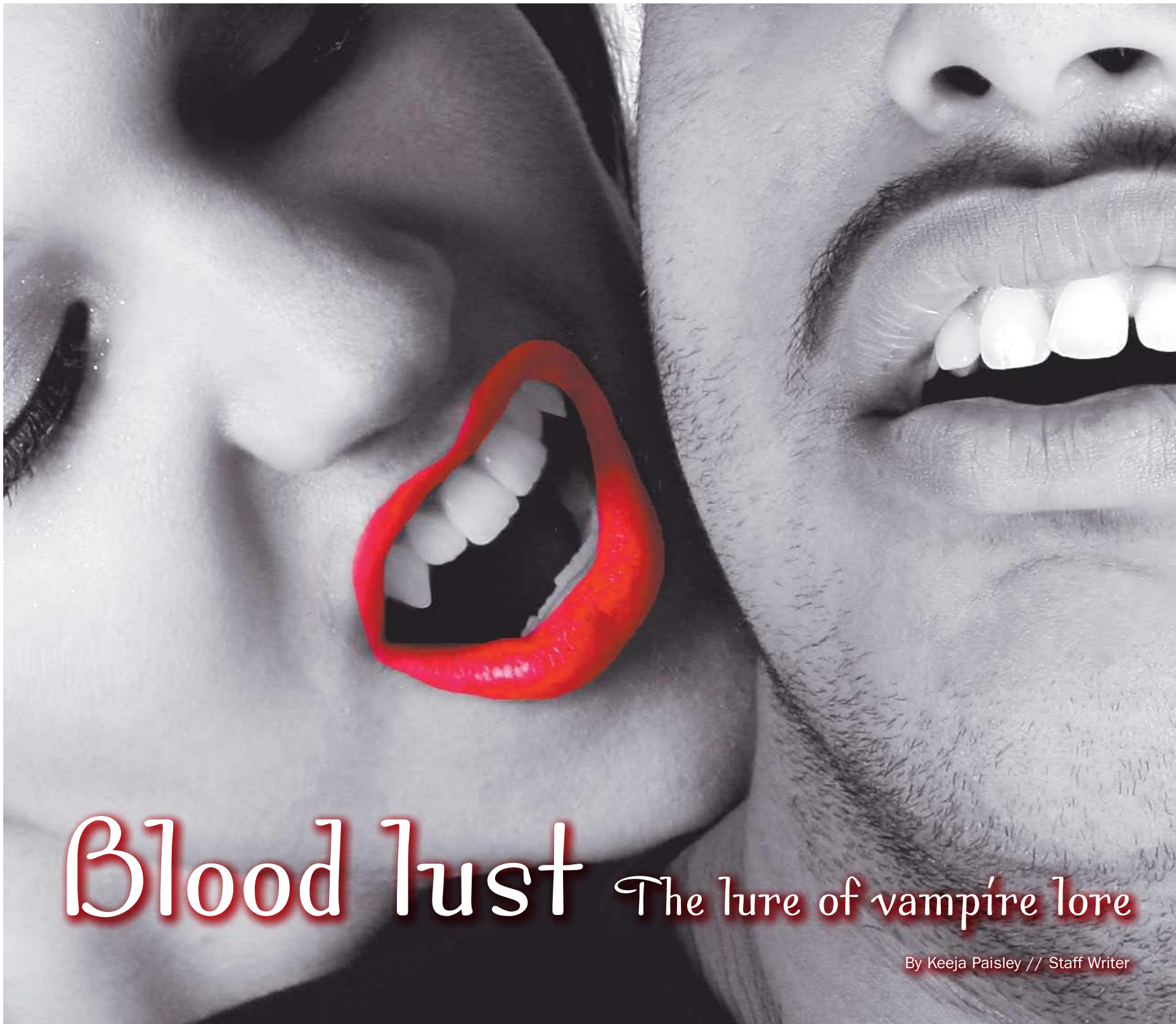




# Blood lust

The lure of vampire lore

By Keeja Paisley // Staff Writer

▲ AFH photo by Jane Carper

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**TEENS**  
**IN PRINT**

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## Cover Story

**S**anyetty Diaz, 16, is an emphatic fan of “Twilight,” a series of books that became the new teen sensation when Hollywood turned them into moving pictures. She enjoys reading the books and is very emotional about the movies. She is all for team Jacob but thinks Edward is also sexy.

Vampires, werewolves, shifters, faeries, dragons, demons, and angels: all are supernatural beings that have become ever so popular in today’s society – vampires being the most trendy. Writers, journalists, and movie producers now take advantage of the ever-growing fascination with vampires, and teens cannot help but to be caught up in it.

“They [vampires] are cool because you get to live longer, and I love the strength of vampires and their skills,” says Diaz, who goes to Madison Park High School.

A lot of teens agree with Diaz, including Tiera Satchebell, 17, of the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science.

“I like vampires because they are different,” says Satchebell.

Satchebell reads a lot of books, but her favorite series by far is Richelle Mead’s “Vampire Academy” collection that features teens.

“I love her books because I can relate to the characters,” says Satchebell. “I like how it is different from my everyday life.”

Vampires have been spotted everywhere. L.J. Smith’s “The Vampire Diaries” has become a popular T.V. series, not to mention “True Blood,” “Angel” (a spinoff of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,”) “Kindred: The Embraced,” “Moonlight,” “Blade: The Series,” and many others. Vamps have even made appearances in comics, and on soaps and other T.V. shows like “Supernatural,” “Charmed,” and “Smallville.” It is hard for a teen to escape this mix.

Diaz finds it all fascinating. She says: “The way they put the movie together and the books, you can enjoy yourself.”

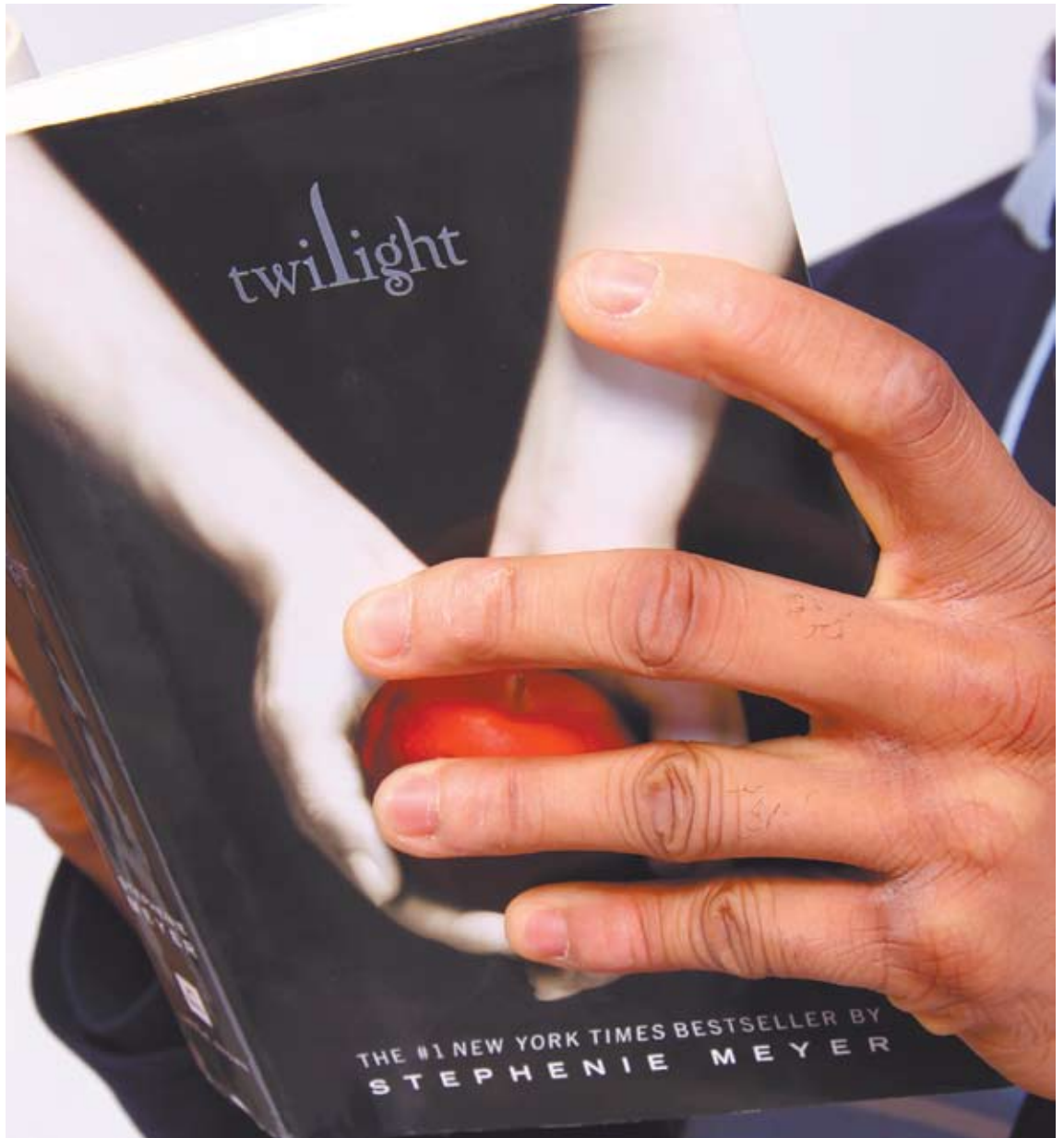
Some teens nowadays go as far as to emulate the vampire culture. Many students have begun to dress in a more gothic style, which consists of dark colors and lots of make-up. It is the vampire’s supposed style. Nationally, a few have even gone to the dentist and had their teeth filed or had false incisors put in – all to achieve “the look.” There was even an incident last year at Boston Latin School where students believed there was a vampire there. The rumors caused an uproar.

Still, there are those who believe vampires are not just fictional fodder.

“Yeah, I think vampires are real,” says Jessica Henry, a 15-year-old East Boston High School student. “I do want to become a vampire because, if I was one, then I’d have enhanced abilities, which would just be too awesome.”

But, then, she has second thoughts.

“I don’t want to become one,” she says, “because I’d have to drink blood.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Mattaya Fitts

*“They [vampires] are cool because you get to live longer, and I love the strength of vampires and their skills,” says Sanyetty Díaz, who goes to Madison Park High School.*

# Me, myself, and blood: a vampire obsession

By Keeja Paisley // Staff Writer

**A**nnabel walked into the room and was immediately swallowed by the darkness and the overpowering stench of blood. Before she could run, she felt her head being wrenched back and a hot breath on her neck. Five minutes later, all that was left of her was a dried-out carcass and the fading echo of her blood-curdling scream: VAMPIRE!

As this fictional account of mine shows, vampires are a fascination to me. Are they real or not? All I know is this: vampires are awesome! That doesn't mean I'm going to dress up with fake fangs and run around biting people. It simply means that I find the idea of them intriguing.

I am always reading books about vampires and sharing my excitement with my older sister, who loves them

almost as much as I do. My bookshelves are just about completely dominated by vampire romance novels.

I have read many vampire series. In each of these, the vampires were custom-made, not a forgery of another author's hard work. To me, they seem authentic because they portray the authors' tremendous research into their characters.

Vampires: What can I say? They are in a league of their own. Some may be immortal, but others can die. They still fall in love and have emotions. They have more strength, speed, stamina, and skills than a regular human could imagine. They are not perfect, just better than most.

I love how the authors are able to paint you a picture with their words so you can envision yourself inside the novel, you can be a part of the adventure. Our

Hollywood producers have helped with that.

Let's not forget our vampire anime and manga series like "Hellsing," "Trinity Blood," and "Vampire Knight." There you have it folks: vampire cartoons. It doesn't get much better than this.

I know I cannot live forever and I do not think I would want to. I like vampires because, combined with my sometimes-overactive imagination, they provide me with an escape from mortality and sadness. They take me away from reality and plunge me deep into a world of adventure.

Vampires are more than I will ever be, whether real or not. I do not aspire to be one. But I do have my fantasies and what-if moments, just like others may have about being athletic superstars or superheroes. ■

## A bloody history

### The birth of the walking dead

By Keeja Paisley // Staff Writer

**V**ampires are an attraction to people all over the world. Are they real? Were they the creation of a writer's overactive imagination? Or were they folk tales passed down from generation to generation to get misbehaving children to seek cover under their blankets and go to sleep at night?

Everyone has either read or heard stories about Bram Stoker's "Dracula," but not everyone knows how Dracula first entered the darkness. In Wallachia, a small region in Europe near the Carpathian Mountains, lived Vlad II. According to historical accounts, he was a member of the Order of the Dragon and became known as Vlad the Dragon – which translated to Dracul in Romanian. He was Vlad II Dracul, and, when his son was born, he was named Vlad III Dracula, meaning son of the dragon. Vlad III was also the infamous Vlad the Impaler known for his gruesome ruling tactics in Wallachia. He would punish anyone who broke his laws by impaling them on blunt spikes strategically placed in the ground. Then he'd watch them slowly die as a source of entertainment.

Teens now are engrossed in series like Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight," Lynsay Sands' "Rogue Hunter," or Christine Feehan's "Dark," but many are unaware of the mythology behind these vamps. One legendary story says that Vlad had returned home from war to find his beloved dead. She had apparently taken her own life upon hearing false rumors that Vlad had been killed. Heartbroken, Vlad denounced his God and drank blood. After that, he was referred to as a vampire.

History can be found everywhere and in everything. Teachers say there is some truth to every fiction. So beware.... ■



▲ AFH photo by Carolyn Rochalski

# Missing Jaewon

By Ariana Martinez // Staff Writer

**V**iolence is all over the world, but some people may think it's only in certain places. Violence can affect everyone, some more than others. For example, the "Mattapan Massacre." For those who don't know, this was a shooting of five people in September that left four dead, including a mother and her toddler. Even people not directly involved felt this deeply.

Nelsmarie Matos Arroyo, a ninth grader at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, says the Mattapan murders brought back bad memories.

"This made me think about my friend, Jaewon Martin, who passed and was shot also," she says.

Ashaunte Dunbar, a freshman at Madison Park High School, thinks that the two-year-old boy in Mattapan, Amani Smith, was another casualty caught in the cross-fire of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"I feel like it was a pointless killing, just like Jaewon," she says.

Jaewon Martin was an eighth-grade honor student at the James P. Timilty Middle School who was fatally shot on a basketball court on the Jamaica Plain-Roxbury line in May. Police say he was an innocent victim of a gang feud that took his life.

Now, even after more than five months, some teens still haven't been able to accept the fact that he's gone. They say it's difficult not having that smile to make your day, not having the person to talk to in time of need, not having that buddy to play basketball with.

Daequan Ruffin, a ninth grader at Urban Science Academy, in West Roxbury, says he'll never forget his friend.

"We were like brothers," says Ruffin.

Dunbar says she misses the jokes Jaewon told.

Arroyo says she still tries to write good things on Jaewon's Facebook wall.

"It was just terrible, because I never got to say good-bye," she says.

Dunbar says she and a group of students from the Timilty recently went to visit the basketball court where Jaewon was shot and killed. She and other students cried, but were happy they went to show their respect.

His friends say Jaewon was a strong young man who cared for others, and that they are trying hard to keep his memory alive.

"Every day I think about him," says Arroyo. ■



▲ Photo courtesy of the Martin family

## Forever an angel of homeroom 215

By Ariana Martinez // Staff Writer

**I** never thought the day would come, but having someone close get shot and killed is the worst thing that could have happened to me.

The nightmare all started on May, 8, 2010 at my friend's party. "Jaewon is DEAD," one of my friends told a group there. Tears flowed down my face and many others cried, too. I was in complete shock and I didn't want to believe it. It felt like my world had just crashed. But I had to stay strong. It was my friend's birthday and I didn't want to ruin it.

The next morning, I woke up feeling down. I didn't even want to go to school. I didn't want to have to go in the classroom at the James P. Timilty Middle School where I spent every day with Jaewon. I didn't even know how I was going to face his chair without him being there. I *did* know how hard it was going to be standing at my locker and him not passing by and saying, "Hi, Ariana," with a big smile on his face.

Although we had grief counselors at school after his death, it was painful having to know that he wasn't coming back. The memories were just playing back and forth through my head: All the times we used to play-fight, all the times I helped him in Civics, all the jokes he made, and, most importantly, the support he gave me in everything I did in class, pushing me to do my work.

The last couple of months of school were difficult.

All the assistance I got there helped me get through and graduate, although he was on my mind constantly. On graduation day, Jaewon's mom came and talked to us. Her being there put a smile on my face, because I know he would've been crossing the stage just like the rest of us.

It's been over five months since Jaewon died and he is still on my mind every day. I never knew how it felt to cry and never be able to stop until Jaewon died. I cried like that a couple of weeks ago. I wept for hours, letting out all the emotions I had kept in from losing Jaewon: from missing him, to the violence that killed him, to the heartless jerk who shot him over nothing. I felt as though no one would speak to me about how I felt because everyone was too busy dealing with it themselves. I wish Jaewon was still here today.

Coping with his death is still not easy, but I find the strength deep within me to carry on knowing that Jaewon would have been right there to guide me. The thought of Jaewon watching over me puts a smile on my face and makes me want to try to do my best in everything.

I am proud to say that Jaewon was in my class at the Timilty, and that he will forever be a homeroom 215 angel.

R.I.P Jaewon Martin. October 20, 1995 – May 8, 2010. ■

# Dress for success

## Do school uniforms make a difference?

By Eneda Golemi // Staff Writer

**Z**ainab Suleiman, 16, from Madison Park High School, knows about school uniforms and thinks they have positive and negative sides.

"Uniforms are good because in this way I can save clothes and I don't spend time in the morning looking for what I am going to wear," says Suleiman. "But it is boring to wear the same clothes every day."

Though the Boston Public Schools administration does not keep a central list of those schools that require uniforms, there are some scattered throughout the system. Are uniforms a way to decrease violence and stop gangs from flashing their colors? Do they equalize the cost and appearance of clothing? Or do they violate a student's freedom of expression?

Kristjana Mbrice, 14, does not believe that uniforms infringe on stylistic free will.

"When we go to school," says Mbrice, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy, "we have to follow the rules, so by wearing uniforms, it doesn't mean that our freedom is violated. It means just that we are part of something."

The topic is controversial and many teens can see it from both angles.

Mike O'Malley, 16, from Dorchester, doesn't like wearing uniforms.

"You can't express yourself and you look like a fool," he says.

Still, he knows that school uniforms can play a helpful role.

"School uniforms cost less money than regular clothing," he says. "Students that don't have enough money aren't bullied by others because all the students look the same." ■



▲ AFH photo by Alice Tran

## BSAC BUZZ

By Dennis Tan // Contributing Writer

**H**ey guys! Let me ask you a question. What do you do after school when your friends are not there or when you don't have work? Do you guys just go home and sleep...or log on to Facebook all day?

Well, if you find that life boring, there's a solution. Come to BSAC (Boston Student Advisory Council) and voice your opinions! BSAC formulates new projects to help change Boston Public Schools into a more comfortable place for students. In BSAC this year, we plan to work on these school related projects:

homework policy, food and nutrients, and increasing extracurricular opportunities.

Homework policy is helping students understand what their teachers teach and that it shouldn't count for more than 20 percent of a grade. Secondly, food and nutrients is an initiative to enhance the quality of lunches. I will talk more about these projects later in the year, but for now, I would like to discuss extracurricular activities at school.

Let me ask you another question. What is an extracurricular activity...? Well, some say they are activities to keep youth off the streets or they are school-

sponsored programs to help students get into colleges.

Those are correct answers, but extracurricular activities are also there for students to pursue what they are passionate about and to continue to have fun. The problem is that there are less extracurricular activities in certain schools because they don't have enough money to support them and students will spend their time unproductively.

For example, imagine David – a student who isn't interested in school and who often skips out, but loves to play basketball. He can shoot and is agile,

but his school doesn't have a basketball team and he causes trouble on the streets. However, if David's school had a basketball team, this would help motivate him to come to school and might prevent him from causing trouble. As you can see, extracurricular activities are important to students' futures.

BSAC plans to advocate on this issue and ask BPS to allocate more resources so that students can fulfill their desires. If you are interested in BSAC or our work, please contact Maria I. Ortiz at [mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us) or at 617-635-8079 ext 104. ■

## Curveball

By Tom Leu // Staff Writer

**T**he Smile on Happy Chang's Face" depicts a Little League championship game through the narration of the umpire – Jack.

The game is between the Wildcats and Ravens and is broadcast on live television. Jack immediately reveals favoritism towards the Ravens and their star pitcher, Lori Chang. Through the game, Lori retires a number of Wildcat players, but also has questionable pitches and even a beaming. Jack responds, not by ejecting her from the game, but by encouraging her to "keep right on doing what you're doing."

It is noted that Jack despises the Wildcat's coach Carl. Periodically, Jack reflects on his relationship with his gay son, Jason, on whom he tried to impose baseball. Jason showed no interest in the sport and followed theater and dance.

The climax of Jack's flashbacks centers around an argument with his son. Jack's frustration causes him to throw a punch that forever changes his life. His wife files for divorce and he loses custody of his children. Jack takes full responsibility for his mistake and hopes to earn back his family's forgiveness based on his actions at the end of the game.

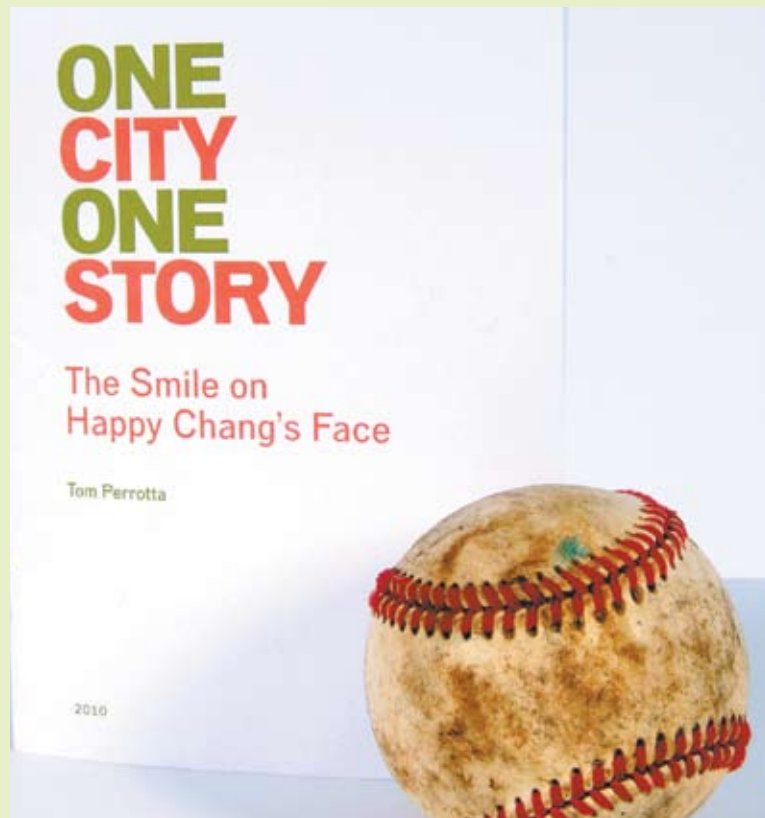
Pacing in the story lags a bit; the beginning is all scenery setup and the synopsis is not evident until halfway in. Once there, the reader learns more about Jack and his dark past with Jason.

Baseball plays a significant role in the story, but by no means is it a tale of underdogs and triumph. It is about a broken man who tries to win his family back. The concept is very interesting and the readers might find themselves surprised for feeling bad for Jack.

Overall, this is a great story and it's possible to read in one sit-down. ■

## One town, one tale

To get the public on the same page, leaders of the Boston Book Festival earlier this year launched the "One City One Story" initiative. Some 30,000 copies of acclaimed author Tom Perrotta's short story, "The Smile on Happy Chang's Face," were distributed citywide. Three Teens in Print staffers took part in this makeshift read-a-thon and wrote these reviews.



▲ AFH photo by Richie Phillippe

## Field of schemes

By Melissa Rodriguez  
// Staff Editor

"But it takes more than a two-hour seminar to change people's attitudes about something as basic as the difference between winning and losing." – from "The Smile on Happy Chang's Face"

**W**hen I was reading "The Smile on Happy Chang's Face," I was, at first, very skeptical, confused, and a little bored about the plot and meaning of the story. It started out with the mundane life of a middle-aged, divorced man who distracted himself from life's problems by being an umpire for a Little League baseball team in his town.

Even though the story was a little slow in the beginning, I think the author did a good job of making me feel the loneliness and anger of the main character. I sensed the redemption motif immediately, and I knew that was the major theme of the story and the main message to all its readers.

The author is trying to tell his readers that life is about having the courage to admit when you're wrong and to know that there are times when you know you're not supposed to judge. A perfect example of not being quick to assume was when he touched upon the delicate topic of sexuality. With the main character constantly denying to himself his son's identity – like those in society who refuse to accept any form of homosexuality – the author wants people to open up their minds.

I ended up liking this story more than

I thought I would. At first, I thought that encouraging a city to read the same short story was an ineffective idea. But reading this one definitely made me change. I now believe that it is a good way to try and make others look at a social issue in another light, and I would strongly recommend others to join in on this movement. ■

## Out at home

By Tyler Cohen // Staff Writer

**T**he Smile on Happy Chang's Face," by Boston's own Tom Perrotta, is about a man named Jack who is umpiring his town's championship Little League game. But on a deeper level, it's about his internal struggle dealing with the fact that his son is gay.

Many stories are not about what they seem. They often deal with issues that people don't catch the first time reading through the book. The ideas expressed by Perrotta are meaningful – there are a lot of gay kids out there.

The concept of this book could have been expressed more effectively. It could be about how some gay guys are afraid to come out of the closet to their fathers fearing the reaction they could have. Or, it could be touching on the subject of some fathers being disappointed in their children.

In the narrative, Jack punches his son, Jason, because he was, "embarrassed to be seen in public with [his] own son as if [Jason] somehow made [him] less of a man." This is an example of how today some men from older generations refuse to accept the different lifestyles of the new generations.

People who dislike baseball will find the scenes that describe the game boring and hard to get through. Depending on the person, though, they're worth struggling through.

Although this story is not my cup of tea, I can see why other people would like it. ■

# *This I believe...*

*Today, young people and others around the world are seriously bleeding type to share their gut feelings under the marquee "This I Believe," a heading that dates back to a 1950s radio show hosted by uber-journalist Edward R. Murrow. This summer, students from Excel High School in South Boston gathered in a class led by WriteBoston to sharpen their composition skills by completing soul-baring "This I Believe" essays. Here are four of their pieces.*

## In my heart, always By Anissa Booker // Contributing Writer

**I** believe that people die because God had something better in store for them.

As I was growing up, I had a great appreciation for one sport, which was basketball. I loved basketball so much because I loved my brother, and anything he did I thought deserved my complete attention. I knew one day he would become one of the greatest basketball players in the world, and I'm sure he thought the same.

One night, my brother and I got into an argument because I wanted to go with him to his friend's house, but he wouldn't

let me. My brother claimed that I was way too young to be going out at that time of night. Being a little girl, I said the only three words I knew would make anybody feel hurt: "I hate you!" As I said it, I knew that it wasn't my heart talking, but it was the pain I felt from being rejected. My brother also knew I didn't mean it, but that didn't stop the hurt displayed upon his face. That night, I cried myself to sleep.

While I slept, my brother was hit by a drunk driver and dragged 30 feet by the tires of his bike. Paramedics said he died on the scene, but they revived him. He

became paralyzed from the neck down, and couldn't breathe without an oxygen tube placed in his throat.

A couple of nights later, my brother died. I was so heartbroken that I stopped believing in God, and even many times said I hated Him because he took one of the most important people out of my life.

But my grandmother comforted me and let me know that my brother, Paris, was taken from me because God needed him for a much bigger cause. My grandmother told me, "Baby, stop crying and be thankful that Paris is in a place where he doesn't have to suffer anymore, and

whenever you feel like you start missing him terribly just know that he's always in heaven watching over you."

This experience made me feel that if I could go through the pain of losing, not only a family member, but my best friend, then I could go through much more.

I believe we all die because God wants us to enjoy the lavish lifestyle in Paradise. This doesn't stop the sorrow I feel in my heart as I think about that disastrous night. Still, Paris will always be in my heart, no matter how far away he is. ■



▲ AFH photo by Carolyn Rochalski

## A smile for life By Phung Le // Contributing Writer

**M**y family's religion is Buddhism. When I was a young child, my mother instilled in me the belief that if you make good things, you will receive good things. I lived my mother's teaching. However, at one period, I lost my belief.

When I was in elementary school, I met a little girl who was my first best friend. I devoted all my innocent friendship to her. Her family was poor so I shared my food with her at lunchtime, and she often shared sweet candy with me. I was happy to respect this relationship. But one year, when we rose up a grade, she had another friend. She left me alone and sad. In time, we met each other randomly in the hallway, and her look passed over my face as swiftly as the wind.

I did not believe in my mother's saying anymore. I became a cynical girl about life's behavior.

I spent days and months with no friend, no fun. My heart was covered by a freezing winter. Fortunately, one day a new friend came to refresh my heart and mind. I do not forget the first time that I met her, also on a first day of school.

We became best friends, and we complemented each other. I was serious, while she was funny. On the rainy days, if I forgot an umbrella, she lent me one because she said that she was stronger than me. When I was sick, she wrote new lessons and taught me understandingly. One special memory is of a time I fell from the stairway and hurt my ankle. I could not move my foot. She put me on her back to bring

me home. While my tears were flowing from pain, my heart was warm again. I was not worthy to receive "gifts" from her because I never gave good things to her. In that time, I wondered why she was good to me. I bravely asked her and she responded with an answer that took me back to my mother's teaching: "I treat you kindly, you will also do the same for me."

Thanks to my friend, I returned to believing this miraculous teaching.

I also send my love to my mother because she gave me this life philosophy. I have learned that if I do not receive kindness from a person that I give it to, I will receive beautiful things from another person in this world. Now, I always see life with a smile. ■

# Equilibrium

By Niyema Boseman // Contributing Writer

**I** believe in equality. Therefore, I think no one is higher than anyone else. For people to be looked down upon because of their sexual preference makes me livid. In 2004, same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts. Six years later, things have revolutionized greatly. More and more people are accepting same-sex couples and giving them rights and benefits just like any other citizens.

For many years, gay people have been looked down upon and denounced by government, family, and society. It is time to fix the division and mend the broken relationships. Having pride parades and gay sup-

port groups has really helped the gay community's acceptance in America. With equality, there is an equilibrium.

I still have supporters, even though

some family members don't agree with my views. It is upsetting. However, I know that I can only live for me, not for them. I am strong and I know right from wrong.

It is a struggle every day, but I have other family behind me. I would like to have their support, and, hopefully, I will have it one day. It takes time.

I believe in equality and that's what I strive to be: equal every day.

Equal in society, in government, and in my family. Equal in the eyes of God.

One day they will all understand, and see me for me. Nothing is different. I'm still the same person I was before I came out. I just have a little twist, which makes me unique.

I believe in equality. Wouldn't you like to be on the same playing field as everyone else? ■



Art by AFH

# Hardship hill

By Phuong Le // Contributing Writer

**I**n life, we must face a lot of challenges. I believe that when I overcame some of the difficulties in life, that made me grow up.

When I came America, I was 17 years old. I was hopeful about this new country with a new life, new things. But I didn't know that there were hardships waiting for me. I always thought I was mature, but, in fact, I was not.

Three months after arriving, I had a

new job as a manicurist. That was the first time I went to work to make money, and it was not as easy as I thought because the customers were very hard. They always had many requests. Sometimes I worked hard but couldn't earn the amount equal to the effort I did.

Then I went to school in tenth grade, although in Vietnam I was a senior. When the teacher lectured, I couldn't understand. Some of the Americans laughed at me, and I felt that deeply. I

was very sad. It affected my study results a lot. I felt tired and lonely in the new environment. I started to miss home: old friends and my native language.

Then the next year came, and everything seemed better for me. I already had new friends and we usually would go shopping or watch a movie together. I could understand and talk to teachers. I also participated in programs after school hours, and that made my life more interesting and busy. That's

good for me because as I now work to gain experience in life, I can learn and understand new things, and improve my English.

Before, I always lived for myself, and wasted my parents' money. I loved my parents, but now I want to take care of them. I save and use money carefully. Now, I study, work on weekends, and go to school, not only for my future, but also for my family's. ■

# Anything boys can do, girls can do better!

By Eneda Golemi // Staff Writer



▲ AFH photo by Kim Huynh

**A**merica – a free country, where everyone is equal despite their race, culture, religion, or color. This is what I had been thinking all the 16 years that I was living in my country, Albania. A year ago, I had the opportunity to move here. I came with my family, because this country would provide me a better education than in Albania.

I soon understood that America wasn't the perfect country because discrimination between people existed. Another major problem is the inequality between men and women. Why are

women always considered weaker than men?

Women are working the same hours and many of them are working in the same jobs as men, but they are paid less. It is true that many rights of the women have changed and they are getting paid more compared to the past, but still women are not at the same level as men.

Women always have had fewer civil rights and fewer opportunities. Men always are considered more powerful and stronger than women. I agree that man is the head of the family, but the woman

is the neck that moves the head. They have to be equal.

We can't be a powerful nation if this inequality exists. We can't be a model for other countries if women are discriminated against. We can't say to the world, "We are the United States of America," if we overlook these problems between men and women.

In my country, it is even worse. Women and men weren't on the same level in Albania. In some cities, the man was considered the king of the house and the woman was considered the slave. Why? Maybe because many

women don't have the courage to stand up and fight for their rights.

In some cities in my country, women didn't have the right to work. They had to take care of the house and their children. To work doesn't mean only to get money. It means to know new people, to gain fresh experiences, and to have fun.

As Helen Rowland, a journalist and humorist, once said: "Woman was taken out of man; not out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled underfoot; but out of his side to be equal to him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved." ■

# Vietnamese voices

## I am a note and a dot

By Phung Le // Contributing Writer

**E**veryone brings an impressive nuance to a group. Maybe it comes from his or her appearance, personality, interest, or culture. Each of them brings a note with a different tone, like in a song.

I am Vietnamese. I bring a golden skin and Lac Hong blood in my body. My country is beautiful and peaceful, with sweet fields, buffaloes grazing, and colorful kites flying freely in the sky.

My favorite music is country because, when I was a baby, the folk songs and lullabies were sung softly by my mother. They took me on innocent dreams while I stayed in the cradle. Mother Earth and my own adorable mother always are placed precious in my heart.

Every country has a special cultural cuisine. The foods of my country are delectable, unique. In my summer studying program, the teacher asked that

every student bring a dish for a celebration party. A Japanese friend brought sushi; an Italian friend brought spaghetti. I brought “pho” – a mixture of noodles,

beef, spicy soup, onion, cinnamon.

The first time I came to the United States of America, I was filled with excitement because I had the opportunity to

learn more about a country that contains multi-cultures, skins, languages.

I can share Vietnamese stories with foreign friends, and they also tell their country's stories.

I like smiling and making friends all over the world. But when I meet sad things, I always hide my true feelings because I think that it is not good to pass my sorrow to others.

I have lots of hobbies, like swimming. The feeling of being in the cool, clear water stream is very wonderful. It helps me feel healthier and decreases stress.

I also like joining in charity activities. I want to comfort others. I love the poor people, orphan children, and aged ones. My dream career is to be a nurse because I want to use my hands to relieve the pains of the patients.

I am only a little dot contributing my color to a bigger painting. It will be more beautiful because of having my representation. ■



▲ AFH photo by Boysie Williams

# Going back to move forward

By Nguyen Cao // Contributing Writer

**N**ow I'm free to go. I shall take my memories of my home country and go back, see what has changed. When I get there I will find out how am I different from them before and after I came to America.

In Saigon, I would like to go to clubs, cafes, and shops. In Vietnam, almost everything is cheap. I would try all kinds of food until my stomach exploded. I want to go to the water-pond park; I never got to go there as a child, or to many other fancy places, because I was just a kid.

I want to go to the river, to any river, to explore the memories that I had with my friends. As children, we would turn over rocks to see what was underneath, hoping to find a snake, even though I am scared of them.

I want to climb the trees with no limits, eating the fruits. I want to see the people dancing with the dragon on the Chinese New Year.

I want to go to the ocean, and to run a kite on the beach. I want to build a kite that is big enough for me to be on, to jump off a cliff and see how it would

feel to be a bird for a moment. Flying to be free.

I want to solo walk with my memories on the road, looking around to see what is different from before. Things change over time. These questions I have kept until now: How will people act, and interact, with each other? How will they be living? What will the buildings be like? I haven't looked at pictures, because that would be ruining my thinking. When I go back, I want to compare my own memories with what I see with my own eyes.

I want to reconnect with my friends.

We were like brothers and sisters but with different blood. I didn't get a chance to tell them that we were leaving before I came here.

I want to go back to my old elementary school. Is it old and rusty?

Are there different teachers? What will have changed?

I want to go back and rediscover all the old places in Vietnam. Going back is my first step in moving forward toward a new journey to discover the world, and to see what I am. To find an answer where there is no question asked. ■

**ARIEL BAKER**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My mother.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Burger King. McDonald's is nasty.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When people hurt animals. It gets me really mad.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?**  
 I would like to go home ... to Jamaica.

**ASHLEY BARKER**

**Burger King or McDonald's?** Pizza Hut.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike. Jordans aren't that cute.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Everything. I'm easily annoyed.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Crete, Greece.

**J. M. CANELA**

**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
 William Shakespeare.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Burger King.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Bad grammar.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** France.

**TYLER COHEN**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My mom.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Neither.  
**What's your pet peeve?** My dog, Harry.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Brazil.

**JEIMY FERNANDEZ**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** Too hard to pick.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Definitely Burger King.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?**  
 Dominican Republic.

**TUCKER S. GAYE**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My little sister, Yar.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Awkward stares.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Liberia.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook.

**ENEDA GOLEMI**

**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
 It is not just one. There are many.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** McDonald's.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When people lie to me.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?**  
 In my country, Albania.

**ZIKRE HAIMANOT**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My parents.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Neither. Basketball players can't eat that stuff.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** France.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook.

**RUMMAH HIMAT**

**Burger King or McDonald's?** Wendy's.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Puma.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Getting a B+.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Paris.

**TOM LEU**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My father (sorry mom).  
**What's your pet peeve?** Always floss?  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?**  
 San Diego Comic-Con.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook, but I have neither.

**ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ**

**Who is the most important person in your life?** My family.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Burger King.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Tangled headphones.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Puerto Rico.

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en expression.

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**ARIANA MARTINEZ**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
My whole family.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Jordan.  
**What's your pet peeve?**  
When people chew with their mouths open.  
**When would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Puerto Rico.



**ANAEL MILHOMME**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My mom.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** My country, Haiti.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook.



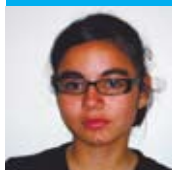
**MILANES MOREJON**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My father.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Neither.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When people say "um" and "uh" after every sentence.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Barcelona!



**MAKIZ NASIRAHMAD**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
My family, I guess.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Neither.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**What's your pet peeve?**  
When people don't give others their rights to privacy.



**MARMARIN NASIRAHMAD**  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** McDonald's.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Both.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When people are being annoying by asking too many questions.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook.



**PARNIAN NASIRAHMAD**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My daddy.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** McDonald's.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Cheerleaders.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Moscow.



**AUDREY NGANKAM**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
My mother.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** McDonald's.  
**What's your pet peeve?**  
I hate when people are late.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Spain.



**KENNETH ORTIZ**  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Burger King.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**What's your pet peeve?** School cheaters.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Puerto Rico, Italy, or Paris.



**KEEJA PAISLEY**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?**  
My mom, Wendy Grant.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**What's your pet peeve?**  
When people say "yo, yo, yo," in every sentence.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Paris or Jamaica.



**LAURIE RAPHAËL**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My mom.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?**  
BK value menu all day.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Tardiness.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Washington, D.C.



**MELISSA RODRIGUEZ**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My team.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When I say "hi" to someone and they don't say "hi" back.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Ireland.  
**Facebook or Twitter?**  
What's the point of Twitter?



**YEWELLYN SANCHEZ**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** My mother.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** Burger King.  
**What's your pet peeve?** When people make me repeat myself.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** Dominican Republic.



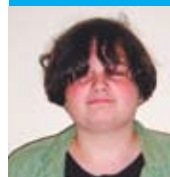
**FEDIR TEPLYUK**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** None.  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** I hate both of them, but Burger King is a little better.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** California or out of the country, but that won't be happening.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** Facebook. I've never tried Twitter.



**OLEG TEPLYUK**  
**Burger King or McDonald's?** McDonald's.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Nike.  
**What's your pet peeve?** Awkwardness.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?** With friends and on the computer.



**GABRIEL WARD**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** Myself. If it weren't for me, I wouldn't exist.  
**Nike or Jordan?** Which one doesn't use a sweat shop? That one.  
**What's your pet peeve?** I don't have a peeve, but I have two birds and a dog.  
**Facebook or Twitter?** I do not speak Russian.



**TREVOR WARD**  
**Who is the most important person in your life?** One person? I need at least 50 people to perform a sufficient Spirit Bomb.  
**What's your pet peeve?**  
When my enemies catch my Spirit Bomb and try to throw it back at me.  
**Where would you like to spend your next summer vacation?**  
Namek. No, wait. New Namek. I blew the first one up with my Spirit Bomb.  
**Facebook or Twitter?**  
Facebook or...what does this nonsense have to do with "Dragon Ball Z"?



# Hey T passengers -- driver's license anyone?

By Tucker S. Gaye // Staff Writer

**W**hile Boston is the birthplace of American Liberty, it is also the first hub of American mass transportation.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, commonly abbreviated as MBTA, has always been involved in the lives of state residents, especially in urbanized sections like Boston.

Readers – gracefully fall into nostalgic daydream back to the good old days when passengers tried to play coyote, sneaking onto MBTA vehicles. Tune back in to now, and you'll notice that with the improvement of technology, Charlie tickets and tap cards limit those free-ride schemes.

Still, for teens, riding the T can be cheaper than buying a car and paying for insurance.

Markenson Narcisse, 16, of Madison Park High School, lays out his reasons for not having a permit to drive: "Like, I've got to pay for the test and right now, see, I don't have a car, so I will wait 'till I get a job." Narcisse also thinks the driver's license process is too complicated.

"Word," he says. "It's mad long."

Nationally, according to news accounts, the Federal Highway Administration reports that the rate of licensed 16-year-old drivers has fallen from 43.8 percent in 1998 to 29.8 percent in 2006.

Kayla Davis Tabb, 19, of Mattapan, does not have her license either, saying she's just not ready for it. The nomadic question of the day: What would you do if the MBTA did not exist?

Tabb says: "Walk."

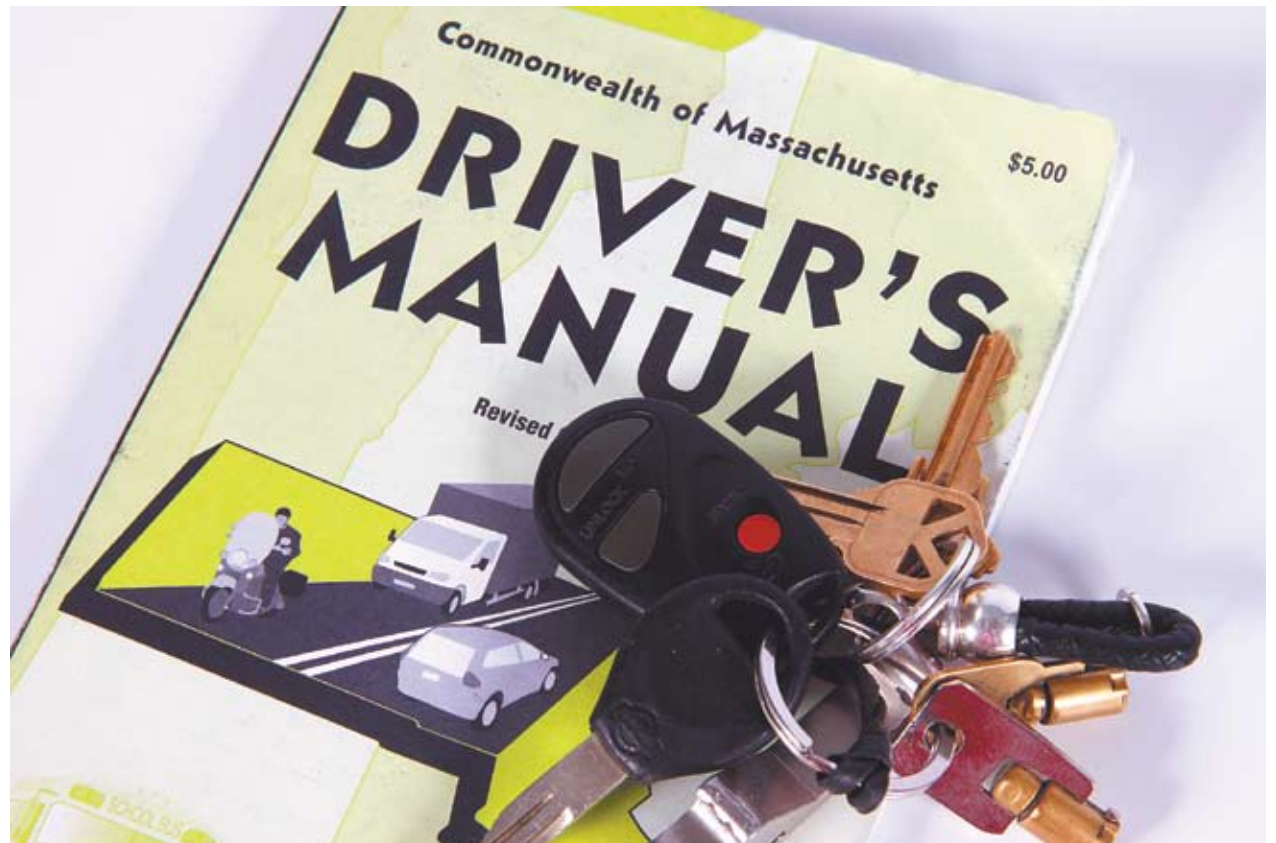
Nicholas Campia, 17, of Boston Latin Academy, is one of the fortunate teens in Boston – behind the wheel and holding a license and not having to rely on the T.

He has the luxury of cruising through the streets of Boston, back and forth to school from his home in Hyde Park.

Campia shows disdain for the MBTA.

"The bus system is dirty," he says. Clarifying, he says: "It takes longer."

Still, with so many teens off the highway and riding the rails, it is safe to proclaim the MBTA highlighted in our rear-view mirrors as the Boston Public Schools' new yellow bus of the century. ■



▲ AFH photo by Richie Phillippe

**Nationally, according to news accounts,  
the Federal Highway Administration reports  
that the rate of licensed 16-year-old drivers  
has fallen from 43.8 percent in 1998  
to 29.8 percent in 2006.**

# Confessions of a teen driver

By Milanes Morejon // Staff Editor

**A**s soon as I stepped out of the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Roslindale six months ago – before I had even turned 18 in September – I couldn't help but look twice at my brand new driver's license. After three months of driving school, and six anxious months with my permit, I felt accomplished for the first time in a long while.

I placed my driver's license in my wallet, stepped into my mother's car, and started the engine. The feeling of freedom overwhelmed me. At that time, a few of my friends had already attained their driver's licenses. I felt cool and happy to be able to fit into the social circle of new drivers in my school. Along with a nice new "Junior Operator" card, there were advantages and disadvantages.

As excited as I was, I could not have my friends with me in the car for six months unless they were at least 18. I was also not allowed to drive between 12:30 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. I was upset about this, but figured that these were reasonable restrictions for new, young drivers.

Still, when it comes to driving, the pros overrule the cons. I still drive to school, to work, and to my friends' houses or to extracurricular programs. I do not feel the burden of looking for my MBTA pass every morning, and taking a train and a bus to and from my school.

I am enjoying this new form of freedom that I have taken up, all the while avoiding car accidents and parking tickets at every corner.

As a young driver, the expectations of safe driving are very high. I was on the lookout for state troopers or "troopies," and police officers, "the po-po," in case I made a bad turn or a mistake while driving. I barely touched my phone while on the road and "buckled-up" every time I got into the car. Any moving violation is worse for a junior operator than for a person who is 18 years of age or older, and, being a student in high school, the last thing I wanted was to worry about parking tickets or a suspended license.

One day, I was stopped by the troopies for going over the speed limit on the highway. I was still under 18, it was summer, and I wanted to take advantage of my independence. The trooper gave me a warning and reminded me of the potential consequences of being caught speeding as a junior operator, including a 90-day suspension, an attitudinal retraining course, and a \$500 re-instatement fee.

Although driving can be stressful – with traffic, the police watching your every move, slow motorists, and cranky Bostonians cutting you off – attaining my license was a great achievement and an opportunity that others should take. ■



▲ AFH photo by Kim Huynh

## Tips for teens

- Rush-hour traffic can start around 8:00 A.M. and end at about 9:30 A.M., and then commence again from 3:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.
- For those impatient ones out there: People will honk at you, but your horns should only be used for emergencies.
- Aside from highways, many roads in Boston were intended for horses. Don't be surprised if you go into downtown and all you see are one-way streets.
- Huge numbers of accidents happen in parking lots, so drive slowly.
- Don't have the music so loud that you cannot hear the traffic around you.
- While you are parking, pay attention to the signs -- residents only, street cleaning -- or it will cost you. You can look at the street sweeping schedules online at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping/> and even sign up for email reminders so your car doesn't get towed.
- Street meters shut off at 6:00 P.M., or even 8:00 P.M., until the next morning.
- Texting while driving is illegal -- Don't do it! <http://www.articleclick.com/Article/The-Two-Most-Common-Vehicle-Accidents/977309>

-- Milanes Morejon

# Gadgets make reading e-easy

By Ashley Barker // Staff Editor

**T**echnology makes things easier,” said Grace Garcia, 18, of Hyde Park.

Today, everywhere you look, it seems like electronics are taking over our lives. There’s the iPod touch, laptops, cell phones, and e-readers, among others.

With the busy lives of teenagers, many hardly have time to sit down and read a volume.

That’s where the e-book comes in.

“Honestly, I think it’s convenient for people who like to read a lot to have one of those because they don’t need to carry thick books in their purses or book bags,” Garcia said. “It saves time going to the library.”

According to the Wall Street Journal, a study earlier this year by Marketing and Research Resources, Inc. of 1,200 people who own e-read-

ers found that 40 percent of them said they read more now than they did with print books.

Angelica Baez, 16, of Boston Community Leadership Academy, said that advancing technology makes reading print books less entertaining. “Words on paper are just boring now,” she said. “The fact that we can download anything on [an e-reader] makes life simpler and easier.”

Daja Taylor, 16, of Hyde Park, said she used to have an e-reader and understands its virtues.

“They are convenient because they are lightweight and portable as opposed to carrying a lot of books around,” she said.

Still, she said, there are things an e-reader just can’t provide.

“I do like to hold a book and flip pages,” she said. ■



▲ AFH photo by Lena Yee

# Ignoring the “Call of Duty”

By Jeimy Fernandez // Staff Writer

**T**he next game – “Call of Duty: Black Ops” – came out earlier this month. Until then, many teens had been having fun with “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2.”

Since its release last year, it has been played by so many people, and I asked myself: What is so good about this specific game?

Every weekend, I go to my uncle’s house and I see my cousins and brothers play “Call of Duty” until it’s time to leave. This recent weekend was different. Instead of just watching them, I tried it myself.

After several hours, I have to say the game is boring. All I did was run around the battlefield looking for people who were not on my team and then trying to shoot them before they shot me. To me, “Call of Duty” isn’t as fun as everyone makes it seem, though I did get an idea of what makes it so good to others.

People want to prove how great they are in the video game, and they get really competitive. They fight against one another to show off their skills and their equipment.

As I see it, “Call of Duty” is like survival of the



Call of Duty: For one teen critic, battle fatigue.

▲ Photo courtesy of Activision Publishing, Inc.

fittest. The more guns and perks, the better advantage you have against other players because you have more modern and improved tools. Not only do you get guns, bombs, and attachments for the weapons, but your game improves, as well.

A lot of my cousins and friends couldn’t wait for the next “Call of Duty” to come out. Honestly, I feel that they are excited for no reason, because it could just be the same as the ones before it – running, shooting, and fighting against each other to be the best. ■

# Names without shame

By Tom Leu // Staff Writer

**N**ames offer more than just pleasant sounding labels for people. They actually have the properties to shape what we become. They can determine our personality, our friends, and even the jobs that we occupy. Of course, all this is psychological and we tend to base our lives on the way names sound, famous people who have similar names, and whether we like our names or not. People with unique handles may find life a little difficult when meeting strangers who get weirded out because of the unorthodox origins of their names.

Maryanna Korwitts from Chicago is an established nameologist who studies names and the effects on their hosts. Korwitts believes in a moniker's ability to mold personalities. At birth, she says in a phone interview, what parents decide to call their child can determine the kid's future. She says good connotations of a name create charismatic citizens while bad connotations result in a lack of confidence. For example, Korwitts set up the scenario of someone called Lindsay who may feel self-conscious about herself with the other Lindsay – last name Lohan – running amuck in Hollywood. But again, names are only as powerful as how the controllers interpret them.

Ramsel (pronounced ram-zell) Lara, a 17-year-old senior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, was named by his mother in an interesting manner. He says she was flipping through a baby book and saw "Ramsey." Apparently, she was actually skimming through the girl's section. To switch genders, Ms. Lara decided to create "Ramsel." People who meet him for the first time struggle with the pronunciation. Still, Lara reacts well to the name bestowed upon him. He says it is "unique" and he is prideful about it.

Strange names are the ones that attract attention everywhere they go, and the next is no exception. This one is said to mean "light in joy" and is of Greek descent. From the O'Bryant, her name is Eftina (pronounced "F"-tina) Gjiguria, 17. Gjiguria describes herself as a happy person and finds that the Greek definition is very fitting. In her words, "Names identify who we are." Although critics annoy her, Gjiguria still loves her name and its special status.

To some, what started as a phenomenon to distinguish between people has now become the foundation of character building. Names shape our identity and they are dominating factors in our existence. People will become what they feel in regards to their names. Even people with out-of-the-ordinary sobriquets find light in being perhaps the only person in the world with that single title. As Gjiguria says: "Original names mean more confidence." ■



▲ AFH photo by Boysie Williams

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# Shocking news: Horror movies can hurt

By Makiz Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

**M**buyi Ciamala, 16, can't watch scary movies. One of the first things that seemed horrifying to her was Michael Jackson's "Thriller" zombie dance video.

"I have nightmares," says Ciamala, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Ciamala is not the only one. Many teens are deeply affected psychologically by watching scary films. Studies show that young people who watch horror movies can experience: anxiety, avoidance, obsession, and trouble sleeping long afterwards.

For example, in a 1999 University of Michigan study, one college student said she remained terrified of seeing blood after watching "Jaws."

"I don't think it was the shark or the actual deaths that frightened me," she said, "it was the blood."

Others who saw the movie refuse to ever swim in the ocean again.

Samphy Ly, a junior at BCLA, says she gets goose bumps from just talking about horror movies.

But some people don't believe it. Gabriel Perez, 16, loves to watch horror movies. But he thinks it's obvious that they're not true, so they don't affect him in any way. "That's because I have grown up, but if I was younger it might have affected me mentally," says Perez, who goes to BCLA.

Jack Levin, a professor of sociology and criminology at Northeastern University, thinks that we shouldn't talk about horror movies in general, that slasher films have even more impact on teenagers. Levin believes that real life has the biggest influence on teenagers.

"If we are going to make changes," he says, "we should start making changes in the way that people live."

Still, Ciamala is sure that horror movies are very dangerous for teens to watch.

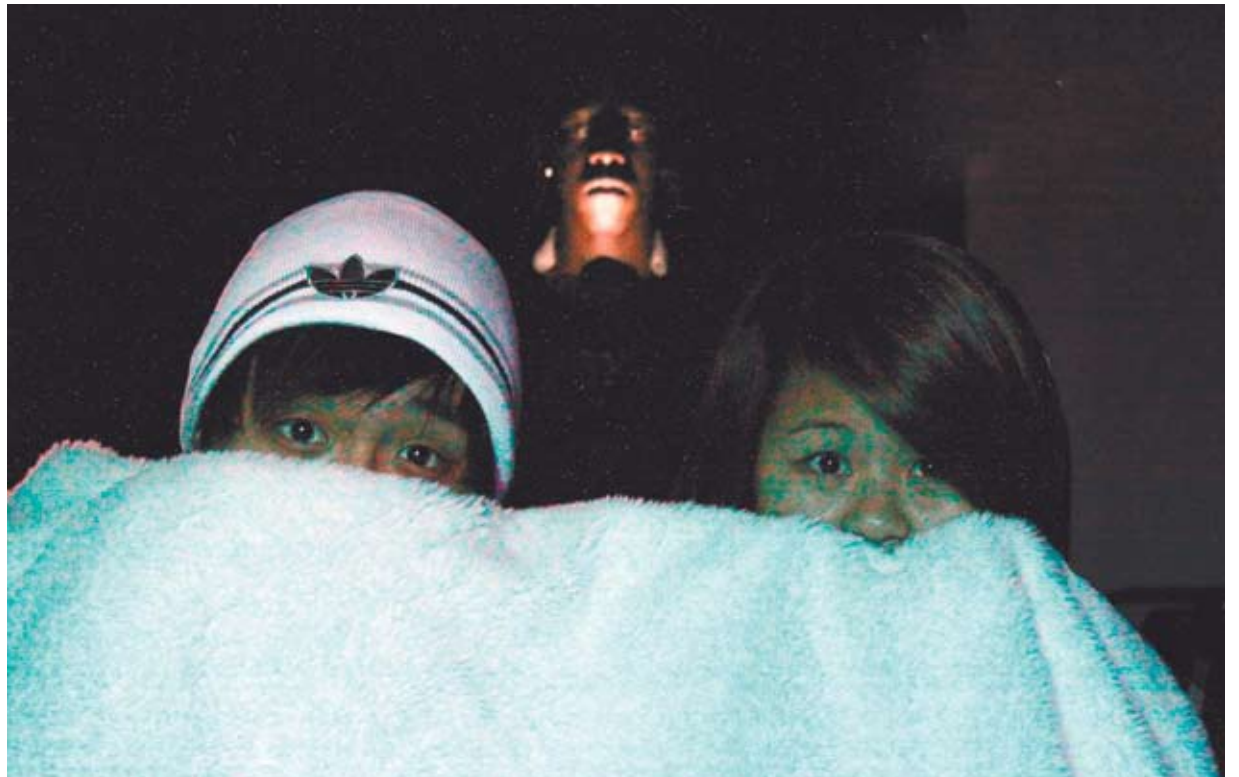
"They will adopt it and they will start doing what they saw in the movies," she says.

To prove her point, she gave a very basic example that many may not define as a horror movie: Harry Potter.

"A lot of teens are starting to do things like Harry Potter, even though they know it's not true," she says.

Ciamala says she knows that horror films are just not for her.

"No way I'm watching other scary movies," she says. ■



▲ AFH photo by Mary Nguyen

## Maaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!

According to eHow.com, horror films can have disturbing long-term effects on young people. Using two studies, the website says that creepy movies can produce these symptoms well after the final scenes:

- Anxiety: Some young people experience sleeping disorders, aggressiveness, and self-endangerment.
- Avoidance: Some who watched horror films started to sidestep real-life situations that they had seen in fictional ways.
- Obsession: Some dwell morbidly on what they saw in the movie.
- Nightmares: Many have restless sleeps after watching these flicks.

-- Makiz Nasirahmad

## Scary cinema

Here are the top 10 freak-out movies of all time, according to Boston.com:

- |                                            |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 10. "Audition" (1999)                      | 5. "Alien" (1979)                         |
| 9. "Halloween" (1978)                      | 4. "The Ring" (2002)                      |
| 8. "Evil Dead II" (1987)                   | 3. "Rec" (2007)                           |
| 7. "Dawn of the Dead" (1978)               | 2. "Ju-on" (2000)                         |
| 6. "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" (1978) | 1. "The Thing" (1982) -- Makiz Nasirahmad |

# Yo, Prez Obama! Wassup O-Dawg?

## When using kid-speak is mad rude

By Marmarin Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

**T**hirteen-year-old Shanice Guerra says she no longer talks to her teachers the same way she talks to friends.

"I would get in trouble," says Guerra, who lives downtown.

This did not stop her from one time telling a teacher she was mad at: "Shut up! Go take a nap!"

When it comes to words, teens can get caught between two worlds: speaking proper English to adults and street slang to other youth.

Francisco Castillo, 14, from Boston Community

Leadership Academy, says he uses the same language with all kinds of people.

"I talk to everyone with respect," he says.

Castillo says he relies on his teachers too much to treat them rudely.

"Teachers are important people in my life because every day I learn something new from them," he says.

Alan Yazbeck, 16, from BCLA, says he can shift gears when talking to grown-ups or kids.

With teachers, it's, "Hello. How are you?"

With students, it's, "Hey. What's up?" ■



# High-top heaven

By Yewellyn Sanchez // Staff Writer

**S**ixteen-year-old Nagid Craig of South Boston loves high-top sneakers and prefers nothing else. Lately, high-top sneakers have been in style. High-tops show a classic side of fashion. The majority of name brands are selling them.

But what is it about high-tops that make them so popular these days?

"The high-top's design makes you look better," said Ashley Buckman, 14, from South Boston.

Multicolored high-tops seem to be in many people's wardrobes.

Buckman and Naomi Montilla, 16, of Brighton High, both wear black and/or white mixed in with another color on their sneakers.

"There's always like a solid color and a color that makes them stand out," said Montilla.

In a street survey of teens in Boston, 10 out of 16 said they preferred high-top sneakers to low ones. Many of those teens who wear high-tops have three or four pairs. But Enrique Avendano, 16, of Hyde Park, is a collector: He owns around 12 pairs, including white-and-black, yellow-and-black, and red-and-black.

One of the main reasons teens surveyed favored high-tops was because they said they



▲ AFH photo by Max Urena

look better with their clothes. Buckman believes that, with skinny jeans, you can actually see the whole sneaker. So agreed Deidre Hayman, 15, from New Mission High School, who said that skinny jeans are easier to tuck into the high-tops.

Still, some teens dislike them. Mayi Perez, 15, of Brighton High School, completely hates high-top sneakers, though she can't really explain why.

A 2000 study in the "Journal of Athletic Training" found that high-tops may prevent some ankle sprains. But when interviewed, some teens contradicted the comfort level.

Buckman said high-tops suffocate her feet during sports, while low sneakers give people the facility to run around.

"High-tops scratch up my ankles when I walk," said Montilla.

High-top and low-top sneakers: two distinct styles, with separate personalities. ■

# Fields Corner concerto

## Does music make the mall?

By Rummah Himat // Staff Writer



▲ AFH art by Tercia Mota

**E**ven in music there is the question of race.

“This is a black neighborhood, we need black music,” is what Jerome Wright said about the classical and opera music that is played outside the Fields Corner shopping mall, in Dorchester.

Classical and opera music in the Fields Corner shopping mall? Of course, classical and opera music, along with the old standards that are also on the sound system there, know no racial boundaries.

“Sometimes I go to that mall with my friends, not for shopping, just to hear that nice music,” said Marege Kidane, 19, of Dorchester.

He feels relaxed when he is shopping with that music.

“The right music in the right place,” he said.

Earl Stande, manager of Supreme Liquors in that mall, thinks that the music is not for old people and not for young people.

“It’s to reach everyone,” he said.

Stande said that some teens like that music and think it’s really cool. He said those tunes are played because they make nice background music.

“It’s soothing,” he said.

The mall manager said he puts on those kinds of songs for a simple reason. “I happen to like it,” he said. As to whether they are teen-friendly, he said: “I think culture is never a bad atmosphere for kids.”

Tee Reh, 18, from Dorchester, said that he doesn’t like to go to that mall because he dislikes the music so much.

“If that mall was without that music, it would be better than with that kind of music,” he said.

He also believes that no one can shop with that kind of music. “Why you guys call it music?” he asked. “It’s not music. It’s nothing.”

He said that songs like those by Akon and Lil Wayne would be better for business.

“If they put in the new music,” he said, “a lot of people will go to that mall.” ■

# This sway and that

## Who has more influence over teens: family or friends?

By Parnian Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

**O**liver Noel, 17, says that he gains his opinions from his family.

“My family used to tell me that I need to work harder in school for better grades, to respect others, do not be a bully, try to always be on time, love everybody, pray to God a lot,” says Noel, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy.

With so many people in their ears, it can be hard for teens to figure out to whom to listen: family or friends?

Gregoria Ruiz, 17, says that she gets her outlook from a variety of places.

“When you are young, you get your opinions from your parents. But as you get older you get your opinions from T.V. and friends,” says Ruiz, who goes to BCLA.

Kayiba Ciamala, 17, from BCLA, says family is more reliable.

“Friends can be jealous of you and parents will never do that,” she says.

Ciamala says that, sometimes, when she is having problems, she will not tell her parents. But when they have discussions as a family, Ciamala might blurt things out.



▲ AFH photo by Dalena Thai

“Then they help me to solve it,” she says.

Ciamala says she gets solid advice from her family: “Like how to accomplish my destiny.”

Of course, sometimes teens may not listen to anybody but themselves.

Ruiz says that when her family and friends tell her something that she does not want to hear, she just ignores them. ■

# Miles to go before he plays

## Injured QB determined to dominate again

By Zikre Haimanot // Staff Writer

**T**here aren't a lot of things that can keep Justin Miles, Boston Latin Academy's starting quarterback, off the field – but a torn ACL is one of them. Suffering a season-ending injury was devastating, especially since he was coming off of a sensational sophomore season where he had a hand in 19 touchdowns.

Last year, he led the Latin Academy Dragons to an 8-3 record and a near playoff bid. The summer was filled with anticipation and excitement as the team was doing great in their scrimmages until one play changed their whole season – and that of Miles.

Now, he has been reduced to being a cheerleader on the sidelines.

"It's a terrible feeling," he says. "Sometimes it feels worse than the actual injury because I'm sitting down and can't do anything to help my guys out."

All of this would seem to have trampled his spirits, but he still has high hopes. Miles says he uses it as motivation. Before his injury, he would go home and work on his accuracy, footwork, and anything else he deemed necessary to improve his game – and all of that was after his regular school practice.

His love for football doesn't end there. Miles has taken it upon himself to know every single detail of the NFL. Ask him to name all the Oakland Raiders and he'll make your jaw drop. People always joke about his dreams to go to the NFL, but that is something he takes very seriously. With his cousin Robert Vaughn having made it to the United Football League, Miles doesn't see why he can't go pro, too.

That was before the injury, though. According to Miles, his junior season was going to be the year he got noticed and recruited by some colleges. Still, as he focuses on his school work, he clings to the dream of having a great senior season and hopefully attracting some attention.

"I've been thinking about next season for a long time and, let me tell you something, everybody we play next year should look out because I'm taking out all my anger on them," he says. "I plan on taking this team to the playoffs and causing a lot of damage." ■



▲ AFH photo by Mary Nguyen

*"It's a terrible feeling, Sometimes it feels worse than the actual injury because I'm sitting down and can't do anything to help my guys out."*

*– Justin Miles*

# Q&A with Ken Burns: history's narrator

By J.M. Canela // Staff Writer

**K**en Burns is the wonder boy of modern documentary film-making. With over 20 years of experience in making movies, his repertoire extends from such varied topics as "Brooklyn Bridge" in 1981, "The Civil War" in 1990, and the 1994 series, "Baseball."

His newly released "Baseball: The Tenth Inning" is the sequel that updates the game's accomplishments and disappointments. Burns collected visual highlights and interviews to plot how the national pastime intertwines with the history of America.

Teens in Print had a chance to interview Burns and his longtime collaborator, Lynn Novick, at a preview of the film at the House of Blues in September.

**TEENS IN PRINT:** As a filmmaker, what is the benefit of showing "Baseball: The Tenth Inning" to the general public in Boston?

**KEN BURNS:** Well, it's great it's showing all across the country, but since this is a film on baseball and my team is the Boston Red Sox, it's pretty wonderful to have it shown here in Boston.

**TIP:** Were you born in New York? Just to clarify that your love for the Red Sox is even bigger than geography.

**KB:** I was actually born in Brooklyn, which is very, very, very different than New York, but I grew up elsewhere and have been, since '71, a Red Sox fan.

**TIP:** How did you know what to keep in and what to leave out?

**LYNN NOVICK:** Of course, well, we never try to tell everything in baseball, that would make a 20-hour version and even then we would have left out so much great stuff. We

never try to show everything. We try to tell a few stories, and tell them really well. So we really found that the stories we chose to tell, we think, really help us understand the game and understand America. We follow the Red Sox – great disappointment, and the incredible success. We follow the Yankees with Joe Torre and how great they became after struggling for a long time. We follow the rise of Latin players in the game, and Asian players. We obviously follow the whole steroid story from the beginning to today and that involves also the great home run chase of 1998 with Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa – that's a very, very important moment. We talk about the strike, which was a very terrible moment for baseball. These are all the different stories we try to tell.

**TIP:** Can you say that these scandals and baseball were married together in your film?

**KB:** Oh yeah, very much so, and I think we show the way in which baseball sort of allowed that to happen. And when I say baseball, I mean MLB, and the players and the media, and the fans, allowed it to happen and how they reacted to it and finally got in gear to sort of end the steroids era, or at least begin enough testing that we feel that we are on the backside of it and some of those outrageous home run records are no longer happening. I think it's because they are testing and they are afraid to get caught.

**TIP:** Of course, because, after all, that isn't what baseball is all about...

**KB:** You're absolutely right! Baseball is about tradition and the love of the game, not a way you can get around that.

*This interview was edited and condensed. ■*

*"Baseball is about tradition and the love of the game, not a way you can get around that."*

*– Ken Burns*



When it comes to making documentaries, Ken Burns is on the ball.

▲ Photo courtesy of Al Karevy Photography

# Batter up: my first baseball game

By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer



▲ Photo courtesy of AFH

**W**ell, my first baseball game was amazing. Because, not only have I never been to a baseball game, but also because I had never understood American baseball.

At times, I would say to myself, “Wow, what kinds of people go there? How much money do you have to pay to get in there?” I recently went to Fenway Park to visit and I saw the field and it was really nice. I had wanted to be at a baseball game, but I didn’t have money. Then I got an opportunity to go there.

I kind of understood how a baseball game works. I know there are nine players on the field from each

team. I really enjoyed myself. A lot of people will tell you they went to the Red Sox game and when you ask them “Where were you sitting?” they will not tell you anything.

Guess where I was sitting. In the right field roof-deck seats, yes. Right there, I could watch all the events. I saw how Ryan Kalish was performing. But there was a little sad part when Felix Pie lost the ball. Ooh, now everybody was screaming.

Also, I was part of a group of young people who got to see filmmaker Ken Burns before the game as he discussed his new documentary, “Baseball: The Tenth Inning,” and I talked to him.

As someone who immigrated to the United States from Cameroon – where baseball is not even common – it was really like a dream come true for me to be at the game. In Cameroon, soccer is popular. That is what we all know. That is why I have to watch a lot of baseball games for me to understand it better.

Americans should not make their sports popular in the United States only. I think they should make them popular all around the world.

*The author was able to attend her first-ever baseball game courtesy of Bank of America, sole corporate underwriter of Burns’ “Baseball: The Tenth Inning.” ■*

# THE WALL

## *“Echoing cry”*

By Tucker S. Gaye

Deep within echoes a cry  
So deep beneath  
The world shivers  
Why?  
A shiver so shrill  
Thrills turn to chills  
A shiver so real  
Skin tends to peel  
Unidentified cry  
Unsolved by men  
Unmodified cry  
Never to end  
The cries of spirits, families, and friends  
Recipe cry, all seem to blend  
When I cry, you cry  
When he cries, she cries  
When they cry, we cry  
It cries, then they dance  
As peace slips by  
Cry echoes again



▲ Art by Fedir Teplyuk



▲ Art by Fedir Teplyuk



▲ Art by Makiz Nasirahmad



▲ Art by Makiz Nasirahmad

