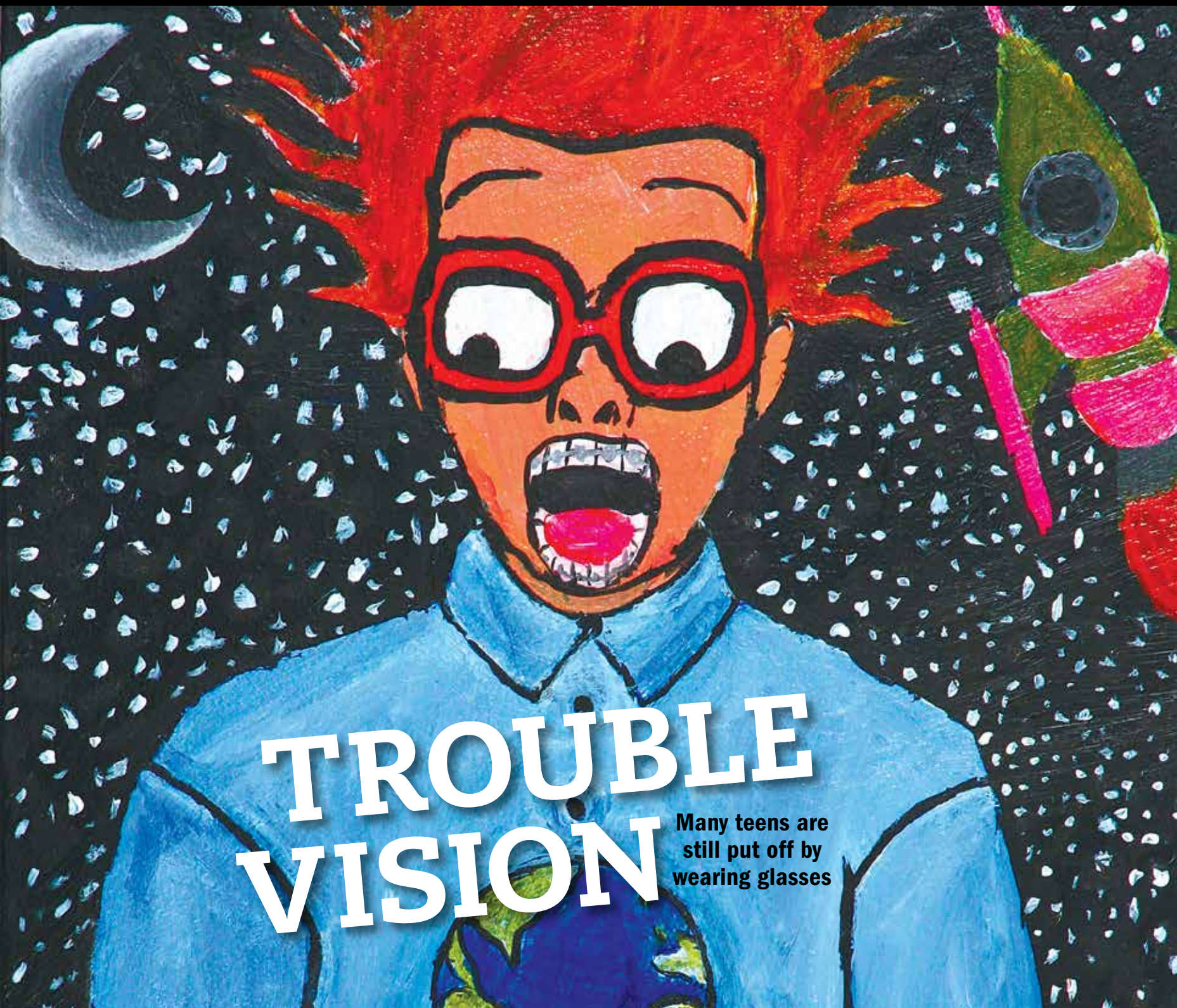


TEENS **in** PRINT BOSTON

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT NOV/DEC 2013™



TROUBLE VISION

Many teens are
still put off by
wearing glasses

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BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT is produced through a partnership between *The Boston Globe* and *WriteBoston*



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Eye see

- The Roman philosopher Seneca, born around the year 4 BC, was known to magnify his readings through a glass filled with water.
- The Roman emperor Nero, who ruled from 54 to 68 AD, held an emerald lens to his eye as he watched the gladiators do battle.
- An ancient document indicates that the first wearable eyeglasses first appeared in Italy around 1285, inventor unknown.
- Gold frames with crystal lenses burst on the scene for rich people in 1420.
- Sam Foster introduced mass-produced sunglasses to America on beaches in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 1929.
- Many centuries before, around the 1100s, Chinese judges wore shades of smoky quartz – not to block the sun but to hide their eye expressions from courtroom witnesses.

Sources: Women's and Children's Health Network, ideafinder.com, "Spectacles and Other Vision Aids"

Trouble vision

Squinting their way through high school

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Jeffrey Laine knows he probably needs glasses but says he doesn't have time to get his eyes checked.

Not that he would wear his specs, anyway.

"I don't want to have glasses, because I know that I am going to forget them somewhere," says Laine, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

He can see things better if he sits in the front of the class, but he prefers not to. That would mean always getting chosen to answer questions by the teacher.

Laine's solution?

"I have to squint my eyes," he says.

Many teens don't wear glasses since they think it makes them look nerdy. This holds true for adults, as well.

A 2010 British study cited in the Daily Mail online found that scores of women across the pond would rather go through life squinting – which decreases the entry of light and increases focus – than spoil their looks by wearing spectacles.

This is still happening despite the fact that many entertainment celebrities and sports stars can now be seen about town flaunting fancy eyewear. Some are also known to wear fake glasses – thick frames with clear lenses – just to look cerebral.

Contact lenses are an option for some teens. Yet others find them uncomfortable, or too much trouble to put in and take out, or too expensive.

Same with some glasses – and many teens wouldn't be caught wearing anything other than costly designer brands.

Still, medical experts say squinting should be only used as a short-term option for improving vision and can cause headaches.

Amal Egal, 16, needs glasses but chooses not to wear them.

"I hate how glasses look on me," says Egal, from the O'Bryant.

She says she would rather not deal with contact lenses and something touching her eyes.

So she makes sure to tell her teachers at the beginning of the year that she needs to sit in the front of the room to see, and squints her way through the rest of the day.

Anita Le, 16, says she hasn't used glasses for two years now.

"I'm always too lazy to get them fixed," says Le, who goes to the O'Bryant.

She will try to sit in front of the class, even though she does not like it.

She, too, chooses to squint her eyes or get lost in a big blur. ■



BSAC BUZZ

By Bill Zhou // Contributing Writer

Along with homework and teachers, school discipline is among the most common topics of conversation among Boston teenagers. At many schools around the district, students complain about systems that can punish students for even the smallest infractions.

We at the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) understand students' problems with

One of BSAC's biggest concerns is the active use of suspension as punishment for the most minor offenses.

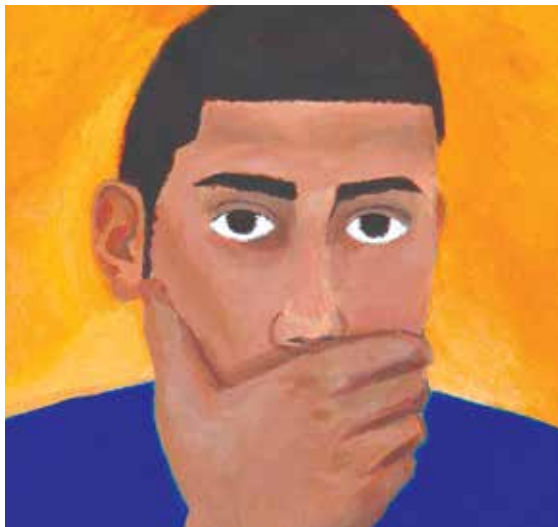
disciplinary rules. Over the last few years, BSAC has worked to improve school discipline procedures through several major initiatives:

- On October 4, BSAC conducted its annual Listening Project at the Ruggles, Roxbury Crossing, Forest Hills,

and Ashmont T stations. Members collected valuable information from students about their schools' procedures.

- One of BSAC's biggest concerns is the active use of suspension as punishment for the most minor offenses. These suspensions do little to prevent students from future misbehavior and only leave them behind on their schoolwork. We have met with many other student coalitions and even attended a meeting of Congress about this issue. We strongly urge schools to consider other options so that students are not stripped of their educations.

Students need to be aware of their rights. For more information, contact Caroline Lau at clau4@bostonpublicschools.org ■



AFH art by Lorenzo Perez



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

Backpack backstory

Taking a weight off

By Alexa Lara // Staff Writer

Some students still whip into school propelled by their weighty backpacks or rolling them on wheels looking like they are traveling to Mexico, instead of math class.

Those heavy backpacks are so old school!

Here's how this new generation does it.

BAM!

Instead of having to take all those thick textbooks back and forth from school, many teens now simply snap a picture of their homework assignment pages on their cellphones.

No fuss, no muss.

No notebooks either, as many teens just write their work on a computer or on paper they leave at home.

No giant books to mess up your perfect Vera Bradley or Louis Vuitton handbag – or your back.

Not only does it lighten your load, it's easy on your wallet. You can save on school supplies, especially those pricey North Face backpacks.

Some teachers also lessen the burden by putting their homework lessons online, or having them accessible via a flash drive.

What do you think is the next shortcut for making homework easier to complete? Not having to do homework at all?

Stay tuned! ■

Backpack facts

- One study found that the average weight of backpacks students lugged around was 15 pounds.
- About 5,000 children a year in the US wind up in emergency rooms due to backpack-related injuries.
- In 2010, some 28,000 sprains, strains, dislocations, and fractures caused by backpacks were treated in US medical facilities.

Sources: nytimes.com, the Institute for Western Surgery, and knoxnews.com

Subject matters

By Alexa Lara // Staff Writer

Many students generally object to certain subjects they feel are tedious and useless. Teens often ask questions like, “What’s the point of learning this? How will it help me in the future?”

Here, some students discuss specifically why they don’t like certain subjects and what they would rather study.

Maroua Laafar, 16, dislikes anything that has to do with biology because, she says, it’s complicated.

“If you’re going to major in bio, then yeah it’s important to study it, but other than that, no,” says Laafar, who attends the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science.

Laafar says she would prefer to study

psychology because you learn how people act.

Lianelisa Perez, 15, dislikes science and geometry because she says she does not understand them. She feels that you don’t need to know all that information unless it’s required for the profession you want to be in.

Instead, she says she would be more willing to take an extra history class.

“It is important to know what happened before,” she says. “I love history.”

Daiahna Odom, 15, dislikes science and doesn’t think it’s practical.

“I don’t plan on becoming a rocket scientist,” she says. “I feel as if science is not going to help me when I get older.”

She’d rather study economics; it’s a good way, she says, to learn how to manage your money. ■



AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick

Balancing act: work and play

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Joseph Hunt, 16, a junior from the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science, is taking two AP classes and he thinks they are pretty challenging.

“These classes take a lot of my time,” says Hunt, “I do not get enough time to sleep.”

Sometimes, Hunt says, he does not even have enough spare moments to spend with his family because he is too busy with school.

Education is one of the most important factors in the growth of the country. Higher education can give you more opportunities in your life and the chance to have a great job.

At the same time, being a teenager can be the best days of your life – but you need the opportunity to enjoy it.

Markus Brown, an upperclassman from the South End/Lower Roxbury, is one step closer to college. To be successful, he says, you need to set realistic goals for yourself and strike a balance between work and play.

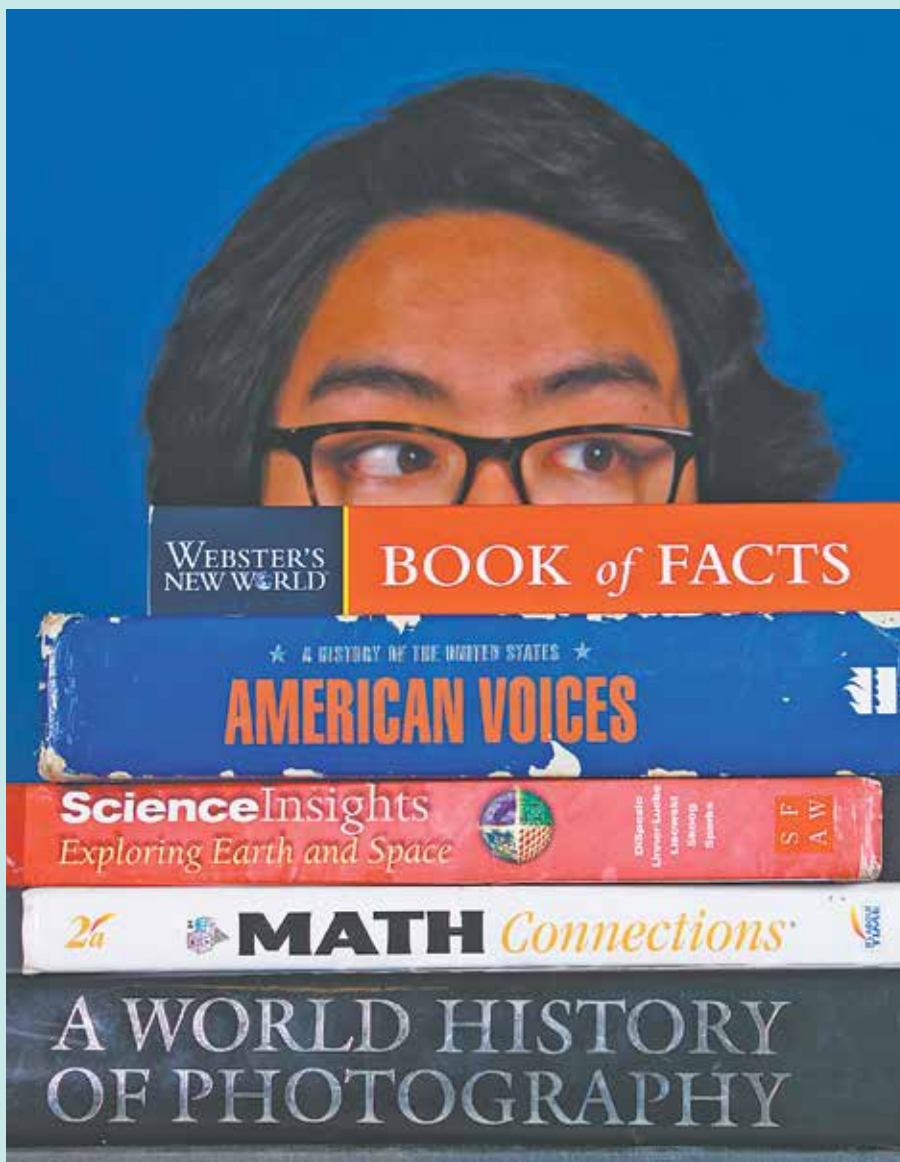
“Being involved outside of school is what colleges look for,” says Brown. “Even though sometimes school asks for too much, sometimes you can just say no and take a break for yourself and spend time with your family during the weekend.”

Seventeen-year-old Juan Crespo, from Madison Park High School, is still not sure what he wants to do in the future.

He thinks that sometimes school gives a workload that is too heavy.

But somehow, he says, he is still able to manage it all. ■

Being a teenager can be the best days of your life – but you need the opportunity to enjoy it.



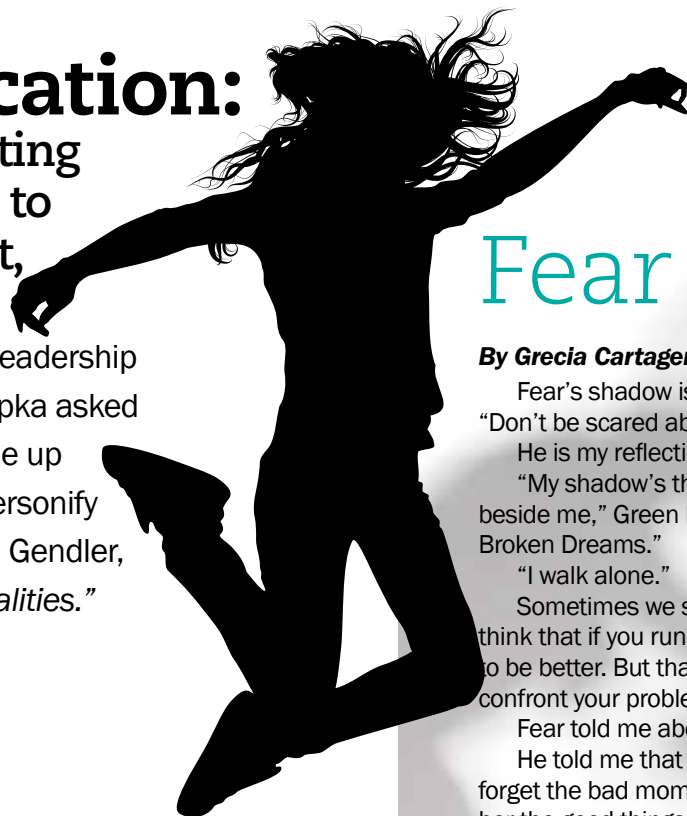
AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick

Personification:

the act of attributing human qualities to an animal, object, or abstraction.

At Boston Community Leadership Academy, Amanda Chaloupka asked her ESL 2 students to come up with characteristics and personify them in the style of J. Ruth Gendler, author of *"The Book of Qualities."*

Here is a sampling:



Fear

By Grecia Cartagena // Staff Writer

Fear's shadow is always next to me, saying, "Don't be scared about life."

He is my reflection; my dark reflection.

"My shadow's the only one that walks beside me," Green Day sings in "Boulevard of Broken Dreams."

"I walk alone."

Sometimes we sit next to Fear. Maybe you think that if you run away everything's going to be better. But that's not true. You have to confront your problems.

Fear told me about his friend, Forgiveness.

He told me that Forgiveness teaches you to forget the bad moments in life and only remember the good things – the ones that are going to help you stay there and be with Love. ■



AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick

Anger

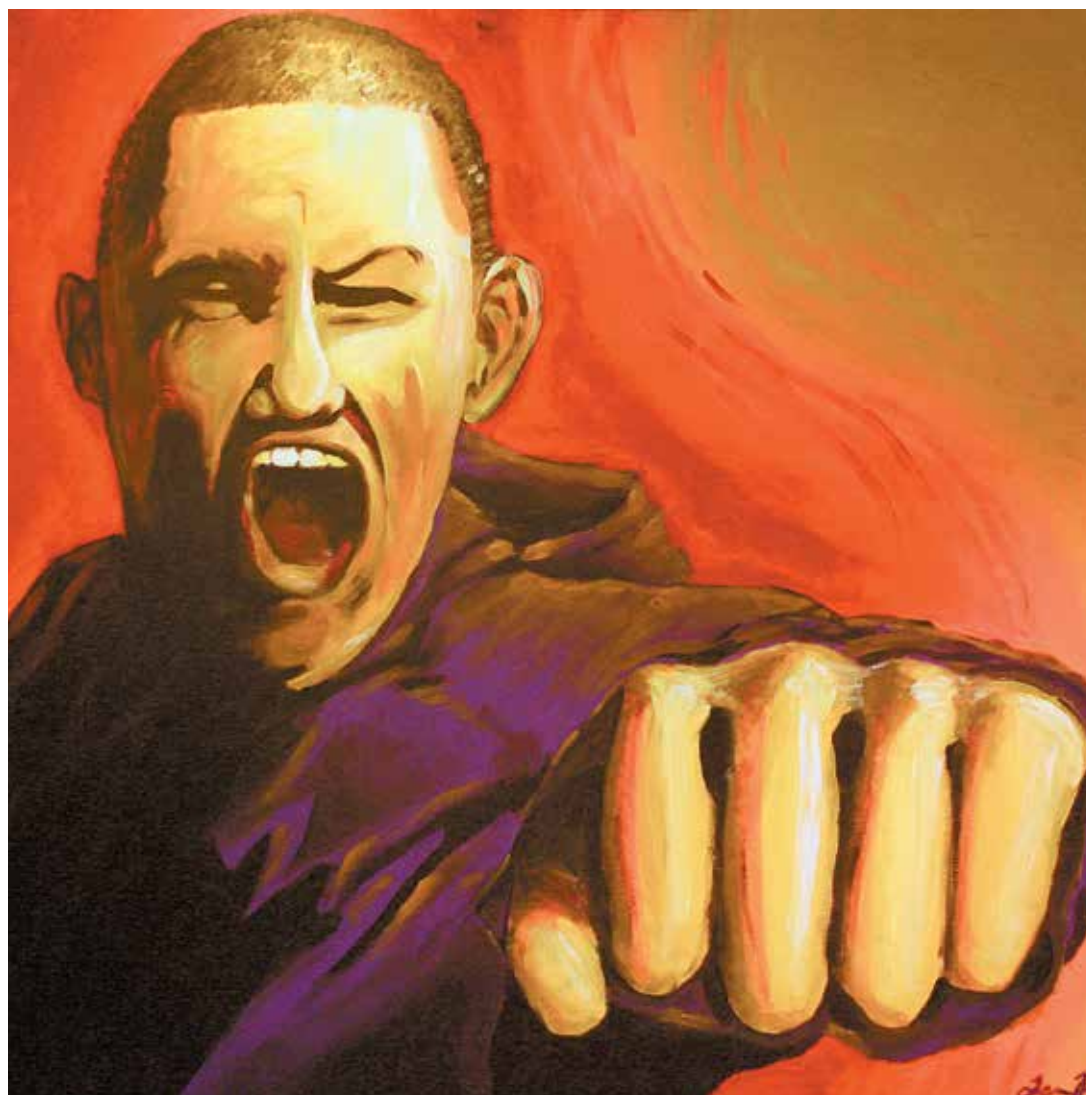
By Joervy Espinal // Contributing Writer

Anger is the type of person who gets mad at everything and likes to fight a lot. Anger can be very mean to people because he feels like everybody is bullying him. He's never nice.

Anger wears army boots and heavy garments because he likes to be ready to fight. He carries a sword but hides it.

Anger was born in a hole. He was stuck there for about five years. After the war, people gave him freedom.

Anger's best friend is Mr. Mad. ■



AFH art by Jesse Racusen

Happiness

By Luckson Attis // Contributing Writer

Happiness is never sad. People don't understand how Happiness comforts himself. He gets that way because he's Happy. He always feels free. Without freedom, Happiness doesn't mean anything. Happy people know why they are on earth.

Happiness wears a white T-shirt everywhere he goes. White reflects others. No matter where Happiness wears his white T-shirt during his travels, he never seems to get dirty.

Happiness loves Loneliness because he wants to make her happy. But he doesn't have the strength to tell her. He needs to go and talk to Courage. ■

AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick

AFH art by Joshua Lam



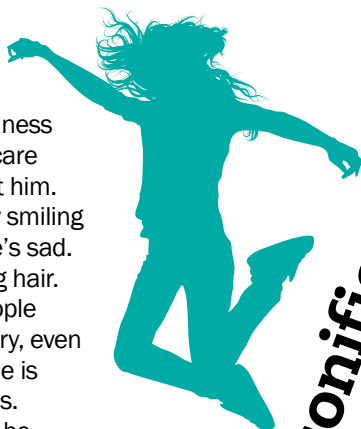
Craziness

By German Antigua // Contributing Writer

Craziness wears a red sock on his left foot and a black one on the right. Craziness is a boy who doesn't care what others say about him. He just lives his life by smiling all the time, even if he's sad.

Craziness has long hair. He enjoys making people laugh. He doesn't worry, even if he gets in trouble. He is friends with Happiness.

Craziness loves to be different from others. That's how he got his name. ■



Personification



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

Playfulness

By Luis Pena // Contributing Writer

Playfulness is a man who likes to play around. If you pass by his class, you will see him doing nothing and talking to his classmates.

Playfulness likes to make jokes in school so people can laugh.

In class, he always gets up for no reason. That's when he's present at all. Playfulness always has an excuse for coming late to class.

Playfulness used to be a quiet soul. But a friend told him that he had to talk more and chill with others.

Now, Playfulness won't stop fooling around. ■

Responsibility

By Cristian Lorenzo // Contributing Writer

Responsibility is a great man. He works hard to give his family what it wants. He never listens when Laziness tries to make him quit.

He likes to hang out with his best friend, Justice. His family is related to Confidence.

Responsibility is a man who wears the right clothes for the weather. In case he is sweaty, he always has an extra shirt.

At the age of 16, Responsibility's parents were fighting. His father left the house. His mother was heartbroken. How was she going to pay the bills, buy food, and get clothes?

Responsibility was worried. He went to find a job. They accepted him at Burger King. But it wasn't easy. He was also in school and didn't want to drop out.

He did well. He graduated from high school and then college. He never gave up. Now he's a mechanic. ■



AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick



Friendliness

By Mercedes Paulino // Contributing Writer

Friendliness is a girl who likes to talk a lot. She thinks that everybody is her friend. Even the boys just see her as a friend.

Friendliness has not had an easy life. Her dad said that she is not his family. Her mom kicked her dad out of the house. Still, the good thing about Friendliness is that she never lets her past get in the way of her future.

Friendliness is an amazing person. She loves to make jokes, even if her friends don't laugh. She wears nice, casual clothes. She looks good, feels good about herself.

Her goal is to make people feel happy, even when she is not feeling so happy herself. ■



Deceit

By Julio Nunez // Contributing Writer

Deceit lies too much. He lies to make people happy. But at the same time, he makes people go away and not talk to him.

Deceit tells people what they want to hear. He wants others to like him. He lies to fit in. He wants teens to think he's one of the best people in the world. He wants them to think that he is some kind of superhero.

Deceit loves all the attention. ■



AFH photo by Briahna Soto



AFH art by Jason Talbot

Beauty

By Maria Jimenez // Contributing Writer

Beauty wakes up in the morning extra early to get ready for school. When she gets there, everybody looks at her. The way she walks and moves her hips is like a model. The way she talks really sweetly. The way she looks at you with her light brown eyes makes you feel special.

Everybody is surprised. Nobody thought that the girl with big teeth, purple glasses, and two braids would be a Beauty now. She's like a friend with confidence. She doesn't care what people think. She's always smiling.

Beauty, though, had a rough past. She used to get bullied. She was friends with Sadness and Loneliness. She changed because she was tired of people calling her names and all that. ■

Kindness

By Iris Huertas // Staff Writer

Kindness wears a blue T-shirt. It makes him feel confident and able to talk with friends and help them with things that they forget.

He always has friends with bad memories.

Sometimes, Kindness looks back at his childhood. When he was young, he didn't like too many people. He was friends with Loneliness.

He moved to another school. The first day of classes, he wore his blue T-shirt. He tried to talk to more people and be nice to them.

Since that day, he has gained true friends he can talk to and help. He knows that his life is much better being kind. ■



Personification

Style

By Brehidy Garcia // Contributing Writer

Style is beautiful. Everywhere she goes, people look.

She wears cute clothes: nice jeans, stylish T-shirts. She tops it all off with some sparkling jewelry and a high bun.

Style smells sweet as honey. Every day, she puts on that fragrance that makes all the boys fall in love with her.

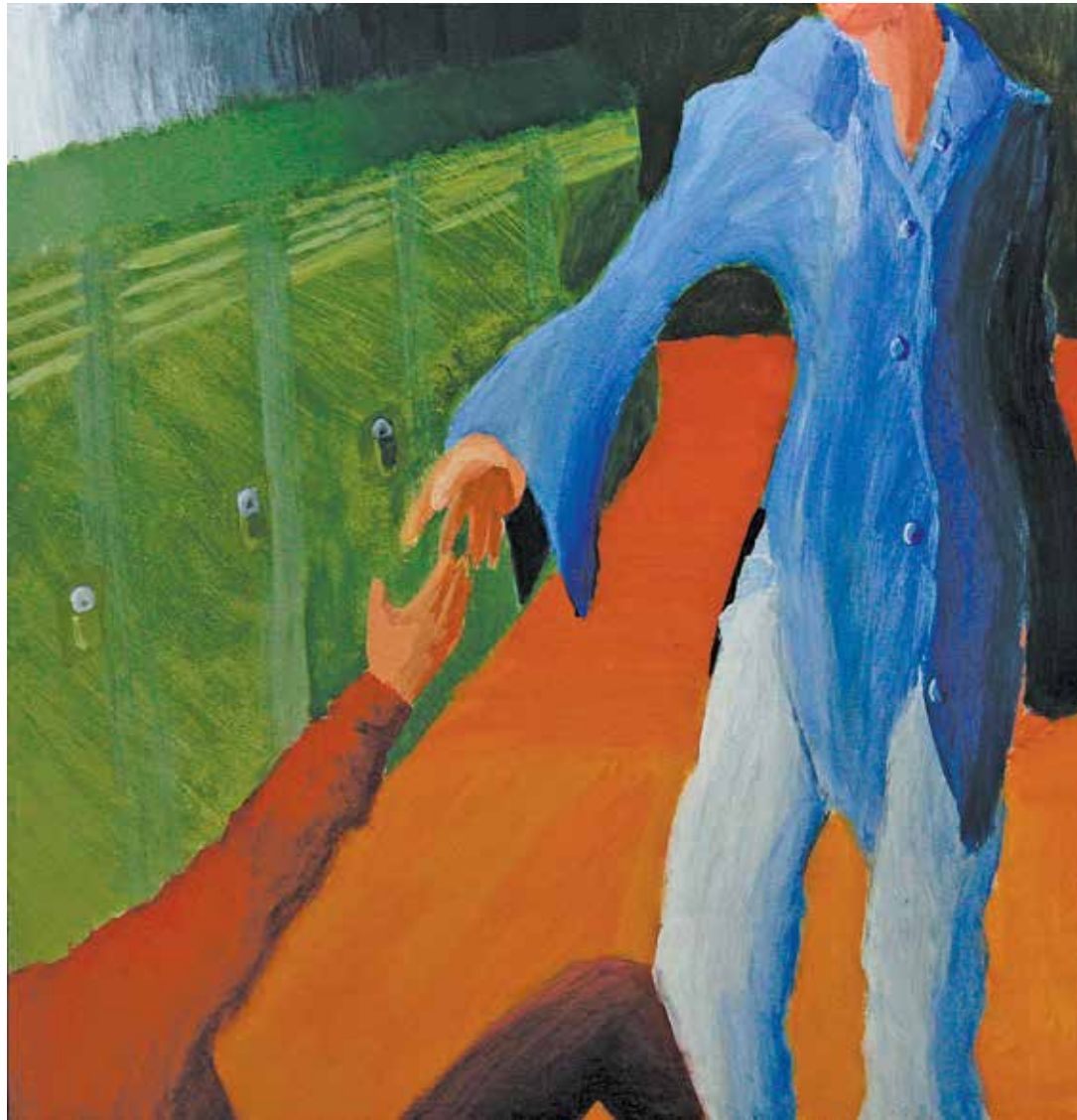
She used to dress down.

One day, she looked at the mirror. She said to herself: "You are beautiful. Put on some fancy clothes and love yourself."

Now, when Style smiles, the world lights up. ■



AFH art by Patricia Romelus



AFH art by Matthew Shea

Power

By Ibrahima Jalloh // Contributing Writer

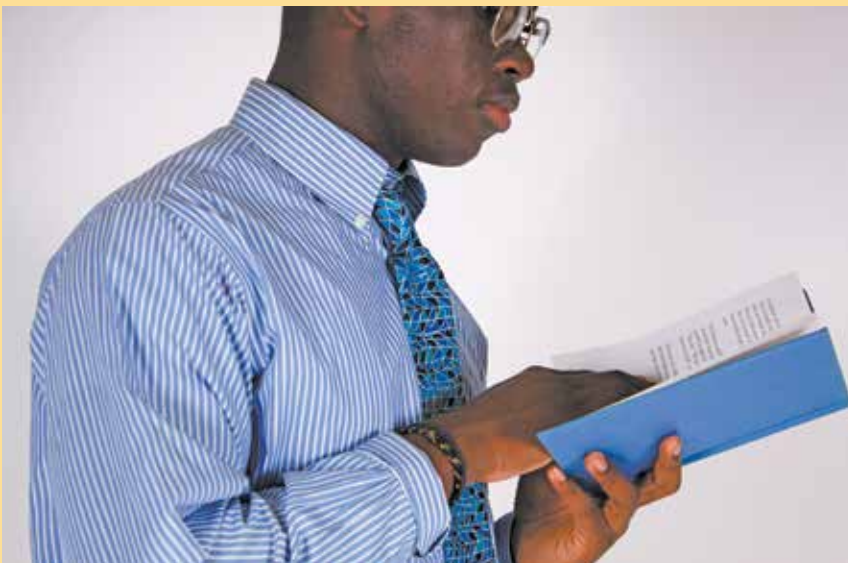
Power looks like a strong black man. A person who can stand in front of thousands of faces and talk with a strong voice. When he talks, all you want to do is listen because he is a gifted public speaker. He is very charismatic.

He wears a tuxedo and has a limo driver. He has a Muslim name. He travels around the world and provides what people need.

Power comes from Education. He studied hard to make it to the top. To make it to the top, he had to start from the bottom.

He was just a regular guy, but he knew what he wanted. He was committed. He was a poor black person and he made his way up.

Power's mother is Strength. She gave him Confidence. Power's father is Africa. He gave Power the whole package. ■



AFH photo by Miguel Fitzpatrick

The virtues of video games

By Edwin Rivera // Staff Writer

The critics cite cases like that of the eight-year-old boy from Louisiana who shot and killed a 90-year-old female relative this summer after he played a violent video game.

Everybody needs to realize that these are games – and not real life.

That's why only people who are mature enough to know that should play these types of games.

So don't blame the game. In fact, there is a growing pile of research that says playing video games can be good for you.

Many adults think that if you don't take your eyes off the screen you have no life. But in reality, you're learning a lot – even though you may not realize it at the time because it's so much fun.

Sports games, for example, can teach you the rules of the games.

Dance games can get you up and practicing your moves.

Action games can improve your attention span and ability to multitask.

They can encourage cooperation and teamwork.

They can enhance your hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

They can teach you to think ahead and anticipate another player's movements.

They can support communication among players.

They can help you master concepts through critical-thinking skills rather than rote memorization.

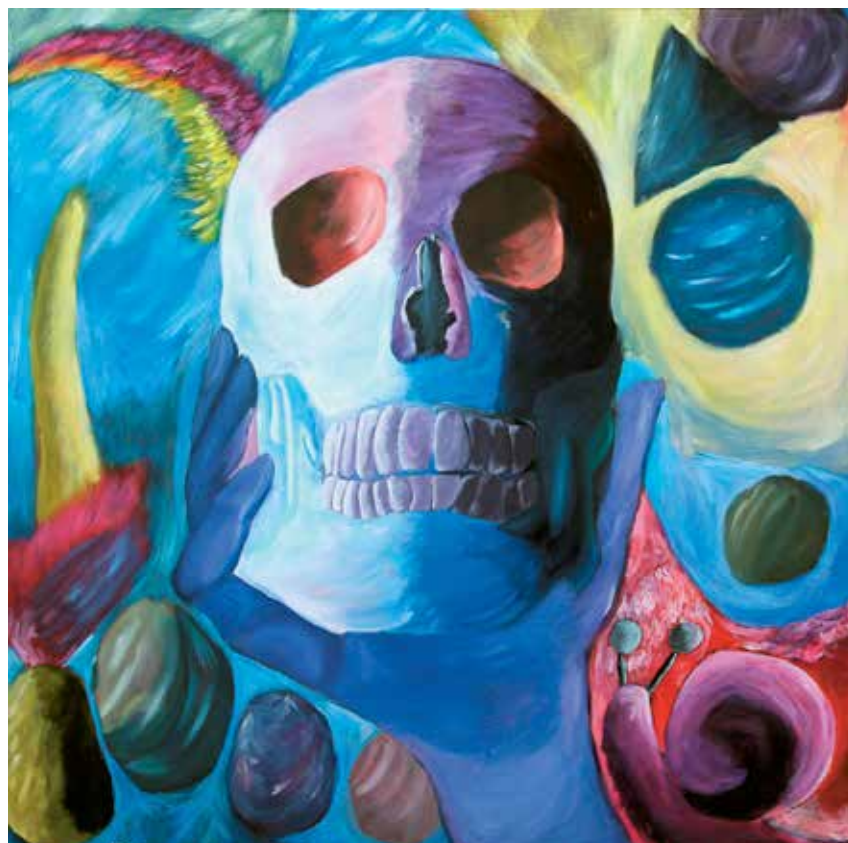
And they can build bridges between online players from around the world. ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

Don't blame the game. There is a growing pile of research that says playing video games can be good for you.

AFH art by Jude Pierre



Anthropology 101

By Mussuba Samati // Senior Editor

Going to Senegal last summer with other high school students in the buildOn program to help construct a school taught me the fundamentals of life and being a voice for those who lack it – and for giving back to my generous community when possible. It also gave me an opportunity to put myself in the position of less fortunate people.

It made me even more appreciative of life; while I'm being ungrateful, others have no luck at all. I can be complaining about not having a certain pair of shoes while an individual in another country may have nothing to eat. Through this program, I was able to further learn more about myself – my strengths, aspirations, abilities, and willingness to give to my community. This has led me to a fascinating career possibility: anthropology.

This is the study of all human culture, and it would give me the chance to travel and write, a combination of the main things I enjoy.

While in Senegal, I had the chance to experience the villagers' daily-life routines, their culture, and their positive mental attitudes. Through the study of anthropology, I want to gain more knowledge about other cultures so that I have a better understanding of my own surroundings. I hope to study diverse topics such as tribes, languages, religions, and art.

I remember that while there we would write down our thoughts and observations. I have always had a strong love for writing because from it I am able to express my feelings on issues that I am connected to. Writing brings awareness.

Traveling is also an important aspect of life because it provides us with opportunities to be educated about other societies.

Through being an anthropologist, I want to create change by traveling and writing. The more I write about different ways of life, the more others are informed and may be willing to give a helping hand. ■

I was able to learn more about myself.... This has led me to a fascinating career possibility: anthropology.



Soccer is life

Text and photographs by Marmarin Nasirahmad // Senior Editor

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world.

Whether it's young kids in the backyard, or professionals playing on the world stage, it's a game that takes speed, skill, strength, power, precision, grace, energy, emotion, and teamwork. It's a cultural tradition you learn at an early age – and carry around forever.

There was a September soccer face-off at Gillette Stadium, Portugal vs. Brazil.

Outside the entrance to the stadium, fans from each country gathered in bunches. They cooked native dishes, waved flags, played loud music, sang and danced, and taunted each other.

“Go Portugal!”

“Go Brazil!”

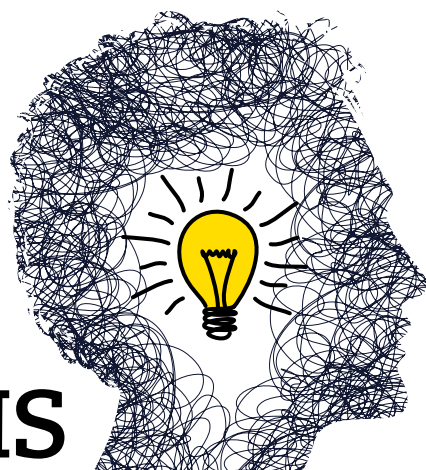
On the field, the game changed minute to minute as momentum shifted from Brazil to Portugal and back to Brazil.

Every time one team scored – single-name star player Neymar ultimately led Brazil to a 3-1 victory – it seemed like a war would break out in the stands.

After all, soccer is more than just a game.

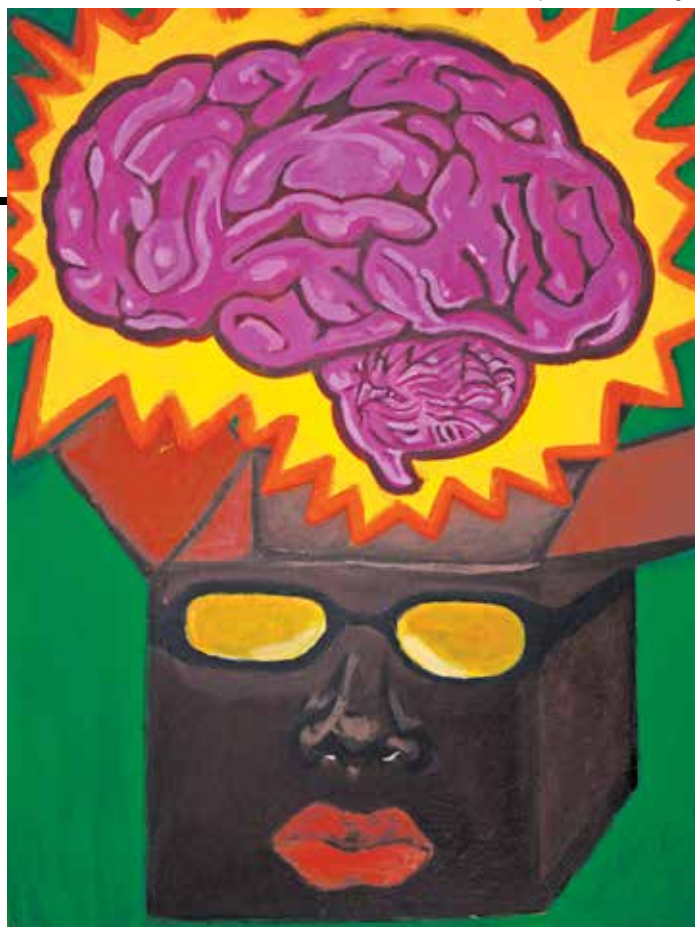
Soccer is life. ■





WHAT IS INTELLIGENCE?

AFH art by Frederick Plowright



Thinking outside the box

By Leida Pereira //
Contributing Writer

One day, the TV wasn't working. We were all trying to figure out a solution.

Suddenly, my oldest brother said, "Wait a minute."

He took the remote control and pressed the button that says "info" and saw that the video was not connected.

He looked at the back of the TV to see if all the plugs were in. Then he realized that they were not all in the right place. He fixed them and finally the TV worked.

Is he intelligent?

Another day, it was cold. My four-year-old brother was playing and got stuck under the bed. My mother was in a panic. My father wasn't home. My oldest brother went to my father's tools and brought out a drill. He loosened the bed and freed my little brother. Is he intelligent?

My oldest brother always thinks outside the box when he is challenged. He impresses me with the way he thinks. He is intelligent. ■

Making the right decisions

By Jose Daniel Sorto //
Contributing Writer

Intelligence is defined as general cognitive problem-solving skills. A mental ability involved in reasoning, perceiving relationships and analogies, calculating, learning quickly.

It is also taking advantage of all the opportunities that are given to you.

When I moved to the United States from El Salvador, in 2009, I was constantly thinking about "The American Dream" – even though I didn't have any idea what it really was about it.

My family and I moved here to have a better life, more chances for success. I knew that I was going to a new country, with new people and a different culture, language, and traditions.

The best way to show intelligence was to adapt to a new environment. I knew that language was going to be my biggest problem. I decided to work really hard in class, watch TV in English, and stay after school to receive extra help.

That was a smart decision. Instead of focusing on learning English, I could have done something else. Play video games or watch TV in Spanish.

Now, I'm writing in English to define the word intelligence, and, hopefully, after you read this essay, you are going to have a good perspective about it. Intelligence is reflected when you make a decision and you have positive consequences. ■

Everyone has it

By Dorivaldo Barbosa //
Contributing Writer

In my opinion, everyone is intelligent. Intelligence doesn't mean knowing everything; it means knowing something. Not everybody can score an A in their classes, or understand a book, or even know how to cook. However, that doesn't mean that they cannot play soccer or even write a good story.

President Barack Obama is a very smart man. I have never seen someone who can give such an effective speech. Still, I'd like to see him play FIFA 13 against me on Playstation 3.

One day, after receiving a high honors diploma, I met an illiterate man, a friend of my parents.

"Good job" the man said. "I know that you are very smart. However, I have two questions for you. One is a mathematical problem, and the other one you must think about many times before you answer."

It didn't take me more than two minutes to figure out the math problem. However, I couldn't find an answer to the other question, which was: How would a mute man ask a blind and deaf man for a cigarette?

Everyone has intelligence. No matter the situation, there is always someone who can figure out the solution. And this person can be a president, a professional, a student, or even an illiterate. ■

How would a mute man ask a blind and deaf man for a cigarette?

Making something of yourself

By **Stiven Moreta** // **Contributing Writer**

For my aunt, intelligence is: "To have an intellectual understanding of things. It can also be to succeed without education."

She was living in the Dominican Republic and studied there. Never went to college, though.

Later on in life, my aunt decided to move to the United States because she wanted a better life. Struggling through hard jobs and low wages, she decided to quit and use her talent, which is baking – making cakes and other desserts and selling them to get money.

She succeeded. Almost any Hispanic in Boston was her client. She didn't attend college, but is she smart?

Street smart is when you have common sense. When you look at something from another perspective, as if you have another mind. You can answer questions without consulting a book.

My dad was born in the Dominican Republic, in Bani. His family was poor.

My dad did farm work. They had a couple of cows and they sold the milk. Sometimes he missed school because he had to wake up early to go to work to get money for the family.

My dad was tired of working hard like a mule and getting nothing. He decided to finish school and graduated from college with an engineering degree.

My dad came to the United States thinking he was going to live a good life here. He cleaned toilets and offices because they did not accept his college diploma since it was from another country.

He got tired and went back to the DR and made his own business – an electronics store – and was making way more money than he expected. He succeeded.

Is he smart? ■

Book smart and street smart

By **Pedro Daveiga** // **Contributing Writer**

People think intelligence is that you know everything and you can do anything.

I think that you can be very good at one thing and awful at something else and you can still be smart.

My cousin back home in Senegal, when we were little his mother never let him go outside and play. She would always make him do his homework, read a book, and then clean the house. He was one of the top students in the whole school. But he never knew what the real world was. He didn't have any friends besides me. Other boys always bullied him and he never knew how to react. I got into so much trouble helping him but I always knew it was worth it because he also had my back on school work.

He knew what life was from the inside but never from the outside. This means that he was book smart not street smart.

Another example: My grandmother never went to school. She doesn't know how to read or write. But she was the one who took care of my family. She was the one who looked for food on the farm to feed us. She was the one who managed the money and paid the bills. ■



AFH photo by Kachina Vallely



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

It's in the eye of the beholder

By **Vilson Pina** // **Contributing Writer**

Can one who abandons everything he has and ventures into a foreign land with little more than hope in mankind be considered intelligent?

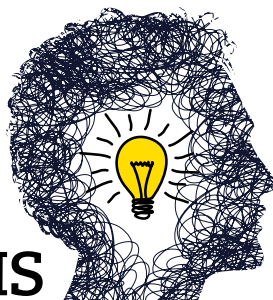
Now, say that he did it because he realized that he could provide better for his family that way, and that the nothing he started with in that new country became a house where his family is now living with him. Would you consider him intelligent?

What about a second one who was left behind with three children to raise by herself, and did it so well that none of them chose a dark path?

Would you say that she is intelligent?

Now take a look at one who aspires to become a soccer player. One whose grade point average doesn't meet the requirement that his high school imposes on students for them to be part of sports teams. Can he, whose GPA is not even high enough to practice a sport, be considered intelligent?

Let us fast-forward a couple of months to find out that he realized what he had to do. He then worked relentlessly to raise his GPA and not only became part of the team that he previously couldn't join, but also became its vice-captain. Can we now assume that he is intelligent? ■



WHAT IS INTELLIGENCE?

If at first you don't succeed...

By Jose Luis Cabrera // Contributing Writer

Intelligence is what we learn through the experiences of life: by working hard, thinking critically, and catching different skills from everything we've done well.

When I was a freshman, I liked to try new things, to find an answer to what didn't have one, and to work as hard as I could so I could keep my grades up. I used to say that once I had them up, I was not going to let them go down.

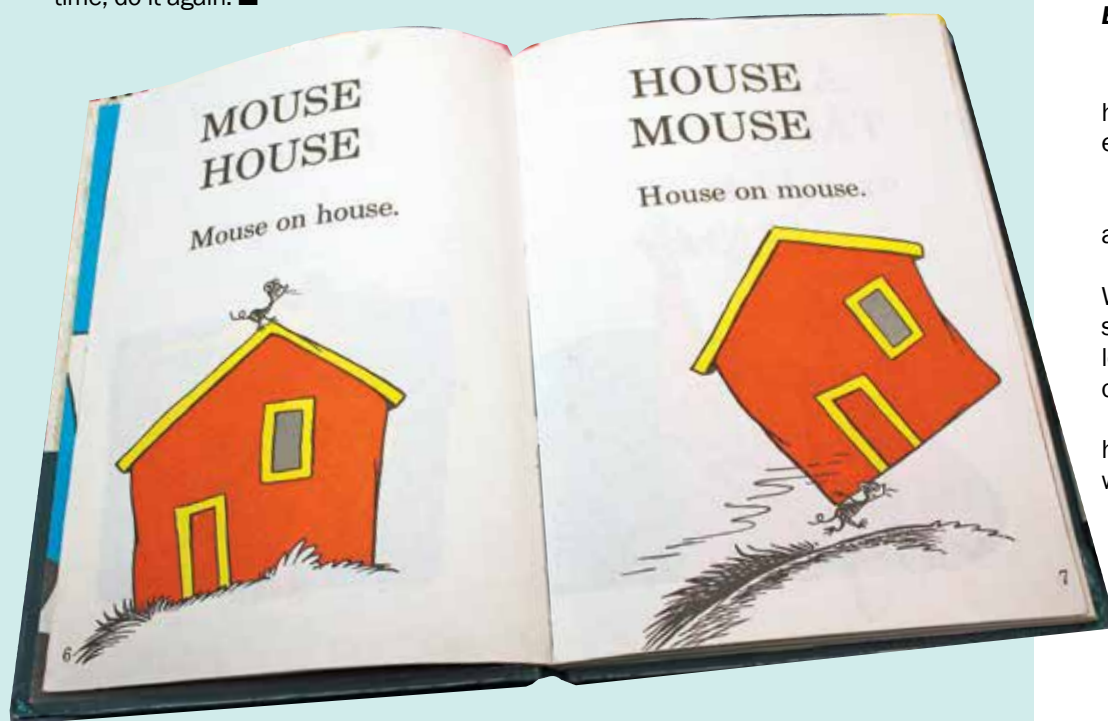
That didn't last forever. I started to care less about school. It was not an intelligent decision, but I let my laziness beat me instead of fighting back.

By the end of 11th grade, my grades were so low that only a special project for each class could help me pass.

I spent the last weeks of school working harder than ever. I made up credits from classes that I did not do well in before. I was proud of myself.

That experience taught me that it's never too late to step up. You don't get intelligent by watching others do the job for you. If you don't get it right the first time, do it again. ■

**You don't
get intelligent
by watching
others do the
job for you.**



AFH photo by Briahna Omorogbe

AFH photo by Dominic Duong



Independent grittiness

By Ilenny Nunez // Contributing Writer

For me, intelligence is being gritty.

When my mom was a teenager in DR, she had to do all the house activity before she left for school: clean, wash the dishes, even go to the river to get water and do the laundry by hand.

Still, she always kept her grades in A's and B's.

But then there was a time when she had to quit school around 14 because her family life became too tough.

Time passed, but she never stopped thinking about school. When I was nine, she decided to go back. She finished middle school and high school and the only reason she didn't go to college was because of money, which is the real issue in my country of why a lot of people quit their dreams.

This doesn't mean my mom is not intelligent. She became a hairstylist. She went to a school for this, got her diploma, and now works as a hairdresser from her house. ■

AFH photo by Cassandre Pimental



Patience and persistence

By Pharrah Lubin // Contributing Writer

My dad really wanted to continue school but wasn't able to due to financial instability in his family, in Haiti. So he decided to volunteer to help other students with their homework.

Using his intelligence, he came up with an idea to make students learn faster by studying in groups. A number of students benefited from his program academically and they also gained confidence.

This put a smile on a lot of students' faces and their parents decided to make it a job and pay my dad.

Several years later, my father decided to open a business. Every Friday and Saturday, my mom and dad went to the market to sell chickens that they raised.

Then, my dad opened his own market and hired people to work there.

Eventually, my father went back to school and became an engineer, which was always his goal.

My dad always said he came from a poor family but that his dream was to become a successful man and role model for his children. ■



AFH art by Danny Phan

It's universal

By Maria Semedo // Contributing Writer

One of the hardest questions to ask somebody is: What is intelligence? There are no right or wrong answers.

It's very common for people to cite examples of wealthy or famous people. But you don't have to go too far to see that it's all around you.

I used to think that intelligence was only found in those who went to school. They have intelligence for following rules that are implanted in school and for doing what is told.

But others have it, too.

What's the difference between the president's intelligence and a farmer's intelligence? Opposite positions in society, but both working in order to create change. A car is planned by a designer but you need a mechanic to keep it running.

Intelligence is universal. ■

Building confidence

By Betsaida Vicioso // Contributing Writer

Back in DR, I have a cousin whose mother has a mental problem. The neighbors know her as the crazy lady who goes out in the streets half-naked and yelling. In school, the kids always used to make fun of my cousin. The bullying got him so exhausted that it caused him to drop out.

My cousin never finished high school. Nobody is sure what motivates him to keep looking forward in life. However, even though he didn't study about construction he has the capacity to build things.

When we were little, he built a house. It wasn't just any house. It was the perfect house, for all the rest of my cousins and me to play in.

As time passed, his mind was getting to another level. He started making different things: a money box made of wood, his own bike. If there was a problem at the house with a window, a door, the stove – he could fix it.

He worked for a time in an auto shop.

In life, people are born with special qualities. By going to school, do you get an education? Yes. Do you learn how to write and read? Yes. But does it make you intelligent? Can you use those strategies in another environment different from your own?

Think about it. ■



AFH photo by Briahna Omorogbe

**HIBO ABDULLAHI**

Favorite quote:
"There's no 'I' in team."
Your best quality is being:
Caring.
Career goal is to become a:
Well-known surgeon.

**ADAMA BAH**

Favorite quote:
"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."
Your best quality: Forgiveness.
Career goal is to become a:
Doctor, OB/GYN.

**MARIAM BAH**

Favorite quote: "When I was five years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy.' They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life."
Your best quality is being: Caring.
Career goal is to become a: Surgeon.

**SARA CACHO**

Favorite quote:
"If plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters. Stay cool!"
Your best quality: Patience.
Career goal is to become a:
Psychologist.

**GRECIA CARTAGENA**

Favorite quote:
"Be what you want to be."
Your best quality is being:
Friendly.
Career goal is to become a:
Family judge.

**MOUCTAR DIAKITE**

Favorite quote:
"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."
Your best quality:
Leadership.
Career goal is to become a:
Professional football player.

**BENSLEY S. DORNEVAL**

Favorite quote:
"Yes we can."
Your best quality is being:
Attentive.
Career goal is to become a:
Criminal justice system professional.

**KELVIN FREIRE**

Favorite quote:
"Laugh when you can, cry when you must."
Your best quality:
Open personality.
Career goal is to become a:
Graphic designer.

**ILMA GOLEMI**

Favorite quote:
"Don't wait for the perfect moment; take the moment and make it perfect."
Your best quality: Reliability.
Career goal is to become a:
Finance professional.

**IRIS HUERTAS**

Favorite quote:
"Everyone knows, nobody is talking."
Your best quality is being:
Caring.
Career goal is to become a:
Psychologist.

**RALPH T. KARNUAH**

Favorite quote:
"I'm so fast, last night I turned off my lights and was in bed before the lights went out."
Your best quality is being: Ambitious.
Career goal is to:
Have a positive impact on society.

**ALEXA LARA**

Favorite quote:
"Everything happens for a reason."
Your best quality is being: Reliable.
Career goal is to:
Work in the field of law.

**JENNIFER LE**

Favorite quote:
"I'm living for right now because what if tomorrow never comes?"
Your best quality is being:
Independent.
Career goal is to become a:
Lawyer.

**SHANIQUE LEWIS**

Favorite quote:
"Success begins with failure."
Your best quality is:
Leadership.
Career goal is to become a:
Doctor.

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FEEDBACK!

Was it something we said? Or didn't say? Something with which you agree – or disagree?

► Let Teens in Print know what's on your mind by sending an email to TiP coordinator Ric Kahn at ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov Please include your full name, school, and grade and we may run your letter in an upcoming edition. Thank you.

► To join the Teens in Print staff, please express your interest in an email to the TiP coordinator at ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov

To learn more about Teens in Print, please visit our websites:

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writeboston.org

Next issue:
Jan/Feb 2014

Send submissions by mail to:
Boston Teens in Print
c/o WriteBoston
7 Palmer Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

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.

**MENAJEE**

Favorite quote:
"Don't stop others from doing what they want because of your limited imagination and don't let others stop you from doing what you want because of their limited imagination."
Your best quality is: Acceptance.
Career goal is to become a: Doctor.

**KRISTIANA MBRICE**

Favorite quote:
"Behind the clouds, the sky is always blue."
Your best quality is:
Honesty.
Career goal is to become a:
Successful person.

**DENNIS MEMBAH**

Favorite quote:
"Life is full of mysteries; it is up to us to solve them."
Your best quality is: Determination.
Career goal is to:
Be able to take care of myself and my family in the future.

**MORELIA MORALES**

Favorite quote:
"Jesus wept."
Your best quality is being:
Joyful.
Career goal is to be a:
Pediatrician.

**MARMARIN NASIRAHMAD**

Favorite quote: "YOLO."
Your best quality is: Loyalty.
Career goal is to be a:
Photojournalist.

**CHRISTINE NGUYEN**

Favorite quote:
"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."
Your best quality is: Dependability.
Career goal is:
To succeed and make money to support myself and my family.

**LIZANDRO NOGUEIRA**

Favorite quote:
"An empty man is so full of himself."
Your best quality is being a:
Quick learner.
Career goal is to be:
An engineer.

**NIREIDA PONTES**

Favorite quote:
"Nothing will work unless you do."
Your best quality is: Leadership.
Career goal is to be a:
Bio teacher.

**EDWIN RIVERA**

Favorite quote:
"Whatever comes your way, make it useful."
Your best quality is: Friendship.
Career goal is to be a:
Criminal justice system professional.

**SHANAE SADDLER**

Favorite quote:
"Love is like an ocean; it brings strength with every current."
Your best quality is:
Being optimistic in all situations.
Career goal is to be a: Lawyer.

**FARMATA SAMATI**

Favorite quote:
"Don't let anyone tell you how to live your life."
Your best quality is: Friendship.
Career goal is to be a: Poet.

**MUSSUBA SAMATI**

Favorite quote:
"I am not an African because I was born in Africa; I am an African because Africa was born in me."
Your best quality is being:
Strong willed.
Career goal is to be an:
Anthropologist.

**TENNEH SESAY**

Favorite quote:
"I'm loyal, but it always seems like I'm loyal to the wrong people."
Your best quality is being:
Friendly.
Career goal is to be a:
Pediatrician.

**JAMES WHITTER**

Favorite quote:
"You don't stick a knife in a man's back nine inches and then pull it out six inches and say you're making progress."
Your best quality is being:
Diligent.
Career goal is to be a:
Journalist.

**JAMAL YOUNG**

Favorite quote: "No way."
Your best quality is being: Artistic.
Career goal is to be a: Journalist.

**ALEXANDRA ZULUAGA**

Favorite quote:
"Everything will be great in the end, and if it is not great, it is not the end."
Your best quality is: Curiosity.
Career goal is to:
Always experience new things.

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read between the lines..

support gay rights.
 join the club.

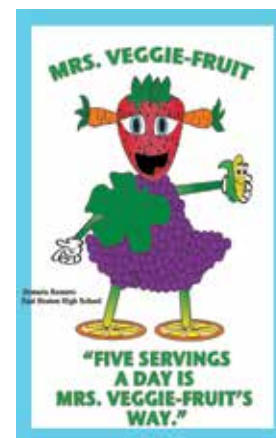
Daniela Martinez - East Boston High School

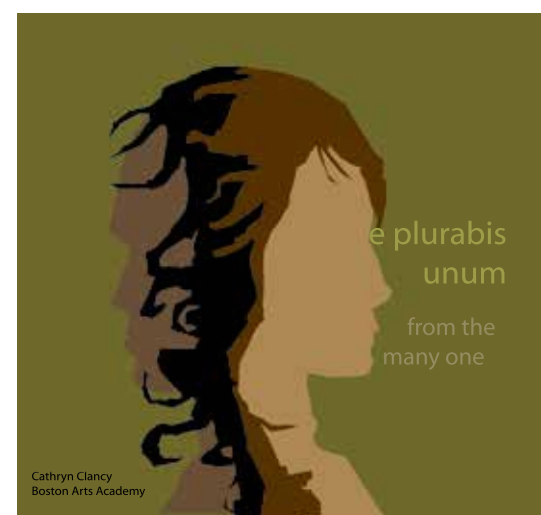
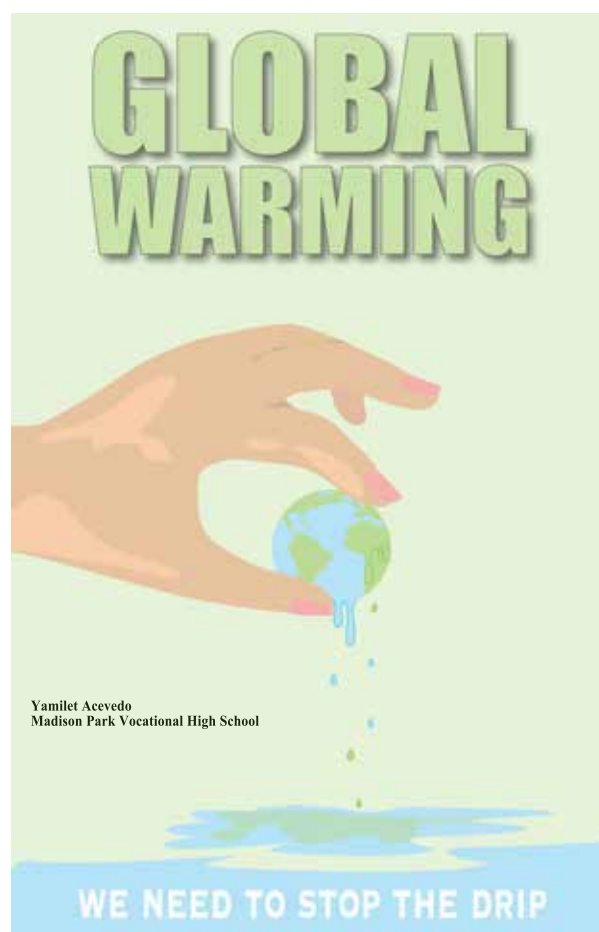
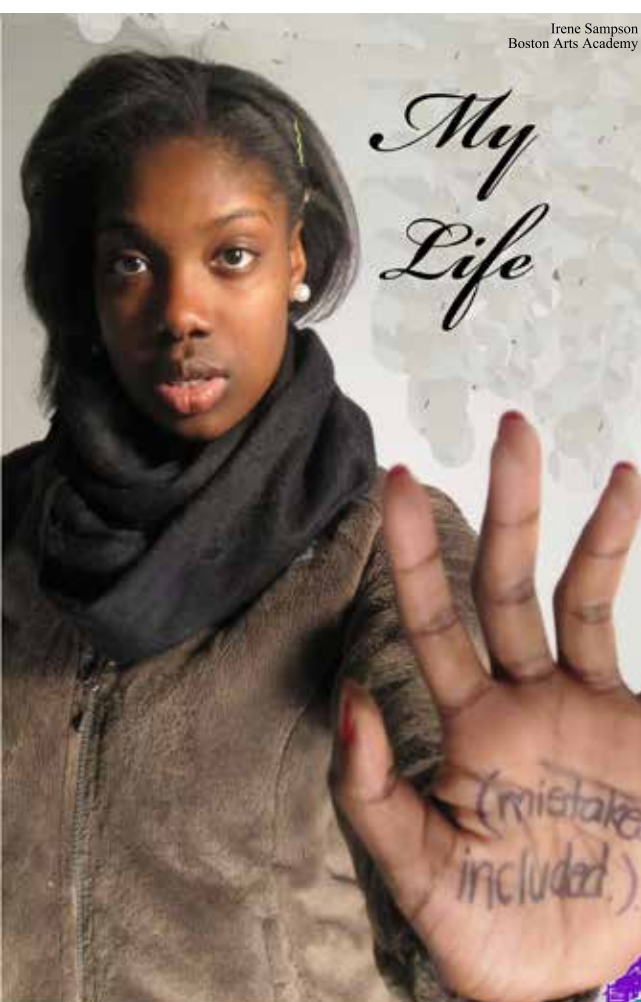
POSTERS WITH PURPOSE

Boston Public Schools educators in grades five through 12 are engaging youth to learn how to use multi-media software to create artwork with purpose through a multi-year grant from the Adobe Foundation.

Coordinated by administrators from the BPS Office of Instructional and Information Technology's TechBoston unit, Adobe Youth Voices teachers receive professional development, Adobe software – plus classroom support provided by mentors, many of whom are media-savvy graduates of BPS.

These pieces were part of a student exhibit displayed in May at Northeastern University's Fenway Center. To view additional student work from this grant, including posters, videos, and animations, please visit <http://vimeo.com/bpsayvproject>





Handbag helper

Fancy purse is no curse

By Xhorxhia Papa // Contributing Writer

Gucci, Prada, Vera Wang. These are all handbags that teen girls go crazy about.

Sixteen-year-old Querby Janvier, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, says that she enjoys brand name bags because they are part of her style and express her individuality.

"I feel like on top of the world when I leave my house," says

Janvier, who prefers Vera Wang bags because she also likes Vera Wang's dress designs.

Many teens feel that fancy handbags are part of fashion and are used to mix and match with outfits. They also have room for critical items such as wallets, phones, keys, and school work.

"A fancy bag is important to me because it holds things that I need daily," says Klea Hima, a senior at the O'Bryant.

Ivany Gomes, a senior at Boston International/Newcomers Academy, believes that inexpensive handbags are fine, too, as long as they look good with your clothing.

Gomes believes the most important accessory to carry around is your personality. ■



AFH photo by Briahna Omorogbe

Freshman love

By Iris Huertas // Staff Writer

The themes of love – or better called fantasy – are fascinating. Many young people feel that love in freshman year is about taking things slowly.

Fifteen-year-old Alejandra Lopera, from Brighton High School, thinks that someone is always going to be there for you.

"It's like you are getting to know how people treat you and the sacrifices they made to show how much they love you," says Lopera. "And sometimes you feel like nobody loves you, but in reality there are people that love you more than you think."

Marvelis Perez, 14, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, feels that everything changes in high school.

"I see that everyone has a girlfriend or a boyfriend, they talk a lot about them," says Perez. "It's very different from middle school. In freshman year, it's normal that everyone has a relationship."

Fourteen-year-old Djenafra Daveiga, from BCLA, believes that freshman love is about experiencing something new.

"Your heart beats fast, butterflies in your stomach," says Daveiga. "You start smiling a lot with just a thought of that certain person." ■



AFH photo by Briahna Omorogbe

Present tense

Future imperfect

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Querby Janvier thinks that some teenagers are not working hard enough in school. She says that there are always those people who think that school is a joke – only to regret it later.

"Teens should really think about how much what they do now affects their future," says Janvier, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. "Being a teenager does not last long so you've got to make it worthwhile."

Being a teen is not all fun and games. Adolescence is the time when you should actually think about what you are going to do with your future. Not everyone realizes this before it's too late.

"I think that teens these days are too focused on the present and not the future," says Nataly Garcia, 16, from the O'Bryant. "We waste our free time and then when we don't have any, we complain about being stressed out."

Klea Hima, 17, says that a lot of teens don't have any plan for today – and thus none for tomorrow.

"They let their future in the hands of time and do nothing to pursue their dreams," says Hima, from the O'Bryant. "I would give them and myself the advice to take action into our own hands and not let little mistakes get into the way of doing what we love most." ■



AFH art by Junia Ryan



AFH art by Adriana Foster

Tarnished idols

By Farmata Samati // Staff Writer

Briana Williams, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says that her idol used to be Miley Cyrus – but not anymore.

Williams says that she used to like Miley because she was a good singer and actress. Williams' favorite show was Miley as "Hannah Montana" on the Disney Channel.

Now, Williams says her former role model makes her ashamed. "She is twerking, drinking, partying – and I don't like that," Williams says.

You all probably have that one person you looked up to. It doesn't matter if that person was famous, a friend, or a family member.

Then, sometimes that person changes and becomes someone you no longer relate to.

Jocileny Barbosa, 16, from BCLA, says that she used to admire Amanda Bynes and her TV show, "What I Like About You."

Says Barbosa: "She was a good actress, she was so nice, and she was so pretty back then, and had inspired me to want to become an actress."

Now, says Barbosa, there are allegations that Bynes was on drugs and was causing major drama on Twitter – and Barbosa is done with her.

Eucaris Jimenez, 16, from BCLA, is a singer who used to be motivated by Britney Spears.

"She had cool music and videos and was really famous," says Jimenez.

Jimenez has moved on from Britney.

"She's lost her prestige," Jimenez says. ■

Now her former role model makes her ashamed. "She is twerking, drinking, partying – and I don't like that."

Man on the moon: spaced out

By Grecia Cartagena // Staff Writer

There are many stories and legends about the moon and the effect it has on people – weird things seem to happen when it is full.

Julio Nunez, 14, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, believes that things seem crazy under a full moon because the moon can influence ocean tides and our bodies are filled with water.

"Maybe that's why we act different," says Nunez.

Brehidy Garcia, a freshman at BCLA, has heard that the full moon can both cause people to be depressed or fill them with energy.

She says she experienced neither.

Eighteen-year-old Jonathan Escobar, from East Boston High School, feels that the lunar cycle must have some sway over people's emotions.

Why else, he asks, did they used to call mentally ill people lunatics? ■

Moon landing

- Age: 4.5 billion years old.
- Shape: like an egg.
- Miles from earth: 238,900.
- Well-known activity: orbiting around the earth.

Sources: moonphases.info, space.com



AFH photo by Archibaldo Soto

“A perfect spot to get away from nonsense”



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

By Selina Sorto // Contributing Writer

A big beautiful house, filled with rooms, filled with people. Everyone was all over the place preparing for the wedding. I needed a getaway from this getaway trip to South Dakota. The stress and focus was contagious. I longed for some quiet and peace.

Roaming around the house, I looked through several different doors. I finally came upon a glass one with the most beautiful view of trees and the clear blue sky. Nature at its best.

Turning the knob slowly, a sudden wave of coldness hit me. The cool breeze against my skin with the bright sun in my face was so pleasing. The silence was so absolute, I could hear the whistling wind and the leaves on the trees. A perfect spot to get away from nonsense.

I sat on the patio swing, rocking back and forth. Observing all around me, it all seemed so foreign. I was surrounded by pure emerald green for the first time ever, even mountains of it. Fresh air, no sounds of cars.

Plugging in my headphones, I kept swinging. I looked at the sky suddenly turn orangey-red as the sun was setting. Living in the city, I realized, was making me miss out on nature’s beauties. ■

“It looked like someone’s home in Italy, rather than a public place to eat”

By Gloriana Minga // Contributing Writer

The most memorable place I’ve been is the restaurant I went to in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The trip to get there took about 10 minutes from our hotel. We instantly spotted it by its sun roof, which had the Italian flag colors: red, green, and white.

The restaurant was small, but very exquisite. There were potted plants in the windows, which had white curtains. It looked like someone’s home in Italy, rather than a public place to eat.

Upon entering through the glass doors, there was a wall with a board that showed pictures of the owner. She seemed in her late 60s and had a very happy expression on her face.

Then, you could see the dining room. There were glass chandeliers. The tables were round and covered with red tablecloths. The white ceramic plates shimmered in the soft light. In the center of each table was a slim vase with a single red rose. The napkins, with the forks, knives, and spoons, were neatly folded into place.

My parents both ordered a dish with all the seafood you could possibly think of: shrimp, mussels – all tossed in a white sauce. The plate looked like a rainbow with all different colors of seafood. I chose the simple spaghetti and meatballs with tomato sauce.

Over the low chatter there was music playing in the background. Italian music. At first, I thought it was coming from speakers, but it was a real, live accordion player.

Our food arrived in 20 minutes, one platter after the other. It was delicious. After only the first few bites I was already satisfied, but it was probably because before my plate had arrived, I’d had a bellyful of garlic bread with olive oil in a wonderful herb and tomato sauce as well as a bowl of delicious soup. After that, I’d had a plate of green salad: lettuce, tomatoes, mini black olives, red onions, and green peppers with Italian dressing. All that plus the huge plate of spaghetti and two large meatballs fried to perfection without any of the grease – all smothered in fresh tomato and herb sauce. My parents were both satisfied, as well as my grandmothers, my sister, and me. Especially me. ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong



“You could say it’s something like a safeguard to me”

By Kevin Teixeira // Contributing Writer

A hot summer night makes for a restless morning. The digits on the clock are at a standstill, and it seems like it’s been that way forever. My chestnut-colored lenses are weary, yet restless at the same time. I continue to glue them to the screens that surround me.

My phone goes off at every moment. Sometimes I wish it would shut off on its own, get away, and just leave me in silence.

Inside these four giant borders there is calm, the only place in the world where I am as completely relaxed as this still oak floor.

Anywhere outside is chaos and ruckus. While the sounds of police sirens or screams, shouts, and panic go off on the frigid cold streets, I still feel at peace in this bedroom. You could say it’s something like a safeguard to me.

Even with all of this, sleep is something that seems to run away from my mind. I see sunlight shining through the blinds and sometimes yearn for it. At the same time, the only time when the house is ever at a standstill is in the deep navy night, and in the early mornings. In a way, I want this feeling throughout the whole day.

When my puny nieces and nephews are sprinting in and out of my cave, I want that silence, that peace, that tranquility. Being alone is a gift at times; you want it when you don’t have it, and vice versa.

That moment when you come home after a long, tiring day and just leap into your sheets is the best feeling in the universe. The marshmallow-like pillows absorb all my dreams, all my thoughts, all my words. The walls sort of talk to me, they listen to me.

My eyelids are fighting each other as the birds chirp outside the glass screens behind the shades, and slowly, but surely, finally...sleep. ■

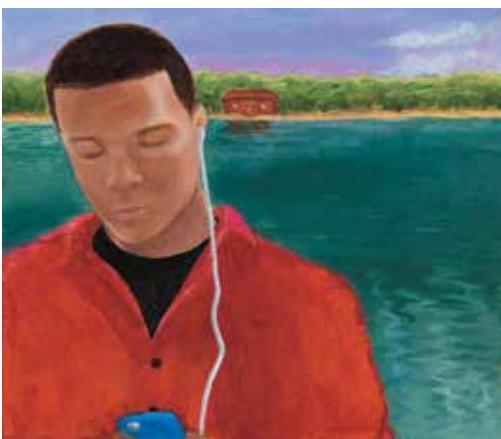
Who needs Dr. Dre when there's Lana Del Rey?

By Christine Nguyen // Staff Writer

Joseph Adedigba, 15, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, does not like rap music. He feels that every artist raps about the same thing, over and over.

"It's always about money and sex," says Adedigba, who is from Nigeria.

An overwhelming number of teens of color listen to rap music and enjoy it. By some estimates, the worldwide hip-hop community counts more than 20 million young people of different ethnicities among its adherents.



AFH art by Tyler Myricle

Adedigba is one of the minorities who does not pay attention to it. He prefers country and gospel music.

"Taylor Swift's music is better than Drake's music because it is more interesting and it has

more feelings in it," he says.

Adedigba says that he does not feel like an outcast for not listening to rap.

"My parents do not listen to rap and some people don't either," he says.

Leslie Garcia, 14, from the O'Bryant, does not like the cursing and references to drugs and alcohol in rap.

"I only listen to rap music whenever I am around my friends," says Garcia.

She feels that rap music has the same rhythms in every song. Garcia prefers alternative and pop music.

"The music is different," Garcia says.

Garcia listens to Lana Del Rey, an alternative rock artist.

"I like how Lana Del Rey does not swear and her songs have different beats," says Garcia. "I don't get a feeling when I listen to rap but when I listen to Lana Del Rey, I feel happy because her songs are upbeat."

Daniel Sanchez, 14, does not listen to rap because it doesn't catch his attention and he believes it sends a bad message about women.

"I'm pretty sure that rappers would not want their daughters to be like the women they are talking about in their songs," says Sanchez, who is from the O'Bryant.

Instead of listening to rap, he prefers music that is slow and soft.

"I like songs that have a piano playing in the background," says Sanchez. "It is very soothing." ■

A novel idea: watching the movie version

By Ilma Golemi // Staff Writer

Nedjie Thompson, 17, thinks that adapted films are more exciting than the original book versions.

"I'd rather watch a movie instead of reading a book on my free time because there are live actions and it keeps me interested," says Thompson, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

However, 16-year-old Anna Quan prefers reading the book because it contains a fuller picture of the story.

"I like the books better because the book has a lot of details," says Quan, from the O'Bryant. "Meanwhile, most of the time, the movies are not as good as the book because they often cut parts from the book."

Danny Mei, 16, from the O'Bryant, likes seeing movies better than plowing through books.

"I choose movies because I can really see what is going on," says Mei, adding: "And I am not much of a reader." ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

THE SPORTING LIFE

Girl power: Soccer team comes to Boston International

By Nireida Pontes // Staff Writer

When the future girls' soccer captain, Evanilde Semedo, 17, went to the Boston School Committee at the end of last school year, she asked a simple question: "We have the team, why can't we play?"

For two years she had been trying to petition the Boston Public Schools to start a girls' soccer team at Boston International/Newcomers Academy.

Semedo and other students went to the committee and gave testimony to show their commitment to having a girls' soccer team.

"At one time, even as a school leader, I felt like my girls were forgotten," says Boston International headmaster, Nicole Bahnam. "Student voices are more powerful than the headmaster's."

Bahnam believes it was the girls' unity that convinced Court Street to give the school a girls' soccer team this year.

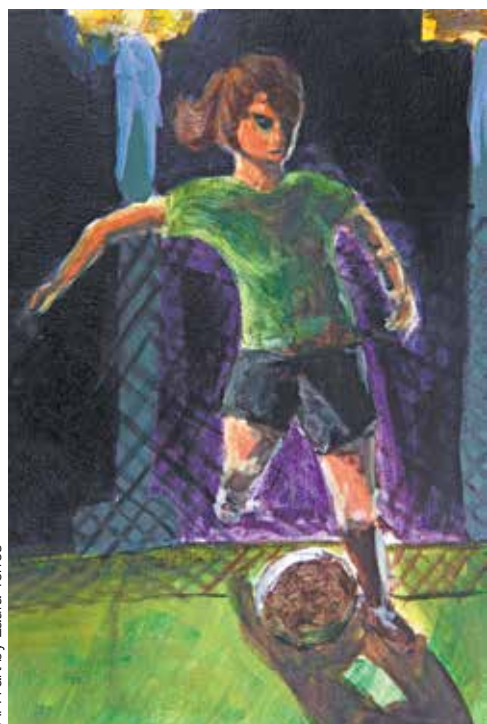
"The students really got the project off the ground," agrees the girls' coach, Panion Tase.

After the girls received notice that their wish for a team was granted by the superintendent, they had to work hard to put everything together in a short time.

There were no uniforms, and they had to find a coach and a practice field. As time passed, their situation took a positive path. This year they had a record of seven wins, four losses, and two ties.

"Even though this is the first year the girls are playing soccer, they are doing great and they have a positive record," says the school's boys' soccer assistant coach, Jose Daniel Sorto, 17.

On October 2, the girls went back to the school committee with their headmaster and thanked the superintendent for giving them the opportunity they always wanted. ■



AFH art by Laura Torres



Blind world

By Farmata Samati

We were young and stupid
 We did what we saw others doing
 We were young'uns
 We didn't know the true meaning of living
 So we kept on thuggin'
 Life passed us by
 And we blended with the others who saw the
 Blind world, as well
 Signs were everywhere about not having to live this way
 But we were way too stubborn
 We didn't even listen to each other
 We kept in our no-minds that everything was good
 Until the moment everyone's been waiting for
 Their desperation of division towards us
 We finally came to our senses in our no-minds
 That we were going nowhere
 We had a memory ball in the air full of disappointment
 That we brought to the world.

TiP art by Grecia Cartagena



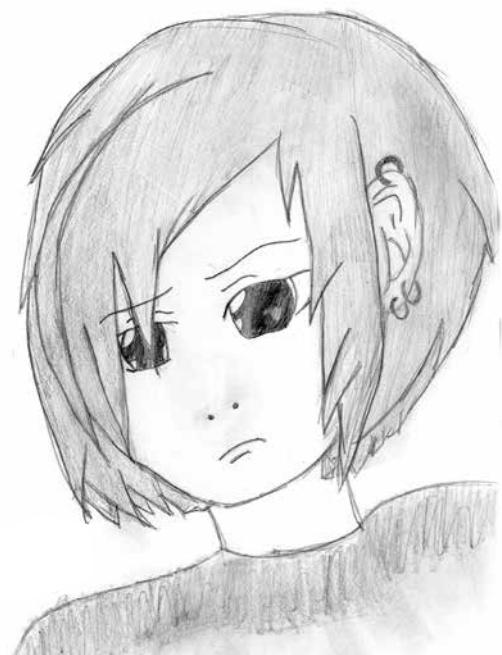
In memory of her pain

By Sara Cacho

Love and pain playing under the rain
 Her attention they want to obtain
 But she's moving away from them
 She wants to run away
 Because of all the things she had to face.

She lives under the dark side of the clouds
 When we see blue, she sees black
 People see the pain, but don't understand the facts
 There's always an exit to every stage of the problem
 Should I give her directions to the right exit?

I see her pain
 She feels it
 No one else does
 When she smiles, she feels the weight
 How does she manage to show what she does not feel or have?



TiP art by Grecia Cartagena

Undecided

By Farmata Samati

It feels great to love someone like you
 Even though I was there three times
 I pinky-promise you I won't be there for the fourth
 Was I ever your undercover lover?
 Did you mean all the things you said?
 When I'm ready to collapse
 I put you in my mind to have you put
 Me back on my feet again
 I know that I'm not only daydreaming
 But that I've awoken to a world we so-call
 Reality
 You've known about my love
 But never owned or earned it
 But the sound of your voice
 Lightens my way to paradise
 Daydreaming of you makes me stronger
 You tell me that we're never going to be
 Our love was never decided
 But in my mind it was.



TiP art by
 Mariam Bah