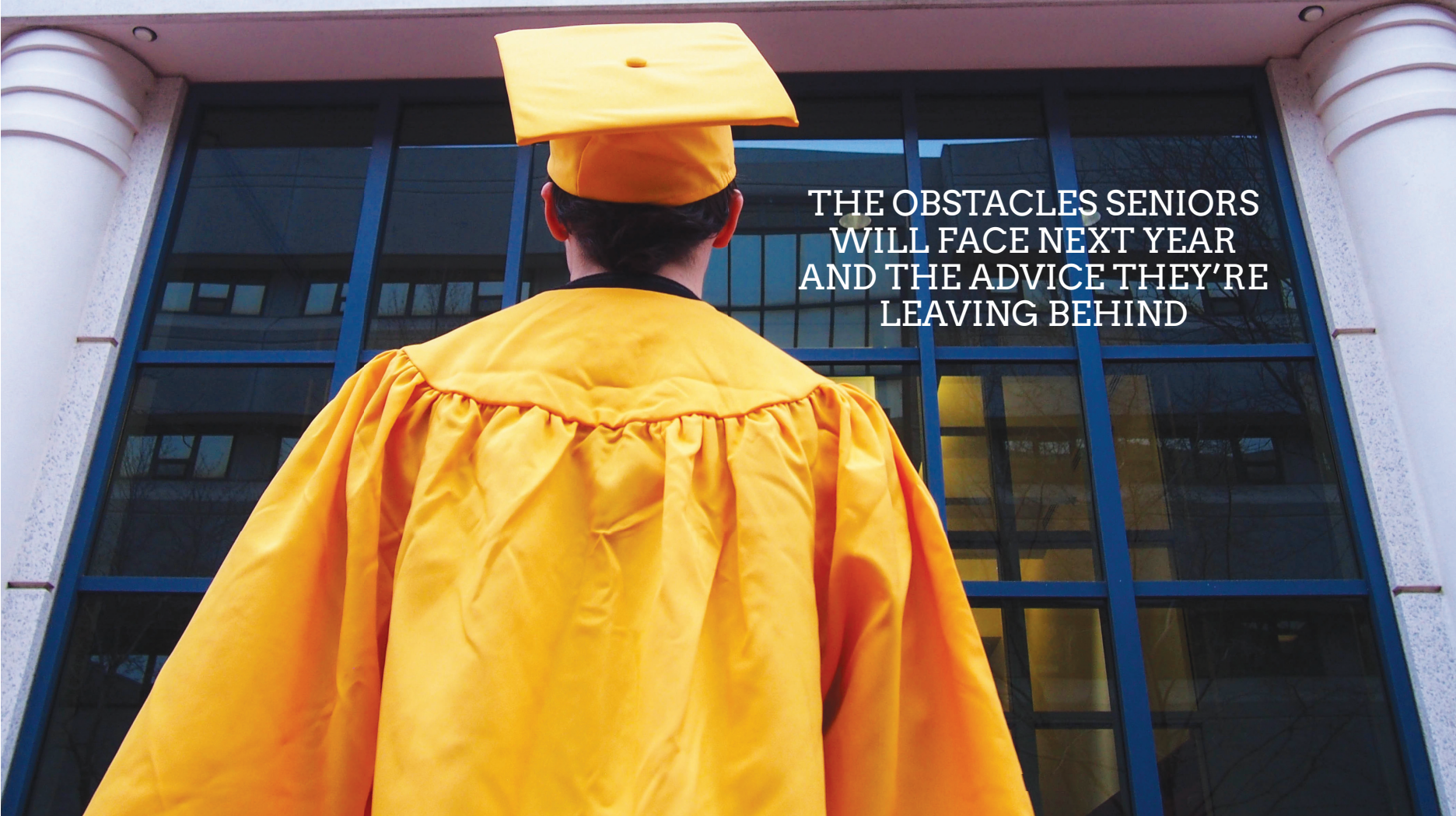


GRADUATION INTIMIDATION



THE OBSTACLES SENIORS
WILL FACE NEXT YEAR
AND THE ADVICE THEY'RE
LEAVING BEHIND

Volume XVII, No. 64

ARTS/PHOTOGRAPHY

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TEENS *in* PRINT

bostontip.com

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

WRITE FOR US!

Teens in Print is Boston's only citywide newspaper written by and for high school students. Launched by WriteBoston and the Boston Globe in 2004, and published quarterly, TiP is a powerful platform for student journalists, essayists, poets and artists.

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Next issue: September 2018

Submit your original news articles, features, opinion, essays, poems, or editorial cartoons.

Send submissions, questions and feedback
to carlagualdron@writeboston.org.

Please provide your full name, grade and school.

Teens in Print reserves the right to edit for length and content.

We look forward to your submissions!



SEE THIS AROUND INSIDE THE NEWSPAPER?

We are excited to recognize the winning pieces from our Rising Voice Awards, celebrating powerful teen voices across diverse genres of journalism.



WILSON ARCHITECTS

Many thanks to Wilson Architects for sponsoring and presenting
the awards to our talented youth writers!

WriteBoston

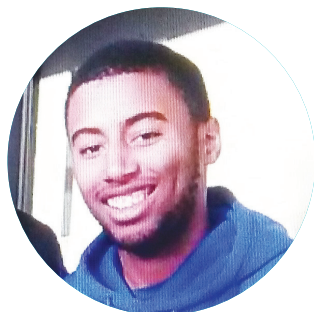
Building a Community of Writers

MEET THE STAFF

If there were an ice cream flavor named after you, what three ingredients would it include?



IVY CHEN:
Cocoa, honey and green tea.



FERNANDO SEMEDO:
Bananas, pistachio and coconut.



JACOB DOWNEY:
Monster energy drink, pop rocks and edginess.



ANILDA RODRIGUES:
Caramel, chocolate and coconut.



BELKIS MONTAS:
Dulce de leche, vanilla and chocolate sprinkles.



SEANA FULLER:
Green vanilla ice cream (army green food coloring) with caramel swirl, chocolate chips and raisins.



MALIA MCCLERKLIN:
Oreos, chocolate and rainbow sprinkles!



ELEBETEL ASSEFA:
Chocolate, chocolate and chocolate.



KIANA MCLEAN:
Cookies, cream and vanilla.



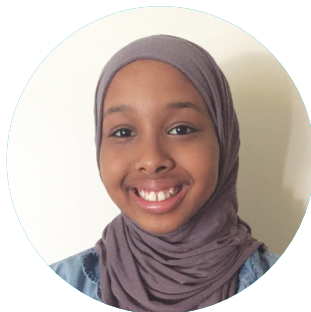
MASHA LEYFER:
Chocolate, chocolate-flavored black glitter and chocolate-flavored angst.



MARIELLA MURILLO:
Sugar, spice and everything nice.



DJIBRIL CONTE:
Rilly chilly djibrilly: djibrilliant blueberry swirl and martian manhunter green apple.



YASMIN MOHAMED:
The Meen "Meena" ice cream: cookies and cream, guava and cookie dough.



CLINTON NGUYEN:
Gelato avec pistache et matcha.



PETER GILLIAM:
The P-Crunch: Caramel, toffee and peanut butter.

AVOIDING THE HAZARDS ON THE ROAD TO HIGHER EDUCATION

By: Elebetel Assefa // Staff Writer

At the core of the American Dream is education and one's right to pursue it without bounds—however, the education system is ringed with inequalities for the poor and others lacking certain privileges. These disadvantages widen the gaps between whites and students of color in higher education.

Most students in pursuit of higher education face a multitude of problems, like the burden of paying thousands of dollars a year. Currently, the total U.S. student debt is \$1.4 trillion and growing rapidly each year. In 2017, the average student amassed \$37,172 of debt, and every second about \$2,858 worth of student debt is accrued.

For first generation college students, often students of color from non-affluent neighborhoods, this problem can worsen as they are more likely to drop out; drowning in debt with no college degree is a calamity. Furthermore, the cost of books and other materials weighs down students' growth.

Shurly Won, a senior at Simmons University studying computer science and biostatistics, faced these overwhelming challenges. "Financially, many of my classmates have told me that their parents have paid for or will pay for their tuition," she said. "Unlike them, I need to carry my own burden and take out my own loans." Won's responsibility for paying for her college education put her in a different headspace from many of her classmates.

Many students of color have similar

burdens, especially when attending predominantly white schools. Won called her financial advisor before attending Simmons and explained her circumstances, which helped her manage the financial toll college education would take on her.

"For incoming minority students, I would like them to know that if they happen to be in a difficult situation, never be afraid to speak up," she said. "There are likely other people on campus who share the same situations."

Jaelle Sanon, a junior at Cornell University majoring in industrial and labor relations, echoed these same sentiments. "Take advantage of everything and also advocate for yourself," she said. "The school accepted you, and now they must give you all the resources needed to succeed." It is also in the best interest of the college to provide these resources and support programs so students' successful graduation is guaranteed.

Many students in college feel out of place, disorganized or homesick. For students of color, these problems are only heightened as the cultural dynamic shift is bigger and stronger.

According to a study by the Government Accountability Office, starting from K-12 education, students of color are plagued with inequalities, with schools serving predominantly black and Hispanic students offering "disproportionately fewer math, science, and college preparatory courses" and experiencing "disproportionately higher rates of students who

were held back in 9th grade, suspended, or expelled."

An educational gap is one of many factors making life different for students of color in the U.S. These differences manifest themselves as huge obstacles in college as students of color are faced with problems they've never encountered before.

Students of color need close support from the institutions they're attending to guarantee success. Sanon goes to a predominantly white institution, or a PWI, and is a first generation college student of color, which makes her experiences very hard at times. "Academically, I felt like I wasn't prepared for Cornell, but it is a learning curve," she said. "You learn as you go. I had to re-learn how to read, study and take exams. However, Cornell provides academic services, and I have been able to surround myself with friends in my major to help me."

At Cornell, Sanon attended the Prefreshman Summer Program, which she credits for helping her transition from high school to college. "The Prefreshman Summer Program allowed me to take classes in my major before I officially started Cornell, as well as familiarize myself with the resources Cornell offers for low-income students," she said. "I also met some of my best friends there."

Programs like these help students of color adapt and prepare themselves for a successful four years of college.

ATHLETES OF COLOR: PREPARE TO PLAY DEFENSE IN COLLEGE

By: Belkis Montas // Staff Writer

For six years, I have been playing with SquashBusters, a sports-based youth development and academic program with sites in Boston, Lawrence and Providence, Rhode Island. Because squash is often viewed as a Caucasian sport, you wouldn't think my squash team is made up of mostly black and Latinx athletes—but it is. Since my teammates come from minority backgrounds, we relate to one another on a level beyond sports.

As high school athletes look forward to participating in college sports, we often do not think about the lack of diversity among college teams. However, because there is less diversity in college teams, you should expect you may struggle to build a sense of community with your teammates if you are a minority athlete.

When minority students enter college, many experience culture shock, which the Oxford Dictionary defines as “a feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture, way of life, or set of attitudes.” This culture shock extends beyond the classroom and onto the field. “No one here looks like me” is a phrase that too often echoes in the head of minority college athletes.

According to the NCAA, from 2016-2017, in the sport of squash, black male college athletes made up 3.6 percent of all players, while whites made up 57.6 percent. Similarly, black women made up 2.8 percent, while white women made up 58 percent. Sports that lack diversity lack understanding of different cultures and ideas. For minorities, this insufficient knowl-



AFH ART // DOMINIC DUONG

edge from their peers can make it hard to bond with them.

Ravi Rao played with SquashBusters in high school and now plays for his college team at Bryant University in Rhode Island. He describes his relationship with his former teammates at SquashBusters as a family, a group of people who built each other up. Now, he says he is close to his team at Bryant, but wouldn't consider them family. The SquashBusters team “just gets me,” said Rao. It is easier to build a team when the teammates all relate to one another. By understanding each other, they create a stronger bond which strengthens the team.

Felix Polanco, a senior at New Mission High School, has been playing tennis with Tenacity—a sport and academic program for urban youth—for seven years. One aspect Polanco likes about Tenacity is that his team members look like him and share similar backgrounds and upbringings. He plans to continue playing in college, but fears his new teammates may be prejudiced. While he wants them to

“
You may struggle to build a sense of community with your teammates if you are a minority athlete.
”

understand him, he's also not going to force friendships.

“I would still be cool with them, but not as cool as I am with the people I have at Tenacity,” said Polanco. If he does run into conflicts with his future team, he will simply focus on himself as an athlete. “I am in it to play the sport, and they shouldn't keep me from playing my sport,” he said.

Your love for your favorite sport can be compromised if there are people on the team who do not respect you. While you should try

your best to talk through every situation and express your feelings, it is understandable if you need a break from your team. As Polanco said, you play the sport for your own personal growth. The people there should push you to be better, not make you feel worse or insecure.

Christopher Ferguson, 18, from Chicago, has been playing squash for five years with Metro Squash, a Chicago-based squash, academic, mentoring and life skills program. Through sports, he has learned discipline from his coaches and has developed healthy, long-term friendships with his teammates. Yet, Ferguson has faced racism from other players outside his program. As he thinks about playing in college, he hopes not to encounter more racial situations. “It would hurt to not continue playing if the environment was hostile,” said Ferguson. In order to combat this, he said, the best thing for athletes to do is educate their teammates on racial tolerance.

Talking to your team about what makes you uncomfortable can give your teammates a better understanding about you and can potentially lessen tensions within the group. As high school athletes look forward to playing in college, they should keep in mind the challenges they might face when dealing with teammates who may not hold the same viewpoints. Push yourself to speak out against those who say or do hurtful things to others. Hold your new teammates accountable, but if it becomes too much to bear, know there is a much bigger community out there who will push you as an athlete and respect you for who you are.

DO NOT TOUCH GIRLS

By: Vanessa Antenor, Joseana Correia & Kenira Pereira // Contributing Writers

Sexual harassment is a problem in many schools. Because these journalists were only able to conduct interviews in their school building, we have chosen to anonymize the name of the school to avoid conveying the impression that this problem is unique to one school.

For many high school students, specifically girls, sexual harassment is a problem. According to Equal Rights Advocates, “Sexual harassment can happen in three different ways: verbal (comments about your body, spreading sexual rumors, dirty jokes or stories etc.), physical (grabbing, rubbing, touching, pinching in a sexual way, sexual assault), and visual (display of naked pictures or sex-related objects, obscene gestures).”

“I feel like sometimes this person will try to abuse me one day if I let them touch me,” said Daphcar, a 10th grade student at Boston Public High.

Many students, especially boys, believe that it’s normal to sexually harass girls. Joseph, a student at Boston Public High, demonstrated this belief. He admitted he had already committed sexual harassment. He stated, “I just want to do it because I want to, without caring about the girl’s feelings...”

Unfortunately, according to an interview with a staff member of the school who wishes

to remain anonymous, this is not a new dilemma. He said, “I witness sexual harassment every day, in the school, in the street, everywhere.” He further stated, “That happens because the female lets them do it. When a female dresses a certain way (like showing her boobs a little bit), she’s showing what she got. If you have short shorts, a little shirt and you’re walking around, someone might go and touch you. But look at how you’re walking around...if you dress properly nobody will bother you.”

Yet, this type of language is part of the inherent problem at Boston Public High. Isn’t it a kind of way to blame the victims? Do women really need to hide themselves so they don’t worry about being violated? Do boys, like Joseph, really think they can touch a woman just because they want to?

“Sometimes I suffer sexual harassment. When I’m walking, boys start to talk about my rear...even if I wear wider clothes,” said Stefany, a Boston Public High student. “I feel uncomfortable with that. For this reason I stopped going to the pool and beach.”

Stopping this type of behavior is difficult. “There are boys who constantly touch girls’ hair, pull on their hair or touch places where they don’t have permission to touch. Sometimes I see girls not feeling like they have power to say ‘no,’” said Ms. B, a teacher from Boston Public High. “Also, sometimes I see relation-

ships between a boy and a girl where the boy is not treating the girl with enough respect.”

“I feel really scared because a lot of our students are older—17, 18, 19—so when I see a little bit of emotional abuse, I’m nervous for it to turn violent,” she added.

“I think the school should have education about sexual harassment, so people can be aware of that,” said Lafouine, a student from Boston Public High.

The benefits of sexual harassment education have been supported by experts. “This new data on consent and sexual assault make it crystal clear that more needs to be done to educate men, women, and young people in this country,” said Dr. Leslie Kantor, Vice President of Education at Planned Parenthood. “In order to curb sexual violence, we need to teach young people how to talk about sex, including how to ask for and recognize consent.”

As you can see, sexual harassment is a critical issue that has not been fully addressed in school. Sexual harassment affects many girls and makes them feel uncomfortable. And the way a girl dresses or walks shouldn’t be an excuse to commit it. Sexual harassment can happen in many different ways. However, not many people are aware of those ways. Thus, we should try to prevent that from happening by having education about sexual harassment for girls and boys.





THE DEADLINESS OF SMALL TOWN LIFE

By: Mariella Murillo // Staff Writer

The day Johnny Maxwell killed himself is a day I'll never forget.

I felt something was wrong from the moment I awoke. The tension in the air fogged my head and translated into every step. As I got up to face the day, my movements grew heavier. I got to school and sat down in class. The gnawing in my chest and the ringing in my ears were relentless. Something was wrong. I could feel it in every fiber of my being.

At 3:02 pm, I found out that a former classmate of mine committed suicide. He was a freshman in high school.

That entire day, all of my social media was flooded: Snapchats with condolences, Instagrams of throwbacks and memories—the heartbreaking, prayer-filled Tweets. He was a student at Queen Creek High School, in a small town called Queen Creek, Arizona, where I lived for two years. He was a teenage boy who did not deserve this ending.

Maxwell was not the first Queen Creek student to end his life. According to Fox 10 Phoenix, five students at QCHS have committed suicide since May 2017.

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention names suicide as the third leading cause of death in kids 10-14 and the second leading cause of death in youths 15-24 in 2015. This is the result of a spike in teen suicides over the last 17 years. Rural areas have suffered a 40 percent increase in suicide since 1999, according to the American Council on Science and Health. Researchers have searched for what could possibly be the cause of these rates and they have discovered a variety of factors—from the opioid crisis to poverty due to the 2008 economic recession.

However, the suicide epidemic seems to have hit rural areas like Queen Creek particularly hard. According to NPR, small, rural towns in the U.S. have the highest rates for teen suicide in the country—and, from my own experience, I can understand why. When I lived in Queen Creek, there was a strong lack of diversity. Not many people fall outside the white, conservative, Mormon category. There isn't anything

wrong with being those things, but there is a great amount of isolation and stigma for people who do not fit into these boxes. Rural towns like mine tend to have passionate views, as well as overall ignominy for anything less than perfect mental health.

Anya Edwards, a freshman at Boston Arts Academy, used to live in a small town called Hoosick Falls in New York. She remembers that there wasn't much to do, and believes that living in a tiny town can be very depressing. "I think that a lot of the kids felt like there was



AFH ART // KAT MORGAN

nowhere to go, and they were going to be there their entire lives—stuck," she said.

Small towns have always been portrayed a certain way—whimsical, close-knit, behind the times, and shielded. There is some underlying truth to that. However, while popular TV shows like "Twin Peaks," "The Vampire Diaries" and "Gilmore Girls" depict this rural town lifestyle, they fail to ever discuss suicide.

It's like sex education. A Health and Human Services statistic report shows that areas that do not equip young people with safe sex practices tend to have higher rates of teen pregnancy. Similarly, if students are not equipped with mental health resources, we see the same results—pregnancy paralleling suicide.

"If schools started talking about suicide awareness at a younger age and offered students

more support, the suicide rates would definitely start to drop," said Alex Hancock, a freshman at QCHS. Hancock didn't get education on mental health until high school, but wishes it started in middle school.

"My little sister started middle school as a sixth grader this year," Hancock said. "A couple weeks ago, she came home in tears because her friend, who is also in sixth grade, drank hand sanitizer during school in the hopes that it would kill her."

The bottom line is that teens in small towns are not supported in a way that prevents suicide. In Arizona, Project Connect Four is trying to change that by raising awareness and striving to help the teens there, after all the tragedy in the last year.

"We're not the suicide experts. Nobody wants to be a suicide expert," said Christina Nguyen, president of Project Connect 4. "But what we try to do is align ourselves with people who have that knowledge and information to come in and, for example, do workshops or assemblies."

Nguyen also said, "Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem." And it's true. We hear these messages of "you matter" and "suicide isn't the answer" all the time. It can sound generic and fake, in one ear and out the other. But, they're true.

There are people fighting to make a change for all of us. Nguyen suggests that the best way for other small towns to start combating teen suicide is by finding people and groups that are also taking action, and sharing information with them.

There are many resources taken for granted or ignored. And because of this, people like Johnny Maxwell are gone. You never really understand all of the numbers and statistics until it happens to you.

If you or a friend is contemplating suicide or self-harm, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, available 24 hours every day.

Maxwell's name has been changed.



BSAC students attend the National School Walkout. ADNAN MALEK

YOUTHQUAKE

A SNAPSHOT OF HOW BOSTON'S YOUTH ARE TAKING ACTION AND CALLING FOR CHANGE



TiP journalists were invited to attend the Parkland Forum at the Kennedy School, where they met several of the student activists from Parkland. ALYSSA VAUGHN

"WE NEED LAWS THAT PROTECT ALL OF US."

The following is an excerpt from Evelyn Reyes' speech delivered at the State House for the Student Walkout Day on March 14. Despite the snow day, hundreds of students still came to the State House to protest gun violence.

Gun violence has never directly impacted my life. In response to that, I call myself an observer with a duty. We should not be waiting for the day that we become victims to take the call to action. It is the responsibility of the nation to address gun control and stop the detrimental effects of gun violence on young people.

Resolving this issue should have never been political, it should have been an automatic act of empathy. It is selfish to defend the second amendment in the name of a political party. Especially when it was written at a time during which the weapons we so easily obtain today didn't even exist. It isn't fair that the lives of children depend on how much money the NRA can shove into politicians' pockets.

Through data provided from the Center for Disease Control, we know that gun violence disproportionately impacts urban communities more so than mass school shootings in rural areas. According to an article on the website *The Conversation*, in the year 2015, of the 12,979 firearm homicides, 81 percent occurred in urban areas.

Although school shootings are typically the more publicized tragedies, this does not mean that youth violence does not occur elsewhere. We need laws that protects all of us, not just those which suffer from events that the nation recognizes. As a country, we need gun control. However, that will not be enough.

We need to implement effective mental and emotional support for young people. The prison-like atmospheres that many of us face in school are not aiding our learning or our states of mind. We need counselors, not cops, in our schools. We need systems in place that allow us to unload the traumas we face out of school, so that we may learn and grow up to be productive members of society. As young people we face many challenges outside of school that impede and disrupt our learning. Improved support in schools would allow us to deal with these traumas so that we may better engage in our learning environments.

A TIPSTER GOES TO WASHINGTON

By: Peter Gilliam // Staff Writer



Parkland's Emma Gonzalez flips through a copy of TiP.

ALYSSA VAUGHN

On Saturday, March 24, I attended the March For Our Lives in Washington D.C. I was amazed to see so many people in one place, hundreds of thousands of people all marching together in order to send a message about gun control in America.

My parents have taken me to much smaller marches before—letting me hand out candy at the Muslim Ban Protest in Copley Square, for example—so this one was amazing to participate in.

When my father and I arrived just before 10 am, I saw trees everywhere filled with young teens waving huge signs like elephants waving their trunks. As the day went on, more and more people poured into the huge square until I couldn't see the stage anymore. The stage had two huge screens on it and a set of super tall speakers on each. It was plastered with huge blue-and-white "March for our Lives" posters.

I met Eugene and his 6-year-old son Logan at the march. Seeing Logan waving his home-made sign gave me hope that future generations will be more active in fighting for their rights.

I asked Logan what he thought of the march; he said he loved it and that he liked fighting for kids' rights, which was basically the cutest and most inspiring thing I'd seen all day.

I asked Eugene what he thought about militarizing schools for "safety" and he said that he thought it wrong to turn the loving learning environment into a warzone. I agree, because teachers are capable of making the same bad decisions as a school shooter.

There were so many good signs, like one red and yellow sign that said "If guns and Trump are the answer then we're askin' the wrong question!" which made my day, knowing someone else had the same views I had on the president and his policies.

If March For Our Lives showed me anything, it's that kids these days are ready to help, ready to learn, ready to lead and ready to fight for their rights. Kids will rule, sooner or later. We will be the next presidents, doctors, politicians, kings, queens, senators and soldiers. This is the next generation, so let's make this one count!



TiP reporter Peter Gilliam chats with other activists at DC's March for Our Lives.

HARRIS GILLIAM



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO IMPROVE YOUR SCHOOL!

Thank you to all the BPS Secondary Schools that identified their BSAC representatives and all the BSAC Members that dedicated countless hours engaging in meaningful discussions with BPS and City officials on decisions that impact their educational experience.

Thank you to the following Schools with Active BSAC Representatives in SY17-18.

- BCLA
- BLA
- BLS
- East Boston High
- EMK
- John D. O'Bryant
- Madison Park
- Mary Lyon Pilot School
- New Mission High
- Quincy Upper
- Snowden International
- Tech Boston Academy
- Urban Science Academy
- West Roxbury Academy

Are you interested in making a difference in BPS? BSAC is seeking high school students this fall to support student voice and civic engagement and work on important campaigns including school safety, student rights, environmental impacts and sustainability.

For more information, you can email Maria Ortiz, BSAC Student Engagement Manager at mortiz@bostonpublicschools.org or, Abraham Osorio, BSAC Student Engagement Coordinator at aosorio2@bostonpublicschools.org



SLURPING ONSCREEN

THE SOUTH KOREAN TREND THAT HAS TEENS LIVE-STREAMING THEIR DINNERS

By: Clinton Nguyen // Staff Writer

In today's technology-filled world, the most intimate interactions some get are through their computer screens.

Broadcast Jockeys, or BJs, can fill the empty void that comes coupled with your cheap instant ramen. BJs spend hours cooking and consuming food while live-streaming themselves on platforms like the Korean video streaming site "AfreecaTV." People around the world tune in to hear their favorites slurp their noodles and crunch the crispy exterior of their chicken wings. Many viewers eat along as they watch, enjoying the sensory experiences from the steady staccatos of knives chopping chives against wooden cutting boards to the sizzling of fish cake upon the electric grill.

This Internet phenomenon is known as mukbang (pronounced "mook-baang"), a portmanteau combining the Korean words for "eat" and "broadcast."

"When I'm lonely I can watch it, when I'm happy I can watch it, when I'm on a diet I can watch it," said @mukbanq. An Instagram user who reposts popular mukbang clips, @mukbanq has amassed over 264,000 followers, attesting to the popularity of this subculture.

Mukbang broadcasts all tend to follow a similar set-up. BJs typically stage their entire videos from the perimeters of their quaint bedrooms. They begin their broadcasts by chatting with their audience members within the chat box below their stream. This chat box allows them to crank up the intimacy and engage in conversations with their viewers. Another important aspect of the chat box is that it serves as a lucrative hotspot for the BJs, as this is where viewers may send them "star balloons"—the site's unique form of cryptocurrency which can be exchanged for regular cash. This aspect is the cherry on top of eating delicious food.

"Mukbang first intrigued me as I saw these thin females, like me, who would eat so much. The only difference was that they could eat so much more than me, which sparked my curiosity," said Wanyi Chen, a John D. O'Bryant student. Like Chen, many American high schoolers enjoy watching these videos, demonstrating how the trend has spread far from its origins in

South Korea.

Seeing how many have made this their full-time career—with some top tier broadcasters harnessing "as much as \$10,000 a month by some accounts, not including sponsorships," according to an article in Quartz—I decided to get into the fun and take a stab at this potential career option. Following the traditional mukbang set up, I visited my local Korean supermarket and purchased the traditional items for about \$20—store-made kimbap, pickled radish, and Samyang's infamous spicy ramen (popularized by the viral Internet trend "Fire Noodle Challenge"). After placing all of these atop a small wooden table in my room, I nervously began my broadcast.

As I slurped my first noodle, I realized how awkward this practice really is. I'm not Korean and don't know how to speak Korean, so I just ate silently as viewers began to slowly trickle in. My anxiety was running high. After amassing 20 viewers and consuming a row of kimbap, a couple slices of the radish, and a spiral or two of ramen, I had to conclude my broadcast, too uncomfortable to continue.

The actual experience made me realize how glamorized this peculiar occupation really is. I had difficulty splitting my attention between the aromatic food in front of me and the chat box (which had surprisingly more messages than I expected), making me realize how challenging it is to monitor the live stream and eat at the same time.

Apart from the few messages that came off a tad bit creepy, the messages were delightful. For example, people had noticed me tearing up as I consumed my spicy ramen, and they were kindly encouraging me to continue eating. They certainly added a dash of spice into this otherwise solitary occupation.

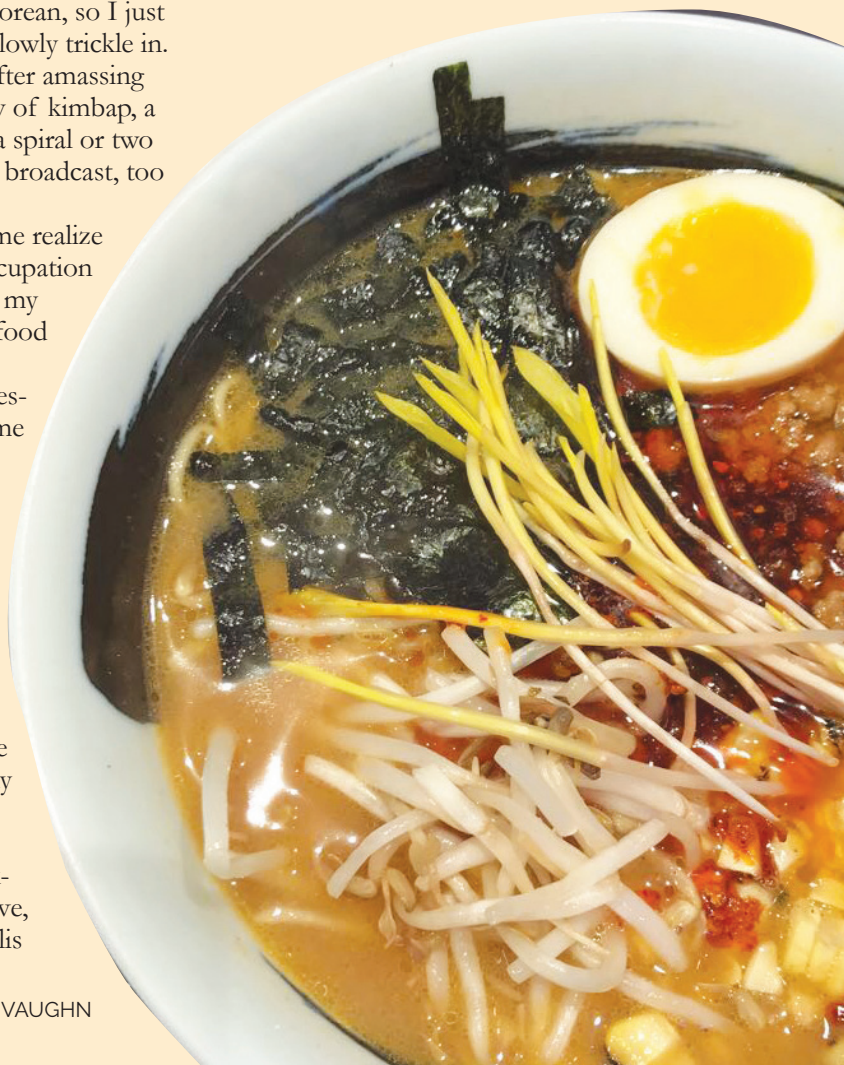
"I would consider doing mukbang as it appears to be a lucrative, yet easy, way to work," said Noelis

Tovar, a senior at John D. O'Bryant.

Prior to my broadcast, I would have agreed with Tovar. However, when I checked my star balloon count afterward, I realized that this was an optimistic viewpoint. During my brief mukbang, I accumulated only about 10 "star balloons." This translates to roughly 70 cents.

However, I was surprised to find myself making any amount at all. On top of that, I found my profile landing a spot on the streaming site's ranking chart. With a few more sessions, I may gather enough of the knowledge that high-ranking Broadcast Jockeys know so I actually take in more money than I spend.

But until then, I'm going to pocket my 70 cents, queue up some mukbang, and keep slurping noodles with Internet strangers.





THE MAGIC OF MONSOON SEASON MEMORIES OF LIFE IN SOMALIA

By: Yasmin Mohamed // Staff Writer

I've seen many odd things in my 14 years of existence. But seeing a untethered goat roaming the streets and not one soul blinking? A truly bizarre sight.

As an American-born Somali youngster, my life consisted of eating pasta with bananas (are you even Somali if you haven't had this?), running around in the woods, and tentatively tasting questionable berries in my hometown, Lewiston, Maine.

But when I was 9, my father bought the two of us plane tickets to Somalia and didn't mention they were one-way tickets. As I wondered what Somalia would be like, I pictured mounds of sand swirling around like a Harry Potter movie, and goats blaa-ing everywhere.

When we arrived in the town of Ceelbuur, I saw animals I've never seen before kicking in the beige sands; the sight was exquisite. The shops on the main road were made of worn bricks and painted with pictures and calligraphy. Our house had a view of the starry night sky. I often found myself wondering if my sister was looking into the same sky back home, missing her partner in crime.

Life in Somalia wasn't a smooth transition from the U.S. Most small villages and towns didn't have a water system and relied on wells. I could no longer place my cup under a tap and expect cool, refreshing water. Getting water became even more difficult when drought season rolled around and water prices skyrocketed. I also encoun-

tered my first squat toilet in Somalia, and my beating heart was too much to handle the first few times I used it. What if it didn't flush? What if I fell in and no one knew? Would I become the bathroom ghoul?

I was soon enrolled into Arabic school. It was tough; I had terrible Arabic handwriting and I didn't know a single word of Somali besides "mother" and "father." I wanted to tell stories of a small town with mounds of snow in the winter, and flowers that bloomed in a myriad of red, yellow and blue, but every time I met someone new, I couldn't say anything besides "hi" without feeling like I had cotton stuffed down my throat. I was the standout foreigner in my own motherland.

Eventually, my father brought me to my aunt and her family in a city named Badhan. I felt like my aunt's 11 children, nieces and nephews were staring as if I were a classroom pet. I hadn't interacted with any of them, and was often hiding in my father's shadow.

But then, in the beginning of the new year, monsoon season came around. The rain droplets didn't faze me, but my cousins lit up like children being given candy before bedtime. Rain poured. I stood in the doorway, watching my cousins frolic in the pouring rain, hesitant to join them. But then, my cousin lunged for my hand and tossed me playfully into the wheelbarrow, driving me into the rain. This gesture of familiarity made me giddy.

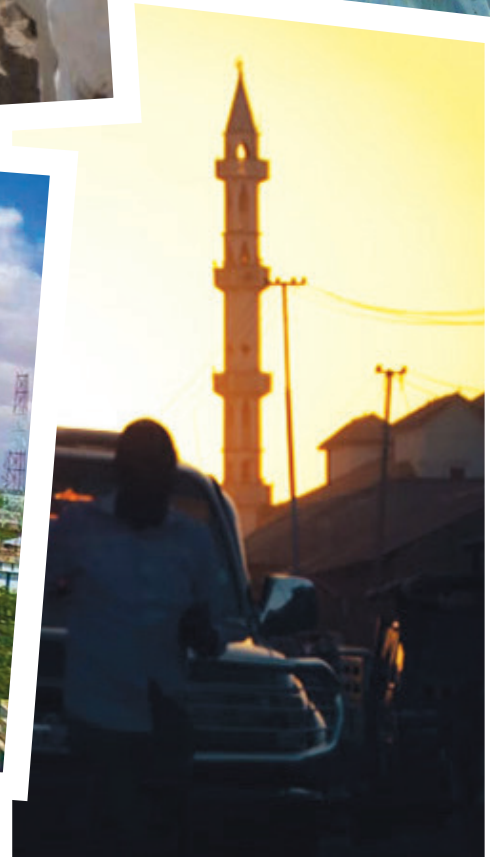
Over the next few months, I real-

ized my cousins were not as scary as I originally thought. They taught me how to speed jump rope, and in return I taught them inappropriate English words. I was one of them now, and I was content to have a set of friends to eat, laugh and play with. Although I was still looked at in an odd manner, it had simmered down, and I was treated the same as my peers.

A couple months following my 11th birthday, my mother wanted me to come home and continue middle school in the U.S. I felt torn. After two years in Somalia, I had learned this was a place I could call home, with my relatives always on the lookout for me. Although I didn't realize it at the time, Somalia had wormed its way into my heart, and the familiarity of Somalia is one I still yearn for.

I returned to the U.S. in May 2015. While my cousin was driving me home from the airport, I kept repeating "Is this America?" I spoke like this was a dreamland, filled with lush greenery and rough pavement. I had grown accustomed to flying, warm-toned sand and the swishing of willowy trees. Learning in Somalia was a unique experience, but I longed for the comfort of my mother's embrace and the foolishness with my siblings.

Most of all, I was happy to be reunited with my younger sister. She had grown so tall, taller than me. She bombarded me with questions, and I retold all the stories of my time in Somalia. With her, I knew I was home at last.



"THANKS, BUT...I HAVE A BOYFRIEND"

By: Fernando Semedo // Staff Writer

There was a girl I liked in my health class. One day, I decided to ask her out because I wanted to get to know her more. A little after the bell rang, I walked up to her in the hallway. "Do you want to hang out sometime?" I asked. She looked at me and took a long time to answer.

"Thanks...but I have a boyfriend," she replied uncomfortably.

Later, during lunch, I was sitting next to the girl in the cafeteria. I overheard one of her friends say, "I thought you had a boyfriend." The girl replied, "I don't."

I got angry. I couldn't believe she lied.

The most common thing girls tell me when I ask them out is that they have boyfriends. Often, this isn't true. I feel like this has happened to me 300,000 times. If a girl is single and she's not interested, she should be honest with me. She doesn't need to lie about it.

I think a lot of girls are afraid that if they don't say they have a boyfriend, I'm going to keep asking them out, but the truth is, I respect their decision. I also think girls are afraid that saying flat-out no is impolite, but actually, I would prefer they be honest. If you don't like me, just tell me straight up that you are single but not interested.

I asked other members of the Teens in Print staff two questions: "Why aren't people honest when it comes to dating and relationships?" and "What should you do if when you ask someone out, they tell you they are in a relationship?"

Honestly I think that people use the line to make sure that you don't get your feelings hurt, but when the news gets back to you, your feelings will get hurt. It's selfish and you deserve their honesty. **-Yasmin Mohamed**

I was in a friendship with a boy and ended up liking him. Once I told him, he felt uncomfortable, because he didn't like me in the same way. The friendship fell apart; he started to ignore me and tell people lies about me. He made me feel like I was less than what I was. What he did to me was a life lesson on loving yourself. **-Seana Fuller**

Being honest with someone is always the best way to go. If you are not interested in someone—or if you are—tell them straight out. With that being said though, I also understand why someone would lie about it to spare your feelings, or if they do not feel comfortable bluntly expressing themselves. **-Kiana McLean**

It takes a lot to make me genuinely like someone. So once I do, if I'm turned down, it is usually best if I stop talking to them all together. **-Jacob Downey**

I've had my fair share of rejecting people, and it isn't something that I do to make others feel bad or a mockery of their feelings—it's something that is genuinely not fun to do. You want to say yes, and you want to return the way that they feel, but you can't. Being rejected is better than being played with or strung along. **-Mariella Murillo**



AFH ART // KIM HAN

My advice for anyone who gets rejected by this line is to not take it personally. If a girl says that to you, it says more about her than it says about you. Sometimes you just have to forget about her. Just let it be.

FOR WOMEN, AGEISM IS GETTING OLD

By: Malia McClerklin // Staff Writer

According to society; youth is beauty.

It is a recycled set-up as old as time: the protagonist is a young maiden with rosy cheeks and a blemish-free face while the villain is a hunchbacked, cackling witch. The question is: why? What makes this overused trope so popular in our culture's narratives? The answer to that question could lie in the long history of ageism.

Ageism can best be described as the practice of showing prejudice toward someone due to their age. While underrepresented in the media, ageism is important to address. The idea that aging is a terrible thing that must be hidden is very harmful for women of any age, as it steers women to comply to a single standard for beauty. While guilty of many crimes, ageism truly rears its ugly head in the workplace, whether it be Hollywood or an average office.

Jamie Denbo, who plays Ginsberg in the hit show "Orange Is The New Black," auditioned for an unnamed project last year. She was rejected. Appalled, she Tweeted, "I was just informed that at the age of 43, I am TOO OLD to play the wife of a 57-year-old."

Carrie Fisher, best known for her iconic role as Princess Leia, began the "Star Wars" franchise at age 19. Fanboys of the film lusted after her in the 70s and 80s. However, as she got older and dared to look her age, the actress

noticed her treatment by fans shifting. Many people began intense debates on whether or not she aged well, as if she were merely an object to be judged. Fisher told the Wall Street Journal, "I swear when I was shooting those films I never realized I was signing an invisible contract to stay looking the exact same way for the rest of my existence."

While Hollywood does have its fair share of ageism towards women, the film business is not the only place this can be found. In the Washington Post article "Why Age Discrimination is Worse for Women," Lydia DePillis reports on a study by David Neumark and Ian Burn of the University of California at Irvine and Patrick Button of Tulane University. The team sent out 40,000 fake résumés that reflected the experience of fictional 42- to 51-year-olds. When they zoomed in on a sample of female applicants, they discovered that "those age 49 to 51 got 29 percent fewer callbacks than applicants age 29 to 31, and workers age 64 to 66 got 47 percent fewer callbacks." In other words, older women in the workplace are less likely to get jobs just because of their age, no matter their qualifications.

It is therefore no surprise that even young women are apprehensive of aging. "I don't think anyone wants to be that old because of the idea that your life is over," said Malia

Setalsingh, sophomore at Boston Collegiate Charter School. "I feel like all old people look like raisins."

What we need now is acceptance. It is ridiculous that something so trivial can allow someone to be excluded. However, some women choose to see getting older in a positive light. One such woman is the Deputy Director and Chief Academic Officer of WriteBoston, 36-year-old Jessie Gerson. "When I was younger, I worried about getting older, but as it turns out, it feels like life just gets better," Gerson said. "I enjoy feeling a clearer sense of purpose professionally as I get older."

Blyss Swan, sophomore at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, has a similar outlook. "Growing old is a part of life, and you're lucky to live that long," she said. "So what's the point of stressing about something inevitable?"

Many people think growing older is an adventurous experience, while others think it can be terrifying. Both groups of people are right! Middle-aged to elderly women have adventures, along with struggles. They are human beings and should not have to go through the biased profiling they do today throughout the workplace, Hollywood or not. The concept of ageism is ridiculous enough as it is. There is no reason it should impact women's careers.



AFH ART // JANNA MACH



SINCERELY, SEANA

Seana Fuller's advice column for the misunderstood, the mistreated and all the other misses out there.

DEAR SEANA,

I'm going to be starting at a new private school next year, and I'm scared. I know that I am probably going to be one of the only black students in my entire grade. Do you have any tips to help me fit in?

From,
Doubtful in Dedham

DEAR DOUBTFUL,

Build your confidence: immediately. You're going to mostly be around white students no matter what, so you should find good things about yourself that you like—maybe you're really smart, or you're really athletic. Find confidence from within.

Next, if anyone bullies you, make sure to stand up for yourself. If you don't like what someone has to say, you should tell them in a polite and respectful way. If you get angry and upset, you'll unfortunately reinforce the stereotypes that they already think of you. Don't let them win—address them politely and maturely, but challenge their ignorance.

You will also probably be asked to explain a lot of things about black culture that you're used to and your classmates don't understand. If you don't want to do that, you don't have to—you don't have to answer for every black person in the world. You're not the only black person in the world!

Finally, find spaces that support you. Look for afterschool programs that have good representation. If they don't have racial diversity, look for a program with diversity of mindsets or socioeconomic background. If you really want to connect with people of your own ethnicity, look around outside of school—in your neighborhood, online, or in an after-school program.

Sincerely,
Seana

DEAR SEANA,

I really want to be an actress one day. I have researched the best performing arts colleges to go to, and I've done all my school's plays. The problem is, my parents think being an actress is stupid, and that I should be a doctor instead. How can I get them to understand my dream?

From,
Dr. Drama Queen

DEAR DR. DRAMA,

Try politely telling your parents that the things that interest you are important. Your parents are probably scared that things won't go as planned, or maybe they're even worried that you'll become too successful and they'll lose you. Parents never want to “lose” their children (even though we all know that's just a part of growing up!). However, know that you can't really convince other people about stuff like this. But you have high ambition for what you really love. If you can't find support in your family, find other people who have the same goals. And don't let whatever your mother, your father, or your grandparents have to say get stuck on your mind. They're just trying to live vicariously through you, and you need to have your own ideas. Follow your dream. That may be an experience that you learn from. Don't reject something that you really like and that you've had interest in forever.

Sincerely,
Seana

DEAR SEANA,

Sometimes I just hate the way I look. I have very dark skin and my hair is really kinky. Sometimes people make fun of me for having such dark skin. How can I find a way to feel more comfortable with myself?

From,
Where's My Black Girl Magic?

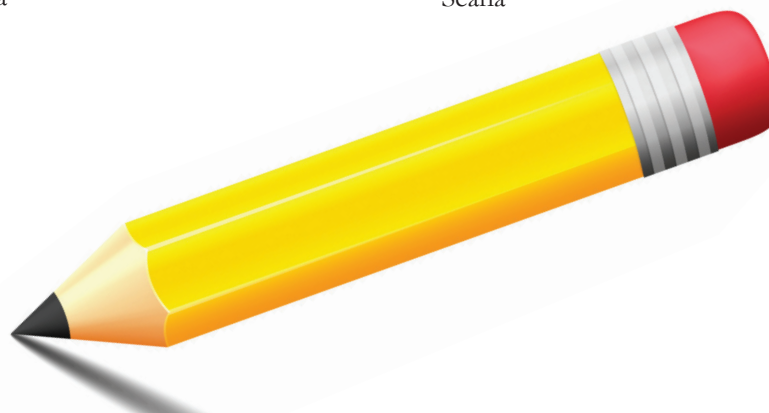
DEAR MAGIC,

Put yourself first. Don't compare or try to emulate someone else's beauty before yours. Don't focus on Eurocentric features that don't look like you. From straight hair to curly 3 type hair, Afro-beauty is amazing!

You should also look up people who look like you on Instagram. Follow Instagram accounts that post pictures of dark-skinned women and save pictures on your phone of successful black women, to look at whenever you need validation. Also, try to find hairstyles that enhance your kinky hair—check out tutorials on YouTube for hair advice and tips on how to go natural.

Finally, meditate. Listen to calm music or go outside for a little bit. Clean your mind. Travel if you have to. Look at beaches. When you leave your comfort zone, you might find that others see your beauty more than the people in your life do.

Sincerely,
Seana



PASS THE MIC



FOLLOW SOCIEDAD LATINA:

Twitter: @SociedadLatina

Facebook: @SociedadLatinaInc

Instagram: @sociedad_latina_inc

ABOUT SOCIEDAD LATINA:

Since 1968, Sociedad Latina has been working in partnership with Latino youth and families to end the destructive cycle of poverty, inequality to access of health services and lack of educational and professional opportunities in our community. Their mission is to create the next generation of Latino leaders who are confident, competent, self-sustaining and proud of their cultural heritage. If you are interested in joining Sociedad Latina, email program director, Juan Maldonado, at juan@sociedadlatina.com.

Sociedad Latina, 1530 Tremont Street, Roxbury, sociedadlatina.org.



ILLUSTRATION BY FREEPIK



“Teens in Print was out of my comfort zone because I didn’t like writing. But knowing that I have support makes me want to write more, and feel more comfortable with my writing.”

Yoskar Melo is a youth organizer for Sociedad Latina whose work is published in this issue of *Teens in Print*. After his first meeting with program director Carla Gualdron and AmeriCorps VISTA Alyssa Vaughn, he, along with the six others in the program, began writing about a topic he is passionate about, smaller class sizes in school.

For seven weeks, Melo and the other youth joined Gualdron and Vaughn for a crash course in journalism in the cozy, third floor meeting space at Sociedad Latina. Established in 1968, Sociedad’s mission has been to support and uplift the greater Latinx community in Boston. Through the Pathways to Success program, Sociedad seeks to introduce innovative solutions to the most critical problems facing Latinx across Boston. It offers year-round programs in education, civic engagement, workforce development, arts and culture.

The first thing you’ll notice upon walking into Sociedad is that this is no normal office. The space is a renovated residential building, giving it an inviting, homey vibe. Students can be seen working on homework, music, community projects and everything in between. The walls are lined with Latin Ameri-

can art, created primarily by the organization’s many students.

No youth program is complete without a really cool mentor and Sociedad is no exception, thanks to Wilmer Quinones. “I want to enable [my students] to become the leader that I want to become, so I try to provide them with as many resources and opportunities as possible,” he said.

Quinones, 23, started volunteering at Sociedad during high school, but loved the program so much that he remained there until just a month ago, helping Latinx teens. During his time at Sociedad, Quinones’ goal was to give his students the means to find the right career. This is why he introduced his students to programs like *Teens in Print* and sent them off on internships—so they could ultimately find out who they want to be.

One such student is Jennifer Mendez Perez, a senior at Madison Park High. Perez’s experience with Sociedad has helped her overcome shyness and motivated her to learn more about her community. Having never had an opportunity to write outside of school, she feels that *Teens in Print* has given her the opportunity to “show the world what I think is important and why it should be more important to them.”

The following articles are written by the students of Sociedad Latina, beginning with Melo’s opinions on school class size. —BY JACOB DOWNEY



THE CLASS SIZE CRISIS

By: Yoskar Melo //
Contributing Writer

AFH ART // DOMINIC DUONG

Many parents have concerns over how their children are educated. At the heart of these issues is class size. Numbers in classes have gradually risen over the last few decades, and now it seems we have reached a crisis point. Numbers need to be reduced because at their current levels, the quality of students' education is being negatively affected. Schools need smaller class sizes to stop students from disrupting class, allow teachers to have more one-on-one conferencing and encourage students to be more productive.

Smaller classes enable students to individualize conference with teachers for help. "In middle school, the classes were big and the students were talkative and the teacher had no control over the classroom," said Christofer Luna, a junior at Edward M. Kennedy High. "If the class were smaller, it would be quiet and more controlled."

In an interview with NPR, Jeremy Finn, a professor of education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, stated that classes of under 20 students are best. "In small classes, students' behavior changes even more than does teacher behavior," he said. He added that students are better behaved, pay more atten-

tion and support each other in learning more. Furthermore, Finn pointed out that children who were in small classes for three or four years were more likely to graduate high school and take college entrance exams. So these early grades of small classes have long-lasting effects.

Research from the National Center for Biotechnology Information has shown that student-teacher relationships are "protective factors in school adjustment." Also, a study conducted by the University of Turin found that positive and effective student-teacher relationships may play an important role in students' adaptation to the school environment, favoring both academic achievement and adaptive behaviors.

"Small classes are less hectic because with less students asking questions and needing help, the teacher can get to each student in one class," said Eddy Batista, a junior at Margarita Muñiz Academy.

Having the opportunity to ask questions and engage encourages students to be productive and get more work done. According to an article posted by international education company Education First, small classes allow students to learn more and learn faster. "This means the

class progresses through the course material more quickly. Their learning is enhanced by the confidence students develop to share their opinions and ask and answer questions, which also benefits their peers," it says.

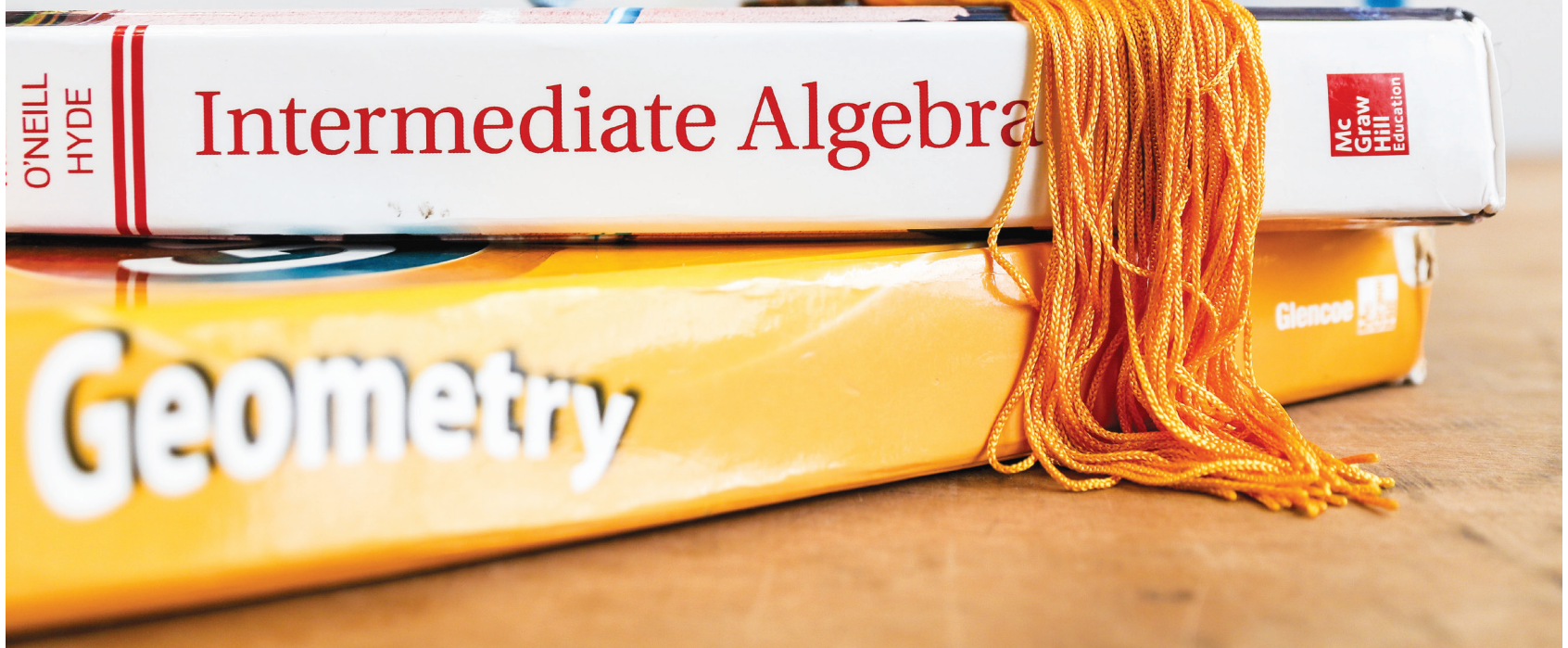
According to the Student Teacher Achievement Ratio, or STAR, study conducted in the 1980s, when class sizes are reduced, student achievement increases about three additional months of schooling four years later. In other words, when student-teacher ratios decrease, student achievement increases.

It's clear that class sizes have a major effect on student learning. Smaller classrooms help students to not disturb the class, enable students to have one-on-one conferences with teachers for help, and motivate students to get more work done.

Imagine you're in a noisy class, with kids yelling and talking too loud. You can't focus, you get distracted, you can't ask questions, and the teacher won't pay attention to you. Then imagine being in a small class—it's proactive, you have more opportunities, you're engaged. The teachers can learn about you so they can better teach you. Which one interests you more?

THE FAST TRACK TO A DIPLOMA

By: Radelquis Benoit Nuñez //
Contributing Writer



AFH ART // DARREN HICKS

Want to get free college credit before graduating high school? According to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, the state provides a program called the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership, which “provides opportunities for high school students to take college-level courses free of charge and simultaneously earn credit toward high school completion as well as their future college degrees.” While only a handful of high schools offer this opportunity, students should push for dual enrollment in all Boston Public high schools because they can earn free college credit and gain experience with college, plus it may increase the college graduation rate.

Dual enrollment gives students experience with college academics by allowing high school students to take high school and college courses simultaneously, for free. Securing your future by taking college classes during high school will bring you one step closer to success. According to edsources.org, “Dual-enrollment classes have been shown to give students a preview of the college experience and permit students to amass some post-secondary credit before even enrolling at a college or university.” In other words, dual enrollment helps students get more college experience while being in high school.

Fernando Rodriguez, a college coach from Sociedad Latina, wishes he could have taken dual enrollment classes in high school so that he would have been more prepared for college. “It would have given me an idea of what professors are looking for in my work,” he said. “Also it helps students to balance their time...you’re taking on additional work and that’s something a college student does.”

Additionally, dual enrollment may increase college graduation rates. According to a study done by the Community College Research Center, “Students who participated in dual enrollment in high school had significantly higher cumulative college GPAs three years after high school graduation than did their peers who did not participate in dual enrollment programs.” A better college GPA gives students more opportunities to get a better job post-graduation.

Dual enrollment helps high school students experience the lifestyle of college. It can boost their interests and allow them to experiment with career paths, while building up valuable credits and creating a successful network. Dual enrollment puts you on the right path for a successful future.

IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LUNCH GETS TRASHED

By: Wander Toledano //
Contributing Writer



AFH ART // AIJANAH SANFORD

Did you know that most students in Boston Public Schools don't eat the lunches they are provided during the school day? While BPS has made attempts to fix this issue, it's still not fully fixed. Improving the quality of school lunches is a matter that should be taken seriously.

In most school cafeterias, students often throw out their food. The 2015 New York Times article "Why Students Hate School Lunches" states "Food and nutrition directors at school districts nationwide say that their trash cans are overflowing while their cash register receipts are diminishing as children either toss out the healthier meals or opt to brown-bag it." According to the article, the food and nutrition directors saw that trash barrels in the cafeterias were full with the lunch that is served to their students. This is something that has to be fixed because in the long run, it will lead to bigger issues like some students going

hungry.

A good step towards improving school lunches is to have students get involved in creating the menu that will be served each day. School lunches are made for students, not the staff; therefore, students should have a say in what is being served. This is also an opportunity for the students to put their cultural dishes on the menu, which will make it more diverse.

"The people that make the school lunches, they don't really care about how they do it, or if the food has good flavor," said 16-year-old Eddie Batista of Margarita Muñoz Academy.

The Times article also states, "There's been a movement to relax a few of the guidelines as Congress considers whether to reauthorize the legislation, particularly mandates for 100 percent whole grains and extremely low sodium levels, so school meals will be a bit more palatable and reflective of culinary traditions."

The article also goes on to say, "other than mandating more fruits and vegetables, the new regulations haven't really changed anything except force manufacturers to re-engineer products so they meet the guidelines but not children's taste expectations." This is saying that the healthy meals that students get aren't enjoyed because they lack flavor. However, it is possible to make better lunches that still comply with these guidelines.

Students should get more involved with aspects of school life that affect their overall education. The staff in the schools need to consider that their preferences don't matter because the rules and regulations they make are for the students to follow, not them. Students should be more involved, especially with school lunches, because the food is served to the students but we don't have a say in what it is.

CASH FOR GRADES

THE SECRET TO GETTING STUDENTS MOTIVATED

By: Brandon Young // Contributing Writer

Are you in public school and don't have an afterschool job? Are you in a place where you aren't able to go to college because you and your family are not financially stable? Do you need motivation to go to school? If so, you have probably wished there were a way to earn money during school hours. Students should get paid to go to high school because it encourages them to graduate and improves their test scores.

Money might give students extra motivation to graduate. Dohn Community High School, located in Cincinnati, demonstrated that this system works. According to an article in CBS Cincinnati, Dohn's system allots \$25 to seniors and \$10 to younger kids each week. The money distributed to the students comes from Easter Seals and private donations. Additionally, every time students get paid, \$5 goes into a savings account they can access when they graduate. So if students need that extra push to come to school each day, there are immediate rewards, and if they need help going to college, they already have savings started.

Students are more likely to improve their test scores if they get paid to go to school. This is where the Advanced Placement Incentive Program, or APiP, comes in. In a school that participates in APiP, students in 11th and 12th grade receive money for good scores on AP exams. The amount paid per exam is different from district to district, and students can receive between \$100 and \$500 for each score of 3 or above in an eligible subject. This could add up to hundreds of dollars for students who take lots of APs. Sometimes, students just guess on tests and get bad grades, especially on difficult tests like APs. But if students are getting paid to get good grades on tests, it will motivate them to study.

Most students need more encouragement to go to school and money is one of the ways to give them a little bit more motivation. They will feel more hopeful about school. They can build savings if they need help paying for college. They will get a raise if they do even better on a test. High school students should get paid to go to school because it will encourage them to do better in high school, help students if they are in need of money, and improve school test scores. Money is the key to success.



AFH ART // DOMINIC DUONG

THEATRE KIDS

THE OFFSTAGE IMPACT OF AN ONSTAGE CHILDHOOD

By: Jacob Downey // Staff Writer

Inside a little white church, on an improvised stage, you peek through the curtains to see the audience anticipating the spectacle to come. The pianist's hands press down on the keys as you and your fellow actors come out from the wings. The show begins.

Located at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in South Boston, VSI Teen Theatre is one of many organizations across Boston that allows teens to not only act, but participate in the behind-the-scenes magic that brings a performance to life. Theatres such as these are where budding actors start on the long road to stardom.

Plenty of young people dream of walking down the red carpet as the DiCaprio and Jolie types applaud. However, even if your dreams are less performance-focused, theatre is still uniquely beneficial. For example, it's an excellent way to develop social skills. Having participated in theater since I was 6, I've enhanced my public speaking skills and forged relationships with some of the most important people in my life. But do not just take it from me—take it from your peers who have found their calling on the stage.

Antoine Gray Jr., a sophomore at Boston Arts Academy, began performing as a way to do something productive with all his Red-Bull-esque levels of energy. Acting has helped him break out of his self-proclaimed “bubble of crippling social awkwardness.”

“As someone who has hated being myself at times, having the opportunity to step into someone else's shoes for a little while and live someone else's truth is really amazing,” said Gray. Performing is not something Gray does for acclaim; rather, it is a passion for entertaining others that drives him to bring a smile to the audience. “If I can make one person in the crowd smile—even if I completely blew it—if I make someone smile, then mission accomplished,” he said.



“Well, it [theatre] has definitely been good for my ego,” joked local actor and expert breakdancer Kenny St. Fleur, also a student at BAA. Prior to joining an ensemble, St. Fleur was mostly a solo act on and off stage. If you were to meet St. Fleur, you would not believe it, but he was introverted for much of his childhood. But in 2016, Kenny got his first big role, playing William Barfee in “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” While doing his self-choreographed “Magic Foot” dance, St. Fleur earned a roar of applause as the audience fell for the former outcast. “I really love the craft and having everyone come together and seeing that end product,” he said. “It's beautiful.”

Over the course of putting together a show, the cast becomes like a family. For her cast, actress and production manager Marion Downey is the glue that keeps the family on the track to success. Downey spends many nights at production meetings, getting into the nitty-grit-

ty details of show magic, and spends her days reciting lines and rehearsing scenes.

After several starring roles, including Seymour in “Little Shop of Horrors” and Adolfo Pirelli in “Sweeney Todd,” Downey shines backstage, taking up a number of technical roles. As production manager, she sets up and inspects the rehearsal space, oversees the creation of costumes and props, and communicates messages between the director and cast. Her responsibilities are teaching her the discipline and leadership skills she needs to be successful in her future career.

Theater is more than performing, more than putting on silly outfits, saying silly words, and dancing around a stage. It is exposing yourself to something new. It is developing skills that will last a lifetime. It is meeting new people and forging new relationships. It is overcoming your challenges and making the world your stage. Because in the end, all the world's a stage anyway— isn't it time you find your role?

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE N-WORD IN LITERATURE

By: Ai Quyen Le, Aedan McLaughlin, Emily Jerome, Kenny Nguyen & Anthony Mazzola // Contributing Writers

The following letter was a culminating project for Boston Latin School ELA 10 students in their unit on “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain. They were asked to write a letter to the editor arguing for or against the book being required reading in U.S. public high schools.

A single word. That is all that is needed to break the silence on an unpleasant topic. That is why high schools should not ban “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain. The N-word is the sole reason

that some schools ban Huck Finn and others use an edited version which replaces the word with slave. We believe that this is misguided, because including the word creates a teaching moment where the students can have a discussion about the weight the word carries and the degree of racism that the word slave cannot reach. It carries the oppression of African-Americans, because inferiority was linked with skin color and not with slavery itself. This allowed slavery to be more widely accepted in the “land of the free,” as dark-skinned people were considered less than human. That word

alone will give students a chance to talk about an important topic that they would rather avoid and stay silent on. Discussions about difficult subjects such as this one will help students form their own morals and opinions on what is considered racist. In an English class, you would examine the humanity in stories, so how could you analyze human nature without talking about the full extent of its atrocities? Everyone feels uncomfortable at times, so let this be one of those times that we can talk about our dark past, and begin our path towards our bright future.



WHAT'S IN A WORD?

By: Masha Leyfer // Staff Writer

Did you think that 2017 was a big year for feminism? Or that 2016 was surreal? Did you use the laugh-crying emoji a lot in 2015? Well, if so, dictionaries took note. Every year, multiple dictionaries and several English-language-based organizations name a word of the year. Check out this timeline for some of the most interesting words of the year since 1999.

The American Dialect Society names **plutoed**, meaning demoted or devalued, its word of the year. RIP to the former smallest planet in our solar system.

The American Dialect Society names **occupy** its word of the year. On September 17 that year, the Occupy Wall Street movement began to protest economic inequality.

Merriam Webster names **surreal** its word of the year. Lookups for the word spiked after Brexit and the 2016 American presidential election.

1999

2006

2008

2011

2015

2016

2017

The American Dialect Society names a word of the decade, century and millenium. The word of the decade is **web**, just in time for the ten-year anniversary of the world-wide web. The word of the century is **jazz**. The word of the millennium is **she**, narrowly beating out science. “Before the year 1000, there was no she in English; just heo, which singular females had to share with plurals of all genders because it meant they as well,” explained the American Dialect Society. “In the twelfth century, however, she appeared, and she has been with us ever since.”

Merriam-Webster names **bailout** its word of the year after then-president Obama bailed out the banks responsible for the 2008 recession.

The American Dialect Society names **singular they** its word of the year, both because of its use in the LGBTQ community and its increasing usage to refer to a person of unknown gender.

In a shocking move nobody expected, the Oxford English Dictionary names the **laugh-crying emoji** its word of the year, challenging the popular conception of what counts as a word.

The Oxford English Dictionary names **youthquake**, meaning “a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people” its word of the year after a five-fold increase in the word’s use over the year. The word spiked first after the UK general election. The word has become even more relevant since, as the #neveragain movement has been led almost exclusively by high school students.

In the wake of the **#metoo** movement and the women’s march, Merriam Webster names feminism its word of the year.



PROS & CONVERSATION

On April 12, WriteBoston hosted its annual Pros&Conversation fundraiser at the Sanofi-Genzyme headquarters in Cambridge. Over 100 people gathered to raise essential dollars to support WriteBoston's teacher training and free student writing programs. The night was filled with hors d'oeuvres, networking and a conversation with some of New England's most interesting authors. The night also featured a keynote speech delivered by a TiPster from Charlestown High School and several other youth journalists who facilitated the panel of authors and interviewed attendees.

TiPsters asked the adults present “If you were on the staff of your high school paper, what’s an article you would’ve written?”

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE ENERGY OF THE PARKLAND MOVEMENT AND GUN CONTROL ISSUE. THERE IS SO MUCH MOMENTUM, I THINK IT'D BE INTERESTING TO JOIN IN.

Mira T. Lee, Author

I WOULD LOOK FOR STORIES I DIDN'T SEE BEING WRITTEN ELSEWHERE. I WOULD ALWAYS TRY TO LOOK FOR SOME UNIQUE OR UNUSUAL ANGLE.

Jabari Asim, Author

I would write about the pace of change... The pace of change is faster than it's ever been. It's going to be extremely interesting for people your age, in your generation, to deal with!

Jim Tierney, Managing Director of New England Market



The following is an excerpt of the evening's keynote speech, delivered by senior TiPster Seana Fuller.

Ever since I was seven years old, I have been writing in my journals and notepads as a way of expressing my most powerful feelings. One of my earliest journal entries starts off, "Dear Diary: I'm sad. Michael Jackson died. It's all over the news."

Needless to say, my writing has gotten a bit more sophisticated since then. As I got older, I began writing short stories that were pages and pages long. However, I never showed anyone my writing because I didn't think they would understand.

I've always felt a little different from everyone else. Throughout school, it has always taken me longer to process information. I noticed early on that while other kids were quickly picking up on new skills, it would take me a couple weeks to get to the same place. Finally, in the 9th grade, I was diagnosed with a specific learning disability. This made me sad. I started to question how smart I was. But I was determined to not let my disability hold me back. That's why, when my career counselor told me about Teens in Print's Summer Journalism Program, I decided to apply.

In the beginning of SJI, I had a hard time coming up with a story idea. It was frustrating because I felt like I was falling behind everyone else. Luckily, there were tutors who I got to work with one-on-one to improve my writing. When the paper came out in September, I opened up the paper and turned to my story right away. I was so proud. I realized that I wanted everyone—from my mom to the kids who had bullied me in school—to read this story. Writing was no longer just for my diary. Writing was for others to see and value. Through my experience with WriteBoston and Teens in Print, I realized that I wasn't just the girl with the "learning disability." I realized I had a voice.

I also realized I had many other stories to tell besides my own, so I decided to join Teens in Print's after school program. Over the past year, I've learned a lot of important lessons. I've mastered using Google Docs. I've learned how to network with adults. I've also gotten good at meeting deadlines, especially because our program director Carla sends 20 emails a day reminding me of them. But I think the most important thing I've learned in TiP is that writers can't get caught up in criticism from others or themselves; they have to have thick skin. Teens in Print has helped me to grow that thick skin by showing me that my work has value. Now, I know that my opinions and my stories matter just as much as anyone else's.



**IF I COULD WRITE ABOUT ANY
STORY TOPIC AS A TEENAGER IT
WOULD PROBABLY BE ABOUT...
WELL, THE SAME THINGS I
WRITE ABOUT NOWADAYS,
WHICH IS THE STRANGE MAGIC
THAT ENCOMPASSES THE
EXPERIENCE OF BEING A PERSON
AND THE DISSONANCE BETWEEN
WHAT WE FEEL AND WHAT WE
SEE IN REALITY.**

GennaRose Nethercott, Poet

TEENS IN PRINT IS THE EPITOME OF ADOLESCENT EXPRESSIVE FREEDOM.

When asked to think of something that encompasses Teens in Print, this is the first phrase I—as someone who has been involved in this program for nearly two years—can come up with. TiP is an organization in which no one is turned away or looked down on for their views. Everyone is accepted, valued and always given chances to grow and thrive at their own paces. It's almost like a perfect little journalism institute. Sadly, however, several of my peers and I will be graduating from this rollercoaster of an afterschool program this year. TiP has helped me and my friends develop communication skills and voices of our own that we look forward to carrying with us in the next chapters of our lives.

Even though we are moving on from Teens in Print, we hope the wonderful experiences and lessons we've had can be passed down to countless generations of teen reporters ready to flourish.

Thank you, and goodbye
(for now at least),
Kiana McLean and the TiP
Class of 2018



SEANA FULLER

Years in TiP: 1

Articles written: 4

I'll always remember...

Attending field trips and conferences with the staff.

What's next? UMass Boston.

BELKIS MONTAS

Years in TiP: 2

Articles written: 5

Favorite article: Play Like a Girl:

Gender Norms in Sports

What's next? Get money!

IVY (YA JUAN) CHEN

Years in TiP: 1

Articles written: 3

Favorite article: "Let's Stick Together: Chopsticks Link Us to Asian History." I got to interview the coolest people.

What's next? Going to college and traveling.

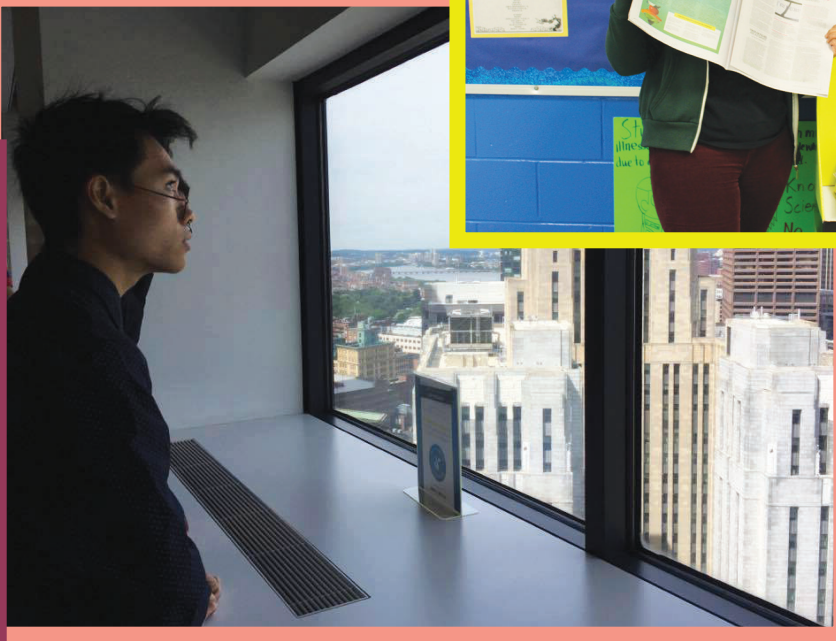
ANILDA RODRIGUES

Years in TiP: 3

Articles written: 9

I'll always remember... Visiting Prince Lobel and meeting the lawyers that selected my article :)

Whats next? Boston College.



KIANA MCLEAN

Years in TiP: 1.5

Articles written: 6

Favorite article: 3 Tips From a Struggling Writer.

What's next: Lesley University.

ELEBETEL F. ASSEFA

Years in TiP: 3

Articles written: 8

I'll always remember... Every Thursday, my friends and I sat in a makeshift circle to discuss our article ideas and the latest news. We often had heated discussions with people passionately defending their opinions and arguments.

What's next? Tufts University.

FERNANDO SEMEDO

Years in TiP: 1

Articles written: 4

I'll always remember... Writing about issues that I am concerned about.

What's next? I plan on attending college in the fall.

LET'S HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS

English and algebra aren't the only lessons you need to learn to survive in high school. Here, some of our senior writers pass on the wisdom they've learned outside their textbooks.

HOW TO... SURVIVE AP CLASSES FROM A PROCRASTINATOR WHO ALWAYS PULLS THROUGH

I enrolled in my first AP class in the 10th grade—AP Seminar—without understanding the weight and drag of the class. It seemed like every other day there was a research paper, essay or presentation due. For an expert procrastinator, and the queen of last-minute assignments, this was a complete disaster.

To make it through, I communicated with my teacher and stayed after school twice a week, until I was satisfied with my work. There were late nights and early mornings spent doing classwork. But after awhile, my brain expanded with the work I did, and I adapted to the workload, eliminating the need for late nights.

This was an immense help when I took multiple AP classes—AP English Language, U.S. History, and Chemistry—the next year, and was engulfed with enough work to bury a 16-year-old alive. But, I survived, with one hand reaching through the rubble to pass in paper after paper, until all the work was finished. I did this by being engaged and present in each one of my classes, by not being scared to ask for help and realizing certain sacrifices needed to be made, like cutting out free time and adding study time.

I prioritized my academics and what I believed I would benefit most from. This eliminated excessive stress, such as work responsibilities, and helped me manage more of the workload for my AP classes. It is essential to know your limit and make decisions that will further what you find paramount instead of trivial.

HOW TO... BECOME A PROFESSIONAL BABYSITTER FROM AN 18-YEAR- OLD BABYSITTER (WITHOUT A BABY)

Some people may think I'm delusional when I hold them above my head, wiggle them around as I look at their chubby faces and bright eyes, and then I dare to talk to them as if they are understanding any words that are coming out of my mouth...but I know what I'm doing.

Becoming a pro-babysitter isn't that difficult, but it requires patience and willingness.

Because babies can't talk, when things aren't going right for them, they cry. But that's not because they're bad babies or that they don't like you. Maybe they just don't like you yet.

All babies really need, besides the obvious stuff, is attention. Like any of us, they want to feel close to someone, feel appreciated and entertained. That entertainment does not require much preparation either. Sit with them, talk to them, play with them. Make them feel like they are the only thing you have on your mind. They may seem like they are not listening, but they are—they just can't respond using words, so instead, they make sounds. These sounds are signals that you are doing your job right.

People sometimes forget that babies are like us, and talking to them like they can understand you is not anything crazy. It is simply normal.

HOW TO... PULL ALL- NIGHTERS FROM A 17-YEAR-OLD WHO'S STAYED AWAKE MORE NIGHTS THAN HE'S SLEPT

I constantly boast about the numerous all-nighters I pull. I'd like to believe every night of unrest inches me closer to immunity from fatigue and closer to joining the Sleepless Elite. My sleepless nights were originally unintentional. Mix 9 pm trips to Starbucks with anxious thoughts looming above my head and add a dash of assignments I have yet to begin, and I have myself a sweet and spicy recipe for an all-nighter.

At first, I found myself longing for a night when I could rest my head against my doughy memory foam pillow. But after some time, I grew to love the feeling of being exhausted. So much, in fact, I began to experience no apparent effects of being tired. I felt a rush. It was like living on the wild side, without consequences.

Of course, the sleepiness sometimes creeps over and nudges me. These are the ways I brush it off.

- Drink a tall glass of cold water.
- Watch a short horror film to raise your adrenaline levels.
- Hold your breath.
- Expose yourself to blue light to prevent the body's natural production of melatonin.
- Lastly, don't stay up just for the sake of it, have a goal, whether it be just to have fun or finish that book report you've been putting off.

Hopefully, after all those tips, you have made use of your all-nighter and now you may reap the rewards of being productive. Best thing is, the longer you go without sleep, the sweeter it feels once you actually succumb to it. So go ahead, knock yourself out and indulge in a full night's rest—you deserve it.

HOW TO... BECOME A STUDENT ATHLETE

FROM AN 18-YEAR-OLD WHO SPENDS MORE TIME ON THE COURT THEN SHE DOES IN HER OWN HOME

It starts with a spark, something that piques your interest. Your first practice is hell, knees weak, ribs hurting. You wonder why you even signed up for this sport in the first place. I have been in this situation countless times, but I love it.

I began playing squash at age 12. Six years later, I am more passionate about the sport than ever before. But this didn't come easy. There were times where I was sore and too tired to practice and times where I felt like I wasn't getting better, and that impacted my motivation to continue. But I persisted.

To become a great athlete, it's most important to love the sport you play, because you need to dedicate a lot of time to it. I trained on my off days, I asked coaches to do one-on-ones, asked people who are better than I am for advice. Even though I've been playing for years, I still do.

Also, look at videos of professionals and see how they play. Take note of how they pitch, run, or hit the ball, anything that can help you get better as an athlete. Emulate your favorite player—mine is Raneem El Weleily. I've always looked up to her.

To become an athlete is to love what you do. Once you love what you do, everything else becomes easier. Remember the saying, "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life."

ADHD TREATMENT IS STIGMATIZED, BUT ESSENTIAL

By: Anilda Rodrigues // Staff Writer

We've all failed at some point, whether at school or in our personal lives. But for someone with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), failure seems to be a lot worse. As someone with ADHD, I feel distressed daily. Completing "normal" tasks seem impossible, causing me to feel defeated. It's very important that people understand this condition and the people who live with it. While you may not be able to help their brains, you can help by being supportive and educated on their symptoms.

There are two kinds of attention deficit, inattentive (ADD), and hyperactive (ADHD). The difference is, if you have ADHD, you have trouble staying still for a long period of time. ADD is a mental hyperactivity, where your attention is everywhere.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, symptoms of ADHD include fidgeting, forgetfulness, trouble following directions and controlling emotions, switching quickly from one activity to the next, being easily distracted and frequent daydreaming. ADHD is on a spectrum, so not everyone struggles from symptoms in the same way. The severity varies and depends on factors such as environment, diet and how often you exercise.

Some of these symptoms can lead to serious consequences. For example, according to CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder), youths with ADHD are "overrepresented among crash and fatality statistics than their non-ADHD peers." This not only puts ADHD drivers at risk, but others as well.

People with ADHD also often suffer panic attacks. These feelings, according to Dr. Andrea Spencer, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Boston Medical Center, make teens with ADHD "blame themselves and feel demoralized." Michelle Privé, clinical social worker at Boston Medical Center, said that ADHD can also lead to "academic and social difficulties, which may increase feelings of frustration, irritability, sadness, low self-esteem, or loss of motivation." Over time, these feelings can make you feel depressed, or contribute to depression.

Despite the challenges I'm destined to bear, I felt relieved when I finally understood the reasons for my inattentiveness and frustration. But it wasn't long after that I perceived the stigma many have about ADHD—that those on ADHD medication haven't tried hard enough to control their symptoms. From personal experience, I can tell you this is not true.

It isn't me who wants to take three hours doing one assignment. I want to finish my homework as early as I can, I want to sleep by 10 pm each night and I want to be able to control my brain so that I complete my tasks on time. I am sure this applies to many others who also have ADHD, but we have little control over our brains.

I have tried to overcome my ADHD. I'm on a pescatarian diet, limiting foods with preservatives, artificial flavors and colors in attempt to eliminate factors that may trigger symptoms. I try to find a "perfect" place to study and do homework, where I can focus. But blocking external distractions is not enough. Even in these "perfect" environments, it's nearly impossible



AFH ART // KIARA MAHER

to get my undivided attention on what's in front of me. I often feel as if I'm a total failure, that I can't accomplish anything like a "normal" person.

"I wish people would understand that ADHD can make it hard for those who have it to focus on one thing at a time, and people keep pressuring us," said Illea Hutcherson, a student at the William W. Henderson Inclusion School.

Regardless of the stigma, it is important for ADHD to be treated. Understanding your disorder and what works for you will force you to create coping mechanisms early on, before life gets even more hectic to manage. ADHD is typically treated with stimulants, which increase neurotransmitter dopamine in the central nervous system, while improving focus, attention, planning and organization. Dr. Spencer said these medications are safe and effective when taken as prescribed. She added that "up to 90 percent of children with ADHD can get relief from their symptoms with medication."

There are also natural ways to improve ADHD. Privé suggests using tools to help you stay organized, such as a daily planner or apps on your phone. Limit your distractions by keeping your phone away while you are doing homework, or sitting near the front of

the class in school. Use a timer if you work best under pressure. Lastly, practice mindfulness or meditation. By practicing these strategies, your symptoms and feelings may improve.

ADHD may seem pervasive, and while it still impairs one's life, it's not the worst thing. People with ADHD tend to be very enthusiastic and we get excited over the smallest things. We also have a very special talent—the ability to hyperfocus. Many writers, engineers and artists with ADHD are successful at their jobs because of this superpower. Hutcherson said, "Drawing helps my mind focus and settle because I really enjoy it and it just helps me get used to focusing on my work more." Use your hyperfocus to your advantage by finding a productive activity that helps you alleviate your stress, as Hutcherson has. This lessens your feelings of failure, because you know what you're a master in.

Helping the ADHD community begins with acknowledging their struggles. Instead of judging or ridiculing them for their mistakes or their behavior, let's start helping them turn their feelings into feedback on how they can improve. People with ADHD love trying new things and failing at something new is perfectly okay. It merely shows how determined and resilient we are.

UNDER WRAPS

5 TIPS FOR HEALTHY HAIR UNDER YOUR HEADSCARF

By: Yasmin Mohamed // Staff Writer

You step inside your house after a long day and tug at your headscarf, and toss it as far as you can see. You're free! You walk into the bathroom and staring back at you is a wild tumbleweed sitting on top of your head. You ponder, "Is this really my hair?!" If you find yourself in this situation, where you scare yourself silly after taking off your headscarf, I have a few pieces of advice for you.

USE PROTECTIVE HAIRSTYLES

Braids and other styles can keep your hair in healthy condition. Your hair will be lying on your head instead of in a huge lump. Plus, you won't have to brush your hair constantly! You'll save time getting ready for bed and get more sleep. It's a win-win situation.

LET YOUR HAIR BREATHE

Your headscarf is constantly compressing your hair to your scalp—let it run wild. Let your crowning glory take a breather, similar to marathoning Netflix on a Sunday, or going for a walk in the park. That way, your hair won't be matted like a wet dog's.

DON'T POSTPONE DETANGLING

Leaving your hair a matted mess won't do you any good. Yes, no one will actually see that mop of so-called hair, but this is still not advisable. Pick up that hairbrush and gently detangle your hair. The reward of running your fingers through your hair is worth the time it takes to brush out the knots. Your scalp will thank you!

WASH YOUR HEAD-SCARVES REGULARLY

Oil, dirt, hair products and goodness knows what else are in your headscarf. And noticing that your headscarf smells funky halfway on your commute to school isn't fun. Don't leave your hair in a cry for help, and toss that headscarf in the wash. Besides, it'll smell pleasant in the not-so-nice-smelling train station.

DON'T WRAP TOO TIGHT

You need circulation to your scalp and head, so loosen up a bit. No circulation to the scalp will result in hair loss, and you might not want clumps of hair floating down to greet the floor. Also, it'll help prevent migraines, dizziness and headaches that no one wants.

If you follow these tips, your hair will look like the models in the Pantene commercials. Remember, consistency is key—don't fall off your hair routine. I wish you loads of luck on your hair journey! Treat your hair like the noble it is.



AFH ART // ESTHER BOBO

FRESHEN UP YOUR FEED

By: Ivy Chen // Staff Writer

Our generation's obsession with social media may seem unhealthy on the surface, but a daily dose of scrolling through healthy content can bring motivation, creativity and laughter. Instagram is a great spot for all of the above. Here are four accounts that will amp up your positivity.

@BENZANK

I love photography, and I love pieces that brings out the photographer's personality. Ben Zank takes simple, yet quirky pictures. His photos feature models, but you can never see their faces. The setting is always vast, like an empty highway, rainforest, or the beach. Sometimes the models are naked, but in a way where their nakedness is not inappropriate. After scrolling through a few photos, you start to appreciate the hard work the models endure by holding such difficult positions.

@JACQUEMUS

When I hear "beauty," I think of women and the natural silhouette of their figures. French designer Simon Porte Jacquemus curates and designs his Instagram feed tastefully to showcase his beautiful clothes on beautiful women. I fell in love with his account after seeing the variety of models, their many shades of skin and hair textures. The women in his photographs often pose in sunny, natural settings, giving followers the urge to go on summer vacation. Jacquemus's clothes provide a pop of color among the millions of photos in my feed.

@EMILYELAINEOBERG

Sponsorship and ads eventually get tiring, but this Instagram influencer doesn't force her agenda. Instead, she promotes positivity and unity of women. Emily Oberg's account features vintage streetwear, sneakers and fitness. She often shows us her workouts, the sneakers she prefers when exercising and water bars! Oberg shows her followers her home cooking and promotes drinking water. She pushes supporting women-owned businesses and the general collaboration of girls.

@ONEGIGCO

One Gig is a local apparel and skate shop in downtown Boston. Their Instagram feed features Boston-themed t-shirts, jackets and shoes that are all painted or printed by local artists. The owner of the store is extremely laid back; he will reply to anyone who comments on his photos. OG is a retail store but the Instagram photos make it seem like an art gallery instead, with sculptures and a variety of paintings. There are occasional skating videos and posts that show off the staff's personality. The store also posts about incoming ice: necklaces, grillz and rings. This account is a physical representation of culture.



DEATH SENTENCE

By: Kenny St. Fleur // Contributing Writer

Hello class/
 Answer this question truthfully, honestly, and with fairness, please./
 Raise your hand if you feel that you have any reason to be scared of me/
 And It's fine/
 its seems i/
 Wasn't thinking carefully/
 By that i mean that if you're terrified by a man who writes, then shakespeare must keep you up at night./
 I am nowhere near sorry, because if you are afraid of creativity, then allow me to tell you ghost stories/
 Ain't it funny that we know what school we go to and even knowing that we make the same mistakes every school has to go through/
 Mistakes we simply cannot make because of what we think we stand for/
 And yet forever more i'll be labeled unstable hiding under every table until im able to pick up a pencil again/
 Instead of trying to comprehend, you chose to enslave my name to the government/
 I wait patiently knowing my life could be ruined with a stroke of a pen/
 Its funny cause i trusted you/
 I opened up my mind for you, i guess my thoughts just threaten you/
 I wish i could apologize for being different but then i'd be sorry for living too/
 And who is anyone to tell me my creativity is dangerous/
 Are words on paper enough to endanger us/
 We live in a world with drugs and gun violence and a poem is where we draw the line/
 A brutal reality where a man can't even speak his mind/
 Your actions say it all, i'm walking on thin ice/
 And don't you ever say you were trying to help me, all you did was set me up/
 If you wanted a conversation then you would've just hit me up/
 But it's clear to me now that when you're afraid you lose all the logic that you need most/
 My words truly frighten you? You look like you've seen a ghost/
 God so help me I never imagined that people could be so tragic to not think about their actions before they play with matches and i just so happen to be ashes that stands in

your way of havoc/
 Make me the bad guy this time by recording my every rhyme and making it like a crime that I've committed/
 Convicted by every judge that my words are the tools that did it/
 I can honestly go on and on about everything that was wrong/
 Even had a cop say that i don't belong/
 Creativity is on trial and you sentenced it to death/
 Creation is my oxygen, and i'll savor every breath/
 Aren't we all afraid of something?/
 We're allowed to feel our fear, we are paranoid of what's becoming/
 But what happens when what you're afraid of is merely nothing/
 What happens when you make a mistake because you were too busy running/
 Am I criminal?/
 Are we to believe I had bad intentions/
 Nobody ever mentioned it when I finished each sentence/
 Now thanks a lot to our society for falsely labeling me because the fact that we cannot see the true signs of profane rationality/
 I'm glad my information will be carefully evaluated/
 I'm captivated by the idea of a piece I created to be mis-translated, not even debated before they went ahead and complicated/
 I wanted to put forth my mind and body into every invention I made/
 And once again I will not apologize for thinking to be brave/
 Because every loving piece I ever written was for me/
 I will not cease and decrease, this an order by my decree/
 This is my declaration, consider my voice weapon/
 Your oppression will only succeed in fueling my own obsession/
 So if you're still afraid of me then you've taken my words for granted/
 The world will meet its change, listen and understand this/
 Hope you'll come to terms and thought about repentance/
 This is the end for our clearly innocent defendant/
 Goodbye my creativity gone without its vengeance/
 -Death Sentence

BAD VIBES FOREVER

By: Djibril Conte // Staff Writer

The life I have now started in 8th grade when I thought this odd absence of emotion was a survival technique my body decided to pick up. At the time I thought the apocalypse was coming at any moment. And it did: the clouds in my head darkened and brought in heavy rain, some of it leaks through my eyes. Then the tectonic plates made earthquakes that split right through my heart. Then the volcanoes erupted in my brain and burned down all my thoughts. Now I'm standing here watching my world fall apart and not knowing how to save it. Sometimes I try to forget it but this sight is just so hard to miss when I wake up and see it in the mirror.

"Hey, how are you" they ask.

The race my brain was once in is now racing even faster as it tries to forget a random memory and make a flipagram out of the worst ones and trying to decide whether I should say good again, or actually answer this time. Then my brain takes a sip of humor juice and answers "nah I'm dead inside." What they confuse for humor is what I call a true story, I'm constantly conflicted and the depression jokes are real life but I slide in a smile so they forget about it like I try to every day. I have trouble with basic math but I can think of one memory and remake them into a thousand different scenarios all without the same outcome. I can go from happy to sad all based off of how my playlist decided to shuffle.

I hate you and everything you stand for, i hate that you have to remind yourself you're ok, i hate that you lie to yourself and say everything is alright, i hate the way you look in the mirror, into your own eyes and through all the darkness you find even the slightest light of hope and hold onto it. I hate that you'd rather take the pain from other people instead of getting rid of your pains. I hate that you put yourself below everyone you meet and you're so willing to risk so much for people that dont care about you. I hate that you are so nice to people. I hate that you go back to the people that did you wrong because you see the good in them no matter how much bad they show. I hate that no matter how hard life gets you stand and fight life back even harder, giving your all into a lost cause. I hate that you let the good people walk out so easily but keep the bad people close and allow them to derail you and change you into something you don't want to become. I hate that rather than coming out and admitting that you are having trouble, you hide behind the humor and the weirdness and hope nobody sees through it. I hate you because I am your hate, for that we will always be bound to each other, so while you think you may be spreading me to everyone else you're directing to yourself.

THE BEGINNING

By: Josiah Ramirez // Contributing Writer

I am the Warlock Odus, eye of lightning and my dragon is Nylrys, the eternal one. My loyal friend and I have been alive for many centuries, but the knowledge we hold was not easy to come by. Sit down, young Warlock, and let me tell you the story of the enchanted country of Nepulan.

To understand this story, you must know that this ancient land was run by the three original races, the Woodland Elves, the High Elves, and the Dark Elves. The Woodland Elves were best known for their ties to nature, the High Elves known for the elements, and the Dark Elves known for their brute strength and dark magic. The Elves all signed a blood Oath stating that they would stay separate, only trading goods and directions to the nearest port. The most important part of the pact was that they could never invade each others' homes. Remember this. Now...let us begin.

The Beginning

Mnemenh Ralofina sat by the Great Lake, its beauty breathtaking and absolute. The Flaring Mountains surrounded the Woodland City of Ares Serine. A small opening lay ahead, the only way onto the beach. White sand packed the ground, and a gentle breeze blew through Mnemenh's hair. With a deep breath, Mnemenh gracefully got up and turned his back to the Lake. One more look, he told himself. Being a Woodland Elf meant that he was one with nature. The woods were his home and the animals his friends. A large speck of white blocked his vision, and his heart stopped. The High Elves had come, which could only mean one thing: they broke the most sacred agreement. They broke the Pact. Summoning all of his energy, Mnemenh leaped onto a tree, and continued to leap from one tree to another. He needed to get to Ares Serine before it was too late.

As Mnemenh landed at the gates of his home, his vision grew red, and his sight darkened. Their sacred tree, Eeflon, was damaged. Every single Woodland Elf would feel her pain. He was too late. The High Elves were already there. Mnemenh climbed the gates to his city and saw a world of fire. Woodland Elves were being stabbed, slashed and shot full of arrows. Their arrows did no harm to the High Elves' armor. Their metal shattered when it came in contact with the High Elves' elven steel. An earth-shaking roar pierced Mnemenh's ears. His heart leapt with joy and hope. The young Warlock Odus had heard their cry and had come to help. He jumped off of Nylrys, his jet black dragon, and threw blasts of magic. The High Elves all turned in unison, and every High Elf threw balls of fire at the Warlock. He blocked and wove magic so fast that Mnemenh's eyes could barely keep up. Nylrys was just as deadly, raking his great claws through the ranks of enemy elves. Tongues of blue flame came from his maw and lit up the elves...

Want to know what happens next? Visit www.bostontip.com to read the full story.

i'm tripping over my words but i can't tell if i'm falling for you or just falling in general.
my heart is pounding but i can't tell if it wants you or it wants to want.
is it you that's making me feel this way or is it the adrenaline pumping through my veins.
am i in love with you or am i in love with falling

—Dr. D

THE ISLAND TREE

By: Zeline Reyes Cruz //
Contributing Writer

It was a bright sunny day in Hawaii, where humans had yet to be made. Nestled in the North Pacific Ocean were a couple of islands who loved each other dearly and had a child that was a tree. The lady island's name was Marie, the man island's name was Sebastian, and the tree's name was Quinn. This family was special because Quinn was born with roots on both islands, which connected them to one another.

One day, there was an enormous earthquake. But the only island that was damaged was Marie. Marie had been sobbing for hours while Sebastian wasn't nearly as devastated. In fact, he looked the opposite of glum; he seemed happy. When Quinn saw her mom crying and her dad smiling, she began to question them.

Quinn's palm tree leaves lowered when she asked Marie, "Mommy, why are you so sad? Tears are in your eyes. You can talk to me."

"I am sad because of this earthquake Mommy had to deal with," said Marie. "I had to go through it all on my own," she replied with a frown.

Quinn then turned to Sebastian and started to question him.

"Daddy," she asked. "Why are you happy?"

"Well, I am happy, baby, because the earthquake has stopped and I wasn't as badly affected as your Mommy!" Sebastian replied with a cheerful tone.

It had been a few days since the earthquake. Marie was still ravaged and broken, while Sebastian was clean and healthy. Marie teared up here and there, and Quinn noticed something was not right. She became worried, which led her to ask Marie what was wrong.

"Darling, Daddy and I are separating because of the earthquake."

Quinn then realized that it was true. The islands were moving half an inch apart each day. Marie explained to Quinn that she and Sebastian were worried if they split up because Quinn had roots connected to both islands. Quinn had already noticed that the earthquake was driving their family apart.

It had been months since the earthquake. Quinn's roots had now been separated. A branch of her roots was just on her mother and the rest of her roots were on her father. It seemed as if she was hovering over the water without any land beneath her, and she was nervous of what was to come. She kept on questioning whether she was to be with her father without her mother, or with her mother without her father. Nature was to take its course sooner or later.

The next day, Quinn woke up to the calling of her name from her mom and dad. Once Quinn opened her eyes, she saw that she was split in half. One half of her trunk was with her mom and the other half was with her dad. Although the earthquake tore apart her parents, it could not break up her family. Now Quinn doesn't have to worry because she is with both parents every day.



CINCO DE MAYO

By: Sarah Hayek // Contributing Writer

Day of the dead.

It's time...it's time she dies.

It's time for her to leave. Be gone.

Not all of her though

Just the ugly parts

The side of her that is angry and lost

The side of her that is consumed with hate

It's time to pick herself up and leave.

Walk. Not run.

But walk, one step at a time.

So this day, she decides to celebrate the death of her other half.

The half that has been causing her pain

It won't be easy but she will try

For herself, her future, and her loved ones.

She told herself that she must love them enough to leave no space for hate

She will admire them to leave no space for anger

She will find the light in them to leave no darkness to get lost in

She needs hope.

She needs a hero.

She needs a sign that she is loved and deserving.

She needs a chance to be forgiven.

But today, today she dies

Today the bitterness fades

Leaving the sweetness to fill her soul

May the dead rest in peace.



SELF-LOVE

By: Sarah Hayek // Contributing Writer

I've been talking a lot about how amazing falling in love with someone else is that I forgot to tell you about the wonders of falling in love with yourself.

Please forgive me

But we tend to always compliment others around us without realizing our own beauty

You were created with marvels of natural perfection

So yes, you are beautiful*

Despite your acne

Your crooked teeth

Your stretch marks

Your white, pale, brown, black skin

Your skinny/thick thighs

Your frizzy hair

Your brown eyes

Whatever it is that society has a tendency of hating

You are beautiful

The existence of another's beauty does not mean the absence of yours

I find a rose to be a beautiful plant and I find the stars to be as beautiful

They are nothing alike but both are still equally ravishing

And along with self-love comes the act of forgiving

Yourself and others

Let go of it

The hurt

The anger

The pain

The doubt

Let go of the past and look ahead

because you have a lifetime to go

You should not live not knowing your worth

So go, find yourself

Find your new self

Whoever that may be, believe me, you will love them

It sounds scary yes, but you have lived through worse

Find hope

Keep going

If anything I learned is that life has a way of working out in our favors

There is a light, even in absolute darkness

beautiful*: the act of being you.

WELCOME TO FEMINIST BOOT CAMP

By: Gabriella Diplan // Contributing Writer

Listen up men: this is for you.

THIS IS YOUR DRILL SERGEANT
GABRIELLA ANAIS DIPLAN SPEAKING.
YOU HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY DRAFTED
INTO THE FEMINIST ARMY!

For all you men who proudly proclaim that you're feminists, I'm here to inform you that it's more than wearing a cute t-shirt; it's a way of life. If you really want to wear your pussyhat, you're going to have to earn it, and you can by following these steps.

PIPE DOWN AND LISTEN UP.

Society's most egregious mistake was teaching men to speak whenever they want. It's not that I don't love hearing your voice, but you never know when to shut up. Look, this may be a tough pill to swallow, but it's not always about you. A man may think that his voice is the most important one in the room, but it's not. I guarantee you women have something to contribute to the conversation, as they always have, and always will. While this may sound cliché, sometimes the best thing you can say is nothing at all.

DO IT YOURSELF.

Men are plagued by a disease I like to call

"Do-Nothing Syndrome"—when you expect a woman to do all your work for you. While it's flattering that you think of us when you have a problem (because we're definitely smarter than you) WE ARE NOT YOUR BABYSITTERS! By helping you out, we've given you the impression that we're at your beck and call, when really we're taking time out of OUR days to serve YOU.

WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS, SO TREAT US AS SUCH.

Women don't owe you anything. In fact, it's the other way around. Women are not for you to show off, we're not your arm candy and we are definitely not your trophies. Men do not get to dictate how attractive we are, that responsibility is bestowed onto us. In all honesty, I really don't think you get to judge considering you're not all that attractive yourselves.

Are you scared? Good. Afraid of what your little friends might think? Good. The Feminist Army is not for the weak-minded. It's for real men only. Are you one of them?

DISMISSED.

THIS WOMAN

By: Dorothy Jeune // Contributing Writer

This woman,

Belongs to you, her heart is possessed by you

She handed you her soul, her mind, and her body

Solely with affection and fidelity.

This woman,

She hesitates, but you reassure her of your promises

You've restored her spirit in truth and intellects unknowingly

Cautiously watered her roots, recovering all her losses.

This woman,

Adores your sincerity, your love, your know edge, your patience

She honors your integrity, as it intensified her attraction towards you even more

An attraction comparable to the moon and the oceans.

This woman,

Fell in love with your warmth, your gentle support, and romantic notions

You've become her fantasy in a world of dreams and false illusions

With a heart of gold you've accepted her guilts, her agonies, her past and Willingly embraced all the dents, the scars and damaged heart.

This woman,

Without you she does not flourish, she does not blossom, she does not feel

Her nerves soothes with your scent blending in the aura, the charm in your smile and

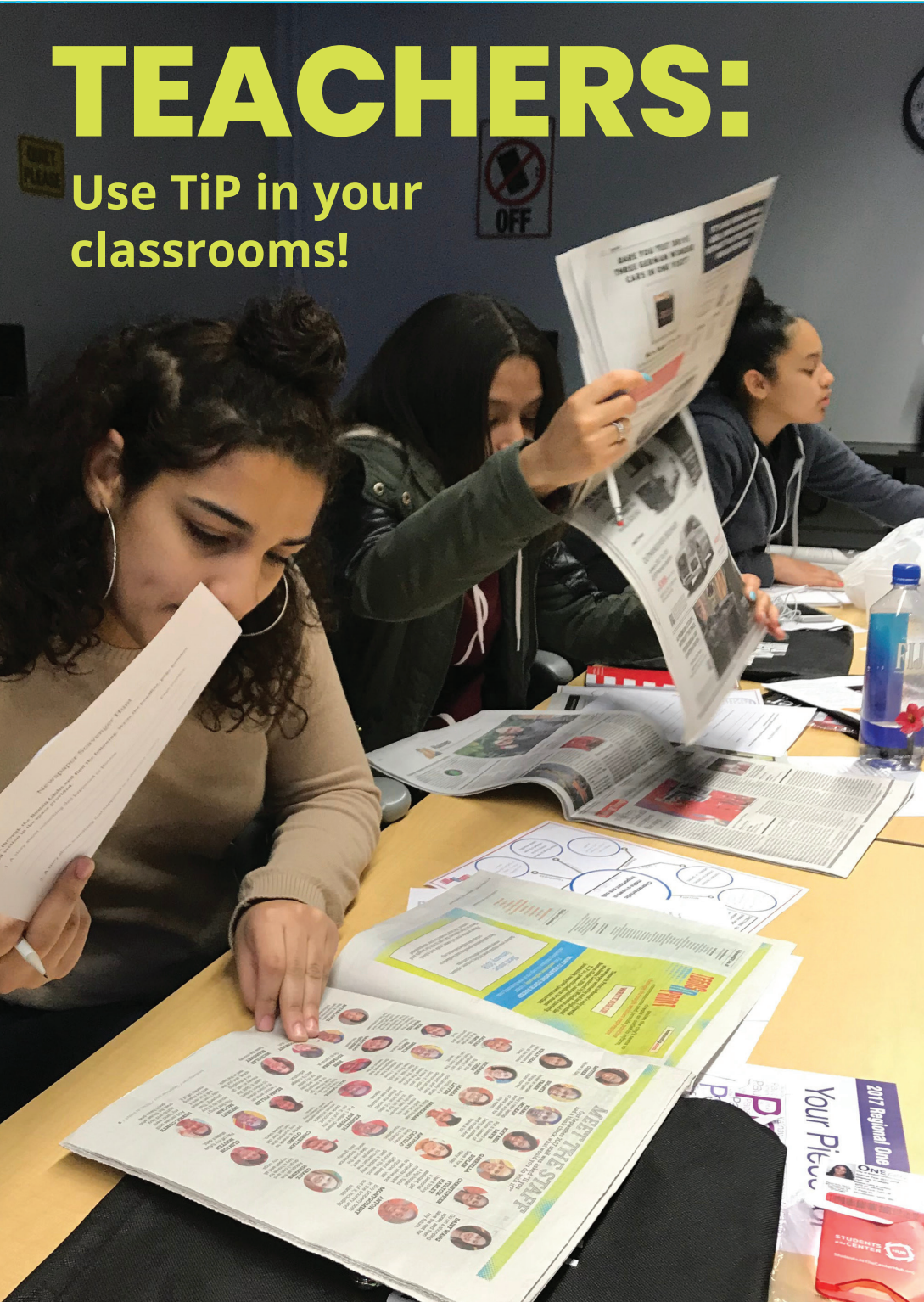
The genuine tone in your voice as she heals.

This woman,

Wrote this for you.

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