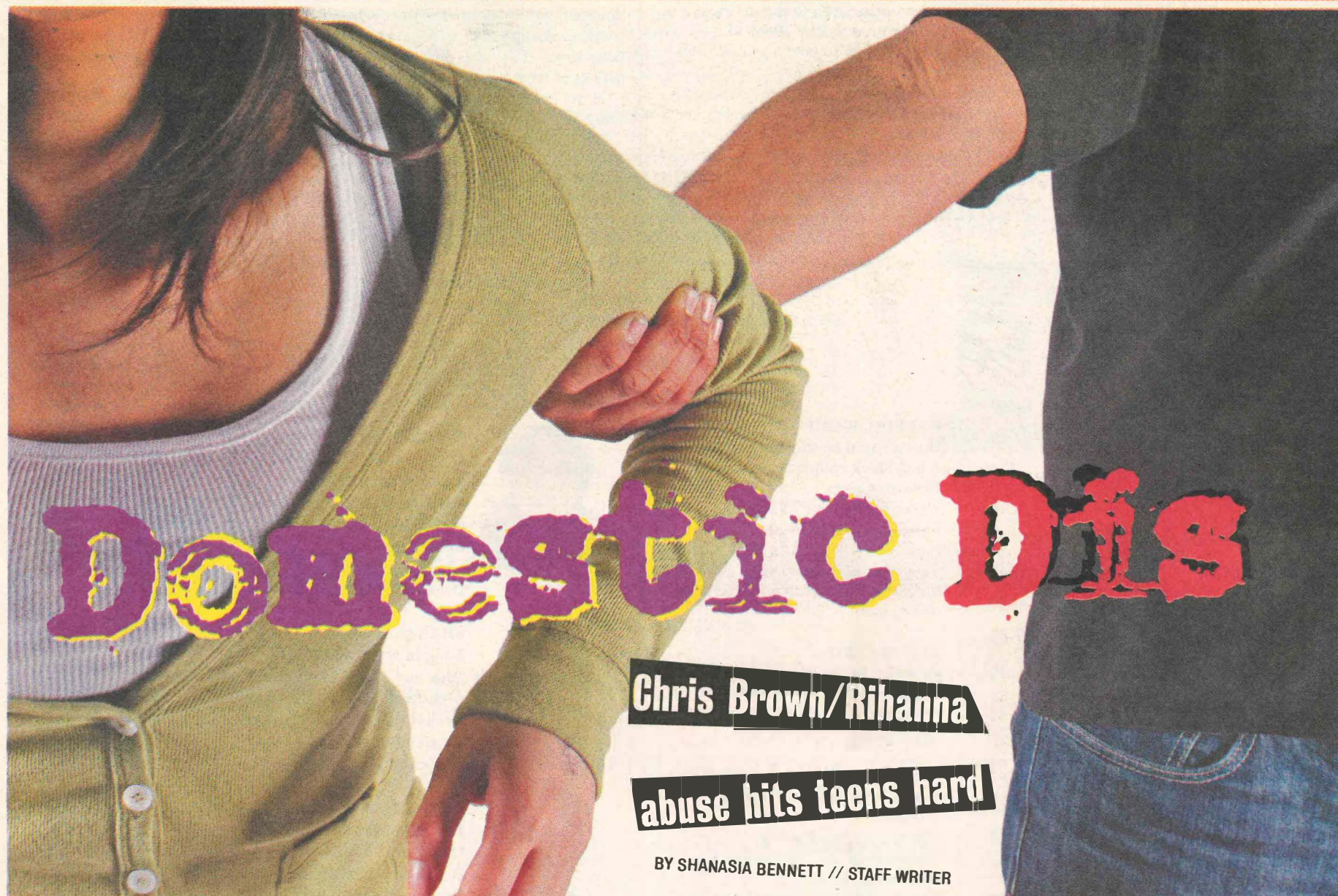


TEENS **in** PRINT

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MAY 2009

TM



Chris Brown/Rihanna

abuse hits teens hard

BY SHANASIA BENNETT // STAFF WRITER

▲ AFH photo by Julia Morgan

Bruised face, busted lip, scratches, and scars. After famous R&B singer Chris Brown allegedly physically abused his girlfriend, pop star Rihanna, in February, it became the talk of young people. He was 19, she was 20. Everyone still seems to be asking the question: "Why did Rihanna take him back?" A survey of 200 Boston young people, ages 12 to 19, taken by the Boston Public Health Commission right after the incident – but before the horrific details came out – found that 46 percent of the youth said Rihanna was responsible for what happened.

Whether Rihanna reunited with Brown or not, the fact is domestic violence is more complicated than you think. Victims take back their abusers for many reasons, experts say, including love, fear, hope, and financial security. However, according



▲ AFH photo by Darius Cephas

to Aimee Thompson, executive director of Close to Home (<http://www.c2home.org/>), a Dorchester-based domestic violence prevention group, "Everyone always asks the common question 'Why does she take him back?' but what we should be asking is 'Why doesn't...the abuser stop?'"

A 2007 Close to Home survey of 217 BPS high schoolers revealed that one in four of those youths said they'd been in an abusive dating relationship. Teens in Print interviewed three local women who said they'd been victims of domestic abuse as teens. All preferred to remain anonymous to protect their identities.

[DOMESTIC DIS, PAGE 23]

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

It's T.i.P.'s fifth anniversary and that means spring is here! Be sure to check out all the great stories in this extended edition plus a special pull-out of paintings and photos by the youth at Artists for Humanity.

The cover features a story about domestic violence inspired by the Chris Brown and Rihanna incident in February. Don't miss a special forum on this topic sponsored by Teens in Print (a collaboration between The Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston) and Close to Home (a domestic violence prevention initiative) scheduled for May 21, from 4-6 p.m., at English High School.

With Anti-Semitism on the rise in Europe, Teens in Print obtained interviews with Holocaust survivors and Jewish teens to bring you this powerful story on Page 7.

While you're enjoying the weather, take a peek at T.i.P.'s review of Britney's comeback concert (Page 25) and a Q & A with Boston Globe music critic Sarah Rodman (Page 20). With this issue, T.i.P. also sinks its teeth into the vampire rumor at BLS (Page 8).

Also, don't miss the Teen Voice's feature (Pages 12-13) on how to land a job! We will inspire you as you search for summer work.

From a more humorous perspective, T.i.P. teens explore the big question: are parents owning Facebook pages ruining the site's coolness (Page 23). Learn how to be safe on the Internet by reading our Page 27 story on cyberbullying, too.

Best to you T.i.P. readers! We are excited to graduate but will miss writing for you.

Sincerely, Sarah Blanchette and
Jennifer Sánchez // Senior Editors



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MEET THE STAFF

GABRIEL WARD

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A big, black cantaloupe thing.

Dream career:

Writer for a major TV station.

Song in my head lately:

Narwhales! Narwhales!

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Eat, sleep, and write for a citywide teen newspaper.



DAN ALFARO

Favorite brand of sneaker: Adidas

A place I often snooze: History class

A phobia: The elevator

As an adult, I'll never say: "Yo"



STUART SPINA

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A tomato

Song in my head lately:

"Peace Frog" by The Doors

Dream career:

Surrealist poet/artist in New York City

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Cookout with sword fighting



KATRYNA MAHONEY

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A mango

Song in my head lately:

"Little Bit" by Drake

A phobia:

Anything that crawls and doesn't speak

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Eat a Popsicle and go for a walk with a good friend.



Dear Readers,

Today marks our child's fifth birthday. And we at the Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston couldn't be prouder parents. Launched five years ago to give voice to Boston youth who felt they were both under-represented – and misrepresented – by the mainstream media, our once newborn newspaper, Boston Teens in Print, is all grown up.

As the voice for teens to communicate across borders of neighborhood and schoolhouse, race and class, T.i.P. has become more sophisticated as it has matured. Read our cover story on how domestic violence has hit teens hard, in which we address the topic with real reporting – not first-person essaying – by interviewing survivors of dating abuse.

T.i.P. is more than a training ground for young journalists – who, don't kid yourself, will be needed to uncover injustice no matter what the media landscape looks like. It is an afterschool program that keeps young people out of harm's way. T.i.P. also provides teachers and parents an opportunity to stay on top of what's going on in the lives of their teenagers.

As we celebrate our student writers, we seek the feedback of our readers. Drop us a line at foundation@globe.com and let your voice be heard.

Happy Fifth Anniversary, Teens in Print!

Leah P. Bailey
Boston Globe Foundation

Betty Southwick
WriteBoston

NATALYN YU

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A pomegranate

Favorite brand of sneaker:

ecoSNEAKS

Song in my head lately:

"I've Just Seen a Face" by The Beatles

Dream career: Ambassador



SHANASIA BENNETT

Song in my head lately:

"Day and Night" by Kid Cudi

A phobia: Heights

Dream career: Journalist

As an adult, I will never say:

"I give up."



SANDY LIANG

Favorite brand of sneaker:

Champion

A place I often snooze: Sofa

Dream career:

Part-time doctor, lawyer, and writer

Favorite thing to do

on a summer day:

Walk through town with family



THANH NGUYEN

Favorite brand of sneaker: Jordans

Song in my head lately: "Turn my

Swag on" by Soulja Boy Tell 'Em

A phobia: Heights

Favorite thing to do on

a summer day: Play basketball



CIARA MARTINEZ

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A strawberry

Song in my head lately:

"The Jimmy Choos" by Chester French

A place I often snooze: History class

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Go to the beach

**ROXANNE TAYLOR**

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A mango

Favorite brand of sneaker: Nike

Dream career: Prime Minister of Jamaica

As an adult, I will never say:

"When I was your age..."

**XHERSI LAKA**

Song in my head lately:

"Voodoo Child" by Jimi Hendrix

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Relax

Celebrity I most resemble:

Eddie Van Halen

As an adult, I will never say:

"My God, you're the most annoying kid."

**LADONYA BUCHANAN**

A phobia: Dreadlocks

Dream career: Psychiatrist

A ritual: I play music while getting dressed in the morning.

Celebrity I most resemble: Lauryn Hill

**JENNIFER SÁNCHEZ**

If you could be any fruit, what you'd be:

A pineapple

Dream career: A movie producer

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Go to Cold Stone Creamery and make my own dessert

As an adult, I will never say:

"I remember when..."

**SARAH BLANCHETTE**

Favorite brand of sneaker: Puma

Song in my head lately:

"That's not my Name" by The Ting Tings

A place I often snooze: First period

Dream career:

A writer for Rolling Stone magazine

**RYAN WARD**

Favorite brand of sneaker: Jordans

Song in my head lately:

"Shotcalla" by SeeJee

A phobia:

Aliens, anything that lands on my roof

Favorite thing to do on a summer day:

Ball up for hours

**TREVOR WARD**

If you could be any fruit, you'd be:

A wumpa fruit

Favorite brand of sneaker: Rocket boots

A phobia: Arachnophobia

As an adult, I will never say: I wish I could alter the space-time continuum.



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



TEENS IN PRINT

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

E-MAIL submissions to:

ric.kahn.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 attend one of the Boston Public High Schools.

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.

Next issue: September 2009

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Hopeline offers no hope to teens born too late

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

Since I was 10 years old, I couldn't wait until I got a summer job when I was old enough. Freshman year was when I was going to apply for a job through the one, the only, the Boston Youth Fund's Hopeline, the giver of hope when it comes to summer jobs for Boston youth. But, then, something happened. I found out I was born 10 days too late. That's right: my birthday is on July 15, and the cut-off to qualify for Hopeline is July 5. I'm going to be one year behind most of my friends because I turn 15 just 10 days after the cut-off. I was so confused by this news; so many thoughts flew through my head.

This system is flawed, because I won't only be behind a year, I'll lose a year altogether. For some reason, teens are no longer eligible for Hopeline if they turn 18 on or before August 14. This is a major problem, and it needs to be corrected. Whenever I complain via e-mail, they send me opportunities for jobs that offer stipends. A stipend is in no way the same as an hourly wage.

"I do mind, 'cause you have to be a certain age before this early cut-off," said Sarah Martin, who will turn 15 on August 26. She is another Boston teen who will be behind a year. "I don't like it," said Tyler Cohen, whose 15th birthday is on August 28, also behind a year. "It annoys me," said Daniel Curran, turning 15 on July 13. "That's stupid."

These teens can't get a summer job through the Hopeline because they were born too late. They will continue with their summer activities unpaid, while all their friends who made the cut-off are bringing in the cash. To teens like these, Hopeline is just a big misnomer. ■



DREAM JOB OR KEEP DREAMING?

For those seeking a city job through the Boston Youth Fund, here's a quick Q&A on what to expect:

Who's eligible?

Boston residents who must turn 15 on or before July 5, but who cannot turn 18 on or before August 14.

How long does it last?

Six weeks, from July 6 to August 14.

What's the pay like?

Those hired by the Boston Youth Fund make \$8-an-hour for a 25-hour week.

Am I guaranteed a job?

No.

Is it too late to get in?

Yes, for this year since the deadline was mid-March.

How do I apply for next summer?

You can register for the city's summer job program either online (www.bostonyouthzone.com/teenzone/employment/byf/) or through the Hopeline, at 617-635-HOPE.

What if I still want to work this summer?

Check out some job tips on this cool website, (www.bostonyouthzone.com/afterschool/employment/tips.pdf)

Source: City of Boston

Cinema today: born yesterday

By Stuart Spina // Staff Writer

The last movie I went to see at the theatre was "War of the Worlds." Yeah, that was a long time ago. Look, I am neither Ebert nor Roeper, but many of the films coming out today strike me as just terrible: so why would I waste money to sit through a bad film?

For me, a good film should have the following traits: dialogue which is not forced or weak (bonus points for interesting word play), a somewhat original story, and, of course, good cinematography. What good is a nice script and superb acting if watching the film is an assault on your eyes?

Originality, it seems, has become outmoded. Hollywood appears to be in the midst of a creative dry spell. Recent box office offerings are often either remakes ("My Bloody Valentine," and "The Day the Earth Stood Still") or another installment of a never-ending franchise (i.e. "Friday the 13th"). In effect, Hollywood producers are taking older films and just adding cellphones and modern cars. There are few "new" stories being told.

There is also a heavy reliance on clichés and other tropes to build a plot. Horror and science fiction

films are particularly prone to this. "Cloverfield" tried desperately to be the American "Godzilla." A mysterious monster rampaging through the city and plenty of gore; like we haven't seen that before. Or else you have aliens attacking humanity (classic movie fodder), or post-apocalyptic carnage devastating the world.

I think I'll start going to the movies again when producers and filmmakers start caring more about entertainment than glitz, shock value, and maximizing DVD sales. ■

Juvenile justice: do the crime, do the time

By Carina Lopez // Contributing Writer

Juveniles are frequently underestimated by adults, but what older people don't know is that many juveniles are capable of committing atrocious crimes. What to do about the problem has been discussed but the big question is still unanswered and controversial: should juveniles be tried as adults?

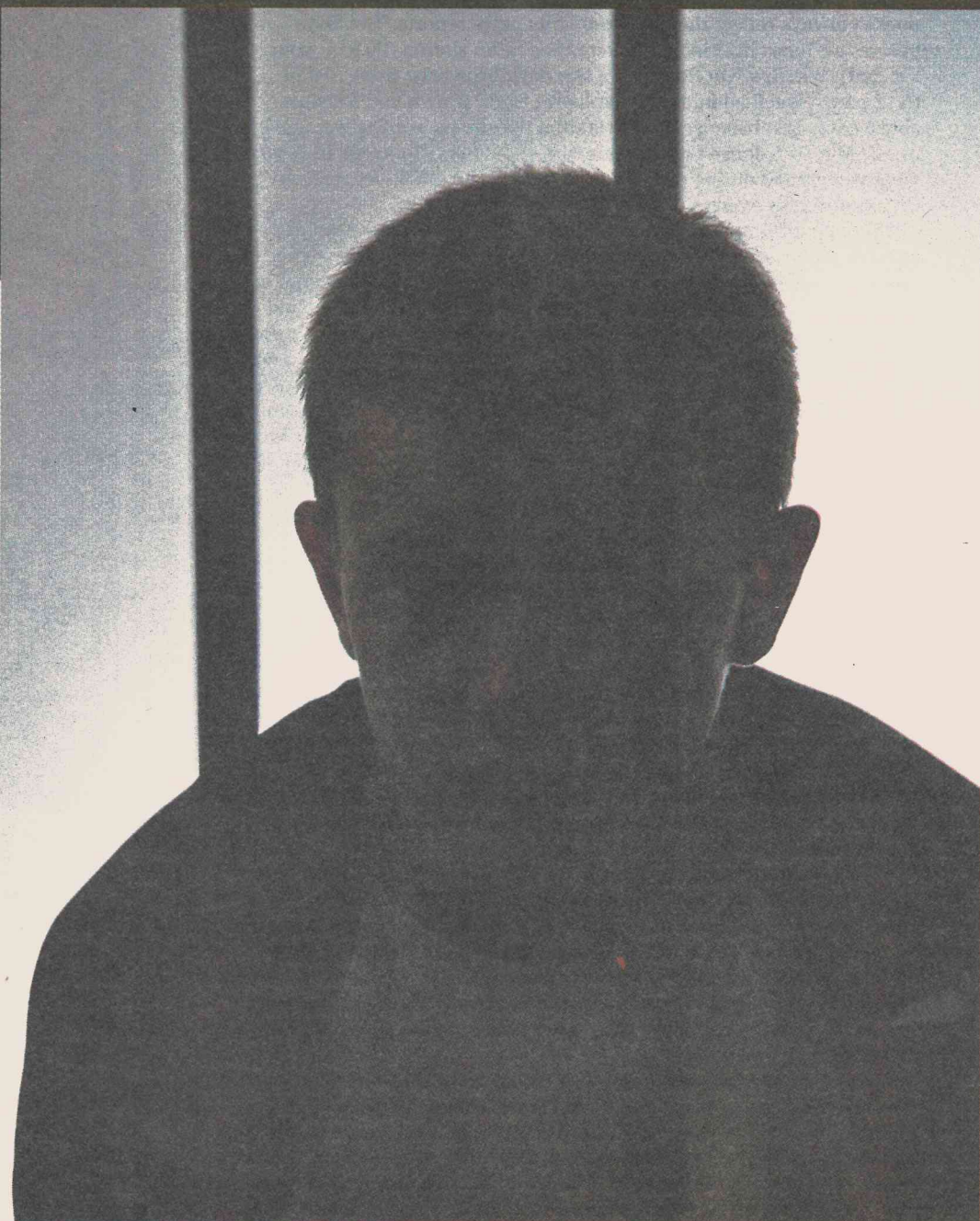
I personally believe that if juveniles are capable of committing crimes, they should be tried as adults. Many times they commit crimes thinking they are acting big or grown up, so why not be tried as a "big one?"

I also believe juvenile centers are not strong enough to give juveniles a lesson so they won't do it again, even though it is something that should be prevented in the first place.

Some believe juveniles are treated differently than adults because they feel that with treatment and successful rehabilitation juveniles can be reformed. The question is whether their rehabilitation treatment works. In most cases, I believe it doesn't. The real matter is not preventing an action from happening again but preventing something that should not have happened in the first place.

Many young offenders do what they do because they feel like society owes them something because they have been mistreated or neglected, abandoned by the educational system, or have no job prospects. For many juveniles, this could be another form of abuse from a system that has already failed them.

Today, there are too many homicides committed by teenagers. Treating juveniles and adults the same is the only effective way to stop the tide of juvenile crime. Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are just a few of the crimes many innocent juveniles are paying for. Any one of us can be the next victim. By trying juveniles as adults, young offenders will learn a lesson. Juveniles frequently think they are old enough to make decisions on their own, such as committing crimes. Let them see the real truth of being old enough to make their own decisions, so that next time they will think twice before they hurt one of us. ■



▲ AFH photo by Shawn McLaughlin

T.i.P. Meets

90.9 wbur

▲ AFH photo by Darren Hicks

By Katryna Mahoney // Staff Writer

WBUR is not just for older people. The quietness of a radio studio doesn't always reflect the noisiness of its news reports. Two days before the Teens in Print staff visited the radio station (90.9 on your FM dial), WBUR's "On Point" — a live daily broadcast from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — weighed-in on the explosive Chris Brown and Rihanna abuse case. Just because a radio station doesn't have a flashy name like JAM'N 94.5 doesn't mean your ears shouldn't be plugged in. That's what we learned during our March 12 visit to the studio located on Commonwealth Avenue, near Boston University.

Although information comes out in 20 second news spots, there's more to the process than meets the ear. Whenever you listen to the radio you may wonder, what is actually going on behind the scene?

We entered the doors on the third floor of the WBUR building and were greeted by reporter Monica Brady-Myerov. We were given a tour of the space — which, by the way, was very organized. I always pictured studios to be a little messy and filled with papers, but these were just rooms with a table, chair, and a microphone. They kept it pretty simple with modern IKEA-type furniture and glass windows. The studios were on one side of the office, along with a control board with all kinds of buttons and knobs; the other side was work space and the reporter area. People walked around, employees were friendly and smiling, and there was a mix of young interns and older workers.

Besides the tour, we received pointers on how to make writing "more radio" as Brady-Myerov described her craft, and to understand how news stories are reported. Brady-Myerov gave us T.i.P.sters two Associated Press stories, which were about three paragraphs long. The object was to cut them down to two or three sentences.

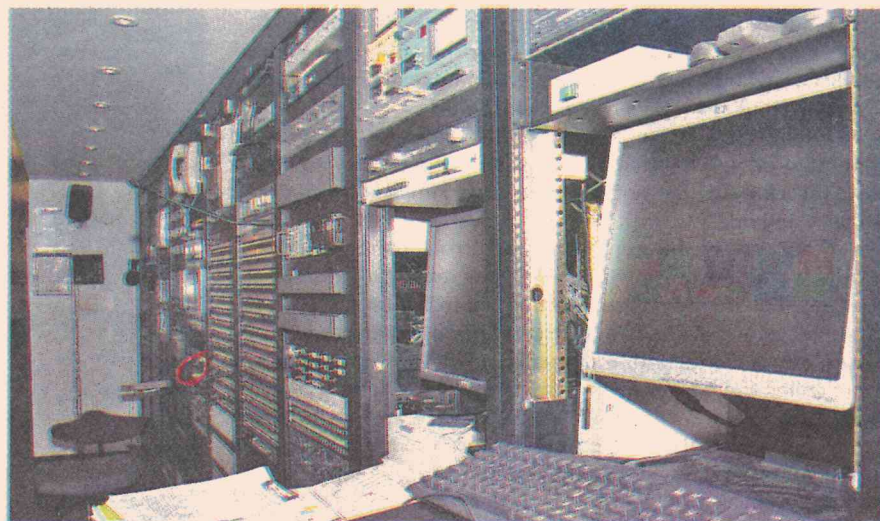
I was given an AP story on Massachusetts officials looking to reduce the number of disposable bags that are produced. I tried to play by the rules, but it wasn't easy. We struggled because writing for a newspaper is a little different than working for a radio station. One difference is that radio language is colloquial, meaning you write how you talk. For example, at a radio station, you wouldn't say "estimated," you would say "about."

We were sitting for about 15 minutes with our drafts and pens, looking at the clock and making sure our stories were 20 seconds short. It was funny how Brady-Myerov said, "I can tell you guys write for print" — implying that we used big words and tried to get creative with the story. When we were done, Brady-Myerov told us when you edit a news bite you make it short and sweet but include the important information. After T.i.P. staff writer Gabe Ward read his piece aloud, she told him: "You're hired!"

We concluded the tour by watching broadcast journalist Delores Handy's news break. She sat at the table with headphones on and read the news stories and local weather. When Handy was done, we crowded into the studio and introduced ourselves.



▲ AFH photos by Mary Nguyen



WBUR's studios are located on Commonwealth Avenue.

Here's what we know: We are in the midst of a global financial crisis. What we may not realize is how far the negative repercussions go. The rise in anti-Semitism, or the prejudice against or hostility toward Jews as a group, is one of those backlashes. Over thousands of years, Jewish people have been made scapegoats. From the Bubonic Plague in the 1300s, to the collapse of the German economy leading to World War II, and the persecution of Christ, the Jewish race has been blamed for problems in global societies. The current collapse of the economy is no different.

Recently, according to various news accounts, there has been a series of violent anti-Semitic acts committed by teens:

- Last March, four teenaged boys in the Netherlands insulted Jews during a protest over Israel's military attack on Gaza by holding up a banner with a swastika over the Star of David, and by referring to the Holocaust's use of gas chambers to kill Jews. In response, a Dutch judge ordered the teens to visit the Anne Frank House Museum and submit a report to the Hague Police Judge about it.
- Last June, a 17-year-old French Jew was attacked by a gang of youths wielding iron bars.
- In January, four teenagers were accused of pushing to the ground and kicking a Jewish girl as she was leaving her school north of Paris. The teens were between the ages of 13 and 15.

In a survey conducted from December '08 to January '09 by the Anti-Defamation League, 31 percent of the respondents in seven European countries who were asked blamed Jews in the financial industry for the global economic crisis. Overall, 41 percent of the respondents believed Jews have too much power in the business world, and 49 percent felt Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own countries. Simultaneously, Holocaust denial has also been on the rise. Pope Benedict XVI's decision to reinstate excommunicated Holocaust denier Bishop Richard Williamson of the Society of St. Pius X only fueled the fire.

The Holocaust was a genocide that occurred during World War II, leading to the death of more than six million Jews. Yet, it still affects others deeply, including teens. Boston Public Schools student Zainab Jalloh, 16 and a Muslim, was so angered by people who believe no Muslim could be saddened by the Holocaust, that she poured her frustration onto paper, instead of in a spoken interview. The Holocaust, she wrote, was "a tragic human mistake."

In a phone interview, Israel "Izzy" Arbeiter, President of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston, and a Holocaust survivor himself, warned that all must hold onto memories of the Holocaust. "I want people to remember that educated people, civilized people, good people, in a civilized country like Germany, became murderers and if it can happen there, it can happen anywhere," he said. "If we don't teach the present generations that this can happen, then it might happen again. And it must never happen again."

Arbeiter was just 14 when he entered the Auschwitz concentration camp. He still remembers the horrors he had to endure every day. At one point, he lived in a barrack of 87 people. One night, he said, 86 of them were killed. He was the only one to survive. He was completely alone, surrounded by murder and torture. "Of course the concentration camps were terrible and indescribable," Arbeiter said. "But the worst of all was as a teenager, the loss of my family."

Nancy K. Kaufman, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston (JCRC),



ON THE RISE AS ECONOMY FALTERS

TEENS CAUGHT IN BETWEEN

By Sandy Liang and Roxanne Taylor // Staff Writers



Holocaust Memorial in Boston is shown.

offers a similar warning to never forget. "There will be a time in the not-so-distant future when the Holocaust survivors will no longer be there," she wrote in an email to T.I.P. "It will then be up to us to be the voice of consciousness for all time."

Teens say they have to be the ones to stand up against the injustices and the denial and prejudice against another race. It is their job, they say, to make sure that the memory of the Holocaust and genocides still live, and to make sure they contradict the lies.

"People your age are going to be the last [generation] to ever meet a Holocaust survivor. So teens need the tools, the knowledge and the words to know what to say if they are put in an anti-Semitic position," said

Elyse Rast, Holocaust Programmer and Community Relations Associate at the JCRC. "If it's not being written and exposed in the media, then you need to write the articles. If it is not being taught in school, then you need to teach it or you need to make sure that the teachers do."

Jewish teen Mick Chertov, 16, agrees. "I think it would be better if we were educated in the Jewish history," he said. "It would make people more aware."

Teens say education is the best tool to combat prejudice and hate. With the right information, they say, you can change the world. One sentence, one protest, can lead to a better future. Knowledge, teens say, can be the light when others only want to hate.

BSAC

BOZZ

By Damien Leach // Contributing Writer

The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) has been meeting with the headmasters of the BPS high schools to discuss why students are late for school. The main goal was to design incentives that would encourage students who are chronically late to come to school on time. During the meetings we also brainstormed logical reasons for why students are late for school. It is now understood that students who are chronically late are typically late due to either a family responsibility (such as taking a younger sibling to school), being too tired from the homework or events that took place the night before, or are simply lazy. After identifying the reasons behind the problem, the headmasters, along with the representatives of BSAC, discussed incentives that would encourage students to come to school on time.

Locking students out of school was a major solution that some headmasters believed would work. Representatives of BSAC debated with the opposition and expressed all their grief from personal experience. In the end, BSAC was able to stop the "lock out policy" before headmasters decided to mandate it into policy. The major point that was made clear by BSAC was the fact that locking students out would lead not only to an increase in dropout rates, but also a dismantled school community as many students would feel that teachers and administrators do not care about their educations. Instead of locking

students out, BSAC thought it would be more effective if students served a morning, lunch, or afterschool detention. During these detentions, students would remain productive as they catch up on what they missed during the time they were not in school.

Just as students should be punished for not coming to school on time, students who do should be rewarded. Incentives such as meeting the Boston Celtics or having a live concert at school would surely convince many chronically late students to be on time. At Madison Park High School, their incentive for students to be punctual as well as perform academically is achieved through the Keys for Success program. Students are nominated by a teacher and given one car key. Out of all the keys given, only one will start a new car. The student who starts it, drives it home.

BSAC will never submit to an unfair policy. We will continue to fight until students feel that they can perform as well as possible. Even if you're surrounded by headmasters who try to intimidate you, you can still make a difference and fight for what you believe in as a student. If you have any questions or concerns about the Boston Student Advisory Council or wish to join, please contact BSAC Coordinator, Maria I. Ortiz at 617-635-8079 ext. 104 or mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us.

Anatomy of a rumor

By Natalyn Yu // Staff Writer

Recently, an inventive rumor originating from Boston Latin School (BLS) sparked the curiosity of the media. This rumor involved a small group of teenagers and, bizarrely enough, vampires.

Hungry for people's accounts of this illogical rumor, reporters badgered BLS students for their hypotheses. A March 26 story on Boston.com referenced a "law enforcement official" who investigated the case. This official "said a group of girls at the school had been bullying at least one other student who likes to dress in the style known as 'Goth'." This official also said the same girls "began spreading a rumor that the student was a would-be vampire, who had cut someone's neck and sucked the person's blood." The media believed that these rumors were triggered by the movie 'Twilight.' At the height of this rumor, "one male student who contacted the Globe said a male student, rumored to be a werewolf, had threatened on Facebook to bring a gun to school because he was being harassed," stated a Boston Globe article on March 27. This claim was of double-hearsay, which is not sufficient evidence for it to be a fact.

Unfortunately, the media had not bothered to interview the girl this rumor revolved around. She agreed to speak with T.I.P. if she could remain anonymous. "What happened had nothing to do with mean girls or 'Twilight,'" she said. "I had no idea a rumor could get this out of control." That this individual enjoys wearing black

and is a night-owl fed the fire of the claim that she was a vampire.

Not only did this rumor attract the attention of Boston.com, but also of MTV.com and Sparklife, a component of Sparknotes.com.

Because the media's goal is to attract readers, news stories are packaged in such a way that makes the issue at hand appear more controversial than it actually is. "No one is going to buy a boring newspaper. The point is to make a profit," said Mathilde Montpetit, 15, a student at Boston Latin School.

Following the publication of the Boston.com article were concerns about the focus of the media. "Why did the Globe have a full article about vampires and barely anything about Al Gore coming to visit our school?" asked Marina Napoletano, 16, a student at BLS. Readers were also concerned about the authenticity of the media's coverage, because even the claims of this crazy story were false.

"I wish the media would recognize the positive aspects of this school, like the achievements of the students and faculty," said Bryan Zuluaga, 16, another BLS student.

From this incident, a person can see that even after high school, there are many people who are quick to believe whatever seems strange or amusing. It is important to recognize the real issues at hand; in this case, it was the gun threat and the people who were directly affected. Words are incredibly powerful, and it's therefore critical that a person takes caution before using them.

“ A decade of achievement: celebrating Boston's after-school movement ”

By Roxanne Taylor // Staff Writer

Have you ever had anything to do after school other than homework, sports, or a club? If the answer is yes, you have Mayor Thomas Menino to thank for that. On March 11, Menino, along with adults and youth from all over the city, came to the Copley branch of the Boston Public Library to celebrate 10 years of “Boston After School and Beyond” to make sure we have other things to look forward to on a normal school day besides homework. This initiative supports programs like Hyde Square Task Force where youth learn to dance and Berklee City Music All Stars where youth can express their musical talents.

Adults who promote the after-school program initiative like Reverend Grover believe “there is no greater family need than quality education in school and after school.” Students like 17-year-old senior Denise Dunn of the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science have been involved over the years in programs like Eco-teen, which tackles issues related to the environment. Dunn believes she has benefited greatly from the after-school program initiative and feels she “learned from the different experiences that she had gained.”

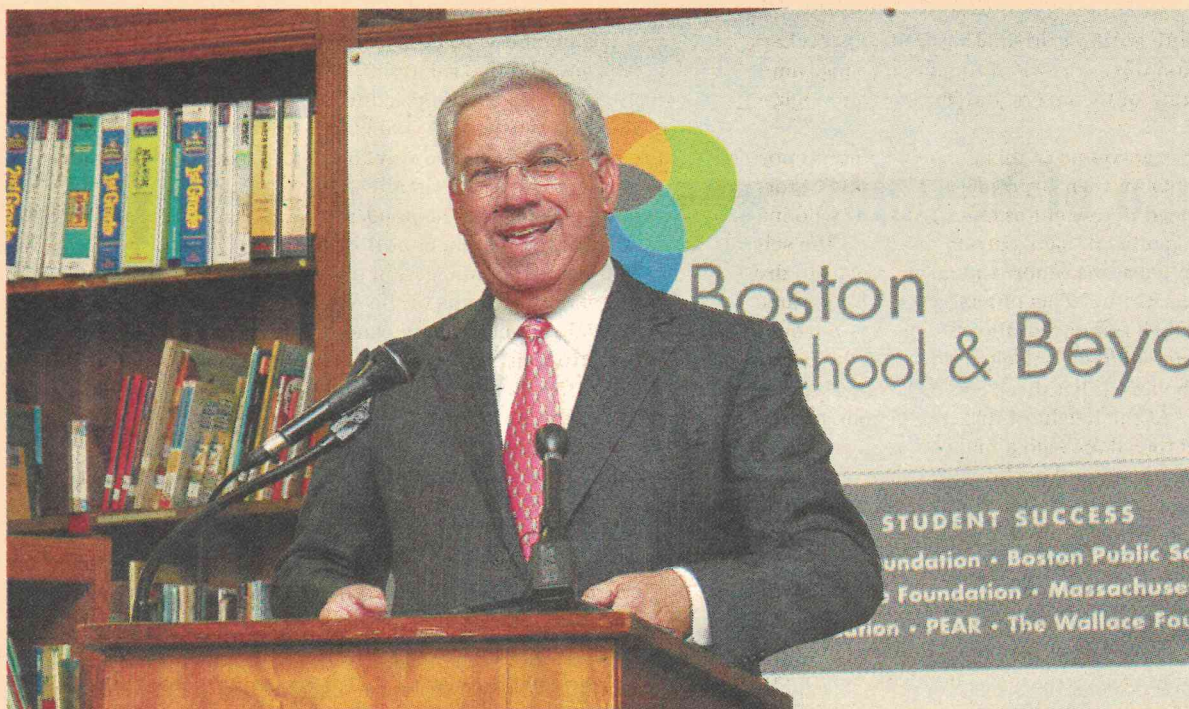
After-school programs offer recreation, not just academic support. Students like Tong Chen, 17, of Boston Latin Academy enjoy

the after-school programs because “you are having more fun.” Chen loves her programs because she is able to interact with students who are much different from her, outside of school; people who might not be A students or who might not be able to speak English fluently. Chen remembers meeting a student who was learning English; she learned other ways to communicate besides speaking. “That was really unforgettable,” she said.

Peg Sprague, vice president of community impact at the United Way, knows that even after a decade, “We need to acknowledge that this field is developing.” Still, this celebration showed how much Boston has done in that time. “We need to be better about telling the success stories,” said Elizabeth Pauley, senior program officer for education at The Boston Foundation.

An event like this shows just how much the city of Boston has grown in terms of creative out-of-school-time programming, meaning summers as well. “Learning isn't time or place based,” said Sprague.

After-school programs provide an extra place to have fun and learn, where Dunn said she “was seen as an individual.” It is no wonder this was celebrated as a decade of success, an achievement that affects students across Boston.



▲ APH photo by Haidan Hodgson

Mayor Menino joined in a recent celebration of Boston's after-school programs.

Ninth graders in Darlene Marcano's humanities class at The Engineering School in Hyde Park studied poverty and homelessness, interviewed volunteers from around Boston, and participated in a community service project at either The Pine Street Inn or Cradles to Crayons. These are three of her students' essays about what they learned along the way.

Desperate measures lure students to volunteer

By Elijah Smith // Contributing Writer



The recession has increased the number of homeless people in Boston.

"Hustle, hustle! Looks like line two are the ones running the lap." The players always love the end of practice. Even though it doesn't seem like it, community service is all around us. I've been coaching football for a while and never thought of it as a form of community service. The place that community service is most needed, however, is in homeless shelters.

Many people go homeless each year especially with the current economy. In class, I found out

that most people who are homeless are single men. Many people go out and try to help these men by giving them food and trying to get them to go into shelters.

On February 25 my class went to the Pine Street Inn. It is what they call a wet shelter. That means that people who go there will be admitted even if they are drunk or on drugs. In the lobby, the shelter looks similar to a doctor's office. In the lobby, there are different desks with people to help the homeless for the different problems they have. Scottie, our guide, then brought us down to where the lockers are, and while down there we saw blue lights. She explained that the lights were UV lights and they kill bacteria. They need those because in the shelter air-borne diseases such as tuberculosis are common for people to catch.

The problems with these shelters are that they don't have enough space for everyone who comes to them. They also have budget cuts, so that means they have to end programs that will help these people. The shelters teach people new skills and help them get jobs based on what they are learning. They give assistance in searching for jobs, filling out applications, and answering interview questions. Going to this shelter made me

realize community service is more important than I thought because most of the people working there are doing community service.

A group of panelists came to the school to tell about their experiences. I had questions for them such as: what kind of community service do they do and what does community service mean to them? The first panelist was Alan Leviton. He told us he worked at Rohm and Haas Company. When he retired he moved up here with his wife and after awhile he was bored. That's how he got into community service. He founded a group that goes to Mexico and builds machines that clean the local water. I thought that was cool because he does community service and gets to travel at the same time.

Next was Dr. Edward Brown, a dentist. For his community service he goes to Africa with a group of doctors and gives the children check-ups and dental care. To me, that was one of the most amazing and generous things I have ever heard. The last person to speak was a police officer, Robert Grayson; he was the one I was most interested in. For Grayson, community service is his job. He explains how he helps people while he is working. He told us a story about how they got this call on a man who had died from a heart attack. Grayson was the first to the house. He had to stay there and comfort the family until the paramedics came to get the man. Another story he told was about when an elderly woman called them, but when they came nothing was wrong. All she wanted was someone to talk to.

Hearing these panelists speak made me look at community service in a totally different way. It made me realize that I was doing community service all along by coaching football. Going through this experience made me realize that community service is one of the most important things in the world. ■

The struggle of homelessness

By Joseph Pressey // Contributing Writer

An unknown author said, "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something." I picked this quote because it makes sense and doing community service plays a major role in stopping homelessness. If people come together, we can all accomplish something.

The Pine Street Inn made me think of homeless people differently. When my class went to see how the homeless live, we thought the situation was sad. Seeing the shelter made me want to become something in life. It also made me thankful I have a house, my own bed, clean clothes, and parents who love me. I could not believe the stories I heard about homeless people from our tour guide Scottie. Some of them had college degrees, but were living in a shelter. I think this field trip was a good trip because it was a big wake up call for a lot of people.

The homeless people in the Pine Street Inn were looking sad; some looked happy, some furious. I could tell some of them would like a second chance because they want to do something right and get back on their feet. I could tell that some of them never thought they would end up in a homeless shelter. So maybe that's why some of them were mad and always in a bad mood, clenching their jaws and drinking, saying things they don't mean.

According to "Homelessness in the US," about 3.5 million US residents and 1.35 million American children have been homeless for a significant period of time. The official number in poverty is 37 million men, women, and children who can't put food on the table.

I had a great experience learning about homeless



people because I have gotten good information I've been wanting to know for a long time. I would recommend people visit The Pine Street Inn so they can get a closer look at how homeless people live and how society treats them. Even though these people are homeless they are human and that's something people forget. So imagine if you were homeless; wouldn't you want help? ■

Making a difference in my community

By Tiana Jamison Williams // Contributing Writer

In October 2007 in Massachusetts, about 1,800 families were living in shelters. Since I live in Massachusetts, these numbers scare me. I feel like people should do more to stop these kinds of things from happening to families in poverty. A lot of people don't think it's their responsibility, and neither did I. When my teacher had us start this community service project, I started to learn more about families in poverty and I began to wonder what I could do to make a change in my city and possibly the country.

The research part of my project answered a few of my questions on the cause of poverty in America, how it can be stopped, and who is affected. But the information I received didn't seem right. Even though there were numbers to prove it, I still had doubts on whether they were true or not. One website said poverty usually occurs in unmarried homes or households run by single mothers, which I didn't think was true because I have friends with married parents and their parents struggle more than my mother who is a single mother. Statistics also show that single mothers have a higher risk of living in poverty than single fathers, because men get jobs faster than women and make more money than females, too.

When I asked how poverty could be prevented, I read that the government should ask for more tax money from the wealthier citizens instead of making the already poor citizens pay so much. When people are struggling with supporting their families, or even keeping their jobs, it doesn't help to make them pay so much to the government for taxes. If all of their money is going to the state, they won't have any left for mortgages or rent which means they get kicked out onto the streets with their families.

As a part of our project, we went on a field trip to Cradle to Crayons. At first I thought it was going to be a homeless shelter. I thought we were going to look around and see how the families in poverty were living. I expected to get more information on the homelessness and poverty in my area so I could help out in some way; but, when we pulled up to the place, it was nothing like I expected. While getting off the bus, I noticed how the building looked like it was made for children; it had colors on the banner and a big poster of a toddler. Walking inside, it seems like a cramped space, but when we got upstairs, the room was huge. It looked like a warehouse with toys and clothes stuffed inside what looked like giant cubbies. The upstairs wasn't as colorful as the downstairs; it was gray and the only color was coming from the toys that were stored away. We started to receive information on what the organization was for and what it does for families in poverty; then we started an activity.

One activity provided us a description of a child whose family is poor and asked us to make a list of wants and needs for the child based on what we know. It was complicated because some things I thought the child needed turned out to be material things that she could do without. After that my group helped separate toys for birthday presents; it seemed like we bagged 1,000 toys. I feel like I made a difference in a couple of children's lives by giving them a nice birthday.

After each class took their field trips we had the chance to see three guest speakers. Even though the speakers didn't actually volunteer like we did, they still helped out a lot in their communities. We asked them questions about what made them go into their professions and the things they went through getting their degrees and reaching their goals. Some of the things I heard from them, combined with the research and field trip, made me want to help out more.

I hate to think about the families who don't have enough for clothing or food when I'm spending money on junk and cellphones. The money I use for that I could be donating to the homeless shelters or I could help out like some other kids my age do. I think spending time at Cradles to Crayons for volunteer work in the summer would be good because I want to make a difference in my city. ■



Boston teens serving meals at Pine Street Inn.



Pine Street Inn is Boston's largest shelter.

Work it: how to land a job this summer

By Da'Naysha Jones and Malisa Balgobin // Teen Voices Teen Editors

The economy is getting worse and money is scarce. Have you ever wanted to get a job in a bad economy but not known how to go about it? No need to worry. All of your answers are here. Read on to learn some dos and don'ts of interviewing, how to write your own résumé, and more.

Teen Voices

Wish you had an expert's advice about getting a job?

Rosette Martinez, director of human resources for the South End Community Health Center in Boston, started off ironing her mother's friends' clothes and cleaning their houses. She attended Roxbury Community College because she was undecided on what she wanted

to do with her life. Never afraid to ask for help, she ended up with a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University. "Teen Voices" interviewed Martinez because, as a human resources director, she interviews job seekers and oversees employees and knows a lot about the working environment.

Are there major parts that should be on the résumé besides your name and phone number?

It's important to put specialized skills on the résumé. For instance, mentioning you're bilingual is important because a lot of organizations need bilingual employees. In our organization, our front-line staff has to speak English and Spanish because 60 percent of our patients speak only Spanish.

What are common mistakes that people make on résumés?

Typos, incorrect grammar, not being clear. For example, sometimes there are no spaces in between each section, so it's difficult to read. Typos are a huge problem; people don't review their résumés before they send them out.

How would someone build a strong résumé without work experience?

Include what you have done in the community, any volunteer work, any work in your house or work you've done for your neighbors or friends. Those are things you want to concentrate on if you don't have a lot of experience. A lot of us don't think of experience as helping other people, but that is experience; that's how you learn and grow, so that should be part of your professional development.

What are common mistakes people make while being interviewed?

Chewing gum, not making eye contact, swinging back and forth in the chair, tapping your pen: we call these distracters.

Do you have any tips for a successful job interview?

No matter what job it is, you should dress professionally, smile, and never act like you expect to get the job. Be calm and gracious because you are taking people's time. It's really important to communicate well and present yourself well so that you will impress people; you have less than a second to make a good first impression. You should understand that everything is a process. The job is not given to you, so when people call you in, it's an opportunity.

What do you recommend teens wear during an interview?

No jeans; that doesn't show professionalism. Even if it's a job for day care, you want to present yourself professionally. You don't have to wear a suit, but your outfit has to be professional enough to show people that you are clean-cut and that you care about your appearance.

What are common questions asked during interviews?

What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? What are you proud of? What are your major accomplishments? If you're in school, what's your best subject? How do you interact with people? For example, if you have a background in retail, a lot of people focus on customer service. But customer service is not only retail. In my working environment, it is huge because being able to work with people is a big thing.

Where should teens look for jobs? Any particular websites?

Teens often don't notice the Department of Unemployment. Go to your local unemployment office; they have information on where to find jobs, and sometimes there are even jobs there. A lot of people miss out on that because they think of the unemployment office as a place to go if they don't have a job, but it's really a resource. Websites are one of the biggest ways to find a job.

What makes a good employee and what doesn't?

Someone who's responsible, who can come in and be a team player and not be isolated, makes a good employee. What doesn't make a good employee? A lot of things, such as behavior issues, attitude and attendance issues, gossiping, and having conflict with other people that you work with.

How could an employee improve to move up to a higher position?

It's key to demonstrate leadership. Being responsible is a way that you can demonstrate your ability to move. Follow directions. Be willing to do what it takes to get the job done. You also need communication skills and the ability to help and interact with others. Networking with your colleagues and getting to know people in the organization is number one.

What are your top three tips for teens looking for jobs?

My first would be to identify your goal. If you're a teen and you're in high school and you want to be a teacher, then you have to figure out where you should work in order to gain experience. My second is to begin to work with guidance counselors or with resources in the community. Don't be afraid to go and ask a teacher, 'How did you get here?' Don't be afraid to network because you're just learning; we all started there. My third is to have a positive attitude.

—Teen Voices is an intensive journalism mentoring and leadership development program for teen girls in Boston that creates an internationally distributed print and online alternative magazine reaching 45,000 readers in over 21 countries, and receiving more than 200,000 annual pageviews. For more information, call 617-426-5505 ext. 18 or www.TeenVoices.com.



▲ AFH photo by Haidan Hodgson



▲ APH photo by Mary Nguyen

Quiz: Are you prepared for interviews?

What should you bring with you to the interview?

- a. A notepad, your résumé, and pictures of family and friends to show your personality
- b. A notepad and your résumé
- c. A notepad, prepared questions, and your résumé

Which outfit seems better for an interview?

- a. Jeans with a T-shirt and flip flops
- b. Slacks with an eye-catching shirt and sneakers
- c. Slacks with a simple button-down shirt and dress shoes

How should you present yourself at an interview?

- a. Be nervous, quiet, and shy; stare at the floor.
- b. Be positive, confident, and excited, and speak really fast.
- c. Act confident, calm, and reserved, while giving direct eye contact.

The interviewer asks you a tough question that makes you nervous. What do you do?

- a. Pause, fidget, and then answer the question
- b. Tell them you are nervous and say that you aren't sure of the answer
- c. Pause briefly to think of your answer, and then respond

How would you respond to the question "Why would you want to work here?"

- a. "My friend works here and I live close by."
- b. "I really need a job and I would do a really great job here."
- c. "I feel that I am qualified for this position, I have a lot to contribute here, and the job would help me to pursue my goals."

If you chose mostly A's: Make sure you read our tips because you are not fully prepared for an interview. You might not want to show so much emotion, and you should try different options for clothing. Jeans, T-shirts with writing on them, flip flops, distracting accessories, low-cut shirts, and sneakers are inappropriate. Try a mock interview with one of your friends and see how it goes.

If you chose mostly B's: You are almost there, but be sure to look over our tips for a little more preparation. You should try a mock interview with a friend since you're not fully prepared. Your friend can give you feedback that can help you improve your skills.

If you chose mostly C's: Yay! You're ready for your interview! But just because you chose good answers doesn't mean you don't have to do any preparation. Be sure to practice with a friend so you don't seem too nervous, and to prepare for questions.

INTERVIEW DO & DON'T

DO

- Research the company beforehand to get background information so you are prepared.
- Come in with a smile and a positive attitude.
- Bring your résumé.
- Wear neat, tidy, attire such as dress pants, a button-down shirt, and dress shoes.
- Have a firm handshake.
- Have questions prepared.
- Bring a notepad to take notes if you feel it is necessary.
- Appear confident.
- Be friendly and kind.
- Think about your answers to questions, but don't take too long a pause.

The big three: networking, experience, exposure

By Gladymir Joseph//Contributing Writer

Internships are great opportunities for students to gain exposure to the career world. This is particularly beneficial if students are clueless in the field they wish to pursue. One recent week, I had the opportunity to intern at the Massachusetts State House. I learned that opening one door could open many others. But this is only possible when students obtain three fundamental skills. I like to call these the "The Big Three."

Perhaps the most overt and pivotal skill is networking. If you want to have a lucrative career in an establishment that satisfies your interest, you must learn to network. The notion, 'It's not always what you know, but who you know,' is an imperative life skill. I had the opportunity to shadow Representative Linda Dorcena Forry, who lives in Dorchester. Just having her as a reference in my contacts is an extraordinary resource. In fact, through her, I met other state lawmakers, along with various employees from prestigious agencies, building resources for future employment.

Although networking plays a major role in one's success, it is not the only skill that will take you to the top. Internships also offer experience. In a competitive industry, employers are on the lookout for the best assets for their company. Experience is your best asset. But how can you get experience if you're a newcomer to the workforce? If you're thinking internships, you have the right idea. Internships are a fast and strategic way of gaining experience. At the State House, I had the chance to work on fundamental office skills such as operating the phone system, computing data into a spreadsheet, assisting clients with various needs, and doing research for projects.

Last is the quality of exposure. This can be confused with experience. While experience provides necessary skills, exposure familiarizes us with these experiences. Exposure familiarizes us with those experiences firsthand, providing us with a better idea of what exactly we want to pursue. Interning at the State House gave me a better perspective of the areas I wish to study in college: business and public policy.

Internships are opportunities to explore the world. However, using 'The Big Three'—networking, experience, and exposure—can help us further our ambitions and our résumés. Don't let a good opportunity pass by you. For more information about how to apply for internships, contact the PIC (Private Industry Council) advisor at your school.

WHAT IS PIC?

The Boston Private Industry Council matches youths with job opportunities. Still, PIC advises that there are things you can do before meeting with your school's career specialist:

Get a social security card. You need one to apply for a job. Start putting your résumé together, gathering your work history and the names and contact info of those who'll serve as references. For more information, you can reach PIC by phone 617-423-3755 or email (<http://www.bostonpic.org/about>).

For More Info Contact:

GotAJob.com
SnagAJob.com
GrooveJob.com
<http://jobsearch.about.com/cs/justforstudents/a/teenjobs.htm>

DON'T

- Wear jeans, hats, distracting colors, revealing clothes, or crazy hairstyles.
- Look messy
- Wear a lot of makeup
- Appear to be nervous
- Be rude and disrespectful
- Have a negative attitude
- Fidget
- Text (or even look at your phone)
- Chew gum or have any food in your mouth.
- Take too long to answer questions.

What does Gen

stand for?

By Sarah Blanchette // Senior Editor and Roxanne Taylor // Staff Writer

If you have a Facebook page, text more than you talk, watched both the election night and inauguration live this year, and remember where you were on September 11, chances are, you are a member of Generation Y. Seventy million people strong, this generation includes people born between 1982 and 2002, according to GenerationY.com. Although we may be the most marketed and targeted group of people in America, we are, nevertheless, often misunderstood by our Generation X counterparts (AKA our parents).

Surprisingly, the parallels between Y and X are many. Although we may want to think of ourselves as individuals blazing a new path, we are becoming more and more like the flower power hippies of the 60s and 70s. As our parents' generation fought for civil rights, many of us fight for the equality of homosexuals. As they protested the Vietnam War, we oppose (for the most part) America's position in the Middle East. And, as they embraced the icon known as John F. Kennedy, we have found our own hero in Barack Obama. These similarities should be viewed as inspiration. We must fight, protest, vote, and really care so that our children can have advantages that we can look back and say that we made happen.

We always hear about these infamous generations, but we want to be remembered for our own contributions as well. Are we the generation that fought the hardest for a stable economy? Are we the ones that focused everything we had into the world's social issues? Or, are we simply the generation that had too much on our plate and left the dirty work for the generations to come?

The largest, most immediate problem of our generation is the crumbling economy. It is unsure if we will be able to get loans for college, get a job when we graduate, or have money set aside so that we can retire. Lindsay Melick, 17, a student at O'Bryant High School says, "I think our generation is going to be known as one that has to clean up the economic mess," and yet we are not the ones contributing to most of the problems. We didn't get the country into this mess, but we must be the ones to get it out, and soon. So, how do we begin to tackle this enormous problem?

Although we are still young, our generation is already impacting the course of history. Take technology, for example. How many of us have shown an adult how to text? Cynthia Lopez, 18, of Odyssey High School, says, "Our generation will be remembered as the ones who started the technology craze. I think that we will be credited with rely-

ing on things like the Internet to get our information. People will look back on us and realize that we [our generation] were really when technology started to become a part of everyday life."

We are also making strides to become more environmentally conscious. These days, it seems as though more and more people are carrying reusable totes and sipping from water bottles made out of a thinner plastic than ever before. We know, however, to really make a difference, we must do more. Francesca Jean-Philippe, 16, also from O'Bryant says, "Too much oil is being produced and our air is getting polluted." The damage that has been done to the Earth is serious, but that has not given us the excuse to give up. Generation Y is not only taking action, but staying informed. So, as our parental counterparts may be known as the ones who dug deep for oil, we will be known as the generation that made green the new cool. To solve a common problem, we know how to work together. "I think global warming has unified us somewhat," said Jean-Philippe.

Young Americans also think that war defines our generation. Jean-Philippe believes "the war on terrorism" is what we will be remembered for. Although we may not be the ones calling the shots, this generation is filled with heroes who have stepped up to the plate and served this country honorably, even as young as 18-years-old. We have grown up in a time of constant turmoil, under the influence of war for the past six years. Although we may want peace more than ever, it seems as though we are patiently waiting to make it happen. Melissa McLaughlin, 18, of Odyssey says, "I think that our generation will be remembered as the one that wanted to change the world. We voted for Obama because he promised us change, for example. Young people really want to make a difference now, I think."

Don't we deserve credit for what we have accomplished? It's hard enough to deal with the pressures of the economy and global warming, but to think about what we will be remembered for only adds more pressure. How are we going to find time to deal with our personal problems like sexual identity, the college process, hovering parents, and finding jobs that don't exist because of the economy? When will we find time to unite? Melick says: "We have to start coming together and figuring out a way and little by little start to fix the problems we're living in."

The truth is, this generation has yet to be defined. It is what we do in the next years that will define us for our children and their children. We have choices to make, and promises to fulfill, but in the end, we must know in our hearts that we did the best we could to make the world a better place.



▲ AFH photo by Shisha King

artists for humanity

www.afhboston.com



AFH has been providing
design services to
the Boston business
community since 1991.

Our unique creative
products and
services capture
the voice, vision
and virtuosity of
Boston's teen
artists.

Artists For Humanity's mission is to provide underserved youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts. It is built on the philosophy that exposure to the arts is a powerful force for social change, and creative entrepreneurship through the arts is a productive and life-changing opportunity for young people.

Bridging economic, racial, and social divisions, AFH works to restore urban neighborhoods by introducing young people's creativity to the business community.

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Contemporary interpretation of Gauguin's masterpiece commissioned by Bank of America - now on display at Logan Airport.



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THANKING TIP BOSTON

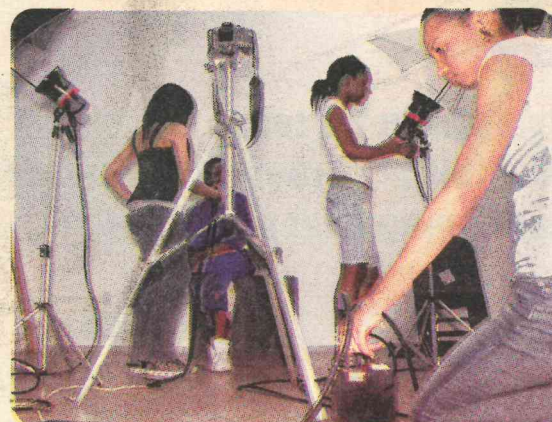
AND THE TALENTED TEEN PHOTOGRAPHY APPRENTICES AT ARTISTS FOR HUMANITY



AFH photography participant captures Jerry Seinfeld being interviewed by TIP

Artists For Humanity's teen photography apprentices have been photographing for Teens in Print since its inception in 2004. Through this exciting collaboration with the Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston, teens draw from numerous sources to provide imagery for articles that document the reality of urban life and issues facing today's teens. AFH's teen apprentices are otherwise hard at work fulfilling commissions from fine art and design clients around Boston and creating fresh new images including theatrical self-portraits, nature-based kaleidoscope prints, and colorful 'smoke' abstracts. Their work is on display at various venues around the City.

TEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS WORKING ON TIP



artists for humanity

epiCenter



Artists For Humanity took our most important step toward achieving a synergy between youth and community by constructing a 23,500 square foot facility to house our programs and gallery. This builds on the years of success Artists For Humanity has earned empowering young people through the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking ideas on sustainability and the future of society. This facility – **the Artists For Humanity EpiCenter** – has been built using environmentally responsible methods and incorporates renewable energy technologies. By engaging our young people in the design process, we taught them the importance of thinking big, of pioneering change. The EpiCenter demonstrates the feasibility – and affordability – of green design and the future role it will play in our changing built environment. The EpiCenter was granted **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification from the United States Green Building Council** in October 2005 as one of the country's most environmentally sustainable commercial buildings.

The Artists For Humanity EpiCenter welcomes all types of events and private functions. The 5,000 square foot Lewis Gallery can be creatively customized. Events held at the Artists For Humanity EpiCenter contribute to sustain our youth-run micro-enterprise.



AFH is a haven for teens from every corner of the city, a place where they find the respect and the responsibility of real work, explore and express their creative abilities and identify possibilities for continuing education. AFH develops young people as leaders in social change.

We invite you to visit our studios and witness first hand the voice, vision and virtuosity of urban youth.

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Everyone says senior year is the time for memories, but what they don't tell you is that it is also the year to go broke. The list of costs is endless: class dues, a yearbook deposit, and more. What about teens who are also paying for rent and maybe child care? By then money is tight, and there's still prom to worry about. For some girls, this is the last of their worries, but for others, this can be the most stressful senior year event of all. With help from Belle of the Ball, sponsor Anton's Cleaners and newly added partners JAM'N 94.5 and KISS 108, junior and senior girls from the Boston area, and all the way to Springfield, have the opportunity to find that perfect dress for a night to remember.

The Belle of the Ball Boutique is held in April of each year at Simmons College in Boston. With a referral from a guidance counselor, teacher, church leader or social worker, teen girls who lack the resources for a new dress may go by appointment to the boutique and leave with a prom gown and accessories. Each year the goal of outfitting 300 girls is met through advertising via FOX, Comcast, Jordan's Furniture (also a partner), The Boston Globe, and now radio.

Now, some girls are reading this and thinking, 'I'm not wearing a donated dress,' but although some dresses are donated, there are strict regulations each dress must meet in order to be showcased. For example, dresses can be any size but must be in good shape and cannot have the following: torn zippers, tears or holes, or permanent stains. They also cannot be more than three to four years old so they are still trendy and in style. Also think about the benefits: everything is free. You not only get the dress but there are shoes, purses, gift certificates, hair products, make-up, and more.

Clinical coordinator Cheryl Windle, of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester, can tell you that at first, many girls have the same concern; they don't want a secondhand dress. About three years ago, Windle was told about Belle of the Ball and she decided to test it and referred 10 girls to the event. Each came back with stories of this wonderful experience. "Girls came back telling me how they were pampered and how beautiful the dresses were, even parents were excited to tell me their daughters loved it," said Windle. Also, jokingly she added, "Guys even come to me, too, asking about a similar program for them."

Brittany Williams, 18, is a former student of the Class of '08 at the Burke who attended Belle of the Ball last year and loved it. Although she didn't know what to expect, she said, "It wasn't nerve wracking, [and] I went with my mom and cousin." In fact she was one of the many lucky girls who walked away with all her prom necessities. "It's a good thing they have something like this for girls who don't have money, I [still] tell girls at my old school about it." She shared with T.i.P. her experience and spoke about the process of finding the right dress, shoes, and accessories as she was attended to the whole time she was there. Williams suggests any girl interested should take advantage of this special opportunity.

BELLE OF THE BALL

To learn more about this special event, check out:

<http://www.antons.com/belle/>

or call: 617-328-0069, ext. 26;

or e-mail ksmith@grahamcomm.com

Be the 'Belle of the Ball'



▲ AFH photo by Tatiana Ware

▲ AFH photos by Mattaya Fitz

Sarah Rodman

has the kind of job most teens only dream of. She's a music critic for The Boston Globe. Teens in Print sat down with Rodman to learn more about what she does and the best way to prepare for her career.

By Clara Martinez // Peer Editor



Sarah Rodman is The Boston Globe's music critic.

What made you want to pursue a career as a music critic?

I loved music, reading and writing, but unfortunately I didn't know how to play any sort of instrument. I thought it would be fun to write about it.

What did you study in college?

At the college that I went to they had something called Planned Studies which meant I could make up my own sort of degree. I studied arts criticism.

What career path did you take after college?

I worked at a record store and eventually became the manager. Then I worked in retail for three years. Eventually I landed a job at the Boston Herald through a friend of a friend. I presented a story idea and the paper liked it. For seven years I was a free-lancer for the paper and then I became a staff writer for six years. My transition to The Boston Globe was based on tons of encouragement and I landed the job.

What advice would you give to teens who are interested in pursuing a career as a music critic?

1. Don't be shy. 2. Persevere. Keep on trying. If you knock on enough doors someone will open one for you. 3. You have to be interested in everything that's going on in the subject you're writing about.

What are the pros of being a music critic?

I get to go to lots of shows. I get tons of CDs before they hit store shelves. I get to interview creative people.

Music critic cons?

Traffic while I'm on my way to a show and waiting for delayed shows.

Who are the most memorable people that you have interviewed?

Stevie Wonder. . . He was talkative and so funny; Keith Richards, a Rolling Stones member; and Ringo Starr, the Beatles drummer

Most embarrassing moment?

I shed a tear when I was interviewing Sinead O'Connor. She was an Irish rock star and her music was really important to me.

What is your favorite genre of music?

I love pop! By pop I don't mean Britney Spears, I mean the Beatles. Don't get me wrong; I love Britney.

As a music critic, do you have to like all kinds of music?

You don't have to like all kinds of music, but you should know who is number one. Make sure you know who's number one on the country charts, the R&B charts, and so on.

What did you think you were going to be as a kid?

Well, as a kid I always loved music. I didn't know how to play any instruments, so I crossed being a musician off of my list and decided that writing about music would be in my career.

How many hours a day do you listen to music?

Probably three to four.

Where do you go to find your story ideas?

Story ideas can come from anywhere: reading books, magazines, press releases; watching TV, movies, and Internet videos; talking to colleagues, family, and friends.

Is it hard to find new ways to describe music?

Not if the music is really great and distinctive. It can be difficult when a band or artist sounds like a lot of other people.

How do you cultivate your vocabulary?

Listening to other people, looking up words I don't know when I come across them, and, of course, a word-a-day calendar.

▲ AFH photo by Sarah Rodman

Dan Grabauskas,

GM at the MBTA

By Stuart Spina // Senior Staff Writer

His voice greets us as we wait for the train, and at a little after four in the afternoon, MBTA General Manager Daniel Grabauskas himself greeted me and two Artists for Humanity photographers in a conference room at the State Transportation Building. We had met several times before after MBTA board meetings (which are open to the public), other transportation gatherings, and most recently at a transit bake sale in front of the Massachusetts State House. His two major former positions were Registrar of Motor Vehicles, where he is credited with streamlining and improving customer service, and his appointment as Secretary of Transportation, where he chaired the MBTA Board of Directors.

As Grabauskas put it, "There is no typical day for the general manager." From dealing with disabled trains and Mother Nature, to balancing the budget and making appearances at press conferences, no two days are exactly the same. On the budget alone, he averages about a meeting a day with state transportation officials and T staff. His two top priorities are keeping the workforce and the customers happy. The MBTA's mission statement promises to offer riders "a world class transit system" with safe and reliable service for all. Under his direction, the T has made leaps and bounds in technology, including next train announcements and the 'T Alerts' text messaging system. Work is also underway to get the MBTA included on Google Maps, blending new technology and customer convenience. Grabauskas also oversaw the reactivation of Greenbush commuter rail service (which last operated in 1959) and the Silver Line Bus Rapid Transit project, both major service expansions. Bicyclists may note the improvements made in bike accessibility, with bike racks installed on the majority of the bus fleet and bike cages built at Alewife (and soon-to-be Forest Hills) for added security. And, of course, we can't forget Automated Fare Collection (AFC), which did away with "100 years of tokens."

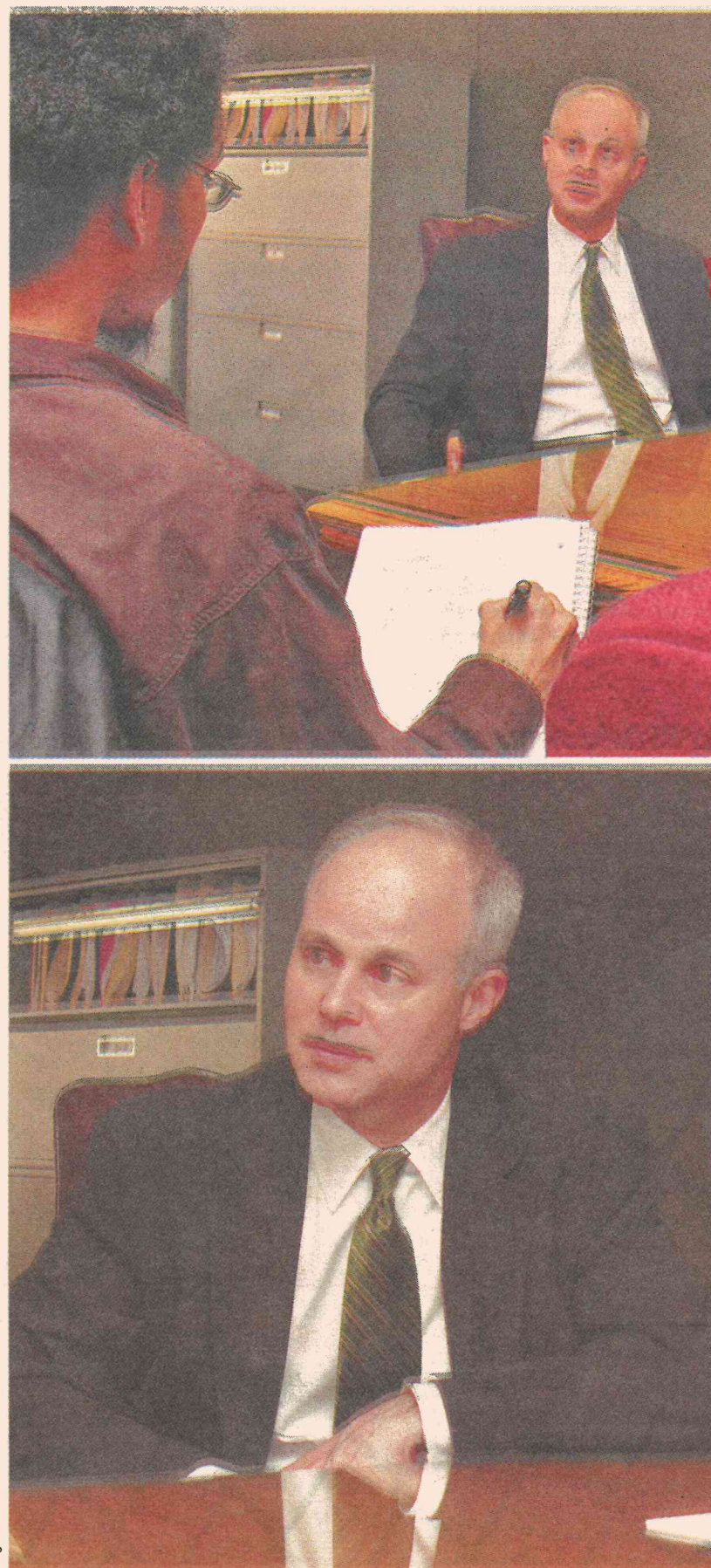
The toughest part of our conversation concerned the MBTA's financial situation. With approximately \$8.1 billion of debt (including interest), the T has the highest debt of any transit agency in the country. A major chunk of the budget each year goes towards debt service payments (\$444,000,000 in fiscal year 2008 alone). For the 2010 fiscal year, the MBTA faces a \$160,000,000 budget gap. To make up for this shortfall, the T says it will be forced to scale back services and raise fares. Similar cutbacks were made during the 1981 fiscal crisis; the proposed reductions could be just as bad, or "maybe even worse," Grabauskas warned. He insisted riders pressure the State House and added that T.i.P. readers (you all) should "go home and tell [your] parents to call their state senators," and tell them, "Don't forget the T!"

I asked the general manager what the future, specifically 50 years into the future, may look like for the T. "When you look at the price of fuel, you're going to see a renaissance of rail," he said. Currently proposed commuter rail extensions to Fall River, New Bedford, and into Rhode Island and New Hampshire, may eventually become a reality. The throngs of rail riders seen 50 and 100 years ago may make a comeback. Long abandoned freight lines could be reactivated for passenger service, and the CharlieCard may not be just used on the bus and subway, but perhaps the commuter rail, commuter boats, parking and maybe even neighboring systems like the Lowell Regional Transit Authority and Brockton Area Transit. The T will also be a key part of Boston's economic development. Today, Grabauskas noted, 60 percent of workers in the financial district get to work via the T. "You would not have an economy in Boston without the T," he said.

Many people criticize Grabauskas and MBTA management. But, I ask, "If you were at the helm, could you pull it off any better?" Managing the fifth largest transit agency, more than 6,000 employees, providing basic levels of service, and doing all that within tight financial constraints is no easy task.

Be glad all you have to do is ride.

Dan Grabauskas talks with Teens In Print.



▲ AFH photos by Chris Rogers

A 16-year-old's lament: Easy to get in, hard to get out

The author is a 16-year-old student at the Community Transition School, an alternative BPS school that transitions high-schoolers from the custody of the Department of Youth Services to the mainstream. We are withholding his identity to protect his privacy as a juvenile.

When you read the title, you may wonder what is easy to get into and hard to get out of. You may come up with things like a hole or a school. But I am talking much deeper. I am talking about your freedom. I am talking about the bad decisions we make every day that are so easy to get into and so hard to get out of.

Take my situation, for example. I was in seventh grade, getting good grades and looked up to by a lot of people. I thought I ran that school. This led to suspensions and weeks missed. Then the day came and I was introduced to the system.

It was a Thursday and it was the same old thing. I cracked jokes. Then some kid I didn't know decided he wanted to be part of the joke session. He came over and said that my mother was going to call him when she got home later that day. We all tried to comprehend the joke. Then I caught on. It made me heated. I told the kid we were going to see who the bigger man was — after school.

Finally, school ended. I was piping hot mad and needed to let it out on something fast. You know who I saw? I instantly ran towards him. I ran so fast that I started to cool off as the wind lashed against my face. Before he could turn, I had already connected with his head and my fist. From there, we fought it out. When

we caught eye contact with one another, I noticed he had started to cry.

After that went down, I went to my house. I forgot all about the fight. It would only get me angry all over again. I played video games. I hung out with my aunt.

Then, the doorbell rang. It was the police. I didn't think they were there for me. I started to walk to the bathroom when I heard my aunt yell my name. Her voice stopped me dead in my tracks and made me feel like I couldn't talk or move. I was caught.

When I got to my aunt, she looked so angry. The police officer asked me if I was involved in any type of altercation earlier that day. I told him yes, but that it had already been taken care of. He said that the problem had obviously not been taken care of if they were there for me. The police officer told my aunt that they were going to take me to my school to show me to the kid who claimed he'd been assaulted that day.

I wondered what the next step would be. Would they jail me? Let me go? As they put me in handcuffs and walked me to the squad car, I realized I had just given someone else the power to determine where

I would eat that night, where I would sleep.

We got to the school. I saw the kid. I saw my principal. The officer came over and released me from the cuffs. Then he asked the kid if I was the person who assaulted him. The kid said that I ran up on him and hit him to the ground. Then I put a knife to the right side of his neck. That is when he got so scared he started crying. When the policeman heard this, he asked me if it was true. I said no, but the facial expression on the officer's face told me he didn't believe a word. I wondered why. Then my principal told them I was known for fighting. She told them I had been suspended multiple times. She had the papers from when I was in the third grade and I brought two kitchen knives to school. I don't know why. I guess just for show. The police officer cuffed me back up. I could only blame myself. It wasn't that I got caught. It was that I should have been smarter. From there, I was transported to jail.

I ended up getting out that night and coming home to people telling me how disappointed they were. I let my anger drive me to do impulsive things, and it got me no place but jail. To this day, I am still fighting for my freedom — every day of my life. I have a lot of restrictions and expectations. I must go to school. I've attended anger management meetings. They gave me an 8 p.m. curfew on weekdays, and 8:30 p.m. on weekends, that I must abide by or I will be locked up again.

And to think that all of this could have been avoided if only I knew how to think before I acted. The fight I had in seventh grade started it all. And that was three years ago. Hopefully, you can take my experience and use it to jump over situations that could lead to something that takes seconds to get into and years to get out of.

For a fuller text, please visit our website at <http://www.bostontip.com/>



▲ AFH photo by Susan Rowe



▲ AFH photo by Nick Anderson

One woman, now 22, believes she became a victim of domestic violence due to not having a healthy relationship with her father while growing up. "Not having that love from my father played a big role with the guys I chose to be with later on," she says.

When she was 17, she became involved in an intimate relationship. "Everything was good at first," she says. But after a month of dating, the relationship took a negative turn. Her boyfriend would degrade her. At 19, she became involved in another relationship. He, too, abused her: physically, verbally, and emotionally. "He would say things like 'You're so fat no one's ever going to want you,'" she says. "He would steal my credit cards and my car, but for some reason I would blame myself for his actions."

According to Thompson, "Early signs that lead up to domestic violence include put-downs, name calling, and checkups."

The 22-year-old's boyfriend left her 100 voicemails, hit her, and even pulled a knife on her, she says. After a cycle of breaking up and getting back together, she reached the breaking point. "Something came over me," she says. "I started realizing, 'I have to be worth more than this, I'm better than this.'" She went to counseling. But after six months, she quit. "I stopped going because I got scared of facing the truth and reality of what I had been through," says the 22-year-old, who has since returned to counseling.

Domestic violence can stem from the home. "Not everyone who grows up witnessing domestic violence will turn out to be an abuser later in life, but sometimes people tend to mimic their parent's behavior," says Keisha Ormond, coordinator for the Community Advocacy Program, a domestic-violence prevention agency in Roxbury.

One woman, now 24, says that as a child growing up in Barbados she witnessed her mother being abused by her father. Before she was born, she says, the abuse had begun. "I began to develop a lot of guilt when it comes to this situation, even to this day," she says. She says she and her mother never talked about it. And in Barbados, she says, there were limited resources, including shelters, for battered women. "That made it even harder for my mother to leave," she says. "She needed to do what she had to do to provide for me." After 16 years of abuse, her mother was finally able to escape with the support of her best friend, as well as the strength of her daughter.

Leaving an abusive relationship is

harder than you think. According to Liz Meffen, of Casa Myrna Vazquez, a Boston domestic violence prevention organization (<http://www.casamyrna.org/>), "It takes up to seven times to leave an abusive relationship."

A 16-year-old girl from the South End says she is still trapped in a home of domestic violence. "All of my life, I've witnessed domestic violence," she says. The abuse happens when her father gets drunk, she says. Not only do she and her siblings have to witness her mother being abused, she says, but the children are abused as well. "What keeps me going is my little sisters, because my parents are not the best parents, so I put myself in a position to be the parent," she says.

Ormond says: "I use three words to describe why victims go back or stay with their abusers: hope, fear, and love."

Once the bruises are healed and the blood is washed away, victims still face a lot after finally leaving their abusers. "Domestic violence is not a one, two process," says Daniel Fairclough, a youth team leader at Close to Home. "It's complicated."

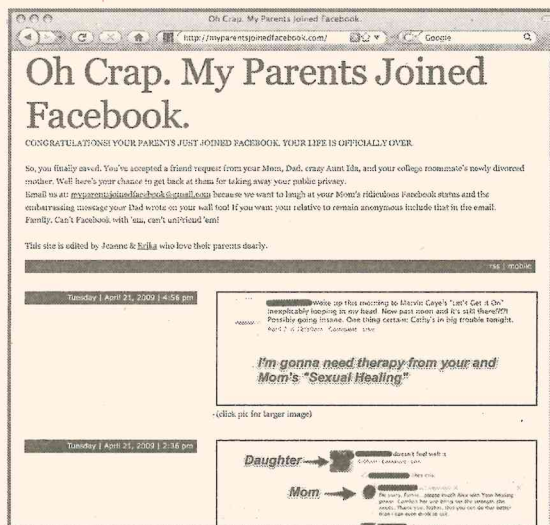
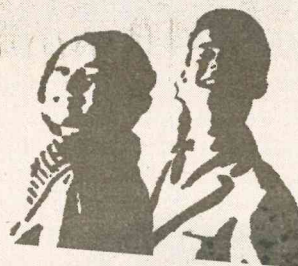
After making the final decision to leave, the process does not end for the victim. At Casa Myrna Vazquez, victims go through what is called safety planning if they think they are finally ready to get out of the abuse. "The most dangerous time for a victim who is in an abusive relationship is when they are about to leave," says Meffen. Victims must fit everything they will need in one bag, including all their important paper work, such as social security cards, insurance papers, and birth certificates. Then, they have to find a safe place to stay. "It's not the abuser who has to leave or start over," says Heather Benjamin, youth program coordinator at Close to Home. "It's the victim."

So what's the solution? Programs like Close to Home and Casa Myrna Vazquez can help decrease domestic violence by aiding victims and educating communities. "If people were more informed on what a healthy and unhealthy relationship is they will have the knowledge and know the difference to make healthy choices," Ormond says.

As the Chris Brown/Rihanna case showed, not everyone knows the basics. Advocates say a healthy relationship involves loving yourself; respecting your partner's right to be himself or herself; having a life outside the relationship with your own set of friends and activities; and making decisions together.

Are Facebook parents friends or foes?

By LaDonya Buchanan // Staff Writer



"Oh Crap. My Parents Joined Facebook. Congratulations! YOUR PARENTS JOINED FACEBOOK. YOUR LIFE IS OFFICIALLY OVER."

That's part of the headline on a website called myparentsjoinedfacebook.com, a site full of blog entries that show embarrassing comments that kids and their parents make to each other on Facebook. On one Facebook page, a mom changed her status from married to single; this post is how her daughter found out her parents got divorced. The question teens are asking: If parents join Facebook, does that make it not cool anymore?

Your parents joined facebook. Your life is officially over.

Some teens hate the idea of parents having a Facebook account. Sean Ogden, 16, of O'Bryant High School, said, "I think it's ridiculous. Parents don't have any friends on Facebook. I can't put any of my explicit pictures out there."

Yelithza Galvez, 17, of the O'Bryant, agrees. "It's weird they're stalking their kids," she said. "They invade my privacy with my friends on Facebook. The Internet is the only place where you're away from your parents." Although she thinks it's a bad idea, she wouldn't ban them from Facebook for one simple reason: "I would want to see what they were doing, too," Galvez said.

Benley Jean, 17, who attends O'Bryant, also thinks it's a bad idea. "It's stupid because most are doing it to watch if their kids are doing bad stuff," he said. "If you don't have faith in your kids, then they shouldn't have Facebook in the first place."

Of course, some teens might try to use the blocking system on their parents, although that might enrage mom and dad more.

But O'Bryant's Mariah Cole, 16, thinks it is OK

for parents to be on Facebook. "That's their business," she said. "If they want to join, then they want to join. It doesn't do anything to your privacy because your parents should know what you're doing."

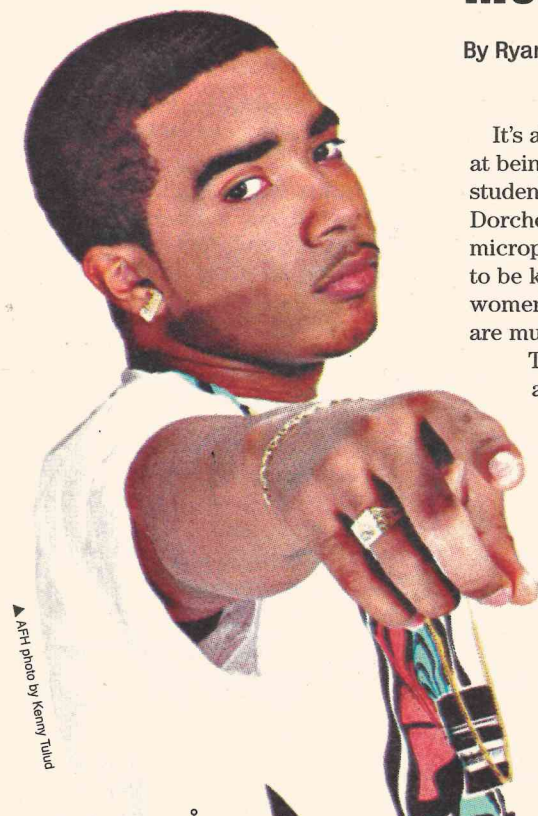
Other students also don't have a problem with their parents having a Facebook account. Kera Ruffin 17, a junior from O'Bryant, said, "My mom has an account because of job purposes because she works for the city. It would be in her best interest to have one." Jeichael Henderson, 17, and Elie Simmons, 16, both of O'Bryant, also have parents who have accounts for working purposes. Simmons said, "It doesn't make Facebook less cool, because Facebook was not invented for teens. It was invented for the corporate world and for older people to get in contact with other older people. Teens got hip a little later and now we're running it, that's all." Atiyya Partlow, 16, a junior at the O'Bryant, said, "My mom got a Facebook because she wanted to be cool. Parents joining Facebook makes it cooler for more people because it gives a larger variety of age groups. The only teens that think a parent joining is stupid usually have more things to hide. If there is nothing to hide then they shouldn't have a problem with parents being on Facebook."

People would think that if a parent had a Facebook account, the teen would be more against it; and if their parent did not have a Facebook account, they would be more for the idea. Truth is, it seems that teens whose parents had a Facebook account are more accepting of it. The teens whose parents did not have an account were more against it and could not stand the thought of their parents joining Facebook.

Overall, some young people said parents are allowed to have a Facebook account, under one condition: They don't overdo it and invade their teens' privacies. "My mom is allowed to have Facebook," said Ruffin, "just as long as she doesn't bother me."

Meet Boston rapper Dizzy

By Ryan Ward // Staff Writer



Rapper Dizzy

It's always great to see someone local make a stride at being a professional artist. Denzel Patterson, 17, a student at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School lives in Dorchester and goes by the name Dizzy when on the microphone. This well rounded rap artist wants hip-hop to be known for more than profanity and half naked women dancing in the videos. His style and influences are much different than other artists.

The main influence for his music is not so much another rapper, but his life. Although his favorite rapper is Tupac, he says what gets him hyped about music is the reaction that other people have after listening to his.

The first thing Dizzy ever wrote was inspired by his older brothers. One was a producer and the other was a rapper, and they were constantly making music. Dizzy was young when he first decided to put his pen to paper. "I wrote my first rhyme when I was 10," he said. Dizzy then decided to stop for a while since he felt he was too young to take it seriously. In middle school he started working with others as a Christian rapper.

He decided Christian rap wasn't who he was and moved on. He's all about what he

describes as "real music," meaning music that's motivated by who he is, more than just the cool kid. He doesn't rap about drugs or gangster talk because he says it's not who he is. He even prefers not to use profanity in his music.

In high school, Dizzy didn't have a great home situation, living with his mom in Boston, then moving to Bellingham with his dad for nine months. In that span of time, he said, he and his dad would go days without seeing each other. So Dizzy would be by himself making his music on his own time.

When he started to record, he built the microphone himself. He placed the microphone in an empty water bottle and wrapped a clothing wire around it.

Dizzy likes to do all his promoting himself and he wants to make it big time by himself. He doesn't like working with groups much and said he considers himself only a solo rapper.

His first show was at his school, The Burke. Since then he's branched out doing more shows at Fitchburg State College and smaller venues around Boston.

There's no doubt that Dizzy isn't going to give up on his dream. "Music is what I want to do for the rest of my life," he said. He even wants to go to colleges that are good for careers in music management.

His first CD will be coming out soon with the title "The Fresh Prince of Boston." Check him out at his web page: [http:// www.myspace.com/617dizzy](http://www.myspace.com/617dizzy).

Chester French delivers tasty tunes

By Ciara Martinez // Peer Editor

Harvard graduates D.A. Wallach and Maxwell Drummey make up the group Chester French. With their spunky and quirky sound, they represent a new genre of music that, they say, has yet to be heard. They compare their music to a donut with "crunchy guitars and shimmering vocal harmonies. When we make music we start with visuals. We want the song to have a ribbed appearance."

They have worked hard to perfect their craft by taking on jobs recording, producing, and writing in the Quad Sound Studios where R&B producer and Harvard alum Ryan Leslie also began his career.

Throughout their years at Harvard, the pair began recording a demo and by the end of their senior year it was complete. The demo made it into the hands of Jermaine Dupri, Kanye West, and Pharrell Williams. The competition to get the band signed would end up between West and Williams. Everything was settled when Chester French decided to sign with Star Trak (Pharrell Williams' label), an imprint of Interscope Records.

They took the stage at the South by Southwest Music Festival in 2008. From there on, they have performed on tour with Lady Gaga and N.E.R.D, to name a few. They released a free mix tape with Boston native Clinton Sparks called "Jacques Jams: Volume I: Endurance." Chester French stated on their website that "Unlike 'Love the Future,' which we've written, arranged, performed, produced, and engineered by ourselves, 'Jacques Jams' features a collection of new, original music that we created in the hills of Massachusetts and then invited some of our favorite artists to grace." Among others, it includes guest appearances by Cassie, Diddy, Jadakiss, Lady Gaga, and Pharrell Williams.

Their debut album "Love the Future" is in stores now. You can get exclusive videos, pictures, and music from Chester French at www.myspace.com/chesterfrench, <http://www.facebook.com/chesterfrench>, and <http://www.chesterfrench.com/>



Chester French is not just another Boston band.

▲ Photo by Francesco Carrozzini

The Ready Set get up and go

By Ryan Ward // Staff Writer

Every band needs to start somewhere.

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, back in '07, Jordan Witzigreuter, 19, started working on his keyboard. Soon he began a solo project called The Ready Set, a band that plays electronic/pop music. Then, deciding to branch out and make it more than just a garage band idea, manager John Sheil, drummer Tyler Humphrey, bass player Andy Snyder, and lighting man George Turkette decided to come along.

Traveling the country in vans and trailers, they took their live show on the road, making between \$150 and \$400 a night, jumping from one cheap hotel to another. They booked shows in many cities – especially in the Midwest – just to stay on their feet. They sell merchandise like T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and CDs at all their shows, and at their website, www.myspace.com/thereadysset. It's cash, yes, but most of all, these efforts provide great promotion.

The band is growing more well known, with more than 50,000 friends on MySpace, 200 to 400 plays a day, and comments galore from people waiting for them to come to their city. Their bright colorful page matches their style of music and bears a personal touch of Witzigreuter, who leaves messages that say things like, "3.24.09, today was my first day actually recording! I did a bunch of instrumental stuff."

The group's music has been influenced by many sources. Witzigreuter is a big fan of Copeland (soft indie) and Kanye West (hip-hop and R&B). Most of their songs are soft with uplifting beats and all kinds of sounds coming together to make the perfect electronic melody.

The Ready Set just recorded a new full-length album in Atlanta, which means they should be touring around with that real soon.



Jordan Witzigreuter started The Ready Set.

Poison and Leppard unite

By Xhersi Laka // Staff Writer

Def Leppard and Poison have buried the hatchet — but are releasing the power of their axes as they've united for a US tour this summer. The guitar-driven heavy megabands have kissed and made up after a rough war-of-words that lasted for months. Also joining them will be a hard-edged-almost-metal-yet-very-melodic-classic-rock-band, Cheap Trick. The tour starts on June 23 in Camden, NJ. The groups will come to the Comcast Center in Mansfield on June 30.

The beef took hold when Def Leppard frontman Joe Elliot told the media in Sweden last June that bands like Poison and Mötley Crüe have "no substance in their music," and relied more on their image than their sound. Bret Michaels, the lead singer of Poison, was outraged. He quickly responded: "They shouldn't be knocking anyone about their music since they just did a show called 'Dancing with the Stars' in the US and they got crucified because they... lip-synched the entire show. I've never lip-synched a... thing in my life - ever!" Meanwhile, Elliot told Rolling Stone magazine that he did not consider Def Leppard to be a wussy hair band. The bad boys are rockers, he said.

But Elliot says the media exaggerated the whole thing. In an interview with Classic Rock magazine, he said: "The supposed fight that we had with Poison wasn't a fight at all. It was taken out of context by a foreign journalist.... We don't have a problem with any of these guys, never have."

What about those fans who love both bands. Which side should they choose in the argument? This is what 16-year-old Sean Ogden from O'Bryant High had to say about it: "I love both bands. I don't know why Joe Elliot said what he said about Poison but I'm sure he had his reasons. It doesn't even matter anymore because they made up and I love the fact that they're going on tour together."

The bands say they each will perform for about 90 minutes. You will hear their greatest hits and also some of the new stuff that they have been making. But you better hurry. News reports say that tickets are going fast.

Britney's back

By Sarah Blanchette and Jennifer Sánchez // Senior Editors

Any real fan should be able to finish the following line:

It's Britney...

So, do you know the rest? If you do, chances are you were at the Boston TD Banknorth Garden on March 16 when the infamous Ms. Spears showed a sold-out crowd of 17,804 just what a comeback should look like. For approximately an hour and a half, she kept her audience entertained with jugglers, acrobats, and a few songs. There is no doubt that if you are a fan of pop music, the TD Banknorth Garden is where you should have been that Monday.

Let's just get one thing out of the way before we begin the gushing—yes, she lip-synched, and, yes, throughout the entire concert. No, there was no live music (excluding the Pussycat Dolls in the opening). Then again, what would you expect from our princess of pop?

If you had tickets, you knew this beforehand. More than anything, Spears' concert was a spectacle—hours of eye-candy and constant amusement everywhere your eye wandered. She performed such classics as "...Baby One More Time," and "Toxic," and introduced the crowd to some newer hits like "If You Seek Amy" and "Womanizer."

Dressed in a variety of glamorous and flashy outfits, she wore a Tinker Bell style one-piece, but the most dazzling of all was the ringmaster costume she wore to perform her hit 'Circus.' "I'm a put-on-a-show kind of girl," Spears sang, echoing her MTV Award performance. Set up with a main circular stage and two smaller circular stages on both the left and right, the elaborate sets got the crowd feeling the atmosphere.

Who would have thought the queen herself would not only make a comeback but put on a show worth every penny for both the older and younger generations? But make no mistake: if anyone can, it's Britney Spears.

The show ended at 11:15 p.m., so you can imagine the energy she sparked in her fans to keep them going, never losing a step through the night. Let T.i.P. be the first to tell you, Britney Spears is back and better than ever!

Boston's Track & Field athletes set the pace

BY DANIEL ALFARO // STAFF WRITER

There is nothing quite like the arrival of spring in the city. It is practically every student/athlete's aspiration to participate in spring competitions. Still, not many anticipate the season as much as those who take part in Track & Field.

This activity has been around since 776 BC, long before sports like baseball and basketball. It is one of the first ever athletic competitions. For an old sport, it has recently grown in popularity among youth who are interested in the sports' three events: running, throwing, and jumping.

Ina Shkurti, 15, who attends John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science and who was part of the winning indoor track season, says of the outdoor matches that are already underway: "Every time there is a meet I try my hardest because it's always good to challenge myself." As a freshman in high school, she competed in Track & Field, throwing the shot put. Even though she has a busy schedule, often going to bed at midnight after doing her homework, she tries to stay in form by making healthy choices in her daily routine. "I try to eat food with good amounts of protein, and of course, you never see me without a Gatorade bottle in hand," she says. "I like to keep hydrated."

Shkurti's dedication is shared by many Track & Field

athletes, who say they challenge themselves because they enjoy being fit, socializing, and having fun.

Runner/ thrower Shani Baker 17, who attends the West Roxbury Education Complex, was encouraged by her mother to join Track & Field. Baker runs the 55 meter dash and throws the shot put. She is like many other teenagers, juggling school, working (as a cashier), and participating in track. "It's really difficult," she says "Every day after practice or work I go straight home and study." Teen athletes say to run competitions you need plenty of stamina. "I lift weights, drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated," Baker says.

Thomas Lee, 17, of the West Roxbury complex, tosses the shot put. "I heard about this sport from my teacher at school," says Lee. He keeps in shape by running and eating well. "The things I do to help my healthy diet is to not drink soda, eat junk like Burger King, McDonald's," he says. Lee has an unusual way of preparing for meets. "I relax and take a brief nap," he says.

O'Bryant coach Jose Ortega says he is always excited about the outdoor Track & Field season. "The kids," he says, "get a thrill and a love for each of the events." Even with his cool, laid-back attitude, Ortega is confident his athletes will win this spring's city title. "There are other schools that are building to beat us," he says. "They are working hard on making our lives miserable."



▲ AFH photo by Hanh Nguyen

Cyberbullying is a click away

By Katryna Mahoney // Staff Writer

Dennisse Rorie, 19, was sitting at the computer when an AOL Instant Messenger notice popped up on the screen. Curiously, she clicked 'I accept.'

"Hey, Dennisse," said a guy.

"Who are you?" Rorie replied.

The guy started saying things like, "You know me. I like you."

She answered, "I don't like you, I don't even know who you are."

He began calling her degrading names and Rorie couldn't take it anymore. So she responded by saying the same things back. As it turned out, the guy reported her to the Internet Service Provider (ISP), and her Internet was shut off for two days. She was punished by her father. No Internet, no AIM, no TV, not even watching "Degrassi," which was the hit TV show then. Rorie was enraged. Some guy she apparently knew disrespected her, and then reported her, when he was the one who started it all.

Rorie was 16 at the time. For the past two and a half years, she has been a peer leader at the Children's Hospital Center for Young Women's Health (<http://www.youngwomenshealth.org>). Since her cyberbullying incident, she has learned how to deal with situations like this, and she is teaching other young people how to protect themselves. Today, she doesn't accept people on AIM she doesn't know, and if someone is harassing her online, she knows to contact her ISP.

Cyberbullying is "the use of modern communication technologies to embarrass, humiliate, threaten, or intimidate an individual in the attempt to gain power and control over them," according to the Boston Public Schools Cyber Safety Campaign (bpscybersafety.org). Cyberbullying "hurts you emotionally because they say mean things," says Erica Cuevas, 18, a student at Boston Latin Academy, who says she has had bad encounters online. "They were nice at first, then started calling me a 'ho.'"

Since September 2008, Cuevas and Tynaya Frasier, 17, a student at Health Careers Academy, have also been peer leaders at the Center for Young Women's Health. Frasier believes cyberbullying is "getting more extreme; people strive to fit into the American culture [and think] 'I have to be in the in crowd.'" People say things hiding anonymously behind a computer screen that they wouldn't say to your face, experts say.

While cyberbullying is becoming more severe, people are becoming more aware through programs like this, which goes to schools and community centers and educates youth about the issue. The peer leaders give advice and tell their audiences that if they are ever cyberbullied, they should report the person to the ISP or talk to an adult or parent, but never keep in contact with the cyberbully.

In extreme cases, cyberbullying can have serious consequences. In October 2006, according to news accounts, a 13-year-old Missouri girl committed suicide after receiving hate messages online, including one that said the world would be a better place without her. Last November, a 49-year-old mother from Missouri was convicted of being involved in the case, which attracted national headlines.

Cyberbullying is more widespread than people think. In February, the Boston Public Schools conducted a survey of students in high school computer classes. Of the 136 who responded, 24 percent said they'd been abused or harassed online or by a text message. A National Crime Prevention Council article recently stated that 43 percent of teens nationwide have been victims of cyberbullying.

The BPS Cyber Safety Campaign is helping to spread the word about cyberbullying. In your high school, you may have seen posters or screen savers of the four cyber-safety characters: Shield, the hub for Online Personal Safety; Copyright, the heart of Intellectual Property; Amika, the expert for Cyberbullying; and Firewall, the symbol of Cybersecurity.

Cyberbullying can be just a keyboard click away. So next time you sign onto Facebook or AIM, think smart and stay safe. As Rorie says: "Not everyone is out there to be your friend."



hey dennisse.



who are you?

u know me. i like u.

i don't like u. i don't even know who u r.

▲ AFH Artwork

TOP 10 CYBERBULLYING OFFENSES

1. **Flaming:** Online fights using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language.
2. **Impersonation:** Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material to get another person in trouble or to damage that person's reputation or friendships.
3. **Denigration:** Dissing online. Sending or posting gossip or rumors about a person to damage his or her reputation.
4. **Harassment:** Repeatedly sending nasty, insulting messages.
5. **Personal Intimidation:** Threatening to harm a person.
6. **Public Humiliation:** Drawing attention to an individual by circulating a negative online video or message.
7. **Stalking:** Repeated, intense harassment that includes threats or creates significant fear.
8. **Outing:** Sharing someone's secrets, or embarrassing information or images, online.
9. **Trickery:** Talking someone into revealing secrets or embarrassing information, then sharing it online.
10. **Exclusion:** Intentionally and cruelly excluding someone from an online group.

Source: Boston Public Schools



poetry

If Only My Heart

By Gregoria Ruiz // Contributing Writer

If my heart
Had
Eyes

They could tell
Me when something is
Going wrong

When they tell me
They will start to
Cry

If my heart
Had a
Nose
It would tell me
When something
Smells fishy

So that I would not look
Stupid in front of them
When I confront
Him

If my heart
Had a
Mouth

It would tell
Me who really
Deserves my heart

Then find that
Person

If my heart
Had an
Ear

It would tell
Me all the unknown things
All the secrets and lies
That I wish to find
Out

If my heart
Was a
Friend

She would tell me when something is wrong
When something smells fishy
Who really deserves my love?
And
All the unknown secrets I wish
To know

Let me be free

By Djamila Tavares//Contributing Writer

I want to be free as you
Living in my own world
Where nobody will tell me what to do,
What to say and what to be.
Where I can be who I want to be,
Not what they want me to be.
I want to live where everything is transparent in the eyes
of people.
Where I will be able to see the wide world,
But they will not be able to see me.
I just want to be free as a bird for a while.

Spring

By Mabel Lee//Contributing Writer

The smell of cool fresh air reaches my nostrils
As I see children frolicking in the freshly cut green grass
That seems to surround every area of the city.
Flowers are in full bloom once again.
The wind blows past my ears
As I shield my eyes against the glaring sun.
People run past me, getting a good stretch
After the long, tough winter months.
Birds chirp around me as dogs are watched
Securely by their owners who have unleashed them
From their leash.
The joy on people's faces seem to have multiplied more
As the sun shines brightly and powerfully in the sky
Signaling once again that it is springtime.

SIDETRACK



▲ Photo by Alana Andonian

By Stuart Spina // Staff Writer

End of the line.

Every ride must come to an end. After four years of writing for "Teens In Print," and two years writing SideTrack, my time has come. This shall be my final SideTrack to appear in print. Although I did not get to tell you about Flyer D901s and the 5200s (which had no power steering!), or the West End Street Railway consolidations, or the cheapest place to get pretzels on the T, I enjoyed every minute of writing this column. I will leave SideTrack in the hands of my fellow writer, Roxanne Taylor, whom I'm sure will do a great job.

Another fare increase proposed

The 2007 fare increase is still fresh in our minds. Soon, T riders may have to pay at least 25 percent more per ride. Service nights and weekends may also be reduced in half, or even be eliminated altogether. That's right, paying more money for less service! Teens, along with the elderly and lower income riders, are among those who get hit the hardest by fare increases and service cuts. Do you have an extra car at home you could drive instead? How about some disposable income to put on your CharlieCard? Yet the MBTA says it is not trying to spurn its riders.

New budget crisis looms for the T

The MBTA faces a \$160,000,000 deficit in its next fiscal year, which starts this July. Governor Patrick's proposed 19-cent gas tax hike would help balance it (six cents of every 19 going towards the T); however, a fierce battle has erupted on Beacon Hill. More legislators are worried about the Mass Pike toll increases than funding public transportation. The automobile lobby is strongly against the tax hike; the T Riders Union, On the Move, and several other transit advocacy groups are the only ones pushing for it. Without state aid, the MBTA has no choice but to raise fares and cut service. And that is just to close this budget gap. We may have to deal with this again next year. Budget crises, however, are not new for the T.

This is only another chapter of the story. Greater Boston's transit agencies have had a long history of financial woes. The West End Street Railway lost its lines to its lessee in the 1890s. The Boston Elevated Railway (BERy) converted many of its streetcar lines to buses during the 1920s and 1930s to save on maintenance costs. Ridership overall had also declined during this time. After the war-time boom, BERy again slipped financially and subsequently was purchased by the newly created MTA (which would have its own money problems). The 1981 budget crisis resulted in the worst cut-backs in T history; several stations were closed on Sundays, 28 bus routes eliminated, and the frequency of services reduced. Perhaps we should have learned from history.

So if you would hate another fare increase while receiving less service in the bargain, push for transit reform! You and your parents can call your state reps and senators at 617-722-2000 and demand that they take transit funding more seriously. If you do not know who your legislators are, visit this website: wheredoivotema.com. Let's not have another 1981.

By Sarah Blanchette // Senior Editor



I started T.i.P. my freshmen year because my friend told me that there would be a lot of free food...and he was right! I remember getting my first story published like it was yesterday; I was so proud I must have taken 10 copies of the issue home. Now, I'm graduating. Other than the food, I'm really going to miss Ms. K.G. and her jokes and the rest of the staff (especially the seniors) because we have become so close throughout the years. I had a lot of good times at T.i.P. I got to go to concerts, movie screenings, and on trips for free. The highlight of my four years at T.i.P. would have to be when I went to California with Jennifer for a journalism conference. We had the time of our life, and it was thanks to T.i.P. I have been lucky enough to meet some really great people at T.i.P. and I will always fondly remember how I spent my Tuesday nights in high school.

By Ryan Ward // Staff Writer



Growing up, I used writing as a coping mechanism, an outlet for all my stresses. When I heard about Write Boston and T.i.P. I figured here are a bunch of other students who get by doing the same thing as me, putting words on paper. It didn't take long to lure me in for good, with plenty of food every week, the accomplishment of being a published writer, and having my friends and family reading all of my hard work. T.i.P. turned me from a kid who likes to write about sports, to someone who has broadened my whole horizon and written about local artists and our favorite sports teams. I even became quite the food critic. T.i.P. really reached out to me when they let me throw out the first pitch at Fenway Park on July 2, 2007 for my published story on Daisuke Matsuzaka (Red Sox starting pitcher). So to T.i.P. and especially Miss K.G., all I can say is thank you for everything.

By Thanh Nguyen // Staff Writer



I remember when I first came to T.I.P. at the beginning of the school year not knowing anyone. I was afraid to speak to anyone but as soon as the program started, people began to come up to me and talk to me like they had known me for a long time. It made me feel like I belonged because not many kids had ever come up to me like that before. Teens here are very open and such cool kids. They are talkative when it comes to making new friends and that's how I began to feel more open, like home. But unfortunately time has passed by so quickly and it has to end soon. All of us are growing up and heading off to college. I would like to spend this time saying I will miss all of you guys very much and I hope to see you all soon! And thank you all for being part of my life when I needed you guys most. Best wishes to everyone and good luck with your future!

By Jennifer Sánchez // Senior Editor



As I close this chapter of my high school experience to begin another in college, I still can't believe how time flew. It seems like yesterday I joined the WriteBoston summer journalism camp and that following September, my freshman year, I became part of the T.i.P. staff. I remember how shy I was to have my first article published and now I am proud to see my articles in print. I will miss coming every Tuesday and Thursday to the Globe, not to mention the food at our publication parties after each issue. Ms. K.G. was always an inspiration and her jokes could get us laughing for hours. I learned so much and owe it to T.i.P. for allowing me the opportunity to strengthen my writing and editing skills that have helped me through many accomplishments. One of the biggest achievements was the admittance to both of my top colleges, Emerson College and Northeastern University. Life is a journey and as I continue mine I am happy knowing T.i.P. was there to take me in and guide me to the next stage.

By Stuart Spina // Staff Writer



One day my eighth grade teacher came into class and told us about a summer journalism camp offered by WriteBoston. Four years (and numerous articles) later, I have developed my skills as a writer and journalist. It was not surprising that I wrote most often about the MBTA. Public transit has been a lifelong interest of mine and I enjoy telling people about its goings on and giving them a behind the scenes look at the system. Plus at T.i.P. I met some pretty awesome people in the process, friends I'm sure I will keep in touch with after I go off to college. Looking back, I could not think of a better way to have spent my Tuesdays. So long, and thanks for all the free food!

The Know-it-All Advice Column Parody

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

Dear Know-it-All,

I was on my way to Indonesia, on my private jet, in hopes that I would be successful in my exploration of the rare Java rhino, when we hit an air pocket. We plunged down at an altitude of two to three miles and crashed on an uncharted island west of Indonesia. The pilot sadly did not make it, but I started a signal fire in hopes of rescue. After two days, I got tired of waiting on the beach, so I made my way into the forest.

At night, I heard roaring coming from the mountain. I decided to stay away from it not only because I'm sketchy about the roaring, but mainly because I think it's a volcano due to the smoke coming out of it. Two days into the forest I found a person's decomposing body. I found his wallet — it didn't have any cash — and there was a pocket knife and a license. I don't know who this "Robinson Crusoe" is, but he's one unlucky guy.

I found some big black cantaloupe things growing out of a bush. I think I'm going to stay away from those. I reached another beach on the other side of the mountain. I decided to go fishing over a cliff, using a net. I caught a Fugu, more commonly known in America as a puffer fish. I'm staying away from it as I do not fully know all the facts about the tetrodotoxin. It has been five days since the crash, and I still can't find any food. I don't know what to do. Please Know-it-All, I keep hearing sounds of carnivorous animals, and I have nothing to protect myself with. I need your help!

-Carrolton Faraday-

OK, Faraday. I'd like to start by saying that if Robinson Crusoe didn't make it, you don't stand a chance. On the other hand, if you would still like to continue your struggle to be rescued, look no further. First of all, you got this letter off an uncharted island — whether you mailed it by bottle, by hawk, or even by a random post box sitting on the island to which some random mail man comes by plane — I'm flattered that you used whatever paper you had left on us, and not on an S.O.S.

OK, when you were on the beach, it was a bad idea to light a signal fire. Hyenas love fire. You wouldn't want to be attacked in your sleep, would you? Also, those cries you heard from the mountain were from a mountain lion. The first thing you want to do is domesticate a mountain lion. Mountain lions love humans! To domesticate a mountain lion, all you have to do is throw a rock at it, walk over to it, and rub its belly. Mountain lions will easily help you find fruit like the cranberries you found earlier. Yummy, nature's candy.

Fishing is always a great idea. You'll find a bunch of delectable Fugu! Ah, silly Faraday, Fugu are in no way deadly. That whole toxin thing is an urban legend. Eat until you drop! Well, I hope this helps, and who knows, maybe you'll get footage of the Java rhino on your journey.

- Know-it-All-

Indiana Jones and the Staff of Kings

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

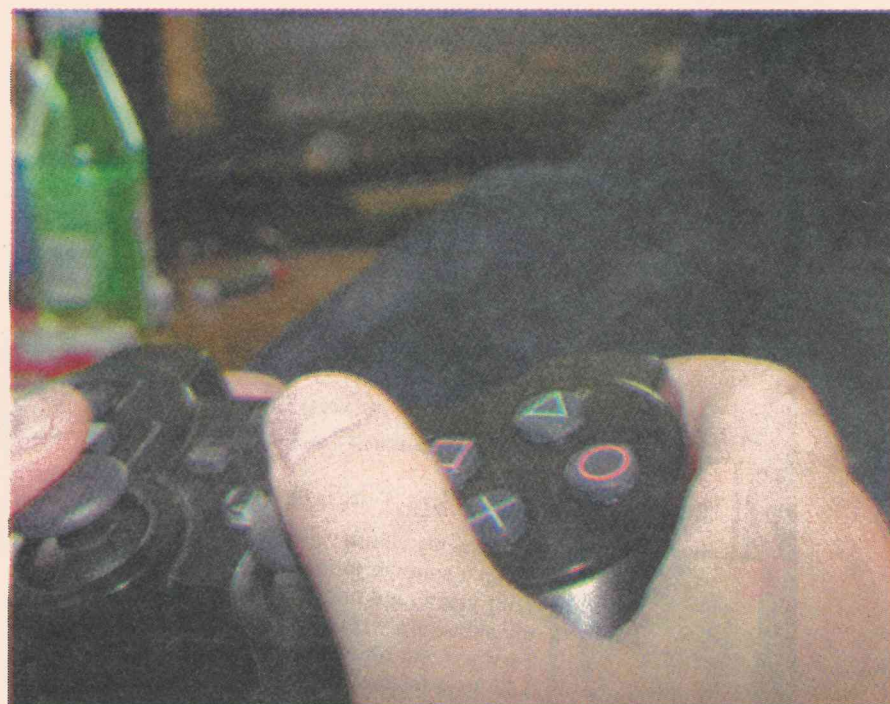
Since June 1981, people have raved about the "Indiana Jones" movie trilogy as the Indy franchise has grown. After the first game, "Raiders of the Lost Ark," for the Atari 2600, there have been many successful titles, such as "Indiana Jones and the Infernal Machine" for the Nintendo 64 and everyone's favorite, "Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis," for the Amiga. But the newest game, "Indiana Jones and the Staff of Kings," might just have the stuff to top them all.

According to Nintendo.com, the plot centers on Indy's search for the Staff of Moses. It is set in 1939, the year World War II begins, 18 years before the events in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," and one year after the events of "Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade." It features a sequence set in San Francisco, involving a brawl outside a fireworks factory and a fight atop a runaway cable car.

The game — available for the Wii, DS, PSP, and PS2 — is constructed with a technique its developer, LucasArts, describes as "euphoria." What it does is allows the designers to create a game filled with animations that aren't scripted. In other words, what you see is not what you get. Every fist thrown, every punch taken, every time you dodge an attack or get pushed into a car windshield will be different. When you fall off a platform, or get attacked from behind; when you jump from one area to the next, or chase down an enemy that's been driving you insane, every action leads to a reaction, and every reaction, the developers insist, will be different.

The story line is supposed to be just as good as the movies, and the graphics are top notch. However, not all teens agree. "The movies had good details and a good story line, and mostly the only way that the game would be as good [as the movies] is if it follows one of the movie's story lines and is put to a game system like PS3 or Xbox 360 so the graphics are compatible with the movie," wrote Samuel Whitson, age 14 of the Timilty Middle School, on a questionnaire written for this topic.

What Whitson wrote is a vital dilemma for Nintendo: the Wii's graphical capability is far from the Xbox 360's and PS3's, but are graphics everything? "A lot of the time, the PS3 can go overboard with the graphics," said Joseph DiChiara, age 13, of



The new "Indiana Jones" game is available for the Wii, DS, PSP, and PS2 systems.

Boston Latin Academy. "The PS3 definitely has a lot of lag because they over-do it." So DiChiara thinks that because of the details, a lot of PS3 games have lag, making the graphics out-weigh the game-play. "People these days are looking for the more retro-type games," said DiChiara, noting that old-school games stress game-play over graphics. So when you get right down to it, the success of "Indiana Jones and the Staff of Kings" depends on the game-play, and the game-play is pretty great.

On December 21, 2012, a great cataclysm will come and destroy mankind. At least that's what some people think. The reason this date is so significant is because it marks the end of the Mayan calendar. Some scientists and "2012 enthusiasts" figure that the world ends there. How will this happen? Here are three hot-button possibilities.

Theory 1: Earthly pole shift

The theory of the Earth's polarities shifting is an interesting one, but it is also simple. At some time in mid 2008, German astronomers discovered our Milky Way galaxy had a super massive black hole at the center. Where the theory starts is the idea of the Earth going through what the Mayans called 'the dark rift,' which is actually the Milky Way galaxy's super-massive black hole. When Earth goes through the dark rift, our north and south poles are expected to switch.

Now, this doesn't sound like such a big deal, but, think about it. Have you ever gone to the beach but forgotten to put on sunscreen? Well, think of our Earth's magnetic field as a giant layer of sunscreen. Without it, the sun will give our home a big sunburn. This would happen because when the poles shift, we lose our magnetic field. This is thought to last three days. But three days is enough to cook our planet like a rotisserie chicken. Tyler Cohen, a Boston Public Schools student, had this to say. "It's probably bull, but if it happens, I'll somehow adapt."

Theory 2: Planet X

Maybe you've heard of Planet X, but it's not what most people think it is. It is not the planet beyond Pluto. Scientists have discovered that it is a planet believed to leave our solar system. It has a roughly 2,600 year orbit of our sun, and that is a long time. It takes our earth 365 days to complete a total orbit of the sun (or 366 on a leap year). In other words, one year for Planet X is more than 2,600 years for us.

The reason scientists are afraid of Planet X approaching is because it goes through the Oort cloud. The Oort is a theoretical cloud of millions of asteroids covering our solar system. Scientists have calculated that Planet X's orbit will go between Mars and Earth, bringing comets from the Oort cloud with it. These comets would most likely be pulled into Earth's gravity, shooting multiple comets at our world like an automatic rifle. Vayu Kieta, 25, plans on building a bunker in mid-Canada on the off chance this does happen.

Theory 3: Economic Crisis

This is possibly the most popular theory. It is the one thing non-superstitious people can believe. The theory has everything to do with the current economic recession. Families are facing poverty, the country is lacking jobs. We can't just sit around and wait to see what happens, though.

Nostradamus, an extremely famous prophet, predicted this economic failure and the fall of a great nation. People believe he predicted World War II, and others think 9/11 was a prophecy foretold by him as well. Daniel Curran, 14, said he is not worried. "It's probably just a hoax," he said.

It's all up to us as a united country to help prevent this.



2012:

DOOMSDAY OR DECEIT?

BY TREVOR WARD // STAFF WRITER

▲ AFH artwork by Jesse Rauzen and Lee Beard

COMIC STRIP



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Trevor Ward
Stuart Spina