

TEENS in PRINT

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MARCH 2008

DRESSED FOR PROM:

chic & shimmery

BY CARLA GUALDRON // T.I.P. SENIOR EDITOR

"There are two great times to be a girl: your wedding and prom night," says Amanda Sanford Smith, store manager of Lorraine Roy, a dress shop in Danvers.

This spring is a great time for female teens in Boston and the suburbs to show off their girly side as the 2008 prom season shifts into high gear. Through the years, prom fashion has evolved from the classic Cinderella look to more mature and daring styles. Teens in Print staff visited Lorraine Roy, where we found out

[DRESSED FOR PROM, PAGE 23]

T.I.P. reporter Paige Carruthers tries on a gown at Lorraine Roy dress shop.

▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

DETOUR

Candidates under media microscope

By Neelabh Bharti
T.I.P. Associate Editor

Be honest. What do you really know about the 2008 presidential race? While political news is all over television, Internet, radio, newspapers, and magazines, a common teen reply to this year's contest is, "I don't really pay attention to politics." However, there are teens who are not only aware of politics but also informed about the biases that can be part of the media coverage. James Fitzpatrick, 17, of Boston, says: "Media outlets are almost universally biased...these biases affect [teens] who view them."

The media permeates the political

[PREZ CANDIDATES, PAGE 5]

INSIDE



Boston DJ Ramiro
Page 22

▲ Photo by: Eric Levin, Boston

From the Editor:

The snow is melting, the Red Sox are training, and prom madness is taking over the lives of teens. Ahhh, springtime is almost here!

This issue of Teens in Print has all the latest news to keep you updated this season. The presidential elections have been the buzz for a while now. Check out Associate Editor Neel Bharti's article on how the media influences the presidential race, beginning on Page 1. For readers who are 18 years old, make sure you register to vote in the November election because every vote counts.

Prom madness has officially taken over the attention of high school girls. The T.i.P. fashion divas visited Lorraine Roy, a dress shop in Danvers, to try on dresses from their 2008 prom collection so we could advise our readers on the new trends. Before you run off to find the perfect dress, take a look at our tips for looking spiffy on prom night, on the cover and again on Page 23.

As college acceptance (or rejection) letters roll in, see what senior staff writer Sarah Blanchette has found out about how colleges can use your online information to make their decisions in her report on Page 8.

Do you want to know what teens really think? Our new section, Teen Takes (Page 9) has restaurant and book reviews. We hope they will help our readers spend their money wisely.

Finally, don't miss out on the edgy opinions expressed in In Your Face (Pages 4-5). T.i.P. staff writers take a special interest in the ugly issue of intolerance and how to combat it.

I hope everyone enjoys this issue of T.i.P. because we sure had a blast writing it! From us to you, happy spring.

- By Carla Gualdron, T.i.P. Senior Editor



CONTENTS

Dressed for Prom	Cover
Politics and Media	Cover
Staff Profiles	2-3
In Your Face	4-5
Scholastic Art Awards	6
Haitian Immigrant Story	7
Losing a Brother	7
MySpace vs. Facebook	8
Teen Take Reviews	9
Your Health	10
'Sup at School	11
Tackling Intolerance	12-13
Teens and Volunteering	14
Inside the Neighborhoods	15
Sports and Recreation	16-17
Horoscopes	18
Mind Your Business	19
Your Poetry	20-21
Arts and Entertainment	22
True Confessions	24
Teens and Religion	24



MEET THE T.I.P. STAFF

AADHAR MAHAJAN
Year in school: Sophomore
Best romantic advice received: "Don't be stupid or fart."
Dream prom date: Jessica Alba
An alternate name for Nas' latest CD: "IDK my BFF Jill"



AKSHAT PANDEY
Year in school: Sophomore
Surprising song on your iPod: "Since You've Been Gone," by Kelly Clarkson
Remedy for hiccups: Spin in circles
Ideal spring break location: India



NICK COSTA
Year in school: Senior
Surprising song on your iPod: "That's Life," by Frank Sinatra
Choice for president: Hillary Clinton
Birthstone: Moonstone



PAIGE CARRUTHERS
Year in school: Freshman
An alternate name for Nas' latest CD: "Insert Racial Slur"
Best book read recently: "The Bean Trees," by Barbara Kingsolver
Ideal spring break location: England



MABEL LEE
Year in school: Freshman
Remedy for hiccups: Pull your ears and hold your breath
Birthstone: Ruby
Ideal spring break location: Tahiti

SARAH BLANCHETTE
Year in school: Junior
Best romantic advice received: "Don't take it too seriously; you're only in high school."
Dream prom date: Tom Brady
Ideal spring break location: Greece or Italy



KATRYNA MAHONEY
Year in school: Sophomore
Ideal spring break location: Atlanta
Birthstone: Peridot
Surprising song on your iPod: "Knuck if You Buck," by Crime Mob



RYAN WARD
Year in school: Junior
Choice for president: Stephen Colbert
Ideal spring break location: Red Sox spring training
Surprising song on your iPod: "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," by Marvin Gaye



KAREEM JAMES
Year in school: Senior
Warm weather clothes he can't wait to wear: Basketball shorts
Ideal spring break location: Puerto Rico
Remedy for hiccups: Drink water



STEPHEN SAMPSON
Year in school: Junior
Dream prom date: My future wife (this may involve time travel)
Remedy for hiccups: Hold your breath and run.
Best romantic advice received: "Love her like love is running out."



CARLA GUALDRÓN

Year in school: Senior

Best book read recently:

"Something to Declare" by Julia Alvarez

Dream prom date: Jorge Arias

Birthstone: Diamond



SANDY LIANG

Year in school: Freshman

Ideal spring break location:

Anywhere with a beach

Choice for president:

Hillary Clinton

Warm weather clothes she

can't wait to wear: T-shirts and sandals



STUART SPINA

Year in school: Junior

Best romantic advice received:

"Date no crazies."

Ideal spring break location: Vermont

Choice for president: Barack Obama



JANELLY CHAVEZ

Year in school: Senior

Dream prom date: Jacoby Ellsbury

Best book read recently:

"Anatomy of a Boyfriend,"

by Daria Snadowsky

Ideal spring break location: Cuba



NATALYN YU

Year in school: Freshman

Warm weather clothes she

can't wait to wear: Flip flops

Best book read recently: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou

Best romantic advice received:

"Be independent."



TYRELL POLK

Year in school: Senior

Surprising song on your iPod:

"Suffocate," by J-Holiday

Ideal spring break location: France

Choice for president: Barack Obama



JENNIFER SÁNCHEZ

Year in school: Junior

Warm weather clothes she

can't wait to wear: Dresses

Best romantic advice received:

"Write him a love letter."

Dream prom date: My boyfriend



OLIVE TANG

Year in school: Freshman

Ideal spring break location: France

Remedy for hiccups: Hold your breath



NEELABH BHARTI

Year in school: Senior

Best book read recently:

"The Fall," by Albert Camus

Dream prom date: Rachel McAdams

Ideal spring break location: Barcelona



IDALIN ORTIZ

Year in school: Senior

Ideal spring break location: Australia

Surprising song on your iPod:

"She Will be Loved," by Maroon 5

Birthstone: Emerald



DALISA MIRANDA

Year in school: Freshman

Ideal spring break location: Cancun

Dream prom date: Channing Tatum

Warm weather clothes she

can't wait to wear: My Capris



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

Write for T.i.P! That's "Teens in Print." We need 100 percent, certified organic, teen-produced content. Send us your words for people to peep. We want your opinions, news stories, shout-outs, announcements, reviews, poems, drawings, photos, and cartoons.

Next issue: May 2008

Send submissions by mail to:

Boston Teens in Print

PO Box 55819

Boston, MA 02205

E-mail submissions to:

christine.hayes.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Call us:

WriteBoston: 617-541-2604

T.i.P. voicemail: 617-929-8374

Visit the web:
bostonTiP.com
writeboston.org

WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT?

Write for **T.i.P.** Boston Teens in Print

WANT TO BE FAMOUS?

Submission Guidelines

SEND your essays, letters, articles, commentaries, poems, stories, pen and ink drawings, cartoons, and photos.

E-MAIL submissions to:

christine.hayes.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Send them as MS Word attachments—NOT in the e-mail message.

Give your name. We don't print anything anonymously.

FORMAT your writing:

- Double spaced Times New Roman, 12 point font.

- In the upper left corner, print your name, T.i.P. Writer, and a title or headline.

Whatever you submit has to be **YOUR OWN CREATION.**

We only print original work. Please write "this is my own creation" next to your name.

You will not get your work back;

KEEP A COPY for yourself.

T.i.P. reserves the right to EDIT your work for length, content, or appropriateness.

T.i.P.

BOSTON T.i.P.

MARCH 11, 2008, Volume IV, No. 16

Art/Photography

Artists for Humanity

T.i.P. Senior Editor

Carla Gualdrón

T.i.P. Associate Editors

Neelabh Bharti

Janelly Chavez

T.i.P. Senior Writers

Sarah Blanchette

Jennifer Sánchez

Stuart Spina

Ryan Ward

T.i.P. Staff Writers

Paige Carruthers

Nick Costa

Kareem James

Mabel Lee

Sandy Liang

Aadhar Mahajan

Katryna Mahoney

Dalisa Miranda

Idalin Ortiz

Akshat Pandey

Tyrell Polk

Stephen Sampson

Olive Tang

Natalyn Yu

T.i.P. Writers

Gena Farene Badin

Erika Berggren

Ashley Cotton

Erica Cuevas

Jasmynn Daley

Esther Dorvil

Sabrina Hassan

Melvin Hernandez

Lennie Johnson

Shaccera Jones

Roody Joseph

Damien Leach

Michelle Liriano

Guerline "Bobbi" Paul

Martha Rodriguez

Talia Tahatdil

BOSTON GLOBE FOUNDATION

Leah P. Bailey, Director

Cathy Downs, Manager

Lauren Horn, Intern

WRITEBOSTON

Betty Southwick, Director

T.i.P. Managers

Kelly Knopf-Goldner

Christine M. Hayes

Writing Coaches

Shannon Barrow

Lia Brunelle

Joe Christo

Finn McSweeney

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Production Director:

Irene Mauch

Managing Editor:

Marie C. Franklin

Art Director:

Rich Giedd

IN YOUR FACE



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

Old slurs are the new slang

By Paige Garruthers // T.I.P. Staff Writer

How many times do we hear comments like “Hey slut” or “Watsup nigga” as we are walking through the halls at school? Does it even bother us anymore to hear these words used? It’s been ground into us that these terms and racial slurs are wrong, but teens use the words carelessly, daily, even affectionately when they talk to each other. We’ve used the slang so much we’ve forgotten their original definitions or created our own. Words that began as insults have turned into casual greetings. When did these words become OK to use in everyday speech?

When we were younger, the most popular insults kids said to each other were “Stupid Head,” “Smelly Face,” and “Butt Head.” Now that we are in high school, insults have become considerably worse, and attacks more personal, yet they don’t offend people half as much as being called ‘stupid head’ did.

Words that have negative connotations are now being used casually. Dictionary.com defines a slut as ‘an immoral or dissolute woman; a prostitute.’ How did it become casually acceptable to say ‘Hey girl who sells her body for money, watsup?’ Has the meaning of these words changed or are we using them ignorantly and without thought?

Nas’ new CD “Nigger” is another example of this common use of once offensive language. Since when is it OK for a derogatory term formerly used by slave masters to refer to slaves, or people who were considered ignorant, to be plastered across hundreds of thousands of CDs? The N-bomb has most likely been the most controversial word to date. While many African-Americans casually and consistently use the word, it is still considered to be a racial slur. Says Boston Arts Academy student Erica Telisnor, 15: “I think that when people use the N word it’s very derogatory and insulting.”

However, other teens don’t consider the n word nearly as offensive. Darien Bishop, 16, says: “It’s OK to use it in a social context, the one I use isn’t offensive. It has to be used by the right people.” On the other hand, Mikey Mollyneaux, 16, says, “My friends who say it aren’t offended.” Others, like Katie Woo Rainer, 15, don’t think the word should be used at all. “I think it’s wrong and people shouldn’t be able to use it,” she says. Many teens also believe using the word is ‘taking it back,’ or making it our own.

It is my strong opinion that derogatory terms and insults, such as the ones mentioned above, should be just that, derogatory, and shouldn’t be used to refer to friends and companions. Words that have such poisonous origins shouldn’t be used at all, and especially not casually.

Teen mom aims for college

By Martha Rodriguez/T.I.P. Writer



▲ Photo by: Leon Whitsey

**Martha Rodriguez
aspires to go to college.**

As a single mother coming out of a domestic violence situation, I would like to provide a better future for my 2-year-old son, Abraham. I do not want to worry about where we are going to live or how we are going to survive. I want to do something I am passionate about, something that makes a difference in the world and the lives of others, and most important, something that will make a difference in my son's life. This is the reason I am aiming to go to college. I want to be a good role model for Abraham. I do not just want to tell him to be a successful person. I want to show him, by doing it myself.

I grew up in Venezuela surrounded by poverty. I remember how difficult it was to survive. I watched my mother struggle to take care of her family and I saw how hard it was because she had no education. It broke her heart when my brothers stopped going to school in order to help make ends meet at home. I will not allow the same thing to happen to me. Or to Abraham.

I am proud to be the first one from my family to graduate from high school and go onto college and I know my family will be very proud to see me achieve my academic goals and a college degree.

I am passionate about education. Knowledge brings wisdom and a sense of responsibility into a person's life. The more educated a person is, the more aware a person becomes of issues in the world. Going to college is a way to learn what issues affect our society and what we can do to help. This is why attending college is vital for me.

climate, and tells most people, teens included, everything they know about politics and politicians. Of course, this means media has a huge effect on the knowledge of the average American and on the way she or he votes. Media has shaped much of the dissatisfaction young people feel with the current administration. With a presidential election coming up, it's important to examine the effect the media will have on the November race for the White House.

Media coverage of the presidential race is less focused on issues and more on candidates, according to Melissa Threadgill, director of communications for MassEquality, who spoke with T.I.P. in a recent phone interview. "They don't spend nearly as much time on the actual issues. They cover the races in terms of campaigns, not substance."

With cameras present everywhere the candidates travel, media images play an important role in the way a candidate is perceived, and actual issues seem to be placed on the back burner when compared with how a candidate looks on TV. Television made this the new reality in 1960, when the public saw a handsome, calm John F. Kennedy debate a nervous, sweaty Richard Nixon. The election went to Kennedy; many believe the media has had a huge influence on politics ever since.

"The media's portrayal of presidential candidates, or any person of political power, has always been a way of distorting [them] into images that the public either wants or doesn't want," says Zach Page, 17, of Boston.

This kind of publicity is comparable to the publicity given to someone like Britney Spears. Even with her name all over the tabloids, the sales of her latest album were disappointing in comparison to her former efforts. This can happen in politics, too. In 2004, when former Vermont governor Howard Dean became overzealous during one of his presidential campaign speeches and made an unusual noise during his speech, the cameras caught it and played it frequently, until it essentially ended his shot to be the Democratic nominee.

Threadgill says because the media is always there, "Things like that happen in any race and these things get magnified. [Candidates] gain more attention. People hear more about them." And when media is present, all publicity does not turn out to be good.

The media can create a mold of someone's identity without their control, but candidates, like pop stars, can use the cameras to their advantage. When Spears wants to sell perfume, she shoots a commercial and makes sure it is aired on heavy rotation on several TV channels. Candidates do the same thing, buying heavy blocks of advertisements



▲ Artwork by: Artists for Humanity

The 2008 race for the White House continues.

so they can criticize their opponents. Some candidates choose not to run negative campaigns but they are in the minority.

Another component of media's effect on politics is polling and publishing the results. "[The media] focuses on what's known as the horse race, or who's up in the polls," says Threadgill. But sometimes the polls are wrong. For example, polls predicted that Hillary Clinton would lose the New Hampshire primary, but she ended up winning. When Clinton abandoned her usually stoic persona and began to cry while the cameras were rolling, pundits were sure it would cost her the primary.

"The first major piece of media that was involved was when Clinton had her sensitive moment," says Derrick Jackson, columnist with The Boston Globe, who has covered the campaigns of many presidential candidates during his career.

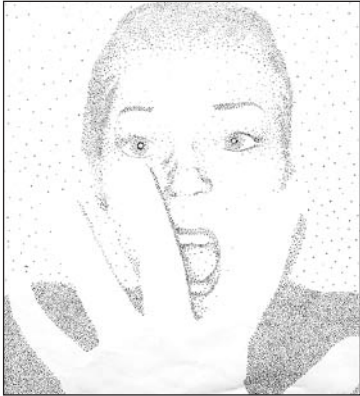
Despite the media's power, people tend to be more affected by meeting candidates or attending their speeches. "For many people, the deal was sealed by the last candidate they saw. The more that there is human contact, the less often that someone's pre-set stereotypes come into play," says Jackson.

The catch, of course, is that most people don't end up meeting candidates in person. The impression voters have of candidates is formed mostly by their media image.

As in the entertainment world, where everything we know about celebrities is based on what the media captures, adults and teens who follow politics are growing more dependent on the media for information.

2008 scholastic art awards

Photos by: Artists for Humanity



▲ Silver Key, Elyse Roddy, Grade: 11, Boston Latin School



▲ Silver Key, Luis John Bonilla, Grade: 12, Boston Arts Academy



▲ Gold Key, Pamela Arroyo, Grade: 12, Boston Arts Academy



◀ Silver Key, Jane Cui, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Gold Key, Quyen Nguyen, Grade: 8, Boston Latin Academy



▲ Silver Key, Lina Kong, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Gold Key, Ali Bertrand Pierre, Grade: 8, Boston Latin Academy



▲ Gold Key, Amy Sun, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Silver Key, Andrew Berggren, Grade: 12, Boston Latin Academy



▲ Gold Key, Junia Ryan, Grade: 8, Boston Latin Academy



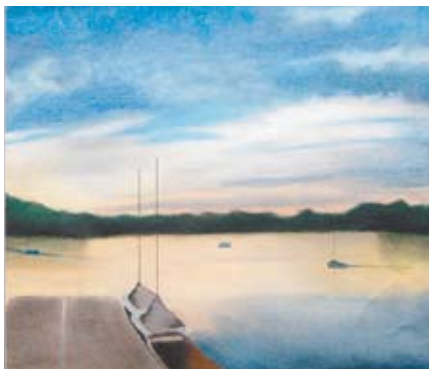
▲ Silver Key, Chloe Pahl, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Gold Key, Francesca Fontin, Grade: 8, Boston Latin Academy



▲ Silver Key, Roger Creel, Grade: 12, Roxbury Latin School



▲ Silver Key, Louisa Gag, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Silver Key, Anson Frazier, Grade: 12, Boston Latin School



▲ Gold Key, Michelle Ihediotta, Grade: 8, Boston Latin School



▲ Silver Key, Grade: 12, Pamela Arroyo, Boston Arts Academy

Losing the brother he loved

By Melvin Hernandez // T.I.P. Writer



July 4, 2003, was the saddest day in my life. That was the day I lost someone I loved. That was the day I lost my brother Ericher.

One year before on the same date, my family went to Cochituate Beach. We had lots of fun. It was so much fun we didn't want to leave. They had lifeguards take everyone out of the water every 20 minutes so they could check to see if anyone was missing or if anyone drowned. I felt safe.

On July 4, we tried to return to the same beach but one of the lifeguards who worked there did not let us in because it was too full. My family was mad because we didn't know what to do. As we were driving around to look for another beach, we found Cochituate Lake. We decided to go there instead. After we unpacked the car, my two younger brothers Malvin and Ericher and I went to the lake to swim. My youngest brother Ericher was scared of the water so he only stayed in the shallow area. My mom was looking at us the whole time, and then, when she turned to look at Malvin and me, she didn't see Ericher anymore. Mom and I looked for him for 10 minutes, but we didn't find him. Finally, we heard a man yell, "Who's this kid belong to that I found in the water?" He was standing up, holding my brother with his two hands, shaking. He lay my brother on the ground and gave him cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, but it was too late. Ericher was already gone.

They didn't let my mom in the ambulance because they knew it was too late. He was already dead. My



▲ Artwork by: Shisha King

father drove us to the hospital in his car. They made us wait in the waiting room for 15 minutes. Then the nurse came and said that it was too late and he was gone. We all cried. We didn't know what to do. I couldn't believe it. It was like a nightmare, only true. Then we went back to Boston. Everybody was in our house. Some people were crying and some people couldn't believe what happened either. It just made me think about it and cry more.

This affected me during the school year; when I was in class, I would put my head down and cry. I repeated the year because it was too hard to study and I couldn't concentrate. I had never lost anyone in my life. Sometimes I asked myself "why didn't I help him?" but people tell me all the time it wasn't my fault. Still I think I should have been with him the whole time. Maybe nothing bad would have happened. I feel like I'm missing a piece of me. Every time I think about him, my little brother on the ground dead, tears come out of my eyes.

Every story has an ending. Everyone has to die one day, but I also think God should not have taken my brother from us. He was only 4 years old. He didn't even get to experience life like other people. There are many people who are a waste of time like crack heads, alcoholics, and some people in jail. These are the people who deserve not to live because they're wasting life. Now I receive counseling so I'm not as stressed as I used to be. Now I can concentrate better in school. But there's a piece of me missing and I'll never get over my brother's death.

Tough love, hard lessons for teen immigrant from Haiti

By Roody Joseph // T.I.P. Writer

It's December 2003 and I am sitting in my social studies class in Haiti. The principal comes and knocks at my classroom door, asking for me. I did not expect this and the first thought I have is that I'm in trouble, but I am not. The principal takes me to his office and tells me my father is coming to pick me up from school. I am again surprised. I ask the principal if there is something I should know and he replies "no." Twenty minutes later, my father has arrived, and I repeatedly ask him if everything is OK. He says 'yes,' and I feel relieved. He says he's taking my siblings and me to the US Embassy. I am 13 years old and I don't know much at this point, but when I arrive at the embassy, everything seems to go well.

After a week passes, my father comes to me at home and tells me to get ready because I am leaving Haiti for Boston. I am so excited at that moment because it is a dream come true. Now it's midnight and I cannot sleep because of the news. I feel happy and sad all at once. I am starting to question whether I should leave or stay. It is a confusing moment for

me because I love my parents so much and I do not want to leave them behind but I have no choice but to obey my father. The next day I ask him why I am the only one leaving Haiti for Boston. He tells me it is a security issue.

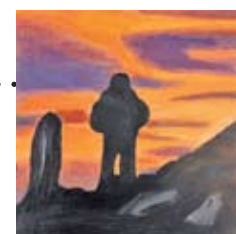
I am confused because I thought he loved me, so I ask if he loves me, why is he sending me away? His reply is that he never wanted to but there is no other choice. I wish I could spend every second of my life with my father. Even now, I know he misses me, but he doesn't express it to me. I can feel it in his voice when I am talking to him on the telephone. I talk to my father almost every day; there isn't a day I don't spend thinking about him. Since the day I arrived in the US, I never understood why he made such a sacrifice.

I remember Haiti in 2003. Homicide and kidnapping is rampant. The government and some supporters are killing innocent people and robbing the rich. The chimers (thugs) are armed and they appear not to have any feelings; they are hurting anyone they can for their needs. They try to take my brother away but

our neighbors stand up for him. The thugs have only one choice: to let my brother go free. The chimers persecute my family. We are never safe around them.

My father did not want any of his family to be hurt again. My father never wanted us to be away from him, especially me, because I am the youngest and he knows I need him. My father made the best and worst sacrifice when he sent me away. Now I finally understand why he made such a sacrifice. It is because he loves me and his actions demonstrate how much I mean to him. My father is the most influential person in my life because he showed me how much he cares for and loves me, so I can do better in life than he has. He is my hero.

I write this story not only because of what I went through leaving family and Haiti for the US, but also because of how this experience continues to affect me. Education is what I am looking for: to go to college and graduate with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy and a major in business. My dream is to be successful, to make my father proud of me.



▲ Artwork by: Kelvin Trinidad

MySpace vs. Facebook

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

All the crave in the teen world centers around two huge, fast growing websites: Facebook and MySpace. As more teens use Web pages to communicate, teens wonder which is better. Teens in Print talked with local teens to get their opinions.

Erica Chan, 14, who goes on MySpace and Facebook once a day, says, “MySpace is more appealing to younger people where you can do surveys and pick backgrounds and listen to music. Facebook is more for older people who just want to communicate.”

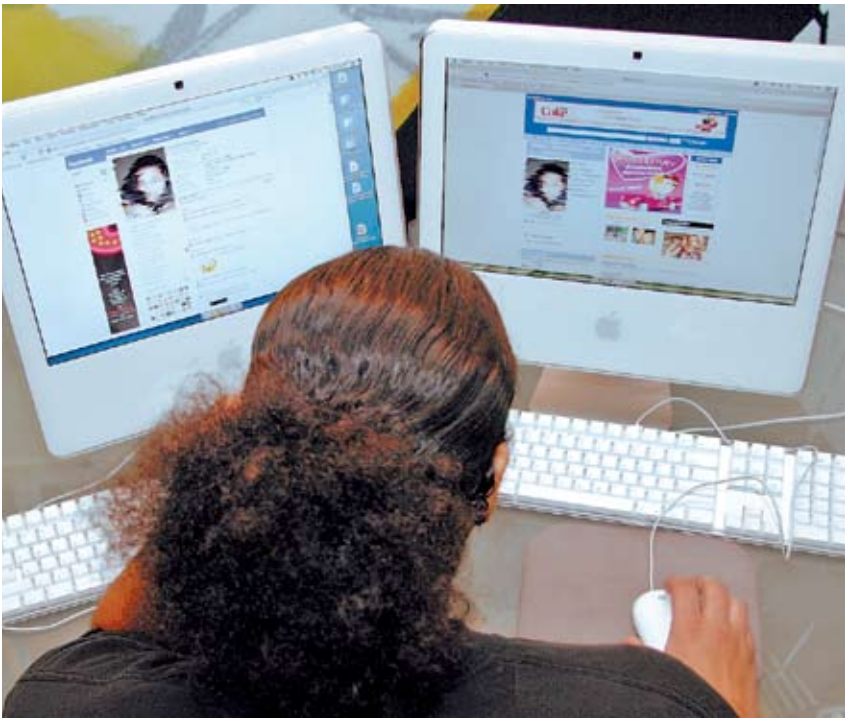
MySpace and Facebook have similarities, but there are differences that make each site appealing to people of all ages. Cindy Nguyen, 15, who goes on both sites daily, likes MySpace better because “you can design the site, while on Facebook, you just move the applications around.” Vivian Tang, 14, who logs onto MySpace and Facebook every day, says she likes MySpace better because everyone’s profile is different. On the other hand, Jennifer Huang, 23, who goes on Facebook daily and on MySpace once every two weeks, says she prefers Facebook not only because MySpace is too commercialized but also because most of her friends are on Facebook. Yan Yi Weng, 15, also prefers Facebook because “it’s more organized, easier to access people, and you can actually find long-lost friends through Facebook...even in another country.”

Still not sure which site is better? Teens in Print takes a closer look at the features of each website.

Log-in-process: MySpace and Facebook both have a short log-in process and both are easy to understand. Both websites ask for general information, such as your name, password, country, and date of birth when you register. From then on, when you sign in, you will use your e-mail address and a password.

Popularity: While MySpace has more than 47.3 million members, Facebook has more than 59 million active viewers.

Access to other sites: There is a lot of access to other sites on both MySpace and



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

Facebook, but MySpace has more ads than Facebook.

Security: Security checks and privacy settings are provided on both sites. You can also block people and delete your account on both MySpace and Facebook. However, spam and hackers are still able to access the sites. This seems to be more of a problem for MySpace users than Facebook.

Offers: MySpace provides games, ads, IM, and other opportunities. Facebook has thousands of applications such as games, interactive activities, and quizzes.

Updates: MySpace has many subscriptions, bulletins, and friend comments. However, Facebook e-mails people about the news on their Web pages; the site also includes news feeds on your friend’s daily activities.

Privacy: On MySpace, profiles can be set to private so only people who are your friends can view it, so anyone can view your page. On Facebook, only people

who are in your network or who request you as their friend are able to see your profile. Also, on Facebook, you can create a limited profile for the people whom you don’t want to see the whole profile and you are able to block people as well.

Videos, pictures, music, animation: On both MySpace and Facebook, videos, pictures, music, and animations are available.

Interaction: There are countless ways to interact on both sites; sending private messages, similar to e-mails, is an option on both sites too. On MySpace, there are comments from your friends, the MySpace IM, and the bulletin. Facebook is more interactive with updates on friends’ scores on games and quizzes taken, along with the option to comment on a friend’s Wall.

Customization: On MySpace, people are able to create their own backgrounds, add animations, and decorate their own pages using html. On Facebook, users are only able to move, add, or delete applications.

Online pages: what’s personal is public

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

If you are like most teens, you probably have a Facebook or MySpace account. You use it to talk to your friends, get in touch with people you have not seen in a while, and post pictures. What you probably do not think about when logging on is who else is looking at your page. The truth is it isn’t only the people on your friends list who can read your pages, others, including future employers, college admissions officers, even the police may get access.

If one of these people were to look at your online profile, would you be prepared? Do you think a future employer would want to hire you or an admissions staff let you into their school if they were to see what is on your Facebook or MySpace page? Furthermore, is it their business or right to look at these websites?

You may get frustrated when the computers at the Boston Public Schools will not allow you to pull up your MySpace or Facebook profile, but students at Ojai Valley High School in California are facing much harsher policies. Their administration has banned stu-

dents from joining these communities at all, in or out of the classroom. Students as well as adults around the country have felt the repercussions of their online blogging. A high school freshman in Maryland was reportedly suspended because of her online photos, an underage drinking party at George Washington University was broken up after police found invitations online, and swimmers at Louisiana State University were kicked off the swim team after criticizing the coach online, according to nacacnet.com. Even the beauty queen Miss New Jersey almost lost her crown due to compromising photos on Facebook.

Not every admissions officer or future employer is going to get on a laptop and look up your profile. One reason is because of the limited time they have to sort through thousands of applicants. A.J. Williams, admissions counselor at Santa Clara University in California, told T.i.P. in a recent phone interview, “There is only so much we can look at. We don’t have the time to check every applicant’s MySpace.” A recent article

in the British newspaper The Guardian claims some admissions officers refuse to use this method when looking at applicants because it is an invasion of privacy as well as unfair. In fact, some colleges have a policy barring admissions officers from looking up students online.

Still, make sure you are careful. You must be cautious when posting pictures, blogs, even comments made to you by others online. As tempting as it may be to post a new photo album completely dedicated to that wild party last weekend, consider who may be looking at these photos and whether or not it will put you in a compromising position. If you absolutely cannot resist, try adding safety features to your profile so only people who you have chosen to be friends with can see your profile. Keep in mind: these websites, even after you have added safety features, are public record available to anyone with Internet access.

teen takes!

Halfway to heaven if you eat at Red Sky

BY RYAN WARD//T.I.P. SENIOR WRITER

Right next to Faneuil Hall is a restaurant glimmering on the horizon. Red Sky is not just a restaurant, but a stress free environment with a lounge for relaxing while you enjoy your meal. Located at 16-18 North Street in Boston, Red Sky is a great place to sit back and have a bite to eat after a night on the town.

The name Red Sky describes what the restaurant looks like inside, with red walls and plenty of space. The restaurant has three sections: a bar, a lounge with couches (which can be reserved for up to 60 and has a beautiful view of Faneuil Hall), and a rather ordinary looking dining area. Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m, food is served until 1 a.m.

One problem I had with the lunch menu is they worry more about appetizers than main courses. The menu I ordered from had 15 appetizer choices and only 8 choices of burgers or sandwiches. They also had two choices of soup.

First, I wanted to see how the salads were, so I tried the buffalo chicken salad (\$11). The portion was solid and the fixings were typical, with tossed buffalo chicken; and, of course, where there is buffalo chicken, there is blue cheese dressing. The salad did get me ready for the main course, although for \$11 it wasn't worth the money because

it didn't fill me. Needing the next course, I decided on the Southwestern burger with french fries (\$9.50). Don't get me wrong: it tasted fantastic. It's an 8-ounce burger covered in barbecue sauce, pepper jack cheese, bacon, and avocado. But if I hadn't ordered the salad, it wouldn't have filled me. By now it was clear: portion size is not Red Sky's strength.

It's great I was comfortable, but how long did I have to wait? Even though it was only 4:30 p.m. when I arrived, there was only one person working the floor and she wasn't always around when I needed service. The only worker was hanging out at the bar chatting with customers. When it was finally time to get my check, she was nowhere to be found. When I finally found her she was in a corner talking on her cellphone. That wasn't just bad service, but bad business.

During certain hours, Red Sky has menu discounts. This helps when you have to pay \$9.50 for a burger that doesn't fill you. Drinks were refillable, so

Bite into the Southwestern burger and fries at Red Sky.

I guess that makes up for it. I did enjoy my food, and I was full when I left, but these discounts aren't always on. So if you're going to try Red Sky, I suggest you call 617-742-3333 to find out when discounts are available.

I rate Red Sky a 5 on a scale from 1 to 10. It did have a relaxed atmosphere and good food. On the other hand, that doesn't make up for the lack of portions and service. For more information on menus go to redskyboston.com.



Photo by: Darius Cephas

Photo by: Mary Nguyen

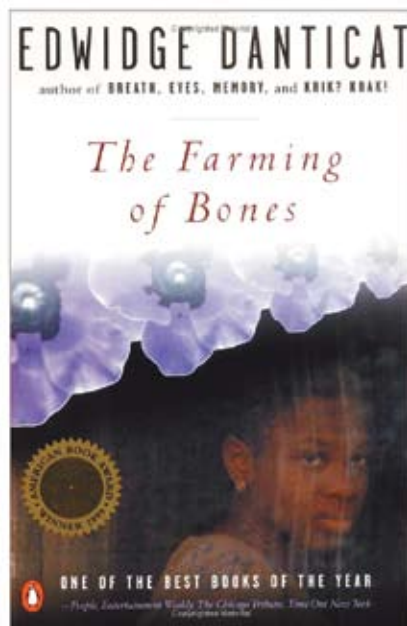
Book review: 'The Farming of Bones'

By Gena Farene Badin // T.I.P. Writer

The book "The Farming of Bones" is written by one of my favorite authors, and also a fellow Haitian, Edwidge Danticat. I've read nearly all her books and each time I learn new things and I understand and get to know her better. What I really enjoy in each of her books is that she includes Creole and old Haitian Creole sayings. This makes the stories very personal.

"The Farming of Bones" tells the story of a young Haitian woman named Amabelle. Orphaned at the age of 8, Amabelle lived in the Dominican Republic with a Dominican family, Señor Pico and Señora Valencia. She and her lover, Sebastien, a sugarcane cutter, live in a difficult time, during a massacre of Haitians, and love each other a lot. The story feels real because it is based in history and the characters could be real.

One of the best chapters is the first. In the beginning, the author describes little details in subtle ways. For example, she never mentions the word "sex," but gets the point across to the reader. I thought it was a powerful way to start a book. The writing describes every detail. It felt like I was in the scene and someone else was putting it in words, especially



the parts describing the persecution of Amabelle and other Haitians. This writing style shows the author's personality. The reader gets to know the author by reading her writing.

In the book, the reader sees how characters interact and wonders why they act like they do. I think Señor Pico didn't like Amabelle as much as Señora Valencia did because there is nowhere in the book that Señor Pico talks to Amabelle. Even so, I think Amabelle shouldn't leave the household. No matter how tough it was, Señora Valencia would never let anyone hurt Amabelle. She would do anything to protect her because she loved Amabelle, she grew up with her, and she considered her as her sister.

My second favorite chapter is the last, where the story of love, war, struggle, survival, and hope ends. Although I had many questions, I understood how Amabelle felt about how things had turned out. I recommend this book to anyone who is Haitian, or anyone who wants to know more about Haitian history and people. It's a great story and a good read.

HEALTH BEAT

By Idalin Ortiz // T.I.P. Staff Writer

Chris Tisbert, 17, is more of a public guy, who says: "You go from MySpace to getting her aim, plan to meet up and hook-up."

Some teens are concerned with getting a boyfriend/girlfriend because they want to find that special someone. But once you have one, how do you know your relationship is worth keeping? And if you know you are not in a healthy relationship, don't you think you would be better off by yourself? We say: A healthy relationship is the only way to go, especially once you think about how being in your relationship makes you feel. Teens in Print talked with Boston teens who share their techniques to go about finding a girlfriend/boyfriend, along with the keys to developing a healthy relationship that is worth keeping.

Love is in the air

Jeans Dorsanville, 17, is more of a direct guy. His best lines: "Haven't I seen you somewhere? Can I get to know you better?"

Sagine Gay, 17, is confident, saying: "I just start talking to him to find out what we have in common, give hints."

Gena Badin, 17, says: "Try to get their attention, you look at him so often [and] he'll realize you like him."

Shalaya Gray, 18, also gets right to the point. "If they catch my eye, I get all cocky, ask them if they have a girl, give [them] my number."

Xavier Caban, 17, has a common way of getting a girl: "Talking to her, getting to know what she likes, [being] a good listener."

Vanilo Leveque, 18, is a smooth talker, who says: "Complimenting is the best way to go. For example, I would say 'I didn't realize how beautiful your smile was.'"

Rena Lambriadias, 18, is more informative and says: "Talk, ask questions to know one another. You have to show interest."

Key Ingredients of a Healthy Relationship

Having open communication

Caring

Being supportive

Flexibility

Ability to cry and laugh together

Sharing

Trust

HOME REMEDIES FOR COMMON AILMENTS

By Natalyn Yu and Olive Tang // T.I.P. Staff Writers

"Hey Mom, HICCUP, do you have any, HICCUP, cures for, HICCUP, hiccups?"

"Oh, honey, sure. Have you tried holding your breath?"

"Yup,"

"Drinking water?"

"HICCUP. Yup."

"What about the top secret remedy I told you about?"

"Oh my, HICCUP, gosh, mom, I can't, HICCUP, believe I forgot!"

Home remedies have been passed down from generation to generation, from family to family, and from person to person. Whether it is hiccups or rashes, insomnia or sunburns, there's a home remedy that people say will cure what ails. These are ideas collected from Boston teens.

CURES FOR:

Hiccups:

"Hold your breath for 30 seconds and drink warm water." David Yu, 13

"Put a teaspoon of sugar on your tongue and let it melt there." Sophia Zhang, 18

"Have someone scare you!" Amanda Johnson, 16

"Swallow peanut butter or drink lots of water with a spoon pressed to your forehead." Zoe Schwartz, 14

"Pour a cup of water and drink it from the side of the cup opposite from you." Jennifer Yu, 14

Insomnia:

"Avoid fried foods." Samantha Richards, 17

"Watch an hour of 'Seinfeld.'" Raymond Li, 14

"Drink Earl Grey Tea." Reed McConnell, 14

"Do yoga during the day." Jasmine Gonzalez, 18

Sunburn:

"Coconut oil and Aloe Vera always work!"

Jenny Lin, 15

"Calamine lotion." Zoe Schwartz, 14

"Take a cold shower to soothe your skin."

Amanda Johnson, 16

Headache:

"Take a slice of lime, and rub the soft tissue of lime across your forehead for a few minutes." Samantha Richards, 17

"Drink lots of water." David Yu, 14

"Take a bubble bath." Zoe Schwartz, 14

Sore throat:

"Eat apples and cough drops." Dan Simmons, 17

"Drink hot Chinese tea." Jennifer Yu, 14

"Drink tea with honey." Zoe Schwartz, 14

"Eat apples dipped in lemon juice."

Charlie Thompson, 16

"Cough drops." Raymond Li, 14

Toothache:

"Rinse mouth with salt water." Reed McConnell, 14

"Bite down on cotton." Jennifer Yu, 14

"Drink ice cold water." John Chen, 15



By Damien Leach // T.I.P. Writer

We've passed the midpoint of the year. Here's what Boston Student Advisory Council has been working on since our last update. BSAC has been finalizing the Friendly Feedback Form, which would give students an opportunity to evaluate teachers. Students would fill out this form explaining their perspectives on how teachers are helping students to succeed academically. The main goals of the evaluation form include: improving student, teacher and headmaster relationships, improving classroom environment to improve school culture, and allowing students to realize how their thoughts and opinions help to influence their learning environment. BSAC worked on the Friendly Feedback Form last year but because of negotiations between the Boston Teachers Union and Boston Public Schools it was put on hold. This year we will work to identify a couple of schools willing to pilot this project. Students, stay on the lookout!

Another important issue involves school metal detectors. Almost everyone in the BPS district admits that some days their school metal detectors don't work properly and aren't equipped with enough people to do the searches. Because of this, some students have considered bringing weapons to school as protection from others. This is a major issue because of the potential danger. Currently, we are in the process of ensuring there are working, efficient metal detectors in all schools. Also we are aware of other problems that come along including long lines, where waiting to be searched can cause tardiness for students, or where students are disrespected because they are searched based on their attire if it looks suspicious to the searcher. While students endure this treatment, teachers walk around the metal detectors. It's time for equality and respect when it comes to safety in the learning community.

Last, I would like to remind you how important it is to have a well-functioning, developed student government empowering your school. Many students feel there are problems in their schools that they are incapable of changing. This is not true. With a student government or student leadership, where all thoughts are appropriately communicated to peers, staff, and headmasters, anything can be improved. If students take actions to change the issues affecting them, a fairer solution can be reached. BSAC and the district encourage students to get involved because, in the end, you should feel proud you attend a school as great as the one you envisioned.

If you are into making a serious change to your school and feel the problem is spreading throughout BPS, join BSAC. If you're interested contact us at BSAC@boston.k12.ma.us or call the BSAC coordinator Maria I. Ortiz at 617-594-5721.

BCLA keeps it real on Zimbabwe

By Shaccera Jones, Talia Tahatdil, and Michelle Liriano // T.I.P. Writers

On January 25 a group of dedicated students joined forces with the community at Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) in Brighton to deliver a powerful message with one voice. "All It Takes is One Voice, Your Voice" is the title of the movement, the motto and the key phrase spoken at the rally.

The rally was executed by students, teachers, and Reebok executives working on a year-long project called Reebok 4 Real. BCLA was chosen as one of six Boston high schools to compete for \$10,000 by designing and implementing a campaign to support a human rights activist. The group chose to work for Otto Saki, human rights lawyer from Zimbabwe.

The people in Zimbabwe have no rights and they are constantly under attack. The activists who stand up to the government for their rights are beaten. Saki works within the legal system to defend and protect those who speak against the government to improve their situation. Saki's goal is for Zimbabwe to be safe and successful.

Zimbabwe is neither safe nor successful. "Operation Murambatsvina" translates into English as "drive out the rubbish." This government program uses bulldozers to demolish communities, relocating families and schools into refugee camps. This is one government operation currently destroying the beautiful country. There is no freedom of speech to protest the current situation. Imagine living in a place where you were terrorized? Or where you could leave your house and it wouldn't be there when you got back? This is what the people of Zimbabwe experience. Tens of thousands of people have been forcibly evicted from their homes, which were then burned. Eighty percent of citizens are unemployed. Zimbabwe has the highest inflation rate in the world. Imagine being hungry and homeless knowing the government isn't going to help and everyone around you is in the same situation?

After learning this, the BCLA Reebok 4 Real team's main focus is on raising awareness of the situation in Zimbabwe. The goal is to collect 1,500 signatures on a petition protesting the country's leadership. The secondary goal is to raise \$5,000 to benefit the country's displaced children. The people of Zimbabwe need our help. BCLA's Reebok 4 Real team needs you to help us raise awareness and funds. United we can help those in need.

At the recent kick-off rally at BCLA, representatives from Reebok International were in attendance as well as special guests, court-side reporter for the Celtics "Coach" Willie Maye, and Reverend Gift Makawasha of St. John/St. James Episcopal Church. Guest of honor was Zimbabwe's Otto Saki, who moved the crowd with details of his experience with his country's corrupt government. Saki spoke with sadness but optimism.

BCLA student poets Stephen Sampson, Demakis Miller-Jones, and Kevin Emile performed pieces that highlighted what is occurring in Zimbabwe and encouraged students to speak out. Sampson, a senior, summed up the feelings of BCLA's 4 Real team with his words: "They don't go from rags to riches; they go from rags to ditches where they dump your body after diseases devour your flesh. These are the people who pray for what we throw away, no playgrounds, just junkyards where malnourished children play. In the vicinity of tribulations, the hope of prosperity seems so vacant on land where only echoes respond to quiet calls from starving stomachs. But if we rummage through our hearts and our souls, we can one day find hope for Zimbabwe."

Visit our website and join our campaign, <http://web.mac.com/nenamelon/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>. All we need is one voice, your voice, to speak out.

Remembering the horrors of THE HOLOCAUST



▲ Photo by: Ping Zeng

▲ Photo by: Mary Nguyen

BY DALISA MIRANDA // T.I.P. STAFF WRITER

It was a cold January afternoon. She was staring out her living room window when men in uniforms started marching down the street. She didn't know what was going on. It was a random fear, a scary feeling for a young girl living in Hamburg, Germany. A new leader was among them. Things started happening and her life was changing. She was no longer allowed to go to the park. She could no longer sit on certain benches with her mom and eat ice cream. She knew something was wrong, but she never dared to ask. She got up at 6 a.m. and lined up, was counted, and recounted. She watched people faint. She watched people die and even then, tears couldn't come out of her eyes.

Sixty-two years ago, Adolf Hitler, leader of Germany, motivated by his hatred of Jews, created a way to eliminate citizens who were not part of the "pure" or Aryan race. His definition of a "pure" German, or Aryan, included: coloring (blond hair, blue eyes, and white skin); categories for people of "mixed blood" such as Jews and Gypsies; and sub-categories of mental illness to include, in his mind, homosexuality. Hitler's goal was to have a nation state full of 'pure' Germans.

Hitler used concentration camps as a place where he would torture and eliminate Jews. People were put into gas chambers, shot, and starved to death. Those who were not murdered were forced to work and eat only rations. This was a long journey for the Jewish people. Every day was a battle to survive. Families were separated; lives were left behind. Families depended on each other. When they didn't have each other, they were filled with depression.

My mother introduced me to a friend of hers. I remember seeing numbers imprinted on her arm. I



BY GUERLINE "BOBBI" PAUL // T.I.P. WRITER

**I want you to stop telling me that
I cannot walk where you walk;
Stop saying bad things about me;
Stop telling lies every time you see me;
Stop looking at me when I'm walking in the hall;
Stop saying that you are better than me;
Stop talking about my skin color because
It represents the most important thing in my life;
Stop saying that I'm black and you're white;
It doesn't mean anything, because when we die
We will all go to the same place;
The only thing I want you to do for me is to...
S-T-O-P!**

had come face to face with a Holocaust survivor: Vera, who was still so scared she refused to use her last name. As a young adult she lost her family. The Nazis forced her brother into a work camp where he was tortured, starved, and died. You could only imagine Vera's sadness. Vera had been taken from her family and put in a concentration camp called Auschwitz. They shaved her head and took her clothes. Somehow, she managed to live through this experience.

An event as big as the Holocaust, which has affected Vera, along with millions of survivors, killed 6 million Jews, a fact that isn't well known by our generation. History is a part of our lives. Even those who know about the Holocaust only know a little, and most don't take enough time to care.

Gladys Cooper, 14, from West Roxbury High says, "I think the Holocaust is when all the Jews got terrorized and killed by the Germans which I believe were lead by Adolf Hitler." This is just a synopsis of the Holocaust. The Boston Public School system only teaches students the basics. Students need to hear about the lives of survivors such as Vera.

Some teens may find the Holocaust to be just another irrelevant story in history, but it is similar to today's genocide in Darfur. A young woman sees Janjaweed militia, an Arab-supremacist group terrorizes villages in Sudan, lights her village on fire, and forces her brother to leave his home. She walks around her village fearlessly, but she has no home and is missing a part of her family. The lives of Holocaust survivors can teach us to care about current injustices to humanity.

Face history, participate

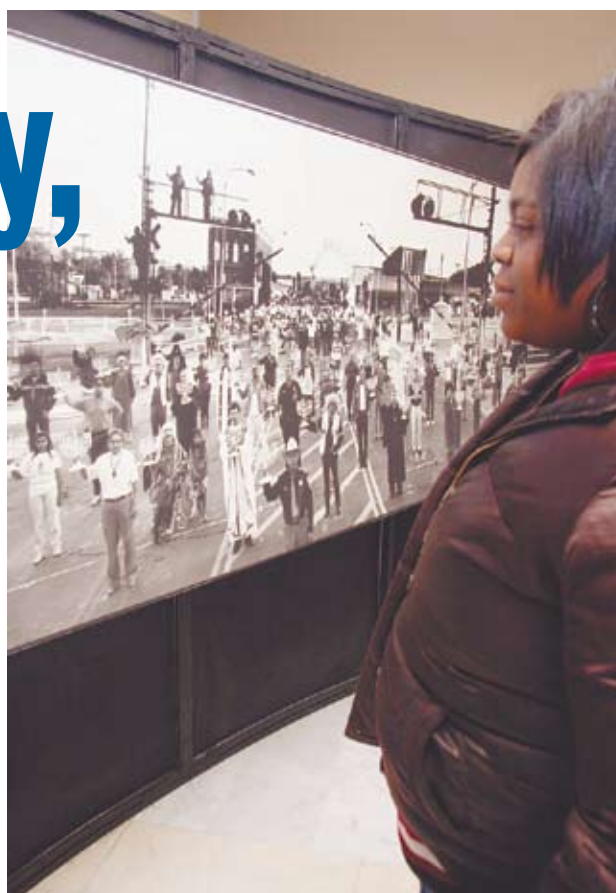
By Jennifer Sánchez // T.I.P. Senior Writer

Emotional, intense, and profound are three words to describe “Choosing to Participate,” an astounding exhibit of audio, art, and media sponsored by Facing History and Ourselves. On display now at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square, the exhibit features the stories of four individuals and communities that took a stand against racism and hate crime. This exhibit is a must-see.

As one of the first to view the exhibit, T.I.P. had the chance to take a V.I.P. tour before the exhibit opened. Juan Castellanos, program associate, guided the tour with Sarah Haaacke, associate director of development. The walk through explained the goal and focus of the exhibition.

“We first want people to be able to reflect on their decisions and how they impact themselves and others around them, then be able to make positive choices to improve the situation, their community, and society,” says Castellanos. ‘Choosing to Participate’ hopes to put people in a place where they can relate to and reflect on the choices of each individual and community. In everyone’s life, there comes a time when one makes a decision whether positive or negative that may not only affect themselves but those around them,” he says.

Participation needs the help of many to build a stronger,



▲ Photo by: Jane Carper

more respectful society. With vivid detail and interactive media, the exhibit shows how Elizabeth Eckford, Arn Chorn, the people of Billings, Montana, and Jesús Colón were confronted with racism, prejudice, and a choice to either take a stand or do nothing. Imagine being Eckford in 1957, one of nine African-American students surrounded by an angry mob on your first day at your new, all-white school. Or Jesús Colón, who was forced to make a deci-

“Choosing to Participate”
is on exhibit at the BPL.

sion on a late night subway ride in New York City in the 1950s as he went up against the perception of race. For many among us who are immigrants or know someone who is, we can relate to Chorn, who describes his challenges as a Cambodian refugee in a new world with an unknown language.

Now through May 20, and free to all, “Choosing to Participate” welcomes teens. Our generation is the future, and to progress in the future we must learn from the past and use these lessons to change our present. With discrimination against race, gender, sexuality, religion, and ethnicity still a reality, our choices and decisions can make all the difference. As Jesús Colón says, little things can prove to be big. A smile or a door held open can really brighten up a person’s day and later grow into bigger things such as reaching out to a person in need or becoming a positive activist in your community. Choose to participate!

Has anti-immigration fever led to hate crimes?

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

One of the hottest issues of this year’s presidential election is illegal immigration. According to the Pew Hispanic Fact Sheet, a project of the non-partisan research group Pew Research Center, there are 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US. This issue is not only sparking controversy among politicians, but also among the public.

A whopping 89 percent of Americans, believe illegal immigration is a problem in the US, according to fairus.com. Also, 68 percent of Americans believe there are too many immigrants, legal or not, in the country. But to what extent are these people opposed to immigration? Whether or not people realize it, illegal immigrants can have a positive effect on the economy. In fact, an article in the Wall Street Journal, published on Jan. 18, claims illegal immigrants are a major part of the agriculture industry in Texas, where they make up as much as 70 percent of the workers. Illegal immigrants also make up

one-third of the \$1.2 trillion construction industry, according to the same article.

The average American is not the only group influenced by undocumented immigrants. This topic has pushed a button with extremist and white supremacy groups who want all immigrants, regardless of their legal status, to leave. In April 2006, Laine Lawless, a leader of an anti-immigration group known as Border Guardians, sent out an e-mail on how to “Get rid of them now!” His suggestions included randomly beating up immigrants, stealing money, or waiting for immigrants outside of their workplaces to harass them. Incidents of extreme anti-immigration have been covered in many forms of media. Hal Turner is a famous neo-Nazi who once had his own Internet radio show. According to a report by the Anti-Defamation League, Turner has gone as far as to suggest killing illegal immigrants while they cross the border. He said, “When the stench of rotting corpses

gets bad enough, the rest will stay away.”

Many people may believe these cases only occur in tiny towns, in the middle of nowhere, hundreds of miles away. What you may not be aware of is that Massachusetts had an alarming number of hate crimes in 2006. Hate crime is defined in Dictionary.com as “a crime, usually violent, motivated by prejudice or intolerance toward a member of a gender, racial, religious, or social group.” Massachusetts came in fifth in the country last year with 448 hate crimes reported, from intimidation to murder. Also, according to The Christian Science Monitor, the number of hate groups in the US is on the rise. They went from 474 in 1997 to a staggering 762 hate groups in 2006.

If you keep your eye on the upcoming elections, you will find this is a hot topic. Unfortunately this issue is not going away any time soon.



Fresh ways to serve your community

By Katryna Mahoney // T.i.P. Staff Writer

On average, when teens hear the words “community service,” they imagine visiting the elderly or volunteering at a food shelter. But these are not the only ways to serve as volunteers. There are plenty of fun and fresh opportunities out there such as volunteering for a tour group or working with children.

Some schools require community service in order to graduate, which you may be stressing over, or perhaps you may want an activity to do in your spare time. Seventeen-year-old Kadeem Carter, who attends Academy of Public Service, has been working for two years at Mytown, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower youth by allowing them to give tours of the South End. Carter’s experience working at Mytown allows him to learn many things about his city and earn community service hours. To him, community service is helping your community to make it better by building parks or picking up trash. He enjoys working there because “it’s a lot fun to learn something about

your city that you never knew,” even though it’s not something he’s interested in doing for a career. Not only does Carter enjoy his job, he also gains public speaking, organization, and leadership skills.

Another student, Rena Lambrianidis, 18, of Media Communications Technology High School, completed 30 hours of community service for the National Honor Society. Since the beginning of the year, she’s been earning hours during and after school doing enjoyable activities, such as can and clothes drives, and writing letters to war veterans and people in the hospital. Her definition of community service is when you’re “willing to help the community, [giving without receiving].” Lambrianidis says she was able to build character, gain the ability to respect and value things more, get organized, manage her time, and work with other people as a result of the experience. She also recommends this opportunity as a way to make friends.

Shannon Barton, 17, a tutor at Project D.E.E.P., has been doing community service at D.E.E.P. for two years for fun. She says community service is her chance to repay the community because she “knows how much a community can do.” She says she has gained a lot from volunteering and thinks it’s important to give back by showing appreciation. Tutoring children teaches her how to solve problems, be patient, make a commitment, and build relationships.

Many students complete hours by going on school trips or participating in class activities. Despite the variety of options out there, some students think “there’s no point in doing community service when you’re not getting paid,” says Justice Kendrick, 18. When asked about the fun opportunities, he says “there isn’t any fun.”

Some teens may not have time for volunteering; some simply don’t realize the importance of giving back to their community. Either way, it’s worth it to explore the options out there and see what community service has to offer.

WHAT IS CHANGE? VIDEO CONTEST

Project: Think Different wants to empower you to be a change agent!

***What does change really mean to you?**

***What changes would make your community better?**

***What you can do to make it happen?**

The “What is Change?” Contest is an online video contest providing a \$500+ cash prize to the person with the best strategy for change in their community.

you decide what matters in your community

you know what it takes to fix it

vote online to decide the winner!

**For contest details, and registration information, visit:
whatischange.ptdec.org**

****contest ends at midnight, Tuesday 3/25/08****

Project: Think Different

entertaining change.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Take a cue from T.i.P. Volunteering can be fun. This list should get you started and help you find the place that’s right for you.

Project D.E.E.P.

(projectdeep.org) 617-635-5027

City Year

(cityyear.org) 857-233-7816

Boston Cares

(bostoncares.org) 617-422-0910 <http://www.bostoncares.org>

YMCA

(ymca.boston.org) 617-436-7750

Samariteens of Boston

(samaritansofboston.org/samariteens.html) 617-536-2460

Mytown

mytowninc.org 617-536-8696

Researched By Katryna Mahoney // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Boston would be nothing without its neighborhoods. That's why T.i.P. started writing neighborhood profiles. We also began this feature as a way to learn about the neighborhoods from teens who live there. In our last issue, we covered East Boston, Allston-Brighton, and West Roxbury. Now it's time for Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Roslindale to shine.

ROSLINDALE

Roslindale began to take its current shape in the early 1920s, when it seceded from the town of Roxbury. Today, the majority of residents live in triple-decker houses that permeate the neighborhood, based around Roslindale Square, a bustling center of business and public transportation. "No matter how remote and serene your neighborhood may seem, you are never far from the center of activity," says Bob Quinn, 18. There are several restaurants and businesses, as well as a grassy center where residents view a variety of performances when the weather is appropriate. This neighborhood is similar to Jamaica Plain, where people feel a sense of community. "We are proud of where we come from, and it makes us close because it's not that large of a [neighborhood], and we know where we can always meet up," says Eric White, 17.

Best Food: Fornax (27 Corinth St.), Bangkok Café (25 Poplar St.), Pleasant Café (4515 Washington St.)

Hangouts: Roslindale Square

JAMAICA PLAIN (JP)

At 4.4 square miles, JP is a small but bustling part of Boston. The busiest part of Jamaica Plain is the stretch of Centre Street that runs through the area. "JP is a community; people know each other," says Sydney Ruiz, 17. It's fairly diverse and is home to the Jamaica Pond, the largest and deepest body of fresh water in Boston, as well as the Arnold Arboretum, home to numerous species of plants and trees. JP shares its diversity with the other two neighborhoods we're covering. "I enjoy living in JP because it's a diverse neighborhood," says Josh Barash, 17.

Best Food: Wonder Spice (697 Centre St.), Same Old Place (662 Centre St.), the Alchemist Lounge (435 South Huntington Ave.)

Best Hangouts: Centre Street, The Monument

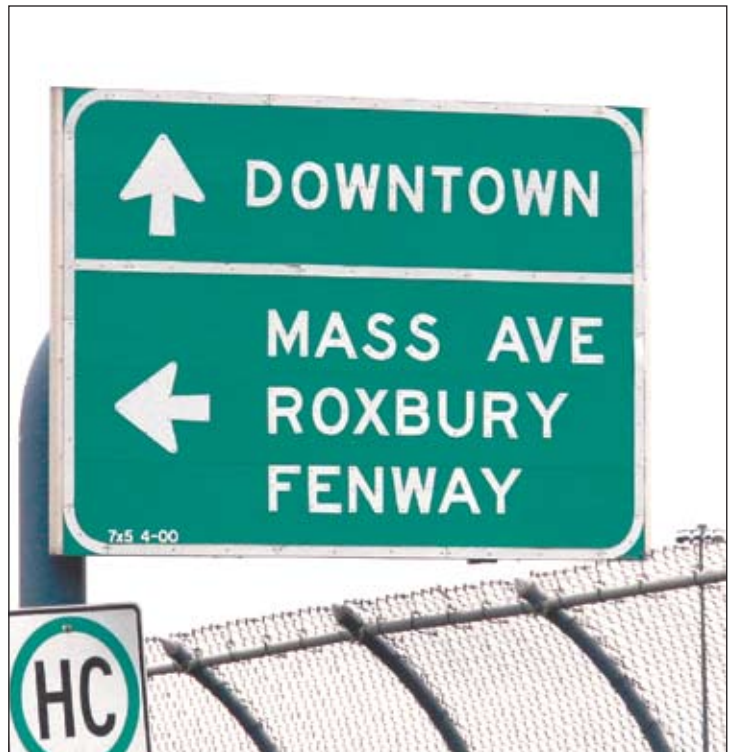
ROXBURY

Known as home at one point or another to Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, and Bobby Brown, Roxbury is full of history and is one of the oldest parts of Boston. It is also the location of the Roxbury Film Festival (an annual event where independent films are shown to the public), as well as John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, one of the most prestigious schools in the city. The area's diversity is noted. "It's not just black people in Roxbury, there are a lot of different races here," says Briana Malloy-Walker, 16.

Best Food: Stash's Grill (150 Dudley St.), Merengue Restaurant (160 Blue Hill Ave.)

Best Hangouts: Dudley, Ruggles

STOPPING BY THE
NEIGHBORHOODS



Neighborhood photos by AFH.

RECREATION SPORTS AND SIDETRACK



▲ Photo by: Alana Andonian

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

AN APOLOGY

Before I get started, I just want to apologize for a small bit of misinformation. In the last issue, I mentioned that when the Mattapan High Speed Line reopened the fare would be \$1.25. As of print time, that was the plan. In a last minute move, however, the MBTA decided to charge a rapid transit fare of \$1.70 for the service. Since this development came after deadline, I was unable to make the correction until now. I am sorry if I misled anyone into thinking otherwise.

A FARE ANOMALY

Speaking of the Mattapan High Speed Line, CharlieCard users may have noticed something strange. You board the bus, heading toward Mattapan Station. You tap your card and pay \$1.25. Arriving at the station, you tap your card again on the trolley, but with the transfer you pay only \$0.45. Finally you arrive at Ashmont. Heading downtown, the Red Line is the last leg of your trip. So, you hop off the trolley and tap your card on the fare box above the Red Line platform. Running downstairs to catch the train, you probably didn't notice the \$1.70 the machine took off your card. The extra \$1.70. Wait a minute: \$1.25 for the bus, \$0.45 for the trolley, and \$1.70 for the Red Line. Do the math and you have spent a total of \$3.40! Pretty steep for a one-way trip, isn't it? Makes you wonder about alternate transportation.

WAITING...

If you attend East Boston High School, you use the Blue Line at least twice a day. Each morning you run to catch the Blue Line, hoping to get to school on time. Seeing the 27-year-old train enter the station, new trains might sound nice. Surprisingly, the MBTA did order new subway cars... in 2001. The company, Siemens Transportation Systems Inc., has failed to deliver on their promise. The first test cars arrived last summer. The MBTA hoped to introduce them by the new year. Technical problems, however, delayed their debut until late January (then again to February). Keep your fingers crossed.

SPRING CLEANING

Out with the old and in with the new? Effective March 22, new bus schedules will go into effect (they are updated quarterly). 155 new buses from New Flyer Industries will enter service allowing older buses to be retired, reducing breakdowns. GPS tracking systems are being installed on the entire bus fleet, which the T hopes will reduce delays. On the rail side of things, signal work on the Orange Line is expected to be completed by early summer, which could mean increased headways. Plus, midlife overhauls are slated to begin on the Green Line's Type 7 cars (built 1987) and Red Line's 1700 series cars (built 1988), improving vehicle reliability.



▲ Photos by: Stuart Spina

Red Sox open in Japan this season

By Nick Costa//T.i.P. Staff Writer

March 25 marks the first game of the Red Sox 2008 season. The team will open in Japan playing a two-day series against the Oakland Athletics. It is not known which of the five starting pitchers will start the game in Japan. The two pitchers who come to mind are Japanese natives Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima. Matsuzaka is not in the starting pitching slot for either game due to his wife having their baby around the same date. At deadline, the decision for starting pitcher is still up for grabs.

The 2008 team should be as good as, if not better, than the 2007 team. Being strong defensively, with Mike Lowell signing back as the Sox third basemen, the defense for the Sox will be everything but inexperienced and backed up by an amazing outfield. The batting lineup will be as strong as it was in 2007. David Ortiz will be a strong factor for the team; since having his knee operated on, his base running is expected to be back to normal.

The strength of the Red Sox isn't all from veterans; the young players bring the team energy without lacking experience. Jacoby Ellsbury will be starting his rookie year in 2008. A September call-up from the Red Sox Minor league, he showed coach Terry Francona he deserved a spot on the team. Francona's deci-

sion was certain when Ellsbury got more playing time in the 2007 World Series than starting center fielder Coco Crisp. Bringing in more hits than Crisp and showing he was skilled in center field, Ellsbury has shown his talent and will be a good contestant for the 2008 Rookie of the Year.

Dustin Pedroia, the 2007 Rookie of the Year, brought his young talent to the Red Sox hitting in the lineup and on the field at second base. Hitting the ball and making saves when needed were a huge contribution to the team. To think that in May and June fans were saying they should get rid of Pedroia and that he wasn't a good player. Looking back to Sept. 1, 2007, with Clay Buchholz pitching and on his way to throwing a no hitter (first for a Red Sox rookie), Pedroia made an important save that helped him finish the game as a no hitter. Veterans and young talent are what will help the Red Sox in 2008. The one thing the Red Sox know they have is pitching, from aces like Josh Beckett, Curt Schilling, Matsuzaka, and closers like Jonathan Papelbon and Okajima. With good defense, great hitting, and excellent pitching the Red Sox may be on their way to two World Series in two years.

Are Celtics on the road to banner 17?

By Aadhar Mahajan // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Football season is over, and you can't get excited about a Red Sox game against the Orioles in the middle of March. For years, you would have been stuck watching golf or tennis for any kind of competitive sport this time of year. In case you haven't heard, there is a team in Boston called the Celtics.

It has been more than 21 years since the Celtics won a championship. Once known as the model franchise everyone outside of Boston hated, the Celtics went into a 21-year span of mediocrity. The worst part was during the 2006-2007 season when the Celtics lost a franchise record 18 straight games and ended the season with a 24-58 record, the second-worst record in the NBA that season.

Things were looking up for the Celtics' future going into the draft lottery with the odds of getting the first or second draft pick in their favor. Two surefire difference makers were coming out of college, Greg Oden (Ohio State) and Kevin Durant (Texas). After them, the talent level severely dropped, led by Yi Jianlian from China.

The ping pong balls did not bounce the Celtics' way and they ended up with the fifth overall draft. It looked like it would be another year of a very good player, Paul Pierce, being surrounded by young play-

ers trying to mature to win next year. On draft night, the Celtics front office, sick of losing, traded Wally Szczerbiak, Delonte West, and the fifth pick to the Seattle Supersonics for veteran and seven-time All-Star Ray Allen and the number 35 pick in the draft, with which they got center Glen "Big Baby" Davis (LSU). The addition of Ray Allen made Boston an attractive spot for an even bigger piece of the championship puzzle, Kevin Garnett. The Celtics got him in a seven players-for-one trade with the Minnesota Timberwolves. With three All Stars, the Celtics were able to pick up role players like Scot Pollard, James Posey, and Eddie House (all off of free agency) to give them one of the strongest benches in the NBA.

The addition of Garnett may have been one of the greatest moves in Celtic history. According to Tommy Heinsohn, the Celtics color commentator on Comcast Sports Net New England, who talked to T.i.P. by e-mail: "Kevin Garnett gives the Celtics a defensive intensity that they have been lacking over the past few years; which is a crucial part of winning any kind of basketball championship." Heinsohn was a former Celtics player and coach who won 10 NBA championships as a member of the Celtics organization, though he is now known for his "Tommy Points" given to

players who "risk life and limb" on the floor.

The last time the Celtics won a championship (1987), they had their own version of the "Big Three," Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, and Robert Parish, all NBA Hall of Famers. The similarities don't end there; the 1986 Celtics also had a deep bench with Bill Walton, a former MVP, Danny Ainge, (now executive director of basketball operations for the Celtics) and Dennis Johnson, known for his shut down defense.

A major test for this Celtics team will be a four game stretch from March 17 to March 22, when they play four games in six days. They will play three tough Texas teams in San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas, and a surprisingly good New Orleans team, all on the road. This will be a chance to see how they stack up against the Western Conference, the more dominant of the two conferences. "If they don't have to play Detroit in the Eastern Finals they should probably make the finals, but I don't know if they can beat a team from the West," says Eli Hoffman, 16, a lifelong Celtics fan. If they escape with a 2-2 or 3-1 record during the trip, and as long as any one of the Big Three don't come down with a devastating injury, it looks like Boston will be in for another playoff run.

Boston's trio of winning teams

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

This year in sports, Boston teams are taking over in full force. From the World Series champions Boston Red Sox, to the 16-0 New England Patriots, and the new improved Boston Celtics, Boston just seems to have the right moves and keys to take over the sports world.

The Red Sox had an exciting season this year and went on to win the World Series with star players like clutch hitter David Ortiz and home run hitter Manny Ramirez. Captain Jason Varitek also helped, along with pitcher Josh Beckett. But it took the whole Red Sox team, including up-and-coming rookie talent, to pull out another successful season and another World

Series title.

Then we have the New England Patriots, who this year beat teams left and right. New England also signed some talented players from the free agent list and made trades to get players to help lift them to a perfect season. The Patriots acquired outside linebacker Adalius Thomas, and deep threat players like Randy Moss and Donté Stallworth. Slot players Wes Welker and Jabar Gaffney were key new players. Reliable star cornerbacks Asante Samuel and Ellis Hobbs returned as did strong safety Rodney Harrison. The veteran talent of Richard Seymour, Tedy Bruschi, Mike Vrabel, Junior Seau, and star quarterback Tom

Brady sealed up the season's winning combination. Their Super Bowl upset was a shock, but their season record speaks for itself.

Finally, we have the red hot Celtics. The Celtics are doing very well since trading players to get All-Star power forward Kevin Garnett. Along with Garnett, the Celtics were able to acquire 3-point shooting guard Ray Allen and draft pick Glen "Big Baby" Davis, who is great at getting rebounds. Star player Paul Pierce is back for another season and has help with the players who now surround him.

Whatever the season, Boston fans now have a trio of winning teams to watch.

your horoscope

By Aadhar Mahajan, Akshat Pandey, Nick Costa,
and Ryan Ward//T.i.P. Staff Writers

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Symbol: The ram

Strengths: Active, daring, spirited

Weaknesses: Hasty, impulsive

Celebs with Your Sign: Reese Witherspoon, Sarah Jessica Parker

Family: Your family is there for you no matter what mischief you get into. Give them a break this spring and do something nice to show how much you appreciate their loyalty.

Lllovin: Being self-centered in your relationship gets you nowhere. You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Symbol: The bull

Strengths: Patient, imaginative, authentic

Weaknesses: Stubborn, defiant

Celebs with Your Sign: George Clooney, Renee Zellweger

Riches: You may feel that no one notices your hard work. It's OK to call it to your supervisor's attention and even ask for a raise. You might be surprised!

Friends: Do not react too quickly to what your friends say or do. Hear them out; they might actually be right or have a point.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Symbol: The twins

Strengths: Curious, open minded, multitasked

Weaknesses: Capricious, impatient

Celebs with Your Sign: Angelina Jolie, Nicole Kidman

Riches: You spent too much this winter. Better scrimp for a month and hit the spring fashions when you've recovered a little cash and everything is on sale.

Family: Your younger sibling(s) adore you. Give them your time and maybe even offer a little baby-sitting to help out Mom.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Symbol: The crab

Strengths: Generous, perceptive, caring

Weaknesses: Cranky, tempered, grumpy

Celebs with Your Sign: Tom Cruise, 50 Cent, Lindsay Lohan

Friends: March Madness doesn't only relate to basketball; the drama between you and your friends may get heated but you will learn to keep your cool.

Riches: St. Patrick's Day isn't the only green thing in March; money will find you and your loved ones.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY,

Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

MORE ABOUT PISCES:

You are spiritual, selfless, compassionate, and intuitive.

Lucky Numbers: 0, 1, 2, 40, 55

Best Lllovin Matches: Capricorn

LEO (July 23-August 22)

Symbol: The lion

Strengths: Responsible, reliable, devoted

Weaknesses: Arrogant, crabby, self-indulged

Celebs with Your Sign: Madonna, Ben Affleck

Friends: Your friends will need you the most now. Your reliability will be why they turn to you.

Riches: Your hard work and dedication haven't gone unnoticed; look for a raise at work in the near future.

VIRGO (August 23-September 21)

Symbol: The maiden

Strengths: Supportive, compassionate, conscientious

Weaknesses: Unorganized, critical, picky

Celebs with Your Sign: Cameron Diaz, Bill Murray

Lllovin: Your love life will improve by the end of the month; be patient and don't let your pickiness get in the way.

Friends: Practice being patient and supportive of your friends and their decisions or you may need some time apart.

LIBRA (September 22-October 22)

Symbol: The scales

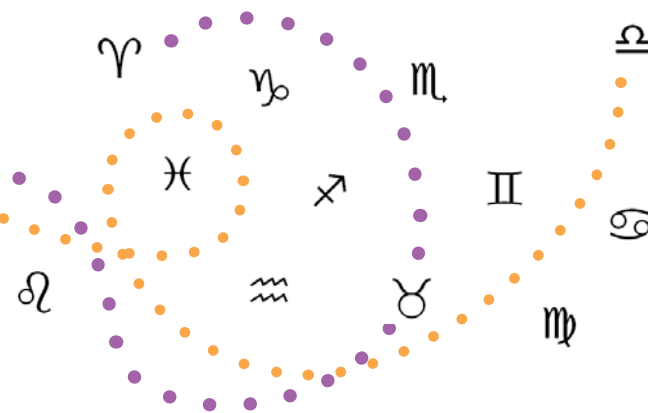
Strengths: Appealing, smart, sensitive

Weaknesses: Scheming, hopeless, coy

Celebs with Your Sign: Gwyneth Paltrow, Naomi Watts

Family: Your intelligence makes your family want to be around you more because you enlighten them.

Lllovin: Your appealing personality will attract the someone you've had your eye on. Be straight with them, though, or they will drift away from you.



SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

Symbol: The scorpion

Strengths: Intense, playful, lovely

Weaknesses: Jealous, possessive

Celebs with Your Sign: Owen Wilson, P. Diddy

Riches: If you don't already have a job, now is the right time to start looking for one so you can have money for the summer.

Friends: If you've got cabin fever from too much time inside this winter, it's time to get yourself and your friends outside. It's getting warmer. Grab a ball and head to the park.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Symbol: The archer

Strengths: Fervent, stimulating, charming

Weaknesses: Quarrelsome, irresponsible at times

Celebs with Your Sign: Jimi Hendrix, Brad Pitt, Walt Disney

Lllovin: Just because Valentine's Day has passed doesn't mean that love won't find you.

Family: Your family may not be at your side all the time. Now is not a bad time to practice being independent.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Symbol: The goat

Strengths: Meticulous, diligent, achiever

Weaknesses: Fatalistic, egotistical, inflexible

Celebs with Your Sign: Jim Carey, Orlando Bloom

Friends: Your discipline gets you good grades, but your friends know how to balance it with fun. Relax and take a lesson from them.

Riches: You've had your heart set on that dream summer job, but if you put all your effort into getting that one and it doesn't come through, you could end up with nothing.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

Symbol: The water bearer

Strengths: Rational, coherent, consistent

Weaknesses: Offensive, self-centered, immodest

Celebs with Your Sign: Oprah Winfrey, Jennifer Aniston

Riches: If you find yourself struggling to keep a job, take your sensitivity down one notch. You are a hard worker and a bad joke shouldn't keep you from your paycheck.

Lllovin: For the most part, you are a wonderful boy/girl-friend but prove to be a little too predictable sometimes; change it up a little.

T.i.P. Manager Kelly Knopf-Goldner contributed to this report.



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

By Sandy Liang // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Money. Everyone wants it and everyone needs it, especially teens. How else are we going to get those brand new sneakers, computers, jeans, and iPods? Option A is to ask your parents. Option B is to get a job. By getting a job you have a chance to prove your independence and score points on your school transcript at the same time. Nice, right?

OK, so you've been looking around and the "help wanted" signs are promising. Breezing through the interview, you get your classic dream job at McDonald's or Starbucks. Now what will you do with the money? You feel tempted to spend, but you know in your gut that you need to and should save the money you earn.

From an expert's point of view, Dara Duguay, director of Citi's Office of Financial Education, says everyone, teens included, "should start saving as soon as possible, the younger, the better!" Duguay says parents should start teaching kids about money, "as soon as they start asking for money."

Everyone, young and old, has different views on how much money they want to save, what to save for, or whether they'll save at all. Some teens want to wait and buy something expensive later on, such as those limited \$200 Air Forces or the latest Sidekick cellphone. Others want to have some spending money on hand, so when they're reaching into their pockets, they won't be pulling out lint and paper clips.

Going out and getting the latest gadget or outfit is nice, but remember to be on the lookout for the rising cost for college. "I just don't see the college tuition decreasing," says Duguay. "Students are getting bigger and bigger loans" to stay in school. According to Duguay, it can take 10 years or more to pay off a student loan.

T.i.P. interviewed 10 teens about jobs, money, and their saving habits. Half of those interviewed wanted to gain work experience, while half wanted the extra money. Of these, nine set aside some money in consideration of college, while two of the nine set aside all of their money for education. Others save money to pay off phone and credit cards bills, or to pay for their driver's license and the rising price of gas.

According to their needs, every person T.i.P. spoke with splits their paycheck differently. Duguay suggests saving at least 10 percent of your money. Teens believe the much-loved 50/50 split always works. The most important thing to keep in mind is what Duguay calls the "magic of compounded interest." This means that your money will multiply and grow if placed in a bank account earning interest.

Saving doesn't mean you have to give up all your money and not have any to spend; it means to put a little money aside, even if it is only a few dollars now and then. A few dollars saved every few days or each week will accumulate before you know it, and you'll never know when it might come in handy.

According to Fox News, Paul Brant, 70, of Frankfort, Indiana, recently bought a new Dodge Ram pickup truck with more than \$25,000 of change he gathered over the years. Now just imagine what you could do if you started saving.

Mind your business

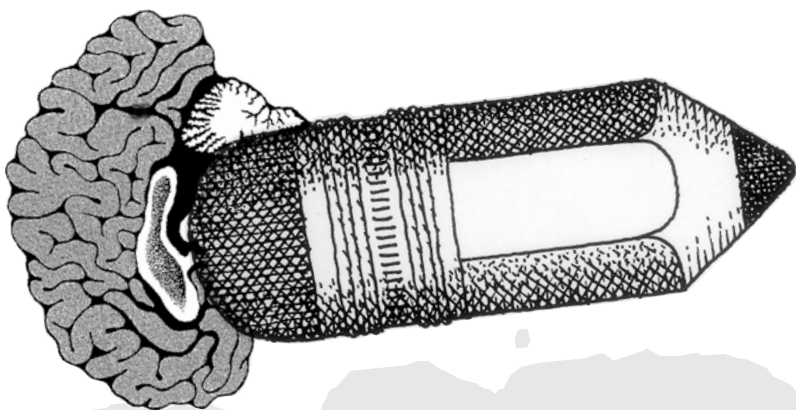
It pays to save what you earn

MONEY

By Esther Dorvil // T.i.P. Writer

You see that money
Sometimes it can be as sweet as candy
But I mean what's the point anyway
It just runs through my fingers when I get paid
Isn't money supposed to ease your problems?
But now-a-days if someone gives a few dollars you don't even want 'em
Why life gotta be so hard, come on I'm beggin' lord
I thought money was supposed to help my dreams
But what it did was ruin it with its all-star team
You know the healthcare, the education, the bills all around
It's what's got my feet planted to this ground
It's not fair that I have to live his way
I want to scream so you can hear what I say
All this for the love of money
Sometimes it's so close to you, you can call it buddy
Why does money always got to be on my mind
It's like we have a life term bind
Money shouldn't have to be my focus
But when I look at it it's all bogus
MONEY!
MONEY!
MONEY!
Can it all just go away?
But really it can't 'cause it helps me pay
For the house that I have to live in and lay
Money is what we see in the young folks eyes
Causing friendships to based on flat out lies
Imagine a world where there was no money
A place where everything is just as smooth as honey
But reality is reality
No matter how much you think it's phony
Money will always be Money.





{Your} poetry

Imagine

By Ashley Cotton // T.i.P. Writer

Imagine the difference in the world if we had more voters
Imagine if we had more active citizens than floaters
and fewer people shrugging their shoulders at the problems that behold us
Imagine if the youth knew their rights and rose as leaders
Turning the ignorant into believers

Who gave the system the Right to take away my rights in the '70s?
and replace it with subjects that don't interest me
and ultimately convict my brothers of felonies and locked in penitentiaries
The youth of today are the keys to our future
The youth of today are the keys to our future
I don't think u understand
The youth of today are the keys to our future
As powerful as that statement is,
We're not learning how to make the system work for us
Bcuz they rather have it work against us
We want youth jobs, 2 fix our neighborhoods and stop the violence
But how if the knowledge is not being taught to us
and our voice is continuously being silenced

Imagine if the youth knew how to put their Rights IN Action
After being taught about civics in a Right IN Action class
Or are you afraid?
Afraid we will possess the knowledge youth had in the '60s and '70s during the civil rights movement?
Are you afraid that one day we will have the power to vote U in or out of office?
Or that 1 day we will become UR bosses
We need more active citizens in our community
You know your rights, what's the difference between me and u?
How are you afraid if the youth of today are the keys to our future?

If U say civics is so important,
Why did it take youth to write articles in demand,
and youth to put a stop to policies we don't understand?
If U feel civics is needed,
Why are youth doing research
2 succeed in,
What we feel is needed
2 succeed in... life?

So, here we are today
We realize the problem and offer a solution
We want to see change,
Painting murals, tutoring children, and making safer streets,
We understand, but what about other youth who don't?
Imagine if students were at the table designing classes
Instead of letting these opportunities pass us, let's work together,
Why imagine when we've done the work?
What is there left to prove?
We need civics in Boston Public Schools.

To C.R.Y.

By Damien Leach // T.i.P. Writer

For years, I've been holding myself accountable for every tear drop that enables my vulnerability,
Enhancing the sickness, provoking another to strike contamination and contribute to the already poisonous air.
My mind approaches thoughts and images describing how people would try to encourage my rage inside,
I've witnessed the breakdown within the results of strategies that instantly rape the appearance of suppressed emotions from destructive backgrounds.
I'm not a demon, I am a god. A god of skills created by my creator that I've so many times imagined to converse with.
The loss that I've endured brought me to build a spiritual realm of consciousness subtracting every form of pinpoint disease that tries to mentally harm my future.
But who am I is a question that many times crosses my mind, drawing designs that deliberately repeat memories.
Flashbacks an outsider would only laugh at, and point at the tragedies, that brought intolerable measures intense enough to deteriorate a mass swarm of citizens, from a place called reality.

I hold back, I hold back again, I feel the darkness stroke my eyelids,
How can I explain this nation, while being a 17-year-old half White half Hispanic American living under circumstances that are statistically led by the black youth?
Well damn, if a man isn't judged by the income he receives then must be the examples that reflect mirages,
Illusions that unfortunately distort another brother forcing him closer towards this painful majority that most would only look at as thoughtless and heartless.
My tears are precious. Priceless. Symbolic.
Toxic enough to burn the hearts of individuals, who contemplated on retracing my footsteps.
People sit back, look at me and try to believe.
How much I've bled... enough to make you angry because you wouldn't understand.
I'm not going to complain, blame politics; I am my own reason for living this way.
The Lord gave me a reason, but I still choose the emotionless.
Why... I feel by now that I've got to choose another way out.
To C.R.Y. is like to D.I.E.
'Cuz once you lived like me,
You'll realize that life was nothing more than the person living it.
I wish I could cry.

BRAND

FROWNS, CRIES, TEARS

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

FROWNSZ, CRIES, TEARS
MEMORIESZ THAT CAN'T BE ERASED WITH THE YEARS,
HEARTSZ WITH SCARS THAT CAN NEVER BE HEALED
'CUZ A PERSON'S LIPS ARE FOREVER SEALED

THE FROWNS OF FRIENDS
CRIES OF MOTHERS
AND EARS OF SISTERS AND BROTHERS

ALL OF WHICH HAVE SCARS
SCARS THAT CAN'T BE HEALED
BECAUSE HOW CAN YOU FORGET...
SOMETHING THAT MADE YOU SO UPSET

HOW CAN YOU FORGET THAT
SOMEONE YOU LOVED IS GONE
THAT YOU'LL NEVER HEAR THEIR VOICE
AND THAT YOU'LL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN
'CUZ THEIR TIME IN THIS WORLD IS DONE
SO AS DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS AND YEARS GO BY
YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS LAST GOODBYE

A LAST GOODBYE THAT WAS PROBABLY UNEXPECTED
AND THEREFORE UR GREATLY AFFECTED
A LAST GOODBYE THAT HAS BEEN ENGRAVED IN UR
HEART
LIKE WHEN ONE HITS BULLSEYE WITH A DART

AND YES PEOPLE COME AND GO
THAT'S THERE TO SHOW
THAT WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE
TELL THEM AND HOLD ON TO 'EM TIGHT
'CUZ IT MIGHT BE THEIR LAST NIGHT

AND YES IT'S TRUE
THEY WILL GO TO THE PROMISED LAND
WHERE EVRYTHING IS ALL BLISS
NO MORE TEARS AND PAIN
NO MORE SUFFERIN' IN VAIN

AND AS THEY LET GO OF YOUR HAND
AND ENTER A WORLD OF HAPPINESS
THEY'LL NEVER FORGET YOU
FROM ABOVE THEY'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T FORGET
AND EVEN IF IT MAKES YOU UPSET
THOSE MEMORIES WILL BE IN UR HEART
AND SPIRITUALLY Y'ALL WILL NEVAH BE APART

DEDICATED
TO ALL OF MY DEAD LOVED ONES
R.I.P
LOVE YALL

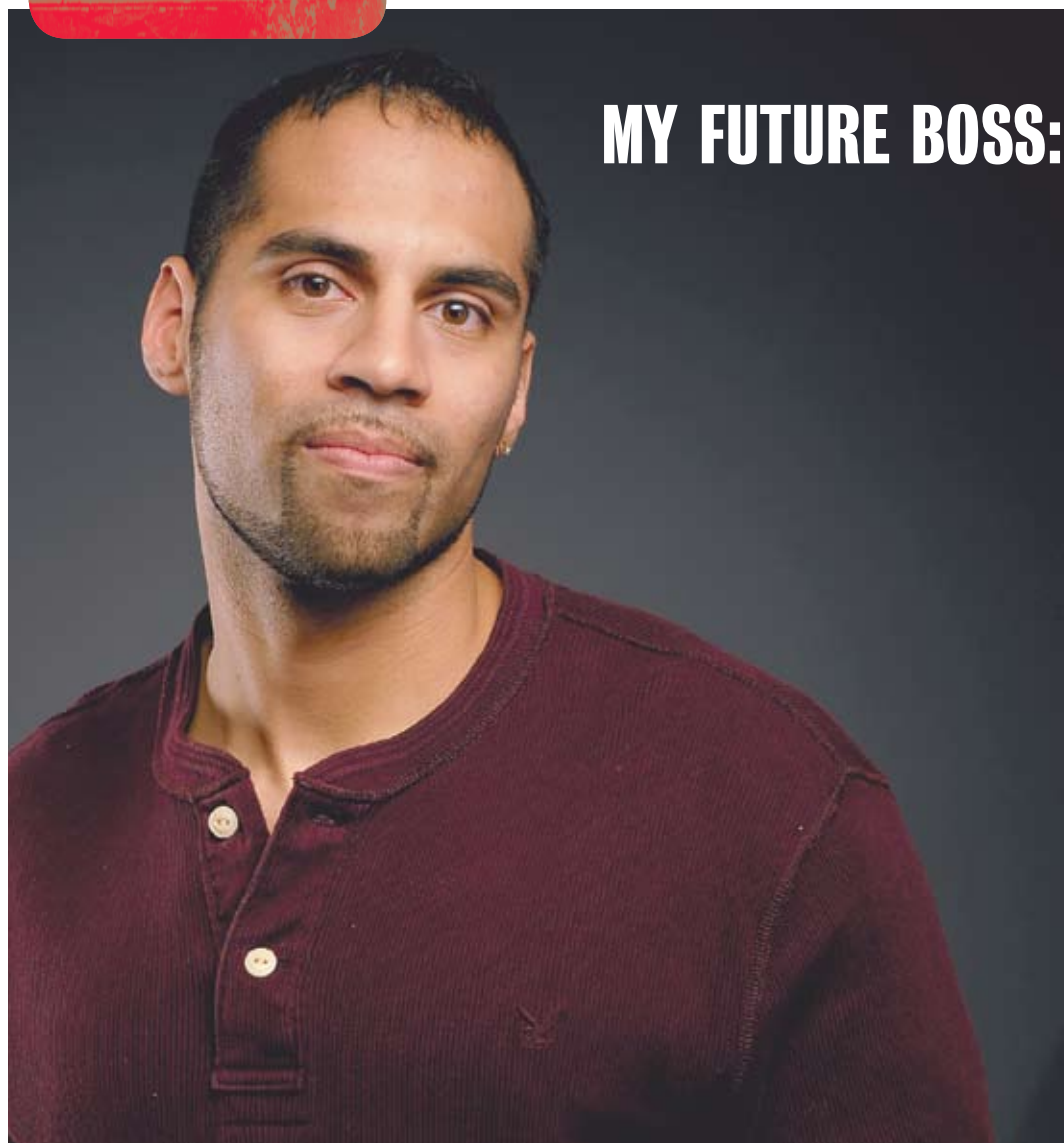
Summer

By Sabrina Hassan // T.i.P. Writer

The sun shone over the horizon,
High above the scorching heat,
Water a mileage miles away,
Yet the hooves not far away.

The cactus crying from the heat,
The sand sailing with the wind,
The camel's hooves pounding on,
On and on away from the dunes.

Armed, armed with hope,
Of one day having to hop
Up and down with the armor,
Of sweet little things in his arms.



Jam'n 94.5 radio DJ Ramiro Torres

MY FUTURE BOSS:

Ramiro

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

Your "Freakin Puerto Rican." Your "Jam Scam man." Your future boss? Well, your potential future boss.

For me, who is interested in radio, interviewing Ramiro Torres was my lucky break. Torres has been in the radio business since he was 21 and he has no intentions of slowing down any time soon. After speaking with him I realized there's a lot more to the "Jam Scam man" than we thought.

After growing up in Everett, outside of Boston, Ramiro was intrigued by the one and only sports broadcaster Chris Berman, out of which his passion was born. Even though radio and sports are two different fields, Ramiro says he loved the way "Chris delivered the highlights." After graduating high school around 1995, Ramiro Torres enrolled in The New England Institute of Art & Communications, or AI New England. Almost immediately, he began his internship at Jam'n 94.5 radio studios. After his internship, he became a legitimate employee of the station. Ramiro, oblivious to the wonderful union with Pebbles that was to come in the years ahead, held down night-time radio.

From 6 to 10 a.m., Ramiro and his sidekick Pebbles dominate Boston's mornings along with Crazy Culo, Melissa, and others. Things usually seem quite peachy on the air, but is this the norm when the microphones are turned off? "I try to keep it loose with everyone. We goof around, joke around, but at the same time everyone knows they have a job to do," Ramiro says describing the staff's relationships after the show.

▲ Photo by: Eric Levin, Boston

R.I.P. hip-hop?

BY TYRELL POLK // T.I.P. STAFF WRITER

With roots in Africa, hip-hop has spread far over the past years into different cultures, regions, and races, integrating other musical influences and redefining itself. But even though hip-hop has reached different cultures and people, has American hip-hop grown? Has hip-hop really kept its message and continued to spread it? Or has it lost its way through all the money, cars, and jewelry associated with the trend?

The music played now on mainstream radio stations and TV is getting worse, many say. Hip-hop used to send a message to the world about things that really mattered and affected people. Now it spreads messages about pimping and gang affiliation. Hip-hop artists spit out albums and mix tapes only for the dollar value in the rap game. But is quantity really better than the quality of the music? MCs are not coming out with anything now and it's killing hip-hop as it used to be.

The latest movement of hip-hop, the snap movement, started hip-hop on a slippery slope to nothingness. The movement allowed rappers to come out with anything that sounded good or had a nice dance beat to. These rappers got away with it because the people who were listening to their music didn't listen to the words but just felt the rhythm. The songs that are coming out now make no sense if you listen to the words. New artists like Hurricane Chris are coming out with songs like "Ay Bay Bay" in which he raps: "It's so hot up in da club dat I ain't got no shoes on." Of course, that line makes no sense, but it's overlooked because the song has a catchy hook and nice beat.

Many new rappers only know how to make a one hit song. People like Soulja Boy Tellem won't be able to come up with something that really means something

to the listeners. They don't have a reason for rapping other than wanting to make money. Before people rapped because they had something to say and wanted others to hear them. People who like what they heard kept listening to them and feeling them. People who listen to Soulja Boy Tellem don't really listen to his songs but just go with the flow of his beats.

While mainstream American hip-hop has hit a wall, there are people who are trying to break it down like Lupe Fiasco, Kanye West, and Jay-Z. There needs to be more rappers like them who actually say something instead of just coming out with dance music.

Top 10 songs of 2007

By Nick Costa // T.I.P. Staff Writer

ARTIST	SONG	ALBUM
10. Nickelback	Rockstar	All the Right Reasons
9. Soulja Boy Tell Em	Crank	DatSoulja Boy
8. One Republic	Apologize	One Republic
7. 50 cent	I get money	Curtis
6. Playaz Circle ft Lil Wayne	Duffle Bag Boy	Supply and Demand
5. Dj Khaled	We Taking Over	Listen
4. Lupe Fiasco	Dumb It Down	The cool
3. Nas	Hip Hop is Dead	Hip Hop is Dead
2. Birdman and Lil wayne	Pop Bottles	5 Star Stunna
1. Kanye West	Can't Tell Me Nothing	Graduation

[DRESSED FOR PROM, FROM PAGE 1]

that there is a dress for every girl in this year's collection. The wide variety of styles, prints, and materials makes it easy to find the perfect dress to suit your taste. Check out what's hot for this year's prom and how you can be part of the party.

■ Be the star of your prom. A metallic colored dress will make you shine. Make a bold statement in a bronze, gold, or silver dress. You will look luminous and chic. Wearing a dress made of a lamé material gives the wearer a shiny look with lots of depth. If you don't want to wear a metallic dress, pair a simple dress with glistening metallic accessories.

■ Bring out your wild side on prom night. (But please, not on the dance floor.) Animal prints are making their debut this season. Be adventurous with zebra stripes and leopard prints. To go for a more retro look, combine different prints. Animal prints and polka dots create a fun combination.

■ Try on a cocktail dress for a sleek and sophisticated look. These garments are long, form-fitting, and modern. Most cocktail dresses emphasize the three Bs: bust, back, and bum. Dresses with "back interest" show off your back and are popular this year. Some dresses may have criss-cross straps, lace cut-outs, or trains. Some backs plunge to almost revealing depths.

■ Consider a dress with beads to make a simple dress more detailed with carefully woven floral and leaf patterns. Bead work is concentrated on the bodice or straps of the dress. This makes it unnecessary to wear a necklace. Simple, sparkling earrings pick up the color of the beads and make the whole look come together.

■ Say no to your mother's prom dress. Instead of an innocent looking blue or puffy pink prom dress, the traditional look takes a modern twist. The Cinderella style dress is now more daring in dark colors such as black or red. The lacing detail gives it a Spanish sensation. Bodices are slim fitting with clean lines to help you show off your figure. Most important, puffed sleeves are history.



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity

LORRAINE ROY: ONE STOP PROM SHOP

By Paige Carruthers // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Classic pre-prom scene: You find yourself scrambling to Macy's frantically looking for the perfect dress for the big night "or the big disaster," you think, as you haphazardly throw dresses into a fitting room. Nothing you see has that WOW factor. After trying on 20 dresses you finally find one that's similar to what you're looking for.

You get in line, exhausted from the ordeal, and that's when you realize the girl in front of you is holding the same dress. And you haven't even gotten your shoes and accessories yet.

If you've witnessed this scenario from the sidelines, or have experienced it yourself, here's the good news. Lorraine Roy, a Danvers dress shop, located at 30-32 Maple Street, solves this problem. This stylish boutique is the go to place for formal dresses. With their motto, "one dress, one school" it's impossible to go through the awkward "same outfit experience."

Lorraine Roy carries a select and versatile inventory of dresses. They carry designers such as Jovani, La Femme, Terani, and Faviana, known for its celebrity knock-off dresses, like replicas of gowns Beyoncé and Eva Longoria wore

at 2007 award shows. While they carry esteemed designers, prices are reasonable, ranging from \$150-600, which fits into the average prom dress budget of about \$300.

Not only are they budget friendly, but body type friendly. Store Manager Amanda Sanford Smith says, "This is a judge-free zone." Their sizes range from 0 to 26 so no one should

worry about going on a no eating diet just to fit into a dress two sizes too small.

But if you're looking for someone to say you look good in a dress too small, Lorraine Roy isn't the place. Staff pledge to be honest about what they think. Long time customer Lauren Hovey, 17, says, "They're always complimenting you, and if it doesn't look nice they'll tell you." This 'honesty is the best policy' approach keeps teens like Hovey coming back year after year.

Also, customer service is impeccable. Founder Lorraine Roy laid the foundations when she said, "I treat people as if I'm welcoming

them into my home."

With an onsite seamstress, shoe and handbag collection, and colorful variety of dresses, Lorraine Roy (978-774-0825) may be the only place to shop this year.



▲ Photo by: Artists for Humanity



Lorraine Roy dress shop in Danvers offers one stop prom shopping.



▲ Photos by: Artists for Humanity

True confessions

Spilling their secrets

By Natalyn Yu // T.i.P. Staff Writer

Have you ever done something you now completely regret doing, even if it was worth the laugh? Teens around Boston (who would only give us fake names because they're still embarrassed about what they did) shared their funny, guilty stories. Read and LOL!



▲ Photo by: Georgette Arimah

"One time with one of my friends we stole a single diaper, and we found a doo-rag in my friend's closet. As we were walking home while fooling around with our new headgear, these 17-year-olds saw us and thought we were homeless! We played along with them, and when one tried to steal our shopping cart, his friend said, 'Dude! That's so mean! You're like, stealing their home!'"

-The Diaper Bandits, 15

"I have this obsession with gum chewing. When my friends and I were walking down the crowded streets one day in New York, I was talking so fast and laughing so much that I accidentally spit out my gum, and it landed on a little boy's head! He didn't know what it was, but his mom got really angry! I was so mortified, and my friends are never going to let me forget that day!"

-BubbleYuk, 17

"There's this boy I've known since second grade who has always picked on me. My class had a picnic after visiting an art museum. When a caterpillar crawled into his sandwich, I didn't tell him. What's more funny, when I asked him how his turkey sandwich was, he looked at me weirdly and said it was great!"

-Buggie, 13

"My little sister loves SpongeBob. She has SpongeBob dolls, SpongeBob DVDs, SpongeBob pillows, and even SpongeBob underwear, and if anyone touches any of her stuff, she gets angry. Once I was making a video for theater class. I needed one of her SpongeBob dolls as a prop. During filming, I left to go to the bathroom, and when I came back, my actors had torn one of the doll's arms off after playing an intense game of tug-of-war. I blamed it on the dog. Poor Scruffy."

-Yellow Avenger, 15

"Last year in Italian class, our teacher decided to let us do superlatives just for fun....The categories were the classics: best smile, class clown, most likely to succeed, and best dressed. For class clown, I convinced a lot of people to vote for Bryan, who never cracked a smile. I know it was really mean, but it was so funny with him standing up in front of the class, thanking us in monotone."

-Superla-not, 14

"When my two friends and I were at Upper Crust waiting in line, I accidentally bumped into this guy and he said, 'Excuse me, honey.' I started freaking out and quietly told my friend what he had said. She kept asking me who had called me honey very loudly when I didn't answer her. He was still right behind us! I quickly glanced back and saw it was my old teacher from elementary school. I demanded my unnecessarily-loud friend give me her hat, and I dragged my friends out of the pizza shop."

-Deserted by the Bell, 14

"I wish I was in step squad, but I'm a boy. What would my friends think? My little sister's in step squad, and she's caught me a couple of times practicing some cool moves I saw the step squad doing at the pep rally. Ever since she's been teaching me new moves the second I get home, after football practice that is."

-Secret Stepper, 16

Teens share surprising thoughts on God and faith

By Janelly Chavez // T.i.P. Associate Editor

I set out to write an article about teens and religion because I was curious to know how many local teens practice a religion. T.i.P. has published articles about sports, music, movies, fashion, relationships, and school, but never on the topic of religion.

The first step was to ask 30 peers what kind of religion they follow. Surprisingly, the majority of them said none. About two thirds of those questioned said that they don't believe there is a God. For example, when asked about the possibility of an after-life one teen said, "I believe that Hell is right here on earth."

Hearing this disturbed me because I am a religious teen. It also surprised me because in many cases these teens have parents and families who practice a religion. Only a few of these teens said they believe in a higher power.

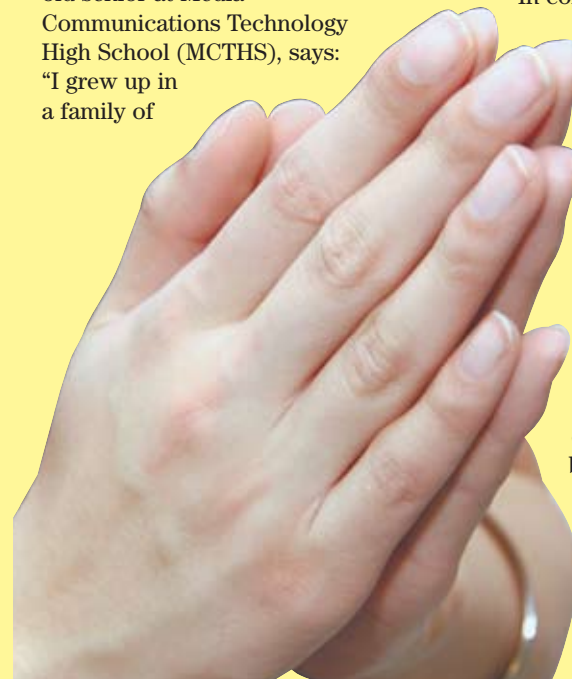
Sagine Gay, a 17-year-old senior at Media Communications Technology High School (MCTHS), says: "I grew up in a family of

Pentecostals and so I've followed that religion." According to Britannica.com "Pentecostalism is a Protestant religious movement characterized by a belief that all Christians should seek a post-conversion religious experience called baptism with the Holy Spirit." On the other hand, Gerald O'Garro, an 18-year-old senior attending the same school, refers to himself as an "atheist." O'Garro says he has done research that has brought him to believe there is no God. "My mother isn't really a religious person," he says about the primary person who raised and influenced his choices.

Religion, or lack of it, can mean different things to different people. Gay, of MCTHS, says by being religious "you know that there's a higher power that is always there for you." She says religion provides her with someone she can turn to in times of need. But Gay also says "[religion] keeps you from doing the fun things of the world...like going to parties."

In contrast, O'Garro says by not being religious he can "enjoy things without guilt."

Asked how religion affects her, Gay credits her church with keeping her out of trouble. "Being religious helps me be disciplined and keeps me from doing wrong." O'Garro, on the other hand, believes that even though he doesn't follow a religion he has his morals to keep him disciplined.



▲ Photo by: Tatiana Ware