

Hidden Truths

Why some wear the hijab—and some don't

By Adamajan Bah // Staff Writer

For a week-and-a-half, I did something I've never done before. I wore my hijab to school and kept it on everywhere I went.

Whoa!

I know that I was supposed to start wearing the head scarf a very long time ago as a sign of modesty and my devotion to Islam. However, I hadn't felt ready to commit.

Then, one morning a few months ago, I woke up and just decided that I was going to put it on.

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Hidden Truths

Why some wear the hijab – and some don't

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Two days before, a Muslim teacher at my Arabic school had talked about the afterlife and how if you didn't follow the rules of Islam you would be punished in hellfire. I was scared. My initial thoughts were that I was going to wear it for the rest of my life. I was a little skeptical about it, though. So I figured that I would wear it for a week and see how it went. I got dressed the way I usually did for school – jeans and a long-sleeved shirt – but this time I added a little spice to my wardrobe: a hijab. I went to the mirror to see how I looked. Fear struck as I thought about what people at school would say. However, I just sucked it up and said “Bismillah” – in the name of Allah, the most merciful, the most beneficent – and then walked out the door.

As I got to school and pulled my jacket hood off, I felt as if I was the center of everyone's conversation. I actually heard someone blurt out: “What the heck is on Adama's head?” As the day progressed, it seemed like there was a big sign on my forehead saying: “PLEASE STARE AT ME.”

I went to the mirror to see how I looked. Fear struck as I thought about what people at school would say.

While my first day wearing the hijab was unsettling, after that it was a horror film. The questions coming at me ranged from: “Do you wear it when you sleep?” to “Do you take a shower with it on?” to “Are you sad that they killed your father?” – a reference to Osama bin Laden. One friend went so far as to call me a terrorist.

I was terrified.

So, I eventually decided to take it off. I felt bad, realizing that I wasn't ready to go all in.

Now, I can only imagine what I'd have heard if I'd been wearing my hijab after April's Boston Marathon bombings, which were allegedly perpetrated by Islamic extremists. In the aftermath, I heard people say cruel and hurtful things about Muslims, like: “Muslims don't like other people being happy because Muslim countries are not as good as America.”

Hopefully, by the time I go to college, I will be more prepared to wear the hijab full time. I will be more mature, more at peace with myself, and less concerned about being ridiculed for wanting to display my faith. ■



AFH art by Peggy Lei

Hijab: Why I wear it

By Hibo Abdullahi // Staff Writer

I wear my head scarf because I was told to by my religion. I believe in my religion so I believe in my head scarf, my hijab.

My religion says the head scarf keeps a woman modest and doesn't reveal her hair. So when people like a Muslim woman, they don't like her for her beauty; they like her for her personality.

I do believe this, and this does happen. I have a lot of friends who like me for me. They don't care if I'm not wearing what they are wearing. They like me for who I am and how I act.

In a way, the head scarf protects me from ignorant people and helps them not get close to me. I've met a few people in my life who have treated me differently because of what I wear and what I believe. They'd say, “Oh, if I was you, I would just take it off. It's ugly.” But I really didn't care because I wasn't close with them. I realize not everyone is understanding.

Many people think I would hate wearing my hijab – but they're wrong. I am actually grateful to be born into a family that wears the head scarf. I've worn it ever since I was a child. It is not something just anyone would understand. You have to be able to know the reasons behind it.

Since the Boston Marathon bombings in April, nothing has happened to me. Just because some terrorists claim to be Muslims doesn't mean that our religion allows things like that to be done. ■

Hijab: Why I don't wear it

By Mariam Bah // Staff Writer

I'm a believer. I practice Islam every day. I pray. I speak of Allah. I read the Quran. However, I don't wear the hijab, which symbolizes modesty.

As a believer, it is inadmissible to do something that has to do with God just because people are forcing you. Wearing the hijab is a request from God himself – not from your parents or anyone else. I believe that it is much more important to do it for you and for your God because, at the end of the day, when we die, everyone is going to lie alone in different tombs.

I never grew up wearing the hijab. Up until I turned 12, my parents never said anything about it. Why should I suddenly start wearing it? It's almost like going outside without clothing – you are not comfortable doing it.

Several years from now, when I'm married let's say, I'll probably change my mind because I will feel mentally ready to choose to wear it. I won't have my mom and dad wanting me to put it on – only myself and my God. ■



AFH art by Peggy Lei

No nukes

By Asha Hirsi // Contributing Writer

Vice President Joe Biden recently told Iran that President Barack Obama is not bluffing when he says that America will take military action if Iran does not stop creating nuclear weapons.

I believe that it is very hypocritical for a country that probably has more nuclear weapons than any other place in the world to tell another not to have nukes.

The same kind of message has been delivered to North Korea, too.

The United States is a country that has enough nuclear weapons to take out an entire planet. Why would a country want to hold such a powerful weapon that would destroy it as well as its enemies?

It is said that the only reason to have such a potent weapon is to instill fear in your rivals.

Well, both Iran and North Korea have indicated many times that they are not afraid. ■



AFH art by Darrell Santos

Shelter from the storm

A flood of goodness in the wake of Hurricane Sandy

By Joy A. Karnuah // Contributing Writer

Hurricane Sandy hit hard in October, destroying homes and leaving people without power for weeks.

New York's Staten Island drew a very bad hand during Sandy. The storm led to massive flooding and extensive damage there. Sandy didn't just wipe out homes – it took lives, as well. Days after Sandy struck, for example, police found the bodies of two Staten Island boys, ages 2 and 4, who were snatched from their mother when waves of water crashed into them, according to news reports.

But amid all the destruction, Islanders assisted their fellow New Yorkers. Those not affected as much rushed to help others evacuate their homes. Some took in victims. Endless food supplies were donated to shelters.

Although Sandy claimed the lives of more



AFH art by Cierra Morson

than 20 Islanders, what the storm didn't take was the survivors' warm hearts. They stood strong while catering to those in need. That shows who we are as a nation – loving and caring even in our darkest days. ■



The Boston Marathon bombings aftermath

A declaration of determination

By Mussuba Samati // Staff Editor

Sitting in my living room watching the news, I was in extreme fear. I felt impotent and prayed that everything would work out best for the sake of our great city, Boston.

The Boston Marathon has been one of the most celebrated annual events, happening on the third Monday of April on Patriots' Day for the past 117 years. This was supposed to bring endless happiness and remembrances from previous years, but instead it resulted in two bomb explosions that authorities at press time said had killed three people and injured 264 near the finish line on Boylston Street.

Days after the unexpected crime, police released pictures from the scene of two suspects they identified as the Tsarnaev brothers from Russia who had lived in Cambridge: Dzhokhar, 19, and Tamerlan, 26. Some may state: That's not enough evidence;

Pointing fingers at certain stereotypes isn't going to resolve the issue; working together and collaborating as proud Bostonians will.

others believe it is enough to know the truth.

The oldest brother was killed after a shootout with police in Watertown but his younger sibling escaped, leading to what seemed like the biggest manhunt in the history of criminals. He was

captured and charged with using a weapon of mass destruction.

The most expedient way to help society with this crime is for more people to participate in the Marathon next year. This will bring more awareness and reveal more of Bostonians' endless support and love for the city. Boston is strong, it has been through many countless conflicts, and those resolutions are what shape the city greatly. We will overcome this tragedy and we will stand strong against hate and destruction to our city.

Although the suspected bombers have done harm to Boston and its people, I cannot help but have some sympathy for the situation the younger brother found himself in after he was allegedly dragged into the plot by his older sibling.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Therefore, pointing fingers at certain stereotypes isn't going to resolve the issue; working together and collaborating as proud Bostonians will.

Rest in peace to the three civilian bombing victims and the police officer shot and killed – allegedly by the suspect brothers. ■

The perils of junior year

By Shanique Lewis // Staff Editor

Dear Sophomores,

Enough of the bad habits and lack of interest in school. Your junior year is just around the corner, so all the playing around and foolish acts need to be thrown in the trash.

Junior year is the one that many (including myself) consider to be the most challenging year of high school. The work gets harder and more is required. Sometimes you'll have so much homework that you won't have time to be with friends. But it's OK because it will all pay off in the long run.

The thing is, when you're a junior, you have to make sacrifices. For example, less partying and more studying. You have to become more focused than ever. For those who have been serious all along, avoid burnout. If you are good at juggling things, and do best when you are busy, throw in a social life and a part-time job.

Make sure your GPA is on point because this is where it counts. Be expected to take AP classes because you can earn college credits. There is also a major test that will help determine which college you will get accepted into. That test is the SAT. To prepare yourself, you should get as much help as possible. You can either take SAT prep classes or free online courses.

Still, your grades and how high you score on the SAT aren't the only factors. Make sure you participate in afterschool activities and do volunteer work. Colleges love individuality and community service. Schools also want to see what you can bring to their communities.

Although it may sound overwhelming, try to make it fun because it can get stressful.

Sincerely,

An Upcoming Senior



AFH photo by
Briahna Omorogbe

The key to learning

Put it in a song

By Grecia Cartagena // Staff Writer

A teacher once taught me how to study for an exam by using an easy and fun method – asking questions in a song and then singing the answers, too.

Now, whenever I have a test, I use the same process and it works.

Here are some other study tips from testtakingtips.com:



AFH art by Sarah Martin

- Review your material right after school while it's still fresh in your mind;
- Don't cram the night before;
- Find a quiet study space with good lighting;
- Make sure you understand the work – don't just memorize;
- Test yourself to find out what you need to study more;
- Take frequent short breaks rather than one big one;
- And another tuneful technique: Put on some relaxing background music and play it low. ■

Suffering from senioritis

By Irkleris Arias // Contributing Writer

Senior year, the most hectic time of high school. Most students say that senioritis sets in at the beginning and middle of the year.

What exactly is senioritis? Many students become lazy or start to think that there is no point in doing work for a class they don't need to graduate. Others say they no longer have the motivation

Students are no longer worried about the educational part of school. Instead, they are looking forward to prom and graduation.

to attempt homework. When it comes to classwork, it won't be done with the best effort. Even showing up to school becomes a problem.

When it comes to senioritis, students are no longer worried about the educational part of school. Instead, they are looking forward to prom and graduation. ■



AFH art by Kim Soon Ty



AFH art by Stephanie Philippe-Auguste

College downed

Held back by parents

By Junior Perdomo // Contributing Writer

Numerous immigrant students face obstacles when they come to the United States. Language is one problem, financial aid another.

Are parents another reason for these struggles? The reason why is a lack of communication they have with their kids about college. Many did not make it to college themselves. Now, their kids might not have the motivation to continue their educations.

Also, if your parents came to this country illegally, borrowing money for school is a problem. The lack of funds limits teens' chances of choosing the best college. There is nothing wrong with a community college, but going there wouldn't give you the same opportunities as a four-year school.

Part of the challenge is to teach parents what their sons and daughters will be facing in their transitions to college. ■

Overachievement: an overreaction?

By Jamal Young // Staff Writer

Alex Kabengele, 19, from Community Academy of Science and Health, says that he is a big overachiever.

"I won't settle for less and I always try and do my best no matter what," he says. "Overachieving can never be bad. To be successful, you need to overachieve."

Not so fast, says the blog dianesmusings.com.

"Pushing ourselves beyond the point of exhaustion, or to the exclusion of important people in our lives, robs us of true and meaningful joy," writes psychologist Diane Mickelson.

Mimi Ha, 18, from CASH, says that she doesn't let things bother her too much.

"I won't settle for less and I always try and do my best no matter what. To be successful, you need to overachieve."

"I do my work," says Ha, "but I don't let it take over my life."

Xena Joseph, a freshman at CASH, agrees that being an overachiever can be harmful.

"I am definitely not an overachiever," says Joseph. "It's way too stressful to be thinking about school work all day, every day." ■



AFH art by Roman Murray

BSAC BUZZ

By Bill Zhou and Audrey Ngankam
// Contributing Writers

Students from coalitions and youth groups all over Massachusetts recently gathered at the State House to speak to representatives about Governor Deval Patrick's new tax plan, which will help fund crucial sectors that affect young people, such as education and transportation.

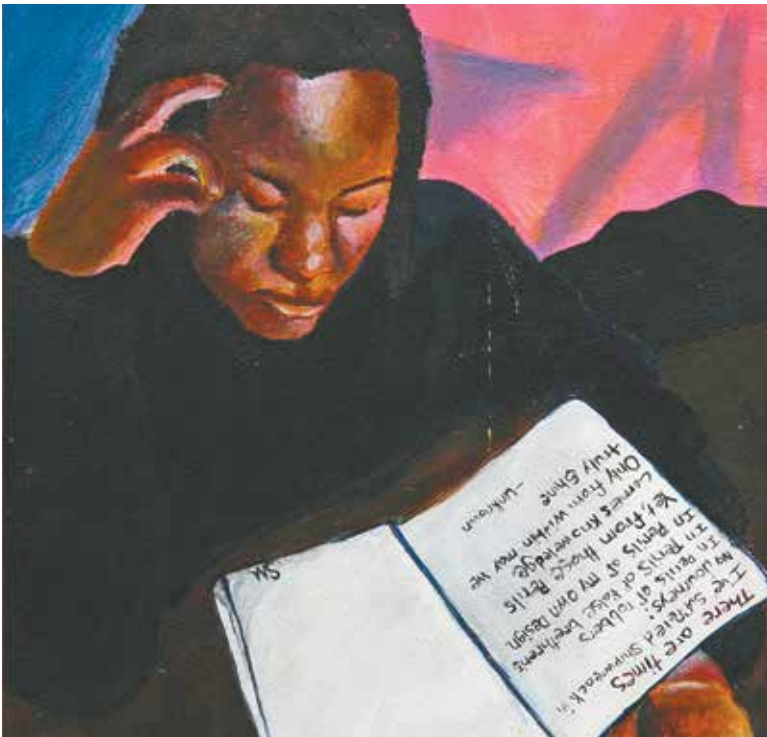
A dozen youth from the Boston Student Advisory Council came out to lobby for raising revenue through fair taxation that asks the rich to pay a little more.

Some students spoke about how a lot of teenagers have to go to work but don't have the money to get on the bus. It's ridiculous for young people to be unable to afford to take the bus when their jobs help their families pay for bills at the end of the month.

BSAC shared stories about how supporting the plan will benefit schools that lack funding and people with special needs, and how it is essential to us as students. ■



AFH photo by Jennifer Thai



AFH art by Savanna McKay

True grit

How to stay strong in school

By Amadou Barry // Contributing Writer

Are we really preparing students for college? If yes, why is the rate of college graduation for many students not achieving the expected results? Research has found that some students lack an important element that could help them to stay, which is grit.

Grit is a characteristic that makes it easier for students to overcome obstacles with steadiness and hard work. For some, grit can be as essential as intelligence when it comes to high achievement.

We are telling kids that they can accomplish many things when we're not always giving them the tools to be successful. Some who got into college are having trouble dealing with financial aid, having to study, and needing to work to survive.

We need to prepare kids at an early age. Childhood education is very important because the more we expect them to do, the better they can perform. Teaching kids how to deal with challenges would help them to get more grit. ■

Imagine no grades in school

It's as easy as A, B, C

By Edwin Soto // Contributing Writer

I've always wondered what it would be like if I was not graded in school. Many students feel that the grades they get at the end of a semester or an assignment is what motivates them to do their best, not the learning.

There are many factors that may affect your grade. For example, what if you were really sick last year and your grade went from an A to a C?

Despite the circumstances, many students are rejected from programs or not admitted to their dream schools because their grades or test scores are below what is considered good enough.

This makes me think that there is some sort of injustice because you are prohibited from enrolling in higher education. ■



AFH photo by Jennifer Casseus

The loo is so ew

The dirt on school bathrooms

By Nayah O'Neal // Contributing Writer

Why do students complain about school bathrooms being so dirty when they're the ones messing them up?

You walk into the bathroom and there are tissues and paper towels on the floor. The toilets are not flushed and it smells really bad. Not to mention the hair all over the sink. And the graffiti on the stall walls.

The school does its job keeping them clean but students just continue making them filthy to the point where some don't even want to use the bathrooms anymore.

As one student said about the dirty toilets: "Do you know how to flush? It's not that hard. Makes me wonder: 'Do they flush at home?' " ■



AFH photo by Peggy Lei

Speaking in tongues

The benefits of bilingualism

By Laure Romelus // Contributing Writer

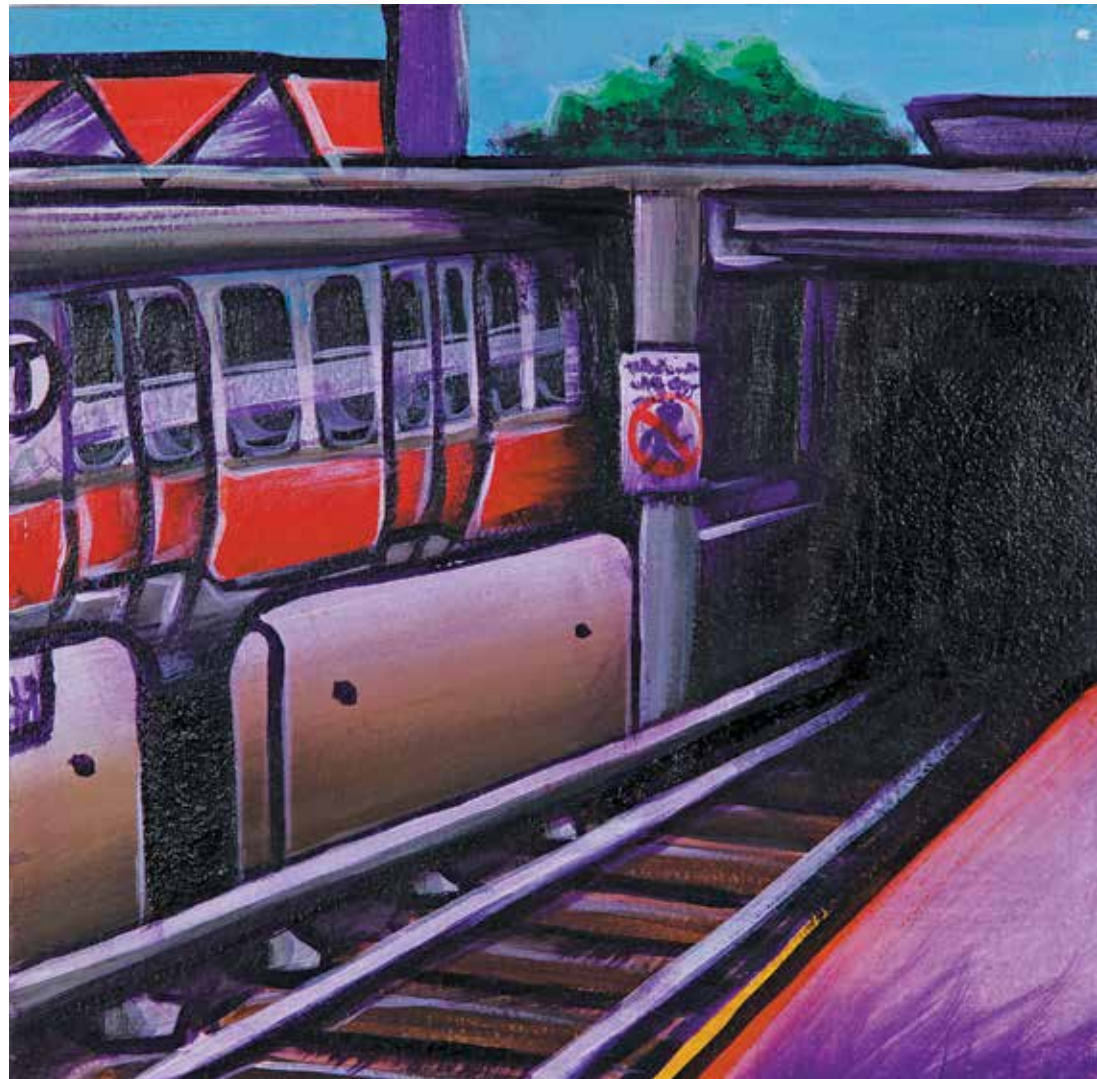
America is a very diverse country. The benefit of being bilingual is that you will be able to communicate with both immigrants and those born here.

Sometimes with attempting to learn a new language you forget your own tongue. Others might have trouble mastering English. You may get caught in the middle. In your home country, you may have been at a high level of education, but in the U.S. you have to start over. These are issues that discourage immigrant teens, and can make them want to drop out of school. They look at their past but see no future.

Beyond language, it is important to balance your country's culture with American life. You must remember your history even as you try to survive by adapting to the American way. ■



AFH art by Mushen Kieta



Control freaks

No full freedom of speech in school?

By Darina Barreto // Contributing Writer

Do high school students have freedom of speech? As a high school student, I don't think that we have full freedom of speech in school. We can't use the type of language that we want. Also, we are not allowed to wear shirts or sweaters that say things that school officials find inappropriate. I think this is limiting our freedom of speech because it's keeping us from expressing ourselves, contrary to the First Amendment.

This gets me thinking about the Tinker case in the 1960's when some students in Iowa wore black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War. The youth were suspended but kept on appealing the decisions. Finally, the United States Supreme Court backed the young people and upheld their constitutional right to free speech.

As students, we still have civil liberties and I don't think all schools are taking that into consideration. Schools want to have control, but they have to do so without limiting our rights. ■



AFH art by Darius Wattia

Respect Takes a beating

By Radherson Rosario // Contributing Writer

An MBTA bus driver was recently assaulted by a bunch of teens. The estimated number was between 15 and 20 kids. This makes it look like the teenagers were just trying to prove themselves to older people. This scene happened shortly after 1 a.m. on a Route 16 bus.

Many teenagers nowadays don't care about anything. All they want is respect, but they don't want to give it. Many teenagers commit crimes but don't get punished for it. This is like a getaway pass for them, which gives them more freedom to do anything they want. A main problem is that many are soft on young people.

It's also true that some T drivers are rude and give passengers an attitude. Just because they drive a bus doesn't mean they can do whatever they want. They are not the landlords of the bus. Still, they don't deserve to be beaten for that. ■

Many teenagers nowadays don't care about anything. All they want is respect, but they don't want to give it.

Religion=control

By Alexandra Zuluaga // Staff Writer

I believe in freedom of religion. The problem is born when people's beliefs impair their common sense. It's born when they no longer listen to reason, because they're busy shouting the way of God. The problem is born when living by a book becomes no life at all.

Humans grow by nature. We are made to expand. One of the five senses we were blessed with, if you will, is listening. It's debatably the most important because only by listening do we learn new things.

One Sunday a few years back I was in a religious institution. About halfway through a talk, I started really listening. The speaker was declaring with unfailing certainty that those who did not believe in God were blind. That science had ruined the faithful and destroyed belief. This man's idea of truth was, apparently, God.

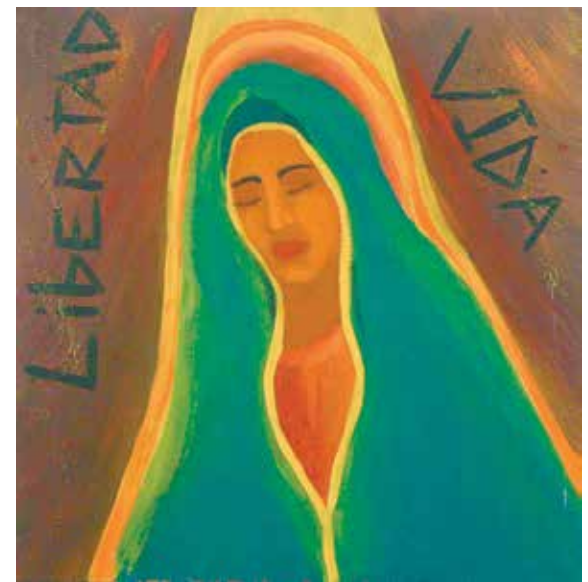
What enraged me most was this man's self-assurance. Who was he, or anyone for that matter, to tell others they were wrong?

The problem with belief is that it often impairs our objectivity. Some people have asked why anyone has a problem with religion. "They're not hurting anyone" is often thrown around.

False. Religion has caused endless wars, mass murders, and acts of hatred since its inception, however long ago. Scandal devours its leaders and dishonesty clings to its pedestals. Ill-intentioned individuals have been hiding behind the gilded veil of religion for centuries.

It's not every day we dissect our religion. Most people never do. Faith becomes a destructive force when its followers are blinded to the realities of the institution. Accept and believe with an open heart if you so wish, but don't accept corruption or foist your beliefs onto others. It shouldn't have to be a package deal. ■

Accept and believe with an open heart if you so wish, but don't accept corruption or foist your beliefs onto others. It shouldn't have to be a package deal.



AFH art by Georgette Arimah

Religion=Freedom.

By Shanae Saddler // Staff Editor

I believe that religion is freedom. Religion starts with the burden of lost souls. No matter who or what you believe in as your God, someone will always help you realize that you can't do anything without a leader.

Religion does not just come with a God or a Bible. It also comes with morals. Religion is not only about the fundamentals of life, but it is the path one takes when life is at its lowest point.

People always say: "There's not a human being you can trust."

That's when faith steps in. You always have that one spark when you feel you need something to complete you.

Tribal conflict is not caused by religion. It is the ignorance that one portrays because of insecurity and the lack of love.

Those who make religion a façade will never hurt the ones who truly believe. You can always know true believers when you meet them. What they tell you is what you believe and what you believe is what you see.

Faith is not a destructive force. It is the tranquil force that takes away the brazen attitude of ignominy that people may carry.

You may have had a broken day, but your soul is what determines if you stay strong. Religion is not chains. It is freedom. ■

Faith is not a destructive force. It is the tranquil force that takes away the brazen attitude of ignominy that people may carry.



AFH art by Nehemiah Morrison



AFH photo by Cynthia Ginnetti

The litterbug blues

By Joviethe Mata Ramos // Contributing Writer

What is so hard about picking up your trash? When you leave your garbage behind, our tax dollars are going to pay for unnecessary work to keep up. We could save that money to do better things like fix roads, build homeless shelters, or improve our educational system.

So care a little more and clean up after yourself.

Trash talk

Here are some facts about the impact of tossing garbage on the ground, from litteringiswrongtoo.org:

- One piece of litter seems to attract more pieces of litter;
- As a result, more than 50 billion pieces of trash end up on U.S. roadways every year;
- The U.S. spends more than \$11 billion each year to remove litter;
- Pets and wild animals can get hurt by discarded glass and other garbage;
- Littering is illegal. ■

Reality check

Backstabbers beware

By Jalene Sanchez // Staff Writer

Society nowadays is really hypocritical. There is no way to please anybody. Anything you do is a problem in someone's eyes. That includes backstabbers, cheaters, trash-talkers, heart-breakers, and two-faced liars.

Backstabbers and two-faced liars? They make you wonder who's your real friend and who's telling lies. Trash-talkers? They are at every corner, paying attention to everything you do. The way you walk, the way you talk, the way you dress. If you don't have what they have – a new pair of Jordans or TOMS – you're nothing.

You're so easily judged, no questions asked. They claim it's just being "honest," but putting people down doesn't make you a better person.

Also, there's the old double standard. When a girl messes up, she is badmouthed. If a boy does it, people think that it's OK to cheat – and break someone's heart, too.

But here's a reality check: If you have someone who treats you right, appreciate that person. Don't be quick to comment on something that you can't possibly understand. Just because society is ugly doesn't mean you have to be. ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

Jealous ways

The same game

By Amanda Gurley // Contributing Writer

A 17-year-old girl named Mary from Boston says she sees jealousy every day. She herself is a victim of it, she says. A friend of hers was so jealous of her that she copied everything she did. She bought the same clothes, same electronics, same accessories.

"Having someone be jealous of you is not a good thing all the time," says Mary, whose last name and neighborhood are being withheld to protect her privacy. "It's getting a bit too much where it makes me mad at her."

As much as Mary tried to avoid the girl, she often found a way to end up where Mary was.

"When I tell people about her, all everyone says is that I should take it as a compliment," says Mary. "I did at the beginning, but after a year or two it gets old."

She and Mary used to be best friends until the jealousy got out of hand.

"Enough was enough," says Mary. "I couldn't take it any longer. A friend shouldn't copy you. They should be unique and pick things out that they like – not what someone else likes. That's not right."

Mary says their relationship eventually revolved around her friend trying to be Mary.

"I needed time away from her," says Mary. "To this day, it's been six months without speaking to her." ■



AFH photo by Lourdes Pettijean

Rated PG

Parental guidance needed for school

By **Stephan Teixeira** // **Contributing Writer**

Kids need their parents to escort them to success.

When parents are involved in their children's educations, kids do better in school. The family makes critical contributions to student achievement, from preschool through high school.

Learning starts at home. Parents who show their children why it is important to get an education are more effective than those who just give their kids money and send them off to school.

Teachers believe that their students would perform better if parents were more involved. Children of uninvolved parents are more likely to fall through the cracks.

One lesson kids learn is: "If my parents don't care, why should I care?"

Students are the future of the country, and it's sad when the lack of support from parents is a reason that they are dropping out. ■



Things my mama taught me

By **Lizandro Nogueira** // **Staff Writer**

Parents have an important role in teaching their children things they can't learn in school – such as being polite, respecting others, and not judging people by their appearances. The question is: Do children's behaviors reflect how their mothers and fathers raised them?

"Manners, respect, and kindness show who the person really is," says Carolin Diaz, 16, from Brighton High School. "Sometimes a child's behavior reflects how their parents raised them, but on the other hand children make their own decisions."

Chevaun Richards, 17, from Brighton High, says that his parents taught him to respect others.

"If you want to be respected," says Richards, "you need to show it first."

Jose Mata, a junior at Brighton High, says certain qualities come from your upbringing.

"Being respectful, polite, and how you present yourself in front of adults," he says, "shows how your parents raised you." ■



AFH art by Cassandra Lattimore

A moral imperative: Support your local teens!

By **Khaaliqa Roberts** // **Contributing Writer**

Most of us would agree that it is important to have people in your lives who genuinely care about you and who are there through the good times and the bad. These are the people who make up your social support system.

Beyond sharing the fun times, there are many benefits to having supportive relationships, such as knowing people who can provide you with information and advice in times of uncertainty. This can be comforting and enhance your mind.

A strong social support system is imperative for teens to be successful in life. Let's face it: Life is tough for teenagers, and that can sometimes make it difficult to set and achieve goals. Social support systems can play a protective role and not only help reduce stress but also provide encouragement for your plans.

It is also important to have multiple levels of support, from different people. If you have only one person supporting you through difficult times, you may wear that person out or feel unsupported if that person is unavailable.

It's essential to have moral guidance and strong leadership around you so that you can live up to your potential. ■



AFH photo by Natasha Mock

**HIBO ABDULLAHI****Favorite college?** Columbia.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "This is soooo fun!"**Favorite ethnic food?** Chinese.**ADAMA JAN BAH****Favorite college?** Columbia.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Enjoy your life while you have it"**Favorite ethnic food?** Curry chicken.**MARIAM BAH****Favorite college?** Columbia.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "With every conflict comes an opportunity"**Favorite ethnic food?** Jerk chicken.**LA'NEECE BYRD****Favorite college?** MCPHS.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Hi world"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**GRECIA CARTAGENA****Favorite college?** Harvard.**Sing or dance?** Sing.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "You are awesome"**Favorite ethnic food?** Pupusas.**CANDICE COLE****Favorite college?** Merrimack.**Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Dunkin' Donuts.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** My name.**Favorite ethnic food?** Roti.**MOUCTAR DIAKITE****Favorite college?** BU.**Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Dunkin' Donuts.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Ha Ha Ha Ha"**Pancakes or French toast?** Pancakes.**KELVIN FREIRE****Favorite college?** BU.**Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Dunkin' Donuts.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "I miss you"**Pancakes or French toast?** Pancakes.**ILMA GOLEMI****Favorite college?** Harvard.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Don't wait for the perfect moment – take the moment and make it perfect"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**Favorite ethnic food?** Albanian.**PARIS GREEN****Favorite college?** UConn.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Live life to the fullest"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** Urban Outfitters.**Favorite ethnic food?** Empanadas.**RALPH T. KARNUAH****Favorite college?** MIT.**Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Dunkin' Donuts.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Live your life"**Favorite ethnic food?** Fufu.**JALAYAH LAWRENCE****Favorite college?** MCLA.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** My name.**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** Urban Outfitters.**Louis Vuitton or Gucci?** Louis Vuitton.

TEENS in PRINT

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

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➤ Whatever you submit has to be YOUR OWN CREATION. We only print original work. You will not get it back, so please KEEP A COPY for yourself. Teens in Print reserves the right to EDIT your work for length, content, or appropriateness.

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Something with which you agree – or disagree?

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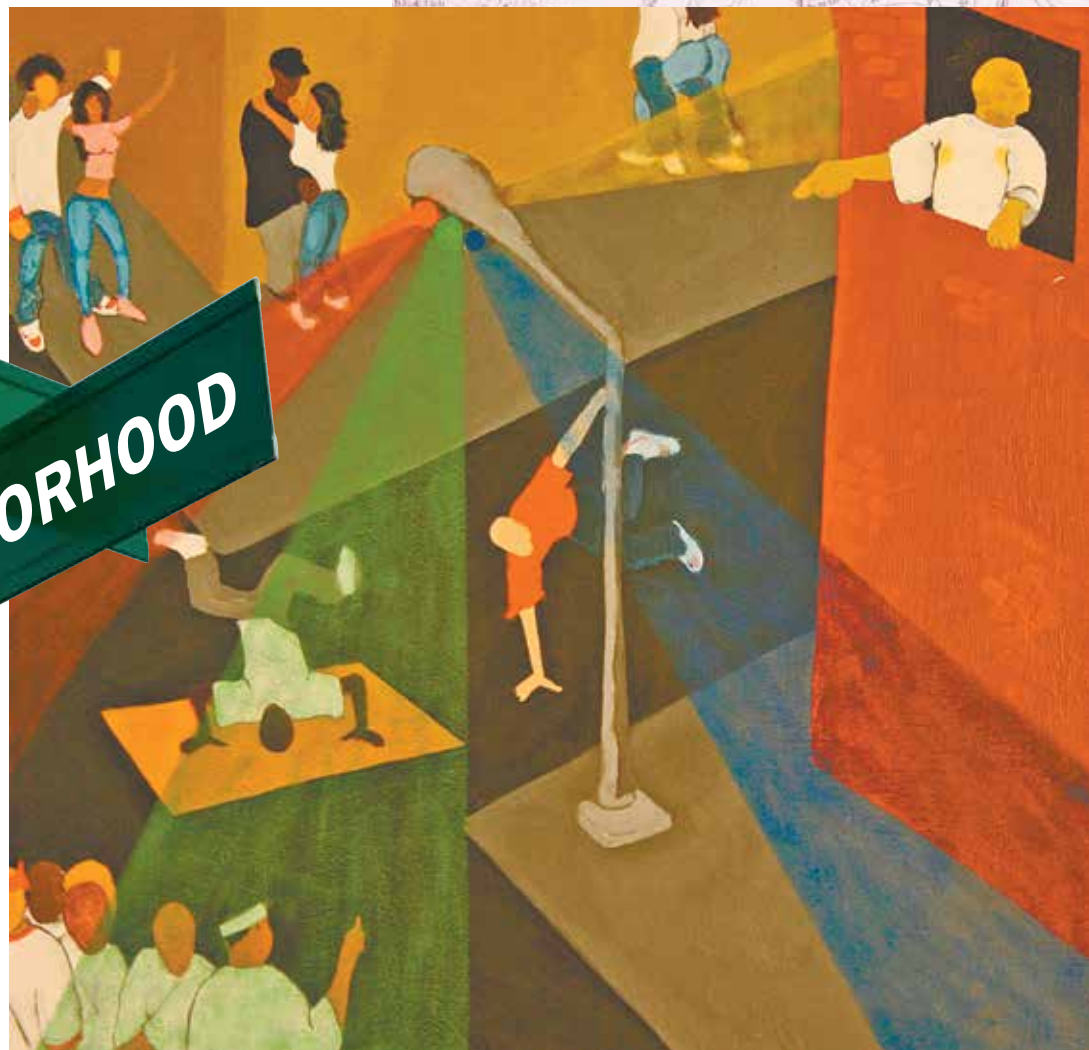
about us

Boston Teens in Print is the only citywide newspaper written by and for Boston public high school and middle school students. Launched by WriteBoston and The Boston Globe in 2004, and published five times a year, TiP is a platform for student journalists, essayists, poets, and artists. It is delivered to Boston high schools, libraries, and community centers. But it is not just a newspaper – it is also, for urban teens, an afterschool program and summer journalism institute, both free. TiP gives a voice to Boston's youth, a voice that bellows from one end of the city to the other, across the boundaries of neighborhood, class, and ethnicity.

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Send submissions by mail to:
Boston Teens in Print
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**DENNIS MEMBAH****Favorite college?** Alfred University.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Will you be mine, forever?"**Favorite ethnic food?** Chinese.**MORELIA MORALES****Favorite college?** MCPHS.**Sing or dance?** Read the Bible.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Thank God for a new day"**Favorite ethnic food?** Guatemalan, of course.**MARMARIN NASIRAHMAD****Favorite college?** BC.**Sing or dance?** Sing.**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**Pancakes or French toast?** Pancakes.**LIZANDRO NOGUEIRA****Favorite college?** MIT.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Love the ones who love you"**Favorite ethnic food?** Cachupa.**SHANAE SADDLER****Favorite college?** Emerson.**Sing or dance?** Sing.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** My name.**Favorite ethnic food?** Jamaican.**JALENE SANCHEZ****Favorite college?** Northeastern.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "All it takes is one voice"**Favorite ethnic food?** Spanish.**TENNEH SESAY****Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Dunkin' Donuts.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** Urban Outfitters.**Louis Vuitton or Gucci?** Louis Vuitton.**SELINA SORTO****Favorite college?** BU.**Sing or dance?** Dance.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Live young, wild, and free"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**JAMES WHITTER****Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks?** Starbucks.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Today is a gift... that's why it's called the present"**Pancakes or French toast?** Pancakes.**Favorite ethnic food?** Indian.**JAMAL YOUNG****Favorite college?** University of California.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "I love Fabi"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**Favorite ethnic food?** Italian.**ALEXANDRA ZULUAGA****Favorite college?** BC.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Weeeee"**Pancakes or French toast?** Waffles.**Favorite ethnic food?** Naan bread. Yummy.**MUSSUBA SAMATI****Favorite college?** California Institute of the Arts**Sing or dance?** Dance.**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**Favorite ethnic food?** Cachupa.**KRISTIANA MBRICE****Favorite college?** Harvard, duh.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Hey, wassup?"**Urban Outfitters or American Eagle?** American Eagle.**Favorite ethnic food?** Albanian.**SHANIQUE LEWIS****Favorite college?** Harvard.**If you could sky write, what would you say?** "Shanique's the best"**Louis Vuitton or Gucci?** Ain't nobody got no money for that.**Pancakes or French toast?** French toast.



AFH art by Jose Lorenzo

DORCHESTER:

“We still know how to keep smiles on our faces as we struggle from day to day”

By Raymond Barreau // Contributing Writer

People judge a neighborhood by statistics, like how many people had been shot in Dorchester's Fields Corner last year – but that's not what I see. I judge my neighborhood by the way everyday people act.

One day I was headed home. On the way down the street I bumped into a gangster-looking dude. He was probably 28 years old, standing there with a bunch of friends. I tried to pretend nothing happened, but he stopped me.

“Yo,” he said.

He was older, so I had to respect him. I turned back.

“You know you just bumped me?” he said.

“Yeah,” I replied.

He gave me a mean look.

Okay, I thought, what's next?

He came close to me. “Yo, that's not respectful. What if I was some crazy dude? I would have laid you flat right there.”

“My fault,” I said.

“No problem,” he replied. “Stay in school. I just got out of prison. You don't want to go there.”

People think Dorchester's a bad place, but they don't know the community. It's a fun-loving place, even with the violence. People laugh together on the corners. You can ask anyone if you want a basketball game. You don't even have to know them.

People don't have much yard space. They unite in the parks. They laugh and play tag. They rap and make jokes. They flirt and enjoy the company. At the park, they don't have to worry about that hole in the bedroom floor. They can forget the busted appliances that the landlord never fixes and the months of broken promises from the electricians.

Sure, negative things take place in my 'hood, but the community is so much more than that. We still know how to keep smiles on our faces as we struggle from day to day. “Give respect to get respect” is what we say.

At night, the cops flood the block looking to calm tempers and stop fights. At a distance, a crackhead's cough becomes your lullaby.

In the morning, mom is up sweating a meal that should last till lunch. At the bus stop we socialize. Another day begins. ■

ROSLINDALE:

“People are really friendly and helpful”

By Kripa Thapa // Contributing Writer

I live in a small and beautiful place called Roslindale. There are different kinds of restaurants. There is also a hospital, a library, and various schools. There are beautiful parks, very clean with swings and slides.

People are really friendly and helpful. If you have an emergency, they will call police or an ambulance for you. Many of the people who live here are old, and they are nice. I think it is a really safe place to live. Mostly you hear the sound of cars and buses.

More people are settling in Roslindale, new faces day by day. It is looking more crowded. ■

DORCHESTER:

“Over the years, many people have worked hard to build a community”

By Yameci Nunez // Contributing Writer

Gang violence. Losing loved ones. Many people think of hurtful things when my neighborhood, Dorchester, first pops into their heads. But my thoughts are not that bad towards Dorchester. Over the years, many people have worked hard to build a community, and two years ago something amazing happened. They opened the Salvation Army Kroc Corps Community Center on Dudley Street, near Uphams Corner.

The Community Center has pulled people together. The first time I visited, I was shocked. I didn't expect to find such a place in my neighborhood. It was bigger than what I thought it would be. I just stared around at everything.

Inside, there is an aquatic center with an amusement-park-style slide. There's a gym, basketball court, climbing station, and even a chapel. Outside, there's a park with slides and a water fountain shaped like a lion.

The Kroc Center is a place where good, caring people show you around, and all different races get to know each other.

I saw one of my friends from elementary school there. She said I looked the same, and I said she looked the same. We sat and talked. ■



Photo by Artists for Humanity

ROSLINDALE:

“Everyone looks out for each other”

By Gesar Naksi // Contributing Writer

I live in a quiet neighborhood, Roslindale. There are many different kinds of people: Spanish people, African-American people, Asian people. It's mostly safe, but sometimes crazy things happen.

On a recent Sunday, I went to get some snacks. I spotted three ladies walking around the store looking for something. When I got closer, I heard them talking gibberish, and they also looked lost.

I grabbed two bags of chips and some soda. When I went to pay for it, one of the women cut right in front of me. I ignored her, but then she took my stuff and tried to walk away. She looked drunk or high.

I let her have it because she seemed like she needed it. It's a helpful neighborhood, my neighborhood. Everyone looks out for each other. ■

**HYDE PARK:**

“I am proud to live there”

By Alejandra Quinones // Contributing Writer

I am going to introduce you to my neighborhood, Hyde Park. It is quiet and friendly, and I would not like to move from there.

In the summer, when my cousins come over, we go to this little forest where you can walk, run, or bike.

Later, we do a cookout and eat tacos, burgers, hot dogs.

Sometimes, when it gets dark, my cousins and I go outside and we play Man Hunt among the nice houses – like hide and seek, only with teams. My family is big, and we have fun because we do things together.

There are a lot of old people in my community, so it is quiet. I am proud to live there. ■

ROXBURY:

“Filled with people who care”

By Elhan Jama // Contributing Writer

My neighborhood around Homestead Street is fun and friendly, especially when it comes to the summer block party. The street can't have any cars parked that day. There are huge speakers that play music, and everybody has a great time. There are lots of new people every year, so it's fun to meet them.

We play games and have prizes for winners and eat and dance. It's nice to come together as a community to make a pact to stop violence in Boston and around the world.

My community is filled with people who care. I like my community just the way it is. ■



AFH art by Cassandra Lattimore

HYDE PARK:

“Sometimes, boring can be good”

By Hirmine Francois // Contributing Writer

Overall, my neighborhood in Hyde Park is boring. During the summer, the housing development is full of kids running around. I try to find people my age to hang out with.

We play basketball, dodge ball, baseball. The management office tries to get all the kids to interact with each other. They throw parties, movie nights. They give teens jobs.

My neighborhood is diverse. You see a lot of different cultures: Haitians, Hispanics, Africans – all combined. We get along with each other. I feel safe there.

You not only have your own family looking out for you; you have other people, too. Sometimes, boring can be good. ■



AFH art by Arcadia Giron

**ROSLINDALE:**

“Come on over”

By Ryan McGahey // Contributing Writer

My neighborhood is fun – there are lots of things to do. We have basketball games and play football. Also, we have plenty of kids in this neighborhood so we will never be short on teams. We go around everywhere – to the golf course and to the basketball court. Other times, the neighborhood can be very quiet, which is one of the many pluses.

When we first saw the neighborhood, we knew it was the one, a really nice community and lots of friendly people. It took a while to get used to Boston, all the trains and buses we never had in South Carolina.

So, if you are looking for a wonderful neighborhood, come on over to Roslindale, where I live. ■

ROXBURY:

“It's not just some houses with people in them”

By Rutheliz Vazquez // Contributing Writer

My 'hood, this 'hood, the 'hood. My neighborhood near Warren Street is not only filled with wannabe thugs; we actually have church people, and maintenance men trying to keep our housing development nice and assist residents with anything.

My community and the residents in it want a change. They do not stand for violence and we try to be respectful to each other. People's worries about their kids' safety decreases every year.

Every single day I say, “Hey, how are you?” to the older lady who has lived here for years. She is my community's number one most positive, influential, polite lady who makes an effort for change. She says hi to everyone. When there are birthdays for kids she doesn't even know, she buys presents.

People want change, because they are tired – tired of worrying so much, tired of not feeling safe, tired of the stupidity and violence. Just plain tired.

Without people trying to get residents and kids involved in things, maintenance always having our back, the main office planning things for us, this community would be nothing. But that's what makes my community so special, because it's not just some houses with people in them. It's the definition of change. ■



AFH art by Kitauna Parker

WEST ROXBURY:

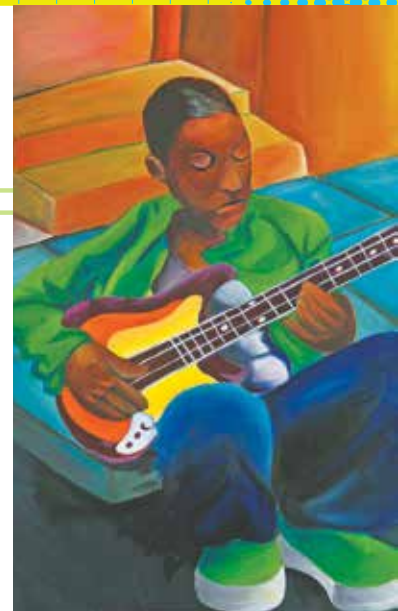
“You can live together without any troubles”

By Jean Merisier // Contributing Writer

My community of West Roxbury is so quiet and beautiful. Sometimes you can listen to people singing Muslim songs, Spanish songs. They just feel like singing and using their instruments: guitar, piano, drums. You can hear it when you go by.

People are in their houses. They mind their own business. It's easier to get in trouble when there are lots of people on the street – fights and arguments.

I'm telling you, you can be there for a long time and you won't have any problems. It makes me feel that when everybody puts their heads together and acts friendly and peaceful, you can live together without any troubles. ■



AFH art by Savanna McKay

Photo by Artists for Humanity



ROXBURY:

“I've seen a lot of crazy stuff happen here”

By Aliseth Guevara // Contributing Writer

I live in Egleston Square, a really confusing, sick, weird neighborhood. But it feels – and will always feel – like home. I was taught never to forget where you come from.

I've seen a lot of crazy stuff happen here, like drug addicts always starting problems at McDonald's. I guess that's just life.

I act normal and my days go by. No matter what happens here, it feels like everyone keeps their mouths shut, without one word. Except for the perverts, pedophiles, and more perverts.

Down Washington Street, you see a bunch of drunk men waiting for girls my age to just hit on or try and flirt with. I just ignore it. I keep my head up. I block it out with my headphones, listening to reggaeton and bachata.

Sometimes, serious problems with sexual harassment can occur. That's when you see all the police reports. But I guess no one really seems to care. I mean, it's always going on around here. ■



MATTAPAN:

“One wrong look...”

By Withney Augustin // Contributing Writer

I live by Morton Street, close to Blue Hill Avenue. There are kids always sitting on my friend's stoop, doing nothing but making noise, never listening, and riding up and down on their bikes. Some kid got jumped twice.

My friend Melissa's mother was yelling at the teens to get off the stairs.

I feel as though during the summer I can't walk to her house because they are always there and staring and trying to talk to me. One wrong look that was misread could turn into a fight.

So we go to the nearby park, sit and play on the swings, and talk about life. ■

WELCOME TO
MY NEIGHBORHOOD



ROXBURY:

“We are all family inside”

By Mervin Morrison // Contributing Writer

My neighborhood, by Warren Street, is friendly. There is laughter and music outside, people having a good time. There are cookouts in the housing development that everyone can go to. I have made a lot of friends. It's a good place to live. Nice houses and fine people.

Still, you have to keep your guard up. You never know what will happen. There is some violence, petty and point-less. I smell weed, too.

Even though there can be problems sometimes, we are all family inside. ■



AFH art by Michael Mendes

HYDE PARK:

“Everywhere you go leads to something new”

By Nefertarie Georges // Contributing Writer

In my neighborhood, it is really loud and lively.

In the summer, it is fun to be there, with its humor and crowded streets. A lot of people walk around. Sometimes they also take the bus or ride bikes. There are a lot of students.

In my neighborhood, there is a community pool. It is really big and really deep. A lot of people go there to hang out. Many bring their kids.

My neighborhood is huge. Everywhere you go leads to something new. The buses help you get places. They run like water – straight down. ■



AFH art by Jamilyah Richardson

DORCHESTER:

“In my neighborhood, there are people from all over the world.”

By Diana Barbosa // Contributing Writer

On a street off Geneva Avenue that's hidden by a sharp turn is my neighborhood. Many old, almost run-down family homes line the place. You can see lots of different types of cats and dogs there.

In my neighborhood, there are people from all over the world. Everyone speaks more than one language. If you take the time to listen, you can hear Spanish, Portuguese, Creole. I can always hear music from different parts of the world coming out of backyards and windows: reggae, religious pop, Spanish, and more.

Up the street there is a hill, and on top of that hill is a playground. On this hill all the children meet up to enjoy themselves and play soccer, baseball, basketball, and run track. ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong



AFH photo by Mary Nguyen



Fashion statements: from vintage to vogue

By Paris Green // Staff Writer

Fashion statements of today scream for attention. New designers drive teenagers to dramatic transformations. Teens are bringing out both vogue and vintage, diving into their parents' old trunks with charismatic ambition, pulling out items such as overalls, which they freshen up with one strap hanging off and a plaid tee underneath.

Another hot trend is those four-finger rings that look like brass knuckles, according to Love Culture fashionista Nina Winslow, 17.

"With your nails done, it's a nice touch," says Winslow, from English High School.

The infinity symbol has Shayla Newman, 16, in its trance, whether on rings, necklaces, or bracelets.

"Infinity accessories go with everything – and I mean everything," says Newman, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Dejanell Ricks has a weakness for studded shirts.

"I tend to use collar cuff links," says Ricks, a junior from Community Academy of Science and Health. "They go with any and everything if you find the right ones." ■

Jeans schemes

By Kayla Allen // Contributing Writer

Levi's has a huge selection of jeans. They have jeans that are skinny and jeans that are wider and jeans that can show off a woman's curves. The stitching is strong – so you can wash them multiple times without worry. Prices can run as high as the \$100 range, but they last long and will fit you perfectly.

With Delia's jeans, you can go from boot cut to low rise, from coral colored to orange blossom. For a \$39.50 pair of Union Jack skinny jeans online, they offer an option to buy one and get another half off.

American Eagle jeans have multiple styles, from studded to skinny and a wild pair of paisleys that can be had online for \$49.99.

Out of all three jeans, I would recommend the Delia's. Multiple styles, nice fit, good price. Delia's jeans are the ones you'll fall in love with. ■

Battle of the acrylics

By Candice Cole // Staff Writer

Teenage girls love to get their nails done. Not all of them wear fake nails, but recently there has been a re-occurrence of long acrylics. There are so many choices.

Do you wear your nails round? Cut them square? Go exotic and get them clawed?

"I prefer rounded tips because they are easier to use and they feel like natural nails," says Erica Imoisi, 16, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Rounded tips are the more tame look. They give off the illusion of being softer and less noticeable. They're well kempt and make your hands look thinner.

Erika Holloway, 17, from the O'Bryant, says she tried squared tips but switched back to round ones.

These girls like to look conservative and urban at the same time.

Summer Arnold-Scott, 16, from the O'Bryant, prefers to have her tips squared with a little rounding at the corners.

She has tried claw-tip nails in the past, she says.

"But they were ugly and they weren't for me," she says.

Not everyone is comfortable with claws. While squared tips are classic and traditional, claws are more extreme. ■



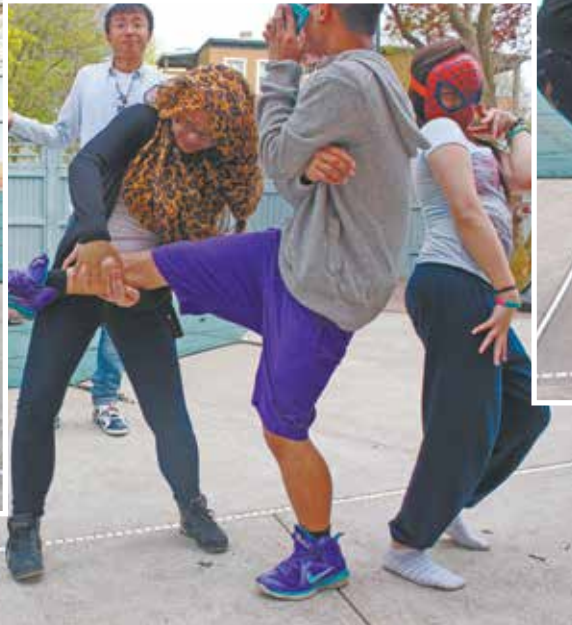
AFH photo by
Peggy Lei



AFH art by Fabiola Moquete



AFH photos by Cynthia Ginnetti



The Harlem Shake redux

By Ralph T. Karnuah // Staff Writer

Today's Harlem Shake is a pop dance consisting of an individual moving to the melody of the music with a group of people who appear to be spectators in the background. Then, all of a sudden, the song reaches its peak with the prompt of "Do the Harlem Shake," and all the bystanders disregard what they were doing and begin to dance insanely, often in random masks and costumes.

Ever since the modern Harlem Shake went viral in late 2012 via a song recorded by an American DJ named Baauer, it has become a sensation all over the country, with grade school students and even professional athletes producing their own versions of the dance. However, some believe the latest edition is a weak copy of the original.

"Today's Harlem Shake is a complete mockery of what the original Harlem Shake stood for."

"Today's Harlem Shake is a complete mockery of what the original Harlem Shake stood for," says Wayne Montague, a junior at Brighton High School.

The original Harlem Shake of the early '80s was also known as the Albee after its creator, a Harlem resident named "Al B." Some say it drew inspiration from an Ethiopian dance called the Eskista, which consists of a variety of body movements, head jerking, and shoulder bopping.

The Harlem Shake grew in popularity in 2001 when G. Dep offered the dance in his music video "Let's Get It." It died down and then was revived.

Erik Solis, 17, of Another Course to College, has no problem with updating cultural history, believing the dance has simply evolved over the course of the past decades. Although it may be far from its predecessor, Solis says it's fun and people today enjoy it. ■

Soda jerks

Teens: Keep your hands off our sugary drinks!

By James Whitter // Staff Writer

"Nobody should be able to censor or control what I consume," said Alex Bradshaw, a sophomore at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Bradshaw was reacting to indications that New York City's desire to ban large sugary drinks as a health risk could be headed our way due to support from some local government officials.

New York's limit on the sale of sweet drinks bigger than 16 ounces was blocked for now by a judge who called it "arbitrary" – a ruling that many teens backed.

"I agree with the judge's decision," said Gianni Remy, 15, from the O'Bryant.

Other teens also said that the prohibition was absolutely ridiculous.

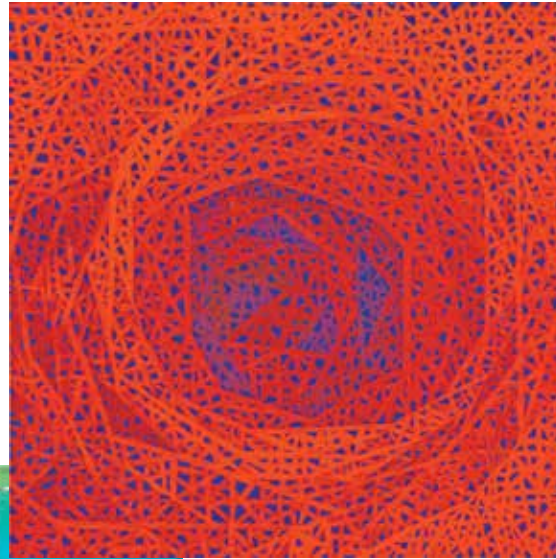
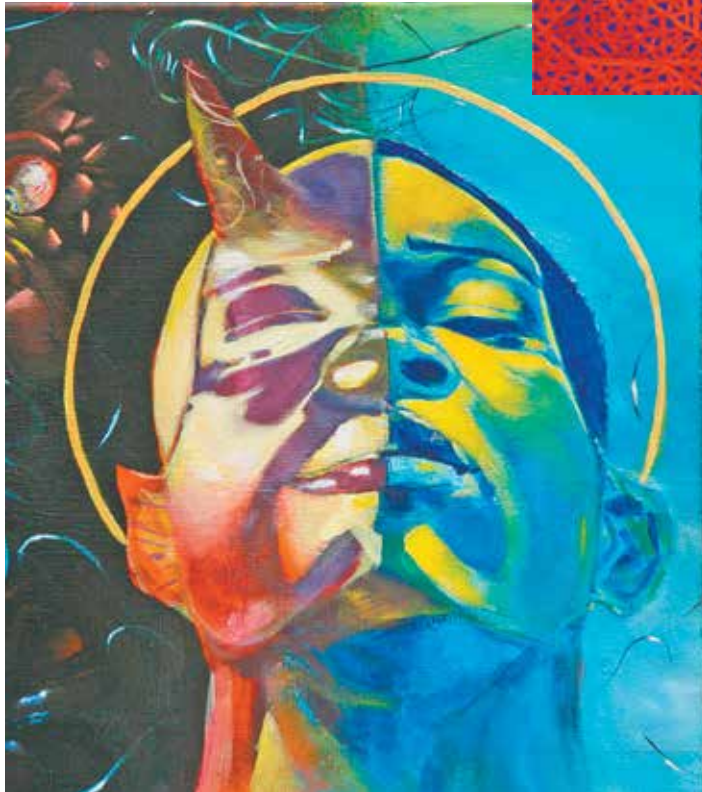
"What prevents me from buying two drinks?" asked Makayla Harris, a sophomore at the O'Bryant.

Some teens suggested that government officials focus on doing away with more damaging items, like cigarettes or alcohol. ■



AFH art by Maya Chin

AFH art by Rassan Charles



AFH art by Cate Mitchell

From chaos to calm

How to stay chill during trying times

By Morelia Morales // Staff Writer

Teens describe chaos in many ways.

"Like a revolt where everyone wants what benefits themselves," said Juan Lopera, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Here's how he cools down.

"When I argue with my parents, I feel horrible," said Lopera. "So a way I can stay calm is if I talk to my best friend – my girlfriend. I feel good because she gives me advice on how I can solve my problems."

Aderly Estrada, 17, uses a different strategy.

"When I fight with my mom, I prefer to close my eyes and talk to God instead of answering my mom back," said Estrada. "I know God helps me to stay calm."

Aldrin Lara, 14, knows chaos as a big problem with little hope. Lara's solution is simple: eat and sleep. ■

Under the influence

When outside forces butt in

By Nelfry Velez // Contributing Writer

You can never really live anyone else's life, not even your child's. The influence you exert is through your own being and through what you've become yourself.

Some students function on their own but others let their environments take over. I'm concerned that this is why many drop out.

For many, it is the intrusion of gangs. For others, it's the need to be employed while going to school. The National Center for Education Statistics says that 16 percent of high school students 16 and older hold a job.

We need to make sure that our children have the best chance to succeed on their own. ■

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Angie Miranda, 16, says she listens to music or sits in her room when she is having a bad day.

"You should let out all your feelings so you can feel better," says Miranda, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Have you ever felt angry or down? It happens to teenagers all the time. They could be happy one moment, bored and hopeless the next. Having to deal with stress and pressure from bad grades or arguments with friends can bring down their moods.

Seventeen-year-old Cyrus Kohistani says he wants space when he is feeling lousy.

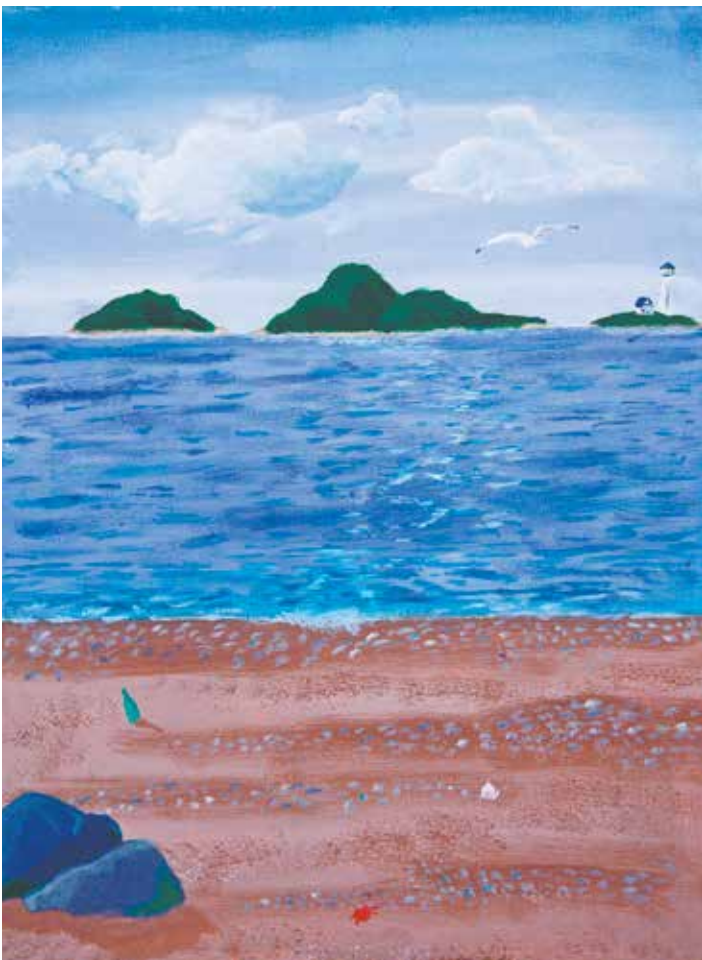
"I think that not enough sleep can be a factor for having a bad day," says Kohistani, who attends the O'Bryant. "You could be cranky and you do not think straight."

Shontelle Trotman, 15, has a remedy for being blue.

"If you want to overcome your bad day," says Trotman, who attends the O'Bryant, "then you have to relax, take a deep breath, and let your anger out by talking to someone." ■



AFH art by Peggy Lei



AFH art by Christina Huang

Living large

My dream place

By Kristiana Mbrice // Staff Writer

Mena Majeed, 16, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says that her dream place to be is India.

"It's very diverse, has unique culture and traditions, many historical places, and Gandhi is from there," says Majeed.

Most teens have a special place in their minds where they'd go to escape reality.

Zusex Romero, 17, says she loves peaceful venues. The sound of the ocean, she says, helps her relax.

"My dream place is at a house next to the beach in a tropical weather place," says Romero, who attends BCLA.

For 16-year-old Trizia Mallari, from BCLA, her locale is the cottage used by Bella and Edward in "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn."

"It's quiet and romantic," says Mallari. ■

Day tripper

Special spots for summer

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Time for fun!

A sixteen-year-old student from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, Wendy Zheng, visits a lot of spots in Boston during the summer.

"I love going to the Boston Bowl because it is hilarious," says Zheng.

Zheng says that the East Boston waterfront is also a special destination.

"It is a very peaceful place and a great place to spend some time with your family and friends," she says.

Summer is the time when you forget about tests and homework and just think about having a good time.

Yanni Sa'Ponte, 15, prefers to hit the ballyard.

"Fenway Park is a great place to go since it is all about sports and also is a fun place to be,"



says Sa'Ponte, who attends the O'Bryant.

Marlenn Vargas, 16, thinks that teens can also find cool indoor venues during summertime.

"One place I would recommend," says Vargas, from the O'Bryant, "would be the museums." ■

New school tools

Balancing work and play

By Shannon Llorenty // Contributing Writer

It has been brought up how the earlier you start learning, the better. So, kids are being bombarded with content at a very early age. The truth is that this is not real learning – teachers repeating things so kids can memorize them. Parents feeling proud when their kids recite the words learned in class. At this early age, kids learn by playing.

Even though playing is an activity for kids to enjoy, it is also a practice exercise. When kids play a game, they are able to learn strategies. After playing games multiple times, their long-term memories will recognize these maneuvers.

At an early age, kids learn by watching others but also by doing. Many countries fail with their education systems because they don't value such a thing as playing.

Many schools in the U.S. are cutting recess. Before, kids were able to go out and play, talk, and discover things for themselves. Now, many are wasting time learning content that will only stick for a short time. ■

AFH art by Cassandra Lattimore





AFH art by Ryan Ronca

Some rules are meant to be broken

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

"If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun."
— Katharine Hepburn

Joshua Thomas, 16, thinks that some of the rules that can be broken are minor ones, such as those involving what you can or cannot eat or watch on TV. The more serious ones should be obeyed or people could get hurt, says Thomas, who goes to the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Teenagers are at an age where they want to spend time with their friends or seek new adventures. Many have strict homes and feel they have to bend some parental guidelines just to have a normal life.

"Rules are supposed to help people and that is why you should never break any of them."

are pointless orders can be ignored, Vong says.

"I have broken school rules before," says Vong. "I always eat in class."

Eric Wong, 16, is a hardliner when it comes to disregarding decrees.

"Rules are supposed to help people," says Wong, from the O'Bryant, "and that is why you should never break any of them." ■

But, some warn, they shouldn't take it too far.

"Constitutional rules should not be broken," says Brian Vong, 15, who attends the O'Bryant.

However, what he feels

Generation flap

Aging out of relationships

By Kelvin Freire // Staff Writer

Many things influence a relationship. Age is one of them and it is controversial. How big of a gap in age is too big between partners?

"Age should not be a big factor in a relationship as long as they are both of legal age and they have the same maturity level," says Jessica Phung, 18, from Brighton High School.

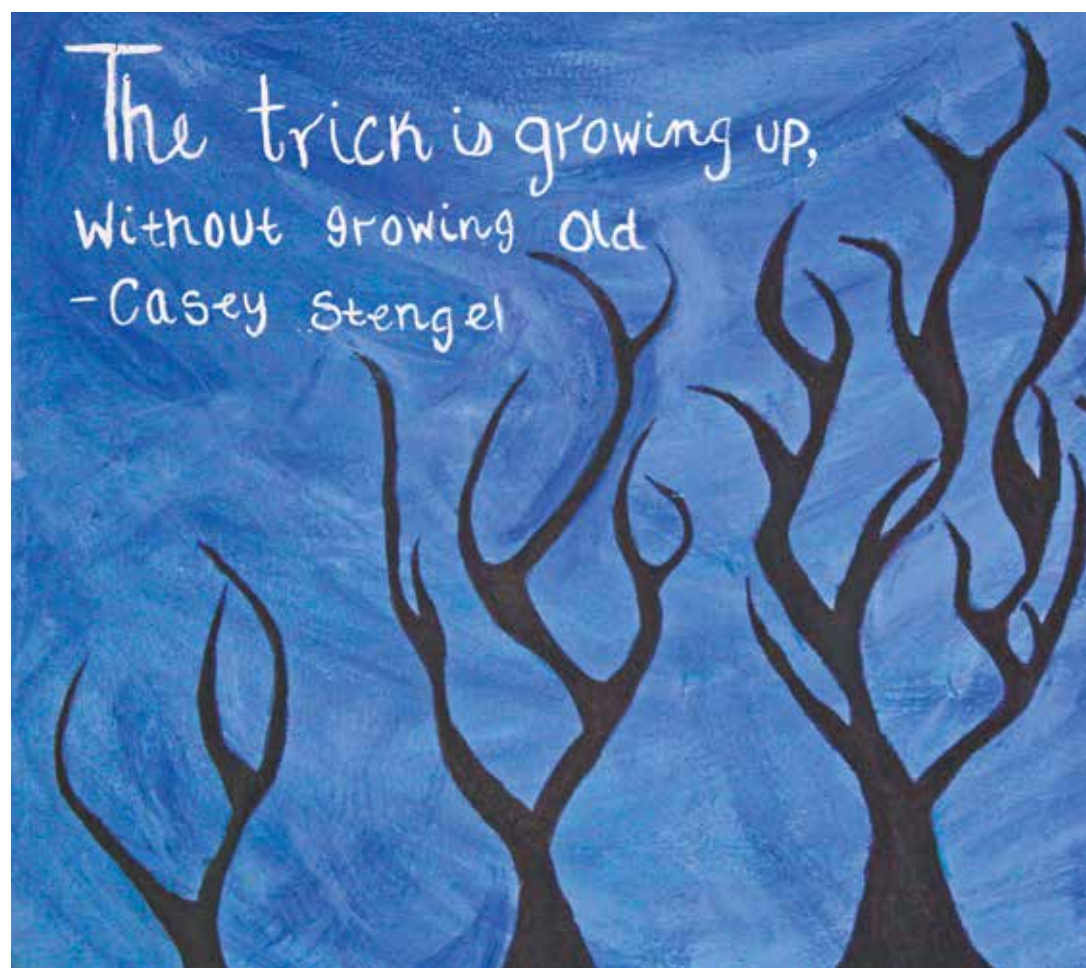
Ralph Lopes, a junior from Brighton High, agrees.

"Age is nothing," says Lopes. "A person should date whoever they want if they love each other."

But Jeffrey Phung, 19, from Brighton High, believes that age is not just a number.

"It is a main factor in a relationship," he says. ■

"Age is nothing. A person should date whoever they want if they love each other."



AFH art by Tangie Menaaz

The most important position in basketball

Point guard? Center? Think again

By **Mouctar Diakite** // Staff Writer

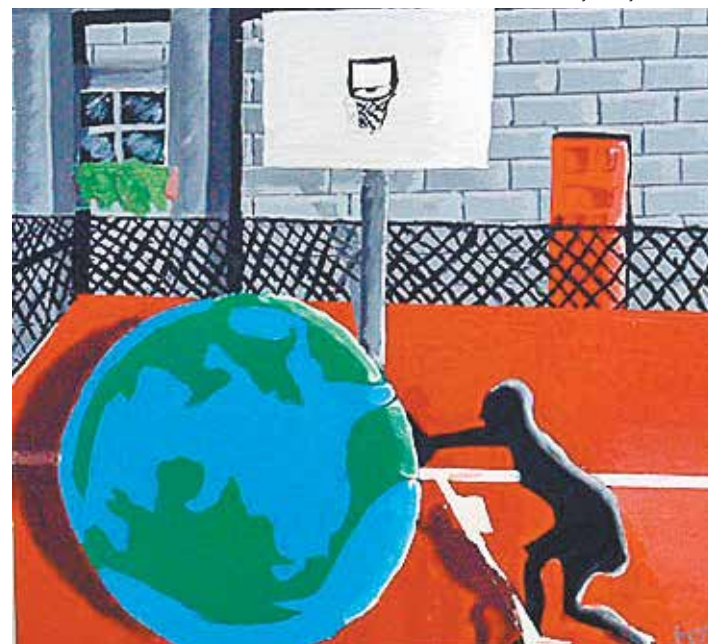
In basketball, there are five positions. Point guard, shooting guard, small forward, power forward, and center.

Some insist that point guard is the most important position because these players handle the ball and run the show. Others believe that center is the vital spot, because those players are big, block shots, can play D, and dunk over everyone else.

I think they are all mistaken.

In my opinion, small forward is the most important position in the game. These are the ultimate combo players, doing most anything that a point guard, shooting guard, power forward, and center can do. Most small forwards have speed, strength, and can drain jump shots. They also hit their free throws.

When special small forwards like LeBron James, Kevin Durant, or Rudy Gay are not playing, it's hard for their teams to win. Without a small forward, the team's offense and defense starts to shrink, and it's game over. ■



My favorite sport is:

- a) Tennis
- b) Golf
- c) Badminton
- d) Wrestling
- e) None of the above
- f) Keep reading

By **Selina Sorto** // Staff Writer

For Domingos Lopes, 15, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, soccer is his favorite sport. He says he feels good and energized when he plays. Not only does he play about three times a week, but he likes to watch soccer, too.

In fact, among those ages 12 to 24, pro soccer is now the second most popular sport to view in the U.S., according to a recent poll cited by sfgate.com.

Number one is pro football, basketball is third and baseball – once considered the national pastime – is fourth.

Jennifer Valenica, 15, belongs to the soccer crowd.

"It's a fun way to get in shape, especially for people who like to run around," says Valencia, who goes to BCLA.

Kenny Depina, 18, prefers to play football.

"It's a fun sport," says Depina, from BCLA, "and a good way to let anger out." ■



AFH art by Pablo Chao

A&E

Cop shop props

Why teens were so into the TV show "Boston's Finest"

By **Odelyne Lamour** // Contributing Writer

"Boston's Finest" was a new reality TV show on TNT about local cops' average workdays. It gave you a taste of police officers' daily lives. Why did teens flock to watch "Boston's Finest" until it ended in April? The network recently announced that it was picking up a second season.

"I love cop shows," says Regis Lino-Kelly, a junior from Boston Community Leadership Academy. "I honestly think some people just watch the show because it takes place in their hometown or they just want something to talk about in school the next day."

Many teens watched the show – now available online – for entertainment and as another way to interact with their friends. Others wanted to see if any relatives – cops or criminals – or even their own houses made it on air.

"It lets you see if you really know your city or not," says Perla Cumba, 18, from BCLA.

The show ended up turning some heads. In this generation, many think police officers do not do their jobs very well. People are always saying, "You'll die before the police even come." When you watched the show, teens say, it changed your entire mindset. The show gave you insight into how fast and productive police officers are on the job while also balancing their family lives.

"I had no idea that cops actually do a lot for the community and especially for the people," says Lashawn Rosa, 17, from BCLA. "I feel like we take them for granted."

The program also taught teens about the dangers lurking around the streets. "It makes me think twice," says Lino-Kelly "about where I should hang out." ■



AFH photo by Peggy Lei