

T.i.P.

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ DECEMBER 2006



Jam'n backstage at

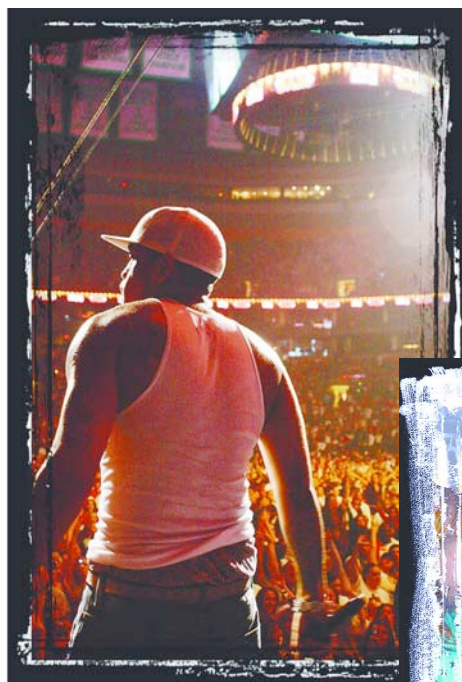
DETOUR

**Live from
the ViP**

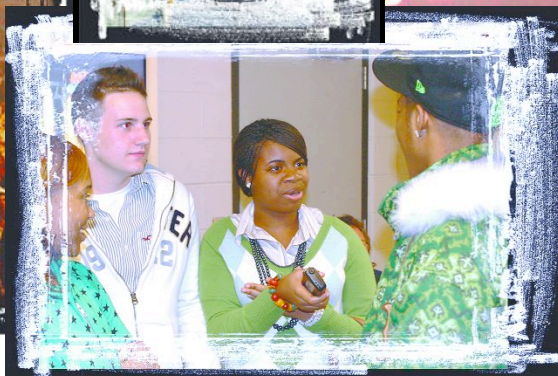
Backstage with 94.5

By Wesley JeanBaptiste
T.i.P. Senior Writer

Monster Jam



▲ Photos Courtesy of 94.5



◀ T.i.P. staff with Chingy

Have you ever been to Monster Jam? This year the T.i.P staff was given the opportunity to go to Jam'n 94.5's Monster Jam 2006, which was hosted by Jam'n 94.5's Ramiro and Pebbles of the Morning Show. TD Banknorth Garden provided the facilities.

In the box seats I had a great view of the left side of the stage. This gave me the ability so see the artists go on and off the stage. Some of the acts that night, included: Cherish, Cassie, Rick Ross, E-40, Chingy, Ciara, Yung Joc, Chamillionaire, Lloyd Banks, and T.I..

Here is what I thought of the artists, their performances, and the concert as a whole.

The night started off with Jam'n 94.5's stunt man Krazy Kulo. He dressed up as Beyonce, in a big blond wig, trench coat, stripper boots, and fish net-stock-

[VIP, PAGE 17]

By Phil Donahue and Samantha Mbawuikwe // T.i.P. Senior and Associate Editors

T.i.P. was VIP backstage at Jam'n 94.5's 2006 Monster Jam. We chatted with a few performers, including R&B songstress, Cassie, sister act Cherish, and midwestern rap star Chingy. Here's how it all went down behind the curtains of the latest hip-hop concert.

Cassandra Ventura, better known as Cassie, has become one of the best new artists of 2006. She walked in the room with a small entourage, yet still evoked a 'girl-next-door' aura. Cassie's first hit sin-

gle "Me & U" peaked at No. 3 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, and her single "Long Way 2 Go" is quickly climbing. The 19-year-old singer and former model says her success is partly due to the popularity of her Myspace.com profile.

Cassie believes that people adding her single to their profiles ignited her fame. "That was a lot of the song gaining its credibility, just because people picked it and they didn't really know who I was. The song developed and went to different radio stations [and] got played before I was signed," said the R&B star. Her popu-

larity on the site is growing by "like a hundred thousand pending [friend requests], right now," Cassie said. The singer is now signed to Diddy's Bad Boy Records.

Cassie is also embarking on an acting career. Her superstition got the best of her when mentioning her possible movie role. She said, "I'm reading for a part. I don't want to jinx myself. I probably already jinxed myself!" She laughed, and the girl-next-door persona evoked a star's charisma. Look out for Cassie's debut, self-titled album and her new single "Ditto."

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**What's up with
Ramiro and Pebbles?**

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Letter to Readers

The Boston Globe Foundation is proud to support T.i.P., Boston Teens in Print, our award-winning publication written by and for Boston's high school students. Since its inception in 2004, the goal of T.i.P. has been to encourage young people to think and write about their world – and to share that voice with the rest of our community.

If you're a Boston teen, read what T.i.P. writers have to say about senior year and applying to college, coming out gay, and who the hottest acts were at this year's Monster Jam. Do you agree with T.i.P. writers? Do you have another opinion? Let them know at bostonTIP@globe.com.

If you're an adult, we promise that you will learn about the serious issues young people face every day, but you'll also see how they have fun as T.i.P. staffers, interviewing local celebrities and being invited to screen new movies before they are released! Please let us know what you think about T.i.P., too – we'd love to hear from teachers, parents, and friends of Boston teens.

We thank our partner in this venture, WriteBoston, for the exceptional writing, mentoring, and coaching they provide to Boston's young writers. Without their dedication to this project, the weekly after-school T.i.P. sessions would not be filled with enthusiastic young people learning how to express themselves. As one teen writer said recently, "I have so many ideas about life, and I needed to write them all down on paper!"

Boston teens are communicating – let's listen!

Leah P. Bailey, Cathy Downs

The Boston Globe
FOUNDATION



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Meet the T.i.P. staff

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

T.i.P. is steadily becoming a larger and more visible publication with the printing of each issue. Look for us in Boston high schools and the City Weekly section of the Boston Sunday Globe. This issue is chock full of celebrity interviews, ranging from our convos with "X-Men's" Hugh Jackman, R&B sister act Cherish, rap star Chingy, and hip-hop sweetheart Cassie. We also had a private chat with your favorite radio DJs (Ramiro and Pebbles!!) at Monster Jam and give you a closer look inside (Page 17).

This issue will also give you TiPs on what to wear this winter season, which gifts to buy for the holidays (Page 12), and which college you've

never heard of that may be right for you. This issue still offers our regular features, such as Horoscopes, Yo Mo!, and the controversial In Your Face commentaries.

What has changed this year is the growth and composition of our staff. Teens in Print has a large group of smart and savvy staff reporters (who joined us this fall after attending the WriteBoston Journalism Camp last summer) and an intelligent group of senior writers and senior editors, many of whom have been with the paper since the start. But T.i.P. still relies on the core group of contributors–YOU, our readers! So sit back and enjoy this pre-holiday issue.

– Phil Donahue, T.i.P. Senior Editor



RYAN WARD

If you could travel anywhere: Uruguay

Favorite holiday song: "Merry Merry Merry Frickin' Christmas"

Favorite TV series: "Scrubs"

If you could have any superpower: Super strength

SHEILA LEE

Most overused phrase on IM: LOL

First thought waking up: Ugh...it's morning already?

If you could have any superpower: Telekinesis



SARAH BLANCHETTE

All I want for Christmas: iPod

Favorite sneaker brand: Puma

Favorite comedian: Dane Cook

First thought waking up: I want to go back to bed!



MARTINE ROMULUS

Favorite TV series: "The Game"

Favorite holiday song: "I'm Getting Nothing for Christmas"

If you could travel anywhere: Hawaii

If you could have any superpower: To fly



STEPHEN SAMPSON

Favorite TV series: I don't watch TV.

School controls my life.

Item of clothing you can't live without:

My frog boxers

If you could have any superpower:

I'd be a shape shifter.

Favorite comedian: Dave Chappelle



CARLA GUALDRON

All I want for Christmas: Sidekick 3

If you could travel anywhere: Brazil

Most overused phrase on IM:

I overuse the smiley faces!

First thought waking up: Where is the stupid off button on this alarm?!



STUART SPINA

If you could have any superpower:
To be able to screw around with the fabric of the universe

Favorite comedian: Myself

If you could travel anywhere:
llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrob-
willlantysiliogogogoch, Wales.

Favorite sneaker brand: Champion



PHIL DONAHUE

All I want for Christmas:

World peace

Favorite holiday song: "Last Christmas" by Jimmy Eat World

Favorite sneaker brand: Diesel

Item of clothing you can't live without: Flip flops



WESLEY JEANBAPTISTE

Favorite holiday song:

"Frosty, the Snowman"

Most overused phrase on IM:

J/P (just playing)

Item of clothing you can't live without: Hats

Favorite TV series: "Heroes"



NEELABH BHARTI

Favorite TV series:

"South Park"

Most overused phrase on IM:

Ha ha ha

Favorite comedian: Mitch Hedberg

If you could travel anywhere: Spain



SAMANTHA MBAWUIKE

If you could have any superpower:
Invisibility

Favorite comedian: Chris Rock

Favorite sneaker brand:

Vans or Chuck's

Favorite TV series: "Gilmore Girls"



JESSICA PINA

Favorite holiday song: "Silent Night"

Most overused phrase on IM: BRB

First thought waking up: Do I have to?

If you could travel anywhere: Hawaii



KIANNA WATLER

Item of clothing you can't live without: Jeans

If you could travel anywhere: Japan

Favorite sneaker brand: Adidas

All I want for Christmas: Money



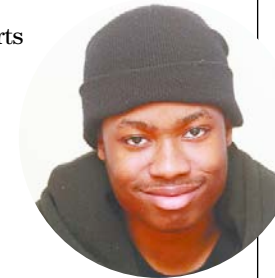
MICHAEL SMITH

All I want for Christmas: Button up shirts

Favorite Holiday Song: "Let it Snow"

Item of clothing you can't live without: Socks

First thought waking up: Am I going to make it through the day?



ARIANA DIGGS

Most overused phrase on IM:

LMAO

If you could travel anywhere: Paris

If you could have any superpower:

To read minds

Favorite TV series: "America's Next Top Model"



KRISTINA PERRY

If you could travel anywhere:

Hollywood

Item of clothing you can't live without:

My green sweater with black stars since Chingy hugged me [while I was wearing it].

If you could have any superpower:

Granting wishes

First thought waking up:

What am I going to wear?



JANELLY CHAVEZ

All I want for Christmas:

To spend it with my family in the Dominican Republic

Favorite holiday song: "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"

Item of clothing you can't live without: My PJs

If you could travel anywhere: Africa

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

Now that you've read our ideas, let's hear some of yours! If you have any poetry, features, news or opinion stories, send them in so we can publish them. How great would it be to see your name in the paper? Share your words and thoughts with all the T.i.P. readers across Boston. To learn about submission guidelines, or to submit your writing by e-mail, visit our websites at: writeboston.org or bostonTiP.com.

Next issue: March 2007

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.

Or, call WriteBoston at 617-541-2604.

—Carla Gualdrón // T.i.P. Senior Staff Writer



T.i.P.

BOSTON T.i.P.

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OPINIONS
OPINIONS
OPINIONS
OPINIONS



IN YOUR **FACE**

▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

OPINIONS
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Could a Columbine-like school shooting happen in Boston?

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

Violence continued to increase on the streets of Boston this year and youth continued to be involved. Teens take notice, especially when the action hits close to our schools.

Boston Globe reporters Maria Cramer and Megan Tench recently reported on a September incident next to Charlestown High School. Shots were fired at three students, and even though nobody was injured, two Charlestown High School teens, 15 and 16 years old, were arrested and charged with the shooting.

What comes to mind for most Americans when they hear the words “school” and “shooting” in the same sentence? They think of the morning of April 20, 1999 when Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold left their houses with guns, preparing to go to school to commit murder. At the end of the day, 12 students and a teacher were left dead and 24 were wounded, resulting in the deadliest high school shooting in the country. This day is known to most of us as the Columbine High School Massacre, or just “Columbine.”

Although the shooting in Charlestown may not have been on the same level as the Columbine tragedy, I can’t help but wonder: How long until the shots heard outside our schools become the shots that are fired inside our school’s hallways?

Seven years have passed since Columbine. Although the memory of that day has not completely faded from our minds, it is not something that we think about on a daily basis, even as we walk through the metal detectors of our schools or pass by the police officers waiting at the front doors. It seems as though we simply assume that the events that occurred in Colorado could never happen here. But how can we be so sure? Are we really safe in our Boston schools, or is it just a matter of time before a Columbine-like shooting occurs again?

Luckily, it seems as though schools are doing everything they can to ensure a safe learning environment. Many of our schools now have surveillance cameras to match the security of the metal detectors and police officers located at almost every entrance. These new safety precautions make us feel safe, but do they really work?

According to another story in The Boston Globe, a 16-year-old killed seven people inside a school in Red Lake, Minnesota, in 2005, despite the fact that the school had a metal detector, two security guards at the entrance, video surveillance, and a crisis plan. So, if something like that happened at such a secure school, then couldn’t it happen anywhere, even the school you attend?

Perhaps, as we all assumed, there really is nothing to worry about. According to Boston.com, there were 75 homicides in Boston last year and not one of them occurred in a Boston Public School. Maybe we should be more concerned about the walk home from school or the train rides we take alone. The bottom line is that we cannot always be 100 percent safe but there is always hope that we will be protected at school.

MEDIA WATCH

The media is always there when there is something bad to report. The Columbine shootings kept the media writing stories about school violence for months, even years after the tragedy. When a shooting happened outside Charlestown High this fall, the city's newspapers and TV stations were all on the scene. But where are the reporters when teens do good things at school? Where is the media when a teen who is down on his luck at home makes the honor roll at school? Where is the media when a son or daughter of immigrants struggles to learn English in a new and foreign school? This poem raises these questions.

The Media is Greedy

By Ray Newton // T.i.P. Writer

What's up with the Media?
 You only come when things go wrong
 Where were you when we needed ya?
 No matter how much bull you pull out we stay strong
 Get no recognition for the good
 Amping up troubles at school
 I don't want to talk about Hollywood
 Nothing more than greed and self-minded fools
 What's up with the media?
 Where were you when we needed ya?
 Countless people got it just as hard
 But all you hear is suburban schools and their success
 Paparazzi stressing celebrities breaking through their
 bodyguards
 What about the city schools? We're not any different
 from the rest
 If I ran a broadcast it would be equally local
 and statewide
 Politicians are all about sucking up the cameras to
 look glamorous
 What's up with the Media?
 Where were you when we needed ya?
 Damn Hypocrites.

History Lesson # 1: Columbine

Who: Two teenagers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, students at Columbine High School, brought guns to their school with the intention to murder.

What happened: Harris and Klebold shot and killed 12 students and one teacher; 24 others were wounded. Harris and Klebold committed suicide.

When: Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Where: Columbine High School, Columbine, Colorado (near Denver)

Why: Some people believe the teens were mentally ill and prone to violence. Others blame the massacre on the influence of media and violent video games.

What's changed since: Almost eight years later, lots has changed. There is increased security at most schools around the country. Some Boston schools require students to pass through metal detectors or be searched by security guards. Some schools allow random K-9 searches of student lockers in search of contraband. Sadly, this means less trust is placed on students.

—Phil Donahue, Samantha Mbawuiki and Neelabh Bharti



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

Coming out brings happiness to one teen

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

I had to think hard about how to come out. It was not easy. Mostly, I worried about what people would think of me.

First, I came out to my mom at the end of school last year. I told her that I was bisexual (bi) and she said that was OK and that she still loved me the same. People in my house were very supportive of me. This helped me to come out to more people and to be able to be OK with myself. My mom said 'you should not care about what other people think,' including her. She told me to do what makes me happy. Toward the end of the summer, I told my mom that I was no longer bi, but a lesbian. Once again she said 'if that is what makes you happy then I support you.' So did other family and friends.

As I came out slowly, I felt like I was happy for the first time in a long time because I learned that it is OK to be the way I am. I learned there was nothing wrong with it. Now I live my life the way I want and I do not care what people think. They can think whatever they want. I am what I am and I will not change for anyone.

My plan is to start a Gay/Straight Alliance Network (GSA) at my school. I think it will help kids with both gay and straight problems. Parents with kids who come out as gay must learn to support them because for a teenager, it is not easy to come out and say you're gay. People can't help being gay, just like people can't help who they fall in love with. The desire to come out is not something that happens overnight. It is something that you feel inside of you for a long time.

I attended the World Difference conference at the Park Plaza Hotel last spring. The conference was aimed at increasing awareness and preventing physical and verbal abuse in high schools because of one's sex, race, and sexual preference. Several stories and comments told at the conference stand out in my mind. I recalled when my ex-friend yelled, "Do you have a staring problem? F***ing dyke!" Another friend told of being punched in the face by her father and thrown out of her home.

Anti-gay comments are everywhere. My mother's boyfriend says the word "faggot" all the time. My homeroom teacher says she's not against gay people but that she is against gay marriage. I don't want to be called a faggot. I have a rightful name. I want to be called by my name. A lot of words that teens use in school are also homophobic or racist. Maybe if more of us speak out, not just in high school, but everywhere, we could solve problems like protests against gay marriage, violence, family rejection, and school bullying.

The World Difference conference was a success for me because I got to see a lot of people my age stand up and speak out on how they feel about the way teens speak to one another in school. It blew me away when someone beside me stood up and said he or she is proud of being gay. I also loved the way people around me stood up for gay people. The conference shows us that all teens have a choice: they can be disrespectful and prejudiced or respectful and accepting. For me, as I said, I have learned to be happy the way I am.

He's proud and out of jail

By Marcus Williams // T.i.P. Writer

Everyone in life has achievements they are proud of. My achievements may show lower standards than others. I made a great improvement in my life and I consider this an achievement: staying out of jail. I have been incarcerated and it's a good feeling to stay out, to maintain, and to try to make a difference.

I look through my mistakes now that I'm more mature and notice the things I was doing were wrong. If I had committed those crimes at the age I am now, I would have been looking at five to 10 years. At the time, I was easily influenced and a follower; this got me in a place no human being would like to be—in jail! I wanted to be cool and impress others by trying to rob someone I didn't know. By doing that, I was introduced to the court system and instead of the money the victim had, my reward was my first case, armed robbery.

When I went to court, I ended up getting a court-appointed lawyer. A lawyer is a person who is trained and qualified to give legal advice to clients and repre-

sent them in court. But since my lawyer was from the court system, he was representing the courts and trying to hang me. In other words, he was going along with the judge's decision and not working hard to get me a good plea bargain. If I had a paid lawyer, I could have gotten eight to 12 months and come home with a year of supervised probation. But since he was against me and not beside me, at the age of 13, I spent 15 months behind bars. I was so upset and wanted to go home.

You couldn't compare jail to home. The food was atrocious. My privacy was always invaded. I took showers with other inmates and there were usually strip-searches if there was an alert about a weapon on the unit.

After all I experienced in jail, I realized that freedom is one the best things to have in life and that I had to get out of prison as quickly as possible. So I set goals for myself before my discharge to make sure I wouldn't end up in a place like that jail again. On the last day I was incarcerated, I called my mother and told her I was sorry

for all the trials and tribulations I put her through and I let her know I would not make dumb decisions ever again. I came home and was ready to live the life of an average teenager and do the right thing. Instead of valuing the streets, I valued my family to the fullest and started to look at more positive things in life. I came to realize the streets don't care about you and when you're caught in trouble, it's your family you can lean on.

I think freedom is an important key to life because it represents the future. Without freedom, you stand nowhere in life. Being detained doesn't get you a diploma, family, or the skills needed to succeed.

Since I've been discharged, I've tried to get my grades up in school and I've been doing lots of peer leadership trying to get other kids on the right track before their teenage lives end up like mine. I talk to them about teen violence, jail, substance abuse, gang violence, and how to prevent arguments. I care for every child who is headed down the wrong road and I will do whatever it takes for them to do the right thing. Statistics show that youth crimes have been increasing. We are the ones making the newspapers. If you keep your head in the books, you can make a change, the way I did, and stay out of jail.



I Am

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

I am a young black man who loves to write poems and sing songs
looking at these girls showing off their thongs
and you know what happens next, girls getting paid just to have sex

I'm talking about new babies being born, it's a new generation
while we're out sweating blood and dripping tears they're on vacation
not going to school in 10th grade and don't know multiplication

what are we going to do in this world?
gangsta boys and fast little girls

I am a black male who wants to see a change
and I want everyone to feel my pain

Change starts from within yourself and if it's not positive hang it on a shelf
we have to stop the violence in our communities, communities
let's start peace and build unities, unities.

▲ Photo by: Susan Rowe

Christmas comes early in Dorchester

Money available to youth who want to make a difference

By Leah Moschella // T.i.P. Writer

Have you ever wanted to do something good for the community but you didn't have the money? Have you wanted to participate in a program but realized it didn't exist yet? Have you ever had a great idea for a community service project but thought, "I'm just a teen, how can I make this happen?"

Well, here's your chance! The Social Capital Inc. Dorchester Youth Council (SCI DYC) can help you make your dream a reality. Every December, Christmas comes early for Dorchester youth who are interested in making a difference in their community. The SCI DYC provides an opportunity for young people to become civically engaged in local issues by providing youth-ful solutions to community problems.

The recipe for making a difference: youth leadership and participation, com-

munity service learning, philanthropy, and civic engagement. The key ingredients: Dorchester youth, an idea, a proposal, an interview, money, and impact. This recipe has served the council well, as it has distributed \$25,000 in funding to 17 youth-led initiatives in the Dorchester community. It is a recipe the entire community can enjoy. Last year, the 15 Dorchester Youth Council members engaged a total of 850 youth in community service learning and other civic activities, and reached more than 3,000 community members.

In 2004, the SCI DYC launched its mini-grant program, which invites Dorchester youth and organizations to submit a proposal for a youth driven project to help empower young people

to become active citizens. Through this program, youth council members work along with participating organizations to help carry out community service learning projects while developing valuable skills in project development, social networking, event planning and marketing, and budgeting. This program helps build relationships and bridges neighborhoods. The council finds these connections among the groups and helps to build "social capital" and increase civic engagement among peers, while providing Dorchester youth a positive network to effect change.

But the only way change can happen in our community is with your help. If you have ever wanted to make a difference, but were not sure how, here is your chance. A request for proposals will be released this month and applications will be due mid-January. You provide the idea, the leadership, and the proposal and the Dorchester Youth Council can provide the money.

The SCI Dorchester Youth Council is a group of young leaders who meet weekly to discuss new and exciting activities for youth who want to better their communi-

ty. Council members encourage other youth to become community leaders and to help solve the problems of today's youth. SCI Dorchester is coordinated through a partnership between Social Capital Inc. (SCI) and DotWell. Major funding for SCI Dorchester comes from the Boston Globe Foundation and the Miller Foundation. The Dorchester Youth Council is also funded by the Foley Hoag Foundation. For more information about SCI Dorchester, visit www.scidorchester.org. For more information regarding the SCI Dorchester's Mini Grant Program or the Dorchester Youth Council, please contact Leah Moschella at 617-474-1422 or e-mail lmoschella@scidorchester.org.

▲ Artwork by: Artists for Humanity



MBTA to jack up fares

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

On January 1, a major change is in store for Boston commuters. The MBTA will raise its fares, just three years after the last increase.

Riders on all modes (except for ferries and commuter boats) will have to pay more to ride the T. Under the new fare system, the price for a local bus or Silver Line Washington Street ride will rise 35 cents, from \$0.90 to \$1.25. Rapid Transit (Red Line, Orange Line, Green Line, Blue Line, and Silver Line Waterfront) riders will have to pay \$1.70, instead of \$1.25 a trip. Plus, the MBTA will no longer give out free bus-to-bus transfers to people who pay with cash, only to customers paying with Charlie Cards (a plastic "smartcard" that one can put money onto like a "transit gift card") or Charlie Tickets.

Despite how steep the new prices sound, the MBTA would still be one of the cheapest transit agencies in the country. The New York City subway costs \$2.00, as does the system in Philadelphia. Trains in the Windy City

(Chicago) cost \$1.75, and service in San Francisco and Los Angeles cost \$1.50 and \$1.25 respectively. The Washington, D.C., Metro, which bases its fares on distance traveled, can cost from \$1.35 to \$3.90 a ride.

Besides getting fare revenue from its riders, the MBTA also receives 20 percent of the Massachusetts state sales tax, as well as money from its own advertising and real estate transactions.

According to the MBTA, several factors led up to the need for a fare increase. After 9/11, the economy went into a decline, which in turn means less money coming in from the state sales tax. Another effect of 9/11 has been that security has steadily

increased, which means security costs such as antiterrorism equipment, personnel training, and other security upgrades are added to the MBTA's bills. Ridership on the system has been falling, meaning less money from fares coming in to the authority

[MBTA FARES, PAGE 19]



▲ Photo by: Stuart Spina

How to contact the



By Christine Hayes // T.i.P. Manager

Problems with the T? "Write to the Top" and tell them what you think!

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Senior Year

Juggling the demands of Grade 12

▲ Photo by: Nick Anderson



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

Think senior year is challenging? Busy? You may be surprised to learn that many urban kids get into college but don't actually finish a degree and graduate. So take a lesson from other people's senior years and get organized now. It will pay off down the road to be ready to make the most of your last year of public school.

Senior year in high school is packed with academic studies, memorable moments, and, most importantly, preparation for college. The best gift you can give yourself is not to fall behind. The way you perform this last year will help determine how you will achieve in your later years of study. Meeting deadlines and maintaining excellent grades are a must if you plan to succeed.

Senior year is not meant to be stressful,

but don't let it make a failure out of you. This is the year when "young minds are faced with balancing life and getting ready for the real world," says Nicole Bahnam, headmaster at Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA).

In order to survive senior year you must have communication skills and resourcefulness. Your senior year doesn't have to be a shut out; guidance counselors, teachers, and college prep organizations are all great resources to help you manage your time. Parents can also play a major role, as long as they don't do too much for you (college admissions officers can spot parent over-involvement better than you think). Support can also come from places like the Bottom Line,

an organization that gives you the opportunity to apply for grants and scholarships to help finance your future education.

Sometimes seniors can't find time in the day to start and complete their homework, much less manage the college process of finding the right school and applying for scholarships and financial aid packages while meeting application deadlines. Added to the mix are extracurricular activities. Dale Thorn, 17, a senior from BCLA, takes part in extra activities that "will make me look better on my college applications making it easier to get into the college of my choice."

Be careful not to take on too many projects if you know they won't be completed.

The idea is to look good on college applications and not to appear fragmented or like you're forcing it with 20 extracurricular activities. If your grades suffer or you never finish that community service project you signed up for, colleges will see through your trying-too-hard application.

One trick to help with a packed schedule is school planners and calendars. Bahnam of BCLA, says, "I can't run my school without the help of my plan book. It has my to-do list as well as my must do list."

When you are a senior, you're at the highest rank in the school population (that is, until you leave and make your way to college, where you once again will be the little fish in the big sea). You have to ask yourself, "Am I ready?" Davaughna Johnson, 17, a senior from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says, "Yes and no. I've been accepted to a college in New Hampshire, but I'm not really prepared for it."

Senior year also means homework, class projects, and outside life. Don't devote all of your time to work. Senior year is also about creating memories and having all of that work pay off.

Seniors, to stay organized senior year, check out these websites designed especially for Boston students. The Boston Students College Guide is available at www.bostonyouthzone.com. Also, BPS offers help for seniors at <http://boston.k12.ma.us/cte/collegecareerinfo.as>

— T.I.P. Manager Kelly Knopf-Goldner contributed to this article.

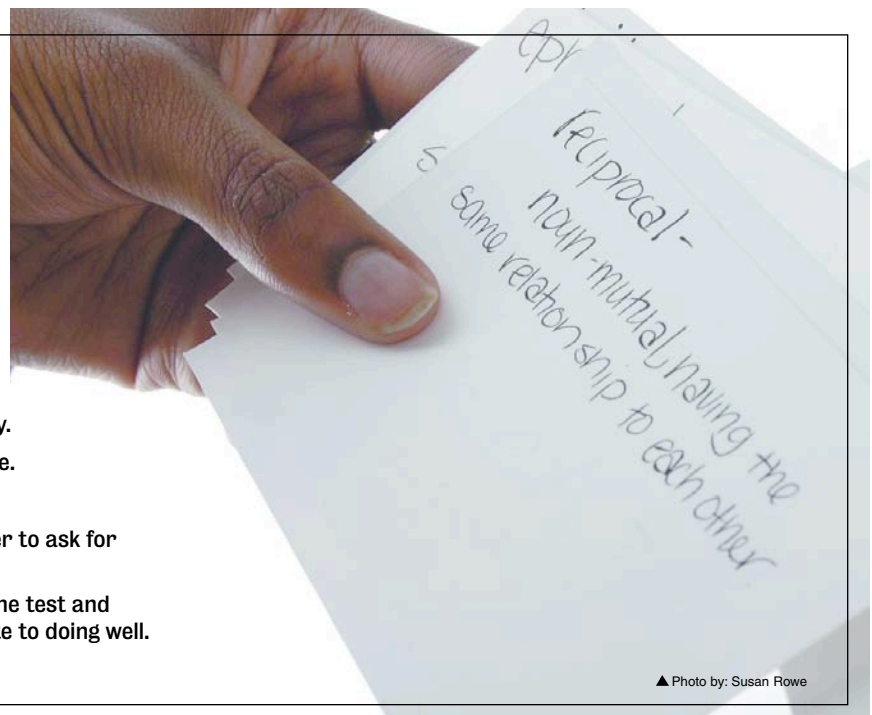
ACE THE SATs

Or at least survive them

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

Want to improve your scores and reach your personal best? Here's our tip sheet for taking the SATs.

- Study vocabulary lists.
- Read more to expand your vocabulary
- Review basic math. It is always good to refresh your memory.
- Study from handbooks that include sample tests for practice.
- Take an SAT prep course so you will know what to expect.
- Get tutored in subjects you have trouble in. It's always better to ask for help than to say nothing at all.
- Most important, relax. Get plenty of sleep the night before the test and don't get too stressed about it because that will not contribute to doing well.



▲ Photo by: Susan Rowe

COLLEGE BOUND

It's not all about SATs, admission officers say

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

Many teens have wondered how colleges will use their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores and transcript when deciding whether or not they get accepted to a certain school.

According to Liliana Mickle, director of admissions for the University of Massachusetts at Boston, "The higher the student's GPA is the less we emphasize the SAT. The lower their GPA the more we emphasize the SAT." This is a technique UMass uses in order to balance out the SATs and transcripts, and to make sure the college gets a complete picture about the student.

The SAT itself is important for many reasons, but being able to compare students from one school sys-

tem to another is a major use. David Hautanen, director of undergraduate admissions for Northeastern University said: "The SAT is important because it is a standard measure of students who have taken the exact same test on a similar day across various schools."

The actual SAT score is used for other purposes. Mickle said "SAT scores are used to place students in certain levels of English classes, and to determine who is eligible for scholarships."

Transcripts, on the other hand, are important for different reasons. Both Mickle and Hautanen believe that transcripts say more about a student than one test since "it shows a student's progression from their first year of high school to their last," according to Mickle. "The transcript is a record of the work the student has put in the last three years," says Hautanen.

The SAT and transcripts are both dependent and independent variables, admissions officers say. In some colleges, like UMass, the SATs and transcripts' impor-

tance rely on one another. A student's GPA determines how much they'll emphasize a student's SAT score and vice versa. At other colleges, like Northeastern, both the SATs and transcripts are seen as independent of each other. A transcript says more about a student because it shows more years of work and progress from one year to the next, while the SAT shows only a few hours of a student's work.

Colleges use many techniques when weighing the SATs against the transcript, but what students should also know is that their SAT score and transcript are only a small part of a much larger component. Colleges don't only use your SAT score and GPA to make a decision, they also consider factors like your college essay, teacher and guidance counselor recommendations, and your extracurricular activities. The other good news is that some colleges don't require an SAT score. In the last few years, both Wheaton College in Norton and College of the Holy Cross in Worcester have dropped their SAT requirement.



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

By Shannon Barrow//T.i.P. Writer

College expenses don't stop after tuition and housing bills are paid. The following expenses should be factored into college cost totals.

- **Travel:** The costs vary depending on where you live in relation to your school, but a plane ticket from New York to Boston, for example, is \$100, while flying from San Francisco to Boston costs at least \$300.
- **Food:** Sometimes you have to eat outside the cafeteria. Estimate \$350 a semester (including restaurants and dorm/apartment food).
- **Books/supplies:** The estimate is \$400/semester.
- **Laundry:** Plan on \$30/semester.
- **Transportation:** At least \$50/semester, depending on your mode.
- **Social outings:** \$300/semester means less than \$100 a month for movies, bowling, or any other social diversion.
- **Household/dorm supplies:** \$100-\$300/semester

Finally, remember that off-campus housing costs will increase with the addition of Internet, TV, household supplies, and furniture. Don't forget to research discounts offered through your university.

What's the right college for you?

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

Do you know where you're going to college? In an attempt to find some lesser-known colleges, I found five (on collegeboard.com) that seem interesting, and each offers different things that set them apart. Maybe randomly picking colleges can be your new technique to a great college life!

Go college shopping:

Name: California College of the Arts

Location: 1111 Eighth Street, San Francisco, CA 94107-2247

Contacts: 415-703-9500; www.cca.edu

Type of school: Private, college of art, four-year, coed; urban setting; very large city (over 500,000)

Majors: Visual and Performing art (88%); Architecture (12%)

Fun fact: Study in Golden Gate Park where you can also golf, go on a riding trail, or play tennis.

Name: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Location: 1530 3rd Avenue, South, Birmingham, AL 35249

Contacts: 205-934-4011; uab.edu

Type of school: Public university, four-year, coed, urban setting very large city (over 500,000)

Majors: Business Marketing (24%); Health professions (18%); Psychology (8%); Education (7%)

Fun fact: Visit the Barber Motor Sport Park where you can watch live racing events and visit the Motor Sport Museum.

Name: City University of New York: Hunter College

Location: 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Contacts: 212-772-4000; hunter.cuny.edu;

Type of school: Public, liberal arts, four-year, coed; urban setting (over 500,000)

Majors: Social Sciences (24%), English (15%), Psychology (11%); Visual and Performing Arts (9%), Communications/Journalism (7%)

Fun fact: Take a break from the books and go shopping! Or maybe you would rather watch a Broadway show or visit Radio City Music Hall.

Name: Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Location: 400 East Second St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Contacts: 570-389-4000; bloomu.edu; rural setting large town (10,000-49,999)

Type of school: Public, liberal arts college, four-year, coed; rural setting, large town (10,000-49,999)

Majors: Business Marketing (19%); Education (18%), Social Sciences (10%), English (9%); Health professions (7%); Mathematics (5%)

Fun fact: Head out and watch the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble or take an exciting ride into area coal mines in an open mine car 1800 feet into the side of Mahanoy Mountain.

Name: Ohio Northern University

Location: 525 South Main Street Ada, OH 45810

Contacts: 419-772-2000; onu.edu

Type of school: Private, university, four-year, United Methodist Church, coed

Majors: Engineering (21%); Business/Marketing (15%); Education (12%); Health professions (11%), Biology (6%); Communications/ Journalism (5%)

Fun fact: Visit Ohio's Amish Country or go hiking on the 1,200-mile Buckeye Trail.



▲ Photo by: Mary Nguyen

How to find a part-time job even in the dead of winter

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

For teens, once the summer is over, getting a job is not easy. Be serious. During the summer teens have many options: The Hope Line, summer camps, and job or internship programs. After that's over, we're back to the streets and getting a regular, part-time job can be a hassle.

But there is hope for teens who really want to get a job to help pay for things they need or want, like clothes, music players, food, and maybe saving for college. Learning what's out there, and the people who can help connect you to a job, are important, T.i.P. has learned.

"The best way to find a job is to simply get involved," says Ruth Henry, supervisor at Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion. "Look for programs, check out places, and build relationships," Henry says.

Henry tells teens to be pro-active when looking for jobs. "You need to go out and explore because they won't just come," she says. "Building relationships helps a lot too because that's where those connections come in," she says. Henry also advises teens to "just walk into a store, pick up an application and fill it out." But she says the process doesn't stop there.

After sending in the application, Henry says it's important to follow up on the process.

Seventeen-year old Gabriela Estrada agrees and says follow-up helped her get her job. "I wouldn't be here now without pushing it through," Estrada says, speak-

ing of how she got her job as a teaching assistant at the Thomas Gardner Elementary School. Henry says teens should call and check in, even walk off the street to talk to managers.

Estrada points out that employers have piles of applications, and says teens must give them a reason to look at theirs.



▲ Photo by: Mary Nguyen

Follow-up also shows dedication and persistence toward your goals. "Show consistency, commitment, and communicate efficiently," says Henry.

Other tips: Make sure you are ready on the phone as well. If you find yourself to be nervous, writing a script isn't a bad idea. The point is to be as concise and polite as possible. All application processes are a little different, but the most important thing is to remain connected with the people you have submitted an application with, according to the experts.

Here are some fine points to keep in

mind when you're out pounding the pavement:

- Come into the interview process prepared. Show the employer you've done some homework.
- Improvising the interview is a big mistake, because preparation will make you feel confident and less anxious. If you were performing a play and you were supposed to fill in for a part at the last minute, you would be inclined to feel nervous. Filling in at the last minute could mean you'll mess up lines and throw the other actors off, which consequently can ruin the entire play. This feeling is no different from going into an interview unprepared.
- As Kent Kirch of Deloitte & Touche consulting firm states on monster.com: "It's really frustrating when an interviewee doesn't know the company or the position they're applying for." So you also want to go in and ask good questions or respond to the interviewer's questions with knowledge that shows you did your homework.
- Besides being prepared and showing common courtesy, Bing Broderick, Bakery Director at Haley House Bakery Cafe in Roxbury recommends "Look them in the eye and shake their hands," before you actually start the interview. You should even send a thank you card after the interview to show that you appreciate the time they spent to interview you.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS:

Even before you open your mouth, the first thing a potential employer sees is the way you dress. Keep these tips in mind when you are deciding what to wear when you go out looking for work.

- Dress for the occasion. You wouldn't wear a prom dress to hang with friends, would you? Then don't go job hunting dressed as if you were out at your favorite under-21 club. Girls, dark slacks and a pastel color blouse (or a skirt with a conservative top) will help make you look more professional than a mini-skirt with a loud patterned top. Guys, conservative pants and a button down shirt (or sweater) works well.
- Clean up! A shower, groomed hair, and clean clothes will go a long way in convincing a future employer that you'll look good at work.
- Bag the jewelry and body piercings. For a more conservative look, cover up and let the piercings be a private matter between you and your best buds.
- Clean out your mouth. Yes, it's a good idea to brush your teeth before going out to look for a job. Might as well get rid of the gum and candy in there too.

—By Marie C. Franklin, T.i.P. Editor

Internship gives teen a look at the law

By Minh Thach // T.i.P. Writer

During my time at the Summer Leadership Institute at WilmerHale, an international law firm with an office in Boston, I realized that never before had I met such a wide range of capable people. There is a lot to be said for all that a teenager is able to gain from such an internship experience because rarely are such opportunities open to young people, or anyone for that matter. Through my internship last summer, I was exposed to many different business environments and made connections with genuine people who could help me in my

future. It is very hard to imagine what it is really like to be in the work world unless you are in a professional environment yourself.

The feeling I got from sitting face-to-face with an attorney is indescribable. The field trips offered through the program allowed me to explore various professions. The good news is that you don't have to be interested only in law to become involved in the program. The classes I took also built on some of my untapped skills from public speaking, art, and drawing.

But make no mistake. The work aspect of the program is very real. Despite the differences in the departments we interns were in, there was a general work ethic that was expected from everyone. We worked alongside actual staff from the firm, and learned a big lesson: even a small mistake could prove problematic. Because of this, I learned plenty about organization, as well as being thorough in

what I do. I know that this will prove to be an invaluable skill when I enter the workforce later in life.

I can sincerely say I had lots of fun while attending the program. The money really didn't matter, but it was an added bonus in addition to being involved. The only downside is that interns are unable to return to the program after their first summers at the firm, but the connections and relationships I built will continue long after the program ends.

WilmerHale is a caring and nurturing place that made me want to come back day after day. It was the idea of meeting new people that allowed me to wake up at 7 a.m. every day and get up to come to work.

There are countless other summer programs out there, but the Summer Leadership Institute at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr (the firm's full name) is unique in that it emphasizes a teen's strengths while providing valuable work experience.

Minimum wage gets a hike

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

Working teens will take home more money this winter. According to the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety, the state's minimum wage requirements will increase to \$7.50 per hour beginning January 1. The current minimum wage in Massachusetts is \$6.75 per hour. The jump is the result of a year long debate between the State House and Senate and the first increase in nearly a decade, according to The Washington Post.

A large number of working teens are at the minimum wage level, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they will welcome the pay increase.

Roseanna Gomes, an 18-old senior at Charlestown High, works more than one job where she earns less than \$7.50 an hour. Gomes, recognizes the increase in wages has the potential to help her. "I'll save more time and energy [because] I won't have to work as many hours," she says. She admits that the jobs have taken a toll on her grades but said she is excited that the change is coming. "[With the increase] I'll have more time to do homework," she says.

Jacqueline Villafuerte, 16, a sophomore at Excel High School in the South Boston Educational Complex, works as a cashier for Stop & Shop in Dedham. She makes less than next year's proposed minimum hourly wage. Villafuerte agrees with Gomes, saying, "It will balance things. I won't work as many hours and [I'll] still get paid good."

Looking beyond the new year, on January 1, 2008, the minimum wage will increase to 8 dollars an hour in Massachusetts. While working Massachusetts teens anticipate the increases, Boston teens face a particularly high cost of living. Movie tickets costs up to \$10. Concert tickets spike as high as \$100 a seat. Even a bleacher seat at Fenway Park will set you back \$23. Other cities in the nation with similar city living expenses Boston have altered the minimum wage beyond the state's increase.

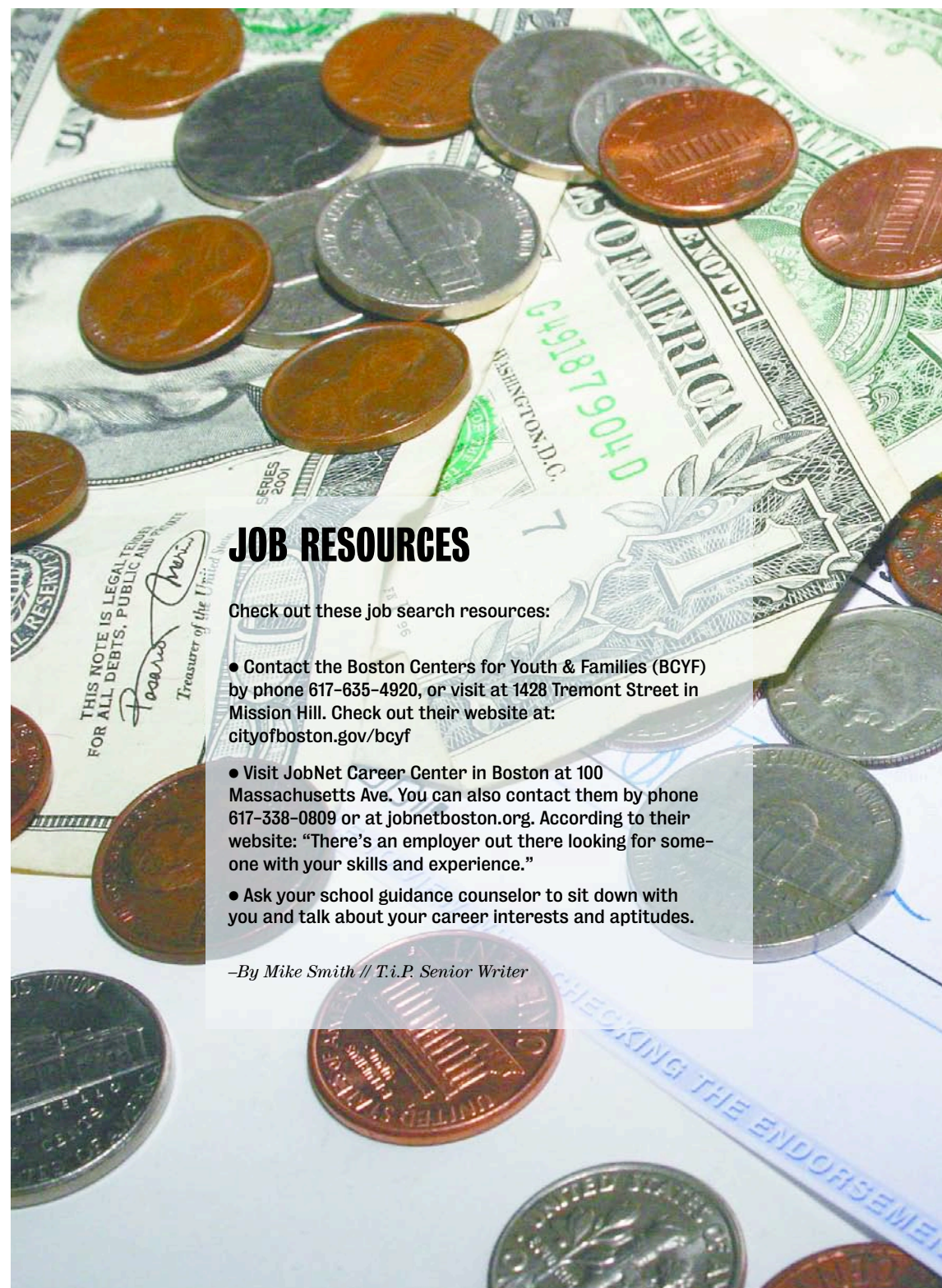
While California is increasing to \$7.50, San Francisco and Los Angeles, whose cost of living is comparable to Boston, are getting further hikes in wages. Los Angeles employees will get \$10.33 per hour (if their employer does not provide insurance; \$9.08 with insurance), and San Francisco's employees are going to earn \$8.82 an hour. While Boston teens appreciate the pending hike, a city jump to match the cost of living in Boston would also be welcomed.

JOB RESOURCES

Check out these job search resources:

- Contact the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) by phone 617-635-4920, or visit at 1428 Tremont Street in Mission Hill. Check out their website at: cityofboston.gov/bcyf
- Visit JobNet Career Center in Boston at 100 Massachusetts Ave. You can also contact them by phone 617-338-0809 or at jobnetboston.org. According to their website: "There's an employer out there looking for someone with your skills and experience."
- Ask your school guidance counselor to sit down with you and talk about your career interests and aptitudes.

—By Mike Smith // T.i.P. Senior Writer



▲ Photo by: Darius Cephas

All I want for Christmas is.

The right gift at the right price

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

These are simple, creative, and cheap gifts that won't be hard to find in this hectic gift-giving season.

For the friend:

Idea: Mixed CDs of the songs you two could not stop listening to this year.

Price: Virtually free (if you don't pay for the songs).

For the cook:

Idea: Buy inexpensive spices from a wholesale market, then purchase a few pretty jars and ribbon from a craft store. Fill the jars with the spices, tie the neck with a ribbon, and place in a decorative basket. Include a recipe (rewritten on decorative paper) that uses some of the spices you included in your gift.

Price: About \$15 depending on the amount of spices and jars.

For the movie buff:

Idea: Fill a popcorn container (found free at a nearby theater) with a movie-lover's kit. Include microwave popcorn, Twizzlers (or their favorite candies), and either a cheap DVD from Target (some are under 10 bucks), a movie rental gift certificate, or a pair of movie passes.

Price: Depending on the composition of the kit it could run between \$15-25.

For the stressed one:

Idea: A basket filled with a mug, variety tea, bath salts, Loufa sponge, and soaps.

Price: \$10-15

For the driver:

Idea: Fill a bucket with car soap, wax, a hose nozzle, and rags (stuffed at the bottom).

Price: \$15-20

For the parent:

Idea: Dig out an old photograph of yourself or a saved piece of kindergarten artwork, and frame it to decorate his or her favorite room in the house.

Price: \$10-15 based on the number and types of frames

For the significant other:

Idea: A heartfelt letter revealing every inside joke, secret, and detail you love about this person. Mail it for an added surprise in the holiday season. Include coupons for "free back rubs," "a special night out," or "one free kiss."

Price: \$5.37; Price of an envelope, paper, good pen, and stamp.



▲ Photo by: Tatiana Ware

GIFT GIVING TIPS:

- With baskets, tie a bow to the tallest item in the container. Include a heartfelt card with the gift to add personalization.
- For the people who really mean a great deal to you, don't set too strict a budget, but don't stress if you can't get the most impressive gift. If they love you, it won't be the cost of the gift that counts. —By Phil Donahue

10 hot dates for cold winter nights

Think the cold weather is the end to your love life? Doesn't have to be. Here are a few ideas for dates when the weather gets cold, and the days get shorter, and the need to be with someone special grows.

No. 1 Take your date ice-skating on the Frog Pond amid the twinkly lights of Boston Common. Even if you don't know how to skate, it's romantic when you fall in each other's arms.

No. 2 Take your date to a holiday movie. Check out some of the city's lesser-known movie venues: the Museum of Fine Arts or the Boston Public Library.

No. 3 Go to a bowling alley with your date and play a few games. Ron's Ice Cream & Bowling in Hyde Park has lanes and gourmet ice cream!

No. 4 Spread some cheer and go caroling around the neighborhood.

No. 5 If you don't feel like braving the cold, rent a romantic movie, pop popcorn, and cuddle on the couch.

No. 6 Dress warmly, put some hot chocolate in a thermos, and snuggle on a bench in the Public Garden. Wander around downtown and view the city's holiday decorations.

No. 7 Take your date to a holiday play or concert. Check out T.i.P.'s holiday calendar (Page 13) for ideas!

No. 8 Bring your date to the top of the Prudential for city views and glittery lights.

No. 9 Splurge on a horse drawn carriage ride at Back Bay or Faneuil Hall. What could be more romantic?

No. 10 Decorate the Christmas tree together. Play holiday songs and sip warm cider.

—Prepared By: T.i.P. Staff



▲ Photo by: Tatiana Ware

‘Urban Nutcracker’ sets classic tale in the inner city

By Sheila Lee // T.i.P. Staff Writer

OK, the weather is getting cold but that doesn’t mean you have to stay inside. The Bean is dressed in its finest holiday decorations, ready for you to get out there and spread some cheer. Here’s the lineup for the city’s holiday festivities.

You may know the story and may have seen the ballet, but the “Urban Nutcracker” is unlike anything you’ve ever experienced before. You’ll get to see the classic story, updated and set in the inner city, using traditional ballet infused with tap, breaking, swing, and hip-hop. For the first time ever, flamenco dancing has been incorporated into the show for the 2006 season. Dancer Isaac de los Reyes comes from Spain and will be in every show this year, showing his mastery of the flamenco dance style. Besides the amazing dancing, you will listen to music that is just as incredible. Anthony Williams, the creator of the “Urban Nutcracker”, has jazzed up Tchaikovsky’s classical music score of “The Nutcracker” with Duke Ellington’s influence. Also, with the help of DJs, the “Urban Nutcracker” gives the classical score a hip-hop twist. With the great music and awesome dance moves, who wouldn’t want to see this show? It is going on now and will be gone after December 17, so get your tickets before it is too late.

End, begin the year at First Night

By Sheila Lee // T.i.P. Staff Writer

What’s a good way to end the year? Going to all the events of First Night, of course!

When you pay \$15 for a button, you’ll get a pass to see more than 1,000 artists in 250 exhibits and performances going on throughout the city. Activities range from musical performances to ice sculptures and other sidewalk displays. There are many musical performances; whether you enjoy classical music, jazz, pop, or rock, there will be something for you to see. This year, you can look forward to Girl Authority’s performance.

Besides music, there will be dance performances and comedy plays for you to enjoy. You’ll get a kick out of the marching band and the fireworks. Fireworks take place twice that day, at 7 p.m. and midnight. There are also workshops for you to make puppets, tiaras, and wands. You can get your face painted and decorate the sidewalk. If you like anime, this will be the fourth year that the New England Anime Society is hosting a room where you can watch several different titles of anime. There are paintings for you to look at, and don’t forget to check out those huge ice sculptures on the Boston Common.

First Night only happens once a year, so don’t miss it because you will definitely have a blast at this event.



Festive events fill the calendar

By Sheila Lee // T.i.P. Staff Writer

DATE	EVENT
11/24 - 1/31	Holiday Stroll: Experience the American Revolution by visiting all of Boston’s historical places. For more information: thefreedomtrail.org ; 617-357-8300
12/2 - 12/3; 12/9 - 12/10	Cultural Survival Bazaar: Learn about different cultures by shopping, eating, and listening to music. For more information: cs.org ; 617-441-5418
12/8- 12/17	Anthony Williams’s “Urban Nutcracker:” Throw some hip-hop and swing into this wonderful and unique performance of “The Nutcracker.” For more information: balletrox.org ; For more information: ticketfusion.com ; 877-548-3237
12/12	Boston Tea Party Re-enactment: Experience what happened during the Boston Tea Party For more information: oldsouthmeetinghouse.org ; 617-482-6439
12/17& 12/20	A Baroque Noel: Listen to some holiday music conducted by French conductor Emmanuelle Haïm For more information: handelandhaydn.org , 617-262-1815.
12/20–12/23	Noël, Noël! A French Christmas: Experience a French Christmas through its music. For more information: bostoncamerata.org ; 617-262-2092.
11/24-12/30	Boston Ballet’s “The Nutcracker.” Enjoy the classical ballet that Boston waits for every year. For more information: bostonballet.org ; 617-695-6950.
12/31	First Night: Call in the new year in an artsy, urban way. For more information: firstnight.org ; 617-542-1399
1/6	Dance Across the City Day: Express yourself through dance at the Wang Center for Performing Arts.

For More Information: danceacrossthecity.org (617) 532-1263



Students, teachers team up at writing conference

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

Students and teachers from 54 high schools across New England came together at UMass-Boston on November 1 to participate in the second annual Media Matters Writing Conference. Media Matters, which was organized in part by The Boston Globe Foundation, is designed for teachers and students to take part in various media and writing workshops and to learn together the importance of media in our lives. Cosponsors of the conference include UMass-Boston, WriteBoston, and Project: Think Different.

Some of the workshop topics included news story writing, photojournalism, and creating your own podcast. Workshop facilitators varied from well-known author Kim McLarin, to Boston Globe columnist Derrick Z. Jackson, to Boston Latin School media specialist Steve Watson.

Participating students were eager to engage in the workshops. Erich O'Neil, a 15-year-old freshman from Beverly High School said, "I'm really looking forward to the 'Fight the Power' workshop because I like writing editorials and I want to get a better understanding on how to write articles well." Alex Recupero, 17, a senior at Brighton High School said, "I'm looking forward to the 'Blog' workshop because I write blogs online and I want to learn more about it."

By the end of the day, students and teachers came out of their workshops inspired and in awe. Kelsey Forward, a 15-year-old sophomore at Apponequet Regional High School, which serves students from Lakeville and Freetown, said: "The photojournalism class was amazing! It taught me to look at things that I never would have looked at, and it showed me how things you would have never put together come together in different ways. I realized how much a photographer has to go through to get a perfect final outcome." Chris Daly, a 17-year-old senior at Plymouth South High School, found his "Making the



Students, teachers, and media professionals spend a day at UMass-Boston learning that media matters.

▲ All Photos: Courtesy of U-Mass Boston

Pitch" workshop fun. "It was pretty cool. I liked how we all had to get involved and give a speech. I learned more on the art of making a speech and public speaking."

Although all the workshops received positive feedback, "Scribbling in the Dark," hosted by Arthur Collins, was among the most popular workshops. Timothy Gay, a teacher at Boston's Media Communications Technology High School (MCTH) commended the workshop organizers. "I was amazed by the talent and the amount of work that was produced in a short amount of time, and by the confidence in the students when they shared their work." Rena Lambrianidis, 17, also from MCTH said, "It was totally amazing! I liked how we worked with students from different schools and made a song together. Most importantly I liked how Arthur Collins shared one of his poems." Kate Padden, a teacher at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School said, "It was a fascinating process for developing creative writing as a group. The teacher was unbelievable and the students' writing was amazing."

Students and teachers left the conference with a refreshed view of the importance of media in American society and said they were ready to apply what they learned to their everyday lives. Make sure to keep reading T.i.P. so you can mark your calendar for the next Media Matters conference in 2007.



Spoken word artist speaks up

By Stephen Sampson // T.i.P. Senior Staff Writer

"Writing is therapeutic," said spoken word artist Arthur Collins of Boston after his workshop at the second annual Media Matters conference held last month at UMass-Boston. "This conference is all about encouraging young people to use the creativity and originality in their voices to reach out and respond to the world around them," Collins said.

Collins does just that in his "Scribbling in the Dark" workshop that he presented before hundreds of participating students and teachers. In this amazing workshop, six teens were selected to participate in creating a song together. One of the six people created a title for the song, while five others developed the chorus, three verses, and a beat around the title.

I was able to witness the amazing voices and emotions of young people through the lyrics they created. In the workshop I attended, the chosen title was "Acceptance." It was wonderful to experience the way teens responded to one topic with so many different views and, ironically, they were all connected. Just because you weren't in the selected few, you were still given the chance to express yourself. Collins created an open mike session at the end of the workshop in which teens such as myself shared some things that we wrote previously in our lives.

"Scribbling in the Dark" has been one of the most inspirational workshops at the Media Matters Conference for the past two years. It wouldn't be so without the talent and dedication of Arthur Collins.

Duncan Nelson, Poet Laureate, UMass-Boston set the tone for the day at the opening session.



▲ Photo Courtesy of 94.5



▲ Photo by: Stuart Spina

JAMN backstage at.

Monster Jam

Monster [FROM PAGE 1]

Farrah, Neosha, Felisha, and Falon King are the sisters who make up the soulful quartet Cherish. The sister act attempted to break into the R&B scene in 2003 with the unsuccessful single "Miss P." Three years later, the group's hit singles "Do It to It" and "Unappreciated" have been rising up the Billboard Music Charts, and have more than made up for their initial flopped attempt. Backstage, the sisters were coming down with a cold but their southern hospitality didn't stop them from chatting with T.i.P. Falon said, "I'm not trying to get us all sick." Felisha quickly replied, "But she is." They owe much of their success to the man who inspired them to sing, Farrah said. "Our father used to sing, too, so he was definitely our inspiration." The sisters also owe some inspiration to other artists who were muses, "We could say artists like Michael Jackson, Etta James, Mariah Carey were great musicians, writers, and singers," said Farrah. Next up for the group is some holiday music. "We're doing some Christmas songs for a Christmas album," according to Neosha. The album should be out now so pick it up.

Boasting five singles that have been in the top 10 Billboard Hot 100, two multi-platinum albums (soon to be third with Hood Star), and a budding movie career, it's no wonder Chingy was wearing green at Monster Jam. The rapper from St. Louis has had so much success in music that he is using his fame to venture into other outlets, like many other popular stars. "I got a movie that's going to be coming out in like March called 'The System Within.' It's like an urban street life movie," he said. Chingy's acting venture is taking place alongside his



▲ Photo Courtesy of 94.5

plans to create clothing lines. The rapper said, "I'm working on a clothing line for women. I'm doing [it] with my little sister Ziggy. It's called Pink Monkey." He added, "I'm also going to be doing this male line with Ed Hardy." The rap star is rapidly expanding his empire and he hasn't even made a fragrance yet.

Look out for Chingy on tour. When T.i.P. met the 'hood star at the recent Monster Jam, he said he was "coming to a city near you."

Live VIP [FROM PAGE 1]

ings. Kulo was performing Beyonce's second single off the B'Day album "Ring the Alarm." Krazy Kulo's performance was gut-busting comedy and his dancing and singing were hilarious. But the first real act to hit the stage was Cherish. The four ladies really surprised me with their performance. Their time on stage looked like a high school talent show. Unlike other great singing groups, Cherish's wardrobe was uncoordinated. Cherish is a group I believe has more work to do on their skills on stage.

The second act that graced the stage was Cassie. Accompanied by her two dancers, Cassie was looking sporty rocking a Bathing Ape hoodie. Cassie's performance is exactly what I expected, absolute greatness. She has an enormous stage presence for such a small fame. Cassie's voice was fabulous and her dance moves were on point.

The third act that rocked the mic was Miami's Rick Ross, representing the 305. The first rapper of the night, Ross woke the crowd up and got everyone amp'd. Performing a continuous amount of hits from his debut album "Port of Miami," Ross did a more than wonderful job.

The fourth act was E-40. The California native disappointed me. He had to be the most boring performance of the night.

Chingy gave the ladies a heart attack as the fifth act. Chingy performed alongside his little cousin. He rapped songs from both albums, "Jackpot" and "Hood Star." Chingy made up for the damage done by E-40.

The last female of the night, the sixth performer, was Ciara. Once I saw the stage equipment being set up, I immediately knew it was going to be a great performance. Some new joints from her album "Evolution" were introduced like "That's Right" and "Promise." In between every song, Ciara talked to the crowd to keep us engaged, a great performing tool. Ciara and her dancers really set it off, and overall Ciara did a fantastic job.

Performance lucky number seven was Yung Joc, who sang four songs, leaving the best for last. "It's Going Down" got everyone out of their seats and doing the Yung Joc dance. He definitely had one of the most memorable performances.

The eighth act was Chamillionaire, the only act we really didn't like. He was singing songs no one knew, and was trying too hard to get the into his performance. The ninth performer was Lloyd Banks of G-Unit. Banks bombarded the stage with his colossal entourage. He was one of the better performers of the night. Banks did many of the G-Unit hits and even made a reference to ex G-Unit member-The Game, saying that "Game was a G-Unit groupie," we'll have to see what beef this comment starts.

The last, and definitely not the least, was the performance of T.I. Hands down, this was the best act of the night. He really proved that he is a King in his performance. The crowd was giving him great feedback.

The whole concert, including the seats, the sounds and the gracious accommodations was phenomenal. If you ever get the chance to go to any of the next Monster Jams, don't let it pass you by.

Q&A WITH Ramiro AND Pebbles



▲ Photos Courtesy of 94.5

In the midst of all the Monster Jam chaos, T.i.P. got an exclusive interview with the disc jockeys who have been waking us up with the Morning Show for years. Here's part of our convo with Boston's favorite DJs from Jam'n 94.5, Ramiro and Pebbles.

T.i.P.: What's your favorite part of the job?

Ramiro: I hate my job. Print it: 'Ramiro hates his job!' I hate talking to people, I hate the listeners, I hate the music, I hate everything about it... I'm just kidding.

Pebbles: Everyone is like 'Oh, that must be the best part of your job, meeting celebrities and stuff.' It's nice, I like it, but I like when we get to talk to audience members and people call in the show. That's the fun part for me.

T.i.P.: What don't you like about your job?

Pebbles: The only thing, I say, is we don't like getting up early.

Ramiro: I don't like it, but, I'm like, if that's what I have to do, to do something I love doing every day, then whatever, I'll do it. I go to bed at 8:30 p.m. and wake up at 3:30 a.m. As far as during the week—no social life whatsoever.

T.i.P.: How'd you get your start in radio?

Ramiro: I went to broadcasting school. I was just looking for a foot in the door. I was willing to do anything, and work [at my college radio station], and sleep there.

T.i.P.: How can other budding disc jockeys get a foot in the door?

Pebbles: Internships are definitely the way to get in.

Ramiro: Do everything. Especially now in this day and age you can never know too much.

T.i.P.: Why do you both haze Krazy Kulo so much?

Pebbles: [You mean] legalized bullying?

Ramiro: I do it for the people. I do it for the entertainment. I do it to make him a sympathetic character. I bully him and people say, 'Wow he's bullying him!' but then they ultimately rally for Kulo.

Missed this year's Monster Jam?

Check out Ramiro and Pebbles at home. Here's how.

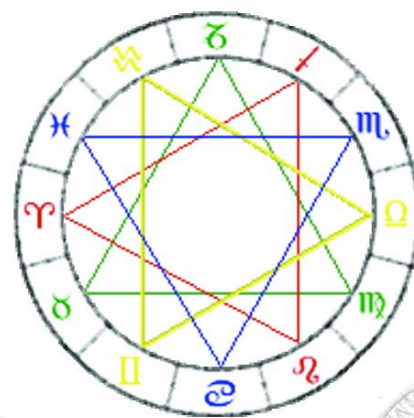
Ramiro

E-mail me: Ramiro@Jamn945.com
Call me: 617-931-1945
Find me on MySpace!

Pebbles

For the most FUN in the morning...
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Monday - Friday 6 a.m. - 10 a.m.
E-mail me! Pebbles@Jamn945.com
Check me out on MySpace
Give me a call: 617-931-1945

Horoscopes



By Wesley JeanBaptiste // T.I.P. Senior Writer and Samantha Mbawuike // T.I.P. Associate Editor

Winter Forecasts: How would you chill with the celebrity who shares your astrological sign?

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Symbol: The ram

Strengths: Active, daring, spirited

Weaknesses: Hasty, impulsive

Winter forecast: Be aware of the negative energy that surrounds you.

Music chills: It's going down at Monster Jam with Yung Joc.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Symbol: The bull

Strengths: Patient, imaginative, and authentic

Weaknesses: Stubborn, defiant

Winter forecast: Paying attention is the key to success in school.

Music chills: Get your hands up with Lloyd Banks.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Symbol: The twins

Strengths: Curious, open minded, multitalented

Weaknesses: Capricious, impatient

Winter forecast: Don't let those gold diggers stop your cash flow; Work is scarce so stash that money.

Music chills: If you drop out of college make sure you register late with Kanye West.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Symbol: The crab

Strengths: Generous, perceptive, caring

Weaknesses: Cranky, tempered, grumpy

Winter forecast: Don't be a prisoner in your own home. Get out and have some fun.

Music chills: Keep your lighters up with Lil' Kim.

LEO

(July 23-August 22)

Symbol: The lion

Strengths: Responsible, reliable, devoted

Weaknesses: Arrogant, crabby, self-indulged

Winter forecast: Kick your addictions good-bye; it's time to travel on a better route.

Music chills: "Crack is whack," Whitney Houston

VIRGO

(August 23-September 21)

Symbol: The maiden

Strengths: Supportive, compassionate, conscientious

Weaknesses: Unorganized, critical, picky

Winter forecast: Stop being frugal; it's time to upgrade your lifestyle.

Music chills: Hit the clubs and be a little naughty with Beyonce

LIBRA

(September 22-October 22)

Symbol: The scales

Strengths: Appealing, smart, sensitive

Weaknesses: Scheming, hopeless, coy

Winter forecast: Lately your balance has been out of whack. Level things out with some much needed perspective.

Music chills: "You got a long way to go" with Cassie.

SCORPIO

(October 23-November 21)

Symbol: The scorpion

Strengths: Intense, playful, lovely

Weaknesses: Jealous, possessive

Winter forecast: It's time to get up and move; it's never too early to hit the gym.

Music chills: Sample some of Ciara's goodies.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22-December 21)

Symbol: The archer

Strengths: Fervent, stimulating, charming

Weaknesses: Quarrelsome, irresponsible at times

Winter forecast: Don't sweat the small stuff; try to remember you'll be out of school soon.

Music chills: Chomp on some Cheetos with Britney Spears.

CAPRICORN

(December 22-January 19)

Symbol: The goat

Strengths: Meticulous, diligent, achiever

Weaknesses: Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible

Winter forecast: Don't become too big-headed and allow overconfidence to cloud your judgement.

Music chills: You can't be without the life of the party, Mary J. Blige.

AQUARIUS

(January 20-February 18)

Symbol: The water bearer

Strengths: Rational, coherent, and consistent

Weaknesses: Offensive, self-centered, and immodest

Winter forecast: Use your quick thinking skills when it matters most and you will come out on top

Music chills: Help bring sexy back with Justin Timberlake.

PISCES

(February 19-March 20)

Symbol: The fish

Strengths: Vigorous, daring, and bold

Weaknesses: Impractical, dreamy

Winter forecast: Don't waste time thinking outside the box because the solution lies inside.

Music chills: Why would you be unfaithful with Rihann?

You've got problems?



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

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

Yo Mo,

With new modifications to the T, like the Charlie Card and remodeled stations, I assumed that with their new appearance there would be "new" attitude from T officials (especially since they're working on training officials to be more courteous). My friends and I have had a lot of problems with MBTA officials lately. For example, one of my friends got robbed of his iPod on the Forest Hills station platform. Although transit police tried to do what they could, he had trouble getting in contact with them. They mostly call him during school hours when he can't pick up his phone, and when he calls back he never gets through. In another situation two of my friends were randomly searched at gunpoint at Forest Hills station by transit police, and another friend was just shut down completely for asking for help with her Charlie Ticket. With MBTA problems like these, what should my friends do?

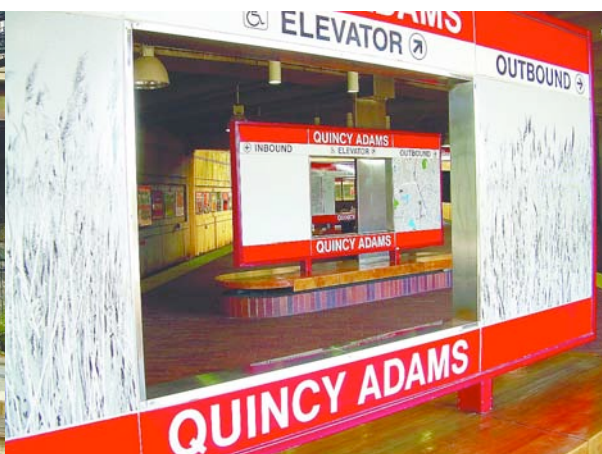
Sincerely,
T'd Off

Dear T'd Off

I completely sympathize with you and your friends. I too have had issues with the MBTA. But I recently found out that you can call the MBTA with your complaints at 617-222-3200 and report to a higher authority (see sidebar for a complete list of contacts). When you call, you should tell them the date and time the incident occurred, as well as the bus number and route. If you were on the train, you will need the color of the line and the time and date of the incident. If you feel you have been wrongly stopped by transit police, write down the badge number and get the officer's name. Be sure you or your parents call immediately after the incident.

If you do not get a satisfactory response to your complaint, you can contact organizations such as Youth Advocacy Project (youthadvocacyproject.org) or the Juvenile Justice Center at Suffolk University (law.suffolk.edu/academic/clinical/jjc) for support.

Sincerely,
Mo



▲ Photos by: Stuart Spina

MBTA FARES [FROM PAGE 7]

In June 2005, the MBTA had discontinued Night Owl Service due to low ridership and high costs, hoping that it would save money and cut costs. This service was a series of bus routes that followed the routes of the Rapid Transit Lines and provided service after they stopped running at around 1 a.m.. The MBTA has also kept the number of employees on its payroll down and reduced overtime hours, as well as increasing ad and real estate sales. Plus, it hosted public meetings and workshops to get some community involvement, especially to learn what the community thought about the fiscal situation and what can be done about it.

If the T kept its fares where they are now, this would mean major cutbacks for the system at large. Up to 20 bus routes would be discontinued, with routes with a high cost per passenger on the top of the list, such as Route 170 Dudley Station-Oak Pak or Route 355 Boston-Mishawum. Plus, bus and rapid transit service during evening hours and on weekends would be cut in half. These cutbacks would be comparable to the service cuts in 1981 when the MBTA faced a similar fiscal challenge and discontinued dozens of low ridership

and expensive-to-operate bus routes, such as (Old) Route 31 Mattapan-Wolcott Square or (Old) Route 28 Mattapan-Arborway.

Besides the fare increase, the monthly pass system will be simplified. Unlike the current system, in which there are dozens of passes, the new system will have a few. There will be the Local Bus pass, valid on all local bus routes. There will be the Monthly OnePass, combining the bus, subway, combo and combo, plus passes into one pass that will cost about \$60. There will also be an express bus pass, a commuter rail pass, and visitor and senior passes. BPS students can rest assured; the student pass will remain as well.

So, how do the commuters feel about this fare increase? No one seems to like it, and at T.i.P. press time, there was some speculation the T might revoke its decision and keep the fares where they are.

When asked about the hikes, Katie Costner, 14, said, "It sucks." Leora Winston, 14, remarked, "Well, I think it's not a good thing, but if they have to do it to keep the system running, it's what they have to do." And Genta Spaho, 17, said, "It's not fair because [we] are paying for the debt of the Big Dig. It's not fair that the [transit] commuters have to pay for people who drive cars."

In the good old days.....

Take a stroll through history and check out these fares.

Historic Boston Rapid Transit Fares:

Cambridge Street Railway, 1857:	\$0.02
(To ride the horse car lines)	
Boston Elevated Railway, 1901:	\$0.05
Boston Elevated Railway, 1918:	\$0.07
Boston Elevated Railway, 1919:	\$0.10
Metropolitan Transit Authority, 1951:	\$0.15
Metropolitan Transit Authority, 1954:	\$0.20
MBTA 1964:	\$0.20
MBTA 1968:	\$0.25
MBTA 1980:	\$0.50
MBTA 1991:	\$0.85
MBTA 2000:	\$1.00
MBTA 2004:	\$1.25
MBTA 2007:	\$1.70 ("Proposed")



—By Stuart Spina/T.i.P. Senior Writer

Your poetry

TIME

By Anthony Dau//T.i.P. Writer

Time
Time is Neutral
Time is an endless flowing river
That river is dangerous
That river has a high current
Once you enter, there's no way out
Once you enter, you know there's a waterfall
Time is a friend to the ill fated
Time is a friend to devotion
It's an addiction
It's a gift to the elderly
Without time we'd be nothing
Without time life would cease
That's just one person's thinking
That's a conundrum bending reality
It's only a matter of luck
It's only a matter of...
Time

LOVE

By Erica Cuevas//T.i.P. Writer

people often confuse being in love with feeling Lust
and in the end they blow you away like you was dust
people often say they love intensely but it's really
Obsession
and trust me that isn't anywhere near relationship
perfection
they say they do things for their love but they're
being Vicious
instead of rough hands you feel their soft touch but
they envisions
while trying to defend your love everyone becomes
your Enemy
it's like saying that loving someone is like committing a felony.

COPING

By Bunmi Olutedo//T.i.P. Writer

It's hard when life is against you
but no one knows it
you try to ignore but you know it's all true
when you try to face it
it's just too much to deal with
you try to find a solution
but how can you solve something
that everyone thinks is just a myth
feelings that are indescribable
and life isn't stable
one thing that's not easy to do is...
coping

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE ME

By Felisha Porter//T.i.P. Writer

Mirror, mirror on the wall, tell me, who's the
prettiest of them all
But not from the glance you take of me
Because it's all about the beauty that lies
beneath

Even though I feel I have it all from my head to
my toes
People don't even stop to see in between the
depths of my soul
That's maybe why I have so many foes

From my dark brown curious eyes
Right down to my thick thick thunder thighs
Standing at 5 ft. 4 inches with smooth piece of
colorful hair
And beautiful caramel skin to round it all up

This is what you would see
If you were to ever take a glance at me
But if you were to have the chance to walk in
my shoes
And see what I see that lies deep down within
my soul
That makes me, me
You would see

A strong, black female who has more to her life
than what appears
But since there can only be one me
I will lay it down to you about what makes up
me

My eyes symbolize the determination of a
female who is always going to look forward in
life and is destined to accomplish and fulfill her
dreams
My mind symbolizes my intelligence that keeps
me on track and guides me through this maze
called life
My back helps me to avoid the people who try
to knock me or bring me as low as the earth's
core that's why I never look back

But enough of my bragging because there is
only so much I can say
But since you can't see what I see
Do not judge me by what you see
Just let it be only one me.

I AM FROM KNGOM MOKE PEE

By Iling Hong//T.i.P. Writer

I am from a big back yard,
Young grapes roll the short metal gate.
From lilies and little trees,
to white rocks close to the sidewalk.
I am from brothers and sisters playing tennis
in summer in the front yard,
from basketballs, baseballs, every color of
bikes,
with broken tires lying on the ground in the
backyard.
I am from sparse green grass growing with a
little dusty dirt,
I am from all kinds of flowers' scents in summer,
from hot chocolate in winter,
I am from a quiet street, "Beeb Beeb" crickets
crying.

I am from six siblings "Ring Ring!" my name
is Iling,
four sisters and two brothers.
Talking, walking, staying, playing together,
Mother, father are happy and laugh.
I am from "very big tummy" when I was little
baby.
Younger, shorter, smaller, and smarter than
my older sisters, but
older, shorter, and the same as my young siblings.

I am from thin hair with pink ponytail ribbons,
little face looks like mouse's face with black
eyeballs.
I am from a thin and hard tummy,
tiny pink duck's head shoes and mom's hand-knitted sweaters.
I am from used to be funny and talkative but
now I am happy and
quiet.

I am from Chinese broccoli with beef,
The smell of that food cooking in Sophie's
kitchen,
My mom is the cook for our family.
"Omtouk" is a famous festival people enjoy,
"Hol Pamoung" special cultural clothing,
Made from silk and all kind of colors,
"Khmer" original language in my own country,
"Kngom Moke pee" is Cambodian for "I am
from..."

Big poor family, one little town in Cambodia,
where I am from.
I am from Chinese Cambodian small girl,
My father's father was a lion roaring from the



WRITE BRAIN STUFF

big long Great Wall in
China,
my father's mother was a stranger to me
from Cambodia.
My mother's father was as strong as a plane
flying with strong metal
wings.
My mother's mother was unknown to me,
My father was a very helpful machine in a
factory making ice,
but now he is a hard worker without a
sound,
My mother is a strong, honest woman like a
fairy godmother,
My sisters are the sound of a drum.
My brothers are smart and always stand-up
for people,
People say I am so sweet like honey, but I
can't tell you
how sweet I am and exactly where I am
from.
I am from black and white old photos
when I was one year old in my father's
hands.
Things used to be faded, shadow, not clear,
Old, that's where I'm from.

I am from a soft blue blanket, computer,
little lamp, and my photos around my bed-
room, even on the wall.
"Moonlight Path" spray every night, nice
and clean smell.
I am from a lovely sister to share a room
with.
I am from a window with a big green tree
waving in the summer
night, with the moon smiling light to the
earth.
In winter I see glistening white snow blos-
soms on the ground.
On the bed colored toys scream, "Tic Toc
Tic Toc!"
Under the bed, nothing.

I AM FROM

By Mirlinda Sejdiu/T.i.P. Writer

I am from pink, red flowers
to green fresh grass, red old cherry tree
and swings hanging on old rotten branches,
back porch with a lot of voices,
sunlight smiling on my window and saying
"wake up! wake up!"

I am from a street with little white rocks
mixed with dirt, the old fences on the side
kids shouting so hard, it reaches the sky.

I am from long, white, wavy hair with a big
ponytail that for years turned to honey
brown curly hair,
happy and shy, with fancy dresses with
shiny black shoes that my stepgrandmother
bought.

I am from the house hidden in trees,
from a little hill up to my porch.
When a smell of grilled steak that comes
from the kitchen, and the sunlight hits the
flowers in the garden.

I am from "Bajram" holiday that is twice a
year. In the morning we go to the mosque
to pray
at noon we eat the "Bajram" special lunch
with nice chicken baked well with baklava
and the cake we go to each relative to share
our wishes door to door house to house
happy, happy "Bajram."

I am from alpine land surrounded with big
boulders that miss me now that I am gone,
the beautiful view of green hills, and the air
that hits my eyes, makes my little nose red
like a little strawberry in my garden.

I am from my great grandmother's hand
knitted socks with little flowers on the top
which make me happy and warm.

I am from white cement walls,
colored walls edges with gray lines.
From big open view of green summer
farmers working on their lands
shepherds playing close to the bridge and
watching their cows.

I am from cold winters mixed with snow,
children playing, their friends skiing
down with the snow balls and big snow
man that had just been made with carrot
nose with the old broom in his side.

I am from an open yard and as you enter it
is full of roses, many colors of other flow-
ers,
fruits trees in a straight line,
little chicken birds looking for their moms,
singing their babies sound "chirp chirp"

I am from the big house where people are
always welcome with lots of respect
that's where we are and where we lived,
overall the sun set down with last smiley
face until another day.

Hey, Girls, what are you doing this summer?

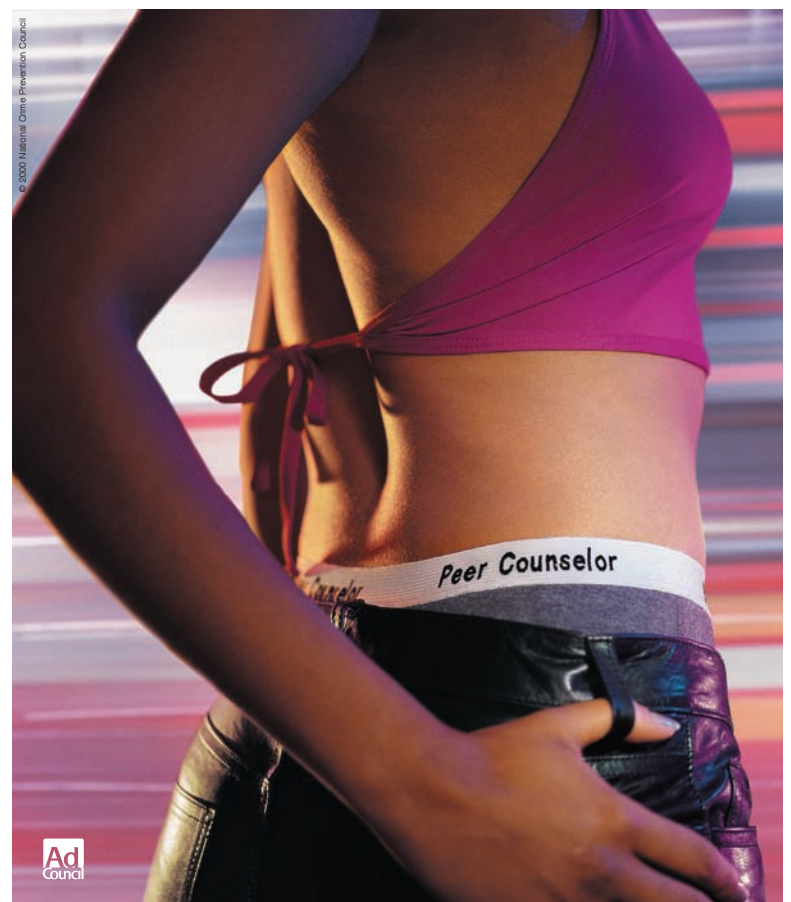
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INSIDE SCHOOL

Meet some members of your new BSAC leadership, interns, and adviser. From left, starting in the front row: Keyla Veloz (Boston Community Leadership Academy), Rahwa Gebrai, Secretary (Health Careers Academy), Bernardine Bernard, Adviser, Tara Jackson, Intern (South Boston Monument graduate), Demitrus Glover (HPEC - Community

Academy of Science & Health), Chhayna Hong (Boston Community Leadership Academy), Jewel Cash, School Committee Student Representative (Boston Latin Academy), Phil Donahue, President (South Boston Odyssey High School), Moriah Smith (Boston Latin Academy), Abibatu Bayoh (WREC - Brook Farm Academy), Braulio Soto, BSAC Writer (HPEC - The Engineering School).



▲ Photo by: Stuart Spina

BSAC

BUZZ

What is BSAC?

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

BSAC is a body of student leaders representing their respective high schools and serving as the voice of students to the Boston School Committee. Members offer their perspective on high school renewal efforts and inform their schools about relevant school issues. In addition to looking at citywide issues, we create and recommend reasonable solutions that will favor not only students but adults.

But BSAC can't do it alone! We work with the community, the superintendent, the School Committee, parents, teachers and headmasters to better our schools.

Currently BSAC's work on important issues and projects in committees includes: School Quality; Small Schools; CellPhone Policy; Lockout Policy; Graduation Policy; MCAS; School Safety; Writing for T.i.P. We need you to join BSAC.

We want every school to be represented on BSAC and in order to make that happen we need all the headmasters in our high schools to make sure that two students are identified, elected, or appointed to BSAC. There is an application process and if interested, students should contact one of the coordinators. Below is a brief description of the support we need from headmasters and the schools from which we still need representatives. In January, we will begin our freshmen recruitment for new members. Look for the flier!

Headmaster and/or key liaison's role:

- Make sure you have two representatives for your school on BSAC.
- Support BSAC representatives from your school in their work relating to BSAC projects and policy issues, such as survey distribution and collection, running dialogue groups, and presentations.
- Keep in regular communication with BSAC representatives to find out about policy issues that may have an impact on your school.
- Meet regularly with your BSAC representatives.
- Make sure your BSAC representatives are getting to BSAC meetings.

Each BPS High School is required to have at least one BSAC representative for their school. It would be ideal to have two. We still need representatives from the following schools: Boston Adult Technical Academy; Media Communications Tech; Boston Arts Academy; McKinley School; Boston Day and Evening Academy; Monument High; Boston International High; New Mission High; Boston Latin School; O'Bryant School of Math & Science; Brighton High; Odyssey High; Community Academy; Parkway Academy of Tech and Health; Fenway High; Quincy Upper; Greater Egleston Community High; Snowden International; Horace Mann School; Social Justice Academy; Jeremiah E. Burke High; and Urban Science Academy.

We met with the new superintendent, Dr. Manuel Rivera, on October 20 during his visit to Boston, to share a bit about BSAC and our upcoming work. We were very pleased to hear that he wanted to meet with BSAC during his time in Boston. He had many other meetings and ended his day with us. We got a chance to hear about his work in the Rochester City School District and learn a bit about his goals for the Boston Public

Schools. He mentioned that his fundamental principle is that whatever he does in BPS is in the best interest of the student. He also spoke briefly about the importance of having students involved in decision-making. It was a pleasure to meet with him. He was very down to earth, interested in student engagement and very interested in working with BSAC. We are planning to meet again in March when we will begin to discuss district-wide policies and how we can continue to be consultants to both him and the School Committee. Dr. Rivera will officially begin in June and we are looking forward to working with him.

Projects 2006-07

This is a very exciting year for us. We have some great projects ahead. They include:

School Climate Research:

BSAC members conducted a student survey on the dropout rate in the Boston Public Schools in 2005-06. Responses show that students believe many people drop out because they lack interest in school, do not feel engaged or invested, or have poor relationships with teachers, administrators, and other students. A large number of responses indicated that the dropout rate should be addressed by changes to the cur-

INSIDE SCHOOL

riculum and school structure to increase student engagement and provide student support.

As follow up, BSAC has partnered with the Youth Transitions Task Force (YTTF) to conduct a School Climate Survey that is focused on the top two solutions. 1. Give teachers real support and training on how to make classes interesting and engaging and 2. Help teachers and students develop better relationships.

What is school climate you might ask? Well it has nothing to do with the temperature at your school. A lot of high schools are trying to improve the school environment by implementing new programs or new strategies that will make your educational experience better. BSAC will create a survey to assess how effective are those school climate efforts in schools. Are they working? Each BSAC member will survey students at their school.

Dimensions of Effective Teaching

BSAC found out earlier this year that the Boston public schools are using a document called the Dimensions of Effective Teaching to develop the new teacher evaluation. It will also be used as a guide to inform future hiring, professional development, and the supervision of teachers. From our understanding, students were not involved in creating this document. BSAC decided to create a Dimension of Effective Teaching from a student's perspective. We are using the Dimensions of Effective Teaching as our starting point and creating an accompanying document, Dimensions of Effective Teaching from a Student's Perspective and Dimensions of Effective Learning. BSAC members want students to take responsibility for their own learning as well. Once we are done, we will present the documents to the superintendent and the School Committee.

Dress Code

Recently there has been attention put on BPS High School dress codes. There was even an article in The Boston Globe about this. Several city councilors have been exploring the possibility of a citywide dress code policy for Boston Public Schools. BSAC has had several discussions on whether or not to take a position. They would like to set a meeting with them to discuss their recommendation and give input. Do you think we should have a citywide dress code that applies to every high school? Tell us why. If you have any questions or comments please contact your BSAC school representative or Maria I. Ortiz, BSAC Coordinator, at mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

Fantasy vs. reality, even in sports

By Ryan Ward // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Playing fantasy sports is like being a kid who never grew up. Fantasy sports are all about using your imagination and playing pretend. It comes down to this: Your own pretend team, with your own pretend players, getting your own pretend points. It's like sports fans playing their own version of little kid dress up.

Fantasy sports enthusiasts put together teams and their unpredictable performances. To win, you just have to get lucky because it is pretty much out of your hands. With your fantasy team gaining points with each real life touchdown the players make, where do your loyalties lie—with fantasy or reality?

For people who don't know what fantasy sports are, here's a brief explanation. For starters, you can choose your favorite sport, for example football on Yahoo.com. You get to put together your own team, using any of the players that really exist in the NFL – a team that will probably never actually exist. You may choose a quarterback from the New England Patriots, but a wide receiver from the Miami Dolphins, for example. You get a quarterback, three wide receivers, two running backs, two tight ends, a kicker, a team defense, and four defensive players. There are fantasy versions for many different sports. A bunch of websites are programmed with fantasy sports. Besides Yahoo, you should also check out NBA.com, MLB.com, NFL.com, NHL.com, and MLS.com.

Players get points based on how well they do in real life, using the statistics from each week they play. Every website uses its own point system, which means that each player gets his own points for certain things. For example, in football, you can get points for touchdown passes and rushing yards. Each player's points add up, and you compete with one other team in your league. Whoever has the most points wins. Then you get a win in the season, which is put in your record. After 17 games, depending on how many teams are in your league, a certain number of teams make the playoffs. Basically, that's how fantasy sports work.

Come game time, should you choose your favorite hometown team, or root for your fantasy team? If you are cheering for the New England Patriots, but one of your fantasy team members is playing against them, who do you really want to make that touchdown? They debate this topic all the time on ESPN sports talk shows such as, "Pardon The Interruption," "Around The Horn," and "Jim Rome Is Burning." The conclusion the people debating always come to is that real fans don't follow fantasy sports because they think that you should root for your hometown team and only worry about them. Others say fantasy sports are good for sports enthusiasts who just love the sport themselves and are neutral when it comes to game time.

"When Sunday comes, the only thing that matters to me is the Patriots, not as much my fantasy football team, always the Patriots. Because I grew up with them, and my fantasy team is fake. Go Patriots," says Matt Ricci, a Boston Latin Academy student.

Personally, I think fantasy sports are just a fun game. It's like playing a video game that once again, you have no control over. But when it comes to game time I always root for my favorite teams, the New England Patriots (football), Boston Red Sox (baseball), and the Boston Celtics (basketball).

Fantasy sports may be an overrated topic, but it's good to find something to talk about in the sports world besides steroids. If you do fantasy sports remember a few things: your favorite team always comes first, and don't pick up Pedro Martinez (Mets pitcher) in fantasy baseball because he will be a disappointment.

—Christine Hayes, TiP Manager, contributed to this article.

Meeting the standards

By Stephen Sampson // T.i.P. Senior Writer

Not many people understand the pressures of being a Boston Public School teen. The pressure of PSATs, SATs, and MCAS hanging over our heads and constantly inflicting fear on our lives, the fear of what will happen if we don't "meet the standards" of these exams. These exams force us to think of the windows of opportunity that can be closed in our lives if we don't "meet the standards."

One such window was temporarily closed in the life of Fred Edouard, a student at Noonan Business Academy in the Dorchester Educational Complex. Edouard was on his way to being a Sovereign Bank employee, but because he didn't "meet the standards" on his MCAS exam, he was not eligible for his position. Luckily for Edouard, the Sovereign Bank staff agreed to work with him on the skills he needed to pass the test. "Fred was a bilingual student.... this always makes the MCAS a little harder," said Jack Leonard, headmaster of Noonan Business Academy. According to Leonard, after working with the bank for a while, Edouard "really grew up, got serious, and eventually passed the test." Leonard and Edouard would like to send a special "thanks" to Sovereign Bank for all of their help and support in helping Edouard pass the MCAS.

The story of Fred Edouard does not end here. It continues as an inspiring example to us. Edouard's story teaches us to be persistent, and despite the different challenges that we face in our lives, with persistency and confidence we can "meet the standards."



▲ All Photos by: DreamWorks & Aafman

Get 'Flushed Away'

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

Everyone has been in a bathroom. Everyone has used a toilet in one way or another. But have you ever wondered about the world that lies beneath the tiles? The new DreamWorks film "Flushed Away" explores the universe of rats, toads, and slugs underneath the piping of the ritzy London neighborhood of Kensington.

Roddy, voiced by the talented Aussie Hugh Jackman, is a pet mouse to a wealthy family. The rodent resides in a golden cage inside the house, and drives a Stuart Little-esque red car on glossy, hardwood floors. But his perfect life goes down the drain when Sid, a sewer rat, invades the posh pad and flushes Roddy down the toilet. He washes up in an underground city where its citizens, rodents and slugs, live under the tyranny of a treacherous toad. Roddy experiences many adventures in the sewer city, Ratropolis. Through his adventures, Roddy discovers the values of family and the significance of trust.

"Flushed Away" marks the first time a Wallace & Gromit production used digital animation instead of their trademark Claymation. This evolution in the genre was a welcomed change in the franchise. Jackman explained that the reinvention was made because Claymation was too primitive to create large sets of city-like proportion. He also explained that water is difficult to recreate with clay.

This comedy also features terrifically composed musical scenes. The green slugs provide a soundtrack to the movie. The shell-less snails harmonize to the lyrics of Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy" and sing in duets featuring Jackman.

The film is a funny tale and is worth checking out. "Flushed Away" has an all-star cast including Jackman, Kate Winslet, and Ian McKellen. It opened in November and will be on DVD early next year, so pick it up.



Fun facts

Go behind the scenes with the cast and director of “Flushed Away” and learn the secrets behind the film.

★ When Roddy is flushed away from his posh Kensington flat into the mysterious world beneath London, the first being he encounters is a slug voiced by none other than Hugh Jackman. Sound engineers took Hugh’s scream as Roddy and reworked it electronically so that the slug would scream exactly the same as Roddy (albeit at a considerably higher pitch).

★ If all the tunnels in “Flushed Away” were laid end-to-end, they would cover 6.5 miles. Compare that to the 30,000 miles of sewers underneath London in real life!

★ In the scene when Spike gets electrocuted, an armature (rather than a skeleton) is visible inside his body, similar to what he would have had as a stop-motion puppet.

★ In Tabitha’s room, there are a variety of dolls from previous DreamWorks Animation films, including a Gromit and several bunnies from “Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit.”

★ Many characters from past films make cameos in “Flushed Away.” For example, a “Chicken Run” chicken is on the second page of the Toad’s scrapbook, Gromit’s head is a pencil top in the Jammy Dodger, and the penguin from “Wallace and Gromit: The Wrong Trousers” is on a stamp on the Jammy Dodger.

★ The “Flushed Away” lighting team used real properties of physics, such as bounce reflections, refractions, and ambient occlusion.

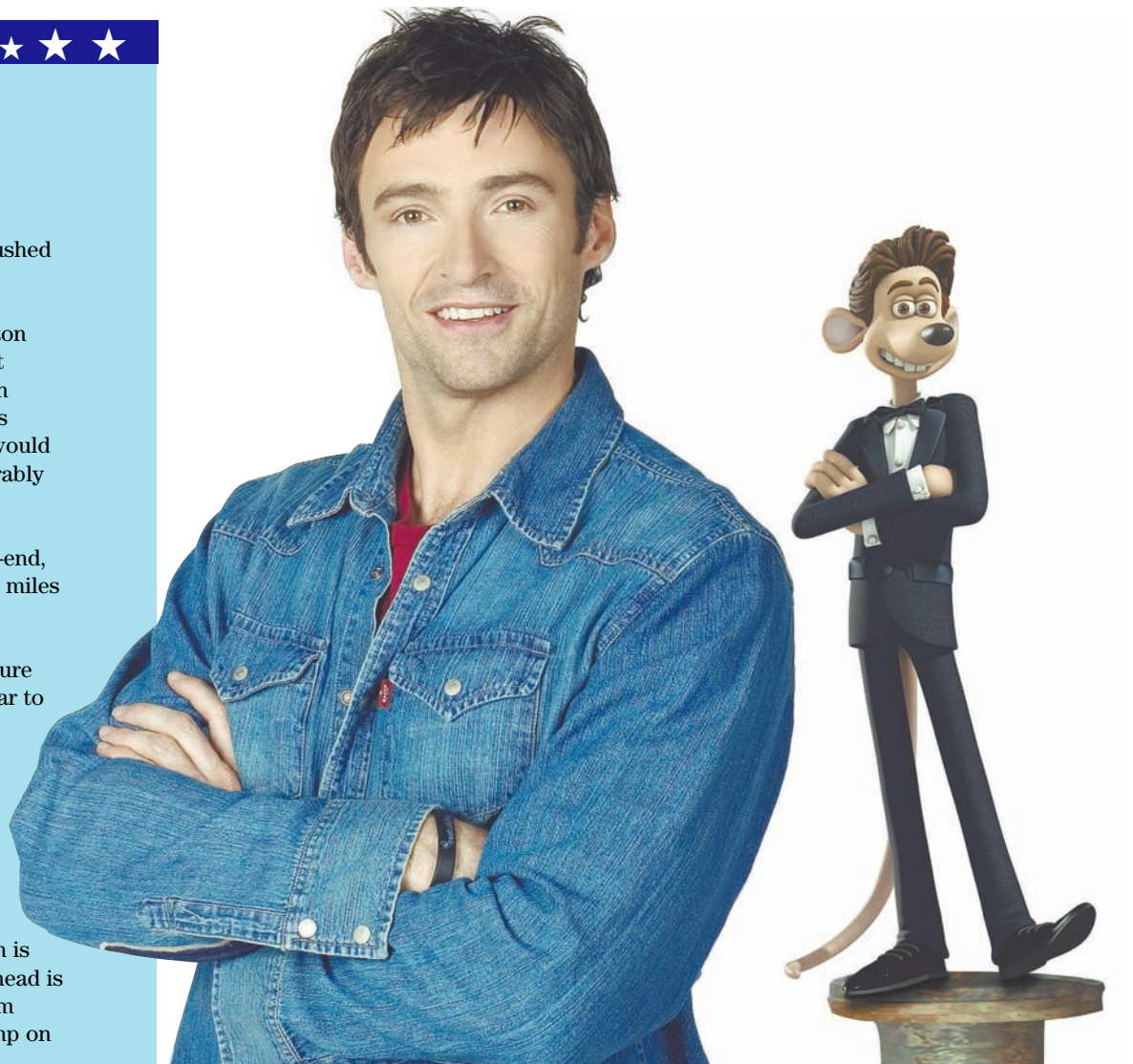
★ In order to further the clay animation look of “Flushed Away,” the characters were modeled with plasticine-looking hair instead of realistic hair or fur. At the same time, the creators didn’t want the characters to have solid, helmet-like hair, so each strand was rigged and individually animated.

★ Some of the film’s fast flowing water was animated by the use of different layers. These layers were shaped by the application of noise deformation, a method which programs the water to act much like bars on a stereo. Following this process foam textures and other elements were added to give the water a more realistic appearance.

★ The effects team needed to see what kind of boat wake mixers would make going through liquids of various consistencies. They spray painted a kiddie pool black and, in the back parking lot mixed vegetable oil, red paint, water, food coloring. They then spent a whole afternoon running mixers through the concoction and recording the movement of the water for later reference.

★ Real whipped cream only whips down, not up. The script called for Fat Berry to get caught up in a swirl of whipped cream during the boat chase, but the effects department couldn’t make real whipped cream behave that way. Finally, they had to completely imagine the shape and form that cream would take if it could whip up.

-Fun Facts provided by DreamWorks.



An interview with Hugh Jackman

By Wesley JeanBaptiste || T.i.P Senior Writer

Question. “Flushed Away” is your first animated film. How did you prepare for your role in this movie?

Answer. Well obviously I had to do some accent work. I naturally have an Australian accent. I got a vocal coach and I work with him for about 30 to 40 sessions.

Q. Wallace & Gromit films are known for their trademark Claymation. What brought out the reinvention of this genre with computer animation?

A. What happened was Dreamworks wanted to collaborate, and since the technology had improved so much they knew they could expand the world of Claymation.

Q. Besides the obvious, how was this role different from others?

A. Animation is very different. You have to rely on your voice, and you cannot rely on facial expressions or acting with your whole body.

Q. You won the 2004 Tony award for best actor for your role in “The Boy From Oz.” Do you prefer acting on stage or in movies? Why?

A. I love acting in both. I would always do both if I was greedy, but my top 10 favorite moments have all been on stage.

Q. Can you tell us anything about the “X-Men” franchise and where it’s going?

A. I don’t know anything beyond the Wolverine film. There may be another, like I heard rumors of a film about Magneto.

Q. If you could play any role in any movie, what would it be?

A. I would love to do a Shakespeare’s “Macbeth;” I haven’t done anyone of those.

Q. What is your favorite movie that you have starred in?

A. “The X-Men Trilogy.”



Profile: Hugh Jackman

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

According to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com), Hugh Jackman, star of the animated film "Flushed Away," was born on October 12, 1968 in Sydney, Australia, the youngest of five siblings. At age 8, Jackman's mother left him, his father and siblings and moved to England. Jackman attended the University of Technology Sydney, where he majored in journalism and received a communications degree. After graduating, he enrolled in the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and pursued drama. Soon after, in 1995, Jackman co-starred in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) prison drama "Correlli," which was where he met his wife. Not until 2000, while starring as Wolverine in the movie, "X-Men," did Jackman become well known in the United States. This was also the year Jackman and his wife adopted their first child, whom they named Oscar Maximillian Jackman. His career was not only based on acting, but on the stage as well. In 2004, Jackman won a Tony Award as Best Actor for his part in the Broadway musical, "The Boy of Oz." Jackman and his wife adopted their second child, Ava Eliot Jackman, in July 2005. Jackman started his own movie production company called Seed Productions with which he produced "X-Men 3" and will be producing a Wolverine spin-off. His favorite food is sushi and his favorite word is "panache." Jackman's first animated film was "Flushed Away," which premiered last month.

Oh, rats

Did you know

- ★ A group of rats is called a mischief.
- ★ There are 60 million rats in the UK. That's one rat for every person.
- ★ Rats are scrupulously clean. They spend hours every day carefully grooming themselves and each other.
- ★ Rats are social and function best if kept with another rat (or, a group of rats).
- ★ The rat is the first symbol of the Chinese Zodiac, representing cunning and prosperity.
- ★ The ancient Mayan civilization used to worship the rat, as did the ancient Egyptians. Even today, there is a temple in India devoted to the rodent, where hundreds of thousands scuffle around in safety and harmony with the human occupants.
- ★ Rats are nocturnal.
- ★ The average rat's body is 9 to 11 inches long; its tail is 7 to 9 inches long.
- ★ The average life span of a rat is two to three years.
- ★ Male rats are called bucks, females are does, and babies are pups or kittens.
- ★ A rodent's incisors [front teeth] never stop growing.

-Provided by DreamWorks

The colors you choose create an emotional rainbow

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

From hats to sneakers, from scarves to parkas, the colors of your clothes do more than make a rainbow out of your closet. They may have something to do with how you feel when you get dressed in the morning.

Colors are all around us. If you're anything like me, colors can do more than attract attention. I coordinate them to my mood. In the mornings after I take my shower, I look at the Weather Channel and think, "What do I feel like wearing today?" The day is cloudy but it might brighten up as the day goes on, but who knows? I go to my wardrobe and I see colors. Today feels expressive, calling for color, but

more than one thing depending on your country. In Japan, white carnations mean death, but in other Eastern cultures they could mean coldness or sterility. In China, a man who wears a green hat signifies that his wife is cheating on him; in many tropical cultures, green means danger. In the Middle East, the color blue symbolizes protection, but in Hinduism, blue is the color of Krishna (eighth avatar of Vishnu). In India, the color red signifies purity and is often used at weddings. Clearly, colors have many different meanings in different cultures around the world.

Among the teenagers I surveyed at my school, blue, red, and green are the cream of the crop when it comes to favorites. Myriana



▲ Artwork by: Artists for Humanity

not too much. Red, yellow, and orange seem too bright for this kind of day. White doesn't play into the equation because white is a color that is easy to dirty and a little too neutral for the day. And black is a void, not the right choice for today. Although many associate green with money, it makes me nauseous. These are the things I put into consideration when picking out which clothes to wear.

Despite being a fashion trend in America, colors have meant many different things in different cultures throughout history. According to the book "About Psychology," in ancient cultures, Egyptians and Chinese people practiced a healing method known as chromotherapy. Today, it's sometimes called light therapy or colourology and it's used in holistic or alternative treatments. Reds are used to stimulate the body and mind and increase circulation; yellows are used to stimulate nerves and cleanse the body; oranges are used to heal lungs and increase energy levels; blues are used to soothe illnesses and pain; and indigo (a shade of blue) is thought to relieve skin problems.

Bringing it back to the present, colors mean

Sanon, 18, of Boston Day and Evening Academy, said her favorite color is blue. Sanon said the color makes her think of a "tropical ocean in Jamaica." Tiffany Figueroa, 17, also of Boston Day and Evening Academy, had this to say about green. "I feel happy when I wear the color. When I see it, I remember the summer time."

Despite the popularity of these colors, some have ventured out of the group of favorite hues. Rachel Martinez, 17, also of Boston Day and Evening Academy, was one of the wanderers. Martinez says that she "feels great" when she puts on her favorite color, purple. Lesley Smith, 17, of Boston Day and Evening Academy, was excited to announce that her favorite color is pink. Smith said whenever she wears pink, she feels "nice and peaceful."

Color is a perfect way to express our individuality. It also helps us feel a certain way, depending on what we are wearing on any given day. Everyone chooses color to represent who they are and how they feel. Oh, by the way, I choose to wear blue today.



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

WHAT COLOR SAYS ABOUT YOU

Every day we have to get up and decide what to wear: Do we pick the blue jeans, or the multicolored blouse today? What will it be? The red sweater, or the purple one? The green sneakers, or the black? Do you try to match color with your eyes, or do you pick a color that contrasts with your skin and eye tone? Maybe the colors you choose say more about what's going on inside you than anything else. Here's a run down of the colors and what some psychologists believe they mean.

IF YOU WEAR:

RED: You want to stand out and be noticed. Red can also be used to make you look sexy. On the flip side, red can make you a target of gang violence, so wear it with care.

BLUE: Everybody owns at least one pair of jeans, making blue a common color. So if you wear blue, you'll blend in with the crowds. You'll be cool, calm, and chill.

PURPLE: The color of grapes isn't only for grandma. It signifies sophistication and high class style. What? No purple in your closet? Time to go shopping!

WHITE: Classic and clean, white gives you a summery look all year round. White is calm and serene. A blank slate won't distract the ensemble.

BLACK: Get Goth and don some black to slim down. It's one color that will hide your holiday tummy.

YELLOW: The color can turn more heads than red, but it may also make those lookers feel angry and frustrated, according to studies. Yellow is also warm and cheery and helps make you and those around you feel good.

GREEN: Don't be envious of someone wearing green. They may be smart and rich and you may want to be their friend.

BROWN: Brown is the new black, according to the fashionistas. Earthy and natural, wearing brown will give you the sophisticated look, without the gothic label.

-Prepared By: Neelabh Bharti, Phil Donahue and Samantha Mbawuike

FASHION FIRST

What's hot in the cold?

By Kristina Perry // T.I.P. Staff Writer

It's hard staying fashionable in the wintertime with all the layers of clothes that need to be added. But do you have to sacrifice fashion for warmth from now until the weather gets warm again? Girl, with these great tips and advice, you'll be FLY Girl and a cutie pie at the same time.

Classy in COATS

- Tight-fitted: above the waistline, on-the-go type of coat; black, red, and beige are perfect colors this time of year.
- Pea coats and trench coats: casual, sassy, and classy; navy blue and gray go great no matter what you're wearing.
- Vests and sweaters: sporty girl look; Pick your color according to your mood.

Bet Your Bottom BOOTS

- Uggs, military boots: dress down boots; warm and waterproof.
- Suede and buckle boots: more dressy boots for a night on a town. (Suede boots are NOT for snow.)
- Knee-high leather boots: Put on your jeans and turn heads; these make your legs look lengthy.



▲ Photo by: Nick Anderson

The Skinny on SCARVES

- Big and fluffy: warm in the snow; have them in different stripes and colors to go with whatever you have on.
- Slim and trim: cool and stylish; change the look of your outfit with one new scarf.
- Colors: purples, maroons, gray; grab your color and wrap it around your neck.

The Accent on ACCESSORIES

- Head bands: polka dot, plaid, stripes; spice it up with some pattern.
- Necklaces: jumbo pearls, layered pearls, as well as colorful pearls.
- Big belts: shiny, flashy or leather; cute and keep your stomach warm
- Leggings: knee crop, ankle crop, and patterns; trendy when worn with a long shirt or sweater or under a skirt.

Image idea

Wear a brown and white polka dot head-band with matching leggings under a skirt. This looks great with leather boots and a long sweater. Top it off with jumbo beads, and this will make you a fashion queen.



▲ Photo by: Tatiana Ware

Ring the alarm: do's and don'ts in fashion

By Samantha Mbawuiké // T.i.P. Senior Associate Editor

Are you letting the cold weather take over your sense of style? Or are you determined to bring fashion back into your life? With the cold temps creeping through, keeping up with the latest fashion trends can be a battle. So avoid being a fashion disaster by using these tips this winter season.

Do:

- Update your basic look with a trendy navy blue trench coat and a pair of skinny jeans. Finish off the look with some hot red pumps.
- Preppy is in! Do a classic look and wear a crisp white collared shirt under a cashmere sweater vest. Pair it with some Levi jeans and fresh Keds. Or urbanize your preppy style and layer a colorful sweater over a cotton polo with dark wash flared jeans and some pointy flats.
- Show stop with an 80s inspired glamour. Look for some hot head-bands, put on a basic fitted T-shirt over a colorful tank, dig deep into your mom's closet for some leg warmers, put on some black kitten heels, and hit the streets.
- For a classier look, do a velvet blazer with a lace shirt on top of casual slacks. You can wear this look to school or on a night out with some buddies.
- Tread the winter snow with a flat, slouchy, or high boot.
- Wide belts are one of the hottest styles this season. You can wear them with almost anything. Try it over a fitted blouse. Wear a pencil skirt and some black pumps.
- Oversized hobo bags are not only for the Olsen twins. Big bags are especially hot because they look good with anything and have great space for your belongings.



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin



▲ Photo by: Darius Cephas



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin

Don't:

- The dog days of summer are over, so stop wearing ripped mini skirts, oversized sweatshirts, and flip flops.
- Ugh...Ponchos need to be thrown in the wastebasket right away. That look was done and outdone ages ago. (Personally, I thought it never was in style.)
- Trendy affordable styles are hard to come by, but when Chinese slippers came on the scene for \$3, they were everywhere. Everyone and their mom had them. Chinese slippers are a fashion no.
- Strictly black is a don't this winter. It's all about color this season. Wearing some pointy black boots with some black skinny jeans and topping your look with a bright turquoise sweater is hot when trying to color up your outfit this season.
- There is nothing wrong with fur, but if you look like a shaggy dog, it is time to take a look in the mirror before heading out the door.



▲ Photo by: Shawn McLaughlin



▲ Photo by: Arryanna Wilson

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

One item on everyone's Christmas list this year is an MP3 player. And everyone knows that out of all the MP3 players available, iPods, made by Apple Computer, take the cake. Once you have the most wanted Christmas present, it's time to personalize and accessorize!

Laser engravings are the best way to identify your iPod out of the millions sold. You can engrave your name, a number, or even your favorite quote.

Be true to your colors. The all-new and improved iPod Nano is now available in five stylish colors: silver, green, blue, pink, and black. The red iPod Nano is a special edition model. Not only will it make you look good, but having one will also make you feel good because as part of the red initiative, \$10 from every red iPod Nano sold is donated to the Global Fund to fight AIDS in Africa.

Protective cases are the highest selling accessories for iPods. If you're a klutz like me, protective cases are the perfect solution. Watch your movies and videos from a perfectly clear, scratch free screen. With protective cases, you don't have to worry about dropping your iPod. Pick and choose from leather wallet-style cases, different colored plastic cases, and even soft "sock" cases.

Never miss a beat while exercising and get in shape with your iPod using their Armbands or the Nike + iPod SportKit. The compact, moisture-resistant armband cases, available for every iPod model, and in different colors and style, place your iPod comfortably on your arm so you are free to move around and about. The Nike + iPod SportKit is a wireless sensor and

receiver combination working exclusively with Nike+ sneakers and your iPod Nano to give you feedback on your workouts, tracking your time and recording distances, pace, and calories burned.

The iPod AV Connection Kit is the best way to share everything that's on your iPod. This kit allows you to connect your iPod to your television or home stereo so you can rock out to your favorite song, watch movies,



and share your pictures. This kit includes an Apple remote so you can control your iPod no matter where you are in the room.

Once you get tired of listening to the same old songs on the radio, the best thing to do is buy an FM Transmitter so you can listen to your favorite tunes from your iPod on your car radio. The DLO TransDock transmits your music, charges your iPod, and includes a cool holder so you can mount it wherever you want. Bring your music to life even when you are on the road.

Can't live without your pictures? The Apple iPod Camera Connector makes it easier than ever to transfer your pictures into your iPod. Use this connector with

your digital camera, and right before your eyes your images are quickly transferred and ready to watch in a slide show.

Learn more about any of these or more products at apple.com.

TECH TALK

If you get tongue-tied around hi-tech, this dictionary is for you.

iPod: Portable media player made by Apple allows you to store music on either an internal hard drive or flash memory so you can listen to your favorite music whenever you want.

► **iPod Camera Connector:** A device that lets you transfer your digital photos onto your iPod.

► **LCD Screen:** LCD stands for liquid crystal display, a thin, flat device that allows you to view a screen using almost no electricity but is easy to use with battery powered devices.

► **Myspace:** An online social network that allows you to post and read profiles of friends, classmates, and many of your favorite celebrities.

► **MP3 Player:** A digital audio player that stores, organizes, and plays digital music files.

► **PlayStation 3:** The latest video game system to hit the market, PlayStation 3 costs around \$550. Too much to spend? Tell that to the thousands of people who crowded into Copley Place a few weeks ago clamoring for their copy of the hot new game.

-Prepared By: Marie C. Franklin, T.i.P. Editor

Alternatives to the iPod

By Neelabh Bharti//T.i.P. Senior Associate Editor

The diminutive, white iPod headphones are now ubiquitous, visible almost as often as people removing the device from their bags and making use of its click wheel. With all of these iPods around, many are wondering, is there an alternative? One alternative to the iPod is the Creative Zen, an MP3 player manufactured by the Creative Company. Most people who haven't heard of the Zen are probably wondering what it offers that the iPod does not. Creative makes MP3 players in many more sizes than Apple does, but the sizes made by both companies are available at the same price and come with the same warranties. Another different quality in the Zen is it features an OLED screen, as opposed to the iPod's LCD screen. OLED screens feature 30 percent more vibrant colors, which is convenient for watching movies and viewing pictures. In addition, all models of the Zen come with an FM tuner, as well as the ability to record songs from the radio. It hosts a variety of video and audio formats, whereas the iPod hosts only one of each. Furthermore, the audio quality that the Zen supports is higher than that of the iPod.

The Zen also recently introduced a widescreen setting. This means movies will appear in the proportion that they are meant to be seen. Apple Computer may be planning this for the iPod as well, but they are tight-lipped



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

when it comes to their plans. With all of these things going for the Zen, the iPod still dominates 80 percent of the MP3 player market. "They just have the best marketing team in the world," according to Odie Rivera, assistant manager of the Cambridge Soundworks store in the Cambridgeside Galleria. "Apple seems to promote their products more effectively than Creative, which is the reason why so few people have heard about the Zen."

Another little-known competitor to the iPod is the Toshiba Gigabeat. It has many of the same features as the Zen, but there are a few differences as well. You can download movies and television shows from download services such as Stars Vongo, MTV Urge, and Tivo to go. Video formats that aren't supported by the Gigabeat can be converted into a format that works. There are two models available: the white 30-gigabyte model and the black 60-gigabyte model. Both feature 2.4-inch LCD screens.

When watching videos, you can switch to "landscape mode" for a better view, especially if you're watching something in widescreen format. The Gigabeat has an FM tuner, but there's no way of recording off the radio, like on the Zen. You can connect the device to an Xbox 360 to add your own soundtrack to video games. According to the Consumer Guide (products.howstuffworks.com), the only real complaints about the Gigabeat are that the screen is smaller than its competitors, and the battery life (12 hours of music, 2 1/2 hours of video) is much shorter than the iPod or Zen.

The future of the MP3 player market isn't completely predictable, but for now, the iPod dominates it. Although its biggest competitor is the Zen, the iPod still controls about 80 percent of the market. If more people knew about these alternatives, who knows what would happen to the iPod's singular popularity.

GO NO TECH FOR A WEEK

Could you survive a week without your cell-phone, iPod, and myspace page? Seriously. Here are seven ways to survive each day of the week without any high tech gear. We dare you to try it. You may like the old fashion way of communicating with your people.

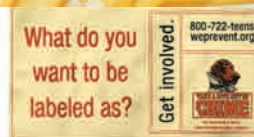
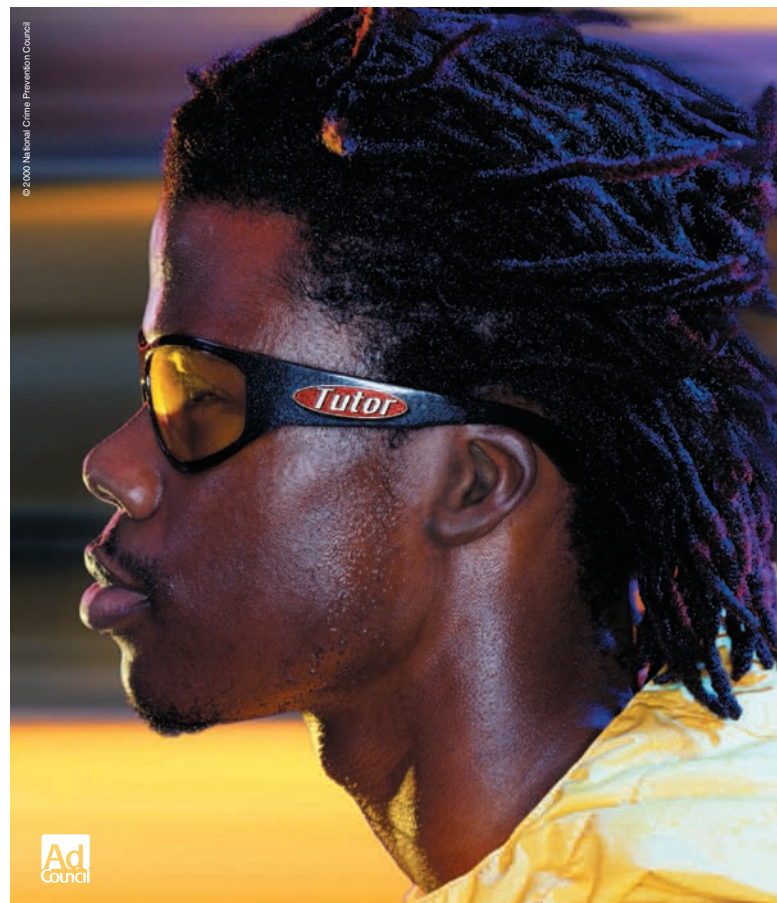
1. Instead of e-mailing someone, do it the old fashion way-send snail mail.
2. The next time you want to text message someone in class, take it back to third grade and pass a note instead.
3. Ever heard of a radio? Put down your Pod and strut with a boombox on your shoulder.
4. Cellphone broken? Water damaged? Maybe you can't afford one. You can still call friends from a phone booth, or on your family's land line. Better still, try having a face-to-face convo. Imagine.
5. Without Myspace, how will you keep track of your crush? Put on a ball cap, grab your trench coat and a pair of dark glasses, and stalk them the old fashion way.
6. Cable bill too high? Then read a book and imagine the drama played out by the characters on the page.
7. Instead of "Madden 2007," go outside and play an actual game of football.

-By Samantha Mbawuikie, Phil Donahue, and Neelah Bharti, T.i.P. Staff

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 20th,
12 Noon until 4 p.m.

BPS Students: Come to the Boston Globe during February vacation to learn more about the exciting world of journalism and writing for a newspaper. Join the staff of T.i.P., Teens in Print and teens from around the city as we talk with a Globe reporter and learn the art of great news writing! There will be food too!



Creating our space in 'Herstory'

By Adanma Ude and Tanasia WhiteT.I.P. Writers and Teen Voices Peer Leaders

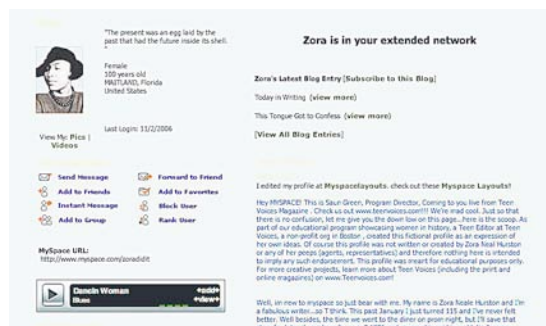
During the summer 2006 program at Teen Voices, we wanted to acknowledge the strong but sometimes unrecognized women of "Herstory." So, we came up with a very exciting and interesting project. We dedicated one whole week to studying eight great women-even though these women should be recognized every day of the year! Acting as if they were placed back in time and using the voices of these women, the teen editors created a MySpace page for each incredible woman.

The Teen Editors posted pictures of the women, made backgrounds, display names, blogs, found quotes, and did everything they could to this page to learn (and teach others) about these great women. Some of the women were illiterate, so if it fit that person then spelling and grammar errors were OK. Some women had accents or spoke in dialects, so the girls wrote that into their profiles. Some of the women were very well educated, so on those pages their words and punctuation had to be up to par. The teens spent five days perfecting their MySpace pages of these phenomenal women: Madame C.J. Walker, Frida Kahlo, Sojourner Truth, Toni Morrison, Shirley

Chisholm, Helen Keller, Dorothy Dandridge, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Instead of the traditional paper or poster describing each woman, we gave it a Teen Voices' twist and gave voices to each woman. And by putting them on MySpace-a place where people don't usually look for women's history-we made the information fun and accessible to lots of teen girls. The teen editors really enjoyed the project, and at the end of the week they got to showcase their pages to all of the other girls in the program. It was a lot of fun, and it would be great if we could do it again!

If you are on MySpace, come and visit our famous women's profiles at myspace.com/teen_voices.



All kids should have presents at Christmas.

Globe Santa serves two purposes: to bring joy to the hearts of children in need and to celebrate the generous donors who make that joy possible. For 50 years, Globe Santa has helped children who are all too familiar with the problems of the real world believe in the power and possibilities of magic. All kids should have presents at Christmas. And that's all we're about at Globe Santa. **For more information or to donate, go to www.globesanta.org.**



Dear Globe Santa,

I would like to request that my daughter, Emma, receive gifts from "Santa." She is a great little girl. I couldn't have asked for a better child. Even though she is only 4 years old and does not quite understand the concept of "Santa" yet, I would still love for her to be able to wake up Christmas morning and see some gifts.

As a single mother who can't work because I can't afford daycare or transportation, I'm realizing how hard it is to be able to provide for my daughter, and with the holidays right around the corner, I'm asking for your help. Please help me give my daughter the best Christmas she could have. I'm not asking for a miracle, but please, if you could help us, I would love for my daughter to receive some educational toys or books. Something that she can learn from and have fun with at the same time.

From the bottom of my heart, I would truly like to thank everyone who helps make this possible!

Happy Holidays and Thank You!

Joan
Joan