

T.i.P.

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ MAY 2006

MySpace.com: IS IT OUR PLACE, OR DO STRANGERS SET THE PAGE?



▲ Photo by: Hadian Hodgson

One view: Website is dangerous

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

Is Myspace.com the new "hot spot" for teens? Or is it a breeding ground for trouble?

Myspace.com is a website where people who register and post their profiles put their lives on display for others to read. Some say the website is harmless, while others argue that it can be quite dangerous.

Eighteen-year-old Maxine Baxter-Thomas said MySpace is both dangerous and a waste of time. "I especially don't have the time. Being a senior in high school I have to keep my grades up to apply for scholarships and col-

leges, and I work after school," Baxter-Thomas said. "Leaves me with no time for MySpace."

MySpace has also made the news recently. An Associated Press story published in Metro Boston noted that a teenager from East Hampton, Conn., had been sending threats to high school students using MySpace. "You really have to watch out for things like that," said Baxter-Thomas.

From a parent's point of view, the website can be trouble. Parent William Stefano disapproves of the website.

[ONE VIEW, PAGE 19]

City high schools downsized for student benefit

By Carla Gualdron
T.i.P. Staff Writer

Summer is quickly approaching and the school year is coming to an end. While some people are already wondering what they will be doing during vacation, others are looking back over the past school year about a major change that took place in the city. Last fall, in an effort to give Boston students a more intimate and focused educational experience, school officials downsized West Roxbury High School and Hyde Park High School, breaking up each into several smaller schools called academies.

A year later, the question arises: were small schools the way to go? While some students still have their doubts, others say they are thrilled with the change.

West Roxbury High School, which formerly had 1,300 students, was divided into four small high schools: Media Communication Technology High School, Brook Farm Academy (BFA), Parkway Academy of Technology and Health (PATH), and Urban Science Academy (USA). Hyde Park High School, which used

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▲ Artwork by: Casey Hudson

INSIDE

Date rape defined

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From the Editor

Teens in Print, or T.i.P., is getting bigger and better with each issue. This year, staff writers met with celebrities such as Amanda Bynes, Wanda Sykes, and Channing Tatum in an effort to keep you better informed about the world of our favorite celebrities. We've covered hard-hitting topics such as military recruiting, the city's cellphone policy for students, and overprotective parents. We've published stories on light, feature topics: bad habits, sibling rivalry, and T.i.P.ical Conversation, to name a few. This issue celebrates our two-year anniversary and we are very proud to have another batch of terrific articles. Check out the front page story on the growing popularity of MySpace.com, how to stay fit during the summer months on Page 10, and what teens should know about date rape on Page 18. And if you're wondering about the myth that girls do better than boys in school, read our story on this topic on Page 7. Enjoy this issue and keep an eye out for the next issue in September.

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



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Meet the T.i.P. staff

MANNY BORJA

Dream place to go this summer: Puerto Rico
Guilty pleasure: Basketball
Anticipated summer blockbuster: "X Men III"
Favorite food: Arroz con pollo y chuletas



JANELLY CHAVEZ

Dream place to go this summer: Australia
Guilty pleasure: Ice cream
Strangest thing you've seen on the T: Elderly lady with neon blue eyebrows



SARAH BLANCHETTE

Guilty pleasure: "Laguna Beach"
Favorite food: Pizza
Favorite clothing store or brand you can't afford: Abercrombie
Time you get up on Saturdays: Noon



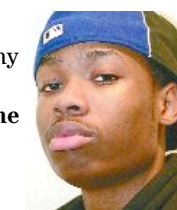
WESLEY JEANBAPTISTE

Dream place to go this summer: Miami
Anticipated summer blockbuster: "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift"
Favorite food: Crab Rangoon
Favorite clothing: Jordan's



STUART SPINA

Dream place to go this summer: Denver
Strangest thing you've seen on the T: A man on the Red Line pulled a cooked chicken from his jacket and began eating it while muttering racial slurs.



MIKE SMITH

Middle school memory: I fought my bully and won.
Strangest thing you've seen on the T: A drunk guy fell asleep with vomit on his chest and his thumb in his mouth.
Favorite food: Broccoli and french fries



KIANNA WATLER

Dream place to go this summer: Honduras
Guilty pleasure: Strawberries
Anticipated summer blockbuster: "The Da Vinci Code"



TYRELL POLK

Dream place to go this summer: Florida
Middle school memory: Motocross in seventh grade
Time you get up on Saturdays: 5:30 a.m. and then I go back to sleep until 9 or 10 a.m.

STEPHEN SAMPSON

Dream place to go this summer: Africa
Guilty pleasure: Triple Whoppers
Favorite clothing store: Burberry
Time you get up on Saturdays: 10:30 a.m. to watch "Ninja Turtles" on Fox Box



KAREEM JAMES

Dream place to go this summer: Florida
Middle school memory: Making the basketball team
Time you get up on Saturdays: 1 p.m. or 2 p.m.



ARIANA DIGGS

Middle school memory: Hanging out with old friends I no longer see
Strangest thing you've seen on the T: Old, drunk men starting conversations with girls
Time you get up on Saturdays: If I wake up before 11 a.m. it's because my sister came to wake me!



LEONA ALSTON

Dream place to go this summer: Italy or Cali, Colombia
Guilty pleasure: Hello, it's a guilty pleasure!
Middle school memory: Bad behavior
Favorite clothing store or brand you can't afford: Urban Outfitters



CARLA GAULDRON

If I could spend one hour with someone famous, it would be: Ashton Kutcher
Favorite children's book: "Frog and Toad"
A little known fact: I wear mismatched socks



SAMANTHA MBAWUIKE

Dream place to go this summer: California
Guilty pleasure: Reading love novels
Favorite food: Fried chicken, plantains, and Chinese food
Favorite brand you can't afford: Urban Outfitters and French Connection



JESSICA PINA

Dream place to go this summer: Hawaii
Guilty pleasure: Cadbury chocolate
Favorite food: BBQ chicken
Time you get up on Saturdays: 10 a.m.



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

MARTINE ROMULUS

Dream place to go this summer: Paris
Guilty pleasure: Strawberry ice cream
Strangest thing you've seen on the T: I've seen so much nothing is strange any more.

Favorite food: Chinese food

**JENNIFER SANCHEZ**

Dream place to go this summer: Honduras
Guilty pleasure: I like to hang halfway off my bed upside down while talking on the phone.

Middle school memory: The time I split my plans playing around in the locker area

Anticipated summer blockbuster: "Ice Age 2"

**JACQUELINA FONTES**

Guilty pleasure: Candy
Middle school memory: When my teacher put a rubber mouse on another teacher's desk for April Fools Day.

Anticipated summer blockbuster: "The Hills Have Eyes"

Favorite food: Cheesecake

**PHIL DONAHUE**

Dream place to go this summer: Greece because it's beautiful.

Guilty pleasure: Britney Spears

Middle school memory: The community service I did through "Teens Keepin' It Real"

Favorite food: Chicken ziti and broccoli

**NEELABH BHARTI**

Dream place to go this summer: Barcelona

Guilty pleasure: Filling out surveys

Favorite food: Mexican

**BIANCA LAO**

Dream place to go this summer: Dominican Republic

Guilty pleasure: Chocolate

Middle school memory: Laughing a lot



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BSAC BUZZ

By Solanlli Matos // BSAC member, Charlestown High School

As you all know BSAC has been working on the lockout component of BPS tardy policies. BSAC recently met with high school headmasters from different Boston schools and presented BSAC'S Tardiness Policy Proposal. The presentation went well and the information was well received. There were a couple of headmasters who did not agree with the elimination of locking out tardy students as a district-wide policy but were willing to have further conversations.

The headmasters agreed to have a meeting to discuss the proposal without BSAC. They met for a second time and are working on a final decision concerning the proposal, which they will submit to the superintendent and BSAC. Depending on what position the headmasters take BSAC will act accordingly. BSAC members continue to agree that lockouts should be eliminated and stand strong by their proposal to have a district-wide policy eliminating the lockout component and finding other alternatives to dealing with tardy students. Stay tuned for BSAC's next steps. We may need your support.

BSAC recently had the pleasure of a visit from Elizabeth Reilinger, the chairperson of the Boston School Committee. Reilinger met with BSAC in March to get to know more about BSAC. Members had the opportunity to present to Reilinger some of our work, including the cellphone policy, school start time, dropout rate surveys and more. Reilinger said she was impressed with BSAC's hard work and dedication. This was also a great opportunity to learn more about Reilinger and her dedication to the Boston schools. Reilinger has been on the School Committee since 1994 and chairperson since 1996. She has great passion for making our schools better and we are lucky to have her working with the BPS.

Believe it or not, it is recruitment time again. We are looking for 10th-12th graders to join BSAC. Recruitment for next year begins now. Get ready to spring into action by joining BSAC. If you are interested in learning more about BSAC, call Maria Ortiz at 617-594-5721, or send her an e-mail at mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

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

ATTENTION!!

Now that we have it...do you want some? If so, send something you have written to T.i.P. We'll take your poetry, pictures, articles, and art. If you want to be published, send something to us. Dozens of other Boston teens have discovered how great it is to have their work published. Now you should too! What have you got to lose? C'mon, send us all you've got.

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

Next issue: September 2006

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.

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OPINIONS
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IN YOUR **FACE**

▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

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A tale of two Silver Lines

By Stuart Spina and Stephen Sampson
T.I.P. Staff Writers

The MBTA swore up and down it was the “next big thing” in transit. The state’s Department of Transportation was all for it. And with much fanfare and hoopla, the \$40,000,000 Silver Line along Washington Street opened on July 20, 2002. But four years later, some members of the Roxbury community are less than thrilled.

“It isn’t what they made it out to be,” Margo Butler, 43, said of the service which runs from Dudley Square to Downtown Crossing. Many hoped the MBTA would replace the demolished El with a new heavy or light rail line. Instead, the MBTA said the Silver Line would be a “bus rapid transit” system running on dedicated bus lanes. But it appears the MBTA has simply replaced diesel buses with ones that run on natural gas, renamed the Route 49 bus route, and consolidated the stops, while failing to keep the promised bus lanes clear of traffic. Despite some protest, ridership on the new service rose to 14,079 people per weekday, according to the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The ride does have its shortcomings. Riders say the new stations are really glorified bus stops that don’t provide much protection from the weather. Imagine waiting for the Silver Line on a stormy day and having the rain or snow blown into your face. And despite Global Positioning Satellite tracking, the new buses sometimes bunch together, leaving gaps in the schedules. “They run in packs,” said Sequonie Suarez, 15.

Enter the Silver Line’s “alter ego,” the Silver Line Waterfront, which operates from South Station through the Piers Transit to Silver Line Way and then to either Logan Airport, Boston Marine Industrial Park, or City Point. The Silver Line Waterfront was nicknamed the “Little Dig” due to the project’s scope and cost of \$600,000. During the Silver Line planning, ridership estimates ranged to 45,000 people per weekday, but then dropped to 19,000. Today, only 7,981 use the service daily – half as many as use the Washington Street Silver Line, according to the planning organization.

There are many stark contrasts between the Silver Line Washington Street and Waterfront. The Waterfront segment stations are large, spacious and modern with the latest technology and amenities. The Washington Street stations are poorly-designed shelters, with limited seating and electronic signs that sometimes display incorrect information, such as the wrong schedule or time.

Riders are thankful there is a mode of transportation in the city for people who don’t have cars or can’t drive. But many do not feel the MBTA can use the slogan “out-of-this world convenience” because standing in the cold and being late for school is not convenient for most.

Stop Snitchin' T-shirts stir controversy

By Kianna Watler // T.i.P. Staff Writer

For two years, some Boston citizens and authority figures have been fighting over one thing: a shirt, or, to be more specific, the Stop Snitchin' shirt. These shirts usually show a city stop sign with bullet holes through it, or rats with their tongues cut out. The shirts were created in 2000, and today are popular urban wear in Boston. But as demand grew, problems arose. Some said the T-shirt intimidated witnesses to keep silent, and helped to increase violence in Boston.

Mayor Tom Menino fears the shirts create more violence in Boston by warning witnesses to not "snitch" on murderers or drug dealers. He says the shirts intimidate witnesses, but the truth is that the silent law against talking to authorities has been around for years, long before the shirts were made.

Antonio Ennis, a designer, says he created the shirt with a meaning entirely different from what everyone thinks it says. Ennis said he was 'fed up' with hearing about wrongfully accused men spending years, or even lifetimes, in prison. Thus, the shirt was born. It was meant for those who lie under oath to keep someone else or themselves from being imprisoned, he said.

Shari Betty, chief operating officer of the Antonio Ansaldi clothing line, said, The Stop Snitchin' T-shirt was a bold fashion statement that was interpreted differently by the wearers and the observers of this design. On one end, people who bought the shirt saw it as fashion and a way to demonstrate an expressive style, while others took Stop Snitchin' as a literal statement." It was never meant for intimidation, according to Betty and others.

It's a new fashion trend and in a couple of years, it would probably be nonexistent. Yet even as fashion, some will not wear the shirt because of what's written on them. Myriana Sanon, 18, of Boston Day and Evening Academy said the graphics on the shirts repel her. "Those types of shirts I don't wear because it's not my style."

On the other hand, Jarrod Schoonmaker, 18, who attends Boston Day and Evening Academy, said he wears the shirt "because it's something I believe in."

Some teens say Mayor Menino, parents, and community leaders are afraid of the shirt's popularity because they don't understand its message. They think the authorities are convinced the shirt is to be blamed for the hard time prosecutors have persuading people to serve as witnesses. But many members of the Boston community did not cooperate with authorities before now. The people (the very people they are meant to protect) don't feel safe and it's not because of the shirts.

Pieces of material cannot scare people, said Betty, of Antonio Ansaldi. "[The shirts] were not created to intimidate any individual from cooperating with authorities. People have free will and a simple T-shirt cannot make someone intimidated. But an individual can influence someone else's action, whether they're wearing the shirts or not."



▲ Photo by: Tatianna Ware



▲ Artwork by: Artists for Humanity



▲ Photo by: Tatianna Ware

Express yourself through fashion

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

Graphic T's are hot! Their messages are even hotter. "I never liked you anyway," "Hard to get (harder to keep)," and "G's for Gangsta" are a few examples of what seems to be a new trend: T-shirts with comments across the front or back. Popular cereal brand slogans have also been printed on shirts but are written to leave a different meaning with a hidden twist. For example, one Trix shirt shows the cereal rabbit with one eye closed and the bowl of cereal, or a shirt about the popular childhood program "Sesame Street" that shows the puppet Grover in his trash can with the "Scram!" written on the cover.

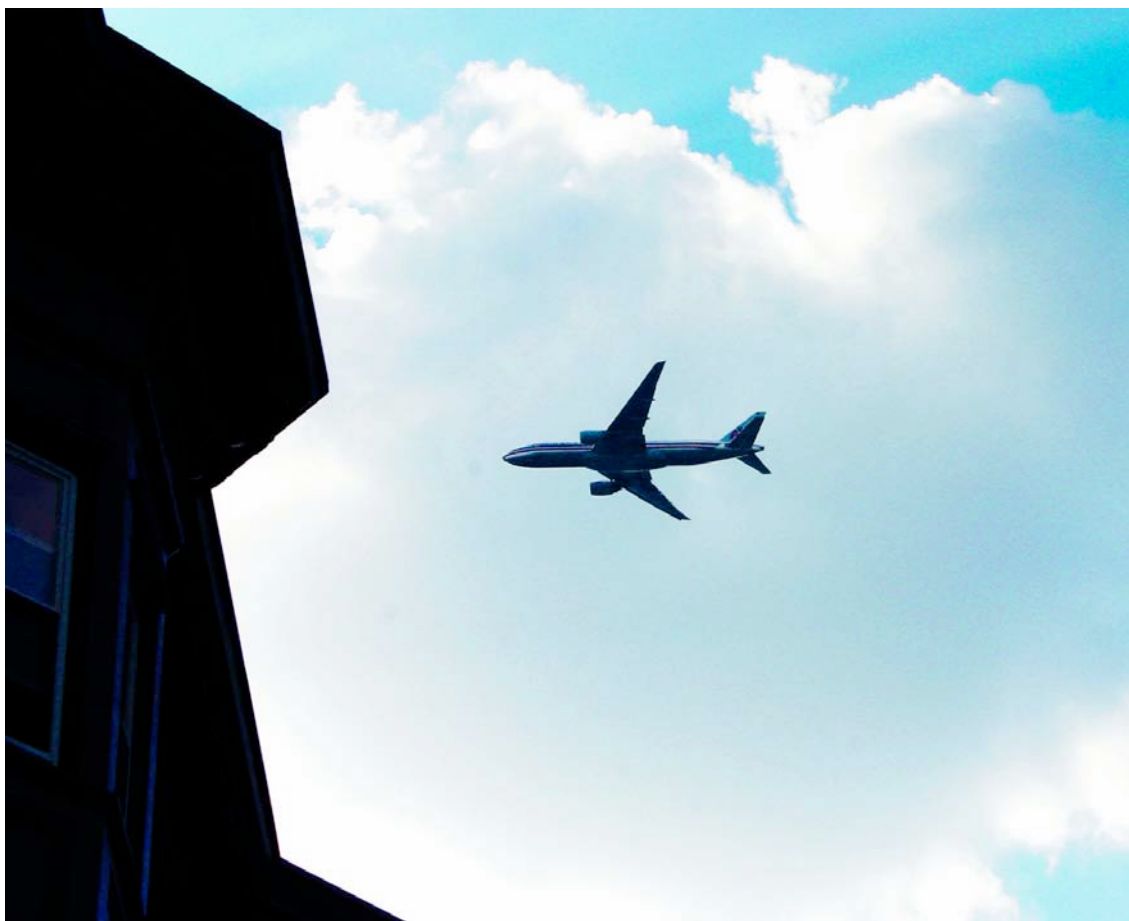
Graphic T's give young adults the chance to express their inner child while staying on top of fashion. The actual meaning of the shirts may be unknown, but as I see it, the meaning is what you make of it. If you believe the quote is a little on the dirty side, it is. It all depends on how you carry it out. Some graphic T's are designed just so people can have a good laugh.

Graphic T's say a lot without spilling too much. The perfect T's are ones with quick, catchy phrases that leave you wondering. Kristina Perry, 16, a student at Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) said, "I like the ones that have a message that if someone else was to read it they would know that I wore the shirt for them." Perry added, "The shirt also has to be cute and colorful. But no matter what your mood, there's a T to match."

These T's aren't just for girls. Boys are able to express themselves through the graphic shirts as well. One popular T-shirt among males is the Stop Snitchin' shirts, which drew criticism from Boston police and Mayor Menino. This shirt was later pulled off the shelves of the Antonio Ansaldi stores and replaced with the Start Peace shirt in the same stop sign design. There is also the Hood shirt, while more laid-back boys have other options, such as "I go to school for the girls" T-shirt from Abercrombie & Fitch.

"I used to have a Six-Pack from American Eagle or basic Band T's," said 15-year-old Nick Costa of BCLA. "I prefer band and skateboarding T's. However, I understand the phrases, like the Stop Snitching T. It means "Don't squeal people out."

Teens wear graphic T-shirts not only for the sayings, but also for the color. A certain blue might go great with the tint in their sneaker, for example. For teens, the gear has to always be on point, as well as being the first to rock something hot. But those not into the whole graphic T-shirt trend can still find a style just right for them.



▲ Photo by: Brenda Leong

Dreaming of a world before 9/11

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

Imagine a world where 9/11 never happened. So much would be different. Thousands of people who died in the attack would still be alive, airport security would be as it was before, and national security would not have been revamped. Our country would not be involved in a war with Iraq. Visualize this: A recent testimony of an FBI agent suggests that we might still have been living in that entirely different world.

In March, FBI special agent Michael Anticev said in his testimony in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, that between 1996 and 1998 the US government made an attempt to capture Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a man who has been described as the mastermind behind the 9/11 plane hijackings. However, Mohammed was apparently tipped off and the plan failed. Anticev made the statement while responding to defense attorney Edward McMahon, who was attempting to prove that the hijackings would have been unavoidable if terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui had not lied to the United States government. The trial is to determine whether or not Moussaoui will receive the death penalty. His lawyers say that there was nothing that he could have said to the government that would have led to the prevention of the hijackings, but the trial proceeds in an attempt to verify or refute these

claims. Doing so may unearth the truth about whether or not the events of 9/11 could have been avoided as well as how.

Moussaoui is a French-born Moroccan who believes strongly in Islamic radicalism. When he entered the United States, he immediately tried to learn how to fly an airplane. He was being investigated after flight manuals and weapons were found at his residence, but he was released after it was decided that the case had insufficient probable cause for a warrant. He may have been using the flight manuals to learn how to hijack a plane. That was on August 17, 2001.

Whether or not Moussaoui's claims have any veracity to them is disputed. He has stated that he was to be part of a greater plot on September 11, flying a plane into the White House. However, other top Al Qaeda operatives have said that he is untrustworthy and that he was not involved in any such plans.

FBI agent Anticev also said that the government was aware of an Al Qaeda plot to blow up 12 airplanes in the 1990s. When asked whether or not the FBI was concerned about the use of planes as weapons by the Al Qaeda, he responded by saying "I don't know if that's correct." He did say, however, that they were concerned about hijackings.

Genocide... Never again?

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

For many Boston teens, the biggest problems of the day are about the way they look, what they did in school, or what to do on Saturday night. But for the teens of Darfur, Sudan, the problems are much more serious. These young people face having their homes destroyed, their fathers and brothers murdered, their mothers and sisters raped, and their entire culture being wiped out. This crisis has been unfolding in Sudan's western region since early 2003. This is what you call a genocide, and there is a possibility that you have never even heard the word before.

The United Nations defines genocide as any act intended to destroy national, ethnic, or religious groups in whole or in part, including injuring or killing members of the group, preventing members from having children, or taking those children away and giving them to other groups. The genocide in Darfur pits Arab militias linked to the Khartoum government against black rebels who have attacked government targets. The rebels claim that the government was neglecting Darfur and subjugating black Africans in favor of Arabs. There has also been ongoing tension in Darfur over land between nomadic Arabs and farmers from the Fur. According to US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, between 200,000 and 400,000 people have been killed or died of disease or starvation and as many as two million more have fled their homes during this devastating crisis.

Part of the problem is the word genocide itself. President Bush, the US Congress, and former US Secretary of State Colin Powell have all said that genocide is taking place in Sudan. But a United Nations team sent to Sudan to witness the crimes came back to say that there was no intent to commit genocide. Instead, they said what is happening in Darfur are war crimes.

Whatever you call it, something needs to be done. It is 2006, three years into the genocide and no drastic change has been made. While the international community frets, makes idle threats about imposing sanctions, and engages in talk about whether this is really genocide or not, hundreds of innocent victims continue to die every day.

One reason why these crimes of genocide continue to happen is because people continue to stay silent and take no action. It is a shame that genocide continues and that many Boston teens have not been introduced to this word and if they are, they do not know how to help.

But there is something Boston teens can do. To help stop the genocide in Darfur, you can support an organization such as SaveDarfur.org or donate to American Red Cross. You can drop off items things like food or clothes. Teens can also write letters to Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Senators John Kerry or Ted Kennedy, or even to President George W. Bush demanding they do something. Write whoever you think can help stop the crimes of genocide.

Robert F. Kennedy said each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. In Kennedy's words: "And crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Boy crisis hits the schools

By Jessica Pina // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Suddenly, the nation seems worried about its boys. There have been articles in Newsweek magazine, and books about whether or not girls do better in school than boys. The numbers are alarming, according to recent news. Fifty-eight percent of college freshmen are female. Boys drop out of school more frequently than girls. Is this crisis true? Are boys really in crisis?

T.i.P. interviewed some boys, and some of their responses were shocking. Some boys seem to agree with the theory that girls do better in school than boys. Males hear this a lot from their peers, society, and sometimes even friends, they said. Boys also seem to think that there is a stereotype against them, which they feel from teachers and peers. This brings up the question: is society preventing males from trying their best in school?

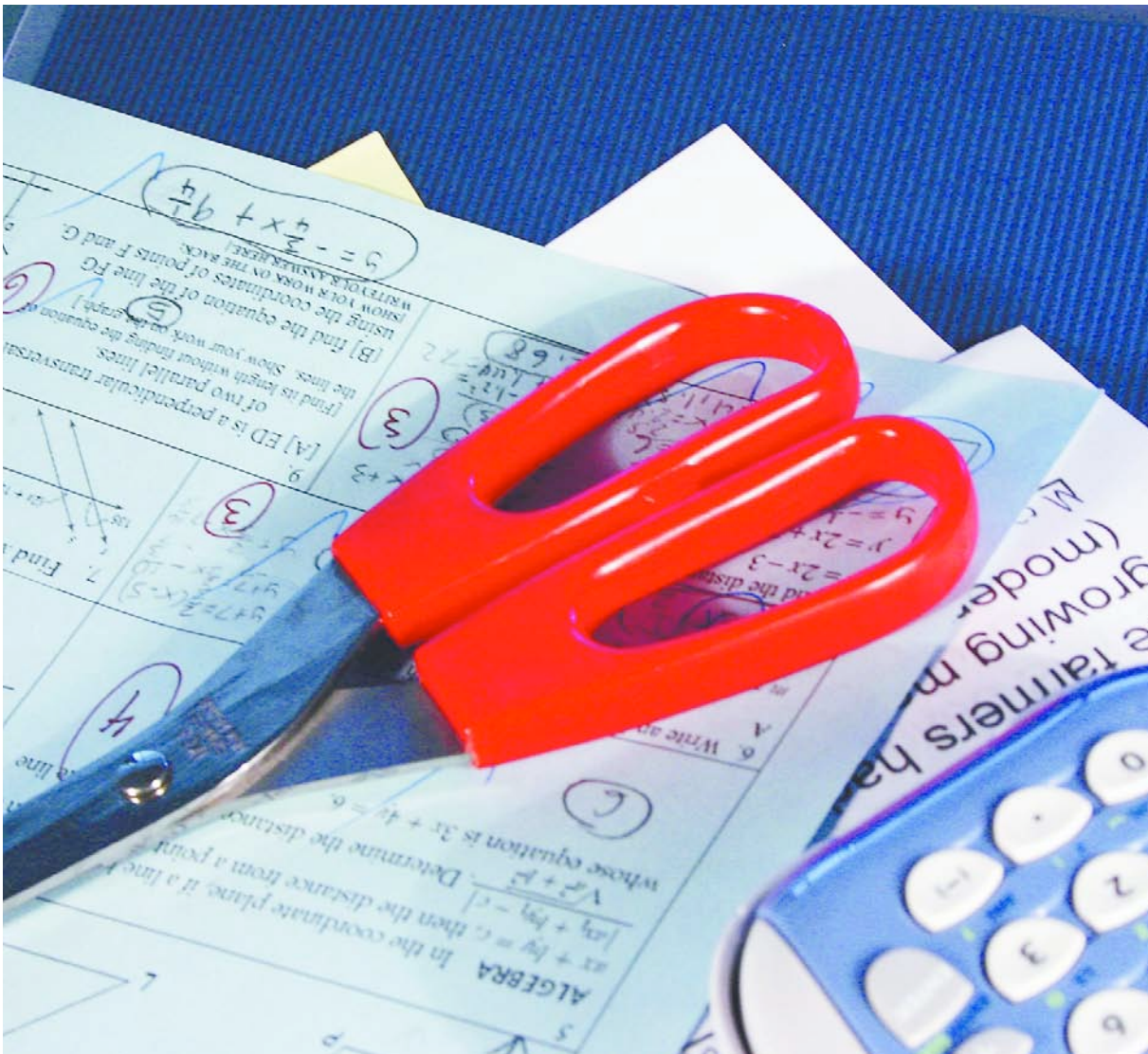
Boys sometimes think that they are not expected to do as much work in school as girls and that they are not given as much attention in the classroom. "When boys dress a certain way, like in baggy clothes, teachers feel that they are not going to be focused because they're most likely a gangster, so they don't waste their time on

boys," said 17-year-old Dion Hall of Boston Community Leadership Academy. This was an interesting approach to why a lot of boys don't bother doing any work; maybe teachers are giving up on them too quickly, Hall said. Eddys Cruz, also 17 and a student at Boston Community Leadership Academy, said, "This happens because girls have a stronger relationship with their teacher, boys get lazy and don't care."

A lot of the boys T.i.P. interviewed agree that there is a stereotype against male students. Ricardo Blanchard, 17, said, "Of course there's a stereotype, the stereotype is that boys are lazy, and not as smart as girls." If male students have that drilled into their heads, it probably does have an effect on them, making them feel inferior toward girls, he said. This may result in not doing any work, failing in school, or, taken to the extreme, even dropping out of school. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, boys are 30 percent more likely than girls to flunk or drop out of school, and when it comes to grades and homework, girls outperform boys in elementary, secondary, high school, and college, according to the center.

All but one of the boys interviewed said he believes boys and girls are treated equally in school. All of the boys said they were in at least one honors level class. Teacher attention, on the other hand, played a huge role according to the boys. Three of the boys said girls get more attention, but 17-year-old Joshua Vaughn said, "Not really, because the teachers try to get more out of the boys because the teachers know the girls have it, but the boys don't." Intelligent boys are afraid to show it due to their reputation, and the fear of being made fun of, Vaughn said. Clubs such as the debate team, student council, and other organizations lack male students. Being cool is important, but not as important as getting your education.

I still have faith in boys. I highly doubt that the clothes they wear makes teachers treat them differently. I truly believe that males are capable of being intelligent and successful, it just depends on how much effort they are willing to put into their educations. The stereotypes that are out against males are only true if you let yourself believe it. Boys, open your eyes. Prove society wrong!



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

LOL at the girl crisis

By Leona Alston // T.i.P. staff writer

Girls! Girls! Girls! When many people think of girls in school they picture the student who is always on time, prepared for class, and ready to learn. This could be a stereotype, except that many statistics back it up.

In January, a controversial cover article in Newsweek magazine, written by Peg Tyre, said the nation's boys are in crisis in terms of education. The article said that, on average, girls score 24 points higher than boys on standardized writing tests, and are far more likely to take advanced placement or honors biology classes. Twenty-seven percent more girls are planning to go to college than boys, according to Newsweek.

But what do girls in Boston public high schools think about the statistics? Janelly Chavez, 15, a sophomore at Media High, said they sound true to her. "Girls are usually more determined to do their work in school than boys," she said, repeating an often heard stereotype.

Savannah Cosby, 16, a junior at Boston Community Leadership Academy, said the statistics do not surprise her. From her observations, she said: "Girls tend to be more mature and look ahead to the future looking forward to going to college."

But some girls believe the statistics cited in Newsweek are not true. They said girls are not always better in school than boys. They also know boys who do have goals and do care about school. "Both sexes can do well if they put their minds to it," Cosby said.

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THE EXCHANGE

Teens from Boston
boarded a bus bound
for Winchester,
where they spent
the day experiencing
life at Winchester
High School. The
point of the
exchange was
to understand with
our own eyes and
ears the issues of
inequality in
American schools.
At the same time, we
were hoping to break
down stereotypes.
Then the teens from
the 'burbs made the
trek to Boston and
our lives will never
be the same.

—Mike Roberson and
Valeria Cabrera

▲ Photo by: Halden Hodgson



It Started With An E-mail | *By Mr. Beyer's B-block English Class, English High School*

*An e-mail brought an interest
The interest brought our appearance
Our appearance brought out our voices
Our voices brought out friendship.*

*Race, music, location, and sports
Are the things that tell us apart.
But it matters not from where we came
Deep down we are all the same.*

*Lots of new people
Various races.
Lots of similar problems
Different faces.*

*Prejudice creates barriers
That we should be breaking down.
Let's reunite and come together.
Diversity IS allowed.*

*Let us divide which is around us
To separate our world into two.
Let us divide our children before them
From the suburbs to the cities.*

*While we struggle with violence,
They struggle with hiding.
While we learn with people of many races,
They learn with people of white faces.*

*Some people hurt others, some hurt themselves.
Some people stress others, some stress themselves.
Some people kill others, some kill themselves.
People need to accept others and themselves.*

*Never expected
For it to turn out the way it did.
That two different groups of people
So sad to come to an end.*

Breaking down the stereotypes

By Valeria Cabrera // T.I.P. Writer, English High School

As I walked into the auditorium, I could not help but notice how segregated it was. The Winchester students stood on one side, while the English High students stood on the other. We had been talking about how the experience would turn out for weeks, but it was going to be different now that we were actually experiencing it. As I walked in, I was intimidated that we were all so different. I was thinking about the things they could possibly be thinking about me. Then I realized that I was giving in to the stereotypes.

I have always said that stereotypes are a normal thing the first time we meet a person, but we cannot let that keep us from finding out who the person actually is. I decided to follow my beliefs and to wear the prettiest smile I could to make them feel welcome. I met my e-mail buddy from Winchester and she and I chatted while more girls joined in. They asked me questions and talked about how nice our school was and how pretty I looked. I started to feel more comfortable and we engaged in the activities that Teen Empowerment had prepared for us.

The fishbowl was the part I enjoyed most. I felt as if we, the English High School students, had a chance to openly discuss issues that affect our school. At the same time, the Winchester students could learn about things they are not used to seeing or experiencing. I was surprised to see their shocked faces as people described experiences they had been through, like fights or shootouts. They were astonished by our stories.

After a tour of the school, we divided the classes into two groups. Our task as English students was to show Winchester students what our school was all about. We walked through the hallways of each floor and into some classes. In my group we decided to show them the lunch room. The point of this was for them to see what a regular day was like for a student at English High School.

Later, I felt strange walking through the halls at Winchester High School. I wondered what people were thinking of us. Most of them were nice but others were disinterested. At the end of the exchange I thought the experience was great. It exceeded my expectations because we became a lot more comfortable around each other. What I liked most about the exchange was that we discussed our differences and similarities and broke down the wall of stereotypes.

Suburbia meets the city

By Sarah Blanchette // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Imagine growing up in a small, affluent town. A place where you have to ask your parents for rides instead of taking the T. A place where the only time you've seen a metal detector is in an airport. The events in this suburb play out like an episode of "The OC." You may think this town only exists on TV but it's actually only about a half-hour drive from Boston.

Now imagine being moved out of the suburbs, the only surroundings you've ever known, to travel to the city and go to a Boston public school. It may not be a big deal to you, but when it happened to me last summer, I thought it was the end of the world. Instead of "The OC," I assumed my new school would play out like an episode of "Boston Public."

Experiences that are common, but still upsetting, to many Boston teens come as a shock to teens from the suburbs. One of those is going through metal detectors before homeroom. Kayla Somers, a 15-year-old Brockton High School student, who's never had to walk through a metal detector before class, explained, "I'd feel like it was a violation of my privacy."

Fifteen-year-old Danielle Pelletier of Newburyport High School said, "Newburyport High School is, like, perfect. I only saw one kid flip out once." Pelletier sees this as a justification that metal detectors are unnecessary in suburban schools.

Ericka Sweeney, a 15-year-old at Odyssey High School in South Boston, longs for a quiet setting. She asks, "Wouldn't it be nice to go to a school where everyone is quiet and everyone does their work?" Students who move from Boston to the suburbs have their own transitions to make. These students also have reservations about living a suburban life. "Everything is far away, so you would have to drive everywhere," Sweeney said.

I spent my whole life isolated in a small town, and when I moved to the city I didn't know what to expect. I was told I would be mugged, jumped, and hated by all. People in the suburbs hear rumors about the city and Boston Public Schools. "I heard it was ghetto," said Somers of Brockton.

I was surprised to find out how false these rumors were. People were accepting and welcoming, something I never saw happen in my old school. Where I'm from, new kids go through initiation and hazing, but there was none of that when I came to the city. Somers, who recently made the switch to Brockton High School said,

"Some people had problems with me and other new girls. We just had to suck it up."

Everything is different for teens growing up in the city compared with those who live in the suburbs. Small-town kids listen to Guster instead of The Game, shop at Abercrombie & Fitch instead of Manhattans, watch the Bruins instead of the Celtics. Suburban teens' views on what is socially 'cool' are also different from urban teens. Somers explains by saying popular girls are "Laguna Beach" wannabes. They aren't themselves."

So next time you see a new kid from some town you've never heard of, think of all the lies they have been told. Imagine how scared they must be. Say something to them. You could be the person who shatters all of the stereotypes in their heads, and helps them feel at home.

Boston teens are real

Things that surprised me about English High were the sensitivity and exceptionally powerful personalities of the students. They are real people. They are not stereotypes; they are their own people and they have their own not-so-well-disguised hurts, their passions, their own personal senses of humor.

- By Katie Mukai, Winchester High School

Welcome to English High

On the tour of the building, I was overwhelmed by color. I'm not talking just about the many murals and pieces of artwork (I once saw an entire door covered in glitter), but also by the people and their personalities, which were very colorful. A girl in our tour group would stop in the hallway to hug or laugh with a friend. Her face radiated the most bubbly, friendly energy and she glowed with confidence and openness. Other kids in the group came up to me and asked me thoughtful questions about my life and school. Though some kids in the hallway stared at us, others were jubilant. One boy ran up to us and yelled, at the top of his lungs, "Welcome to English High."

- Kate Keleher, Winchester High School



▲ Photo by: Susan Rowe

Uniting and empowering teens

By Hannan Lin // English High School

The bus pulled up to a crammed parking lot in front of English High School (EHS). We entered the front door and were greeted by three bronze statues. We entered the Teen Empowerment room to find a horseshoe of chairs. The students from Winchester High School (WHS) all sat together on the outside arms of the U shape, while most of the EHS students sat in the inner curve of the chairs.

We started off with a couple of icebreakers, then introduced ourselves and our hobbies, rearranging our seating so we were more diversely spread out in the horseshoe.

In the next activity, we formed two circles, one inside the other. Every two minutes the inner circle would rotate, and for those minutes we would talk to the person across from us for one minute about one of the personal topics suggested by the facilitators. It was one of the most enjoyable activities, because we got to meet new people and to know them on a personal level in just two minutes. The topics and issues the teens had to deal with particularly struck me because the guy across from me was telling me about the constant violence, murder, drug abuse, and crime all around Jamaica Plain. He seemed calm and natural about it, like it was an accepted part of his life. It was shocking that our

schools were so different because here, the issue is more about cliques and social matters. As one of the students at WHS mentioned, "Our school is more about 'Hey, I don't wanna be your friend anymore' rather than... 'um I'm going to stab you.'"

We come from different worlds and deal with different issues. Their issues are more physically dangerous. Ours are more mental and emotional. During the "fishbowl" session, we discussed the intense fights at school, the shootings of family members, and being called the N word. I thought things like that only happened in movies. What bothered me more was that these students were used to it.

This English High School/Winchester High School experience definitely helped break down stereotypes of suburban and urban schools. It also revealed that many of us in suburban schools like Winchester can be extremely sheltered from urban society. The field trip to English High School was not just a field trip, but an experience that will stick with us forever. It taught us about life and people. The people we met had so many deep concepts and opinions and brought us to the truth.

Work out to stay fit

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

Summertime is around the corner. Hot summer nights and the last days of school are approaching. Teens will soon sport their new clothes and trends. Above all, most will be showing off their summertime bodies. Some are born and gifted with a fit body while others will have to work on it.

People get in shape in different ways. Some go to the local gym, some run, others diet. Every one has their own method.

Manny Boria, a basketball player at Brighton High School, has his own style of staying in shape. Boria said he stays in shape during the season by playing basketball. After basketball season, Boria does sit-ups and a few push-ups to keep his body toned.

Jennifer Sanchez, a 15-year-old student at the John D. O'Bryant School of Science & Math, does Pilates, a special system of exercises that focuses on improving flexibility and strength in the body's core muscles. Pilates is a form of yoga that has become popular with teens and adults in the last few years. Sanchez said she also stays active by walking, jogging, and attending an all-girls sports festival at the Reggie Lewis Track and Field Center. Although her choice of food varies, she is still able to maintain her weight. "I don't think you have to eat salads and fruits all day just to stay fit."

Since summer is coming you should get ready to show off your summer style and your nice new body. Exercise is one of the easiest ways to look and be fit.



▲ Photo by: Jess Pan



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin

Stepping has a rich history

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

Foot stomping, hands clapping, and loud chanting make up a large part of the type of dance called stepping. But what many readers would like to know is where stepping comes from. As a stepper myself, I decided to investigate. What I found was that people who love and take part in step disagree over its history. No one really knows where this style of dance comes from.

Stepping began in 1906 when black fraternities featured the practice during their pledge initiations, according to "Soulstepping: African American Step Shows," a book by Elizabeth C. Fine, a professor at Virginia Tech University.

According to some of the fraternities that practice stepping, step began with singing, which led to dancing, and eventually to stepping. Stepping began with a capella singing as black fraternity brothers would gather in the courtyard of their col-



▲ Photo by: Jess Pan

EXERCISE IS WISE

Studies show that teens who exercise are better off than those who don't. Teens who report physical activity five or more times a week are less likely to smoke, do drugs, or drink alcohol; and more likely to get A's in math and science, and sleep eight hours a night.

Source: WebMD, Medical News

leges, often in the South, and sing. In some courtyards in the South, they call step shows a sing instead of a step show. Later, in the 1950s and 1960s, when singing groups such as the Temptations and the Four Tops were very popular, fraternity brothers started mimicking their steps.

Sororities began stepping several years after the fraternities started the whole step craze. This was how stepping evolved. This is why it is called stepping now. Fraternity brothers would try to come up with the best steps while they were singing to please the ladies. They believed if the ladies on campus got into stepping, the craze would draw more recruits, much like it is today. At around the same time as the Black Power movements and Africa-centered movements of the 60s, stepping started to flourish with the incorporation of some traditional African ritual dancing and other elements like cheerleading, tap, and gymnastics.



▲ Artwork by: Natasha Mock

Never Again

By Erica Cuevas // T.i.P. Writer, TeenVoices Editor

This was just a simple summer.
I thought it would be special and leading to a ring.
I realized I was wrong from what you did to me.
So, I will try to erase the memories of you and me.
I can forgive, but not forget.
Just like I do and say things and then regret.
That's just part of our everyday lives.
We just have to put up with our daily strife.
This did set flight to my naïve wings
and thanks to that I will never be a part of a
summer fling.

That One Summer Day

By Erica Cuevas // T.i.P. Writer, TeenVoices Editor

Eyes full of tears,
heart full of pain.
That's how it was that one summer day.

Both my life
and heart shattered.
That's what happened that one summer day.

Your silence hurting me,
your eyes avoiding me.
All of that in that one summer day.

Too many emotions,
too much pain,
too many things,
to handle that one summer day.

F-R-I-E-N-D-S-H-I-P

By Woodger Graff Faugas // T.i.P. Writer

Friendship is dependency
It's the pace that holds hearts in togetherness
It's the path that impels intimacy
It appeases distressed souls and brings disturbed
minds to rest

Raindrops shall repose
As many shall proclaim that it's love
And others shall embrace it above
For mankind's sake, it shall live
For nature's caress, it shall grow

In grandness, its kingdom shall expand
With honor, its petal shall blossom
Tomorrow it shall prevail
Scourging all Hints of the devil
By the power of its Saber, no opponent shall be
brave enough to resist

Endearing its patriots
In their favor it shall rule
At their side it shall stand
As their hearts shall rejoin

Nocturnal stillness shall manifest its grandeur
Hypocrites shall beg for its clemency
But it shall be too late
Fortunes shall not matter
Obduracy shall be punished

Days shall lope
As moons shall travel
Nights shall fall
As stars shall gleam
The entire universe shall be touched

Sadness shall bring chagrin
As birds shall twirl and chant felicitously
The sun shall rise to shine effulgently
As the sea shall sleep in tranquility

Hypocrisy shall vanish
In hell, it shall be interred
With the devil it shall reside
Blood shall flood from his fiery eyes
Fear shall conquer his spirit

In humility, justice shall occur
They shall learn and obey
Heads bowed and eyes closed
They shall beg for pardon
They shall finally urge to betray pride and rebellion

Peace shall be triumphant
Love shall become elegant
To all eyes, sympathy shall be polite
Friendliness shall impart charm and unity

This Is What Stresses Me

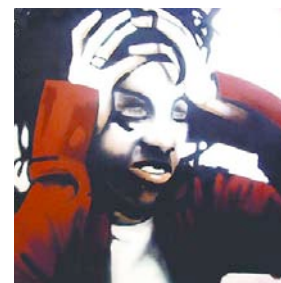
By Braulio Soto & Damien Leach // T.i.P. Writers

PART I

Stress, This is what stresses me
When I can't even sleep
I start to lose control, I let it get the best of me,
I mess up all my rhymes.
My anger grows like crimes
Stress us like a deadly ghost that sends the
chills up my spine
Stress, the word keeps haunting me
But I have found the remedy
The key is determination helping me while I succeed
With my strength I start to rise
I open up my eyes
I start to gain control, I start to leave the pain behind
Stress, this is what stresses me
When the world gives up on me
But even through that deadly pain, I find the healing
to succeed.

PART II

Hypocrisy in Democracy is trying to follow me
Becomes blindfolded in thought, breaks down
personal privacy
People become amused with trashful hatred
Dressing up intelligence but in reality they are naked
Perplexed ideas of destruction for the nation
Showing and causing many stressful sensations
Hateful feelings in the growth, no one can hide them
Hood hopz and Blood dropz, no one can stop them
Lately I've been sleepin' with my eyes wide open
I can't stop thinking that my life's not going
To complete goals that I dream, that won't stop pokin
At the stress that I have that causes choking



▲ Artwork by: Damon Butler

Artists For Human



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin



Local teens and artists joined hundreds of partygoers at the Earth Day celebration hosted by Artists for Humanity at AFH's Epicenter space in South Boston last month. Music was provided by Samba Tremeterra, Crazy Freddy, and the New B. Wear All Stars, among others. Big Apple Circus performers amazed the crowd with its aerial trapeze tricks. Congratulations to the Boston youth artists whose work was displayed. Kudos to AFH for moving into new, environmentally friendly space.

If you missed the party, check out the bash by eyeing these photos.

Finally, a great big thanks to all the AFH artists and staff who have collaborated with T.i.P. by photographing and illustrating our stories the past two years. Thanks for making us look so good!



▲ Photo by: Haidan Hodgson



▲ Photo by: Haidan Hodgson

▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin

community.



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin

ATL tells tender tale of brothers

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

T.I. is a music artist turned actor. And his new movie “ATL” shows that he’s a pretty good one. Directed by Chris Robinson, “ATL” is a movie about a boy trying to make sure that his little brother has a better life than he has. The movie takes place in Atlanta. T.I. plays Rashad, the main character. He has many problems in the movie, problems that have to do with deceit. People close to him lie about their true intentions. His new girlfriend New-New, Erin (Lauren London) seems to be the perfect girl from the ‘hood when actually she is from the good side of the tracks. Also, his best friend Esquire (Jackie Long) finds out about Erin but instead of telling Rashad he decides to keep it a secret to assure his future with her father. When Rashad finds out that his girlfriend is lying, he gets mad at her and Esquire for keeping the secret. Then, to make it worse, he finds out that his little brother Ant (Evan Ross) is selling drugs. The reason I like this movie is because Ant, the brother, is willing to do anything to get out of the ‘hood. Also I respected the fact that Rashad would do anything to protect his brother.



▲ Photo by: Elizabeth Lee

New reality show takes on the race card What would MLK Jr. think of “Black.White”?

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

In the 1950s and ‘60s, Martin Luther King Jr. was known as one of the most famous men to fight for racial equality. In his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, King said, “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

Now almost 50 years later, some people think that all Americans are treated equally. They think racism no longer exists. A new reality show series, “Black.White,” takes on this theme. The show is based on two families, one black and one white, who switch places for six weeks in order to experience life as a different race. With the help of Hollywood makeup artists and writers, the black family becomes a white family, undercover, and vice versa. The families are sent out, with hidden cameras, to different places in Los Angeles to see how differently they are treated.

Some people outside of Hollywood say changing the color of their skin couldn’t give them the full idea of what racism is, and how differently blacks and whites are treated. Deborah Merriam, Ph.D., a Caucasian guidance counselor from Media Communications Technology High School (MCTHS), said going to such an extreme may not be necessary. “Some individuals have a great level of empathy and do not need to artificially experience another person’s life by having an altered appearance,” she said.

In the beginning of the show, Bruno Wurgel, the man from the white family, was expecting that disguised as a black, to have the N word said to him. In the first episode, Wurgel goes to a car dealership, as a black. He said that he was treated the same way he has been treated as a white man. In other words, he

wasn’t treated the way he thought he would be. Talking about racism after this experience, Wurgel said, “Get over it. This is multicultural America, time to move on.”

Brian Spark, the man from the black family, encounters a different experience. In the first episode Spark, disguised as a white, says he got a job at a bar in a white neighborhood. He also said for the first time in his life that the sales clerk in a shoe store helped him try on the shoe, as opposed to handing it over to try on himself. Spark said he believes he was assisted better as a white man. He also said black people have to follow the rules of white society to be successful. “Black culture has to conform to white society to make it,” he said. “In small ways and large, it [racism] is alive.”

Back to the show, Spark said he was treated the way he thought he would be, as a white man, while Wurgel wasn’t treated the way he thought he would be as a black man. Spark said he believes Wurgel “sees what he wants to see,” while Wurgel fights back saying “And you don’t see what you don’t want to see?”

Jean Nozea, a Haitian photography teacher at MCTHS said, “I’ve been in situations where I’m applying for a job and the white people can relate to the white employers based on their skin color.” In other words, she believes how people get treated depends where they go, who they are, and what they look like.

This show is about racism, which is, has been, and always will be part of American society unless we do something about it. The first step each individual should take is becoming more open-minded, and showing one another unlimited love.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmored truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

One wonders what King would have to say about this latest reality show.

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Channing Tatum's image is hard to ignore

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

How can anyone forget the handsome face of Channing Tatum? If you haven't seen him in many of the popular Mountain Dew or Pepsi commercials, you might just remember him from the movie "Coach Carter." Tatum is also known for being on the Tear Sheet Magazine's "50 Most Beautiful Faces" in October 2001. He has modeled for many campaigns such as those promoting Nautica, Abercrombie & Fitch, Emporio Armani, Gap Inc., Aeropostale, and American Eagle Outfitters. Channing Tatum was born on April 26, 1980, in Cullman, Alabama. He grew up to be a fully energized teen so his parents enrolled him in sports such as track, baseball, soccer, and football. When he was in ninth grade, his parents put him into military school, where he developed his love for football. Because of football, he won a scholarship to a school in West Virginia. After leaving college, he focused on his job as a construction worker, mortgage broker, and salesman.

If you're wondering how Channing Tatum got discovered, you probably haven't seen him in the Ricky Martin video, "She Bangs," where he plays the boy with the platinum mohawk. That video was the first time Tatum's face appeared on the screen. After the music video, a modeling friend of Channing's introduced him to some modeling agencies. After a few years, some of Tatum's pictures were sent to Jason Kaner (a modeling agent in New York), who persuaded Tatum to move to the Big Apple to help him improve on his modeling. Even though Tatum is a great model, his true desire was to become an actor. But I believe all the ladies would agree with me when I say: "He's great either way."

Documentary review:

"V-Day: Until The Violence Stops"

By Adanma Ude // T.I.P. Writer and Peer Leader, Teen Voices

The adult staff and peer leaders at Teen Voices magazine watched a powerful and inspirational documentary called "V-Day: Until The Violence Stops," by Eve Ensler, the author of the play "The Vagina Monologues." This movie reflects on the struggles that women all over the world face regarding sexist, cultural, and abuse issues.

I really enjoyed this movie because it made me think about a lot of things that I have never thought about before. In this movie, Eve Ensler traveled to many places around the world and talked to women not only about their sexuality but also about their human rights. Starting at the Apollo Theater in Harlem in New York City, the movie showed Yvette Davila performing the "Vibrator Facts," a scene from "The Vagina Monologues" that identifies states where it is illegal for women to sell vibrators.

In the scene "The Vagina Quilts," a group of women made and displayed different quilts that resemble a vagina and tell a story about how they view their bodies. Next the film visits Manila, in the Philippines, where women reflected and spoke about their vaginas despite their strong Catholic beliefs. Women survivors who were imprisoned in World War II and raped by the Japanese spoke of their pain and their work to regain their spirits after these crimes.

After the movie crew left the Philippines, they traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This is an Indian reservation where men and women spoke about the sexual abuse that happens frequently on Indian reservations. One man confessed and apologized about the mistreatment he inflicted on his wife.

Then viewers meet a fabulous woman named Agnes Pareyio, an African from Rift Valley, Kenya. She teaches and advocates for girls to refuse genital mutilation. She has a camp for the girls where they can come for free after they are disowned by their families because they refuse to have the genital mutilation done.

The last stop on "V-Day" took us back to the Apollo Theater in Harlem to watch a scene called "Stand Up." In it, Ensler encourages women who have been raped or survived any form of sexual abuse to stand up in the audience. She encourages everyone in the audience to break the silence. This movie was inspirational. It should be showed worldwide, every February 14th, as it was this year, until the violence against women stops.



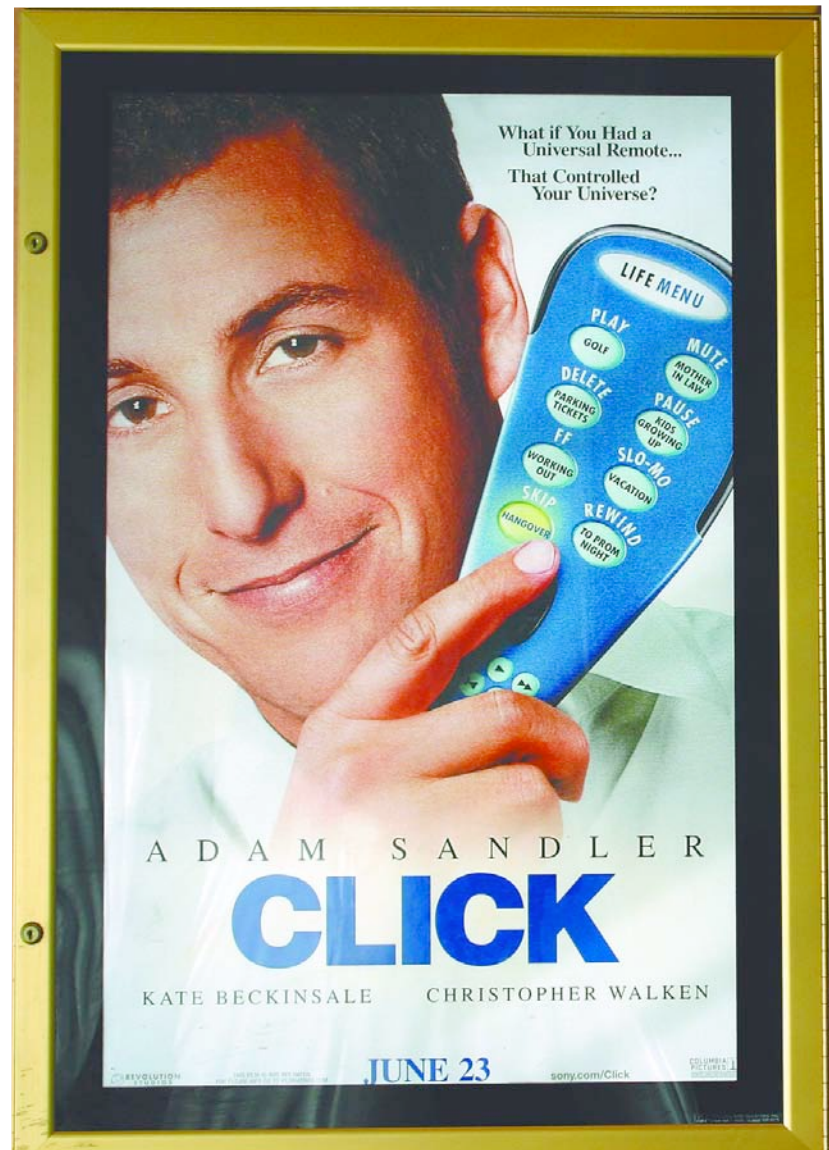
Book Review: "Jailbait," By Leslea Newman

By Tanasia White // T.I.P. Writer and Peer Leader, Teen Voices

Leslea Newman's "Jailbait," a new novel which targets suburbia by exposing the realities that lie beyond the pretty picket fences, is both chilling and enthralling. Set in the 1970s, the narrator, 16-year-old Andi Kaplan, feels lonely, insecure, and unloved. Her big brother is off at college, her best friend moved away, her parents are practically oblivious to her existence, and the most attention she ever gets is from an obnoxious boy in her class who teases her about her large breasts.

Andi feels completely invisible until Frank, the guy that she waves to every day on her way home from school, asks her to get in his car, finally making her feel visible. There's just one problem, Frank is older, much older. However, when Andi's dream romance turns into a nightmare, she is forced to pick losing the one she loves or losing herself.

This book is absolutely wonderful! I was captivated by the realism and bluntness of the writing. It really shows what can happen when girls are insecure and it makes me want to help girls even more. Applause to Leslea Newman.



▲ Photo by: Elizabeth Lee



▲ Photo by: Susan Rowe

Is the grass really greener in the other fellow's yard?

New flick answers the question

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

"Over the Hedge" is a funny and terrifically animated film, but so are 30 other movies already made with talking animals. The film has the voice talents of such megastars as Bruce Willis, Steve Carell, Wanda Sykes, and Avril Lavigne. This film asks the age-old question "Is the grass greener on the other side?" The outrageous events that answer the question are what make this movie a hilarious treat.

Spring has sprung and a tentative turtle named Verne and his band of animals, which includes a sassy skunk named Stella, an overdramatic possum named Ozzie, and a squirrel (who seems to have attention deficit disorder) named Hammy awaken from hibernation. The animals begin the chore of gathering twigs, berries, and other bland, natural foods. While collecting food, the group comes across a mysterious, large hedge they decide to name "Steve." The clan doesn't know what to make of the large shrub until R.J., a street wise raccoon who is more of a packrat, explains it all.

R.J. informs the animals that a suburban neighborhood was

built during their winter nap. What R.J. doesn't tell them is that he's hiding from a bear that will have his head if he doesn't replace random items stolen from his cave. R.J. tricks the naïve group to help him retrieve the list of stolen items, including a blue cooler, a red wagon, and corn chips. Verne, R.J., and the rest of the clan find all these objects in the suburban oasis. But they are not welcomed. The president of the neighborhood homeowners' association hires a wild exterminator to remove the pesky wildlife from the area. The forest becomes a zoo. When the bear returns for R.J.'s head, the exterminator tries to kill off the animals and Hammy discovers caffeine. But like all other computer-animated flicks, it ends happily.

The formula for creating computer-animated films has become a generic equation; a heartwarming lesson, zany characters voiced by megastars, and an overlapping string of "adult-friendly" jokes. Although these movies achieve great box office success, audiences are looking for something different, but until then, this film offers some form of summer entertainment.

Q and A: Tim Johnson, "Over the Hedge"

By Carla Gualdron and Janelly Chavez // T.I.P. Staff Writers

Q: I read the role of R.J. was originally for Jim Carrey. Why did it end up going to Bruce Willis?

A: Jim Carrey worked with us in the beginning, but then he became real busy because he was doing two live action movies at one time. So he didn't have time for us, but once we asked Bruce he said 'yes' and brought charm to the character R.J.

Q: What is your previous experience with directing films?

A: I've done "Antz" in 1998 and "Sinbad." This is my third DreamWorks film.

Q: Did you use the actors' traits when shaping their characters?

A: Yes, I mean who plays dead better than William Shatner?

Q: How long does it take to make an animated film and what is the process?

A: It takes about four years. We go through the process in slow motion. The first year we develop the storyboards. Between the second and third year we work with the actors and start recording their voices. The last year we put the frames together to form the animated film.

Q: How was the experience making the movie?

A: It's shocking that they paid me. I had so much fun watching brilliant people do brilliant work.

Q: What was your dream summer job in high school?

A: My dream summer job in high school was drawing pictures for the local magazine my junior and senior year!

Q and A: Wanda Sykes, "Over the Hedge"

By Carla Gualdron and Janelly Chavez // T.I.P. Staff Writers

Q: As a comedian/actress what was it like playing your role behind the scenes as opposed to being in front of the cameras?

A: I really enjoyed this process of being behind the scenes because I didn't have to deal with makeup or fixing my hair. I could just roll out of bed and go to work.

Q: I understand that you've done comic films, you've written for comedy shows, and have done stand-up comedy. Now you've done a voice in a comedy animated film. Which one do you enjoy most?

A: Stand-up comedy is the one I love doing most. It's where I started my roots and being passionate about it. If I don't feel funny on stage then there's no freedom to say what I want to say...

Q: I have heard you have a lot of experience working as a comedian with Chris Rock. What was that like?

A: Chris is great! I credit him for letting me work on "The Chris Rock Show." It was such a great experience working with him. He gave me all the tools I needed and I learned so much from him. There's no price for it.

Q: How did you feel, as a comedian, playing a role without seeing the viewer's reaction?

A: It was definitely hard for me. I'm used to getting feedback from the audience. If I see one person laugh I keep going. The audience is what motivates me.

Q: How did you get involved with "Over the Hedge"?

A: My agent called me and told me about their offer. I was like 'yeah sure.' So we went over there and they asked me to play the role of Stella, the sassy skunk. After that I really got into playing my character.

Q: What was your dream summer job in high school?

A: My dream summer job in high school was something in sports. Like work with a professional team or player.

Heated Topic: Must See Summer Movies

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

This summer the cinema will be sizzling. Here's what you should check out.

Or, put another way, here's why you might want to spend \$10.50 to see it.

"X-Men: The Last Stand," opening 5/26, Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman, Anna Paquin, and Patrick Stewart. A cure for "mutancy" is created and the team of heroes is given the option of becoming human. All the while, a colossal war between mutants and humans is taking place. The ensemble is back with an extra punch from characters like

Angel, Beast, and Juggernaut.

"The Break-Up," opening 6/8, starring Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn. When Aniston's character ends her relationship with Vaughn's character, the two begin a war of wits to force the other to leave the condo they both call home. The movie that started Vaughn's past work in "Wedding Crashers."

"Click," opening 6/23, starring Adam Sandler and Kate Beckinsale. Workaholic dad treads so far in a Bed, Bath & Beyond store; he goes way "beyond"

by buying a universal remote that can control every aspect of life. Funny man Sandler is hilarious without special effects-- with them he's even funnier.

"Superman," returning 6/30, stars Brandon Routh, Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth.

Superman is back with 21st century special effects. The hero is drawn back to Metropolis to win over Lois Lane and battle Luthor. This flick is part of a successful franchise and fans shouldn't be disappointed with this version.

WHAT TEENS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

date rape

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



▲ Artwork by: Jenny Mui

DATE RAPE RESOURCES:

For more information or facts contact:

www.BARCC.org (Boston Area Rape Crisis Center);
1-617-492-7273 (English); 1-800-841-8371 (Spanish)

(Provides free services to rape and sexual assault survivors; a multicultural staff welcomes teens and provides services in English, Spanish, Haitian/Creole, and French.)

OR

www.RAINN.org /or call: 1-800-656-4673 (The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network)

-By Jennifer Sanchez



An important issue not often in the news is date rape. Many teens are unfamiliar with this term and assume it is just another form of rape, but this is only half the truth. After researching on the Internet and speaking with Gina Scaramella, executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, T.I.P. has learned that date rape occurs more often than we think and there's a lot to learn about it.

What should teens be more aware of? For starters, teens need to understand what date rape is. Date rape is forced sex between partners, dates, friends, or simply general acquaintances, according to the website www.teenadvice.about.com/od/daterape/. Date rape can leave a person scarred both physically and emotionally. It is also a crime.

Most rapes occur in the house of the victim or while on a date with someone they are familiar with and trust. It is not an act of love or passion, but an act of violence and aggression. A common excuse for date rape is "you were asking for it," but in reality the way a person drinks, dresses, or flirts is not an invitation to have sex. Although statistics show 96 percent of reported cases were against females, according to Barbara P. Homeier, MD, males can also be victims of date rape, making up an estimated 7 to 10 percent of unreported cases.

Although many cases have been reported, there are many victims who remain silent because they fear no one will believe them. In situations like this, a good first response is really important to the victim because they feel someone is there ready to listen and help. The difference between rape and date rape is that "the perpetrator is using trust to have the victim let down their guard," Scaramella said. A leading cause of date rape is that messages from one person to another are misinterpreted and someone's needs and wants are not expressed clearly.

Two main questions that many people ask are 'what should you do after being sexually assaulted,' and 'where do you go' for help? According to authorities, victims of date rape must never take a shower or cleanse themselves in any way because this can result in washing away DNA or other evidence left behind by the perpetrator. The safest place to go is the emergency room where "the hospital would be able to provide medication to prevent pregnancy, HIV transmission, any sexual transmitted diseases, and document the incident," according to Scaramella. To help a friend, the best thing to do is listen and respect their need for confidence and privacy so they are able to tell the story and get help sooner.

Date rape does not discriminate against gender, age, or race, and can happen to anyone.

"I think it's just really important for people to take the time to learn about this issue rather than accept what the general population through TV and stuff think," Scaramella said. "The more we know, the more we can work toward prevention."

Schools Downsize [FROM PAGE 1]

to have 1,100 students, now consists of the Social Justice Academy (SJA), the Engineering School (TES), and Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH).

Sung-Joon Pai, headmaster of the Media Communication Technology School, said the first year of downsizing went well. "There was lots of planning that happened beforehand that I am grateful for. It's been exciting because everyone is doing something new."

Eleni Saridis, senior class president of the media school, agreed. "It went OK," said Saridis, 18. "The first year is a chance to experience and be ready for a better year."

At Brook Farm Academy, headmaster Edmund Donnelly said the first year was a success. "It's been a lot smoother than everyone thought it would be. The kids who were resistant are finding it better," he said.

One of these students is Janice Sanchez, 16. "At first I didn't want the school to break up because I thought it was going to be boring staying in the same small place all day," Sanchez said. "Now I think it's better because you get to interact more with your peers."

Although most students seem to be enjoying the smaller schools, there are those who feel that the change wasn't necessary. Lashonda Alen, 16, who attends Social Justice Academy, said there was no point in breaking up the schools. "It's bad because people don't like it, and are still doing the same things like skipping class and leaving school."

Sophomore Jamal Edegu feels the same way. "If you go to another floor it's trespassing, you get arrested, and five days of suspension. All this interrogation for no reason."

Justin Wright, a junior at the media school, said "I don't like the small schools because I can't see my friends or visit other schools." But Jalisa White, a senior at SJA, said the new smaller schools were OK with her. "I think things have gone pretty well considering it was the first year. Everything has been very organized."

Linda Lipkin, assistant director of SJA, said, "The fact that we have fewer students and a focus on relationships and curriculum makes it feel like a community. I wish we started sooner because the seniors are least served by the change while the freshmen and sophomores are enjoying all the new benefits."

Students and staff are finding lots of benefits in the small schools, such as smaller class sizes, individual attention, more concentration from the students, and less commotion. They are also finding "a sense of belonging," Lipkin and Donnelly said.

"It's been a very successful year and things will continue to get better as we go," said headmaster Pai.

One view [FROM PAGE 1]

"I prefer that my teenage children don't get themselves involved with that site," he said, adding that many parents don't even know that MySpace.com exists, making it impossible to know if their child is participating.

It is well known that even preteens create MySpace pages in which they pose as 16-year-olds, or older. "MySpace is hazardous to kids because sex offenders can very well be using MySpace to look for victims," said Stefano. "There should be a higher age requirement for young teens who access profiles."

MySpace also doesn't have a censorship monitor, so people are free to use curse words, or display inappropriate photographs. For these reasons, many parents and teens may agree with Stefano that MySpace.com isn't a good environment for students. The question to ask is: do you really want all your business at some stranger's fingertips?

A second opinion:
Website encourages diversity

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

Countless Boston teens have become hooked on the popular social networking website, MySpace.com. Many teens who now log on to MySpace have left their previous Web pages such as MiGente.com (for Latinos), AsianAvenue.com (for Asian Americans), and BlackPlanet.com (for African Americans). Why are so many teens leaving their once preferred sites? For one reason. MySpace.com users don't have to worry about race because the website attracts a diverse group of users. The other sites do not offer diversification. As high school student Luis Pimentel, 18, explained: "Currently, I only like going on MySpace because you have more friends. There isn't just one dominant race. It's everyone and, although I have a page on MiGente and BlackPlanet, I like MySpace much better because there's more stuff to do on the site." Steven Francois, 16, agrees. "I like MySpace because it has more people and more nationalities" represented.

Diversity is not the only thing that keeps these teens coming back. The features on MySpace.com are more advanced, giving users much more to do. "I like checking comments and seeing people's pages," said Francois. Pimentel said: "I like it when I have new friend requests, new messages, new comments, and new picture comments. I know everybody likes it when they log into their names."

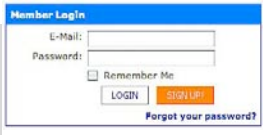
For teens, getting comments from friends, as well as friend requests, is exciting. What's even more thrilling is being reconnected with long lost friends and family. MySpace.com is an excellent place to be spontaneous-

ly reunited with old friends or family members. "I have found a lot of people" by using the website, said Wendy Nunez, 17.

Pimentel was excited at finding friends through the site. "I found some of my elementary school friends. I was in shock when I found them or they found me. I also found people that I lost connection with. MySpace helped me reconnect with them."

Another good aspect of MySpace.com is that users do not have to talk to everyone. If a person searching the website wants total access to your profile, they have to make a request. "I request and accept them only if I know them," Nunez said. "If not...denied!"

There is also a feature on MySpace.com that allows users to set their profiles as private, making sure that anyone who isn't your friend doesn't see your information.



TIPS FOR
USING MYSPACE

MySpace can be enjoyable in many ways, but you must be smart while using it. Use caution. Here are some tips:

- 1. Do not post personal information such as your full name or address.
- 2. Do not post revealing pictures. This is actually a rule of the website.
- 3. Only talk to people you know.
- 4. Block people who bother or threaten you.
- 5. Don't post comments that can get you in trouble with the law.

-By Bianca Lao

"Save the Date"
Media Matters
Conference...
Wednesday,
November 1, 2006
"Save the Date"

Before an audience of peers and adults at the Media Communications Technology High School (MCT), a WriteBoston partner high school, three students read from narrative essays they wrote to Mayor Thomas Menino in April. These three students won first, second, and third places in a narrative essay writing contest held schoolwide.

Cash prizes were awarded to the three winners; the three students who won honorable mention each received a rhyming dictionary. The participants in the contest included members of Ms. Demetra Stavrianidis and Ms. AnnMarie O’Keefe’s 12th grade classes at MCT.

Read excerpts of their essays on these pages.

1

First Place Essay Winner: “My Mom Is My Hero”

By Marcos Rodriguez ■ College English 12, MCT

The loud pounding and commotion coming from the other room woke me. I didn’t know what was going on when I heard the cries of my mother and the roaring of my father’s voice. I wondered “why is my mom crying...wasn’t she happy just a minute ago when she put me down to sleep?” I wondered what could be going on. Then I realized that my mom was being beaten down by a man...my own father. As a 5-year-old, it was impossible for me to imagine how much pain my mother could endure from a man’s hand as he resorted to violence....

My sisters were trying to calm my father down after they heard my parents arguing, but nothing could stop him. I was frightened and all I could think of was “why was this happening? Why was my father so angered?” I curled up in my sheets while one of my sisters sat with me trying to calm me down. After hearing the devastating cries of my mom and sisters, I heard my mom scream in agony. It felt as if time stopped. Everything started to go by in slow motion.

My eyes were wide open and there were no more happy feelings running through me. I cried frantically because I could feel what my mom was feeling at that moment. I felt tense. Fear took over me....I saw his hand rise up slowly and

as I blinked, my mom, my superhero who couldn’t be defeated, the one person who could get through any hardship, was on the floor helpless with a black eye and a bump on the head... The warmth that filled my house turned cold just like the bitter cold of the outside. The scent of her perfume turned sour and her warm kisses felt like wounds to my face.

My sister grabbed me and held me until I felt better. The police came to arrest my father and my mom was taken in an ambulance. As I laid my head down on my sister’s shoulder, I saw the blue and red lights flash away as the police car took my father off to the station. I knew there had to be a cause for this emotional dispute between my parents and indeed there was. As I entered the room where the argument took place, I sensed the strong smell of alcohol...A few years later, when I was old enough to understand better, I had realized that the cause of that argument was alcohol. My father had come home drunk and had hit my mother....

I strongly believe that no child should ever have to witness a situation like mine....I’ve also learned a great lesson from this experience....that no woman should have to suffer from a man’s words or hands. It bothers me to know my mom had to suffer under the hands of my father for a couple of years. My parents are no longer together and are officially divorced. As for me, I’ve gained a much greater bond with my mom and I’ve truly learned how to fully appreciate everything she does whether it’s for me or for her. That is why she continues to be my hero and always will be.

2

Second Place Essay Winner: “World Is a Scary Place”

By Milhouse Senecharles ■ English 12, MCT

Horried and shivering, I thought of everyone I loved. I felt my heart shrinking as my pain increased. My feet were no longer on the ground; my heartbeat was in a race. Then I thought of how I would be able to see the world through a better window.

It was one typical Friday night; I was walking outside of the mall from Sears where I work. I was released at eight o'clock. It was about 36 degrees outside. I had to come out from the other side of the store to get to the bus stop that was all the way on the other side of the mall. It usually takes me five minutes to get to the bus stop, but I walked so fast that I made it in three minutes.

As I was hurrying down the stairs, I heard the sound of a bus leaving. When I looked closer I saw that it was the number 16. I ran across the street without thinking. The traffic lights were green. A black Jeep was coming and I thought I would have time to make it to the other side of the street. I didn't know when it reached me. The driver beeped his horn, which made me run faster. I was not lucky that night; I didn't reach the bus stop on time. I saw that, still I didn't give up. I thought I would make it to the next stop. I caught up with the bus, but I felt like something held me back. I waved at the bus driver; he acted like he didn't see me. I felt embarrassed.

When I finally got to my bus stop, I stopped. I felt weird. I felt a pain in my chest. It hurt so bad that I could not stand up straight. I started coughing while I was waiting for the other bus to come. The night got colder. I was coughing and shivering at the same time. I couldn't breathe through my nose so I had to open my mouth to breathe. My pain got worse and I couldn't take it any more. I thought my day had come. I leaned forward and held the pole that was holding the stop sign. I watched cars pass by, every color and brand. I was hoping that someone I knew would pass by and see me, but I was dreaming. I thought that I wasn't going to get home that day, but God thought differently. My pain got better when the bus came and I sat down.

Since I was a little girl I was scared of the dark. I always worry that someone is walking behind me. I think of all the troubled people out at night, especially on a Friday night. Finally, the bus stopped and I got off. I looked at my watch and saw the ride only lasted 10 minutes. I started walking. Every time I heard footsteps behind me, I looked over my shoulder and every time it was a different man. I slowed down and let them pass by. I don't trust anyone at night; I don't know what they are carrying.

No one trusts anyone and why should he or she? No one even bothered to stop and ask if I was OK, or if I needed help...No one really cares about anyone. I always worry at night. I don't like walking in the dark by myself unless I have to. I don't leave my house for no reason. This world is becoming scarier every day.

3

Third Place Essay Winner: “The Struggle”

By Venus Trent ■ English 12, MCT

When I was eight years old my father passed away...I remember the day he went to the hospital, the night before he died, on November 28, 1996, Thanksgiving Day...I saw blood all over the floor and before I could get a good view, my mother quickly shut the door. I heard my mother ask my father, “When's the last time you ate?” and “What did you eat?” I could hear in her voice that she was about to cry. The very last words I heard from my dad were, “I had a pastry about two days ago.”

Unfortunately it was all real. My family and I made our way to the hospital. Everyone was silent, probably thinking the same thing I was thinking. It seemed like the longest ride in my life...I remember exactly how he looked. He was very skinny, his face looked dry, and his mouth was full with a tube. His nose had one tube in each nostril. The tube coming from his mouth had black sticky stuff I have never seen before. It had blood coming out of it, connected to a machine that had lots of blood flowing into it. I did nothing but stare at him in shock because I had never seen him like that before. My mother was talking to him but he wasn't saying anything back. My cousin told me to say something to him but all I could say was, “Hi daddy.” The doctor came into the room and my mother was talking to him. He was telling her what the problem was but I could see the expression on her face that things weren't too good. As a result, she sent me and my siblings to my grandmother's house.

When my twin sister Vanessa arrived at my grandmother's, my siblings Tia, Thomas, and Tina were already there. We walked into the kitchen where the rest of our family was getting food. As I walked back down the hallway with my plate of food, my sister Tina told me that my father died. We both started crying and she hugged me.... I was heartbroken. I felt pain the most when I got home and I saw my mother.... She held her hands out to me and hugged me very tight for a long period of time. I knew she was in the most pain. Just to think that she had to raise five children on her own without any help. The oldest was 14-years-old at the time....

Honorable Mention Essay Winner: “Train Ride Never Expected”

By Mirna Encarnacion ■ English 12, MCT

It was around the time of the holidays, a couple of days before Christmas. My boyfriend, my friends, and I decided to leave early because it was the last day of school before the holiday break. We decided to take the Orange Line to Back Bay, so we would be able to shop around the Copley Mall.

Six teenage boys got on the train with us at Forest Hills, but I didn't think anything of it because it was normal for a group of kids to get on the train. On the train, there was a white guy, kind of feminine looking in my opinion. He was dressed casual; he may have been a college student. Then the six teenage boys surrounded the white guy and began talking to one another in a suspicious way. Since my friends and I were engaged in conversation, we didn't really pay attention. Suddenly my boyfriend moved from where he was sitting, and as he moved, I moved with him to the seats in front of us where there was a better view of what was happening. Worried and confused, I asked my boyfriend what was going on, but he didn't know either. He just sensed something was about to happen.

Then it was out of nowhere—what I would never expect, what I had never seen face to face in 16 years. The six teenage boys robbed the white guy of his iPod and I think his money. I heard the boys say “Fag, give us everything you got, f***** fag,” and many other things I don't believe is proper for me to say. These teenagers not only robbed this innocent guy but they abused him physically, smacking and punching the guy everywhere....

As soon as the next train stop came, the teenage boys ran out like crazy. I felt bad and kind of guilty...because I didn't do anything to help him. But how could I? It happened so fast.... I felt guilty because if it was me, I would want someone to help me even though they didn't know me, but if I felt that way, why didn't I help him? I felt guilty because I was a coward and didn't help someone in need and just froze like nothing was happening....

Why would anyone steal something from someone? Don't they think that maybe that person worked very hard to get what they had? Don't they get it that they are hurting someone? Don't they see that person is a person like them?... Don't these people have any conscience or guilt or feelings? I guess not....

After that day, I never rode the train again. Just imagining something like that or maybe worse can happen again right in front of my eyes or even worse to me is terrifying. I wouldn't know what to do.

Honorable Mention Essay Winner: “The Value of a Family”

By Raimar Martinez ■ English 12, MCT

On November 6th, 1997, when I was nine, my life changed... I was leaving Puerto Rico in search for a better life in the United States. Well, not me, I was too young for that. My mother was, and she was taking her three sons with her. My father would not be able to come with us because he and my mother had separated. They were not divorced yet, but they were separated. My dad told me of all the food and fruits I would never be able to eat again. I knew he had lived in the US years before I was born, so I knew he was right. That day we were to board a plane in San Juan, the capital of P.R., at 10:30 a.m. I made sure I had awoken early, when I heard the first rooster “cock-a-doodle,” which I knew I wouldn’t be able to hear again. The day before, my dad had mentioned the fruits I wouldn’t be able to eat, so I sat out to make sure I tasted them one last time. There were the mangos, beach grapes, which are different than regular grapes, “quenepas”, “acerolas”, “tamarindos” and “parchas.”

It wasn’t my choice. If I could of, I would have stayed in P.R. The car ride to San Juan was quiet. Nobody spoke. When we arrived to the airport, my father kissed us, hugged us, blessed us, and was gone. I had put on two pairs of socks that morning remembering my grandfather had told me to do so since it was so cold in Boston. We checked in and boarded the plane, and as we took off, sitting next to the window, I could see the beautiful Puerto Rico one last time....

I arrived in Boston, where our aunt picked us up. She was waiting with four coats in her hand...Just as everyone in my family had told me, your family is the most important thing in the world. They are only people who are going to be there when you need someone. There was my aunt by herself, her husband being in work and her daughters in school. It was really cold that afternoon; it was now about 2:30 p.m. since it’s a four hour plane ride. I began to wonder how different it was. I never knew you could be in two different places, separated by miles and miles, during the same day. One place was extremely hot, the other extremely cold. One place was filled with friendly people, people who you could count on even if they weren’t family, the other filled with strangers who won’t even look at one another and that you only see once in your life. One place had trees filled with fruits; the other place had trees with no leaves....

The food was different. There was the rice and chicken, but besides that, nothing I ate in Puerto Rico existed in the US. Where were the “panas”? The candies in the US were the same as the ones in Puerto Rico, but the “tronkys”, the “pankys” and the “serenatas” were all missing. I found it great that the

value of the dollar used in Puerto Rico was the same used in the United States, especially since I had heard that every country had their own separate value of dollar.

It was exactly four years later, in the summer of 2001, that I was going back to visit my father, my family and Puerto Rico. It was very surprising to find out my family had rented a mini bus (!), the ones that hold about 20 passengers, to come pick us up. Almost everyone came to the airport, from grandparents to cousins, and those who couldn’t come were all waiting in my father’s house. No one was missing. Well, there was my mother back home in Boston and my aunt who lived in New Jersey and uncle who lived in New York, but besides them, no one else was missing. My grandparents had hit the nail when they said that family is all you really got. And there was no doubt about it that night.

Honorable Mention Essay Winner: “My Grandmother”

By Elton Rodrigues ■ English 12, MCT

I woke under light, and immediately started to cry for my grandmother. I didn’t know where I was and who all these people were around me. Why was blood all over me? I looked around the room and realized that I was in a hospital and all those people around me were doctors. All the doctors were wearing white shirts and white pants. I saw that my shirt was filled with blood; also my entire head was covered with blood. It seemed like I jumped in a pool of blood. I was frightened and didn’t know what to do, so I cried out for my grandmother again. The doctor gave me a shot and I went right to sleep.

When I woke up the first person I saw was my grandmother. I was so delighted to see her. My grandmother was on the bed that I was laying on, and she was holding my hand. She started to cry and I joined her, and we cried together. I didn’t cry because I was sad, I cried because I was glad to be with my grandmother.

A few minutes later a doctor came to my room and explained to me what had happened. He said when I jumped from the car I hit my head on the ground and got a concussion. He also said that someone saw me on the ground and brought me to the hospital and that I lost a great deal of blood. The doctor said that I didn’t have any brain problems, and that I was lucky to be alive. I received thirty-five stitches on my head. I spent three-weeks in the hospital and my grandmother was there very day. She brought me food because I didn’t like the hospital. She kept me safe and loved me every day even when I gave her a hard time. I think the will to see my grandmother again kept me alive.

Cape Verdeans and Latinos are the same, right?

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



Cape Verdeans and Latinos: What is the difference? Many people figure that placing the Cape Verdean and Latino backgrounds into the same category shouldn’t create commotion between the two nationalities. As a Cape Verdean, I believe it creates confusion because Hispanics and Cape Verdeans are from different ancestors and were raised to learn different teachings than the Latinos were.

Lucilia Barbosa from The John D. O’Byrant School said, “Cape Verdeans are from Portuguese and African descents.” When Cabo Verde was a deserted island, tribes from Africa and people from Europe settled in the island that is now known as Cabo Verde. These two ethnicities made offspring now known as, Cape Verdeans to start their own way of life.

Latinos, on the other hand, have their own background and their own story on how they came about. Latinos are originated from Spaniards, Native Americans, and Africans. When the Native Americans settled in the Spanish speaking countries that we know of today, Spaniards from Spain

went out for search of land, and once they landed on the different Hispanic islands and countries in South America, they conquered and kept the land. After this event, the people from these now speaking countries brought African slaves onto their land. That was where the Latinos got their culture.

Many people believe that because some Cape Verdeans and Latinos have curly hair and similar physical features that they the same. Don’t get me wrong. There are similarities between Latinos and Cape Verdeans, as Heather Centeio from Belmont High said, “The parents have the same view on how to treat their kids.” Another similarity is the language. Not all of the Creole words are similar to the Spanish words, but some are. This is true because some of the words in Spanish came from the Portuguese dialect, and Cape Verdeans use some of their words from the Portuguese dialect as well. As you can see, there are many differences between the Cape Verdean and Latino race, but there are some similarities as well.

Horoscopes



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

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Symbol: The ram

Strengths: Active, daring, spirited

Weakness: Hasty, impulsive

Summer forecast: Use your daring behavior for the best. Make a move on the one you want or tackle the job you desire. Your impulsiveness will create happy results for you this summer.

When it's too hot: Stay in and make some popsicles. Take your favorite flavor of juice, pour it in an ice cube tray. Then lay a sheet of tin foil over the tray and poke toothpicks in each cube for a clever handle. Freeze and enjoy.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Symbol: The bull

Strengths: Patient, imaginative, authentic

Weakness: Stubborn, defiant

Summer forecast: Summer may be boring some days; use your terrific imagination to better it.

When it's too hot: Get out of the sun and into a cool movie theater and catch a summer flick. We have a few recommendations on pages 16 and 17.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Symbol: The twins

Strengths: Curious, open-minded, possessing many talents

Weakness: Capricious, impatient

Summer forecast: Make your summer a memorable one. Take advantage of all the opportunities thrown at you. Make sure you soak up every moment with friends and family like you would soak up the sun.

When it's too hot: Sit in a cool spot in your house and catch up on your summer reading. There's nothing new on TV anyway.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Symbol: The crab

Strengths: Generous, perceptive, caring

Weakness: Cranky, tempered, grumpy

Summer forecast: Sleeping in may get the best of you come September. Make sure you give yourself time to get back on schedule before the end of summer.

When it's too hot: Instead of hanging Downtown, take the T farther down to the CambridgeSide Galleria Mall and enjoy free air conditioning and food samples from the Food Court.

LEO

(July 23-August 22)

Symbol: The lion

Strengths: Responsible, reliable, devoted

Weakness: Arrogant, crabby, self-indulgent

Summer forecast: Make plans with your friends from school. If you lose touch now you may not have friends when school starts again.

When it's too hot: Can't take the heat? Get into the kitchen. Surprise someone by cooking something while in the comfort of your cool kitchen.

VIRGO

(August 23-September 21)

Symbol: The maiden

Strengths: Supportive, compassionate, conscientious

Weakness: Unorganized, critical, picky

Summer forecast: If you have a summer job, make sure you know who the boss is. Although you may know you're right, the boss can fire you. You wouldn't want to be penniless.

When it's too hot: Put on a bathing suit and find some water to play in. Ocean, pond, lake, fire hydrant, puddle. no matter what kind of water, it'll keep you cool.

LIBRA

(September 22-October 22)

Symbol: The scales

Strengths: Appealing, smart, sensitive

Weakness: Scheming, hopeless, coy

Summer forecast: The summer brings a streak of good luck, so feel free to try something new. It can only go right because the stars are in your favor.

When it's too hot: Take up a new sport. At least you'll have an excuse for the excess sweat.

SCORPIO

(October 23-November 21)

Symbol: The scorpion

Strengths: Intense, playful, lovely

Weakness: Jealous, possessive

Summer forecast: Don't stress! Your intensity may get the best of you when you realize you have too much on your plate. Remember, it's summer and you'll have plenty of time to get everything done.

When it's too hot: Take a nap in front of a cool fan. You'll definitely want a nap come September, so take advantage now.

Summer forecast: Alternatives to melting in the summer heat

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22-December 21)

Symbol: The archer

Strengths: Fervent, stimulating, charming

Weakness: Quarrelsome, irresponsible at times

Summer forecast: Your school year was filled with stress, so make this summer a relaxing one and allow time for yourself. But don't avoid all of your responsibilities.

When it's too hot: Instead of starting a fight with your sibling, play a board game. It's better than just being bored.

CAPRICORN

(December 22-January 19)

Symbol: The goat

Strengths: Meticulous, diligent, achiever

Weakness: Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible

Summer forecast: Don't let the woes of your school year love life get the best of you this summer. Things are looking up.

When it's too hot: Hit the showers! A nice cool shower will cool you down. The added benefit is that you'll smell better.

AQUARIUS

(January 20-February 18)

Symbol: The water bearer

Strengths: Rational, coherent, consistent

Weakness: Offensive, self-centered, immodest

Summer forecast: The friends you make this summer will only remain friends if you put effort into the friendships when summer ends.

When it's too hot: Start an at-home exercise regimen so when you are ready to head out you'll have a summer body.

PISCES

(February 19-March 20)

Symbol: The fish

Strengths: Vigorous, daring, bold

Weakness: Impractical, dreamy

Summer forecast: Don't be disappointed if your summer plans fall through. There's always Plan B.

When it's too hot: When it's really blistering, go outside and get used to it because it can always be hotter, or worse, colder.



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SUMMER STARTERS

Hey, dude, the calendar says vacation is coming. It's the big one, summer break. T.i.P. has done the thinking for you and offers these ideas for making the best of the months ahead.

Top Five summer fashion don'ts & do's

By: Phil Donahue // T.i.P. Senior Editor
and Sarah Blanchette // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Don'ts:

5. Heavy makeup at the beach
4. Glasses that take up more than half your face
3. Hairy legs in a mini-skirt
2. Flip-flops and socks
1. No orange tans!

Do's:

5. Classic and clean cut
4. Longer shorts for girls
3. Proportional sunglasses that accentuate your facial features
2. White is a great summer color this season
1. A healthy glow to your skin

Ten ways to make money without getting an official J-O-B

By Janelly Chavez // T.i.P. Staff Writer

1. Wash cars; Besides making money, you'll make some drivers look better.
2. Make a stand in the park selling lemonade, Kool-Aid, or iced tea.
3. Mow lawns and water plants. You'll be green in more ways than one.
4. Do window washing. You'll see clearer the next time you spend money.
5. Sell popsicles. Take the heat out of a hot day.
6. Throw a neighborhood block party.
7. Have a yard sale; Make cash by getting rid of your junk.
8. Baby-sit; pet sit; house sit.
9. Walk dogs. You'll get exercise and money at the same time.
10. Teach kids how to ride a bike.

Ten ways to stay out of trouble this summer

By Mike Smith // TIP Staff Writer

1. Stay in the house.
2. Don't talk back to cops! (I know it's hard. I hate them too.)
3. Don't "court" girls or guys who live in notorious areas and then cheat on them.
4. Don't do drugs. (They told me to write this.)
5. If it's going to happen, use protection.
6. Avoid parks and bus stations after dark. (You think I'm joking?)
7. Get a job. (For real it works.)
8. Go on a vacation.
9. Go to the beach and get a tan. (Why? I don't know.)
10. Go to a farm and learn how to raise cattle. (Ran out of ideas, fam.)
11. Other than that, you're on your own.



Top 10 reasons to get up before noon this summer

By: Phil Donahue//T.i.P. Senior Editor
and Sarah Blanchette//T.i.P. Staff Writer

10. The trash won't take itself to the curb.
9. Catch up on your morning news.
8. Watch the beautiful sunrise and to remind yourself what the sun looks like.
7. The best spots at the beach are gone by 1 p.m.
6. To catch a matinee (it's cheap).
5. Morning cartoons are very educational.
4. To annoy everyone in your house.
3. You landed yourself in summer school and you're already late.
2. Because you've been asleep since noon.
1. McDonald's breakfast!!

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You've got
problems?

Yo,
Mo!

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

Yo Mo

I have a big problem. I am a high school junior, and I am really feeling this girl a lot. She's feeling me also, however she has a boyfriend. Her boyfriend is pretty good to her but I think that I can treat her even better. But here is my dilemma. Her boyfriend is my cousin. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Romeo awaiting his Juliet

Dear Romeo

You really do have a dilemma, especially if you care about your relationship with your cousin. I guess you have to consider what you will be losing and what you will be gaining. If you go out with this girl you probably will lose the friendship of your cousin. However, if you consider your cousin's feelings you won't go out with the girl. I guess the best thing to do is to consider what you are willing to lose.

Love,
Mo

Send your "Yo, Mo" letters to: PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205 Or call in your queries to: 617-929-8374