



BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ MARCH 2006

Weighing the military option



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

Patrick McKunes, 17, is a member of Junior ROTC at South Boston High School. Photo by: Elizabeth Lee

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

Boston high school students face a harsh reality as they near graduation and adulthood; soon they will have to enter the real world. This means different things to different people: some get jobs, others go to college, and some join the military. This spring, with a war in Iraq and US troops still stationed in Afghanistan, military recruiters are all too happy to talk with students about the benefits of joining the military: funds for college, the chance to gain employable skills, and the challenges and rewards of serving their country.

Paula Barrows, 17, a senior at Boston Latin Academy, signed up for the Air Force in January. She needed her mother's consent because she

was under 18. Barrows hasn't yet decided whether she will serve in active duty or the reserves, but she says she's ready to serve her country. "It's a huge physical and mental challenge and I'm totally up for it. I just want to prove myself."

Barrows says the people she has told of her plans have been shocked and ask "Why? You're a girl." Barrows finds the reaction strange and says no one asks her about going to Iraq because people

[MILITARY OPTION, PAGE 28]



INSIDE

She's THE MAN

with a pre-opening review of the movie and a T.i.P. interview with star Amanda Bynes —Page 14

DETOUR

Is your agenda on overdrive?

By Kianna Watler
T.i.P. Staff Writer

Work? Basketball practice? School? I feel your pain. Like you, I have to work and go to school. I also get the feeling of relief when vacations come into play. Vacations are our way to unwind from the tired lives and packed schedules we set up for ourselves. Others may have work (a job they get paid for) or other responsibilities and commitments that take advantage of their vacation time, like volunteer gigs or special programs. When you're supposed to be home relaxing, and maybe watching a little TV, you're at a job, which you really hate right now. Every teenager out there with a

[AGENDA, PAGE 30]



Dear Readers,

With the shared goal of nurturing the next generation of readers and writers, The Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston have developed a unique platform for Boston teens to write and read about teens and news that interests them – T.i.P. WriteBoston is a city initiative that was established to improve student writing proficiency in Boston’s public schools. The Boston Globe Foundation is committed to providing the opportunity for young people to communicate with each other across the city. Thanks to our dedicated student staff, T.i.P. has turned up the volume of youth voices in Boston. On behalf of the Globe Foundation and WriteBoston, enjoy!

Leah P. Bailey

Leah P. Bailey
Director, Boston Globe Foundation

Betty Southwick

Betty Southwick
Director, WriteBoston



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From the Editor



Dear Readers,

T.i.P. has become a very popular newspaper during the past two years. The Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston launched the first issue in the spring of 2004. Then with the Summer Journalism Institute, more great issues, a rookie award from the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, and now an appearance in The Boston Sunday Globe, T.i.P. has grown. On behalf of the entire Teens in Print crew, I thank our faithful readers and welcome the new ones reading this issue in City Weekly.

This issue of T.i.P. is jam packed with articles on topics ranging from sibling rivalry, to Tookie Williams, to teen musicians. We also have a brand new music section called The Jukebox. Enjoy!

This issue has many more interesting articles to read, so think of them as eye candy and eat up. See why principal Nicole Bahnam at Boston Community Leadership Academy raves, “Great articles and great work! Please let BPS students know how much we appreciate their hard work in ensuring that their voices are heard in Boston and beyond.”

- Phil Donahue/T.i.P. Senior Editor



STEPHEN SAMPSON

Where I'll be in 10 years:
Acting in movies.

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Beyoncé

Favorite children's book:
“Chicka Chicka Boom Boom”



KAREEM JAMES

Where I'll be in 10 years:
In the NFL

Ideal pet: Dog

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: My dad

My nicknames: Reem, King James, Mr. James



LEONA ALSTON

Where I got my name:
My grandmother; I'm her namesake.

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Tyra Banks

My ideal pet:
Yorkshire terrier



JENNIFER SANCHEZ

My last fortune cookie said: You will be loved and respected by many.

Where I'll be in 10 years:
Out of college and working on a magazine with Jacky

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Ludacris



SAMANTHA MBAUIKE

Where I'll be in 10 years:
I will have my own TV show and be editor of a fashion magazine.

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Oprah Winfrey

Favorite children's book:
“Charlotte's Web”

My nickname: Queenie



CARLA GUALDRÓN

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Ashton Kutcher

Favorite Children's Book:
“Frog and Toad”

Nickname: Carlita

A little known fact:
I wear mismatched socks.



STUART SPINA

Where I'll be in 10 years:
With a contracting/architectural firm

Ideal pet: Siberian Husky

One of my nicknames:
Screech

A little known fact: As you're reading this, you (and just about everyone else in the world) have microscopic mites living in your eyelashes.



WESLEY JEANBAPTISTE

Where I'll be in 10 years:
California or New York

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Will Smith or Martin Lawrence

One word I can never spell: Encyclopedia



JACQUELINE FONTES

Where I'll be in 10 years:
I'll own my own magazine.

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Alicia Keys

A little known fact: You won't notice how much you miss someone until they're gone.

Tipsters, meet the Tipsters (sung to the tune of 'Flintstones, meet the Flintstones')



NEELABH BHARTI
My last fortune cookie said:
“Don’t answer stupid questions.”
My ideal pet: Pet Rock
Favorite children’s book:
“Goodnight, Moon”
A little known fact:
Caffeine boosts short-term memory



MIKE SMITH
My ideal pet: Gorilla
Favorite children’s book:
“Lord of the Flies”
One word I can never spell:
Super-cala-fraja-listic-ex-pi-alla-do-shis
Nickname: Treyce



KIANNA WATLER
Where I’ll be in 10 years: In college, studying for a degree in psychology
My ideal pet: Lab or golden retriever
Message to City Weekly readers:
Hope you like our paper!
One word I can never spell:
Sassafras



PHIL DONAHUE
My last fortune cookie said:
“Made in China”
My ideal pet: A dinosaur
Message to City Weekly readers:
Keep on reading T.i.P!
A little known fact: There are 118 ridges on a dime.



MANUEL BORIA
Where I got my name: My dad’s middle name
Where I’ll be in 10 years:
Playing basketball in the NBA or being an engineer
If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be:
Jessica Alba
One of my nicknames: Manz



JESSICA PINA
Where I got my name: From the actress on “Murder, She Wrote”
Ideal pet: Puppy
One of my nicknames:
Dimplez
One word I can never spell:
Embarrassed



TYRELL POLK
Favorite children’s book:
“Green Eggs and Ham”
Ideal pet: Cat
My nicknames: Ty Ty/ Tiny/ T-Smalz
A little known fact: Languages are easier to learn if you start at a young age.



ARIANA DIGGS
Where I’ll be in 10 years:
Very successful in either communications or social work
If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be:
Juelz Santana
Favorite children’s book:
“The Cat in the Hat”
A little known fact: I can pinch people with my toes.



MARTINE ROMULUS
If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be:
J. Booj from former group B2K
My ideal pet: Monkey
One of my nicknames:
Apple Martini
A little known fact:
I’m afraid of the dark.



BIANCA LAO
If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be:
Biggie, if he was alive.
Ideal pet: Horse
Favorite children’s book:
“Brown Bear”
One of my nicknames: Bibi

T.i.P.

Mission Statement

Boston Teens in Print (T.i.P.) unites Boston teens to create an outlet to inform, communicate, and provide positive change through written expression.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

DO NOT READ THIS

We knew you would! T.i.P. has a great group of talented young writers from BPS but we want to hear what every teen in this city is thinking. So send us your stuff. If you have poetry, commentaries, reviews, pictures, or anything we can print, send it to us. You all have something different to express, so express it to thousands of your closest friends. Put your issues in our issues, Boston teens!

To learn about submission guidelines, or to submit your writing by e-mail, visit our websites at: www.writeboston.org or www.bostonTiP.com.

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Send submissions by mail to:

Boston Teens in Print
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205



Call the T.i.P. voice mail at 617-929-8374.

To find out more about Boston Teens in Print, call WriteBoston at 617-541-2604. *(T.i.P. manager Kelly Knopf-Goldner will be out on maternity leave until September 2006.)*

T.i.P.

BOSTON T.i.P.
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T.i.P. Senior Editor
Phil Donahue

Art/Photography
Artists for Humanity

T.i.P. Staff Writers

Leona Alston
Neelabh Bharti
Manuel Boria
Ariana Diggs
Phil Donahue
Jacquelina Fontes
Carla Gualdron
Kareem James
Wesley JeanBaptiste
Bianca Lao
Samantha Mbawuike
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Kianna Watler

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Braulio Soto
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Monique Symes
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BOSTON GLOBE FOUNDATION

Leah P. Bailey, Director
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WRITEBOSTON

Betty Southwick, Director

T.i.P. Manager

Kelly Knopf-Goldner

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Production Director:

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Editor:

Marie C. Franklin

Art Director:

Rich Giedd

Designer

Elizabeth Smith

OPINIONS
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OPINIONS



IN YOUR FACE

▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

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How siblings push your buttons

By Tyrell Polk // T.i.P. Staff Writer

One of the greatest battles that has been going on since the beginning of humankind is the battle between siblings. It's either the brother who annoys the sister or the sister who annoys the brother. And it doesn't matter what age or sex the siblings are. If you have them, they probably annoy you.

There are certain things all siblings do to irritate each other. It starts with the fact that siblings know what annoys each other so they zero in on these vulnerable spots. Let's face it. No one pushes buttons as well as a brother or sister.

Here are some classic tactics that siblings use to irritate one another.

- They follow you around the house. There is nothing as annoying as being followed everywhere. It creates a lack of privacy and is obnoxious. It's right up there with copying everything you say.
- They snitch on you. When they tell on you, it only hurts them. You can't trust them any more and then your chances at friendship are shot.
- They talk too much. Some sibs talk for the sole purpose of making you mad, and go on and on to make you crazy. Often, they ask you countless, meaningless questions.
- They do stupid things. The list is endless but one classic strategy is to quietly pick up the phone and listen in on your conversations. Any action that falls in the "spying" category is obnoxious but it's a favorite especially among younger brothers and sisters.

Now if you want to get on your siblings' good side for a change, here's what you should do. You may even catch them off guard and win the sibling war.

- ★ Do nice things. For no reason, buy your sibling something from the store. Can you imagine their shock?
- ★ Don't ever snitch. This builds trust between siblings, something you will need when you have to form an alliance against the parental unit.
- ★ Respect their things and space. Don't be all up on them. Give your siblings some breathing room and they will return the favor.
- ★ Look for ways to help each other. Help each other get out of jams with parents or cover for each other.
- ★ If all this advice fails, just stay away from one another.



▲ Artwork by: Cassandra Latimore



▲ Artwork by: Lorell Webb

Slang is da bomb

By Ariana Diggs and Jessica Pina
T.I.P. Staff Writers

“Wat’s good homie? Everythang’s good in da hood.”

Sound familiar? It could be a chat between two teenagers using instant messaging. The teens know what they are talking about, because it’s their slang they are using. The roots of slang are mysterious because slang is ever-changing. Words die out over time and new ones replace them. One phrase morphs into another or gets shortened. Slang doesn’t stand still and each generation has its own peculiar language.

For many teens, slang is like a second language. Noemy Santos, 17, says, “A day can’t go by without me using some form of slang; it’s addicting.” Many teens feel this way. “Slang is so natural for me that it takes a while for me to even notice I’m speaking it,” says Kameel Lashley, 15. Still, slang doesn’t fit right with everyone, including parents, teachers, and every one else who isn’t cool. When uncool people use slang, it makes that certain slang phrase become old, just because they used it.

“Stop talking that mess!” That’s what parents usually say to their teens when they use slang.

Teens usually know when to use slang—when they are talking to friends, on instant messaging, designing a Web page, or even writing little notes in class. But some grown-ups fear teens will ruin their chances of success by using slang. Sometimes teens do forget when and where to use it. For example, we sometimes forget to use “proper” English when writing a paper, and instead use slang until we see the red line under the word advising us of our mistakes.

Adults consider slang to be improper. However, it isn’t necessarily a bad thing for teens to use slang; it actually expands their minds, and allows them to think when and where to use two different types of languages. Teens mostly use slang because it’s a faster way to communicate. A long sentence can be shortened to a few words. For example, instead of saying “Hi, how are you today?” You can just say, “Wat’s good?”

There’s nothing wrong with using slang. But be warned that slang changes frequently. For example “phat” is no longer allowed as a slang term; it’s now “hott” or “fire.” Another would be the phrase, “Can we get jiggy wit it?” Instead it’s “Can we hang?”

Ight! We off dis. Pyceeee!!!



▲ Artwork by: Daniela Jones

Slang dictionary: A to Z

Slang is like a homeroom teacher. It changes all the time. What’s in one year is out the next and puleeze, it’s hard to stay current. Here’s an updated list of words compiled from the Online Slang Dictionary at: www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~wraeder/slang.

- Amped-** adj: 1. excited, eager 2. angry, upset
- Bananas-** adj: 1. ridiculous, crazy
- Chillaxing-** v: 1. a mix between chilling and relaxing
- Down-** adj: 1. in agreement to 2. to appreciate, enjoy, or understand something
- Eeew-** adj: 1. responding to something in a disgusted manor
- Fam-** n: 1. family
- Ghetto-** adj: 1. of poor quality and appearance
- Hella-** adj: 1.very, extremely, really
- Ill-** adj: 1. very good, excellent
- Jacked up-** adj: 1. attacked or beat up
- Knocked up-** v: 1. to get pregnant
- Locked-** v: 1. under strict surveillance or a watchful eye
- Minute-** adj: 1. a long period of time
- No duh-** n: 1. a sarcastic response when someone states the obvious
- One-** n: 1. goodbye, see you later
- Peeps-** n: 1. people, or friends
- Queenie-** n: 1. a special girl
- Random-** n: 1. a statement or action out of the norm
- Shook-** adj: 1. afraid, scared
- Tipsy-** adj: 1. intoxicated
- Umm-** n: 1. pause during speaking, used for thinking
- Vibe-** n.: 1. receiving good feelings
- Wanksta-** n: 1. someone who pretends to be gangster
- X-Rated-** n: 1. a situation that is graphic or sexual
- Yo-** n: 1. a greeting, used to get someone’s attention
- Zane-** adj: 1. containing explicit content

—By Phil Donahue, Senior Editor

Maximum security schools

How effective are metal detectors?

By Braulio Soto // T.I.P. Writer

What are metal detectors?

A metal detector is a machine that sounds an alarm when any type of metal is detected on a person passing through. They are supposed to ensure safety inside of buildings by preventing dangerous weapons from entering. Metal detectors can normally be found in courts, airports, and police stations, and are now commonly used in schools. When metal detectors are placed in schools, it doesn't necessarily mean the school is bad, or dangerous. It means the administration is trying to prevent danger from entering the building and jeopardizing student safety.

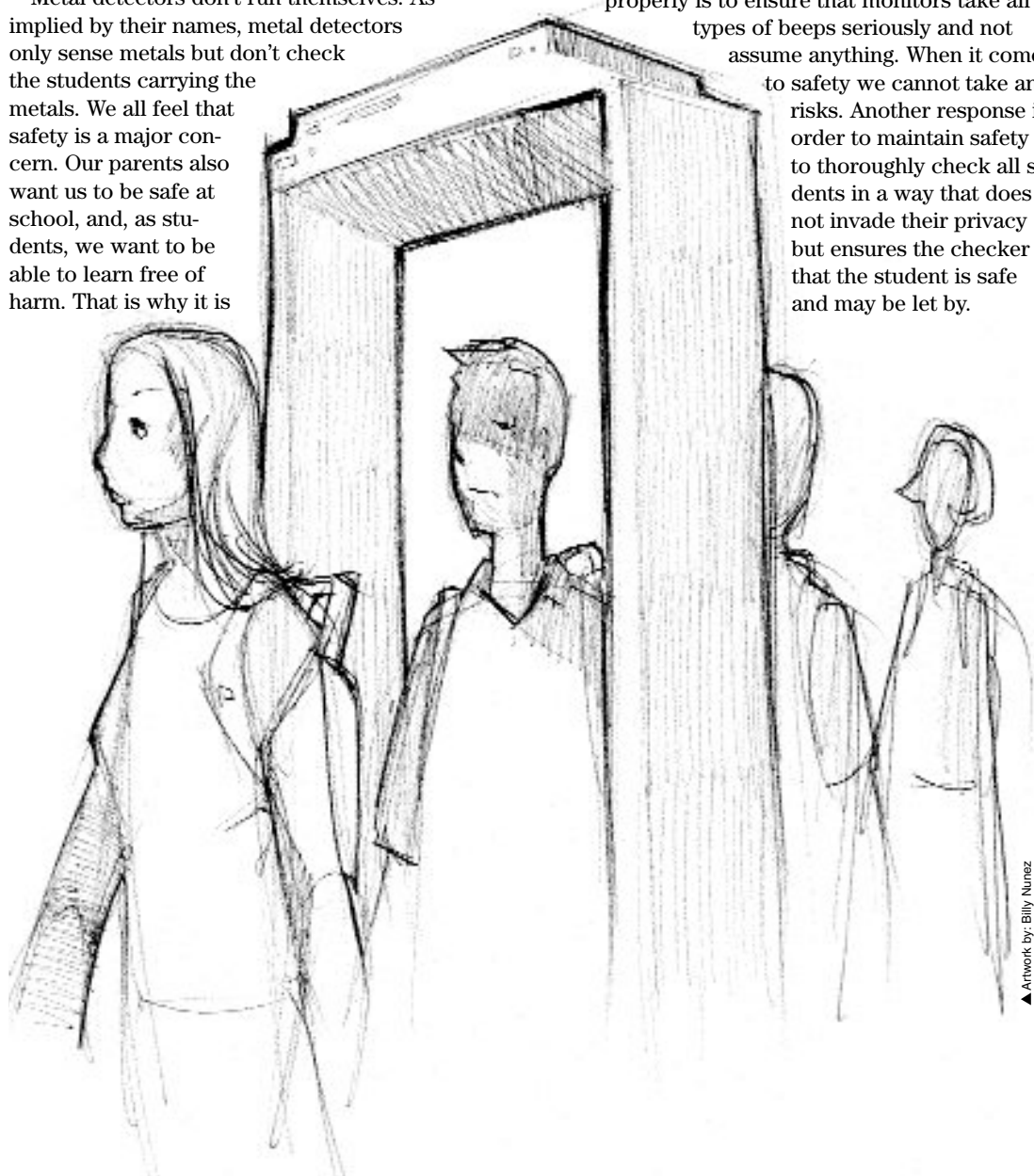
Problems with metal detectors

Metal detectors don't run themselves. As implied by their names, metal detectors only sense metals but don't check the students carrying the metals. We all feel that safety is a major concern. Our parents also want us to be safe at school, and, as students, we want to be able to learn free of harm. That is why it is

necessary for police officers, administrators, and teachers to check students once the alarm goes off. Often staff members working the metal detectors in schools are not properly doing their jobs. A major problem is that monitors are not taking the beeps seriously. They are assuming the sound may be keys or a cellphone. Another problem is the monitors are letting by those whom they believe are good students and pulling aside the ones they believe are suspicious and search them more thoroughly. When it comes to safety, all students must be checked equally whether they are considered good or bad.

Solutions to metal detector problems

One solution for having metal detectors work properly is to ensure that monitors take all types of beeps seriously and not assume anything. When it comes to safety we cannot take any risks. Another response in order to maintain safety is to thoroughly check all students in a way that does not invade their privacy but ensures the checker that the student is safe and may be let by.



▲ Artwork by: Billy Nunez

Remembering Tookie

By Neelabh Bharti // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Although Stanley "Tookie" Williams's life is over, his legacy lives on in his books, work, and accolades. He was notorious for gang violence, but many people think he redeemed himself through his antigang books and programs, as can be seen by the number of people who protested his execution. Even if Williams is dead, many people still don't know the whole story about his life and death.

Williams was born on December 29, 1953, to a 17-year-old mother. He moved to Los Angeles when he was six. The Crips, a street gang, was formed in 1969 on the East Coast by Raymond Washington, after which Williams formed the West Side Crips in 1971. There was a lot of random gang violence as well as police brutality on city streets at the time. Both divisions were apparently formed to reduce violence by other gangs and by the police, but they eventually turned into one of those "other gangs." They became powerful, violent, and criminal.

Fast forward to 1981 when Williams was charged for four murders, all robbery-related. He was convicted and received a death sentence. There is still some doubt about the trial, as the witness who testified in front of the jury was a jail informant who was granted immunity, and who later claimed that police beat him into testifying. Williams went to jail in 1993. However he experienced a change of mind and began writing children's books, discouraging gang violence.

"For me it was redemption, an act of atonement. Something that I could give back. Because let's face it, myself and others in the gang life have done nothing but destroy the community," William reflected in an interview with www.motherjones.com in 2001.

He wrote "Tookie Speaks Out Against Gang Violence" as well as "Life in Prison." He also helped start the Internet Project for Street Peace with Barbara Cottman Becnel, his editor, which helped promote computer literacy and fight gang violence. At first, Williams had a harder time getting his message out. "You see, the first publishing company that contacted me, they wanted the gore, the foul language. But see, I don't curse. All these things they wanted are things that I had actually transformed from. Why should I rehash something that was negative?" Eventually he got his stories published the way he wanted—as a device for education, not just entertainment.

In 2001, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by a member of the Swiss Parliament for these efforts. Many people think he changed significantly and that he shouldn't have been executed, considering his efforts at redemption. One of the reasons people are jailed is so that they can no longer harm other people. Would a person who made the strides that Williams did be a threat to society if they were released from prison? No. Many sought clemency for him. Thousands signed online petitions, and scores protested.

The appeals failed, however, and Governor Schwarzenegger denied his clemency in 2005, believing that he still deserved execution. Williams was executed on December 13, 2005 a.m. He was declared dead at 12:35 am.

Thousands are outraged at Governor Schwarzenegger and his denial of Williams's clemency, and not just in America. There has been a significant backlash against him in his native country of Austria. A stadium that was named the Arnold Schwarzenegger Stadium had its name changed to Tookie Williams Stadium. "People have had enough of him," Peter Pilz, a Green MP in the regional parliament of Steiermark said in an interview with The Guardian. However, nothing can be done about Williams's death now.



▲ Photo by: Ellianna Coleman

Bling, bang! Bling,

Do your goods attract bad attention? Bling,

By Stephen Sampson // T.I.P Staff Writer

Your sneakers are crisp white, your chain is glistening, heads are turning, but do you look into the shadows? Do you see the streets are watching? In the midst of new jewelry and new wardrobe, do you notice jealousy is brewing?

I, as a fellow teen, am a victim of this also. I have also been drawn to the world's flashy dress codes and shimmering silver. We may look our best but does this always result in the best for our safety, or even more important, our health?

According to a report from Boston Police

Department published in the Boston Globe, burglaries and attempted burglaries in the city rose by 7 percent last year, while robberies and attempted robberies jumped 8 percent. It's safe to say that a large number of additional robberies go unreported.

Robberies range from having your jewelry, CD players, and iPods stolen. And many of the teens robbed are threatened with weapons. You may think, "It won't happen to me," but 15-year-old Jonathan Edwards from Roxbury thought the same thing. Then one night when he was walk-

ing home from the library he became an unexpected victim. He was approached in Washington Park Mall and asked for his watch and his iPod (two items in his possession which were easily noticeable). The suspect then flashed a knife. Petrified, Jonathan gave up his valuables. Before the suspect vanished into the night, he told Jonathan to close his eyes and the suspect shoved him to the ground and fled.

Jonathan is only one victim. There are many more. It is up to us to make the decision to choose glamour or safety.

The Strand

By Mike Smith // T.i.P. Staff Writer



on's 375th birthday cel-
asiano got a grant last
e Strand Summer Series
at The Strand Theater in
performing arts pro-
two weeks long,
ublic perfor-
ent a few times a
the different
Dance and Spoken
some excerpts from my

inniest class ever when it
ce everybody wanted to fight
o bad I can't remember the

sonable instructor and she
subject. But, honestly, none
was all about these teens.
opez what made her join, she
e class is good; it's interesting
er previous experience came
uncing, previous African
hat I call a track record. I
rs seemed interested. She put
ance.
er story. Funny and outspo-
e liked dancing and she'd
ice before. She was experi-
ing, and jazz. (I didn't know
. It's hard to book a hip-hop
a jazz show because people
ner and all that. So jazz was
ward. Honestly, I'm just
art sending in e-mails

and comments.)
One teen I can't name so as not to put her business
out there didn't like the class at all. She joined basically
because her mother asked her to, plus she wanted to
stay out of trouble. When I first asked her if she liked
the class, she said it was "All right." Then further into
the program I asked if she was interested yet and she



▲ Photos by: Magda Spasiano

Summer Series



was done. She was out of it. The class was just plain boring to her and there was nothing else to it.

To me, the class was interesting. At first when they were just getting into everything, you had the male drummers messing up and girls getting confused so it looked a mess. And you got me in the corner drinking water and eating sandwiches. Everybody giving me funny looks like “Why is he here?” By the end of the class, when the whole performance came together, it was on point. I wasn’t a stranger to the class and they weren’t dissing each other. The kids were acting real cool with each other toward the end when everything was pieced together.

Along with African Dance, I went to the Spoken Word series. These classes were slower than the African dance classes and a bit confusing because it looked like everyone was attempting to do one piece, but everyone was doing their own thing.

The second time I visited, things were tense. e a couple of teens in the class taking it out on each other through subliminal poems. Example: Person A was wearing a bright blue shirt. The instructor asked them to write with anger, “just whatever makes you mad,



MEDIA MESSAGES



▲ Photo by: Arryanna Wilson

Does sex sell? Check out women in hip-hop music videos

By Samantha Mbawuike // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Sex sells, especially for aspiring hip-hop artists. But when is the line of sexual freedom versus womens' rights crossed in hip-hop videos? This is a huge issue in entertainment today.

When you turn on the television to your favorite music channels such as MTV or BET, you see bare women shaking their behinds in front of the camera, grinding and gyrating all over the television screen. These videos contain explicit lyrics and sexual content. In Nelly's "Tip Drill" video, the women shake so wildly, their bikinis purposefully come off and a group of leering men are grabbing their body parts, including their breasts. Later the women perform sexual acts with each other. Is this necessary? The men in these videos are degrading the women, but not only are they degrading the women, the women are aiding in the belittlement as well. Video "vixens" portray themselves as prostitutes. Why do the women in these videos accept being called out with profanity?

It is disturbing that our children are exposed to this X-rated content. The media can be influential, especially

to young people. Even if 13-year-olds are not interested in sex, they become influenced by what they see and hear in the media.

Indeed, I love my hip-hop music as well as some of the videos but not if it makes me cringe. When I see the video "Some Cut" by Trilleville, with their crude lyrics and continuous sounds of a woman's pleasure being played throughout the song/video, I am disgusted. As a fan of hip-hop I want to be able to turn on the channel to BET and see a video like "Get By" by Talib Kweli, which talks about the black struggle or "Jesus Walks" by Kanye West, which talks about how Jesus walks with all people no matter how terrible the person may be.

I am not trying to put down hip-hop artists for their music because I am a true fan of hip-hop. But I do question how some artists package their product in these videos and I'm concerned by the sexualized depictions in many acknowledged hip-hop videos. Is anyone else disturbed by these explicit images? If so, what can we do about it?

Media molds minds, but how?

By Bianca Lao // T.i.P. Staff Writer

"I'm too fat"... "My butt is too big"... "My top is too small"... "I need to stop eating a lot." These are everyday phrases we hear from young girls. Countless young women are insecure about their bodies and how they appear. Where does the idea of a flawless body come from? Perhaps other people reinforce it, or maybe it comes from media images of feminine beauty that are unattainable for the vast majority of females.

The media doesn't come out and bluntly say women should look like models. However, we get the message in other ways. For example, the iPod ads show shadows of shapely women dancing around trying to sell a product that has little to do with music and nothing to do with beauty. When you turn to a music video, be it a rap, rock, R&B, or country, the women look perfect and thin. In rap videos you witness half-naked women with large breasts, flat stomachs, and long hair. These images are not only degrading toward women, making them little more than objects, but also

send unhealthy messages to young women about how they should look.

Women aren't the only ones affected by these media messages. Young men are brainwashed about how women should look as well. Whether they know it or not, they are being influenced by what they see. Men expect women to look like Beyoncé Knowles or Jessica Simpson. How can normal-looking women meet these expectations?

Beauty trends and ideals come from the media, and people, influenced by images to which they are exposed, have come to accept the standards set by advertisers. Consider how teens reacted to the recent Dove campaign that portrays real women in their ads for a skin-firming lotion. Genta Spaho, 16 responded this way to the Dove models: "To me, they are fat." She added, "They are supposed to be tall and skinny, like Victoria Secret models." Diana Rosario, 19, complained, "These Dove women are nasty looking—not all, but most of them." When asked if she'd want these to be the kind of models advertisers use every day, she answered, "Oh, no. The media does a good job putting fake girls on TV. Why mess up?" Comparing herself to the women in the ad, she says, "I look similar to one of them. I'm curvy but not muscular." In response to the question, "Don't you see women like this every day," Cassim Morris, 17, says "Although women normally look like this [the Dove women], it does not define beauty and women shouldn't be comfortable this way."

Media messages set the standards for how women should appear. The sugarcoated messages and images displayed before us make a strong impression, especially on younger audiences. The media impair our judgment as alcohol or drugs might. It possesses the power to easily convince us of what's beautiful and what's not.

It's up to us to be aware of media manipulation and rid ourselves of the idea that women should be flawless.



▲ Photo by: Andre Lambert

DETOUR MIXED MESSAGES

Tired of mainstream media's messed up messages? Check out the resources below, where you can learn about alternatives that use media to send messages of empowerment.

TEEN VOICES MAGAZINE. Teen Voices is "the only magazine by, for, and about teenage and young adult women." Its purpose is to promote social justice and empower women. Teen Voices was founded more than 15 years ago to provide teen women with an alternative to fashion magazines and their message that being beautiful is a teen woman's primary interest. Located in downtown Boston, Women Express Inc./ Teen Voices sponsors an innovative mentoring program for Boston teens. For information, call 617-426-5505 or visit www.teenvoices.com.



PROJECT: THINK DIFFERENT is "entertaining change in music, film, video, media" while providing young people with conferences and resources to tackle negative media messages. Located in Boston, Project: Think Different encourages youth to take charge of media messages by making their own. They've recently launched a new music CD—"Empowerment: The Power to Break You Free"—promotes positive messages and the power of different thinking. (See T.i.P.'s review in our Jukebox section). PTD wants your involvement, Boston teens. Use media to shape empowering messages! Call 617-557-9200 or visit www.projectthinkdifferent.org.

THIS JUST IN...Berklee College of Music's hip-hop curriculum has added a course that examines hip-hop music and its social impact. Berklee is also partnering with Essence magazine's Take Back the Music campaign, launched last year: The Boston Globe article "Aiming for an alternative hip-hop" from January 30, 2006, at www.boston.com tells the full story. Or check out <http://www.essence.com/essence/take-back-the-music/> to find out how Essence magazine is trying to clean up hip-hop's image.

Empowered teens...

Ever wish you had the power to solve the city's problems? The Center for Teen Empowerment Inc. (TE) brings Boston teens together to inspire them to think about how to fix problems in their schools and communities. These students offered solutions to violence, youth/police relations, and underperforming urban schools. Here's what the teen activists said.

Get Involved

For more information about TE, contact:
Teen Empowerment Inc., 48 Rutland St.,
Boston, MA 02118; 617-536-4266.

Photo by Teen Empowerment



Local teens gather at the Center for Teen Empowerment in Boston.

By Jonette Glass, Boston Community Leadership Academy

As a teen, I have an inside look at urban youth and the situations and circumstances we face. This is a view that many adults do not have. And because times have changed so much since they were young people, it is difficult for some adults to relate to and penetrate the surface of problems. It is only by gaining an understanding of the real issues that effective plans of action can be taken.

One of the reasons violence is on the rise can be linked to the school system. And though every school is not bad from my experience, many of us encounter dysfunction and low productivity in our schools. It almost feels as if urban schools are designed for students to fail. This is due to inadequate resources, excessive testing with high stakes attached, and a lack of positive student and faculty relationships.

It is no secret that suburban public schools more effectively prepare students than urban public schools. There are many problems in urban schools from a lack of textbooks, to outdated facilities, to limited extracurricular activities. These schools have support from the community. This inequality is unfair. These are the students inner-city youth must compete with in the real world. I realized this as I was applying to colleges this year. Many universities require or prefer subjects and activities that our urban schools don't offer. This is not an excuse for failure. However it needs to be known and also understood that this is a factor.

Many people think teens never look at the big picture but we do. The problem is the picture doesn't include us. This leads to hopelessness, desperation, and the desire of artificial success. Students struggling with standardized tests, employment, and self-expression are driven to other means to fill these voids. If you want to target violence, start with giving youth a fair chance to have their voices heard and taken seriously. Let us tell you what we need. We are the insiders. Give us a fair chance to compete with the suburban public schools. Work harder on obtaining educational and recreational resources for us. This will decrease hopelessness, which will decrease the street mentality that many young people have. If this happens violence will begin to dwindle and more youth will get a chance to be successful.

SPEAK OUT

By Jessica Rojas, Brighton High School

Too many adults criticize young people and talk about us like we are up to no good. They don't pay attention to the fact that many of us have no way to make money and little opportunity to show the good things we can do when given the chance. If there were more adults who would start noticing that many young people are doing good deeds in the community, we could help prevent many problems and the violence level would go down.

Two years ago, the state cut hundreds of youth leadership jobs from the budget. This was a mistake because having more youth leadership jobs adds up to more youth working, less youth on the corner, and more positive change in our community. Now that the state is getting more money again it's time they put that money back towards the youth leadership jobs that they cut.

It's time to stop seeing youth as the problem and start seeing youth as part of the solution. It's time the city, state, and federal government fund youth leadership jobs again so we young people can get back to work making our communities safer, healthier, and more productive for everyone.

By Angelo Pina, youth organizer, Dorchester

The police need to be more aware of youth and understand that by harassing youth they jeopardize our future and our communities. Right now, all the pressure is on the police to solve all the problems by themselves. Then they go out and put all this pressure on us by stopping and searching us just because we are in a certain place.

The other day, I was in the park looking for the basketball I had left there the day before. That is when the police drove onto the courts and told me to get on the ground and take off my coat. They searched me and after that, one of the officers started swearing and told me every drug dealer he busted from now on was going to say I was the snitch. Then they took me home and told my mom I was in the park looking for drugs.

I know police have a job to do, but some police are rude, swearing at youth and threatening us. I am not a criminal. I am a good person who wants to do good things for my community, but this kind of behavior will not help and will make things worse. Police need more training in how to relate to youth and more chances to get to know youth in a positive way.

By Derek Patterson, East Boston High School

One issue Dorchester faces is violence. To deal with the problem, the city has asked the police to conduct sweeps in high crime areas. When the police do a sweep, they go into the area and arrest as many people as they can on whatever charge(s) they can find. I don't know why they think this will solve the problem and why people can't see this only makes things worse. For one thing, the people who are involved in these crimes are likely to move their crimes to another area. Meanwhile, the police are stopping, searching, and harassing many youth who are innocent and arresting many others on minor violations or even old warrants left on the books by mistake.

The Positive Action Agenda

·Significantly increase the number of year-round leadership jobs for youth funded through city, state, and federal governments, and private foundations.

·Significantly increase the number of year-round employment opportunities for youth funded through city, state, and federal governments, private foundations, corporations, and businesses.

·Provide more intensive training to police in relating to youth, conflict resolution, and prevention skills.

·Increase the quality of city schools so they offer urban students the same educational opportunities that suburban students get.

·Increase drug and alcohol treatment services.

·Encourage electronic and print media to increase positive stories about urban teens.

·Increase the number of music, art, and theater after-school programs available to teens.

·Increase the number of street workers, increase their pay and benefits, and improve training programs that can help them to do their jobs.

·Increase the availability of low cost housing to ensure that families can have a stable home life for their children.

By doing this, some good kids are going to turn bad and those who are really doing bad things will probably stay on the loose doing their business somewhere else.

Wouldn't it be better if police spent time getting to know youth and community members and establishing good communication with the people in the neighborhoods?

By Rhydell Wright, Madison Park Technical Vocational School

The reason I feel so strongly about this is because when I was young my mom was an alcoholic and a drug user. My father was a drug user and a drug dealer. As a result of this my home was raided and me, my twin sister, and my other siblings were placed in DSS custody. I spent much of my childhood years away from my family and that is something I will never be able to get back.

Some would say that I and many other youth like me are at risk of becoming drug abusers or committing other crimes. We all know that one thing can lead to another. Poverty can lead to criminal activities which can lead to violence and that can lead to jail and the cycle goes on and on.

To break that cycle we need more drug and alcohol programs. We need to give more youth jobs as leaders. We need to make sure the foster care system protects families and helps children.

By Jose Vizcarrondo, youth organizer, Dorchester

The other day I was walking my dog with my brother down by the park and I passed four detectives sitting in a car. They were parked on a corner waiting, and when we passed by they stopped us. I don't know why they stopped us, but I guess it was because we fit the stereotype of the kind of youth who might cause trouble.

Then they started asking questions. When they asked my brother for his name, he gave my name because he was on probation and was scared. When they asked me my name, I had to give them the wrong name. Then they searched me and found my identification. That is when one of the officers came up to me and said he was going to smack me if I didn't tell him the truth.

Then they arrested my brother for a minor probation violation.

I've never been in trouble in my whole life. That police officer had no right to talk to me that way. If I had reacted to him in the way that he behaved I would be another youth in trouble. Police have jobs to do, but they should be trained to do it in a way that is lawful and respectful of the rights of all people, including people like me.

By Martin Simpson, Dorchester High School

I am focused on the stereotypes of inner-city youth. Just because we wear baggy clothes and talk a certain way we are labeled as criminals and that isn't the case. It is hard on us not only because of stereotypes from strangers but also those from Boston police. I'm not saying all police have stereotypical views but most that I have come in contact with do. One day after school I was outside waiting for a friend to come out of a store when two squad cars pulled up. They came so fast and loud you would think I just shot five kids. Before I looked up, I was pressed against the side of the store being interrogated. After I was searched and my friend came out of the store they told us to keep it moving and didn't even apologize. I am saying an organization such as the Boston police should go on something other than looks, maybe facts.

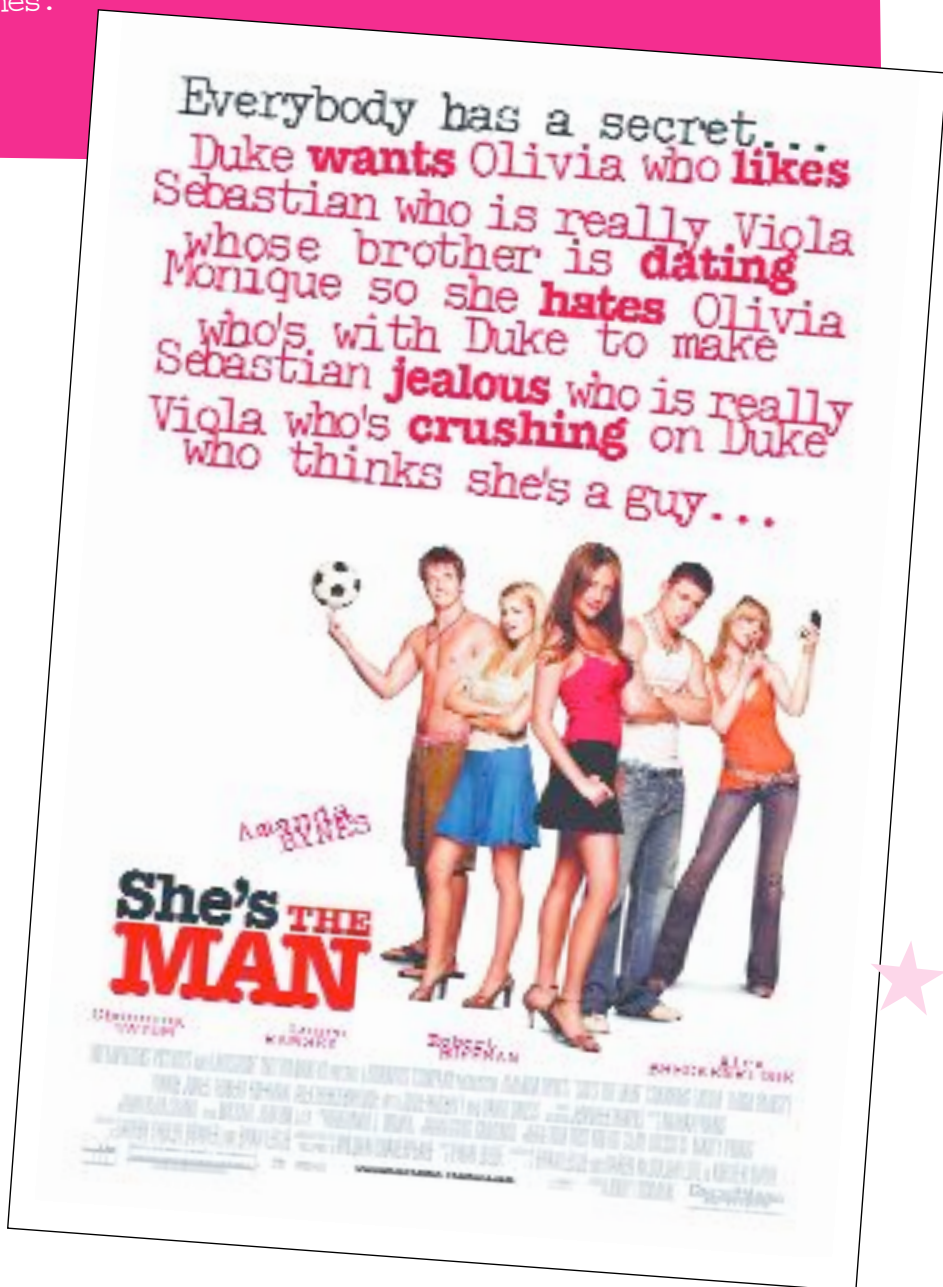
By Sonia Alves, Charlestown High School

As young people growing up in Dorchester we have seen what is going on in our community. We think it is important when public officials try to figure out what to do about violence that they keep an awareness of the needs that youth have for better foster care services, housing, and drug and alcohol treatment. We also think it is important for the media to realize how much urban youth need to have more positive stories on TV and in the newspapers. Also, there needs to be more opportunities for police to relate to youth in positive ways. Finally, the number of youth leadership jobs, after-school programs, and street workers who are willing and able to reach out to youth must increase.

'She's The Man'

remakes old tale into funny flick

Amanda Bynes made an appearance at the CambridgeSide Galleria mall earlier this month in advance of the release of her new movie "She's The Man." A retake on the Shakespeare play "Twelfth Night," the film is set to be released in theaters around the country on March 17. Later in the day, T.i.P. reporters met with her in Boston for an exclusive interview about her acting career. Below, we review the film and let you listen in on our Q and A conversation with Bynes.



Bynes carries flim with talented costars

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

Take one tablespoon of a talented ensemble cast, mix in a little Shakespeare, sprinkle some gender confusion to taste, and you get the recipe for the funny flick "She's the Man," opening in theaters on March 17.

Amanda Bynes ("What a Girl Wants," and TV's "What I Like About You") stars as the hilarious Viola in this adaptation of Shakespeare's comedic play "Twelfth Night." Viola wants to prove she's as good as the boys after her ex-boyfriend Justin, played by the annoyingly arrogant Robert Hoffman ("You Got Served") claims girls aren't good enough for soccer. Viola decides to prove Justin wrong by trading places with her twin brother, Sebastian (James Kirk), when he covertly travels to England with his band instead of attending his new boarding school. With the help of a wig and faux facial hair, Amanda transforms into her brother and joins the school's soccer team. She plans to beat and shame her ex-boyfriend in a soccer game, proving that girls can play as hard as boys. But she still needs to get out of second string. So she turns to roommate Duke, played by the handsome Channing Tatum ("Coach Carter"), to train her to compete against her ex. In return, he wants Sebastian, who is really Viola, to help him get Olivia (Laura Ramsey) to like him. But Olivia wants Sebastian even though she's really Viola. On top of it all, Viola doesn't want to help Duke go out with Olivia because she/he likes Duke. Confused?

The movie has a complex storyline but it plays well on screen, especially because it is carried smoothly by a great cast with chemistry. Costar Laura Ramsey explained where the chemistry comes from, saying: "In order to have great chemistry on screen you have to have good friendships off screen. We all got along really, really well." Robert Hoffman adds: "The cool thing was that DreamWorks, the movie studio, wanted us to have good chemistry. They paid for us to go to theme parks and ride rides together. Fortunately, it worked. We bonded and I think that chemistry really came off on screen."

This movie is a riot, mainly due to Amanda Bynes, who helps carry the cast with a slapstick performance reminiscent of Lucille Ball. Also, there are many funny scenes that focus on the gender bending theme of the movie. Most notable is the scene when Viola first enters her dorm as her brother and accidentally drops a box of tampons. Her excuse that she gets chronic nosebleeds and the tampons are more functional than tissue adds to her nerdy persona.

Viola wants to prove that she can play soccer as well as the boys and the film shows some great soccer scenes that make viewers wonder how boys even manage to play the difficult sport. This is most notable in a sidesplitting, yet scary dream sequence of the most violent game of soccer. "We had three weeks or so of camp," explains Channing Tatum. "They killed us, but in the same way they inspired us."

"She's the Man" has a lot to offer as a comedy and is a great reinvention of an old idea. This movie is definitely worth checking out.

Q and A: Amanda Bynes

By Mike Smith//T.i.P. Staff Writer and
Phil Donahue//T.i.P. Senior Editor

T.i.P.: How did you feel when you looked in the mirror after dressing up as Sebastian for the first time?

Amanda: I get this sick enjoyment out of it, like looking different. It's sort of funny to be goofy. I really enjoy it.

T.i.P.: You made us laugh a lot when we watched "She's the Man." What do you like about performing comedy?

Amanda: It's part of who I am, you know, it takes you out of life. Plus it's fun to make people laugh.

T.i.P.: Would you ever try an action movie?

Amanda: I might, in the future but not now.

T.i.P.: In the movie, Laura Ramsey's character, Olivia, had a crush on your character's male counterpart. What was that like?

Amanda: She was one of the few who kind of dug my look.

T.i.P.: How do you want to be remembered by fans?

Amanda: I'd like to be somebody that has, hopefully, made you laugh and lightened up your day.



T.i.P. senior editor Phil Donahue (left) asks Bynes (right) about her acting career.



Amanda Bynes (third from left) is flanked by her costars and T.i.P. reporters

▲ Photos by: Artist for Humanity



Is your child interested in art?
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Boston, MA 02127

Saturdays 10am - 1pm

For more information call (617) 268-7620
or visit us at www.afhboston.com

Artists For Humanity's mission is to bridge economic, racial and social divisions by providing at-risk youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts.

Congratulations to the Boston teens honored in this year's Scholastic Art Awards



Lee Beard
Boston Arts Academy
Grade 12



Winston Chmielinski
the Roxbury Latin School
Grade 12



Winston Chmielinski
the Roxbury Latin School
Grade 12

Nham Le
Boston Latin Academy
Grade 12



Adrian Guerra
Boston Arts Academy
Grade 11



Norris Duncan
Boston Latin Hig
Grade 11





Winston Chmielinski
the Roxbury Latin School
Grade 12



Rob Lewis
Commonwealth School
Grade 12

Art Awards

Philippa Stoddard
Winsor School
Grade 7

Thuy-van Tran
Boston Latin Academy
Grade 8

gh School





{Your} poetry

Influenced to Hate

By Jacqueline Fontes // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Standing up tall with eyes glaring out his
window,
His thoughts are deep,
And his head stooped low.

How many thoughts,
how much he really cared.
Why is this boy acting sad and scared?

A tear dropping slowly
as his head is down in shame.
Looking outside knowing
it was himself to blame.

Days from school have been hard to
understand.
People from one color,
join to one hand.

Don't interact, don't seem to care.
The parents just choose to act unfair.

His knees getting weak,
his eyes pouring more.
These thoughts, he fears,
and runs out the door.

Try to forget.
Try to stand stronger.
Thinking...
Lord I can't tolerate this hatred much
longer.

Finding himself running towards what he
left behind.

Running from his hate.
Running from his life.
Now he knows it's gone too far...
In his hand is a knife.

Why did he do it?
Why doesn't he feel free?
Thinking to himself, why me?

A white body on the ground, with red
spots on his shirt.
His hands, his clothes, covered with dirt.

Running towards the body, and sadly
regretting
He took away a life because of fear

I Lay My Head Down

By Chanaya Simmons // T.i.P. Writer

I see city lights, I see the Prudential
I see big dreamers, I see their potential.
Bars and clubs, criminals flee the scene
Ten-year-olds talkin' more slang than me.

The traffic lights are broken, drivers yelling
up and down.
Newborn begins cryin' because of the sud-
den sound.
Look over, not surprised to see someone's
headlights
Shattered all over the concrete.
Look forward, drive off, and hope the vic-
tims make ends meet.

They'll do anything to make a dollar,
make a stack of green.
So many options but they choose to do it
illegally.
Their faces frown up when the cuffs open
A bag of self-destruction is not worth giving
up your life.

Single mom workin' at minimum wage,
three jobs,
Overtime, just for her and her kids to make
a wage.
To the outsiders, they see it as a struggle,
as a fight.
To her, it's just one's ordinary, everyday life.

Sittin' on the stoop of her apartment,
braiding her homie's hair
Ready to jump at a chick who walked by
'cause of her innocent glare.

Hearin' cops all night as I try to sleep
through
Stay up anyway to watch what's happenin'
Next day, it's the top story on the news.

Shopping center by day, explicit actions by
night
Luxurious spenders break their pockets,
prostitutes and pimps putting up a fight.

But when I reach my residence at ease and
Forget all the catastrophe
I lay my head down to sleep and pray for
A better society...

Picture Perfect

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

As I look at my gallery,
Before I go to bed,
There's an image of you,
Lasting in my head.
Since I can't read you,
I don't know how to feel.
Are you just feeling compassion?
Or are your feelings more real?

Times spent together,
Still existing in my mind,
You haunt my dreams,
Time after time.
Missing you terribly,
It irks me so,
But the truth about it is,
I cannot let you go.

So when I wake in the morning,
I look at my gallery and see,
A picture perfect photo stating
"Kinda cute, aren't we???"



{Your} essays



▲ Artwork by: Michael Guadarrama

HE WANTS TO BE AN ENGINEER

By Hicham Mziguir // T.i.P. Writer

It was still dark outside on a recent Saturday morning when my alarm went off reminding me of the SAT I was planning on taking that day. When I opened my eyes, something magnetic caught my vision and my thought. It was the picture my mom had framed and hung on my bedroom wall, a picture of my two brothers and me when we first arrived in the United States. Before I could leave my bed, memories started taking over and dominating my thinking. It was the memories of my first day of school in this country.

The moment I walked to my first class, which was English as a Second Language (ESL), I was surprised to find out I was not the only person struggling with English skills. I realized the few words of English I taught myself at home had helped a lot. Days passed and I quickly adapted to my new environment. Realizing other students were struggling to adapt and pick up on our lessons, I started to help some of my classmates during class.

Experiencing problems understanding lessons when I first came to the US still motivates me to help others who are experiencing similar problems. One of the many things I enjoy doing in school is helping my classmates who have problems keeping up with the rest of

the class because English is not their first language. I help my peers in classes such as math by explaining anything they are having problems with, as long as I know how. I also enjoy helping others by giving simple suggestions regarding their art work. This interest in helping others continues outside of my academics classes. Each evening after school, I come home and talk with my younger brother about what he had difficulty understanding in class, and explain things to him as clearly as I can. After that, I start doing homework with him and start mine after, because I am usually the only one available at home who can provide such help. Helping my classmates and my younger brother reinforces what I've learned in school and helps me fulfill my goal of helping others.

A couple years ago, while living in Morocco, I believed I should do anything to get a better education because that would lead me to a better life. When I came here, my view started to change. Now my goal is coupled with the belief that I should also use my education to

help other people so that they can experience a better lifestyle. Because of my interest in math and physics, and my curiosity about computers, electrical engineering is the career in which I am most interested. With an electrical engineering degree, I can design computers that will help others achieve a better education and lifestyle.

ONE MORE DAY WITH MY DAD

By Lisa Juliano //T.i.P. Writer

If I could have one last day with my dad, I would tell him how much I love him. I would tell him that I will be OK and that I will continue making him proud of me. If I could have one more day with him, I would ask, "How does it feel knowing these are your last days on earth?" If I could have one more day with my dad, I would ask him to dance with me because I know that he would not be there on my sweet 16. If I could have one more day with my dad, I would tell him what a great dad he is and that I am thankful for everything he has done and that no one can replace him.

If I could have one more day with my dad, I would tell him to hold me one last time and tell me everything will be OK. If I could have one more day with my dad, I would sit there and talk to him for hours about everything that has happened in my life. If I could have one

more day with him, I would tell him I could not have gone this far in my life if it weren't for him not giving up on me. If I could have one more day with my dad, I would tell him I am happy I am his little girl and that I would not change that for the world. If I could have one more day with my dad, I would tell him it's OK to go and that I love him and will take care of everyone in the family. I would say to him, "Don't be afraid. You will now be with your loved ones and you no longer need to suffer in this world."

WHY I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE

By Teta Fofana //T.i.P. Writer

"Everybody for yourselves," were the first words I learned in English. My uncle said this to me while we were running to cross the border between Liberia and Guinea. It was 1990 and war was ravaging my country. Our village was invaded that day and we ran from the gunshots. Once I crossed the border, I found myself alone and surrounded by people. I had no money and to reach the refugee camp I needed to pay for a bus. I felt terrified and desperate. I spotted an officer and told him my name. A woman standing next to him recognized the name and said she would pay my way since she had known my great-grandmother. We arrived at the camp and I spent the next three months searching for my family.

I spent these months without any comforts that most would consider vital. I survived in a tent with one bowl of food a day and two shirts for warmth. Every day I searched for water. At the end of the three months, I finally found my grandmother.

My new life with my grandmother and my sisters at the camp consisted of fighting to get food every day for all of us. On days when we had enough food, I could go to school. Those days were few and far between. I dreamed of going to school in the United States. My mother had left Liberia some years earlier and was a refugee in the US. We had lost contact with her, but one day that changed. A woman who knew my mother came to the camp looking for her own family. She recognized us during her search and connected us to my mother. I had no idea what to expect when my mom offered to bring me over. Up to that point in my life, I had prayed constantly for this chance.

In this country, my mother gave me the chance to go to school, have a warm, safe place to live, and meals three times a day. I could finally focus on my education. However, my dreams almost came crashing down when, three years later, I found out I was expecting a baby. I was disowned by my parents and an embarrassment to my family. I had to have this baby without help

[COLLEGE, PAGE 20]



College [FROM PAGE 19]

from my family, my only support in this country. Fortunately, the uncle I was living with allowed me to stay with him. I got in touch with the baby’s grandmother who agreed to keep her after she was born. Over this past year I have worked very hard to rebuild my relationship with my family.

These experiences help me to focus on what is important and how far I have come. My determination to be the first in my family to go to college and to be a good role model to my daughter and community remain stronger than ever. My heart is filled with the desire both to study hard and to be a great mother. School has been my longtime love and now I have an additional love in my life. Famatta, my daughter, and the memory of what it took to get to this country have been the biggest reasons for me to remain strong and determined to reach my dreams.

LOOKING FOR REAL FRIENDS

By Jessica Lopez // T.I.P. Writer

It was a day near the end of winter. I was in my house when I looked up and I saw HIM. He was walking down the street with my best friend. I went outside and, as usual, they were sitting

on the stairs, waiting for me to come out. Suddenly, I heard my name in their conversation. I stayed next to the door, so they wouldn’t notice I was listening. I heard him say, “She is annoying. She’s always fishing for compliments from me and she thinks that I like her a lot. She must be cra...”

My best friend replied, “What is your problem?! You guys have been friends for five years. You should be a good enough friend to tell her this to her face!”

Just as he was about to say something, I walked out and said, “Now I know who my REAL friends are. Just go!”

I turned to get comforted by my best friend and asked her, “Why? Why did he lie to me?” She held my face, wiped away my tears, and smiled trying to put the pieces back together.” Before she was “just a friend” but now she is my “best friend.”

Even though I ended a friendship, I made another friendship stronger. I now thank him because he taught me that I must choose friends wisely, and cherish all REAL friends. Like they say, “Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.”



▲ Artwork by: Mike Guadarrama



▲ Artwork by: Adrian Aquino

UNWANTED AND LOOKING FOR LOVE

By Janelly Chavez // T.I.P. Writer

Last night his deep blue eyes couldn’t see anymore. They turned blind. I revealed my hidden secrets to him. Thinking he would say the same, I told him I loved him and he was the one for me. He was blind. It wasn’t that he couldn’t see; it was that he didn’t know what I was saying. His eyes turned flushed and he remained speechless. I guess he never felt the same way.

Gazing into his eyes, I remembered all the times he stayed by my side. How he would lift me when I fell, and wipe my tears when I cried. His presence soothed me and made me feel at home even if we were miles away. He made my days feel brighter even with the absence of my father.

My father left my mother and I when I was only two years old. I haven’t heard from him since. I have never even seen a picture of him. But everyone says I look just like him. Maybe that’s why my mother resents me. It’s like every time she sees me she wants to break down and cry. What hurts more is that there are days that she doesn’t want to see my face.

He, on the other hand, did have time for me and that’s what I loved most about him. I just couldn’t stand the fact that after I told him how I felt about him he had no reaction. So I left, trying to hold the flood of tears until I stepped out. I couldn’t sleep that night thinking, “how could someone so close to you leave you so empty?” At that moment I realized I loved him for all the wrong reasons.

I always looked for the love of a father in other people. That’s what I did with him. He was the only one who could figure out my life’s jigsaw puzzle. Everyone else thought they had the right pieces, but they couldn’t seem to fit them in. I was always missing that unconditional love and I realized there was no one on this earth that could ever give it to me as much as I looked for it.

I stepped into the bathroom, opened the cabinet, and took out a bottle of Tylenol. I know what you’re thinking. Yes, I did it. At 1:37 a.m. I died, not because I wanted to but because I was unwanted.



Not enough airplay

These are songs from popular albums that haven't had much airplay but deserve a listen, so download these:

ARTIST/SONG/ALBUM

- 1. Sean Paul/Give It Up To Me/The Trinity
- 2. Gwen Stefani/Danger Zone/Love.Angel.Music.Baby.
- 3. Fall Out Boy/Nobody Puts Baby In The Corner/From Under The Cork Tree
- 4. Black Eyed Peas (Ft. Justin Timberlake) My Style/Monkey Business
- 5. Chris Brown/Gimme That/Chris Brown

-By Phil Donahue and Carla Gualdron

Q and A: Local Artist: Rena Lambrinidis, 16

By Carla Gualdron // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Carla Gualdron: How long have you been interested in music?

Rena Lambrinidis: I've been interested in music since I was about 10 years old.

CG: What is it about music you love?

RL: There's no right or wrong when it comes to music. I am able to express myself in a way that I would not be able to tell anyone in a conversation. It's an emotional release for me. The reaction that you get from other people makes it worth it...

CG: What inspires you to write a song?

RL: Personal experience, what I'm feeling, things I see. People...inspire me. All the positive and negative things people go through.

CG: What's your favorite song you've written?

RL: My favorite song that I've written so far would be "Lost in Time." It's my favorite because I based it on people I've lost. This song is one that I can really connect to. It helped me release a lot of pain and questions that needed to be dealt with.

CG: Do you enjoy performing in front of an audience?

RL: Yes. It's different when you just hear a song from a CD and actually see them performing. It's the only thing that makes me 110 percent happy to be able to influence people.

CG: Ever get stage fright?

RL: I only get stage fright when there's only a couple of people. If it's a big audience I'm OK. Don't get me wrong, I still get butterflies either way.

CG: So what are you working on now?

RL: Right now I'm just brainstorming. I'm thinking of different ideas I can write about that have to do with personal and emotional conflicts.

CG: What are your plans for the future?

RL: I plan on taking my career as far as I can. In the future I'm always going to be singing, rapping, and recording no matter how much publicity I get.



▲ Artwork by: Savanna McKay

The Jukebox

Are greatest hits CDs a rip-off?

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

Eminem, Britney Spears, Hilary Duff, 'NSync, Ja Rule, and Ashanti have all released greatest hits albums since 2004. You may ask why these young and fairly new artists have shot out greatest hits albums so early in their careers. One answer may be that the record industry is trying to make up for lost profits due to a growing illegal download era, by rereleasing formerly original products in a different package.

50 Cent, Mariah Carey, and Usher rereleased albums shortly after the original release date of their albums last year. This trend is coming at a time when dual-discs are an incentive to buy music from iconic artists like Madonna. But consumers would rather get the same songs for free via the World Wide Web.

Most Wanted, Number ones, The Best of..., Curtain Call, and Collectables are some of the titles used to name the greatest hits albums. All of these names are sugarcoated labels for the same thing: a new CD with a collection of old songs.

But greatest hits recordings aren't a total rip-off. Some contain new tracks or remixed songs. This is one of the reasons discs like Destiny's Child's #1's and Eminem's "Curtain Call: The Hits" peaked at number one on the Billboard Top 200.

[RIP-OFF, 22]



CD rip-off [FROM PAGE 21]

Not only are record companies compiling greatest hits albums, the industry is making compilation CDs such as the “Now That’s What I Call Music” and the “Totally Hits” series. The 20th installment of the “Now” series sold 2 million copies and peaked at number one on the Billboard Top 200.

It’s obvious from sales that people are buying repackaged music. But these sales barely balance the scales for the ever-growing downloading music industry. Last year, the Gwen Stefani single “Hollaback Girl” became the first track to sell 1 million units electronically. So these greatest hits albums are barely making a dent in the marketplace because consumers aren’t easily fooled. Oops! Maybe the greatest hits rage isn’t a rage at all.

Hip-hop gets a bad rap

By Jennifer Sanchez // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Hip-hop is a cultural movement that involves music, dance, and art. Coming up in the parks of South Bronx in New York City in 1973, hip-hop grew to be more than graffiti art, deejaying, and break dancing. It became the continuation of our ancestor’s visions and dreams of justice and equality among all people by not discriminating against color but weaving music in with messages to promote freedom.

But because of commercialization in recent years, some people have become blind to what hip-hop is. When hip-hop first came out it consisted of four elements: emceein; deejayin, graffiti art, and breakdancing. This is what our genera-

tion knows as being from “back in the day.” Now, hip-hop in America has been redefined through TV and exposure, and people only see what the media shows them. These images confuse hip-hop and rap, and people lose sight that hip-hop began as a positive movement. Rap has become profanity-based music telling “street stories” whereas hip-hop was always a bigger art form. Media refers to the two things interchangeably, so my generation thinks of hip-hop as rap, and vice versa. The media calls it hip-hop when they report on the negativity and violence in the music world. They don’t clarify that despite common origins and rap’s evolution from

hip-hop, they are two separate things. As KRS-One notes, “Rap is something we do, hip-hop is something we live!”

What is rap and does it give teens a positive perspective? Not being a big fan of rap, I cannot answer that. But as a little sister of an admirer of hip-hop who listens to the words, I know hip-hop has given me knowledge of self and a positive attitude. Hip-hop is something good. It showed me that you don’t need bling and fancy cars to be famous or, even more important, to be happy.

Hip-hop has not died out but has been overruled by rap. This is not a problem because industries play what sells. But what about those who still bring in old flavor? Don’t they deserve the chance to be heard and to get their messages out?

I suggest we get reacquainted with hip-hop’s true roots by

allowing those who still keep the flavor around a chance to be heard. It’s also time to realize the difference between hip-hop and rap. My opinion: hip-hop has lost its touch but not its soul, so it is up to us to make sure hip-hop does not get a bad rap.

CD Review: Empowerment: The Power to Break You Free

By Mike Smith // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Asked to review a new CD from nonprofit organization Project: Think Different, I hesitated because usually CDs like this where people try to go out and do “something different” turn out to be horrible. The term “do something different” is like a cover up for when somebody is just bad at what they do and they’re trying to make a legitimate case. I reviewed this CD track by track on a scale of 0-5 with five being the best possible score. Here are my picks for the top 10 tracks.

02-Thinking Cap: AfroDZak. Sounds like somebody rapping over a soft jazz melody. If you can get past the weird way it sounds this is an OK song because AfroDZak is actually spit-tin’ something serious. 3.5/5

05-Healing the Streets. Shuman. This track was fire. I actually turned this track back on more than once. Get passed the jazzy rap feel and you’ve got a banga. 4/5

06-Neva Go Platinum. Mingo. This is probably the illest track on this CD so far. Listen to this. Mingo raps about how the industry sets up the artist from the start to the end. How the artist is actually pretty good and all his friends tell him so, then he meets the big record executive who tells him to change his whole style and rap more about cars, girls, and the rest of the commercial stuff. The reason he calls it Never Go Platinum is because if you have to change your whole rap style and flow, even though people told you you were good, then what’s the point of going platinum? The message is there, and the song is hot regardless. 5/5

07-This is Life. Iyeoka Okoawo featuring The Foundation and Bambu. This was a beautiful melody. They basically took a drum pattern and sung behind it to make a beat. This track is hot because it’s got a singing/poetic feel. This track sounds real smooth. I can bump this. 4/5

08-Get Free. Lauren Coen. This track is like a guilty pleasure. It’s just a piano and some lady singing but it was serious! 3.5/5

09-Freedom Song. Sofia Snow. Sofia speaks a long poem over some dark noise. If you’ve heard Sofia before then you should know she’s going to be good. Hot but could be better. 4/5

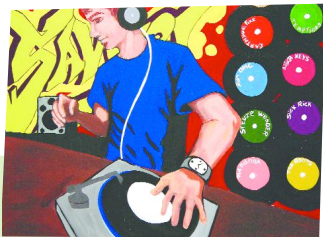
12-Here’s to You. Melissa Li. Sounds like some straight R&B. I was feeling this. 4/5

13-Across the Sea. Lauren Flaherty featuring Bio. This is a straight rock song and it confused me to death. 3/5

16-My God Can Beat Up Your God. Roger Miller & The



▲ Artwork by: Jose Guadarrama



**Q and A: Local artist
Gary Calceron of Alofoque**

By Carla Gualdron // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Carla Gualdron: Who are the members of Alofoque?

Gary Calceron: Geliz, Rey-D, and Jazel (that's my stage name).

CG: How did the group get started?

GC: The group got together in 2001. We started by just singing and rapping in the streets of Boston. Since we all went to different schools, we would meet up at train stations and just rap.

CG: What is it about music that you love?

GC: I love the feeling of performing, how it makes people dance, and the fact that I'm able to express myself through my songs. Plus, it's a good stress reliever.

CG: How long have you guys been performing?

GC: Four years now. We've been to places like Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Ohio, Tennessee, and Florida. We've performed in concerts, nightclubs, festivals, and parades.

CG: What kind of music do you play?

GC: Mainly reggaeton, but we mix it up with merengue, bachata, and Jamaican reggae.

CG: What inspires you to write a song?

GC: We get most of our ideas from our own experiences like being in a relationship, life situations, and partying.

CG: So what are you guys working on now?

GC: Right now we are working on our third video, working with new management and production.



Foundation. This is a rock slash rap song. They ventured out on this one and for me it was a hit. I don't know who's rapping but who ever is, is definitely killin' it. As soon as I turned this on, I was bumping to the lyrics and flow. I was able to go right past the weird rock beat and listen to the lyrics because I was captivated. This track is for anyone who can listen to hotness no matter what. 5/5

17-Radio Down. Media Friend. Slow Melody to close out the CD. This song sounds like something I've never heard. I can't explain it. The whole idea of this CD was to reach out and think differently, so I can't knock this track. It was hot to me for everything it was. 4/5

Project: Think Different's "Empowerment" CD tried new things with the music to tell everyone to do just that—"think differently, stop feeding yourself the garbage that's on TV" But, when you do venture out like that, it's a risk. There's nothing wrong with being different but you might miscalculate with your audience and what they'll listen to. With some songs it seems like they tried to use being different as an excuse and it's not a good one. But, overall there are a lot of solid tracks on this CD so I wouldn't pass it up. That surprises me since earlier I said I would be scared to review it because of my past experiences with people who try to "do something different." 7/10.

"Empowerment: The Power to Break You Free" is available to purchase at www.projectthinkdifferent.org or by calling 617-557-9200.

Rhapsody in Boston

By Stuart Spina // T.i.P. Staff Writer

There's nothing teens like more than listening to music. 50 Cent, Beyoncé, The Eagles, Metallica. We all have our favorite artists. There are some teens, however, who make their own music instead of buying it in stores or listening to it on the radio.

Take Sam Davis, a 16-year-old Boston teen who has been playing the clarinet for eight years and the saxophone for one. "It's a lot of fun," Davis says.



▲ Artwork by: Wesley Reyes

"The effort you put into a piece is rewarding," Davis has performed at many events, including his school's winter concert. What's his key to success? "The most important thing is to put a lot of time into an instrument. It may not be fun at first but practice makes you sound good," he says.

Shelby Ridley, 17, a wicked good pianist with three years experience, plays a lot of R&B including the popular hits of Alicia Keys and Johnny Legend. Her tips for other musicians: "Practice makes perfect" and "stay focused."

Michael Behr, 15, has had experience playing the violin for nine years and the piano for seven. He is also a baritone singer. He said it was mostly his parents' decision that he become musical, and it appears they chose well. Behr loves to perform. He gives a recital at least once a year and is active in his school chorus. Behr advises you should probably "practice more than I do."

At T.i.P., staff writer Neelabh Bharti has his own metal band, Circle the Sky, for which he plays guitar and is lead singer. Bharti says he and his band are always looking for gigs and recently played at the Paladium in Worcester. Bharti says: "I have played the piano since I was seven. The piano gives me something to do when I'm bored. It entertains me and my friends. Plus it's good for my hands (improves dexterity and nimbleness, which means I probably won't get arthritis when I'm older). I never picture myself being a grand concert pianist, but I have performed a few times for school events. I do hope, however, that one day I can play Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumblebee.' It's extremely difficult to play. The piece takes three minutes to play all the way through, but there are seven pages of music!"

Music is a vital part of many teens' lives. It allows us to express ourselves, show our creativity and have fun. Whether it's a hobby or an outlet, many couldn't live without it. Maybe there is something teens like more than listening to music. Playing it.

Next big thing: Ne-Yo

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

Ne-Yo was born into a family of musicians in Arkansas as Shaffer C. Smith. Twenty-two years later, he is taking the music industry by storm with his anti-love song "So Sick." He began as a songwriter, composing hits for Mary J. Blige, B2K, Faith Evans, and Mario. Now he's in front of the microphone dropping the hits.

Ne-Yo is a rare artist, distinguished by his youthful energy and deep lyrics. His debut album, "In My Own Words" came out in late February with Def Jam Recordings. This dynamic artist delivers. Mixing pop melodies with soulful productions, his album is sure to be a classic.



Dream on with MTV's birthday bashes

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

"Sweet Sixteen!!" Yes, I'm talking about the MTV show featuring those expensive parties. Listen up. According to MTV, producers look for the most over-the-top, outrageous, and exclusive parties to film. "My Super Sweet 16" documents all the planning, primping and preparing that goes into pulling off the ultimate teen birthday bash.

Maybe you remember Sophie, the teen who had one of those extravagant sweet 16's on MTV, spending thousands of dollars just to show off, what? How much money she has? In reality, most 16-year-olds don't have big parties, and few can afford them. My question: do producers think about how less fortunate teenagers would feel or react when they watch this show? To help answer the question, T.I.P. asked a few Boston teenagers what they thought of "My Super Sweet 16," what their dream birthday would be like, and whether or not they wanted to be the subject of the show.

Crystal Tarpeh-Doe, a 15-year-old at Boston Arts Academy (BAA), says MTV's show makes her feel "not wealthy enough to receive all that I want." Her dream birthday would be "with all my friends, and maybe I'd have a celebrity there." The MTV show is unrealistic, she says, and makes most less fortunate teens feel as if they aren't good enough. Kayla Williams, a 16-year-old from Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), says she thinks TV focuses on upper-class characters and themes because "it's more interesting and exciting."

In Boston, teens say a typical sweet 16 party would probably consist of renting a hall for a few hours and maybe hiring a deejay, decorating the place yourself, and giving out homemade favors. Maybe you could squeeze a limo ride in there too, but that's a far cry from these spoiled teens in California having parties at the Hilton,

complete with A-list deejays, party planners giving Gucci watches as favors, and brand new Mercedes Benzes as gifts! The producers of reality TV—if that's what it is—should have the audience in mind whether we're rich or poor, white or black. The wealthy may be interesting and exciting but these outrageous parties are offensive to many viewers.

TiPical Conversation

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

T.I.P. invaded Madison Park Technical Vocational High school and Boston Adult Technical Academy and asked students one question: "Which celebrity do people say you resemble most?" Here's what they had to say.

Name: Davidson Hosty, sophomore

Look-a-like: "A Bulls' player, Luol Deng"

Name: Christopher Armstrong, senior

Look-a-like: "Snoop Dogg because I have long hair and I have a long face."

Name: Tania Nora, junior

Look-a-like: "JLo because of my back-end feature."

Name: Antonio Brando, junior

Look-a-like: "Manny Ramirez!"

Name: Catia Cardoso, junior

Look-a-like: "Alicia Keys...my boyfriend says so."



▲ Artwork by: Artists for Humanity

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Things to Think About When 10 dressing for school

In the fog of morning or in the haze of too little sleep, in the landfill that is your bedroom, you must pull out something to wear: Every day! We know what questions go through your head as you struggle to decide. To make the job easier, T.i.P. suggests asking these questions.

9 . Is it clean? Does it pass the sniff test? Did my little sister use it to wipe her grimy hands when I wasn't looking?

10

. Is it too wrinkled? Forget it if it needs ironing. No time!

8

. When did I last wear it? Will anyone notice if I wear it again?

7

. Am I in the right mood to wear this? Is it too daring, too bright, too bold? Too dressy? Too sloppy?

5

. What's the forecast? Warm now with snow showers by the time school lets out? Gotta be prepared in this town.

4

. Does this go with this? Where's mom when you need her?

3

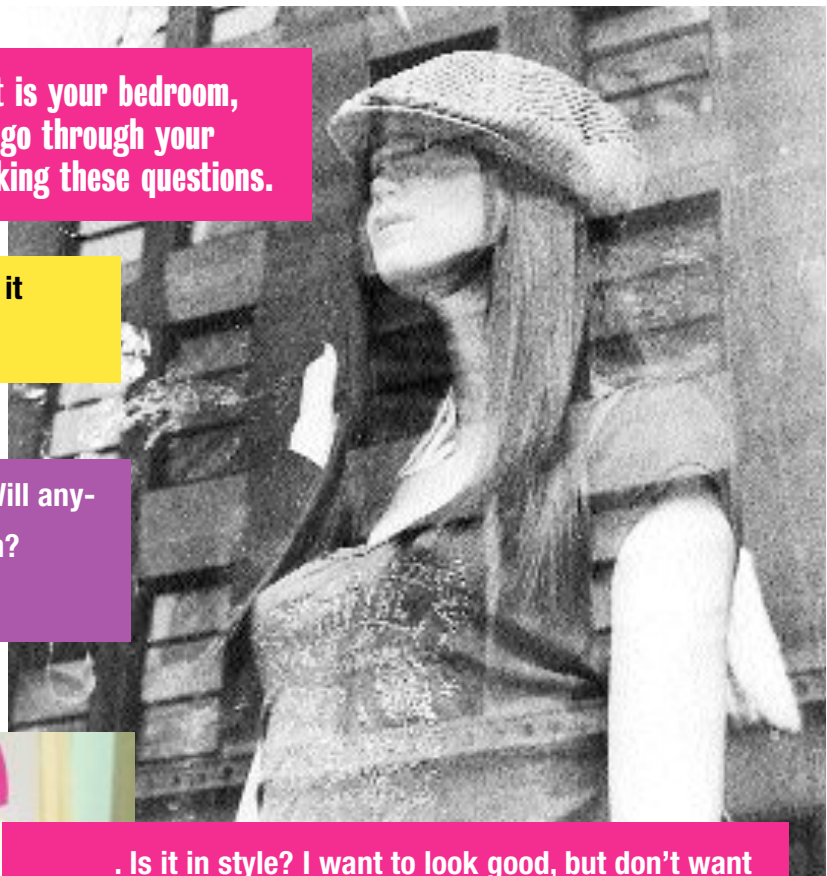
. Does this still fit me? Oh no! These pants shrunk in the wash!

2

. But I want to wear these shoes. Now I have to change the whole outfit.

1

. Forget school. I'm going shopping today!



▲ Photo by: Jessica Pan



▲ Photo by: Ping Zang

Bad habits are hard to quit

By Wesley JeanBaptiste
T.i.P Staff Writer

We all have bad habits, whether we notice them or not. For teens, the list of bad habits is long: neglecting health, stressing out, procrastinating, losing tempers, smoking, watching too much TV, compulsive shopping, nail biting, compulsive lying, hair pulling, thumb sucking, pathological gaming, shoplifting, and computer gaming. If any of these sound familiar, don't worry. You're not alone.

Lucky for T.i.P. readers, several local teens were willing to share some of their bad habits and how they're dealing with them. Ronald Zelaya, 17, from South Boston High has a bad habit of laughing at inappropriate times. He has had this habit for a year and he sees the positive side of it: He doesn't get mad easily. He also sees the negative side: Angry people around him get even more mad when he laughs. Zelaya thinks the way to solve his bad habit is to think of something serious when talking to upset people.

Kayan Makenzie, 17, from South Boston High has the thumb sucking habit. She says she has been sucking away at her finger ever since she was a toddler teething in diapers. What keeps her doing it are three triggers: boredom, nervousness, and crying.

"I don't know how to stop but I will try my best to stop," Makenzie says. But she worries, "It's going to be so hard because it's more than a habit, it's an addiction."

Jasmani Marinez 16, from South Boston High, bites his fingernails. "I've been doing it since I was 10 years old." He links his habit to another habit: playing video games. He says while waiting for the games to load, "I see myself eating away at my fingers." Marinez says it is hard to open bags of candy and chips because he has no fingernails. "I could go to a salon and get my nails fixed but I still might end up biting them."

Manny Hernandez, 17, from South Boston High is a smoker. He started smoking in the seventh grade. He says smoking makes him happy and "it brings people together." The Boston teenager says he is at a loss for how to quit. "I really don't know how to stop, maybe going to the DR [Dominican Republic] would help?"

In fact, studies show that going some place you know you can't and won't smoke, might help.

Francine Labissiere, 16, from Codman Academy can't control shaking her leg. She has been shaking for three years. "I really only do it when I'm nervous, afraid, impatient, and when I cry." She thinks maybe counting to her-



▲ Photo by Artists for Humanity



▲ Photo by Artists for Humanity



▲ Photo by: Cyndie Strawhecker

self might help but she fears it's not going to work.

For a medical look into all these bad habits, Beverly Leonard, R.N., who works at the Boston Globe as an Occupational Health Nurse, gave her thoughts on the above habits. "For smoking you should look into programs at a health center. Most people can't quit alone and if you have support of others who are in the same position as you are, that helps." This is important, she says, because teens respond to someone who can see where we're coming from. "Some other things that may work for smoking are chewing gum, maybe the patch, even medication," she says. "Most habits are caused by low serotonin in your brain and what helps that is antidepressants."

Leonard also thinks that for nail biting, thumb sucking, leg shaking, and spitting, you should keep a log. "First, think about what triggers your habits to make sure that you're aware when and why you do it. All that you can record in a log. Now that you know what triggers your habits, you can begin to find substitutes."

So, next time you catch yourself indulging in a bad habit, stop and think, "Hey, maybe there is hope." We can overcome these flaws; We just might just need a nudge in the right direction.

DETOUR ▶ BReAK ThAt HABIT

Breaking bad habits is like studying for the SAT. You'd rather not put in the effort, but you know it will improve your life in the end. So, here are T.i.P.'s suggestions for how to get rid of an old habit that you don't want to do anymore.

- ★ Identify the bad habits you want to break. Are you a nail biter? Do you suck your thumb? Do you wait until the garbage trucks show up to clean your room? It will help you change if you know up front what behaviors you want to stop.
- ★ Keep a diary. Every time you do your bad habit, write it down. Where were you? What triggered your bad habit? Were you bored? Stressed? Lonely? Annoyed? It's easier to change a habit once you are aware of what triggers the behavior.
- ★ Ask friends and family for help. Tell them the bad habit you are trying to break and ask them for support. Find a buddy who is trying to break the same habit and you can help each other.
- ★ Replace a bad habit with a new, better habit. Do you smoke? Put down those cancer sticks and exercise instead. Do you pull and twist your hair? Get a new shorter hair style as you ease into your new behavior. Grieve the loss of your old habits. You will feel lonely and upset for a while but it will get easier. Experts say you can develop new positive habits within 14 days of stopping the old behavior.

Dorchester youth council makes the “Dot” a better place

By Julie Balasalle // T.I.P. Writer

Every week, 15 teenagers meet in a room overlooking Fields Corner in Dorchester. These teenagers attend public and private schools in Boston. They come from many different backgrounds and cultures, and range from ninth to 12th graders. Despite their differences, the teens come together with one goal in mind: to make Dorchester a better place.

These teenagers are part of Dorchester Youth Council (DYC). The mission of the DYC is to make a difference in the community, by distributing mini-grants to youth projects and by implementing civic initiatives. The youth receive leadership training and ongoing support from adult advisors to coordinate this mini-grant process and address community issues of concern. As community leaders, these teens also encourage their peers to become active citizens. In return for their service, DYC members develop practical skills, learn the importance of leadership and teamwork, and gain a better knowledge of community issues.

As the mission states, the DYC takes their job of bettering Dorchester seriously. There are many ways in which the members fulfill the mission but one of the most interesting is the mini-grant. Every year, the DYC distributes \$10,000 to Dorchester youth or Dorchester youth programs that apply for a mini-grant. The mini-grant request must be a service-learning project that is led by Dorchester youth. After reviewing all the mini-grant applications, the DYC deliberates what the community needs the most, and which projects fill those needs. This year with the generous support of Sovereign Bank, the DYC gave out \$15,000 to the Dorchester community.

Another way the DYC addresses the community’s needs is through an annual event in February. One of the main issues the DYC has identified as a major problem is the lack of information for youth on making healthy choices in their lives. It is more than just understanding things like sexually transmitted diseases, but incorporating healthy choices in other areas of life, such as understanding asthma or how to manage stress. The DYC came together and decided that the best way to address this issue was to host a party where Dorchester youth could learn about all the resources available to them in a safe and fun setting. Dubbed “Safe Love” by the DYC, this event has become an annual Valentine’s Day party that reaches hundreds of Dorchester teenagers.

Through their work, the Dorchester Youth Council has also identified the need to connect youth in Dorchester with opportunities to serve their communities and to learn about service from other youth. Therefore, we are excited to be hosting events for National Youth Service Day on April 21 in Dorchester. These events will bring together youth programs from the Dorchester community to share their experiences and promote youth service.

Through all of these events, the DYC hopes to connect youth in Dorchester to inspire other youth to impact their communities. And through all the events and the planning, 15 teenagers still gather to figure out more ways they can help their community. Despite different schools, ages, backgrounds, and cultures, they are a unified group that has one clear mission: to make their community of Dorchester a better place. For more information about the SCI Dorchester Youth Council, please contact Julie Balasalle at 617-474-1422 or jbalasalle@scidorchester.org .



▲ Artwork by: Andre Lambert



▲ Artwork by: Jesse Racusen



▲ Artwork by: Cassandra Lattimore



A poem for Boston’s mayor

By Monique Symes and Shalaya West

The following poem, written by two Boston teens, was read at Mayor Menino’s Inauguration ceremony in January.

A new year
A new promise
A new lease on life

The youth stand up to take on a
borrowed legacy
A legacy of determination, love, happiness
and wisdom

The youth stand up and take on a duty
A duty to uphold and preserve our nation’s
impact on the world

To teach those after us the values of life

To steer those who are lost and confused
in the right way

To hold together families with our new
found strength

To bring new insight and ideas to the round
table of life

To improve upon solutions now ineffective
with the changing times

The youth stand up to take on responsibility



▲ Artwork by: Billy Nunez



Recruitment posters often depict female cadets.

▲ Photo by: Haidan Hodgson

e has chosen the military. ere and use my skills,”

oute that fewer teens— re to travel after high ruitment has been declin- Iraq began, according to .Globe. Last year, the worst recruiting years in than 6,600 recruits short to the Globe.

ools, less than 2 percent d for the military, com- o pursued some form of ; to a report by the Center Northeastern University. aking every action to the 2001 ‘No Child Left ended schools must now its’ names and contact he military’s request.

the Globe, the government than 1,500 new recruiters enerally, recruiters con- a lower middle class com- where they believe stu- more likely to join of the financial benefits g in the armed forces. ruiters’ job is to get as ible people to sign up armed forces as possible. overnment has also ved incentives by raising ge scholarships for stu- who enter after high ol. Under the Montgomery ill, the Navy will pay up 7,000 in education benefits sailor once they complete e duty, or 100 percent on reimbursement for edited courses that a or takes on his own time le serving. Last year, the y began a high school ivalency program making asier for high school drop- s to join and still be able continue their educations. Many wonder if the pres- nce of a Junior ROTC Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) program at a high school means recruiters are trying to lure younger students to join the mili- tary. Several Boston high schools have JROTC pro- grams, such as the one at outh Boston Educational Complex. Charles J. Korzeniowski Jr. senior

instructor for the South Boston JROTC is quick to respond that ROTC programs in Boston are not designed to be a military recruiting tool.

“We are not, I want to say again—not military recruiters!” There is a common misconception that the JROTC is a direct push into the military after high school.”

Korzeniowski explains, “We are not here to try to get any- body to join the military. We are here to teach a particular curriculum. That curriculum has one goal and one goal only: To motivate young people to be better citizens.”

Even when students decide military is the path they want to take, Korzeniowski says he makes sure it’s the right deci- sion for that particular student. “We want to make sure that they know what they’re getting into,” he says.

Barrows doesn’t have JROTC in her school and she didn’t join the Air Force because of a recruiter’s tactics. She says her influence was closer to home. “My oldest brother is in the Army,” she says. “I admire him.”

Other teens who join the military do so for the financial

In Boston Public Schools, less than 2 percent of the class of 2003 opted for the military, compared with 38 percent who pursued some form of higher education, according to a report by the Center for Labor Market Services at Northeastern University.

support, or the career training it provides. Amal Sheikahmed, 17, who attends Odyssey High School, is thinking of joining the military after graduation. “It interests me. It will help in the future because I want to be a cop. It would give training and discipline,” she says.

But one Boston based group, the Boston Direct Action Project (BDAP), wants teenagers to know that signing up for the armed forces isn’t the only route to a successful future. The booklet “Alternatives to the Military,” was creat- ed for teens considering the armed forces and displays other routes young people can take after high school. These paths include alternative options for getting funding, going to col- lege, and joining volunteer groups, such as City Year, before furthering their education. “We hope it will help empower people to gain access to education, jobs, resources and opportunities,” according to BDAP. There is a downloadable version of the booklet at www.bostondirectactionproject.blogspot.com.

Still, some BPS teens who wouldn’t even consider the military have unknowingly signed up to receive information from military recruiters. At the beginning of each school year students are given “The Guide to the Boston Public Schools” booklet. On the cover of the booklet is a yellow box with small blue print reading “This publication contains important information.” The important information includes forms that if remain unsigned, allow BPS to release student information to the military. Many students and parents over- look the small yellow box or even fail to receive the booklet from their child or school at all. Students then unknowingly get put on a military recruitment list. This is also part of the



▲ Photo by: Anyanna Wilson

‘No Child Left Behind’ initiative.

Project Hip-Hop, a youth-led organization in Boston that teaches teenagers to be activists, is addressing this problem by handing out “Don’t Give Out My Name” postcards around Boston. “We mostly went around the Roxbury and South Boston areas, and down Dudley,” says 17-year-old Shavaysha Massaquoi, a member of Project Hip-Hop involved in the grass-roots movement to educate teens. The group also went to Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and Boston Day and Evening Academy to pass out the postcards, she says. In Boston, 3,700 students, or 19 percent of the city’s high school enrollment, have already removed their names from military recruiting lists, according to reports in the Globe.

—Globe coop student Kyle Siconolfi contributed research to this report.



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BSAC BUZZ

By Alafia Spencer and Chris-Ann Dawkins // T.i.P. Writers

So what’s the deal with BSAC? We have returned after a great break and we’re back in business. Here are some exciting happenings:

BSAC has successfully completed our ninth grade recruitment. At Freshmen Orientation in January, we welcomed more than 20 new applicants, representing 16 schools.

The top item currently on our agenda is the lock-out portion of the tardy policy. Since October, we have been working on the issue of students getting locked out of school if they are late. We finally presented our proposal to the superintendent in late January. While students should be held accountable for tardiness, it is the opinion of BSAC that lock-outs should not be a component of tardy policies. BSAC is proposing that the Boston Public Schools develop other measures to encourage higher attendance, and that schools should enact alternate consequences for tardy students.

Lock-out policy isn’t the only matter we are worried about. A couple of concerns we have been discussing and considering pursuing fur-

ther are the issues of school metal detectors, the drop-out rate, and school start time. We thank those of you who completed our drop-out rate survey as we gather and compile data to find out why students leave school and what can be done to deal with this problem. We also met with Ethan d’Ablemont Burnes and Sok Tea from the Boston Plan for Excellence to talk about school start time.

BSAC has also been involved in getting young people to speak up at community forums for the search for the new superintendent. Three BSAC members spoke at the first forum in December. We hope for a new superintendent who will continue to support student voice and leadership at a district level. BSAC plans to work very hard in 2006 to ensure that the voices of the students are heard throughout the BPS school system.

If you are interested in joining BSAC contact Maria I. Ortiz at 617-594-5721 or by e-mail at mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

Mic Check...

Ever feel like your voice isn't being heard?

CRANK UP THE VOLUME!

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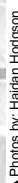
Dear Readers,
Let us know what's going on in your world. You're the eyes and ears in Boston's schools and on Boston's streets –so let your voice be heard! Tell us in one page or less about an issue in your community that matters to you and how we as a city can change it.
You could win a chance to read your letter to real newspaper editors at the May 16th Second Anniversary Party for T.i.P. at the Boston Globe!
15 entries will be selected and winners will get to read their letters to Boston Globe Editors on May 16th. Winners will also receive a \$25 Barnes and Nobles gift certificate. All entries must be submitted by April 28th, 2006.

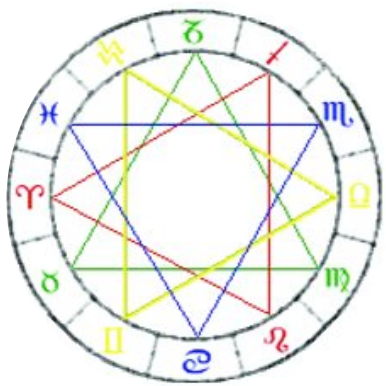
The mic is in your hands. The words are up to you.

Send entries to:
Kyle Siconolfi
The Boston Globe Foundation
PO BOX 55819
Boston MA 02205

E-mail entries online to:
BostonTIP@BostonTIP.com

..is this thing on??





Horoscopes

By Jacqueline Fontes // T.I.P. Staff Writer

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Symbol: The ram

Strengths: Active, daring, spirited

Weaknesses: Hasty, impulsive

Spring forward: Focus on yourself for a change. Lately everyone has been gaining attention from you, while you have been oblivious to your needs. Do something for yourself for a change.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 19)

Symbol: The bull

Strengths:

Patient, imaginative, authentic

Weaknesses: Stubborn, defiant

Spring forward:

Hey, Taurus, save up. You have been receiving a lot of money and spending it on everything that catches your eye. Where's that patience you're famous for? Put some cash in the bank.

GEMINI

(May 20-June 20)

Symbol: The twins

Strengths: Curious, open minded, multitalented

Weaknesses: Capricious, impatient

Spring forward: Refocus! Something happened this year and ever since you have been procrastinating and not concentrating on what you once loved. Look back and see how much happiness you had and how much you have lost by losing sight of your goals.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Symbol: The crab

Strengths: Generous, perceptive, caring

Weaknesses: Cranky, tempered, grumpy

Spring forward: Maintain who you are. Your recent negative attitude will make you vulnerable to someone who will make use of your talent. In times when others falter, your clean, self-driven personality will push you to the top.

LEO

(July 23-August 22)

Symbol: The lion

Strengths: Responsible, reliable, devoted

Weaknesses: Arrogant, crabby, self-indulged

Spring forward: Try more activities to enhance your life. Your newfound endeavors will force you to rest more, which will lead to better ideas and results. Beware of the cancer that will try to sink your ship.

VIRGO

(August 23-September 21)

Symbol: The maiden

Strengths: Supportive, compassionate, conscientious

Weaknesses: Unorganized, critical, picky

Spring forward: Work on communication. You haven't been paying much attention to certain people who miss your company. Avoiding the people you love has brought sadness into their lives. Reconnect with your people and listen to what they have in mind.

LIBRA

(September 22-October 22)

Symbol: The scales

Strengths: Appealing, smart, sensitive

Weaknesses: Scheming, hopeless, coy

Spring forward: Look into new ways to succeed. Your road to a gainful position in your personal and work life will be solidified by working through favorable and unfavorable conditions. Opening up to someone too early and not protecting your feelings are the only things that will hold you back.

SCORPIO

(October 23-November 21)

Symbol: The scorpion

Strengths: Intense, playful, lovely

Weaknesses: Jealous, possessive

Spring forward: Compromise! Don't see everything from your eyes, but consider what others have in mind. You have been taking control, but once you stop, you will see what other great minds have to say.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22-December 21)

Symbol: The archer

Strengths: Fervent, stimulating, charming

Weaknesses: Quarrelsome, irresponsible

Spring forward: Relax! You are the type of person who works to the max and refuses to stop. You have been pushing yourself because you feel as though you have to. Try chilling, and use your time doing something that satisfies you and keeps you calm.

CAPRICORN

(December 22-January 21)

Symbol: The goat

Strengths: Meticulous, diligent, achiever

Weaknesses: Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible

Spring forward: Finding someone is in the cards for you. Look for an individual who makes you smile. Go out with them and you'll be happy.

AQUARIUS

(January 22-February 18)

Symbol: The water bearer

Strengths: Rational, coherent, consistent

Weaknesses: Offensive, self-centered, immodest

Spring forward: Let yourself go. Tell someone close to you something you have been hiding but wanting to express. You've been holding things back.

PISCES

(February 19-March 20)

Symbol: The fish

Strengths: Vigorous, daring, bold

Weaknesses: Impractical, dreamy

Spring forward: Set a goal and chase after it; it's in your nature, Pisces. Do something productive and worthwhile because life is too short to spoil.

There's no "i" in teamwork

By Kareem James // T.i.P. Staff Writer

When it comes to the NBA you have all kinds of teams. You have great teams like Miami Heat, San Antonio Spurs, Detroit Pistons, and Phoenix Suns. Then you have your OK teams such as the Boston Celtics, Philadelphia 76er's, Los Angeles Lakers, and Los Angeles Clippers. But when you look closely at the success of any team, it is really determined by how the players come together as a working unit.

If you look closely at teams like the Spurs and the Pistons you see they play as a team. They pass the ball well and have good players who can put points on the board day in and day out. If you were to compare the Pistons to the Lakers, you would see both teams have good players, but the Lakers lack team chemistry. You have a lot of good players who have been in the league for a few years but have the eagle attitude, like it's their team and they try to do everything without involving their teammates. True, Kobe Bryant is a record breaking scorer, but it seems like the responsibility for scoring falls on one man's shoulders—Bryant's.

Then there are teams who have a player who has to do everything because there are no players able to help with the scor-

ing. A few good examples are players such as Allen Iverson, Paul Pierce, and Tracy McGrady. These and other good players on mediocre teams have not been able to get an ample amount of talent on their teams, so they are left to do all the scoring. Iverson, for example, has been carrying the 76er's for years while going through injuries and losing streaks. Players like this have a hard time seeing a championship in their careers because they can't win one alone.

For the most part, teams with few good players who work together as one are often more successful than teams that have one good player who scores all the points. Championships are not about scoring points, but balancing offense and defense, and one player cannot do that.

In the early days of the NBA, basketball was more of a team sport than it is today. Passing and defense were emphasized. Today, the mega-million dollar contract player is common and so are the huge egos of many players. Even with all the talk about teamwork in the NBA, miracles can happen. You never know who will be the best team or who will be in the play-offs. All you can do is watch your favorite team and hope they have a good season, and play like a team not a bunch of disjointed individuals.



▲ Artwork by: Kahmal London



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Question

Contact:

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