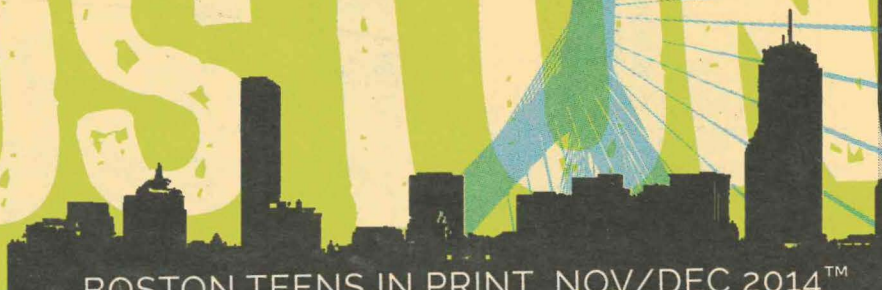


TEENS **in** PRINT

BOSTON



BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT NOV/DEC 2014™

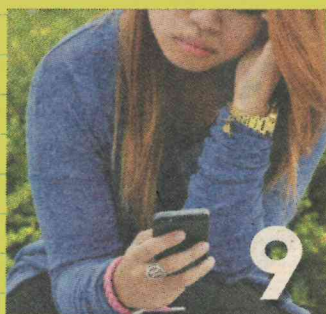
IN MEMORIAM
**THOMAS
M. MENINO**
1942-2014

UTOPIA

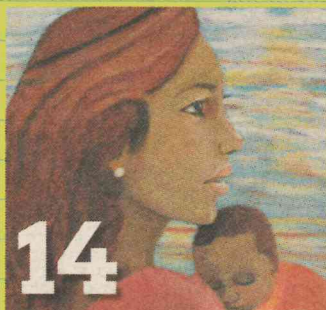
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AFH artwork (clockwise from top) by Abraham Rosa, Kobe Knight, Genaro Ortega, Nancy Nyamuna
AFH cover artwork by Cate Mitchell



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Seeking a senior year do-over.

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VEXED BY THE TEXT

Caught between wanting and waiting.

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A RUDE REFRAIN

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CANINE CONTENTION

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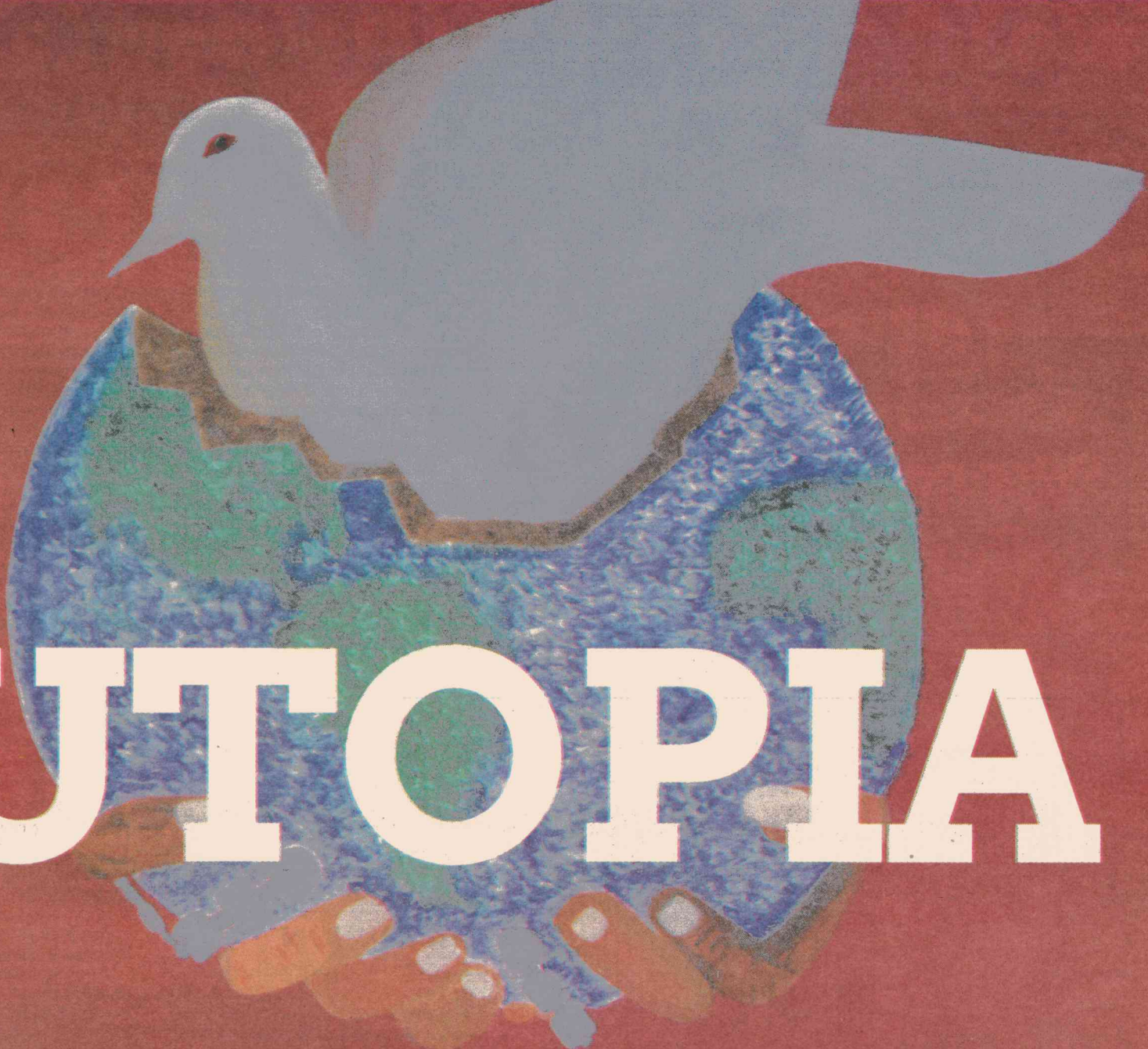
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UTOPIA

BY ANTIAH THORNTON // STAFF WRITER

Bloody beheadings, rampaging diseases, unprovoked police killings of black men. No wonder teens are pondering the potential of the perfect paradise.

Adults, too – briefly, there was a new Fox TV reality series called "Utopia."

For Casiana Demosthene, 15, from West Roxbury Academy, the ideal place seems simple.

"A perfect society is a society that consists of friendly people and lovely houses. Like beautiful houses that are only \$100 each!" says Demosthene. "And we would have jobs that pay us a lot of money so we can support our families without any struggle."

Crystal Bautista, a freshman at West Roxbury Academy, has another vision.

"A perfect society would have to be a place where no one feels threatened or afraid; a place where there is no violence or murders," says Bautista. "And there needs to be respect for one another."

Shahaida Robinson, a freshman at West Roxbury Academy, can see the idyllic wonderland out there on the horizon.

"Free food, no killing or violence in any areas, no gunshots should be heard at any point of the day or night," says Robinson. "It's too bad that we don't have stuff like that today. Life would be so much easier and less stressful if there wasn't anything to worry about."

AFH ART // STEPHEN NATAL

COLLEGE REJECTIONS

JUST SAY, "OH!"

BY ILMA GOLEMI // SENIOR EDITOR

Seventeen-year-old Ajay Pangilinan is a senior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science who wants to go to Northeastern University or UMass/Amherst. If he gets rejected from these colleges, he would be mad at himself for not trying as hard as he could in high school.

"Northeastern is in the heart of Boston," says Pangilinan.

"But on the other side, I like UMass/Amherst because it is in the middle of nowhere and they have everything to accommodate each student in their school."

Senior year is very stressful. College acceptances make you feel proud of yourself, but those

rejections can break your heart.

Eva Wu, another senior at the O'Bryant, wants to stay in Massachusetts for her college career, but also wants to study abroad.

"If I would get rejected from a certain college I would be upset, but I am sure I would be able to move on," says Wu.

It's not just juniors and seniors worrying about college denials.

Alissa Felton-Vasquez, a sophomore at Madison Park High School, already has her dream school picked out: Fordham University.

"One day I was searching up colleges, and I really liked this one," she says. "I want to go to college in New York because I have a lot of family there."

BSAC BUZZ

BY SAMUEL DING // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At the beginning of the new school year, you might have noticed some changes to your student T pass, going from the usual five days to seven. The Boston Student Advisory Council has been advocating for an affordable and yearlong T pass for high school and college students for years. After countless petitions and rallies, the state finally agreed to expand the student pass to cover weekends.

BSAC has also launched a new campaign that centers on climate change. BSAC working group members met every week this summer to discuss ways in which they can raise awareness and make a difference in the Boston community. We met with multiple city councilors and

asked them if they were willing to support divestment from fossil fuel companies and help Boston move towards a cleaner and greener city.

Another project we are working on is for the student member of the Boston School Committee to have the right to vote. The main argument for this is that the students are the

stakeholders in our schools and are the ones with firsthand experience. Also, the student on the Boston School Committee spends the same amount of time and energy

as the adult members, yet when the time comes to vote the student is excluded.

For more information about BSAC, check out the Boston Student Advisory Council Facebook page or email Maria Ortiz at mortiz@bostonpublicschools.org



AFH PHOTO // KASSANDRA FLORES

AFH PHOTO // IDALMIS CIRINO

SENIOR REGRETS

BY ANNA QUAN // STAFF WRITER

Jackie Klein, 17, says she would be better prepared for college if she had participated in more activities during high school. "I regret not joining clubs

because I probably would have learned more from balancing social, academic, and extracurricular life," says Klein, who attends the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

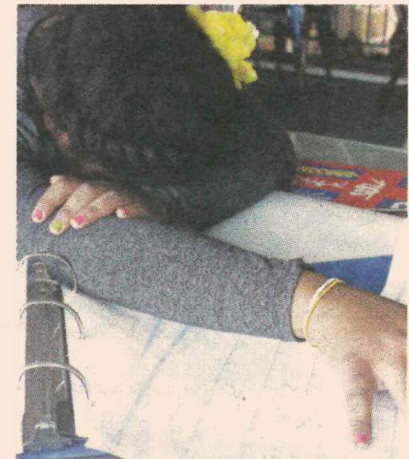
Senior year is a time to dream about the future but also to look back at what might have been.

Li Mei, a senior at the O'Bryant, says she regrets taking a job in the 10th grade.

"It took a lot of time away from my school work," she says.

Vivian Yu, from the O'Bryant, says she wishes she paid more attention in classes leading up to senior year.

"Regrets are a funny thing," says Yu. "You spend so much time wishing you can change your actions that you don't notice you are repeating them."



AFH PHOTO // KIM HAN

DREAM SCHOOL

BY SARA CACHO // STAFF WRITER

In America, 7,000 students drop out of high school every day, according to dosomething.org.

To challenge the statistics, a group that includes a journalist, musician, scientist, financial advisor, and community activist came together in a SundanceTV reality show called "Dream School" to inspire more than a dozen dropouts to rediscover their love of learning.

This experimental learning lab operated against a backdrop of educational testing and more testing and a focus on memorizing sometimes meaningless material over acquiring practical knowledge.

"Dream School" lessons included studying biology by getting close to nature; music via a visit to a recording studio; and economics through the lens of personal finance.

Teens say that students should remember: Just because you received a bad grade in school doesn't make you a bad person.

"Teens say that students should remember: Just because you received a bad grade in school doesn't make you a bad person."

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FLASHBACK

THOSE JITTERS NOW SEEM LIKE A LIFETIME AGO

BY DANIELLA MORLA // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

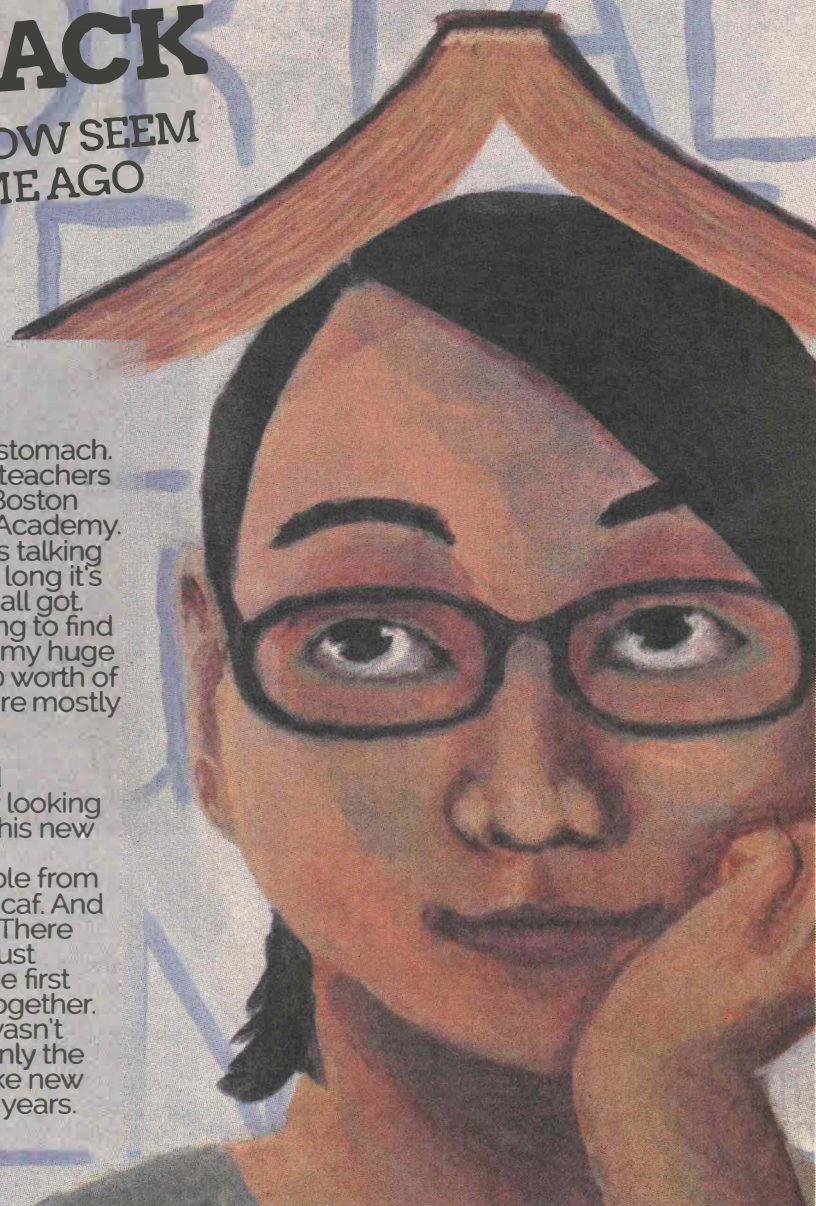
I felt the butterflies in my stomach. I heard the voices of the teachers welcoming students to Boston Community Leadership Academy. I listened to the swarm of teens talking about their summers, and how long it's been, and the new things they all got.

I walked through the caf trying to find an empty table, wobbling with my huge backpack filled with nearly \$50 worth of supplies that I later learned were mostly unnecessary.

Ugh. I sat at a table with my friend Jasmine, both of us awkwardly looking around and trying to adapt to this new environment.

As time passed, a lot of people from my middle school entered the caf. And when I say a lot, I mean A LOT. There were two tables dedicated to just McCormack kids. It was nice the first week. Like everyone sticking together.

But then I realized that this wasn't going to last very long; it was only the beginning. I would have to make new friends to survive the next four years.



AFH ART // ALICIA PHAM

THE DOOR PROJECT: GATEWAY TO THE HEART OF ART

These are among the works of art created by students in the BCYF Cleveland Community Center's summer teen program, "Portraits, People, and Places: Changing the World," done in partnership with the development group, VietAID.

The seven-week enterprise employed 21 local youth as artist apprentices, culminating in their final project of self-portraits painted on life-size doors and accompanied by artist statements.

The pieces were displayed along fence-work in the Fields Corner section of Dorchester.

"There's not a program I'm prouder of," says Michael Triant, administrative coordinator of the BCYF Cleveland Community Center, which operates 9 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, at 11 Charles Street across from the Fields Corner T. "The way these kids articulated their thoughts and self-expressions into artwork was amazing."

AFH PHOTOS // KENNETH LI



AIR FORCE

BY NAMIR SHORTER // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The place is on an American air base. I have on my dad's uniform and the plane is an F16.

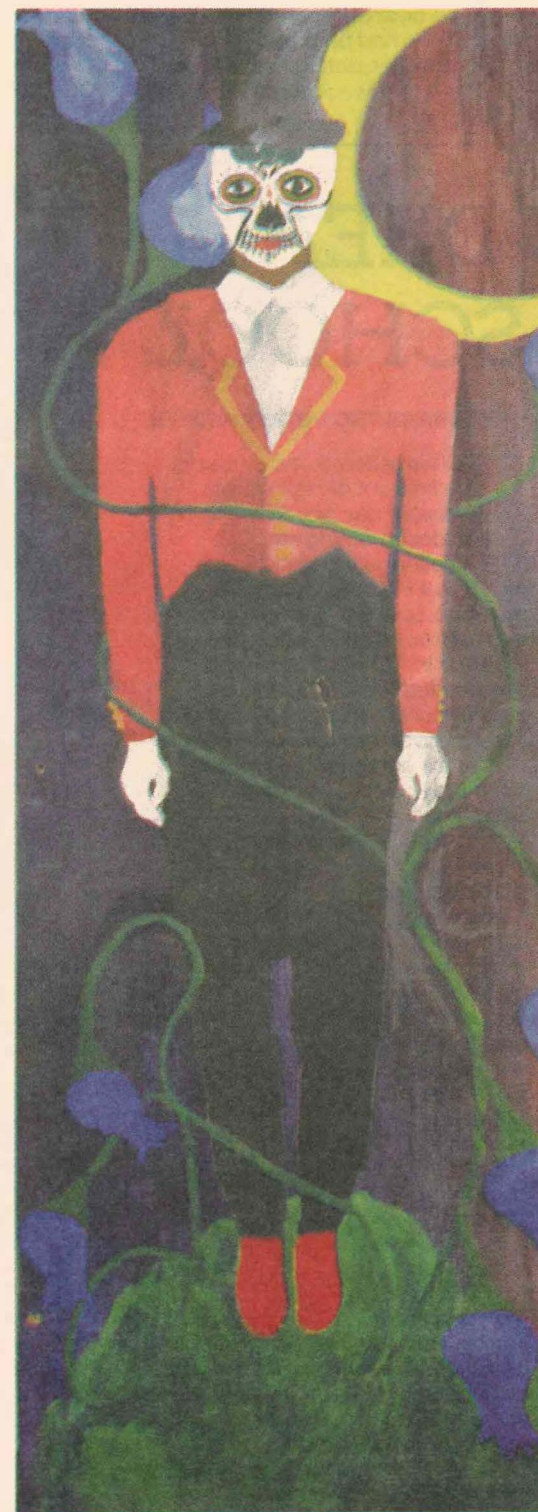
The reason why I want to do this is because I want to be in the Air Force. My real inspiration is about what I want to do in the future and how I would look doing it.

THE RINGMASTER

BY OGUGUA UCHENDU // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ringmaster? Midnight circus? My dark purples, reds and yellows and cool light blues.

I wanted to re-create a time in my past that was special to me. The first time I went to the circus at age seven, I felt like I belonged in a community. I was able to escape the push of forceful conformity.





MY FUTURE

BY RUSSELL FERNANDEZ // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In my painting, there's a young version of me, and in the mirror it's an older version. When I look in the mirror, I always try to see my future – make something out of my life or kick people out who make my life harder.

I AM A SOCCER PLAYER

BY LE TRAN // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I am a soccer player, and I would like to bring it into art because it could tell others about my dream. I dream one day I will be a star.

Art is a common language that could make everyone understand.



THE BALLER

BY KYRIE WILLIAMS // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The setting I put myself in is the basketball court.

I chose the colors because they are the ones of my middle school and the uniform of their basketball team.

As the audience views my work, some people might like it, maybe they won't. We'll just see what happens when the day has come.

MALAWI JOURNAL

Teens in Print staff writer Sara Cacho spent a week in Malawi, Africa, this June with other students in the buildOn program – lugging water from a stream, digging a hole for a foundation, and laying bricks as they helped construct a school. Here is an excerpt from her journal chronicling her journey.

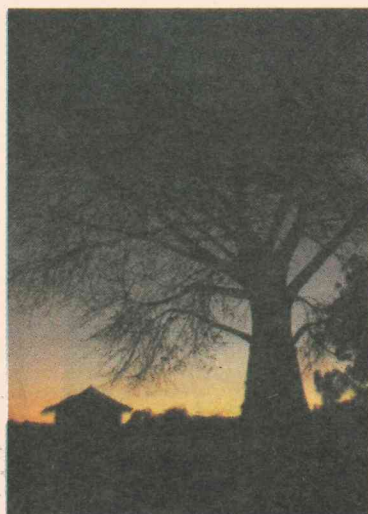
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014

The night was long. I was waiting for today to come for sooo long and now it's here. I got single braids yesterday by my cousin Brenda. My head hurts a little but it isn't going to keep me from being happy and excited to meet my new family. I still can't believe that I have the opportunity to go to Malawi, Africa, to build a school in a village called Namisu. I

hope to be able to have a good relationship with everyone during and after the trek and also get to know everyone. I am so nervous about the food out of all things. I LOVE meeting new people from different parts of the world, but I'm not sure that my stomach will allow me to eat every type of food. I really hope that this experience will change my mind.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SARA CACHO



EARTHQUAKE'S TREMORS STILL HIT HOME

BY CLARA JEAN // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Death and destruction came five years ago, on January 12, 2010. It was just another routine day — until the earthquake hit the ground. I was coming home from school. I dropped

my backpack and went to the living room to start my homework.

Outside, it was as bright as a light bulb. And then, suddenly, it got dark.

After a few moments, I heard people yelling, glasses and plates breaking. "Oh my God!" I screamed. "What's going on?"

The ground began to shake. I was terrified. I ran to my cousin, who was inside my house. Her eyes were filled with tears. So were mine. We wrapped our arms around each other and stood in the middle of the room like statues. We prayed.

I heard a lady outside, saying: "Get out of the

house guys. Hurry!"

We started running, still holding each other's hands. The lady hugged us. I could feel her heart beat.

I thought the ground was going to open. I thought it was the end of the world for us. The earthquake in Haiti took more than 230,000 lives and left about 300,000

injured.

I thought about my mother. She was at work.

I heard a car coming down the street. I saw my mom get out and spread her arms open.

I ran to her and grabbed on tight. Just the feel of her warm body comforted me without any words.

HIGH SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS: CAN THEY LAST?

BY ILMA GOLEMI // SENIOR EDITOR

Klea Hima, 18, from West Roxbury, believes that high school love can be everlasting.

"I know a lady who is currently in her 60s and she is still married to the man she was involved with in high school," she says.

High school relationships can be hard. They can last for weeks – or a lifetime. You might want to be with a person but gossip and social media messages keep you apart.

Giang Truong Le, 18, believes that high school relationships are meant to be temporary.

"If you actually know the person, then you have no reason to have trusting issues with them."

"It's testing the water, where you can get the experience of being in a relationship," says Le, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

Kristiana Mbrace, 18,

from Dorchester, knows people who have been in a high school relationship for less than two weeks.

"From the time you get into a relationship, until the time you graduate from high school, you will be in a pause-and-play relationship because of all the rumors," says Mbrace.

Still, Hima feels that couples can overcome the negative talk if they take the time to really understand their partners.

"If you actually know the person," says Hima, "then you have no reason to have trusting issues with them."



AFH PHOTO // KENNETH LI

TEXTUAL TENSION

BY ASTOU MONTGOMERY //
STAFF WRITER

Eunnindy Sanon, 15, from Roxbury, says texting a person you like can be a little scary.

"Sometimes I get nervous only because I wonder what they are going to say," she says.

Texting first can be nerve-racking because you're always scared of rejection. Teens say they can feel their hearts speed up while waiting for a response.

"Your heart starts beating a little fast and questions run through your mind," says Jaciah Espailat, 16, from Hyde Park, who feels it's like going through an obstacle course finding the right words to say.

Chelzea Montan, 15, from Roxbury, has found herself staring at the phone, thinking: "Should I text him?"

Montan says, "I really want to talk to them but I don't have the courage."



AFH PHOTO
// CYNTHIA
GINETTI

TEENS IN PRINT MEET THE STAFF

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

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

ABOUT US

Boston Teens in Print is the only citywide newspaper written by and for Boston public high school and middle school students. Launched by WriteBoston and The Boston Globe in 2004, and published five times a year, TiP is a platform for student journalists, essayists, poets, and artists.

It is delivered to Boston high schools, libraries, and community centers. But it is not just a newspaper — it is also, for urban teens, an afterschool program and summer journalism institute, both free. TiP gives a voice to Boston's youth, a voice that bellows from one end of the city to the other, across the boundaries of neighborhood, class, and ethnicity.



HIBO ABDUL

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Mohan**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **No**.
Your prom dress? **No**.
formal event.



GARBENS ALI

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Jordan**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **Yes**.
Your prom dress? **Yes**.
on what tuxedo I'm wearing under some circumstances would show how un-



MELANIE BAILEY

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Angeli**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **Yes**.
Your prom dress? **Yes**.
That's when all the crawlies come out.



ADAMA JAN B

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **None**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **Yes**.
Your prom dress? **No**.
It's appropriate for the occasion.



MARIAM BAILEY

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **None**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **Yes**.
Your prom dress? **Yes**.
I get to hop around comfortably.



TASHAYLA B

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Sierra**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **No**.
Your prom dress? **No**.
whole life to be cast one night for prom.



ARIYANA BOZ

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Olivia**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **No**.
Your prom dress? **No**.
it's ratchet and not pr -- especially on a hug will be remembered



SARA CACHON

Political party you support: **Democratic**.
Middle name: **Jamile**.
Morning, noon, or night: **Afternoon**.
Would you wear Converse? **Yes**.
Your prom dress? **Yes**.
fun. YOLO.



JAMILLAT DOUMBIA

Political party you support: **None.**
Middle name: **Hawa.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because it's tacky and not prom-like.**



HARRIANNE ERRIE

Political party you support: **Independent.**
Middle name: **Maxine.**
Morning, noon, or night? **The dark night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **My feet are too big for that.**



CHRISTINE FREEMAN

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
That's when the freaks come out to play.
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **Yes, because they are cool and I'm emo.**
Wouldn't you?



ILMA GOLEMI

Political party you support: **Not interested in politics.**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because heels go better with a dress.**



MARCOS HERNANDEZ

Political party you support: **Democratic, but I stay out of politics because it can get vicious.**
Middle name: **Alberto.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Everything is more fun at night!**
Would you wear Converse with your prom tuxedo? **I would as long as my date matched with me.**



JEAN WENDY JOSEPH

Political party you support: **The Spanish and American Party.**
Middle name: **Andy.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom tuxedo? **No. I would wear Jordans.**



ROSE KOUMBASSA

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Mary.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because prom is classy and Converse are something you would wear to the playground.**



JENNIFER LE

Political party you support: **Green Party.**
Middle name: **Diamond.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because I'm more of a high heels girl.**



CHRISTALINE LORJUSTE

Political party you support: **None of the above.**
Middle name: **Nikki.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **Yes, because they are the best.**



ASTOU MONTGOMERY

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Susan.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No. That's ugly.**



CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Truong.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because that would ruin the outfit.**



ARIANNA ORTIZ-DIXON

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Nicole.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, but I don't have a problem with it.**



WIDENTZA PACOMBE

Political party you support: **I love Barack Obama so I'm a Democrat.**
Middle name: **Victoria.**
Morning, noon, or night? **I prefer noon because I'm not cranky or sleepy then.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No. I am a fashion girl and I like to wear high heels because they make me feel professional.**



ANNA QUAN

Political party you support: **None.**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **Yes, because Converse are comfortable and heels kill your ankles.**



WILL-ANGEERAYMOND

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Flore-Wharley Melissa.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Noon.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No, because Converse do not show how fancy you are.**



JALENE SANCHEZ

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Noon.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **No. Converse are cute but aren't fashionable with everything.**



DEVON SPEARS

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Simone.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **Yes. I love Converse and I need to be able to run if necessary.**



MIESHA TAVARES

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Lopes.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **Nope - unless the dress was really big and poofy.**



CAMERON TELEAU

Political party you support: **Independent.**
Middle name: **Edward.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom tuxedo? **No, because Converse are dissatisfying.**



ANTIAH THORNTON

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Charel.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom dress? **I totally would - if my dress covered my feet. Even if it didn't, they're really comfortable, so why not?**



JAMES WHITTER

Political party you support: **None.**
Middle name: **Malik.**
Morning, noon, or night? **Night.**
Would you wear Converse with your prom tuxedo? **Dress shoes are more customary or traditional, but I guess you could pull it off.**

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Jan/Feb 2015

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c/o WriteBoston
7 Palmer Street
Roxbury, MA 02119



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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

ABOUT US

Boston Teens in Print is the only citywide newspaper written by and for Boston public high school and middle school students. Launched by WriteBoston and The Boston Globe in 2004, and published five times a year, TiP is a platform for student journalists, essayists, poets, and artists.

It is delivered to Boston high schools, libraries, and community centers. But it is not just a newspaper — it is also, for urban teens, an afterschool program and summer journalism institute, both free. TiP gives a voice to Boston's youth, a voice that bellows from one end of the city to the other, across the boundaries of neighborhood, class, and ethnicity.



HIBO ABUL

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Moham**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **No.**
Formal event: **formal event.**



GARBENS ALI

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Jordann**
Morning, noon, or night: **everything looks beautiful.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **Yes.**
on what tuxedo I'm wearing under some circumstances would show how uni-



MELANIE BAI

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Angelir**
Morning, noon, or night: **That's when all the crawlies come out.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **Yes.**
they are comfy and v-



ADAMAJAN B.

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **No.**
It's appropriate for the o-



MARIAM BAI

Political party you support: **Abraham Lincoln Rej**
Middle name: **None.**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **Yes.**
I get to hop around a comfortably.



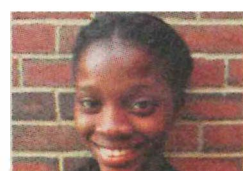
TASHAYLA B.

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Sierra-I**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **No.**
whole life to be cast one night for prom.



ARIYANA BOZ

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Olivia.**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **No.**
it's ratchet and not pr -- especially on a hu will be remembered



S RA CACHO

Political party you support: **Democratic.**
Middle name: **Jamile**
Morning, noon, or night: **Morning.**
Would you wear Converse to your prom dress? **Yes.**
fun. YOLO.

DISCOVER YOUR PASSION

BY NADIA MONTEIRO //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Success is walking through an open door and discovering your passion. Taking advantage of life.

When I first came to United States from Cape Verde, I was 15. My aunt used to take care of children. With no English, it was kind of hard to help her out.

One day, I told myself: "Nadia, do what you have to

do to learn English."

From that day on, I started to watch movies, cartoons, and the news in English. I did writing exercises and read aloud to my cousin.

Today, I am able to answer back to those kids and I can understand what they are saying because everything takes practice. Doing what I love was something that helped me learn. I love being with babies and being a great friend to them.

FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

BY AISSATOU BARRY //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Success is fulfilling all of your responsibilities. When I was in Guinea, I lived with my grandmother. Being there made me feel that I didn't have any family that I could fit in with. She used to make me do all the cleaning, cooking, and selling of ice.

The worst part of that life was about my school. We all know the reason for going

to school is to have a better education. To have skills that can benefit you. To know how to live your life in a content way.

For me, it was like the opposite. I went to school, but I got no support from any of the people in my grandmother's house.

My homework was incomplete. I didn't know what they were talking about in class. What surprised me was that I always got good grades, but I wondered how because I

didn't even know how to write my name.

However, one day I set a goal for myself. No matter what happens, I will always be diligent. I don't want to give up on myself. It is my responsibility if I want to take the next step and become a nurse.

AFH PHOTO //
KIM HAN



BE HAPPY

BY EDILSON GOMES //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You're successful when you're happy around the people you love, doing the things you love. I've been wanting to become a pilot for as long as I can remember. Often times, the urge is so great that it hurts.

I used to think that I had to become a pilot to be successful, but I've learned otherwise. I discovered that being happy is the main reason I wanted to become a pilot. I learned that my dream was not becoming a pilot but becoming happy and being a pilot was just a way of getting there.

How did I realize this? Through flight training. I found myself not overjoyed after some lessons, so I began to wonder what was wrong.

I figured that I was being too future-focused. I didn't realize that the journey is just as important as the destination, so I've decided that first I'm going to try to be content, second be around the people I love, and then become a pilot.

SHOW COURAGE

BY ELISA DE PINA //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Success is when you move forward and don't give up. It is having the courage to get what you want.

I have been involved in many difficult problems with my brothers. In our Cape Verdean culture, some people believe that men have the freedom to do whatever they want but women don't. My brothers like to tell me what to do but I don't like to listen to them because I believe that their opinions about women are not true.

For example, my brothers can go out any time they want but they like to tell our mother that the best place for me is at home cleaning and playing with their sons.

They make me feel small inside because I like to go out with my friends, but it seems that I will never get that chance. When I talk to them, I tell them that I wish I had the chance to choose to be a man before I was born.

Sometimes they make me cry. I know I have to stay strong and think positive that someday all these problems will end.

My goal is to try to prove to my brothers that they are not right and that I am strong enough to take care of my own life.

WORK HARD

BY MARCOS SOTO //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Working hard to get what you want is success. When I came to the United States from Puerto Rico, in 2011, I didn't know English and I was going to start school in a month. I don't like to have low grades, but I didn't like to ask questions because I thought that people were going to make fun of me if I said something wrong.

One day I was at my aunt's house. She told me: "When you are learning English, and you say a mistake and somebody laughs at you, laugh with them because if you get mad at them you will not learn English."

I said to myself: "I shouldn't be scared of speaking English since I'm starting to learn a new language."

Now, I have been three years in Boston and I've been doing well in school. I learn something new every day.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

BY RAFAEL E. PEREZ //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Success is showing others what you can do. Sometimes there are people who don't believe what you are capable of.

I always thought I was born with baseball in my blood. I love to play.

I remember back in my country, Dominican Republic, it was game day. I was 11. I told one of my coaches that I was ready to play with the older members of the team. He told me: not yet. I said: Give me a month.

During that time, I spent mornings and afternoons practicing hard. When it was time for the game with the older kids, the coach told me to get in.

I was nervous, but in the end I was one of the most valuable players in the game, and I stayed at that level.

From that experience, I realized that you must work over and over to reach your goals and let others see your passion.



AFH PHOTO //
CUIS-
HAN MEI

HAVE SUPPORT

BY FEDIA LAFORTUNE //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Success is having support from your family when you need it the most. My mom and dad are in Haiti but I talk to them most every day. They always tell me to finish high school and go to college. For them, having a career is very important because when you are independent and responsible, you can make it. I want to be a nurse.

Having support can help you because sometimes you feel down and you need someone to talk to. You need to take

advantage of their advice. You should be thankful for your parents and grateful for their hard work.

RICH MAN, POOR MAN

BY ROSE KOUMBASSA // STAFF WRITER

Jaseia Monteiro believes that feeling good about yourself is not bad except when done in a way to put somebody down. "It's not fair," says Monteiro, 13, from Dorchester. "I honestly feel our society is now a place where showing off is like having to eat breakfast every day."

Overall, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. According to a September article on wsj.com, income of the wealthiest 10 percent of US families rose from 2010 to 2013 while income of

the bottom 40 percent dropped during that time.

Christine Chung, 17, from Dorchester Academy, saw a hungry, homeless man in her local corner store one day. He was desperate and tapped a woman on her shoulder. She turned around and started yelling at him about how expensive her blazer was and how he would not have the money to replace it, Chung says.

"I felt so bad for him because all he wanted was something to eat," Chung says.

When this life is over, some teens say, it won't matter whether you are rich or poor.

As Dorchester Academy senior Bintou Conte says: "There's no Mercedes in heaven."

WORK MONEY TUG-OF-WAR

WHOSE CASH IS IT ANYWAY?

BY BRIANNY PUJOLS // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Genesis-Ann Martell, 17, from Dorchester, says she gave her mother half the paycheck that she earned.

"Teens are expensive," says Martell. "Why not support your parents? They always support you."

For teens, bringing home a paycheck can be a special feeling. But things can get complicated when there's fighting over who pockets that work money. While many teens believe they should be able to keep their hard-earned pay and only turn it over to their

parents voluntarily, there are moms and dads who feel they should be reimbursed for raising their kids.

One 14-year-old from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science says her parents tell her she needs to repay them for things they've done.

For example, one time the girl says she was reminded: "Remember I gave you money to get your hair done? You owe me."

Other parents insist on grabbing their kids' whole paycheck.

Alejandra Madrid, 18, from East Boston, says she does not give her parents any part of her check because the money is going to a special place: her college fund.

AFH PHOTO // CUISHAN MEI

INTRODUCING THE MODEL PARENT

BY JENNIFER LE // SENIOR EDITOR

Teens are always complaining about their parents being too strict, too uncaring, too busy.

So, Teens in Print asked

students to describe their idea of the perfect parent.

"The perfect parent encourages their child to live their dream and succeed on their future goals," says Aline Santos, 17, from Boston Community Leadership Academy. "The perfect parent will always

choose their child over anything because they were brought into the world by them."

For Sheelan Balata, 17, from BCLA, a model parent is someone who gives love unconditionally.

"An ideal parent to me," Balata says, "is someone

who loves and cares for their child regardless of who they are -- like if they're gay, lesbian, atheist, a dropout from school.

"Also," Balata says, "parents should protect their kids but not be overprotective."

Mayra Martinez, 17, from

BCLA, believes that the best parent has his or her child's back.

"Someone who puts you on top of all their priorities," says Martinez. "A parent that wants the best for you and loves you and tries their best to make you feel loved and safe in their arms."



AFH PHOTO // ABRAHAM ROSA

MINDING YOUR MANNERS (UM, WHAT MANNERS?)

BY KELVIN CRISOSTOMO //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Blame it on their parents. Blame it on their friends. Wherever it comes from, many teens these days are lacking in the politeness department, from no pleases or thank yous to cutting the line at the bus stop.

For many teens, rudeness rules the day.

"Our generation has changed so teens aren't focused on being formal," says Shayla Carranza, 18, from Boston Community Leadership Academy.

Some teens find it hard to switch back and forth between adults and young people, acting the same informal way with both.

"I believe that teen manners nowadays is based on who they hang out with," says Joan Restrepo, 17, from BCLA.

Teens say that some of their peers are more interested in being themselves than showing respect to others.

As a result, says Genesis Coplin Marti, 18, from BCLA, they are on the short end when it comes to social skills.

DEATH-DEFYING ACTS

BY JAMES WHITTER // SENIOR
EDITOR

Many teens act as if they are invincible. Like death will never come knocking on their doors.

Michael Reeves, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, says he is not afraid of dying.

"Everyone dies, but I'm 16," he says.

There is much he wants to do before his demise.

"Skydiving is something that I would like to try," Reeves says.

Alex Bradshaw, a senior at the O'Bryant, says he has no fear at all of passing on.

"No, I'm not afraid," says Bradshaw, adding: "I'm more afraid of how I will die."

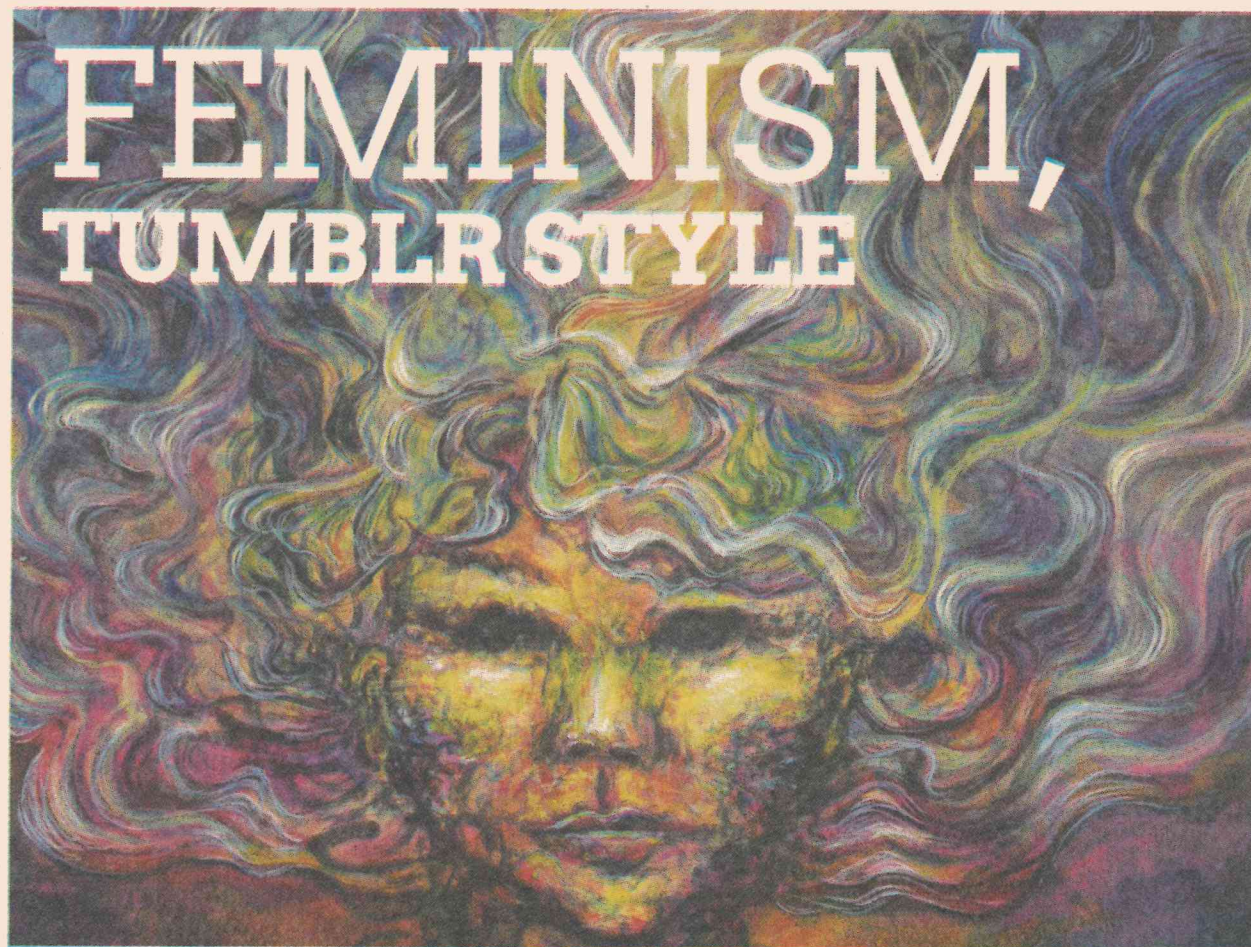
Lauro Alves, a senior at the O'Bryant, says he is too young to be caught in death's grip.

"I wish I could live forever," he says.



AFH ART // BRENDAN POWERS

FEMINISM, TUMBLR STYLE



AFH ART // VIVIAN YU

BY MANDUSU SIDIBAY //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A year ago, if you visited a high school and asked young women what feminism is, many would probably give you blank stares. Fast forward to 2014 and thousands of young women are now self-proclaimed feminists, with a large part of the movement originating from the social media site, Tumblr.

Many teen girls think Tumblr is an amazing way to spread awareness of

feminism.

"Tumblr tells people what feminism is, which is more than enough," says Michelle Nguyen, a sophomore at Boston Latin Academy. "People intelligent enough to dig deeper into the movement will see what it truly is about, which is not some anti-male movement. Those are the real people who should be called feminist."

Then there are those who feel that Tumblr offers a view of feminism that is too simplistic and stereotypical.

"Tumblr gave feminism a terrible name," says Michelle Pinto, 15, from Boston Latin Academy. "People think feminism is about hating men and it's absolutely not."

Marilyn Rodriguez, 16, from BCLA, says she wouldn't openly call herself a feminist because of the bad reputation she feels that title has, but is all for gender equality.

"If people wanted to join a real feminist movement," Rodriguez says, "they wouldn't be on Tumblr trying to do it."

STALKED: AN UNCOMFORTABLE PRESENCE



AFH PHOTO // LANVY TRAN

BY MARCOS HERNANDEZ // STAFF WRITER

There is a fine line between being clingy and turning into a stalker. One might leave you socially isolated while the latter can bring on restraining orders.

"Clingy," says Lucy Phan, 16, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, "is someone who wants to hang out with you, but stalking is being creepy about it and knowing all your information."

Frannie Murphy, 16, says that communication is key with someone who just won't let go.

"I would take it upon

myself to just ask them directly to stop," says Murphy, from the O'Bryant, "and if they didn't, then I'd contact authorities."

Which is what a 16-year-old former Boston Public Schools student says she had to do when one guy wouldn't stop following her.

"My friends and I were petrified, so we went to the police and the school transferred him out," she says.

Her advice for teens being hounded 24/7: "Speak up before something happens."

FILLED WITH SELF-DOUBT

BY EMILY JIMENEZ // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Okay class," the teacher said. "Today we will write 'I am' poems."

I was stumped.

I realized I couldn't say anything good about myself. I think of all the times I've told my dad that I'm such a strong, independent person but when it came down to the facts, it wasn't true.

Yes I am strong — but I am also vulnerable. I can't praise myself. It's bad when people put you down — but it's even worse when you can't pick yourself back up.

Finally, I wrote: "I am strong yet vulnerable."

I was supposed to answer what makes me cry, and what I pretend, and what I want. All I could say was that I cry for anything and that I pretend to be happy and that I want to one day be what I pretend to be. My eyes were so watery, I thought I'd cry if I blinked. But I didn't want to let the tears out. My throat felt like a drain filled with hair.

I looked over to my friends. I could tell they felt the same way. It made me feel better. I still felt insecure but not so alone.

I didn't feel like such an outcast.

AFH ART // CUIZHAN MEI

THE TRUE MEANING OF DEMEANING

BY WIDENTZA PACOMBE // STAFF WRITER

"Why aren't they talking to me? Is it that I'm on a lower level than them?"

Teens often put themselves down because of the way they are treated or because of what they believe others think of them.

"I have demeaned myself

because I was upset, which made me feel like it was me against the world," says Grace Bruce, 13, from Dorchester. "I felt like I was by myself."

Some teens then try to become more popular by becoming totally different people.

"Going too far is a big problem because you will be changed into someone that is not really you but someone that you are trying to be," says Bruce.

Kayin Walker, 13, from Mattapan, says he once was bragging about how he was better than his friends at basketball — but then he lost to them in a game.

His self-esteem got shot down. He thought: "I'm not as good as my friends."

Katherine Bernardez, 13, from Dorchester, remembers that in grade school some of the so-called cool kids stole her best friend. So she came up with an

idea to win back her friend.

"I started acting cool," Bernardez says.

But the plan backfired.

"I felt like people were putting me down also because I went through all that changing just to be with my best friend," she says. "And the fact that I couldn't get my best friend by being the real me made them feel like since I don't believe in myself, why should they believe in me?"

GAY LIFE

GUYS VS. GIRLS

BY MIESHA TAVARES //
STAFF WRITER

The way many see it, gay guys are not cool but lesbians are fine. "I don't think anything is wrong when a girl likes another girl," says Ferlando Chery, 14, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. "Well, I personally wouldn't like seeing two boys together, but I understand that people kind of don't choose who they are."

This is a hot topic on Internet message boards. "It's still a man's world so

men influence how society feels more than women do," one post explained.

Marcelo Monteiro, 14, from the O'Bryant, believes that men need to be more open minded.

"People have the freedom to do whatever they want," says Monteiro, "and if someone wants to be with someone, others should just let them be happy."

Jerisia Silva, 14, from Boston Green Academy, agrees.

"It's no one's business what people choose," Silva says. "As long as you're in love, no one should be in the middle worrying."



AFH PHOTO //
KENNETH LI

HEEDING YOUR HOROSCOPE

BY CHRISTINE NGUYEN //
STAFF WRITER

Annmarie Sein, 15, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, likes to read her horoscope. She started checking it out about two years ago and now scans it three times a week.

Sein says she believes in what she reads.

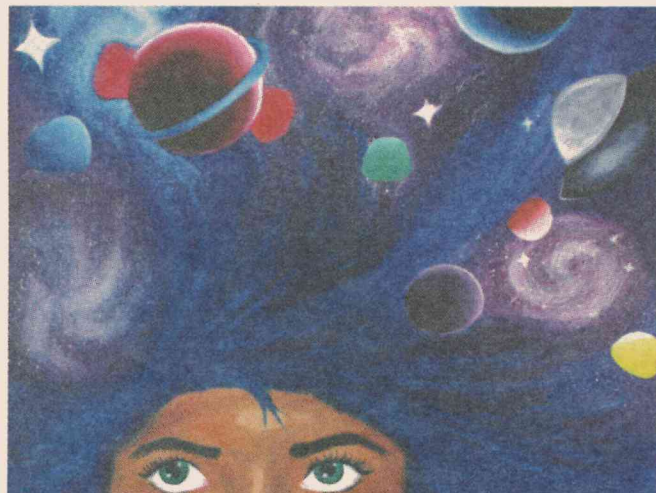
"I feel like I can relate to it," she says.

Sein feels that her horoscope is accurate about telling her how she feels in a particular situation.

"My astrological predictions would say that I am in an argument with a friend and I am being bothered by it," says Sein, an Aquarius. "That is exactly how I would be feeling that day."

Some teens believe in what their horoscopes say, others are more skeptical.

Kharliyah Ortiz, 15, is another believer. She downloads the app to find her astrological predictions whenever she gets the



AFH ART // SAMANTHA MCKENZIE

chance.

"It relates to my daily problems about friendships," says Ortiz, from the O'Bryant.

For example, Ortiz says her horoscope would say that she is experiencing problems with a close friend and to wait a while and let the situation go away.

"I got into an argument with a friend the same day I read that prediction," says Ortiz, a Capricorn. "We stopped talking but

eventually we were friends again."

Nafiso Ali, 15, from the O'Bryant, thinks that not everyone can fit the same description of the astrological signs they are given.

"They cannot categorize people by when they were born because everybody has different personalities," says Ali, a Capricorn.

Ali says she answers to a higher power.

"Only God can tell me my future," she says.

INSECURE, FOR SURE

BY JAMILLAT DOUMBIA //
STAFF WRITER

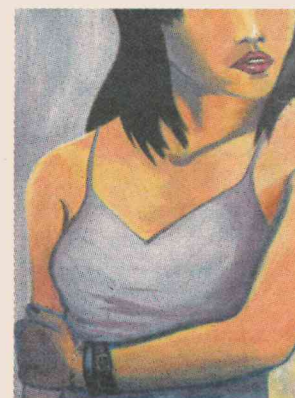
Many teens don't need a reason to feel insecure – whether it's a major gender issue or a small detail about their looks.

After all, they're teens.

"Teens can be insecure about their sexuality," says Christina Haynes, a junior at Boston Community Leadership Academy. "A girl may feel comfortable being a boy and a boy may feel comfortable being a girl."

Many young females may seem full of themselves but that can be an act.

"Girls are more insecure than boys," says Marinela Seiti, a junior at BCLA. "There are more expectations put on them."



AFH ART // ARIANE FLEMING

"Girls are more insecure than boys. There are more expectations put on them."

FASHION PEACE

BY MARCOS HERNANDEZ //
STAFF WRITER

Glamour, shiny accessories, and price tags are what many teens prioritize. Marc Jacobs, Calvin Klein, and Prada are some designers the masses swoon over during Fashion Week. Still, some teens

believe that while appearance does matter, the clothes you wear don't necessarily define you.

Linda Qin, 17, from Boston Latin School, says that clothes are nice to indulge in but they do not shape the person.

"There's more to life than what you wear," Qin says. "Fashion itself is a form of capitalism that companies use to say what's in demand and what's not."

Erica Imoisi, 17, from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, likes high-end clothes

but says that what is most important is how someone wears them rather than which designer they're dressed in.

Ivy Johnson, 16, from Boston Latin Academy, loves to shop but says that many only dress well because of their self-consciousness.

"I know people that if they're not wearing the right clothing, they have massive panic attacks and I don't understand that," Johnson says. "Unfortunately, that's what our generation is."

DOGGED BY THE PIT BULL VS. ROTTWEILER DEBATE

BY BASIA BROWN //
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A lot of teens believe that Pit Bulls and Rottweilers are two of the most threatening breeds of dogs and they continue to debate which type is tougher.

Josiah Wade, 15, from Margarita Muñiz Academy, says he prefers Rottweilers.

"They're black and more vicious [and] really a guard dog," Wade says.

Daniel Ortega, 16, however, says that Rottweilers are too dangerous for his liking.

"I don't mess with those type of animals," says Ortega, from Community Academy of Science and Health.

Arianna Lisboa, 16, from Muñiz Academy, says she doesn't care for either canine.

"I don't like Pit Bulls or Rottweilers," Lisboa says, "for the simple fact that I have a bad past with dogs."

THROWBACK TEES

THE PAST IS PRESENT

BY ARIYANA BOZEMAN // STAFF
WRITER

View from the street: teens wearing Pop Art T-shirts, including throwback performers from before their time like The Rolling Stones, The Bee Gees, and Marilyn Monroe.

"I don't know what Marilyn Monroe is about but I see T-shirts with her on them and they look cool," says 15-year-old Melanie Sheehan, from West Roxbury Academy.

Other teens know of Marilyn Monroe as more than a sex symbol. In the '50s, for example, she used her influence to help singer Ella Fitzgerald play a California nightclub that she believed had barred her because she was black.



AFH PHOTO // KENNETH LI

Kiharah Byssainthe, 14, from West Roxbury Academy, wears a semi-throwback tee of Michael Jackson as a form of self-expression.

"I am free to wear what I want so I wear MJ. I think other people might like it, too," she says. "If somebody doesn't like it...I don't need their opinion. Michael was a great artist and I like him."

Shahaida Robinson, 15, from West Roxbury Academy, doesn't mind the nostalgic tees that seem to be popping up everywhere but feels they're just not for her.

"I don't wear them," she says.

AFH PHOTO // MARY NGUYEN



AFH PHOTO

TOUCHED BY AUGUST ALSINA

BY ADAMAJAN BAH // STAFF EDITOR

I've been absolutely obsessing over August Alsina, an up-and-coming R&B singer, since his performance at the BET Awards in June.

His music speaks the truth. He's not like other artists who go on about love, sex, and money. He sings about growing up in poverty and selling drugs to get by. He talks about the death of his older brother and the effect it had on him.

You can feel his pain through the music. "Real talk when I heard who it was, heart damn near stopped," he sings in "Downtown." "Somebody done killed my brother."

My skin crawled when I heard that.

During the summer, I learned that Alsina was coming to Boston in September. As soon as I got my paycheck, I bought a ticket. This would be my first concert ever.

September 13 finally arrived. As I entered the House of Blues with my friends, I was pumped.

When Alsina came out, I thought my ear drums were about to burst. I was amazed as he stood there before me.

During the song "Kissin' On My Tattoos," he reached down and connected with the crowd. He grazed my hand.

My friends were extremely jealous that I was the one he touched.

THE HORRIBLE TRUTH ABOUT HORROR MOVIES

BY LAURA TORRES // CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Linh Vu, a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, believes that horror movies have gotten rather repetitive in recent years, and that he doesn't get the same thrill he used to from them.

"It feels like Hollywood has gotten rid of all the good writers," Vu says.

When you research horror movies released in the last 10 years, a plot pattern emerges.

Possessed: the state of being controlled by a demon or spirit. Now, it's not hard to understand why this has become a common trend in horror movies, seeing as how demons are associated with evil and impurity. However, this device has gotten redundant.

As have the basic outlines of the gory stories.

A nice family moves into a new home. They have a little boy or girl who is a very sweet child. A few days after they move in, the kid claims to see things, or starts acting strangely.

The formulaic setup dispels any tension since we have seen the story run through so many times.

Angela Lei, a junior at the O'Bryant, has had enough.

"I hope this dry spot of creativity," says Lei, "will stop soon."

IMAGINE JOHN LENNON

BY MARIAM BAH // STAFF WRITER

"Imagine all the people living life in peace/ You may say I'm a dreamer/ But I'm not the only one/ I hope someday you'll join us/ And the world will be as one." ~ John Lennon

I first learned about John Lennon through a school exhibition on the

1960's. I researched '60s music and art and finally came across The Beatles. Immediately, amongst the members, Lennon stood out the most to me -- not just as part of the popular band but because he was a musical pioneer and a peaceful man. He introduced the world to rock and roll through his message of peace and love.

Yet Lennon was very seditious

in trying to change social values that negatively affected society. The lyrical tone to his music was sensational. His work is marked by intense beauty and extreme honesty.

As a solo artist, he often wrote music about important world issues, such as war and religion. This is why it was extremely melancholy when he was murdered by a crazed fan

34 years ago next month. He spoke his mind through his music and now people are never going to hear more about what he has to say.

I have three John Lennon T-shirts and a poster of him hangs in my bedroom. I am trying to convey to people that this passionate being of peace is no longer here because we now live in a corrupted world of anger and desolation.

AFH ART // ABRAHAM ROSA

MISSING FORMER MAYOR MENINO

BY FARMATA SAMATI AND SARA CACHO

He was the only mayor we Boston teens have known.
He was there to watch over us as we have grown.
He saved lives and communities,
By giving people so many opportunities.
Even in tough times and stormy weather,
He was there to bring us together.

He made our lives easier.
Because he was a leader.
He was a friend to the hopeless and the broken of the city,
But then cancer struck his body, though he faced it without pity.
While he grew weaker and weaker inside, he still stood tall,
So those who gathered around him would not fall.
He will be remembered forever by us teens and adults, too.
Rest in peace former mayor Menino — we will always miss you.

CULTURE

BY WIDENTZA PACOMBE

Culture is a part of us.
Culture is what unites us.
We may have our similarities
and differences,
But our culture is our ancestors' legacies.
What we do makes our culture,
Such as thinking about things that would
make it better,
So that we can shape its future.
The way we speak makes our culture.
The way we dress makes our culture.
Our beliefs make our culture.
The food we eat makes our culture.
Each country has its own culture.
For our culture expresses who we are,
where we're from, and what we believe in.
But overall, we're from America, where
people are aching to know about each
other.
Why not tell them about your different
cultures?
For that's what makes America what it is:
One diverse nation.



TIP ARTWORK BY DEVON SPEARS

THIS IS ME; THIS IS NOT ME

BY MARIAM BAH

I ache with this...
Words scream out of my mouth with
no meaning.
There is no sound compared to the
things I seem to say.
I am sorry it is meaner than it seems to be.
Unfortunately, I cannot pretend to be happy
When I am not.
This is not me.
Anger does not fill my young veins.
Hatred should not live in my wild heart.
I should never have to endure this stupid,
pitiful feeling.
This feeling that detaches me from myself.
This bone-chilling mask of carelessness.

But...
I am an egg.
A carefree one, in fact.
This is me.
I can't sing, but I love to sing.
I write because it is my passion.
I love too easily and forgive others before
myself.
I seek diversity in life and embrace all that
meets me.
I get shy but not for too long because I
want others to feel my difference.
I smile at the sunset because, oh wow,
you're one of a kind.
I am sorry that those of you who do not
know me,
Let me laugh for every reason and not just
one.
I love the adventure-seeking and dreams.

But for now,
Let me grieve, let me sleep, leave me
alone.
For he is gone to never return.

UMBRELLA

BY JAMILLAT DOUMBIA

Come under my umbrella.
Meet me at the crib.
We'll watch a romantic novella.
You have my back.
I trust you that much.
Our love is forever,
And it will never lack.
But nothing lasts forever.
I bet you thought your little scheme was
clever.
Come under my umbrella.
Tell me about that other girl,
Estella.
We once saw eye-to-eye.
And now, you spit on our perfect love.
So I wave goodbye.
You would never hurt me.
That's what you said.
But you ripped my heart out and smashed it
'til it bled.
Come under my umbrella,
And watch as I move on without shedding
a tear.
You are no longer needed.
Now move along and drown your sorrows
without a care.



TIP ARTWORK BY DEVON SPEARS