



Gamer-chicks FTW (for the win!)

The rise
of female
video-game
players

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▲ AFH photo by Max Urena

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TEENS
in
PRINT

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Continued from page 1

By Jorgji Nikopulli // Contributing Writer

Donald Anthony, 16, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, feels that girls can be players, too. Video-game players, that is.

"Girls playing video games breaks the stereotype barrier and I love that," he says. "Often, girls are told that they can't do what guys do. Anything guys can do, girls can do, too."

Today, 40% of all video-game players are women, according to a survey from the Entertainment Software Association. So, girl-gamers are topping the charts and breaking records.

Rochelis Lopez, 17, from BCLA, says that she is bombarded with game invites and friend requests on PSN when she plays Call of Duty: Black Ops. It seems that some guys love girls who play video games in the online realm.

"Some guys even have 'online girlfriends,' " says Lopez.

In reality, though, if a girl mentions that she is a gamer, automatically many guys think she's a noob. That's often not the case.

"Girls that play COD often go on just for fun and, sometimes, they're way better than most guys online," says Mark Reynolds, 16, who lives in West Roxbury and goes to BCLA. "I have this one girl named Leslie on my friends list that's on 15th prestige in Black Ops and her k/d is really high. People shouldn't underestimate gamer-chicks."

Many girls don't fail as badly as some guys think.

"In my experience, I am not a noob, but I'm not a pro, either," says Bonnie Ramos, 15, who attends BCLA. "I know that since I'm a girl, I will get treated differently. And that's why I go [online] on my brother's gamertag and I don't put on my mic, because I don't want to make a big deal out of me being a gamer-chick playing COD. I mean, once in a while I put my mic on because I get bored, and I pretend to be a guy with a high voice -- like Justin Bieber." ■



▲ AFH photo by Nick Anderson

A gamer glossary

- Gamer-chick: a female who plays video games.
- Noob: from the word newbie; someone who's new to a video game and who is generally awful at it.
- COD: Call of Duty, a popular video-game series.
- PSN: the PlayStation Network.
- Prestige: an elite mode of playing COD.
- K/D: kill/death ratio.
- Gamertag: an online persona.
- Fail: self-explanatory.

-- Jorgji Nikopulli

Girls rule!

- At 33 percent, adult women make up a greater portion of the video-game-playing public than do boys age 17 or younger (20 percent).
- Forty-two percent of all online-gamers are female.
- In 2009, women comprised 28 percent of all console-gamers, up from 23 percent the year before.

Sources: The Entertainment Software Association; the market-research company NPD

Haitian identity

A proud pigeon among doves

By Givona J. Dietz // Contributing Writer

When I was in the third grade, I was the only full black girl in the school. Not only was I black, but I was Haitian. When we would talk about race, everyone would say mostly the same thing, that they were Irish or Italian or something like that. When it got to my turn, I would say I was Haitian and people would laugh and say, “Do you know voodoo?” or “How do you know how to dress so well?” and “How do you keep up with your hair-style?” Barrettes and braids.

There were all these stereotypes and they made me upset. There were times when I would just want to answer:

“I don’t know what I am,” or that I was nothing at all. But I couldn’t do that forever. I didn’t like being the ugly pigeon with the background that everyone talked about while they would all accept theirs as being beautiful as doves.

When I reached middle school, instead of feeling bad about my beautiful nationality, I decided I would embrace it. I would feel good about telling people what I was and where my family came from.

Now, I walk with my head high. I will say that I am Haitian and I do so with no shame. Instead of letting people believe the stereotypes, I want them to see how false some of them are.

Yes, I am able to dress nice. Yes, I do get my hair done. No, I do not know voodoo. Yes, I eat Haitian food and speak Creole, but I was born in America. I will not let being an American-born Haitian baby make me forget the people from whom I came. I am more Haitian than I will ever be American because that is my family line, my family stamp.

I could go around with my head down and try to ignore who I am. Or I can be a better person and have my head high. I chose to walk as the proud pigeon surrounded by doves. ■



▲ AFH photo by Cashman Ogaus

Letter to my future self

By Jeison Pegeuro // Contributing Writer

Dear Me,

What have you become? Are you an entrepreneur? Professional boxer? CEO? Or are you just a low-life street rat who still has the same ambitions you had as a kid?

Did you even graduate high school? Or go to New York University, your dream college? I just want to know what your life is like. I have been working hard in school, and boxing after classes. I stay on top of my game, while avoiding all of my demons and distractors. I keep coming up with predictions, but I’m starting to feel like I’ve reached the limit of my ambition.

To America, I’m just a legal Dominican immigrant living in Roxbury. I’m looking for somebody to talk to, and I’m guessing the only person I could turn to is me. I need to get a glimpse of my future; I’m starting to have many doubts.

I know I have the full support from my school and Tenacity, but that’s not enough. What about the family members you love? I need that, too. How am I even going to afford college?

If you’re able to read this, I just want you to reply to me, give me words of wisdom. I really want to be successful. I need the tools to help mami, and thank her for all of the things she has given me, and to show her how I appreciate her every bit, and that I’m not a juvenile delinquent who lives his life smoking weed and doing poorly in school. I want to show her how I am the complete opposite of that, how I am a sophisticated high school student with good grades and behavior. I want to show her how I love her with all of my heart, and all I want is the best for the family and me. I really hope you can help.

--Jeison

The graduate

A Boston Latin School junior envisions his senior speech

By Sean Curry // Contributing Writer

Life is not a single journey, it is full of many. We have already completed several by growing up, and now we are completing our six-year voyage at Boston Latin School. As we start new chapters in our lives and go off to college, we are given a fresh new start and will be surrounded by new faces. You can be whomever you want to be.

You’re not the same person you’ll be in 20 years. Think about how much different we are now from when we were 10 years old. When I was 10, I was really fat. Back then, our goal was to complete elementary school and go off to Boston Latin School. Once we got there, everything changed for us – just as it will change again for our first year at college.

At BLS, vacation ended and summer reading reports were once again due. We got used to our new lockers in the dark, crowded basement and memorized our combi-

nations. Then we were officially in high school. Along with that title came an extra class every day. Three more years went by and we were ready to graduate. This time, after summer vacation, we won’t be coming back here to the same old building we’ve gotten so used to. We will go to different colleges, to study in different fields.

Look no further than what is immediately ahead and do not dwell on the past. One day in the near future, you will be in a similar situation as we are in now: at graduation, only it will be from college instead of high school. You will reflect on today and ask yourself what has changed since then. Have I become a better person? Have I learned what I need to be successful? How have I grown?

Hopefully, you will have a good answer for each of these. From there, you will get a job, get married, raise children, and watch them walk the same journeys as you. ■



▲ AFH photo by Nick Anderson

BSAC BUZZ

By Dennis Tan and Carlos Rojas // Contributing Writers

Ever had a terrible teacher seemingly hell-bent on depriving you of your right to quality education? Ever felt like doing something about it despite not knowing how? Want to find out how you can change that? If you answered yes to any of those questions and if you have something to say, if you want to change your school and improve your education, then read on!

The Boston Student Advisory Council was successful in distributing the “Student-to-Teacher Constructive Feedback” surveys which many of you might have taken back in December. Although this was a major win for Boston youth, as always we’re pushing for the stars. The Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary

Education may end up voting in June on whether or not students’ formal reviews of their teachers can be part of official evaluations. Yup, that’s right. That means that if you have something to say about a teacher, it would be heard by more than just your sympathetic friends and equally frustrated parents. It would become an official indicator of a teacher’s success and ability as an educator. Wouldn’t that be monumental?

“I think this is a great idea to help students fight for their right to an education,” says Brian Yun, a senior at the Josiah Quincy Upper School. “It would show that we students care for our education and that we know what we want.”

Another JQUS senior, William Mai, was equally enthu-

siastic. “Having the resources to evaluate teachers is great for the continuation of good education,” he says.

If you agree, then you should send your input directly to the state! Email them your testimony at boe@doe.mass.edu. If you believe student perception of learning is an important indicator of a teacher’s performance and should be one of the required components, then write the board and say so.

If you’re super-excited, however, and can’t wait for more information, please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions (or comments or concerns) at 617-635-8079 ext. 104, or shoot us an e-mail at bsac@boston.k12.ma.us. ■

MCAS madness

By Audrey Ngankam // Staff Writer

The MCAS exam is not a fair test for multi-language students. This is not the right way for us to show what we know. I fully understand that we are kids growing up. We will meet a lot of challenges along the way. But the fact that we come from all around the world means that English has not been our first language.

MCAS is a very big deal because when you don’t pass it you don’t graduate from high school. Some immigrant kids have to stay in high school for another year, and they get old.

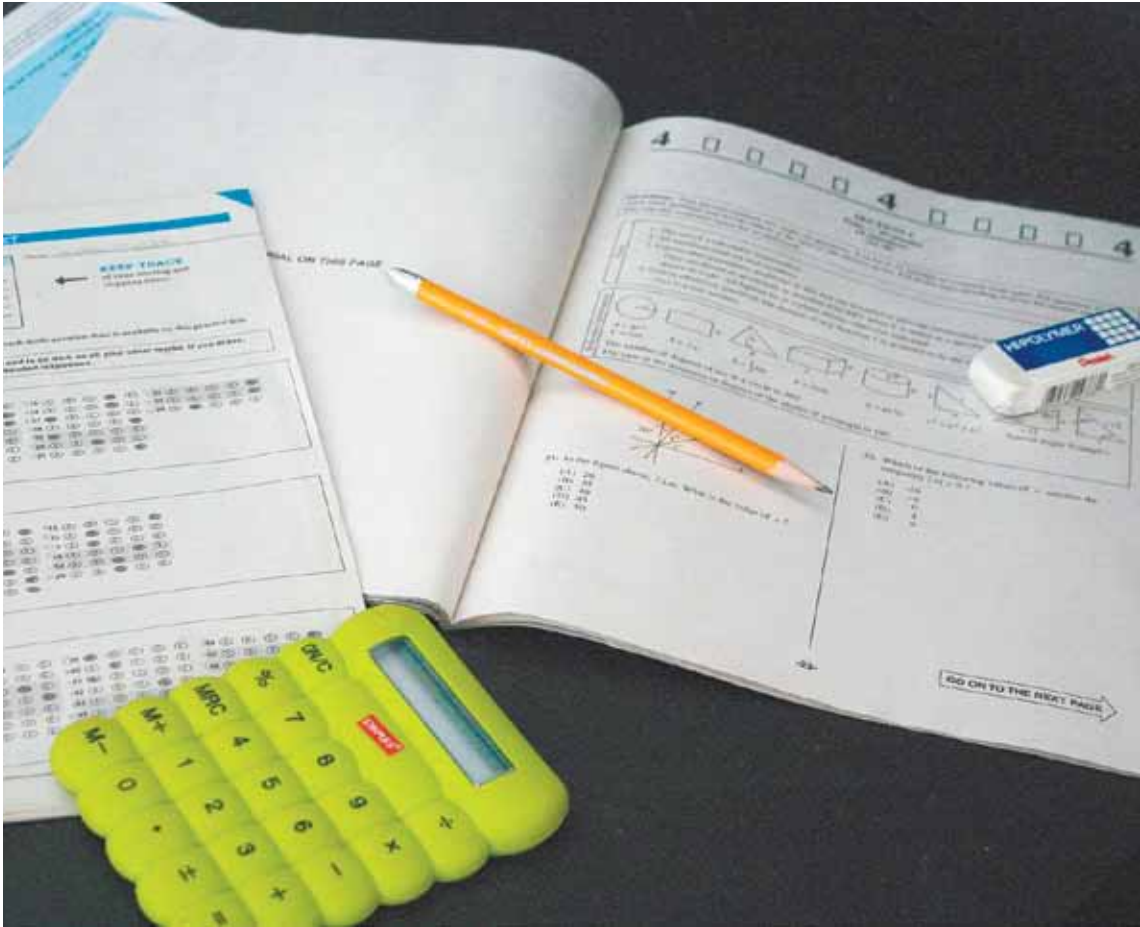
They don’t pass it, not because there are slow, but because this test frustrates them.

“I have been in the United States for only two years,” says Andres Rodriguez, 18, who attends Boston International High School. “I have not learned enough English in order to take this test. Other American kids that were born in the United States had been to school for 11 years learning English as their first language. Me, who just came two years ago, it is unfair to make me take this test.”

Welly Sanchez, 19, says that the vocabulary used on the MCAS can be difficult for immigrant kids. They let you use a word-for-word translation dictionary. But there are no definitions and the total meaning can get lost.

“I had a hard time understanding the words on the MCAS,” says Sanchez, who goes to Boston International. “Other American kids that were born here know more than I do, because this is their country and their language.”

John Carlos Zapata, 18, from Boston International, says too many foreign-born students get stressed-out during the test because they don’t feel they comprehend enough. ■



▲ Photo courtesy of AFH

China dolls

Fear for the lives of baby girls

By Clodagh Lane // Contributing Writer

Whenever she smiled or laughed, my heart was filled with joy and hope. Last summer, I spent six weeks in Beijing, China. One of the highlights of my trip was going to an orphanage there to spend time with some of the babies. The orphanage is called the New Hope Foundation foster home, located in the Shun Yi district of Beijing. It takes in infants and toddlers, usually with severe birth defects.

During my time at the home, I became especially attached to a certain baby girl named Dang Cancan. She had a cleft lip, but that certainly did not stop her from smiling. I absolutely loved holding her, and in just a short amount of time I felt as if she was my own baby girl.

We got to meet the owner of the foster home, who moved to Beijing with his wife a few years ago and established this amazing institution after being truly moved by the horrendous conditions of some of the orphanages. They work hard to raise thousands of dollars to allow many of these children to have operations that will change their lives.

Every child deserves to be treasured. Every child deserves a home and a loving family. In 1979, China



▲ AFH art by Szu-Chieh Yun

began enforcing a new restriction, known as the “one-child policy.” This rule was put in place to attempt to control the rapidly growing population and limits each Chinese couple to only having one child. Now, people are finally beginning

to realize the glitches in this system. It has resulted in many population issues, mainly the fact that thousands of babies, especially females, have been abandoned at birth and placed in orphanages around China.

Another main issue is the fact that many families do not want daughters. Their sons are raised and then expected to carry on the family and take care of their parents in old age, so they are more valued than baby girls. Many couples make a terrible decision: They simply abandon their daughters with the hopes that they can try again and be fortunate enough to give birth to boys.

The fact that so many young girls in China are neglected simply because of their gender will also present issues in the future for the male population as they search for wives so that they may start families of their own.

Spending time with the children in the orphanage in Beijing made me realize so many things. There truly is an issue in China regarding the neglect and abandonment of baby girls that needs to be corrected immediately.

People everywhere need to be made aware of this situation, because every child deserves to have a home, a family to love, and, most importantly, a chance to have a full life. ■

News from overseas

It’s foreign to teens

By Alicia Perez // Staff Writer

If you were to ask a number of teens in Boston today what they thought about the string of both violent and relatively peaceful revolutions popping up in the Middle East and northern Africa, an overwhelming number would simply shrug nonchalantly or mumble, “I don’t know.” Or, about the heart-wrenching genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, which, incidentally, isn’t even recent news; it’s been constant since 2003. Several teenagers would laugh and say it isn’t their problem, why should they care?

Some say this is a depressing fact. But, aside from the recent killing of Osama bin Laden, why don’t they care about foreign affairs? Andrea Puckerine-Braxton, a history teacher at the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science, says: “[Teens] don’t take the time to get involved, it’s not that they don’t understand. It’s the ‘Me Syndrome.’ ”

Doesn’t it harm individuals if they are not informed about the world around them? Jenissa Walker, 17, who goes to the O’Bryant, says she watches ABC for her news: “I wouldn’t say I am really informed, but if something important comes up, I try to pay attention.”

Similarly, Kiana Brown, 16, from the O’Bryant, says she watches the news twice a week, but not for politics or world affairs. “I watch news mostly for the weather and stuff but I guess I catch little snippets of the real news from time to time,” says Brown.

Shai Thomson, 17, attends the O’Bryant and states very bluntly that she only heeds the news if it’s a top story.



▲ AFH photo by Max Urena

When asked why, she responds with a shrug and: “I just don’t pay attention, I guess.”

Fortunately, other teens say their generation is not lost. There are many teens who genuinely care about world news, conflict in their native countries, and the goings-on of their political systems. They say that this offers hope for the future, knowing that there are youth concerned with the world around them. ■

Stressed by success

By Nathalie Myrthil // Contributing Writer

“Hey, can we hang out this weekend,” asked Jessica Marie Enrici, a senior at Urban Science Academy.

“No. I’m sorry, I can’t,” responded fellow USA senior Ateana Swaby. “I have a lot on my mind right now. Maybe another day.”

Teens have a lot of responsibilities and often this can lead to stress. According to lifespan.org, stress is defined as “The way our bodies and minds react to life changes.”

Adolescents go through lots of changes, including physical, emotional, social, and academic. Teens are pressured to try drugs, to do well in school, and, for some, to raise kids on their own.

Shaquille Heraldo, a 17-year-old-senior at USA, feels that teens are stressed-out because they have a lot to deal with. “I [had] to complete a bunch of college stuff just to

get into schools that I like, but might not get accepted to. Also, as a young man like me, we get stressed-out over girls.”

Jaminha Argueta, 17, listed some of the things that teens do on a daily basis. “Not only do some teenagers have to go to school for six hours every weekday, some also have go to work after,” said Argueta, who attends USA. “When they go home, it’s late and they are too tired to do homework. If they decide to complete their homework, then they ended up not getting enough sleep. This is really stressful, especially when they have to wake up like at five in the morning to get ready for school.”

Enrici believes that some teens do not know how to deal with stress, so they sometimes handle it in a negative way. “Some teens would take their anger out on others,” she said, “skip meals, cut themselves, and use drugs.” ■

Pressure drop

Decompress by:

- Listening to music.
- Exercising.
- Meditating.
- Doing yoga.
- Laughing.
- Talking to your peers.
- Seeing a therapist.

– Nathalie Myrthil

Sources: *The Knowledge Wealth Centre, goodtherapy.org, teens*

Words for the day

Subservience

By Givona J. Dietz // Contributing Writer

Narrator: It was a beautiful spring day. G and A met-up after school and walked to the park. A’s friends were there and he left her behind. On one end of the park, the guys were setting up teams for football. They were one man short. The only replacement was G, who was on the swings in la-la land.

A: Hey G! Come here. We need you. There’s no one else here.

Narrator: The guys on the field look at G with a blank stare.

C: Not this again. One person can just sit out. I’m not playing with no girl!

G: I don’t have a problem playing with boys, because I got game! What? Are you scared?

O: Don’t let her fool you. She can play. She tackled me before, and look how big I am.

Narrator: The game goes on, and no one passes G the ball. Finally, A tosses the ball to her. She takes off, but there is no one stopping her. The game just freezes as she scores a touchdown, but the guys won’t let it count on the scoreboard.

G: You see. You’re the only one who passes me the ball, and, when you do, everyone lets me go by them.

A: Just stay to make it even. Act invisible. When there is no one else to pass it to, you will get the ball. Eventually. Maybe.

Narrator: The game goes on. Each time G is open, she doesn’t get the ball. Each time she tackles someone, it doesn’t count. G becomes fed-up and threatens to go back to the swings.

G: You guys are just afraid that I’ll slaughter your egos.

A: Come on, please. Stick it out for the last quarter.

G: Fine! But don’t ever ask me to play again!

Narrator: G’s opponent was so busy double-teaming the quarterback that she was left wide open.

C: Aye, yo! G! Caaatch!

A: G! The ball!!!!

Narrator: G goes for the ball and gets it. The other team goes wild. The guys don’t know if they want to lose or get laughed at for tackling a girl. Touchdown! This time her teammates count it because they want to win. They no longer care about her being a girl. C swallows all of his words from before and congratulates G on her success.

C: Okay, princess. I see you got game!

Narrator: From then on, man short or not, G was now a member of every football game. They threw her the football; they tackled her. The guys treated her like one of them.

Editor’s note: This is a true story. The names have been removed to spare the guilty. ■

Dream on

By Parnian Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

Our dreams can make us happy and sad. We can see our family and friends getting hurt or dying and, teens say, sometimes they can be prophesy.

Tatiana Chalas, 15, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says she dreams about things or people that affected her mood.

“If someone sets me off,” Chalas says, “they might do the same thing in my dream.”

For Chalas, people drift in and out of her dreams— and reality.

“I know it sounds crazy,” says Chalas, “but I believe that there’s a lot of truth in dreams. There was this girl who was nice to me, but deep down she knows she doesn’t really like me.”

Chalas says that her dreams influence her by having her try to figure out what they are telling her about the present and future.

Tayyaba Manal Nizam, 18, says that sometimes she can control her dreams.

“I don’t look for meanings,” says Nizam, from BCLA, “but sometimes I get answers in my dreams.”

Ftaw Gebru, 15, says her fear of death turned up in a dream she had for two weeks.

“A guy pushes me and tries to kill, but it was a fantasy because it never happened to me in real life,” says Gebru, who goes to BCLA.

Nizam says that her dreams can change the way she feels.

“If I have a very good dream, I wake up with a huge smile on my face,” says Nizam. “And if I have a bad dream – for example, a lot of times I have seen the people really close to me get hurt in my dreams – after having those dreams, I wake up crying.” ■

Senioritis

By Nathalie Myrthil // Contributing Writer

Senioritis is a crippling disease that strikes twelfth-graders. Some seniors need to buckle down. If they want to graduate, they need to get rid of it. Here are the symptoms: you study less, skip classes, put off homework until the last minute, turn in late assignments, and have a dismissive attitude.

We interviewed Aisha Virgo, a senior at Urban Science Academy, about the ailment.

Q: Why do you think you are experiencing senioritis?

A: I procrastinate a lot when doing my work. I guess it’s because I know that this is my last year, and we have a lot of work to do, like the common application, financial aid, and AP classes.

Q: Are there ways that you can break out of it?

A: I know what to do to get rid of it. Make a schedule and do my work on time. But since this is my last year, I just feel lazy.

We also questioned Gabriel Gonzalez, from USA, about the topic.

Q: Why do you think you are experiencing senioritis?

A: I think that I am experiencing senioritis because I know that I can graduate with the grades I already have, so I give myself a little break.

Q: Are there ways that you can break out of it?

A: Make short term goals. I know that if I do what I have to do to graduate, then that’s all that matters to me.

The only real cure for senioritis: get a high school diploma. ■



▲ AFH art by Cindy Lou



▲ AFH art by Boysie Williams

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Hmmm. Choices, choices, choices. Dickies or Carhartt gear? The iPhone or DROID cell? Baggy or skinny jeans? Gabrielle Jean-Jacques asked students in her ninth-grade writing classes at Boston Community Leadership Academy to evaluate, and then write about, some of the many products in the marketplace. Here are samples of their comparison shopping.

Can you top this? Aéropostale vs. Hollister

By Akira Austin // Contributing Writer

When I go to the mall for some tops, the three big features I look for are brand, style, and size. I don't just like any regular, cheap shirt; it has to be original. I like to stand-out from the crowd. Style is important because the design has to match the clothes and colors I already have in my closet. And I need something that fits me just right.

The two major stores I go to are Hollister and Aéropostale. Both are for teens like me.

There are differences between the two. Aéropostale is more affordable than Hollister. I like their sweaters. They are really comfortable. I have a couple that really keep me warm.

I don't like that everybody wears Aéropostale – even people over 30. I hate that. I like to be unique.

As far as shirts, I prefer Hollister. Every time I wash them, they are still soft. Also, Hollister has really nice colors and distinct patterns. You can mix and match.

Hollister has sales: the prices drop big-time. For example, you can get a \$25 shirt for \$12. Other times, it can be expensive. I wanted shorts from there that cost \$35.95. My mom said they were too pricey.

On the down side, Hollister's sweaters are too itchy for me. And some of their guy clothes look like girl clothes. Last thing, the sizes run small.

Still, I'll take Hollister over Aéropostale any day. When I go buy something, I know someone won't have the same thing on as me. ■



▲ Photo courtesy of AFH



▲ AFH art by Li Huang

Just kickin' it

Nike vs. Jordan

By La`Neece Byrd // Staff Writer

When I go shopping for new sneakers, I look for size, color, and brand. Size matters because I want my feet to feel comfortable.

I like how sneakers can have different colors that I can match-up with my outfits.

Lastly, I only wear specific brands: Nike and Jordan. Both are comfortable and durable. They each have different colors and styles to choose from. And they're in about the same price range: \$80 to \$150.

Still, there are some things I don't like about both. They are easy to crease in front. And certain materials on the sneakers won't come clean, so they begin to look ugly.

Nike was founded in 1964. Nike also designed Air Jordans for Michael Jordan. They were first available in the mid '80s.

Even though they are similar, there are differences between the two. Nike is good for playing sports and has more space for your toes than Jordan. Jordan sizes run small, so you should get a half-size bigger.

Overall, Jordan has better styles than Nike. Jordan is just for show; Nike gives you more advantages to do what you want.

However, it shouldn't just be about style when buying sneakers. Think about how your feet feel. Think about what you do in everyday life. ■

Lip-smacking good

Blistex vs. Lip Smacker

By Jasmine Rosa // Contributing Writer



When I look for lip gloss, I seek out these features: size, flavor, and shine. With the small size, I can just take it out of my pocket when I need it, such as when I will be going to kiss my boyfriend.

The Lip Smacker gloss is attractive, and Blistex provides protection. Blistex might have a better chance of protecting your lips, but it doesn't give your look that extra spunk. Overall, the prices are similar: under \$3.

Lip Smacker and Blistex both have a variety of flavors, but to me the Lip Smackers taste much better than the Blistex ones. The Blistex flavors taste like melted wax.

Blistex is one of the most favored lip balms in

America. Many lips tend to dry, break, and crack during the cold season of winter. Blistex provides customers the cover their lips need. The Blistex that I like is the one that comes in a blue tube. It fits in my pocket, but it makes it uncomfortable to access since it isn't as petite as I would like.

Lip Smacker, on the other hand, is glossy, tiny, and tasty – like the vanilla. However, you need frequent applications to actually maintain the moisture.

Still, if I ever want to add an extra to my look without excessively putting on makeup, I use my Lip Smacker. It's just one swipe away from perfection. ■

Burger wars

By Jake Pelligrini // Contributing Writer



▲ AFH photo by Max Urena

Wendy's has really good fries and milkshakes. They also have a dollar menu, and it's a really good one, too.

Burger King is known for their tremendous hamburgers. They have a steakhouse burger, for example. They also have a rodeo burger that features onion rings and BBQ sauce.

Wendy's and Burger King are both fast-food restaurants. You shouldn't get used to eating there. Fast food can lead to unhealthy diets. And weight gain.

Wendy's and Burger King are close in taste. The only thing is that it's a lot harder to find a Wendy's than a Burger King.

So, if you are looking for a regular burger and a drink, go to BK. If you want a really big burger and a nice tasty milkshake to wash it down with, then you should locate the nearest Wendy's. ■



ASHLEY BARKER
What would you name your pet monkey? Bobo.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Cupid.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Ignore everything.
What food are you? Pixy Stix.



SHERLEY BELIZAIRE
What would you name your pet monkey? Babilone.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Easter Bunny.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Fight back.
What food are you? Chinese.



LA`NEECE BYRD
What would you name your pet monkey? Bob.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Fight back.
What food are you? All types of chicken.
Favorite reality star? Chrissy.



TUCKER S. GAYE
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Cupid.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Dance.
What food are you? Chinese.
Favorite reality star? Midget Mac.



BRIANNA GRAY
Pez or bobblehead? Bobblehead.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Walk away.
What food are you? Chocolate cheesecake.
Favorite reality star? Sammi Sweetheart.



ZIKRE HAIMANOT
What would you name your pet monkey? Oscar.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Santa.
What food are you? Pizza, because everybody loves me.
Favorite reality star? JWoww.



ROBERT HINES
What would you name your pet monkey? Boeboe.
Pez or bobblehead? Bobblehead.
What's your self-defense mechanism? I fight back.
Favorite reality star? Wilmarie.

MEET THE STAFF

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

Write for Teens in Print!

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

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

Send them as either MS Word attachments or email messages.

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

FORMAT your writing

- Double-spaced.
- Times New Roman, 12 point font.
- In the upper left corner, put your name, Contributing Writer, and a title or headline.

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

You will not get your work back. **KEEP A COPY** for yourself.

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

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Next issue: September 2011

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JOSE IBARRA
What would you name your pet monkey? Mickey.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Santa.
What food are you? Fried chicken and French fries.
Favorite reality star? Charlie Sheen.

SHANIQUE LEWIS
What would you name your pet monkey? Jo-Jo.
Pez or bobblehead? Pez.
What food are you? Broccoli.
Favorite reality star? Wilmarie.

ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ
What would you name your pet monkey? Mexico.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Mexico (my monkey).
What food are you? According to my sister, beans.
Favorite reality star? Kim Kardashian.

ARIANA MARTINEZ
What would you name your pet monkey? Chewbacca.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Cupid.
What food are you? Fried chicken.
Favorite reality star? Wendy Williams.

MILANES MOREJON
What would you name your pet monkey? Billy.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Easter Bunny.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Rationalization.
Favorite reality star? JWoww.

MAKIZ NASIRAHMAD
What would you name your pet monkey? THE MONKEY.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Santa, he looks funny.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Tae Kwon Do moves.
What food are you? Qabuli, a/k/a Afghan's favorite.

MARMARIN NASIRAHMAD
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Santa.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Fight back.
What food are you? French fries.
Favorite reality star? Ariana Martinez.

PARNIAN NASIRAHMAD
What would you name your pet monkey? Cutie pie.
What's your self-defense mechanism? I fight back.
What food are you? French fries.
Favorite car? Ferrari.

AUDREY NGANKAM
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Easter Bunny.
What's your self-defense mechanism? My hands.
What food are you? Chinese.
Favorite car? Cadillac.

SANDY NGUYEN
What would you name your pet monkey? Jorge.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Cupid.
What's your self-defense mechanism? Fight back.
What food are you? Pizza.

ALICIA PEREZ
What would you name your pet monkey? Momo.
Pez or bobblehead? Pez.
What's your self-defense mechanism? I walk away.
Favorite car? I ride bikes.

MELISSA RODRIGUEZ
What would you name your pet monkey? MoJoJoJo.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Santa.
What food are you? Ice cream.
Favorite reality star? Pauly D.

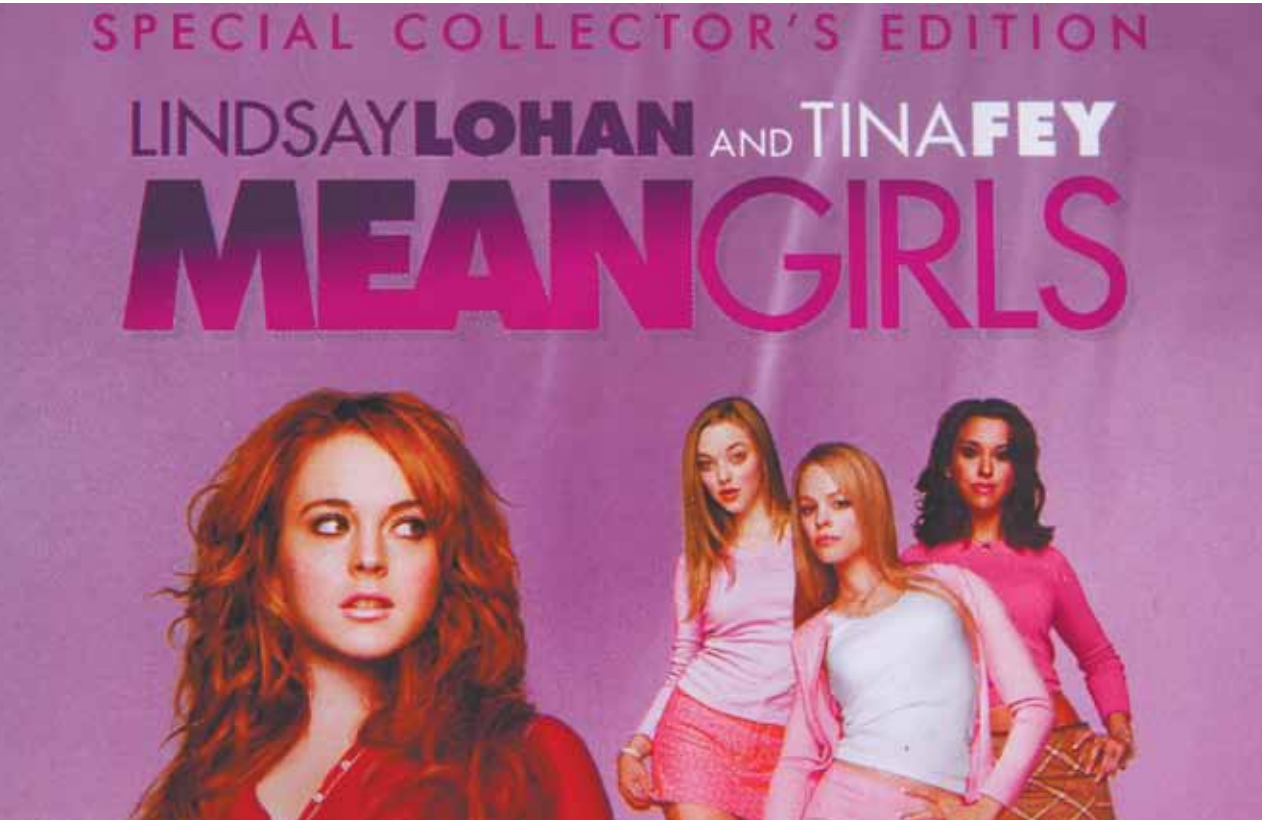
IEISHA SAMPSON
What would you name your pet monkey? Curious George.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Jesus!
What food are you? American Chop Suey.
Favorite reality star? Khloe Kardashian.

LINDA VANCOL
What would you name your pet monkey? Benvolio.
Favorite holiday symbol: Santa, Easter Bunny, or Cupid? Easter Bunny.
What's your self-defense mechanism? I fight back.
What food are you? French.

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“Mean Girls”: the sequel

By Brianna Gray // Staff Writer



▲ AFH photo by Bill Le

Seventeen-year-old Stacie Lebreault says she has been tormented by mean girls. They would call her names such as dyke and gay. She says it made her cry and not want to go to school because of feeling badly about herself.

Five years after the movie “Mean Girls,” many young females seem to still act as if they are part of the film. The movie shows how girls call each other terrible names and make fun of people who are different. It also shows how victims suffer from it.

“In middle school, they tricked me into getting super-glued to the desk,” says Lebreault, who attends the Parkway Academy of Technology and Health.

A lot of mean girls call others anti-gay slurs even if they are straight. Many girls are mean when it comes to being different, especially with race or culture. Adults say that a lot of people get teased and tormented just because of their background.

Nene Robertist, a junior at Media Communications Technology High School, says mean girls used to put down her heritage.

“They called me names like ‘You stinky Haitian.’ It really hurt my feelings and made me cry,” she says.

Many kids don’t even want to come to school or face the crowd of evil teens.

Robertist’s father’s advice: “My dad said not to worry about it because everyone is an immigrant.”

Teens say it is also a challenge for girls to stick up for themselves. Many of them hide their feelings until something bad happens. In January of 2010, a 15-year-old Massachusetts girl named Phoebe Prince committed suicide after bullying and intimidation.

Lebreault says: “I would say to stand up for yourself and say something about it.”

Robertist agrees. “Have courage,” she says. “Don’t worry about the haters because sometimes they stereotype and they don’t know you.” ■

An antidote to mean girls:

- Ignore them.
- Buy yourself an outfit that will make the girls fume.
- Kill them with kindness.

– Brianna Gray
Source: eHow.com

Revenge of the nerds

By Makiz Nasirahmad // Staff Editor

Ariel Baker, 14 who attends the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, could take being called a nerd as a compliment.

“It depends on the person,” she says. “Being a nerd could mean being the smart person who always raises their hand, or it could mean being cool and an individual in your own way.”

Whether being identified as a nerd is a good or bad thing, it definitely changes people’s opinions about themselves.

Gregoria Ruiz, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, doesn’t mind being known as a nerd.



▲ AFH photo by Jake Cross

“It’s kind of a good thing.” she says.

Meanwhile, Vanessa Zamy, 18, who attends Boston Latin Academy, finds it offensive being called a nerd just because she is dedicated to her work.

“According to the dictionary,” she says, “a nerd is socially inept, unattractive, and foolish.”

She adds: “My friends and I are beautiful people, internally and externally, and we are most definitely not foolish.”

Jeimy Fernandez, 18, is not a nerd but thinks those who are labeled like that can get hurt by it.

“They will strive more towards having other students thinking of them as cool,” says Fernandez, who attends Brighton High School, “and it probably will have a negative effect on their grades.” ■



Still a big thing

By Dalisa Miranda // Contributing Writer

“We do not remember days, we remember moments.”

– Cesare Pavese, “The Burning Brand”

Eubelin Ruiz has been looking forward to prom forever.

“It’s an event you wait for since high school starts,” said Ruiz, 17, who is a part of Urban Science Academy’s senior class. “It’s a milestone, an ending point, the last social event of the year with your friends.”

Promenade, or prom for short, is the event most seniors look forward to. It’s a celebration, a time to party and to be proud of all the hard work you have completed through your whole high school life. It’s supposed to be a time

for you to let all of your excitement out – from making it to graduation, to college acceptances, to the beginning of the real world.

But is it a tradition that is still as important as it used to be?

USA senior Gladys Cooper is one of many females who take prom seriously. She started the process months in advance.

“Picking out my dress was easy,” she said weeks ago. “I’m looking for a date, which I think is the hard part. It’s a couple months away, but I feel like I have to rush.”

Carlos Torres, 18, said it’s much easier for boys. “All we have to pay for is a line-up and our tuxes,” said Torres, who lives in West Roxbury. “Other than that, we’re pretty much excited to party and have fun to make up for all of our struggle.”

Meanwhile, many ladies early on had priced their dresses, imagined their accessories, made their hair appointments.

“There are two great times to be a girl,” said Valerie Innis, 17, of Hyde Park. “Your wedding and prom night.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Bill Le

Yes, but whom shall I bring?

By Alejandro Martinez // Staff Writer

Talking, dancing, and laughing the night away. Prom night is one the most memorable experiences you’ll have in your life. Anyone who has gone knows it takes a lot of planning, so to those who haven’t – be prepared. Prom can be hectic and even pricey, but at the end of it all, you’ll have a great time.

Taisha Jobson, 18, from Boston Latin School, says: “It’s great because it’s a party everyone is invited to.”

One issue that comes up is whom to bring. Should you take a date, meet up with a bunch of

friends, or go with just one?

“I like the traditional idea of bringing a date to prom,” says Jobson.

But what if you don’t have a date? Chris O’Chainnan, a senior at BLS, says: “Prom is something you should bring a date to, but it is less stressful to bring friends and you won’t feel tied-down to one person. With a date, I would go through the extra effort to make sure things went perfectly and would be paranoid all night.”

Helena Iftica, a recent high-school graduate from Brighton, says that a friend didn’t have a date for senior prom. “I wanted to go, so she

invited me and we still had a great time,” says Iftica. “You don’t need a date to do that.”

Some people bring their family to prom, but others find that odd.

Patrick Elvin, 18, of BLS, says: “That’s really weird, like bringing your mother? But I guess it’s cool, as long as you aren’t grinding.”

So in the end, it’s all about making sure it’s someone you can have a blast with.

“Prom is like a masquerade,” says Elvin. “Put on a face and enjoy yourself – drama free.” ■

Caught in the urban/suburban divide

By Tucker S. Gaye // Staff Writer

Among teens, urban and suburban interaction can be as rare as finding a twenty-dollar bill on the street. Well, quite like the exciting, but hesitant feeling that the body absorbs, nervous, is the gutsy feeling urban and suburban students get when they interrelate. Here are three youth from different schools talking about how their experiences stack up.

Nenser Krua, 15, of Boston Latin School, considers her school urban: “It’s big, it’s old, near colleges, easy bus commute, it’s diverse – way more than suburban schools, I know that. I like the credits I get, there’s a high chance you’ll get into college and succeed.”

Diamond Sahn, a 16-year-old at Rockland High School, describes the school where she lives as suburban: “White...quiet...nothing really goes on other than people don’t respect other people’s differences. Like you dye your hair blonde and all the brunettes hate you.”

Grace Koah, 18, of Brockton High School, sees her school as being on the borderline of urban and suburban: “It’s very diverse. We have a great faculty team, a lot of opportunities. They give you anything you need to succeed, just so that you won’t have an excuse.”

What’s the difference between urban and suburban public schools?

Sahn: “Suburbs are much safer, urban schools are much bigger.”

Krua: “They [suburban schools] have the funding and they get more of an opportunity.”

Koah: “Suburban schools have all the resources.”

What do you like the least?

Krua: “The school lunches.”

Sahn: “I hate how it’s so divided, not even based on color, but on [social] class.”



Koah: “It’s too crowded and some of their rules are not necessary.”

And what do you like the most?

Koah: “We’re good at sports, and, academically, the support is good. Their No Child Left Behind [policy]...they’re very strong about that.”

Sahn: “The school lunches...that’s about it.”

Krua: “Only ‘cause suburban school lunch-

es are the bomb.”

Would you like to interact with urban students?

Sahn: “It depends on their gender.”

What if all urban and suburban students became more interactive?

Koah: “We’ll have a common ground to stand on, because anywhere you go, if you want to learn, you will learn!” ■

Animal house? Pet on it!

By La`Neece Byrd // Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Leesha Lorquet, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says she has two pet dogs. One is named is Latte. She is part Chihuahua, part Jack Russell. She has had Latte for seven years. Her other dog Nawla is a Chow mix. She’s had Nawla for 14 years.

“I love both of my dogs equally, they are so cute,” says Lorquet.

The media always talk about adults and their animals, but a lot of teens have pets and love them. They treat their pets as human beings. To teenagers, pets are so adorable. Also, they are entertainment. Many teens hate cats; they are devoted to their dogs.

Fifteen-year-old Mike Rivera, from BCLA, says he has a pet dog named Polo. Polo is a Maltese and Rivera has had him for one year.

He says he considers Polo as family.

“Polo bit one time and I got mad, but I still love him, he’s a good dog,” says Rivera.

Teens tend to get attached to their pets. Pets want affection and care like humans and that’s what teenagers do. They give their pets their attention and spoil them to where the pet does not want them to leave, just like babies don’t want their mothers to go.

Fifteen-year-old Amarielis Morales, from BCLA, says she has a pet Chihuahua named Nike (like the shoe company). Morales has had Nike for one year and loves him so much.

“Right now, Nike scratches and bites but he’s just crazy like that,” says Morales.

Nike is considered part of Morales’ household.

“I spoil him,” says Morales. “He’s aggy at times, but I still love him.” ■



▲ Photo by AFH ▲ Photo by AFH
Doggone right: Teens love their hounds.

Generation Y: Why are we so cocky?

By Brianna Gray // Staff Writer



▲ AFH photo by Boysie Williams

Denna Pham, a junior at Media Communications Technology High School, says that her generation is a disgrace.

“I think we are the worst generation out of all generations,” says Pham. “I understand this is the age that we have to experience all things, but I can’t wait until we are adults.”

Maybe it’s the racier clothes, the constant new technology, or the way they act as if they were stars of their own reality shows. But people say that Generation Y could be the cockiest yet. People say that a lot of the kids today have few manners and no respect. Many teens seem to think they know more than their parents.

“They make mistakes, which

could be prevented if they listened to an older generation,” says Demetra Stavrianidis, a writing teacher at Media High.

Many of today’s teens don’t hesitate to use drugs. Smoking weed for this generation is considered normal now. Even middle school kids are

In a small survey of teens, almost all said that media can be a big influence on their behaviors.

smoking at a young age to prove that they are cool enough.

“This generation is more like the ’70s because people were using more drugs back then,” says Guarionex Villafane, 17, who attends Media High.

In a small survey of teens,

almost all said that media can be a big influence on their behaviors. TV shows such as “Jersey Shore” and “Bad Girls Club” show excessive fighting and bad language. Teens pick up on the chaos and spread it around.

“I think the people you hang out with influence you, and it’s either you allow it or not because teens don’t listen to their parents,” says Pham.

Violence does not only impact teens from TV, it also can start at home. Many teens have to live in an aggressive environment, whether at home or on the street.

“I think this generation is... worse than other generations,” says Cheyenne Chase, 16, who attends Media High, “because we are more violent and some teens are raised to be violent.” ■

Karma: biting back

By Shanique Lewis // Staff Writer

Karma, karma, oh karma! People live their lives every day not knowing what to think. Karma is like a fake person, because it is disguised not only to get you, but to put you down as much as possible.

“What you do to someone comes back to you twice as hard,” said Lucy Daveiga, 15, from Boston Community Leadership Academy. “Karma is a saying that is true because when you make fun of someone, there is a consequence for that. After you finish messing with that person, you never know what might happen next. Karma could hit you later or tomorrow. You would never know, because it occurs when you’re least expecting it.”

Some people don’t believe in karma – like Odelyne Lamour, 15, from BCLA. And then a hard brick hit her in the face.

“I really don’t give a care for karma because

I don’t believe in anything,” she said. “But then one day, me and my friend were talking about the way this girl was running and she kept falling. I was laughing, and when it was my turn to run, I fell.”

She added: “But I still don’t believe in karma.”

Karma is a saying that what comes around, comes right back around, and bites you in the rear-end. Some teens don’t know what to believe because it only happens to certain people. Let’s just put it like this: Don’t do something that you know you’re going to regret. Even if you don’t care about karma, teens say, it is still good to learn about it.

“Karma can be good or bad, so it’s best if you live your life and not judge others – even though others will be talking about you sometimes,” said Bryanha Jones, 15, from Dorchester. “Karma is just a superstition.” ■



▲ AFH art by Sarah Martin

Grrrr. When parents hate your boo

By Marmarin Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Carolina Forty, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says her mom was angry that her daughter was going out with someone she didn't approve of.

"She wanted a church boy, but I was dating someone way different," says Forty. "Then she got mad because I wouldn't break up with him."

When it comes to teens and parents, differences over dating can be a major topic. What happens when your parents don't like your other half?

"I thought, 'I know she's doing it for my own good,' " says Forty. "But, you know, parents start making decisions for us when we're babies, and there are some things that they can't pick for us."

Forty broke up with her boyfriend -- but it wasn't until later.

"The person that I'm dating right now she likes," says Forty, "so I don't think the same thing is going to happen with me and my mom."

Many teens believe they are the ones who should choose their partners.

"I would follow my happiness," says



▲ AFH photo by Lena Yee

Genesis Diaz, 14, from BCLA. "I won't let anybody take my happiness away because my parents are not the ones living my life. They were teenagers once, so they should understand me."

Some parents believe their kids are old enough to find their own ways.

"They trusted me and my decision

was okay with them," says 16-year-old Victor Lugo Romero, from BCLA. "It's my life and my parents are not going to be there for me forever, so they just...let me make my own choice."

Fifteen-year-old Jahira Acosta says it wasn't easy to talk with her parents about her boyfriend.

"I told them what he does to make me happy and how he gets good grades and he's very respectful," says Acosta, who attends BCLA. "They were against it until they met him."

Acosta says she is glad she opened up to her family. "I felt good about myself," she says, "because I didn't have to hide it any more that I had a boyfriend."

Sixteen-year-old Zoraida Ibarra, from BCLA, strongly believes that your family should raise you right and then set you free.

"I don't think parents should make the decision of whether you should date or not," she says. "I think parents should prepare their children and educate them....We are the ones that are going through with the relationship; we are the ones that will laugh in joyful times and cry in break-ups. We should take into consideration parents, personal experiences, and gathered knowledge to know how to pick the right person to be with." ■

If you thought teens were fake, wait 'til you see their parents

By Ariana Martinez // Staff Writer

Have your parents ever told you they would buy you those Jordans if you finally cleaned your room? Then the day comes and they never come through. Adults these days can be so phony, teens say.

"Parents will lie and say they will take you out to see your cousin and then they won't end up taking you, but nothing will happen to them when they lie," says Monica Andrade, a freshman at Fenway High School. "They're so fake."

Chahana Patel, a freshman at Boston Community Leadership Academy, agrees: "If an adult gave someone else a look, nothing will really happen, but if a teen gave someone a look they would probably start drama and maybe even fight."

When people think about others being bogus, teenagers usually come to mind because they can be immature and they don't know how to control themselves. Or it could just be that teenagers always have something to argue and fuss about. It might be about guys, he said/she said,

dirty looks, lying, cheating, or even stealing.

In fact, adults do the exact same things. For Andrade, it's all about age and maturity. "They just get away with things better than teens do because they are older, that's all," she says. "And they just handle situations better than teens."

Whether it's teens or adults, being two-faced is an act done every day by people all around. The real question is: Why do they operate this way?

Andrade thinks it's about fitting in.

"Kids only do things to look bigger and impress," she says.

The way adults act fake isn't any different from the way that teens act -- it could be even worse.

Genaro Justiniano, a 16-year-old resident of Roslindale, says that adults are so boring. "They have nothing else to talk about in their lives," says Justiniano, "so they talk about other people."

In the end, parents have been through it all, and are pros at being fake. ■

Relationship overload

By Ashley Barker // Staff Editor

On television, there are so many teen drama shows. Most of them involve too much partying, less time in school, alcohol, and a tumultuous relationship that goes on and off with each couple. At some point, there is the person who is often too reliant on his or her relationship, and when that relationship ends, there are serious repercussions.

If anything, the shows do reflect at least one thing: how too-dependent many teens are in their real-life relationships. At some point, one of the teens gets deeply involved in the relationship and stops concentrating on himself or herself and friends.

Regina Jenkins, a junior at Brighton High School, believes teens can be too devoted. "They think they're in love, and acting like they're in love, when, in reality, it's not."

In some conditions, that is the case. Many teens claim that they are in love after even a few simple weeks of being in a relationship. They say that they are committed to their love, and that they love the person they are with.

Carina Lopez, 17, of Roxbury, believes that many teens are too undeveloped to fully be committed. "Most [teens] are not mature enough to handle a serious relationship, and few know how to make it last," she says.

This could be a main reason why teens are in so many up-and-down relationships. Sometimes it could be because they don't know the person they are with as well as they believe, and sometimes they just might not understand what they want.

"They don't know what to think. They don't have the trust, so it's just on and off," Jenkins says.

In some cases, teens don't trust their partners. Other times, the distrust is with themselves.

If the relationship does fall apart, what happens? Do they return to being single, or jump right into another relationship?

Jose Belliard, 19, of Boston Community Leadership Academy, thinks teens should try to keep their minds on other things. "They should focus on studying and they should live new experiences," he says, "because it's what a young person



▲ AFH art by Corina Li

means for me."

However, at the end of the day, it's up to teens to choose to be in a relationship

or not. "If they feel prepared to have one, then let them," says Belliard. "If not, they should wait." ■

And you call this love?

By Robert Hines // Staff Writer

Teens today are very picky when it comes to choosing a girlfriend or boyfriend. They would say this person has to look like this, have this type of hair, dress this way, and possess these types of shoes.

But some teens wonder: Can we forget about all of that and peer deeper into the person's personality?

"Sometimes I date a guy that I know really well by their looks, and people I don't know by their personalities," says Edna Pires, 15, from Boston Community

Leadership Academy.

Tania Duncan, 15, says she rules out certain guys.

"If a boy has a nice personality and is ugly, I won't date him," says Duncan, who attends BCLA.

Nowadays, teens want their partners to be hot; they want to go places and be seen.

"Yes I would show off my boyfriend," says Maeleena Campbell, 14, from Snowden International, "because he's cute and cool and I love him." ■



Career track

Caution: change up ahead

By Jose Ibarra // Staff Writer

Teens change their minds all the time. They like this, they like that, they want this, they want that. Teens say it is very important for them to switch their goals; it helps them grow and develop new views of the world. When it comes to teens’ futures, it seems, change is constant.

Boston Community Leadership Academy tenth-grader Julio Garcia recently changed his career-goal from being a fitness master to becoming a lawyer. It is to honor the wishes of his father.

He says: “My dad always told me, ‘I brought you to this country because I wanted you to be bigger and be someone important in life, I want you to make a difference in people’s life and help poor people along with protecting the innocent.’”

Albert M. Jackson, 16, from the Parkway Academy of Technology and Health, always wanted to be a veterinarian. Now, though, he hopes to become a musician.

“When I was nine,” he says, “I fell in love with rock music.”

To reach his goal, he has been taking guitar and piano lessons along with vocal classes.

Francys Perez, a sophomore from BCLA, recently switched future plans from being a teacher to becoming a fashion designer or a professional dancer. Here’s why: to prove a point.

“When I was little,” she says, “I was always the shy girl who dressed bad.”

Perez likes to take after-school activities that involve designing and is also attending an art program near her home.

Jocelyn Aguirre, who attended BCLA last year, wants to become a cardiologist. She didn’t always wish to become one, but a lot of cruel conflicts in her life made her change her mind.

She wanted to be a cardiologist since she was 13, she says, because a relative was very ill. She couldn’t handle her pain and decided to become a doctor. Her goal now is to become the best cardiologist in the world, and try to save this relative’s suffering life. ■

Already, FIFA fever

By Parnian Nasirahmad // Staff Writer

The International Federation of Association Football World Cup is three years away, yet teens are already planning for the event.

Francisco Castillo, 15, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, watches FIFA with his sister, mom, and little brother. When he watches FIFA, he usually wears PJs – the most comfortable cloth in the world.

He also does this: “I bet with my mom about what team might win or bet what team will make the first goal,” says Castillo.

Meanwhile, Marege Kidane, a junior at BCLA, is getting ready to cheer-on Wayne Rooney from England.

Teens are excited to find out which teams qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil – and dress accordingly.

Last year, fifteen-year-old Juan Lopera from East Boston prayed for Spain to win because his native Colombia did not make the cut. In 2014, he hopes to root for Colombia and wear his country’s jersey.

“A jersey,” says Lopera, “is like you are part of a team.” ■



▲ AFH photo by Carolyn Rochalski

Who are you? Take this simple test and find out...

By Laquasha Ervin-Roberson // Contributing Writer

Think you are the only person who really knows you? There is a team of people who created a quiz that can help you identify your personality. Their names are Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter, Isabel Briggs Myers. Using psychologist and inspirational thinker Carl Jung’s theories on personality types, they put together an assessment to express how a person perceives the world and makes decisions.

The name of this test is the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Seniors at the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers have taken this quiz as part of a psychology class to help them learn more about their personalities and how they relate to future successes or failures.

Eighteen-year-old Ambar McField’s personality code is ISFJ – Introverted Sensing Feeling Judging. McField wants to be a nutritionist and the MBTI suggests career options like teacher, librarian, and, yes, dietitian.

She feels the assessment is 100

percent accurate. “Helped me realize I am too giving at times, but I am very loyal,” McField said.

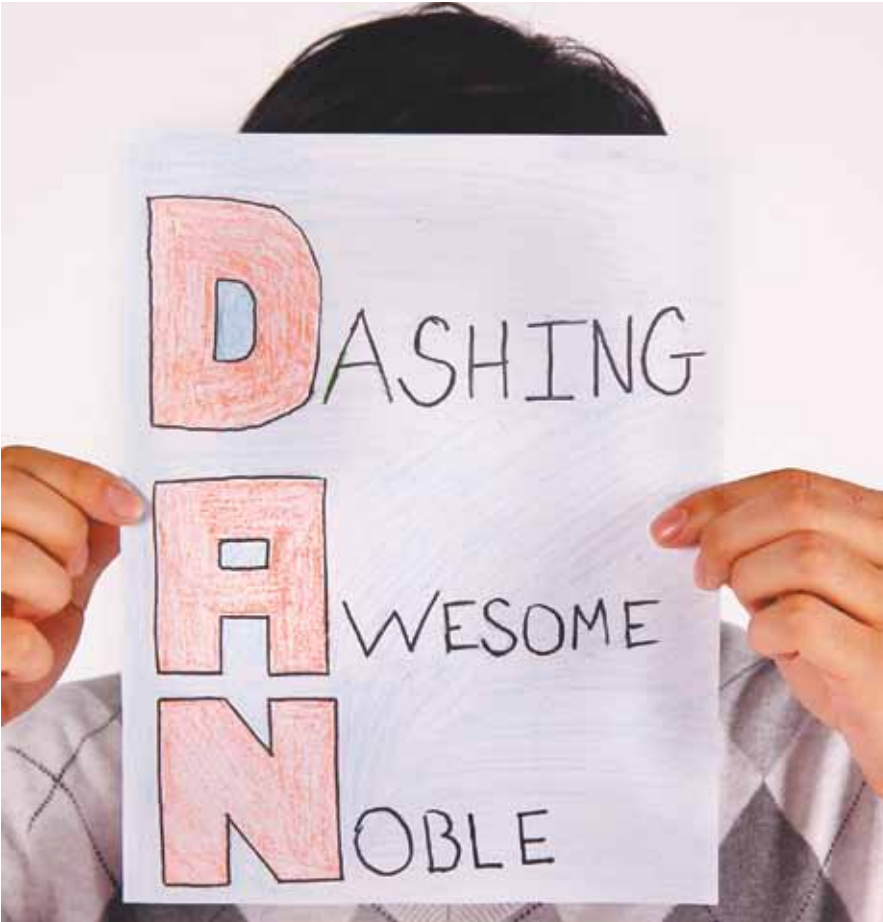
Jonasha Samedy received an INFP – Introverted iNtuitive Feeling Perceiving. She believes that the quiz is somewhat on target, saying: “I could learn from it. It’s better than the horoscope!”

Many say the MBTI helped them realize their strengths and weaknesses, while others say it’s too general and not very informative.

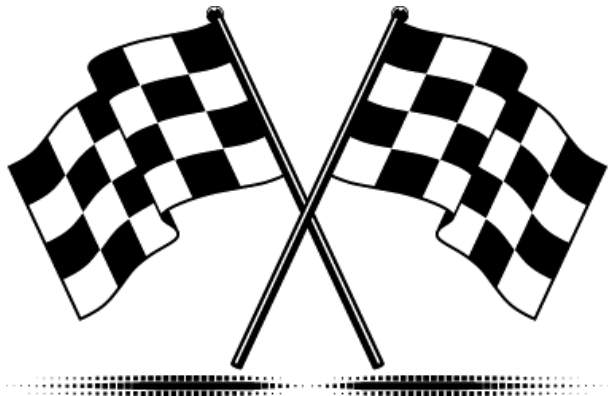
Jennifer Canela is an ENTP – Extraverted iNtuitive Thinking Perceiving. She thought the suggestions were positive – such as trying harder to consider the feelings of others.

“I felt they were trying to prepare me for the real world,” she said.

Some use the MBTI consistently, to help them in their career choices or even in college to match roommates. Still, believing in whether the test is accurate or not is up to what kind of person you think you are. ■



▲ AFH photo by Bill Le



Vroom, vroom

By Christopher Legrand // Contributing Writer

Cars have evolved dramatically over the years. In today’s world, cars aren’t just cars – they are very unique, powerful machines. People have many different tastes when it comes to cars.

I personally prefer a sport car, which is why my dream car is a 2006 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution. When you first look at the car, it doesn’t appear to be a racing machine. It actually looks like a normal car, but don’t underestimate it. The Evolution comes with a 2.0 turbo-charged engine, which has 286 horsepower. The Evo is a rally car and its all-wheel drive gives the car better handling. This car is a rocket, and can compete with other sport

cars that cost much more.

Nelson Santiago, who is a senior at Urban Science Academy, prefers the Ferrari. Ferraris are very exotic cars and they are extremely fast. “Ferraris are very luxurious,” said Santiago.

Michael Gero, a math teacher at USA, likes the Audi TT.

“The Audi TT is responsive, it’s gorgeous, and it’s very sleek,” he said.

The 2011 Audi TT comes with a 2.0-liter turbo-charged DOHC engine with 211 horsepower. It can go from 0 to 60 in 5.3 seconds. It isn’t the fastest out there but it can definitely give you a rush that most cars can’t. ■

Car crushes

TiP staffers weigh-in on their favorite wheels:

Sherley Belizaire:	Toyota.	Ariana Martinez:	Dodge Charger.
La`Neece Byrd:	Cadillac.	Milanes Morejon:	Dad’s 2001 CR-V.
Tucker S. Gaye:	Ferrari.	Makiz Nasirahmad:	Ferrari.
Brianna Gray:	Mercedes Benz.	Marmarin Nasirahmad:	Ferrari.
Zikre Haimanot:	Honda Civic.	Sandy Nguyen:	Lamborghini.
Robert Hines:	Lamborghini.	Melissa Rodriguez:	Mercedes.
Jose Ibarra:	Convertible.	Ieisha Sampson:	Sport cars (preferably red).
Shanique Lewis:	Bugatti Veyron.		
Alejandro Martinez:	Dodge Charger.	Linda Vancol:	Ferrari.

Rap: music or mayhem?

By Osahh Aim // Contributing Writer

To the lovers of urban hip-hop, more specifically, rap, it's more than just music. It's a means of expression, it's an art, it's a way of life, and it's a tradition. So when famous rappers like Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson or Lil Wayne use explicit lyrics and talk about possessing guns and degrading women, do the fans take such statements to heart? Or do they see it as mere lyrical content?

A 2006 study by the Prevention Research Center of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Berkeley, California, found that young people who listen to rap music are more likely to be involved with drugs, alcohol, and violence than youth who listen to other music types. Meanwhile, it was revealed that a whopping 77 percent of rap-music hits contain references to alcohol or drugs, according to

a survey from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Many rap artists realize they are public figures and role models and actually try to tell their fans not to do what they hear in their songs. "See, what these kids do is hear about us totin' pistols, and they want to get one cuz they think the [stuff's] cool," rhymes Eminem in his hit, "Sing for the Moment." He goes on: "Not knowing we're really just protectin' ourselves."

"I think rap has a negative influence, because most rappers talk about flashing weapons and selling narcotics," says Alex Slaughter, a senior at Urban Science Academy. "I like that stuff, but it's still negative."

Diamond Smith, a USA sophomore, believes too many of those in the rap game have been corrupted by greed.

"There were those that came in with a positive attitude, but let the money and fame take over the way that they think, so I don't think rap has a positive effect," says Smith.

For William Baga, a math teacher at USA, rap has value in the conceptual arena.

"I listen to the older rap music, the ones from the early nineties, and I think it's a form of art mixed with storytelling, so listeners shouldn't take what they hear in those songs literally," he says. "I don't think rap is good or bad. There are a lot of areas in between, and if you don't take the lyrics literally, you can appreciate it more as an art form." ■



▲ AFH photo by Boysie Williams

BOOK'EM, DANNO

War is forever

“The Forever War”

By Dan Carpino // Contributing Writer

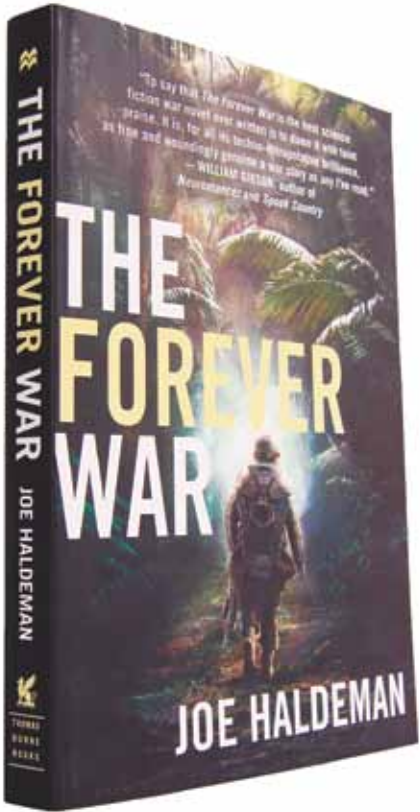
In war, there is no room for second guesses, wrong decisions, or lapses in judgment, because all mistakes are paid in blood. "The Forever War" (1974), by Joe Haldeman, is a science-fiction spin on the battles of Vietnam.

Joe William Haldeman was born in 1943, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After receiving a bachelor's degree in astronomy and physics, he was drafted into the Vietnam War.

In his book, a war has been started in a distant galaxy, and Earth's leaders have called upon the best and the brightest minds to fight in it. One of these sol-

diers is a physics student named William Mandella, who was drafted to fight an alien enemy called Tauran. Mandella will face many challenges as he rises up the ranks. He is willing to do whatever it takes to return home. However, what he might have called home has changed so much, because he has been gone for so long thanks to the dilation of time.

Mandella talks about his recruitment and how he felt like he was forced into a war that Earth was not going to win. As the story progresses, he explains how he established a bond with his unit as some were killed during training or during their many travels to different worlds. He develops a love interest in a female soldier serv-



▲ AFH photo by Carolyn Rochalski

ing with him. After his service to Earth is completed, he goes back home to find that much is not the same. The people he was fighting for are gone.

I have to admit, I was skeptical when I picked up this book, considering that I am not very interested in science-fiction fantasy. But when I started reading, I was immediately sucked into the story. The writer was incorporating his own experiences on the war, but explained them in a different atmosphere. He highlighted the alienation, governmental corruption, and questions that were never answered during and after his wartime experience. I recommend this book to anyone who wants something out of the ordinary. ■

the wall

“Depression”

Jose Ibarra

When you don't recognize the place you once called home
When Loneliness is all you've got
When culture is nothing but a myth
When you want to speak but words won't come out
When Love is a missing corpse
When hate is your only religion

As I wake up from a beautiful nightmare
I find myself lying down in bed, thoughtful
Suddenly, I realize, I'm not alone for Loneliness is with me.

A breathtaking woman she is, Loneliness
With a kiss on her cold, pale skin, I make my way out
I leave -- off to the streets
Wearing nothing but a frown on my face
I walk in the gray, lonely, poor and forgotten streets

“Black eyes” they call me for I do not wear any pupils
This makes my eyes look completely black-stained
But this is not why I am different.
The lunch bell rings but I'm already full of resentment appetizers

I cross the street feeling tired, sick, as if missing something terribly
But I can't seem to remember what it is
Am almost near my refuge
When all of a sudden I see Loneliness
She is putting-up scarecrows to frighten-off the birds of Hope

As soon as she saw me, she came to me
“There, there child, let your tears go,” she said
So I did, I cried until tears were exhausted,
And all there was left to it was a dry, crooked eye
Loneliness then came back with a glass of water and a knife pill
After I asked what it was for, she said it is a pain-reliever

After swallowing the pill I fell into a trance, so I lay in bed
My head started hurting, my veins, my veins started swelling
To the point at which holes started breaking through
Spreading currents of blood like waterfalls
It burned, but she was right; the pain from this nostalgic headache was
Beginning to calm down

With a blink of an eye I could see it
I could see it now, a world in which Death ruled
A world in which he and I were meant to be
Ugly creatures to the eyes of spectators
Lovers to my heart
Now I hold a baby, Sin is his name.

Now look at the mirror even if you swore to God not to
For there the answer you will find.



▲ TIP art by Makiz Nasirahmad

“Broken skin”

Parnian Nasirahmad

My life was filled with tears and bruises' blood,
But I realized I had to be strong.
Future happiness climbs out from the mud
Everybody knows that slavery is wrong.
I recall in those most sorrowful days,
Where I nearly lost the purpose of life.
Days, months, years passed, but my condition stays
With discrimination as a sharp knife,
But they have called us “blacks” for their hearts
Must be harder than stones, unlike a man's.
Soul sank from my body, omitting parts
Broken free from fiends, without any bends.
View me as a person, that's what I crave,
With different skin color, but not a slave.

“Caged in”

La`Neece Byrd

Once trapped in a small box all alone
Help me out, break me free
By any chance, can you hear me?
The walls are starting to close in on me

Help me out, break me free
Tears of joy, anger, and sadness
The walls are starting to close in on me
In my head, I think you can care less

Tears of joy, anger, and sadness
My heart goes boom boom
In my head, I think you can care less
Now I'm outta here
My heart goes boom boom
By any chance can you hear me?
Now I'm outta here
Once trapped in a small box all alone

“My happiness”

Brianna Gray

Ever since you were gone
My soul became free
While posing and smiling in the mirror
Finding a different side of me

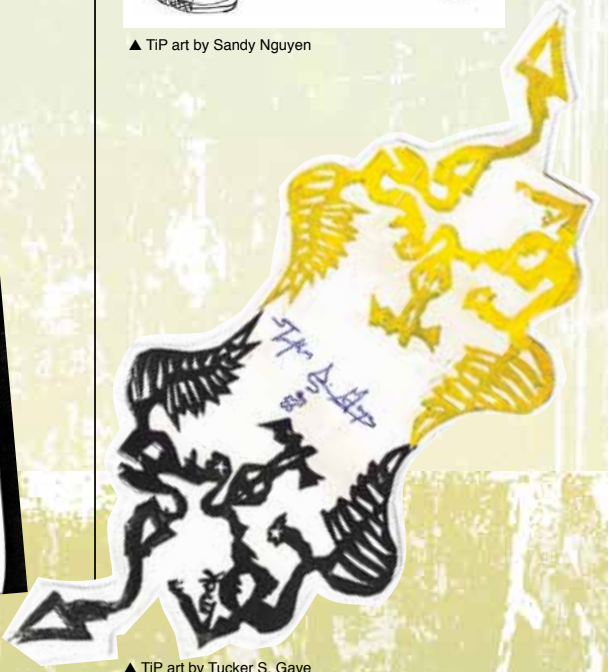
I have just realized that I am good enough
As I express a good feeling inside
Dancing around the halls
Knowing that I am a grand prize

It's like I've never been happier
As I see you in the room with another girl
Not caring who you are with
While my self-confidence shines like a beautiful pearl

So I pick myself up
As the jealousy disappears
Accomplishing my goals
While the ugliness and the low self-esteem clears



▲ TIP art by Sandy Nguyen



▲ TIP art by Tucker S. Gaye

Congratulations on the 7th anniversary of Teens In Print.

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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