

TEENS **in** PRINT BOSTON

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MAY/JUNE 2010™



Go tell, Rwanda

Learning hard truths
from African genocide

By Roxanne Taylor // Senior Editor

▲ AFH painting by Tabbytha Ferguson

■ DARING TO DAGGER PAGE 5 ■ SCHOOL-BUS BLUES PAGE 11 ■ GIRLY GAMES PAGE 22

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Contents

Features

4 A nuzzling question

Friendship or relationship?



▲ AFH photo by Laurie Jean Baptista

17 Songs in the key of T

Subway symphony: sounds fresh.



▲ AFH painting by Henry Demetrius

▲ Courtesy of Disney Pixar

▲ Photo courtesy of Beth Fridinger

Stories

6 Comic relief

7 No beef

In defense of the much-maligned meat.

10 Bad behavior

16 Home sweet homeless

18, 19 Working on the train gang

20 Catching the Buzz

"Toy Story 3."

21 Anime Boston 2010

Cartoon networking.

Sections

RELATIONSHIPS.....	4
CULTURE.....	5
VIEWS & ATTITUDES.....	6
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.....	7
WASSUP AT SCHOOL.....	8-11
MEET THE STAFF.....	12, 13
IN HONOR OF.....	14, 15
T.I.P. MEETS.....	16-19
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT.....	20, 21
THE SPORTING LIFE.....	22
BACK AT YA.....	23

Say goodbye, seniors!

24

TEENS
in
PRINT

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Art/Photography
Artists for Humanity

Senior Editors
Shanasia Bennett
LaDonya Buchanan
Katryna Mahoney
Roxanne Taylor

Staff Writers
Ashley Barker
Xhersi Laka
Tom Leu
Cheila Martinez
Kameisha Mobray
Laurie Raphaël
Melissa Rodriguez
Daja Taylor
Patricia Vanriel
Gabriel Ward
Trevor Ward
Gena White

Contributing Writers
Bashair Abdi
Lauren Artus-Cooper
Yabratymika Elam
Seantelle Epps
Keishla Fernandez
Miguel Fonseca
Musye Gebrezgiy
Eneda Golemi
Kyndra James
Vastie Joseph
Michaiah Lopez
Cindy Monestime
Fabrice Montissol
Luis Mora
Shannon Negron
Ansel Rivera
Marc-Alphonse Simon
Khadija Smalls
Marlene Tejeda
Ianna Thornquist
Davina Tran
Harold Williams
Raychel Wingert

THE BOSTON GLOBE
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WRITEBOSTON
Betty Southwick, Director

T.I.P. Manager
Kelly Knopf-Goldner

T.I.P. Coordinator
Ric Kahn

Cover Story

Mass murder in Rwanda. The slaughter of 800,000 human beings as if they were animals. The extermination of children at schools, and of other ordinary Rwandan Tutsi citizens. All this in just 100 horrific days during the year of 1994.

Like the Holocaust, the wiping out of these groups of people was carefully planned and supported by the ruling government, in this case that of the Hutu.

Last summer, students from TechBoston Academy in Dorchester and suburban youth from Hudson traveled to Rwanda to meet high school students from that African nation.

With teens getting to know about the massive graves and memorial sites of where the disaster took place, they got a firsthand look at what can bring a community together and what can tear a community apart – the theme of the whole experience emphasized by the Brookline-based group, Facing History and Ourselves, that sponsored the program.

The cultural exchange continued in March, when the students from Rwanda came to cities in the US, including Boston, and learned about the struggles Americans faced during the civil rights movement.

History has shown that the human race is a cruel one, at times. We know of the wars, and of the mass killings. But, what if instead of letting history repeat itself, we took time out to see what made people think the way they do?

But that wasn't all that the TechBoston Academy students ascertained during their trip to Rwanda. Along with finding out about the gruesome history of the African country, they also found out things they never realized about themselves.

"It showed me material things don't matter, it is how you take advantage of it and utilize it," said Dominique Johnson, 17, of TechBoston, during a March interview in Brookline. "It humbled me as a person and opened my eyes to new things."

While in Rwanda, the Boston teens were able to visit the Murambi Genocide Memorial. Through this experience, they became aware of how hatred and misunderstanding of a different ethnic group can lead to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

"It gives me a better understanding of diversity," Johnson said.

Through meeting the American students, teen Charles Tuyiringire from the College Christ Roi school in Rwanda said he now knows what a more stable environment feels like.

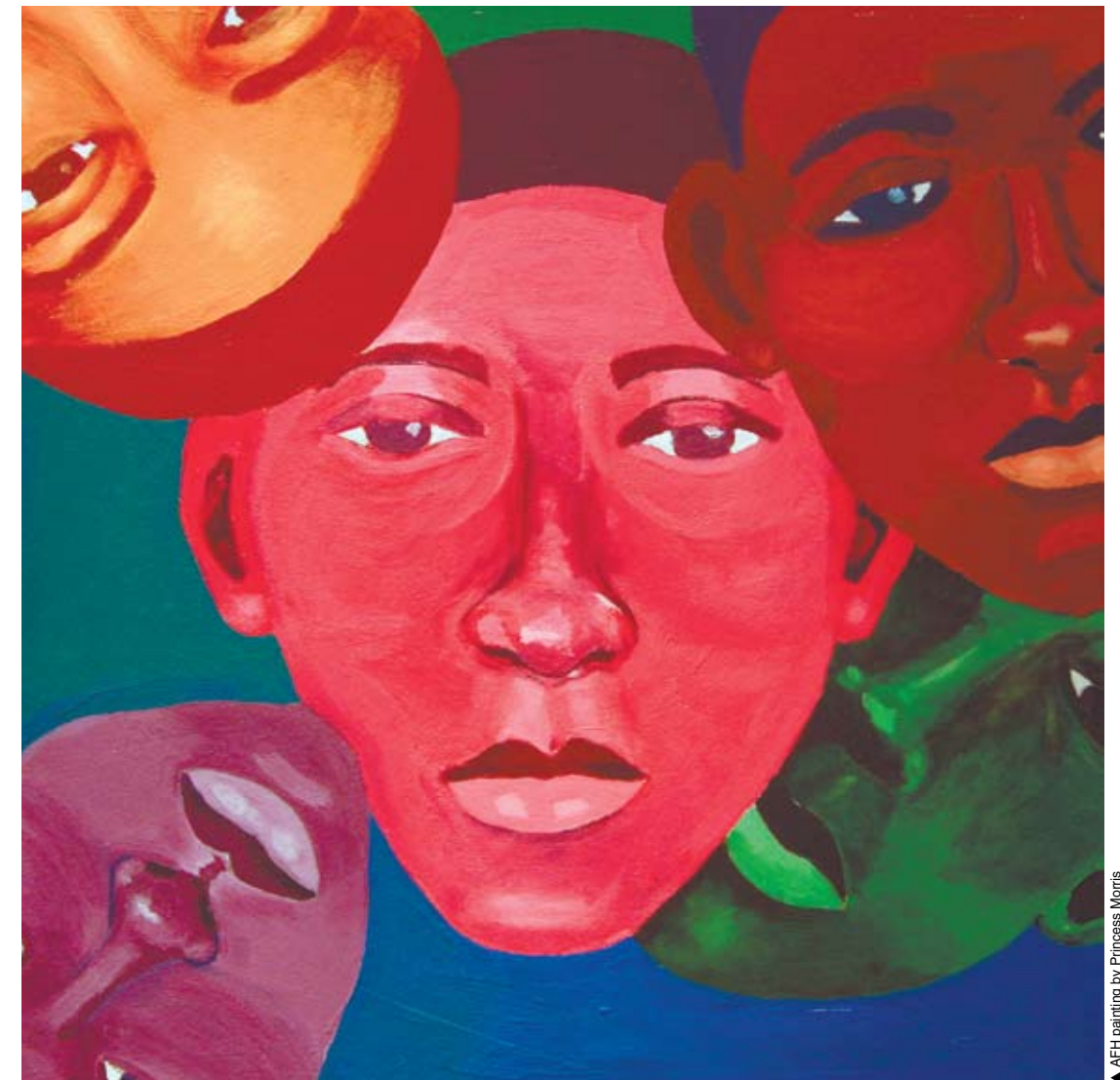
"Before," he said, "I did not know which is a good community, and which is a bad community."

At the March get-together, teens talked about how it is important to become involved in the events around them.

"Kids need to be more engaged in what's going on in the world and have a better understanding of their own history," said Johnson.

For 18-year-old Alex Cruz of TechBoston, the journey to Africa put him in a whole new place.

"It changed where I want to go and what I want to do," he said, "which is help the world." ■



▲ AFH painting by Princess Morris

"Kids need to be **more engaged**
in what's going on in the **world**
and have a **better understanding**
of **their own history.**"

- Dominique Johnson, 17, of TechBoston Academy

Boo who?

Can guys and girls be just friends?

By Patricia Vanriel // Staff Writer

Ryan and Lisa sitting in the tree!

Have you ever had a guy or girl you were close with and everybody thought you went out, even though you were just friends? So the question is, can guys and girls just be friends? Boston Teens in Print surveyed some teens to get their opinions.

Why do people find it impossible for a guy and a girl to hang out and just be friends? Nicole Blount, 18, from the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, wrote in response: "It's because they themselves want to be in a relationship and others don't."

This is true, according to Louis Elveus, 17, from the Burke. "There is a stereotype that is placed on males saying that they're all dogs and only want one thing – which is false for most. That is the reason people think guys and girls can't be friends."

Still, is that enough to justify why guys and girls can't simply be friends? Does nature call for guys and girls to only date, or can they form solid friendships?

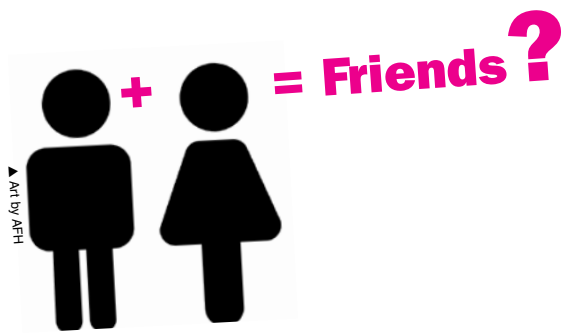
Some people say limiting your friends to one gender is not really beneficial. "Having friends of the opposite sex gives you a different perspective on life," Meredith Goldstein, who pens the "Love Letters" column for The Boston Globe and boston.com, said in an interview. "My male friends tell me things men care about and what they don't care about."

Dating a friend can be advantageous, but for many it never worked out. Their closeness suffered because of mixing friendship with pleasure.

Adrienne Martin, 17, from the Burke, wrote: "Even though we went out for a week and I was in second grade, my relationship with my friend was awkward after we broke up."

Tayvonn Savage, 16, from the Burke, said that he's had success dating a friend. "The relationship was much deeper than a physical attraction," he wrote. "We grew a lot closer because our relationship was built on much more."

Goldstein said things would get awfully complicated if she eyed every guy she was friends with as a love interest. "If I looked at everyone in life trying to figure out if I wanted to make out," she said, "then life would be confusing." ■



▲ AFT photo by Laurie Jean Baptiste

A dagger through the heart

Is this dirty dance craze demeaning to women?

By Shanasia Bennett // Senior Editor

Atiera Horne, 17, from the Fenway, was at a Halloween party on a Saturday night in the fall of 2009. Everybody was doing *it*, including her friend. A young man walked up to her and asked her to dagger. She instantly declined. He kept it moving.

Dagging is a newly popular dance which is a highly sexualized grinding often done front (female) to back (male). It is associated with the musical genre dancehall. Supporters of the dance say dagging is an expression of their Jamaican roots. Critics, however, say it's demeaning to women.

The dance is so controversial that the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica banned it from the airways due to its raunchy lyrics and movements. Even in this country it is a source of debate. Dr. Caren Walker Gregory, headmaster of the newly renamed Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, says she will be approaching everyone who tries to dagger at prom, and will have a private meeting with senior and junior girls beforehand.

"Now that I've educated you on dagging, you can now decide whether or not you will perform this act of dancing at school functions but I will not sit there and let it happen," Walker Gregory told a school assembly in April.

She explained in an interview: "I want my students to have fun at their prom, but they do not have to dagger to have fun. It's too sexual and it's inappropriate."

The dance has become such a part of young peoples' culture that you can see many teens dagging at house parties and other social celebrations. Those who dagger say it's simply a part of life.

"Dagging is not a classy dance, but it's still dancing," says Carolyn Jennings, a senior at Kennedy Academy. "I don't consider dagging [simulated sex] because it's to a beat."

Many teen boys feel dagging is a natural impulse. "Yes, I love dagging. It's like sex to me, it's my hobby," says Kerry, 18.

"I feel like a king when I'm dagging. I just pick up all these girls," says Dayo, 16.

"Girls who dagger – they already know they're objects, they know what it is," says David, 17.

While all three Boston teens were bold in their defense of dagging, none wanted to be identified by their last names for fear of being ridiculed by their teachers at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

When the music stops, and the party's over, and everyone goes home, some adults fear that dagging can lead to other things, like injuries and full-on sex.

"It is an arousing dance as well as an attraction between two people, which

causes the hormones to react," says Brian Means, a junior at Boston Arts Academy, who daggers.

This is exactly what Walker Gregory has strong concerns about. "Dagging demonstrates low self-esteem and can lead to sexual activity," she says. "They...can then end up pregnant."

Horne doesn't just see dagging as a dance; she thinks it's on a whole different level. "I think girls who dagger are having sex or have had sex, because they do not mind it," she says.

Teens are dagging everywhere, whether it is a cultural thing or not. Still, Walker Gregory has a surefire test for whether teens should be doing it or not. "If you think it's inappropriate for your parents to see," she says, "then it's inappropriate." ■



'Tooning in

As part of her senior project at Boston Arts Academy, visual arts major Ianna Thornquist interviewed other teens from around the city to find out what was on their minds. “I found that we have similar concerns,” she wrote, “no matter what neighborhoods or schools we come from.”

Using the quick, colorful power of the political cartoon to convey those points, here’s one example of what Thornquist drew up. To view her other artistic messages, please visit her blog at <http://ithornquistseniorvaportfolio.blogspot.com>



▲ By Ianna Thornquist



Out of place

By Michaiah Lopez // Contributing Writer

I wish I could live in a place, a place brightened with sunshine and gardens full of flowers.

A place where everybody smiles, and frowns do not exist; where everyone’s dreams are reality and reality is only a dream.

Where I can live freely and never be held back.

A place where I can bug out and no one is afraid to join.

I want to fly to a place, a place where there is neither sickness nor sadness.

Instead, I live in a place of turmoil.

A place where I have to hold my tongue, afraid of what others might say.

I live in a place where "Yes we can" has become "No we cannot," and babies are lost because adults have turned into babies.

I live in a place where education is no longer the key to success -- but it is the way you run, how ill your rhymes are, how good you look, or how good your jump shot is.

I live in a place where you can't walk anywhere without somebody telling you that you’re in a place where you should not be.

A place where I'm afraid to look out of my window in fear of what I might see, and every single day a person dies and it seems that we’re killing each other.

I live in a place where people believe, not in the word we, but only I.

I live in a place where there is no hope for tomorrow, but only dreams of what they wish could have happened today.

I wish I could live in a place where everyone could become the next Albert Einstein, and not the product of society's downfalls. ■

Meet Patty

Teens remain attracted to bad-mouthed meals

By Tom Leu // Staff Writer

Meet Patty. Patty has been a hit sensation since the 1920s. Patty originally grew up on a farm in Ohio, they say, and took the country by storm. Patty enjoys being cooked on a hot grill and being the center of attention for teens.

Along the way, Patty met other friends; there’s fries, soda, nuggets, and the rest of the gang. Together, the friends created a band known as “Fast Food” – recognized for its ability to prepare for a performance in a matter of minutes. Today, “Fast Food” battles its opponents – “Fruits and Vegetables” – to win the hearts, or rather stomachs, of teens everywhere.

This opener may have been for jokes, but the dangers of fast food are not to be taken lightly. Fast food has nasty effects on the human body: galloping weight gain, heart disease, and other damaging consequences. Yet, nearly 10 years after the publication of “Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal,” many teens are still members of that forsaken country.

Kathy Cunningham is a registered dietitian in Boston who knows a thing or two about fast-food nutrition. She explained that fast food is dangerous for two reasons – disease, of course, but also the ridiculous amount of calories taken in during an evening with it. “Probably 2,200 calories,” Cunningham said, are devoured in one sitting, which unfortunately is the recommended caloric intake for one full day.

Analyzing this equation – one fast food lunch could equal a day’s worth of calories, plus adding in the two other meals of the day, means excess calories, which in turn could cause obesity. Cunningham also expressed concern over fizzy, sugary, overpriced water – or soda

for short. With the super-sizes that restaurants offer in these drinks, it is inevitable that many teens will succumb to diabetes.

To understand what makes fast food desirable to teens, let’s meet some of its biggest fans.

Livymyer Caceres is a 17-year-old at the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science who is a self-

some parts of the Oscar-nominated documentary, “Food, Inc,” which displays animal cruelty, yet she still feels no guilt.

This lackadaisical trend is a common trait in the modern teen today, such as Linecker Dasilva, 17, from the O’Bryant. His stance on this controversial topic is that origins, nutrients, and type of animal are all diminutive; “taste overpowers” any doubt he has about biting into a greasy burger. Dasilva remains immune to the messages projected by documentaries focusing on exposure to fast-food atrocities. Not even the profound effects done to Morgan Spurlock in “Super Size Me” have an impact on his food selection. Dasilva feels that he can make healthier food choices, but his feeble will-power intervenes with what he decides to fill his plate with.

You would imagine that the release of so many fast-food critiques like “Super Size Me,” “Fast Food Nation,” and “Food, Inc” would change minds, but they have proven ineffective in the face of American teen taste buds. Animal cruelty, unsanitary meat, and the dreaded diarrhea-maker E Coli have all been put into the mix, yet fast food remains a dominant industry. Why? Critics say that it’s because of the flashy advertisements that are able to manipulate teens. Ads convince the youth that what they are buying is kid friendly – just look at McDonald’s spokesman, Ronald McDonald, a friendly clown encouraging kids to purchase junk food.

The commercials effectively sell the food products, the big business owners get fat in wealth, and the consumers get fat in... well fat. It appears as though teens will never reject taste as a factor for foods or get away from the mentality of what Caceres and Dasilva both generally feel about the animal issue: “It’s not fair, but we still have to eat.” ■

described fast-food junkie. “As long as it tastes good” is the motto she uses to defend the food she loves ever so much. Eating healthy is not important to Caceres, nor to many other teens; taste is what they are most concerned with.

Exposés on fast-food industries have little effect on Caceres. She explained recently that she has seen

should at least attempt to go organic. Your overall health would improve, you would help out local farmers, and the environment would get better.

Before a mother first nurses her newborn, the infant has already been exposed to hundreds of pesticides and toxins. Organic fruits and vegetables are grown without pesticides or fertilizers, and all the nutrients and vitamins are retained.

Probably the biggest benefit in going organic is that

Organic options

By Fabrice Montissol // Contributing Writer

Do you know what is in your food? If you can’t pronounce an ingredient on the label, you probably shouldn’t be eating that particular item. Or at least you should go find out what it is. That is why everyone



High school hoodie meets lab coat

By Melissa Rodriguez // Staff Writer

Marie Jean Louis is a biotech whiz. She wants to be a pharmacist and is taking an unusual route to dispensing pills and potions. She is a student at CityLab Academy. “It was a steppingstone for me,” she said.

CityLab Academy is a competitive program sponsored by Boston University, according to Sophan Sok, a recruiter at the institution.

The free, two-semester program is for high school graduates and GED recipients interested in the field of biotechnology who cannot afford to pay tuition at a regular college. CityLab is a nine-month

commitment which awards its students 12 college credits towards their undergraduate degrees.

It was designed due to the growing popularity in the field of biotechnology and to meet the high demands of biotech employers, said Sok.

“[Students] don’t understand that science is so broad, you do not have to be scientists at all,” she said. “There are so many other options.”

Louis, 22, will be graduating in 2012. After getting her high school diploma from Community Academy of Science and Health in Hyde Park, she enrolled at CityLab. “I was overwhelmed going from high school to college, but I was able to

manage it,” she said.

Louis said she feels only good things came out of this transition. “I think that if you work hard, something good comes out of it,” she said. “If you’re able to do the work, and pass it in, and know what you’re doing, it’s ok.”

Latoya Boman, 25, a graduate from Charlestown High who went to CityLab, has nothing but praise for it.

“I wouldn’t change anything,” said Boman. “It affected my life in a positive way and it helped me establish relationships.”

After graduating from the program, Boman was able to obtain a job within

four months, and is currently working as a facility technician at Merck Research Laboratories in Boston. She is taking classes at BU to finish her undergraduate degree.

Both Louis and Boman said they were a little intimidated by the program at first, but once they got into it, each succeeded.

“It was moderate, not too hard, it wasn’t too easy, as well,” said Boman. “It had a lot of challenges.”

Sok believes that CityLab Academy has benefits beyond its student body. “The more educated people you have,” she said, “the better your community will be.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Zeng Ping

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Topic: West Indies

Teens flunk geography

By Ashley Barker // Staff Writer

“What island we come from? West Indies. Answer de call. West Indies.”

These lyrics are from the song “West Indies Cricket” by Soca artist Alison Hinds and dancehall star Sean Paul, and it calls on all people from the West Indies to identify themselves. Whether you’re from the British West Indies, the former Dutch West Indies, or the French West Indies, you’re all part of the Caribbean.

The thing with many people these days is that when they think of the West Indies, maybe only Jamaica, Barbados, The Bahamas, and Trinidad come to mind. But what about the places that are not so known, such as Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and, even though it is not geographically part of the West Indies, but culturally is – Guyana.

Native Jamaican islander Yanique Edwards, 17, of Dorchester, says that the more familiar areas overshadow the more obscure ones: “Because some are well known, and others are not.”

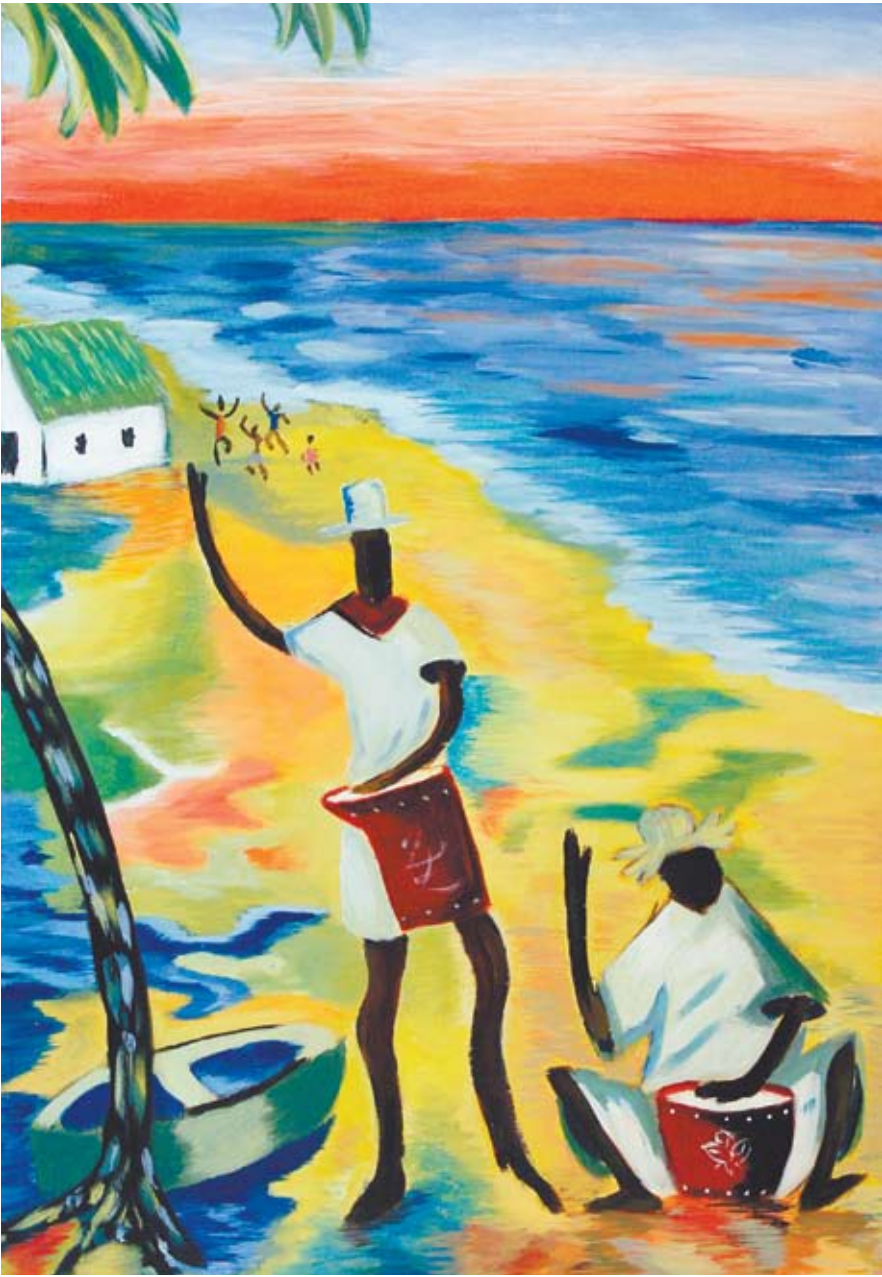
One reason is the advertisements that the media send out through television. Jason Martinez, 18, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, a native of the Turks and Caicos Islands, thinks so: “Some are bigger, and have more things for tourists to do.”

Schteiner Alexis of Guyana, who currently lives in Dorchester, says that by

now people should know more than the common spots. “They should do research,” says Alexis, 16. Some teens wonder: What are schools teaching in geography? Aren’t teachers educating their students about places other than the United States? Why do so many teens think that the Caribbean only includes the most so-called “vacation spots”?

The West Indies is different than the United States in many ways, and so are teens with West Indian roots who were born there vs. those who were born here. The culture of the West Indies involves about four main genres of music that people from the states might not have heard of. They are: Soca, Chutney, Calypso, and Reggae. But this is not what makes the teens vary. It’s the experiences. “You don’t know that much about your culture, and kids in the Caribbean follow up on their culture,” says Alexis. Edwards agrees. “Kids that are born there have more knowledge than kids who have parents from there,” she says.

Most people think of the West Indies as an oasis. But like any other places in the world, they have their struggles. They go through poverty, and discrimination among different races. This is often covered up by TV ads that only show beautiful beaches and happy natives, but not the poorer areas. “People should know,” says Edwards, “it’s not all resort and paradise.” ■



▲ AFH painting by Nathan Waldron

Where in the world is the West Indies?

Here’s a pop quiz to test your geographical know-how:

1) Which one of these places does not belong to the West Indies?

- a) Palau
- b) St Kitts and Nevis
- c) St Lucia
- d) Cayman Islands

2) Even though it’s geographically not an island, which of these areas is considered culturally part of the West Indies?

- a) Dominica
- b) Antigua and Barbuda
- c) British Guiana
- d) Bahamas

3) Which one of these countries brought about the popularity of Soca?

- a) Trinidad
- b) United States
- c) Guyana
- d) Martinique

To find the answers, please turn to page 23.

Discipline 101

By Kameisha Mobray // Staff Writer

On March 24, 17-year-old Tyshawn Lewis-Smith, a student at Odyssey High School, in South Boston, was arrested after bringing a loaded gun there and pointing it at two police officers, according to published reports. Although no one was hurt, this is an example of the kind of non-academic problems that Boston Public Schools has to deal with every day.

Every year, Boston records disciplinary actions from schools around the district. Based on a per student analysis of the city's high schools done by the New England Center for Investigative Reporting at Boston University and obtained from the latest data, Monument High School in 2008-2009 had the highest percentage of major disciplinary incidents besides the McKinley Schools – which specialize in at-risk students. The numbers show that, McKinley aside, Monument in South Boston has the distinction of being the worst-behaved high school in the system. Boston Latin Academy and Boston Latin School tied for best-behaved.

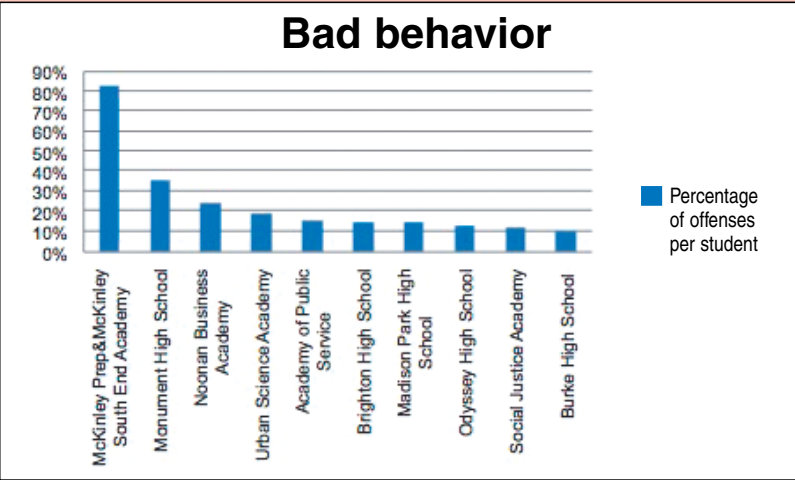
Christopher Ramos, a 16-year-old freshman at Monument – which draws students interested in professional fields

that focus on public safety – said that his school contains a lot of violent and negative activity. Ramos rated Monument a 5 out of 10 on the safety scale, saying that "security should be more on point." The data show that Monument disciplined students for incidents ranging from drug possession to having a knife to sexual assault.

At Boston Latin School, meanwhile, students interviewed appeared to be pleased with the security conditions there. "The school is full of really nice people and tends to take in really nice workers," said Hannah Sears, a sophomore.

Boston Public Schools spokesman Matthew Wilder said he is confident that the system's schools are not in harm's way. "Overall, we are trying to teach students to be respectful to one another in and out of school," he said. "It is our responsibility to run these schools and make sure students feel safe."

Mobray prepared this story as part of her Teens in Print internship at The New England Center for Investigative Reporting at Boston University. NECIR is the first non-profit, university-based investigative reporting center in the country dedicated to local and regional issues. ■



School	Number of Offenses	2008 Population
McKinley Prep & McKinley South End Academy	199	240
Monument High School	129	363
Noonan Business Academy	59	245
Urban Science Academy	61	327
Academy of Public Service	43	288
Brighton High School	185	1251
Madison Park High School	193	1356
Odyssey High School	45	356
Social Justice Academy	41	341
Burke High School	76	791

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Is your school bus on the highway to hell?

By Daja Taylor // Staff Writer

So you're sitting in class and finally the bell rings. You run from the room, through the halls, and out the front door and there it is: the school bus. The school bus rescues you from school and brings you to your designated stop. The bus driver is like your savior, but what if your savior was putting you in danger? Unfortunately, that is the situation in some cases. Running red lights, talking on cell phones, and arguing with students – these are things that, teens say, some school bus drivers are doing all the time.

"Every morning my school bus is constantly driving fast, to what I believe is over the speed limit. Along with that he ran multiple red lights," says Mikhaila Watson, 17, from Media Communications Technology High School.

Watson is one of many students to make these kinds of complaints. "I had a very bad experience with a bus driver once," says Myles Pruitt, 17, from the same school. "There was a fight on the bus and the bus driver did absolutely

nothing to stop it."

Teens say these types of incidents are very unsafe because they put the driver, the students, and everyone else on the road in danger. According to First Student – the company that provides transportation for Boston Public Schools – all bus drivers are given a two-way radio in case they need to contact HQ, or in case of an emergency. The company says the use of cell phones while driving the school bus is strictly prohibited and punishable by termination.

When asked about the disciplinary action taken against drivers for arguing with students, reckless driving, and undesignated stops, a First Student representative says these situations are dealt with on a "case-by-case basis."

First Student says that to prevent these problems, it gives its bus drivers extensive training before employing them, and afterward they are required to go to monthly safety meetings. In addition, the company says it also has surveillance cameras in most of the buses, and that by the end of 2011,



▲ AFH photo by Kat Morgan

all buses will have something called "Zonar GPS," a type of technology that will let First Student know where each bus is, how many stops the bus makes and where, and even how fast it's going.

First Student also says that there has

not been an unusual amount of negative reports about its bus drivers in Boston. But Watson believes she knows why that may be. "I think they haven't received many complaints from Boston residents because," Watson says, "we feel they wouldn't be properly dealt with." ■

High school selection time: public vs. parochial

By Laurie Raphaël // Staff Writer

Many students who are preparing to enter their high school years wonder if they should continue on with their public education, or transfer to a Catholic school. With the registration dates for both public and some Catholic high schools upon us, many are forced to decide now. There is some sort of transition involved in both; however, moving to a Catholic school takes some adjustment. From the uniforms to the academics, the differences between a public and Catholic school become clear.

Laurin McGee is a 16-year-old sopho-

more at Cathedral High School near downtown Boston. When asked how students stand out when it comes to clothing because of their uniform dress code, she replied, "The sneakers and backpacks make people look different from each other."

In terms of academics, McGee stated that the homework load is usually "alright," while Cassandra Dieudonne, a 15-year-old Cathedral sophomore, disagreed. Dieudonne said she gets homework in five of her classes. She said that when grades are unsatisfactory, students must stay for mandatory study, which is like an afterschool class where home-

work assignments are completed and checked. Many students at Cathedral may not know what the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System is because they are not required to take the exam.

Jaquan Wallace, 16, is a sophomore at Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA), a Boston Public School in Brighton. Although students can wear what they like at many public schools, they must still follow a dress code that bans clothing that may be considered inappropriate.

Academically, Wallace said the homework he gets at school is simply too

much. He can monitor his grades with regular progress reports. In addition, Wallace thinks that the teachers prepare everyone for the MCAS just weeks before the test. He said he is happy to be in his Boston Public School, though, because "I wouldn't say we're like family, but everyone knows each other or at least has seen them around."

Picking which high school to attend is often overwhelming. Decisions should be based on the school environment the students wish to be in, which for them can include policies, location, and reputation. ■

BSAC BUZZ

By Raychel Wingert // Contributing Writer

Have you ever worked extremely hard on a certain project? The suspense you have when you get it back is even greater because you want to know how other people felt about it. Well, imagine working on four policies and having to wait months to hear if they were passed or not. They are: student-to-teacher constructive feedback; student involvement in teacher

hiring; homework policy; and having a BSAC vote on the school committee.

Well, we have some great news to report: The Boston Student Advisory Council's proposal outlining reactions about teachers from students was passed by the Boston School Committee earlier this month.

Beginning in school year 2010-2011, high school students will be evaluating their teachers anonymously about how

well youth are being taught. Thanks to all the BPS students, teachers, administrators, school committee members, and the superintendent for their support.

As many of you have read in The Boston Globe, there recently was an article entitled, "Boston gets an F in teacher appraisals." The article states: "About half the city's approximately 5,000 teachers have not received an evaluation in the past two years, and a quarter of the

city's 135 schools have not conducted evaluations during that period."

Now that this policy has passed, Boston Public Schools will hopefully get a more pleasing headline: "Boston gets an A in teacher appraisals."

If you are interested in joining BSAC or getting more information about our work, please contact Maria I. Ortiz at mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us or at 617-635-8079 ext 104. ■

SENIOR SECTOR



SHANASIA BENNETT
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Tommy from “Rugrats”
What floats your boat: Burger King
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: Today was a crazy day
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: Go to the club and celebrate!!!!
Dream prom date: Trey Songz. I love him!!!!
Worst high school moment: Freshman Year!!!!



LADONYA BUCHANAN
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Bungee, there’s a string attached to keep me up
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Dee Dee from “Dexter’s Laboratory”
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: Um, I’m guessing, “Dear Diary.” Isn’t that what everyone writes?
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Healthy at school. I hate being sick.
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: Going out to eat with friends or maybe to a party
Dream prom date: Orlando Bloom
Worst high school moment: The day I found out how many haters I have for speaking Spanish



XHERSI LAKA
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Skydiving
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Cheetos Tiger
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Healthy at school
Beach or pool: Beach
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: Head down to Miami
Dream prom date: Don’t know, don’t really care
Worst high school moment: Didn’t really have one, I guess



KATRYNA MAHONEY
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Skydiving
Beach or pool: The nice beach
Movie at theatres or at home: At home. Either way I’ll fall asleep.
Favorite acronym: Never Eat Soggy Waffles (north, east, south, west)
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: I’ll probably still be screaming
Dream prom date: Pharrell Williams
Worst high school moment: Receiving my report card from junior year



KAMEISHA MOBRAY
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Bungee jumping
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Mickey Mouse
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: A secret
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Healthy at school
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: Celebrate
Dream prom date: Tristan Wilds
Worst high school moment: Hasn’t occurred yet



ROXANNE TAYLOR
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Kim Possible
What floats your boat: Money, money, money
Beach or pool: Caribbean Sea
Favorite acronym: NMIA (Norman Manley International Airport, in Jamaica)
PROFILE PLUS
What is the first thing you’re going to do after graduation: Soak up some summer sun
Dream prom date: Romain Virgo
Worst high school moment: Going to that high school

TEENS in PRINT

MEET THE STAFF

Boston Teens in Print unites the city’s teens to create an outlet to inform, communicate, and provide positive change through written expression.

Write for Teens in Print!

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

EMAIL submissions to ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Send them as either MS Word attachments or email messages.

Provide your name, age, grade and school. 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—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.

Teens in Print reserves the right to EDIT your work for length, content, or appropriateness.

Next issue: September 2010

Send submissions by mail to: Boston Teens in Print c/o WriteBoston 7 Palmer Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Contact us: WriteBoston 617-541-2651

To join the Teens in Print staff, please visit our website and download the necessary paperwork. bostontip.com writeboston.org

Teachers! Use T.I.P in your classroom. Please go to our website for curriculum ideas. bostontip.com



ASHLEY BARKER
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Wilma Flintstone
What floats your boat: R&B/Soca
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: Dear Diary...today I had a good day



TOM LEU
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Skydiving
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Superman
Beach or pool: Pool
Movie at theatres or at home: Theatres



CHEILA MARTINEZ
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Lol. Neither, I’m too scared.
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Bubbles from the “The Powerpuff Girls”
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: Dear diary...I love him.



LAURIE RAPHAËL
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Bungee
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Lisa Simpson
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Healthy at school



MELISSA RODRIGUEZ
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Bungee jumping
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Winnie the Pooh
Beach or pool: Both



DAJA TAYLOR
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: GIR
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: So this is what happened...
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: SICK AT HOME!



PATRICIA VANRIEL
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Betty Boop
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: I love me!
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Sick at home



GABRIEL WARD
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Please. Being lit on fire looks WAY cooler than either.
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Wile E. Coyote, he always gets what he wants
What floats your boat: Water
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: The date



TREVOR WARD
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Flying on that eagle thing from “The Lord of the Rings”
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: Choji Akimichi
What floats your boat: Helium. I believe in the “UP” theory.



GENA WHITE
Skydiving or Bungee jumping: Oh God... let’s go with sky diving.
If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be: SpongeBob
If you had a diary, what would your first line be: Obviously, someone is reading this, so....
Would you rather be sick at home or healthy at school: Durr...School healthy!

Have you ever dreamed of seeing your name in print?

Do you want to use the power of the press to cover topics that are important to teenagers? Are you interested in learning how to become a high school reporter while exploring different neighborhoods of the city? As an added bonus, how would you like to visit great venues, like Fenway Park? You can do all that and more for free – having fun while improving your writing skills – by taking part in WriteBoston’s annual four-week Summer Journalism Institute. Then, you can feel the exhilaration of having your very own articles published in the fall edition of the citywide youth newspaper, Boston Teens in Print.

You can sign up today by contacting Teens in Print coordinator Ric Kahn by phone (617-541-2651) or email (ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov), or by accessing an application on our website, www.writeboston.org.

The session runs from July 6 to July 30, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and is located on the campus of Northeastern University. Priority deadline for registering is June 1.

Thank you.

12 / BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT / MAY/JUNE 2010 / bostontip.com

bostontip.com / BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT / MAY/JUNE 2010 / 13

My mother

“She became my best friend”

By Kyndra James // Contributing Writer



▲ AFH painting by Li Huang

Growing up, I was the fourth of six kids. I thought I had the best life. All that began to change when I was two. My father walked out. I was lucky to have such a strong mother. She taught me to be the responsible young women I am today, and I thank her for that. I would always have my hand out to her for something – shoes, sneakers, clothes – and as many times as I would ask, she would never say no.

When I was 15, my mother broke some devastating news to us. She explained that she had cancer. I decided to make the best of everything and spend a lot of time with her. We did everything – from shopping to going out to eat. She became my best friend.

Now I am 19, and it is the beginning of the New Year, and my mom is even sicker than I last remember. She is unable to breathe on her own. She cannot walk on her own. Witnessing my mom like this hurt me to my heart. I was so used to seeing her on her feet, joking and playing with her kids and grandkids.

January 25, 2010, was the worst day of my life. I had a great day in school. I learned so many new things. The last bell had rung; I hurried to my bus. My cousin called me just as the buses were leaving. She told me that she needed to talk, but didn't want to do it over the phone. I wanted to know then and there. She finally gave in and told me that she had heard from one of my



The author's mother, Shirley R. Brown.

other cousins that my mom had died. I yelled and told her that she was lying. She began to cry, and that only made me cry.

My sister and I walked home as if nothing was ever said. We kept good thoughts flowing through our heads. We stopped off at the flower store and bought my mother's favorite: red roses. I arrived home. I began to walk to my room. I bumped into my little brother. His eyes were red. My heart pounded. I turned around and saw my uncle. I asked him what's wrong with my brother. He looked in my eyes and said, "Baby girl, your mom passed away." I broke down on my knees and cried. He held me and told me everything was going to be alright.

I felt like I was left in this dark, cold world by myself, with no one to help me along. I still don't believe she's gone.

She was only 46. I have to keep my head and get through this, one step at a time. I just have to remember that she will always be there looking over me while I take this journey through life to the highest ground.

Graduation is right around the corner and that is going to be the hardest day for me. I won't have that motherly love in the audience to cry for me as I walk across the stage. I will be doing all that for her, as well as for myself. I want her to be happy that I am going to be the first one out of her six kids to actually graduate high school.

My mother's passing has made me really open up my eyes, and see life in a different way. I realize that life is not a game. Take advantage of every chance you are given, because yesterday is gone, today is over, and tomorrow is never promised. ■

My grandfather

“He was my dad when I didn't know mine”

By Patricia Vanriel // Staff Writer



▲ AFH painting by Jameel Radcliffe

I was born, like everybody else, to a mother and a father. The difference is, I was born prematurely and my dad wasn't around. Many days I wish I could have stayed longer inside my mom, but it wasn't meant to be.

The sun used to embrace me like a friend, making sure I never lacked warmth. The best day of my life was a cold summer day; it was cloudy and freezing – well, as freezing as it'll get in the tropics. It was the day I met my father. He was everything I'd imagined, yet he was nothing like it. Even though it was cold, I was warm in my father's arms, because I felt the love. Last year, I lost my grandfather. He was my dad when I didn't know mine; my mentor, my guardian angel, and my reason to live. The day I was told, a part of me died. I was depressed and wouldn't talk to anyone for weeks. My family and friends tried to console me, but I wouldn't let them. He'd said not to cry because he would be in a better place, but I cried even harder knowing that place wasn't with me.

When I was little, I always saw the good in people before I saw the bad – even when everyone else saw that the person was no good. Since then, I've always wanted to be a lawyer; to be the one to prove someone innocent, to help people get their lives back, and to help the ones not fortunate enough to afford representation.

I plan to make a difference, no matter how small. I was born like everyone else, but my greatness will not compare. ■

My sister

“I will never forget her in my life”

By Vastie Joseph // Contributing Writer

My sister's name was Kelidade. She was 16, in tenth grade. I gave her a nickname: Keke. She lived in Haiti at the time of the accident. She was my sister on my father's side. She was the only person that I could talk with when I had a secret – even though I'm here. I would buy a phone card to call and tell her what I had to say. But now, I don't know who I'm going to call when I have to say my secrets.

She was pretty, intelligent, kind, and everything. She died in the earthquake on January 12, 2010. That is why I wrote this poem for her. Her mom told me a little about how she died. Her mom said that she was inside the house when the earthquake started, and she did not have time to get out, and the house fell on her. Her mother was at work. Keke had just returned from school.

I will never forget her in my life – even to the day I die. ■



The author's sister, Keke.

“Someone”

She was always nice to me, every time I saw her.
She was my everything: my life, my breath, my spirit.
She wiped my tears when I was crying.
Every time I was with her, she made me happy.
When I was sad, she always tried to raise the sun into my life,
and bring happiness back to me.
She helped me to stay awake when I was falling asleep.
She was my water when I was thirsty.
She was my food when I was hungry.
She was a faithful person, she was a strong woman; kind and helpful.
For me, everything about her was special.
Even now, her spirit is deep inside me.
Even though she's not on the earth with me right now,
I hope she is in God's hands.
This person was my little sister.
I love you, Keke.
R.I.P.

My country

“You are my one and only”

By Vastie Joseph // Contributing Writer

"Haiti"

Haiti, my love,
Haiti, the beauty of the world,
Your sun is shining at night,
It is windy.

Everyone wants to taste you like a candy.
In my mind, you will still stay my favorite,
and my baby.
No matter where I go,
I cannot taste the honey that you have.

You are my one and only.
I will make you mine one day.

Haiti has no mouth to speak, or to explain
what happened to her, my love.
Since the day I was born, I felt in love with you.
I cannot imagine that you would be in a
situation like this, with so much pain.
Haiti, I want you to know, I'm dying.

Give hope, give love.
The earth shakes, people disappear.
It was an earthquake that separated me
from my sisters and brothers.
Haiti, you will still be the keeper of my heart.



▲ AFH photo by Rich Philippe

Community service

In seeking out those in need, students discover themselves

Darlene Marcano had an educational challenge for her ninth-grade Humanities students at The Engineering School, who visited places that help the homeless and hungry, like the Pine Street Inn and The Greater Boston Food Bank: “How does your view of others shape who you are?”

Here’s what some of them wrote about their experiences:

Every penny counts

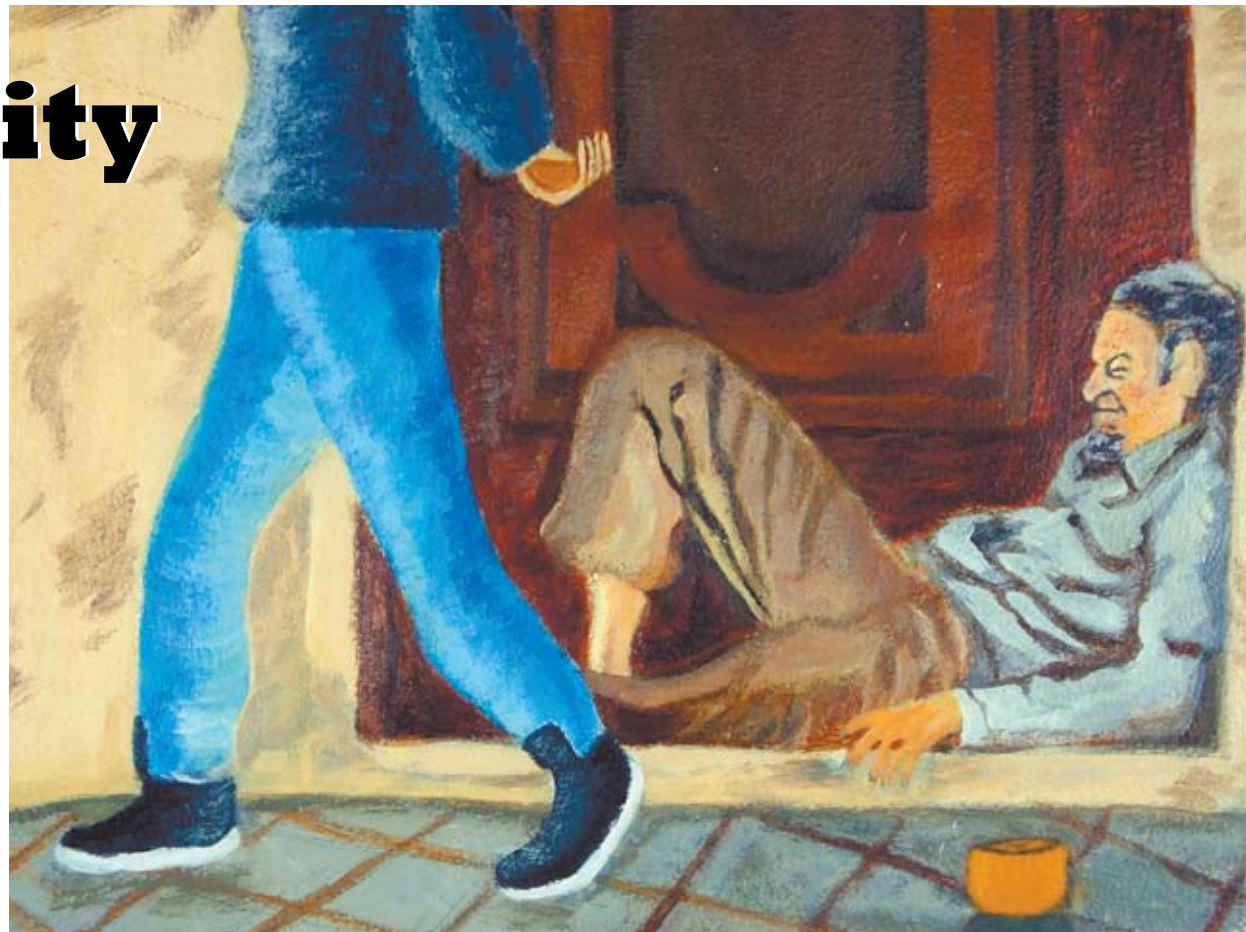
By Ansel Rivera // Contributing Writer

My class went on a field trip to the Pine Street Inn, which is a shelter for the homeless. They had two different shelters, one for the women and one for the men. The men had no more than one foot of privacy; the colors were dark green and grey. The women’s shelter is much different: more privacy, and a whole lot more colorful. The walls were pink and the beds had donated covers.

The tour guide told us about how they helped the homeless with job training. Going to the Pine Street Inn made me think, “These people work day and night trying to help the homeless! Why can’t I help them?”

You should think the same thing. You can give money to homeless people you see on the streets. It can be one dollar, or even 50 cents. Every penny counts.

I know I should try to help people if I see them sleeping on the sidewalk with ugly, stinky, sticky clothes and nowhere to go. I would be appreciative if someone tried extra hard to get me off the streets without them knowing who I am. ■



▲ AFH painting by Nancy Nyamunda

Groceries and goodwill

By Bashair Abdi // Contributing Writer

The Greater Boston Food Bank distributes more than 31 million pounds of food and grocery products to nearly 600 hunger-relief agencies throughout Eastern Massachusetts. They are dedicated to ending hunger in our region.

When I look back on my time at The Greater Boston Food Bank, I think of what a marvelous learning experience I had. It made me think about the world, and how taking my time to volunteer could make so much of a difference. By working hard for a cause, our economy can be stabilized and our country can get back on track. This would mean that the food budget can decrease, and people can get jobs to support their families.

Previously, I had limited experience helping the homeless, but after seeing how many people worked hard for change, it persuaded me to do the same. It was touching to know that I made a difference. ■

Crying inside

By Marc-Alphonse Simon // Contributing Writer

We should have more solutions for the homeless. We should build more shelters, and put the mentally disabled, drugged, and drunk in rehabs. We should put the abandoned houses on the streets to good use, and refurbish them for homeless families. I say this because it’s painful and sad when you are homeless. I know how it feels, because I’ve been homeless, too.

In the beginning of my 9th grade, I was at the bus stop with my friends. My parents passed by in their minivan and told me to get in. As I opened the door, I noticed there were items from my house. I asked my parents, “Why are our belongings in the car?” They didn’t make a noise for about four minutes, until a sigh caught my attention; it was like being awake in the middle of the night. My heart started to beat as fast as a jackhammer. My mother finally told me. The landlady had kicked us out of our home, even though my parents paid the rent. We had to spend four nights at a hotel.

Hunger (n.) – a severe lack of food. Poverty (n.) – the state of being extremely poor. Homeless (adj.) – without a home, and therefore typically living on the street. When I hear those words, I’m most likely crying inside, because it brought fear to me when I realized I had nowhere to live. ■

Artistic entrepreneurs

Behind the music: The life of a subway performer

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

When walking onto the subway platform, what do you hear? Gates ringing, trains screeching by, or the many bustling people talking on their cell phones? Or do you hear the gentle sound of music coming from down the yellow line? If so, chances are that in that station is an artist, displaying his or her talents, and trying to be heard. Many teens hear subway performers daily, and see them the same way: that pleasant source of music, while you’re waiting for your train. But what do we know about them? Why do they do it? And where do they come from?

Timmi Gammon, 20, got his first MBTA musician’s pass in August of 2009. As this interview started, he began to play his guitar. “I love to make music, every second of my life,” said Gammon. “And I love to see different kinds of people, just doing their thing. It’s just really enjoyable.” He started playing guitar when he was 14. He was learning music theory in high school. “When I learned a music theory idea, I would go straight home and put it on guitar,” he said. His fascination with guitar just extended from there. “One of the things I started doing, is, I would turn on the radio, and I’ll just play along.” But guitar isn’t the only instrument he loves. At home he has a whole slew of stuff: from keyboards to a sax. “Music is music,” he said, “I don’t really break it down by genre.” Gammon spent a lot of time drifting between New York and Boston, and he settled in Brighton for a while. But now he’s joined a band in Alabama, and is doing what he loves best.

Anthony Mainville, 48, has been playing classical music in South Station for about a year and a half. He likes to entertain people, but the money doesn’t hurt either. “I don’t have any other sources of income right now,” said Mainville. “I have a kid. I have to pay child support.” A whole day of playing can bring in up to 30 to 40 dollars, and sometimes it’ll be just enough to give his son. Mainville used to be homeless and lived in a shelter, but one thing he always had with him was his guitar. Then he heard about the opportunity to gig in subway stations. “Playing on the MBTA gave me money for clothes, and even glasses,” he said. “I went without glasses for two years.” Mainville knows his guitar will always be with him. “Maybe some day I might go to Berklee [College] of Music,” he said. “Who knows, maybe I’ll be teaching it in the future. No matter what, I’ll be playing guitar for the rest of my life.”

Beth Fridinger was pretty hard to get a hold of; her schedule is very hectic. “This is not an easy thing to do for a living,” said Fridinger, who says she’s over 50. She



▲ Photo courtesy of Timmi Gammon

Timmi Gammon “It would be cool to be famous and rich, but that’s not what I’m doing it for. I just wanna play.”



▲ Photo courtesy of Beth Fridinger

Beth Fridinger “As far as I know, I just sound like me, ha ha.”

loves to play folk and rock in the subway, but she can’t plan on where she’s going to end up. “I never know if I can play right away, or where I’m going to be,” she said. Originally, she had a job as a secretary, during which she took up photography. But then she lost her job. “I went to a party and picked up a guitar for the first time in a while,” she said. “People said they liked my voice when I sang.” So she grabbed her guitar and headed for the streets. Her first day was one of her most for-

tunate. “I went home with 200 dollars that night,” she said. She decided to start playing in MBTA stations. “In the subway,” she said, “weather is more predictable.” Fridinger records her own music and sells her CDs as she performs.

So, if you like classical, or you like rock, if you give them money, or not, at least you should appreciate that the subway performers are around, creating that soothing tone, which causes you to smile. ■



The real world

On the job training • Tips from teens on how to find work

At Boston Community Leadership Academy, students taking 11th grade Writing with Gabrielle LaCombe Jean-Jacques went on a job-search journey. They shadowed workers, wrote résumés and cover letters, conducted interviews. Now they get to share the results of some of their employment expeditions with you.

Help wanted: an overview

By Lauren Artus-Cooper // Contributing Writer

The United States has been suffering a recession, causing much stress and fear among families. Citizens are losing their jobs as positions are rapidly being eliminated and companies are downsizing to merely stay afloat. Job-hunters need to be on their toes now more than ever. Those on the prowl should consider writing sophisticated résumés, ways to have a successful interview, and proper business etiquette.

A résumé is the first time an employer will see

your name, and could very well be the last. Hundreds of résumés will cross his or her desk, and if it is not impressive at first glance, it will be passed by. Therefore, it is crucial to have a well-written résumé and to distribute it effectively. If you need help writing and properly formatting a proficient résumé, it may be beneficial to hire a professional. There are also a myriad of resources to help put your résumé out into the business world, such as various youth networking sites, newspapers, and youth programs. Though the résumé is a dire component in finding employment, it is only the first step.

If your résumé is worthy, you may be asked for an

interview. A first impression is a lasting impression. An interviewee should always come prepared, 15 minutes early. Dressing appropriately (slacks, button-up shirt or blouse, closed-toed shoes, nothing outlandish – navy, white, black, and khaki are relatively safe color schemes) with a confident disposition is imperative; do not seem too needy nor arrogant, always make eye contact, and be sure to smile. Having prepared questions and responses shows hard work and sincerity. It is also helpful to bring a pen and a pad for notes, questions, and reminders. Act calm, collected, and comfortable, but refrain from being too honest (do not divulge any of your faults, weaknesses, discrepancies, personal prob-

lems). Always be polite and conscientious, and never be the first to drop a number in a salary negotiation. Lastly, aim to convert the interview into an offer.

Although the interview is the biggest step in finding a job, the follow-up process can make it or break it. Remember to obtain a business card and always write a thank you letter. Diligence and persistence are traits of a good employee, so be aggressive without being a pest.

Competition is growing fierce. Even if your applications are repeatedly rejected, keep looking, for there is that special position destined for you, somewhere out there.

Do the research, kid

By Seantelle Epps // Contributing Writer

Getting a job means that you are prepared. Being prepared consists of doing things such as research. To make this happen, you must make sure that you know what you're applying for. Doing the research means willing to learn the skills that a certain job requires. Don't apply for something without doing the research, because let's say you do really good on the application, but, when it comes time for the interview, you'll be stuck because you aren't sure what this job is about. If you go through the process of learning the job, it should eliminate applying to something that really doesn't interest you.

Don't be a Negative Nellie

By Shannon Negron // Contributing Writer

Being positive shows that you are confident in tackling your job responsibilities. I used to be one of many people who doubted themselves. I felt like I had low self-esteem, so I didn't take advantage of any opportunities. I was shy and never thought positively about anything I wanted to achieve. My job-shadowing experience helped me get that positive attitude, and made me always believe in myself and go for what I want. Now that I have a positive attitude, I gained the confidence that has made me a better person.

Résumé building

By Miguel Fonseca // Contributing Writer

Your résumé is the key to making the first good impression on your employer. It must consist of personal information — including your address, phone number — for your employer to get a hold of you easier. Your résumé also must include all your past work expe-

riences. This means the first job you ever had, to the job you last had. The résumé is also a brag sheet about your accomplishments and goals. Therefore, it is very important also to include your awards and community roles. Remember, your résumé is the conversation piece and the ice breaker in an interview; it has to be perfectly written and checked over and over again for grammatical errors.

Character counts

By Musye Gebrezgiy // Contributing Writer

Good character is professional character. In addition to expertise, education, and, of course, intelligence, employers will value the willingness of a hard-working employee who goes above and beyond simply completing assigned tasks. Strong character and integrity are crucial to your success. Examples of good character are honesty, respecting others, having a good sense of right and wrong, and acting appropriately in all situations. Employers want a worker they can trust and rely on. First impressions are extremely important. This usually happens during the job interview by acting polite, honest, and engaged in what they have to say.

No confidence game

By Keishla Fernandez // Contributing Writer

Stomach tying, body shaking, your nerves are out of control. This is a normal experience to go through when you have to step foot into that job interview. It is normal, but it is not a good first impression to show how nervous you are. You would like the employer to see how bold you are. Being bold shows courageousness. You are not letting obstacles get in the way of what you want. If they see this attitude coming from you, it will highlight your strengths and they will take an interest in you. If you do not have that confidence within you, then you will not get the job.

Punctuality, please!

By Marlene Tejeda // Contributing Writer

Never be late to your interview. It will make you look unprofessional and unreliable. Before going into your interview, you should find out where it will be held and MapQuest it, or actually go to the address beforehand. Being on time shows your desire for the job and proves you are responsible and reliable, which are the basic characteristics of professionalism. Plan to get to your interview 15 minutes before it starts, so that if you need to fill out any sheets, you can prepare. Getting even a minute late to the interview is not acceptable.

Be yourself

By Eneda Golemi // Contributing Writer

To be yourself doesn't mean only to show your skills, but also to be comfortable. For example, you have to be able to network. You have to make relationships. You have to show them that you are a pleasant person with many values. The résumé can reflect who you really are. If everything that is written in the résumé is real, and not false, you will not be afraid, because they'll know all your skills and everything that is important about you.

Grab that business card

By Luis Mora // Contributing Writer

After an interview, you want to ask for a business card. This will be helpful because, with the card, you now have a phone number and an email address. You can use this to communicate with the people who interviewed you. You can call and ask questions. This will make them think you really want the job. You also might want to write the people who interviewed you a thank you letter or email. You look more professional and your ambition is clear.

It's who you know

By Yabratymika Elam // Contributing Writer

I used to think that I could not get a job, but then I learned how to have a successful interview, and I got a job. I got the job because I knew people. I had to learn how to be more social. I became fully independent and could talk to people on my own. Now I know that it's not always what you know; it's who you know, as well. I got my jobs in the past because I knew someone. I got my part-time job because my mother did day care for a woman she knew for seven years who was the manager of a GameStop. I got the job because she knew I was a hard worker, and because I would help my mother out with the day care.

Job one: the patience of Job

By Cindy Monestime // Contributing Writer

Patience is the key to getting a job. To have patience and determination, you would have to be persistent in finding a job, and if you don't, you keep pushing until you succeed. You also have to be patient while doing this, too, because if you don't, everything will start to get hectic. For example, if you applied for a job and went through the interview, you have to wait for what will happen next – like getting a phone call or an email. Don't be too pushy or a STALKER and call every time to see what your status is. This is not good. Call a week later from your interview. ■

The toys are back in town

And we’ve only been waiting a decade!

By Gabriel Ward // Staff Writer

They’re back, and they have a new adventure for us. Yes, Pixar is finally coming out with “Toy Story 3.” Everywhere you look, in toy stores, in video game shops, even on cereal boxes, it’s clear: Andy’s toys have been pulled out of storage. In October of 2009, a double feature of “Toy Story” and “Toy Story 2” in 3D came to theatres, and grossed a domestic total of \$30,702,446. On June 18, another chapter is expected to open with Buzz, Woody, and the rest of the gang, and toddlers and teens alike will be hitting the theatres to see the addition to this fun-filled saga.

Teens feel nostalgic, as they were young when the movies were released, and good memories just come naturally with these productions. “I loved them,” said Denna Pham, 16, of the West Roxbury Education Complex. Pham saw both movies on tape after they came out.

“I enjoyed both,” said Emily Hunt, 16, of Boston Latin

Academy. “But I like the first one better.” Hunt saw the first movie in theatres when she was very young.

“I thought they were amazing,” said Frank Calderon, 16, of Boston Latin Academy. Calderon saw the first movie on tape when he was little, and still owns it.

For those who don’t know, “Toy Story” was the very first full-length computer-animated movie. The first film hit theatres in 1995 and became an instant classic. The second came out in 1999, and did as well as the first. And now, over a decade later, the third is coming out, and a lot of people are anticipating it. But does this mean “Toy Story 3” will be a box office hit, or will it get swept under the bed?

Pham intends to see it with four of her friends. “I don’t think it will be bad,” she said, “but not as good as the first two movies.” Calderon also plans to see it with friends. “I think it’s going to be better.”

But you don’t need a trailer to know “Toy Story 3”

is coming out; everywhere you go, you see “Toy Story” merchandise, such as the “Toy Story Collection,” which are supposed to be exact replicas of the toys in the movies. Some teens are happy for the new merchandise. “I think it’s pretty cool for the young kids,” said Calderon. “I had a Buzz Lightyear as a kid.”

“Toy Story 3” takes place – get this – 10 years later, as Andy is going to college. Asked by his mother to do something with all of his toys before leaving, Andy throws them into a garbage bag and is going to put them into the attic. But he leaves them in the hall for his mother to put by the curb. One thing leads to another, and they end up at Sunnyside Day Care Center. The toys, realizing this mistake, try to get home. The movie introduces a whole bunch of new toys, such as Mr. Pricklepants, Trixie, and Ken.

To see trailers, sneak peeks, and more, go to: www.disney.go.com/toystory. ■



TOY STORY 3 (L-R) Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Aliens, Slinky Dog, Rex, Jessie, Hamm, Bullseye, Mr. Potato Head, Mrs. Potato Head.

Capturing Anime

Boston 2010

Ninjas, and pirates, and... Waldo? Oh my!

By Trevor Ward // Staff Writer



Cardboard cosplay creativity.

Since 2003, Anime Boston has taken Boston’s shores by storm. This year, more than 17,000 fans attended, keeping it the largest anime convention in the Northeast, according to group organizers.

And as a newcomer to the April convention, I was amazed at what it was. The first thing I noticed while walking through the halls of the Hynes Convention Center was that almost everyone was dressed in costume. The strange thing about this, though, was that not everyone was dressed up as anime characters. As a matter of fact, I ran into not only Carmen Sandiego and Waldo, but even Finn from “Adventure time with Finn & Jake,” a show on Cartoon Network that had not yet even premiered.

Continuing my day, I discovered the game room – a massive space full of video game consoles, tables,

and chairs. Later, I stopped by the marketplace, and it was amazing. However, it’s not for anyone with empty wallets. The products here were not inexpensive. They ranged from \$2.50 figurines to \$400.00 “Gundam” statues. I bought two plushies, a ring, a figurine, and six trading cards. All of that massed up to \$51.50! Not very cheap in my opinion, however, most of this was hard-to-find stuff.

The final event of the first night was the Video Game Orchestra. They performed songs from the Mario, Resident Evil, and Blue Dragon series. The cost for getting into Anime Boston isn’t super low-priced at \$50 for those 13 and older, but for all three days, it’s worth it. But only if you’re a true anime fan. Still, if you go even without anime experience, you will discover the nerd in you. ■

“Anvil” hits

metal fans over

the head with

loyalty and love

By Xheri Laka // Staff Writer

“Anvil! The story of Anvil” – now out on DVD – is a movie tribute to two 50-year-old guys who won’t give up their dream. This is the story of the Canadian heavy metal band Anvil and their journey of making it to the big leagues alongside bands such as the Scorpions, Bon Jovi, and Whitesnake.

The lead singer and guitarist of Anvil, Steve “Lips” Kudlow, along with the drummer, Robb Reiner, face many troubles, including money shortages, lack of promotion, and gigging in empty halls. It gets to a point where Reiner threatens to quit. But the band plays on.

This is a great movie because it touches on many themes, such as friendship and loyalty. It was hilarious, and moving. Movie-maker Michael Moore has said that it was “The best documentary I’ve seen in years.” The movie also features interviews of other great musicians who have been influenced by the band, such as Slash (Guns n’ Roses), Lemmy (Motorhead), and Lars Ulrich (Metallica). Watch this movie and it will be time well spent. It will change your whole perspective on Rock ‘n’ Roll. ■



Robb Reiner (L) and Steve “Lips” Kudlow (R).

Playing hardball with softball

By Gena White // Staff Writer



Baseball, America's pastime. Everyone knows this saying all too well, but what about softball? While the male-dominated sport of baseball gets the spotlight, the less appreciated woman-dominated sport of softball is considered by many to be too girly for modern society, and is thrown to the side.

"Both are great sports," says Kevin Vega, 16, from Roxbury. "But it seems like baseball is more famous than softball."

The sad truth is that although women have been fighting for equality in sports for many years, we have not achieved this tremendous feat. I know it for a fact: I was one of those girls who started off with baseball, but society forced me into playing softball because of my gender.

A fellow softball player of mine, Jeanette Origel, 16, also dealt with this inequity. Origel played baseball for

three years and switched to softball because she "got to high school and there's only softball for girls." It seems as though when females are young, it is acceptable for us to play either sport, but once girls come of age they are expected by society to play softball.

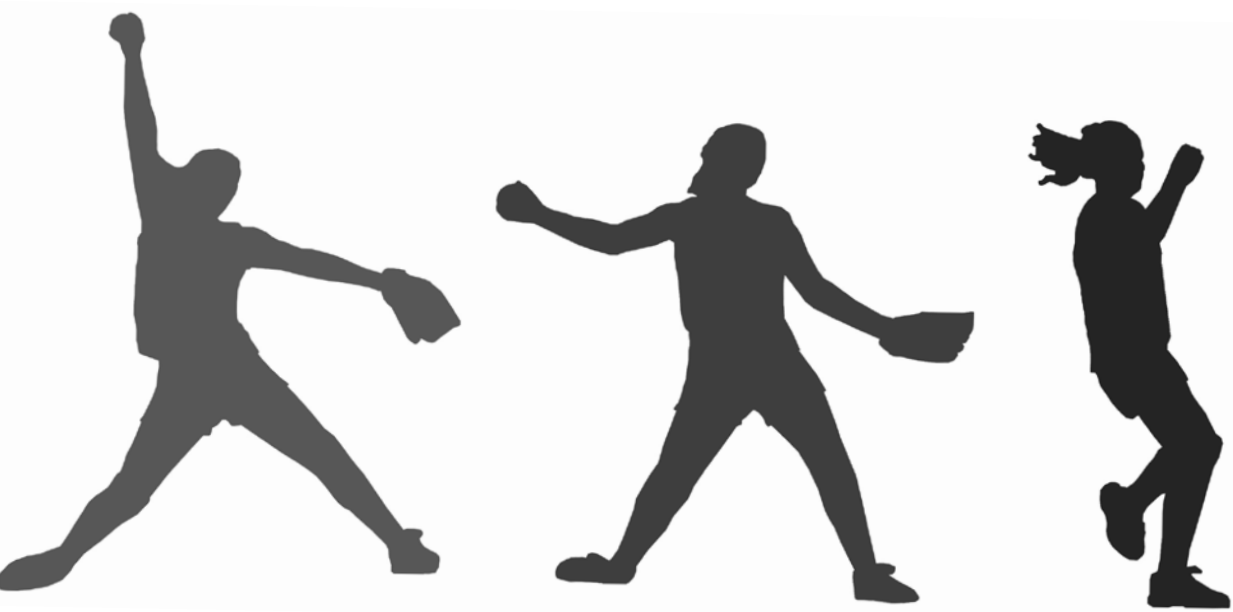
"It promotes sexism," says Origel, of Roxbury.

When I was playing baseball, I had to deal with evil little snickers, rude comments, and crude actions from boys who believed that females shouldn't be part of baseball. It is hard for those girls who push a little more and manage to play for older baseball divisions. I experienced this when I started playing baseball in the "pony" division in my league. The coordinator for my league strongly encouraged my father not to sign me up for baseball because softball was where I belonged. I fought for as long as I could to stay the baseball player I was, but now I am in softball, for I was defeated by the expectations society had.

Though there are no restrictions on young women playing baseball, there are a lot of other obstacles that literally stop them from trying. There is so much persecution from males. So many young men think women should not be in sports, and a lot of these baseball players voice these opinions through hurtful comments. I was constantly told by the boys I played with that I "belonged in the kitchen" because that was where females were expected to be.

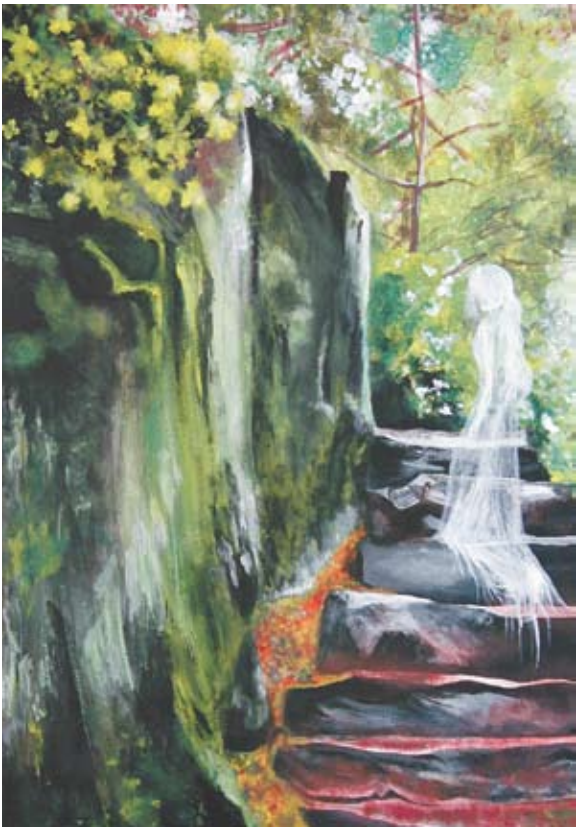
"Women should be able to play baseball because it's not fair that they get excluded," says Origel.

So why does our society allow this to continue? The contrast does not seem as apparent to society, but, sadly, too many women have to face this on a daily basis. Though women try to fight this injustice, the paternalistic society we live in does not want us to overcome this blockade to equality for all sexes. ■



Until death do us part, two

In our last issue, members of our staff wrote about their visions of what death looked like to them: a crazy-colored light show or a big black hole. We asked readers to join in. Here's what some of you delivered.



Breakfast with Jesus

By Khadijah Smalls // Contributing Writer

Some people fear death, and some people don't, because they know everyone has to die one day. I get my ideas from what I listen to and what I read in the bible. I believe that there is a heaven and a hell to go to after you die. If you do what you were put on this earth to do, you will go to heaven when your God calls for you. If you come and do the opposite from what you were put on this earth to do, you would end up in hell.

I would like to believe that after this life I will see heaven as one BIG cloud and everybody living in the sky. There would be this big golden gate to welcome people who have completed their mission, and done it correctly. I picture that every house in heaven is white and so is everything else. In heaven it will not be too cold or too hot. Then I picture this white castle that God and Jesus live in. They will come out for every breakfast and pray over the food, and we will eat and drink together. In my eyes, I also see hell as one big tunnel underground. I picture nothing but fire everywhere. I feel this is a place where you will never get a good sleep and everything you eat will be hot and on fire. I see it as a place I would not like to be.

I get these visions of the afterlife from what I hear and see on TV. Sometimes I see shows where they act like they're in heaven, and they have on something white and everything around them is white. When they try to act like they're in hell, they have something red on and horns on their head, with a pitchfork in their hands. After you die, I'd like to believe that you won't feel pain anymore. I think your spirit will come from your body and you will go to a place where you will get judged on whether you will go to heaven or hell. Then, after that, your spirit will go to heaven or hell, and your life is done. ■



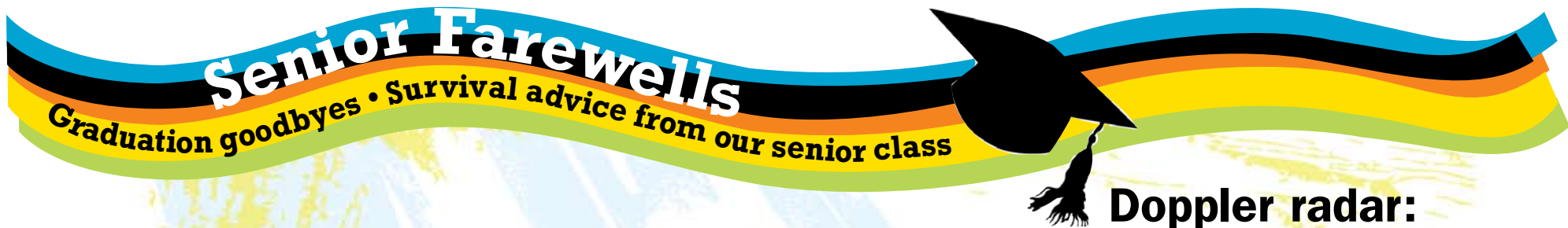
A free trip to heaven

By Harold Williams // Contributing Writer

Personally, I don't want to believe that once you die there's nothing. Something tells me that there might be more to it. You could be reincarnated after death as a newborn or maybe something that's not even human. I want to believe that there's something after death. There is something for those who didn't do right by God. I want to believe that you will continue to be reborn until you stop making the same mistakes that you made before. And for those who do the right thing here on earth – they get a free trip to heaven.

During my lifetime, I've always known about death, but I didn't care much for it because I thought I would never die. As I've gotten older, I've started to think more about it. Some things that influenced me about death were the bible, movies, and my grandmother. Movies always say everything we do is a sin, we're all going to hell, but they don't mention forgiveness. My grandmother said God forgives for most things. She kept it real and told me how my life should go in the eyes of God. So now I have a clear understanding in my head about death. ■

Stop and pop • Here are the answers to the geography quiz from page 9: 1. a) Palau 2. c) British Guiana 3. a) Trinidad



Create memories

By Kameisha Mobray // Staff Writer

Senior year. One of the most challenging of all school years; the quickest, funniest, and saddest. And somehow I managed to surpass it all, and so can you. All you need are a few tips:

Take advantage of your summer to think about college. Teachers will tell you to begin your college essay or common app over the summer. Please don't ignore them. They're only looking out for you.

Consider words of wisdom. Throughout the year, it will be hard for you to keep focused. So look to your friends, a mentor, or anyone you feel will give you a couple of words to simply get you back on track.

Be positive. When the acceptance letters start rolling in, things won't always go exactly as planned. But don't doubt yourself. Fate will lead you in the right direction.

Have fun! Although senior year will be very stressful, remember to have fun. This is probably the last time you will see your classmates again. So live it up, and create memories.

Find a guiding light

By Katryna Mahoney // Senior Editor

Finally! The school year's coming to a close. I'm writing this last article to give you, Boston's youth, some advice on...life, I guess.

I hope you can find positive people in your life (if you don't have any already); someone to look up to, guide you, and steer you from negative aspects. We all know living in a city can be dangerous, but it's also easy to get involved in bad things, like drugs or becoming pregnant.

Get involved in something that keeps you off the streets, like sports.

On a less serious note, be nice to your teachers. They will be the ones writing recommendations when you apply for college.

Know thyself

By LaDonya Buchanan // Senior Editor

During my four years of high school, I kind of found myself...for the most part. In the 9th grade you're just getting used to the school and a change in the workload. In the 10th grade, you have a clique of friends established, but you still meet a lot of people that you eventually become close to. In the 11th grade, that's where you learn who your true friends are. You learn who's fake and who's not. High school is the part of your life where you're supposed to have fun. But it gets very stressful at times. Your senior year is where you give up a lot of people.

Gear up

By Shanasia Bennett // Senior Editor

Before I entered the world of high school, I was told to cherish the moments ahead because the four years would fly by – which I discovered was true. But no one warned me about the drama or how I would have to discover my identity. Or even how the friends you made in the beginning might not be there in the end.

My message is this: Always remain true to yourself no matter what others may say. Also, academics and GPA equal incredible opportunities. Don't let anything or anyone get in the way of your school work. I'm not going to lie to you: High school has many obstacles that will come your way. So, put your gear shield and a helmet on, because you will need it.

Doppler radar: Don't leave home without it

By Roxanne Taylor // Senior Editor

The advice that I could give to high school teens today would be to check the weather before you leave the house. I can't tell you how many times I realized that I forgot my jacket, or shouldn't have brought it.

When taking the MBTA, if a bus driver is being rude, just get the ID number and report it.

Take AP classes because when you get to your senior year, it's going to be clear about all the kids who took them, and those who didn't.

Another piece of advice: Don't be fooled by the kids in your class who act like they don't care. They really do, and when your GPA drops, theirs will go up.

Also, if someone is getting on your nerves in school, and you want to fight them, don't – because it will come back to bite you in the end.

Keep it sexy

By Xhersi Laka // Staff Writer

Senior year for me was really fun! I want you guys to have fun, too. You don't want a ton of school work your senior year because you have to deal with the college process.

The fewer headaches, the better. As Pink Floyd would say, Don't let yourself be "just another brick in the wall." Have fun, keep it cool, keep it smooth, and keep it sexy. Rock 'n' roll.

