we hope you look forward to grabbing the latest copy from the T.i.P. distribution boxes at your schools. T.i.P. is also available at each branch of the Boston Public Library.

All of us at WriteBoston and the Boston Globe Foundation are proud to be partners in such a unique and exciting newspaper. We are grateful to students from Artists for Humanity, who have provided the photography and artwork you see inside.

We are even prouder of the work of so many talented young people, whether they have written for the paper, submitted story ideas, or helped spread the word to other Boston teens. It's a combination of all of their efforts that has truly made T.i.P. everything it is today.

We hope you continue to enjoy T.i.P.; after all, it's written specifically for you! Keep writing, keep reading, and keep an eye out for our one-year anniversary issue being published in May 2005!

Leah P. Bailey

Leah Bailey
Director, Boston Globe Foundation

Betty Southwick

Betty Southwick
Director, WriteBoston



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T.i.P. staff

Meet the tipsters

T.i.P. Editors and Reporters

Photos by: Artists for Humanity

DANIELA CAKO
Spring break plans: Relax, enjoy it and look forward to college.

Memorable quote: "You never know what you can do until you try."

Childhood comfort toy:

Childrens books

Who'd play you in a movie:

Shiri Appleby

Best thing about spring:

Vacation, weather, and my birthday.



MONIQUE KELLY

April Fools' prank: When they told me my cousin was being born on April 1st...and it actually happened.

Plans for spring break:

Relax and hopefully travel.

Memorable quote: "Never settle for less than your best."

Who'd play you in a movie:

Gabrielle Union

Best thing about spring: The change in the weather. It gets nicer, and I get to go spring shopping.

PHIL DONAHUE

Memorable quote:

"Don't let your struggles determine your future."

Favorite pizza topping:

Every veggie imaginable.

Childhood comfort toy:

I was never a child.

Who'd play you in a movie:

Ben Affleck

Best single of the year so far:

Gwen Stefani, "What You Waiting For?"



WENDY NUNEZ

April Fools' prank: Super Glue on a teacher's seat.

Spring break plans:

Going to Mexico on a cruise.

Memorable quote:

"What goes around, comes around."

Who'd play you in a movie:

Rosie Perez

Favorite movie on DVD:

"Finding Nemo"

LEONA ALSTON

April Fools' prank: Put a fake mouse on the table while someone's eating.

Spring break plans: Plan the

Sweet 16 party my sisters are throwing for me.

Childhood comfort toy:

Blankie

Who'd play you in a movie:

Raven Symone

Favorite movie on DVD:

"White Chicks"



LAURYS ABREU

Memorable quote:

"A woman's beauty is found in herself."

Favorite pizza topping:

Nothing but cheese.

Childhood comfort toy:

Chinzy, my pink Care Bear.

Who'd play you in a movie:

Angelina Jolie

Best single of the year so far:

Mario's, "Let Me Love You"



MARTINE ROMULUS

Memorable quote: Success comes in "cans" not "can'ts."

Favorite pizza topping:

"The Meat Lover's Pizza."

Best thing about spring:

It's my birthday.

Favorite movie on DVD: "Shrek 2"

Best single of the year so far:

New Edition, "Leave Me"



ARIANA DIGGS

Spring break plans:

Hang out with friends and go shopping.

Childhood comfort toy:

My teddy bear. It plays a little lullaby.

Best thing about spring:

Beautiful flowers

In need of spring cleaning: My room

Best single of the year so far: 50 Cent's, "This is How We Do the Game"



DWIGHT LAWRENCE

Favorite pizza topping:

Pepperoni

Best thing about spring:

Spring break

Favorite movie on DVD: "Spiderman 2," and "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"

SARAH ZEROUAL

Spring break plans: Relax

Memorable quote:

"History makes men."

Favorite pizza topping:

Mushrooms, shrimp

Childhood comfort toy: Dolls

Who'd play you in a movie: Teri Hatcher



JOSH VAUGHN

April Fools' Prank:

Put shaving cream in a sleeping person's hand. Then tickle their nose with a feather. Watch and enjoy. Repeat as necessary.

Memorable quote:

"JOB stands for Just Over Broke."

Childhood comfort toy:

Stuffed tiger Sparky

Who'd play you in a movie: I would!

Favorite movie on DVD:

"Edward Scissorhands"



STOP

City's mayor wants you

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



Boston teens have a lot to say and there is one group of students—the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC)—that can help you say it. "It's one of the most effective ways to get involved in city politics as a high school student," said Maggie Jack, the Back Bay representative of MYC.

The Mayor's Youth Council, which meets twice a month, is made up of juniors and seniors who volunteer to represent their Boston neighborhoods. They address youth issues with Mayor Thomas Menino, School Superintendent Thomas Payzant, the city's police commissioner, and even former President Bill Clinton.

Since 1994, when MYC was established, the group has made a great impact on teens' lives. One major reform was lowering the age at which youth can acquire a Massachusetts state identification card, dropping it from 18 to 16. The group also developed a revolutionary Teen Resume Guide and Youth Voting Guide, all of which can be found on the website.

The MYC has also hosted a decade of annual youth summits, events that display information about extracurricular activities in Boston while incorporating local entertainment. MYC supervisor Sara Walsh said, "The council informs other teenagers of opportunities."

Nationally, seven cities have adopted mayors' youth councils based on Boston's model.

The council is currently preparing for its 11th annual youth summit. They are also planning on adding an interactive bulletin board on its website that will enable teens to submit local news, neighborhood happenings, contests, and other announcements.

Currently, there is a lack of student representation on the council and it is searching for students to join. The council needs committed students who will be juniors or seniors by September. If you want to be heard, apply online, by April 15, at www.bostonyouthzone.com/myc.

BSAC in high gear

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

The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) has been very busy lately.

In November, high school students attended the Learn and Serve Conference for Boston high school teachers. The conference, which BSAC helped sponsor, was an initiative evolving from a national CHESP grant award (Community, Higher Education, School Partnership) recently awarded to BPS. BSAC President Apocalipsis Rosario, Vice-President Natalie Cucchiara, and Youth on Board Director Jenny Sazama presented there on behalf of BSAC. BSAC's goal was to meet and greet the teachers who attended the meeting.

BSAC also met with Deputy Superintendent Anthony Cediell. He asked members to read over a list of requirements and guidelines for teachers. This was a great opportunity for members to express opinions and to help elaborate and clarify the guidelines on the list.

Along with voicing opinions about issues in the BPS system, BSAC members have been busy working in subcommittees. These subcommittees deal with important and relevant issues in the BPS sys-

tem, from the subjects tested on MCAS, to after-school programs, to writing for Teens in Print, small schools reform, and school safety and quality. The goal of the subcommittees is to do surveys, obtain information, gather student opinion, and present to as many communities as possible.

One of the issues BSAC has been busy with is the graduation policy.

In December, a couple of BSAC members met up with Sue McCann of the High School Renewal Office. At this meeting, they were introduced to the graduation policy and had a good discussion about it.

In January, Superintendent Thomas Payzant came to one of the meetings, where BSAC members had a question and answer session with him. Their main goal by the end of the meeting was to know and have a plan for "How can BSAC and the School Committee collaborate more? How can the School Committee use BSAC and how can BSAC use the School Committee?"

BSAC is not all work; members have fun too! They ended their year with a holiday party to celebrate the group's accomplishments.



Give a holla

T.i.P. staff writers are working on features for the May issue and want your input. Michael Smith and Tito Rodriguez look at Reggaeton as a bridge between Latinos and African-Americans. Wesley JeanBaptiste investigates theater opportunities for teens in Boston. Give the T.i.P. line a holla to tell us what you think about these topics or something else you'd like to see in our pages: 617-929-8374.

T.i.P. staff enjoyed a night out at "And 1" at the FleetCenter in late January. We sat in the Boston Globe box seats, and met two of the players at half time, Half-Man Half-Amazing and The Professor. Find out more about how you can get involved with T.i.P. and the WriteBoston Summer Journalism Camp on page 16.

We're sorry!

Dear Readers,

Regarding an article in the last edition of T.i.P., "Teen Mom: Think Twice," T.i.P. editors wish to apologize for misrepresenting the interview subject of the article. The picture and article conveyed a stronger sense of regret than the teen mother felt she had expressed in the interview. T.i.P. regrets the error.

Sincerely,
T.i.P. Editors



T.i.P.

BOSTON T.i.P.
March 22, 2005 • Volume II # 4

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DETOUR

Express yourself

Why isn't YOUR name in T.i.P. yet?

Send us your poems, essays, stories, or artwork.

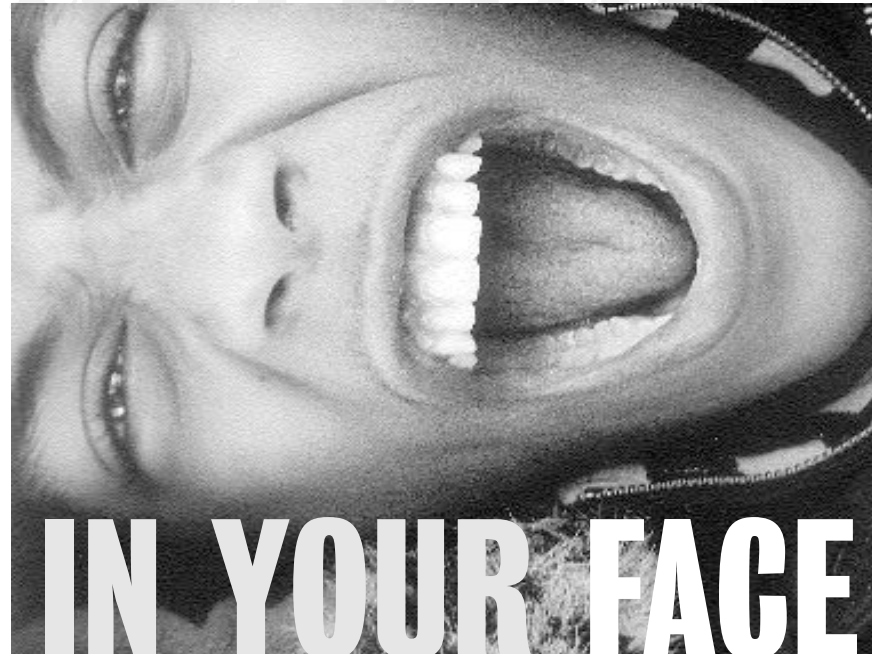
To find out more about submission guidelines or to submit your work by e-mail, visit the WriteBoston website at: www.writeboston.org and click on the link for "Boston Teens in Print."

Or call T.i.P. Manager **Kelly Knopf-Goldner** at 617-541-2665

Next issue: May 2005

Send submissions to: Boston Teens in Print,
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Got a T.i.P. for us? A story idea? Feedback on the paper?
Call the T.i.P. line at 617-929-8374.

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▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

IN YOUR FACE

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Discipline in Southie

Are tougher rules at Monument necessary?

By Tara Jackson // T.I.P. Writer

On a regular morning students like me get up and go to school. Sometimes we wake up late and are tardy. When this happens, students usually get a slip for class and receive a teacher detention for about 15 minutes, but not at Monument High School. If you're late at Monument, you're punished, sometimes receiving a 45-minute detention. School security has become stricter this year on issues like detentions, in-house suspensions, and suspensions.

In-house suspensions are supposed to be better for the welfare of students who would get a regular suspension for skipping school, missing a detention, or getting in trouble with a teacher. It's better, some say, because it keeps students in school doing class work, without attending classes. But the big question being asked by Monument students is "why is the school getting so strict?"

This year all three schools in the South Boston complex have been inundated with freshmen, especially Monument High. Is this strictness because of the newcomers? A former school police officer, and now dean of discipline at Monument, Jacqueline

Sims said the new policies will "help raise the standard of the school, and enforce safety and security."

Asked if school rules would remain this way in coming years, Sims said, "I hope so." She added, "Look at the other two schools. Our goal is to make Monument the best of the best."

When asked if she thinks in-house suspension will be effective, Sims said, "Yes, I think it will be very effective because with in-house you don't get to stay home, watch TV, and stay up late. You still have to come to school on time, and be accountable for your work."

As for detentions, some new rules have been enforced, according to Sims. "At 7:23 a.m., you should be in your classroom. If you arrive after 7:25 a.m. you must serve a detention in the north cafeteria. Students who don't stay for detention, receive a suspension-hearing letter at home notifying parents," she said.

Aside from the detentions and in-house suspensions, there has been some serious confiscation of hats, Walkmans, CD players, even hoodies. Student Ava Newton said, "I wouldn't take my hoodie off, and they were like 'I'm gonna take away your hoodie.'"

Monument administrators are getting tough, and they won't stop until they get what they want.



▲ Artwork by: Sean Vanderhall / Artists for Humanity

More positive school news needed Sweet 16 and out of work

By Alafia Spencer // T.i.P. Writer

Last fall, the Boston Herald published a scathing article about Hyde Park High School (HPHS) calling students “criminals.” That statement only shows how low the editors will go to destroy the reputation of a school. I must admit HPHS has a few students who violated the school rules over the years. But these problems were quickly taken care of by Headmistress Cabral, with the help of her administrative team and the Boston Police Department.

I have information for the editors of the Boston Herald. HPHS, the so-called “most dangerous school in the city” that is producing “criminals,” also has graduates who are accepted to top universities in Boston and around the world: MIT, Hamilton, Harvard, and the University of Western Ontario, to name a few.

According to the story in the Boston Herald, students are more unruly with substitute teachers than with their regular education teachers. All teachers at Hyde Park High are not missing work because of low morale, as the story indicates, but actually have legitimate reasons; they too must deal with sick children and elderly parents. Instead of interviewing a number of faculty members,

the Herald singled out disgruntled staff and used them as the voice for everyone. Further, it is impossible for the administrative team alone to maintain order and discipline in any school. Administrators, teachers, parents, families, and community partners must work together to promote a climate conducive to learning.

Instead of exposing the negativity about HPHS, the Herald should write about the positive side of the school and encourage students rather than put them down. The high school the Herald referred to as “hardly a place of learning” produces a number of honor roll students and post-secondary scholars. At HPHS, we continue to improve our MCAS and SAT scores. There are also active student representatives from Hyde Park High who have been selected for the Boston Student Advisory Board, the A+ College Prep Academy, Tech Boston student advisory board, and the National Honor Society. There are also active student members on the high school renewal “design teams” for the changes that are going to happen next year when the high school becomes three separate schools in one building.

How about publishing a positive story about this news?

Legal but unemployed

By Tara Jackson // T.i.P. Writer

According to the US Department of Labor, 16 is the legal age to work in Massachusetts. Sweet 16s can apply for jobs and companies can hire them if they meet their requirements. However, do companies really offer jobs to 16-year-olds?

According to an informal T.i.P. report, 16-year-olds are finding it hard to find work in the Bay State. Even though businesses and companies have job openings to fill, they are mostly hiring teens 18 and older.

Ashlei Berry, 16, applied for five or six jobs and didn’t receive a single call back. “They don’t look at the applications,” she said.

Cherelle Spencer, 16, would like to see more job opportunities for teens her age. She said, “We should be able to get the same opportunities as 18-year-olds.”

Speaking of 18-year-olds, is it really easier for them to get jobs? Dana Jackson said it wasn’t hard for him to find work, even at 16. “It was easy because I know a lot of people that

work a lot of different jobs,” he said. Some consider Jackson lucky. Berry thinks the reason younger teens have trouble finding work is because of the late hours that are sometimes required. “Most of us would have had a job then, and they’re only taking 18 and over so they can work overnight,” she said.

One employer, Karen Young from Youth on Board, said she didn’t have a problem getting a job at 16. “Where I come from it was easy. I had three jobs in high school.” When asked if she’d hire a 16-year-old, Young said, “Absolutely. I do it all the time at Youth on Board. We have 16-year-old trainers.”

However, Young doesn’t have any 16-year-olds working for her at the moment. “There aren’t any right now, but we’re looking for some,” she said.

Youth on Board seems to be the exception, however. So, are companies really hiring 16-year-olds or are the teens on a wild goose chase? For those companies that are, they should try harder to get teens’ attention. For those that aren’t, as Berry said, “They should at least give us a try.”

Tsunami aid [FROM PAGE 1]

started fund-raising. “The idea was to give key chains as a reward and a greeting from us to the people who donate money,” said Samantha Dawson, who teaches the social activism class.

More than 20 students worked on the project. The first gave out 20 key chains in less than two hours. The chains, embossed with the words BCLA Tsunami Relief, were given with a donation of \$3 or more for students and \$5 or more for adults. One school administrator said, “I would give up to \$100 for those key chains,” and then actually made this donation.

The Boston Latin School community contributed also. Malcolm Flynn, assistant head master and club adviser, called school leaders to his office. They decided each group would participate in a joint effort to raise money to help tsunami survivors. A goal of \$10,000 was set.

The next day, representatives from 12 clubs—including Student Council, Cooks Who Care, and Asian Students In Action—met. Leaders reached a consensus: for two weeks, club members would visit homerooms each morning to collect donations. Teachers received an e-mail urging their participation, a notice was placed in the bulletin, and a presentation was made on BLS-TV, Boston Latin’s morning news show. Some students attended the Parents Open House to prompt parental participation.

T.i.P. learned recently the Boston Latin community raised \$20,000 for survivors. Funds were earmarked to go to UNICEF to help children. T.i.P. applauds BPS student efforts to provide relief for tsunami victims. Far from the catastrophe, Boston teens showed their ideas and values are greater than their age.



▲ Artwork by: Jaleela / Artists for Humanity



Artwork by: Jesse Racusen / Artists for Humanity

How safe are our schools?

By Martine Romulus // T.i.P. Writer

Last October, two boys entered Fenway High School to confront a Fenway student about an incident that happened outside the building. The two boys went into the young man's classroom and confronted him. One of them had a BB gun and it accidentally went off. Before anything else could happen, teachers and students cleared the incident, which, according to principal Peggy Kemp, lasted about 90 seconds. She said the boys' intention was "to confront the Fenway gentleman." No one was hurt.

Even though this incident wasn't as serious as the rumor mill portrayed it, T.i.P. wants to raise a question. How safe are Boston Public Schools when students feel bold enough to walk into another school and challenge each other? Shouldn't schools be a safe haven for students?

In November, two students released a small canister of pepper spray in the hallway outside a classroom at Brighton High School. A number of students complained of eye irritation, sore throat,

headaches, and nausea and were sent to the hospital. No one was seriously injured. But this incident also shows a casual disregard for school safety.

Today we have police in schools and metal detectors because kids try to bring guns and knives to school. Madison Park was one of the first Boston Public Schools to have metal detectors in the '90s. According to an alumnus of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, "When I went there I saw people get stabbed in the eye with pencils when there was a fight." Truth is, something as small as a writing utensil can be a weapon, and metal detectors won't stop that. But what are officials to do? Many things can be used as weapons, but schools can only go so far.

Principal Kemp feels that overall very few teens fight in school; it is just that when they do, a lot of attention is drawn to them. It makes it seem that a lot of kids are involved. A Boston Community Leadership Academy staff member, who preferred not to be named, agrees fighting is at a minimum in her school. "We have security per-

sonnel who keep order, make sure kids are in class, and keep things organized so kids aren't chaotic." But while these adults feel confident about the level of security in their schools, many students perceive that greater risks in school spill out of school.

Students interviewed for this article preferred to stay anonymous on this sensitive topic, admitting they don't always feel their schools are safe. One Brighton High student said she does not feel safe in school "because people walk in and out with guns and knives, but teachers don't know or they don't say anything. And the little that they do doesn't do much 'cause someone can catch you outside of school." She believes metal detectors should be installed at her school.

When asked what can be done to keep students safe in and outside of school, Principal Nicole Bahnam at BCLA said it "depends on how much [students] trust adults in school." She believes "teachers and headmasters are always open to talk."

One student's example supports that notion. "During assemblies," a former O'Bryant student said, "they would always tell us if we know something, say something; don't let it get out of hand." Administrators don't want tension to build up and cause a fight. To prevent violence before it sparks, they tell students, "The right thing is hard to do, but do it anyway."

Teen empowerment prevents violence

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

Violence is a pressing issue that Boston teens must face often. But there are some great violence prevention programs trying to be proactive, such as Teen Empowerment, that teens can turn to for support.

"In everything we do, we are trying to prevent negative outcomes," said Latia King, teen empowerment program coordinator at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School.

Teen Empowerment, founded in July 1994 by Stanley Pollack, was an effort to change values, behaviors, and beliefs for the better. The goal was to help people of all ages to become more productive in achieving their goals.

The group began work in the South End/Lower Roxbury. Youth organizers, a diverse group of hired teens, decided to find solutions for the gang issues in the neighborhood. The solution they came up with was to hold a peace conference. Youth, police, and adults met at this event and discussed ways to solve and prevent gang violence. The result wasn't only a decrease in local violence but the birth of the annual Peace Conference.

There have been a dozen such conferences since then, and the group is currently planning this year's, to be held on Saturday, May 14, at John Hancock Hall in Boston. Youth Organizer Dewayne Austin said, "We're just planning the conference, and there's this thing called 'Yack' where we all come together, different people from the different sites, and we just all give our ideas on what we think the peace conference should be about."

Teen Empowerment has had many events recently that have had a positive impact on violence prevention. "A lot of the violence was coming from cultural

tension," said King, "so we held a Cultural Day, where we had different people come to school saying that they would like to do a performance around their culture. And we heard that it's really made a change" to promote understanding among various cultural groups, King said.

Teen Empowerment has sites in six community-based and school-based locations in the Boston area that hires local teens. The hiring process begins in September. For more information, check out www.teenempowerment.org.

Why is violent crime rising?

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

In 2004, Boston saw an increase in gun violence among youth. 2005 has begun and it remains to be seen whether that trend will continue. Regardless, the increased violence in Boston has shocked us all and made us stop and wonder, "What's different? What's causing it?"

"The high unemployment rate has become a factor," said Kimberly Pellettreau, a law enforcement liaison at Youth Opportunity Boston. Teens have to compete for jobs with people of all ages because of the poor economy and limited number of available jobs. Without money or job prospects, teens may resort to other ways of getting it. Fast money can be earned on the street, but with that comes risks. Pellettreau is not the only one who thinks that no jobs play a big part.

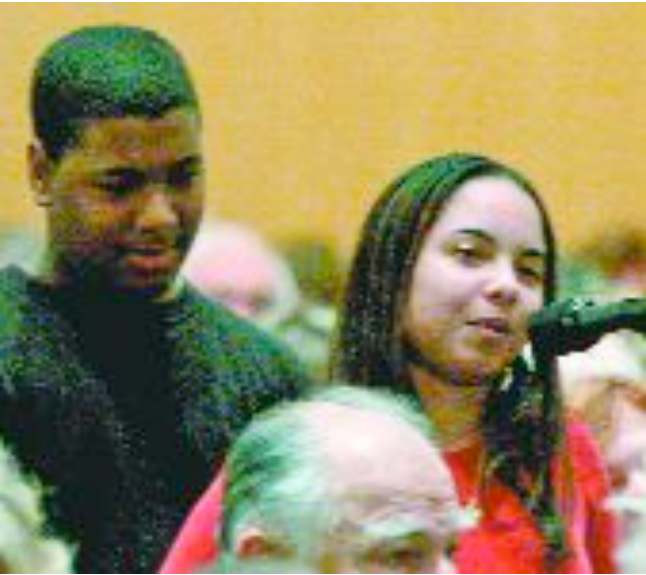
"Unemployment is definitely a major cause," said Gloria Tan, an instructor at Harvard Law School and a youth advocate.

A lack of positive influences in teens' lives and a lack of funding for after-school programs also contribute to the recent problems. Some youth haven't "gotten basic life skills or consistent positive role models," said Pellettreau. "That's where Youth Opportunity comes in," she said. Family plays a part as well. "Such things as hanging around the wrong crowd, low education, and family background can contribute more than you think," Tan said. Engaging things to do outside of school and support from mentors can steer youth away from trouble, she said.

Another contributing factor may be tension between law enforcement officials and youth. Many youth do not trust police. When asked if the police are doing enough to reach out to teens, Pellettreau said, "They have been doing an exceptional job. Police have been pioneers in the area since the early '90s, when there was a bad period of violence, and they found out that they needed to communicate more with the community. They have limited boundaries to what they have to do."

Teens think because police officials are not at a certain area at a particular time, whatever they do is OK, even though it might be illegal. If they get away with their wrongdoings, it's OK to do it a second time as long as they do not get caught. "Sometimes [police] try," said Tan. "Most build relationships with churches." But she doesn't fully agree with Pellettreau. "Some police think if they try the 'scared straight' routine it will make things better, but it's not really productive. That's when a lot of distrust builds up with the teens and the police," according to Tan.

Russert meets T.i.P. press [FROM PAGE 1]



▲ Photos by: JFK Library / Tom Fitzsimmons

Top: T.i.P. reporters Josh Vaughn (l) and Laurys Abreu ask NBC's Tim Russert a question at the JFK media forum.

Below, Lawrence shares a laugh with Josh Vaughn.

Prepping MCAS [FROM PAGE 1]

and assessments emulate the type of questioning they would find in MCAS so they're used to the wording." Her advice: "Practice, practice, practice!"

From a sophomore's point of view, MCAS is something to worry about, as it holds the ticket to graduation and college. Solanlli Matos, a sophomore at Charlestown High said, "I am thinking about it a lot; it makes me nervous." In her school, they are preparing students too. "In English class, we are taking a lot of minitests like MCAS. They also give us tips on how to take it, like how to eliminate options on the multiple choice to narrow down the answer. We're also studying word roots." Matos wants to pass the MCAS on the first try. "I read a lot and write a lot to prepare myself for it," she said. "I may go to the library and get an MCAS prep book." She said, "Teachers tell me I should not worry but the nervousness doesn't go away."

Sophomore Katie Harrison, from Boston Latin High School, hears the word and responds, "Ugh, MCAS." She resents that the curriculum might be dictated by the test and dreads the prospect of "spending a week on a test." Sophomore Julie Arnous, also from Boston Latin, found the MCAS science portion "traumatizing" in grade school and does not look forward to the upcoming test. This is the first year the MCAS science section will count.

So if you're a sophomore, beware! Don't get scared; get prepped for MCAS.

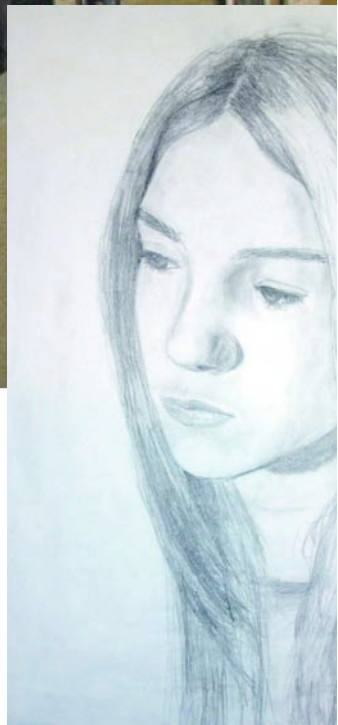
Scholastic Art Awards



▲Photos by: Artists for Humanity

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More than 3,500 students, grades 7-12, participated in the 2005 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards. Pictured on these pages is winning artwork created by Boston students.



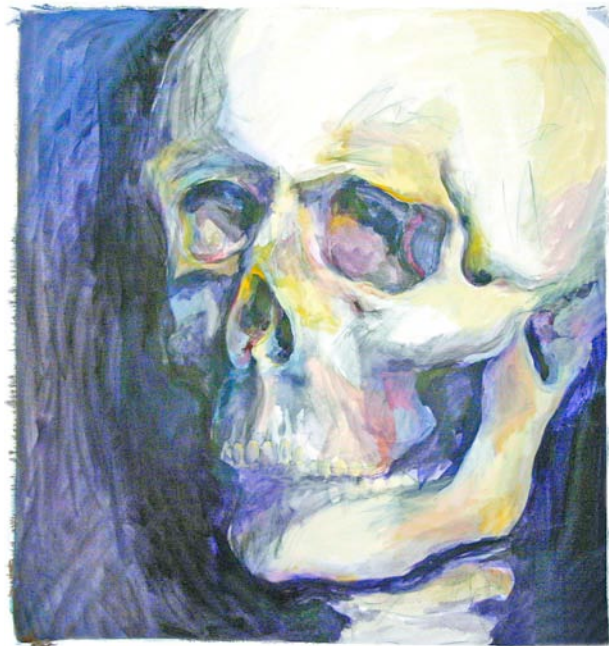
Julia Andreasson/ Boston Latin Academy / Grade 8 / Gold



Key / Title: Untitled / Drawing



Chenglin Yuan / Boston Latin School / Grade 8 / Silver Key / Untitled / Drawing



Hannah Abelow / Winsor School / Grade 8 / Silver Key / Title: Skull / Painting



Peter Bass / Boston Latin School / Grade 12 / Gold Key / Untitled / Painting



John Green / Catholic Memorial High School / Grade 11 / Silver Key / Title: Eve 2.0 / Computer Art



George Panagopoulos / Catholic Memorial High School / Grade 12 / Gold Key / Title: Self-Portrait / Painting



Sharon Li / Boston Latin School / Grade 12 / Gold Key / Title: Self-Portrait / Drawing



Africa

By Uniquka Mitchell - - T.i.P. Writer

I am Africa
Beautiful, dark, secret
Egypt is my face, full of life

The Niger runs through my veins, warm with
Love

Nigeria, my mother / Congo, my father
I am them
I am Africa

My legs quick like the Lake Victoria
My arms stretch like the Nile
My heart pounds with the beat of Ethiopia

I am Africa
We are Africa
Africa
.....



Destination

By Marie Pierre - - T.i.P. Writer

I seem to be drowning under the sea,
A sea full of tears brought from you to me,
I'm helpless without a hope of grace,
A wave of betrayal engulfs my face,
I swim to find my way to you,
An anchor of truth won't let me through,
I drown in a sea full of tears that I've cried,
My destination, was in the look of your eyes.
.....

Tears

By Amy Mejia - - T.i.P. Writer

Well my love,
It is I again,
Just cleaning out my soul
Just trying to set my goal.

It's hard to explain
The pain I feel within,
I just tremble all over my skin
Which leads to tears
My tears that I try not to reveal
But each day that goes by it becomes
hard to conceal

Tears
Tears
Why do I see them run down my cheek?
It's like I'm at the peak
The peak of something so large that
makes me tremble
I tremble in fear
I mean why?
I have all I want
No, not really
Nowadays I'm easy to taunt
And again, here come my tears

Tears that I cannot stand
Tears that make me face the truth...

I'm alone in this world
I have everything but "love"
And love is the biggest thing of all

I'm lonely
I'm sad
I'm horrified of the fact
That my love and me don't attract

Tears fill my eyes
Tears that no one tries to replenish
.....

I Cry Inside

By Robert Tynes - - T.i.P. Writer

Throughout the day
something lurks deep inside
something that can't be
seen or heard
only felt
gray, drips and drops
into my soul
my heart slowly melts
and becomes tears
tears of blood
not seen on the surface
but seen, heard, felt inside
in the darkest
corners of my soul
is a boy
crouched over in the ebony shadows
shedding tears
he cries
he cries inside
I cry inside
.....

Fallen Heroes

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

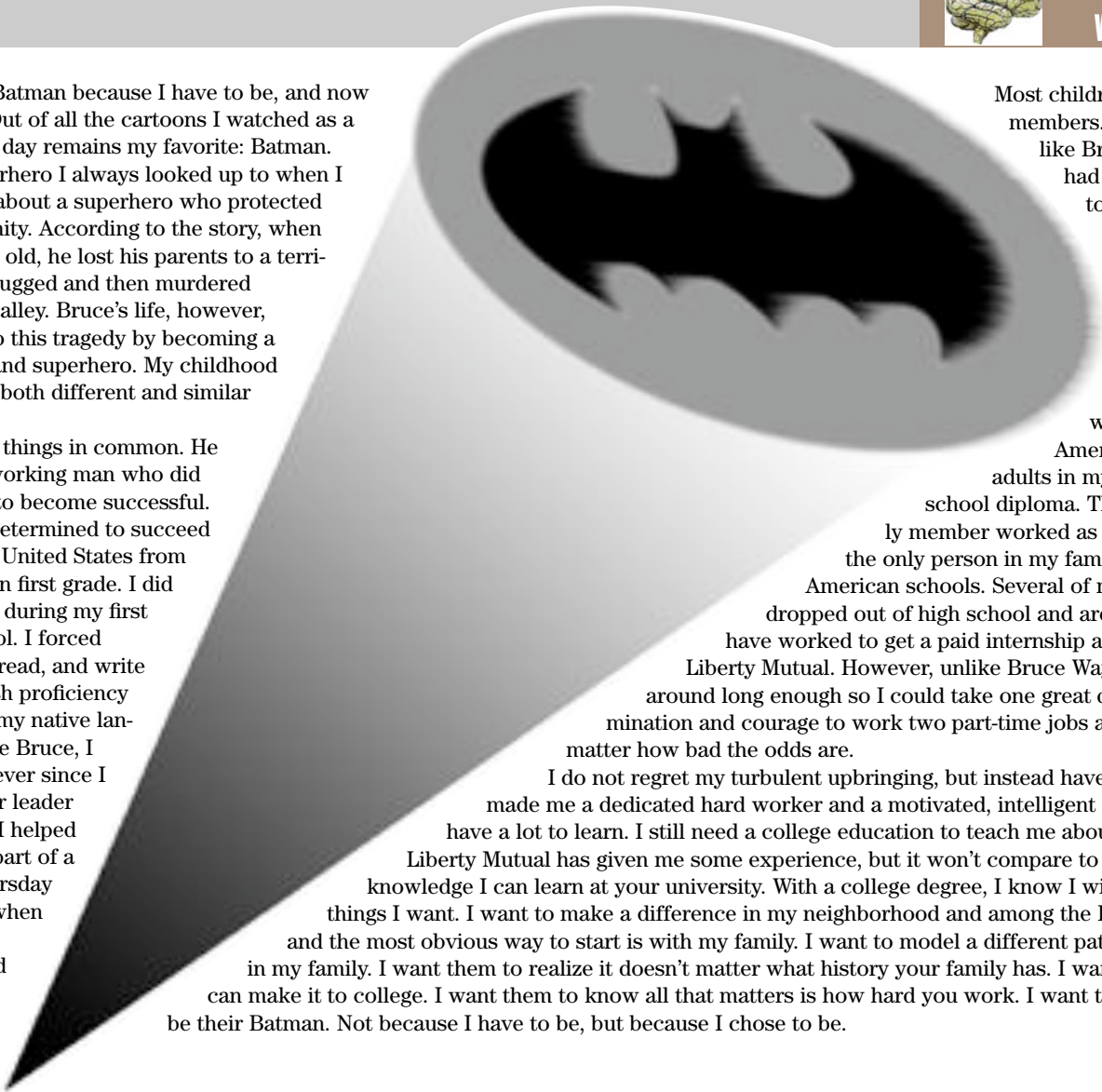
It was March 19, 2003, the day our troops
went to Iraq.
We have people getting killed. Why did
Bush do that?
He's got troops in Baghdad,
There are kids who have never seen
their Dads.
It was the middle of March when
Bush declared war.
Now he won the election. Let's pray
he don't hurt us no more.
.....





I am Bruce Wayne and Batman because I have to be, and now because I choose to be. Out of all the cartoons I watched as a child, one cartoon to this day remains my favorite: Batman. Batman is a cartoon superhero I always looked up to when I was little. The story was about a superhero who protected the people in his community. According to the story, when Bruce Wayne was 8 years old, he lost his parents to a terrible tragedy. Three men mugged and then murdered Bruce's parents in a dark alley. Bruce's life, however, was spared. He reacted to this tragedy by becoming a successful businessman and superhero. My childhood has had many challenges both different and similar to Bruce Wayne's.

Bruce and I have many things in common. He was a determined, hard-working man who did whatever was necessary to become successful. Like Bruce, I have been determined to succeed since I immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic in first grade. I did not know a lot of English during my first years in elementary school. I forced myself to learn to speak, read, and write English. Today, my English proficiency surpasses my abilities in my native language of Spanish. Just like Bruce, I have been working hard ever since I took my first job as a peer leader when I was 14 years old. I helped my community by being part of a brown bag day every Thursday of the month. It is a day when people from Charlestown organize and provide food for people that need help feeding their families.



Most children learn from family members. I love my family but I, like Bruce Wayne, have never had a family I could look toward for inspiration and support. My family is the first generation to come to this country. When we first arrived in the United States, we were uneducated, poor people, and we were ignorant about American culture. Only three adults in my family had a high school diploma. The most successful family member worked as a janitor. So far, I am the only person in my family to succeed in American schools. Several of my cousins have dropped out of high school and are dealing drugs, but I have worked to get a paid internship at an insurance company, Liberty Mutual. However, unlike Bruce Wayne, my mother was around long enough so I could take one great quality from her: determination and courage to work two part-time jobs and never give up no matter how bad the odds are.

I do not regret my turbulent upbringing, but instead have embraced it. It has made me a dedicated hard worker and a motivated, intelligent student. I know I still have a lot to learn. I still need a college education to teach me about the business world. Liberty Mutual has given me some experience, but it won't compare to the experience and knowledge I can learn at your university. With a college degree, I know I will be able to do all the things I want. I want to make a difference in my neighborhood and among the Dominican community, and the most obvious way to start is with my family. I want to model a different path for the younger kids in my family. I want them to realize it doesn't matter what history your family has. I want them to see anybody can make it to college. I want them to know all that matters is how hard you work. I want to be their superhero, to be their Batman. Not because I have to be, but because I chose to be.

Batman: A College Essay

By Joelison Castillo - - T.i.P. Writer

What was the Civil Rights Movement for?

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

What was the Civil Rights movement for?
So that leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X
Can fight for our freedom for equality and desegregation,
By using their time saying that "I have a dream"?
Well, I have a dream that one day we won't need to have
that dream,
Because everything will be fine.
Why did Rosa Parks refuse to go to the back
of the bus?
Great cause but now when faced with a choice of
where to sit,

That's the first place most of us go to.
And what worth was the fight against derogatory terms
like nigger?
When that is the first word that comes out of a lot of
people's mouths when speaking to their friends?
And when a person who just isn't "cool" enough uses
those words,
People fight and argue.
What's the point of using these words?
We are the future, so let's stop the bandwagon.
We are all educated and curious, so let's use that education
for the better good.

Sports

Jocks: get noticed now



By Dwight Lawrence and Amanda Malgeri // T.i.P. Staff Writers

Are you a high school athlete who wants to play college sports? Then get in the know about the recruiting process.

It is common for students to think they will get noticed just because they are good, but there are thousands of student athletes out there, and you have to be able to do a lot of work yourself to get noticed by coaches. There are websites and books that can guide you through the recruiting process. Varsityedge.com and athletesadvisor.com are two sites, and the book, “The Making of a Student Athlete,” was coauthored by the same men who set up these sites: Dave Galehouse and Ray Lauenstein.

T.i.P.’s Dwight Lawrence spoke to both men and came away with two strong impressions:

1. Don’t wait to be discovered by a recruiter. Be proactive and promote yourself.
2. Study and train equally hard. Student athletes must think longterm and be practical. Only divisions 1 and 2 give athletic scholarships. You can get great aid and scholarships for academics to Division 3 schools and then play a sport once you’re in.

David Galehouse created Varsityedge.com four years ago. He had a hard time being recruited himself, so he

made this site to ease the pain for a lot of parents and advisers who do not know recruiting works and will resort to saying “they are a waste of money,” according to Varsityedge.com. The site contains loads of information to guide students, parents and coaches. Students and parents have to do their own homework choosing a recruiting service.

Key advice: “Colleges aren’t just going to take you in because you are an incredible athlete,” Galehouse said. “There have to be good grades in your profile. You can’t have F’s and D’s and think a Division 1 school will accept you.” He encourages students to find a school that matches their academic and athletic abilities. “If you want big-time coaches to recognize you, send them letters, e-mail them, call them, and fill out online recruiting forms on college websites,” he said.

Ray Lauenstein created Athletesadvisor.com. He played three sports in high school and Division 3 baseball and football in college. While coaching in Florida, he found a lot of kids wanted to play in college but had no idea how to go about it.

Like Galehouse, he destroys the myth that athletic talent is all it takes. “Out of 100 students in Massachusetts,

only one will go pro,” he said. For every athlete who gets an athletic scholarship, according to statistics, the average high school athlete will not go to college. Student athletes need to excel in all areas, so they have plenty of options in college. “College coaches can’t get fooled if you don’t have decent grades,” Lauenstein said. “Study your butt off,” said Galehouse.

As for preparing athletically, “you need to train hard,” said Lauenstein. “Drop unimportant activities so you can find time to concentrate on your sport. If your school cuts sports you have, join leagues at the YMCA or any other place you know of that will keep you active. Go to an athletic summer camp.” He reminds students, “once you get into college you can try out as a walk-on.”

Both websites teach athletes how to package themselves for coaches. “You will need a video to get the coach interested. When sending a tape to the coaches, always show your best moments. Show the coach how powerful you are, how fast you run, that you can exercise for hours nonstop. Include highlights of you making big plays,” said Lauenstein.

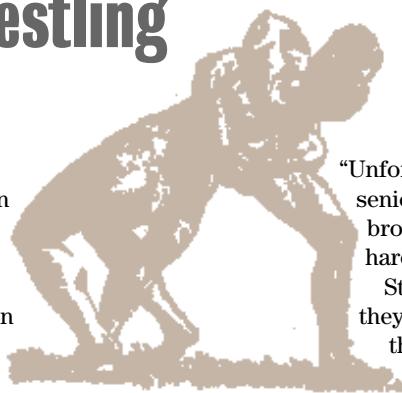
Grappling with wrestling

By Daniela Cako // T.i.P. Senior Editor
and Kelly Knopf-Goldner // T.i.P. Staff Writer

When looking to join a high school sport, students don’t always think of wrestling as an option, especially in Boston Public Schools. Football, basketball, and baseball are more popular so “it’s hard for wrestling to take hold,” said Matt Knapp, coach of New Mission High School’s wrestling team. New Mission High School is the only non-exam school in Boston with a wrestling team. A wrestler himself since high school, he always knew he wanted to coach wrestling. “I saw a lot of talent [in the students at New Mission] and grabbed them,” the coach said.

Knapp tells the players that being at the practices is “the best place you can be after school.” In addition to giving students something to do after school, wrestling teaches discipline, leadership, and teamwork while giving players a chance to perform and achieve individually. “When you are on the mat, it is just you and another person,” said Monique Privette, the only girl on the team. Her reason for joining was the fact that wrestling is unique and not often seen.

New Mission’s team consists of nine wrestlers, including four “veterans,” as captain Carlos Grau put it, athletes who have been on the team since it started.



“Unfortunately, three of them are seniors,” said Knapp. “They have brought the team so far. It will be hard to have them leave.”

Students who have joined say they are glad. “This team is the best thing that has happened to me when it comes to sports,” said Carlos Grau. Other students are always welcome to join the wrestling team, where, as Grau puts it, “any person can do it as long as they are willing.” Pablo Espiritusanto, who has been on the wrestling team since the beginning, said, “Every year we get better.”

Espiritusanto is one of the team’s brightest stars as he is ranked 11th in the state in his weight class (125 lbs.) and will most likely compete in the All-State Championship this year. Seniors Grau and Jason Galvao have held their own as well, according to Knapp. “They may go to the state tournament.”

“We’re a small team that’s made significant progress,” Knapp said. New Mission’s team wins “because they’re tough,” he said. “They’ll get out there and wrestle anybody and do well on their own.” Against bigger teams,

his team can’t rack up the points the way they can, since his wrestlers can only compete in seven of the 14 weight classes. Large teams need only send wrestlers out to the mat in these other weight classes. If NMHS doesn’t have a wrestler for that category, the forfeit gives the larger team automatic points.

Still, Coach Knapp is proud of his team and optimistic about the future. “We’ve added an assistant coach this year,” he said of New Mission teacher Brian Anderson. “We’re headed in the right direction.”

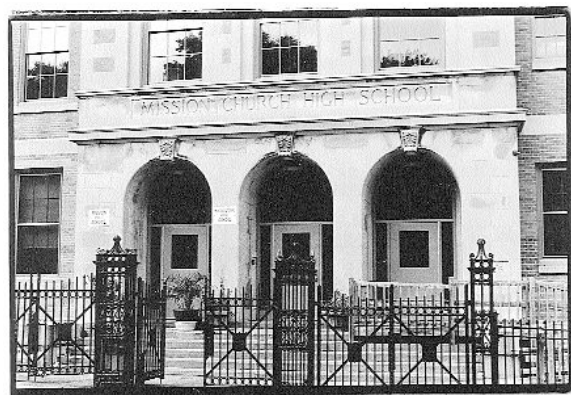


Photo by: Artists for Humanity

..... check out your

Horoscopes

.....

By Phil Donahue Senior Writer // Associate Editor

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)
Symbol: The Ram
Strengths: Active, daring, spirited
Weakness: Hasty, impulsive
Love: Don't quit on a current love. The relationship will mature given more time and patience.
Spring thing: Spring break is coming, but it's not here yet, so try not to slack off in school.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 19)
Symbol: The Bull
Strengths: Patient, imaginative, authentic
Weakness: Stubborn, defiant
Love: Someone who admires you for who you are will get turned off when you try to impress them with a front.
Spring thing: Keep an eye out for your personal belongings. Someone may be 'spring clean-happy' when they discard your stuff.

GEMINI

(May 20-June 20)
Symbol: The Twins
Strengths: Curious, open-minded, multitalented
Weakness: Capricious, impatient
Love: Someone that is least likely to catch your fancy may be the apple of your eye.
Spring thing: It's warming up, and you may want to do some spring shopping, but don't be too impulsive with your purchases. Unlike spring's budding leaves, money doesn't grow on trees.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)
Symbol: The Crab
Strengths: Generous, perceptive, caring
Weakness: Cranky, tempered, grumpy
Love: Being a hermit when it comes to relationships is something you're all too familiar with, so get out there and meet new people.
Spring thing: Make sure you take the initiative and spark that spring fling.

LEO

(July 23-August 22)
Symbol: The Lion
Strengths: Responsible, reliable, devoted
Weakness: Arrogant, crabby, self-indulgent
Love: Your devotion toward your relationship is turning your friends in the other direction. You have to decide between your mate or pals because in this case you may not be able to have both.
Spring thing: You shouldn't feel badly if you need to take a break. Don't make your vacation a time for more work.

VIRGO

(August 23-September 21)
Symbol: The Maiden
Strengths: Supportive, compassionate, conscientious
Weakness: Unorganized, critical, picky
Love: Right now you may be lonely but soon enough you'll find that special someone.
Spring thing: Don't get caught in any spring showers, or any other trouble. Always be prepared for whatever life throws at you, and carry an umbrella.

LIBRA

(September 22-October 22)
Symbol: The Scales
Strengths: Appealing, smart, sensitive
Weakness: Scheming, hopeless, coy
Love: Don't judge a book by its cover. This person in your life may seem disposable but is actually very valuable to your life.
Spring thing: Try something new this season, whether it be a new hobby, or even a new ring tone. This will add spice to your spring.

SCORPIO

(October 23-November 21)
Symbol: The Scorpion
Strengths: Intense, playful, lovely
Weakness: Jealous, possessing
Love: Just because your mate has friends of the opposite sex doesn't mean they will fall into temptation so try not to be so untrusting.
Spring thing: Your look isn't up to par anymore. Maybe it's time for a fashion overhaul. Refer to page 14.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22-December 21)
Symbol: The Archer
Strengths: Fervent, stimulating, charming
Weakness: Quarrelsome, irresponsible
Love: Don't knit and pick at the small stuff, your love will start picking up the habit.
Spring thing: Winter weight is your worst enemy right now so start a workout plan and a healthy diet. By summer you should be in tip-top shape.

CAPRICORN

(December 22-January 21)
Symbol: The Goat
Strengths: Meticulous, diligent, achiever
Weakness: Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible
Love: Make sure you don't overlook your loved one during busy times. Because you're consumed by other activities doesn't mean you shouldn't take time out for your mate.
Spring thing: Vacation is something that comes a few times a year so spend it wisely.

AQUARIUS

(January 22-February 18)
Symbol: The Water Bearer
Strengths: Rational, coherent, consistent
Weakness: Offensive, self-centered, immodest
Love: Think outside the box. Love is anything but logical. Take chances; maybe you'll find someone.
Spring thing: Volunteer during your off time. The good deed will be helpful for your karma.

PISCES

(February 19-March 20)
Symbol: The Fish
Strengths: Vigorous, daring, bold
Weakness: Impractical, dreamy
Love: Your relationship may not be all that you see it as so try not to make future plans.
Spring thing: Don't ignore your spontaneous characteristics. Get out there and do what you want to do for your personal enjoyment.



Book reviews

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

“Circle of Friends” by Maeve Binchy and “The Silver Kiss” by Annette Curtis-Klaus are two interesting books, although they are in different genres. “Circle of Friends” is basically about life and things that can happen to anyone, while “The Silver Kiss” is fictional and supernatural in genre.

“Circle of Friends” is about the life of a girl, Pen,

how she grows up, and the changes that happen in her life, from the age of 10 to adulthood. She is a full woman with issues about her body and friends. Along the way she meets people who greatly affect her. Her parents want her to marry a gentleman who is in the family business, while she wants to become her own person and choose whom she wants to spend the rest of her life with. This book is full of love, deceit, lies, tragedy, and life. It shows human nature and how people blend in together, and ends on an inspirational note. “The Silver Kiss” is a book that pulls you right into

the plot and the action of the story as soon as you open it. It is about a young girl whose mother has cancer and she doesn’t know how to deal with it until Simon comes along. He is a vampire whose only purpose is to kill his evil brother who feeds on the blood of helpless souls. It begins in reality and then edges into the unreal world of vampires. Simon helps the girl deal with her mother’s failing health like she helps him with the purpose of his life. This story is no fairy tale, but the reader is always engaged. I recommend these two books. Both hooked me and never let me go.



The disappearing idols

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

Why do the winners of American Idol seem to disappear? That’s the question every viewer asks, especially this one. You vote, they win, and then sooner than later they disappear into what I call “Hollywood’s Blackhole.” Look at the past three years of winners. What happened? I mean, jeez, they weren’t chosen to win just to die out. I believe it has something to do with the winners’ appearances, or races, or both. Take Ruben Studdard. I think he didn’t become as big as Kelly Clarkson because he is African-American and a hefty guy.

During the elimination process, viewers go crazy to get their favorites to be the next star. But once the show ends, and their favorite wins, fans forget about them. Once their album drops, they’re lucky if they make it to the top of the Billboard charts. What happened to all of the fan support that was shown when they were in the running to be the next star? Why is it that when I turn on the TV, the only American Idol I happen to see is Kelly Clarkson? What about Ruben and Fantasia? They put out music videos too, but not all get the airtime they deserve.

Could it be because Ruben is overweight, or maybe because Fantasia is a single mom? Both have a soulful vibe to their voices, unlike Kelly Clarkson, who does

the cliché rock-with-a-little-twist-of-pop-and-soul-thing. Maybe it’s a marketing problem. The record label picks music categories they know buyers will demand. Maybe they don’t know how to market Fantasia’s gospel music or Ruben’s blend of ballads and R & B. When they win this big contract it’s about music, but later, behind the scenes, they flick the script and make it all about sex appeal.

These winners deserve to be publicized more because they spent all those weeks competing to be crowned “American Idols.” But after the show ends, no one buys their merchandise. These “disappearing idols” need your help. So if you voted, go out and support your vote. Buy their CDs.



Spring flick preview with Ty Burr

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

As a young man with a passion for movies, Ty Burr went to Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., but switched to New York University so he could study cinema. “I wrote a ton,” he says, “and I watched a ton of movies.”

Soon, his two passions came together and now he works as a movie critic at the Boston Globe. Burr has worked at the Globe for three years. Before that, he worked at Entertainment Weekly for 11 years. He says movie critics don’t determine the blockbusters, but “they try to let you know if you should waste your money on a movie or get you to see something you might not otherwise see.”

Here are his thoughts about spring movies:

“Beauty Shop”

With the hits “Barbershop” and “Barbershop 2: Back in Business,” a new film, “Beauty Shop” will be added to the series. “For this movie to be a blockbuster it has to have a good plot and believable characters. The plot needs to be even better than ‘Barbershop,’ which was more entertaining than expected because Cedric the entertainer was hilarious,” Burr said. “Beauty Shop” spins off the character introduced in “Barbershop 2” and played by Queen Latifah. If it’s good, it will make the whole “franchise,” as Burr calls the series, a hit.

Burr thinks Queen Latifah is great and has a lot of potential. He predicts, “This movie should have a more exciting role for [her] than other recent roles she’s had in films such as ‘Taxi’ and ‘Bringin Down the House.’ It might be a meatier role.” This movie is set to be released on March 30. It will star Queen Latifah, Alicia Silverstone, Andie MacDowell, Alfre Woodard, Mena Suvari, Kevin Bacon, and Djimon Hounsou.

“Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous”

Sandra Bullock has disappeared off the face of the earth, according to Burr. You will only catch her movies on airplanes. This movie is her chance to prove she’s still got it, he said. Burr thinks it could pull in big crowds, but chances are it won’t. Burr’s prediction: “This movie is a total crapshoot. You shouldn’t get your hopes set too high.” It will star Sandra Bullock, Regina King, Enrique Murciano, Diedrich Bader, Heather Burns, and William Shatner, beginning March 23.

“Stars Wars 3: Revenge of the Sith”

The Star Wars series has been around for a long time, but according to Burr, the first two of the new series were stiff. “I could do better with plastic soldiers,” he said, adding, “The director, George Lucas, has lost his chops.” Burr believes other movie fans feel the same way. “Only raging fans will camp out till 12:00 the day before. This movie might be good for the real die-hard fans, but I think a lot of the general audiences will wait

for DVD.” Burr speaks more highly of the original series: “In the original ‘Star Wars’ trilogy, they rewrote the rule for the sci-fi movies. They also established a marketing juggernaut.” When asked how long “Revenge of the Sith” will last in theaters, he said, “It will be around for a long time in theaters, though maybe not as long as the first one. In the summer, they will try to rekindle the hype.” If they put it out in IMAX as well, it will make “serious cash,” he said. “Revenge of the Sith” is set to be released May 19. The cast includes Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid, and Samuel L. Jackson.

“Amityville Horror”

“Amityville Horror” is a remake of an original of the late 1970s horror movie. In the movie, a family moves into a home that was the site of many gruesome murders years earlier. They are soon terrorized by a demonic force that lingers there. Why remake this movie? As Burr put it, “Every 15-20 years, you have an entirely new audience—so bring back a good idea and you’ve got a fresh money making opportunity.” But Burr reminds us everyone likes a haunted house story, whether or not it’s good. “It’s about getting your audience to go out on a Friday night and making it socially acceptable to grab your date when she gets scared.” Scheduled to come out on April 15, “Amityville Horror” will star Ryan Reynolds, Melissa George, Philip Baker Hall, Jimmy Bennett, Jesse James, and Chloe Moretz.

Fashion makeover: on the cheap

*By Ariana Diggs, Martine Romulus, and
Wendy Nunez // T.i.P. Staff Writers*

Have you ever wanted to be a part of the reality craze?
Now you can. Based on the hit TV show
“The Look for Less,” T.i.P. brings you this version:
“The Hottest Styles in Boston for a Decent Amount.”

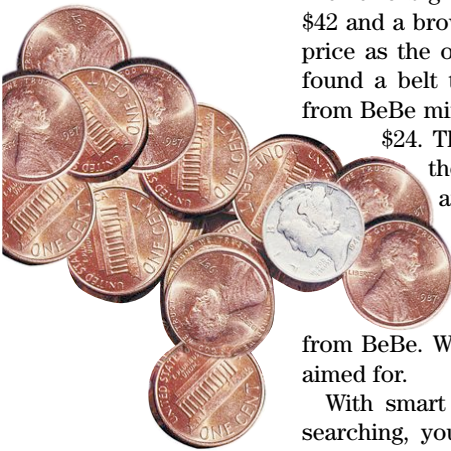
To begin, we went to the Copley Mall just to look around at different styles. Then we took pictures, and began on our mission. We searched various downtown stores until we found the store that fit our hot style needs at a price we all agreed on. Our goal was to recreate the entire outfit for half the price.

The outfit that we chose was from BeBe: chocolate brown dress pants with light brown stitching down the sides (\$119); a white halter-top with gold trim (\$35); a brown, tan, and gold striped poncho (that leaves one shoulder bare) with a tie down on the side (\$59); a small hand purse in goldish brown (\$34); a gold BeBe belt with rhinestones (\$49); and last but not least, gold square bangles (\$24). All together the outfit cost \$320.

At Macy’s we found similar brown pants with two big buttons on the top for only \$42 and a brown hand purse for the same price as the one from BeBe. At H&M we found a belt that came close to the one from BeBe minus the rhinestones for only \$24. The only two items left were the khaki and brown shawl and the tank top, and we later found both at Wet Seal for \$16 each. The recreated outfit came to \$132; it was \$188 less than the outfit from BeBe. We saved even more than we aimed for.

With smart thinking and some careful searching, you too can shop fashionably for less.

T.i.P. model
Jazmine Pendleton
models a hot new
outfit bought
on the cheap.



DETOUR

New advice column

Yo,
Mo!

In response to T.i.P. readers' requests for an advice column, we are introducing "Yo, Mo" in this edition. You've got problems? Mo will offer solutions. Need a little guidance? Mo will point you in a helpful direction.

Send your "Yo, Mo" letters to:

PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205,
or call in your queries to 617-929-8374.

Yo, Mo,

I have been going out with this boy for the past two months, and every time we are alone he's exactly what I want in a boyfriend. When we're hanging out with friends, he either ignores my presence or acts very childish. How do I tell him that the feelings I once had for him no longer exist? Please Help!

Signed,
Useless love

Dear Useless Love,

Don't beat yourself up about this. It sounds like things are not working out the way you would like them to. It is frustrating when people are not always what they seem. Here are some suggestions.

If you still want to be with him, try talking to him without the friends. Tell him how he makes you feel when you are alone (so he knows how important that is to you), and then discuss how you are being neglected when you are with friends. Maybe he doesn't even know that he's doing it. By pointing it out, you will let him know it's bothering you. Things are subject to change for the better if communication between you is clear.

If you just wish for the relationship to end, be sure to tell him why. Say that it seems like he's not being real with you when he's around his friends. And if he feels like he has to change himself for a crowd, then maybe he's not really ready for a one-on-one relationship.

Just because he couldn't be real with you doesn't mean you can't be real with him.

Yo,
Mo

Health Sense

Teens and smoking

[FROM PAGE 1]

By Monique Kelly and Phil Donahue
// T.i.P. Senior Writers/Associate Editors
and Laurys Abreu // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Teens are stressed out about sex, school, friends, family, jobs, and homework. Some teens, like Belinda Rodriguez, 17, took up smoking because it lessened her stress. Others, like Oscar Rosario, 17, and Mario Mado, 16, started for other reasons and then discovered smoking also relieved stress. Rodriguez started smoking when she was 12. "I wanted to get away. I would leave home, smoke, then relax. Home was stressful," she said.

Mado and Rosario began the habit at 14. "At first I tried it just to try it," Mado said. "It released stress. Now I smoke to release my stress."

Rodriguez became a regular, though not heavy smoker before realizing it was time to quit. "I would smoke just about every other day. Between two and three times a week," she said. Now, at 17, she has quit. "I began to go out more, take the bus and train everywhere. I also began to write and work," she said. The increase of activity in her life helped her break the habit. Rosario has quit as well. "I try to stay away from people who smoke a lot," he said. "I'm happy I stopped. I try

to deal with my problems the old fashioned way."

Mado, now 16, still smokes "a pack a day," he said. He hasn't endured the stress of hiding his habit from his family. "My mother and father know I smoke [and] they think that it's not good for my health." He agrees with his parents. "It makes me breathe less than I used to," he said. But when asked about his plans of quitting smoking he said, "some day, but not today."

If you're stressed out, Mado doesn't recommend smoking, saying "Don't try it, it's addictive." Rosario said, "When you smoke, instead of getting rid of your problems, you're just adding more." Rodriguez also recommends avoiding smoking. When asked if she would ever be tempted to smoke again, she said, "yes," but then insisted that other teens on the verge of smoking find an alternative. "After a while it gets played out," she said. "You will need another drug to motivate you to go on. My new drug is my ambition to be someone and not a statistic."



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