

**TEENS**  
**in**  
**PRINT**

**BOSTON**

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT SEPT/OCT 2010™

A national holiday for

**MI**  
**YEA OR NAY**



**Pg. 3**

▲ AFH artwork by Sarah Nguyen

■ SHIRT TALES PAGE 16 ■ 'HOOD TATTS PAGE 17 ■ A PIGSKIN PROPHECY PAGE 21 ■

In partnership with the  
**The Boston Globe**

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AFH photo by Cashman Qgaus



AFH photo by Kat Morgan

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AFH photo by Cashman Qgaus

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TEENS  
in  
PRINT

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# A national holiday for MJ?

## Yea or nay?

By Unique Marshall // Staff Writer

**E**ighteen-year-old Hillary Little thought Michael Jackson was a phenomenal musician and made many great contributions to the world.

But honoring him with his own day is forcing it, she said.

“People might want a national holiday for him because of his career and philanthropy,” said Little, of Mattapan, “but there are too many people that think he [molested] little boys.”

Michael’s faithful fan-world might as well have frozen completely on June 25, 2009. The news broke that the 50-year-old King of Pop had gone into cardiac arrest at his home in California and was pronounced dead shortly after. The response: shock and sadness.

Now, young people and others around the world are fighting over his memory. His many supporters are circulating online petitions seeking to make his just-passed birthday of August 29 a national – or even international – day of recognition. Meanwhile, even before his death, his opponents and haters were pushing for the establishment of a “national anti-Michael-Jackson day.”

Sixteen-year-old Annisha Simpson of Dorchester Academy feels that MJ deserves his own special day. She loved his singing and dancing and believes he was an all-time great. “The ‘he-he’s’ that he did in almost every song, the foot kick, and that pelvis dance,” she recalled. “A lot of people worship him and his dance moves.”

But in complete disagreement is 18-year-old Vlaimy Mejia of Dorchester Academy. She was not a fan. “I didn’t like the way he sang and sounded,” she said.

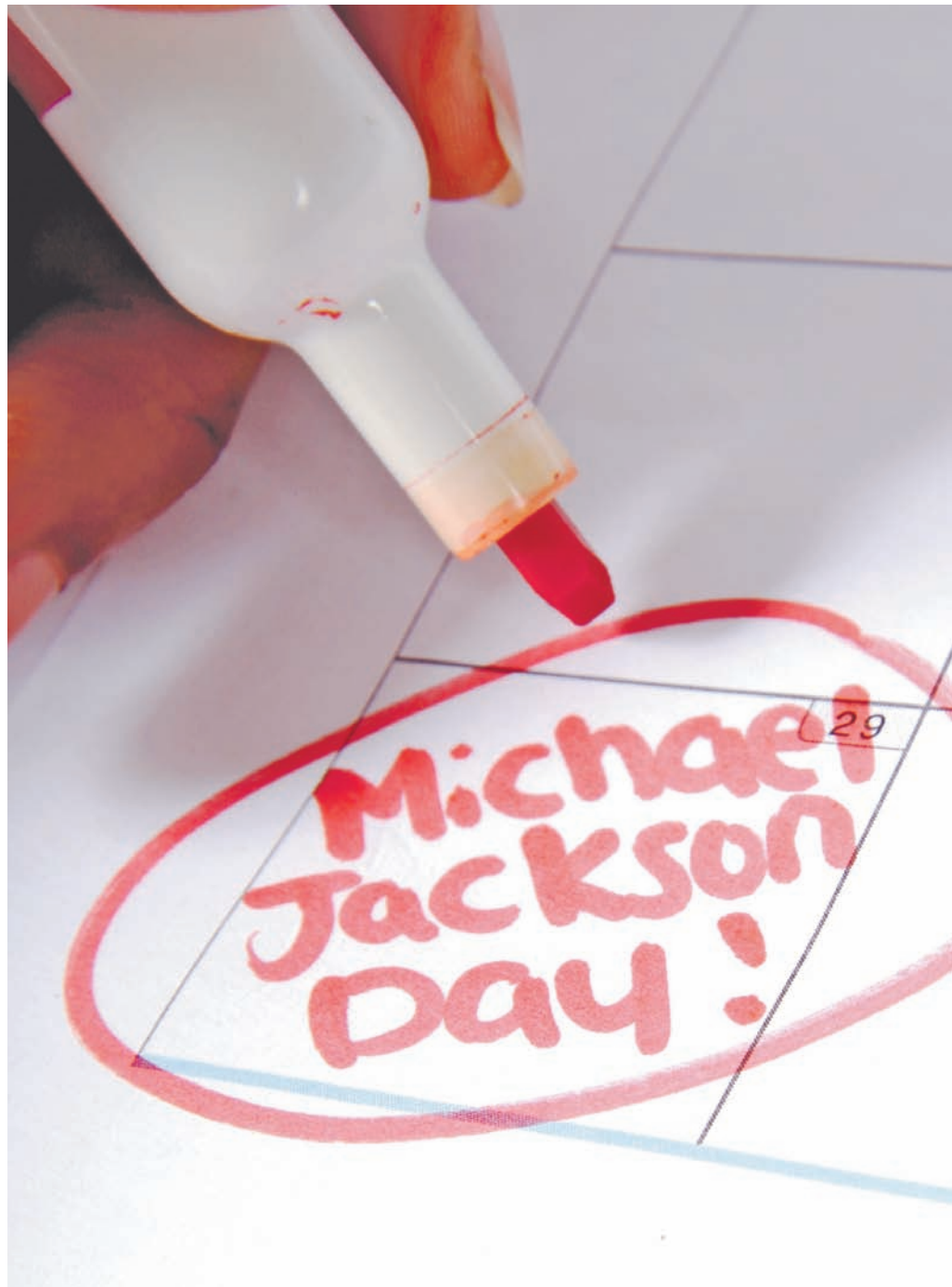
Beyond that, Mejia said that Michael does not deserve special tribute as a humanitarian. “He didn’t change the world drastically like M.L.K. Jr., and he was just a singer,” she said. “There are multiple singers that are good like Michael Jackson.”

However, Michael Jackson’s supporters say he wasn’t just a singer, but that he had also made a massive amount of contributions to the world. One student taking note of the good he did is 16-year-old Imani Finkley of the Edward M. Kennedy Academy of Health Careers.

“He tried to spread world peace,” she said, “so I think there should be a day for him.”

Another student who thinks Michael deserves a day is Jonathan Lopez, 16, of TechBoston Academy. Lopez was an MJ fan because he liked his music and felt he was an icon.

“Honestly,” Lopez said, “I think he should have his own day for the simple fact that so many people loved him and really cared for him.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Vicki Chin

## The King of Props

The goal of fans is to gather enough online petition power to force government officials worldwide to declare Michael Jackson’s birthday of August 29 as international MJ Day. Here’s some of their glowing commentary:

- “ I will always remember him as a hero from my childhood.”
- “ He was a great man with the heart of a[n] angel.”
- “ Michael touched our hearts through his music, love and humanity.”
- “ He had a major impact on the world and he should be recognized for his generosity.”
- “ This man has definitely earned the crown.”
- “ Michael loved people, animals, and the earth.”
- “ Michael Jackson was an incredible human being, artist, and humanitarian.”
- “ He has done more for humanity than some people that have holidays.”
- “ Greatest person ever to live!!!!”

## Or, no way MJ!

On the other side of the issue, critics also weighed-in on the Web, as some lobbied for a counter commemoration – a national anti-Michael-Jackson day:

- “ Why isn’t there a Frank Sinatra day? Or an Aretha Franklin day? Why is Michael Jackson better than the other dead singer[s]?”
- “ Yet more promotion for the name of MJ. All you[’re] doing is adding to his popularity.”
- “ Pick every day! I hate MJ!”
- “ Now, how could we do this? Have a mass burning of all Michael Jackson’s CDs?”
- “ A splendid idea.”
- “ Why not just call it anti-child-molester day?”

# Teens trash Arizona immigration law

By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer

**T**eens in Boston recently interviewed think the controversial Arizona law on immigrants is harmful.

The law was signed in April but later partially blocked by a federal judge. It would force immigrants to carry their documentation at all times and had police ready to question people they suspect are in the United States illegally.

“That law is taking down opportunity for immigrants,” says Jessie Barbosa, 16, of Boston International High School.

Immigrants, says Barbosa, helped make the United States strong.

“If they should build a boundary between the United States and Mexico,” Barbosa says, “immigrants would be the ones to build it for the Americans.”

Taddy Fofanah, 16, of Boston Community Leadership Academy, says that those who came up with the law should be fired.

“It’s not fair to ask people for their papers,” says Fofanah. “Nobody has the right to question you when you walk in the street.”

“America is a free country.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Kat Morgan



▲ AFH photo by Ping Zeng

# Long, hot summer of violence

## Stay-inside-syndrome hits home

By Kristina Daley // Staff Writer



**T**he threat of violence got so bad that 16-year-old Judnise Guillet wouldn't even leave her Roslindale home.

"I'm paranoid," says Guillet, "because I hear many stories on the news about how kids get shot during things like drive-bys and stuff, and I don't want to be one of those kids."

On many streets, an infectious disease has been spreading: violence.

Jessica Henry, 14, of Mattapan, says, "People are afraid to leave their house because they don't want to die."

Some young people think that this is like a virtual game of Call of Duty. But you only have one life. When things happen in the community, it affects everyone.

Sutania Patterson, 14, of Mattapan, says: "For me it's pretty scary 'cause I don't want anything to happen to my family."

Patterson says violence visited her old neighborhood in Roxbury.

"There was a shooting on my street and my neighbor got killed," she says.

Some say they think the increase in gangs is going to continue.

But Guillet says she won't let fear rule her days.

"I now have come to realize that I can't let things like that stop me from living my life," she says. "Before, my parents would allow me to stay out late. But now... they have me on a stricter curfew. But I don't blame them; they are doing it for the better." ■



# Can interracial relationships and family customs mix?

By Yewellyn Sanchez // Staff Writer

**S**ixteen-year-old Darlena Trong of Roslindale, who grew up with Hispanic and black kids, believes: "If you want to stick to your own race and avoid love, that's racist."

Since at least the 1880s, all the way until the 1960s, interracial sex or marriage was prohibited in some states. But today, 14.6% of new marriages are between different races, according to a June report by the Pew Research Center, entitled "Marrying Out."

There are many types of interracial relationships: black and white, Hispanic with white or black, Asian and white, and, lately, Asians and Hispanics.

In 2008, according to the Pew report, the rate of Hispanics and Asians dating out of their races was nearly identical to that in 1980. In the past two years, however, it seems like more Hispanics and Asians have been going out with people from other races – and, specifically, with one another, as they overcome their own strong family traditions.

Even with the expanding racial population and a number of interracial relationships, some people don't completely approve. Jimmy Phan, 16, says he'd have to think about it before going out with someone of another race.

"I would have to see if it's worth it," he says.

In interracial relationships there are always barriers, one of the main being criticism from outsiders. People may see young couples of different races and suddenly feel uncomfortable.

Trong, who is Asian and dates an Hispanic guy, goes through this sometimes: "Some people say, like, 'Okay, no big deal,' but others look at me weirdly, saying, 'She's not even Spanish!' "

Phan says his mother would not approve of interracial dating.

"She's very strict about things like that," he says.

Others are supportive of interracial relationships.

Yelitze Hernandez, 43, of Jamaica Plain, is a mother of two, Gabriela and Jonathan Martinez, and approves of interracial dating.

"The race doesn't matter to me," she says. "The only thing that would matter to me are bad customs."

Many teens are open to the new culture and experiences that interracial relationships bring to their families.

Gabriela Martinez, 13, says she would like to have a chance to explore things like a new language. Jonathan Martinez, 15, says he doesn't judge people by their race.

"It doesn't matter what people think," he says, "as long as you're happy." ■



▲ AFH photo by Mattaya Fitts

# Split ends

## How to face down a bad break-up

By Melissa Rodriguez // Staff Editor

"We're through! I never want to speak to you again!"

This is the result of a typical teen break-up where both teens find themselves: upset, hurt, and spiteful.

On the other side of the spectrum, both parties could leave at peace and on friendly terms. This is a situation many people refer to as a "healthy" break-up.

But the question is: Are teens able to part tranquilly?

"Everyone is capable, it's all about the maturity," says Shaquilla Terry, 16, from Roxbury, a peer leader with the Boston Public Health Commission's Start Strong Initiative, which promotes healthy relationships.

According to a Break-Up Summit that was sponsored by the Commission and held at Northeastern University in July, the best form of communicating a split is a conversation in person. It would make miscommunication less likely, and both parties would have closure.

"There's no such thing as a perfect break-up....Breaking up is hard regardless if it's healthy or unhealthy," says Terrance Miles, 17, of Dorchester, also a Start Strong peer leader. "Face-to-face makes everything better."

Vladimir Albin, 19, is a youth team leader at Close to Home, a Dorchester-based domestic violence prevention group. He recognizes that other forms of communication can work, too.

"A phone call would be healthy," he says, "but face-to-face is more healthy."

One of the biggest problems for breaking-up teens is social networking sites like Facebook, where teens tend to post their issues and take shots at their ex-partners.

Once you feel that the relationship isn't going anywhere, experts say, it's best to just let it go.

"Kids need education to know when a relationship is unhappy," says Terry. "Next step is to know how to break up." ■



▲ AFH photo by Jane Carper

## Make-up, break-up

### Three ways to a healthy parting:

- \* Face-to-face conversation: helps avoid miscommunication.
- \* Consensus: A mutual break-up makes the healing process easier.
- \* No social networking: Avoid posting your problems, or messages directed at your partner, on Facebook or MySpace. It only causes more drama.

— Melissa Rodriguez

Source: BPHC

# When love and hate collide...

"Love me or hate me, it's still an obsession."

— Lady Sovereign

By Eneda Golemi // Staff Writer

Have you ever thought whether love and hate can exist at the same time? Have you ever thought about giving up your love because of hate? Is love more powerful than hate?

Ayzhamal Sayakbaeva, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, said that love and hate can be together at the same time.

"Hate and love are separate just from one step," she said, "and when you hate a person, it means that you think a lot about him, and when you think about him, it means that you feel something."

Other teens think differently.

"You can't love and hate a person at the same time,"

said Yerald Pena, 18, from South Boston.

But which is more powerful, love or hate?

Indigo Mathews, 24, a retail manager from Allston, knows something about relationships, having recently broken up. "My boyfriend didn't have enough time for me," she said, "and it really hurts."

She thinks that both love and hate have the potential to be strong, but sometimes hate can conquer love.

"I think that love and hate are related to each other," said Mathews. "You don't know the meaning of love, unless you hate."

Lucas Hausermann, 18, thinks that love and hate are both powerful, because in love you do everything to help each other, but hate can destroy the love.



▲ AFH artwork by Kat Morgan

"Hate is born out of love," said Hausermann, of the South End, "and if love is deep, then hate doesn't exist."

This topic brings to mind the famous tragedy,

"Romeo and Juliet," by Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet were two young people in love with each other, but their families were enemies. They preferred to die together than to live apart.

John Cougar, 17, from Back Bay, thinks that breaking up with a person you love has to do with your feelings. "It depends... if it is love or just a romance," said Cougar, "because real love can conquer hate, but romance can't." ■

# Dueling schools: U.S. vs. Cambodia

By Samphy Ly // Staff Writer

All over the world, each country has its own school system to develop students. Some countries give value to teachers, and some countries don't.

For example, the schools in the U.S. have enough time to support students.

Sixteen-year-old Christian Salinas attends a local vocational school.

"My school starts from 8:30 in the morning to 2:30," he said. "In my school there is no uniform, only five subjects, and free breakfast and lunch."

Another 16-year-old, named Kenneth Ortiz, goes to Boston Community Leadership Academy.

"My teachers are really helpful because you can stay after school and they'll help

you without a doubt," he said. "They also make sure that you understand the concepts and make you feel comfortable in the environment."

Ortiz said students in his school don't have to wear uniforms. "Unless the skirts are too short or a shirt has a negative message – then you can't wear it," he said.

He said many students at his school don't have to pay for food.

"My school has free breakfast and lunch," he said.

On the other hand, in Cambodia, 18-year-old Chan Malen, who attended Pursat High School, said: "The salaries for teachers are very low, only \$50 per

month, so they have to find another job... and they won't have time to stay after school with their students."

She said that schools in Cambodia have no free breakfasts and lunches.

"Everybody has to pay money even when you print some papers, too," she said in an interview done on Facebook.

She has to wear a uniform to school: black skirt and white shirt.

"If I don't," she said, "I will get detention."

Many say this is a great rule, so when they go out to somewhere besides school, people will know that they are students. ■

# BSAC

# BUZZ

By BSAC Staff

The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) is a body of student leaders representing their respective high schools. It serves as a voice of students to the Boston School Committee.

BSAC plays a key role in empowering students to express their opinions about educational policy changes, and ensuring that students know their rights and are included in making decisions.

BSAC members keep their schools informed about relevant citywide issues and work on policies and projects that the council develops during the year.

As part of that process, Dennis Tan will be serving as the Teens in Print BSAC BUZZ writer for school year 2010-11. Tan is a senior at the Josiah Quincy Upper School. He served on the cross country track team in 2008, and received high honors in 2009. He is bilingual in English and Cantonese.

Tan joined BSAC in 2008. He wants to change adults' perceptions of students so that all are treated equally and have a fair chance of succeeding. Make sure to tune in to Tan and the BUZZ throughout the school year to find out what students are working on!

*If you are interested in making a difference in BPS schools, and having a say in decisions that affect your education, please join BSAC. We are accepting applications for school year 2010-11. For more information, contact Maria I. Ortiz, Engagement Facilitator & BSAC Co-Coordinator, Office of Family & Student Engagement, at 617-635-8079 ext 104, or at [mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us) ■*



▲ AFH photo by Haidan Hodgson

# On today's school menu: mystery meat, soggy fries

By Anael Milhomme // Staff Writer

**S**chool food tastes bad and is poorly presented, say Boston teens recently interviewed.

It's been a common theme forever across the country: kids are sick of mystery meat, tasteless pizza, and soggy fries.

Officials from the Boston Public Schools have been working to add healthier and tastier items to cafeteria menus, from fresh fruits and vegetables to better cuts of meat.

Still, many teens complain.

"They sell nasty pizza every day," says Shamara Bodden, 15, of Community Academy of Science and Health.

Some students just stay in class or take a moment to relax in the hallway during lunchtime.

"I rather stay hungry or buy chips," says Tanairis Vizcarrondo, 18, of Madison Park High School.

Other students bring their own food for lunch.

For Bodden, that is not an option.

"I can't heat it up," Bodden says.

Teens say that if school officials want them to perform better academically, they need to continue to improve the cafeteria meals. ■

## Caf the truth

Teen complaints to the contrary, national school nutritionists insist their offerings are better than the dishes served at fast-food joints.

### Here, they say, are some common myths:

■ Schools serve junk food: In fact, the officials say, school lunches must meet nutrition guidelines.

■ Schools don't serve enough fruits and vegetables. In fact, they say, some two-thirds of all school-lunch menus offer more than federal regulations require.

■ Schools serve only greasy food. In fact, they say, looks can be deceiving: Items that may appear fried are often baked.

■ Home lunches are better than school meals. In fact, they say, brown-bag options carry three times as many snack goodies than school lunches.

Source: School Nutrition Association



▲ AFH photo by Sean Selter



## Condom conundrum

By Vanessa Omoroghomwan // Staff Writer

**P**assing out condoms to young people on the street may seem absurd to many adults. But 16-year-old Snowden International student Larisa Osorio thinks it's a good idea.

"Teens are going to get curious, and a lot of STD's are among teenagers, and schools are not giving outreach," she says.

Policies like the one approved in Provincetown in June that allows students to receive condoms from school nurses without parental consent received harsh criticism from families and the media.

Although many may not agree with Provincetown's policy, there are programs here in Boston that distribute condoms to teenagers on the street without parental permission.

Jasmine Gonsalves, a 17-year-old student at Boston Arts Academy, says there have been groups giving out condoms to teenagers in the downtown area. She thinks it's a good idea.

"Teens are always downtown and teens are hav-

ing sex," she says. "There's nothing wrong with promoting safe sex."

Fourteen-year-old Perla Lara, from New Mission High, believes otherwise, saying parents should have a say in what goes on in their children's lives – especially when it comes to sex.

"I think that is so wrong," she says. "That's like a smack to the face of the parents."

According to a spokesperson for the Boston Public Schools, BPS does not provide condoms. However, students do have access to them at school-based health centers. To receive services there, though, a student's parent must sign a consent form.

Still, not all parents are opposed to the idea of people handing out condoms to youth.

"Teens are going to do it anyhow," says parent-of-four Yolanda Lightfoot, of Dorchester. "But they shouldn't be sneaking around to get condoms.... They should have a talk with their parents first." ■

## A handful of hair

Dying to color your locks

By Gabriella Facada // Staff Writer

**J**ust two days after dying her straight black hair brown, Lucy Ramirez, a 15-year-old student at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, was running her fingers through her locks when she saw a clump of it clutched in her hands. She screamed.

It's rumored that when you dye your hair, it tends to fall out faster and more drastically. So, is this a myth or a fact?

According to Ashley Lynch, a Boston hairstylist, "It depends. If you have damaged hair, it will."

Lynch also says that a lot of people don't know that there's a difference between dying and coloring your hair. Coloring it is getting it professionally done, and dying it is doing it at home, using the box, she says. The difference is that getting it colored at the salon lasts longer than when you do it yourself. Plus, dying your hair can dry out and damage it more than getting it done at the salon.

Nowadays, during the era of hair-slaughtering, people want to do something new with their hair, but they don't know how much harm it's really causing.

Does straightening your hair hurt it? "It can if you apply too much heat," says Lynch. She also says that

you should use calming products to help protect your hair when straightening or curling it.

Kristina Carroll, a 16-year-old student at Boston Latin School with curly hair, uses products when straightening her fiery red mane, and says, "After using the products, it's smoother and softer."

According to fitnessmagazine.com, shampooing your tresses every day is unhealthy, because it washes out the good nutrients. Lynch says, "Well, I wash my hair every day, and it looks fine, and I have a friend who only washes her hair once a week, and it still looks fine. But, yeah, it can wash out the good nutrients, so you can wash your hair every other day."

You can learn all these weird strategies from people who write online, such as on the website myhomemedicines.com, where one person says: "I used 1 egg with 1 tsp of olive oil as a conditioner....The next morning...[my hair] was shiny and full of body."

As opposed to the unusual methods of treating your lovely locks, deep conditioning to keep your hair moisturized has been proven. After all, Sky Booker, a 14-year-old student at Boston Latin School, says: "I use a deep conditioner once a month, and it helps my hair!" ■



▲ AFH photo by Kat Morgan

## Wise words for washing

Here are a few tips to keep your locks shiny and soft:

- ★ Scalp treatments about once a month. You can get them almost anywhere, even at Sephora – except we're teenagers, and most teens don't have money to blow on that kind of stuff.
- ★ So, here's option two: condition your hair every day.
- ★ Once a week, leave your conditioner in for about 15 minutes – this is also known as deep-conditioning.
- ★ Let your hair air-dry instead of blow-drying it. If you blow-dry it too often, your hair will become brittle and develop split ends – which are unattractive, and unhealthy.

— Gabriella Facada

Source: Ashley Lynch

# Blue teens

By Ashley Barker // Staff Editor

Freddie Jonathan, 17, of Roslindale, was feeling down. "I was blue for a month," he says.

As a teen, it's normal to feel sadness once in a while, or even to get angry at that friend or parent who does something that upsets you. Typically, at the age of 16, for example, you're trying to fit in, or stand out, against the crowd. You also may be entering junior year in high school, which can be tough. After school, you might be working or doing clubs or maybe even sports.

At times, these things could start to take a toll on you. This may lead to irritability, agitation, and lack of motivation. All these symptoms, according to [healthguide.org](http://healthguide.org), are signs of possible adolescent depression. [Healthline.com](http://Healthline.com) defines adolescent

depression as a deep sadness, a lack of interest in activities that usually interest you, and frequently feeling badly about yourself.

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between adolescent depression and just being blue. [Teendepression.org](http://Teendepression.org) says that persistent sadness — feelings of helplessness, loss, grief, misery, and sorrow — is the most common sign of depression. If it lasts longer than two weeks, it could be depression.

Sometimes, managing things is not easy; you might not want to be around your friends, or you might take a step back from the things that make you happy. For a 16-year-old teen who did not want to be named, it was difficult being with people.

"I didn't want to be around anyone," she says.

She also says that she tried to handle it alone, but it really wasn't effective.

"I coped by keeping to myself, and not talking to people," she says. "I also didn't really cope with it."

But what about the days when you don't know if things are going to go up or down? What about the consequences that happen after you let out the irritability, anger, or hostility that you've been holding in? That's something Jonathan struggled with.

"The feeling that, one day, I would take it out on the wrong person," he says.

Mikhaila Watson, 17, of South Boston, has been dealing with depression since she was 12 years old.

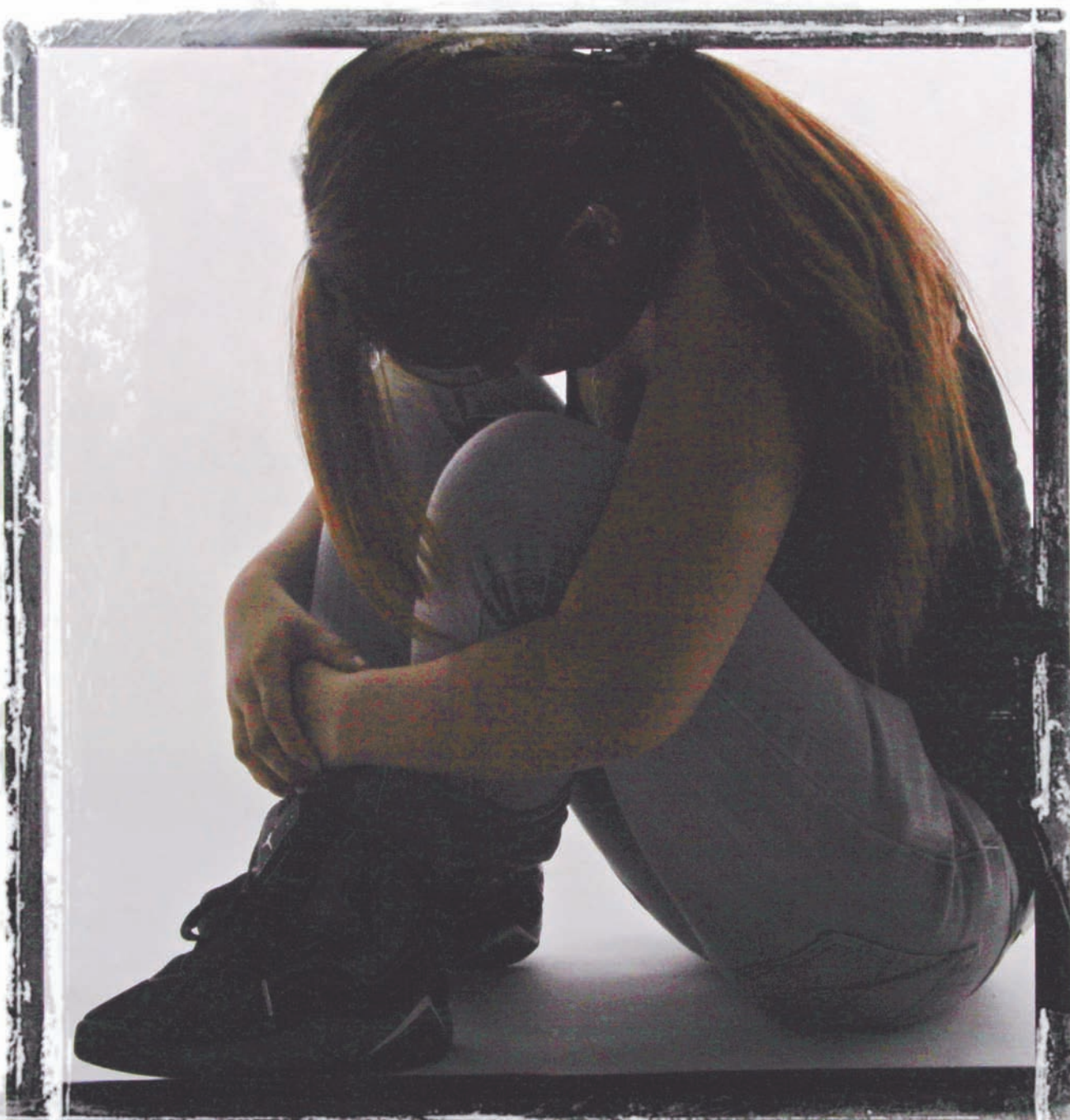
"The worst days, where it's so bad," she says, "I don't even want to leave my room." ■

## If you're feeling down...

- Try not to isolate yourself from friends and family.
- Remember that you're not alone; you have people who care about you.
- Don't turn to alcohol and drugs; they make the situation worse.
- Talk to your parents — if not friends.
- Ask for help.

— Ashley Barker

Source: [helpguide.org](http://helpguide.org)



**FATIMA ADJOUT****Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Oatmeal**Drama or Comedy:** Both**What is your hidden talent?** I can learn a new language fast and even get the accent easily**SCHTEINER ALEXIS****Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake**Werewolves or Vampires:** Werewolves**What's your favorite kind of cookie:** Peanut butter**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?** It depends on who it is...lol**ASHLEY BARKER****Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz, duh!**Werewolves or Vampires:**

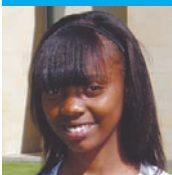
Vampires – you live forever

**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

Chocolate chunk

**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?** Single**PATRICIA BELLO****Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

Chocolate chip

**What is your hidden talent?** Dance**KRISTINA DALEY****Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz**Werewolves or Vampires:** Werewolves**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Sugar**What is your hidden talent?** Dance**ROMINDA DE BARROS****Trey Songz or Drake:** Ayyee Tremaaaaaine!**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

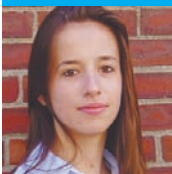
Cookies? No thank you. Fix me a Hot Plate!!

**Drama or comedy:** Dramas that should have been labeled as comedies**What is your hidden talent?** Doin' the Carlton Dance. Lol. I got skillz.**GABRIELLA FACADA****Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake**Werewolves or Vampires:** Werewolves**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

Warm chocolate chip

**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?** It depends on the person and the relationship**JEIMY FERNANDEZ****Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake**Werewolves or Vampires:** Both!**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**

Chocolate chip

**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?** Doesn't matter, as long as I'm happy**ENEDA GOLEMI****Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz**Werewolves or Vampires:** Both**Drama or comedy:** Comedy**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**

My happiness is more important than my relationship status

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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  
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**Next issue: Nov 2010**

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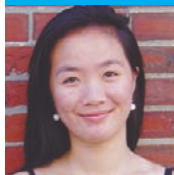
**PENISHA HILL**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Oreo  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
In a relationship



**RUMMAH HIMAT**

**Werewolves or Vampires:** Werewolves  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**  
Chocolate chip  
**Drama or comedy:** Comedy  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Single



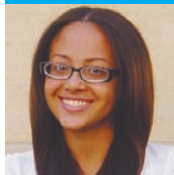
**SAMPHY LY**

**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Chocolate  
**Drama or comedy:** Sad drama  
**What is your hidden talent?**  
I like to sing Cambodian songs  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I like to be single



**UNIQUE MARSHALL**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz. I think Drake's  
five o'clock shadow is gross.  
**Werewolves or Vampires:**  
Werewolves – they remind me of my brothers  
**What is your hidden talent?**  
Writing non-rhyming poems  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I like relationships if they're healthy



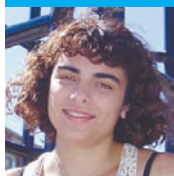
**CHEILA MARTINEZ**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz ALL THE WAY!!  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Oreo  
**What is your hidden talent?** Ummm...SINGING!  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Single



**ANAEL MILHOMME**

**Werewolves or Vampires:**  
I don't really believe in any of them  
**Drama or comedy:** Comedy all day  
**What is your hidden talent?** Playing soccer  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I rather like to be single lol



**OLIVIA MURPHY**

**Werewolves or Vampires:** I think werewolves are  
cooler, but I'd rather be a vampire  
**Drama or comedy:**  
I like tragedies better than either of these  
**What is your hidden talent?**  
Who knows, if it's hidden?  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I like relationships that aren't that serious



**AUDREY NGANKAM**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires  
**Drama or comedy:** Drama  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I like to be single



**ADRIANA NOVIELLI-RUDDY**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**  
Original chocolate chip  
**Drama or comedy:** Both



**VANESSA OMOROGHOMWAN**

**Trey Songz or Drake:**  
Trey Songz! He's my future husband.  
**Werewolves or Vampires:**  
Vampires – except when it comes to Taylor Lautner  
**What is your hidden talent?**  
I'll tell you when I discover it  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Both – but being single is a lot less stressful



**KEEJA PAISLEY**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?**  
Chocolate chip (for the chocoholic)  
**What is your hidden talent?** The power of annoyance



**NATHANIEL PERKINS**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**Drama or comedy:** Dramedy  
**What is your hidden talent?**  
I can dance (contemporary)  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Single – less complicated



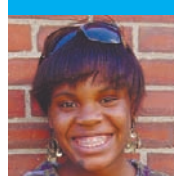
**ANISSA PIERRE**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires are cool  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Chocolate  
**Drama or comedy:** Sci-Fi



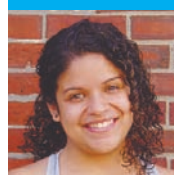
**YASMINE RAPTIS**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Lupe Fiasco  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Hybrids  
**What is your hidden talent?** Art  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I like my freedom



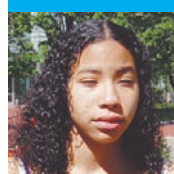
**ANDREA REID**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Trey Songz  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Chocolate  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
In a relationship



**MELISSA RODRIGUEZ**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**Werewolves or Vampires:** Vampires, TEAM EDWARD!  
**What is your hidden talent?** Sleeping  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Single



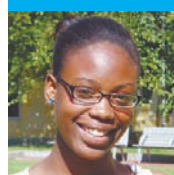
**YEWELLYN SANCHEZ**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Chocolate chip  
**Drama or comedy:** Comedy  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Single



**DAJA TAYLOR**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Drake  
**Drama or comedy:** Dramedy  
**What is your hidden talent?** Poetry  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
Relationships are nice, but they are a lot of responsibility. I like being single.



**PATRICIA VANRIEL**

**Trey Songz or Drake:** Definitely Trey Songz  
**What's your favorite kind of cookie?** Sugar  
**Drama or comedy:** Comedy – I love to laugh  
**Do you like to be single or be in a relationship?**  
I have no choice but to like being single

# Early Fall Fashion

## Sexiest Best Looks for the 2010 School Year

By Cheila Martinez // Staff Editor

Everyone knows that summer is all about fun, bright, vibrant colors. But the upcoming school year is here and the colors will begin to change – like the leaves – as fall arrives. There are more calm browns, reds, pale yellows, and hints of gold.

The good thing is, there won't be a difference in everything we wear. For all you worriers, skinny jeans will still be in fashion for early fall; so will high-waist belts in combination with high-waist skirts – such as the short prairie.

Skinny jeans seem to catch the attention of the opposite sex. Francis Suazo, 16, of East Boston High School, thinks that “autumn plaid shirts with a sexy pair of skinnies” look great on any girl.

Patterned floral dresses will also be in fashion. They can easily be worn freely with a small cardigan cover-up, or, to dress them down even more, they could easily be paired with your favorite ripped-up jeans or with a studded jean jacket.

White and black – two shades that never go out of style and that are frequently worn in runway shows – will definitely be a must-have in your wardrobe for this fall.

Since we all know that fall has an unwelcoming friend known as cold weather, it will be necessary to take cover. But why not keep warm with a classic pea coat instead of a bulgy, oversized winter jacket? There are tons of styles and colors for the timeless pea coat, including plaid, short, long, checkered, even leopard print. Seventeen.com agrees, stating that mixing animal prints for this fall in varieties is an ultimate fashion statement.

Zippers, sheer fabrics, gladiator shoes, ruffled skirts, pointed and OTK boots, and knitted headbands are also in for the fall.

“As long as I have some boots and a scarf, and as long as it matches, I'm O.K.,” says Nelsmarie Matos Arroyo, 14, of the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Other accessories include statement necklaces, detailed gloves, and cuff bracelets. They bring the most elegant touch to any outfit. Another simple add-on that has been around for ages is a cute pair of earrings. Nicole Polanco, 15, from Urban Science Academy, says, “I love my cool earrings and maybe even a thin sweater to go along with it.”

You can recycle a lot of your summer pieces for fall, so don't stuff them in a bag yet. Seventeen.com states: “Cardigans are the perfect layering piece for fall and can help you update and reuse pieces from your summer wardrobe.”

You can also wear your summer, graphic tees with a light, leather, zipped jacket.

Also, a blouse that will transform any ole frumpy outfit to fab is a sequined tank top. The beautiful sparkles glow on any skin tone, and would make anyone look great.

If push comes to shove and finding these styles becomes difficult, you can always start your own trends. Maybe what you come up with will be the next, number-one fashion statement. Just be yourself and love what you wear. As long as you like it, that's all that matters. ■



▲ AFH photo by Cashman Ogaus



▲ AFH photos by Cashman Ogaus



# Silly bands

Despite health scare, the colors and shapes remain an obsession

By Patricia Bello // Staff Writer

**M**ayelin Brea, 16, of Boston International High School, has 67 silly bands, but she wants more.

"The more I get, the more I want," said Brea. "That's like an addiction."

Brea loves them because they're really pretty and colorful. Her favorite ones are the stars, the number twelve and number three, and the pink ones.

She usually wears 50, and she never takes them off.

Sometimes she and her sister fight over them. Brea doesn't know about the rumors that they cause cancer. However, she heard that they are made from condoms.

Jalitz Perez, 13, of Madison Park High, has 40 silly bands and she usually wears them all together. She doesn't think they're linked to cancer.

"They're just bands," she said.

Silly bands have caught the attention of the kids. Silly bands make them crazy. In some schools, silly bands have been banned because the kids used to fight over them. Also, in Brazilian cities, different styles of silly bands have been outlawed from school because they were used to indicate sexual activity.

Nayarette Rodriguez, 14, of Boston International, said she likes silly bands because there are many types and a lot of colors — such as green, yellow, blue, hot pink, red, orange, purple, and more — that she can combine with her clothes.

A lot of people wear the silly bands just because they see other people wearing them. But Rodriguez said that she wears them because she really likes them.

Just like Perez, Rodriguez doesn't think they lead to cancer. ■

# You are what your T-shirt says

By Fatima Adjout // Staff Writer

**T**oday, in our teen community, we see rather original things. We all have a way of expressing ourselves, whether through the way we dress, talk, or act.

Shirts with racy slogans are part of today's new fashion. Teens think the shirts are an amusing way of dressing up and another way of conveying their individuality.

"This is the revolution on shirts. The youth is coming out," says Antonio Colon, 19, from Charlestown High.

The slogans that we see come from different parts of the world. Their sales are an international phenomenon.

While many of these slogan'd shirts may appear to be in good fun and taste, many are offensive and inappropriate. They have a negative impact on teens. When teens put on shirts that say "Come and get it" or "I am ready when you are," not only does it send a rude message, but it also can provoke the audience.

"When having something like that on, people will think you are a bad person," says Daquan Paris, 16, from Fenway High.

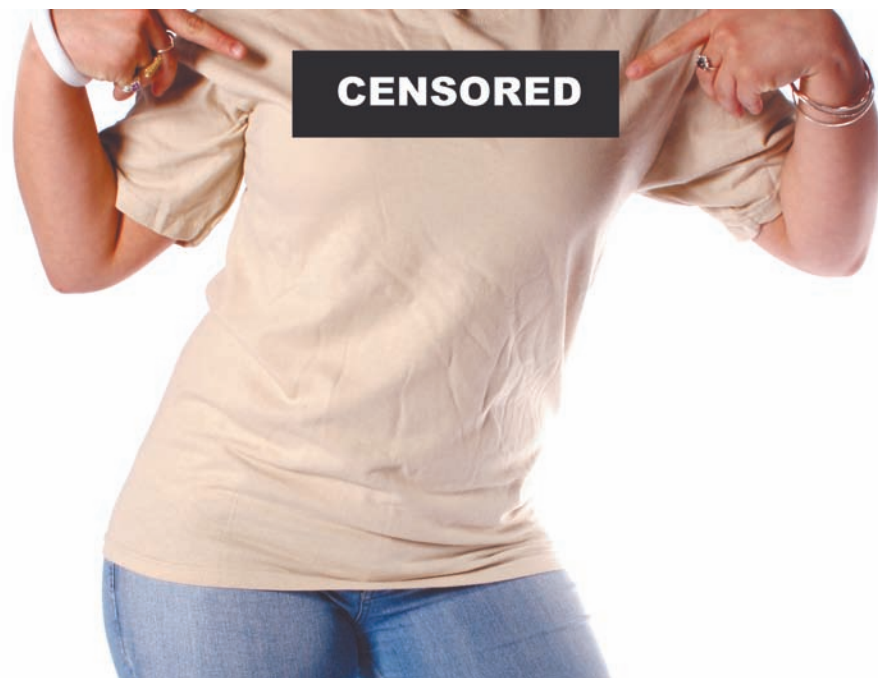
Laura Hansen, an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at Western New England College, says the shirts and slogans that teens choose are meant to represent themselves and their place in society.

"Whatever is on the shirt," she says, "is a part of their culture."

Boston Teens in Print conducted a random survey of 10 people to see how many wear slogan'd shirts and how many don't. The results show that six people don't and four don't. One teen said he doesn't wear T-shirts with sayings because he feels it's showing off.

From good to not-so-good, the slogan'd shirts are marketed in a number of categories, including naughty, funny, and humanitarian.

We don't see many teens wearing T-shirts featuring slogans such as "Go green" or "Improve our democracy." Most of them are funny, but often they are in bad taste, such as this one: "I didn't slap you/I high-fived you in your face." ■



▲ AFH photo

# Bubbling with excitement

## Tea time for teens

By Olivia Murphy // Staff Writer

**J**ohn Nguyen Truong, 15, from Boston Latin Academy, sits at a table full of screaming teenagers at the New Dong Khanh restaurant, in Chinatown. He has one headphone in his ear while keeping his focus on a variety of things: the conversation at hand, the amount of hot sauce going into his friend's bowl, keeping the noise at an acceptable level, and his food. Between bites of his meal, he sips his coffee-with-pearls bubble tea from a pink straw.

Truong didn't have much of a choice when he first tried bubble tea with his friends. "They forced it on me," he says.

The reason Truong likes bubble tea is primarily for the pearls, which make it different from the coffee and soda he drank before. He now drinks it about one or two times a month.

Vinh Tran, 15, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, first tried bubble tea at the Bubble-T Zone in Dorchester with his friends. He thinks the colors of the drinks are an attracting feature. He says, "Try[ing] new things is fun."

According to several different websites, bubble tea is a tea-based drink that, at the bottom, has boba — round little balls made out of tapioca that are slightly sweet, have a gummy texture, and are also known as pearls. This drink originated in Taiwan two decades ago when a daring small retailer added boba to tea. It gets its name from the bubbles that appear at the top of the drink when shaken.

Bobateadirect.com says that eventually this trend reached North America and that here, on the East Coast, bubble tea is not as common as on the West Coast due to its less concentrated and organized Asian communities. However bubble tea is growing more popular in East Coast cities such as Boston, and more stores are popping up.

The website goes on to say that, as the existence of bubble tea becomes increasingly well known, more non-Asian customers are becoming bold and trying bubble tea for themselves, and that half of the people who try it for the first time come back for more. The site also says that bubble tea is an appealing business because it doesn't require much money to start and has high-profit potential.

Aldy Choy, who works at the Juice Bar in Chinatown, says that the establishment has been open for over 15 years. As Choy tries to contrast the times from when the store first opened to today, she says: "More stores sell pearl drinks now."

A debatable topic about bubble tea is whether it is just a trend that will eventually fall out of fashion, or whether it is here to stay. Truong thinks the trend will eventually die out, since, he says, people are now making fake bubble tea by using counterfeit ingredients. Others say that since bubble tea has already been around for a while, it will probably remain.

Bubble tea will be put to the test in upcoming years to see if its popularity will soar sky high or plunge into deep depths. ■



▲ AFH photo by Carolyn Rochalski

# Boston ink

By Anissa Pierre // Staff Writer

**A**manda Lewis, 18, is a new graduate of Boston Arts Academy who, unlike a lot of teens these days, isn't too fond of the whole tattoo craze. "You're doing too much," she says regarding teens that get tattoos. "Why do you have ink on your arm and you were just born?"

It's no secret that teens are influenced by their environment and their peers, and that "the crowd" imitates what people in the media do. So it's not surprising that a lot of people are getting tattoos these days.

The figures that are constantly surrounded by the press are covered in tattoos. No longer are the hardcore rappers and rockers the only ones found in the parlors. Now, the Travis McCoys, Lady Gagas, Miley Cyruses, and Justin Biebers accompany them. Pop stars Rihanna and Chris Brown helped jump-start the star-inking phenomenon.

"Monkey see, monkey do," says Alexis Feliz, 18, of Brook Farm Academy. Feliz believes that rappers and other artists influence what teens get, where they get it, and the fact that they're getting them in the first place.

Strangely enough, with the number of teens getting tattoos on the rise in Boston, and all over the country, you must be at least 18 to get a tattoo in the city, according to ink parlors.

It seems that individuality and creativity are lacking among some teens who get tattoos. According to Lewis and 14-year-old Perla Lara from New Mission High School, stars and musical notes are popular on the neck, ribcage, wrist, and back.

As Lara puts it, tattoos are just a trend; many of the permanent markings have no meaning behind them. However, not all teens with tattoos are just trying to follow the "in" crowd.

Alexis, who has a tattoo on his wrist, came up with the design for his own ink. "I drew [it] out...and gave them a piece of paper," he says.

The tattoo reads "dance" and is embellished with stars and a lightning bolt. Feliz says the tattoo was inspired by his passion in life.

He says: "I wanted something that meant something." ■



▲ AFH photo by Rich Philippe

# Climbing to success

## Scaling the heights of parkour

By Daja Taylor // Staff Editor

We pass by parks, playgrounds, and offices every single day and don't think anything of it. After all, a park is just a park. A playground is just a playground. And an office is just an office...to us. But in the eyes of those who practice parkour, The World is one giant obstacle course.

Parkour — derived from the French for a military obstacle course — is a method of training in which the person participating must use the fastest route to get from point A to point B while overcoming challenges that include getting over walls, ledges, and even roofs. Parkour is often performed in urban settings, everywhere from downtown to local college campuses.

Parkour seems to be most popular with young males in their teens and twenties and has many benefits.

"I first found out about it in seventh grade," says Abiezer Ayuso, 17, a senior at Media High School. "But I really got into it in my freshman year....It gives me a sense of freedom and helps me overcome my fears, such as my fear of falling....When I parkour, I get the feeling of flying and adrenaline. I feel as if every time I jump or climb, I overcome obstacles, not only physically, but also emotionally and mentally, as if I overcame an obstacle in my life."

Another benefit of parkour is the exercise.

"Parkour has built up my physical fitness and increased my stamina," says 15-year-old Carlito Gotay, also a student at Media, who has only been parkouring for about six months.

However, parkour is not without its consequences. Many people get hurt either by attempting to do stunts that are out of their range of ability, or simply by accident.

"I've jumped over a 15-to-20 foot drop," says Ayuso. "I...hit my back on the ledge and bashed my leg on a pole."

Another problem people in the parkour community encounter is getting into trouble with the authorities for trespassing.

"There was a time we were running...and there was a bank with a fence and we were jumping it," says Ayuso. "They called the cops, who asked us to leave, so we just went somewhere else."

For those aspiring to take on parkour, you must know that the guys on YouTube who are jumping from building to building have been practicing it for years. It is not advised to start doing such extreme stunts without the proper training.

Ayuso gives a little advice for people who wish to try parkour: "I would say be safe and run fast. There is no obstacle you cannot get over." ■



▲ AFH artwork by Wilfred Peters

## Hardcore parkour

Traceur/traceuse – A male/female who does parkour

Jam – A parkour session with a group of people

Balance – To walk while steadying on top of an obstacle

Swing/lache –To hang or swing from an object and then let go

Drop – To jump down from an obstacle

Vault – To hurdle over an object using one's hands

Gap Jump/running jump –To leap over a distance from one spot to another. Typically finished off with a roll.

Roll – A forward approach to falling where the hands, arms, and part of the back hit the ground, minimizing impact

— Daja Taylor

Sources: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [americanparkour.com](http://americanparkour.com)

# Cool jerks

## Dancin' to a positive vibe

By Nathaniel Perkins // Staff Writer

Phillip “Spyda” Theodore, 17, of Mattapan, dances in his crew, S.O.K., and is among the many who happily label themselves “jerks.”

“It’s the newest hip-hop dance,” says Theodore about the moves that many Boston teens are doing.

Since its debut in Los Angeles in 2008, jerkin’ has been taking over televisions and cities nationwide. With its growth in popularity across the country, it was not long before this movement hit the East Coast.

Jerkin’ involves intricate footwork and a new spin on the classic running man — called the reject. It is not only a dance, but has become something of a lifestyle, as well. Music and fashion have both been greatly influenced by the jerkin’ craze. iPods are now filled with tunes created by those who jerk.

Many teens have also ditched the loose and baggy style for those jeans they got as Christmas gifts but left in the back of their closets because they were too tight. Now, a slightly slimmer look is the accepted norm.

While the jerkin’ style seems to reflect the fashion of the future, it holds some feelings of nostalgia. The highlighter-colored sneakers, skinny jeans, and high-top fades are all reflective of the iconic style of the ’80s. What was once considered old school has made its long-awaited return to mainstream pop culture.

Another aspect of jerkin’ that has been sweeping through the streets of Boston is crews. Among the most popular are S.O.K. (Super Official Kids), T.G.K. (The Good Kids), and F.K.U. (Fresh Kids United).

Theodore says he started his crew, S.O.K., because, “I wanted to make moves. I was already known around Boston as a popular dancer and rapper.”

From the outside looking in, a crew may seem like a bunch of teens getting together and starting trouble. But those in crews know that it’s a completely different story.

“The meaning of the word crew to me equals family,” says Theodore. “A group of talented people.”

It can be said that crews offer a refreshing change to the negativity and violence that has been witnessed on the streets. Jerkin’ crews bring a new connotation to a group of teens hanging together.

This positivity is not going unnoticed. Taylor Hicks, 17, who lives in Mattapan, says the jerkin’ crews are a welcome sight.

“I think it’s good,” he says. “They are doing something constructive. They are not gangbanging; instead, they are dancing.” ■



▲ AFH photos by Cashman Ohaus

# Picky and cliquey

By Rominda de Barros // Staff Writer

Patrick Elvin, a 17-year-old junior at Boston Latin School, is your all-around lovable guy. He stands 6-foot-2 with blond hair and a flamboyant personality that draws everyone to him.

As Elvin puts it: “I have lots of friends but I’m one of those people who bounces between cliques and social groups ‘cause I like being friends with all different types of people.”

Cliques have been around for ages, and they haven’t really changed much. From the jocks, to the geeks, to the theatre people and music-heads — the Hollywood movies may exaggerate the divisions, but there are indeed categories.

“I feel that they are unavoidable,” Elvin says about cliques. “Any high school requires social groups. I wish it didn’t, but it does.”

Cliques have their pros and cons. Many people say that cliques aren’t really a problem. You hang out with people you’re similar to and, so, naturally groups form.

“People can follow stereotypes and they have a group of friends,” says Tammie David, 15, from Boston Latin School, “but most people can fit into two or more stereotypes, and the average teenager has friends in several cliques.”

However, cliques have become a danger when targeting, bullying, and using others have come into the picture.

Recounting a situation involving targeting done by cliques, Jessica Dalusma, 17, of Boston Latin School, says, “There’s this one girl... she likes to make people feel afraid of her and then she uses it. She always trash talks. If words could kill, everyone that she’s picked on would be dead and buried.”

In the recent news, popular topics centered on bullying have included stories on teens such as 15-year-old Phoebe Prince, 17-year-old Eric Mohat, and even 11-year-



▲ AFH artwork

olds Carl Walker-Hoover and Jaheem Herrera. Their constant struggles with bullying all played roles in their suicides.

There is also the issue of not fitting in or of being denied a chance to actually become friends with a group of people.

“They’re cult-like and kind of brainwash their members and won’t accept newcomers,” Dalusma says of cliques.

What actually determines your clique status? What exactly makes someone popular?

“Popularity is based off of likeability and fear,” says Elvin.

On the brighter side, cliques may serve a positive purpose. Elvin says they can bring some kind of order to school.

“No cliques means everyone knows everyone,” he says. “That would just create so much drama!” ■

## Preps vs. emos...

By Yasmine Raptis // Staff Writer

There have been many struggles between social organizations, but it seems that each group has one particular clique it loathes. When you are totally different is usually when situations are most hostile.

“I personally believe that people who claim these extreme personalities are bound to have conflicts due to the fact that they are so drastically the opposite,” says Caitlin Walsh, 16, of Roslindale.

I would say the two social groups that go at it the most would be preps and emos/goths.

Morgan Anderson, 16, from the Josiah Quincy Upper School, defines a prep this way: “I think it’s the name for people who personally like to dress in

the prep style, which is considered bright, school-girly, and the attitude being bubbly or bitchy.”

Emos (short for emotional) and goths (short for gothic) tend to dress in black and take pleasure in what frightens or enlightens them in a dark atmosphere.

Madison Sloan, 16, from Boston Arts Academy, says social groups form as a way to cope with personal issues.

“Emo kids are usually desperate for attention, and the same with the goths,” he says.

I do wonder what the conflict really is between these two groups, and Sloan’s insight would be my only theory as to why.

“I think the struggle between these people is

‘cause the preps are insecure – family problems, self-confidence, etc. — and likewise for the other people,” he says.

Sloan says he dislikes all these social groups.

“I hate every one for their stubborn behavior,” he says. “If we could all just learn acceptance, maybe I wouldn’t.”

As for me, I believe teens choose their personalities to feel like they belong, and then they get bored and start attacking another group. They are most likely threatened by their disparities or are acting like everyone else in the group.

Since emos/goths and preps are such extreme contrasts, maybe they have the hardest time. ■

# Pedal to the metal: Bikes are back

By Jeimy Fernandez // Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Giovanni Martinez, currently attending Brighton High, believes that bicycles are not just for small children; they can be used by anyone. Martinez rides his bike at least five times a week, either to Roslindale or around his South End neighborhood.

"You don't have to be a kid to have fun and ride bikes," he said.

Bikes used to be just for little kids, but today many teens ride them. From the most popular teens to the least, they are all riding different bikes for their own reasons.

Ivan Sanquintin, a 17-year-old attending City on a Hill charter school, rides his bike because, to him, it's a quicker way of getting around.

"They [bikes] are faster because you can go at your own speed," he said, adding: "And you can take shortcuts."

People ride their bikes for exercise, others for recreation, and some use them to commute to work or school. Some people don't do it for themselves, but for the environment. By not using cars, they save money, and they are not using gasoline.

With the economic dip and people moving back to the city, overall sales at some bike shops have been getting better thanks to the rise of the bicycle's popularity. Ferris Wheels, a bike shop on South Street in Jamaica Plain, sells different kinds of bikes, including hybrids, mountain, and road. Shop owner Jeffrey Ferris says: "Sales have increased in the last couple years. Sales have doubled."

Both Martinez and Sanquintin believe they are helping themselves and the environment by riding bicycles, but Yamilex Pena, a 15-year-old student at Boston Latin Academy, feels like she's in danger when she's on her bike.



▲ AFH photo by Bill Le

"I feel unsafe," she said, "I don't wanna get killed by a car while I'm crossing the street on a bike, because there are some people that don't like waiting for others to cross the street."

Pena is not the only one who feels that way. A group called Bikes Not Bombs is trying to get more bicycle lanes on some of the busy streets of Boston. All three teens, Pena, Sanquintin, and Martinez, agree that bike lanes have their advantages.

"Yes bike lanes would be good because the sidewalks are mostly packed, so if they make a

bike lane, it would be a lot faster to get somewhere," said Sanquintin.

"I think it's a yes-and-no situation because bikers can have their own lanes and not worry about traffic," Martinez said, "and, no, because it can cause car accidents and they could end up in serious medical conditions."

"Yes, because bikes are somewhat cars, too," says Pena. "They need their lanes, too."

Bikes have become so popular among teens lately, but how long will it be before they go out of style again? Then, what will teens be riding next? ■

# Meet the next female football player: me

By Penisha Hill // Staff Writer

I started off as the quiet girl who did not say much. Everyone would pick on me because I was small and silent. Some said I reminded them of their little sisters because of my height and baby face.

I am a female student who attends Brighton High, and I decided to sign up for the football team this fall.

I am very nervous about playing for the football team because I may be one of only two girls, and I am still small.

Some people were confused as to why I wanted to try out for football. I want to prove to the guys that girls can do whatever they want as long as they put their minds to it. It should not matter what sex you are. All that should matter is whether you are passionate about something. You need to be willing to stick to it

and stay focused.

Being very athletic, I am fascinated by trying new things. I used to play soccer and basketball and run track. I think playing sports in the past might boost me up in the future and now inspire me to play football. I think it might build up my strength as an athlete.

Throughout the summer I went jogging and worked-out at my house. It prepared me for the football season. When you are willing to do something that everyone does not agree with, you have to have a lot of pride and confidence.

The only thing I am really afraid of is the guys' reactions to me playing football. I think if I stick to it, the guys will get a little intimidated because they may believe I might be a challenge to them. They might feel I'll steal their spotlight. I guess I won't know until I start playing.

Wish me luck. ■



▲ AFH photo by Lena Yee

# Q&A with Joseph “Chubbi” Fisher: rapper on the rise?

By Daja Taylor // Staff Editor

In his black hoodie and baseball cap, Joseph Fisher seems like just another kid. But behind his low-key manner is a talented rapper with the nickname “Chubbi” who produces powerful songs with edgy lyrics.

The 15-year-old Dorchester resident puts his skills on display in his new mixtape, “Sleeping In Class.” Played over sampled beats from popular hits such as Drake’s “Over” and B.o.B’s “Airplanes,” Fisher’s rhymes about everyday life are quick, witty, and original. For those with sensitive ears, be forewarned: His songs contain profanity. “Sleeping In Class” is available for a free download at [www.datpiff.com](http://www.datpiff.com), keyword “chubbi.”

Teens in Print caught up with Fisher in the Codman Square McDonald’s. We chatted about everything from his rapping history to his future plans.

**Teens in Print:**  
What inspired you to start rapping? Why?

**Joseph Fisher:**  
*I’m just like really attracted to music; I’ve been around it all my life.*

**On your new mixtape, what are your favorite tracks? Why?**  
*One of the tracks is “The Otherside.” It’s my favorite because it talks about all my dead friends and stuff. And “Bang Along” because it has a good feel to it.*

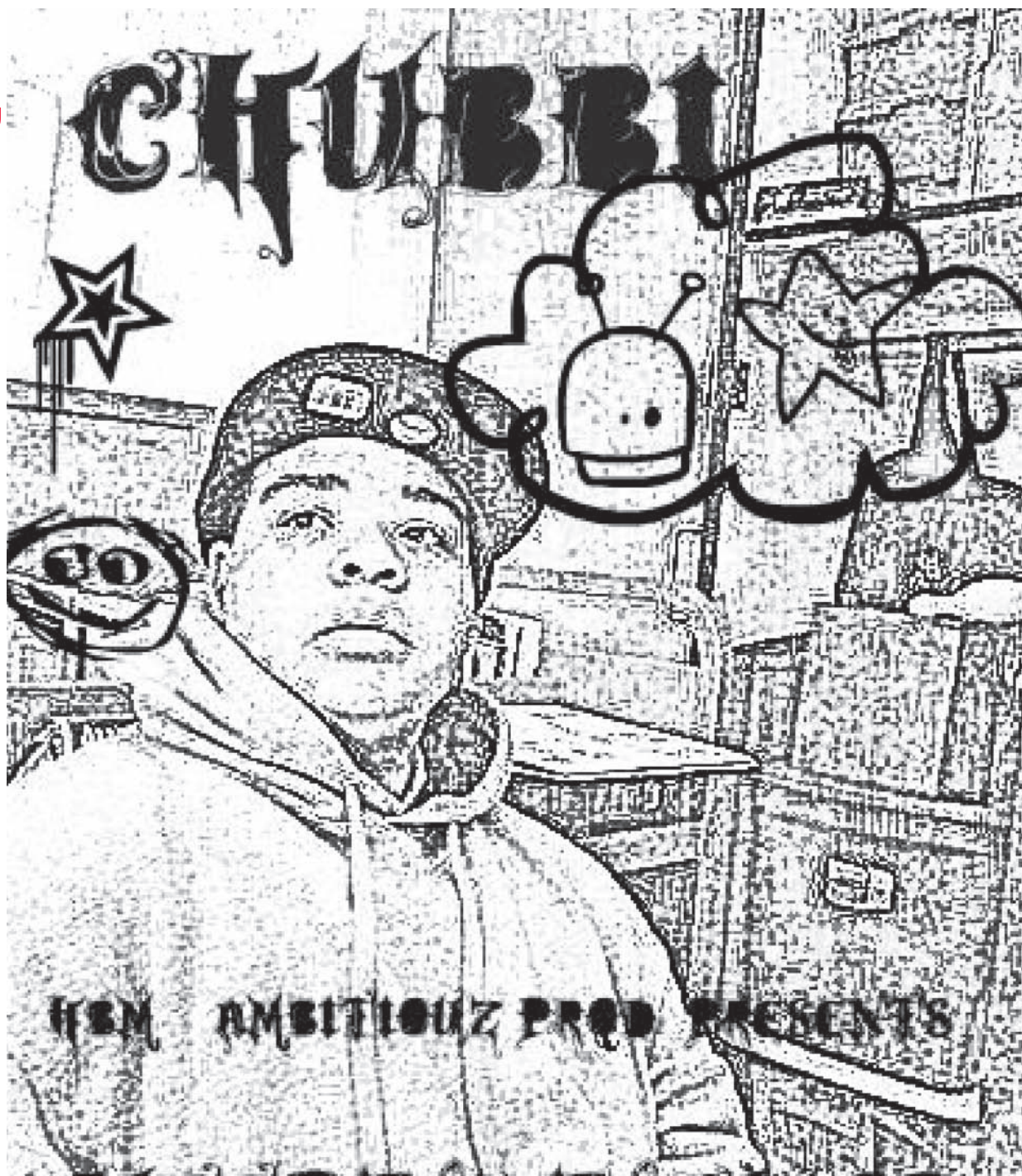
**How did the mixtape get its name?**  
*That’s what everyone says I do.*

**Every rapper has a style. How would you describe yours?**  
*Probably just trying to express a lot of my feelings.*

**How long have you been rapping?**  
*Since I was about seven.*

**What do you love most about rapping?**  
*That I can express myself, how I’m feeling at different times.*

**Is this your first mixtape? If so, how do you feel about it?**  
*This is actually my first mixtape. I feel good about it because it got good reviews from a lot of people.*



**Who are your favorite artists?**  
*Probably Notorious B.I.G., Cassidy, Ludacris, and Jadakiss.*

**How do you feel when you get onstage?**  
*At first I’m a little anxious to do what I have to do, but then I feel good because I’m saying what I have to say.*

**Do you want to be a professional rapper?**  
*Yes. This is my dream and I want to let people know I have something to say. I get satisfaction out of letting people hear what I have to say.*

**What do you do to become a better rapper?**  
*I try to listen to different people and see what they’re doing so I can learn how to be more unique.*

**How has rapping helped you in life?**  
*Probably my vocabulary. ■*

▲ Art courtesy of Joseph Fisher

# Field-trip memories

From the historic halls of the Otis House at the foot of Beacon Hill, to the hallowed grounds of the baseball basilica known as Fenway Park, participants in the WriteBoston/Teens in Print Summer Journalism Institute of 2010 were able to take a break from their newspapering world and explore different realms of the city. Pictures from this photo album tell the story of their summertime adventures as they unfolded. ■



▲ Photo by Nicole Johnson



▲ Photo by Emily Davis



▲ Photo by Emily Davis

## Photos

**A:** Tipsters prepare to “Walk Like an Egyptian” among the mummy exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts.

**B:** Ah, teen reporters ponder all the possibilities from the press box at Fenway Park.

**C:** A Georges Island getaway.

**D:** We hit the bricks to explore the South End’s multicultural history on a tour led by youth from mytown.

**E:** Treading gently into the 18th-century elegance of the Otis House.



▲ Photo by Emily Davis



▲ Photo by Nicole Johnson

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# THE WALL



▲ Artwork by Yasmine Raptis

“A silent tomorrow: death recaptured”

By Keeja Paisley

I watched cold blood rush through cold veins  
As cold eyes stared down at me  
I saw the hand that launched out across the face  
Of the body that is me  
I heard the screams that came from the mouth  
That would no longer be  
I felt the pain like my heart was pierced  
And I could no longer see  
Logic in the idea that everything is done for  
a purpose  
To serve eternity  
The faith I had and held so firm to my god  
Oh how I worshiped thee  
Yet here I am, have done nothing wrong  
Yet I am murdered continuously  
My mind turns dark against a world  
That once flourished so beautifully  
My hope was crushed as darkness came  
And I was beaten with such severity  
And I stood there in death's cold grasp  
That hugged me with intensity  
And I stood there a shadow in the moonlight  
Then everything was lost to me  
I stood there in the darkness  
Nothing but an entity

Yewellyn Sanchez

If I tell you to sugarcoat  
The truth for me  
And erase the line of symmetry  
The world would be much better

I'd live in lies and hypocrisy  
The days would be short  
And my soul would flee  
But I'd probably live happily

I'd live in a world  
Of me with no harm  
The days would be sunny  
I would have many charms

I'd live in sarcasm  
With true marks unseen  
And live in a movie  
But join my favorite scenes

If I tell you to sugarcoat  
The truth for me  
Don't ask me why  
I would be happy and feel less guilty

Schteiner Alexis

*“Always live by what you say,  
and stand by what you mean.”*

Adriana Novielli-Ruddy

*True beauty is based on your  
personality, NOT your looks.”*

Andrea Reid

“BE YOUR OWN PERSON. GRAB AHOLD OF  
LIFE'S OPPORTUNITIES COMING TOWARDS  
YOU. ALWAYS TRY YOUR BEST TO THRIVE  
IN LIFE, AND ALWAYS REMEMBER KNOWL-  
EDGE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.”

Rumamah Himat

*love is sweet when it's new  
love is sweeter when its true  
but you know what?  
love is sweetest when it's  
you...*