

TEENS **in** PRINT BOSTON

BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT SEPT/OCT 2014™

ENCORE PERFORMANCES

Dead artists like Michael Jackson and Tupac Shakur are returning, life-like, to the stage via hologram technology – much to the delight of many fans. But others wonder whether these appearances are disrespectful replicas of the real things

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



AFH art (clockwise from top) by Ivy Smith, Archibaldo Soto, Patrick Joseph, and Samantha Lopez.

AFH cover artwork by Janna Mach. Michael Jackson image from <http://i.ytimg.com/vi/fVUvWOESZLY/maxresdefault.jpg>; Tupac Shakur image from <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-d1c5aIQEBSA/T4ycDTJlGcl/AAAAAAAAACuA/1jzsHhAlHJw/s1600/Tupac2.png>.

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ENCORE

PERFORMANCES

Dead artists like Michael Jackson and Tupac Shakur are returning, life-like, to the stage via hologram technology – much to the delight of many fans. But others wonder whether these appearances are disrespectful replicas of the real things

By Rosalyna Felix // Staff Writer

Seventeen-year-old Jo-Ann Martell, from Dorchester, thinks it's weird and distasteful that hologram technology brought a singing and dancing Michael Jackson back to the stage at the Billboard Music Awards in May – some five years after his death.

"It's creepy and wrong," says Martell. "He's dead. They should just let him rest in peace. They are trying to make more money by taking advantage of his death."

Yet others think it's special that the King of Pop and other entertainers can return for live-looking performances long after they've died.

"It's a good thing," says Isabelle Joseph, 15, from Boston Latin Academy. "Michael Jackson should be honored and respected. He is a good artist. This could be good for those who didn't know him."

Jackson's not the first superstar who has risen from the dead – artistically speaking.

In one of the most memorable musical reawakenings, crowds went crazy in April 2012 when a hologram of the late legendary rapper Tupac Shakur appeared alongside fellow hip-hop hero Snoop Dogg at the Coachella music festival and lit into the song "Hail Mary."

Before that, Alicia Keys sang a digitalized duet with Frank Sinatra at the 2008 Grammy Awards.

There have been other revivals, as well, and more are being planned, including a hologram of Elvis, who already performed a duet of "If I Can Dream" with Celine Dion – after his death – on "American Idol" in 2007.

This whole great-vs.-gruesome debate over holographic appearances was resurrected after Jackson performed "Slave to the Rhythm" – from a posthumously released album – at the Billboards in May.

One critic commented via the Internet: "This is so creepy. Michael Jackson is dead. He had his time and there are so many live talents out there who deserve their turn in the spotlight. We don't need to be entertained by dead people."

After all, critics say, although Michael Jackson's famous moonwalk movements were mimicked in May, who's to say in the future that the hologram

technicians wouldn't add their own twists and turns to the imagery.

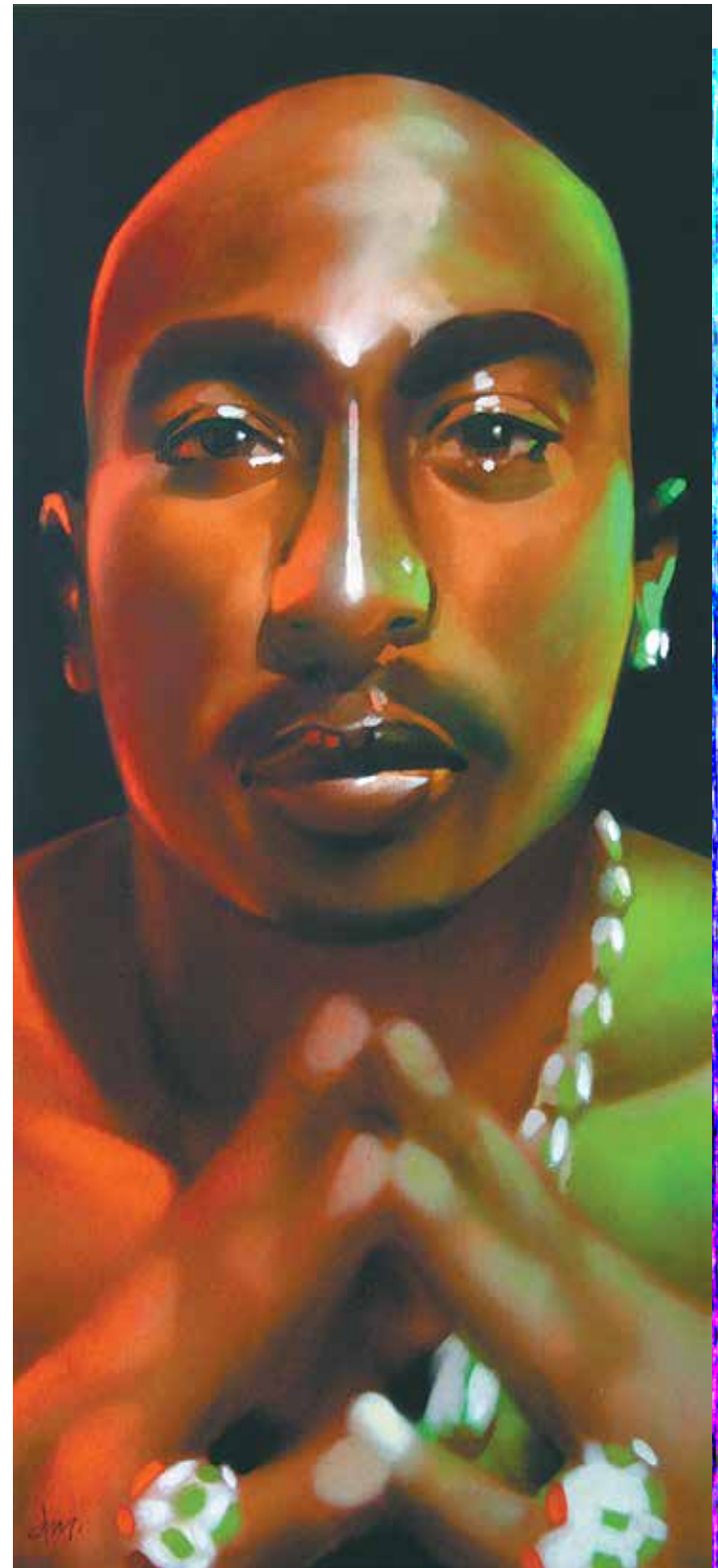
"They are doing it based on their opinion, their personality," says 15-year-old Dominique Singletary, from Roslindale.

"It's a great way to... keep him alive, instead of him dying out."



"It's creepy and wrong.... They are trying to make more money by taking advantage of his death."

AFH art by Amy Zahlaway



Yet others are not convinced that the greater good isn't served by seeing artists sing and dance at shows long after they've been put to rest – like Michael Jackson.

"It's a good idea," says 15-year-old Taylor Davis, from Dorchester. "It's a great way to entertain and to keep him alive, instead of him dying out." ■

Where only the “cool kids” shop

By Julio Lanzo // Staff Writer

Abercrombie & Fitch CEO Mike Jeffries apparently thinks ugly and overweight people are not “cool enough” to wear his products.

In a 2006 interview with Salon, Jeffries was quoted as saying: “In every school there are the cool and popular kids, and then there are the not-so-cool kids. Candidly, we go after the cool kids....A lot of people don’t belong [in our clothes], and they can’t belong. Are we exclusionary? Absolutely.”

Jeffries comments recently resurfaced in interviews following the publication of the book “The New Rules of Retail,” and went viral after critics formed online protests.

Amanda Brea, 16, doesn’t agree with the policy but believes Jeffries has the right to voice his own opinion.

“It’s his business so he can do whatever he wants with it,” says Brea, who goes to the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science. “I feel that’s unfair. But it’s not my company...He will lose a lot of money and customers because not everyone is skinny or pretty.”

In a Facebook post from the Abercrombie & Fitch page, Jeffries attempted to make amends but stopped short of an apology. “I sincerely regret that my choice of words was interpreted in a manner that has caused offense,” he wrote. “A&F is an aspirational brand that, like most specialty apparel brands, targets its marketing at a particular segment of customers. However, we care about the broader communities in which we operate and are strongly committed to diversity and inclusion.”

News reports earlier this year said that Jeffries had been stripped of his chairman role at the company.

On a recent trip to Abercrombie & Fitch, Teens in Print brought

along a 15-year-old girl who wears sizes four to six when shopping for pants. At A&F, she couldn’t pull the size six pants over her thighs.

When the 15-year-old asked if they carried any “curvy” pants, the clerk replied that the store only had “skinny to super-skinny.”

Nancy Aleid, 17, thinks Abercrombie & Fitch’s sizing system is dangerous.

“This is promoting anorexia in a way by making young people feel as if their weight and size isn’t embraced by society,” says Aleid, who goes to the O’Bryant.

Tia Knowles, 17, from Snowden International High School, feels that Abercrombie & Fitch is sexist and unfair.

“Self-image,” says Knowles, “comes in different shapes and sizes.” ■



AFH photo by Cynthia Ginnetti

In concert

Safety risks can mar the sounds

By Marcos Hernandez // Staff Writer

Concerts have evolved over the years, some expanding in size and extravagance. These shows can put teens at risk.

In June, electronic artist Avicii held a performance at TD Garden in which dozens of people had to be treated after ingesting drugs or alcohol. According to the Boston Globe, those hospitalized included minors under the influence.

One concertgoer, David Lopera, saw



AFH photo by Genesis Perez

intoxicated people but just enjoyed what he came for.

“The concert itself was great,” said Lopera, 17, who goes to the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science.

Still, Lopera advised that worried teens should go to shows with friends in case things get out of hand.

Haiyang Xu, 16, of Boston Latin School, said that shows were meant to be untamed – but not to the point of injury.

“I understand people want to go hard during these events but overdoing it kills the vibe,” said Xu.

Xu said he would go to future shows knowing the risks but feels that venues need to own up to who they allow through entrance gates.

“Instead of complaining about problems, they can fix it themselves and take charge,” said Xu.

Kassandra Boada, 17, from the O’Bryant, said she has no problem attending these popular performances but understands that they can get wild. Accountability, she said, does not fall entirely on the venue but also with the spectators themselves.

“You should be held responsible for your own actions,” she said, “and it’s stupid to ruin it for everyone else.” ■

Curfew crackdown

By Jamillat Doumbia // Staff Writer

Curfews have been all over the news, from Ferguson, Missouri, in the wake of the fatal shooting of unarmed black 18-year-old Michael Brown, to the city of Lowell, Massachusetts, where city councilors want stricter enforcement of time restrictions.

“Teen curfews are set and given to assure the safety of the adolescents,” says Jacky Hang, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Jason Cuervas, 18, believes curfews are OK for some areas of Boston.

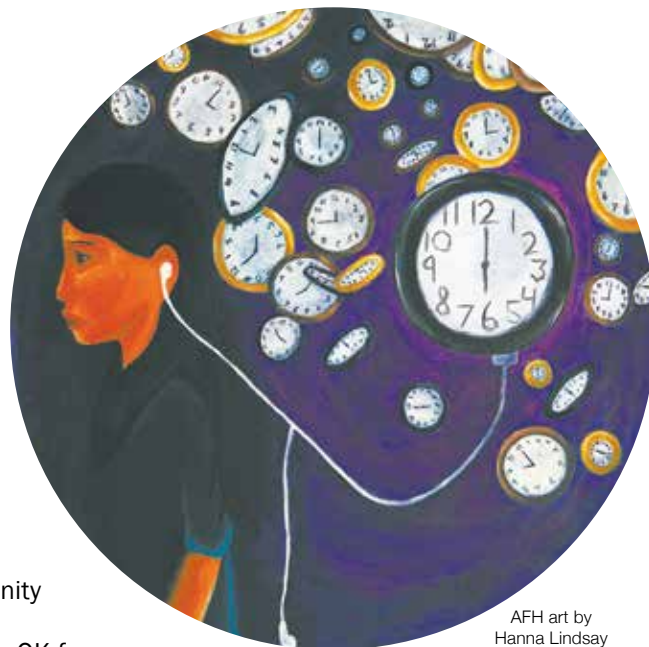
“Curfews should only be enforced in the rough parts of the city,” says Cuervas, who goes to school in East Boston.

Fifteen-year-old Katlyne Davis, from Mattapan, already has early evening curfews on weekdays and weekends – but she says she ignores them.

“Most times, no, not even most times, all the time, I never follow it,” Davis says.

Lowell is trying to crack down on those under 17 who are out after 11 pm.

Says Lissa Seiti, 16, from Lowell Catholic High School: “I guess I would have to get arrested then.” ■



AFH art by Hanna Lindsay

T fares

By Christine Nguyen
// Staff Writer

Caitlyn Undag, 15, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, rides public transportation daily and does not like the recent rise in MBTA fares.

"It was already high enough," she says during the summer. "Teens and adults are already struggling to earn money and raising the prices won't help them."

On July 1, fares rose by 10 cents, to \$1.60 for buses and \$2.10 for subways. In the summer, teens free school day passes stopped working – as they will on weekends when school resumes and fares are half price. Teens might have to retreat from certain activities as they did in summer.

Undag says the transport costs stopped her from going to her usual tea-house destinations this summer.

Coliea Turner, 16, from the O'Bryant, rode the T often this summer and says a lot of her money went toward fees.

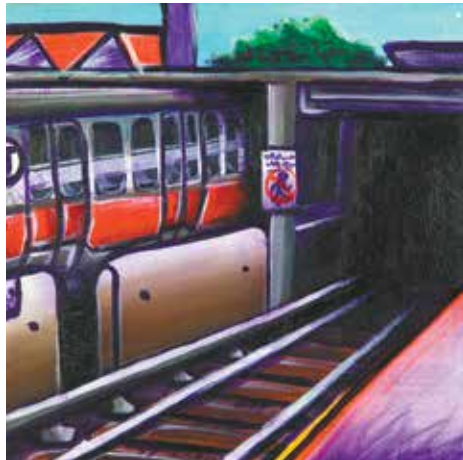
"By the end of the week, I am broke," Turner says.

Turner says she did not go to the downtown movie theatre like she used to.

"Due to the bus fares, it's taking away my money from buying the movie ticket itself," Turner says.

Kianah Moss, 15, meanwhile, thinks that the T prices are reasonable.

"They only raised the prices by 10 cents," says Moss, who goes to the O'Bryant. "So if I could pay \$2 for the train, I could pay \$2.10." ■



AFH art by Chris Bolivar

T fears

By Anna Quan // Staff Writer

Glenda Interiano, 18, says she takes special precautions when riding the T at night, hiding her legs and not wearing anything too revealing.

"There is a lot of drunk dudes that when they see skin, they begin to give girls a lot of unwanted sexual attention," says Interiano, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

A Boston Magazine article last

year proclaimed: "The MBTA May Be Broke, But Crime on Public Transit Is Down."

But many young women say they continue to feel unsafe at some T stations after sundown.

Seventeen-year-old Gabby Grant says that young women often wait for trains alone at night.

"Anything can happen," says Grant, who goes to the O'Bryant.

Shannon Zarnoch, 17, says that there are times she'll look around a T station and find no one else in sight.

"If I'm alone," says Zarnoch, from the O'Bryant, "then I'm more likely to be targeted." ■

Skateboarders to T: no cares

By Cameron Teleau
// Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Cameron Smith, from the South End, has a solution to the rising T fares.

"I use skating to get around instead of using the MBTA, mostly," says Smith.

Even with unpaved roadways and annoying metal grates, Smith uses his skateboard as his wheels.

Other skateboarders rely on the T to get them to their skate spots – but then they are free and clear of the rails.

"Skating Boston has the closeness of a smaller town but



AFH art by Willie Wiggins

the benefit of a big city," says Jared Blake, 15, from Mattapan.

Xavier Spinola, 18, from Dorchester, believes they should lower T fares but raise the number of legal skateboard locales. ■

After kidnappings in Nigeria, education hits home

By Sealeah Sterling // Staff Writer

Kayli Guthrie, 17, from Boston Latin Academy, says that she remembers hearing about the situation in Africa back in April, and that it has made her think differently about education.

"I feel very sad for these kids," says Guthrie. "All they wanted was an education and they were punished for it. With everything that was going on, I realized how grateful I am to have the right to go to school."

In April, some 300 Nigerian girls were abducted from a school in northeast Nigeria. These secondary school students were woken up by gunfire and taken by an extremist group called Boko Haram, which when translated from the Hausa language means "Western education is a sin."

At press time, most of the girls were still missing.

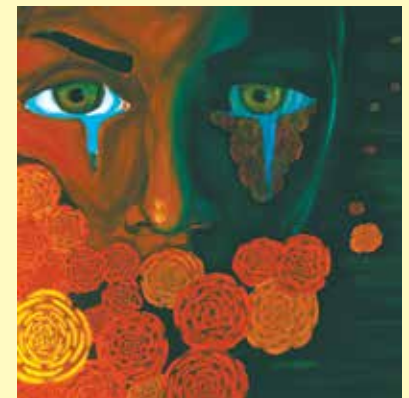
In America, many of today's youth do not take advantage of the educational opportunities they are offered; they take much for granted.

Yessenia Tejeda, 17, from BLA, feels fortunate for being able to acquire knowledge.

"Education is something that should be valued, not hated," says Tejeda. "Those girls were willing to risk their life to learn....This event really made me value my life and recognize the significance of the education I receive."

Jacelys Suazo, 14, who resides in Roxbury, never heard about the abduction before it was mentioned to her, and her reaction wasn't any different than that of many others. She was astonished.

"Wow! I didn't realize that stuff like this can actually happen," says Suazo. "Learning about this makes me feel grateful that I can go to school without putting my life at risk." ■



AFH art by Ivy Smith

“It was like the end of the world”

By Will-Angee Raymond // Staff Writer

I am a 17-year-old Haitian-American. One thing I have learned in my short time on this earth is that people have their own perspectives on how they see the world.

On January 12, 2010, a devastating event occurred. I was home with my siblings when a family friend gave us the news that an earthquake had struck Haiti. Over 200, 000 people were declared dead. It was by far the toughest thing I've had to comprehend. This changed my life and my view of the world forever. At that time, I didn't have a worry in the world outside of school, but now I know the importance of family, culture, and most of all, God.

Because of that day, I have grown a lot because I realized that humans in general are all the same, whether poor, rich, black, white. That day, people from all races, age groups, and religions lost their lives – but also came together for the people of Haiti.

My motto is: Love is for now, not for tomorrow.



AFH art by Geniya Ramirez

This has affected me both negatively and positively. It left an open wound that will always be a part of me. It was like the end of the world. So many people I knew passed away. The buildings collapsed onto adults, kids, and animals with no mercy. But it also showed me how precious life truly is.

We each have to make our mark on this world, and my goal is to spread peace and happiness every place I go. My motto is: Love is for now, not for tomorrow. ■

At 15, a game plan for life

By Tashayla Borden // Staff Writer

I was born on the night of October 10, 1998, and I've already made my life's plans. For my high school years, I want to get a job for all four summers doing things that I enjoy, so it's not strictly about what my colleges see. I'll get paid and donate some to church.

For the academic years, I'll try to get closest to a 4.0 GPA. I just feel better prepared if I make the decision to get into a good college. It's my life and I'll squeeze the most out of it.

For my extracurriculars, I'll do two sports every year – soccer and softball – and I'll participate in the annual play. The theatre is like having multiple personalities – except people don't lock you up. They clap instead. And sports are a necessity; without that, I'll end up fat with no good workout habits.

For colleges. I've decided to go to the



AFH photo by LanVy Tran

Ivy League. To be the best you need to go to the best.

After college, I plan on becoming a film writer/book author with my double majors in film production and writing. And, with my business minor, establish my own dance studio (after watching too much “Dance Moms”).

Then I'll meet my exotic husband who is several nationalities. I'm pro interracial and to make the world better we'll have to accept our differences.

I will have up to three kids and name one after me, just so my name lives on through the generations. When I feel alone after they move out, I'll adopt another. We'll live in a varied climate with rain and trees.

And finally, I'll die of old age in my sleep, with a good book and a bible on the night stand. ■

The pain of immigration continues

By Astou Montgomery // Staff Writer

After lunch, everyone came to English class ready to learn. I was in fourth grade. I sat next to a kid named Kevin. He immediately went off about how he didn't want me there. He yelled out in front of the whole class: “You should get on a boat and row, row, row all the way back to Africa.”

When will people who migrated to America be accepted?

Centuries after the first immigrants came here on the Mayflower, prejudice against the foreign-born is still causing pain.

I was born in Senegal. I came to the US when I was two.

It hurts deeply to know people dislike you because of where you're from. I've been going through the same thing ever since I went to public schools.

I remember when I entered the fifth grade, one of my classmates had the nerve to make weird noises and ask me if I understood what they meant. Of course, the whole class broke up with laughter.

Recently, I was at a local gym. A boy working there wondered about my ethnicity. I told him I'm African. He asked if I lived in huts and walked around naked.

Really? ■



AFH photo by Kenneth Li



AFH art by Joel Diaz

Military options

By Digna Castro // Staff Writer

SATs. College visits. GPAs. Despite all the hype around going to college after high school, many teens still see the military as a better option in the short run.

For some, it's one way to actually afford to attend a good university down the road.

"I would join the Armed Forces so they could pay for my college," says 16-year-old Ronnie Brown, from Excel High School.

In an unstable economy, the military says it provides job security. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics: "Opportunities

should be good for qualified individuals in all branches of the Armed Forces through 2022."

"I just want to join the Army," says Selena Mejia, a senior at Boston Community Leadership Academy. "It seems interesting, you get to learn new skills."

Sounds good, skeptical teens say, until you think about all the wars raging around the world.

"I feel like the Army is for people who aren't afraid to die," says Lashonda Cottrell, 15, from West Roxbury Academy, "because you're risking your life." ■

Goth girl and military find a way to mix

By Devon Spears // Staff Writer

I'm Goth. I'm also part of JROTC, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. At first glance, that might seem like an unlikely pairing. But upon closer inspection, there's more in common than meets the eye.

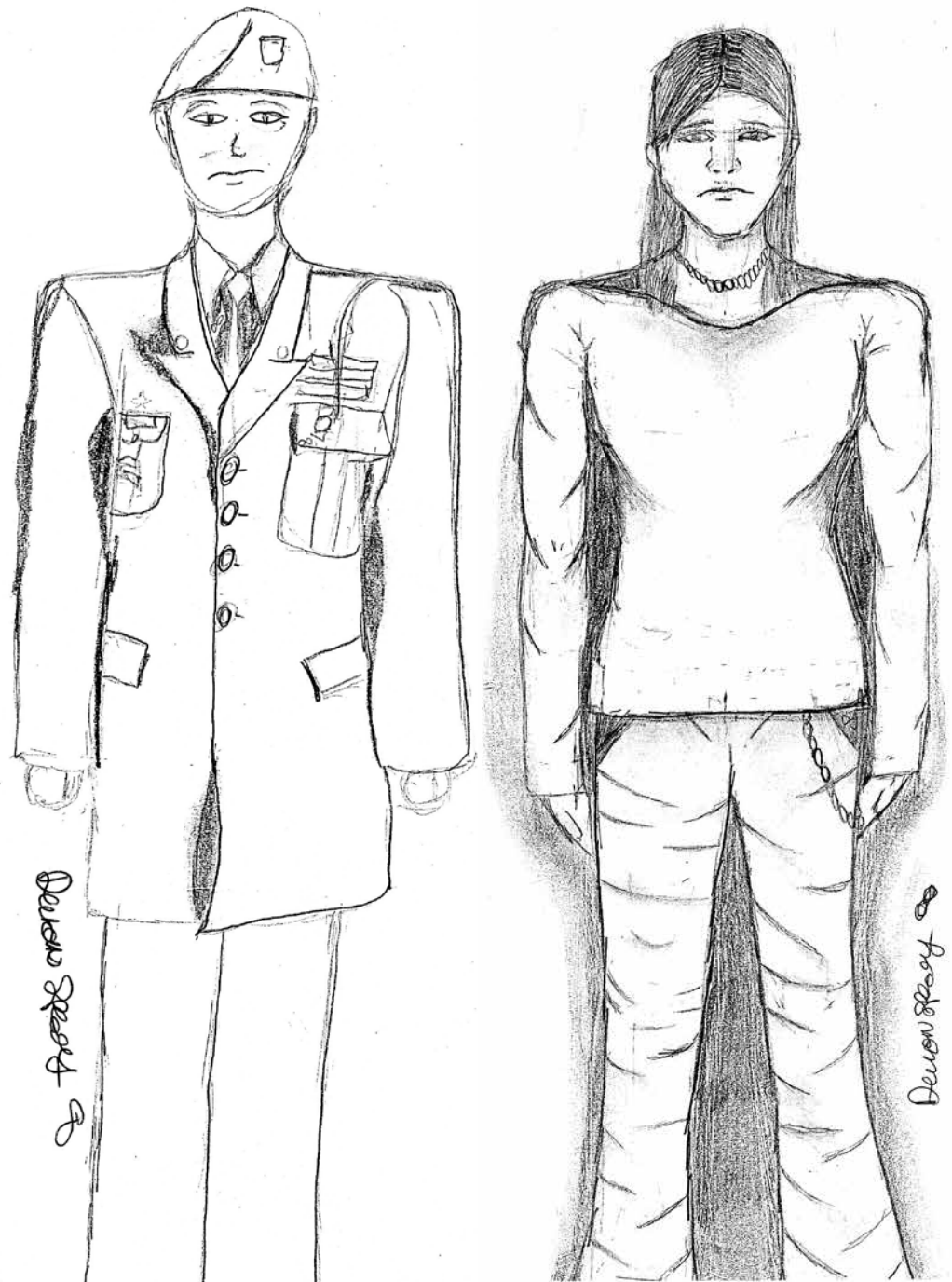
I became Goth in sixth grade. I was attracted to the movement because I was getting bullied and it was a way to carve my own identity. Today, it means I wear dark clothing, I listen to heavy metal, and I stand out from others.

I joined JROTC in ninth grade. At first, it was mandatory. But then I decided to stick with it. I liked that I was with people who would accept me for who I am. I liked being part of the marksmanship team. And, oddly enough, I enjoy wearing the camo uniform.

When I first applied for this summer job, I was skeptical that I would get it. When I walked into the Boston Globe for my interview, I was in full Goth gear: black pants and black-and-white skeleton hoodie. We were told via email not to dress professionally but to come the way you do all time. That's what I did and I honestly thought I would not get the job. Then, a couple of weeks later, I read my email and I found that I got the job. That made me happy because it means that they looked passed the fact that I am different and decided to give me a chance. At work, people were cool with me.

I'm now back in school, have returned to JROTC, and remain Goth. While both are wildly different – Goth is rebellious and JROTC is ultra-conforming – each subculture has its own values and its own uniform, of sorts.

They are more alike than you'd think. ■



TiP art by Devon Spears

Body piercings: keeping things clean

By **Daria Dumel** // Staff Writer

Abby Davila, 17, says she got her belly button and tongue piercings at 16 by a close friend without the permission of her mother. She feels as though teens should be able to get piercings without parental OKs as a way of expressing themselves, and professionals are just too expensive.

Davila did not think about the dangers that come along with unprofessional piercings and says she faced many complications. Her mother later found out about the piercings and had to bring her to the hospital due to an infection.

"The piercings definitely weren't worth getting sick or getting in trouble with my mother," says Davila, from English High School. "If going back in time were possible, I would have my mother bring me to a professional."

Piercings are a trendy way to bedazzle the body. Whether you're talking about nose rings or belly button and eyebrow piercings, they're totally cute. But the question is: Are they safe?

There are a lot of risks that come with having a piercing – especially if not done by a professional or at a sanitary shop. According to kidshealth.org, these include abscesses, infections, uncontrolled bleeding, and even hepatitis.

Keisha Fertil, 17, says she got her lip pierced by a professional with the permission of her mother



AFH art by Kitauna Parker

and did not face any problems after taking great care of it.

"My experience at a professional shop was amazing," says Fertil, from Charlestown High School. "Everything was extremely clean, they told me about the risk of getting a piercing, and even gave me a free care kit to clean my piercings."

Nya Ross, 17, from New Mission High School, does not want any piercings at all because she thinks they're overrated and risky – regardless of where you get them done.

"I don't see why I need to spend over \$50 on a piece of jewelry that won't significantly change anything about me and can potentially get me sick," says Ross. "It's not worth the stress." ■

Breaking bad (habits)

By **Jamillat Doumbia** // Staff Writer

Habits can enter a person's life without notice.

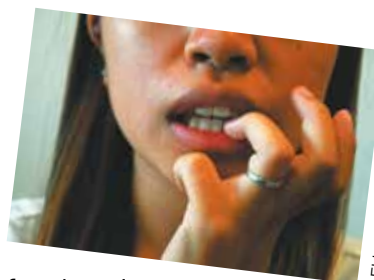
"I have a habit of leaving my phone in places where it doesn't belong," says Michael Harris, 19, who goes to school in Jamaica Plain. "I vowed that one day I would stop this horrible manner but, sadly, my phone was stolen before I could even attempt to break the habit."

Breaking bad habits is not easy, especially if you've been doing them for a long time.

"There is no breaking of bad habits, you just have to replace it with a good one," says Andrew Moore, 15, from Dorchester.

Many teens continue with their negative actions until something drastic happens.

"I had a habit of biting my nails and I knew I had to stop," says Marcus Sanchez, 18, who goes to school in South Boston, "because of the fact that I would bite my nails so far down that it would begin to bleed." ■



AFH photo by Genesis Perez

Sleeping too much can be harmful to your health (yeah right)



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

By **Precious Nuñez** // Staff Writer

Matthew Shako believes it is dangerous and might have negative health effects to sleep too much.

"It's bad for you," says Shako, 17, who goes to Boston Latin School. "It's unhealthy for certain bodily functions to not be active for that long."

Although Shako sleeps 8 to 10 hours a night, he would slumber for four more hours if he could because he loves to doze.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, teens need at least eight-and-a-half hours of sleep a night, but 15 percent don't get that much on school nights – whether they're up doing homework or getting lost on social media.

Then there are those who get too much rest.

Webmd.com says that super-sleeping can be a sign of anything from diabetes to depression.

Seventeen-year-old Oscar Mercado says he sleeps 6 to 12 hours a night and would love more. He doesn't believe that too much sleep is bad because it helps him relax and he feels more energetic and happy.

"Sometimes your body or your mind is more tired than usual, so you need more sleep," says Mercado, who goes to Excel High School.

Nolan Jones, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, feels that resting regenerates the human body. He says he only sleeps for five hours a night due to insomnia and would like additional hours. But he also believes that going overboard can lead you nowhere.

"If you get too much sleep," says Jones, "you're missing out on life, and life does not stop for you. It keeps going." ■

Unfocused: the hidden story of ADHD

By Arianna Ortiz-Dixon // Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old AD, from South Boston, struggles to unburden her Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder every day.

"You can't sit still," says AD, whose name is being withheld to protect her privacy. "You have trouble paying attention. I stare off into space because I get distracted so easily."

AD says she was diagnosed with ADHD in eighth grade after being recommended for a test by a teacher. She was put on a medication named Adderall.

"It helps me focus," AD says.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5.9 million young people between the ages of 3 and 17 have been detected as having ADHD. Symptoms range from becoming bored easily and daydreaming to struggling to follow instructions.

AD says ADHD was the cause for a lot of the bullying directed at her, from both students and teachers; she says one adult singled her out as the 'special kid.'

AD says she managed to move beyond the bullying and create organizational strategies to help with her schoolwork.

"I would have a notebook and pencil for each class color-coded," she says.

Now that she has become more self-confident, AD has developed a strong dislike for the way society views people with ADHD.

"We're not different, we just learn differently," she says. "We are normal, we just need...a little extra attention." ■



AFH photo
by Dominic Duong

Dealing with disabilities

By Digna Castro // Staff Writer

Dealing with a sibling who has disabilities isn't always easy. Usually you have many people asking questions or staring. It's frustrating at times but it's also what makes your family different.

My younger brother was born deaf with deformed ears. People often look oddly at him and some kids have gone as far as asking what happened.

But he's comfortable with being deaf.

I've learned a lot over the past eight years. There is so much technology and many accommodations for deaf people: flashing doorbells, sight-signal fire alarms, and even implants that are programmed by computer to help him hear.

My brother is teaching me how to sign.

Seeing an eight-year-old communicate in Sign Language, English, and Spanish shows you just how smart people with disabilities can be. ■



AFH photo
by Kenneth Li

Behind the pro-anorexia movement

"It's absolutely disgusting and disappointing"

By Mandusu Sidibay // Staff Writer

Scrolling through the tumblr tag 'pro-ana,' pictures of shockingly thin-framed women are displayed.

Pro-ana, short for a pro-anorexia-nervosa lifestyle, refers to people who choose to imitate the eating disorder in which victims often starve themselves for extended periods of time. Patients with anorexia may view themselves with distorted body images.

"It's absolutely disgusting and disappointing," says 15-year-old Nelly Matos, from Boston Latin Academy,

"It is not...okay to condition young girls with such fragile self-esteems that you need these things to be beautiful. You don't."

who struggled for a time with weight perceptions. "Girls who are pro-ana are imitating an often fatal disease and it is not okay."

Almost 24 million Americans suffer from an eating disorder, according to kidshealth.org, and 95 percent of those are between the ages of 12 and 25.

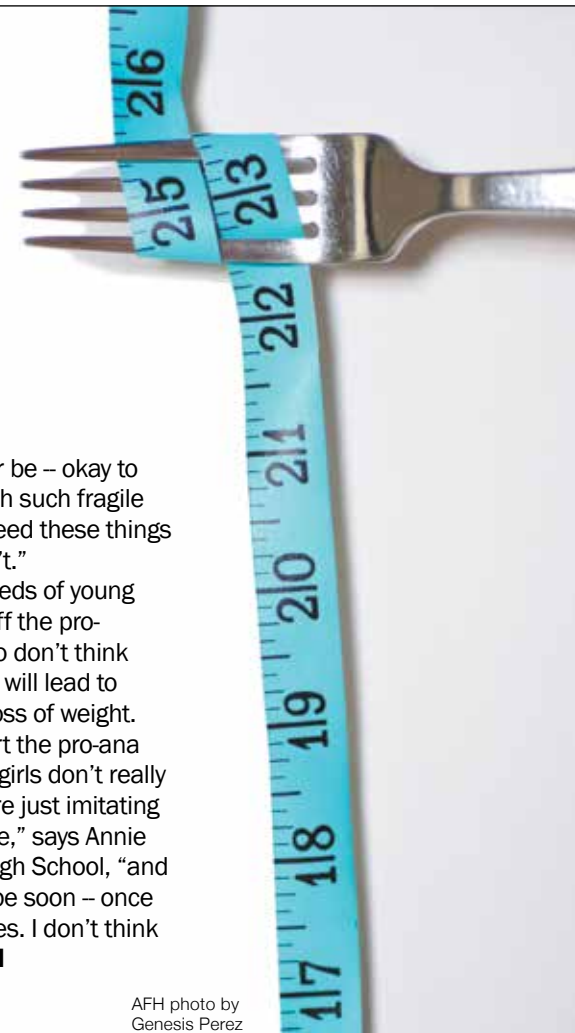
Annabella Bautista, 15, from BLA, has also dealt with body stigmas and faults the current fad for the recent prevalence of eating disorders.

"I totally blame the obsession for having bikini bridges, thigh gaps, and protruding collar bones," says Bautista.

"It is not – and will never be – okay to condition young girls with such fragile self-esteems that you need these things to be beautiful. You don't."

Still, there are hundreds of young women – both on and off the pro-ana online forums – who don't think simulation of the illness will lead to anything but a normal loss of weight.

"Well, I do not support the pro-ana movement, but if these girls don't really have the disease and are just imitating it, they can stop any time," says Annie Jones, 16, from Excel High School, "and hopefully that time will be soon – once they come to their senses. I don't think it's that big of a deal." ■



AFH photo by
Genesis Perez

House rules

By Debora Saintjean // Staff Writer

Arvonne Patterson, a 17-year-old from Madison Park High School, says her parents don't have specific rules but she's asked to follow whatever they tell her to do.

"Sometimes it bothers me because if I don't do something little, my parents won't let me do anything



at all," Patterson says. "For example, if I don't clean the kitchen, they won't even let me walk down the street."

The way many teens tell it, all parents have strict households – yet some actually don't.

Andrea Victorian, 18, from Fenway High School, says there are barely any guidelines for her.

"The only ones are keep your room clean, be respectful, and be clean after yourself," she says. "I like these rules because they're not hard to do. If I want to go out, all I have to do is ask my mom and she'll let me go because I do what I am told and she trusts me."

Nathan Gonzalez, 17, from Boston Arts Academy, only has a few simple instructions to follow.

"The basic common rule is respect the house you're living in because other people are living in there with you," Gonzalez says. "If I don't follow the rules, then they put me on punishment. If I want to go out, all I have to do is tell them where, with who, and what time I'm coming back." ■

How far does parental responsibility go?

By Makayla Castro // Staff Writer

When a kid does wrong, it's easy for him to blame his parents or society – anyone but himself.

But teens say the culprits often should be pointing fingers at themselves.

"Parents teach their kids to make good choices," says Ronnie Brown, 16, from Excel High School.

Often, perpetrators like to play dumb, laying fault on violent video games, TV shows, or their

parents for being too lax.

But those excuses don't fly with many teens.

"The kid knows right from wrong and if they do wrong it's on them," says Landon Fitzpatrick, a freshman at the Henderson School.

For sure, parents have influence over their child's actions. Teens say parents need to set clear boundaries of behavior, maintain a strong presence in their kids' lives, and regularly sit down and talk with them about what they're up to.



AFH art by Nia Richemond

However, at the end of the day, the kid is still responsible for his own activities.

"It was the child's choice to break the law," says 14-year-old Tyler Andrade, from Dorchester. ■

The search for sidekicks

How to choose your inner circle

By Anna Quan // Staff Writer

Edmund Yu, a senior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, doesn't believe that you select your friends as much as they select you.

"I believe that in the world we live in we shouldn't choose and be specific of what kind of friends we want," says Yu. "My group of friends are an interesting group, each coming with a sense of creativity and loyalty."

Seventeen-year-old Joey Hunt, from the O'Bryant, agrees that the process of finding friends is not always as it seems.

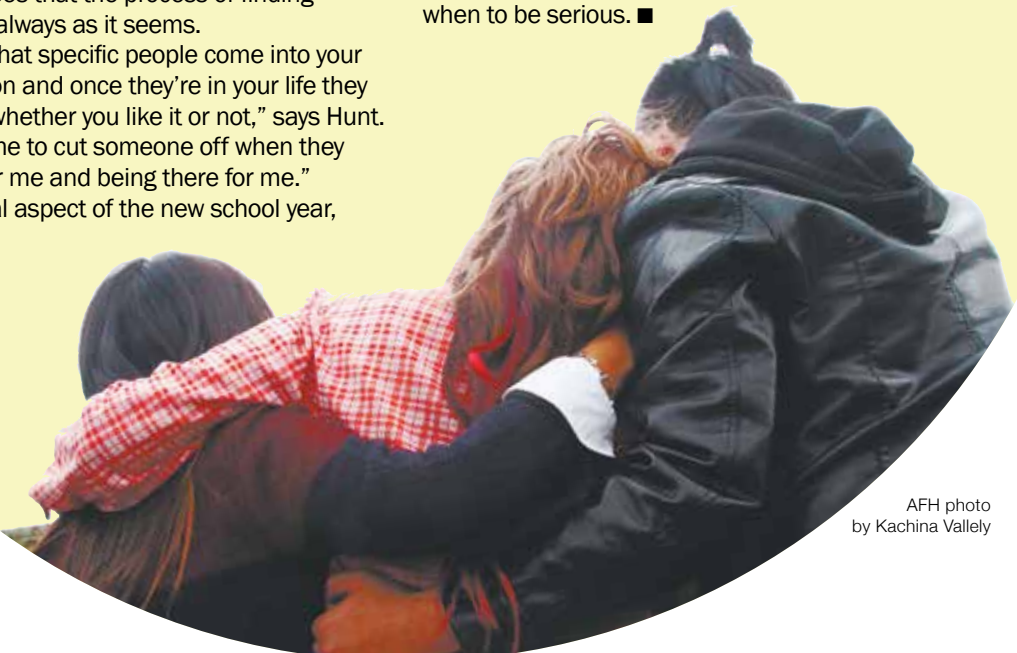
"I believe that specific people come into your life for a reason and once they're in your life they stick around whether you like it or not," says Hunt. "I know it's time to cut someone off when they stop caring for me and being there for me."

In the social aspect of the new school year,

many students are trying to find themselves. They are developing an interest in different activities and beliefs. As part of that, they are quickly evaluating the types of people they surround themselves with.

"You choose your friends, but who you are exposed to in the world is determined by how outgoing you are and your social circle," says Tony Nguyen, 18, from the O'Bryant.

Nguyen lists his criteria for friendship as loyalty, respect, and being laid back but knowing when to be serious. ■



AFH photo by Kachina Valley



Telldale signs

Confiding more in friends than family

By Jenay Quarles // Staff Writer

Myette Squires, a 15-year-old who attends TechBoston Academy, acts differently around her mom than when she's with friends. From her point of view, it's not fake; it's kind of for survival.

"I'm very comfortable around my mom, don't get me wrong," she says, "but I feel as if sometimes she wouldn't understand the things I talk about with my friends."

Some teens are more at ease confiding in friends. Other teens find it better to tell all to family.

With her friends, Arielle Barrows, 17, from Madison Park High School, talks about boy/girl problems. With her parents, she will discuss boys but only to a certain point.

"I can talk about certain things with my mom and still feel comfortable," she says, "but with my friends, I can just let everything out and I feel better."

Claudia Camacho, 15, from Excel High School, acts the same around both her parents and friends. In her head, she thinks it's best not to keep things from her parents.

"I rather be the same around my parents and friends because I personally feel things will be better that way," she says. She adds: "Honesty is the best policy." ■

Judgment daze

By Jalene Sanchez // Staff Writer

Teens just want to be accepted by their friends – but more so by their families. Teenagers have an interest in piercings, tattoos, or a specific way of dressing – but parents don't always agree and may think less of their own children.

David Fortunato, 19, from Madison Park High School, says his mother is always judging him based on the people that he hangs out with.



AFH photo by Janna Mach

"It makes me feel rebellious because I'm her son and to know she doesn't see me as my own person is one of the most disappointing things ever," he says.

Karina Cruz, 16, from Dorchester, says her piercings cause family tensions. She says that she always tells her mom that people are the way they are for a reason.

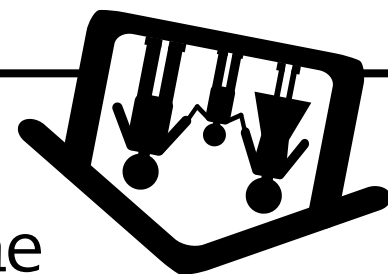
"Honestly, nobody's judgment will change me," she says. "The way I was born and raised is the way I will remain."

Kordell Hollis, 18, who goes to school in Roxbury, says his parents always tell him that his baggy jeans and long shirts aren't as attractive as he thinks they are.

Hollis says that although they are his parents, he doesn't let their words affect him in any way.

"I stick to myself at all times," he says, "but it would be nice to have them accept me the way that I am." ■

Debunking the myth of the two-parent home



By Makayla Castro // Staff Writer

Adezna Ventura, a freshman at the Henderson School, says that living with two parents isn't always as ideal as it seems – especially when they tend to argue a lot.

In sociological circles, the perfect household is usually portrayed as mom and dad living together with the kids under one roof. But some teens say that's not the best situation for them.

Grace Villafane, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says she lives with both her parents but would prefer

to be with just one.

"I'm closer to my mom," says Villafane.

"We have a good relationship."

Tyler Andrade, 14, from Dorchester, also says it would be easier living with just a single parent.

"My mom lets me bring people over and my dad doesn't like me having people over," says Andrade.

Tanejah Williams, though, knows the advantages of the two-parent home.

"If I don't get my way with one," says Williams, 16, from BCLA, "I'll go to the other." ■



AFH photo by Karolyn Diaz

That tender touch

By Kelvin Crisostomo // Staff Writer

Eighteen-year-old Angelica Ortiz laments the lack of consistent outward love at home.

"My parents now show affection only when something good or bad happens," says Ortiz,

who goes to Boston Community Leadership Academy.

As teens get older, they start to realize the importance of affection. At the same time, some parents are pulling back on showing that emotion.

"Affection is needed because it's part of

communication," says Rodell Pires, a senior at BCLA.

Teens say that they feel closer to their parents when they feel that warmth.

"Parent affection," says Ronnie Brown, 16, from Excel High School, "makes the relationship stronger." ■

**ADAMAJAN BAH**

Theme song: "Latch" by Disclosure ft. Sam Smith.
Favorite brand: Apple
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left back pocket.

**TASHAYLA BORDEN**

Theme song: "Chandelier" by Sia.
Favorite brand: Ben & Jerry's.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left front pocket.

**BASIA BROWN**

Theme song: "Super BBE Challenge *Warning*" by GNEHeVill.
Favorite brand: Jordan.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my right hand.

**EDWIN CAMBARA**

Theme song: "Buffalo Soldier" by Bob Marley.
Favorite brand: Nike.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

**MAKAYLA CASTRO**

Theme song: "Problem" by Ariana Grande ft. Iggy Azalea.
Favorite brand: Converse.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right back pocket.

**DIGNA CASTRO**

Theme song: "Keep on Keeping On" by Travie McCoy.
Favorite brand: Vera Bradley.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right back pocket.

**KELVIN CRISOSTOMO**

Theme song: "Maximal Crazy" by Tiësto.
Favorite brand: Vans.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

**JAMILLAT DOUMBIA**

Theme song: "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong.
Favorite brand: Diva.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
The inside pocket of my bag.

**DARIA DUMEL**

Theme song: "Fancy" by Iggy Azalea.
Favorite brand: Hollister.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
The smallest front pocket in my purse.

**HARRIANNE ERRIE**

Theme song: "Bound to You" by Christina Aguilera.
Favorite brand: Hollister.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my bag.

**ROSALYNA FELIX**

Theme song: "Stay Ready" by Jhené Aiko.
Favorite brand: PacSun.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my right rear pocket.

**YANIELIS FLORES**

Theme song: "Reflection" by Christina Aguilera.
Favorite brand: Jordan.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In the front pocket of my bag.

**ILMA GOLEMI**

Theme song: "Let Her Go" by Passenger.
Favorite brand: Abercrombie & Fitch.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right back pocket.

**TONI HARRIS**

Theme song: "1901" by Phoenix.
Favorite brand: H&M.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left hand.

**MARCOS HERNANDEZ**

Theme song: "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac.
Favorite brand: New Balance.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left front pocket.

**JULIO LANZO**

Theme song: "Vivir Mi Vida" by Marc Anthony.
Favorite brand: Vans.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

**JENNIFER LE**

Theme song: "Feeling Good" by Jennifer Hudson.
Favorite brand: Louis Vuitton.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
My purse.

**SHAVON MCBYNUM**

Theme song: "Pretty Girl Rock" by Keri Hilson.
Favorite brand: Nike.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my hand... I'm always holding it.

TEENS IN PRINT

MEET THE STAFF

bostontip.com

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

Write for Teens in Print!

SEND your news articles, feature pieces, opinion essays, poems, or editorial cartoons.

► EMAIL submissions to ric.kahn@boston.gov

Please provide your full name, grade, and school. You must attend one of the Boston public secondary schools.

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

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@boston.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@boston.gov

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Next issue:
Nov/Dec 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 city-wide 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.

**ASTOU MONTGOMERY**

Theme song: "BNNON" by WolfTyla.
Favorite brand: PacSun.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my purse in a side pocket on the right.

**CHRISTINE NGUYEN**

Theme song: "New Flame" by Chris Brown.
Favorite brand: Snickers.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Phone slot in my purse.

**SHARON NGUYEN**

Theme song: "Keep Breathing" by Ingrid Michaelson.
Favorite brand: Apple.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right front pocket.

**PRECIOUS NUÑEZ**

Theme song: "Do You" by Miguel.
Favorite brand: Netflix.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my purse.

**ARIANNA ORTIZ-DIXON**

Theme song: "It's a Man's Man's World" by James Brown.
Favorite brand: PINK.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right back pocket.

**JOHANSEL PEÑA**

Theme song: "Don't You (Forget About Me)" by Simple Minds.
Favorite brand: Apple.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left side pocket.

**BRIANNY PUJOLS**

Theme song: "Shower" by Becky G.
Favorite brand: Apple.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right front pocket.

**ANNA QUAN**

Theme song: "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson.
Favorite brand: H&M.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Back pocket – usually the left.

**JENAY QUARLES**

Theme song: "Go Crazy" by RondoNumbaNine.
Favorite brand: Hollister.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Rear pocket on the right.

**NELSON RATEAU**

Theme song: "The Lazy Song" by Bruno Mars.
Favorite brand: Apple.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right front pocket.

**WILL-ANGEE RAYMOND**

Theme song: "Love Story" by Taylor Swift.
Favorite brand: Young Money.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my left back pocket.

**LIANNA RIVAS**

Theme song: "Young and Beautiful" by Lana Del Rey.
Favorite brand: PacSun.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my back right pocket.

**MICHAEL ROSS**

Theme song: "WTH" by Migos.
Favorite brand: adidas.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front left pocket.

**DEBORA SAINTJEAN**

Theme song: "Run the World (Girls)" by Beyoncé.
Favorite brand: Young Money.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my bag.

**JALENE SANCHEZ**

Theme song: "Stained Glass Masquerade" by Casting Crowns.
Favorite brand: Charlotte Russe.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left hand.

**MANDUSU SIDIBAY**

Theme song: "Antichrist" by The 1975.
Favorite brand: Jeffrey Campbell.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Purse.

**XAVIA SIMPSON**

Theme song: "I Have Nothing" by Whitney Houston.
Favorite brand: Jordan.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Left back pocket.

**DEVON SPEARS**

Theme song: "Iron Man" by Black Sabbath.
Favorite brand: Airwalk.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

**SELEAH STERLING**

Theme song: "Bed Peace" by Jhené Aiko ft. Childish Gambino.
Favorite brand: Apple.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
In my purse.

**CAMERON TELEAU**

Theme song: "Send in the Sun" by Watsky.
Favorite brand: DGK.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

**LAURA TORRES**

Theme song: "Hate to Say I Told You So" by The Hives.
Favorite brand: Old Navy.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Front right pocket.

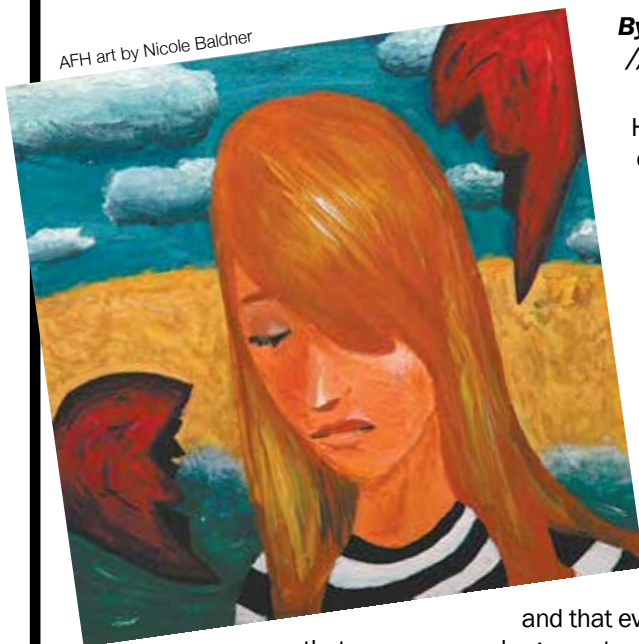
**JAMES WHITTER**

Theme song: "Beautiful Death" by Ab-Soul.
Favorite brand: Nike.
Where do you carry your cellphone?
Right front pocket.

Boo-boos

How to heal from teen breakups

AFH art by Nicole Baldner



By Astou Montgomery
// Staff Writer

Jean Dertelus, 18, from Hyde Park, says he has a cure for a bad breakup.

“Flirt with other girls,” he says.

Dertelus says his relationship lasted about six months and it didn’t end on good terms; he really cared about her and it was hard to get over.

Heartbreaks may not be a one-time thing. They can come and go. You feel so empty and alone

and that every moment spent with

that person was a huge waste.

Donizete Fernandes, 17, from Madison Park High School, says it’s best to seek out your circle of friends when things go wrong.

“Chill with your boys more,” he says.

Fernandes says he and his ex-girlfriend dated for about a year; she wasn’t right for him, he says, but they still remain friends.

Ellie Caisey, 17, says you should be around friends and family to help you get over things while remaining patient.

“Take time for yourself,” says Caisey, who goes to the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, “and wait for better to come.” ■

School time relationships don’t make the grade

AFH photo by Yanni SaPonte

By Jenay Quarles // Staff Writer

Victoria Johnson, a sophomore at Dorchester Academy, says she’s been in a relationship for nine months and has her priorities set.

“My relationship stresses me out and I can’t focus in school.”

“My relationship is more important than school and my grades are not that good because I don’t pay attention,” she says.

School grades are affected by many outside influences. Relationships are a big item.

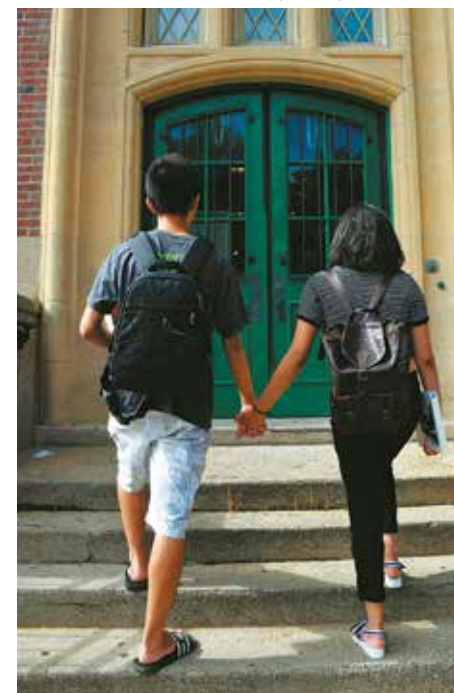
Hamilton McFerson, a 15-year old from Dorchester Academy, has been in a relationship for four months.

“My relationship stresses me out and I can’t focus in school,” says McFerson. “My

grades are really affected by my relationship. I put more into my relationship than school.”

Not so for Genesyss Oller, 15, from Madison Park High School.

“I honestly think my grades are good because I focus more on my school work,” she says, “And I’m not worried about boys.” ■



Seasonal affection disorder

By Daria Dumel // Staff Writer

Jonathan Jovin, 17, says he likes to be single during the summer because that’s when teens want to have fun with others. He also believes that arguing in 90-degree weather does not add to the season.

“It’s getting hot out,” says Jovin, from the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers. “Why would you want to see the same person in hot weather when you can explore freely and meet new people?”

As relationships form in high school, some teens put limits on them.

Christelle Courtois, 14, a student at

Excel High School, says she’d rather be single in summer.

“There’s no limit to what I can do,” says Courtois. “No boyfriend, no problem.”

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Alwyn Ponteen believes that if a season can affect your relationship then it was never truly real in the first place.

“Everyone has their own reasons for waking up in the morning,” says Ponteen, who goes to the John D. O’Bryant School of Math & Science, “and I’ll continuously wake up to the person I’m committed to regardless of what time of the year it is.” ■



AFH art by Wennie Guan

Never-ending gender blending

By Lianna Rivas // Staff Writer

Imagine if switching sexes was as matter-of-fact as getting your tooth pulled.

The way things are rapidly moving, it could happen soon.



"I think over time people will change their gender because people are not happy with who they are," says Daniela Brea, 15, who goes to the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers.

Already, people these days go shopping for new body parts so often, adding bigger breasts or removing male genitalia, that it's getting harder to tell who is really whom.

As with many cultural advances, TV shows are pointing the way. In "Orange Is the New Black," a man changes himself into a woman

because he did not like the way he was. He goes to prison because he committed credit card fraud to finance the switch.

Medical advances are already making it more possible for couples to try to choose the gender of their babies. Quicker sex-change switches than are happening today could be next.

"It will be easier for people to change their gender because of the new technology," says Alejandra Merino, 15, from Charlestown High School.

This summer, former male model Andrej Pejic acknowledged undergoing sex reassignment surgery. She emerged as a female model named Andreja Pejic. She told People magazine that she had female feelings as a child but suppressed them under family pressure.

Those types of restrictions are loosening quickly.

"In the US," says Jaime Soto, 17, from EMK, "people change their sex more because people have more freedom to do whatever they want." ■

The American Dream is alive and well

By Ilma Golemi // Senior Editor

Eighteen-year-old Wendy Zheng, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, still believes in the American Dream.

"The American Dream is something you want to achieve throughout your lifetime, such as having a nice house," says Zheng. "Most people come here so their children can be able to succeed in life."

Though many teens seem outwardly cynical, the American Dream still has a sacred place in their hearts. There is the idea that if you work hard and sacrifice, everything will be fine. Even though there are moments when they want to give up, they believe the Dream won't let them down.

"A house, money, and a family," is how 16-year-old Marinela Seiti, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, describes the American Dream.

She is from Albania.

"Coming here was one of the things that my dad had been trying to do over and over," she says. "New beginnings are never easy, but when you want something really bad, you can achieve it."

Seventeen-year-old Enkid Koci, from the O'Bryant, wants to get a job as a math teacher and start a family.

"Leaving everything behind in Albania was hard," says Koci, "but achieving that American Dream was what motivated my family and me....I believe in the American Dream because I believe in America." ■

AFH art by Kitauna Parker



Feeling down on Beantown

By Precious Nuñez // Staff Writer

Grace Villafane, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, says she doesn't like Boston because it's boring.

"It's the same thing, there's nothing new," she says.

Villafane visits places that she is already familiar with, and with people she knows. She wants to live in LA because she believes it's more exciting.

Shanelis Pena, 17, from Madison Park High School, says that she has been in Boston for way too long and does not like it.

"Everywhere you go it's either bad

or you can't go there," says Pena, who feels it is too dangerous to travel around certain parts of the city due to gang-related violence.

Pena says she would rather be in New York because she thinks it has more entertainment and she can get around with no questions asked.

Genesis Seda, a sophomore at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, isn't much of a fan of Boston, either.

"Boston is alright," says Seda. "It's not the best or the worst."

Seda says she would very much like to be in New York because there is more variety than in Boston. She also likes the fashion in New York more than that of Boston, and thinks she'd have more success being her own person in New York because she feels that in Boston everyone copies each other. ■

Love is...

By Shavon McBynum // Staff Writer

A mother looks into her daughter's eyes and sees she no longer has that connection. Someone else has filled her nights with closeness, trust, love, and intimacy. Someone else has come into her life.

The daughter now has this battle between trying to weigh out what should occupy her more: her school work or trying to figure out if her relationship will end tonight or maybe after her big math test.

Love is a feeling that obtains your life in one swallow. Love is when you go through hell and back, and still manage to hold it together.

Love can often hurt.

Sixteen-year-old Shatara Wimes, of Dorchester, knows that love may not last forever, but when it grabs hold of you, you would do anything for that person.

"Love to me is a deep affection and a passionate feeling towards another person – whether you guys are in a relationship or not," says Wimes. "No matter how many wrongs or rights the person has done, you can still want them in your life, even if they are just a friend."

When Nya Ross was 10, she thought love was gross. As she grew older, she explored life and has been in relationships where she has ended up making lifelong friends. Love to her is a new experience each time.

"You can fall in love more than once," says Ross, now 17, of Dorchester. "It's not a one-time thing."

Deion Ducoste, 17, of Dorchester, believes that you truly know love when you go with the flow.

"You learn to love when you learn to live," says Ducoste. "When you learn to enjoy your life to the fullest, you learn to love every aspect of life." ■

i heard she was talking about you, omg

15m



Victims of social media attacks speak out

By **Jalene Sanchez** // Staff Writer

Eliany Flores, 16, from Brighton High School, knows how it feels to be a victim of social media attacks.

Flores says people claimed many false things about her and put her reputation to the floor.



wow really? she has no life

13m

“Although I knew I didn’t do anything wrong, being talked about so bad and reading their words somehow made me feel like I did,” she says. “It really makes you feel hopeless and like nobody would ever like you again.”

Many teens use social media to communicate and share things with their friends. Then there are those who use it as a weapon.

“Honestly, I don’t care,” says a Madison Park High School junior who admitted launching barrages on social media and who refused to be identified. “If you do something wrong or send a picture to someone, stuff like that happens. It’s pretty obvious you shouldn’t trust everyone.”

According to bullyingstatistics.org, about 58 percent of youth have reported that something nasty has been said to them – or about them – online, and some 35 percent have been threatened online.

yeah, she's such a loser

13m



i know right, i hate her

12m

Selina Sorto, 16, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, believes that both sides can be at fault. “It’s immature if you really think about it,” she says of the social media assaults, “but then again, people nowadays crave too much attention and sometimes that’s the ugly outcome.” ■

AFH photos

Keepin’ it real

By **Shavon McBynum** // Staff Writer

Honesty is the best policy, right? So what happens when you tell the raw truth? Do teens prefer to be told straight up or hide behind the little white lies?

Aahkeilah Rogers, 19, from Dorchester, says she would rather have a friend be honest with her.



“At the end of the day,” she says, “a friend is going to have your best interest at heart.”

Mikayla Willingham, 15, from Dorchester, knows that telling the truth sometimes is hard, and that you are considered shady if you are dishonest and do one thing but come back and tell your friend another thing.

“The word fake is used too often,” Willingham says.

Daquan Lee, 16, from Roxbury, cherishes hearing the truth from a friend rather than finding out from others.

“Telling the truth is something that can be either appreciated or declined,” says Lee. “You can’t live your life in lies.” ■

AFH photo by Kenneth Li

Movin’ out?

Make that: home sweet home

By **James Whitter** // Senior Editor

No rules! Sounds sweet doesn’t it? If you were able to move out of your house before you were 18, would you? Pretend for a second that you have the money to do it.

“No, I get too many things for free,” says Lisha Omoroghomwan, a freshman at Boston Latin School.

There are teens who like not having responsibilities and would much rather just live with their parents – possibly forever. Then there are those who can’t wait to get out.

Students like Nathaniel Sarjeant, 14, from West Roxbury Academy, think that they are ready to live in their own space.

“I would be out!” says Sarjeant.

He knows it wouldn’t be easy.

“You will realize how responsible you have to be,” he says.

Still, living at home is nice, Sarjeant says, but in his mind it is good to be let loose.

“I want to see what it’s like,” he says.

Daijah Rodrigues, 17, from Dorchester Academy, says she has no reason to want to move out.

“Everything is perfect,” she says.

Plus, she doesn’t like the idea of living on her own.

“That’s scary,” says Rodrigues. ■

The truth hurts

By **Debora Saintjean** // Staff Writer

Arvonne Patterson, 17, knows that the truth can hurt.

“If you listen to people’s opinions, sometimes you can lack self-confidence,” says Patterson, who goes to Madison Park High School.

We live in a world where everyone weighs in on everything and people let everybody get to them.

Kaylan Williams, 18, from Brighton High School, says that there are millions of opinions out there and that not everyone will have a positive one of you.

Sherri Cajuste, 17, from Roslindale, says she used to let people’s views bother her.

“Then I realized who I was and that their opinions did not matter,” says Cajuste. “It also made me realize that I had a purpose before anyone else had an opinion.” ■



AFH art by Samantha Davern

AFH photo by Dominic Duong



WorldStar worries

By Brianny Pujols // Staff Writer

Jerrellynn Perez, 15, has a problem with people who post fights onto Worldstarhiphop.com.

"They're just as bad as the people fighting because they're not stopping it," says Perez, who goes to the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Some teens believe that by posting fighting videos they will become famous.

"They just want to be relevant like everyone else," says Perez.

WorldStar was originally used to provide people with the hottest topics in urban media and music videos.

As time went on, the site also featured brutal fighting videos.

Crisdalis Matos, 15, is aware of the dangers of WorldStar.

"Everybody copies what they see on the fighting videos," says Matos, from Roxbury.

In one video that went viral, one girl kicks another in the face over a boy. She later worries when she reports that the police came knocking on her door.

Teens say that's the part that many forget when they're glorifying the videos.

"Teens think they gain respect from the fight," says Jennifer Flores, 15, from Madison Park High School. ■

The Daquan phenomenon

By Tashayla Borden // Staff Writer

Twitter legend Daquan goes from 0 to 100 real fast, smokes weed, and takes his girls to the trap house.

The Twitter-sphere is buzzing about Daquan, a fictional black figure notorious for disrupting the stereotypical safe white family by bringing its sons and daughters to the 'hood.

He uses his ghetto persona to entice Caucasian teenagers, mostly girls, into joining his squad and becoming "black." There are numerous accounts online where there is a photo of white teens getting scolded by their parents because of their change in behavior after hanging out with Daquan. Some of the memes say things like, "HOW DO YOU EXPECT DAQUAN TO PAY THESE BILLS!?" "CHILL MOM, HIS MIXTAPE DROPS IN A WEEK."

Vivian Greene, 15, from Boston Latin Academy, believes that this notion of white ignorance makes white women look bad.

"I feel like the [message is] white girls should be submissive, have Daquan's baby," Greene says.

According to knowyourmeme.com, Daquan was created on July 2nd when @RealRaymondJ sent a tweet with a photograph of a young white woman waving off her mother and saying: "Mom I don't want a David, I want a Daquan."

The site @YahBoyDaquan attracted more than 45,000 followers and, according to the International Business Times, had more than 100,000 mentions in 24 hours.

Sixteen-year-old David Buefort, who was recently in an interracial relationship, feels that the creation of Daquan points to society's reluctance to accept mixed couples.

"I wouldn't say it's a big deal, so they shouldn't make it a big deal," says Buefort, from Jamaica Plain.

Youth worker Freddie Riley believes that both blacks and whites have



AFH art by Patrick Joseph

been disrespected by the presence of Daquan – with blacks falsely depicted as dangerous and whites as sheltered.

"It's being hurtful to any type of racially different relationship," says Riley, a former member of the Black Student Union at UMass/Amherst. "It's ignorant." ■



AFH photos

Gone catfishing

By Ilma Golemi // Senior Editor

Kripa Thapa, 17, from West Roxbury Academy, understands the hazards of meeting people in cyberspace.

"I believe that catfishing can be dangerous," says Thapa, "so before I would go out with someone that I would meet through online, first I would FaceTime them in order to make sure that they are not fake."

The Urban Dictionary defines catfishing – made famous by a documentary and TV show – as: "The phenomenon of internet predators that fabricate online identities and entire social circles to trick people into emotional/romantic relationships (over a long period of time)."

Eighteen-year-old Nedjie Thompson

says she has never made new friends from online meetings.

"I have met or seen all the friends that I have on Facebook before, and sometimes they are friends of friends," says Thompson, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. "I think it is very dangerous to meet someone online. You can never be sure that they are telling the truth about their life or what they look like."

Morelia Morales, 18, takes security measures with her online acquaintances.

"If I would go out with someone that I did not know well, I would meet them in a place where there are a lot of people," says Morales, who lives in Jamaica Plain. "In this way, it will never be dangerous." ■

Sand storm

By Basia Brown // Staff Writer

In the battle of their favorite beaches – Revere vs. Carson – teens interviewed say they would rather go to Revere.

For 16-year-old Dnasia Lee, of English High School, Revere is way cleaner than Carson.

Lashonda Cottrell, 15, from West Roxbury Academy, says she dislikes the jellyfish at Carson.

“Stepping on them, they’re all squishy and stuff,” she says. “It’s nasty.”

Chris Harris, 17, who goes to school in Jamaica Plain, says he also prefers Revere but ends up going to Carson.

It’s closer to home, Harris says. ■



Beloved beasts

By Yaniellis Flores // Staff Writer

Justin Young feels that slithery reptiles don’t get enough credit for being awesome.

“My favorite animal is a snake because it’s cool,” says Young, 12, from the Jackson/Mann School.

The bond between humans and animals is strong. People have differing opinions about their favorite animals. Some feel that they share a connection with aquatic wildlife while others can’t get enough of furry and fluffy pets.

Chi Art, 18, from Roxbury, owns a bearded dragon reptile and a cat as pets but thinks that turtles are the best animals to have.

Diego Reina, 13, of East Boston, loves the great white shark.

“It’s one of the most vicious animals of the sea,” Reina says.

Most people are afraid of great white sharks because they can take away your life in one bite. But, great white admirers say, people fail to recognize its beauty and importance to the ocean’s ecosystem.

Even though Reina wouldn’t have a great white shark as a pet, he does think that his favorite animal has special qualities.

“It is very dangerous,” he says, “and is known all around the world.” ■

The nickname game

From “Pookie” to “Babe”

By Cameron Teleau // Staff Writer

“Pookie!” A young woman calls from downstairs, awaiting her 15-year-old sister, Dominique Singletary, to answer.

Singletary, from Roslindale, comes down the stairs with a sly look on her

face, as if she feels too old for the nickname her sister gave her one day and it just stuck.

Some nicknames come from specific actions or beliefs, while others simply shorten names.

And then there are those random ones, like Pookie.

History is filled with characters with colorful nicknames.

Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson, a Confederate general during the Civil War, got his moniker when a military colleague saw his troops holding fast and shouted: “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall.”



AFH photo by Kassandra Flores

of Roxbury, is often called Zay by family and friends. He was given the nickname by his sister when he was little because she could not pronounce his full name and shortened it.

“Yeah, it’s just

comfortable for people to call me Zay,” Etheridge says nonchalantly

Jenay King, 16, calls herself J-Stacks.

“I gave the nickname to myself because I get stacks,” says King, of Dorchester, meaning she likes to make money. ■

AFH art by Samantha Lopez



Happy talk

By Lianna Rivas // Staff Writer

For Rachel Kelleher, 15, from Boston Latin Academy, seeing her little brothers crack up makes her glad.

“Hearing little kids laugh just makes you happy automatically,” says Kelleher. “How can a kid laughing not make you happy – they are bodies full of joy.”

There are many different things that can give you this fuzzy feeling inside and put a sweet smile on your face.

Celeste Gonzalez, 15, from BLA, says that hearing about positive things going on around her brings her joy.

“It’s something good and positive that is happening in this world or in my life and everyone needs good news in their life,” says Gonzalez. “That is what keeps them going.”

Deysi Gutierrez, 15, from Fenway High School, says that living without restrictions makes her feel great.

“Having freedom makes me happy,” she says, “being able to go out whenever I want with no worries.” ■

Rat poison To snitch or not?

By Ilma Golemi // Senior Editor

Seventeen-year-old Amal Egal believes that if someone is truly her friend, that person would not betray her. However, if she was subject to harm, she would understand.

"I have snitched on someone before because I thought it would be the best thing for them at the time," says Egal, who goes to the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. "It is important to note that as a friend you should understand that your friends' health and happiness holds immense significance."

Sometimes, whether to snitch on someone or not can be a huge dilemma. Both your promise to say nothing – and your decision to tell all – could be a dangerous thing.

"Being a good friend means that you would do what you think is best for them, even though they might end up hating on you," says Zusex Romero, 18, from Roxbury.

Mu Xian Chen, 18, has felt the sting of being sold down the river.

"I felt disappointed," says Chen, from the O'Bryant, "when I found out that the friend that I would trust the most would snitch on me." ■

Swag vs. class

By Adamanjan Bah // Staff Editor

Although it's not usually portrayed that way, 16-year-old Kadidiatou Bah, from Dorchester, thinks swag and class – two current states of style – have more similarities than the average teen might think.

After all, it may not be so much about what you wear as how you wear it. For example, where you would tuck your shirt in for class, you take it out for swag. Dressing classy or with swag depends on your personality.

Michael Miller, 18, of Roxbury, considers himself more of a dressy dresser.

"When you think of swag you think of informal clothing," he says, "but class is more formal wear."

Miller adds: "I can honestly say I only have, like, two pairs of sneakers in my closet."

Josiah Huggins, 19, of Dorchester, is more about swag.

"I've only dressed classy three times in my entire life," he says. "My swag consists of some fresh J's, a nice shirt, some dip jeans, and a snapback to match."

He adds, "Oh yeah, don't forget my Gucci belt." ■



AFH photo by Kiara Maher

The new math: addition by subtraction

By Harrienne Errie // Staff Writer

Seventeen-year-old Sheelan Balata says that her more timid personality disrupts her from getting closer to others. She finds herself unapproachable and wants to remove this to be more confident later in life.

"The shy awkward part of me makes me not talk to people and I'm like really scared to get embarrassed," says Balata, who goes to Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Addition by subtraction is an equation that can benefit teens, whether it's students who remove distracting friends to raise their GPAs or those who reduce their use of social media to be able to get through each night's homework.

"I've subtracted school a little to rap," says 16-year-old Eric Frias, who goes to Madison Park High School.

Frias hopes to move to New York and get recognized for his rapping talents.

Sallan Mohamed, a junior at East Boston High School, wants to pursue a career in basketball and plans to delete any diversions that get in his way.

So far, he says he's cut out characteristics like procrastination and laziness and replaced them with determination and stability. ■

He's cut out characteristics like procrastination and laziness and replaced them with determination and stability.

Bias against boys

By Sharon Nguyen // Staff Writer

Injustice against young women is always put in the spotlight. Bias against young men, however, is an argument that very few find notable.

It's quite hard for some people to see how boys truly are discriminated against in a society that's generally considered a "man's world." Yet while women have a lot to say about inequality, men also have something to complain about.

Author Christina Hoff Sommers started her column last year in The New York Times with this: "Boys score as well as or better than girls on most

standardized tests, yet they are far less likely to get good grades, take advanced classes or attend college. Why? A study coming out this week in The Journal of Human Resources gives an important answer. Teachers of classes as early as kindergarten factor good behavior into grades – and girls, as a rule, comport themselves far better than boys."

The claim that boys suffer from inequities can be challenged by the belief that girls struggle even more than do boys.

Still, boys do face bias.

Stephen Spencer, 14, from Boston Latin Academy, says that during the summer he met a young boy who wanted his nails painted, which then led to other youngsters thinking that this

was abnormally girly.

"I said it doesn't matter," he said. "If he wants to get his nails painted, then go ahead. It's his own life."

When asked if she would negatively judge a boy for wearing a dress, Kaman Hau, 14, from BLA, answered: "No. Everyone has the freedom to wear anything they want."

Kiana Nguyen, 13, from Boston Latin School, says there are one too many self-defense classes made for girls and girls only. She believes that everyone is capable of earning the help they need.

"There should be gender-neutral programs for both girls and boys," she said. "Pepper spray is pepper spray, and we all have fingers. I think we can all squeeze the bottle." ■

How soles can reveal teen souls

By Harriane Errie // Staff Writer

Aline Santos, a senior at Boston Community Leadership Academy, finds that each shoe she wears does two things: It matches her outfit the way she wants and also shows a bit of herself through her appearance.

"I definitely think that shoes can reveal part of your personality because the only person that chose to wear them or even buy them is yourself," says Santos, who prefers stylish yet comfortable footwear, like boat shoes. "They are what interest you so that means they're resembling you."

Some people are defined by their personalities; others by their hair or clothes. Then there are those whose souls are revealed by their soles.

"I love pretty and comfortable shoes, like Oxfords," says Sheelan Balata, a senior at BCLA. "They're the best because they go with any type of clothes."

Naomi Rivera, a BCLA senior, has many different kinds of shoes: her flip-flops, for example, show her liberated side; other times, she'll slip into wedges.

Says Rivera: "I like to feel confident, that's why." ■

DIY: creative, cool, and not so costly

By Jennifer Le // Senior Editor

For lots of teens, do-it-yourself creativity is the way to go.

"I've done DIY very often, it's very fun," says Nieomi Colon, 15, from Hyde Park. "I was on YouTube and I watched this video on how to make these fashionable shirts....I also made marble nail polish."

The DIY movement seems to be ultra-modern, employed by everyone from thrifty teens to back-to-basics adults using YouTube tutorials as their guides. Yet history shows that DIY has been around for a very long time.

Under the headline, "Ancient Building Comes with Assembly Instructions," a 2012 squib on news.discovery.com noted that "Italian archeologists have unearthed the remains of a Greek temple-

like structure dating back to 6th century B.C. They also found details on how to build it. Written in detailed codes, the collection of how-to instructions was found among the remains."

Today, DIY objects can serve as presents from teens.

"I make little things for my nephew, like the little plants in the pots," says McKenzie Redmond, 17, from Dorchester.

Samantha Johnson, 17, from Dorchester, says DIY is also a nice way to produce homemade feel-good items at a reasonable price.

"I made bracelets, flower crowns, and shirts," says Johnson. "I'm not going to pay retail price for something I can make at home." ■



Does weave deceive?

By Shavon McBynum // Staff Writer

Since she was younger, her definition of beauty has evolved. When she was five, her curls and twists were treasured as if they were ringlets of gold. Then she turned seven and took a trip to the hair salon so that she could get a hairdo that made her look just like mommy.

At the age of 13, she went away to camp and was sent along with braids. Now she's 15 and interested in making her hair longer than it really is.

That's a typical hair narrative among many teenage girls.

Still, when it comes to finding a companion, some boys seem to run away from the idea of artificial hair.

"I don't like weave," says Dexter Forrester, 17, from Roxbury. "If it's not taken care of, it looks matted and it's just too much."

Jakhari Battle, 17, from Dorchester, says weave is just a style for girls without much going on atop their heads.

"It's fake hair," he says.

Others say they are more interested in personality and a pretty face than the look of locks.

"I would not care if a girl wears weave as long as they're a good person," says Lieyon Canton, 14, from Dorchester.

Some boys just feel that if you like someone, something as small as wearing weave should not get in the way. ■



AFH art by Gabriela Cartagena

Buckets full of hats

By Adamajan Bah // Staff Editor

Joshua Burkum is a bucket hat convert. Burkum didn't really join the bucket brigade until he saw one of his favorite artists wearing them, Schoolboy Q.

"Bucket hats were ugly to me for a while but then I got used to seeing them around and I kind of got into them," says Burkum, 18, from Roxbury.

Teens seem to change their fashion choices every other day – even for headgear. One time it's tight-fitting baseball caps and the next it's baggy bucket hats.

Jennifer Goodwin, 17, of Dorchester, says that she is the only one in her group of female friends who is really into bucket hats.

"I religiously wear bucket hats," says Goodwin. "If you see my Instagram, all you will see is me in a bucket hat. I always thought they were kind of chic but I never got the courage to wear it until last year."

Jonathan McCurbin, 19, of Roslindale, has been into bucket hats since he was a young boy.

"Bucket hats are my thing," he says. "My father has a bunch of them for when we go out fishing or sailing."

McCurbin began seeing more and more people get into the bucket hat trend over the past year.

"I feel special that I was wearing them before they were in," he says. "That's always kind of cool." ■



AFH photo by Genesis Perez

The perfect body...for now

By Astou Montgomery and Lianna Rivas // Staff Writers

Marquicia Phillips-Gadson, 17, from Dorchester, believes that actress Taraji P. Henson has the perfect body because her top half matches her bottom half.

Of course, the perception of the textbook body changes through time, and can flawlessly switch from thick to thin.

If you search the Internet for the ideal body in 2014, shapely Kim Kardashian might well appear.

"I mostly see the perfect body in the media and it's always curvy with big bottoms," says Mikayla Willingham, 15, from Boston Latin School.

It has not always been so.

In the '20s, a boyish flapper figure was the rage. In the '30s, women accentuated their hips as they flaunted their figures. In the '40s, slender silhouettes returned. In the '50s, women

embraced their natural non-starved bodies, like that of Marilyn Monroe. In the '60s, it was let's be skinny like Twiggy. In the '70s, tanned and toned was in. In the '80s, athletic hardbodies ruled. In the 90's, everyone wanted the emaciated runway model look.

In the 2000's, it's all about having hourglass bodies of thin waists and fuller frames.

For 16-year-old Isaiah Bowman, who goes to school in Dorchester, that description has him declaring: "I want a girl like [actress] Meagan Good." ■



AFH photo by Lisa Sanon

Too much lipstick, too soon?

By Xavia Simpson // Staff Writer

Nathalie Anguiano, 15, feels that many girls are wearing makeup too soon.

"The age I believe they should wear makeup is age 15 and up because they are more developed," says Anguiano, who goes to Margarita Muñiz Academy.

Yet girls are applying lipstick and eyeliner much earlier.

A survey of girls 8 to 18 released last year by the Renfrew Center Foundation found that 58 percent of them wore makeup and that, of those, 65 percent started between the ages of 8 and 13.

"They need to stop because they're too little and need to stop trying to look cute when they need to worry about school," says Melvin Rivera, 15, from Muñiz Academy.

In the survey, 27 percent of the girls who donned makeup said they rarely or never left home without it.

"I think that it shows that they might think they aren't pretty enough for today's society so they put it on thinking that they live up to what our society defines as 'pretty,'" says Arianna Lisboa, 16, from Muñiz Academy, "when there is no true definition." ■

Model behavior

Natural over Photoshop

By Xavia Simpson // Staff Writer

Josiah Wade, 15, believes that all models should be presented naturally.

"In this world," says Wade, who goes to Margarita Muñiz Academy, "Photoshop is the new 'it,' sadly."

While many celebrities have turned to Photoshop to enhance their images, lots of teens are turned-off by the process.

"I hate models because they're fake," says Lashonda Cottrell, 15, from West Roxbury Academy. "All models should be themselves."

Sixteen-year-old Dnasia Lee understands why

models and their handlers use technology to touch-up their looks.

"Models should try to be themselves because nobody is perfect," says Lee, who goes to English High School. "Everyone has their own issues and flaws in life and there is insecurity and not thinking they're beautiful the way they are." ■



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

To thigh own self be true

The gap between trendy and trashy

By Toni Harris // Staff Writer

Gulbahar Ozseferoglu, 18, from Another Course to College, thinks that young girls who want thigh gaps are ridiculous.

"Having a thigh gap isn't going to make you more attractive or do anything for your self esteem, it's just going to make you feel like you are a part of the trend," says Ozseferoglu. "I would never try to get a thigh gap because I think it's weird and disgusting."

Thigh gaps are a large space between your legs when standing with feet together. Women are furiously working out or undergoing surgery to achieve the sought-after "thigh-gap" look.

But many teens say that striving for thigh gaps is a problem because they attract the wrong attention.

Glendy Carrasquillo, 17, from ACC, is not one of those girls obsessed with that body effect.

"No I wouldn't get one," says Carrasquillo. "I didn't know it was possible."

Kievaughna Copeland, 18, from Dorchester, has a natural thigh gap but isn't fond of the body-shape movement.

"Girls need to accept themselves for who they are," she says, "and stop trying to become everybody else." ■



AFH photo by Archibaldo Soto

My i(want it) Phone addiction

By Sealeah Sterling // Staff Writer

The first iPhone was introduced in 2007 and, in all, 10 models have come out. I have had the iPhone 4, 4S, and now I have the 5.

Every year a new iPhone is released – basically the same with a new feature here and there. Yet people still spend hundreds of dollars on the latest one.

The iPhone was created so that you can have a computer in the palm of your hands. The first one made history. Technology had never seen any phone so advanced.

Subsequent versions added a GPS, faster speeds, better cameras, FaceTime, and Siri, a voice-controlled personal assistant.

And so on....

Why do I keep buying iPhones?

The sensation of having the newest one makes you believe that you're more advanced in technology than anyone else. It makes you feel powerful.

There will be a new iPhone coming soon, of course – Apple showed off two new models earlier this month. And, naturally, I will grab one. ■



AfH photo
by Dominic Duong

Inspector Gadget proclaims smartwatches the next big thing

By Johansel Peña // Staff Writer

Are smartwatches the new must-have gadget for 2014-2015?

"I might get one," says Odalys Garcia, 15, from Margarita Muñiz Academy.

Basic smartwatches – made popular by the "Inspector Gadget" cartoon series – have been around since the '80s, and have been constantly updated ever since. The latest ones are priced up to \$300 and have many uses beyond telling time, from playing music to picking up phone calls to getting weather updates to taking pictures to monitoring your heart rate.

Apple unveiled its new smartwatch earlier this month.

The watches remove the struggle of taking your phone out of your pocket and they show you everything you need.

"This generation is evolving so devices like smartwatches are made to make our lives easier," says Cecilia Cabello, 15, from Another Course to College.

Some teens can see a time when a smartwatch will become an indispensable device.

"It looks like it will be an essential," says Noelis Villalona, 15, from Muñiz Academy, "just like a phone." ■



AfH photo
by Kassandra Flores

The trouble with technology

By Laura Torres // Staff Writer

Angela Lei, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, is constantly on her phone, from using it on the train to being attached to it at home. It has gotten to the point where she is concerned about her interpersonal skills.

In today's fast-paced culture, it is not uncommon to look around and see the majority of people looking down at screens. With things like texting and the Internet, it is not hard to understand the desire to be caught up with what is relevant.

"I'm using it 24/7," says Lei.

For many teenagers, the convenience of having

all of the answers at your fingertips is much too tempting to give up. Not only can you finish homework and research with ease, you can shop online, make dinner reservations, and buy movie tickets. After one gets used to the advantageous uses of technology, it is hard to stop.

"People don't know how to socialize anymore," says Linh Vu, a junior at the O'Bryant.

Society is so centered around technology that even the teenagers, who have grown up with it, have noticed the changes in their lifestyles.

Holding onto the past will not help anyone, some teens say, but it also important to remember that technology is not everything. ■



AfH photo by Dominic Duong

Radio redux

Playing still more original rehashes

By Marcos Hernandez // Staff Writer

When it comes to originality in music, you either have it or you don't. Musicians can embed their personalities into their own work but they often echo pre-existing sounds and themes. When everything seems to have been done or sung about, it can be difficult to push boundaries. Modern artists put their own twists on past tracks but many don't capture the essence that the originals possessed.

Vanessa Forbes, 15, from Boston Community Leadership Academy, believes that in music, staying true to who you are is a part of the process.

"It should come from you," said Forbes, who listens to hip-hop and R&B.

Modern music can be traced back to several sources from decades ago, but the credits are not always directly stated.

For example, Trey Songz's "Na" (2014) is based on The Fugees' "Fu-Gee-La" (1996), which contains elements of Teena Marie's "Ooh La La La" (1988).

Sonia Omwenga, 17, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, said that not citing one's major influences can tarnish an artist's reputation.

"I would lose respect for them," said Omwenga.

Zannatul Zannat, 16, from Boston Latin School, said that originality means artists crafting authentic pieces about their own lives not creating work solely for popularity.

"It's not about pleasing everyone," said Zannat. ■

AFH photo by Dominic Duong



AFH art by Jason Talbot



Skimpy dress for success

By Toni Harris // Staff Writer

When you think of three influential female artists, Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, and Rihanna easily come to mind.

One major reason is their strong voices. Another is their skimpy attire.

"I personally love Beyoncé's music, especially from her recent album," says Oryanna Ferguson, 18, from Dorchester, "but I don't agree with the way her or Nicki and Rihanna dress".

Rachelle Bellanton, 18, from Another Course to College, agrees that there's more to these singers than their pipes.

"Nicki Minaj is someone that attracts and is only up there because of her appearance," Bellanton says. "Her fake body image and her different hair styles is what separates herself from others."

Tanisha Amazon, 18, from ACC, says that the music industry can take things too far.

"Women are portrayed as a sex symbol," says Amazon, "and I don't appreciate that at all." ■

"I love Beyoncé's music, but I don't agree with the way her or Nicki and Rihanna dress."

Dreams deferred – forever

By Michael Ross // Staff Writer

It's sad when, for teens so young, the dream deferred becomes the dream denied.

Many Boston teens are multi-talented – singing, dancing, drawing, shooting photographs or basketballs – but find that life gets in the way of them turning their artistic and athletic gifts into future careers.

It is the opposite of all those making unrealistically loud noises about becoming the next superstar in this or that.

Ariel Hector, 16, does Spanish and hip-hop dancing but doesn't expect to turn her moves into a profession.

"I don't see myself dancing to benefit my life," says Hector, who goes to Brighton High School.

Louis Brantley, 18, is a poet and rapper.



AFH photo by LanVy Tran

Music remains important to him, he says, but he knows he needs to focus on everyday tasks like doing well in school and trying the more practical route of becoming a music-video producer.

"Dreams of an unbeliever, soon to be an achiever," says Brantley, from Dorchester.

Anthony Berry, 13, from Jamaica Plain, is a basketballer but he realizes he won't be dribbling his way into the NBA.

He doesn't want the travel and to be far from home.

"My family over all things," he says. ■



THE SPORTING LIFE

Shattering stereotypes through sports

By Arianna Ortiz-Dixon // Staff Writer

Seventeen-year-old Kelsey Galeano, from Jamaica Plain, has been a practitioner of mixed martial arts for over 12 years and is the epitome of a strong female.

She says she gets immediate respect when she tells people that she is a black belt.

"I have strong legs, but they don't realize that I also have a strong heart," she says. "Having both physical and mental strength makes me feel like I can take a man's world head on. Every woman can – but a female black belt will."

Women in sports are often stereotyped by society. Many girls say they are almost never taken seriously in sports because they are portrayed as public display, and not athletes.

Teens say this prejudice can become overwhelming at times and can lead to self-esteem issues. This is also the reason why many young girls stay away from sports. Still, there are many young female athletes in Boston helping fight those obstacles.

Sixteen-year-old Amanda Brea says she feels comfortable running track and field with the boys on her team at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.



AFH photo by Dominic Duong

"Many times with the boys, I attempt to prove that if they are better at something, I am better at something else," she says. "A boy could be stronger, but many times it is us girls who play smarter."

Sarah Hussein, 15, from Dorchester, believes the best advice for a female athlete is to continue training.

"No matter how many times you lose or fail, continue trying because failure is the only thing that will get you to know what to practice on," she says, adding: "Practice does make perfect." ■

Lessons from the gridiron

By Michael Ross // Staff Writer

I've been playing football ever since I was six. I wasn't good at first. But after watching football on TV and throwing the ball around with friends in the neighborhood, I got better.

During football season, I have a close bond with different guys from diverse backgrounds. It is a memorable brotherhood.

In my sophomore year at Brighton High school, I played outside linebacker.

For me, football is a way to get out my anger and frustrations. It also helps me stay fit by working out and eating right. During football season, I have a close bond with different

guys from diverse backgrounds. It is a memorable brotherhood.

Some people think playing football is easy, but there's a lot to know about the game. I pick up tips from my school's training sessions and from studying the game on TV. It is important for me to be skilled. If I'm not, then I'll be dealing with some major injuries.

Unfortunately, I won't be playing football during the 2014 season because I need to stay focused on my schoolwork.

I will miss playing the sport: hanging out with teammates, wearing my jersey, and having a team to go into battle with. ■