

TEENS **in** **PRINT**

BOSTON

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MAY-JUNE 2014™

Under 18 No Tobacco

**We
card**

A SPECIAL REPORT

High rollers

PAGE 3

*Despite regs, corner stores peddle cigars –
used to smoke marijuana – to underage teens*

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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

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High rollers

Despite regs, corner stores peddle cigars – used to smoke marijuana – to underage teens

A SPECIAL REPORT

***By Jennifer Le, Miren Chenevert // Staff Writers
and Dennis Membah // Senior Editor***

She walked into the Roxbury convenience store like she owned the place.

“Can I get a chocolate rollie?” she asked the clerk.

“How many?” the clerk asked.

“A single.”

“We don’t have any singles.”

“I’ll take a pack.”

Just like that, the 16-year-old girl left the shop with a \$6 package of five, chocolate-flavored, Dutch Masters mini cigars – no questions asked. She coolly exited through a door that contained a hollow warning: UNDER 18. NO TOBACCO. WE CARD. PLEASE HAVE ID READY.

The illegal transaction took under two minutes.

The teen was part of a joint undercover team working on assignment for Teens in Print and the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. Her instructions were not to lie and not to carry her high school ID.

The TiP/NECIR reporting squad was dispatched to stores across the city not to identify every neighborhood violator one-by-one, but to test the word on the street: that as long as you know the right places, even underage buyers find it simple to purchase rollies, the way many young people prefer to smoke marijuana these days by removing tobacco from a small cigar and replacing it with the drug.

As one 17-year-old girl from Boston Community Leadership Academy says: “Everyone I hang out with uses them, so I do, too.”

Like other teens interviewed for this story, she did not want to be named.

Over several hours during three days in March and April, the under-18 teen reporters found that despite intense efforts by health officials to keep these popular products out of the hands of young people – including compliance inspections; in-store education sessions; institution of a high minimum price for single cigars; controlled underage test buys; and toughened penalties for illegal sales – one quarter of the 35 stores the reporting team visited blatantly broke the law by selling the youth rollies.

The scofflaws included a corner store in Brighton, a gas mart in Mattapan, and a bodega in Roxbury.

By city regulation, establishments are prohibited from selling tobacco products

To report **illegal sales** of tobacco or nicotine delivery products to persons under the age of **eighteen**, call the Boston Public Health Commission Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at **(617) 534-4718**.



By the order of the Boston Public Health Commission, Tobacco Prevention & Control Program

to anyone under 18 or they face both an escalating set of fines that starts at \$200 as well as the loss of their permit to sell tobacco for a period ranging from seven days to all-out revocation.

But some small shops are apparently either so desperate to make a buck – or so unwilling to challenge the customer, or so lax – that they didn’t even ask the reporters their age, let alone check IDs.

Others teens say they’ve had the same experience.

“It’s very easy to get,” says a 17-year-old from Jeremiah E. Burke High School about buying rollies at a store on Blue Hill Avenue.

With over 800 retailers citywide who sell tobacco products – and are part of an industry that has regular turnover – it’s a challenge for regulators to keep up.

“It is an ongoing process to get them into compliance and get them not to sell to underage youth,” says Nikysha Harding, Director of the Boston Public Health Commission’s Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, which regulates businesses selling tobacco products.

Yet health officials say the use of rollies can represent a double danger for teens.

“You’re exposed to nicotine as well as marijuana,” says Harding.

One 17-year-old from BCLA says he stays away from rollies because he knows that that even though the insides of the cigars are emptied, their outside leaf wrappers are made of tobacco.

“Tobacco products pollute the lungs and are addictive,” he says.

During the TiP/NECIR field test, one of the local shopkeepers refused to sell a \$2.60 rollie to a 16-year-old reporter. Yet the clerk was so intent on closing the sale that he suggested to the underage teen that she ask a random older customer to make the buy for her.

The clerk then watched as the illicit business deal unfolded in front of him. The money passed from the minor, to the man of age, until finally resting in the cash register.

This article was produced as part of a collaboration between Teens in Print and the New England Center for Investigative Reporting based at Boston University and at the studios of WGBH News. The project is funded by the family of the late journalist and author Caroline Knapp.

BSAC BUZZ

By **Julissa Mendez** // **Contributing Writer**

It probably does not ease your mind knowing that as soon as the school year ends, it may be on you to buy a monthly T pass that costs \$70 and could soon rise to \$75.

There are approximately two months of summer. Student riders will be drilling holes in their pockets at the end of the day. As a large population with no other way of getting around, the youth represent the MBTA.

The Youth Affordabili(T) Coalition, or YAC, is working to find ways to improve public transportation for young people.

In March, youth rallied downtown to make it known that teens cannot keep relying on their own money to get to things like work, sports, or tutoring sessions.

YAC is proposing a Youth Pass. Students from the ages of 12 to 21 would be able to use it limitlessly throughout the school year and during the summer. They would only have to pay \$10 to re-activate the card monthly.

I recall having to take the T all summer while going to my job, which only paid a stipend. My stipend became my T fare, which could have been the money I kept for college. This is a very common story that youth share.

Transportation costs are a huge barrier to teens working jobs and internships.

College schlep

Is focus on standardized tests weighing students down?

By **Marley Goncalves** // **Contributing Writer**

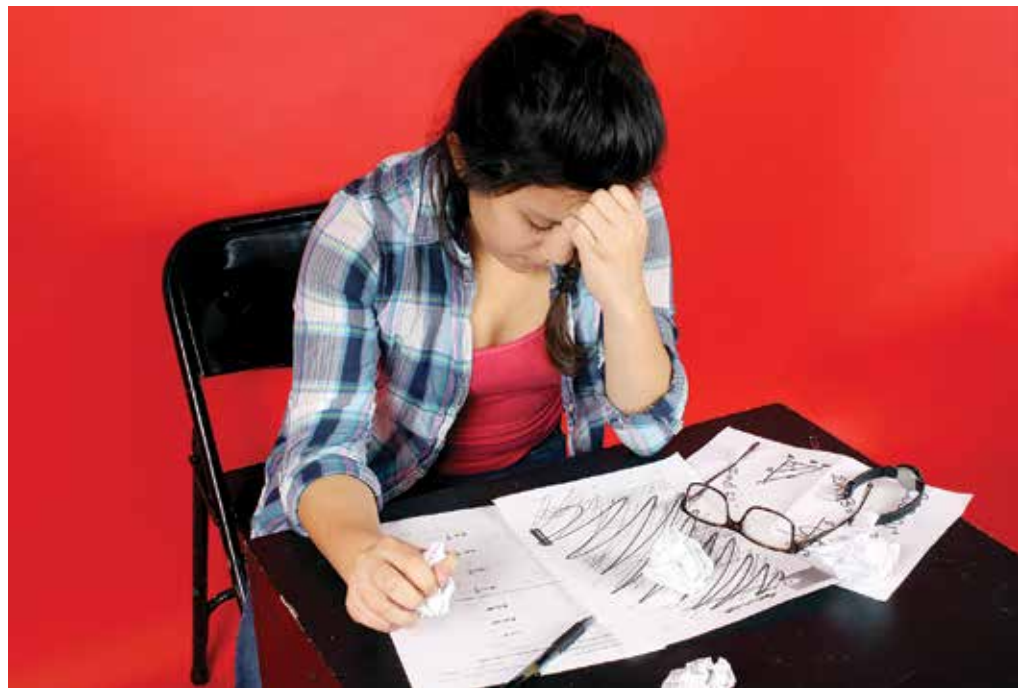
College is one of the top choices that students make after finishing high school, but not all students are being properly prepared to face the challenges of higher education. Many schools are too busy getting them ready for standardized tests to have time to pass along actual knowledge.

Data released last year by the College Board revealed that only 43 percent of those in the class of 2013 who took the SATs graduated from high school ready for the rigors of college academics.

According to educational experts, students need to develop reasoning strategies, the ability to work independently, and time management skills to better succeed.

One strategy educators would like to see is the expanded use of tougher coursework.

According to the College Board, more than 300,000 students in the graduating class of 2012 who were identified as having the potential to do well in an Advanced Placement course did not actually take one.



The virtues of voke ed

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

Despite the hype, not every kid wants to go to college. Not every kid would excel in college. That's why more high schools should have vocational classes that teach things like carpentry or auto repair.

Those students could get jobs after high school and not end up on the street with no life.

While many today turn their noses up at voke ed, there are benefits for the students who don't want to go to college – and can't afford to, either.

A 2012 essay posted at studymode.com notes that voke ed can offer many students a more practical pathway to a good life than years spent confused in the classroom only to face the burden of college debt:

"First of all, vocational education in high school focuses on specific training for a career or field. This hands-on training can be helpful in high school as students make decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. Many vocational high schools provide students with career preparation in health care, computer science, education, business, and any number of highly specialized trades. Individuals have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to become carpenters, electricians, machinists, painters, plumbers, or other professionals."



Extra help

A call for more good teachers

By Nirelda Pontes // Contributing Writer

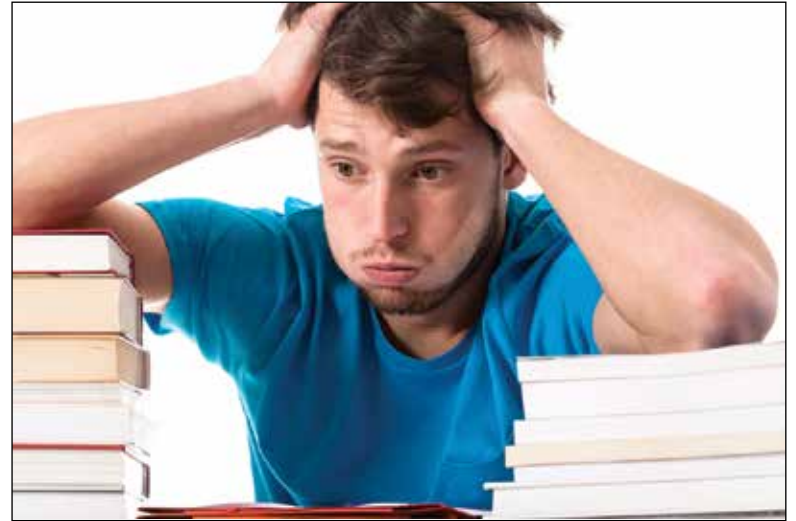
It was an early, misty morning with gray sky – the first day of school – and I was finally in tenth grade. I found myself in a math class, constantly looking at the posters on the walls. They all seemed to read: “chicken scrawl.”

I couldn’t understand what the teacher was writing on the board. As the weeks passed, I was still confused.

I can’t imagine what would have happened if the teacher hadn’t told me to come after school to get extra help.

Unfortunately, we don’t seem to have enough qualified teachers. While many are fabulous overall, others may know a subject but are unable to connect with students. That is a failing proposition.

Parents, students, and administrators should fight to have effective teachers. That means those who know the material, have a passion for teaching it, and the ability to build bridges with students.



Are schools destroying creativity?

By Arquely Burgos // Contributing Writer

Interesting. When you ask a five-year-old what he can do with a box, he has so many ideas. But as that kid grows up and goes to school, that creativity shrinks.

One reason for this is the emphasis on rote memorization of things rather than actually using your brain. Many students feel they are learning how to pass tests rather than acquiring actual knowledge. They are getting used to there being only one answer for everything. It amazes me that they are not ready for the next level thinking, which is to understand that in life there is no one answer to everything.

Just ask yourself: Did Steve Jobs use his imagination to make an iPod? Did Bill Gates use his creativity to make Microsoft?

Broken RULES

A new approach

When school rules are violated

By Carlos Ribeiro // Contributing Writer

Many schools all over America respond the same way when students break the rules. They crack down hard with suspensions or even expulsions. They only ask, “What law was broken?” and “Who did it?” They don’t seek the cause behind it.

Many administrators are realizing that this may decrease the violence in school in the short term but that it can also lead to increased violence outside of school and may also cause students to give up on education.

Now, some are turning away from this zero tolerance approach and adopting a restorative justice model that encourages offenders to apologize and take responsibility.

As described in “Implementing restorative justice: A guide for schools” from the state of Illinois, the practice seeks to, “increase the pro-social skills of those who have harmed others, address underlying factors that lead youth to engage in delinquent behavior, and build on strengths in each young person.”



The aftermath of bullying

It is not beautiful

By Annie Cheng // TVR Staff Writer

I was different. I was the new girl in elementary school, the girl no one wanted to be around, the new girl who wore weird stockings and Old Navy sweaters, back when Old Navy wasn't cool. I was the girl who had black hair instead of blonde, brown eyes instead of blue. I was different, a social outcast, ostracized by the very society I was to call home.

Flash forward.

I used to tell people my story and they'd call me strong or brave. They acted like out of bullying comes something beautiful.

But my story is not beautiful. Sure, you look at people who used to be bullied and see where they are, they're so "happy" and "successful." I get it. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, right? But what the people don't see is the years of pain, the mental damage that comes with it.

It is not beautiful.



AFH art by Nicole Baldner

Generation why?

By Jeyrie S. Rodríguez // TVR Staff Writer

I take a look at the world with my juvenile eyes.

I see young minds absorbing,

These lies, these lives, these rappers are distorting.

Put a female in front of a camera, shake that behind and record it.

A girl sends you a nude, make sure that you forward it.

Hoping for a brighter future but never working towards it.

I, too, am a representation of this generation,

I'm far from perfect.

I'm not trying to parent you with a mother's wit.

I just hate to see my generation deteriorating as a nation,

And becoming an abomination.

Annihilating its character just to fit this mold.

Listening to these lyrics and doing as they're told.

Girls twerking to receive attention.

Flaunting the goods ain't gonna increase your pension.

Exercise your right to extend your education,

And here I'm left hoping for a re-creation.

I, too, am a victim of falling to these temptations,

Participating in activities furthering me from my desired destinations.

Here's my advice

Easier said than done

By Coliesha Turner // TVR Staff Writer

Teaching and helping others is a passion of mine. It's also where I should be. "Old Soul" or "Mama Coco" friends call me. Giving always came easy to me. But these days, I'm starting to realize that the advice I give to others is the advice I should be giving to myself.

When some of my friends argue, they feel they have to hold back some of their feelings because they fear the outcome of more disappointment. My advice is to hold nothing back. How can you resolve an issue that hasn't been fully addressed?

And then it hit me. I was going through the same problem with someone. I knew that I had to speak up, but every time I saw this person, I said nothing because I feared the result. I kept all the pain inside.

It hurts to know that I had the solution to a problem, but I was too scared to actually solve it, to fight for the relationship to last and get better. Instead of saying something, I sit there. I fear that we will become nothing if I don't get enough courage to open my mouth and ask, "Why?"

I guess it is easier to give advice than to take it.

POP! BAM! WOW!

Another female comic book character dies

By Naomi Shaw // TVR Staff Writer

I'm not a hero. I don't have extraordinary physical or mental capabilities, I'm too afraid to leave my house on my own when it's dark, and I am a girl. I wish the last part was irrelevant. It isn't.

I've been into comic books for three years and I am told about my favorite heroes saving small children from harm, and fighting bad guys while still getting home in time for dinner – and they're men. I read about their girlfriends, wives, and mothers being injured or harmed for the sake of “character development.” Not awesome.

Spoilers below.

Gwen Stacy, Peter Parker's girlfriend, was thrown off a bridge. After an unsuccessful attempt by Spider-Man to save her, she died. The writers came up with this gruesome conclusion because, apparently, Parker was too cool for a long-term, committed relationship.

Rebecca Banner, Bruce Banner's mother, was killed by her alcoholic and abusive husband. This, of course, affected his mental health and increased his internal struggle with his Hulk side.

In 2013, the Scarlet Witch and Rogue were both killed – in the same issue. There isn't any male character development here; just a great example of terrible writing.

All of these deaths were completely unnecessary, violent, and pretty sad.

Is this really our only option to keep a story going? Isn't there a way to keep Gwen alive and in Peter's life without restraining him? Doesn't Bruce Banner have enough problems that encourage the Hulk, without his mother dying? Isn't there more to keeping the attention of readers than shock value?

I'm not a hero. I don't want to be one, and I don't want to know one. I'm pretty fond of living.



Female power outage

By Janice He // TVR Staff Writer

Sixty years ago, women were seen as secretaries, nurses, teachers, nannies, and housekeepers.

Now, look around.

We have drastically changed our dispositions about women in the workforce and at home. But even after such a revelation, statistics just do not seem to correlate with our expectations. According to a recent study by Catalyst, women hold only 4.6 percent of Fortune 1000 CEO positions. Where did we go wrong?

It starts at home.

A girl? She will wear a pink dress. She will be docile. She will speak, eat, and walk like a lady.

A boy? He will be strong. He will be athletic and intelligent. He will not cry or dare play with dolls. Sound familiar?

The first stage is the parents. With the most influential power, they decide where you take your first steps. Growing up, gender bias gradually becomes passively accepted because it is a ubiquitous standard we were brought up on.

Simply being female is already a setback.

In a 2011 Gallup poll that asked Americans what they would prefer if they could have only one child, 40 percent said a boy and 28 percent said a girl.

The sliver of difference that separates the two genders expands within in our colloquial conversations, throughout the media, and inside our own families.

Looking for love in all the wrong places

By Nicole Dubov // TVR Staff Writer

Dear Prince Charming,

Where have you been? I search for your dazzling smile and witty charm in all the boys I meet. I look for your dreamy eyes and valiant nature, but you are nowhere to be found.

The world around me tells me that I need you and that you will protect me and provide for me. The world tells me that you will love me for eternity. But we all know that these are huge expectations and it's not really fair for me to want all of them.

We girls always say that we want to be accepted for what we are. But we expect you boys to fit a certain criteria. We rely on the factor of love to drag us through life. But we all know that perfect love is non-existent.

Love is really just what you make it. We love each other for the small things that make us different, not the things that make us like everyone else.

A dazzling smile only goes so far.

Sincerely,

Not Looking



Body slam

By Payton Coutlis // TVR Staff Writer

Gunther von Hagens' Body Worlds: Vital exhibit showcases the human body with an artistic and scientific focus. Walk into the show and you are met by a series of real, preserved human bodies – mostly male.

Where are the females, you may ask, in this Faneuil Hall exhibit?

This lack of female bodies deprives girls of something – the experience to learn more about themselves.

According to the exhibit's guide, von Hagens did not want to seem voyeuristic in revealing too many female bodies.

However, educating girls and boys about the female anatomy is essential to an equitable society.



TVR photo

A punk rock remedy

By Cabricia Diaz // TVR Staff Writer

Every once in a while, a song successfully molds me into who I really am, fixes me, and teaches me.

I have acquired a hunger for live music. My first concert was very much like the first day of high school, except with students a whole lot older and a whole lot smellier than me. I was the new kid aching to be a social butterfly, while keeping to myself. When I bumped into someone, I would say, "I'm so sorry," when they didn't seem to care.

The thing about hardcore and punk is that it gives you no choice but to feel free and act without restriction. Unlike the educational institutions I knew, it wouldn't matter if you were a girl or boy, black or white, loud or quiet, or anywhere in between. We were all one.

I saw members of the crowd lift their hands up, or sway, or cry. I saw the older men carry strangers as they crowd-surfed, making sure they made their way to the front without falling. I saw the singer on stage make direct eye contact with someone who really needed to know that he or she mattered. At that very moment, I knew that this is what I would live for.

After that day, I found myself needing to feel infinite again. Each show was like someone telling me, "You're going to be fine" or "You're welcome here. We love you."

I made wonderful memories and found that I could fit in somewhere. It's more than just music to me; it's my life support.

I couldn't handle the dead silence that existed around me or the lifeless answers I was given. At the music venues, I learned more about myself than in therapy. I learned more about what my future would look like than I did at school. I learned what love could really be.

Ode to selfie

By Nicole Dubov // TVR Staff Writer

Selfie.
Look at me.
This fake smile,
It's all you'll see.
Selfie.
Look at me.
Tell me please,
It looks pretty.
Selfie.
Look at me.
I need those likes,
For my self-esteem.
Selfie.
Look at me.
I took so many,
Exactly 60.
Selfie.
Look at me.
I tilt my head,
Oh so perfectly.
Selfie.
Look at me.
Look at me,
I am a selfie.

Say cheesy:

You get the picture

By Hayley Calderon // TVR Staff
Writer

Click! "Ew! This photo is ugly!"

Click! "This photo won't get any likes." These thoughts run through your head before you even take a picture.

But is it worth it to appear perfect? What's the point?

History says that in 1839, a Philadelphia photographer named Robert Cornelius was the first person to take a selfie. His method was to remove the lens cap and run into the frame.

Mind you, there was no such thing as a social network at that time, so why did he take a selfie if he couldn't share it with everybody? His purpose was simply photographic innovation.

Selfies can be fun until they hit another person's eyes and someone

starts to criticize the flaws in you, not the photo. When people say a photo is ugly, what they really mean is that your hair is not "done" or your facial expression looks "boring," "stupid," or "aggy."

Many teen girls are pressured into looking great before they take a selfie. They have to get their hair fixed, moisten their lips, and make sure they have good makeup. It's all based on looks, but what about her personality?

The song "#Selfie" by The Chainsmokers describes what many girls think before and after they take a selfie.

"I only got 10 likes in the last 5 minutes/Do you think I should take it down? Let me take another selfie!" and "That girl is such a fake model/She definitely bought all her Instagram followers."

What caused them to think this way? Judgmental comments that people made about their appearance, of course. It's a vicious cycle that selfies have caused in the modern day. She calls you ugly, and then you feel ugly, so then you want other people to feel ugly.

Yeah, you get the picture.

If you want to take a selfie, do it. Don't let anyone stop you from posting a photo that you want to show the world.

Selfie portraits



TVR selfie by Payton Coutlis



TVR selfie by Payton Coutlis



TVR selfie by Hayley Calderon



AFH art by Ariane Fleming

The "I, Too, Am Harvard"

photo campaign, which highlights the faces and voices of black students at the college and their experiences of feeling devalued, inspired Teen Voices Rising staff members to speak to what they feel they are not "enough of" because of what society tells them they should be.

I am not me enough

By Coliesha Turner // TVR Staff Writer

Lately, I've lost sight of who I am. I'm no longer the goofy person who is carefree. I'm no longer the one many come to for help because I no longer have much to say. I am no longer me.

I've become the person who is no longer strong, but weak and harsh; the person who is too scared to fail, so I don't try at all.

I don't really laugh enough. I simply don't care about the results of my actions. I feel like ignorance is bliss.

I now put down the body I once worshipped and thought was beautiful, even though it looks pretty much the same.

I'm simply a mask. I push people away before they can push me away. I used to make funny faces in the mirror. Now all I see is the darkness surrounding my eyes.

I have no idea what has caused this change, but I am no longer me enough.

I am not industrious enough

By Jeyrie S. Rodríguez // TVR Staff Writer

On paper, I am a somewhat average student with a less than average attendance record.

I am not industrious enough. I don't turn in every single homework assignment nor arrive to school promptly every day. Some days, I am unable to give my undivided attention to the given task at hand.

I remember telling a teacher I was shooting for an 1800 on my SAT. She told me to go for a 1500. I once told a teacher of my dreams for college. He reiterated how college just wasn't for everybody. I recall going to some in search of comfort, but being reminded I wasn't Latina enough to take pride in my heritage, not mature enough to be considered an adult, not proper enough to be considered a woman.

Focusing on all the things I was not contributed to a restless and unhappy outlook on life.

Still, I resolved to ignore others' impressions of me. I have been self-sufficient since the seventh grade. I've been the youngest in multiple work environments and still did a better job than many of the adults surrounding me. I failed an English class, but received one of the highest reading and writing test score averages in my grade.

I am not this or that enough

By Nicole Dubov // TVR Staff Writer

I am not smart enough for my chemistry teacher. I would not be beautiful enough if you were to ask the world of social media. I am not a good enough friend if you were to ask the ones who do not stick around anymore. I am not patient enough if you ask those who need me to wait on them. I am not rich enough if you ask the ones with full wallets. I'm not cultured enough because I don't know the lyrics of that one song by that one artist.

But take me out of that context and stop comparing me to others. Think of me as an individual.

Then, I am smart enough to become anything I want to be. I am beautiful enough to look in the mirror and be pleased with what I see. I am a good enough friend if I am allowed to be and if I am treated like one. I am patient enough to keep living every day to see what awaits me in the future. I am rich enough to stay well fed and content. I am cultured enough because I know the lyrics to that other song by that other artist.

I am enough for myself and that is all that matters.

Read it and leap

The simple joys of literacy

By Marcos Hernandez // Staff Writer

The fine line between innovation and distraction exists in today's generation. More and more you see teens running to iPhones rather than running toward the local library. Still, the preconceived notion that teenagers do not read is false.

"It feels like you're in another world, but if I had to lose one, I'd lose Twitter. If you lose books or anything like that, you'll be stupid," says 16-year-old Dustin Bailey, of the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

In a world of YouTube clips and Vine compilations, it is difficult for authors to capture audiences as attention spans falter. These days, many educators try to incorporate technology into the classroom in an effort to get teens engaged in the curriculum.

"Books aren't something I do every day, but it's just that reading is too good of an opportunity to miss," says 17-year-old Eliza Lin, of Boston Latin School.

While splashy films, television, and online services hog the stage, the simple pleasures of literacy are not lost on teens.

"I like to read," says Julyn Frazier-Ryan, 17, of the O'Bryant. "I find it enjoyable."



AFH image by Carolyn Rochalski

Social media: parents not allowed

By Precious Nuñez // Staff Writer

Social media has been known as a way to communicate with friends, family, and even strangers. But some teens wouldn't agree with social media being mixed with parents. Teenagers have their own reasons why they would block their parents on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other sites.

Well, Kevin Lewis, 17, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, says he would feel very uncomfortable if his mother was aware of his tweets. Although they are friends on Facebook, Lewis doesn't stream his personal thoughts, so his mother doesn't really have much to say about his profile. Twitter is different.

"I wouldn't want to reveal the side of me I know she wouldn't accept," he says.

Not all teens block their parents because of acceptance issues, though.

Carolyn Neil, a junior at the O'Bryant, says she blocked her mother on Facebook because she wants a private life.

Though there are plenty of teenagers who do not want their parents to have knowledge of their Internet activity, some teens do not mind.

"I would feel comfortable if my father was aware of what I posted," says Judy Siffra, a junior at the O'Bryant. "I have nothing to hide."



AFH photo by Mary Nguyen



center spread



center spread

I AM

After a session on identity and self-esteem, Teen Voices Rising staff members were asked to answer the tough question “Who are you?” in an “I am...” format.



Janice He

I am left-handed.
I am a creative thinker.
I am awesome.
I am adventurous.
I am an artist, a writer, a helper, and a volunteer.



Thatiana Bellamy

I am a bookworm.
I am a couch potato.
I am friendly.
I am able to make people laugh.
I am ambitious.



Selina Dam

I am a singer.
I am passionate.
I am independent.
I am an oxymoron.
I am unknown.



Yani Perez

I am an urban kid trying to become someone.
I am a dreamer.
I am an actor.
I am an idealist.
I am carefree.



Hayley Calderon

I am persistent.
I am loyal.
I am an artist.
I am adventurous.
I am respectful.



Cabricia Diaz

I am an artist, one who sees the world as a song.
I am neat and messy.
I am a songwriter.
I am introverted.
I am proud.



Jeyrie S. Rodriguez

I am generations of pain evolved into love.
I am a teen with a purpose.
I am the result of Dorchester's harsh raising.
I am performance art.
I am an artist activist.



Annie Cheng

I am decent at poetry.
I am good at relating to people.
I am mentally strong.
I am a learner and can connect.
I am unique.



Nicole Dubov

I am a rock.
I am a pariah.
I am the confused Boston weather that keeps changing its mind.
I am the lyrics to the song “Superman” by Five for Fighting.
I am the Russian.



Naomi Shaw

I am careful.
I am reliable.
I am responsible.
I am nice.
I am thoughtful.



Payton Coutlis

I am able to admit my flaws.
I am a protester.
I am self-motivated.
I am open-minded.
I am moral.



Beatrice Española

I am beautiful when my personality shines.
I am a good friend.
I am musically inclined.
I am graceful.
I am a contender.



Coliesha Turner

I am an old soul.
I am simple but complicated.
I am wise and outspoken.
I am easily found but completely lost.
I am me – nothing more, nothing less.

school



brunch



work



gym



goin' home

A Day in the Life

Photographs by Marmarin Nasirahmad // Senior Editor



AFH art by Zakiyah Gray

Trust is a must

By Jalene Sanchez // Contributing Writer

As a teenager, I've had many different types of relationships – with adults, friends, boyfriends. I had many people come into my life and make it seem like they were there to stay – only to end up leaving the same way they came in. One of the hardest things for me is being able to trust someone new with my feelings, my personal information, and most of all my heart. The fear of being emotionally hurt by someone you care about can really sting.

Here are some tips on how to build that trust:

- Don't ignore problems;
- Stay involved with each other's feelings;
- Don't lie;
- Don't blame the other person;
- Ask questions;
- Don't hide your thoughts inside;
- Show loyalty.

Eradicate the death penalty

By Evette Thompson // Staff Writer

Many people believe the death penalty is a way of getting rid of society's most dangerous criminals. Others believe it is a form of revenge for the families of victims and that it deters other murders. These feelings often come out after high-profile cases.

However, sentencing offenders to death is not the answer. They know they are not going to spend the rest of their lives in a nasty jailhouse, which is worse. To them, death can be an easy way out. That is why many who go on shooting rampages kill themselves before the police get to them.

Many people would argue that a mass murderer like accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 20, who is set to go on trial in November and faces the death penalty if convicted, should confront his demise because that is the kind of eye-for-an-eye punishment he deserves. But that would be granting him his wish because he was willing to put his life on the line for his cause. Life in prison would be a better sentence because then he has to live to pay for the pain and suffering he caused other people.

I believe that killing killers is murder disguised as punishment. If murder is wrong, then why does the federal government kill people who commit murder? What is the difference between someone who commits murder and someone who punishes that person by killing that person?

Another argument people make for the death penalty is that it eradicates the danger murderers pose to society. However, rapists and armed robbers also pose a threat to the public. A rapist could be sentenced to 10 years in prison and then go back to the streets, where he might again rape and possibly kill – so his victim can't identify him.

Same reason armed robbers transform into murderers.

The death penalty is too inhumane to be considered the shortcut to keeping our streets safe.

Instead of sentencing people to death, the government should sentence dangerous criminals to life imprisonment with hard labor so that they are working to support the economy – not taking away from it – and at the same time paying for their crimes.

Rushing toward global equality

By Marcos Hernandez // Staff Writer

Past generations have envisioned what our world would look like today. References to futuristic families like the Jetsons would come to mind, and many had figured that global serenity would have been achieved by now.

This is not the case, as history repeats itself – as with the ongoing violence against LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) individuals that was exposed during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

In a modern twist, perpetrators of these crimes would record their deeds on smartphones and share the images to further increase the victims' humiliation.

Assault, harassment, and discrimination are not surprising in Russia, as even the authorities have accepted this to be a social norm. The condemning of so-called "homosexual propaganda" that could be accessible to minors makes being gay even more difficult in that region, led by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A poll in April 2013 found that 47 percent of Russians believed that gays and lesbians should not have the same rights as heterosexuals.

By contrast, America is generally more open to gay rights.

I was raised to treat people the same way I would like to be treated. As such, I do not see this problem as a complex conundrum; I see it simply as treating one another with humanity.

As English philosopher Sir Francis Bacon once said: "Knowledge is power."

The better informed people are about the brutality, prejudice, and hardships faced by the LGBT community, the more likely global equality can be achieved.

Great expectations

By **Kimberly Huertas** // **Contributing Writer**

"I'm sorry that I can't always live up to your expectations. I'm sorry for what I say and think."

These are everyday things we tell ourselves in relationships when things aren't going right. We let our partners dominate us into becoming something we're not – just because we aren't whom they want us to be.

But you have to know when someone is expecting more than you can give.

I wish everyone didn't have such high expectations of me, because it's bad enough when I let myself down. I've learned the hard way that sometimes we get so caught up in trying to please others that we totally lose ourselves.

You should never feel like you have to meet anyone's standard to keep them satisfied because that means they don't value you. The best thing to do is set an expectation for yourself and accomplish it.



AFH art

The high cost of equality

By **Evette Thompson** // **Staff Writer**

"Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men – the balance-wheel of the social machinery."

– **Horace Mann**

In a society that has seen a major advancement in technology, education has become so important that even people with college educations find it difficult to get their dream jobs – not to mention people with only high school diplomas.

Education, they say, is the key to success and the equalizer of social classes, giving all the same opportunity to pursue their dreams. But how does education level the playing field when a good percentage of Americans cannot afford a college education and the rich get the best shot at going to the best schools? How does education even things up if it involves money, the same thing that divides people into different social classes in the first place?

Education has always separated people, from the time of segregation until now. Unlike whites, black people in the South did not have access to quality learning.

The same kind of thing is happening now. Some states perform higher than others because of the money invested in their educational systems. Students in some schools do not have the same access to technology – like laptops – that others do.

Education can never be the equalizer until a high school senior from a low-income family will not be stopped from going to his or her desired college because of the amount of money involved. Furthermore, college has become a business to some academic institutions. They don't care if low-income families can afford it or not, as long as they make their profit.

Education is not the great equalizer. Having the determination, ambition, and will to succeed is what balances the social machinery.



AFH photo by Taeaia Downie

Selfie-esteem

By **Jasmine Castro** // **Contributing Writer**

"Dang, I'm so fat. I jiggle and have rolls."

So many people in this world have low self-esteem when they shouldn't. Having high self-esteem is feeling confident in yourself. It's a positive image and that is healthy for you.

Having low self-esteem is depressing. You only think negative things, and when people see you they don't want to be around you.

Many teens worry more about making others feel good than about themselves. I suffer from this. I tell them all the good things about themselves, but I can't do this for myself. I always try to find my flaws. When I do feel good about myself, it's the best feeling.

People need to surround themselves with those who will push them into doing things that are good for them – like going to the gym instead of laying in bed eating chips and watching Netflix.

Making changes little by little can help you. Maybe watching TV for three hours a day rather than five; only eating in the kitchen, not in bed.

Doing something is way better than doing nothing.

Freshman fatigue

By Christine Nguyen // Staff Writer

Freshman year of high school was not what I had expected. I thought it would be easy and fun – but it turned into a horrible experience.

The school year is going by very slowly. There is too much pressure being put on me. All of my teachers want me to meet their requirements – and more. They say that we should spend two to three hours doing homework each night, but I spend double that. It is like I never get a break.

I thought that the teachers would go slow on the students because it is their first year of high school. Instead, the teachers push the freshmen because they want us to get used to the life of a high school student and to be mature.

In middle school, I had time to let the lessons sink in and understand them. This year, my teachers are moving at such a fast pace that I am not able to keep up. For example, in one class my teacher spends just a day teaching a whole section of the book. Although we are an honors class, I do not think there is enough time for us to understand what is being taught. In middle school, we were given at least two days to pass in our work. This year, they do not give us any chances to pass in our work late unless we are sick.

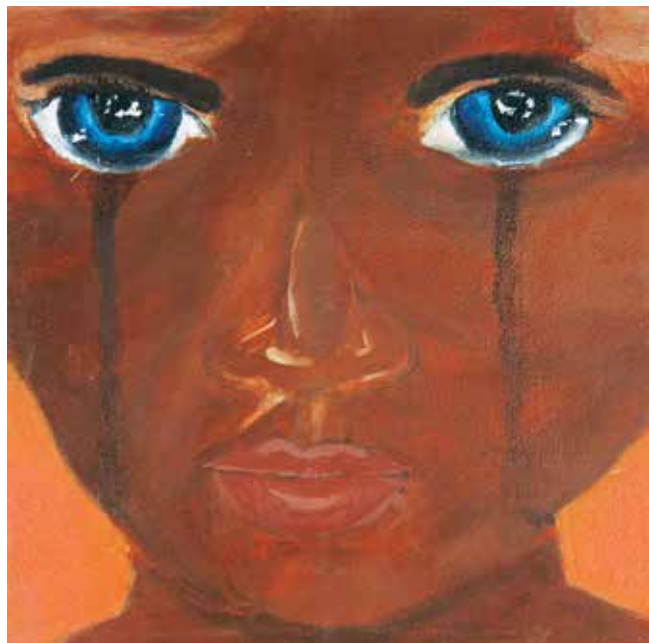
I am a JROTC cadet, and I think it is a good program, but it adds to the stress. We



AFH photo by Tatiana Ware

have a yearly inspection and the instructors over-prepare us. They want us to memorize a lot of Navy knowledge, such as the Orders to the Sentry and the National Chain of Command. When inspection day came, however, it was not that hard. All they did was make sure that our uniforms were in good shape.

This year, all I worry about is trying to pass my classes instead of understanding what I am being taught.



AFH art by Daja Taylor

Sad girls club

By Ilenny Nunez // Contributing Writer

As girls, it is very challenging to have to admit that our self-esteem is not as high as we might pretend it is in front of others. We have an image as girls to protect because there are things that boys can do but that society says are unacceptable for us.

Our way of handling pressure is different, which is why as teens all the drama starts to come into our lives. Don't forget, we grew up as being the princess of the family, or daddy's little girl, and that status has changed.

For some girls, the stress of fitting in can become so much that they can turn depressed and don't even want to go to school.

Parents should start helping their daughters to believe more in themselves.

Born with brains?

By Ritza Joseph // Contributing Writer

Are some people born smarter than others? How you answer this question makes a big difference in your motivation.

As Stanford University psychology professor Carol Dweck has stated, those who feel that you either have intelligence or you don't tend to avoid challenges and don't

rebound well from failure. Others believe that they can develop their abilities and rise to the test. They learn from mistakes and keep the faith.

I find that things are easier if you force yourself to confront them. Passion and perseverance are important traits. Failure does not have to be a permanent condition.

Dweck recommends teaching children how to generate strategies when faced with setbacks. This way, she said, they will maintain self-esteem as they take on new demands.

Dear Diary: You're my best friend

By Farmata Samati // Staff Writer

Samantha Lopez, 18, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, calls her best friend her diary because they talk every day.

"I don't have a physical diary, so she's my verbal diary that holds my secrets," says Lopez.

Some teen girls call their best friends bestie, or BFF, or their "ride or die." These days, many are adding "diary" to the list of nicknames.

Calling your best friend your diary means that you can tell her everything – your darkest secrets, the craziest moments, anything.

"I love my diary because she is a trustworthy friend who I can tell anything and not worry that she would tell anyone," says Sorrybinta Bah, 14, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. "When she tells me things, I won't tell anyone."

Mariangely Rodriguez, 17, from BCLA, says that she checks in with her diary every day.

She is not a backstabber, Rodriguez says.

"I trust my diary enough to tell her everything," says Rodriguez, "because I know for sure that whatever I tell her will stay between us."

Best friend: You define me

By Charlene Browne // Staff Writer

Shaniel Walker, 15, from Tech Boston Academy, speaks genuinely about her best friend, saying that she always puts a smile on her face. She makes it clear that a best friend should be someone who is always there for you when no one else is.

Depending on the individuals and the things that are important to them, a best friend can have a range of qualities. Some define a best friend as the one you've known the longest. Others say it's that special someone who likes the same things as you.

Cephas Doughlin, 18, from Tech Boston Academy, describes hers as: "Trustworthy, like a personal journal. Anything I say stays between us two."

Many believe that best friends possess the same basic traits.

Nephthalie Dejeanlouis, 16, from Boston Latin Academy, says, "I define a best friend as someone honest and loyal."

I am unpunishable

By Precious Nuñez // Staff Writer

All of my friends complain about being grounded, but not me. My mother has tried so many different ways to discipline me, but they really didn't phase me.

When I was little, my punishment was to go to bed at eight. That didn't bother me at all. I would just enjoy my beauty sleep.

Then my mom tried to take away the TV. Prior to that, we hadn't had cable for a couple of years, so I had already grown accustomed to not watching television.

My mother decided to force me to read books. At the time, I didn't read much, but she made the mistake of bringing me intriguing selections. I didn't stop until I was finished with them all.

Next, she had me do chores. Another course of action that failed. I already did chores every day. In fact, I was the only one of her kids who didn't fight it. She didn't make it hard, either, because she would talk to me while I did a chore and play loud music. My mom pretty much kept me entertained.

Overall, the reason my mother cannot ground me is because I do not get as miserable as I am supposed to. I let everything run its course and don't let things affect me.

There are a limited number of options my mother has if she wants to punish me, which are basically no options at all, because I am unpunishable.



A FH art by Massiel Grullon

Weirded out

By Grecia Cartagena // Staff Writer

Life is strange.

What is the weirdest thing that's ever happened to you?

Orlando Castaneda, 16, from East Boston High School, remembers the time he was in English class and he lost his phone. He asked everybody if they'd seen it. All his friends were searching for it.

Finally, he reached down and touched his pocket. He started laughing. "I found my phone," he said.

For Paolo Petriello, 16, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, it was the time five years ago that he broke his arm in the park. He was yelling in pain. "Everyone was staring," he says.

When he was little, Edgar Benitez, 18, from East Boston High, woke up once with gum in his hair. The only solution was to have his aunt cut it out.

"That was really weird," he says, "because I always slept with gum in my mouth and that never happened to me."

Addictive: The word on Flappy Bird

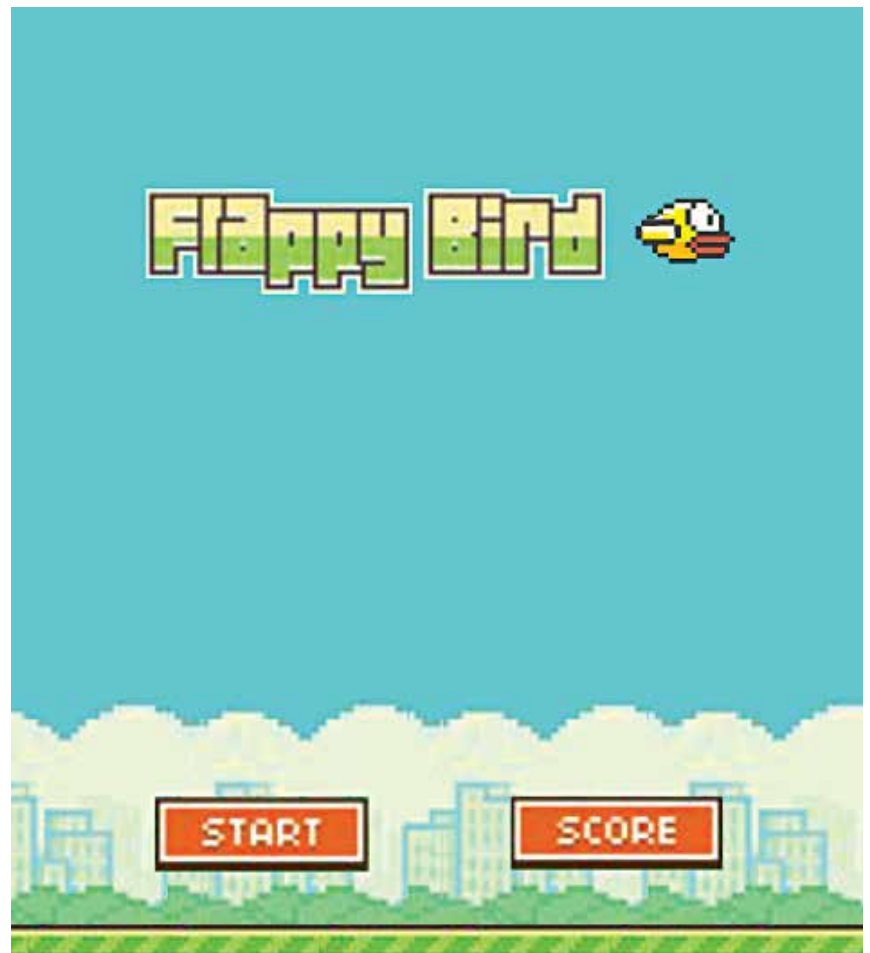
By Michelle Alvarez // Contributing Writer

The famous game Flappy Bird became popular more quickly than the experts expected. It has a simple object: to direct a flying bird between sets of pipes without touching them.

Though the game was supposed to provide relaxation, its Vietnamese creator Dong Nguyen said he was so upset at its addictive nature that earlier this year he pulled it from circulation, according to news accounts.

Nguyen wanted teens to play for a few minutes not waste long hours that are important to them, so he took it away. ("Let Me Tell You About That Time I Played 'Flappy Bird' For 8 Hours" is what one headline said.)

Already, though, copycat games have appeared to take its place.



Miriam Makeba: Mama Africa A history lesson about strength in song

By Evette Thompson // Staff Writer

"I look at an ant and I see myself: a native South African, endowed by nature with a strength much greater than my size so I might cope with the weight of a racism that crushes my spirit."

– Miriam Makeba

Unlike many modern musicians who sing only for fame and fortune, Miriam Makeba used her voice and name to fight the apartheid system of government in South Africa that had blacks living under whites.

She wasn't just an entertainer; she was a civil rights activist. Makeba sang for the freedom of her people. She told the world of things happening in South Africa through her music until her death, at age 76, in 2008.

As an example, her song "Soweto Blues" contains these lyrics:

"There was a full moon on the golden city.

"Looking at the door was the man without pity.

"Accusing everyone of conspiracy."

Makeba was forced to live in exile for 31 years due to her outspoken political beliefs.

"I just told the world the truth," she was quoted as saying. "And if my truth then becomes political, I can't do anything about that."

She returned home in 1990 after Nelson Mandela was released from prison.

Miriam Makeba was a very humble person. She never played the big star.

She gave love while receiving hatred. She got the name Mama Africa due to the kindness she showed others.

On being an entertainer who had a message in her music, she said: "You are damned and praised, or encouraged or discouraged by those who listen to you, and those who come to applaud you. And to me, those people are very important."

Authors who inspire

By Charlene Browne // Staff Writer

"What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn't happen much, though."

– J.D. Salinger, *"The Catcher in the Rye"*

Authors are capable of making a big difference in our lives. The stories they conjure from their imaginations have the power to change us. We can become so consumed in a book and its characters that we actually have this feeling deep in our souls that they are real. The truth, which is amazing, is that this world in its entirety came from the author's creative mind. As J.D. Salinger says through the voice of Holden Caulfield, this realization makes us transfer our connection toward the characters to the author who created them, and we suddenly have the desire to become his or her best friend. "The Catcher in the Rye" is a novel that anyone, no matter the gender or age, can relate to.

Authors can have an effect on the world that lasts for years upon years. William Shakespeare is a prime example. One of his most famous plays, "Hamlet," has intrigued people all around the world, and will continue to do so. Shakespeare channeled his own experience, intelligence, and emotion into the writing of this play, and he was able to create lines that astound readers. They are able to connect with big concepts on a personal level.

Then there are authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald, who have such a great understanding of society. They create stories with such eloquence and art – while at the same time raising awareness – that they are deemed to be literary geniuses. It's a skill to be able to choose a genre and make the complete best of it.

Having a ball

Shaped by soccer

By **Lizandro Nogueira** // Staff Writer

Soccer has been my passion since I was a toddler. The field is my home; it's where I belong. The grass is my bed; it's where I dream. Playing soccer with your feet is one thing; playing soccer with your heart is another.

When I learned that I was going to immigrate to the United States, I was afraid of what was to come. Leaving my friends was intimidating for a 12-year-old. I would constantly ask myself, "Is the United States different from Cape Verde? How long is it going to take me to adapt?"

When I got to the United States, everything was completely different and strange. The fact that I didn't know how to speak English made me feel inferior to others. I felt like an outcast, uncomfortable and isolated.

Fortunately, everywhere I went, soccer broke the ice. Many times I would grab my cleats and walk to the soccer field near my house. Even when English was an unknown to me, I used soccer as my language.

Two years ago, the first club team I ever played for participated in a state championship. We became a family. Everyone supported each other in victories or defeats. Together, we made it to the finals. But we did not prevail. It was as if the world collapsed when the referee blew the whistle for the last time.

Looking at it from a positive perspective, I realized that winning wasn't the main goal. The bonding among players was the most important thing. The event created so many good memories that will forever remain in my heart.

Through this language that I relied on when I first arrived here, I have made many great friendships. Thanks to soccer, I am a more outgoing and confident person, ready to face any challenge.



AFH art by Michelle Caban

Growing squash

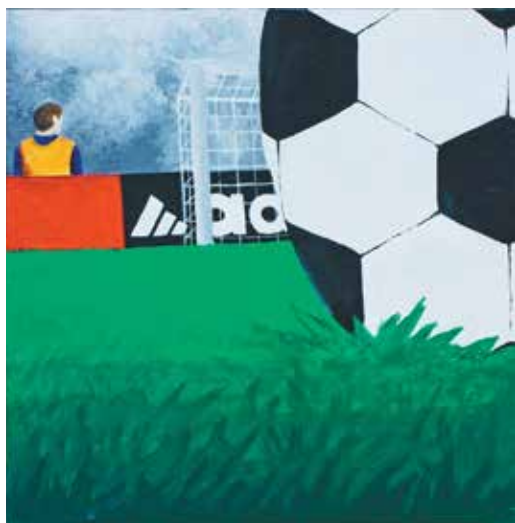
By **Ilma Golemi** // Staff Writer

Two years ago, I had never heard of squash, let alone thought that it could change my life. When I first joined SquashBusters, I only thought about it as a sport that would help me stay active and let me be part of a community. However, throughout these past months, squash has transformed from an extracurricular sport to an experience that has taught me dedication and determination.

At first, squash was overwhelming and I was confused at the way it was played. The ball was coming from different directions and my opponents were running circles around me. By practicing more and more, I was able to get better swings and win more points.

People would always tell me that failure leads to success, but I always thought the opposite; that performing poorly at something not only discourages you from trying to achieve your dream but also leads to greater disappointment.

Squash helped teach me that when life puts you down, we are the ones who decide whether or not to stand up again. As Michael Jordan said: "I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."



AFH art by Pablo Chao

World Cup woes

By **Edy Sanchez** // Contributing Writer

Brazil is hosting the World Cup starting June 12.

All the countries are excited because for a few days the world will be together.

But the government of Brazil is running late. According to press accounts, in April, two of the soccer stadiums were still not finished.

Meanwhile, people are protesting against millions being spent for a sporting event instead of social programs. They feel the country is abandoning its people for soccer. And they are upset at the corruption being exposed while the government readies for the Cup.

FAREWELL TOUR

SENIORS OFFER LESSONS LEARNED

My wish list

By **Shanique Lewis** // Senior Editor

A word of advice:

You have made it through another year of high school. Congrats! This does not mean to slack off, because you will be sorry later. With my words of encouragement, I hope you will make the right choices.

Here is a list I wish I had followed:

1. Do not value first impressions highly.

Do not judge someone without getting to know him or her.

2. Stay as far away as possible from DRAMA.

If the problem does not involve you, do not get involved.

3. Get your driver's license.

Get your permit ASAP and start practicing.

4. Do not try to please everybody.

Be true to who you are because it is impossible to make everyone happy.

5. Play sports and volunteer.

Staying active is the way to go. Volunteering helps the community and looks good on your college application.

6. Stay on top of your work.

Always remember that your academics can take you a long way.

7. Be yourself.

Do not change to fit in with the crowd.

8. Take responsibility.

Before you point fingers, check yourself.

9. Have fun – but not too much fun.

Stay in school!

Friendly advice

By **Dennis Membah** // Senior Editor

I'd like to start off with the freshmen. At this point, you are beginning to realize the enormous difference between high school and middle school. As freshmen, your first priority is to keep a good grade average. It is up to you to really focus on your goals and self-motivation and think about the reason you are in school.

It won't be long until sophomore year comes around. The year goes by really fast. It feels like only months ago when my sophomore teacher would say, "Before you guys know it, you will take the SAT and you will soon realize that you are on your way to college." Who would believe these words when you have two more years ahead? Well, he was right. Thinking that there's a lot of time to slack off in school is one of the worst mistakes.

As for the juniors and seniors, there's two main goals: Study for the SATs and apply to as many colleges as possible. The SAT could be the most important test of your life. You have a lot of chances to take it, but the earlier the better.

Senior year is stressful, yes, but that's what you have friends and teachers for. You need to have a good relationship with your teachers and counselors because they will need to write recommendation letters for you.

The best things that you can have through high school are friends who share a common goal of succeeding in life. Surround yourself with good influences and I guarantee that high school will be a walk through the park.

Never settle for less

By **Ralph T. Karnuah** // Staff Writer

It is with great appreciation of those who contributed to the man I am today that I write this letter to the students who will come after me. I am writing with the hope of passing on the knowledge that I've gained in the past four years.

Coming into high school as an individual who had always been scared of failure, I was fearful of the challenges ahead. I believed that I wasn't smart enough, that I would be bullied like I'd seen in so many movies. But high school was nothing like Hollywood had hyped it up to be.

One major thing that I learned from my high school experience is to stay focused. That means not allowing unnecessary pleasures to take over and never ceasing to work hard. Academics should always be your top priority.

Also, you should never settle for less. Many times, students make the mistake of going for grades that are considered passing rather than striving for top honors.

In reality, most people can never accomplish every goal they set but you must never consider yourself a loser. You either achieve the goal or learn a valuable lesson along the way.





Senior soap operas

By Kristiana Mbrice // Staff Writer

Future seniors: The last year of high school is one to be remembered.

It's the last year in the building where you skipped class for the first time. The last year in the building where you cried and laughed with your friends. The last year where you will see the best drama scenes unfold in front of your eyes.

But it's also the time where you need to start preparing for the next step: college. My advice is to start applications early so you will have more time to work on scholarships and school assignments.

Applying to Bottom Line is one of the best things a senior can do, because it will help with every step of your college applications, the essay being one of them. I would say to make your college essay one of the finest pieces you have ever written.

Colleges do look at grades for the first two terms, so you should work hard on getting A's and B's during your last year of high school. You should apply to as many scholarships as you can so that at the end you can get more free money for college.

Last but not least: Try to have fun because this year will never come back.

Ready to turn dreams into reality

By Mussuba Samati // Senior Editor

Senioritis. Procrastination. Insomnia. Grade pressure. Inconsiderate teachers. Papers due. College decisions and considerations. Yes, these are some of the issues you'll be faced with when you become a senior in high school.

Senior year may be when decisions are finalized, but concerns start to build before that. If you're a junior, never think twice about the things you have to complete. When you have a paper due, do it. Do not put it off because it will only make you even more stressed out.

I want to advise you guys not to worry about who's doing what or what they're wearing. Worry about yourselves and move forward with your desires. Research colleges that meet your requirements and search-up scholarship opportunities. Believe that no matter how low your GPA or how bad you think your SAT score is, at least one college will see your potential and accept you with open arms.

Realize that dreams can be turned into reality through hard work and determination.

Times a-wastin'

By Evette Thompson // Staff Writer

The high school years are a very important stage in every teenager's life and are meant to teach us valuable lessons. However, as students, we sometimes fail to recognize the principles being taught and often find ourselves regretting the choices we made. As a graduating senior, I have learned a couple of things these past four years that I would like to share with the upcoming seniors.

My number one piece of advice is to take every little assignment seriously. Do not wait until the end of the term to try to make up work because we all know that is stressful and you don't really end up with the grade you want.

Also, giving teachers attitude and refusing to do their assignments because you don't like them is not the best thing to do. You are the one who is going to lose in the end because that teacher is going to get paid and you are going to end up with an F.

Do not wait until senior year to start looking into colleges and trying out the SATs. We all know applying to colleges is not easy but it becomes more difficult if you wait for the last minute.

Remember that you cannot get back time wasted so instead of using your time cursing people out on Facebook and Twitter, do something productive. Granted, you cannot take away the drama that comes with high school but when you spend most of your time on social networking sites insulting other students, that becomes a problem.

Write for T.I.P.
Send your news and stories—Page 3Your Essays on Boston
—Pages 8 & 9Teen Poet Society
Discover talented young poets—Page 14"Friends" Farewell
—Page 16

T.I.P.

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ SPRING 2004

City launches
teen newspaperWriteBoston, Globe Foundation
lead support
By Katherine Gale
T.I.P. Staff Writer

Students from two Boston high schools, with the help of writing coaches from WriteBoston and a grant from the Boston Globe Foundation, have launched a citywide newspaper for teenagers. This is the first issue of Teens in Print, also known as T.I.P. The newspaper will be distributed for free in mid-May to 20,000 students at all public high schools in the city.

The idea for the newspaper came out of a collaboration between the Boston Globe Foundation and WriteBoston, a city initiative to improve student writing proficiency in the Boston Public Schools.

"This newspaper is going to be about Boston teens and the news that interests them."

This newspaper is going to be about Boston teens and the news that interests them," according to Kelly King-Goldstein, a writing coach for WriteBoston. "Teens told us in surveys and focus groups they want local news, opinion, entertainment, advice, school news, teen profiles and information about jobs," said King-Goldstein.

TEENS IN PRINT

T.I.P. teens pose outside the Boston Globe.

Looking For The
Summer Look?T.I.P. shows you how to dress for
warmer weatherJob hunting tips
on Page 7Boston teens
face summer
job squeezeAn expert gives job hunting tips
By Tito Rodriguez and
Kelly King-Goldstein
T.I.P. Staff Writers

Come summer, when teens are competing for the same few jobs, chances of finding a good one can be slim. Sure, we'll get jobs flipping burgers at fast food places, but there are better jobs in retail or professional settings that we would rather have. Do employers think we're too young? Do they think we're not talented enough? Are there just not enough jobs to go around?

According to Marsha Fishbein, a career specialist at the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), the next economy of the last couple of years has made it harder for teens to get good jobs. In fact, more and more adults from college students to retirees are applying for jobs in the kinds of jobs that have usually been for teens, including jobs at supermarkets and fast food restaurants. The situation for 14 and 15-year-olds is even tougher, she said.

"Last summer a lot of opportunities for young people that age were cut. They had to find other programs. A lot of teens came to us because we are the biggest provider of summer jobs for teens in Boston," said Fishbein.

Teens often believe employers won't hire because they're too young or we lack experience. (JENNIFER DIBBIS, PAGE 6)

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National
Convention
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—Pages 6 & 7CONTEST
Poet's Win Prizes—Page 11GET FIT, SAY BYE TO ACNE
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T.I.P.

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ WINTER 2005

Beat the Winter Blues

T.I.P. goes behind the scenes with Blue Man Group: Pages 6 & 9

Evening Academy
opens day program
By Dorothy Boston // T.I.P. Writer

When my family moved from New York City to Boston shortly after 9/11, I was hoping for two things. First, that Boston would provide a new start for my family, and second, that I could go to a good school.

Since then, unfortunately for me, the same overworking conditions that existed in the school I attended in New York were present in my Boston middle school. Finally, in September, for me and 60 other students, Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) has made a

TEEN PARENTS TELL THEIR STORIES
T.I.P. reports Page 16

By Jennifer Blaine // T.I.P. Senior Editor

Jennifer Blaine is a high school junior who has enjoyed many accomplishments. Besides keeping up her grades at Boston Academy, she is constantly exploring her artistic side. "It was always there, something more than just sports, something visual," she says as she explains her passion for drawing.

One program she has been involved with is Art 14 in Cuts, which is supported by Cloud Place. Cloud Place is a foundation that sponsors and supports youth art. They also sponsor an annual field trip for Boston

The new SAT

By Daniela Gale // T.I.P. Senior Editor

For those of you who got killed with those dreadful analogies on the old SAT, you will be relieved to know there are no analogies on the new SAT. From March 12 on, the SAT will be changed dramatically. While the analogies are gone, there is a catch. The new SAT will include a 10-minute, timed composition and writing section. Test takers will now receive three scores: English, composition, and math. For seniors, don't worry because you have already taken all the required college admissions tests, but for the class of 2006 (juniors), now is the time to pay closer attention to all the writing styles your English teacher demands of you.

The new SAT also won't require you to memorize lists with hundreds of words or idioms with SAT lists. Instead, it will test your critical reading and comprehension skills.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS), which makes up the SAT, believes these changes are going to benefit students. Colleges say it will be more effective in measuring a student's expressive abilities because the new SAT will measure how well students think and organize their thoughts, not how well they memorize vocabulary words.

For more information on what the changes in the SAT mean to you, talk with your guidance counselor or visit a test preparation website such as www.precisecollege.com.

Cloud Place
showcases teen artists
By Daniela Gale // T.I.P. Senior Editor

Jennifer Blaine is a high school junior who has enjoyed many accomplishments. Besides keeping up her grades at Boston Academy, she is constantly exploring her artistic side. "It was always there, something more than just sports, something visual," she says as she explains her passion for drawing.

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T.I.P.

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT ■ DECEMBER 2006

Jam'n backstage at
Monster JamLive from
the ViP
Backstage with 94.5

By Phil Donahue and Samantha Mawuli // T.I.P. Senior and Associate Editors

T.I.P. was VIP backstage at Jam'n 94.5 2006 Monster Jam. We chatted with a few performers, including B.A. Simpson, Cansie, sister act Christi, and understudy up star Chicago. Here's how it all went down behind the curtains of the late hip-hop concert.

Cansie, younger brother known as Cansie, has become one of the best new artists of 2006. She walked in the room with a small entourage, yet still evoked a 'girl-next-door' aura. Cansie's first hit single, "Me & U," peaked at No. 3 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, and her single "Long Way 2 Go" is quickly climbing. The 19-year-old singer and former model says her success is partly due to the popularity of her MySpace.com profile.

Cansie believes that people adding her single to their profiles inspired her fans. "That was a lot of the song gaining its credibility, just because people picked it and they didn't really know what I was. The song developed and went to different radio stations (and got played before I was signed)," said the B&B star. Her pop-

larity on the site is growing by "the hour," Cansie said. The singer is now signed to Diddy's Bad Boy Records.

Cansie is also embarking on an acting career. Her aspiration got the best of her when mentioning her possible movie role. She said, "I'm reading for a part. I don't want to just myself. I probably already played myself!" She laughed, and the girl-next-door persona evoked a star's charisma. Look out for Cansie's debut, self-titled album and her new single "Tina."

[MONSTER JAM, PAGE 13]

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Senior year/College guide
Pages 9-9What's up with
Ramin and Pablos?
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BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT SEPTEMBER 2007

By Alex Nguyen // T.I.P. Staff Writer

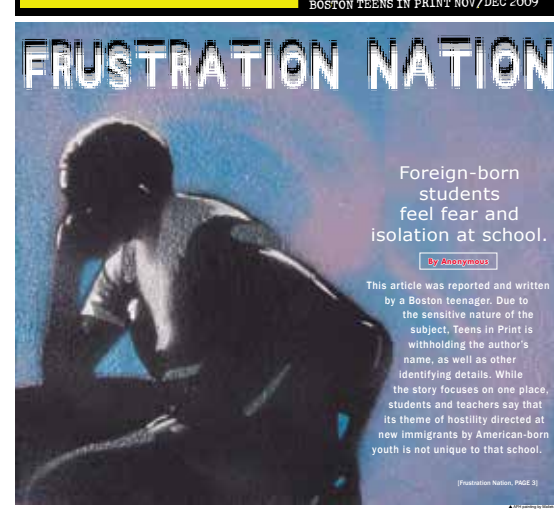
You stayed up all night working on a paper and you're running late the next morning. As you start your car, you realize you're stuck in traffic. You reach in and the song-blasting car on the top shelf catches your eye. Its label guarantees to "give you wings" and help you "unleash the beast." After pushing down the digital 10, you feel great, despite the medicinal aftertaste, but later you come dangerously close to collapsing right on the spot. This is the everyday picture of teenagers who rely on energy drinks to boost energy.

According to researchers at Brown University, energy drinks are diuretics. Dictionary.com states that a diuretic is a substance or drug that tends to increase the discharge of urine. This means that after drinking an energy drink, people end up with less fluid in their bodies than they started out with. This can be especially dangerous if the drinks are consumed while exercising—or on hot days—because the loss of that much fluid can cause a person to feel lightheaded or even to pass out. According to the Brown researchers, energy drinks have negative impacts on the body that include dehydration, dizziness, loss of sleep, mood swings, and irregular heartbeats.

The symptoms seem to depend on the person. "I got a little twitchy sometimes but I like the taste so I don't mind," says Nina Tsang, 16. But according to writer Low Jeremy in an article on Edutainment.com, energy drinks with high carbohydrate levels such as Monster "make it more difficult for the body to absorb essential vitamins, resulting in acute muscle and physical suffering and gastrointestinal problems."

While there are some risks to consuming energy drinks, there are some benefits as well. Some energy drinks can give you a huge kick (such as Wired X-500 Energy Supplement, Chase 5-Hour Energy Drink, and the Coca-Cola Energy [ENERGY DRINKS, PAGE 5])

HEALTH: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT PAGE 10 ■ FUTURE BOSS: CONVO WITH DETECTIVE WAYNE ROCK PAGE 13 ■ ARTS: FALL AT THE IGA PAGE 19

TEENS in PRINT
BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT NOV/DEC 2009Foreign-born
students
feel fear and
isolation at school.
By Ananya Das

This article was reported and written by a Boston teenager. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject, Teens in Print is withholding the author's name, as well as other identifying details. While the story focuses on one place, students and teachers say that its theme of hostility directed at new immigrants by American-born youth is not unique to that school.

[Frustration Nation, PAGE 3]

HEAVY METAL DETECTORS PAGE 7 ■ PD: WHAT'S IN PLAYS PAGE 8 ■ GETTING A KICK OUT OF SOCCER PAGE 20 ■ The Boston Globe

Thank you to the more than 1,000 Boston students who lent their passionate voices to Teens in Print over the past 10 years.

TEENS in PRINT
BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT JAN/FEB 2010Good hair,
bad hair
The politics of follicles
On Page 3

CYBER-BULL PAGE 8 ■ HAT'S OFF TO TOPPERS PAGE 22 ■ CHICK-FLICKS ARE FOR GYLS, TOO PAGE 23 ■ The Boston Globe

TEENS in PRINT
BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT JANUARY/FEBRUARY 20

What Obama means to teens in the Bean

By Paige Caruthers/Staff Writer and Ciara Martinez/Peer Editor

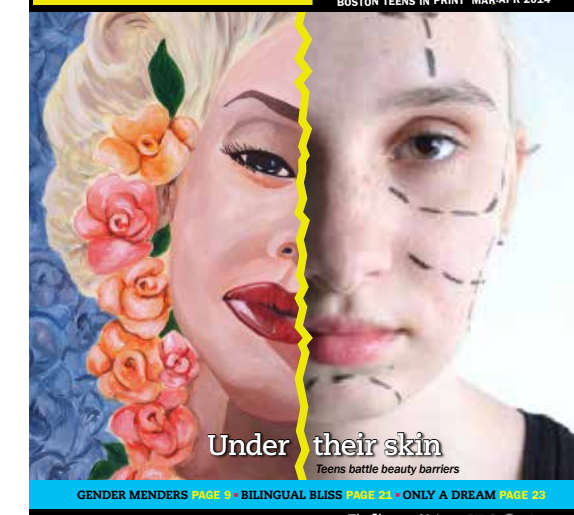
Walk down the halls of BCIA and you will be bombarded with all forms of Obama paraphernalia. From T-shirts, to buttons, pins, to computer screen savers dedicated to our new president, Obama has become the official mascot of BCIA. This scene is the same in many BPS schools. With the explosion of King Obama's memorabilia, and the newly established Obama Store on Newbury Street, it is clear that Obama has swept Boston and the nation.

Not only has our president-elect taken over the nation with his popularity, but his election has influenced teens in a major way. Teens, especially those in the inner city, have been given inspiration and a newfound confidence that it is possible for an African-American to be the leader of the United States. "Barack Obama has encouraged our youth to follow their dreams. By becoming the president of the United States, he has inspired inner city students to do great things in life," Kevin Pablos, 17, said in an e-mail.

For a nation not long out of the Jim Crow era, it is impossible to reflect on this election without acknowledging the historical significance it holds for African-Americans, who are fortunate to witness a seemingly unattainable milestone being made in their lifetimes. From slavery to the first black president, African-Americans have made great gains.

On the night of November 6, 2008 associate editor-in-chief for The Boston Globe, Derrick Jackson, who is African-American, was at Chicago's Grant Park for Obama's acceptance speech. "During the pledge [OBAMA, PAGE 19]

FASHION ON THE CHEAP PAGE 7 ■ LETTERS TO OBAMA PAGES 12-13 ■ The Boston Globe

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BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT MAR-APR 2014Under
their skin
Teens battle beauty barriers

GENDER MENDEMS PAGE 8 ■ BILINGUAL BLISS PAGE 21 ■ ONLY A DREAM PAGE 23

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