

TEENS in PRINT

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MARCH 2009

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▲ AFH photo by Julia Morgan

AFH photo by Shisha King ►



▲ AFH photo by Shisha King

PROM KING AND QUEENS.

T.I.P. staff members try on this year's prom fashions at Grandasia. Ciara Martinez, Xhersi Laka, and Sarah Blanchette (l-r, top) and Jennifer Sánchez and Gregory Frederick (bottom) pose in their new formal wear. Martinez sports purple in front.

▼ AFH photo by Julia Morgan



ONE-STOP, PROM SHOP AT *Grandasia*

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

On an unseasonably warm January day, Teens in Print staff met at the corner of Hancock and Beale Streets in Quincy, in front of Grandasia, the one-stop store for all of your prom needs. From dresses to tuxes, this store has everything—aside from your date.

[GRANDASIA, PAGE 16]

In partnership with the

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

It's March. That means it is the home stretch! We are one month away from spring break and less than 20 weeks from summer vacation. What a beautiful feeling! Please do not get this feeling mixed up for slacking (even seniors!). There is still plenty of work to be done, and T.i.P.'s here to help you better understand what's in the news.

In this issue, check out the article about Matt Damon and Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health, an organization dedicated to helping bring healthcare to Haiti. Also, be sure to read SideTrack for all of your transportation updates. Looking to laugh? Read all about Bush's historically funny eight years in office in the article "Was Jan. 20 a bleak day for comedy?"

Also be sure to read T.i.P.'s first comic strip, Quibb, about a 22-year-old high school principal and his adventures (and mishaps) as he attempts to run a fictitious school in Boston.

And, for all of you looking to get a head start on your prom shopping, check out the exclusive T.i.P. preview (on the cover) of Grandasia, your one-stop prom shopping store in Quincy. Brush up on your art, as well as some secret places in Boston, with Stuart Spina's photo essay. Also peruse the Scholastic Art Awards (Page 13) to see what some of your talented peers have created in art class this year.

As always, there is so much more inside the issue and online at bostonTip.com. Enjoy the beginning of spring!

Sincerely, Sarah Blanchette and
Jennifer Sánchez // Senior Editors



TEEN
TIPS

JENNIFER SÁNCHEZ

Least favorite thing parents say:
"Clean your room."

Dream elective at school:

Modeling (hey, short girls can dream).

Dream cellphone: A purple transparent iPhone

Favorite dessert: Brownie obsession



ROXANNE TAYLOR

Creative excuse for missing homework:

"I thought we didn't have homework."

Least favorite thing parents say:

"I told you to do this 100 times already."

Celebrity and cause I support:

Oprah and her relief efforts in Africa

Favorite magazine: Ebony



SANDY LIANG

How colleges should let you know you're
accepted or rejected: Facebook, phone, or e-mail.

Can't wait to wear this spring: Flats

Celebrity and cause I support: Greg Mortenson,
who founded Central Asia Institute, and Pennies
for Peace, an organization and program that helps
build schools and provides educational opportuni-
ties for girls.

Favorite dessert: Cake or ice cream



THANH NGUYEN

Can't wait to wear this spring: New shoes

Favorite website:

Facebook.com or solecollector.com

Favorite magazine: Any celebrity issues!

Favorite dessert: Fried ice cream



TREVOR WARD

Creative excuse for missing homework:

"My mom put it in the recycling."

Least favorite thing parents say: "No"

Can't wait to wear this spring:

Shoes. I hate boots.

Favorite website: serebii.net/index2



LADONYA BUCHANAN

Dream elective offered at school: Spanish 4

Can't wait to wear this spring: My softball uniform
Clever ringtone: One that says, "Don't pick up; you
don't want to talk to me right now."

Dream cellphone: Blackberry Storm



SARAH BLANCHETTE

How colleges should let you know you're accept-
ed or rejected: If they always accepted you; there's
no good way to reject someone!

Least favorite thing parents say:

"When I was your age..."

Dream elective offered at school: Naptime

Favorite magazine: Vogue



XHERSI LAKA

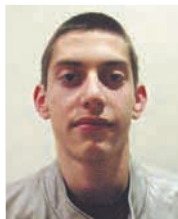
Creative excuse for missing homework:

"The environment took it back to use it as trees."

Least favorite thing parents say: "Uhhh..."

Can't wait to wear this spring: More leather

Clever ringtone: "Eruption" by Van Halen



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PAIGE CARRUTHERS

How colleges should let you know you're accepted or rejected: Text message

Can't wait to wear this spring:

Sundresses and flip flops

Favorite magazine: TeenVoices

Favorite dessert: Apple pie and ice cream



RYAN WARD

Creative excuse for missing homework:

"We had homework?"

Clever ringtone:

"Rock Lobster" by the B52s

Favorite magazine: Sports Illustrated

Dream cellphone: Nokia Brick



CIARA MARTINEZ

How colleges should let you know you're accepted or rejected: Give you a cake saying "accepted" or "rejected."

Clever ringtone: "Paper Planes" by M.I.A.

Favorite magazine: Seventeen

Favorite dessert:

Homemade chocolate chip cookies



NATALYN YU

Creative excuse for missing homework: "I did it so well my parents had it framed, and now it's hanging on the living room wall."

Clever ringtone:

"Nothing Lasts Forever" by Maroon 5

Favorite website: straightdope.com -

"Fighting Ignorance Since 1973"

Dream cellphone: iPhone



GABE WARD

Creative excuse for missing homework:

T.i.P.

Least favorite thing parents say:

"My dad says 'I says...'"

Dream elective offered at school:

Film class

Clever ringtone: Final countdown



STUART SPINA

Creative excuse for missing homework:

"Homework does not build character."

Favorite magazine: Metro Magazine (NOT to be confused with Metro Source!)

Dream cellphone:

One that is simply just a cellphone.

Favorite dessert:

Vanilla fudge swirl ice cream



Mission Statement

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Write for



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.

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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writeboston.org

Was Jan. 20 a bleak day for comedy?

By Trevor Ward // Staff Writer

From 2000 to 2008 we had one president, George W. Bush, and he may become the most memorable man in the history of comedy. Why? It's all because of his mistakes. Some people defended him with terms like: "He did his best" or "He did what he thought was good for his country," but in the end, his approval ratings were historically low. But Bush has a different legacy than any other political figure. He gave comedians more material than they knew what to do with.

Some of what Bush said and did in office made him seem like a 3-year-old, although not stupid. Questioning his legitimacy, some people thought Bush getting elected was a government conspiracy, saying he originally lost the vote. Bush was even booed as he walked up to the stage at the inauguration two months ago.

Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney, was also made fun of. Jokes about how he had evil plots and was running the Bush administration from the shadows were common on such shows as "Saturday Night Live." He was depicted as "The Sith Lord" by Jon Stewart. However, they didn't just call Dick Cheney an evil person; comedians made jokes about him being the only brains in the White House.

An out-of-office Bush means there won't be any new Bush related material, but that doesn't mean we won't see him again. It will be like having a show canceled; we can still see 'reruns.' And Bush's own material will remain funny for as long as Bush is remembered: "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, well, you can't

be fooled again." Another one of my favorites, which Bush said last year, is, "In terms of economy, look, I inherited a recession, I am ending on a recession." His grammar was 'off' much of the time. For example: 'Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?' or: 'Families is where our nation finds hope, where wings take dream.' If you get nostalgic for "Bushisms," visit: politicalhumor.about.com/library/blbushisms.htm.

There are plenty of political figures in comedy, but nobody could live up to Bush's reputation. Bush was special because he had many flaws. But every president has flaws; who's to say Obama will be perfect? Are we not expecting too much? Comedian Bill Maher said: "We have been spoiled, first with Bill Clinton and then George Bush. And here's a president now who – he's not stupid, he's not angry, he's not a phony, he's not fat, he's not cheating on his wife. But look, he's going to be the president and we're going to have to get over our nervousness about making fun of a black person. He's not a black person, he's the president."

Shows like "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" will have less to write about because they focus on current politics. With the biggest figure in comedy going away, political cartoonists will have a harder time. Dan Wasserman, a political cartoonist for the Boston Globe, told Teens in Print he was going to miss having both Bush and Cheney to make fun of.

Hate your school lunch? BPS wants to know

By Roxanne Taylor // Staff Writer

Soggy sandwiches, yellow tuna, and plastic macaroni and cheese. Yummy. If it doesn't sound delicious to you, you are familiar with a Boston Public School cafeteria. In high school, we need food that will last through the day. We are not expecting the food to taste like what we get in an expensive restaurant, but does that mean we don't eat lunch anymore? That's not an option because we need to eat after a big test, a long class, or because we missed breakfast. Not all students blame the schools. "The schools are trying to improve, they want to make the lunches healthier, but still they are not very appetizing to students," says Jennifer Decopain, 17, an O'Bryant student.

Do we know what goes into preparing meals for thousands of BPS students? Most likely not because when asked about the food, students like July Merizier, 16, say "many days when I drink the milk, it makes my stomach hurt and I feel

kind of queasy." Most students are unaware of the efforts that go into providing low fat milk, baked goods, snacks, and healthy fruits and vegetables that are largely funded by the US Department of Agriculture. When you look at the facts, you

will be surprised to learn the funding has to be used not only for supplying food, but to hire workers, buy and repair equipment, and purchase necessary supplies for serving and portioning food.

As part of the Healthy Meals Initiative, BPS has acquired help from Chef Kirk Conrad. In partnership with Project Bread, Conrad has worked with BPS Nutrition Services since 2007 on a study in three middle schools to provide kids with healthier alternatives. Along with Conrad and Project Bread, Nutrition Services is making changes in the specifications of where they buy their food to ensure we are getting the quality meals we should. Helen Mont-Ferguson, director of BPS Food and Nutrition Services, explains what they have to go through to make sure the meals are healthy. "We use Meal Pattern Guidelines provided by the USDA to formulate our snack and beverage policy," she says. Along with these changes in progress, she

s no BPS school meals contain more than 30 grams of fat. If this is true, you may be wondering why you have not seen salads for the last 7 months. BPS also has to deal with the fluctuating cost of vegetables in the winter, which is why we don't get greens throughout the year. "If salad ingredients are high in price, we have to put a hold on it until the products reduce in price," says Mont-Ferguson.

Boston schools provide students with healthy meals that meet one-third of the daily nutrition requirements (the guidelines established for the nutrition programs). Schools also have vending machines with baked goods and a la carte meals that include juice and ice cream. With these attempts in a struggling economy, BPS is making efforts to give us nutritious food and options.

So what are we supposed to do to let BPS Food and Nutrition Services know what we think? It's simple. Contact Mont-Ferguson (hmontfer@boston.k12.ma.us), who is interested in talking to students. She says, "We want to open a channel of communication." In some schools, students are already participating in advisory groups up to area supervisors. So when we complain about the quality of lunches we need to take into consideration that Nutrition Services is trying its best. "We want to believe we are making improvements at your schools and other schools," says Mont-Ferguson. So go ahead, take a bite; it may be good for you.

* Diana Hammond contributed to this story.



AP photo by Tatiana Ware

Does an apple a day keep the doctor—or the student—away?

Fashion sense for spring:

focus on guys

By Thanh Nguyen // Staff Writer

Now is the time when boys go shopping for spring because they want to look new and different, but classic at the same time. They are excited to show off their style and debut clothes they've been saving all winter. "I like to wear long socks that match with my shorts and shirt along with nice bright kicks," said Brandon Ngo, 15, of Dorchester.

Spring fashion can also be competitive between teens because they expect everyone else to wear new clothes. I suggest a basic style that is easy to pick out, comfortable to wear, and always classic.

Spring is a beautiful season; the sun is shining, the birds are chirping and you can wear cargo pants or designer jeans with nice shoes like Jordan's and Nike's, and not have to worry about getting them ruined in the snow. Top it off with bold-colored plaid shirts and don't forget to accessorize. Sunglasses are a must, and a nice pair of brand sunglasses such as Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, Prada, or any aviator sunglasses is both functional and fashionable.



▲ AFH photo by Chris Rogers

year the look will be more high-class style encouraging shoppers to buy more expensive designer jeans and shirts. That is when the trend will begin to expand because they seem to intimidate one another.

Spring is also a time when people tend to wear bright colors to represent themselves. Spring can have rainy days where people don't wear their nice clothes. On rainy or cloudy days, guys wear dark dim colors and on sunny days, they wear bright colors to reflect their moods. "I like to wear sweats with a white tee when it's ugly out and new clothes when it's nice out because I want people to see my outfit," said Jim Tran, 16, of Dorchester.

Fashion is not only happening this spring but every season of the year. But spring in Boston makes people really want to show off after the dark months of winter. Males are already beginning to wear skinny jeans and plaid scarves (a new look this year from Urban Outfitters) in thin fabrics such as gauze. They can also find more street wear designs with impressive logos at Karmaloop, such as Crooks and Castles, Diamond Supply, Stussy, and LRG. Prices on these brands are worth it if you want to look good, so dress up and show your style!

Plaid is the in look for guys this spring.



Books of gold last for centuries

By Natalyn Yu // Staff Writer

The books presented to us at school are gold. They present real life conflicts with complex plots. Books like “Les Misérables” and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” make you think, and are filled with unexpected events, elements of a good movie. “For me to actually like a book, it needs to have an interesting plot and be written in a style that isn’t hard to follow,” says Nicole Estevez, 18, a student at Boston Latin School.

When students think of Shakespeare they either roll their eyes or sigh, because his work is hard to understand. However, there’s proof that Shakespeare’s plots aren’t boring. “She’s the Man” was adapted from Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” and “Romeo and Juliet” is universally known. Shakespeare’s plays were never meant to be read; they were meant to be performed. In Shakespeare’s time, the books would have been boring to those people.

It’s hard to get into a book when you must “read chapter nine” and get it done quickly so you have time to do other homework. Books would be much more interesting to students if they were not regarded as school books. Teens tend to be more reluctant to do things when they are required, such as being forced to clean your room versus cleaning your room because you want to.

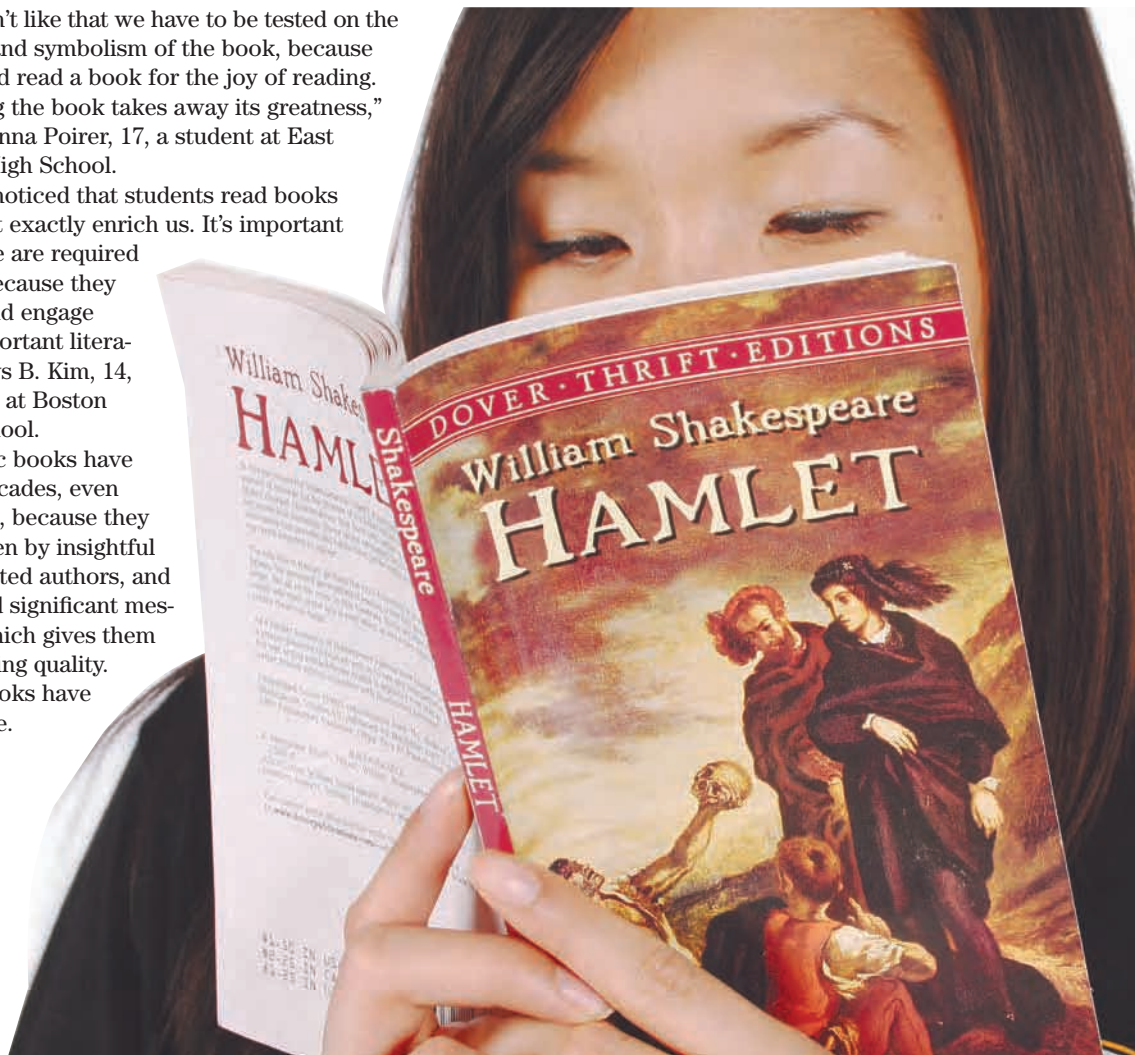
These books have made it through time, which wouldn’t have happened if they were irrelevant. They’re great books because they have a deeper meaning, as opposed to books that simply state exactly what happened.

“The Great Gatsby,” for example, is a book about a long lost love relationship doomed to end badly. When we’re in English class, we talk about social class differences and the American Dream. “I defi-

nately don’t like that we have to be tested on the context and symbolism of the book, because we should read a book for the joy of reading. Analyzing the book takes away its greatness,” says Brianna Poirer, 17, a student at East Boston High School.

“I’ve noticed that students read books that don’t exactly enrich us. It’s important that there are required books, because they enrich and engage us in important literature,” says B. Kim, 14, a student at Boston Latin School.

Classic books have lasted decades, even centuries, because they are written by insightful and talented authors, and they send significant messages, which gives them an enduring quality. These books have substance.



Classic literature endures.

“Twilight”: Movie vs. Book

By LaDonya Buchanan // Staff Writer

“Twilight” seems to be the best book of the new millennium for teens. Everywhere I turn, I see a peer either with “Twilight” the book or one of the sequels -“New Moon,” “Eclipse,” or “Breaking Dawn.” Everyone is talking about what they want to happen next for the series characters.

In case you don’t know, “Twilight” is a book written by Stephenie Meyer about a “vegetarian” vampire family that only drinks the blood of animals to avoid killing humans to feed. The main characters, Bella Swan and Edward Cullen, are high school students who live in the small town of Forks, Washington. Bella has recently moved to Forks with her dad to attend school where she meets Edward. He was created by his “adopted” father, Carlisle, and has four created siblings: Jasper, Alice, Rosalie, and Emmett. Bella and Edward are teenagers in love but the twist is that Edward is immortal so he has been a teenager for 104 years. Crazy, right?

Now, I read ethnic fiction so this is not a book I would normally choose, but to my surprise, I liked it. I liked that something so unreal would have me thinking that vampires really exist and might live next door but we don’t know it.

This is what makes “Twilight” popular. So it was no surprise to hear the movie version was coming. I rushed to read the book so I would be in the know when the movie came out. I wondered, “What will the movie bring? Will it be as big a hit as the book?”

I expected it to be the movie of the year because the book was such a huge hit. My friend Shirley Fajardo, 16, from the John D. O’Bryant School of Science and Mathematics, said “I went crazy and put it on every kind of calendar I had.” It was only a matter of time before my questions were answered.

After viewing the movie, I was disappointed and didn’t understand why. Were my expectations too high? Did I look at the movie with the wrong frame of mind? To

answer those questions, I talked with a couple of my peers who read the book and saw the movie. I wanted to see if other people felt the way I felt about the making of a good book into a half-effort movie.

Fajardo said, “The movie could’ve been better if it had more stuff that was in the book. They changed scenes too much and the movie was too short.” I agreed. Kimberly Chun, 16, also of John D. O’Bryant said, “The movie should have been as long as Harry Potter since the books are about the same length.”

I would say I understand why the movie was the way it was because according to a Boston Globe article on November 21, 2008, Catherine Hardwicke, the director of “Twilight” the movie, had to “walk a wickedly smart line between indulging the corn and keeping her distance.” This means she wanted to make the book a movie, but she had to make it look more like a movie than a book. She left out some of the most important scenes of the book. But who knows? Maybe it was hard to make those scenes visual.

The book opens your imagination. Bella and Edward have a mature relationship without being too mature. The book also describes deeply what goes on in every scene. The movie, however, shows only brief scenes of some of the most important parts of the book; that took away the excitement I was hoping for going into that movie theater. The way the movie introduced the vicious vampires that later attack Bella, for example, was nothing like in the book. The movie made you wonder, “What do these vampires have to do with the Cullen family? Do they know these people?”

Chun said, “Teens should read the book because it’s sweet and interesting and it will give you another perspective of teen love. [But] don’t watch the movie because all you would think about is comparing it to the book.”

BPS students need to know about school funding cuts

By Damien Leach // Contributing Writer

It is important for students to be aware of the budget cuts targeting education. Electives such as foreign languages are being cut and new teachers are being laid off because of the recession. After-school programs are on the cut list. With these cuts, we envision that all schools within the district will only offer required classes including math, English, history, and science. BSAC believes students will end up leaving their current schools and transfer to ones closer to home since there would be no difference in opportunities for their specific interest. Mayor Menino secured \$10 million for BPS to help with the deficit last year. What will happen this year?

The biggest solution the mayor suggested to BSAC in January was to spread the word about wage freezes for all union employees who serve the city. In his State of the City Address, Menino said, "If everyone has a wage freeze, \$55 million can be accumulated." If teachers agree on wage freezes, fewer teachers will be laid off and hopefully we can keep some electives. The only obstacle the city faces when mandating wage freezes is the union's contract, which states an agreement for salaries.

However this problem is currently being addressed. Should the BTU consider wage freezes? What do you think?

We shouldn't wait until BPS schools end up without electives due to funding cuts. Spread the word about wage freezes by asking your teachers how they feel. Speak to your legislators and state representatives. Specifically, the next step BSAC is taking to make a difference is meeting with state official Jennifer Cruickshank to learn how to lobby and communicate directly with representatives. We are also meeting with John McDonough, BPS chief financial officer, and Lisa Signori, city chief financial officer, to discuss alternatives to budget cuts and to include student voices in this process. Students may have recommendations for cuts that BPS may not have considered. We recommend all students attend school and city meetings and contribute to the redirection of what is being cut out of your schools.

To learn more, or to become part of BSAC, contact BSAC coordinator, Maria I. Ortiz at 617-635-8079, ext.104, or e-mail mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

Helping ESL students achieve their goals

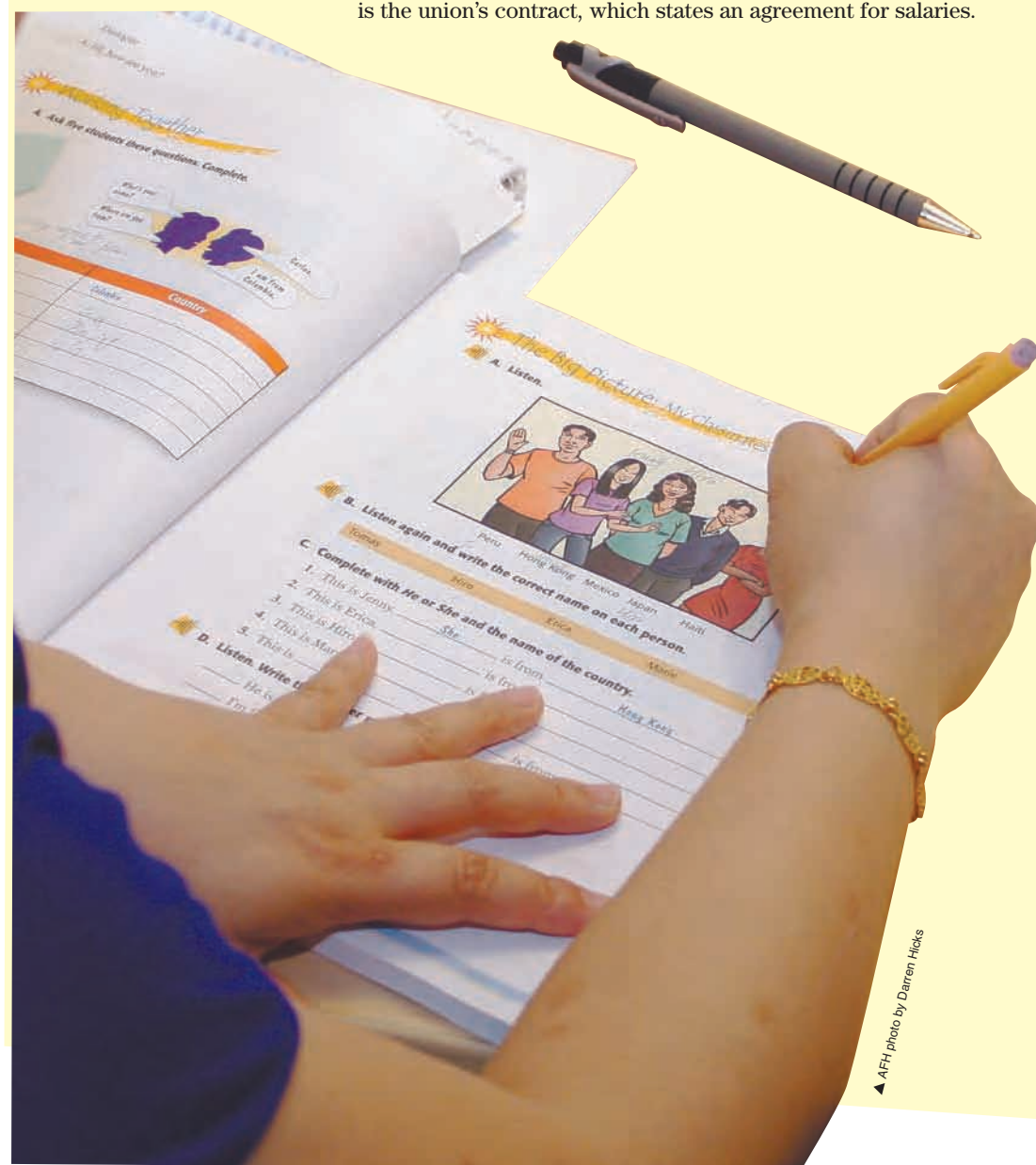
By Martial Ngankam // Contributing Writer

Last year a study by the Parthenon Group determined that ESL students 16 and older in Boston Public Schools are especially likely to drop out of school. There are many reasons why students drop out. Some decide to get a job; others are frustrated with school and impatient with learning English.

Students who immigrate to the US feel lost in Boston. In the classroom, they have to socialize with other students who are younger. Often, immigrant students are kept back a class due to their English speaking level. Kevin Kamadjou, 20, from Togo and a student at Boston International High School said, "It feels like the world is ending."

Jean Alain, 20, was a student at Brighton High School and a native of Gabon. As an ESL student, he said age can be a factor. This can be frustrating because most ESL students feel as though they have already learned many of the things they are asked to learn again. Alain dropped out of school to get a job. "As the first born of the family I have responsibilities so I have to find other outlets," he said.

Meanwhile, Bernard Makaratsa, 18, originally from Kenya, says he had a difficult time learning to speak English. Classmates teased him because he couldn't read as well as they did. His accent was strong. From that time, he never read out loud in a classroom. He argues that if the other students made ESL students feel more comfortable, they wouldn't be so reluctant. Some say they won't ask questions or share their opinions once they have been teased.



▲ AFH photo by Darren Hicks

Borise Kankeu, 16, is from Cameroon. His concerns are that teachers fail to understand that the methods of learning aren't the same as what ESL students are used to. He believes there are basic concepts that the school system must understand. ESL students experience difficulty with numbers, the alphabet, sentence structure, vocabulary, the measurement system, and grammar. He said it's not fair for ESL students who have to take the same tests, such as MCAS, as native English speakers. ESL students do not only have to learn math, physics, and US history; they have to learn English too. If teachers would change their methods, it "will help us be eager and look forward to participating in school," Kankeu said.

Some ESL students drop out of school because they feel they are treated younger than they are. Many BPS teens come from other countries and are surprised to discover the freedom they had at home is not available here. Uche Chima, 19, from Nigeria and a student at Boston Community Leadership Academy, said he "has to change myself and become another person regardless of the law." Chima grew up in Africa and Italy before moving here with his family in 2007. He mentioned he was "clubbing at a young age. I started buying cigarettes and alcohol....They never asked for my ID, neither did they question me." After arriving here, everything changed. The drinking age is 21. The clubs are

mostly for adults 21 and over but rarely for adults 18 and up. An ID is needed for everything. He felt angry at the American system. In his country, he was already considered a grown man, which meant he assumed all of his responsibilities and at the same time was able to drink and go clubbing as he pleased. At school he has a hard time keeping his energy and determination to graduate.

Melissa Vera, 16, from Cameroon was a student at Boston English High School. She left her homeland at age 11. She lives in the US with her cousin, who is not involved in her life. She has to work in order to provide her living. She said, "Students in Africa will die for the chance to get an education." Even though she feels this way, she dropped out of school, but today she is in a nursing program.

Many children in Third World countries don't get the opportunity Americans have. Sometimes ESL students are amazed with the American culture and some make wrong decisions. Often the guidance the ESL students need from parents is neither available nor sufficient. And so they try to fit in the system in the way they feel they know best. Some try to act cool, others are not cooperative, they don't do their work properly, and others give into peer pressure to fit in.

If only I had my Posse with me

By Sandy Liang // Staff Writer

Think you can't get into college? People from the Posse Foundation don't agree. Few people know the options available in Boston for making the college route easier. There are many programs to help students, and Posse is one of them. Here's the in-depth on one student whose story starts in Somalia and ends with a scholarship.

Posse is a college access program with sites in Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. The program has 33 partnerships with colleges and universities who award Posse Scholars four year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. Students agree: In this down economy, a good education for free is invaluable.

Posse's partner colleges and universities include Bryn Mawr College, Centre College, Hamilton College, Denison University, and Union College. The program selects urban high school students and gives them the opportunity to reach their potential by placing them in a Posse of 10 students. Within the Posse, students help one another as they enter college.

Abdi Ali, 18, a senior from East Boston High, came to the United States in 2006. In Somalia, he was an excellent student and leader and was involved with his community. In the US, Posse had been suggested to Ali by his English teacher, who felt he deserved the opportunity and had the qualities for the program. Ali inquired and when he decided to apply, he received three nominations.

"It was a great challenge [trying to get into Posse]. We've come a long way and we had a lot of fun and good times," said Ali. The application process involves three major interviews. In the first, Posse staff observe and look for displays of leadership and communication skills. Out of 1,500 applicants, 61 students are chosen as semi-finalists. Ali said the process was challenging and competitive. To those not accepted, he wishes

them "the best of luck, they were great people as well."

Although the application process can be challenging, the rewards are immense. As Posse scholars, students receive academic and social training. Ali said he is "shaping the skills that [he] will use, not only in college, but for the rest of [his] life." As an example, he explains, "Today, [his Posse] came together to brainstorm and to learn more about each other and about the guidelines on how to communicate effectively, how to trust each other and how to be a leader... the time goes by so fast and it is so much fun... the people at Posse are very excited, very interesting, friendly, supportive people."

Once scholars are in college, Ali says "there is a mentor program that gives trainings and [the mentors] will be there, and walk you through the steps, backing you up. I expect college to be challenging and of course, there will be times when there are ups and downs, but I have to move and be strong." Your posse is in the same college as you. Once a week, you meet to see how everyone's doing, and provide support. Says Ali, "the goal is to make sure everyone graduates and succeeds."

Ali will attend Denison University next year and his "primary goal is to be a medical doctor, traveling around the world, especially to Africa to give back...or a human rights advocate" to help voices be heard, he said.

If you were given the chance for a full tuition scholarship at a good college, unlimited support, and the best preparation, wouldn't you take it?

* Carly Kraft contributed to this story.



▲ AFH photo by Shihua King



Abdi Ali is a Posse scholar

▲ Photo by Posse Foundation



Viewing the Inaugural



▲ AP artwork by Claudia De Pianto Vicini

Students in the 9th and 10th grade AVID program (Achievement via Individual Determination) at Urban Science Academy visited Howard University during the inauguration of President Obama. Not only did they witness a historic event — they also gained encouraging perspectives on college.

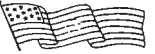
"To sum up this trip, it was fantastic! I had a lot of fun and it was a great experience. If I had a chance, I would do it again and recommend it to others. I met a lot of new people, and became closer friends to the people on the trip whom I already knew. Also, I know that being in D.C. during the inauguration and being able to travel into Washington, after the crowd died down to see the parade and the remnants of history being made, will be a day to remember for the rest of my life. To this day, it's still hard to believe I was there!"

- Ateana Swaby, 15

"After recovering from President Obama's speech, we had to go around interviewing people on what their opinions were on Obama and college life in general for students of color. We encountered people from other schools who had lived in different places in the United States. We were struck by how many people came out to celebrate this historic day who were from outside the US. We weren't the only ones proud of our country and saw hope in President Obama's example.

Are we ready for an African-American President? Will he really do as he says he would? Can he actually be the one to change the negatives left behind by Bush into positives? America, I guess we will just have to wait and see if he's truly a man of his word. After all, everything changes with time and that time is taking place right now."

-Chelsea Rush, 16



Students from Urban Science Academy show their support for President Obama at Howard University in January.

▲ Photo courtesy of Urban Science Academy

from Howard University

"When I stepped on the streets of Washington, D.C for the first time, I was shocked by what I saw. Every corner, every shirt, every song spilled Obama. 'This is history!' people were screaming. There was so much emotion. Instead of sharing in their tears of joy as I would see in many people's eyes, I felt nothing, except a casual day in the streets of a foreign place. This feeling continued until we walked to Howard University and settled into the dorms... The next day was the inauguration. It was the most chaotic day I have ever witnessed. I heard that the college students at Howard left at 3 a.m. to stand among the crowd to see Barack Obama become president...It was bone-chillingly cold and with all the over-crowding in the train station, there was an issue of people being safe. Some students who attempted to go told us we were better off staying on campus as there was this incident on the Metro (Washington D.C.'s subway) in which someone was rumored to get pushed onto the train tracks. Our teacher would see it as a particular challenge to keep us all together, let alone get on one train together. Despite some disappointment from us, she decided we were not going to go to the inauguration. Instead we were going to go into Howard's auditorium and watch it there being projected on a big screen with the crowd of college staff and students and other people in the community."

-Thalia Blanco, 15

"Overall, what I took from the experience is that all those girls were no different than me. I know I can choose to be average or can I can push myself a little harder so that I am not one of those who just passes by. This trip inspired me to do my best. Obama didn't become president because he was content being average and just getting by. He forced himself to do as well as he could and look at where he is today. Life is too short to let valuable time and opportunities pass by. This is the biggest message I took from the trip to D.C."

- Akeema Charles, 16

"While at Howard, not only did we stay in a dorm but we also watched the presidential inauguration in the Cramton Auditorium with a large crowd of college students. During our visit, our teacher gave us the assignment to talk to as many students as we could so we could gather different perspectives about college life and Obama becoming the first black president. We captured many interviews on a flip camera that we are currently working on piecing together to play back for our school.

During the interviews, I was struck by how friendly and approachable many of the college students were. After the interviews and looking back on them, it seems like the students at Howard were very content with the quality of education they were receiving and knowledgeable about the political issues that would be important for Obama to deal that affect the world they would be working in after college."

-Maria Goncalves, 16

"When I arrived [at Howard University] I saw people hanging around looking like regular students in Boston! They wore urban clothes and used slang, and instead of being stuck up, they were outgoing and friendly. They seemed to know how to prioritize their academics and have fun at the same time. Being there during the inauguration was especially interesting to watch because everyone was amped and there were many activities going on from basketball games, to deep political discussions, to an on-campus gala, to a symposium featuring black celebrities like Spike Lee, Queen Latifah, and Ludacris, to watching the inauguration in the auditorium on a big screen. Being around all that was positive. It helped me see that Howard was a little utopia. It brought people together to celebrate a historical moment. Everyone was about hope and celebration. Also, it's not that often you get to see a bunch of black people, some who don't know each other, get together and show a deep concern for the community and inspire others to do their best.

Overall, one thing I learned about myself that reminds me of Obama and many of the college friends I made at Howard is that we have to work together and uplift each other so we don't get discouraged when things are tough. In an urban setting, life for us students, particularly young black teens like myself, is full of bad distractions that keep us from doing the things we need to get into college. Also, as a student, I would recommend all students go and visit at least one college and stay on campus to get a good understanding of the life there."

- Muller Mirville, 14

AT-HOME DRUG TESTS: parental prying or concern?

By Sarah Blanchette // Senior Editor



▲ AFH photo by Haiden Hodgson

You believe you have given your parents every reason to trust you: you get decent grades, come in every night before curfew, have nice friends, and, for the most part, follow their rules. However, with all the dangers and pressures in the world, it is easy to understand why your parents may still have doubts. You may believe they are paranoid, while they call their actions sensible. This may be why at-home drug testing has risen dramatically in popularity over the last couple of years. As of October 2006, two out of every three parents agreed they would consider drug testing their kids, according to a national survey of 2,064 parents by MSNBC.

There are at-home drug testing kits available everywhere from Rite Aid to the Internet. Prices range from about \$5 to \$200. These kits can test for specified drugs, or an entire range. Some kits need hair samples while others test urine or even blood. Of course, the specific type of kit used will affect accuracy, the number of drugs that can be tested for, and how long it will take to get results (some of the more expensive tests have to be mailed in to a lab). At Home Drug Test manufactured by Pharmatech promises accurate results within 10 minutes.

There are more brands available, and each one is different, with different price ranges available. Generally, the more expensive the kit, the more drugs it tests for.

While many parents believe that under their roof, they are allowed to monitor their children's actions, teens see this as a way to shatter any trust that exists between them

if you fail, then they'll probably flip out and send you to rehab or something." Dennis Shipley, 18, of Odyssey High School, has never been tested, but like most teens, he has strong opinions on the topic. "I would feel really uncomfortable if my parents wanted to test me. I think that unless you did something really out of line, it just isn't necessary, you know? It seems like a betrayal of trust." He also added, "I can see where they are coming from; they want their kids to be safe and everything, but there must be better ways to protect your kid. Personally, I would be upset."

Parents may believe they are outsmarting their technologically advanced teens by buying these tests, but with at home drug tests there is a counterpart promising to get the drugs "out of your system." In fact, while researching at home drug testing kits, the first hit on Yahoo's search engine was a website named passyourdrugtest.com. Pretty self-explanatory, right? Also, as Dr. Sharon Levy was quoted in a 2007 article on MSNBC.com, "Just drinking two half-liter bottles of plain water will dilute the urine so much that it'll drive detection of substances below detection level." This can give parents a false sense of security, especially if their teen has a serious problem, she said.

Although parents who choose to drug test their kids may have good intentions, they could unintentionally be doing more harm than good. One pitfall of the drug test is that teens who do have a problem may choose to switch to another, often more dangerous drug that the test will not be able to detect. For example, if a teen is currently using marijuana and knows he could be tested in the near future, he may choose to switch to LSD or inhalants to obtain a similar high that will often not be detected by the same test. Levy said, "We (doctors) don't recommend you (parents) threaten your kids to get them not to do things. Threats work a bit, but not in the long term."

So, if your parents pull out that at-home drug testing kit, offer them the old-fashioned approach: talking. Suggest having an upfront conversation about drug use and your feelings and ideas toward it. If you do suggest this, you must keep up your end of the deal and be honest. This is the only way you and your parents can create and keep a trusting relationship. If they insist on testing you, prepare them for any unsatisfactory results they may see, so they know they can trust you more than a test. Even if you know you have nothing to hide, tell them you would prefer to have told them that yourself, and had them believe you. In extenuating circumstances, these tests are necessary, but do not allow them to shatter your bond with your parents.

Brennan Williams
Catholic Memorial School
Title: RAWR
Silver Key



Duncan Eddy
Commonwealth School
Title: Lonely Soul
Silver Key



David Wang
Boston Arts Academy
Title: Self Portrait
Silver Key



Jayson Kimball
Boston College High School
Title: Urban Sunset
Silver Key



scholastic art awards

Cynthia Poon
Boston Latin School
Title: Crushed Can
Silver Key



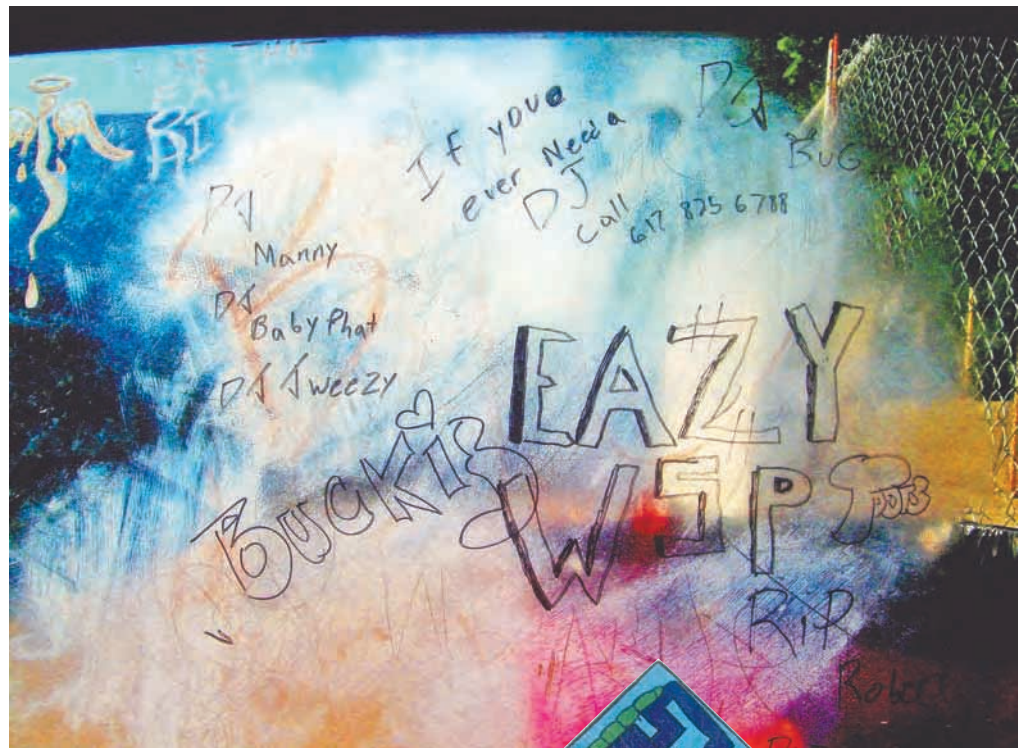
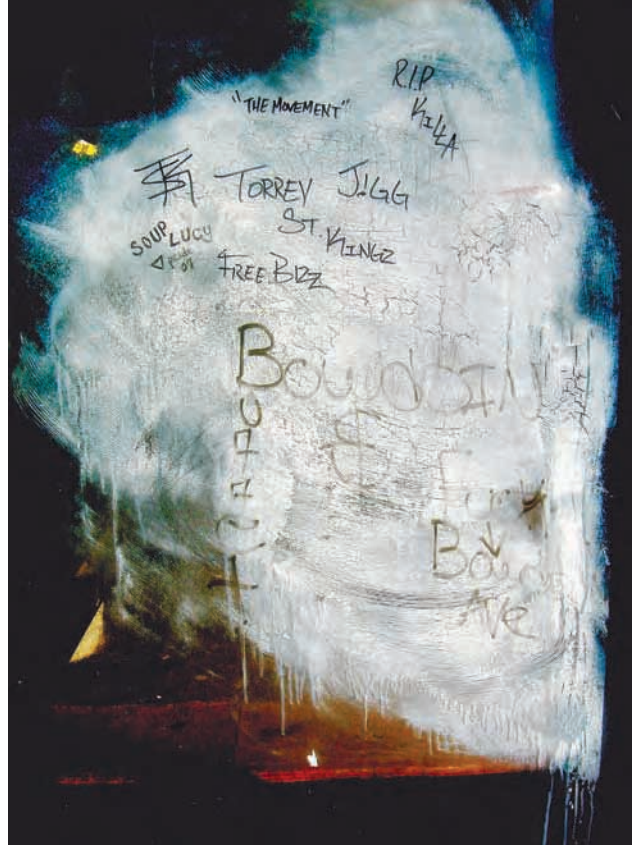
Tommy Tullius
The Roxbury Latin School
Title: A Boy
Gold Key



Ali Ozdemir
Boston Arts Academy
Title: Glass Still Life
Silver Key



John Repucci
Catholic Memorial School
Title: Rwanda
Silver Key



By Stuart Spina // Staff Writer

Who knew you could get there from here? Follow our photo tour into these secret haunts in the city. Once spring comes, you'll be glad you know a few new places to hang.

Photos By Stuart Spina



Boy's special. Need a lineup or a trim? Check out Skip's Barber Shop in Southie.

Lions and tigers, and bears, oh my

Who says there are no bears in Franklin Park? The bear dens are located along the section of the park parallel to Seaver Street. Once an exhibit at the Franklin Park Zoo, they were abandoned in 1954 to cut costs. Today, you may find remnants of cages along with amazing masonry (including a grand stone staircase).



Don't overlook this

The Overlook was one of the few structures designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to be included in the park. Over the years, it has seen a variety of uses, including a site for theatrical performances. The structure burned in the 1940s, leaving behind a collection of stone ruins.



The Neponset River Reservation runs along the southern edge of Dorchester. In addition to bike paths and reeds, there is also a series of murals underneath the Mattapan High Speed Line trestle.

Teens take on human rights through film

By Jennifer Sánchez // Senior Editor

Ever wonder what it would be like if your parents were taken away from you because they were undocumented citizens, even if they worked and paid taxes? Or how much a child in Ghana is being paid to make the jeans you pay \$60 for? Teens can't care about such issues happening across the globe unless they are made aware. Issues like these are worth knowing and caring about because we, the teens in the country, are the future. If we are aware, we can take action.

On Jan. 16, the Youth Producing Change Film Festival, in partnership with Human Rights Watch and Adobe Youth Voices, featured nine short films written and directed by teens that illuminate human rights issues within their communities and across the world. Beginning with their premiere in New York City, the filmmakers have been to Boston, and will continue on to London and San Francisco screening their personal stories.

Just because you missed the screening at the Museum of Fine Arts doesn't mean you can't get involved. With so many forms of expression available, these teens chose film to deliver their messages, like we do with writing at T.i.P. Some films used still pictures and narration while others had personal interviews and footage. Topics ranged from the Sept. 11 tragedy to how maids in Senegal, Africa, are treated almost equivalent to slaves.

But knowing what important issues are out there is only the first step. These films ask the viewer to take the next step in doing something to make a difference.

"[I was] looking for my voice and wanted to say something important. People think because we are young we don't think critically about the world," said Sofia Snow, featured in the film, "The Countdown." Working with another Bostonian, Rene Dongo, the two teamed up to depict how the Sept. 11 attacks affected our city and country. The scenes cut back and forth from an airplane flying through the bare sky to an empty playground, always finding the way back to spoken word artist Snow on a rooftop in Boston. By saying something important and filming it, Snow and Dongo are among the teens sharing their personal stories and asking viewers to take action.

Aside from attending the screening, T.i.P. took part in a question and answer session with the stars and filmmakers. Creator Zach Lennon-Simon is now in college but he was 17 at the time his film, "Playing With The Other Tigers," was made. The movie profiles him and his best friend, Amir, in their hometown, New York City. Lennon-Simon's film shows the great friendship he and Amir share before and after Amir is targeted for being Muslim, following Sept. 11. On his inspiration to film his personal issues, Lennon-Simon says: "People [should learn] to think of people for things other than race, religion, or ethnicity."

Each film is passionate and moving, not to mention informative. Each film shares the same goal: to spread awareness and to get youth involved. Covering topics like slavery, sweatshops, and immigration, these films ask you to pay attention to the social problems facing the world. You can help by researching where your clothing is manufactured and how the clothing employer treats the workers. You may find that many employees could be working under forced labor, barely earning a living. In a situation like this, research different manufacturers or designer clothing makers that don't take advantage of their employees or produce their materials in what is often referred to as sweatshops. Help convince your friends to buy only from these companies.

Bring the films (they are all on youtube.com) into your homes and classrooms by alerting those around you. Become aware by exploring opportunities within your community that allow you to become involved with local and international projects. Join teens like these across the globe who are working to improve their communities and environments by addressing significant human rights problems. To get involved visit: hrw.org/iff adobe.com/go/youthvoices.

[GRANDASIA, FROM PAGE 1]

Although the shop is normally closed Mondays, they opened their doors on Martin Luther King Day to give our staff an exclusive peek at the 2009 prom fashions.

Grandasia carries a variety of prom dresses, from fitted and sleek to big and extravagant. They also provide an inventory of customers who bought specific dresses and what high school they go to so you are less likely to be wearing the same dress as another girl from your school. "The key is to find out what the dress is for," said Phi Du, manager. "Grandasia staff wants to make sure wherever your event is, there will not be someone wearing the same dress as you."

Indeed, the day we visited, the sales associates were attentive and helpful, and willing to order a unique dress for each shopper.

The dresses range in price from \$129-\$450 and come in sizes 0 to 16. Alterations take three weeks, but if you are in need of a fix-up, the Grandasia seamstress is flexible around prom season. "Shop early so you know exactly what you want," said Du.

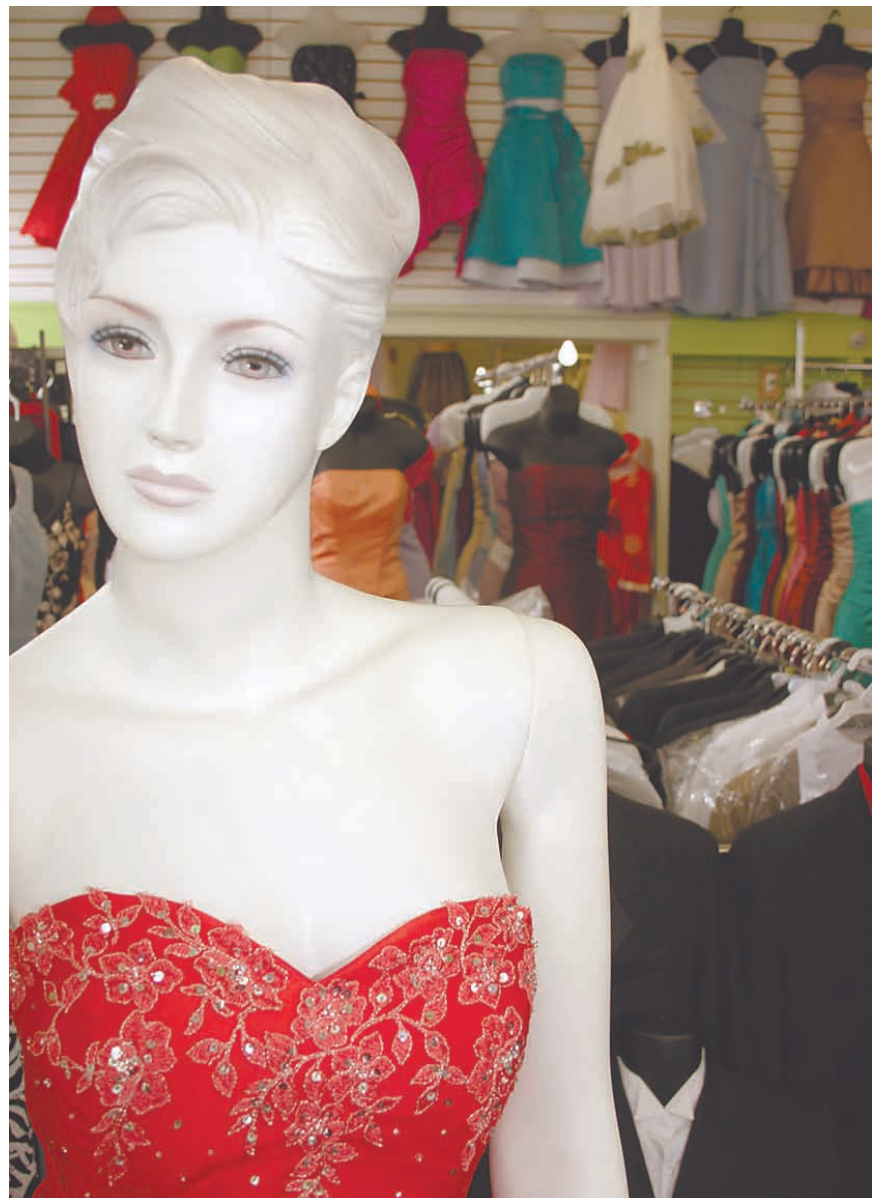
Remember, just because something you see on a mannequin is a dress you would not normally wear, go for it. It's prom season, which only happens once a year. There is no harm in trying something on; it may end up being the dress you dance the night away in.

Grandasia has a unique dress for everyone. One new dress is a fitted black and zebra print with a shimmer finish and criss-cross back made for a dramatic personality. They also carry a fluorescent pink gown with layering and beading for the girly girl. For someone with more simple taste, the store carries short silk, dresses in almost every color and shape.

Grandasia has tuxes, too, as well as formal accessories for guys. Bring your date and the two of you can get outfitted at once.

GET GRAND AT GRANDASIA

The Grandasia shop is located off the Wollaston T Stop on the MBTA Red Line, across from Papa Gino's, at 663 Hancock Street. Check out their website at grandasia.com to look at the wide variety of offerings. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 1 p.m.-7 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 12 p.m.-7 p.m.



▲ AFH photo by Shisha King

MATT DAMON TEAMS UP WITH DR. PAUL FARMER FOR CHANGE



▲ Mark Rosenberg, Globe Photo

JFK Library sponsors

Haiti FORUM

By Ciara Martinez // Peer Editor and
Paige Carruthers // Staff Writer

Do you know where Matt Damon was on Tuesday night, Jan. 27? Not at an award show, not at a flashy bar or exclusive party, not having an interview with “Extra,” not doing anything we might expect an Oscar-winning, downright gorgeous actor to be doing on a week night. Damon was at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Boston sitting on the panel of a public forum discussing, not his latest movie, but how to solve and address the problems of the impoverished nation of Haiti.

Along with Damon were Dr. Paul Farmer, subject of the book “Mountains Beyond Mountains” and founder of Partners in Health (PIH), an organization that has created schools and hospitals in Haiti. Other panelists included Massachusetts state Representative Linda Dorcea-Forry, (D) Brian Concannon, director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, and moderator Amy Goodman. This powerhouse panel was made up of some of the most influential people brought together to discuss a seemingly distant topic for Bostonians: Haiti.

Many of us remember hearing about Haiti in the news in September 2008, when Hurricane Ike devastated the island. Food, clean water, and other basic commodities were virtually inaccessible to Haitians. We were shocked and horrified as we watched on the news as Haitian men and women made “dirt cookies” because there was nothing else to eat. Yet even before Ike did his damage, Haiti was already in turmoil.

For the past several decades, Haiti has been under the rule of violent military leaders. Concannon says of Haiti’s unstable government, “The justice system developed to please whoever was in power...the person with the guns and money.” Not only is Haiti’s government completely unstable, so too is its ecology and education system.

Farmer says, “Haiti has the third most privatized education in Latin America.” This means that people in Haiti are denied the most basic right of public education, something we take for granted in America. Haitian parents are expected to pay for their children’s school supplies, uniforms, and books out of their own pockets, not easy when living in a constant state of fear, hunger, and poverty.

Haiti’s eco-system has fared no better. Its lush landscape is wrecked



▲ Bill Brett, Globe Photo

more and more every year because of deforestation*. Hurricanes hit Haiti often, and when they do, disaster occurs when trees can’t act as a buffer. Mudslides and flooding are common for Haitians. After Ike ripped through, Matt Damon and hip hop artist Wyclef Jean went to Haiti.

Jean and Damon travelled to Haiti with the United Nations making food deliveries to the hurricane survivors. Damon said he could see the desperation for hope in their eyes.

Damon said that Jean, a native of Haiti, is a symbol of hope for Haitians because he has “made it big” but always comes back to bring food, supplies, and hope for change.

Change that President Obama will also bring, said Dorcea-Forry. “I think Obama will tackle the Haiti issue,” she said. “It’s an issue that is long overdue for a solution. We haven’t yet reached out to a nation just 600 miles from our border that so desperately needs help.” Concannon instructed the audience to do three simple things to help our neighbors in Haiti: “Stay informed, stay engaged, and always ask ‘What about Haiti?’”

With Boston having one of the largest Haitian communities, it was only right that Farmer and Damon, two Bostonians, discuss the changes that we can make as a people to improve Haiti’s environment.

Along with the staff of Partners in Health, Farmer is focused on creating better healthcare in places like Haiti, Peru, Russia, USA, Rwanda, Lesotho, and Malawi. PIH has taken matters into their own hands to improve the Haitian society in particular.

Farmer informed the crowd that he would be going back to Haiti soon and that when he returns, “I’ll hear about things like getting kids back in school, what about medical care, what about access to clean water, what about finishing the roads, and above all what about jobs. This same refrain is something that I’ve been hearing for a quarter of a century.” So how does Dr. Farmer face the intense challenges of making Haiti a better place? “I have a great team that works together with me,” said Farmer.

Log on to pih.org to discover ways you can get involved in helping people in need in Haiti as well as closer to home.

**Deforestation: The cutting down and removal of all or most of the trees in a forested area. (dictionary.com)*



It is often said the MBTA does not do much to improve its service. The buses are late, passengers complain, and things seemingly stay the same. The bus you rely on to get to class or your after-school job does not run frequently enough, yet the schedule remains the same. For those of you waiting to see improvements, change is on the way.

In January, the MBTA Board of Directors approved the 2008 Service Plan. The plan evaluates each bus and subway route for efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Proposals to expand or reduce service are also presented in the plan. The approved changes will take effect in several phases, starting with the spring 2009 schedule change this month. Here are some of the major changes planned.

- Routes 01 and 66 will see improved and increased service on weekends.
- It took 45 years, but Route 21 will finally operate after 9 p.m. on weeknights and Saturdays. Service is expected to operate at least until midnight.

SIDETRACK



▲ Photo by Alana Andonian

The action plan

BY STUART SPINA // STAFF WRITER

- Route 28 buses heading to Dudley Station and Mattapan will no longer serve Eliot Square or the Timilty Middle School. Buses will head straight to Dudley Square via Malcolm X Boulevard. Former Route 28 riders near Eliot Square will still be served by Routes 14 and the more direct route may improve reliability.
- An extra bus will be added to Route 16 on Saturday afternoons.
- Route 14 operates on schedule about 42 percent of the time. Though not part of the plan, an attempt to improve reliability on Route 14 will be made with a new revised schedule this spring.

The hope is that many of these changes will take effect this month, in conjunction with the usual quarterly schedule changes. Keep an eye out for the magenta schedules.



▲ Photo by Stuart Spina

Who looks forward to work? Nobody really gets excited over his high school job as a bagger at a grocery store, a fry cook at a fast food restaurant, or a cashier at a clothing store. Well, I have a seasonal high school job. I have it every year from April to October (hopefully). I am a vendor at Fenway Park.

Working at Fenway is a rewarding job. For one, you are pretty much a season ticket holder for as long as you maintain the position. You can go to any Red Sox home game, you get in before the other fans, and you also get paid for doing so. Yet it's not all glorious.

The job demands sweating and yelling. After a day of work, you'll most likely be sore and voiceless. In the summer, get used to walking around carrying a 24 rack of Cokes in weather that reaches the high 90s, sometimes breaking 100. You not only run around but you also scream, "Cotton candy, get your C squared here, cotton candy," while you're gasping for breath and inhaling nothing but humid air. Also, every fan thinks they are a comedian, asking "where's the beer guy?" or "ice cream? I want beer!" after you've walked up 20 rows. Still, it's very much worth the pain. Just drink plenty of water and don't complain.

Instead of thinking about all the work, look at the upside of the job. Aramark vendor Mike Schaaf, 18, works at the park because, "it's really competitive. I thrive in that kind of environment. As tough as some days can be, just the experience of being there makes it pretty great."

Now Fenway feels like home. Sure, every Red Sox fan will tell you they know Fenway Park inside and out, but when you have this job, you know places that many fans never even knew existed (which is exclusive to us yellow-shirt-wearing vendors with the purple badges).

You can apply for this job in February for the season, or you can apply

My dream high school job

BY RYAN WARD // SENIOR STAFF WRITER



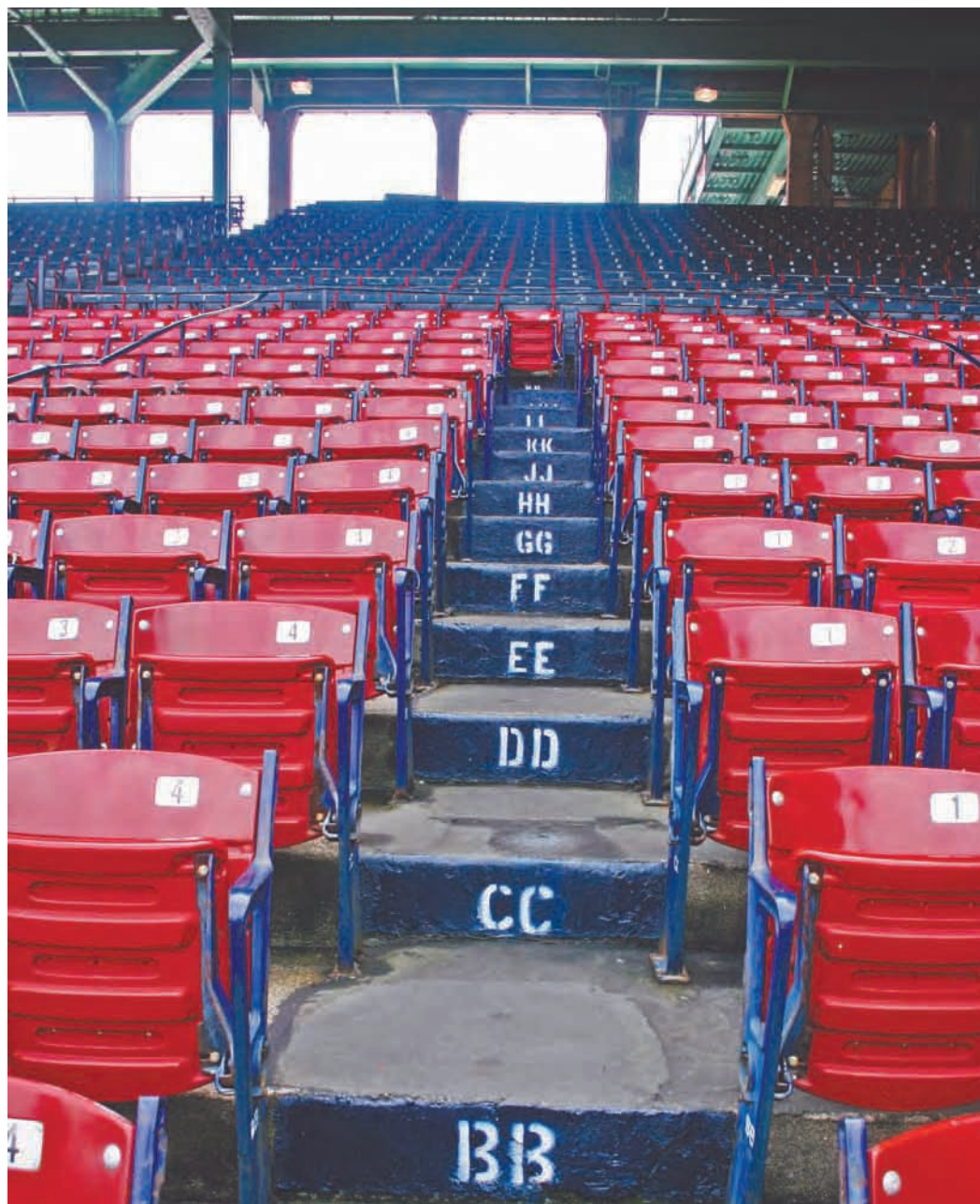
throughout the season. If you aren't the first to get a call back, don't give up. Call the company. Be persistent.

Every Sox fan knows there are 81 home games a year, but if you land this special job, you also get to work concerts and minor league games like "Futures at Fenway." You need to make 50 events to keep the job the next year; otherwise you have to reapply. That means it's completely flexible because you can come in for work any time it is good for you.

Every day you may sell something different because products get picked by draft. In your first year, you might be vendor number 172 out of 200, or higher. During your first year, expect to sell ice cream in April and water when it rains. It will only get better though, because every year you work you get higher on the vendor list.

Employees are paid by commission, at the rate of 14 percent of what you sell. Trust me, it adds up. You also make tips obviously depending on how well you sell, or sometimes it's just where you sell. Don't expect big tips when you're selling out of the bleachers. Once in a while they'll do contests for home stands. The first year vendor who sells the most during that stretch of home games can get a \$100 bonus and same for second-and third-year vendors.

Are you tired of bagging groceries? Then you should come to 4 Yawkey Way and pick up an application for this dream job. They do get a lot of applicants, but it can't hurt to apply. You can also give them a call at 617-536-6683, and ask for your dream job today.



The bleachers at Fenway are empty but soon the fans, and vendors, will return.



The Crüe is back

By Xhersi Laka // Staff Writer

Good news for everyone who is dedicated to the songs of yesterday. Do you guys remember a heavy metal band that originated in Los Angeles in 1981 and brought you the classics like “Home Sweet Home,” “Dr. Feelgood,” and “Shout at the Devil”?

You know who I’m talking about: The world’s most notorious rock band, the gods of heavy metal, the breathtaking, head-banging, hell-bringing Mötley Crüe. They are about to go on the sickest and deadliest tour of their careers – that’s because it’s their most recent tour – The Saints of Los Angeles tour, February 2 through March 18. Unfortunately, they’re not coming to Boston but they will be at Madison Square Garden in New York City on March 16 and at the Verizon Wireless Center, Manchester, N.H., on March 17.

If you don’t know yet who The Crüe is, here are some interesting facts about them. The band was founded by bass guitarist Nikki Sixx and drummer Tommy Lee – ex-husband of “Baywatch” babe Pamela Anderson who were later joined by guitarist Mick Mars and singer Vince Neil. Mötley Crüe has sold somewhere between 40 and 50 million album copies worldwide. They have been nominated for three Grammys, and took home a 1991 American Music Award for “Dr. Feelgood.” As BBC reviewer Tim Nelson said of the record: “Mötley Crüe’s 1989 offering ‘Doctor Feelgood’ was a thoughtful and subtly crafted album that surprised fans by revealing a tender, emphatic, and feeling side to the band.”

This band has often been noted for their hard-living lifestyles; all the members have had numerous brushes with the law, spent time in jail, suffered addictions to alcohol and drugs, and had countless escapades with women. Their ninth studio album, “Saints of Los Angeles,” was released last June

24; that’s what this tour is dedicated to.

In a sign of the band’s resurgence, its new album sold more than 100,000 copies in its first week and a film was dedicated to it. It’s called “The Dirt” and is due to be released later this year. The film is like an autobiography of the band. It talks about their shame and fame since the band was first started. That’s all I’m actually going to say because I don’t want to ruin it for readers.

“They’re one of the greatest bands in the history of hard rock,” said Thomas Tsui, 18, who attends the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. “Even though the band has had its ups and downs over the years, they can, still bring the same over-the-top music that they brought in the 80s.”

Have you ever sat down, dazed and confused, listening to a really great song? If you have, you know what the fuss is all about. You start getting these feelings that you have never experienced before. You start feeling this high, this sweet emotion that blows your mind. You feel your heart beating faster and you just know your blood is boiling hot. Mötley Crüe can bring all this to you not only in four lousy minutes but also for hours and hours when they perform live. That’s why I strongly recommend you go to their concert.

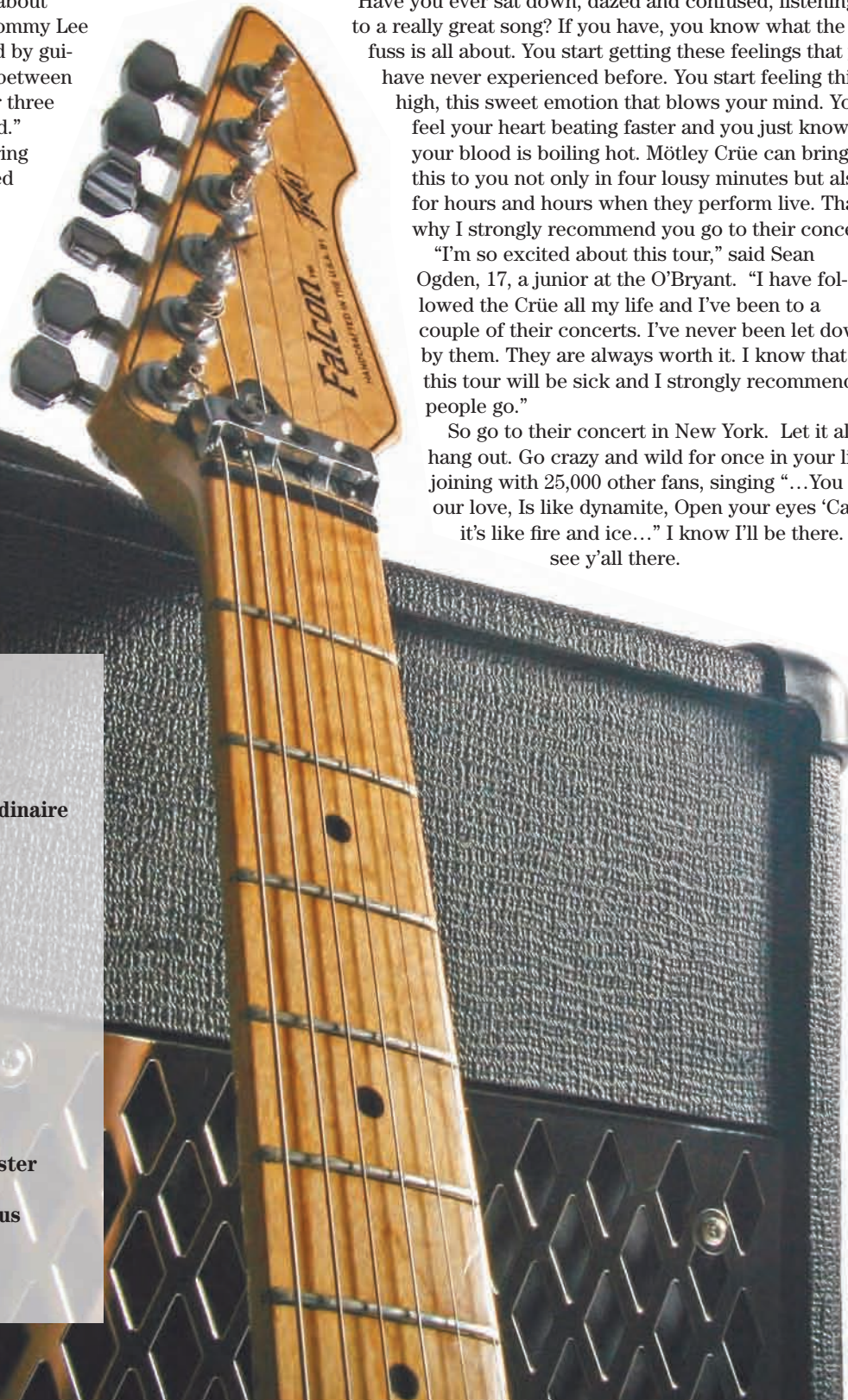
“I’m so excited about this tour,” said Sean Ogden, 17, a junior at the O’Bryant. “I have followed the Crüe all my life and I’ve been to a couple of their concerts. I’ve never been let down by them. They are always worth it. I know that this tour will be sick and I strongly recommend people go.”

So go to their concert in New York. Let it all hang out. Go crazy and wild for once in your life, joining with 25,000 other fans, singing “...You say our love, Is like dynamite, Open your eyes ‘Cause it’s like fire and ice...” I know I’ll be there. I’ll see y’all there.

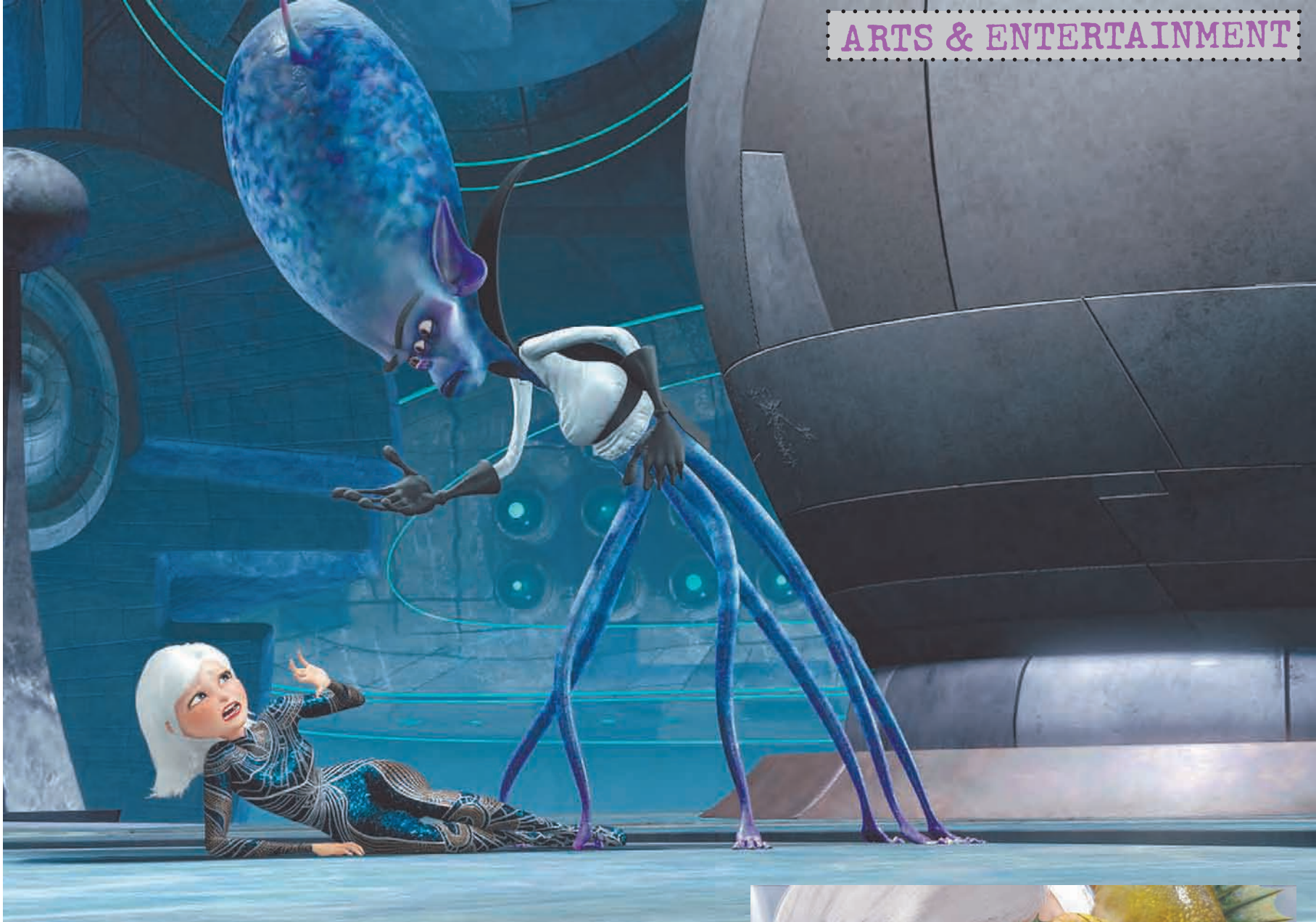
10 best guitarists of all time

By Xhersi Laka // Staff Writer

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 10. Ry Cooder [Black Flag] | Slide-guitarist extraordinaire |
| 9. Randy Rhoads [Ozzy Osbourne] | Speed-metal maniac |
| 8. Eddie Van Halen [Van Halen] | Tapping God |
| 7. Chuck Berry | Roots of Rock ‘n’ Roll |
| 6. Stevie Ray Vaughan | Southern maestro |
| 5. B.B. King | King of the blues |
| 4. Jimmy Page [Led Zeppelin] | No doubleneck geek |
| 3. Eric Clapton | Master of the stratocaster |
| 2. Duane Allman [Allman Brothers Band] | Improvisational genius |
| 1. Jimi Hendrix | Feedback fiend |



▲ AFH Photo



The audience views "Monsters vs. Aliens" through polarized 3D-like glasses.

"Monsters vs. Aliens" stars new technology

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

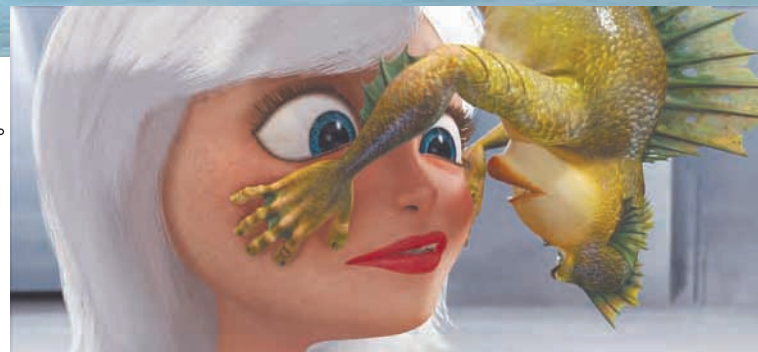
Susan Murphy was a happily engaged, California girl, when on her wedding day, she was hit by a meteor full of space gunk that made her grow to a height of 49 feet, 11 inches. Soon after, she was thrown into a compound with a group of "monsters" formed by the government that includes others such as "Dr. Cockroach Ph.D.," "The Missing Link," "B.O.B.," and "Insectosaurus." But when aliens try to invade the planet, the government reaches into the compound for help to protect earth.

This is the plot of the movie "Monsters vs. Aliens." But the plot is irrelevant here; the real subject is Intru 3D, a new style of 3D technology. Jeffrey Katzenberg, co-founder of DreamWorks Animation and creator of "Shrek," recently told Teens in Print at a special viewing in Boston that Intru 3D engages "the audience with the movie" instead of making "the movie pop out at you." When watching the movie, rather than lean back trying to avoid what's coming toward you,

you're leaning into the movie, as if you were right there inside of it. Katzenberg says that "once something pops out at you, your main focus becomes that," not the story. With Intru 3D you can enjoy the experience and the movie.

In order to propel the 3D scenes onto the screen, the selected theaters require a projector capable of such. People will be able to view this with polarized glasses, but the glasses will be difficult for people with prescription lenses. This isn't any 3D movie where you can just put the 3D glasses over your own. If this does become a big style of movie, they'll need a better way of seeing it. Fortunately, Katzenberg has contacted a major Italian optical company and told them that he thinks this is going to be big. They are developing prescription polarized glasses, although he hasn't released when this will happen or where they will be sold.

Katzenberg thinks this will be a new breakthrough



in movies, like CGI animation (Computer Generated Imagery) was when "Toy Story" came out. Except Intru 3D might not be available in the home any time soon. In fact, Katzenberg hopes that Intru 3D will "bring back the audience" if it stays theater exclusive. He also hopes this might make it more difficult to bootleg. DreamWorks Animation worked with scientists to accomplish this, and they hope it pays off.

I bet it will. I liked the 30 minutes of "Monsters vs. Aliens" I saw. The film was humorous and action packed. It has an all-star cast, and the 3D was amazing. For the first minute or two, the 3D seemed flashy and dizzying, but I got used to it fast. Soon, I barely noticed I was watching a 3D movie; I felt like I was inside it. I recommend it, and I will go see the full version myself. This movie will be playing in more than 5,000 cinemas. For additional information on "Monsters vs. Aliens," go to monstersvsaliens.com.



Illustrating my feelings

By Jasmine Hall // Contributing Writer

Another school year had come and gone. It was mid July. The girl sat in her room, quiet and alone, tears running down her face. The curtains were closed, leaving the small room dark and allowing it to seem lonelier. But the loneliness was not just in the room, it was in the girl. She had just moved away from the only home and friends she had known all her life into the heart of the city. She wasn't far from her quiet little town, but without a car, she couldn't get back.

Summer continued to creep away slowly. By the time August had arrived, her whole family had noticed how alone she had been. Her sister, five years older, had taken notice the most and had an idea. One day her sister calmly entered her room and said, "If you need something to do, come with me. I wanna show you something I think you might like." The simple words cut through the air of the dark room bringing with them a newfound sense of hope. The lonely girl finally felt, for the first time in a while, that she was not wasting her time. She quickly followed her sister, but was surprised they were going only across the hall to the computer. "What can we do on the computer without Internet?" she asked.

Her sister never answered. She just proceeded to open up Paint Shop and show her the ins and outs of the program. She showed her how to make blends and use layers. They were at the computer looking into everything until their eyes were bright red and watery.

I am that girl. Over the course of the summer, what my sister taught me helped me to discover something about myself. Every day we went through and she taught me something else. She not only showed me how to use it, she gave me ideas as to just how much I could use my new

skills. As I was learning I felt renewed. This was truly a hidden gem. It was as if a door I never knew about opened giving me new possibilities, hopes, and dreams. I finally felt as though I could be someone with a voice, and opinions, and thoughts that mattered. She gave me a sense of self and pride. She gave me direction and saved me from being the lost cause I thought I would be.

It may seem to have been a small thing that she did for me that summer, but she changed me. I thought I was a lost cause and therefore, I was. Nobody could tell me anything. I didn't do anything because I felt no need to. My grades were all over the place and I often just chose not to go to school.

She motivated me to make nice graphics and the motivation translated into every aspect of my life. She made me feel as though I was a unique individual. I no longer felt a need to conform to what others were doing in order to fit in. I finally began to see where I wanted to be and what I wanted to be doing in the future.

That summer was five years ago. I have used graphic design to express myself in so many ways. I have been able, through graphics, to express my opinions and feelings on anything that affects me at that particular point in time. Graphic design has helped me to get through many obstacles. I have used my skills to illustrate my feelings on issues as important as the election, to something as trivial as the newest music, to the great sadness of my grandmother's death, to the excitement of reconnecting with lost friends.

Using graphic design, I want to be able to help others achieve their dreams, at the same time as I would be achieving mine. I could make a graphic or an advertisement or flier to help them to get their dreams across to the public. It is important to me that I would be helping others who can't necessarily do the things I can.

I also now have the confidence to express with words to others how I feel. I no longer feel a need to hold back my thoughts because of how others may respond. I feel as though I can be an individual and bring with me a strong personality into any group. I see myself as someone who can be a valued member of society because I am valuable.

Imagine

getting into college because

an admissions officer loved

your essay. It happens all

the time. Here are excerpts of

essays written by local teens.

Living with an illness

By Carla Bethancourt // Contributing Writer

Three months were up and it was time for my A1C. As I entered Children's Hospital, I shivered from anxiety knowing my results were not going to be good because I had not been taking care of myself. I wondered what the doctor would say.

"Carla Bethancourt." My name was called. My legs trembled while I walked towards the doctor and down the hall to the room. My eyes watered and I became nervous for I knew she had bad news by the worried look on her face. She said, "Carla, your A1C is extremely high and you are at risk." The A1C test measures your average blood sugar levels over the past three months. She began to tell me things such as, "Carla, you can have a stroke, or you can go blind." She told me the truth so that I could start taking care of myself even though I already knew the truth about what I had been exposing myself to. I have had difficulties controlling my diabetes because of the struggles that I go through everyday in my life.

For me, diabetes is a tough illness to live with. I have to think wisely about the decisions I make. Making the right or wrong choice could cost me my life. I get really stressed and this feeling only makes me want to give up in life. I constantly ask myself, "Can I get through this?" Sometimes I say "yes" but then sometimes I do not know what is going to happen next, because I am already tired of dealing with the same things over and over again. Some days are easier than others. I feel better when I decide to take my medication but there is so much more. I have to think about my medication, diet, and my health in general. Additionally, I have to think about school, my mother, and house chores. It aggravates me because I am always worrying about something.

When I am by myself I think about it and say, "If I want to be alive, have fun and do everything I want to, I have to take care of myself," and that is what keeps me going each day. But when I am with my family and friends I completely forget about my disease and feel free to do anything. During my spare time, there have come times that I do not even put my medication on. I am supposed to check my blood level four times a day and inject insulin four times a day. When I do not do it, I think about the consequences, but since I see that I am still alive and that nothing has happened to me, I continue to do it.

For the past years, diabetes has made school difficult for me to attend because of high blood sugar. Having my body full of insulin makes me very drowsy, which makes it impossible for me to concentrate in class. Instead of going to school, I stayed home and tried to stabilize my blood sugar or went to the doctor's office to make changes to my medication. I have had a lot of absences because I was not managing my health correctly, which made me very sick. Being sick made it hard for me to take care of tasks on my own.

Now three months have passed and I have an appointment coming up. I have confidence that my results will be better than the previous results because now I am taking care of myself and I feel much better. My attendance in school has improved and now I am concentrating more in all of my classes, due to my health getting better.

When I set my mind to do something for the better, I am confident I can achieve it. What I learned through this experience is that I should never give up no matter what the situation is because I know I am a very strong and determined person.

Someone who believed in me when I didn't

By Garlene Innocent // Contributing Writer

A member of my household actually said to me, "I don't believe you will finish high school, go to college, and actually do something good with your life." When he said that, I thought he was joking. Then I asked him why he said that. He said, "Because all the children from Haiti who come to Boston don't always make good decisions to satisfy their parents. They end up dropping out of school, do drugs, become a gang member, or get pregnant at a very young age and they don't even know how to take care of a baby." That's when it hit me. One of the most important people in my house doesn't believe I could be somebody one day. He doesn't believe I can repay him for all he has done for me and will continue doing, and he doesn't believe I can make him proud by finishing school. And he doesn't for one second think I'm not one of the people from Haiti that he is talking about. It hurt me to hear that coming from him.

One day at school, my family member's comments bothered me a lot. I wasn't focused on what I was doing, and I was thinking about giving up. On that same day, my friends kept asking me, "Did something happen?" I couldn't tell them what was going on, so I kept saying, "Nothing," and tried to put a happy face on, but it didn't work. They knew something was wrong. They had never seen me like this before, and I could tell they were worried. I looked mad, sad, and frustrated all at the same time, and my body language only told half the story. I was hurting much more on the inside. I just didn't want to show it because I was in school, and I knew that once people saw me like this, they were going to start asking questions. I don't like when I'm sad and people ask me lots of questions that are hard for me to answer. Inside of me felt like there was this big knot getting tighter and tighter every time someone asked me what was wrong. I felt like I wanted to die.

I didn't care about life anymore and I blamed myself for what was going on. I thought that I didn't do enough to make my family member believe in me in the first place. Every day when I got home it was hard for me to face him without remembering what he had said. Every day after school I kept thinking about not going home and going somewhere else instead to clear my thoughts. What hurt the most was the fact I was going through that whole problem at home, and there was nobody there I could talk to about it.

That same day, one of my teachers saw

that something was bothering me. She called me aside and asked what was wrong. I didn't want to tell her, but she didn't give up easily, which is something I like about her. She kept asking and pushing, so I didn't have any choice but to tell her. And I needed someone to talk to; it was taking all my attention in school and in class. I told her, and she gave me reasons why I should not believe it. But I found it very hard not to. She told me, "Never listen to what anybody tells you about the decisions you make in your life. It's your life, your decisions. You can listen to their opinions, but you can't change just because they don't like what you're doing. You should be the one to know if the decision you make is right for you and you know you can benefit from it. Life is not always easy and decisions are not always easy to make by yourself either. You can tell an adult about it and they will tell you what they think. But you have to be the one to make the final decision." All that she said is true. I should not let someone predict my future for me. I should be the one to do that.

I needed someone to tell me they believed I could do anything I set my mind to. I realized I wasn't going to get it from the person I was expecting to hear it from, since he instead said the opposite of what I needed. As the week passed, I was happier because I got the comfort I needed from someone else, someone who believed in me and thought that I could do anything. My teacher was really happy that she could make me feel better. I was happy that I could share that moment with her, and that she had something to say about it and had the time to listen to my problem. I appreciated everything that she had done for me and will continue doing. She's one of the best teachers I know I can count on her for advice when I need it. I like her so much for always trying to make people feel good about themselves.

What made me believe in myself again was when she said, "Don't always listen to what people tell you or you might miss out on a great opportunity that is waiting for you." That's a lesson I will never forget; it saved me from making the biggest mistake of my life—giving up school and everything else. She said, "If he doesn't believe in you and that you will be successful in life, then you just have to show him by finishing high school, going to college, studying the career you prefer, and being successful at it to make him believe." And that is what I intend to do.

CoMiC sTriP

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

In the five years since Teens in Print started, staffers have suggested a comic strip but few have ventured to make one. There are many steps in the production of a comic, but three teens finally stood up to the challenge.

One fateful Tuesday, staff writer Stuart Spina said, "How about a comic strip for real?" Trevor Ward's head perked in excitement; he had always wanted to make a comic strip. I was also excited due to the fact that I have a bit of skill at illustration. Two weeks later, Ward showed up with a brilliant sketch of a 22-year-old man named Mr. Quibb. Spina took one look, threw the sketch pad on the table, and said, "I like the looks of Quibb." The first T.i.P. comic was on its way.

Brighton's Youth of Boston academy, or BYOB for short, is thought to be a completely normal school, when its principal, Mr. Clutterback, is suddenly fired and Mr. Quibb is hired for the job. But Quibb, being 22, has bitten off more than he can chew, taking on a 7-12 grade school. He's quickly learning that BYOB is not an average school after all.

A comic strip is not easy to make, between the brainstorming, drawing, and editing. After several weeks, we were finished. We felt triumphant. Our designer came in to tell us about the required resolution to put it on newsprint. With everything handed in, we could do nothing but wait for the March paper to see if people like "Quibb." If you do, join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/home.php#group.php?gid=71661176872&ref=ts.



Trevor Ward
Gabriel Ward
Stuart Spina