

BCLA
♥'S
OBAMA



▲ Photo by Derrick Jackson

What Obama means to teens in the Bean

BY PAIGE CARRUTHERS//STAFF WRITER AND CIARA MARTINEZ //PEER EDITOR

Walk down the halls of BCLA and you will be bombarded with all forms of Obama paraphernalia. From T-shirts, to button/pins, to computer screen-savers dedicated to our new president, Obama has become the unofficial mascot of BCLA. This scene is the same in many BPS schools. With the explosion of King/Obama memorabilia, and the newly established Obama Store on Newbury Street, it is clear that Obamania has swept Boston and the nation.

Not only has our president-elect taken over the nation with his popularity, but his election has influenced teens in a major way. Teens, especially those in the inner city, have been given inspiration and a newfound confidence that it is possible for an African-American to be the leader of the United States. "Barack Obama has encouraged our



Teens await change once Barack Obama takes office.

youth to follow their dreams. By becoming the president of the United States, he has inspired inner city students to do great things in life," Kevin Flakes, 17, said in an e-mail.

For a nation not long out of the Jim Crow era, it is impossible to reflect on this election without acknowledging the historical significance it holds for African-Americans, who are fortunate to witness a seemingly unattainable milestone being made in their lifetimes. From slavery to the first black president, African-Americans have made great leaps.

On the night of November 4, 2008 associate editor-columnist for The Boston Globe, Derrick Jackson, who is African-American, was at Chicago's Grant Park for Obama's acceptance speech. "During the pledge [OBAMA, PAGE 19]

▲ AFH photo by Mataya Fitz

Dear Readers,

This edition is dedicated to the memory of our former Teens in Print coordinator, Angela Smith. During the process of producing this issue, the TiPsters were notified of her passing away at the tender age of 25.

On behalf of the staff, we would like to say a couple of words about how amazing Angela was. In the short time we knew her, we grew especially attached to Angela. She was passionate about working with youth to develop their voices through spoken word and writing programs such as Teens in Print. She was a laid back, down to earth, an extremely nice and caring person we will forever miss.

In this special issue, check out all of the amazing stories we have. Following the cover story about Obama, teens share their personal messages to our new president. Our writers also tackle homophobia in In Your Face, while reporters sit down with Mayor Menino to talk about our schools.

You can also read up on how to find the latest fashions for cheap, or get the scoop on Kanye West's new CD, "808s & Heartbreak" in Teen Takes. Have you ever heard of the Computer Clubhouse? It's a great place for teens who love technology. Read about it here. We hope this issue satisfies whatever guilty pleasure the New Year has brought you.

As with the New Year, this is a great time to start fresh. Read the entire issue, learn something new, and send us your own writing. Happy New Year! Be safe and well.

Sincerely, Sarah Blanchette and Jennifer Sanchez//Senior Editors



MEET THE STAFF

JENNIFER SÁNCHEZ

Message to the president:

Don't just talk about change, DO IT!

Next big artist:

Denzel Patterson a.k.a. "Dizzy"

How I save \$ on clothes:

I shop at outlets.

Recently acquired

vocabulary word:

Exclusive rights
(journalism term)



SARAH BLANCHETTE

Message to the president:

Keep your promises and bring our troops home!

Next big artist:

Lady Gaga

How I save \$ on clothes:

I don't.

Key to surviving winter:

A good pair of boots and a big jacket



MATT TABOR KIMM

Favorite movie of 2008:

"James Bond: Quantum of Solace"

Next big artist:

The Cool Kids

One green habit I've developed:

Getting angry at litterers

Favorite poetic line: The world already has all the light it'll ever need, the common darkness is just the shadow that makes us aware of it. (Me)



THANH NGUYEN

Favorite movie of 2008:

"Eagle Eye"

New Year's resolution:

Lose weight and make more money

How I save \$ on clothes:

I can never save money.

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Munificent



STUART SPINA

Favorite movie of 2008:

"The Zombie Chronicles"

A recurring or memorable dream:

I never remember having the same dream twice.

Message to the president:

Don't bomb Iran, fix our healthcare system, and find/kill Osama bin Laden.

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Oe



TREVOR WARD

Favorite movie of 2008:

"Indiana Jones"

A recurring or memorable dream:

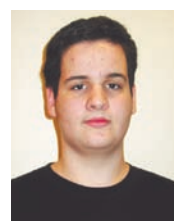
My foot getting cut off by a Krabby

Next big artist:

Me

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Spiffy



XHERSI LAKA

A recurring or memorable dream:

Me, performing live with my band in front of 200,000 people.

One green habit I've

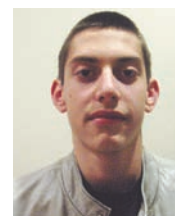
developed: Recycle

Key to surviving winter:

Wear a lot of leather

Favorite poetic line:

"And she's buying a stairway to heaven."



NATALYN YU

Next big artist:

Leighton Meester

One green habit I've developed:

Using a Nalgene bottle

Recently acquired vocabulary

word: Vehemence

Key to surviving winter:

Hibernation. If that isn't your kind

of thing, wear lots of layers.



PAIGE CARRUTHERS

Favorite movie of 2008:

"Twilight"

Next big artist:

Jasmine Sullivan

How I save \$ on clothes:

Urban Outfitters Bargain Basement

One green habit I've developed:

Unplugging outlets



ROXANNE TAYLOR

Favorite movie of 2008:

"Secret Life of Bees"

New Year's resolution:

To get straight A's in all my classes

Recently acquired vocabulary

word: Insouciance

Key to surviving winter:

Go outside as little as possible.



SANDY LIANG

New Year's resolution:

Don't procrastinate!

One green habit I've developed:

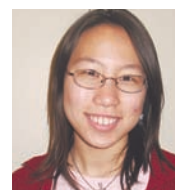
Recycling everything

Key to surviving winter:

Cocoa

Favorite poetic line:

"Hold fast to dreams."



RYAN WARD

Favorite movie of 2008:

"The Dark Knight"

"Pineapple Express"

Next big artist:

Checkmate Ginyahzee

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Wass good

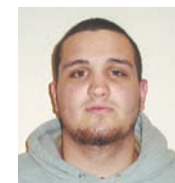
Favorite poetic line:

"Better take it

way back/when I didn't make tracks/

cuz I'll rash on you now/for wearing a

Yanks hat."



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MEET THE STAFF

KATRYNA MAHONEY

Your message to the president:

I'd love to baby-sit your children.

Next big artist:

Keri Hilson

How I save \$ on clothes:

Shop on sale racks.

Key to surviving winter:

Stay near the fireplace.



CIARA MARTINEZ

Your message to the president:

You are my hero.

Next big artist:

Jazmine Sullivan

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Eloquence

Favorite poetic line:

"What happens to a dream deferred?"



GABRIEL WARD

A recurring or memorable dream:

Me fighting a cougar with one kama.

New Year's resolution:

Dream of me fighting a cougar less.

Key to surviving winter:

Ha, ha, ha, this question is funny.

Favorite poetic line:

"By the power of grey skull, I have the power!"



LARISA OSORIO

How I save \$ on clothes:

Clearance aisle

One green habit I've developed:

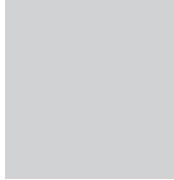
Make my family recycle and buy canvas bags.

Recently acquired

vocabulary word: Sacrifice

Key to surviving winter:

Sweaters, hats, and lots of layers



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.

KEEP
→
RIGHT

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Write for



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.

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Send submissions by mail to
Boston Teens in Print
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205

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

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writeboston.org

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

E-MAIL submissions to:

Kelly.Knopf-Goldner.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Send them as MS Word attachments and in the e-mail message. Provide your name, age, grade, and school. We don't print anything anonymously. You must be a BPS student.

FORMAT your writing —Double spaced —Times New Roman, 12 point font.—In the upper left corner, print your name, contributing writer, and a title or headline.

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T.i.P. Senior Editors

Sarah Blanchette

Jennifer Sánchez

T.i.P. Peer Editor

Ciara Martinez

T.i.P. Staff Writers

Paige Carruthers

Matt Tabor Kimm

Xhersi Laka

Sandy Liang

Katryna Mahoney

Thanh Nguyen

Larisa Osorio

Stuart Spina

Roxanne Taylor

Gabriel Ward

Ryan Ward

Trevor Ward

Natalyn Yu

Contributing Writers

Ralph Angrand

Shader Charles

Danthuy Chu

Geraldine Delances

James Delices

Jeff Delices

Kiah Drayton

Stevens Etienne

Christopher Jeanty

Issolene Latus

Damien Leach

Don Fred Moise

Jason Morales

Ernelie Nelson

Andrew Nguyen

Tierve Paul

Garrecia Powell

Emily Vargas

Kervin Voyard

Gena White

Jian Ling Wu

Yuan Yang

BOSTON GLOBE FOUNDATION

Leah P. Bailey, Director

Cathy Downs, Manager

Gabriela Swider, Intern

WRITEBOSTON

Betty Southwick, Director

T.i.P. Manager

Kelly Knopf-Goldner

Writing Coaches

Monika Derrien

Diana Hammond

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Production Director:

Irene Mauch

Managing Editor:

Marie C. Franklin

Art Director:

Rich Giedd

A young woman with curly hair is sitting on a dark ledge, looking up and to the side with a playful expression. She is wearing a white t-shirt with a Superman logo, a black and white polka-dot skirt, and colorful sneakers. The text "IN YOUR FACE" is overlaid in large, bold letters, with "IN" and "YOUR" in black and "FACE" in blue.

▲ AFH photo



By Natalyn Yu//Staff Writer

Don't settle. It absolutely should not be a part of everyday language. Yes, it is true you're one person, but understand a new way of thinking is the same as gossip. It spreads like a forest fire. If you tell friends that John and Dan got into a fight, everyone in school will know in an hour. Maybe people will throw in their interpretations to make the story more interesting. What are we waiting for? Be the hero. Be the person who steps out of the crowd and says it is not OK. I will not settle for anti-gay slurs.

How gay-friendly are BPS high schools?

By Jennifer Sánchez//Senior Editor

How gay-friendly are the BPS high schools? After days and weeks of thinking for ways to find the right direction to answer this question, it is nonetheless a touchy subject most people avoid discussing. If you have not already turned the page after reading the lead, you have already thought of your opinion and developed ways to defend it. According to the 2007 National School Climate Survey, of 6,209 middle and high school students surveyed, a shocking 9 out of 10 (about 86.2 percent) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students have experienced harassment. Now, if that is not worth caring about, then think about this: 29.1 percent of gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) students compared to 6.4 percent of other students have tried to commit suicide over the past year, according to a survey taken by The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MYRBS).

Whether you support LGBT students or not, there are people inside BPS taking action. Frank Pantano is a new teacher developer (mentor) for BPS and the chairman of the Board of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), an organization for students, parents, and teachers that tries to effect positive change in schools. In response to how gay-

friendly students and schools can be, he said, "...in my experience in four high schools... I would say schools are not as hostile and oppressive as they once were."

High school causes stress just trying to fit in; now imagine having someone judge you because of your sexual orientation. If you think being talked about for your appearance is dreadful, picture the frightened teens at your school who have been harassed for being themselves. This problem needs to be corrected. So next time you choose to use the word gay as an adjective, remember it's someone else's way of life.

On a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the friendliest, Sara Hosmer, a guidance counselor at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, gave a 5 out of 10 on how gay-friendly BPS high schools are. "I have only worked here and so far ... our Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) has been supported. But I hear 'fag' in the hallway and know there are some adults and students uncomfortable talking about LGBT issues."

To correct this and to assist in the stand against discrimination of LGBT students, O'Bryant has its own GSA club. Other participating schools such as Madison Park Vocational Technical High School,

Boston Latin Academy, and Boston Latin School also support LGBT students. Jonathan Cardoso, 17, of the O'Bryant, said he supports his school's GSA, "because I don't think people should be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. I believe in equality for gay people and straight people."

However, Pantano and Hosmer both agree BPS schools do not offer enough resources or support for LGBT students. Pantano said, "Ideally there would be GSAs in every school." Hosmer agreed: "There needs to be professional development for adults. All high schools need a GSA." For schools that do not offer GSAs, students can still become involved in organizations such as the Boston Alliance Gay Lesbian Youth or attend GLSEN's annual conference.

In response to the shocking 9 out of 10 LGBT students who've experienced sexual harassment, Pantano added, "While the BPS has a 'zero tolerance' policy, it is only as effective as those who enforce it." BPS cannot be ruled as un-gay-friendly. Students, teachers, parents and the entire BPS community can further work toward eliminating discrimination against LGBT students and reaching greater acceptance.

What is a zero-tolerance policy?

A zero-tolerance policy says that an institution (such as a school) will not tolerate certain behaviors. These include using drugs or alcohol on school property, carrying weapons in school, or allowing discriminating language against a group, such as gay, lesbian, and transgender students.

—Prepared by The Editor

EAT LIKE A SLUGGER AT

The Four's

By Ryan Ward//Senior Staff Writer

Are you ready for the big game? Who's playing, or does it even matter? It could be the Celtics running the hardwood, the Bruins hitting the ice, the Patriots smashing the gridiron, or even the Red Sox entertaining the Fenway faithful because The Four's Restaurant & Sports Bar is a place that has something for all New England sports fans. You can walk in and remember the Celtics with Larry Bird, the Bruins with Bobby Orr, the Red Sox with Yaz, or the Patriots when Adam Vinatieri played. The Four's stand for the four major New England professional sports teams. The atmosphere assures the definition as the walls are covered in framed autographed pictures, jerseys, and banners from our beloved teams. Also there are TVs all over the place playing the big game or sports channel such as ESPN, NESN, ESPN2, or ESPN News.

Even the menu is listed with interesting sports lingo, from the Super Bowls (soup), to The Green (salad), Starting Line-Up (appetizers), Hall Of Famers (burgers and sandwiches), Nothing But Net (seafood), and The Main Event (pasta and combos). Teams change, but great players are always remembered. The Hall Of Famers part of the menu names every sandwich after



▲ AFH photo by Haidan Hodgson

a famous athlete such as Larry Bird, Jack Nicklaus, or Doug Flutie. Check out the menu at www.thefours.com.

Time to order. My acquaintance and I were quite satisfied with the selection that The Four's offered. He got the Bobby Orr (\$10.95), a steak sandwich topped with melted-American cheese and served on a fresh roll with french fries and a pickle. I decided to go with a half rack of the classic BBQ Baby Back Ribs (\$12.95), delicious and filling with a side of vegetables and french fries. The food took no more than 15 minutes to arrive, which is quick for dinner at any restaurant, especially anywhere in the heart of the city. Refillable drinks were topped off whenever it was necessary and the server was there for us every step of the way.

No dessert? So what, you still leave this restaurant

satisfied. Even if the Red Sox lose, at least the food was good. The Four's is a great place for any New England sports fan, or anybody who enjoys quality cuisine at fair prices. With its quality food and convenient location, it does get packed for the big games. A plus: The service is so good you can stay there as long as you like. Stay for three hours to watch all nine innings of the ballgame.

So if you're in town and hungry, and there's a game on, go to 166 Canal St., across the street from the TD Banknorth Garden next to North Station. Or you can give them a call at 617-720-4455. I give The Four's a strong 9 out of 10. Don't just take my word, though, check it out for yourself.

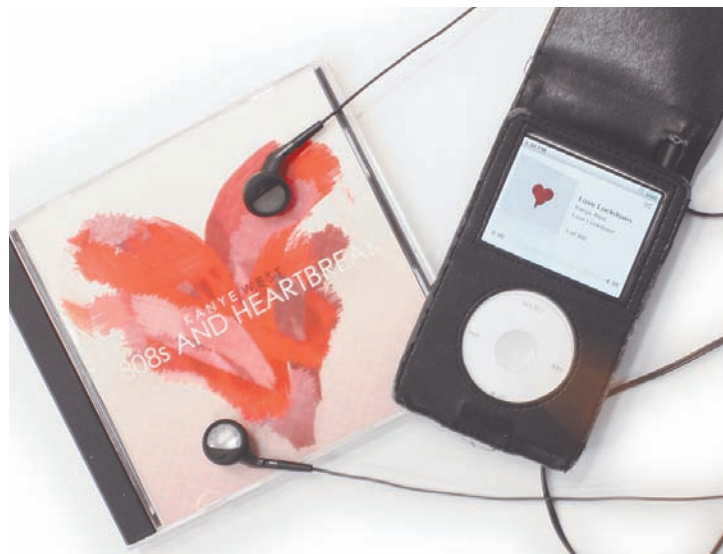
Kanye West releases a heartbreaker

By Sarah Blanchette//Senior Editor

We know that Kanye West is far from modest. We know how much he loves his Louis Vuitton and "Jesus piece," big diamonds, and million-dollar homes. We know these things about the man who was quoted as saying his newest album, "808s and Heartbreak" would be the most amazing thing you've ever heard." What we probably did not expect of Mr. West was an album centered truly on heartbreak.

When his first single off the album "Love Lockdown" premiered at MTV's Video Music Awards, many were shocked to hear this unique and different sound coming from West. He took to the new recording device to give his voice an edgy, computer-like sound. The rest of his album followed suit.

Above all, this is the ultimate break-up album. From bitter tracks such as "Heartless"



▲ AFH photo by Shisha King

where he asks, "How could you be so heartless?" to "Welcome to Heartbreak" where he admits, "My friend showed me pictures of his kids, and all I could show him was pictures of my cribs," West seems to have prioritized his life as well as his musical sound in his latest release.

Truth is, if you are expecting a rap album that boasts about fast cars, expensive jewelry, and beautiful women, this is not what you are looking for. Grab one of Kanye's classics, like "College Dropout," "Late Registration," or "Graduation." The current album is about self-reflection as opposed to self-praise.

Similar to all music, this album is based largely on personal taste. The constant sad lyrics may be too much for some to handle; some reviews have gone as far as to call it a failure. Although "808s and Heartbreak" is far from upbeat or happy, it certainly makes its listener feel something, even if that is heartbreak.

Shop till you drop, but drop less



By Katryna Mahoney//Staff Writer

Do you really want to spend your paycheck on clothes while we're in this recession? Think again. There are many ways to look good without spending a lot of money. Try shopping at inexpensive stores, from sale racks, or at stores during discount weeks. Soon you'll be able to purchase what you've had your eye on.

If you haven't heard of Marshalls, TJ Maxx, or A.J. Wright, they are retail stores that offer brand name apparel for 20 to 70 percent less than department stores. It's always great bargain shopping at these stores because you can find two pieces of brand name clothing for the price of one if you were to shop at a chain store such as Macy's Inc. Aundre Gray, 17, a student at BCLA, said, "Brand names are not that important as long as it looks good."

Most teens don't shop at thrift stores and many have never heard of them. In Boston, you never know what you'll find at thrift stores such as Goodwill, The Salvation Army, Second Time Around, The Garment District, and Boomerangs. Vicky Nikollo, 17, a student at BCLA said, "I went to [a thrift store] once but I didn't pick anything out." But Arielys Morales, 18, said, "When I do go to thrift shops, I do find good things. I don't mind going because if it's inexpensive and clean, it's worth it." It's not always guaranteed that you'll find something you like and sometimes you have to really search hard, but it won't hurt to try, right? Sometimes you can even find the vintage styles that are popular today.

Remember: sales are your friends. If you find a nice pair of jeans from Macy's that cost way out of your budget, wait a few weeks or ask an employee when they will go on sale. Or, sign up for your favorite store newsletters to find out about upcoming sales and coupons.

Stores such as H&M, Forever 21, and WetSeal have low prices and clearance racks. The plus about shopping on sale racks is not only that you save money, but you also won't find as many people wearing what you have on. One rule Gray has while shopping is to spend only a set amount of money, which helps him manage his spending.

It's important to buy versatile clothing so you can style it depending on where you're going. This saves money because you can wear things more than once. Some ideas are mixing and matching, borrowing from friends, or wearing something in an unexpected way. You can replace buttons, layer up, throw on a scarf, dye a shirt, or have fun with jewelry. Classic pieces are essential because they can never go out of style. Think dark jeans, a fresh pair of white sneakers, or plain T-shirts.

Although saving money on clothing is important, it's OK to have a little bit of luxury every now and then. Don't forget to add your own spices!

*Jennifer Sánchez
contributed to this article.*



▲ AFH photo by Darren Hicks

LOGO SECRETS

By Jason Morales //Contributing Writer

Nice priced sidekicks and sneakers
Everybody driven by the logo secrets
Brand illusions deceive so imma reveal it
'Cuz to me the clothes don't make the people

Retail got people working up a sweat
For a worthless check
Trying to stay fresh
So they go to the mall wasting it all
When there's some cash to spend
Gaining nothing in the end

And are just getting by
They say F it, imma look spiff tonight
And probably aint' eatin' right
Trying to shine like stars but they only
flickering streetlights

Fashion on the cheap

An AFH teen models creative fashion.

By Damien Leach//Contributing Writer

Did you ever find yourself in a position where you felt inferior to a teacher because he or she punished you for something that wasn't your fault? Do you ever find yourself complaining to other students about a teacher who is disrespectful? Well, instead of grieving to other students, BSAC is organizing a student union so students will feel confident and empowered enough to speak their mind and express how they feel.

The goals of the student union are to protect and advocate for student voice, to equalize power, and to enforce stronger student/teacher relationships. Adulthood* would no longer play as a factor in BPS. Students would be ensured a fair share in the decisions involving disciplinary actions that affect them. Participants in the union would help develop a process for student involvement in the teacher hiring process and contribute ideas such as establishing a

feedback form for students to update teachers on the effectiveness of their teaching styles.

Specifically when filing grievances, if the problem cannot be solved at the school, students would come to the union. Then the union would research how many times the problem occurs in the school. Afterward, the union would meet with the teachers to identify possible solutions. If the problem fails to be solved, the union would then meet with the headmasters, explaining why the matter is important to the BPS student body and why change is necessary. If it becomes necessary, the student union would then be prepared to bring it to the district level.

The student union is not meant to create a divide between students and the BPS faculty. Rather its goal is to increase student voice and influence within their schools. As the year progresses, we will keep you updated on the progress of the student union and

BSAC's other major projects for the year.

If you are interested in learning more or becoming part of BSAC, please contact the BSAC coordinator, Maria I. Ortiz at 617-635-8079, ext. 104, or mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

** Jenny Sazama, of Youth On Board, contributed this definition of adulthood to Wikipedia: "Young people are systemically mistreated and disrespected by society, with adults as the agents of the oppression. The basis of young people's oppression is disrespect. Manifestations of the oppression include: systematic invalidation, denial of voice or respectful attention, physical abuse, lack of information, misinformation, denial of any power, economic dependency, lack of rights, and any combination of the above."*

Mayor Menino invested in BPS

By Sarah Blanchette//Senior Editor and Ciara Martinez//Peer Editor

On Dec. 1 Teens in Print editors Sarah Blanchette and Ciara Martinez sat down for a chat with Mayor Menino in his office. This article also appeared in Boston Educator.

What were you most excited about at the start of this school year?

I saw new energy in the schools, new enthusiasm. It's Superintendent Johnson's second year and she's gotten parents as well as students involved and engaged in school.

What can BPS students do to make the schools better?

I want students to be achievers, to work hard. I want them to be active after school as well. That helps you mature and grow—to be in extracurricular activities. You network with other people in the city. There are great resources out there for students, like when you're involved in the Teens in Print newspaper at The Boston Globe. It's a great paper!

Why was education such an important priority for you?

Education is the most important thing in society. A high school diploma isn't enough and we need to help students be prepared for success in college, too.

What are your proudest accomplishments?

The Broad Prize for best urban school district; continuous improvement in school test scores; and the general physical appearance of the schools. We invest in our future and we invest in our children. My six grandchildren are all in the Boston Public Schools.

What are some important changes in the schools that you've seen in your tenure as mayor?

We have more books in the classrooms; the schools are wired for Internet (we were the first urban school district to do that); we have more permanent, quality teachers in the classrooms; the janitors keep the schools clean. The stars are in alignment now to make sure every child in Boston has a good education.



Ciara Martinez and Sarah Blanchette talk with the mayor at City Hall.

What is the advantage in shifting to smaller learning communities in the high schools?

The principals get to know the students and the students know their teachers. They are able to build a community.

What are your hopes for the future?

With Superintendent Carol Johnson leading the schools, we need to continue to progress in sending students to college—students who are ready for college—and that they graduate in four years. We want them to get in and stay in. I want colleges to reach out and help our urban students, who need support more than others.

What was it like to see the transformation of the Burke?

It's very special to me. You know I once was in the old building and almost got hit in the head with a ceiling tile? The new school has everything in one building, everything you need to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally. It's an education portal, community center, library, all in one building. ... all aspects of learning in one building. Teaching the whole child.

What are your highest priorities in the next two years?

Every student is special. We have to educate every student. Our goal is to teach every student to the best of his or her ability. My goal is for people to say "Wow—what an exceptional urban school system Boston has."

FEATURED TEACHER:

Samuel Grosso

By Paige Carruthers//Staff Writer



Photo by WriteBoston

Pythagorean theorems, two column proofs, point slope formula, pi. It's the language of math. Some speak this language fluently. For others, math is a blur of teachers with monotone voices, problems that make their heads hurt, and complicated formulas. For those in the latter category, Teens in Print has found a teacher to bring you clarity. It's Samuel Grosso, a geometry teacher at Health Careers Academy and an aspiring beef rancher (yes, you read that correctly) and coffee fanatic.

Not your average geometry teacher, Grosso is fun-loving, hilarious, and sees his students more as peers and friends than subordinates. This rare quality is the reason why his students love him so much and view him as so much more than their geometry teacher, but a friend, coach, and mentor. His students can come to him not only for help on a difficult math problem, but also for advice with a crisis in their personal lives. During an hourlong interview with Teens in Print, at least six students came in to say "hi," and one was doing her homework in the room, pausing every few moments to ask Grosso if she was doing everything right. And as soon as the interview ended, a rush of students came in as if waiting for a visitor to leave.

Grosso is just as excited about his students. A man clearly passionate about his job, he says "they keep me young." Every morning he says he looks forward to another "high energy" day at "the office." He stresses this point: "I don't do it for the money or rewards" but instead "to give back."

His success as both a math teacher and mentor is largely due to his transparency, which is rare not only in teachers, but in adults in general. Usually teachers can be very guarded when it comes to sharing anything about themselves; however, this hyper-professionalism can hinder student-teacher relationships. Grosso openly admits that he made a lot of mistakes when he was younger and that he mostly learned "the

hard way," which makes him much easier to relate to than the conventional teacher. His goals for his students are to go to college and not to learn the hard way as he did. Grosso is clearly dedicated to his students.

Not only is Grosso an amazing mentor and teacher to his students, but his geometry classes are fun. Grosso assigns projects that make geometry fun, which is arguably close to impossible to many teens. Passing by Grosso's class you may see students working on a problem, teaching Grosso the "Superman" dance, or an exercise in face painting. Every day is a new adventure in his class, which is why when the bell rings, students are left disappointed and surprised rather than relieved.

Samuel Grosso is a teacher clearly dedicated to and passionate about his students. He goes above and beyond the normal confines of a teacher as just someone who instructs to someone who mentors you. He is an exceptional and worthy candidate of the Featured Teacher Award.

FUN FACTS ABOUT SAMUEL GROSSO

Talents: He played soccer, tennis, and ran track in high school and received a varsity letter as a freshman.

Former Jobs: Banker, where he was "just making rich people richer," architect, and guidance counselor.

Hobbies/Interests: He loves to write, but hates English. He also loves to draw.

Achilles' Heel: In high school, he was terrible at math.

Pet Peeve: When his students say, "You're forcin' it."

Coined Phrase: WWOD: What would Obama do?

Look Out For: The novel he is in the process of publishing

Aspirations: He plans to start a 25-acre beef ranch in Connecticut with his friend.

Odyssey High School saved from closure

By Sarah Blanchette//Senior Editor

It seemed a definite solution. In the fall of 2009, Odyssey High School, part of the South Boston Education Complex, would be no more. The reasons seemed concrete, with the economy crashing, money for schools was also dwindling. In general, enrollment in Boston Public Schools has been falling drastically within the past years, which affected the superintendent's decision to make Odyssey part of Monument or Excel High School.

Students and faculty at Odyssey were caught off guard. "My reaction was absolute shock," said Virginia Ordway, Odyssey's headmaster. "We had met our goals, as far as MCAS scoring, and we were on the right road." The school was made aware of the plans only 24 hours before the proposal was presented to the School Committee, she said, leaving students and teachers very little time to prepare. "I was very concerned about the class of 2010," said Ordway. "I was worried that they would get transferred somewhere, and not be taken care of well enough, or get lost in the crowd."

So, it was assumed that I, a senior, would be part of Odyssey's last graduating class. Until one day we

received the news that we longed to hear: Odyssey would remain open. The buzz in the hallway turned from a disappointed chatter about the closing, to a hopeful conversation about how the school would be improved in the future.

The reasons for the school staying open were, as we already knew, even more compelling than the arguments to close it. Odyssey is the only environmental science school in the city and has partnerships with Benjamin Franklin, Artists for Humanity, Boston College Lynch School of Education, and the Urban Ecology Institute. These partnerships have helped prepare students for careers in the environmental science field, which often does not require four years of college.

Deborah Jencunas, assistant headmaster of Odyssey, said of her goals: "We want our kids to be able to make more of a middle-class salary, without necessarily spending a lot of money on college. The effect we are hoping for is that kids can start making a large salary, and then continue their education."

Also, students and their parents showed up in large numbers to rally to keep Odyssey alive. "I believe that the School Committee was impressed

with the student voice," said Jencunas, "that was the most important part to keeping Odyssey open."

On the brink of being closed for good, Odyssey's administration knows they must make changes in order to keep the school open and strive harder to achieve its goals. In lieu of closing, the school has established a performance contract with Superintendent Carol Johnson with benchmarks on school improvements including increasing graduation and proficiency rates, according to bostonpublicschools.com. "We know we must monitor, more closely, the vital signs, which are tardiness, attendance, and suspensions," said Ordway.

So, there will be others graduating after me. After all, there will be an Odyssey class of 2010, and, if all goes well, another class in 2011. I will be able to walk through Odyssey's hallways after I graduate and I will be able to attend high school reunions. Although Odyssey High School has prepared me for my future studies and career through a committed staff of teachers, administrators, and even students, underclassmen and teachers will still have to face the looming fear of closure.



SAVE THE PLANET, SAVE CASH

By Roxanne Taylor//Staff Writer



Buying organically grown food supports the green movement.

Lately, we hear stories of what we can do to help the environment and how vital it is that we do so. If not, we will suffer great consequences due to our negligence in taking care of the earth. Teens today are increasingly aware of ways in which they can make changes in their everyday lives. “I think it’s wonderful that being green is popular now,” says Jessica Wozniak, director of Mass Recycle.

However, we have not heard a lot about ways in which helping our environment can benefit our pockets. For instance, buying locally grown food supports the “green” movement. Organic fruits and vegetables provide long-lasting rewards. When you buy local organically grown items, it is better for the environment because less gas is used to get those items to market than fruits exported from foreign countries. While our parents are buying organic foods, you can encourage them to buy their groceries in bulk. By doing this, they save money and reduce packaging waste. When informed about these facts, O’Bryant High School sophomore Yelithza Galvez, 16, says, “I always knew that locally grown foods were healthier, but I never knew they were better for the environment.”

When speaking with Galvez about how to help the environment, the only information she knew was, “use fluorescent bulbs because they last longer.” Eloho Akpovi, 16, also a student from O’Bryant, commented, “Energy efficient light bulbs help the environment and they save money because the bill isn’t high.” In fact, using compact fluorescent light bulbs can save you \$40-\$50 over a lifetime, according to Nstar.com.

Not only is today’s technology advanced, but it also supports the “green” trend. Rather than using a CD player, Akpovi says, “An MP3 player that does not use standard batteries is better for the environment.” Charging an MP3 player on your computer while doing homework makes double the use of the energy. In contrast, using a CD player will take you through a four pack of batteries in about a week, which averages about \$10 according to cvs.com. Even using rechargeable batteries is not as beneficial because they cost about \$12 for a pack of four. You

can continue to charge an MP3 player on the computer, unlike batteries that will drain if you leave them in your CD player too long.

When we look at the different ways of helping the environment, we hear about the laundry list of what we can do, but all teens don’t take the time to do this. However, it “takes less energy to recycle an item than to go into an environment and extract it,” says Wozniak. She stands firm on recycling because “recycling is something everyone can do.” Therefore, no one has an excuse why they cannot recycle. In fact, Boston city workers will deliver recycling bins to your house for free. So we have no excuse as to how we are going to recycle because “the access to recycling is there,” says Wozniak.

Most of us think recycling involves reusing plastic bottles and papers, but we forget or don’t know about “recycling adding value to the economy,” says Wozniak. Most teens have a hard time finding jobs, and, even worse, many available jobs are too difficult. But “recycling makes jobs,” Wozniak says.

Taking care of our environment can also save teens money. Most teens have become accustomed to having a debit card. But did you know that if you belong to Citizens Bank or Charter One Bank, you can earn 10 cents every time you make a payment online? And even if you are not a member of one of these banks, you can still help the environment by actually using your debit card when you go shopping instead of using cash. If we all look at the ways in which helping our environment can help us to save money, we will actually choose to care instead of leaving others to do it for us. So don’t look at the environment as another boring subject but a way to save money. Besides, “it will get harder and harder to manage our waste,” says Wozniak, who suggests teens start doing something about it.





TAKE ACTION TO CHANGE GLOBAL WARMING

By Yuan Yang and JianLing Wu //Contributing Writers

Although scientists discovered global warming many years ago, we have yet to discover a solution to this problem. We have all heard the phrase “global warming,” but do we really know what it is?

Global warming refers to an average increase in the earth’s temperature and changes in climate. A warmer earth may lead to changes in rainfall patterns, a rise in sea levels, and negative impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans.

Burning fossil fuels, like coal and oil, produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that cause climate warming. Through the greenhouse effect, energy from the sun is trapped in the atmosphere. How does carbon dioxide affect the earth, and what can we do to change it? Too much carbon dioxide affects earth’s atmosphere, water, species, and lands. These changes to the environment have caused glaciers, or large sheets of ice, located at the polar ice caps, to melt at an accelerated rate, raising the sea level. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Sea level rise will affect both natural systems and man-made structures along coastlines. Coastal flooding could cause saltwater to flow into areas where salt is harmful, threatening plants and animals in those areas.”

What can we do to send less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere? To send less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the nations of the world should lessen coal combustion. We, as individuals could do the three R’s, reuse, reduce, and recycle. Reducing is even better than recycling because you don’t need to reprocess (which uses more energy) the item before it gets used again. If we remember the three R’s and reduce energy use, then global warming would be slowed down.

Remember, this earth is our home, the place where our ancestors have lived and where future generations will live. Let them have a better home to live in, instead of a place like garbage landfills, which are stinky, smelly, and filled with germs that can harm human health.

The phrase “to be, or not to be, that is the question” comes from William Shakespeare. Today, this phrase could be changed to “to do or not to do, this is the question.” The choice you make can make the earth a better or worse place. It’s up to you!



▲ AFH artwork by Sau-Chieh Yun

AFH artwork by Claudia De Plante Vincin

LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear President Obama:

With the presidential inauguration set for next week, students from Maria Moreira's ELL 1 class at Community Academy of Science and Health in the Hyde Park Education Complex wrote letters to President-elect Obama about issues they want him to address. Here is a selection of excerpts.

"In my school, students have to take many tests: MEPA, MCAS, PSAT, SAT, SRI, tests designed by the teachers and given every Friday, and district tests taken at the end of the year. I am not saying that they are not important; I am saying that those tests are too much. Students need to have time to learn more. I heard from a student last week who said, 'The test was so difficult. I just wrote my name and gave the paper back.' He needed more time to learn in class. Even students who are not taking the test are interrupted from learning because their class is divided or they squeeze in a room with another class to learn. What can you do to resolve those problems? You can make everyone test only once a year at the same time."
—*Christopher Jeanty*

"Everywhere I've lived people steal. This is a big problem. People steal because they don't have a job and then they don't have money to buy things they like. They don't respect anybody and are dangerous. They took money from people. They stole money from my friend and beat him. This makes me sad because he is my best friend. My street doesn't have security. Mr. President, pay attention to the stealing and give more security. Recruit some more police if necessary to protect us."
—*Tierre Paul*

"I am writing this letter to ask you for a favor. Please stop the war. The war is not a good thing to do. The war makes people spend a lot of money for no reason and the war is dangerous. But worst of all, war makes soldiers become mean people. The war can make anyone become accustomed to killing. When you adapt to something you feel like you always have to do it. So when someone habitually kills during war, that person can get angry, and that person will not sit and talk to you. But think about the gun because he was trained to kill in the war. Even when the soldier is back home, he might think that killing is better than trying to talk."
"My brother went to the war in Iraq. The war made my brother become a mean person. This has happened to my brother already, so I hope that it doesn't happen to anyone else. It doesn't matter if that person comes from my family or not. That's why I want you, Mr. President, to stop the war so people will not get killed, so people will stop hiding, and so that another president will not have a reason to restart this war again, again, and again."
—*Issolene Latus*

"I would like to talk to you about drugs and alcohol because they are not good for the population. Some teenagers drink alcohol and are a danger to everybody. They drink alcohol before driving a car or motorcycle. When teenagers use drugs it is not good for their health. Sometimes they use drugs and then think about bad things or make bad choices. Mr. President, I need you to solve the problem with drugs and alcohol by stopping the trafficking of drugs. I need you to enforce the laws about drugs because right now many people don't respect the laws."
—*James Delices*

"I want to inform you that racism is still going on in school. My dear president, I'm not saying it will be easy to accomplish everything you promised to accomplish, but I know you will do your best. In my school racism is really strong. It's like, 'You're black, and I'm white. So you do this, and I do that.' I know about racism because something happened to me after school one day. There was a girl on my bus who said she did not like Haitian people. She was also upset that I received an award for language arts and she didn't. When I got off the bus at Mattapan, she followed me, and she said, 'Do you have a problem with me?' I told her that I did not have a problem with her, but she punched me in the face several times. There were a lot of students with her that surrounded me. I tried to call the police, but they kept transferring me to different departments. Life is too short for this kind of nonsense. Mr. President, don't close your eyes on this problem; please do something about it."
— *Kervin Voyard*

"Going to college, for me, is a thing I want to do to prepare for a wonderful future, so I can explain to my kids what I was doing at school, and then they can be successful students. The thing I can do to get to college is to always get good grades in high school in hopes of earning a scholarship. But if I don't get a scholarship, I am going to pay for college. I will have to go to college in the morning and work in the afternoon when I should be doing homework. This will be very hard. Mr. President, you should decrease taxes, so I can save more money for college now."
—*Ralph Angrand*

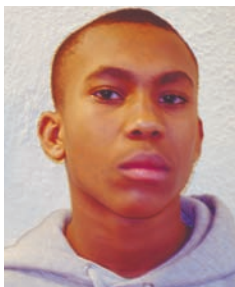
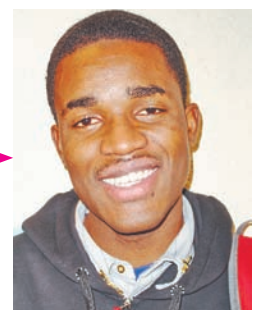
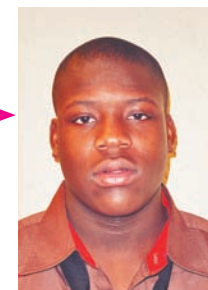
"Mr. President, I want you to sit down and talk to police officers about those sneaky criminals to prevent violence. Violence happens because of racism, gangs, and drugs. The reason is because when disliking someone is combined with drugs playing with your mind, you might do things that are negative to others. Or if you are afraid, you might use violence to feel safe. If violence continues like this then the deaths of teens will increase even higher, and this will become a bigger problem for families and for all people who live in the United States....You should help out and decrease this problem and increase peace in this country. We can help fix the problem too by starting a program on our own. We want to show our youngsters what's right, so we need to do the right things to show them to choose good things, not violence. We need to stay positive not negative. I believe you are right: 'Together we can.'
—*Ernelie Nelson*

"Students who were born and raised in Haiti are conscious of the problems in their home country and want the president to address their concerns. Most people in Haiti don't have electricity. This is very bad for the country because things needed to operate the country do not work."
—*Jeff Delices*

"Haitians need food to eat because they are poor and they do not have any jobs or schools."
—*Shader Charles*

"Haiti has a bad school system. Some schools are only halfway completed. The materials are so expensive that people can't afford to finish the schools. And because the schools are half done, there are some kids who stay home and don't go to school. Schools need tools like pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, and pencil sharpeners."
—*Geraldine Delances*

"Haiti needs a loan to improve their agriculture. Afterwards, they will be able to repay the loan by selling their products, like rice, cotton, and coffee."
—*Don Fred Moise*



Role models change the world, one kid at a time

By Sandy Liang//Staff Writer

Make a new resolution this year

Many suppose that celebrities are the most commonly chosen role models, but in a survey by Junior Achievement/Harris Interactive, parents rank number one as the most commonly chosen role model. Following second are teachers with 15 percent of the 624 votes.

Role models represent the qualities one admires and a good role model can inspire youth to become better people. David Fun, 15, says a role model is “someone who is nice, responsible, and easy-going.” Bill Ye, 14, said a role model is “a kind-hearted person who is hard-working and honest.”

Your role model might be an amazing speaker. Maybe he or she can play the piano wicked fast. Maybe he or she promoted reforms to an issue important to you, or maybe they’re simply cool and you hope to grow up to be like them.

A role model is someone you can relate to. He or she might be able to provide advice based on their own experiences, or even the experiences of someone he or she knows to help you overcome obstacles related to academics or family problems.

Role models don’t necessarily have to be adults either. Your role model might just be your best friend, someone in your English class, an older sibling or even an older classmate. According to the August 2008 article, “Gangs replace parents as role models for troubled teens, Prince’s Trust says,” in the TimesOnline, a British newspaper, if there is an absence of parents as role models, teens tend to turn to their peers for guidance. Everyone tries to find someone they can look up to, but the hard part is, who is the best choice?

When a parent is not available, some teens turn to gangs and find members who can relate to them but do not set the best example. Have you ever considered that you can choose to influence another person’s life? You can motivate another teen to work to the best of their ability in school to provide themselves with the best future possible. You can help others see their potential in a way they might not be able to.

If you’re still not convinced you can be a role model, consider the benefits of being one. In a project called Health Rocks!, high school students informed younger students on making healthy decisions. Not only did the younger students benefit, but the teen “teachers” also improved in their self-esteem and leadership skills.

So, remember that little kid who looked at you in awe after you scored that winning shot at your game? How about that girl or boy, who shyly said, “Hi” after your amazing recital last week? Believe it or not, these kids are looking up to you as role models and it is your job to be the best you can be. Make it your New Year’s resolution and change the world, one kid at a time.

Media matters to students

By Trevor Ward//Staff Writer

Four hundred and fifty high school students and teachers attended the fourth annual Media Matters conference on Nov. 6 at UMass-Boston to learn more about writing and the media. Sponsored by The Boston Globe Foundation and UMass-Boston, the popular conference extended to a second day for middle school teachers and students this year. Participants came from near and far: Boston, Greater New England, even Canada.

Media Matters drew participants with its workshops and presenters like the Phantom Gourmet and The Globe’s own Dan Wasserman, who led a workshop on political cartooning, and Essdras Suarez, who led a session on photojournalism. There was also a sports writing workshop with WBUR’s Bill Littlefield, humor writing with 826 Boston, review writing with Teen Voices Editor Rebecca Steinitz, and workshops by WriteBoston, Project: Think Different, The Writers’ Express, GRLZ Radio, and the founder of “LA Youth,” a 20-year-old teen-written newspaper.

Throughout the day, students participated in interactive sessions on news writing, interviewing, investigative journalism, spoken word, persuasive speech-making, and more. All activities took place in the UMass Boston student center, with breakfast and lunch provided for free. Participants in Media Matters also received a free drawstring backpack filled with goodies such as candy, notebooks, and pens. For the developing writer or the editor of the school paper, Media Matters offered something for everyone.

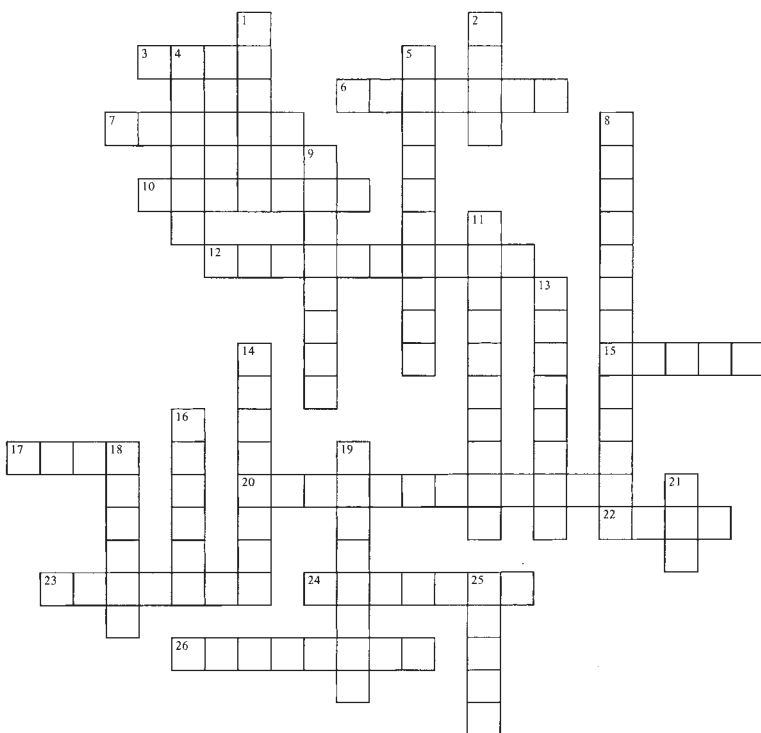
Kelly Knopf-Goldner contributed to this article.



Students came to Media Matters to learn about writing and the media.

PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE

Fill in all the boxes with facts about our nation's presidents and their families.



ACROSS:

3. Clinton's VP
6. His wife was Lady Bird.
7. State where Obama was born
10. His First Lady was Hillary
12. This five-star general became president.
15. Malia Obama's sister
17. The White House has one
20. Big ceremony coming up on Jan. 20
22. Only president to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.
23. Bill and Hillary Clinton's daughter.
24. His wife's name was Dolly.
26. Lyndon Johnson was the first to take the oath of office here.

DOWN:

1. Richard Nixon was the only president to do this.
2. This president once owned the Texas Rangers.
4. JFK's assassin
5. John Adams was the first president to live here
8. Would take over if the president dies
9. Oath: How the president swears
11. Abe Lincoln's political party.
13. JFK was the first president of this religion.
14. Eight US Presidents were born in this state, more than any other.
16. City where JFK was shot
18. Michelle Obama's profession
19. The only president to never marry.
21. His wife was Jackie
25. He'll be president number 44.

MATCHING

How much do you know about President-elect Obama and his family? Take this matching quiz and see.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Obama's younger daughter | ☐ | a. Kenya |
| 2. What the president-elect promised his daughters ... | ☐ | b. law firm |
| 3. Michelle and Barack met at one | ☐ | c. gymnastics |
| 4. Home before Pennsylvania Ave. | ☐ | d. Chicago |
| 5. Where Barack's father was born. | ☐ | e. Hannah Montana |
| 6. Sasha's sport | ☐ | f. Sasha |
| 7. Malia's sport. | ☐ | g. work out |
| 8. What Michelle does in the a.m. | ☐ | h. soccer |
| 9. Barack's new workplace | ☐ | i. Oval Office |
| 10. Malia's a big fan. | ☐ | j. puppy |

WORD SEARCH

How many of these past and present presidents can you find?

P K W E R O M L L I F R N G R Z C M
H L D D K H I H W J O H N S O N K E
M C K I N L E Y N Q Y C K W P U E N
N S M D A W T Y L H P M F F W K N L
O Z U F V S D M Y Z F N H A T M N O
S J A M P C A R T E R R Z K O H E C
R N A M N K L U S D J E U N D T D N
E V R E A G A N G U Q W R Y M G Y I
F E K W A S H I N G T O N E G H D L
F L L U A L W Y U M E H N R A A Q P
E E O Z D V L B N T P N O X R C O O
J M P Z S M A W U C R E T T F M R D
W D V N U M Z N N S R S N W I C S M
N S G Y U N K W B H H I I G E O T A
T L E V E S O O R U D E L M L L K M
J R E G D I L O O C R P C N D H H H
J O Q H A R D I N G N E A Z K F Q H
P C C L E V E L A N D Z N F C K D T

BUSH	GARFIELD	MONROE
CARTER	HARDING	POLK
CLEVELAND	JEFFERSON	REAGAN
CLINTON	JOHNSON	ROOSEVELT
COOLIDGE	KENNEDY	VANBUREN
EISENHOWER	LINCOLN	WASHINGTON
FILLMORE	MCKINLEY	

Vietnamese

New Year's traditions

BY THANH NGUYEN//STAFF WRITER

"Tet" means New Year's in Vietnamese. It is a time of year when we spend time with our families, relatives, cousins, and friends. "New Year's is a time when I spend time with my family and friends and get lucky money and party hard," said Daniel Phan, 17.

Vietnamese New Year's comes for three consecutive days either at the end of January or the beginning of February. This year, Vietnamese New Year's will be February 7-9.

Each year, every Vietnamese family cleans the whole house before New Year's because we believe that cleaning during our holiday would give us bad luck. Not only is cleaning bad luck, so is washing hair, buying clothes, saying bad words, and getting haircuts. All of this must be done before our festival begins.

On Vietnamese New Year's, kids expect a red envelope, known as "Li Xi" in Vietnamese. The envelope has money in it. It is a red envelope given by grown-ups. We use it to play card games and board games. However, we can not come up and ask adults for red

envelopes because it is disrespectful to adults and it's only given when they want to give it. "On New Year's, [the] first thing that came to my mind was money because I expect a lot of money from my family," said Jim Tran, 16, of Dorchester.

Other than getting a lot of money on New Year's, we also make a lot of food to eat that will last for three days. We normally make fried rice, egg rolls, soup, and noodles. We also eat melon seeds, fruits, and cakes known as banh chung and banh tet. "Banh chung and banh tet has always been a part of the Vietnamese New Year. I've grown up with ever since I was a baby," said Khoa Pham, 18.

Overall the Vietnamese New Year is all joy and fun. We are all looking forward for this year's New Year to spend quality time with our family and friends where we gather and wish each other good luck for next year. "Chuc Mung Nam Moi" means "Happy New Year" in Vietnamese.



Li Xi, or red envelope, contains money for Vietnamese children at New Year's

▲ AFH photo by Mary Nguyen

Symposium for Asian Americans develops young leaders

By Andrew Nguyen//Contributing Writer

"Oh, he's Asian he'll do fine." Time and again these words seem to come up. Yet they stay in the deep caverns of my mind and I shrug it off every year. This year those words are resurfacing in my thoughts through exposure at the 2008 CAPAY (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth) Leadership Symposium. These words deserve far more than a shrug; they deserve an explanation.

CAPAY is an Asian Pacific American (APA) youth leadership development organization. It strives to better our communities through empowering youth to be critical active participants in society. This program provides a safe space for APA youth to learn about the history and contributions of Asian-Americans in the US. During the symposium, participants choose from a list of workshops, which cover a wide spectrum of topics from Asian-American Studies, to sneaker culture, to stereotypes. In these workshops students discuss your topic among your fellow peers. With their open-minded environment, anything goes and nothing is considered invalid.

Oanh Vu, 16, a CAPAY volunteer, said, "Every time I go there the people treat me like an equal and they actually listen to me and not just ignore what I say just because I'm in high school. I've become more comfortable talking to people and being around new people. You definitely learn new skills at CAPAY." Chhayna Hong, 19, a senior at BCLA, said, "These workshops exposed me to what I haven't learned in school." The atmosphere of the gathering of Asian-American students from different schools vibes off a powerful feeling, or as Uyen Vu, 15, a CAPAY volunteer, describes it: "minority is superior!"

From the beginning I thought this program was like any other gathering, but CAPAY opens doors that I'd stuck in the back of my mind. CAPAY reveals that Asian-Americans deserve the same acknowledgement as any other race that fought for the same rights. Asian-Americans marched and protested in the Civil Rights movement. People forget that Asian-Americans fought for their Chinatowns and established strong communities.

As well, Asian-Americans are considered the model minority but they're still overlooked in American society. Such acknowledgement can baffle our current generation of Asian-Americans. Son-Ca Lam, 21, an alumnus of CAPAY, said: "I had never considered myself Asian-American before I joined CAPAY. I just thought I was just Asian. When I learned about the history of Asian-Americans in this country, I found an identity I didn't even know I was missing." Apparently, being slapped with the label overachievers translates to 'they're doing fine' or 'they don't need help.' But Asian-Americans are just like any other minority group; CAPAY uncovered that Asian-Americans are on the back burner of American society. CAPAY exposes the lack of acknowledgement for Asian-Americans in our own backyards, such as, the lack of Asian-American topics in history for high school students or the lack of respect for their culture.

After attending CAPAY, many students reanalyze some of the degrading acknowledgment that they've encountered in their pasts, whether they were stereotypes or racial comments. Vu, the volunteer, said: "When people would make stupid comments about my race or back-



Local students at a conference for Asian Pacific Americans.

ground, I always brushed them off. But after CAPAY, it taught me to open my eyes and differentiate between what's really a joke and what's not."

CAPAY can't answer all your questions, but it opens more doors to explore. These new doors allows one's conscious to notice how Asian-Americans are truly perceived in modern society. Through the united feeling of the APA youth, a vibe of camaraderie is developed within this program. With their newfound courage, Asian-American students feel encouraged to stand up for themselves and in their community. After CAPAY, I refuse to put off a stereotype with a shrug, rather I demand an explanation.

CAPAY holds a symposium every year near Thanksgiving at UMass-Boston.

CAPAY has many other programs as well, such as Asian-American Studies workshops, media and food workshops, leadership skills development, critical thinking workshops, an upcoming photography program, and any other programs that the youth themselves want to create. For more information, check out capaymovement.net or send an e-mail to capaymovement@gmail.com for any questions for how your school can participate in the symposium next year.

It's all about the 'BLACC'

By Danthuy Chu//Contributing Writer

Every year the Boston Latin Academy Classics Club (BLACC), the largest club in the school dedicated to promoting the classics, takes a coach bus to Williamstown for the Catapult Contest. It is an exciting day where schools from all over Massachusetts bring towering wooden catapults, war machines used back in the Roman times, and compete with each other by launching 8 pound shot-puts across a field. This year, the contest landed on Nov 15th. As is tradition, it rained and was cold. As is tradition, it was muddy and many pairs of shoes were ruined. As is tradition, something had to go horribly wrong with BLA's catapult. There has not been a single year in the last six of which I have been a member of the BLACC in which BLA has had a perfectly working catapult. This is largely due to the transportation of our catapult from one place to another. Because the catapult is so large, the club has to transport it in pieces, thus something always breaks, is left behind, or simply does not work when we get there.

This year, BLACC was very serious about beating the

undefeated Catapult Contest winner, Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown. The odds were in our favor, too. We had a motivated engineer (not to say that our previous engineers weren't), Monika Kaceli, who was determined to bring BLACC to victory. She, along with the involved Low family, designed and built a catapult that was more than 27 feet tall and that could launch the shot-put more than 80 feet with only half its potential power. BLACC was enthusiastic with the notion that we could finally beat Mount Greylock. Sadly, our bad luck kicked in when two nights before the event, the arm, which launches the shot-put, snapped into two pieces.

On the day of the contest, although our catapult was not in full working condition, it did manage to launch the shot-put forward (something that still amazes the older members because we remember when our catapult had launched the leaden ball backwards towards someone's car). In BLACC manner, we cheered Monika and the Low family as they worked their magic and made the best of what we had. Even though Mount Greylock beat us again, we have something they have been missing for the past three years: A coveted state trophy, won at our annual State Convention held at Barnstable High School on Cape Cod. The Catapult Contest is only a small portion toward winning the state trophy and all I can say to Mount Greylock is... bring it on!



Boston Latin Academy Classics Club members.

SIDETRACK



▲ Photo by Alana Andonian

By Stuart Spina//Staff Writer

A DAY IN THE T LIFE OF A DRIVER

In this issue I have decided to do something a little different; I am going to play the devil's advocate. I have decided to stick up for MBTA bus drivers. Now, granted, some of them are real jerks. These are the drivers who intentionally stop short, causing you to stumble as you get off. These are the drivers who blow past your stop, even though there is plenty of room on the bus. And these are the drivers who will kick you off just because you are several cents short on the fare. This piece is by no means to justify their actions. I am sticking up for the hard-working and courteous drivers, who often end up being the victim of circumstance.

It is often said that T bus drivers make so much money for doing a relatively easy job. You are mistaken, my friend. It is hardly an easy task to be a bus driver. Each operator, if they pass training school, starts out as a part-time operator. You may be making a decent hourly wage, but you only work about five hours per day, five days a week. Also, you may often have to work on holidays. Who do you think is driving on Christmas Day? You start out as a low-rater (i.e. positions at garages are ranked by seniority), perhaps making as little as \$99.50 per day. I will not explain the complicated process of the MBTA payroll system. Because you are rookie, when it comes to pick work you must wait for everyone who outranks you to go first. Many high-raters take all of the good work: scenic routes with light ridership. The newcomers are stuck with the less desirable stuff; such as crowded and congested routes, first/last trip of the day, and school trips. Many of you find riding routes like the 16, 23, or 28 to be a hassle; try driving that route for several hours.

Suppose your teacher gave you a test that you could probably do in about 45 minutes. However, you were given only 20 minutes. If you fail to finish in time (and chances are you won't), you will be penalized and get detention. Many bus drivers are given barely enough time to complete their runs. As a result, they are late (and you wait longer), and fall terribly behind schedule. Many drivers who want to stay on time must play "beat the clock." Not a very fun game.

I have said all that to say this: Being a bus driver is hardly an easy job. There are many other things that add to the daily trials of a bus operator. Why don't they just do something else, you say? Have you seen the job market lately? If you are looking for a job, you are willing to take whatever you can get. So the next time you ride, say hello to your driver. Ask how they are doing, and thank them. They could use something to brighten up their day.



▲ Photo by Stuart Spina

of allegiance, I felt a vibration under my feet, then a quiver in my spine ... That is when I knew that this was truly an amazing moment," Jackson said.

The glass ceiling that for so long had held strong had finally been broken.

Obama embodies the American Dream for many teens. A young child who grew up in a single parent home in Hawaii, he has always strived through adversity. Growing up without a father figure in his household did not deter him from creating his own lasting legacy as a great leader and a great man. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, which helped him learn to appreciate education over wealth, realizing this was his key to success. And so, he went on to study law at Harvard University. For many teens, the American Dream is considered a myth, but Obama is an example of this dream becoming a reality.

Obama has spoken great words of where he has come from and where he is going. "If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress," the president-elect once said. These words motivate and encourage teens to follow their dreams and to not give up. With Obama leading our nation, the youth have hope for a new future with new beginnings. Aaron Landrum, 17, says of Obama, "He's a symbol that despite adversity, the dreams a youth dreams can come to fruition."

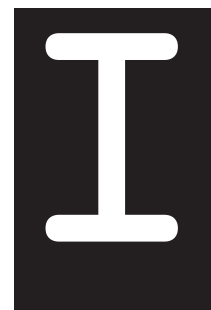
From his announcement that he would run for president, to the primaries, to Obama's victory on Nov. 4, he has consistently preached the message of hope and change. Unlike John McCain, whose campaign was based on his experience, Obama recognized that change after "eight years of the same" was more significant.

Not only was this election monumental and inspirational for African-Americans, but for Americans of all races, ages, and backgrounds. Obama's messages of hope and change have struck a chord in Americans' hearts. Many who were cynical and distrustful of American politics have found themselves championing Obama and embracing change, which for the first time, they can believe in.

Shanetta Slayton, 16, of BCLA, says "America was supposedly known as the land of the free, but it had restrictions. So when Obama won, it really opened a lot of doors. It proved that anybody from any race can do what they want to do."

In addition to all that Obama represents, youth are drawn to his infectious charisma. And yet his cool confidence combined with his humble roots make him still seem approachable. Says Landrum, "He's a public figure that has faith and believes in and has confidence in himself. And you can see it in his life and the way he lives it. To me, it just goes to show that if you put in the work and have faith, you can achieve."

* Matt Kimm contributed to this story.



Imagine a place where you can just walk in and let your dreams thrive with new technology, without paying a single penny. You've imagined the Computer Clubhouse at the Museum of Science. The Computer Clubhouse is a place where anybody can freely do basically anything electronically. From art, to videos, to music, to break dancing, the chosen activities depend on the interest of the youth.

The Clubhouse has been running for 15 years and nothing has changed since the beginning. The same mission stands, and Mitch Resnick, an MIT professor and one of the founders of the Clubhouse, says that mission is "to give youth more access to technology and to provide opportunities for young people to learn to express themselves creatively with new technology."

The Clubhouse in Boston is the nation's flagship, the one that started it all. The flagship has opened up 21 different Clubhouses nationally and internationally. The flagship takes a handful of people from another country or state and trains them to be managers for their very own Clubhouse in their country or state. These managers of the flagship are right down the hall from the Boston Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse is a place that was originally intended to give city kids more access to technology, but it became much more. Although a majority of the kids who go to the Clubhouse are from the city, it's open to anybody, and

member. When asked if Suentes would refer a friend, he said, "Yeah, I would recommend it to anybody just to relax and have fun."

Now if somebody's not interested in technology, they shouldn't just turn their heads from the Clubhouse; there are a lot of other things to do there. Orozco also says, "The Clubhouse isn't for everybody, but a majority of people find something to do that they like."

The Clubhouse has its own studio for recording music if you like to sing, a green screen for special effects if you like to make movies and music videos, and a lot of computers to use almost any software. Although the hardware is expensive, the software is all updated. Everything may seem too advanced if one's just getting to know the software, but if one can't figure something out, they just ask Orozco, and he will ask somebody else if he doesn't know the answer. Also, there are mentors, and other teens who might know the answer. As someone advances, so will the software they use.

All this aside, would parents approve? "Yes, there is a lot to learn here. They can learn to be a good leader and public speaker," said Orozco. Teens will learn to speak at events, lead their own projects, and talk through technology. The Clubhouse is connected to the Museum of Science, but it's not related to the museum and anyone can go after filling out an application.

So whether it's expressing yourself through acting, to expressing yourself through design, to busting a rhyme in the studio, or busting a move on the dance floor, the Computer Clubhouse undoubtedly has what you're looking for.

Computer Clubhouse is an electronic oasis

BY GABRIEL WARD//STAFF WRITER



they're looking to welcome more members no matter where they're from.

According to Marlon Orozco, the Clubhouse Coordinator, the Clubhouse "gives [youth] a different outlook on technology in their lives, and a chance to meet other people with the same interests."

What about the teens' view? Duke Atkinson, a 17-year-old Clubhouse member, says he likes to go to work on a variety of projects, including instrumentals, special effects, and movie editing, but he likes to do a lot of other activities, too. Atkinson has been with the Clubhouse three years, and comes as often as he can. "If I could, I would come every day, but I can't, so I come during a weekday sometimes and always on Friday," he said. He also plans on making a career out of his Clubhouse experience.

George Suentes, a Clubhouse member, also 17, has only been at the Clubhouse for a couple of weeks, and likes to go there to make beats and lyrics on the computers. Suentes found out about the Clubhouse by going with his friend, a

IF YOU GO:

The Clubhouse is easy to get to via the MBTA's Green Line; get off at Science Park T stop. Hours are: after school, Monday through Thursday, 2 to 5:30 p.m., Friday until 8 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday is girls day and only girls are admitted. The address is: Museum of Science, One Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114. Go to the front desk of the museum for location. For more information, log onto www.computerclubhouse.org or call 617-589-0466

Top five movies from '08

By Trevor Ward//Staff Writer

5. “The Love Guru”

Taking place in Canada, “The Love Guru” is about a Guru (whose profession is romance) named Guru Maurice Pitka (Mike Myers) who is trying to get popular hockey player Darren Roanoke (Romany Malco) back with his wife Prudence (Meagan Good). But Prudence is at the time dating the biggest player on the rival team, Jacques “Le Coq” Grandé (Justin Timberlake). Pitka is hired by the owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Jane Bullard (Jessica Alba), because their team is in a horrible slump. Throughout the movie, the goal for Pitka is to become the biggest guru around (Deepak Chopra), and get on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” to prove he is the best. Familiar cameos include: Stephen Colbert and John Oliver from “The Daily Show.” It easily gets a 7 out of 10 because it starred a lot of my favorite and familiar actors.

4. “Get Smart”

This movie is a film adaptation of the 1960s spy parody TV series of the same name. The film stars Steve Carell as Maxwell Smart, the same protagonist from the original series, and Anne Hathaway as Agent 99, who is pretty much his sidekick, although commonly referred to as his partner. The point is Max is trying to be the best agent there is, but he keeps failing the exams. But in the beginning he gets accepted and put on his first official mission. Throughout the movie, he gets into these strange little plights. Though they’re mostly generic, Steve Carell makes everything funny. Though as great as the film was, nothing can be done about its cheesy ending. With that said, I personally would buy this movie. An added note: While this film was still in theaters it already had a spin-off of itself called: “Get Smart’s: Bruce and Lloyd,” featuring the two minor characters in the beginning of the main movie. I give it a 7 out of 10 because although most of the jokes were extremely corny, references were in abundance, and Steve Carell is great.

3. “Iron Man”

Not exactly one of my childhood favorites, “Iron Man” took me by shock. It basically shows how “Iron Man” came to be, and well, frankly, how everybody knows who he is. I don’t want to give away any good parts of this movie, so I can’t tell you what happens in the beginning, but it was amazing and a brilliant idea, and the idea for the villain was a nice twist in the story. Robert Downey Jr. plays the main character, Tony Stark, and does a good job with it. Gwyneth Paltrow plays his personal assistant, Pepper Potts. Not only was it a fantastic display of special effects and computer animated graphics, but it was also funny at times and had a terrific back story. In my book, a good 8 out of 10.

2. “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”

Before I start, I want to add that I’m a serious Harrison Ford fan. So I loved this movie, although the fact that they tried to give Shia LaBeouf (who played Mutt Williams) an equal role to Ford kind of got me mad. Anyway, it takes place several years after “The Last Crusade.” It starts off in a long road in the desert with a road race with a Russian military car and a car full of teenagers. However, after this irrelevant scene, it starts to make sense, for in the trunk of the Russian car were Indiana Jones, and his accomplice “Mac.” They take away their weapons and force them into a large storage facility full of wooden crates. They are looking for a box that contains the remains of an extra terrestrial (E.T.) which crashed there in Roswell 10 years before, but after finding the crate they were looking for, Indy makes a daring escape, and this takes up about 20 minutes of the movie itself. I give this movie a 9 1/2 out of 10, just because Shia LaBeouf was given a closely equal role, and seemingly trying to replace the old “Indiana Jones.”

1. “The Dark Knight”

Now, we all know what this means. Yes. Another movie with a sequel that has an indirect title. But let that get past you, and you’re in for a great time that is way worth your money! Not only does it start very close to where “Batman Begins” left off, but it also features a cameo of the villain (Scarecrow) of that movie. It’s basically all about the bad guy in this movie. But if you’re focusing on villains, you won’t have a problem seeing him in this one. All who wished for it, got The Joker, one of my favorite villains of all time. It’s all about his plot to kill Batman and show Gotham there are no real heroes. There is never a dull moment; it is either extremely funny in a dark way, or action packed to the brim. This being so, this is a DVD must buy. A 10 out of 10 in everybody’s book, due to the fact that it made box office history, and everyone I know went to see it.

Music to look out for

By Ciara Martinez//Peer Editor

1. Jazmine Sullivan – “Lions, Tigers, and Bears”

We all know her as the singer/songwriter from Philadelphia with two hit songs, “Need You Bad” and “Bust Your Windows.” Who could forget her spunky and soulful voice? “Every time I write I try to use every bit of imagination that I can,” said Sullivan in a VH1 interview. She makes it easy for people to relate to her music. Sullivan is getting a bigger fan base every day. Be sure to buy her debut album, “Fearless,” which you can catch in stores now, with appearances by Missy Elliot. Check her out at www.myspace.com/jazminesullivan.

2. Metro Station – “Seventeen Forever”

Mason Musso, Trace Cyrus, Blake Healy, and Anthony Improgo’s make up the rock/pop group Metro Station. Miley Cyrus’ brother, Trace Cyrus, and Mitchell Musso’s (Miley Cyrus’ co-star on “Hannah Montana”) older brother, Mason Musso, were the first members of the Los Angeles based group, and since that time, success has continued to sprinkle upon the band. Their self-titled album was released on Columbia Records in 2007. They have been presenting the world with great performances and great music, along with appearances on Music Choice’s “Fresh Crops” and MTV’s 2008 VMA Summer Tour at Six Flags. Look out for more music from Metro Station and log on to www.myspace.com/metrostation.

3. Jada

April Forrest, Lauren O’Keefe, Jacyn Tremblay, and Elle Wine are members of one of Boston’s finest groups, Jada. The girls are newly signed recording artists to Universal Motown Records and their single is set to be released January 20th. Their song “I’m that Chick” made an appearance on the soundtrack for the movie “Bring It On: In It to Win It.” They have been working hard on their debut album with big name producers like JR Rotem, The Clutch, Swizz Beats, and Akon, just to name a few. To keep in touch with these rising stars, add them as a friend at www.myspace.com/jada.

4. Mishon – “Excuse Me Mamma”

He is the 15-year-old actor from Los Angeles who stars on the successful TV show “Lincoln Heights” on ABC Family as Tay. The video for his debut single “Excuse Me Mamma” introduces a fresh face that is destined to be number one on all charts of the music industry. He is currently signed with producer/songwriter Vincent Herbert’s Streamline Records, which is in partnership with Interscope Records. If you want to keep in touch with Mishon, head to his website at www.mishon.net.

5. Keri Hilson – “Slow Dance”

Keri Hilson is an R&B singer from Atlanta. Her career began as a writer in 2001 but she always knew that she wanted to sing. She has collaborated with many acts, such as Timbaland, Chris Brown, and Lil Wayne, just to name a few. Hilson is one of the many collective writers in The Clutch and is signed to Zone 4/Mosley Music/Interscope Records. Her debut album, “In a Perfect World,” is set to be released in early 2009. She has already released three singles: “Energy,” “Return the Favor,” and “Turning Me On” from the album. For tour dates, exclusive photos, and more on Keri Hilson, log on to www.kerihilsonmusic.com.

By Xhersl Laka//Staff Writer

After six months of waiting, the day has finally come. You're in the sold out arena; everyone is screaming, and your favorite song is blasting over the speakers piercing your ear drums and shaking your body. It's not you and your friends singing in your car anymore, it's you and 20,000 people in a rock 'n' roll unity.

GREATEST SOURCE OF MUSIC RETURNS

For 20,000 people, Metallica will bring this ecstatic experience this January at the Garden where they will be on the legs of their comeback tour, the first in 10 years.

Since Metallica debuted in 1981, they have released nine studio albums, two live albums, 22 music videos, and 43 singles. The band has won seven Grammy Awards. Their 1986 album, "Master of Puppets," has been described as one of the most influential and "heavy" thrash metal albums. As of September 2008, Metallica has sold a total of 50,111,000 albums in the United States

alone, making them the fifth-highest selling musical artist since May 1991.

There is a generation of Metallica fans who have never been able to see the band in concert and finally they will be able to share the experience and join the older generation. This band is spanning both generations, making them a whole where 15-year-olds enjoy the same music as 50-year-olds.

"I'm really happy that Metallica is going back on tour and I almost lost it when I heard that Metallica was coming to Boston," said 17-year-old Ronald Ilia.

"I bought front-row tickets as soon as I could."

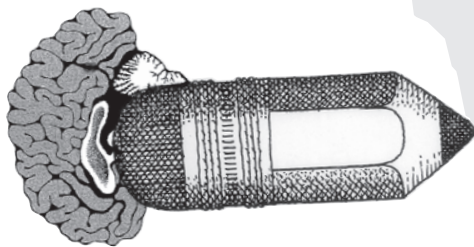
The new generation hasn't ridden the rock roller coaster yet. Metallica is the ticket to the roller coaster and once you're in, you're

in. It's hard to come back out because the adventure and the enthusiasm will keep your soul inside until you've had the whole experience. And that's what it means to be a rocker.

"Metallica is one of the greatest bands ever... and in addition to making their great music they created a whole new genre," said Vu Dinh, 16. "What I'm trying to imply is that all these other bands have the same old beats and rhythms. Metallica, on the other hand, doesn't improvise and that's what makes them so great," he said.

Metallica is back and there is nothing that anyone can do about it. If you don't like them, just stay at home and watch TV that night while others are banging their heads backstage at the TD Banknorth Garden.





WRITERS

Speak out!

By Larisa Osorio//Staff Writer

*Sadly you're gone
Never thought I would be saying good bye
No not to you!*

*Always thought you would be by my side
Thought that you would have been the person whom
I thanked in my speeches
Thought that you would be there to see me smile
When I finally said I do and walk down that aisle*

*I expected you to be there
As my mother
My mentor
My friend
As my reason to finally live that happy life*

*You bailed out on me
Why didn't you just speak to me?
I knew everything else
Why didn't you reach out?
Why didn't you do what you knew you could do?*

SPEAK OUT!

*Instead you left me half led
Half stepping in the world
Left me to figure out my do's and don'ts
You left lost and confused
Sad and depressed*

You simply LEFT!

*Why, why didn't you just ask?
Why didn't you just
SPEAK OUT!*

Untitled

By Emily Vargas //Contributing Writer

*Sometimes I think of me & you
& wonder why we do the things we do
& how come these obstacles are so difficult to remove
I try to proceed on my own but I need you
in order to get through to keep strong
single handed and standing alone
where were you when I was in need
nowhere to be found
now I'm distant and confused.
high in the clouds looking down with a frown
footprints are stamped all over my heart
and your smile recorded into my memoir box
things are crazy like a homicide situation
but I speak of us so gracefully like a lullaby
so in the night I'll sing you to sleep
& when you wake I'll still be in sight
willing to love you the exact same way my lyrics speak
deep down inside I see something between us
just not ready to give myself away, not ready to be free
so I simply am laid back and wait for the correct time
& when it comes I'll be the perfect wife.
Mrs. Perfect indeed
picture perfect and all.*

Can You Hear Me

By Garrecia Powell//Contributing Writer

*Listen to the sound here in my heart
A melody I start
But can't complete
Listen to the sound deep in my heart
It's only beginning
To find release
The time has come
For my mind to be heard
It will not be pushed aside or turned
Let me speak
I try so hard to say what's on my mind
You should have known
You don't know what I'm feeling
I am more than what you made of me
Someone I thought died
Don't speak
Listen*

The Writer

By Gena White//Contributing Writer

*Beneath those sparkling, green eyes
Lies a mellow, yet broken soul
Quietness hides her true words
But her intelligence
Makes her speak
Words flow from her pen
Onto the once blank piece of paper
She speaks for the unspoken
She speaks for the ones who are broken
She speaks for the fighters
The people who never back down
Yet not a word crosses her lips
But many flow through her head
Her voice may not be heard
But her opinions are stated
She never backs down
Yet never causes a fight
To her, words mean a lot
Thoughts mean plenty in her mind
But her voice is within her pen and paper
She may not speak a word
But the world will listen
They will listen loud and clear
Because her pen is mightier than her sword*

Wait on the Wrong Page

By Kiah Drayton//Contributing Writer

Black silence
He
The boy
The man
The one who started to mix his own beats
The one who writes more than he will ever speak
His native tongue is too foreign to be understood
His history is too black
Barren the weight of stones of which dead soldiers names are carved on
These men are warriors
Faces painted
Fists raised in the air
White flags are black
He writes one word at a time
Keeping his thoughts on the blue lines of his pages
His native tongue is split in two
But neither can help him fight a war that was destined to happen
So behind his eyelids the weight of sorrow is heavy
Beating his heart taunting him
Calling him a coward
The lives of little Muslim girls rest on his shoulders
The USA's honor is on the line
Brown skin against brown skin doesn't matter
You'll shoot before you look
And pray that the gods will forgive you
You write long pages
Sometimes your brain is unable to spell
But you can't wait
Wait to look it up before you forget what you know
Somewhere you had died
Moments before the atomic bomb went off in Japan
Somewhere you had died
Before 1994 the Tutsi and Hutu battle began
Genocide is not a fancy word for hate; it's just destructive
Just real enough to outlive an average human being
And he writes
He writes until language has no more words.

Freedom

By Stevens Etienne//Contributing Writer

Flying free,
That's what we all long to be.
Cross the sky and kiss a cloud
Move up high and shout it loud,
'I am free and wanna be
All I want and even more.'
See me grow, see me free
High and all, leave this floor
Reach the gods, beat the odds.
I will live, won't be deceived
I was right to have believed.
I won the bet and now admit!
That I am free, now watch me be.

Lost

By Matthew Tabor Kimm//Staff Writer

I cannot find my place in life
the path laid for me
my eyes are blind to all but strife
my horrid destiny

my heart lays hard within my breast
a cold and bitter flame
that once was warm and longs to be
loved once again
for once i have been broken
it is beyond divine repair
my eyes lay wide but no one sees
the tears that linger there
now my heart is shattered
never again to be whole
only pain and grief can thrive
in my sorrow feeling soul
no passion there to shape me
no anger gives me life
how, when so many tears escaped me,
can there be more besides?
no purpose lays before me
no wish of power or wealth
caring for naught and truly
not even for myself
for nothing drives me forward
or makes me look ahead
i see no light and the tunnel
has stopped at a dead end

i cannot find my place in life
the path laid for me
my eyes are blind to all but strife
my horrid destiny

my world has crashed around me
and crushed my hopes and dreams
there is so much pain inside me
that my heart bursts at its seams
with all that is within me
which is not much at all
i wish for vibrancy again
to stop my rapid fall
my life seems to come to waste
no solution seems to work
no one is here to help me
and no longer will i search
my heart has been deserted
and my souls been torn to shreds
though my body walks and smiles
inside i am truly dead
too long have i been stepped on
too many fatal wounds
my emotion leak from me
and collects as blood in pools
my love has been stripped from me
all of it taken away

all gone except the pain
and my tears leak every day

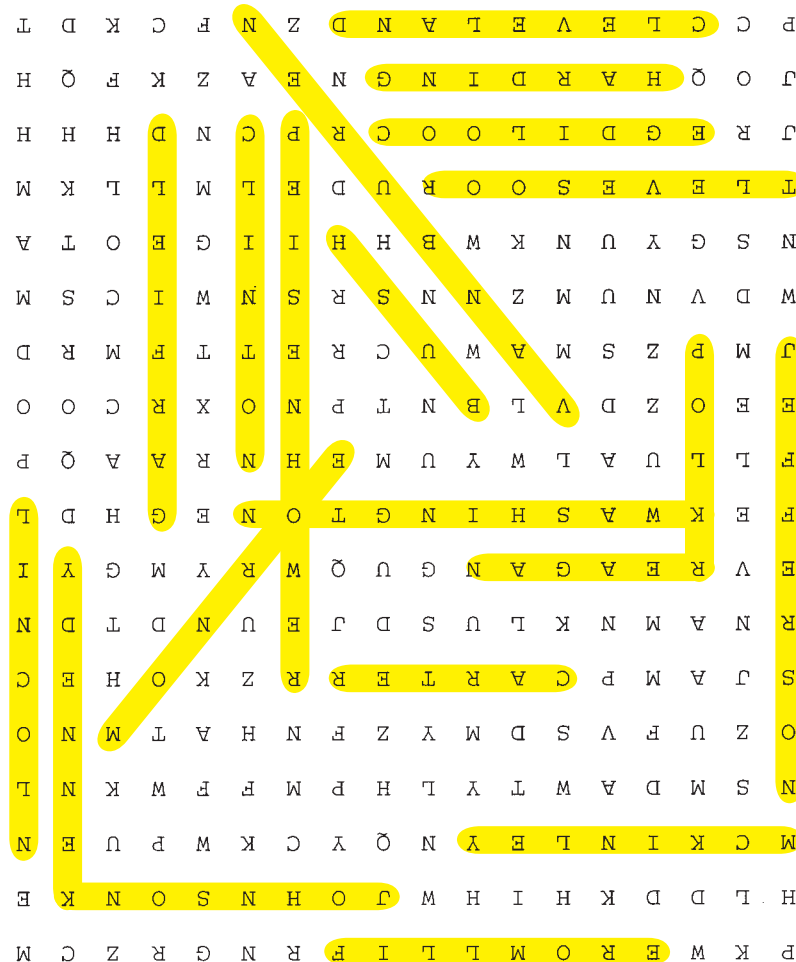
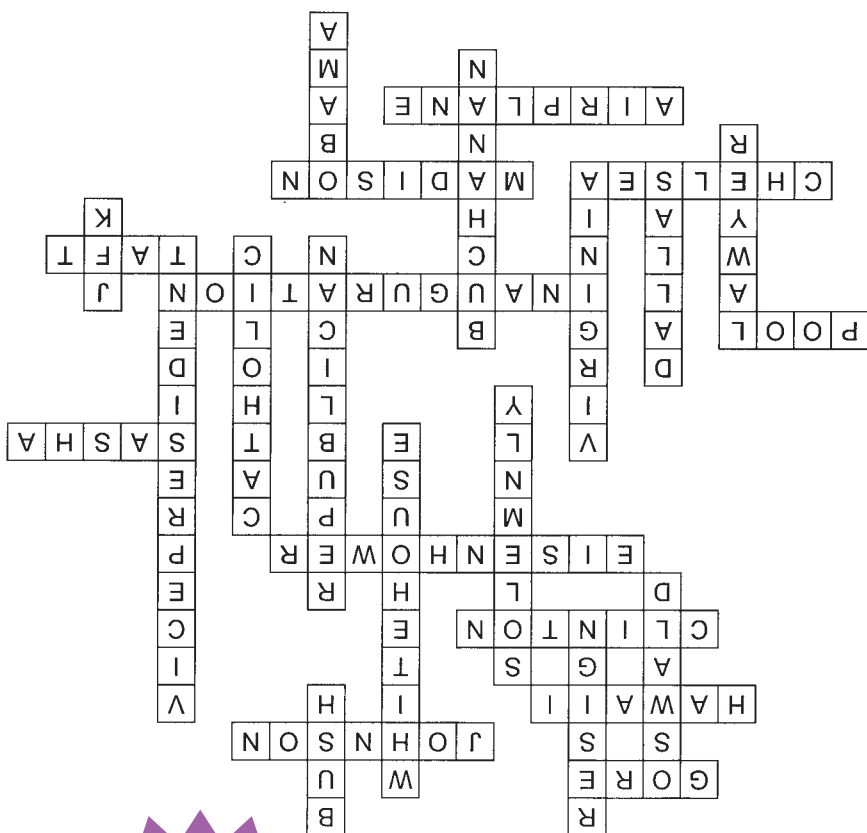
i cannot find my place in life
the path laid for me
my eyes are blind to all but strife
my horrid destiny

my grief is strong within me
and my sorrow rolls in waves
no one to stop the hurting
no one to come and save
this vessel ever-needing
for empty has it been
and sits in silent seething
drowning in its sin
it itself is dirty
and on it dirt's been cast
with only a ghost for a future
and is haunted by the past
the dark that lies within me
is emptier than space
without the vibrancy of stars
to give me vivid grace
my life once had beginning
and will always have an end
but when will the pulse return
so i can truly live again?
i hunger for a purpose
something that gives me life
to fill me with a meaning
and distract me from the strife
i wish for a spark of feeling
of anger or passion deep
or forever will i wander
and this will an endless journey be...

i cannot find my place in life
the path laid for me
my eyes are blind to all but strife
my horrid destiny.

MATCHING

ANSWERS: 1.-f; 2.-j; 3.b; 4.-d; 5.-a; 6.-c; 7.-h; 8.-g; 9.-i; 10. e



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