

TEENS **in** PRINT BOSTON

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MARCH/APRIL 2011™



Custom made

How food helps
us celebrate
our diverse
cultures | page 3

▲ AFH art by Merveline Chery

● IT'S SNOW JOKE **PAGE 6** ● MOMMY DEAREST **PAGE 15** ● SNOOKI'D **PAGE 17**

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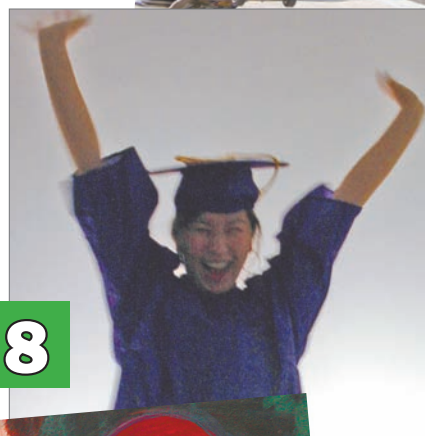
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▲ AFH art by Isabel Hibbard

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By Makiz Nasirahmad // Staff Editor

As the saying goes: “You are what you eat.” This holds true not only for nutrition, but for tradition, too. There has long been a relationship between cuisine and culture.

For Hispanics, January 6 is set aside as Three Kings Day to celebrate the coming of the three magi to offer gifts to baby Jesus. Many dig into a crown-shaped cake made from egg bread that contains a small trinket hidden inside.

On Passover, many Jewish people consume matzoh, the unleavened bread signifying how the Israelites left their enslaved state of Egypt in such a hurry to taste freedom that they could not wait for their bread-dough to rise. The holiday begins this year on the night of April 18.

There are other custom-made food combinations also cooking all around us. As E.N. Anderson wrote in the introduction to his book “Everyone Eats: Understanding Food and Culture” – “Food is used in every society on earth to communicate messages.”

Maverick Mallari, 18, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy, knows about leche flan, a sweet Filipino dessert eaten on Christmas that recalls a bad experience.

“It...was brought to the Philippines at the time of Spanish colonization,” he says.

Mallari gathers with family and friends for the Nochebuena (The Good Night) feast, and later there is an exchange of gifts.

Morelia Morales, 15, is a freshman at BCLA. She is originally from Guatemala, where tamales are prepared on holidays. This originates from the ancient Indian civilizations, when the easily-transported tamales were consumed by Aztec, Mayan, and Incan hunters, travelers, and warriors.

“Each country needs to have something different so that we can represent our country,” Morales says.

A popular story for Muslims is about Abraham and his son Ishmael. On Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice), many Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat to symbolize Abraham’s willingness to give his son to Allah, though he never had to follow through and substituted a ram. People cook one part of the meat and give another to people in need. In the US, many Muslims send money to their relatives in their homelands, where the sacrifice is done in the payer’s name.

Tayyaba Nizam, 18, from Pakistan, thinks it is very important to follow traditions like this and pass them from generation to generation.

“Culture and that special food is part of our identity,” says Nizam, who attends BCLA. “If we lose that, we lose a piece of our identity.”

This year, Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on November 7 in the US.

On January 1, Haitians make squash soup to mark their Independence Day of 1804. This particular dish is chosen to remember how the French colonists were able to scoop up the delicious mixture while the Haitian people could only feed on much simpler fare.

“It was what the soldiers ate after the fight for independence,” says Louis Edouard Point Du Jour, who is 18 and attends BCLA.

These days, after celebrating the special occasion with relatives and others, he says, everybody stays at the table making New Year’s wishes to each other.

He believes strongly in keeping his heritage alive, through food and other means.

“It has something to do with our fight for independence,” he says of the passing down of special squash-soup meals. “It’s a part of our culture, which reveals the identity of every single one of us.” ■

Filipino leche flan

Caramel

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water

Custard

- 12 egg yolks
- 1 (14 oz.) can condensed milk
- 1 pint milk
- 1 tbsp. vanilla

Caramel:

Put sugar and water in a saucepan. Caramelize on high heat. Line loaf tin with caramel, making sure to get sides of the pan.

Custard:

Mix all ingredients in a blender. Pour mixture into caramel-lined loaf pan. Cover with aluminum foil. Place tin in a larger baking pan half-filled with water. Place pan in pre-heated oven at 375 degrees, and bake flan for about one hour, or until firm. Place serving dish over top of loaf pan, and invert. Flan will easily plate, and the caramel provides a wonderful sauce.

Serves: 6

Source: Filipino recipes

Guatemalan tamales

Step 1: Preparing the leaves

Ingredients:

- 20 banana leaves
- 20 leaves from a red flower for inner wrapper

Cut off leaf stems and break stalks about halfway into the leaf. In large pot, boil leaves for 30 minutes. Remove pot from heat and cool for 30 minutes. Remove leaves and clean each one with a towel. Place in a pile to dry and cool overnight.

Step 2: Masa

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. corn flour
- 5 liters cold water
- ¼ stick butter
- salt

Mix flour, water, and butter. Salt to flavor. Boil for 30 minutes, stirring. Place in refrigerator for at least two hours or until mixture is thick.

Step 3: Sauce

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. tomatoes
- ½ lb. (de-husked) miltomates
- 2 chiles pimentas
- 2 chiles guaques
- 2 chiles pasas

Continued on next page

- 1 oz. pumpkin seeds
- 1 oz. sesame seeds
- ½ tbsp. achiote paste
- 3 tbsp. water

On stove, toast the pumpkin and sesame seeds until slightly brown. Remove stems and seeds from chiles. Boil chiles guagues and chiles pasas in water for 30 minutes. Boil tomatoes, miltomates, and chiles pimientos in water for 30 minutes. Drain water. Liquefy all in blender. Add achiote paste and water. Boil mixture for 30 minutes. Salt to taste.

Step 4: Assembly

Ingredients:

- Raisins
- Prunes
- Sliced chile pimiento
- Capers
- Olives
- Raw bits of meat (if desired)
- Long plant fibers (like thin rope) for tying the tamales

Place smaller open leaf on top of the larger (banana) open leaf, underside facing up. Place scoop of masa in center of leaf. Place scoop of sauce on top of the masa. Add a bit of each ingredient in above list on top of sauce and masa. Fold in each side of the smaller leaf over the masa, sauce, and ingredients, enveloping them. Fold in each side of the larger leaf over the smaller leaf and its contents, enveloping them. Use the plant fibers to tie up the tamale like a present.

Step 5: Cooking

Place tamales in a big pot, horizontally and in a circle, leaving space in the middle. Pour water in the middle to about halfway up the pot. Place plastic bags around the sides to hold in the steam. Cover. Boil for one hour. Unwrap (draining out any water inside the leaves) and eat.

Makes 20 tamales, plus extra sauce

Source: Yahoo.com

Haitian squash soup

- 3 lbs. beef short ribs, cut into 2-inch lengths
- 1 lime, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 to 6 sprigs fresh parsley
- 1 cube of Knorr Caldo con Sabor de Pollo (chicken bouillon)
- 1 or 2 tbsp. Maggi seasoning sauce
- 2 envelopes of Goya Cubitos en Polvo Caldo de Pollo (powdered chicken bouillon)
- 1 packet of Goya Sazon con culantro y achiote (coriander and annatto)

- 1 or 2 tbsp. tomato paste
- 1 or 2 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 large buttercup squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into large chunks
- 4 stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 leek, including green parts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 rutabaga, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 head of cabbage, tough outer leaves removed, roughly chopped
- 1 bouquet of 3 fresh parsley sprigs and 3 fresh thyme sprigs
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/3 to 1/2 lb. rigatoni

In a large mixing bowl, place beef and rub with lime slices. Cover with nearly boiling hot water and let soak. In a blender, combine garlic, green onions, parsley, chicken bouillon cube, and one cup water. Process until mixture is smooth and evenly colored. In a large stockpot, place (drained) beef and season with Maggi Cubitos en Polvo Caldo de Pollo and Sazon con culantro y achiote. Next, add pureed garlic-green-onion mixture from the blender, four cups water, one tablespoon each of tomato paste and butter. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat to medium-high, and cook for 45 to 60 minutes or until meat is tender.

In a large stockpot, place buttercup squash and cover with plenty of water. Put pot on medium-high heat and cook until squash is soft. Remove and cool slightly. Working in batches, puree squash and pot liquid in a blender until texture is smooth and creamy. Return pureed squash mixture to a clean pot.

Add beef with pot liquid, celery, leek, rutabaga, cabbage, and parsley-thyme bouquet. Bring mixture to an active simmer and cook, covered, for 25 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add butter and rigatoni and cook, uncovered, until pasta is al dente and soup has thickened. Remove bouquet and discard. Serve immediately.

Serves 10 to 12

Source: Recipelink.com



▲ AFH art by Kerry Edomwaryi

The Nigerian experience



The long journey from Lagos to Boston

By Osahh Aim // Contributing Writer

When I touched down at JFK Airport, New York, the first thing I noticed was the weather. Freezing! That's when it hit me that everything had changed. It was November 7, 2010. I was in the United States.

After it was certified that I'd be moving here to come live with my mom, I really didn't know what to expect. Lagos, Nigeria, and Boston, USA, are as different as the north and south poles.

The average temperature in Lagos is 83 degrees Fahrenheit, and that isn't considered hot by the locals. It's not an anomaly for the temperature to sometimes be as high as 120 degrees.

Lagos' population is more than seven million. Traffic is unbearable. According to Bostonians, the worst drivers are right here. I disagree.

From the difference in language to finding your way around in a new environment, the adjustment is ardu-

ous. The amount of dialects and languages that I've heard in Lagos are too many for me to mention, but they are a lot. The two most commonly spoken are Yoruba and pidgin/Creole English. It's a lot like patois. Saying "I'm on my way" in pidgin would sound like "I dey come." Going from speaking pidgin to having to interact in nearly perfect English is a major part of the transition.

Despite the difficult adjustments, there's got to be a flip side. Technology! Lagos has its fair share of gizmos and gadgets but it doesn't even come close to the level of technological development in Boston. First off, in Lagos, there isn't constant electricity. You could be having a midnight snack and next thing you know you're in darkness. Because of that, every Nigerian who can afford an electricity generator has one, so there's an almost perpetual drone of generators humming in unison, like bees in a hive.

Also, the air in Boston is cleaner. In Lagos, there

aren't electric cars being driven because of the cost of maintenance and, frankly, they simply don't care about the environment that much. As long as radioactive monsters aren't creeping around, and the grass doesn't turn pink, it's all good.

The educational system in Boston is much easier for students than in Lagos. Something that would probably sound strange to an American is that students in Nigeria are disciplined through flogging with a cane or belt. So, most Nigerian students are very respectful and law-abiding – not because they want to, but for fear of being flogged. I've been flogged so many times, I've lost count. Though I hate to admit it, it actually works. Over here in Boston, a student could call a teacher names and get away with detention. A student in Nigeria wouldn't even think about it.

The differences in cultures and traditions are numerous, and I'm still struggling to adapt, but, I've got to say, the future looks good. ■

The media's skewed view of Africa

By Freddie Jonathan // Contributing Writer

As I walked down the long hallways of Social Justice Academy wearing my traditional Nigerian apparel, I was stopped by a friend of mine named David.

"Hey Freddie. Is that what they wear in your country?"

"Yes, why?"

"I thought y'all ran around naked, or with a piece of cloth hanging over your genitals. Ha-ha!"

"No, David. Even I have never witnessed such a scene like that in my life."

As I just stood there, hurt but not trying to let my emotions out, I began to ponder: Why the image of poor, "uncivilized" hunters and gatherers had to be that of the Africans, as if we were all primitive?

A couple of years have passed since that incident. I often find myself playing it back in my head. I have come to realize that the media has the biggest role

in this. Many times I have stumbled upon a commercial that has a poor African child on a middle-aged, Caucasian male's lap. The white man pleads that we send money to an organization so it can help this child out. He then puts emphasis on the fact that the child has no one to turn to, that his parents are poor, dead, or stricken with AIDS. And that the child most often has to forage through garbage just so he is able to find something to eat.

Or I find a documentary that has to do with Africa. Often, the setting happens to be either in the rainforest or the savannah, where the natural inhabitants of the region are hunters and gatherers. In order to keep cool from the blazing African heat, they wear less clothing.

One's community or civilization doesn't always have to coincide with another. So if one now talks about a society that is organized by its own people, and comes to the conclusion that they're uncivilized because they

don't have TVs, microwaves, or iPods, such a statement is made in ignorance. Civilization is based on a community's needs rather than wants.

It is very hard to find things that show life through the prosperous lens of Africa. It seems like the media have forgotten the progress Africa has made ever since its days of colonialism. Africa has an abundance of oil, zinc, petroleum, coffee, and other natural resources. Its cities are beautiful and often are centers of major commerce.

So now, when I think back to the incident that caused me to ask those questions, I have come to realize that it wasn't David's fault. It was the fact that all the media ever shows of Africa is a continent that is not as technologically advanced as the West. His judgment of Africans was skewed. He was not able to witness the true Africa, the one I grew up knowing and loving. ■

Motorcycle mania

By Francisco Castillo // Contributing Writer

When I was 11 years old, I was in the Dominican Republic and rode a motorcycle. In the Dominican, I'd always seen teenagers from 16 to 19 years old riding cycles. I used to think that I was old enough to ride one myself because I saw them doing it. I wanted to see how it felt to ride. I thought that would make me look cool. I wanted all the girls to like me. I wanted to feel like a star.

One day, my cousin came to my house with his motorcycle and he left with my dad. They had to buy groceries in the market, so I was alone. I thought that was the perfect moment to go for a

ride. So, I took the motorcycle keys from the dinner table and got on the bike. When I sat on it, I felt like I was the only person on Earth. I felt like a grown man.

Then I took off.

I started speeding up without even knowing it. I tried to slow down, but I couldn't. I felt my heart pumping faster and faster. I started sweating. I thought I was going to die.

I heard a car coming behind me. I finally was brave enough to stop.

I told myself that I would never ride a motorcycle again. To this day, I am still afraid of them. ■



▲ AFH photo by Damon Butler

My first snow

By Linda Vancol // Staff Writer

I am from Haiti. I came here last June. This is my first winter here, and this is the first time in my life I have seen such amazing snow.

I was so surprised and excited to see the snow, I went outside and took some pictures. I also opened my arms so that I could feel it. In my home country, the weather is usually cool at this season, but not as cold as it is here. I don't like the cold – it's awful. I'm freezing almost every day.

Sometimes I don't feel like getting up and going to school just thinking how cold it is outside. But I have to go because school is an imperative for me to succeed in my life.

On the snow days, the buses run slowly and I have to wait in the cold. The only thing that I love in wintertime is the snow. It's beautiful to look out your windows and see all the white stuff coming down. It is awesome to see how Mother Nature can change by itself. On the other hand, I don't like the black ice because it can make people fall down.

**This is my first winter here,
and this is the first time
in my life I have seen such
amazing snow.**

Now I feel nostalgia for my home-country climate. I miss the beaches; the hot, salted sea; and the fiestas in my home country with my friends every weekend.

I have to put on a lot of clothes to protect myself against the cold, though sometimes it's not enough to warm me up. I do hate that. It's like it is another me when I dress like that. I don't deal with cold and wind; they are my worst enemies. Maybe I should move to the South to find some heat. Now I can't wait for summer, even though the eye of the heaven can be so hot.

Anyway, I wish that one day I will adapt myself to this climate here in Boston because I do like the city. But this is life; when the issues come we don't have to turn back. Like many people who came here had to face it, and at the end they got used to it, I think that I will, too, one day. I need to think that, "Here is my new home," and make the cold a part of my life. As an immigrant, that is one of the challenges that I have to face. The future will say the rest. ■

Community service

Building a better life

By Sherley Belizaire // Staff Writer

I moved to America from Haiti in 2009. My family came here because I will have a better life – and a better future. In Haiti, only a few people go to school because you have to pay for everything. There are kids in the street who are trying to clean cars for money. I remember seeing a kid trying to wash a car while it was moving; he looked like he was eight years old. I felt sad because there was no way for me to help him.

Life is easier here. It's even easier to help people. Next month, during April vacation, I'm participating in a program at my school, Boston International High School, called Team DC.

The team has more than 20 students and five adults. The students who are participating include those from Haiti, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, and Ethiopia. The goal of this community-service team is to help homeless and other poor people in Boston and Washington, DC. We are going to aid in the construction of houses for people who don't have a place to live.

Right now, we are fundraising – braiding hair, making bracelets, selling candy – to pay for supplies, travel, and staying in DC for about one week. We are working with Habitat for Humanity.

One of the main purposes of the trip is to let others know that they are not alone, that there are people who are thinking about them. I'm excited to have the opportunity to help people because a lot of them need me out there. I want to help them, not only with my words, but with my actions, too. You are never too young to do good things.

I'm participating in Team DC now, but one day I would be very delighted to go help Haiti, as well. I was born there and I know how the Haitians are suffering, especially after the earthquake. I can't go to Haiti yet, because I need money and I need to go to school. But I will grow up; I'm not going to stay like this forever. When I am working and free to do what I want, I will do community service in Haiti, even if it's 10 years in the future. ■

Confessions of a street skater

By Pablo Garcia // Staff Writer



▲ AFH photo by Mary Nguyen

There are 13 million skateboarders in the US alone, according to the movie "Street Dreams," and 10 million identify themselves as street skaters.

I am one of them. Life as a street skater is hard because some people discriminate against us as "potheads," thinking that we all smoke and skate.

Another obstacle we face is injuries. I have fallen down several times and I broke my pinky one summer day as I was trying to pull a trick, called an Ollie-180, off a ledge. I landed on the tail of my skateboard and fell back.

I skate at Copley, and at the Jackson Mann school, in Allston. The joy comes from the rush. We don't want to ride at skate parks because there you just go up and down a ramp, or jump off a small ledge. Real challenges include using curbs, ledges, and handrails. That is why many of us think skating on city property such as plazas and stairs should be legal, and not subject to 100s of dollars in fines.

"Street skateboarding should be legalized everywhere because that's just who we are; we have more guts to try to do tricks with different obstacles instead of the same boring ramps at the skate park," says 17-year-old Reggie Louissaint, who goes to Another Course to College. "Skateboarding isn't a crime; it's a lifestyle and a hobby."

Some police officers are against street skating and so are other citizens because they say that we are disturbing the peace and also their properties. Some skate on people's properties, but that's just some. Others skate in old places or just in the street.

"Street skateboarding definitely should not be illegal because some kids do not have anywhere else to go or anything to do at all," says 15-year-old Darius Simmons, who goes to Boston Community Leadership Academy. "As long as they aren't doing any harm, everything should be fine." ■

Teen dreams

“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today...”

By Rummah Himat // Staff Writer

My future is something that I obsess about often. I work hard every day with my future in mind. By 2013, I will graduate from Boston International High School. I am currently an honor-roll student and I will continue to study to stay that way. I pray that my hard work and high marks will be enough to earn a scholarship to an excellent college. Massachusetts Institute of Technology is my dream school, and I can see myself excelling there as a student.

Becoming an engineer has been my aspiration since I was a little boy. The profession of an engineer is interesting to me because you build complex things to solve problems and make improvements in the world. At MIT, it will become clearer to me what particular field of engineering I will go into. Right now, I am excited about all parts of the engineering world, but

with more exposure and course work I know I will find my passion.

I am well aware that money does not buy happiness, but I do know that it buys plane tickets and a roof to go over your family's head. The first thing I will save money for when I am a successful engineer will be to bring my mother and three sisters from Sudan to America and provide the best type of life for them as they did for me when I was a child. The thought of seeing them again, smiling with them again, and holding them again, is just amazing!

Malcolm X once said, “The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.” This is why I work as hard as I can, take school very seriously, and allow myself to dream big. I am preparing for my future so it can belong to me. ■



▲ AFH photo by Nick Anderson

Clearing up misconceptions about Muslims



▲ AFH art by Princess Morris

By Mayassa Aws // Contributing Writer

When I came to the United States from Iraq, I realized what the word “stereotype” meant. Because I was living with people who looked very similar to me in Iraq, I did not even know the meaning of the phrase “person of color.” But now, being in a country with all different kinds of people lets me know how stereotypes affect you.

When I came to the United States in 2009, people were asking me where I was from. I was surprised. They were scared and had fear of me because I am from Iraq, and also because I am Muslim. They thought I was very dangerous to them just because of where I came from. I know people were afraid even to say hello to me because of their misconceptions about Iraq and about Muslims. This makes me feel sad—not only because of the misunderstanding that people have about those who are different from them, but also because I am the one personally affected by their ignorance. I totally understand that there are Muslims who do many bad things by killing other people, but I also know it does not mean that all Muslims are like this.

Trying to deal with my disappointment about the way that people over-generalize about Muslims and Iraqis, I tried changing the way that I address them. I want to show people that they are wrong, but I don't want to confirm their myths. When people ask me where I'm from, I now say that I am from the Middle East. When they ask me about my religion, I say, “I do not want people to treat me differently because of my religion; I want people to respond to who I am.”

I have been able to get to know people more now that I am answering their questions in this way. As they start to learn more about me, they are shocked to discover that I am Muslim and from Iraq.

In my country, there is a famous saying: “Not all your fingers are the same.” I did not know what this meant until I came to the United States. After living here for a few years, I realized that not all our fingers look exactly the same, just as not all people are the same.

However, we all do have similarities: We are human beings who deserve to be treated with kindness and respect, no matter the color of our skin, no matter what our religion is, no matter where we are from. ■

At Boston Community Leadership Academy, Marie Levey-Pabst asked students in her ninth-grade writing classes to rank and describe the essentials they feel they need to survive and thrive. Here are two samples.

A guide to life itself

Give me my space, okay?

By Shanique Lewis // Staff Writer

Food:

Without food, the human body would be weak and you would eventually die of hunger. Food gives your body the nutrients that it needs to tackle the daily challenges of life.

Love:

Love is not something that you just need; it's a must-have. Without love, there wouldn't be any care in this world. Someone would die in front of you and it wouldn't matter because you wouldn't have any respect or love towards that person. Love is something we can't live without. Love is the tender feeling at the end of every kiss. For example, my boyfriend and I are almost together for about a year now, and we love and care for

each other. He's the light of my day. Love sustains me like food and water, because without both of these things, I would die.

Mom:

This is something I really need. I literally put this person above everyone else. I can't see my life without her; she makes me who I am today. She taught me wrong from right. She let me learn from my own mistakes. I love her with a burning passion, and if you disrespect her, you're going to have to come see me!

Independence:

I was born alone, and my mom taught me not to depend on others because they could make you or break you. Independence is very important because if you rely on others, they won't always

give you a hand when you need them. By being independent, I gain respect from others.

Space:

I don't want to be in a small space with others that I know I can't get along with. If I don't have my own little space box (arm length around), I would go insane. I would be forced to talk trash about those who are around me. I need space because of privacy. I don't want everything I do to be in the open.

Reasoning:

We all have different needs. These are things that I need and not just want. If I didn't have food, love wouldn't matter because the only thing that would be on my mind is finding nutrition. Love is an

emotion that you feel. Without food those feelings wouldn't be there because you would be in a competitive mood. Love and independence are related because if you're on your own, you have to have love for others so that you would have more confidence in what you're doing. Four years ago, my mom was always there to stop me when I made a mistake and fix it for me. However, over time I have learned to be more independent. I love my mom with all my heart, but I want to be able to go out and do things myself. And if I feel like I'm struggling, I would try my best to work it out on my own before turning to her for help. ■

Love is something unique

By Genesis Diaz // Contributing Writer

I have many needs in my life. They all go in order, from the most important to the least. Love is something that belongs to you. It feels good, like being in peace with people who are very close to you.

There are different types of loving: loving a person in a sentimental relationship, a friendship, or a family. Love is more important than anything in this world. Without it, there is an empty heart. In order to love others, you have to love yourself more. It has to start in you.

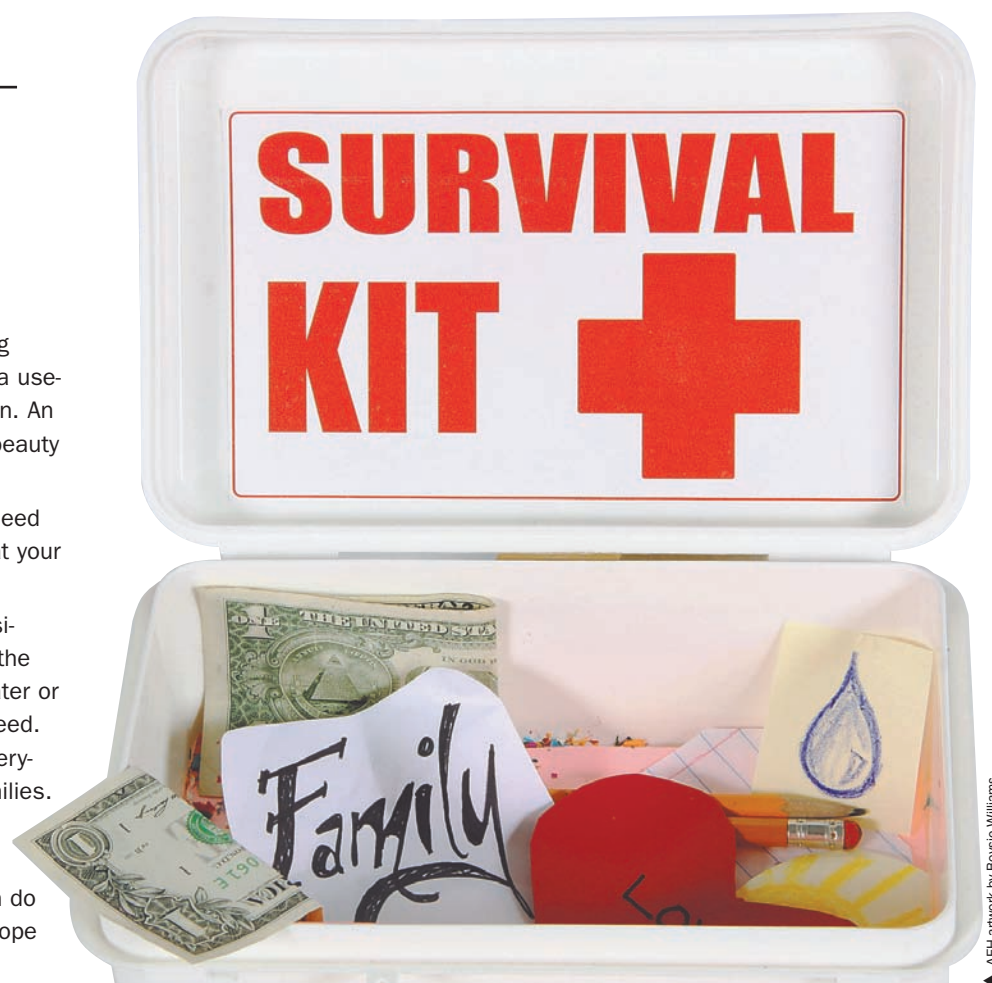
Next is money. Money can be used to buy useful stuff or to ruin your life by making the wrong decisions – like wasting it on drugs. Money is not going to make you feel loved, because money

comes and goes. Love is something unique. If you don't use money in a useful way, you won't have an education. An education is more important than beauty and other people's opinions.

Then there is responsibility. You need to be responsible – to be on time at your job, to complete your goals.

Of course, the biological and physiological play a big role. We all breathe air in order to survive, and drink water or juice to get the nutrients that we need. Shelter is something that I wish everybody had – pregnant girls, poor families.

Finally, faith and hope are vital. If you have hope inside, you can even survive without water. You can do many things if you have faith and hope about life. ■



▲ AFH artwork by Boycie Williams

Confronting cancer

By Maimouna Bah // Contributing Writer



▲ AFH photo by Kat Morgan

I was in New York visiting my father in the summer of 2007. My wrist started hurting and it felt like someone was stabbing my bone. I put ointment on it, but it didn't work.

I hurried to the emergency room. The nurse said "Your temp is fine." I was happy and calm and I took a deep breath, but I was nervous, too. Then the nurse returned and said, "I have to take your blood." Something hit me in my stomach and I felt a tingling sensation on my skin. She took my blood and they sent it to the laboratory. But it took them so long to deliver the result. I began to seriously worry about what was happening to me.

Twenty-five minutes later, they told my aunt that I had cancer. Tears burned my cheeks and my head ached. My whole body shook.

They rushed me to the ninth floor of the main hospital. I said to myself, "I'm going to die." I cried.

Hours later, I told myself: "Just because I'm sick doesn't mean that I'm dying." I have leukemia and there is a reason why God gave me this challenging experience. It is now part of who I am. I am still standing.

The German philosopher Nietzsche said – and I know it is true – "What doesn't kill us makes

us stronger." One thing that makes me weak: I am experiencing new and different kinds of pain, which are more intense and frequent than last year. I've also had new side effects, such as blurry eyes, short breath, headache. In those moments, I think that I won't have a long life. But then I say to myself, "Think positive and leave the negative alone."

It has been almost four years now since I was diagnosed with cancer. I am going to school and I'm trying hard to not let the disease take control of me. Frequently, I wake up in pain, but I choose to go to school, anyway. I believe I can beat it for the rest of my life. Sometimes, something challenging needs to happen in order for us to find ourselves.

In 2007, I didn't know that my family and friends cared about me that much. Sometimes I feel like I want to give up and wait for my moment to die, but my family and friends won't let me.

Cancer has changed my life. It has made me a stronger person. I'm a teen, but sometimes I've had to think like an adult. Sometimes I feel like God is testing faith.

Even though my illness has happened, I am proud that it has helped me find out who I am. ■

Meet peer pressure, mastermind of teen troubles

By leisha Sampson // Staff Writer

Ariana Simancas, a sophomore at Boston Community Leadership Academy, is one of many teens who have found themselves being pressured into trying drugs.

"There is this boy I know who constantly asks me if I would like to smoke with him," she said.

Every day, teenagers struggle with the lure of alcohol and drugs. One of the major masterminds is a

source common to most teenagers' lives: peer pressure.

Some argue that peer pressure is a legitimate excuse to consume drugs or alcohol, but Kimberly Vega, a junior at BCLA, disagrees.

"Although some teens might lack guidance and learn from what's in their environment, they still have minds of their own and are able to determine right from wrong," she said.

Tyrone Williams, a junior at English High School, said he has been tempted by peer pressure.

"I have been pressured to drink Ciroc when it first came out," he said.

Although being pressured into drugs or alcohol may not bring on feelings of regret, it is capable of leading to something else: future addictions. ■

BSAC BUZZ

By Dennis Tan // Contributing Writer

Why do bullies harass other students? Is it because bullies find it entertaining to pick on their classmates? Is it that they dislike their peers? I believe that bullies are victims of once being bullied themselves. They were hurt by somebody, either physically or mentally, and wanted to tell someone – but no one cared to help. So now the victims turn into bullies to hurt other people and make them feel the same pain. Bullies want others to fear them so that they feel

strong. If people understood bullies better there might not be any bullies.

Yue Chen, 18, from the Josiah Quincy Upper School, says that bullying should be fixed at schools.

“Getting bullied at a young age can affect you for the rest of your life,” says Chen. “It can leave a dark past, and you may never grow out of it.”

Mandy Lam, 18, from JQUS, also believes that bullying is an issue that needs to be resolved.

“Schools especially should make the principals take actions because there are some parents who move

their children to other schools so that they...can feel safe,” she says.

We at the Boston Student Advisory Council want to help stop bullying and care for victims so that they will not start the cycle again. There is a district anti-bullying policy. It is vague. BSAC wants to help make it more useful. We want to help restore justice at schools – not to punish the bullies but to teach them to back off so that schools can be safe places to learn.

Come to BSAC and work with us to help stop bullying. Please contact Maria I. Ortiz at mortiz@boston.k12.ma.us or at 617-635-8079 ext 104. ■

Plotting a pathway to success

Education vs. imagination

By Tucker S. Gaye // Staff Writer

Talents overload our potential to do well. However, we have a choice: using education or imagination – or both – for our success.

Imagination lets us foresee greater depth of our inner universe and our ability to comprehend. Education shovels and paves any uncertainty that’s thought-blocking our way to understanding.

Imagination: “There’s a variety of ways in exploring it,” says Salah Yusuf, 15, of Brook Farm Academy. “Imagination is a lot stronger.... Talents originate themselves through imagination.”

Taushawn Tinsley, 17, of New Mission High School, agrees that imagination is a mightier pull.

“Imagination comes from things you see....It’s a state of individualism...something only you have inside of you,” says Tinsley.

Tinsley supports his vote with the Bill Gates scenario – having an indefinite major, frustrating enough to drop out of college, leading to his innovation of Microsoft.

“Imagination is a rebellious dreamer,” says Van Tran, 17, of Boston Latin Academy.

Kim Dang, 17, of Dorchester Academy, debates that, saying: “Just because you’re imaginative doesn’t mean you’re rebellious. It just means you’re your own person.”

Yusuf, though, notes: “Imagination is not accepted by all....You’re rebellious to the rule of thought in education.”

Education: “Education is strict,” says Yusuf. “Education means money and money means success.”

Dang believes that success is not measured by how much you make but rather whether you’re at peace with yourself.

Tinsley says: “Education is just clarifying. Education you need to be taught about.... Someone could take it from you in a split second.”

Victor Lopez, a junior from Latin Academy, says education and imagination are too different to compare.

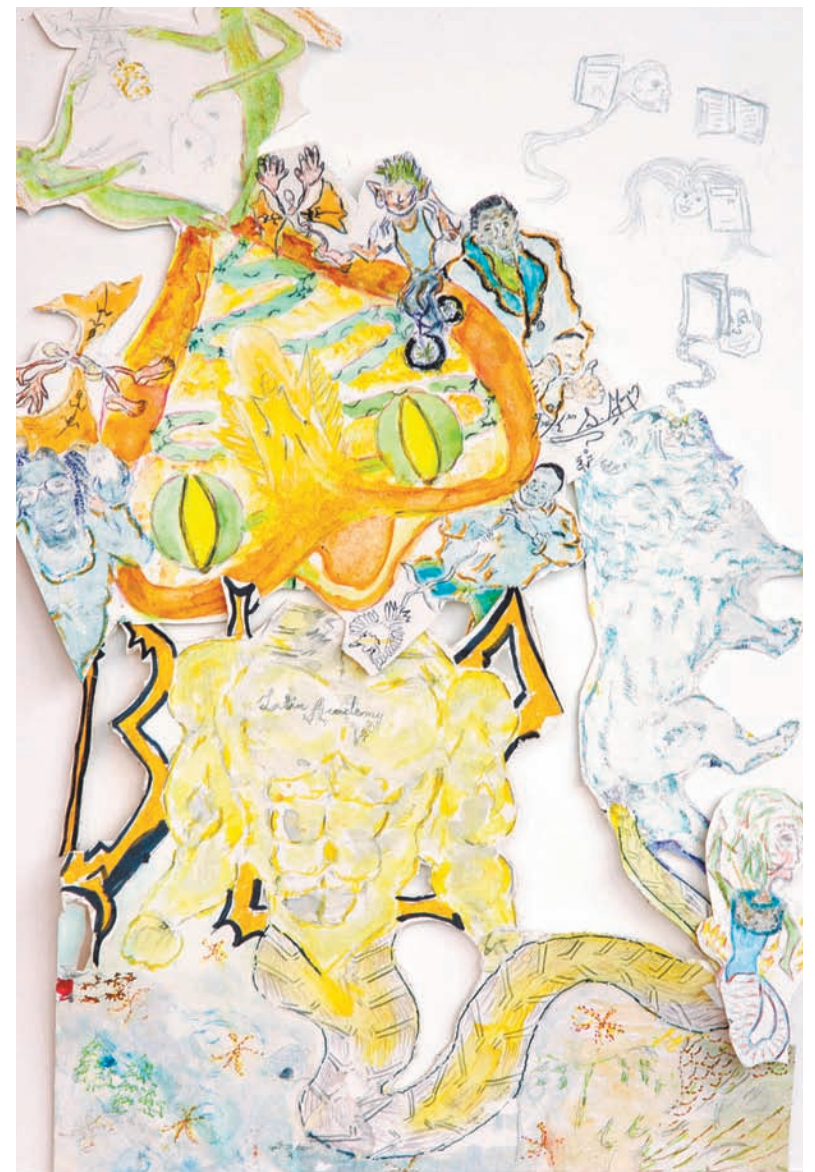
“They’re not really related,” he says.

Perhaps, though, they are inversely related.

Dang wants to teach English in the future, and says she is not more reliant on either education or imagination.

“They’re both just as important,” Dang says. “There’s never a concrete answer in literature.”

In a head-to-head tug-of-war for the golden touch of intelligence, creativity is trumpeted as the result of a unifying effort of both imagination and education, so as to better serve not only yourself but also leave behind a contributive plate for the world’s thanksgiving! ■



▲ T.I.P. art by Tucker S. Gaye

**ASHLEY BARKER**

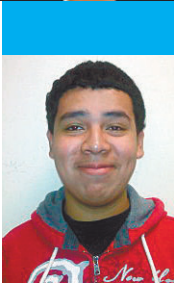
What is your nickname? AshAsh.
What is your obsession? Patterns.
What are you hiding? Monsters under the bed.
Quirky habit? I look at the ground when I walk.

**SHERLEY BELIZAIRE**

What is your obsession? Texting
Favorite superhero? Anne Frank.
What are you hiding? My secret.
Favoorite berry? Strawberry

**TYLER COHEN**

What is your nickname? T-Cohen.
What is your obsession? Pizza.
What are you hiding? What do you think I'm hiding?
Quirky habit? I try to uncurl my hair when I'm in deep thought.

**PABLO GARCIA**

What is your nickname? Peeblo.
What is your obsession? Skateboarding.
What are you hiding? My crooked pinky.
Quirky habit? Sticking my tongue out while playing video games.

**TUCKER S. GAYE**

What is your obsession? Success.
Favorite superhero? Goku.
What are you hiding? Ego.
Quirky habit? Zoning off.

**BRIANNA GRAY**

What is your nickname? Bri Bri.
Favorite superhero? Catwoman.
What are you hiding? My inner self.
Quirky habit? Twirling my hair.

**ZIKRE HAIMANOT**

What is your nickname? Some people call me Z.
What is your obsession? Basketball -- it gets a little scary.
Favorite superhero? Batman.
Quirky habit? Sometimes I talk to myself.

**RUMMAH HIMAT**

What is your nickname? Fox.
TV or computer? iPod.
What are you hiding? The secret to success.
Favorite berry? BlackBerry.

TEENS in PRINT

MEET THE STARS

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

Write for Teens in Print!

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

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

➤ Send them as either MS Word attachments or email messages.

➤ Provide your name, age, grade, and school. You must attend one of the Boston Public high schools.

➤ **FORMAT** your writing

➤ Double spaced

➤ Times New Roman, 12 point font

➤ In the upper left corner—your name, Contributing Writer, and a title or headline

➤ Whatever you submit has to be **YOUR OWN CREATION**. We only print original work. Please write "this is my own creation" next to your name.

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

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Ric Kahn with any questions via email at
kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov or by phone, 617-541-2651.

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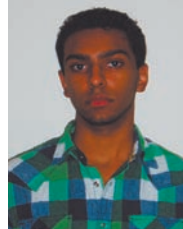
JOSE IBARRA
What is your nickname? Joe.
What is your obsession? Facebook.
What are you hiding? Gum.
Quirky habit? Making a mad face.



SHANIQUE LEWIS
What is your nickname? Nique.
What is your obsession? Candy.
Favorite superhero? My mom.
Quirky habit? Texting till my fingers hurt.



ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ
What is your nickname? Dro.
What is your obsession? Boston creme donuts.
TV or computer? La computadora.
What are you hiding? Something more interesting
than what you're hiding.



ARIANA MARTINEZ
What is your obsession? Food.
TV or computer? TV.
What are you hiding? Food.
Quirky habit? I look at people's feet when
they walk.



MILANES MOREJON
What is your obsession? Being busy.
Favorite superhero? My dad.
What are you hiding? Senioritis.
Quirky habit? Smelling pencils.



MAKIZ NASIRAHMAD
What is your nickname? Macky Lucky.
Favorite superhero? My mom.
What are you hiding? My journal.
Quirky habit? I sigh a lot when I'm bored.



MARMARIN NASIRAHMAD
TV or computer? Computer is much better.
Favorite superhero? My dad.
What are you hiding? I'm super-smart.
Quirky habit? Biting my fingernails.



PARNIAN NASIRAHMAD
What is your nickname? Demo.
What is your obsession? Ice cream.
Favorite superhero? Superman, of course.
What are you hiding? Nothing...



AUDREY NGANKAM
What is your nickname? Armeli.
What are you hiding? My negative sides of a
human.
Favorite berry? Strawberry.
Quirky habit? I just stop talking to everyone
around me.



SANDY NGUYEN
What is your nickname? Chyna.
What is your obsession? Have to match clothing
head to toe.
Favorite superhero? Mom.
Favorite berry? Blueberry.



ALICIA PEREZ
What is your obsession? Harry Potter.
Favorite superhero? Danny Phantom.
Favorite berry? BlackBerry.
Quirky habit? Not blinking when people
are talking.



MELISSA RODRIGUEZ
What is your nickname? Meli.
What is your obsession? Leonardo DiCaprio.
Favorite superhero? Edward!
What are you hiding? Billions of dollars under
my bed.



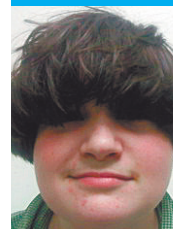
IEISHA SAMPSON
What is your nickname? Alien.
TV or computer? TV.
What are you hiding? My obsession for fruit juice!
Quirky habit? I bump into walls.



LINDA VANCOL
What is your nickname? Dadou.
What is your obsession? I like to sing.
TV or computer? Computer.
Favorite superhero? Jesus.



GABE WARD
What is your nickname? Marshmallow.
What are you hiding? 16 puppies.
Favorite berry? Iapapa.
Quirky habit? Saying "Heyyo!"



TREVOR WARD
What is your obsession? Children's card games.
What are you hiding? ET.
Favorite berry? Lum Berry.
Quirky habit? Exclaiming "Nyeh?!"



Tiger mom or tiger balm?

Teens weigh in on strict vs. chill parents

By Makiz Nasirahmad // Staff Editor

Jinwoo Choi, 18, who is Korean, would describe his parents as not strict. “I think it is good that parents care about their children’s education,” says Choi, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy, “but they should respect their children’s dreams, not the parents’ dreams, because the children’s life is not the parents’. It is the children’s life.”

His argument is completely opposite to what the so-called Tiger Mom Amy Chua believes about how Chinese and other Asian moms successfully raise their children, as outlined in her now infamous new book, “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother.”

In a recent essay excerpted from her book and published in The Wall Street Journal, Chua lays out the strategy she used on her own two daughters. Simply: Just say no to weak Western things like playdates and sleepovers, watching TV or playing computer games, allowing the children to choose their own extracurricular activities or get any grade less than a perfect A. As Chua explains: “Nothing is fun until you’re good at it.”

Diana Florencio, 16, from BCLA, says that her parents trust her to be responsible for her actions – especially in school.

“My family wants us to be mature enough to differentiate between good and bad,” she says.

However, she also thinks that there are things kids have to do when their parents insist, because those make sense and are very reasonable.

“I know if I’m not doing my homework, and I’m not getting good grades, it is going to affect my GPA,” says Florencio

Nicole Sandell, 16, who also attends BCLA, thinks it’s crazy how some Asian mothers put so much pressure on their kids. She believes it prevents them from being individuals.

She feels parents don’t have to be on their kids 24/7 for them to succeed.

A better way, she says, is for her parents to be understanding and guide her – just not control her. ■



▲ AFH art by Nancy Nyamuna

Tiger pause

By Makiz Nasirahmad // Staff Editor

Iagree with Amy Chua, author of “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother,” that parents can be super-strict with their children when it comes to education and academic achievements. The Tiger Mom, a professor at Yale Law School, is right that “Nothing is fun until you’re good at it.” There are many examples where people hate something at first, but, once they master it, this becomes their favorite thing to do.

However, I don’t think that parents should choose their kids’extracurriculars – as she did – because the child won’t have any interest in that activity, which will mostly likely lead to failure. I believe that people make progress in things they put their soul into, and will work hard on their own.

What is unimaginable for me is what David Brooks wrote in The New York Times about Chua: “Once, her daughters gave her birthday cards of insufficient quality. Chua rejected them and demanded new cards.”

This is very inhuman, because everyone knows that the beauty of gifts is that people care and remember, not the quality. This is especially true for mothers, who should be the most understanding.

Chua’s theories about strict parents make sense at some points. But she should understand the personal needs of her two kids. There is a reason why we have friends and family, so that we can communicate and express ourselves. There is a reason why people aren’t alone in this world. ■

Teens in Print wants to know:

When it comes to raising kids, should parents be super-strict or not? Should they be on your back 24/7 – or back off?

Send us an email to
ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov
with your thoughts.

Please include your full name, age, and school and we may run your letter to the editor in an upcoming issue of TiP

Mothers and daughters

By Sandy Nguyen // Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Perla Cumba, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says she and her mother always fight over silly things like coming home late.

She says she never opens up to her mom.

"I never tell her how I feel because she doesn't understand what I'm trying to say, or where I'm coming from," says Cumba.

This has been going on for centuries, mothers and daughters fighting. Female teens today keep up with the tradition of constantly arguing with their moms.

Fifteen-year-old Selena Mejia, from BCLA, says that when she gets mad at her mom she ignores her and writes her feelings down on paper.

She says she tries not to yell back when her mother raises her voice.

"I know that if I say something to my mom, it will make her even more mad," says Mejia.

Some girls try not to make their mothers cry because they will feel guilty in the end, so they avoid them and go do something else. They often say that they hate their mothers. In reality, they really love them but they get caught in the moment.

Fourteen-year-old La`Neece Byrd, from BCLA, says she doesn't clash with her mother because they have a good relationship.

She says she only has a couple of issues with her mom: having to take care of her little sister, making her mother coffee, and doing her chores.

In the end, Byrd says she and her mother are good friends; she has a lot of respect for her.

"I love her." ■



▲ AFH art by Cassandra Lattimore

Family friction: when relatives get in the way

By Shanique Lewis // Staff Writer

Bam!!! The door slams in your face without any explanation. Have you ever felt like you are diligent but you're not getting anywhere? Trapped in the darkness; no one is trying to hear your cry. They think you're just selfish and pathetic. You don't need others to make you feel like someone; you just need to work on your inner strength, to get you through the filthy jungle of the world.

"Life for me is never a piece of cake," said La`Neece Byrd, 14, from Boston Community Leadership Academy. "I grew up in a home environment that I really didn't want to be a part of....I worked hard in school because I wanted to be somebody."

Family is supposed to help you shine, but many times

they get in the way, teens say. Byrd is now getting along with her relatives because they learned to work it out.

The heart is like a bomb waiting for the countdown to be ticked off. When people show they don't care, you are left there to think that they are just out to get you. You're not alone; you have hope on your side, and friends. Still, some people just want to break you down like a parasite, from inside to out.

Byrd wasn't the only one who said she made wrong choices because of the lack of affection from family. So did Odelyne Lamour, 15, who attends BCLA. "The thousand voices of annoying people talking, giving me the feeling of ripping my hair out because I felt like I was just plain crazy," she said. "That's what I have been told. Like I couldn't trust anyone, so I was stuck by

myself to deal with this horror with no way to escape. The only thing I could do was cry."

Joynee Garcia, 18, from Dorchester, said a relative went around telling people she was nasty and going to get pregnant. Without the support of her family, she said, that ended up becoming true.

"Now I'm out of school taking care of my daughter, working hard to give her the life I never had," Garcia said.

You reflect on how well you strive. What family thinks about you shouldn't affect you, teens say. You just have to work hard enough to prove them wrong. Life is young; think about the positive and forget the negative. ■

Cheating on your other half: How far will you go?



▲ AFH art by Cassandra Lattimore

By Ashley Barker // Staff Editor

Cheating: something people say they would never do to hurt the person they are with. But sometimes it happens, and someone ends up getting hurt.

Javier Sanabria, 17, of the Fenway, says sometimes people cheat because they don't want to leave a relationship that might be ending.

"They get tired, and...it's hard to walk away," says Sanabria.

In some cases, that is the truth, but does that give an excuse to cheat on the one you're supposed to be committed to?

It may all depend on how you define cheating. In the public's eyes, cheating is when you cross a certain line and betray your partner's trust.

Jennifer Cooke, 17, of Roxbury, says it is having physical contact – touching, kissing, even intimacy – with someone who is not your partner. But is it cheating if it was one-sided and not intentional?

"If you don't react and pull away, then no," says Cooke. "If you let it get further, then yes," she says.

Manny Pitre, 16, of Mission Park, disagrees: "If you're the one that led them on, yeah."

Flirting might be one of those actions. Sanabria does not think that flirting is cheating: "You can flirt with someone and not take it too seriously."

Some also think that there is emotional cheating, when you begin to have an attraction towards a certain someone, and you're thinking what it would be like to kiss or touch that person.

Pitre believes there is emotional cheating if you deceive your partner.

"You're lying and lying is cheating," Pitre says.

Things can drastically change if you catch your other half cheating on you. You can leave or stay. For many, that decision is often hard because they love the person and it's not easy to walk away. But if you stay, will the trust be the same?

"Yeah, if I love them," says Sanabria. "But only once. I'll have in my head [she cheated], but if she does it again, it's done."

What would you do if you caught a friend's partner cheating? In some cases, you might come out as the bad guy or the messenger who gets hurt.

"I would tell them, because that's what friends do, even if it means hurting them," Pitre says.

Cooke agrees: "It's only right. I wouldn't be a true friend if I didn't." ■

All business: When should teens act professionally?

By Jocelyn Santos // Contributing Writer

This question is often brought up, whether it's during dinner with the family or with your guidance counselor: When should teens act professionally? There is no right or wrong answer, only the simple saying that we've all heard, "There is a time and place for everything."

It is ridiculous to think that students should be sitting upright, with a tie fixed tight, on a Friday night after a movie. With that said, it's also foolish for teens

to be swearing, with pants down to their knees, or with shirts showing the maximum amount of cleavage, while in the presence of authority figures. So what's right and what's wrong?

When some Urban Science Academy students were asked, most agreed that they should act professionally in a work environment. But what about other places? Why don't teens seem to be aware of when and how to be more serious?

"I think it has to do with the upbringing," said Ashlee Morton, a senior

at USA.

Others think that teens let down their guards when they feel comfortable with teachers, and so they act less seriously.

"Just because your teachers are more friendly with you doesn't mean you should lack that skill," said Nakia Ellies, a sophomore at USA.

It's obvious to act all business when at church or in an office, but the part that seems to confuse students is when they're not in those settings. How should

you act on the T? In stores?

Naturally, the thought is that these aren't locations where society says teens are supposed to be more mature. Still, teens are responsible for how people see them.

"Society stereotypes everybody," says Brunilda Ramos, a Dorchester parent of a teen. "So when you're in a group of adults and a teen walks in acting a certain way, even with my two kids as an example, they are viewed a certain way." ■

Hoodratz

By Sade Love Markland // Contributing Writer

Though it's not in the regular dictionary, a "hoodrat" is an urban person who is excessively loud at the wrong time and always wants to fight at the drop of a hat. Of course, hoodratz think they are tougher than they really are.

Hoodratz don't know when to be quiet; they do not understand that there is a time and place for everything. They swear like sailors and think it's attractive. They feel like they are superior and walk around like they are mad at the world.

See, hoodratz believe that they are loved. They think that by acting the way they do, they will always be noticed. And, yeah, they are right. They will be seen – but not for the right reasons. Whenever a group of hoodratz walks past, it's best to turn away because they will want to beat you just because you looked at their sneakers wrong.

Eboni Jackson, a senior at Urban Science Academy, said the definition of a hoodrat to her is this: "Someone who is always loud. Yelling things at the wrong place, wrong time, and very illiterate." ■

Caution: beware of hoodratz

Are you a hoodrat? Do you know a hoodrat? Take this simple quiz to find out the warning signs.

- ★ Loud and obnoxious
- ★ Always swearing
- ★ Using slang instead of proper English
- ★ Causing trouble

– Sade Love Markland



▲ Art by AFH

Reality TV: yes; Snooki: no

By Ariana Martinez // Staff Writer



▲ AFH art by Mary Nguyen

Isabel Flynn, a senior at Boston Latin School, enjoys the reality TV show "Jersey Shore." Still, that doesn't mean she wants to act all crazy like Snooki.

In fact, Flynn has no desire to star in a reality-TV show.

"It's hard to come back to the real world and be taken seriously after something like this," she said. "It becomes all you're known for."

Reality shows are all over TV, which leads many teens to copycat

the small-screen moves, like fist-pumping at parties. Other teens just watch the shows in amazement, and rather not have their lives on blast.

Penelope Lara, a freshman at Fenway High School, said she is entertained by shows like "Bad Girls Club."

"I like seeing people do stupid things," she said. "I like seeing them fight."

For teens, that's a big part of the reality-TV attraction.

"It's funny seeing them do

the dumb things they do," said Manuela Bermudez, a freshman at Fenway High School.

While some teens said there are no lessons to be learned from reality TV, Flynn says she is able to get a fashion sense by watching shows like "Keeping Up with the Kardashians."

Lara says she likes to shop, and one day wouldn't mind having her own hit reality-TV show to bankroll her routine.

After all, she said, "I'm a money girl." ■

Screen to shining screen

Entertainment migrates from TV to PC

By Trevor Ward // Staff Writer

Long ago, where we stand today, carts were pulled by mules, houses were lit with candles, and stories were told from person to person. Yes, yes, I'm sure this isn't really news to you, but, moving forward, who remembers radio shows? Most likely not everyone reading this article.

However, there is a rather valuable reason for this. And that reason's name is "television." Yes, back in the late 1920s, television sets were being commercially sold to the public. Nowadays, many teens get their entertainment from this great thing called: the Internet! Have you ever been on the Internet? They've got some great stuff on that Internet.

Well, from youtube.com to hulu.com, or even to your own personal favorite site, web entertainment is a flourishing frontier for aspiring artists.

"There's more freedom with a Web show," said Doug Walker – better known as Web-TV star The Nostalgia Critic – in a Skype interview with Teens in Print. "There's no need to be censored."

So it seems that web shows are getting more and more popular. From "Yu-Gi-Oh: The Abridged Series" to things like comedian Ray William Johnson's Internet-based video

reviews, these programs are popping up everywhere.

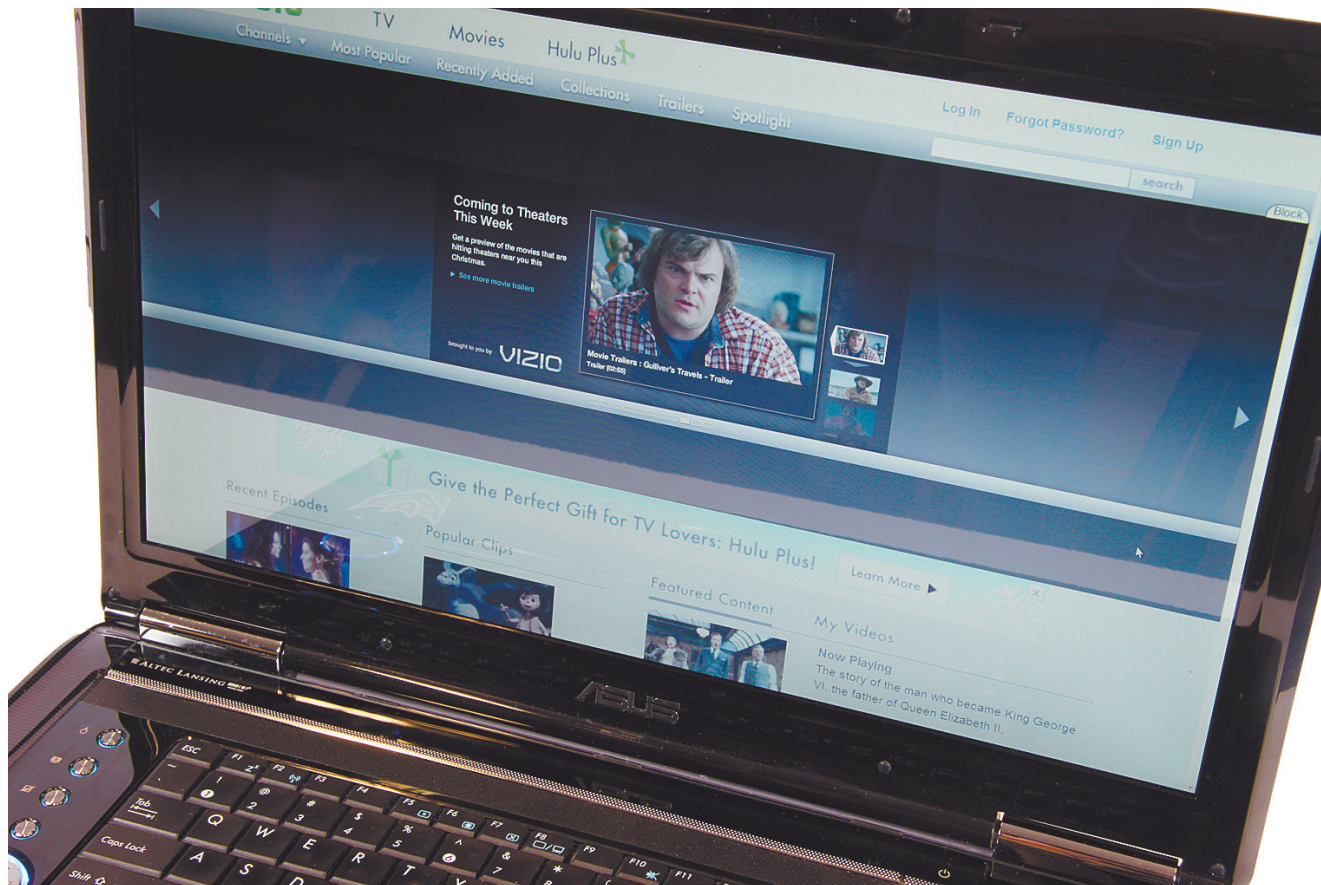
"I was never really a TV person in the first place," said Anika Lamb, a junior at Boston Latin School. "I stumbled upon RayWilliamJohnson by accident, and then I just kept watching episodes."

Vincent Corigliano, 17, of Roslindale, said he prefers the Internet's hulu.com to regular TV.

"Hulu has [the] license to many different shows and movies, and other things," he said. "So I think Hulu [is better]."

Still, will an Internet outfit like Hulu that streams TV shows online replace the ever-reliable broadcast box?

"I don't see it happening. People of all ages watch a lot of TV," said Melly Fernandez, a sophomore at Boston Latin School. "I feel like parents actually like having a television around so the children that are hyper can sit down and just watch it, and I notice that older people who aren't even good with electronics tend to love TV. I feel like it won't go away, at least for a very long time." ■



▲ AFH photo by Kim Huynh

3DS

A new frontier in portable gaming

By Gabe Ward // Staff Writer

In 1989, the Nintendo Game Boy was released, and it became the most successful video-game system ever, selling well over 150 million worldwide. Giving you the capability to play games with four-colors-of-gray anywhere, the Game Boy was tremendous fun. Now here we are, 12 years later, and along comes the stunning graphics of the 3DS, the first 3D portable gaming console.

You're probably thinking that you don't want to wear 3D glasses wherever you go, but one of the great things about the 3DS is that there are no glasses needed. In fact, you can turn up and down the 3D depth as you please, or turn it off all together.

The 3D capability doesn't stop at gaming; you can also take outstanding 3D photos using the two cameras on the front. But these amazing 3D features aren't the only reasons to run out and buy this vamped-up DS. The gaming mechanics are great, too. It still has the same four buttons (X, Y, A, and B) and the d-pad, but now on the 3DS they've added a swiveling joy stick, allowing you to more easily move your character or camera view. Also, a home button has been added to start and select. Pressing it will pause all operations in a game or software and bring you to the home menu.

Some great hardware features to add to the three cameras are the charging cradle and SD card slot. The cradle allows you to keep your DS in sleep mode indefinitely. This will let you connect with other 3DSs and swap information like high scores and Miis using the StreetPass. Now the DSi already had an SD card slot, but the 3DS will be complete with a 2GB SD card included.

All of this is only the tip of the iceberg of what the 3DS can do, and you could probably spend an hour soaking up all of the features. So if you're interested, visit www.nintendo.com/3DS for more. The 3DS is due to be released in stores Sunday, March 27, and will cost \$250. ■

RAPPER'S DELIGHT

Drew Stackz: “MY MUSIC EXTENDS FOR EVERYBODY”

By Tyler Cohen // Staff Writer

Drew Stackz, have heard you of him? He's a first-rate rapper from Dorchester, born and raised. His real name is Andrew Morris, he's 17, and he's a student at New Mission High School.

He started rapping in third grade, went full-time last year. Hence, his mixtape is called “Sophomore year freshman career.”

Nick D'Agostino, 17, from Boston Latin School, says: “This is definitely good enough to be on iTunes.”

Drew Stackz already has a loyal following from his local live shows and recordings. He's financed his own career with money from a summer job working with kids.

Some strong influences on his music are Nas, Tupac, and Yo Gotti. His favorite song is Nas' “If I Ruled The World.”

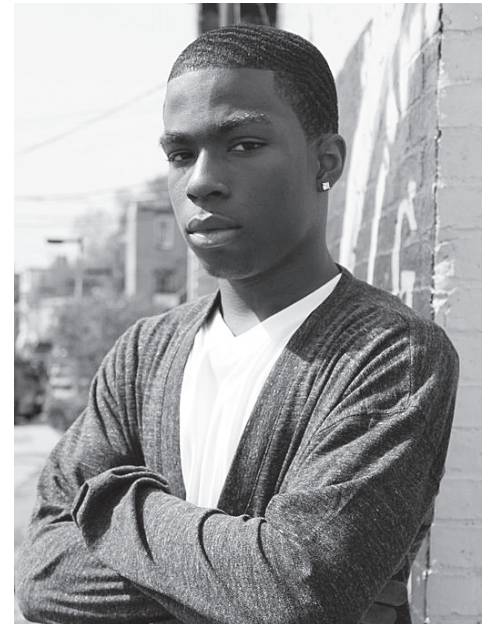
Drew Stackz says the tenor of his music swings with his mood.

“If I'm happy at that moment, it's happy,” he says. He says he does not target any specific audience with his tunes.

“My music extends for everybody,” he says. “It touches all bases.”

His long-term goal, he says, is to keep making music.

You can check out tweetmysong.com to hear his stuff. ■



▲ Courtesy of Niambe McIntosh Photography

Truly Something is...truly something

By Alejandro Martinez // Staff Writer

Truly Something is a dedicated rap group from Boston. Stanley “Stizz” Debrosse, 17, and Charles “Kash” Reddicks, 16, are the two members of Truly Something. Both attend Boston Latin School.

“Imagine 2Pac and Biggie without the beef,” says Debrosse, describing Truly Something.

Truly Something has come out with a street sampler that was released on websites such as datpiff.com, where rising rappers can upload some of their work and try to make a name for themselves. “We released our street sampler to show everyone what we have in store for them,” says Reddicks. “We want to send positive messages for people, especially with all the violence and everything else the media throws at people.”

Debrosse and Reddicks are using their music to help serve the community, focusing on trying to get quality education for all. Here are some lyrics from their song, “Dreamers.”

If you got a dream, then you better live it...

If you got a dream, grind hard and go get it...

They have each been rapping since childhood. They formed Truly Something last year. Now they want to take their career to the next level and be signed to a major label in five to 10 years.

“We've gotten a few label offers but haven't signed anything yet,” says Debrosse. “We want to try to main-

tain a buzz without a label for now.”

Still, Debrosse says it hurts to know that there are doubters lurking. “People close to us, even some family, don't support us because they feel everyone is trying to rap, so they don't have much faith in us,” he says. “But we have faith in ourselves and have each other as inspiration.”

Despite all the aspiring rap groups that are around, Debrosse believes Truly Something is original.

“I know we're unique because no one has a story like we do, because everyone is unique in their own way,” says Debrosse. “Hustle usually has negative connotations with it, but we want to let people know through our lyrics that you can turn your struggle into a hustle like we did. We truly are something.”

TS has a mixtape that was scheduled to be out March 17 called “Year of the Grind.”

At the end of the day, Truly Something has a simple yet challenging goal.

“Be in everyone's headphones,” says Debrosse. “We want to make people feel good.” ■



▲ Courtesy of Truly Something



▲ AFH art by Isabel Hibbard

"Just because I play a sport doesn't mean my grades are affected by it."

— Jonathan Deane

Sports and society

Why student-athletes are too often relegated to the bench

By Zikre Haimanot // Staff Writer

People always tell others that they can't do something, or that a goal a kid aspires to is unattainable. This is some of the adversity CJ Burke and many other student-athletes face in Boston. As a junior at Boston Latin Academy, Burke is focusing on his academics like everyone is warning him to do. But he also has a goal of his own: to play basketball at a higher level.

So he longs to play college ball, but no one seems to believe him. What many teens are asking is why their sports dreams are being rejected. Why is it okay for a kid to hope to become a doctor – a job that requires much work and which very few people achieve – but not realistic if they want to play pro sports?

"I used to go around saying that I would play in the NBA," said Burke. "I understood that it wasn't likely, but I felt like if I put in the work, there was a chance. That's not how most people saw it, though. I'd always have people tell me it was impossible or that I should lose that dream and hope to become a doctor or lawyer. Something more proper."

Burke also has an interesting take on the

importance of sports. "People also don't understand that basketball is a major force in my daily life," he said. "It keeps me working hard and keeps me motivated on my school work."

Shavar Lazarus, a junior football player from Latin Academy, expressed similar feelings. "To be completely honest," he said, "I go home and do homework and study because I want to play every game."

When people think of the essential values to teach kids – hard work, dedication, and commitment – sports seem to be a second thought to many adults.

"Whenever I do bad on a test, or mess up on an assignment, people quickly go and blame basketball, which I don't understand," said Jonathan Deane, a junior teammate of Burke's. "Just because I play a sport doesn't mean my grades are affected by it."

At the YMCA in Roxbury, there is a group of adults that scrimmages and plays with teens. Several of them seemed to be of the same mind when it came to the influence of sports on young people: Stick to it, kid. ■

Playing sports — for fun or the future?

By Marmarin Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

Benji Buenrostro, 14, has been playing soccer since he was four years old, and that's his passion. "Well, if I do get a scholarship it would be nice, but, whatever, soccer is fun for me and I love it," says Buenrostro, who attends Boston Community Leadership Academy and is on one of the combined sports teams with the bigger Brighton High School that sits across the street from BCLA.

He says he will continue participating in soccer when he's older because it's something that he will always enjoy.

In high school, teens play sports for fun or the future; to have a good time or to gain a scholarship. Many do it for both love and money.

Rose Fils-Aime, 16, who goes to BCLA, has her own thoughts about doing indoor and outdoor track.

"I play track for fun because I think I'm not professional; my speed isn't on

point," she says.

She enjoys track even though she says she is not good at it and it's a challenge for her. Fils-Aime says she would not continue taking part in track when she gets older.

"I'm doing this so it would look good on my college applications, and I need something to do in my free time," says Fils-Aime.

Sixteen-year-old Redouane Laalioui goes to BCLA and plays soccer.

"I'm playing soccer to get a scholarship because I think I'm good at it," Laalioui says. "I never give up."

He has been playing soccer since he was five.

"When I go to college," he says, "I would keep playing soccer because it's something that I love and I want to be a professional soccer player when I get older." ■

Ring in spring

Bell-bottoms are back... or are they?

By Alicia Perez // Staff Writer

It may be hard to remember a time before your closet was over-capacity with every type of skinny jean known to man, but fret not. Though your goldfish-like memory-spans may have failed you, the fashion magazines, such as Cosmopolitan, have been keeping excellent records. The last time bell-bottomed jeans, or flare jeans as they are more contemporarily called, were really in style was the disco 70s, and though it may be difficult to fathom, they may be coming back in 2011.

Cosmo magazine declared in its March issue, "Trending right now: 70's inspired jeans with a fit that does your curves serious justice."

This is a tad hard for most teen girls to grasp, understandably, of course, because Cosmo is a women's magazine. They propose fashions ideas many teens wouldn't look at twice, but perhaps this particular idea is worth a second look.

Ira Mejia, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, says, "They are not coming back because people prefer skinny jeans." She went on to say that she would wear bell-bottomed jeans though, she acknowledges, "They're

not really my favorite thing."

Jazmin Alicea, 17, who goes to the O'Bryant, is more open to the idea. She goes on record to say, "I wear them sometimes, so yes, I think they're going back in style."

And though it will be mainly girls wearing them, the boys also have a firm opinion on bell-bottomed jeans.

Edwin Carrasquillo, a junior at the O'Bryant, fiercely states, "[Bell-bottomed jeans] are a huge turn-off because you can't see a girls' figure in them." Michael Allen, also a junior at the O'Bryant, more or less agrees with his classmate, "Flare jeans only look good on adult women. On teenagers, they look weird."

But at the end of the day, the only opinion that matters is that of the ladies. The general consensus of some female teens in Boston is summed up by 17-year-old Jenissa Walker, who attends the O'Bryant. She says: "I don't think flare jeans are going back in style any time soon." ■



▲ AFH photo by Kim Huynh

Teens hail Forever 21...forever!

By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer

Forever 21 just opened on Newbury Street, in December. In the middle of expensive stores, here comes an affordable one where teenagers say they can find clothes on a small budget.

Many teenagers think Forever 21 also sells things that will last long.

Tamy Lopez, 17, from Boston International High School, said, "Forever 21 sells the best quality and a lot of girls buy from their store because it is durable."

Nayarete Rodriguez, 15, from Boston International, said the Newbury Street store is impressive.

"It has a lot of space to walk in and check things out," she said.

Lopez agreed: "Forever 21 looks very pretty and the appearance of the store

is attractive."

Rodriguez said the store has easy-to-find options for everyone, no matter big or small.

"I hate it when I am looking for my size and I don't see it," she said.

Teens say Forever 21 also has a large selection for different times of the year.

"Forever 21 is very feminine and has a lot of different colors for different seasons," said Lopez.

Fatoumata Conte, 18, from Boston Day & Evening Academy, said she feels special when wearing clothing from Forever 21.

"I don't...see other girls around me with the same kind," she said. ■

Poetic justice

Students in the Boston Public Schools come from all over the world. For more than 35 percent of them, English is not their first language. Below, these BPS youth lead us on a lyrical journey around the globe, to their native countries and then back to Boston – one verse at a time.



▲ AFH art by Kendra Figueroa

I am from Nigeria

By Onyinyechi Onwuka // Contributing Writer

I am from Nigeria
I am from the land of the rising sun
I am from the strong hands of my father
The inspiring words of my mother

I am from a place where all you hear is cries
Of hunger and pain.

I am from the lingering smells of mama's goat meat and *ukazi*

I am from a place where
Children's bottoms ache from sitting in the hard chairs
At school all day
Trying to pave their way

I am from the place where
You look down upon us
Because we are deprived of money, education, and wealth

I am from the market square filled with despair
Where you see the poor beg from the poor
As a giraffe they stand tall and proud
As a lion they are strong and defensive
But they wither at the sight of making ends meet

Where I am from history tends to repeat itself
I am a child of poverty
My mom was a child of poverty deprived of a mother
My father was a child of poverty
Every coin made had to be shared among all
There's history within every last name

I am from a place
Where all we rely on is each other
And the bible verse "even though I walk through the
shadow of death I fear no evil"

I am from love, unity, and peace
I am from the green, white, and green
I am from Nigeria

Peru: The flag of my native country

By Jose Ibarra // Staff Writer

My flag is so beautiful
My flag is red and white
Peru's flag

My flag is so beautiful when we sing about it as a chorus
Us Peruvians sing it
And proudly we look at them
Rising up to the blue

Even more beautiful it would be
If we live like brothers
In our chest we would carry them
Around the North and the South!

My flag is so beautiful
My native nation's flag
Peru's flag!

Welcome to Cameroon

By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer

My motherland, land of all nations
A land where I became a total stranger.
A land where opportunities knock only on strangers doors
The days up and down steal them away, from frightful
nightmares
And harm's way. And the sweet comfort of a prison cell.
Each night I listen to them crying.
Their voices pounding on the prison wall with fury.
I share a few tears for the misery of Cameroon
I wonder how it looks in the morning.
Douala New Bell, their prison
Where you will find three-year-old kids locked up with
their mother
Where you will find teenagers of 14 years old locked up, only
Because they got involved with something bad, like snatching
a purse
Poverty and misery force them to do this?
No, I don't think so,
The Europeans said they were coming to free us,
Instead they exploited us, all the Cameroonian heritage
With politicians eating together
Paul Biya living a happy life when innocent children are crying
Dying, no education for them, while our heritage ends up in
criminals pockets.
This is the voice of injustice.

Afghanistan: Distantly attached

By Makiz Nasirabmad // Staff Editor

Moving right, left, trying to throw away
Echoes, which are imprisoned in my head.
She is whispering that I have to pay
A long visit I owe her, even dead.

She is so easy on the eyes, tempting
Partially wrecked by devilish actions.
Once it was green, now pollution's landing
On the proud strength of her rich attractions.

She accepts all who come to her with goals
Once in a while the panic spreads runners.
Full of sensitive benevolent souls
Bright smiles compel her to calm her gunners.

I'm attached, distantly hearing, seeing,
My blood was shed but I had no feeling.

Guyana: Many ah seh

By Ashley Barker // Staff Editor

Many ah seh dey land is de greatest
Well ah seh the land of many waters is de best
Sum seh that Boston carnival is dope
Well ah seh dey never see Mashramani
Sum seh that dey culture rocks
Well dey never experience mine
Sum seh dey have di best foods
Dey never taste Roti Puri, Dhal and Rice
Curry, Pine Tart, Cheese Roll, Cook Up, and
Pepper Pot. Sum seh dey music is de best
Dey never heard Chutney, Soca, and Calypso
Sum seh dey country is de best place to live
Well dey never lived in de hot all year round
And fun by de sea wall
Ah seh yuh right. That dey ain't no place like
GUYANA!

The Black Klux Klan

(Liberian remembrance)

By Tucker S. Gaye // Staff Writer

Drizzling blood, sweat, and tears beneath her feet
Ready for flight with her wings spread open
Mrs. Freedom star continues her folk dance in remembrance...

Confusion, I fuse on illusions head wobbling goblin delusions
Alluding to destruction who's our competition,
Nowhere in sight man, come out at night
Then bloodthirsty eyes staring through your life
There be no fight, broken guy his spirit dies,
Boy jus got lynched
Oh' so fly teleport transparent with the skies
His head still hanged
Leave them with no hope of surviving and that's no lie
Preclude any clues of unusual evidence
Incidents whenever they're present they do their voodoo dance
Dance in confident feel like Onement,
Praised like Halloween, trick and treat all you can
I should conclude this testament with a respect this Liberian

Drizzling blood, sweat, and tears beneath her feet
Ready for flight with her wings spread open
Mrs. Freedom star continues her folk dance
Witchery swift in remembrance of her son's past sufferings...

Respect this element
Destinies in our hands,
We sweep right through those who stand
Spitting venom stench too immature to understand
Don't question corrupt freedom man
You'll have a reason to scream amen
our soul grows so enhance
Lit flame throwers to cream a man
this vengeance loves revenge
Aggression with mom's commands
can't digest this sour scent, toxic like death slow to sink
It gets wavy, so nice we'll make you think
y'all know black jus never change when black is always blamed
One star twilight scene
Death coming back for more again

Drizzling blood, sweat, and tears beneath her feet
Ready for flight with her wings spread open
Mrs. Freedom star continues her folk dance
Witchery swift in remembrance of her son's past sufferings...

Again, smirk a tease oh please no need,
Stitch up lips quiet, split and rip too deaf to give a kit
No ears cut ligaments, don't listen
History wouldn't make sense if this don't offend
All fear is near tribal sin
Surrounding change, applaud the Grinch
Bravo, bravo like French, that dark power my fist is clenched
my people we at it again
Only pain could deliver pain, when it's drained enough to go insane
Mother Liberia, blame the Black Klux Klan

Drizzling blood, sweat, and tears beneath her feet
Ready for flight with her wings spread open
Mrs. Freedom star continues her folk dance
Witchery swift in remembrance of her son's past sufferings...

Dominican Republic:
Half of a half

By Alicia Perez // Staff Writer

The island of Hispaniola
Is split clearly into two
Haiti and the Dominican Republic
Have lived not-always-so-peacefully
Side by side,
For however many years
But what the world does not see
Within this beautiful country,
That is the Dominican Republic,
That is also my home,
There are also two very different parts,
Split by a very different line --
El dinero.
The part you see on your television screen;
La Romana, the gorgeous palm trees, the big mansions,
Look at your tan! Where did you go?
Oh, the Dominican, it's such a wonderful little country!
Is that what you see?
Come to the Dominican resorts! Immerse yourself in the Dominican culture!
But take a trip,
you rich, ignorant American,
To the West side of our beautiful country.
Bani, Monte Cristi, Puerto Plata, Santiago.
The poorest places you have ever seen.
But that,
My friend,
Is where the true beauty lies.
The proudest Dominicans wave their poverty aside,
Eh nada.
Children stride happily into *el colmado*, bellies swollen with hunger and pride,
Because their mamis told them never to look down.
A sign of weakness
Un signo de debilidad
And, pockets devoid of anything to do with wealth,
They are the beauty of the Dominican Republic.

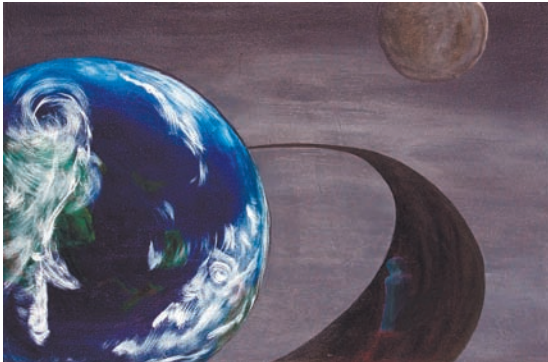


▲ AFH art by Chuck Tibbs

Haiti

By Guychardson Destin // Contributing Writer

My country of real pain and misery
I can never erase you from my memory
You are part of my life's story
I know you fell down
But Haiti I am deeply sorry
You gotta get off the ground
In order to gain victory
Over the pain and misery
I am giving you my stick
Grab it and get up
Nothing lasts forever
Let's just work together



▲ AFH art by Rose Grushkin

Ode to Boston

By Onyinyechi Onwuka, Giana Perez, and Jasperae' Edwards // Contributing Writers

What is your view of Boston?
Where slimes crowd the streets.
Where dudes beg for change,
"Hey man got spare coin?"
Where the weather is bitter and turns people into Rudolph.

The summer breaks out fast,
makes lonely sidewalks turn into chill spots.
The malls quickly crowd up with
teens and eager shoppers.

You can hear the sound of flip-flops
down from the end of the streets.
The news media, history books, and government
people say there is no place like Boston
while the poor and underpaid wish they lived better.
Try trading for a while?

The little ignorant man-children hang across the city,
trying to bag anything in short skirts.
When the young girls walk their way
they stare till their necks break, and
all they ever do is say,
"Ayo, shawty, can I holla at you for a minute?"
When good girls go bad, there's no turning back.

The prestigious Newbury Street,
where the rich and successful are identified quickly,
and the employee's eyes are money signs,
trying to kiss up to you for a purchase.
All you hear is cha-ching.

We are known for beans but
I can't explain why that is.
McDonald's and BK ring up orders at all hours of the day.
The welfare offices flooded
with angry mothers.

Fridays is chaos and mayhem.
The movies, stores, and buses
crowded with teenagers looking for
everywhere to go but home.

Hard-working parents eager
to get home and relax,
while the schools are uncharted territory until Monday morning.
What a great sight? huh!!

The city of a fighter where hands
are rough and cut because of the
banging and ganging .
"Had to fight my way through life."
You would never understand it.

But Boston is my city, and I love it.
Like the real estate agents say,
It's spacious and affordable.

Write to the top in 2011.

The Boston Globe and WriteBoston developed the Teens in Print newspaper to offer young writers a place to perfect their skills and voice their opinions.

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