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SEPTEMBER 2018



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MATTER? **THINK AGAIN.**

+ THE **9 ISSUES** WE NEED OUR NEW
POLITICAL LEADERS TO ADDRESS

Volume XVIII, No. 65

STAFF WRITERS

ABOUBAKAR YOUSSEFOU
ADAM LAYTHE
AIDAN GILLIS
ARVIN DILBERT
BAJA BEAMAN
CHRISTOPHER FULTON-HARLEY
CLEUSA SILVA HORTA
CLINTON NGUYEN
DARLENE FELIZ
DJIBRIL CONTE
ELEBETEL ASSEFA
GABRIELLA DIPLAN
GABRIELLA FINOCCHIO
GRACE HIGGINS
IVY CHEN
JACOB DOWNEY
JAMARRI YOUNG
JESSE CORRELL
KELLY THAI
KENNETH BUFFORD
KIANA MCLEAN
LISA NGUYEN
MALIA MCCLERKLIN
MARIELLA MURILLO
REBECCA MACLEAN
SADOU KOUMBASSA

LAYOUT & DESIGN

JENNIFER PRANDATO

WRITEBOSTON

SARAH POULTER, EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTOR
JESSIE GERSON, EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTOR
CARLA GUALDRON, TIP DIRECTOR
ALYSSA VAUGHN, TIP EDITORIAL & CONTENT
MANAGER
ALEX GEORGIADIS, TIP WRITING MENTOR
SARAH ROBBINS, TIP COLLEGE AND CAREER
READINESS COORDINATOR
ISABELLA LÓPEZ, TIP INTERN
AUDREY WANG, TIP VIDEO COORDINATOR

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TEENS *in* print

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*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: January 2019

Submit your original news articles, features, opinion,
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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.

WriteBoston

Building a Community of Writers



**ABOUBAKAR
YOUSSEOUFOU**

MEET THE STAFF



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MCCLERKLIN**



**MARIELLA
MURILLO**



**REBECCA
MACLEAN**



**SADOU
KOUMBASSA**



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.

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. We are looking to identify student representatives for the following schools:

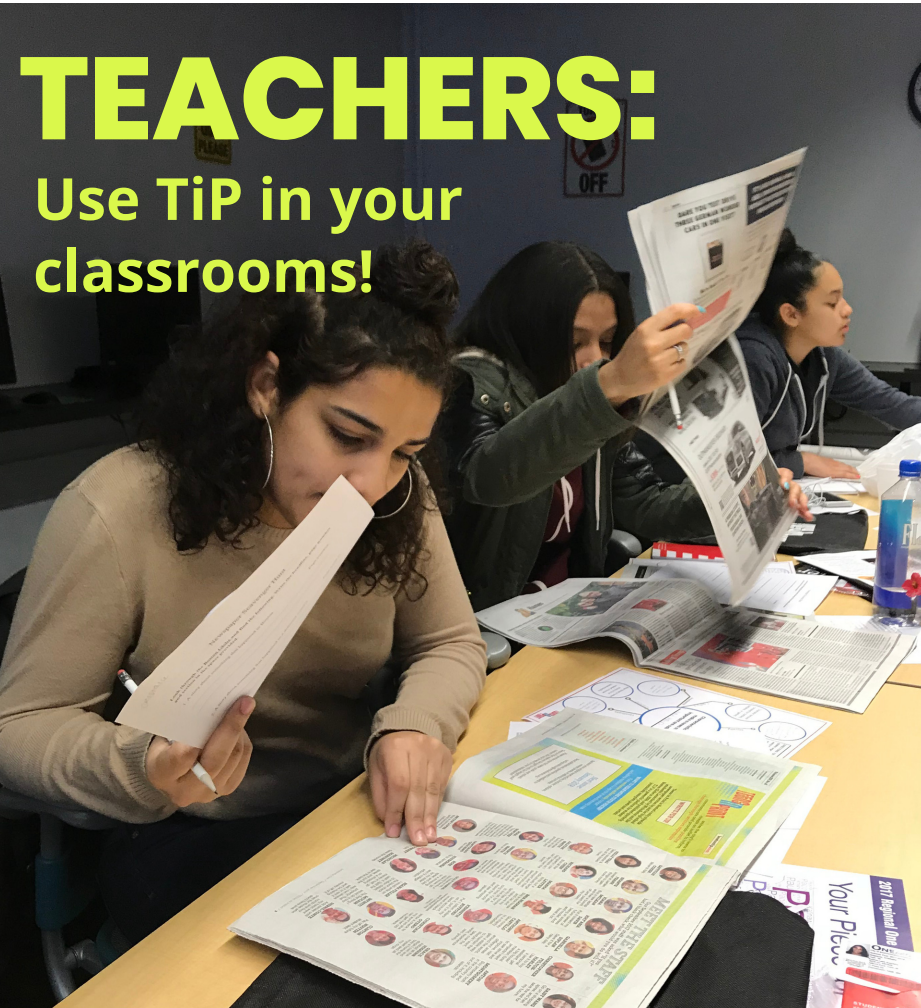
- BATA
- Boston Arts Academy
- Boston Day and Evening
- Boston Green Academy
- Brighton Highschool
- Charlestown
- Community Academy
- Community Academy of Science & Health
- Dearborn STEM
- Dorchester Academy
- East Boston High School
- Boston Collaborative High School
- Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers
- English High School
- Excel High School
- Fenway High School
- Greater Egleston
- Henderson
- Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Jeremiah Burke High School
- Margarita Muniz Academy
- Mary Lyon Pilot School
- McKinley
- Snowden International
- West Roxbury Academy

If interested in serving as your schools representative please fill out the BSAC application and submit it prior to September 24th or bring it to the 1st BSAC meeting.

1st BSAC Meeting: Monday, September 24th 4-6pm, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, Ma 02119 2nd floor

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

TEACHERS: Use TiP in your classrooms!



Teens in Print can be used in middle and high school level classrooms to extend learning through writing activities. All curriculum guides are aligned with the Massachusetts Common Core Standards and are distributed to approximately 200 Boston educators and community leaders.

Past guides have included:

- Four variations on the "How To..." that instruct and amuse
- Problem-solution writing that empowers students to make positive change
- A narrative writing task inspired by the role of the "outsider"

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT SETS GOALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR

By: Gabriella Finocchio // Staff Writer

Although there is no “calm” period in the year for a large urban school district, there is certainly something gratifying about the beginning of summer—students have finished another year, and schools and central offices can focus on preparation for the next. At least, that’s what usually happens. This year brought abrupt changes, with Tommy Chang’s unexpected departure and the controversial appointment of new interim superintendent Laura Perille.

Much of the media coverage last June focused on overviewing Chang’s rocky tenure, as well as questioning the lack of community input surrounding Perille’s selection. But as students head back to class, attention shifts from the past to the future.

“It’s an enormous logistic challenge to get 57,000 children into clean, safe and welcoming buildings with transportation ready to go, with healthy meals ready to be served, and with teachers and staff hired and ready to go,” said Perille. Much of her focus so far has been supporting school and central office staff, ensuring that the 2018-2019 school year begins without any major issues. “It’s not automatic, and it requires attention, so it’s worth saying out loud,” she said of the process.

After the initial kinks of the first few weeks of school are smoothed out, Perille will shift her focus to advancing the district’s long-term goals, including BuildBPS. The Boston Public Schools website boasts a 230-page guide to their “10-year educational and facilities master plan,” but the interim superintendent acknowledges that we have a long way to go before its completion. “That conversation has had some struggles over the past couple of years around clarity, transparency and authenticity of the community engagement process,” said Perille. She believes that now is the time for the difficult conversations that the city must have in order to move forward with big changes

for the future.

As for the opinions of the students themselves, they would like to see Perille in action before they make a final judgement. Emma Berens, a senior at Boston Latin School, said she “think[s] that involvement and just simply presence—as in, visiting schools and interacting with students—is key for a superintendent to be successful.” She said that she shares many of the values that Perille does, and Boston Latin Academy senior Kevin DiCarlo expressed similar sentiments. “Perille has a similar view to my own on reforming the school systems in Boston, and I hope she will make BPS a more inclusive place and give students the opportunities and support that they need to excel,” he said.

To achieve these goals, Perille will use experience from her 16 years as CEO of EdVestors, a non-profit dedicated to urban school improvement in Boston. They have pioneered projects to improve art instruction and middle-grade math, both of which are featured prominently on their website. Perille said in her role at EdVestors, she spent countless hours collaborating directly with “classroom teachers and school leaders who are solving problems and coming up with solutions to common challenges across schools.”

Perille hopes to use these principles to guide her work in BPS, despite her critics’ concerns. According to a July Boston Globe article, many members of the BPS community worry about her lack of experience managing a large institution—at EdVestors she oversaw “fewer than two dozen employees,” while the Boston Public Schools has over 10,000.

Perille faces complex problems and ambitious goals for the future of Boston Public Schools, but she does not let her interim status stop her from moving forward. “We have to at least begin the conversation,” she said. “Our kids can’t afford to wait another year.”

IN BOSTON'S CLASSROOMS, ALL STORIES NEED TO BE TOLD

By: Darlene Feliz // Staff Writer

It's my second period. When I walk into my history classroom, the teacher announces what we're going to be learning about today: the Civil Rights Movement. Immediately, I stop paying attention—I've learned about this a million times.

The history of African-Americans has been told many times and prevents other minority groups' histories from receiving the recognition they deserve. In high school, we can open a textbook and read about the African-American Civil Rights Movement, but not about Japanese internment during World War II or the 1960s Chicano Movement. These events happened within decades of each other, but we only learn about one.

African-Americans' stories were oppressed for many years, which gives them reason to be so widely discussed now. However, this means we are neglecting the publicity other minorities should be receiving. When the history of minorities is oversimplified to include only the narrative of black victims and white villains, everyone suffers.

Teachers seem to be obligated and expected to go deeper into black history than all other topics; it is as

if this is the only historical narrative they are required to teach. However, according to Jessie Gerson, Chief Academic Officer at WriteBoston, teachers do have the freedom to structure the content they want to teach.



“Educators can’t do anything they want, but they do often have a lot of leeway when it comes to designing the learning experiences of their students, including what students read, and I think that flexibility is a net positive,” she said.

Teachers have the opportunity to make their lessons culturally diverse; however, it seems that they do not take advantage of their freedom to teach all of the different narratives.

We need to make it so that all ethnic struggles in history are

presented equally. If we start to hear the stories of all cultures, we can see that at one point every minority has struggled and contributed to the struggles of others.

The resolution to this issue is to put regulations on classroom lessons. Teachers should not have so much freedom in how they want to teach their classes and instead have some regulations that require them to equally represent different historical struggles. The textbooks we use should have equal chapters on different minorities. There should be unified lessons across all Boston Public Schools so that students are learning about all minorities to the same depth, similar to Common Core State

Standards. There should also be training that teachers must attend to assure that they are eliminating all biases when they are designing their lessons.

The way that we can possibly stop giving the wrong amounts of recognition to one race and expand our definition of history begins with teachers and lessons. The leniency given to teachers needs to subside. We need a more focused structure to get everyone to have an open mind towards all historic struggles.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

A GUIDE TO SCHOOL WALKOUTS

By: Kenneth Bufford // Staff Writer

Last December, I participated in my first racially motivated school walkout. In order to prepare for the event, other students and I took the following steps.

First, we stated the purpose of the protest: standing in solidarity with a minority student who was called the N-word on school grounds. The protest also called for the school administration to deal with racial tensions properly. We hoped to increase transparency between the administration and its students.

We made flyers. Make sure to include the exact date and time of your walkout. Thanks to the power of social media, we were able to spread our message. This garnered posts from individuals saying whether or not they were going to participate in the walkout.

We caused enough ruckus for the school to hear us. Most people believe that approaching the school first would have solved the problem, but I do not think so. If you have an administration who sweeps most things under the rug, I would avoid seeking their attention. By allowing the school to hear you, they might take preventative measures to try and stop the protest. This part is important because it lets you know where they stand.

Learn some chants. My favorites are “Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Complicity has got to go!” “The people united will never be divided” or the iconic “Show me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like.”

Walk out and accept the consequences. If you are fed up to the point where you do not care about the results of your actions, then live freely. Luckily for me and my school there was no snapback to our walkout.

Finally, see the changes of your action. Walking out is meant to enact change in your school, not to start drama with your administration. After walking out, sit back and watch the change roll in like a thunder cloud. It is worth the watch.

"IT HAPPENED TO ME TOO"

TERRY CREWS AND MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT

By: Mariella Murillo // Staff Writer

You probably recognize Terry Crews. Maybe as the soft-hearted sergeant on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," the flirtatious Latrell Spencer from "White Chicks" or as a professional football player. He is hard to miss—245 pounds, 6 feet and 3 inches of pure muscle. Even so, he has an unmistakable comedic and lovable air to him. He's a nice guy, but can certainly handle his own.

You look at this famous actor and former athlete—and I can bet the word "sexual assault survivor" never comes to mind.

Terry Crews came forward about his experience with sexual assault in October 2017. He talked about it on Twitter and gave his testimony for the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights, detailing an experience he had with a male Hollywood executive in which he was belittled and violated. He discussed how the #MeToo movement motivated him to come to terms with what happened—even when countless people told him his experience was invalid.

After coming forward, he has received endless support, along with backlash. Backlash as in unless he agreed to drop his case, he would not be in the fourth installment of the "Expendables" franchise. Backlash from the likes of rapper 50 Cent, who mocked Crews on a now deleted Instagram post. Backlash that adds to the toxic culture of invalidating male victims of sexual assault.

In the United States, 1 in 6 men are raped and/or sexually assaulted. Around 10 percent of rape survivors outside of

criminal institutions are male. High school students Zorely de la Rosa and Travis Ambrose estimated that the percent of male rape victims is only 6 and 2 percent, significantly lower than the reality.

1in6.org helps bring clarity to what the words "sexual assault" mean—unwanted sexual experiences involving force, coercion, unconsciousness or age difference.

Men, and women like 50 Cent, who



shame people coming forward as victims, add to the part of rape culture often ignored—the fact that men can be and are sexually assaulted. Many men do not come forward with their experiences and if they do, they are made into caricatures, forcing them into hiding. It is an issue that takes a toll on all survivors.

We have all heard the blame placed on female survivors before—she was dressed too provocatively, she was too drunk, she didn't say no—even when the only one at fault is the rapist. The misandrist attitude

towards men comes in when they are the ones on the opposite end of the situation. De la Rosa said "People in general would find it odd if a guy does not want to have sex, let alone someone coming onto him and him denying it."

Some argue men should be able to stand up for themselves and fight back. This idea alone negates male victims who are children. Children like Jaidyn Tucker, who had been continually molested by an adult at his after school program for months. Invalidating male victims can deter men who were victims as children from coming forward and getting justice, or even just closure.

There are so many reasons survivors do not come forward. Terry Crews himself discussed how for him, he realized that as a black man, he was at a disadvantage and there were unfair consequences if he stood up for himself.

"Senator, as a black man in America," he said in his testimony, "You only have a few shots at success. You only have a few chances to make yourself a viable member of the community." The next day, he called the agency and told them about what happened—and nothing was fixed. In fact, 10 percent of Crews' income from season six of his show "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" will go to the company that still employs the man who molested him, Adam Venit. Countless people who he told the experience about brushed it aside, and told him what had happened was not assault, and he should leave

it alone. "I can only imagine it makes men feel like they have been stripped from their own humanity and are only seen as sexual beings," de la Rosa said.

It is incredibly unfortunate we live in a world where we must fear being shamed as survivors. Not victims, but survivors. Survivors of a crime any person can live through. No matter gender, race, age, size or stature. No matter what, every case and every person who comes forward should be treated with the same rights as the one before them.

THE WAR ON MARIJUANA

IT'S TIME TO CALL A TRUCE

By: Jesse Correll // Staff Writer

The war on drugs cost the U.S. billions of dollars, putting countless people in prison for using a plant that has never been the direct cause of a death.

Nationally, marijuana is becoming accepted and eventually legalized. According to the Pew Research Center, about 60 percent of Americans are pro-legalization of cannabis.

"It's everywhere; it's a huge part of American culture," said Boston teen Thalia Correll.

According to Vox, marijuana is now legal for recreational use in eight states, Massachusetts being one of them. Legal marijuana helps the buyers and communities by being a healthier alternative to drinking or smoking cigarettes and creates taxes which can be used for repairing faltering infrastructure or toward needed social programs.

Marijuana legalization will not only help the community, it will stimulate the economy.

"The state-regulated marijuana industry has created tens of thousands of jobs and generated hundreds of millions of dollars for state and local governments," said Mason Tvert, spokesperson for the Marijuana Policy Project. According to Vox, the marijuana industry in California alone could be worth \$5.1 billion by the end of the year.

"Adult marijuana sales have generated more than half a billion dollars in state tax revenue...more than \$225 million have been allocated to the Department of Education to benefit schools," said Tvert.

In addition to improving the economy, legalizing marijuana would discourage the use of more dangerous drugs.

"Marijuana is objectively less harmful than alcohol, tobacco and many other legal products," said Tvert. "Researchers have concluded it has fewer and less severe addictive properties." In 2014, about 30,000 people died from alcohol use, and the statistics would be much higher if alcohol-induced violence were included. Cigarettes too present much higher risks than marijuana. According to cancer.org, 48.5 percent of cancer deaths are tied to smoking cigarettes. Marijuana, on the other hand, has known medical uses and according to the Washington Post, there have been zero deaths from overdoses.

A common argument against legalization is that marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to abuse of more dangerous drugs. Psychiatrist Robert L. DuPont recently penned a New York Times op-ed arguing "people who are addicted to marijuana are three times more likely to be addicted to heroin." He came to this conclusion largely based on the fact that many heroin addicts have regularly used marijuana as well. However, while there is a correlation between marijuana use and heroin use, a New York Times piece written by Ethan Nadelmann, the founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, says this does not mean that marijuana users are more likely to use heroin.

Legalizing marijuana has nothing but positive effects on the community. It will help the economy, allow people to buy safely without being exposed to dangerous people and drugs and provide a healthier alternative to cigarettes and alcohol. The war on marijuana is a complete failure that had severe effects on America, and it is time that it finally came to an end.

COAL VS. CASCADIA

TRUMP CHOKES OUT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S BUDGET

By: Aidan Gillis // Staff Writer

From towering cliffs to dramatic valleys, the Pacific Northwest is breathtaking. But this land is in danger. The Trump administration's budget cuts for planned fiscal year 19 are going to do more harm than good to these lands, despite the intentions they broadcast to hide the expenses and problems.

On the surface, it is a simple plan by the Trump administration to address the backlog in the National Parks Service (NPS)'s maintenance budget. However, the real plan is to cut the budgets of NPS employees and resources, spend more money on repairing faltering infrastructure and start “responsibly” developing on public lands for energy like coal, gas and oil.

This “responsible energy development” can damage and remove certain benefits of parks. Energy development is disruptive to lands and weakens our Earth's natural defenses against climate change.

“Using nature-based solutions such as land conservation is also our number one line of defense against climate change,” said Stefanie Covino, a coordinator at Mass Audubon. “Open space provides both mitigation benefits (acting as a carbon sink) as well as adaptation (soaking up extra water, recharging groundwater supplies and reducing heat island effect).”

The plan also removes NPS's land acquisition budget, saying “it's to keep the focus on land development.” Experts have been critiquing this plan, saying it opens various doors for privatization and selling of private land.

“Oil, gas and coal exploration and extraction destroy habitats and pollute the land and water either through leakage or wastes. That will damage our heritage to benefit major corporations,” said Katherine Fogarty, an AP Environmental Science teacher at Boston Latin Academy.

“This budget enables the Department to meet its core mission and prioritizes programs that will put Americans' security first,” said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke during an address at Interior headquarters.

In a broad sense, this can mean fracking on public land. Considering this is used to keep lands maintained, this seems like a contradictory idea.

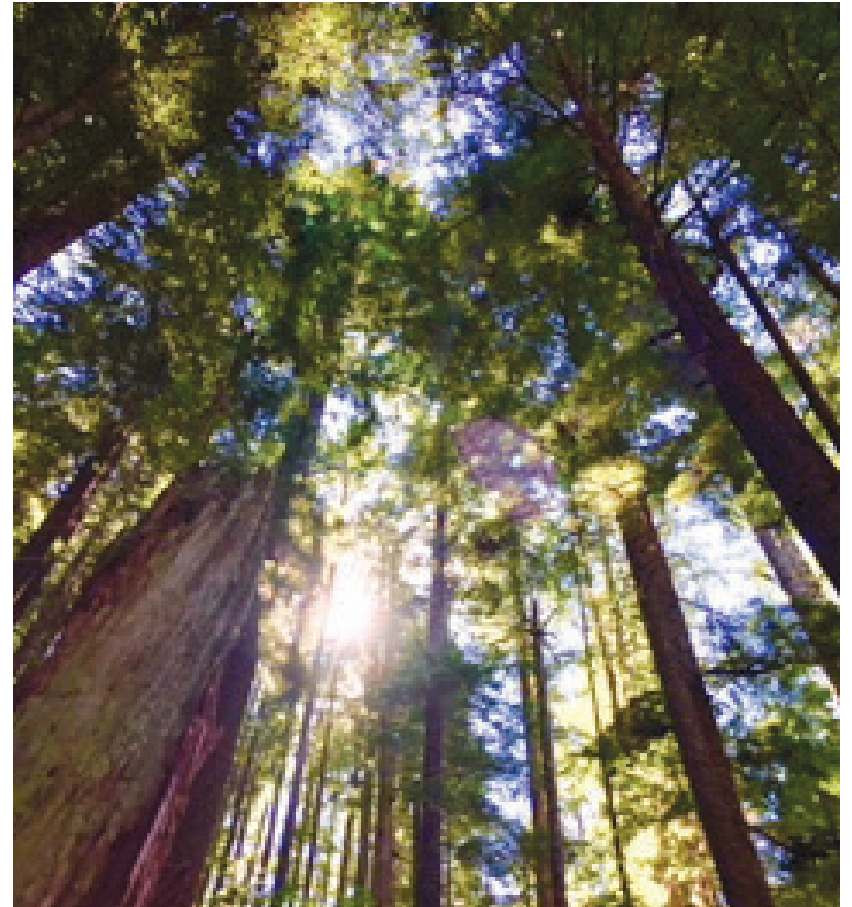
NPS's website directly states that Trump's proposed budget will be used for “securing the highest priority resources and most critical assets, readily responding to requests for emergency assistance, performing search and rescue operations.” It hardly mentions the large cuts in budget and staff which are used already for repairs and response.

This plan fails to support and provide resources for the national parks; it wastes plenty of resources in the process of gaining more to use. It cripples the National Parks Service in staff and services, cuts vital resources and conservation staff, and develops energy and oil on public land.

“Getting rid of them would destroy this landscape, the history, and be bad for the environment. Not only getting rid of all the trees but all the animals who live in those areas,” said 15-year-old Nikki Okoli from Jamaica Plain.

The parks are vital for the health of humans and animals, and to preserve our nation's natural beauty and history.







THE MISTREATMENT OF AMAZON WAREHOUSE WORKERS

By: Grace Higgins // Staff Writer

Almost everyone has felt it: the anticipation of waiting for a treasured package's delivery, checking the doorstep every day to see if it's arrived. Amazon's one click ordering feature feels like magic at your fingertips, because with one touch, you can have your desired product in 48 hours. But, I hate to break it to you; it isn't magic, and Jeff Bezos isn't Santa—unless Santa's elves suffer unhealthy workshop conditions.

Since Amazon's launch of Amazon Prime in 2005, a feature offering two-day shipping, the company has been aiming to further decrease this delivery period. According to their 2017 quarterly report, the service has accumulated over 100 million users who are supported by Amazon's half a million employees.

It is clear that 19-year-old Liam Naughton, of West Roxbury, is a delighted Amazon customer as he snaps his fingers to describe their delivery speed. "Boom, your package is right there. It's crazy fast."

While customers are elated by Amazon's service, workers are not as overjoyed. As of earlier this year, warehouse employees are speaking out against the mistreatment they endure while committing to exceptional customer service. As Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos makes approximately \$275 million per day, according to Money Magazine, his employees complain of brutal working conditions. As Amazon prepares to open an office in Boston, and continues its warehouse operation in Dedham, it's important to stand by our neighbors who already do, or soon will, work for the company and demand better treatment for them.

One of these employees, Avelina, whose last name is being withheld per her request, witnessed someone "pass out because of dehydration" during her second week at Amazon. "I don't think any day I worked ever felt normal," Avelina added. "If you were late by five minutes you wouldn't even be able to clock in."

Prime's convenience is made possible by men and women working around the clock in warehouses with unrealistic metrics and heavy scrutiny over their every move, such as how often they converse with coworkers, or how long their bathroom breaks are, due to news reports.

The packaging and shipping responsibilities they are given are nearly impossible to fulfill because of the large tasks they are assigned in a short period of time, with truck routes spreading out as far as possible and keeping employees late, according to Business Insider.

I reached out to former Amazon employee Hunter Hancock on Twitter, who sports black sunglasses and a jean jacket in his profile picture. He described his time working at the company as "exhausting, uncomfortable and stressful." He began working at Amazon in San Antonio after his mother got a job there, and both hated their experience, finding themselves in pain after work each day. Hancock spent ten hours a day doing physical labor, on his feet constantly, except for two 15 minute breaks and one 30 minute lunch, and only earned \$9 an hour.

Both Hancock and Avelina reported crying after or on their way to work. Avelina said, "the management team I was working

with made me feel like I was doing everything wrong." Hancock endured a similar experience, recalling that whenever his manager checked in, "he had an issue with something, even if we weren't doing anything wrong."

Lauren Correia, 19, of Roslindale, was horrified to learn about the mistreatment of Amazon's employees. "Proper treatment of workers should be a company's top priority," she said. Naughton agreed. "Jeff Bezos should be giving back to his workers," he said. "They deserve more."

The job negatively pushed Hancock to handle more than he was capable of, both mentally and physically. A work environment should be a positive place that encourages employees to improve, but Hancock felt Amazon did the opposite. He recalled that many employees quit mid-shift, and often wished he could do the same, but tried to endure the job due to financial reasons. When he finally quit, he didn't put in two weeks' notice; he just never returned to work. While describing this decision, Hancock stated, "I don't regret it at all."

Hancock believes Bezos should consider the perspectives of his workers, as "he is so successful, but yet, there's so many employees that are unhappy, which just seems so selfish."

Correia, an avid Amazon user, also feels strongly about this issue. "It completely changes my opinion about the company and will decrease how often I use it, if I even continue to at all."

IMAGINE BOSTON 2030 HAS AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROBLEM

By: Jamarri Young // Staff Writer



Imagine Boston 2030 is a plan to fix Boston.

Boston mayor Marty Walsh wants the city to look better. His plan is to turn Boston into a healthy city with money-saving technology by 2030. Walsh's idea on housing is really impressive. In the document, "Housing A Changing City: Boston 2030," the plan states it will help ensure growth and prosperity reaches every corner of Boston.

"Imagine Boston first came out of Marty Walsh's mayoral campaign. He was going around talking to residents and heard housing pressure was getting bad," said Natalia Urtubey, executive director of Imagine Boston 2030. A top priority for Imagine Boston is making housing affordable. As good as this seems, there are pros and cons for housing in the future.

To accomplish this goal, the city is going to create 53,000 new units of housing at

a variety of income levels across the city: 44,000 units of housing for the workforce, 5,000 units of housing for senior citizens, and 4,000 units to stabilize the market and bring rents and housing prices under control.

Walsh is already doing things for Imagine Boston 2030 to be successful. According to imagine.boston.gov, Walsh announced the Acquisition Opportunity Program, which provides loans to ensure that property owners maintain affordable rent levels for low and middle income families, and maintains current tenants in good standing. The \$7.5 million investment is a step towards preserving more affordable housing for Bostonians.

Residents in Boston have arguments against the project. They believe housing will still cost more. Most people believe they are going to be forced to move out of Boston because they cannot afford to stay.

Housing is a problem right now because people are already struggling to maintain an apartment in 2018. According to RentCafe.com, in 2018, the average rent in Boston is \$3,001 and it goes up 3 percent every year.

"People are demanding more out of housing today, particularly with the rise in the cost of rents and the short supply of housing," said Walsh in an interview with Boston Magazine.

We have 12 years until the plan should reach its goals. I am very confident that Walsh set this up perfectly.

"I want the city to be better than I found it. And I found it in pretty good shape," said Walsh in the same interview.

I believe this will be the case, but I hope what he speaks shows by 2030. Also, people love Boston because of its diversity and opportunity. They should not have to move out because things are too expensive.

LOCK 'EM UP

THE SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION OF BLACK DRUG USERS

By: Kenneth Bufford // Staff Writer

In the past few decades in America's history, we launched our first space station, witnessed the September 11 attacks and watched the election of the first black president. One thing held constant in those two decades, and it is the drug epidemic that took the lives of tens of thousands. However, there is one difference between the 1980s and 2018, and it is the repercussions for those using drugs: incarceration vs rehabilitation.

The Nixon administration locked up those who sold and used drugs and created an image for the public to “associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin. And then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities,” explained former Nixon Aide John Ehrlichman.

This rigid economic policy defunded inner-city schools and pushed away many jobs. It pushed the black unemployment rate to 20 percent in 1980, ripping black families apart due to unstable job markets that were forcing many men in economically unstable communities to sell drugs.

According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, throughout the 1980s, black people were doing drugs at the same rate as white people, but black people were being arrested and sentenced disproportionately. By 1990, the U.S. held 25 percent of the world's jail population, with the largest percentage being black men who were charged with nonviolent drug offenses.

Now in 2018, addiction is being classified as a disease according to research from the

National Institute on Drug Abuse. This ideology has shifted to prescribing synthetic opioids to help victims come down easier from their addiction instead of just throwing them in jail. While this is beneficial for many facing the opioid epidemic, one cannot look past the fact that there is one major difference between 1980 and 2018—race. Treatments and perspectives of drug users has drastically changed, especially considering that those who use are now predominantly white teens.

“It is very clear that this epidemic is overwhelmingly white,” explained Dr. Andrew Kolodny, a drug abuse expert and professor at Brandeis University, in an NPR interview.

While times certainly have changed, racial stigmatization has not. Like any point in American history, privilege and power equate. There seems to be a racial advantage to being white.

“They are able to flip the narrative and play innocent because it's the doctor's fault for prescribing them opioids, and now it's the doctor's fault that they have to go out and get heroin,” Johnson continued.

White teens have been able to switch the narrative, and they became victims of an ongoing drug war. Opioid use by white people started a quick and effective transition to better and healthier drug prevention and rehabilitation. This distinct difference has caused a lot of confusion and hostility towards the U.S. government for how they reacted to these epidemics because truly, the opioid epidemic finally became a crisis when white people became involved.





THE US SHOULD FOLLOW AUSTRALIA'S EXAMPLE ON GUN CONTROL

By: Sadou Koumbassa // Staff Writer

The year was 1996, and Australia had their deadliest mass shooting ever by one man. Shooter Martin Bryant killed 35 people and wounded 23 in Port Arthur, according to the Atlantic. Less than two weeks after, all Australian states, including Tasmania, agreed to make several gun laws, including the banning of shotguns and rifles. Twenty years later, Australia still has not had a mass shooting worse than the Port Arthur one yet, proving that the gun laws set into place after the shooting were effective. If the United States adopts stricter gun laws like Australia, the country could be safer than it is now.

It has been 20 years since the Port Arthur mass shooting. According to BBC, Australia requires a 28-day waiting period before you can purchase a gun because the government has to check criminal records to make sure you can own a gun legally. On the other hand, in the U.S., each state has their own laws about guns and owning them. Some states like Massachusetts have different age requirements for owning guns. Massachusetts is not an open carry state, meaning that you can not carry a gun if you are not class A or else you will be committing a crime, according to Mass.gov. However, some states, like Texas, are open carry states. You can purchase shotguns and rifles if you are 18, according to the Caller Times.

In 1996, Australia started making laws that used financial incentives to encourage citizens to turn in their guns. Oliver Palmer, an Australian resident, also explained to me that the Australian states adopted laws that made owning guns more annoying for people.

“My grandparents who lived on farms had guns to eat rabbits and kill snakes. My parents had guns but had to keep paying for storage, and they got tired of it,” he said.

The federal government needs to adopt national gun laws similar to Australia. We all want to prevent another mass shooting. The U.S. either has two options: one, we learn from our mistakes and create national laws that prevent mass shootings, or two, we do not change anything.

However, organizations like the National Rifle Association (NRA) stand in the way of change. They want to “defend their gun rights” and keep the gun laws the way they are. Some people think if we implement laws like Australia’s, it would conflict with the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms.

However, the United States needs to have similar laws to Australia because the longer we wait, the more lives will be taken in the hands of terrorists. America is at its boiling point, and in light of our mass shootings, riots and racist events, our government must take action one way or another.

FLINT TODAY

By: Jesse Correll // Staff Writer

Imagine trying to live your normal life without the most basic human necessity—clean, usable water. In the community of Flint, Michigan, they are going through that exact problem. Large amounts of lead, which is incredibly unhealthy to consume, were found in Flint's tap water in 2014, and the problem remains unresolved.

According to NPR, the crisis began when the state government switched from their previous water system, in which they bought treated water from Detroit, to a new system, taking water from the Flint River in order to save money. However, because the City of Flint rushed to complete the project, they did not properly treat the water. Typical water treatment includes the addition of chemicals like phosphoric acid to the water, in order to prevent corrosion in the pipes and dangerous metals from getting in. Because Flint failed to add this, lead from the pipes leached into the water which citizens used. Many people became sick or more susceptible to illness after using

the lead-filled water. No amount of lead in water is safe, and the amount in Flint's water was noticeably above FDA levels.

Additionally, inadequate chlorine in the Flint pipes allowed iron to leach into them. The iron promoted the growth of bacteria, which led to an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease. Legionnaires' spread quickly, becoming the third largest outbreak in the U.S. ever, and the effects were devastating. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 87 people were infected with Legionnaires', and at least 10 of them died.

In response to the crisis, the government provided free water bottles to the people of Flint, but in 2017, the Michigan state government cut off this supply, claiming the tap water is safe to use again. Many people are suspicious, and some have downright refused to use the water since they say it is still unclear. Since the cut-off of the free water bottles, Flint community fundraisers have been set up to raise money to help

those in need.

"Flint still doesn't have clean water!" comedian Michelle Wolf said at the end of the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Also, recently, multi-billionaire Elon Musk has tweeted that he will devote himself to helping fix the pipes in Flint.

However, despite these celebrities attempting to bring awareness back to what is happening, Flint has received barely any news coverage in recent months, though dangerous conditions continue.

"I had forgotten about the crisis," said Cincinnati teen Eva Wittenberg. Boston teen Thalia Correll said she had only seen "an occasional tweet about it."

It is important that Flint is covered better in news media because important information continues to come out. If you want to help those affected by the Flint water crisis, you can donate to the Flint Water Fund or other charitable organizations or do your best to spread awareness and help give the people of Flint a voice.

"MY VOTE DOESN'T MATTER"

By: Elebetel Assefa // Staff Writer



Imagine winning a Congressional seat by one vote, or something even crazier—a tie that is settled by drawing a card. These are the circumstances that landed Democratic candidate Charles B. Smith of New York a seat in Congress in 1910 and Republican Randall Luthi a seat in the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1994, respectively. These instances demonstrate the power of one ballot, one voter and one voice in changing who leads our country.

Yet, here we are, with only 56 percent of eligible American voters participating in the 2016 election, compared to the voter turnout rates in Belgium (87.2 percent), Sweden (82.6 percent) and Denmark (80.3 percent), according to the Pew Research Center. What's even more disquieting is an analysis done by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement that discovered that only about 50 percent of eligible voters between the ages of 18 to 29 voted in the 2016 general election.

Why don't young people vote? Because many believe "My vote doesn't matter." This dangerous assumption leaves huge portions of our population voiceless in government. Sadly, many young people believe their one vote would not make a visible impact in a huge population.

"Some people may believe their votes do not matter because they have lost hopes in their ability to change the programs they are voting for or against," said Anilda Rodriguez, an 18-year-old student from Dorchester who

will be a first-time voter this November.

Just imagine the policy shifts the U.S. would face if all young people voted in every local, state and federal election. It is with this mindset that many young adults are entering the upcoming elections. A recent survey by the Harvard Institute of Politics found an increased enthusiasm for political participation, especially among Democrats. It seems as though the chaotic administration in the White House may have a reckoning on their hands.

The significant changes that would occur if young people voted in huge numbers would be unforeseen in the history of U.S. elections. The issues and problems we fight for in our daily lives will be in our hands, and we can have a real chance of upending those of the older generation.

"I believe in youth power and I think that by allowing teens to vote, we are able to elect those who will actually help make the world a better place," said Sonny Mei, an 18-year-old student from Dorchester who will also be a first-time voter. "I also believe we [young adults] are more open-minded and will be able to tackle issues that are often ignored—issues that affect minorities and the less privileged groups around the country."

In light of the current political state, it is more important than ever that young people vote. Major political issues are making headlines, and for real, long-lasting results to occur, young people need to be engaged and politically present.

PROPOSITION 3 EXPLAINED

By: Gabriella Diplan // Staff Writer

Massachusetts prides itself on being one of the most liberal states in the country, but a ballot initiative in November could put that image in jeopardy.

Known as Proposition 3, the ballot initiative could overturn a 2016 law that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in public places such as hotels, restaurants and stores. Signed by Governor Charlie Baker, the law also contains a provision that transgender people are allowed to use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity, according to the Boston Globe.

If Massachusetts voters repeal the law, it could become the first state in the country to overturn a law that grants protections to transgender people in public accommodations, according to a report released by Boston Indicators in collaboration with The Fenway Institute.

If the law is repealed, it won't ban transgender people from being in public accommodations, but they will lose the assurance of federal government protection, according to Kurtlan Massarsky, Director of Development and Marketing at the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. 17-year-old Florence Kallon, a student at Roxbury Prep High School, believes Massachusetts portrays itself as a liberal state, when in reality, this ballot question proves to Kallon that "a lot of people have this secret hate towards

trans people."

According to a recent poll conducted by the Suffolk University Political Research Center, 49 percent of people would vote to preserve the law, 37 percent would vote to repeal it, and 13 percent are undecided. Major religious organizations, colleges, and civil rights groups have voiced their support for preserving this law, including prominent people like Mayor Marty Walsh. The ACLU of Massachusetts, the Anti-Defamation League, NARAL Pro-Choice and GLAD have all voiced their opposition to Proposition 3 as well, according to Ballotpedia.

In a statement, Mayor Walsh said, "Supporting this law is the right thing to do. This law has been in Massachusetts for two years with no issues, and a similar local ordinance has been in Boston for more than a decade. In that time, we have become a more welcoming and inclusive city for our transgender friends and neighbors. We can't take a step backwards."

Freedom
for All

Massachusetts (FFAM) is a coalition recently launched to update Massachusetts' long-standing civil rights laws to include nondiscrimination protections for transgender people in public places. Matt Wilder, a communications consultant at FFAM, said he's not transgender, but the people he knows who are just want to live their lives like all of us, and that's what this law allows them to do.

"It allows them to go to school, to work and to meet the obligations that they have to provide for their family without harassment," said Wilder. "We all expect that in our daily lives, and there's no reason why transgender people shouldn't expect the same."

Meanwhile, Keep MA Safe, a ballot campaign dedicated to repealing the law, claims that the current anti-discrimination law endangers the safety of women and children. According to their website, they believe the law creates an opportunity for sexual predators who are confused about their gender to use this as a cover for their evil intentions.

Naleyah Cesar, a 17-year-old student at Roxbury Prep High School, argues that repealing the law is "going to make the world a lot harder for LGBTQ people of color, and it's going to lead to a lot of fear."

Whether the law remains in place or is repealed, one thing is certain: the outcome of the ballot initiative now lies in the hands of voters this November.



THE ROAD TO ELECTION DAY

By: Gabriella Finocchio // Staff Writer

I pull up to the first address, checking the street number. The building towers 10 stories above me, and residents stream out of the heavy glass doors, headed for the subway. A notification appears on my phone: “You’ve arrived! Swipe to tell your passenger you’re here.”

This new app has made it effortless for anyone with a car and an iPhone to drive people to the polls—all I had to do was sign up as a volunteer. The 20 extra people who will vote because of me probably won’t swing the election, but it still feels good to do something.

I hop on Twitter as I wait and see a reminder about new voter ID requirements, a warning about what another term of Trump could look like, and a report that ICE agents are asking for documentation at the City Hall subway stop. I pause with a pang of fear for Elena and her daughter. It’s okay, I reassure myself. They know not to answer the door for anyone. They’ll be there waiting for me when I get home.

I look up to see a young woman hobbling out of the building on crutches. She has a boot on one foot and a Nike sneaker on the other, both of which clash with her carefully chosen outfit. As she navigates the busy sidewalk, I hurry to open the passenger door for her. She extends her hand.

“You’re Elizabeth, right?” she asks, a huge smile on her face. “I’m Nora, it’s so nice to meet you!”

She gives off a hopeful energy, and as we’re chatting on our way to the next house, I forget about the nagging feeling that today could end the same way it did four years ago.

What comes next? Read the full story on bostontip.com.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You can register in-person at the Department of Motor Vehicles, armed service recruitment centers, and public assistance offices [SNAP/Food Stamps, WIC, Services for the Disabled].

The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William Francis Galvin, also has an online forum that makes it easy and simple to register or pre-register to vote at [www. sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us).

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO VOTE?

To keep up with all the upcoming elections, visit turbovote.org, where you can subscribe to alerts about all the elections happening in your district.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE: QUEER CULTURE GOES MAINSTREAM

By: Kenneth Bufford // Staff Writer

In January 2018, Donald Trump's former communication manager, Jason Miller, was arguing with CNN correspondent Brian Karem, when he surprised viewers with some unexpected vocabulary. "If it's not true, then we need to go and make sure we're being very clear here. So, please don't try to throw shade," said Miller.

From "throwing shade" to "getting read" to "clocking someone's look," much of queer slang has gone mainstream. Chad Ochocinco, former Miami Dolphins wide receiver, recently commented on his daughter's Instagram picture saying, "you betta give me looks sis" and "come through hunty."

In gay culture, there are many phrases unique and dear to us, such as "reading" or referring to someone as "sister" or "mother." But it is not just our vocabulary that has been popularized, it is also our dances—voguing, death drops, duck walks—and our mannerisms. The issue for many homosexuals is when queer references and actions are used in mainstream pop culture, but are not credited as originating from queer culture.

Queer culture and pop culture do not correlate, explained Zach Phelan, a freshman at The Savannah College of Art and Design. "It's annoying to me when Vanessa Hudgens says she's

'so into voguing right now' because voguing isn't a fad happening right now, it's a part of a lifestyle and has cultural significance," said Phelan.

Phelan continued saying, "Decades of gay people were completely isolated in a heteronormative society, and now it's trendy to have a gbf [gay best friend] and people don't even understand ball culture and where all our trendy moves and lingo comes from. It's just frustrating."

Madonna's iconic song "Vogue" sold more than six million copies worldwide to date. She popularized an underground, queer dance fad, and introduced it to a mainstream audience without crediting queer culture for its creation. Many homosexuals criticized Madonna for erasing the queer roots of her hit song.

Nicole Thompson of The Latin Post, criticized the pop artist in her article "'The Madonna-Free Zone: The History of the Harlem Vogue Scene,'" saying Madonna "took a very specifically queer, transgender, Latino and African-American phenomenon and totally erased that context with her lyrics."

Voguing was the expressionary form of "shade," explained Willi Ninja, a dancer and choreographer, in the documentary "Paris is Burning."

"Voguing came from shade because it is a dance that two people did

because they didn't like each other. Whoever was throwing the best moves was throwing the best shade," he said.

According to Madonna, in her song "Vogue", her lyrics infer she views voguing as just the opposite. It was an escape from yourself, it was allowing your body "to move to the music." "Vogue" ripped off the legacy of many queer men, discrediting and removing their acknowledgement from the limelight.

"It's infuriating when you're forced out of a space, seek asylum among other similarly marginalized individuals, create a thriving community for yourselves and those who look like you, and the people who expelled you (in this case cis-hetero black women, cis-hetero black women and white people in general) co-opt your comfort and survival mechanisms for their own enjoyment. All while refusing to acknowledge the trauma they inflicted, forcing you to create those things in the first place," explained Ryan Sides, writer and digital strategist.

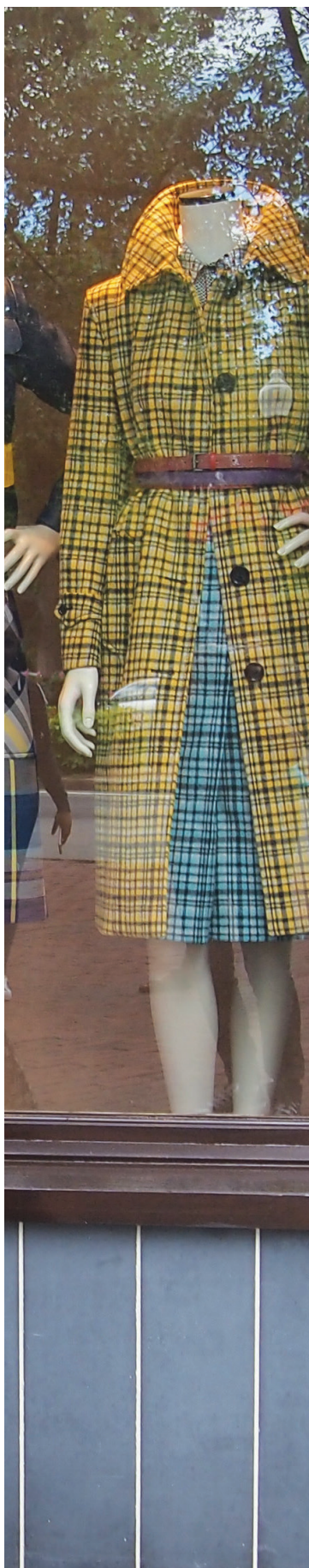
As time continues, the way we talk, walk and move keeps finding its way into mainstream pop culture. Queer trends, fads and slang have grasped the attention of many heterosexuals, but we are not being credited for the creation of such trends. Behind every new trend and pop queen is queer culture originating the next fad.

SUPERMODELS IN SWEATPANTS

HIGH FASHION MAKES ROOM FOR STREETWEAR

By: Clinton Nguyen // Staff Writer





For decades, the high-fashion industry has been obsessed with the appeal of the affluent class who have certainly made this world their own. They have dominated the fashion capitals of the world and inspired countless designers to pay homage to their opulent lifestyle. Along with gracing rows of magazine covers, little has seemed to change. Not until recently at least.

Along the storefront windows of Newbury St., an area comparable to New York City's modish SoHo district, we can see bijou boutiques and mainstream luxury brands taking on a more "modern" facade. With pop-culture influencers tapping in on the once underground fashion community, the modern face of high fashion is creating a generous spot for streetwear to sit besides it.

Away from the mainstream lies a massive culture containing a distinct style: streetwear. They hold anti-corporate sentiments and often go against what the larger brands stand for. Often not receiving much spotlight from the public, this underground community noted for their interest in streetwear fashion has maintained their roots for many decades. They spur revolution and encourage youth to step away from the detriments of capitalism and authority, all the while being a place for free thought to flow without intervention from the control of money. Brands such as Supreme were once small shops that found their roots leading to skate culture, which many believe is where streetwear draws inspiration from.

Ferguson Herivaux, CEO and founder of OneGig, Boston's skate apparel shop, has felt the true impacts of streetwear on mainstream fashion.

"Streetwear has always ruled fashion and always will," he said.

For someone like Herivaux who has been in the business for nearly two decades, it is apparent that there are traces of urban style in luxury fashion. While for the rest of us, it is not too clean cut.

In recent years, more attention is being shed on streetwear as celebrities and social influencers who have once been a part of these communities are now rising to fame and bringing these styles with them. A staple of streetwear clothing is: sweatpants. Previously a garment worn for athletics, it can now be seen on teens as they shop along Rodeo Drive.

A trailblazer for this change can be none other than Kanye West. When he launched his Calabasas sweatpant line, they sold out within the first day, attesting to their appeal. Where money goes, the

larger corporations follow. These larger brands are picking up on the success of this untouched realm of fashion and are beginning to incorporate it into their looks. A notable example is Louis Vuitton's collaboration with Supreme, which caused major headlines.

Jayda Dang, a teen who is well-versed in this new fusion of streetwear and luxury brands finds the brand's intentions to be very one-sided.

"Luxury brands like Gucci and Louis Vuitton began dipping their feet into the streetwear culture to satisfy their young and 'hype' affluent consumers," she said.

Connor Morgan, who is a stylist and selling supervisor at Gucci, acknowledges the rise in attention towards this once unknown community. "Since streetwear doesn't seem to be on any decline any time soon, Gucci will be keeping up with that specific trend by making its unique streetwear style stamp on the fashion world while it is so popular," he said.

We continue to see this trend as even Anna Wintour herself has announced the Nike x Vogue AWOK Air Jordans collaboration. Chase Elliott, an advertising sales associate at Vogue, believes them tapping in on this new style is "not a matter of staying relevant, but rather, it is about leading the next wave."

With streetwear lines succumbing to capitalism, their prices rise with their popularity. Athletics brand Champion was once available in Walmart, but as demand for the style grew, it entered pricer shops such as Urban Outfitters.

Some teens find this impractical, such as Legacy Thornton who, "would rather thrift shop then feed into expensive materialism." Although some teens do hold the same values as Thornton, the truth of the matter is, a majority of teens still feed into this frenzy that is creating a multibillion dollar industry. But this issue goes beyond money and into a discussion of preserving a community that once fostered creativity and comfort from the large corporations.

With these streetwear brands finding a spot within the high fashion industry which is going against their initial sentiments, the question of whether these underground communities will continue to exist, and remain safe havens for anti-capitalists, comes into question. When streetwear rises to becoming a lucrative trend, they lose their authenticity and contradict what they have been preaching for decades.

ASIANS ARE MISREPRESENTED IN THE MEDIA

By: Ivy Chen // Staff Writer

When asked about racism in America, Asians probably do not come to mind. But, catch a glimpse of us on the big screen, and you'll see how America only has misrepresentation and mockery to offer. In today's films, Asian actors often don't play a role unless they do the stereotypical accent. Opportunities are not being taken away, but they are narrowed down to the idea America has of us.

"We don't have a history here: Asians aren't in the Bible," said Andrew Fung, a YouTuber based in LA, in an article for Vice. "Our accents are comparable to having a lisp or some kind of speech impediment; they aren't used for authoritative voices."

America has a prejudiced history with Asians, beginning with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, created to prevent Chinese laborers from immigrating to America to "steal" jobs. It was not just the Chinese who were denied access into the country, but all South and Southeast Asians.

During the influx of Asian immigrants, the "coolie" stereotype began and Asian women were commonly associated with prostitutes. Many other racist depictions of Asians also derived from propaganda during the Korean and Vietnam War.

Discrimination against Asians in America has formed a negative stereotype towards the Asian accent. Despite this, Asians continue to be in films, although most representations of Asians have not been positive because many non-Asians continue to mock our accents and reinforce negative stereotypes.

Lynn Nguyen of Roxbury said, "American media has found comedy in Asian accents. They used to cast white people to star as Asians in movies, and to be 'authentic' they would make an accent, their role was meant to be funny."

In the movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's," actor Mickey Rooney played a Japanese landlord. The director had

him stomping instead of walking in an attempt to dehumanize his character. He had buck teeth to emphasize his horrendous accent, and to show how being Asian is meant to be unappealing.

Yvonne, from the Hebei Province in China, said, "I think it's uncomfortable when white actors play Asian characters."

These issues can be resolved by having more Asian directors, diverse casting directors who do accurate casting and for Asian actors to have the opportunity to accurately represent our many communities. There is a large population of Asians in America that are missing representation. The idea that Southeast Asians represent the entire continent needs to be erased.

My mother has a heavy accent. I see my mother's accent as resilience. When our pronunciation becomes a stereotype, the identity of the Asian community becomes reduced to nothing more than misconceptions.

FEELING BLUE? TRY GOING GREEN

By: Aboubakar Youssoufou // Staff Writer

Ever wondered why there are so many green spaces in Boston, but you never visit them? It might be because you do not know the benefits they may provide. I am sure you are asking yourself, “How do small, insignificant parks help the city and its people?” Green spaces are important—especially for people living in areas where there is a lack of green space—because they benefit our wellbeing.

Urban green spaces are pieces of land that are undeveloped and have no buildings or other structures. They can be parks, community gardens or public seating areas—places that help people feel more relaxed. They prevent teens from being aggressive, they relieve stress, they help the economy and, most importantly, they reduce crime.

According to an organization named Pacific Standard, “Researchers from the University of Southern California report urban adolescents who grow up in neighborhoods with more greenery are less likely to engage in aggressive behavior.” This shows that teenagers seem to be less aggressive when they are surrounded by green spaces because they feel calm and that prevents them from getting into fights with their peers.

Toni Jackson, a coordinator of extended learning time at BINcA, wishes “kids felt more comfortable sitting outside by themselves with their thoughts. I just sit outside in a park and think. Kids don’t do that so much anymore.”

When teens go to parks, it become easy for them to

interact with nature and meet others teens. “An urban green space setting is also a great way for teenagers driven by 21st century technological advancements to build relationships that last a lifetime and meet new people,” said Mohamed Somane, a student at BINcA.

As specified by a study on online legal information service FindLaw, “Well-maintained green spaces may provide a place for people to interact and hang out. As a result, this may lead to more people and families just milling around. The presence of more people may make it harder for criminals to commit crimes without being spotted and apprehended.” This shows that green spaces help fight against crimes because with a bunch of people in parks, it is less likely for criminals to commit a crime in public.

Surprisingly, green spaces also help boost the local economy. According to an article published in architecture magazine “Arch2o,” “Urban green spaces can be one of the factors that attract significant foreign investments that assists in rapid economic growth.” Even though they are public and free, when cities make sure that their parks are safe and clean, they attract business people and tourists to come more often.

I have felt connected to parks from a very young age. When I lived in France, I would get out of my house at dawn to play soccer and basketball, and spend time in parks until sunset. Therefore, I encourage all teenagers to dedicate at least 15 minutes of their day surrounded by green spaces.



A NEW GENERATION INSPIRED BY YOUTUBE

By: Baja Beaman // Staff Writer

Ping! A young girl gets a notification on her iPad that her favorite YouTuber posted a new video. She rushes to open the app. She is glued to the screen, watching her favorite YouTuber's videos for hours, while her parents are trying to unglue her.

The Internet plays a huge role in the lives of Generation Z (1996-2010). In the entertainment world, YouTubers are taking over the industry, becoming more and more popular as years go by. They are posting videos in hundreds of different genres from DIYs to beauty to gaming. They are signing multi-million dollar record deals, buying mansions and writing books. YouTubers are becoming the role models the youth look up to, rather than traditional Hollywood celebrities.

The rise of social media and its stars have redefined the word "celebrity." Now, a celebrity can be your neighbor who is setting the trends and driving opinions, and they are doing it all through their computer. The "classic" celebrity is still popular, but not as broadly popular as YouTubers.

A survey by Defy Media in 2015 stated that 63 percent of respondents aged 13-24 said they would try a brand or a product recommended by a YouTube creator, while only 48 percent would do the same from a movie or TV star. Businesses are realizing that if they use an ordinary person to promote their products, teenagers will be more inclined

to buy. Big makeup brands, including MAC Cosmetics, Tarte and Too Faced, use YouTubers to promote their products.

"Connection" is the word that many use to describe the relationship between YouTube stars and their teen subscribers. According to a study by Business Insider, teens and young adults describe a YouTuber as someone who is "just like me, understands me, someone I trust, has the best advice, doesn't try to be perfect...and likes the same things I do." All of these values are what teens need their role models to be.

Think With Google states that since YouTubers have a stronger and more engaged audience, in comparison to a traditional celebrity, the top 25 most popular YouTubers earn on average three times as many views, two times as many actions and 12 times as many comments. On Ariana Grande's posts on Instagram most people give one word responses or heart eye emojis. While on The Ace Family's channel, a family that documents their regular everyday lives, it is common to see paragraphs of how they helped someone overcome some type of struggle. YouTubers are known for making millions of people's happiness possible.

While the Internet continues to be the main hub for new talent, YouTubers are winning over the hearts of this new generation by being authentic and true to themselves.

RUGBY ON THE RISE IN THE US

By: Aidan Gillis // Staff Writer

Rugby has been a staple of European sport for over 200 years. Its high action tackling and fast-paced game play captivate audiences worldwide. Despite this, America has been behind on the sport, having few events besides collegiate ones. Since the founding of USA Rugby, the national rugby team, in 1971, that has changed.

Rugby is a fairly new sport to our country, but it is growing quickly and consistently. After years of development in the first half of the 20th century, rugby was stunted by American football's popularity. However, rugby began to grow rapidly in the second half of the century. When USA Rugby was founded, it changed how rugby was perceived in

the U.S. It was now a national competitor. Many organizations and teams are recruiting players across the nation at the youth and collegiate level.

"There are currently 47 state youth organizations that introduce the sport to players as young as 5 years old. These youth programs continue through high school," said Rich Cortez, Collegiate Director at USA Rugby.

After the U.S. became an international participant in the sport, the sport began to expand, with youth leagues being founded nationwide.

Today, it has greatly expanded as a sport, extending to everything from youth leagues to a major league. Mainly thanks to major rugby organizations,

it is televised, broadcasted, advertised and played nationwide. College rugby is also televised, with various levels of elite divisions. Now, with new teams being added, such as the major league team from New York (New York United RFC), rugby is more popular than ever, and this growth shows no signs of stopping.

"I continue rugby because I like the teamwork needed and the overall culture of the sport. Not to mention the rush you get when you play," said Griffin Drinkwater, a 14-year-old local club player.

Going off what we have today, there is just so much more potential for rugby to grow and for so many more people to play this great sport.

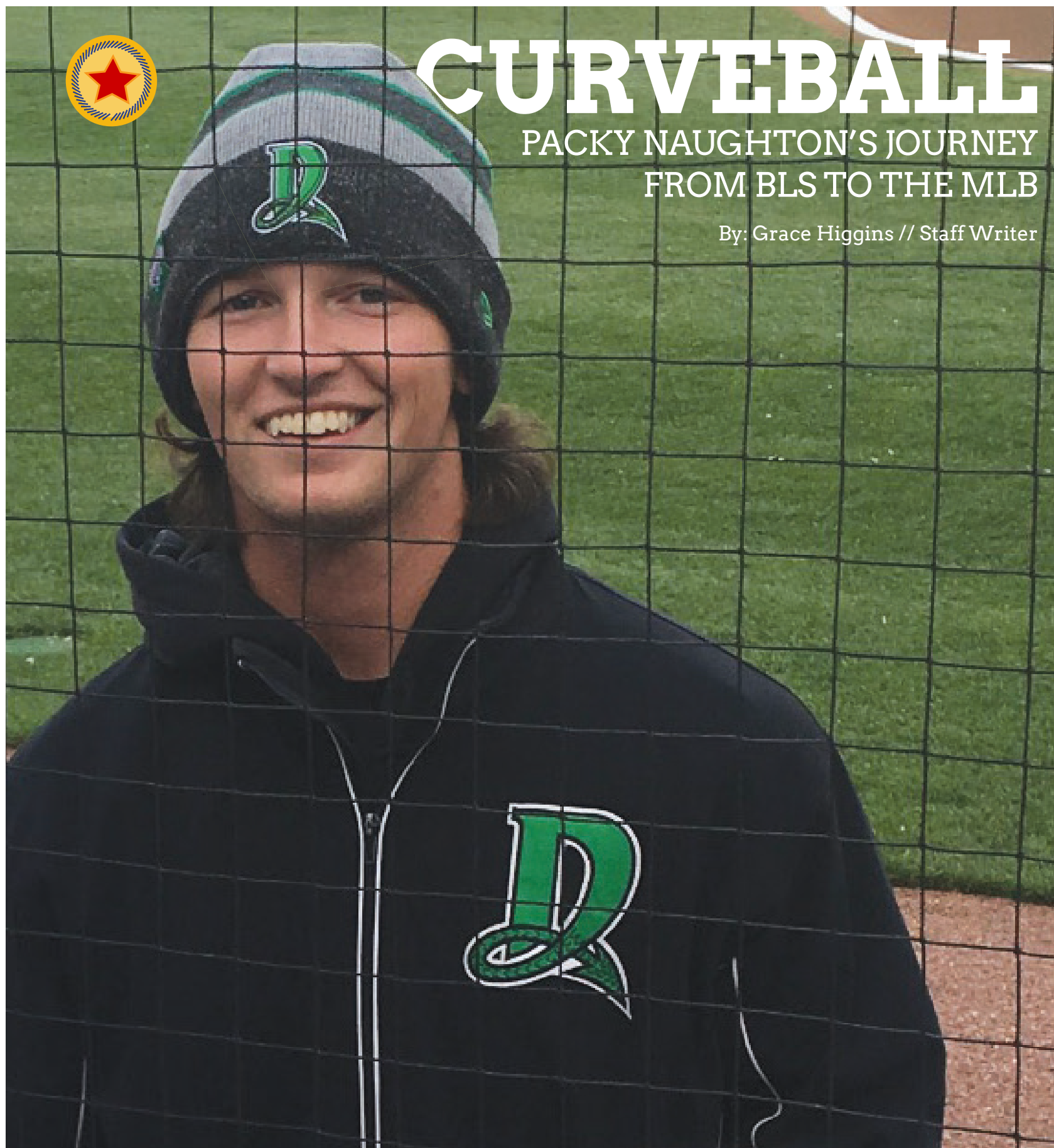




CURVEBALL

PACKY NAUGHTON'S JOURNEY
FROM BLS TO THE MLB

By: Grace Higgins // Staff Writer



"I was 4 years old," Patrick (Packy) Naughton recalls. He's sitting in his hotel room, resting after pitching five innings and earning seven strikeouts for the Dayton Dragons just a couple hours earlier.

"I started going out to the field with my older brother, Jake, and my dad. I wasn't on the team, but I was always out there with them practicing."

That practice paid off for 22-year-old Naughton, who was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in June 2017. He now pitches for the Dragons, their minor league team, and is still following his dream of making it big.

His persistence inspires many Boston teenagers. "I'd say many of the high school baseball players look up to him," said 18-year-old Lauren Cloherty of West Roxbury. "In a way, he makes 'making it' real."

18-year-old Maria Levine of West Roxbury agreed. Levine particularly admires how Naughton "follows a path that takes him out of Boston, yet still remains very connected to his roots."

Naughton began following this path in eighth grade, when he became a starting pitcher for Boston Latin School's varsity baseball team. By his sophomore year, his coaches were pushing him to fulfill his remarkable potential.

"My pitching coach... said I could make some real money playing the game of baseball," Naughton recounts contemplatively. He smiles subtly and continues. "I thought, 'Yeah, okay. I could see myself playing this for the

rest of my life.'"

But Naughton, more than anyone, is aware of the physical risks of pursuing an athletic career. He experienced them firsthand during his junior year of high school. As he began talks with various college coaches about his future baseball career, Naughton suffered an injury in his left (dominant) arm, and had to endure Tommy John surgery. The procedure, which replaced a torn ligament in his elbow with a tendon from his wrist, put him on his team's injured list for longer than any athlete would like.

In the 15 months before Naughton started pitching again, he was in physical therapy up to four times a week. He had to work to obtain full range of motion back, and then to strengthen his shoulder and elbow muscles. Thankfully, Naughton made a full recovery from the injury, but the surgery constantly reminds him of the fragility of a professional athlete, as it jeopardized his career before it even had a chance to take off.

"Going out to the field each day, I definitely don't take it for granted," he says. "I know that this can come to an abrupt end, but as long as the game of baseball is giving me time, I'm going to make the most of it."

What exactly is making the most of it for Naughton? It's rigorous weight training, daily long toss, working seven days a week and pitching one out of every five games. When he isn't pitching, he's taking notes on other pitchers and batters, warming up other

players, stretching, working out and reviewing film. It's always something, he says. The constant work is important for Naughton if he wants to stay on top of his game. But the first time he pitched for Virginia Tech, in a game against Clemson, he wondered if the top of his game was even enough.

"It kind of slapped me in the face when I got to college where I was facing 18- to 23-year-old men who I can't just throw a 90 mile an hour fastball by," Naughton says. "I actually have to work for it more. I came in that game against Clemson in relief, there's a runner on first with no outs, top of the tenth inning and a tie ball game. I wanted to come in and shut the door, give our team a chance to take the win." The detail with which he presents this story makes it clear just how much it's stuck with him.

"I walked a kid, gave up a single, and all of a sudden, it's bases loaded. I went on to give up a grand slam that ended up winning the game."

It's almost hard to hear Naughton's low voice and slow speech at this point. He's lost in his own memory, reliving the first game that made him fear he was not cut out for this sport. But he did what he knew he had to: "I worked even harder."

His coaches have noticed this dedication, specifically Seth Etherton, a pitching coach for the Cincinnati Reds. "The [Reds] organization holds him in high regard as a young left-handed pitcher," Etherton

says. "He should move through our system pretty quickly if he continues on this track."

When Naughton is having a particularly tough game, he is able to recognize how far he's come and how one small detail, whether that be a rocky field or a bad pitch, won't determine his entire career.

"It's just an error. One error isn't going to make or break your career. Battle through it."

And battle through it he does. When he recalls a home game against Boston College—just weeks after the devastating Clemson loss—Naughton grins, as if he's realizing why he plays the game for the first time all over again.

"I had pitched six innings perfect, without allowing a base runner," his voice is noticeably lighter now, excited, even. "Again, I'm facing 18- to 23-year-olds, but this time I'm absolutely dominating them."

Naughton's sense of belonging is contagious, Coach Etherton notes.

"When it's time to work, he works," he says. "When it's time to be a teammate, he's 100 percent supportive, keeping everybody laughing."

As Naughton finishes reflecting, he emphasizes the preciousness he finds in every moment of his career and his life.

"No matter what, it isn't as bad as you think it is," he says. "From having career threatening surgery at 17, to facing challenging opponents on tough days, your head can get caught up in the hard parts. But don't let it. You're out here playing a game for a living."



NBA STARS FUND NEXT GENERATION

By: Aboubakar Youssoufou // Staff Writer

Imagine being one of the best and biggest basketball players of the NBA, but you keep receiving bad comments from fans about how much money you spend. How would you feel?

Nowadays, NBA players are making huge amounts of money because they are extremely talented. Being a professional basketball player is not something that is easy to achieve; it demands skills, courage and most importantly, mutual respect between one and others.

People criticize NBA players by saying they get paid a lot of money by just bouncing the ball, and that they don't do anything to assist their communities, but this is untrue. People should know that even though their salaries are higher than the president of the United States', NBA players are still giving back to their communities.

Lakers forward LeBron James created a unique school that exceeded expectations. According to SB Nation, James' I Promise school "began as an Akron-based non-profit aimed at boosting achievement for younger students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Now the movement has the means to educate these students year-round." This demonstrates that James actually cares about where he grew up. He knows what it is like to feel like you do not have a way out, and only having limited opportunities.

James is a great source of inspiration and motivation for the youth. "LeBron is making sure that when our kids grow up, they have something to do," said Mohammed Al Birdari, a student at BINcA. "Some

might say that he's done nothing for anybody, but that's where they're wrong. He donates to charity to help young poor kids, and if you tell me that's not enough, I don't know what is. He's making history," said Birdari.

James is not the only NBA player who cares about the fans and their community. Minnesota Timberwolves point guard Derrick Rose, who in 2011 became the youngest player in the NBA to win most valuable player, launched a college scholarship fund. According to NBA.com, Rose's program "will award more than \$400,000 in tuition money." Rose reportedly said, "I hope to provide student a path to college that was not previously available to them." Even the best point guard in the NBA is giving money and dedicating his time to his community.

Sherlandy Pardieu, an 18-year-old student and athlete at BINcA, thinks basketball players should give back to the community. "People and athletes should always provide a little back to their community because usually the communities are the fans that got the athletes to where they are at today."

People will always criticize basketball players even though they do their best to support and satisfy communities. It seems like people will never be satisfied, whether or not they give back. However, despite the fact that NBA players are receiving criticism every day, they will always give back to their communities because they know how important the fans are throughout their careers.



A NEW WORLD FOR "GOD OF WAR"

By: Sadou Koumbassa // Staff Writer

In 2005, game director David Jaffe introduced gamers to the "God of War" franchise. The franchise includes eight games, including the PSP games "God of War: Ghost of Sparta," "God of War: Chains of Olympus" and "God of War: Ascension." In February 2018, they released their latest installment, "God of War," which I consider to be the best game in the franchise. According to Nicole Smith, an Assistant Dialogue Recordist for Skybound Entertainment, the game "showcases a lot of growth in the sense that it reflects general attitudes both within and without the gaming industry as a whole." For the past 10 years, the game has evolved on many levels: storyline, graphics and gaming experience.

The other seven games before this latest installment in the franchise follow the story of the mortal Kratos. Kratos was a general for the Spartan army. During a battle and on the verge of death, he calls out to Ares, the Greek god of war for help, and makes a blood oath to him. Kratos destroys town after town and eventually ends up blindly killing his wife and child through the power of Ares. The games in this franchise follow Kratos' journey and show how Kratos' hatred for the gods grows. When he finally kills his father Zeus in "God of War III," he flees Sparta and comes to Midgard in ancient Norway, where he marries his second wife and has a son, Atreus.

This new game leaves the Greek mythology behind and instead delves into Norse mythology. In the latest "God of War," Kratos finds a home in Midgard. He meets many Norse gods like Freya, Balder, Mogni and Modi, the world serpent and Thor himself. This change of worlds in "God of War" has made the game much more exciting because now you get to focus and learn about a new



mythology, and discover a world not seen in the past.

The graphics of the franchise slowly made their way to the realistic, vast world of Midgard. Around 2008-2010, the graphics were not that good on PSP, since it was on a portable system, not on a home console. In "God of War: Ascension," for example, the combat was choppy and glitchy. It seemed like the designers focused more on the storyline than delivering a quality gaming experience. In the new "God of War," the characters are more realistic. The vast world of Midgard really comes alive, and all the other nine realms do as well.

"God of War" has come a long way, giving gamers the best fighting and mythical world yet. What I like most about the latest installment of "God of War" is that after 10 years of Greek mythology, it finally shifts to a new world. Also, the storyline is much better because it shows Kratos teaching his son Atreus how to survive. I have a good feeling about what the franchise is going to bring for the next "God of War."

"MINECRAFT": HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?

By: Christopher Fulton-Harley //
Staff Writer

"Minecraft" is a game created by Swedish game developer Markus Persson in 2009 and then later sold to Microsoft in 2014. In "Minecraft," you traverse a world of blocks and journey on a quest to defeat the ender dragon. Although you have that goal, you do not have to choose that path. You could make anything from a farm to an aquarium, you could test your ability to survive while building, or you could just build in creative mode.

The game has changed throughout the years—for instance, in the current update, there are now dolphins and turtles! If you have just started playing "Minecraft," there are many things that you can try, like servers that you can connect to to play games made on "Minecraft."

Many debate if "Minecraft" is helpful or harmful for children with ADHD. On one hand, "Minecraft" can help kids improve processing speed, working memory and cognitive flexibility, which is the ability to switch between thinking about two different concepts. Also, with a game like this, making friends is easier because there are so many people who play the game that there are fan conventions, called Minefaire, and a lot of "Minecraft" players attend.

While the game is helpful to some, for many others, it is a game that parents can't pull their kids away from. When talking to my mother, she explained that at first, she was a bit skeptical about the game, mostly because she felt that the game might take over my mind.

For me, I believe that "Minecraft" is helpful for people with ADHD. Not only can you create anything that you can think of, it's a game where you can create your own mod to implement into "Minecraft."



A WORLD BEYOND "FORTNITE"

By: Arvin Dilbert // Staff Writer

I remember the first time I played "Fortnite." The moment I started building a wall, I knew this was the game for me because I enjoyed defending myself against other players. After playing the game a couple of times, everybody else in the world and I got addicted because it was so unique.

"Fortnite" is a game that combines building and combat, mixing elements of "Call of Duty," "The Hunger Games" and "Minecraft" all together. Millions of people are playing "Fortnite" for hours and hours on end, and there seems to be no sign of gamers stopping any time soon.

"Fortnite" is a multiplayer shooter where a maximum of 100 people are inserted into the game to fight to the end. The game, released July 25, 2017 by Epic Games, is an open world game where you can do anything and explore without any limitations. The game is available on PS4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, mobile and PC.

"Fortnite" has affected my physical life by keeping me in the house more," said 16-year-old Dorchester resident Clynton Caines.

"Fortnite" players are spending endless hours staring at the screen and have become addicted to the game. According to the New York Times, "Some of what hooks players is obvious: it has quality graphics, a sense of humor and advances rapidly."

However, because these gamers are focused on their victory royale, they are not fully moving their bodies, just moving their fingers to control their

players. Therefore, they are not getting enough exercise.

"My little brother, a freshman in high school, is constantly playing 'Fortnite,'" said Joseph Downing, a computer engineer major at Northeastern University. "He plays the game several hours a day without leaving his room."

"Fortnite" is also preventing kids from socializing with their friends, and family. According to the Guardian, "Whether it's social media or video games, children should enjoy them safely and as part of a lifestyle that includes exercise and socialising in the real world." But, if you talk to people online and stay in your room all day, you are disconnected from your friends, family, and the world around you. "Fortnite" is driving a wall between you and your family and friends.

My advice for people who want to play "Fortnite" and still have a well-balanced life is to limit yourself. You need to learn how to balance playing games and living the rest of your life. Make a schedule to set an amount of time to play the game, and spend the rest of your time on your social life and studying. You also need to have the willpower to say "no, not another game" to yourself and just get off the game.

Staying inside limits your capabilities. According to the Huffington Post, it is proven that going outside will make you healthier. It helps both your body and brain. Although there is a whole world on "Fortnite," there is another bigger world outside.

SONY PUTS A DAMPER ON "FORTNITE" WITH UNJUST CROSSPLAY POLICY

By: Adam Laythe // Staff Writer

Imagine waiting in a Gamestop line and purchasing a Nintendo Switch so you can play "Fortnite" with your friends who use different consoles than you. Once you finally purchase it and get home, you set up the Switch and download "Fortnite" from the Nintendo store, but while attempting to log into your Epic account, an error appears, stating, "This 'Fortnite' account is associated with a platform which does not allow it to operate on the Switch."

"Fortnite" is a multiplayer shooter global phenomenon from Epic Games that is available on PC, console and mobile. All statistics relating to your wins and kills, along with "Fortnite" skins and v-bucks (the currency used to make purchases within the game), are stored on your Epic Games account. However, to play "Fortnite" on a Nintendo Switch or Xbox One, you need to make a new account if your account is linked to Playstation 4 (PS4). In other words, if you want to play with friends on other platforms, you better kiss all of your \$20 skins goodbye!

Crossplay is the idea within the gaming industry that all gaming consoles and devices—whether it be on PC, Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch or mobile—should be able to play the same games together, regardless of the platform they are on. Crossplay is accepted, and even encouraged, by most major gaming companies. However, it is being stopped by Sony, the distributor of PS4, who wants to keep

PS4 from crossplaying with Xbox and Nintendo consoles because they are their competitors.

Thanks to Sony's harsh stance on crossplay, Playstation owners can only play "Fortnite" with players on PC and mobile, whereas players on the Xbox and the Switch can play with all platforms besides PS4. Sony does not allow players to use items they bought on PS4 to be used on other accounts.

If your account is or has been linked to a Sony PS4 account, that account cannot be accessed on Xbox or the Nintendo Switch. This is a move by Sony to keep PS4 players buying v-bucks on PS4 and using them for in-game purchases on PS4 and not on other platforms.

While Sony may lose some revenue from crossplay, crossplay would allow gamers to play with friends regardless of the console they are on, and it would save consumers money who would otherwise purchase another console.

If your account is under Epic Games and not Sony, Sony should not be allowed to block its users from playing on other devices. They are basically infecting your account so they can keep you on their platform and continue to profit off your purchases. PS4 was the best selling console in the market and wants to keep it that way. Sony is the thorn in the side of "Fortnite" crossplay—all other major companies involved (Epic Games, Nintendo and Microsoft) want crossplay, and see it as a way to advance, progress and expand within the gaming industry.



"QUEER EYE" OFFERS A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAKEOVER

By: Mariella Murillo // Staff Writer



In 2003, Bravo graced us with a new reality makeover show. We were introduced to the Fab Five—a group of gay men who hosted the show “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.” In an era when “Will & Grace” had been the sole TV representation of gay men since 1998, many still squirmed at the mere implication of queerness. “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,” however, shone a spotlight directly on gay men—even if the premise was based on the stereotype of gay men being fashionable. Running for five seasons, the show was tremendously successful, so much so that in 2017, 10 years after “Queer Eye” finished airing, Netflix picked up a reboot of it, introducing a new Fab Five.

So, maybe makeover shows are not really your thing. Maybe you find them to be shallow and degrading, and some certainly are. However, “Queer Eye” brings something new to the genre of “makeover shows.” The Fab Five break down the walls of what we have seen in shows like this before, and they offer show participants so much more than haircuts and new outfits. The Fab Five focus on making the entirety of participants’ lives better, while preserving the essence of the person they are.

“Every person they work with, they

are not just looking about what the right haircut for their face shape is; it is more like ‘What is this person covering up that needs to come out to make them a brighter, more self-actualized person?’” said Sasha Cagen, lifestyle coach and author of the book “Quirkyalone: A Manifesto for Uncompromising Romantics.”

Javiel Rios, a student at City On A Hill, said that a makeover is “something that changes the exterior of a person, but also the inside, and it affects the way the person feels about themselves.”

That is what “Queer Eye” does. And in addition to this, they help participants with something else along the way—like helping bartender Leo get ready for a parent-teacher conference, and helping Walmart employee William Mahnken propose to his girlfriend. There is something you can connect to in each episode because every person is treated as an individual, and each person is special.

Throughout the show, you also get a sense of the Fab Five as individuals, and you see them grow and learn from the people they meet. They focus on what is presented on the outside—fashion (Tan), culture (Karamo), grooming (Jonathan), food (Antoni) and interior design (Bobby)—and connect that to

what is inside. In the season two premiere, we hear some of the Five talk about their experiences with religion. You witness some significant moments with Bobby especially, as he refuses to go inside the church because of the rejection he faced when he came out. We then watch as he opens up about this to the woman they are making over, Tammye Hicks, and finally watch him step inside.

Similarly, when the Fab Five get ready to meet Skyler, a trans man who just got top surgery, they open up on their lack of knowledge of the transgender community, and how willing to learn they are. You get a genuine sense of who the Fab Five are, as you get to know the show’s participants.

“I think ‘Queer Eye’ is special because I think they [the Fab Five] can make a lasting impact,” said Anya Edwards, a Boston Arts Academy student. “They actually have conversations with these people about their lives and what is holding them back from achieving their goals.”

No matter how firm you are on the idea of all reality and makeover shows being, well, trash, I would tell you to hop on Netflix and put on “Queer Eye”—you will find the Fab Five just as enduring and charming as I do.



SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA



LEAH on the OFFBEAT

ALBERTALLI SPOTLIGHTS LGBTQ CHARACTERS IN YOUNG ADULT NOVELS

By: Malia McClerklin // Staff Writer

Now that LGBTQ characters are abounding in the media, it is time to raise expectations on their portrayal. The majority of LGBTQ representation revolves around characters behaving like the caricature of their sexuality, similar to flamboyant side characters like Damian from “Mean Girls” and Kurt Hummel from “Glee.”

While there is truth to the cliché, it is also healthy to see members of the community be accepted and normalized in the media so that young members of the community can see more of themselves in the characters, rather than what writers assume they are.

Having an LGBTQ character is a start, but an important part of normalizing the community is writing them like human beings, rather than caricatures. Becky Albertalli, author of the book “Simon VS The Homo Sapiens Agenda,” which was adapted into the movie “Love, Simon,” exemplifies how to properly integrate LGBTQ characters into her novels.

There is a scarce amount of books that have a homosexual protagonist, so “Simon” is a breath of fresh air. The novel follows closeted teenager, Simon Spier, who is in danger of having his emails with an anonymous gay kid at his school leaked to the public. Through Simon’s character, Albertalli proves that LGBTQ characters can differentiate from their stereotype. While the story revolves around romance and his sexuality, his romantic relationship is as fleshed out and focused on as a heterosexual’s relationship would be in any other book.

Albertalli’s second book, “The Upside of the Unrequited,” follows Molly Peskin-Suso, an overweight teenager who struggles with her self-esteem and love life. Molly’s twin sister, Cassie, has a subplot love story with a pansexual teen. Cassie is very flirtatious and can easily pick up girls. She is deeply flawed, quirky and protective. She is not constantly tormented by her sexuality; she proudly embraces it without it being her only character trait. Seeing people so confident in their sexualities helps to encourage younger members of the community to do the same.

Albertalli could have stopped there, but

she is truly a LGBTQ character dispenser. Cassie also has two moms. Most authors would not write about a family with more than one member of the gay community, but Albertalli was really onto something—a household where the majority of the family members are LGBTQ, and none of the characters are negatively affected. Stories praised for representing the gay community usually only have one or two gay characters. Albertalli proudly showcases many gay characters, demonstrating how similar the lives of a gay family and straight family can be.

If gay characters are underrepresented in literature, then bisexuals are treated like they do not exist. During the rare occasion that a bisexual is featured in the media, the word “bisexual” is usually treated like Voldemort, the thing that shall not be named. Cheryl Blossom from “Riverdale,” for example, has a sexuality that is never mentioned in the show, despite having romantic encounters with both men and women.

In “Leah on the OffBeat,” Albertalli sheds light on bisexuality. The protagonist, Leah Burke, is a bisexual teenager who is out to her mom but not her friends. Leah’s bisexuality is acknowledged frequently in her own inner dialogue. While her tendency to be reserved withholds her from being out to her friend group, she is not ashamed of it.

Homophobia blatantly exists and prejudice is something most, if not all, members of the LGBTQ community face. However, the majority of LGBTQ representation in the media centers around characters being treated like a burden, and being excessively ridiculed because of their sexuality. Meanwhile, Albertalli executes an interpretation of these characters in a matter that makes them feel like authentic human beings, rather than bizarre exaggerations of the assumptions society places on them. She makes her books seem less like LGBTQ genre novels and more like stories that just happen to have LGBTQ characters in them. In a literary utopian world, more authors would take after Albertalli when integrating LGBTQ characters into their work.

LIGHTS, CAMERÁ, ACTION!

PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON PALOMA VALENZUELA

By: Gabriella Diplan // Staff Writer

In the pilot of the popular web series “The Pineapple Diaries,” we are introduced to Maite, a young Afro-Dominican woman, who picks up the phone to hear her mom reminding her to wish her abuela a happy birthday, and not to forget to send her money. This expands Maite’s busy schedule and leads to her running around Jackson Square trying to fulfill her seemingly endless list of errands. In the midst of this, we are introduced to her group of friends: a mix of 20-year-olds trying to find their footing in today’s society.

In a world where women of color are often not showcased on television, or reduced to sidekicks for their white protagonists, it was comforting to see women of color take control in telling their own stories. I spoke with the series creator, Paloma Valenzuela, to inquire what inspired her to create this underrated, yet groundbreaking, series.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE CREATION OF “THE PINEAPPLE DIARIES?”

I was definitely inspired by a lot of other artists and writers that were using YouTube as a platform. I was totally inspired by Issa Rae and “The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl.” I knew I wanted to create something of my own, and I wanted to try writing a television series. What inspired me to create the show based on these subjects was this feeling of like, lack of seeing an honest portrayal of something I could relate to on television. I wanted to write stories that felt relatable to me and hopefully

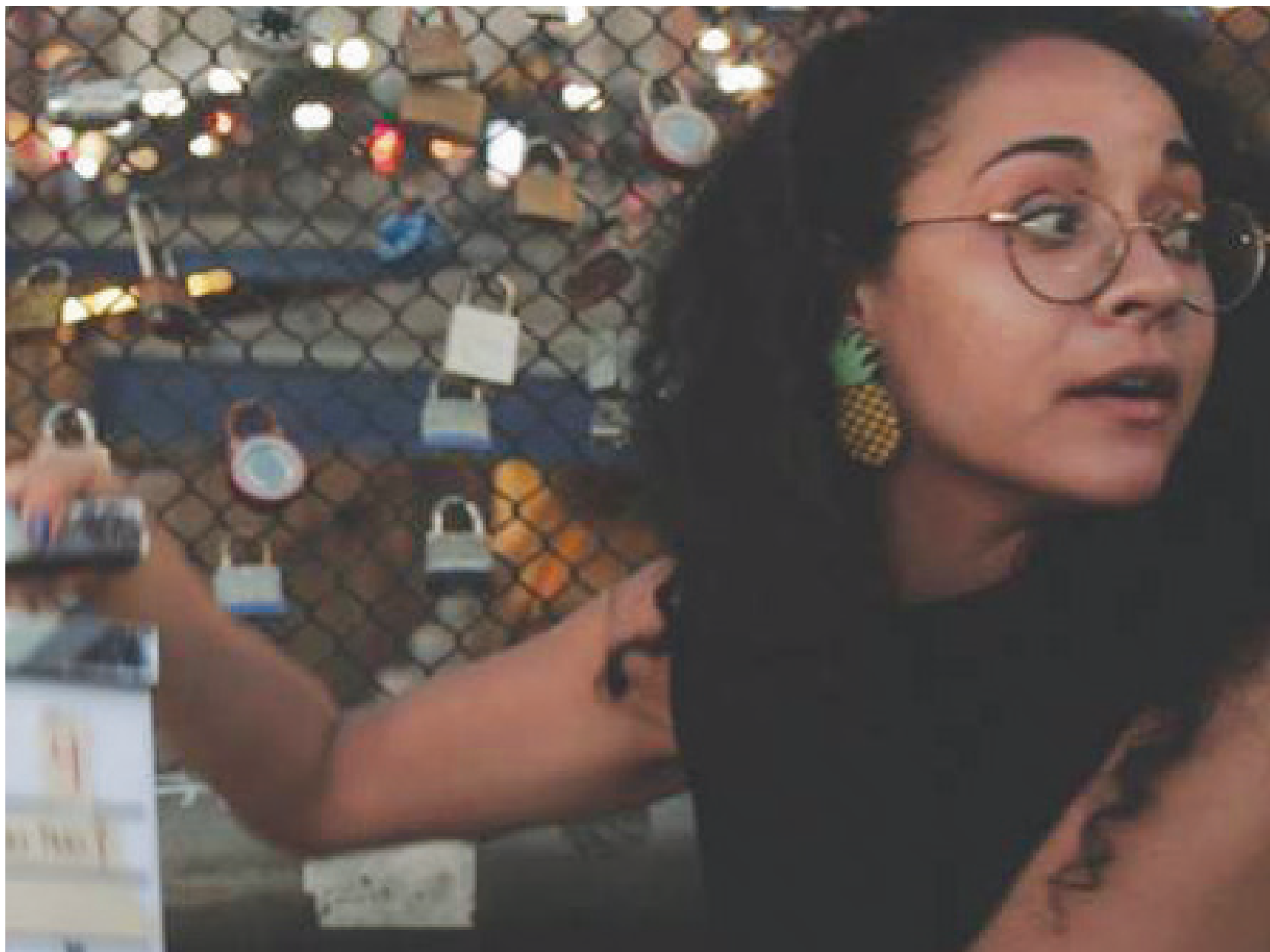
could relate with other women of color, with other Dominican-Americans, with the Latino community, and that’s what really drove me to want to tell these stories.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SET THE SHOW IN JAMAICA PLAIN?

I was really excited to have the show set here because I feel like I am just realizing how much of this neighborhood is a part of me, how much being a Bostonian is part of who I am.

The other reason I wanted to do it is because Boston has a certain profile in

terms of how it’s portrayed on TV and the movies, and that doesn’t fit the profile of what I experienced. I thought to myself, Boston isn’t just Southie, it isn’t just white Bostonians or Irish Bostonians. And it certainly isn’t just this Mafia storyline—which is a great storyline, and those stories can keep coming—but it shouldn’t be the only thing coming out of Boston. We have Latino communities as well, we have Latino neighborhoods and there are diverse communities here in Boston that I wanted to highlight in the show, so that was important to me.



YOUR SHOW FEATURES A LOT OF AFRO-LATINAS. WHAT ASPECTS OF THE AFRO-LATINA IDENTITY DO YOU HOPE TO SHOWCASE TO YOUR VIEWERS?

That there is one. For a long time, black Latinos were playing African-American roles in movies because nobody understood the concept that within the Latino community, we are all different shapes, sizes, colors and hair textures. It's important that any actor is able to play the roles that they can play, but also be able to represent where they really come from. If we continue to perpetuate that, the people won't understand there

are Afro-communities within the Latino community. We need to be knowledgeable about that, and be inclusive, because if you're Afro-Latina and you don't see yourself on TV as the Latina that you are, how can you feel a part of it? It is important for everyone to see themselves in magazines, on television, in the news, in politics, in the government. It's important because we all need to feel like we're a part of these communities.

DO YOU THINK THE ABSENCE OF AFRO-LATINAS IN MEDIA LEADS TO UNINFORMED

OPINIONS AS TO WHO THEY ARE AND THE DIVERSITY OF THEIR EXPERIENCES?

I think that black Latinos have all the right in the world to feel just as black as all other black people. A light skin Latina has a different experience from a black Latina. It's important to understand that. I think people are not informed enough about the racial diversity within the Latino countries. We're all so different. We can't all fit in one box, and we shouldn't have to, and we should see those characters in all those layers reflected in our entertainment, for sure.

YOUTUBE STARS DAN AND PHIL GO LIVE

By: Kiana McLean //
Staff Writer



The lights go down. After getting into the theater about 10 minutes before the show and hearing a mix of My Chemical Romance's "Welcome to the Black Parade," BTS's "Mic Drop" and an EDM audio remix of the word "LadyDoor" over and over again while trying to find my seat, the show is about to start.

Internet sensations Daniel Howell, previously known by his Youtube screen name Danisnotonfire, and Philip Lester, known as AmazingPhil, embarked on their second ever world tour, "Interactive Introverts," earlier this year. With millions of fans worldwide who dream of meeting them and seeing them live, this tour seemed like a dream come true. Despite being a dedicated fan for years, I had my reservations about how two vloggers could pull off a two hour live show. I am here to tell you the good, the bad, and the ugly of the "Interactive Introverts" tour.

Even though they are usually genuine in their videos, recently, Dan and Phil

have been overplaying their personalities, seeming almost fake. So, knowing that they would be doing a scripted stage show worried me because I thought the "fakeness" would be more apparent. Despite reservations, I have to admit that I could not stop smiling.

The whole event passed in an exciting, funny and sometimes cringy haze. They did a few rounds of their board game, "Truth Bombs," a game in which friends ask each other questions about themselves and get to hear what their peers think of them—and a few fun original challenges they made up from YouTube, like the "7 Second Challenge" where, as the name suggests, you have to do specific actions in seven seconds or less.

They also did a lot of skits based on their personalities and references from their videos and tweets, ranging Dan doing one-liners about his depression to call backs of long running jokes like Dan being a furry and Phil liking slime too much. They even

performed an original song talking about their relationship with each other.

Most of the show, however, was them reacting to what their fans wanted them to do. There are parts where fans submitted prompts and they would improv based on that. In one skit, Phil was evil and Dan was pure (complete opposites of how they are in real life) and fans submitted hard good and bad things they had to defend (for example, one question Dan had was to explain how pollution was good).

Despite reservations, Dan and Phil benefited from a lot of this show being improv. Even the scripted bits were still entertaining and came off naturally. I honestly laughed way more than I thought I would because of this. All in all, I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed this show. If you have a chance to see their final shows of this tour but are unsure if you want to invest your time and money, I would definitely recommend you bite the bullet and go see them.

THE COOL, THE GROSS AND THE COLORFUL:

YOUR GUIDE TO HARVARD'S MUSEUMS

By: Mariella Murillo // Staff Writer

At the Harvard Museums, there is an incredibly large range of different things to experience and explore. Whatever kind of history you are into, or if you are not into history at all—there is an exhibit that at the very least will catch your eye. Here are my favorite things and must-sees if you ever end up in Cambridge.

ROMER HALL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

If seeing the skeletons of animals that could swallow you whole as easily as you can swallow a grape terrifies you, then this exhibit is not for you. There are incredibly well-preserved animals such as early mammals, fish and dinosaurs (including the world's only Kronosaurus on display, which is 42 feet long). The Romer Hall of Vertebrate Paleontology is packed with gross and deliciously cool animals and reptiles preserved in jars and cases of glass, like that in the lab of a mad scientist.

ARTS OF WAR HEADGEAR EXHIBIT

One of the most interesting things that you can explore about a civilization is, for one, how they dress, and for two, how they protect themselves. In the Arts of War exhibits in the Peabody Museum, you can walk through and connect pieces from places like Japan, Hawaii, Italy, Borneo and more. There are guns, knives, suits of armor, shields, clubs and my personal favorite: helmets. There is something entrancing about stunning headpieces like these that you can imagine gracing the heads of those on the battlefield.

THE GREAT MAMMAL HALL

You can find The Great Mammal Hall as you pass through the museum, and through time. Make your way past all the evolution and extinct animals, and find yourself cornered by a million mammals—from tiny rodents to grimacing predators. You can land on any one animal and find a disturbing, bulging expression, or some that are actually quite comical. If there is an animal that you are interested in, or even just love, you will find it here.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Maybe your eyes get bored at what, to you, are just fancy rocks and stuffed animals. “Who cares about some boring ceramics?” you may ask yourself. Well, inside the Encounters With America Exhibit, your eyes will land upon the overwhelming Día de los Muertos exhibit. The altar set-up features Mexican art with Aztec influences, decorated by local and international artists. The aura of it can be described as a “unique blend of Mesoamerican and Christian rituals,” in which you can play a fun little game I like to call “Find The Jesuses.”

THE JAVANESE VILLAGE

As you make your way up the stairs of the Peabody, you can reach The Javanese Village—an exhibit that showcases parts of the Japanese Bamboo Theatre. There are gorgeous puppets as well as paper depictions of Hindu gods and stuffed glass representatives of class. So if you are drawn towards Eastern Asian culture, you will certainly find yourself lost in the eyes of the Krishna puppet.

NOT JUST FOR NERDS!

By: Jacob Downey // Staff Writer

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Fan Expo!

Fan Expo, previously known as Boston Comic-Con, is Boston's premier fan experience—Boston's own little slice of nerdy goodness. It wouldn't be ridiculous to believe that a comics convention is just a bunch of guys arguing about the superior Star Trek captain (it's Piccard by the way)—but, while Fan Expo Boston is the perfect place to geek out over your preferred movie, book or video game, there is so much more to the three-day experience. Whether you're a convention vet or just testing the waters, here are the sights to see at Fan Expo Boston.



SOAK UP THE POP CULTURE

People pass off comics conventions thinking non-comics fans have no reason to go. However, according to comic book artist and Fan Expo veteran Joe St. Pierre, “If you have any interest in pop culture or anything that’s happening nowadays, the source material is all in comics. So, if you’re interested in any of those things—all the creators, the people who make the movies and TV shows, and the actors are all here in one spot.”

In years long past, this sort of convention was a group of guys talking about Wolverine fighting Batman, but it has evolved into the ultimate celebration of pop culture. A five-minute walk across the convention floor is like a fandom safari. You’ll spot anything from Disney princesses to Sith Lords.

Now, it’s very easy to be intimidated by the 6’4” cloaked man holding a giant glow stick, but don’t worry, you’re not about to be force-choked: it’s just a cosplayer. Cosplay is a fundamental part of the Fan Expo experience, with fans going to extreme lengths to pay tribute to their favorite franchises. Some of this year’s standouts

included a woman dressed as Maleficent from “Sleeping Beauty,” and someone in a full suit of MJOLNIR Mark VI armor from the “Halo” series.

GET ARTSY

For our more creative readers out there, the artist’s alley is the place to be. Featuring creators large and small, it is an excellent exhibition of some of the best local artists, as well as some of the biggest names in comics. Strolling down the red-carpeted aisles, you can enjoy or even purchase watercolor portraits of your favorite characters, official signed merch, and even get a tattoo if you’re old enough. The artist’s alley is a must-see for anyone seeking to combine a love of art with a pop culture obsession.

GIVE BACK

A big pull for those who aren’t into the nerdier side of Fan Expo is the many affiliated charities such as Extralife, an organization that allows



streamers to game for a good cause, with the proceeds going to a charity of their choice. There’s also the 501st Legion, an all-volunteer organization of Star Wars cosplayers who dedicate their time towards fundraising and charity, often dressed in Sith or Imperial costumes.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS

This year, we were lucky enough to see the “Back To The Future” reunion. Actors from the classic time travel film got together on stage to talk about the film and answer fans’ questions. It is uncommon that fans have an opportunity to interact with their heroes, and that’s why Fan Expo’s most notable attraction is these panels.

It’s not the comics, the costumes, or even the creators. It’s the atmosphere of comradery inspired by a common love of pop culture and everything nerdy that makes the event special. Whether you’re a Dungeon Master, a Potter fanatic, a Trekkie or just looking for a cool place to spend your weekend, Boston Fan Expo is for you.



WARPED TOUR FAMOUS

3 BANDS ROCKING THE SCENE

By: Jacob Downey // Staff Writer

Attending Warped Tour 2018 was a dream come true. As a kid who's been told his music taste was weird—and being asked if I worshipped Satan after showing off a favorite band—being in an atmosphere where my kind of music was celebrated was a welcoming shock. There were loud bands performing to even louder crowds, setting the scene for every angsty kid in his newly acquired “Make America Emo Again” hat.

Sadly, 2018 marked the final full country run of Warped Tour, for reasons unknown. Warped Tour is the biggest celebration of alternative rock and roll in the United States, so the final tour went out with a bang, thank to these amazing bands.

MAKEOUT

Ever had a person in your life who you want to politely ask to stop breathing? Well, MAKEOUT's debut album, “The Good Life,” is the soundtrack to that feeling. The album is a mix of pop-punk jams with slower, more meaningful songs in between. Standouts include “Crazy,” a ridiculously catchy and original song about a girl who can't make up her mind, and “Lisa,” an almost comedic track about, you guessed it, a girl named Lisa and why lead singer Sam Boxold is not a fan. MAKEOUT's sound is a love letter to bands like All Time Low and All-American Rejects, with songs that feature engaging instrumentals and lyrics that are both catchy and meaningful. With a real garage punk vibe, MAKEOUT is definitely worthy of a place on your playlist.

DOLL SKIN

If you are looking for something a bit heavier, look no further than Doll Skin. Boasting a sound that perfectly blends pop with metal and punk, lead singer Sydney Dolezal has a very distinct and powerful voice combined with some of the best rock guitar the scene has to offer. If you need any more proof that Doll Skin are some of the coolest girls in rock and roll, their song “Shut Up (You Miss Me)” will put any worries to rest.

PALAYE ROYALE

Palaye Royale is a modern day gothic version of a 70s glam rock band, and it slays. The band's style is very distinct, looking as if they were ripped straight from a Tim Burton movie. There is far more to Palaye Royale than just makeup and flashy outfits. For example, their song “Mr. Doctor Man,” which features strong instrumentals and Remington Leith's unique vocals, is catchy, but also has a deeper meaning rooted in mental health and self-expression. The band, in both look and sound, pays homage to My Chemical Romance while still creating something really exceptional. Palaye Royale is not a band to ignore and is a definite win for all the emo kids out there.

WARPED TOUR ON-THE-GO

Now that I've gassed up the scene, here's some rad jams to satisfy the head-banging angsty kid we all are on the inside.

- **The Rock Show:** Blink-182
- **Lifestyles of the Rich and the Famous:** Good Charlotte
- **Lisa:** Makeout
- **Mr. Doctor Man:** Palaye Royale
- **Dear Maria, Count Me In:** All Time Low
- **I'm Not Okay:** My Chemical Romance
- **Shut Up (You Miss Me):** Dollskin
- **Check Yes Juliet:** We The Kings
- **December (Again):** Neck Deep
- **The Middle:** Jimmy Eats World



TEA'S SIMMERING HISTORY

By: Clinton Nguyen // Staff Writer

Opium, warfare and teenage slang all have something in common: tea. This drink has sparked revolutions, evolved to accommodate our changing tastes and altered the way we communicate with each other.

Tea has become the most consumed beverage after water, according to the Tea Association. Tea is not just a fad; it has been prescribed to patients to help ease their pain for centuries, all the while being a drink that has led to the bloodshed of others.

While tea is often linked to relaxation, considering its impact throughout history, historians would say otherwise. As Americans, we are no strangers to the American Revolution, and one of its prime symbols was tea, popularized by the Boston Tea Party. Decades after the American Revolution, the British introduced opium to China to exchange it for silver to be traded for tea. This thirst for tea spiraled into a war, leading to the birth of a nation and impacting culture for generations, as mentioned by the National Army Museum.

The impacts of tea are still felt throughout Boston, as desire for this drink remains strong. Gen Sou En, Boston's first modern Japanese tea house, proves popular amongst younger generations who find this to be a tranquil setting to enjoy tea and unwind.

Noticing America's growing interest in tea, Gen Sou En, which is the second largest tea producer in Japan, decided to break into their market. Chelsea Brewster, the general manager, mentioned that their new menu includes bubble tea after overwhelming demand for this drink, a variation mixing milk, tea and chewy tapioca balls.

The influx in bubble tea shops has demonstrated the future generations' interest in tea, albeit with a sweeter spin. Beyond being an indulgent beverage, bubble tea shops foster comfortable hang out spots that fit youth lifestyles.

"Bubble tea shops add to the social aspect of my life by providing a place for my friends and I to hang out and talk," said

Carolyn Diaz, a senior at John D. O'Bryant. "Being able to get delicious drinks is a plus."

Along with catering to youth through a sugary concoction, tea has also found a place in contemporary slang. As noted on Merriam-Webster's site, the first variant of this word was the letter "T" for "truth." The term later evolved to "tea" as the social context of tea became fitting, as tea time was when one would discuss the latest drama. This can be seen in modern teenage vocabulary.

"My friends and I bond over tea while we're spilling juicy tea in conversation," said Mageney Omar, a Simmons College freshman.

From this single word, it has further evolved to being entire phrases from "spill the tea" to "no tea no shade," attesting to how tea is woven in our social fabric and culture.

With the long journey tea has taken to cross the Pacific, remember the trail it has blazed before it burns your tongue.



MUM'S CANTONESE COOKING

By: Ivy Chen // Staff Writer

I kick off my shoes and pull on my slippers before entering the house. The aroma from the kitchen overwhelms the dining room. I lift the curtain and see my aproned mother handling the wok, covered in a cloud of steam. Her spatula clangs against the metal, the ingredients sizzling as they stir-fry.

Of all the foods I've eaten, I cannot give up my mother's Cantonese home cooking, a southern Chinese style of cuisine. Cantonese food is healthy; vegetables are not over-seasoned, but

clean and light, and the food isn't spicy because it is meant to cool you down from the dense, southern heat. Everything is either punch-in-the-face flavorful, or easy on the tongue. There is no in-between.

These easy and authentic Cantonese recipes can be made anytime. Most of the vegetables in these recipes can be found in any farmers' market, but the dried ingredients and seasoning may be found in your local Asian grocery store, like Super 88 or H-Mart.

STIR-FRY GLASS NOODLES

My family is Buddhist, and this dish has elements that reflect Buddhist philosophy, which is why we often eat it during traditional holidays.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pack of thin glass noodles
- 1 carrot
- 1 stalk of celery
- Scallions
- 4-5 garlic cloves
- 2 chinese sausages
- Seasoning: 1 pinch salt, 2 tablespoon soy sauce, maybe some MSG.

1. My mum likes to soak the noodles in cold water before cooking them. I always skip this step, but we should listen to mum this one time.
2. While the noodles are soaking, chop and mince the ingredients. My mum specifically slices everything diagonally for this dish. The vegetables and sausage should be long and thin to mimic the noodles.
3. Pour your preferred oil into a hot wok together with garlic.
4. Garlic burns easily when cooking with high heat, so quickly throw in the sausage, carrots, and celery after the garlic releases its scent.
5. Drain the glass noodles, toss them in, and stir quickly so the noodles don't stick to the wok.
6. Add one or two cups of the water that was used for soaking. Stir until a majority of water evaporates.
7. Now it's time to season. Mum only uses soy sauce, but it is going to end up being bland, so I add salt first, then soy sauce for some color.
8. Toss all the ingredients in the wok one final time. The dish should look golden brown when served.

BABY NAPA CABBAGE

My uncle made the best stir fry napa cabbage! My mum tries to replicate it all the time.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pack of baby napa cabbage
- 3-4 cloves of garlic (sliced)
- Tiny knob of ginger (minced)
- Handful of dried shrimp
- Handful of dried scallop
- Salt and pepper

1. Wash your cabbage and peel the leaves apart.
2. Give the dried shrimp and scallop a quick wash. Dry with paper towel.
3. Put oil in a hot wok and quickly toss the shrimp and scallop in.
4. After crisping up the shrimp and scallop, toss in garlic, ginger, salt, and pepper. Mum never gave measurements, so you'll have to eye everything.
5. Sprinkle in some water. Mum says the wok should now look like "a milky broth."
6. Toss in the cabbage, put the lid on for one or two minutes, then remove the lid.
7. Stir until the cabbage leaves soften and the excess water evaporates.
8. This dish is formally served with the leaves all facing the same direction and the shrimp and scallop as topping. I usually eat this with rice to balance out the saltiness.

"I'm home!" I yell in her ear, but she gives no reaction and continues working the wok. I peek over her shoulder and see black mushrooms, lotus roots, snow peas, and pork belly all dancing around in the wok. She hands me a sample and asks in Taishanese: "Is it salty enough?" I'm her designated taste tester.

My mum shows her love and appreciation through her cooking. I will continue her legacy and learn to show love through my cooking as well.

HOMEMADE WONTONS

Wonton soup is oh-so-Cantonese. It can be eaten any time of the day.

INGREDIENTS

- A pack of square wonton skins (preferably yellow)
- 1/2 lb. ground shrimp
- 1/2 lb. ground pork
- Scallions
- Seasoning: 1 tbsp white pepper, 2 tbsp sesame oil, 2 tbsp salt, and 1 tbsp soy sauce.

1. Mince the scallions finely. Add the ground pork, shrimp, and seasoning. Mix until a paste-like consistency.
2. With a spoon, ladle 3/4 spoon worth of filling.
3. Place filling in the middle of the wonton skin, fold in half, and pinch the ends to seal.
4. Repeat until all filling and skin have been used up.
5. Boil your wontons in water or stock until they float.
6. Serve soup and wontons in a bowl, topped with scallions and extra soy sauce (of course).

FAST FOODIE

By: Arvin Dilbert // Staff Writer



The first time I went into downtown Boston, all I could smell were hot dogs, burgers and fries all around me. Although there were many stores and parks, the food options was what really stood out to me. Here are the five best fast food restaurants in downtown, with their top five can't-miss menu items.

1. CHARLEYS PHILLY STEAKS

Charleys has delicious subs all made fresh right in front of you. I recommend the chicken teriyaki sub. The sauce they put on it is phenomenal. Their wide variety of subs range from \$5–\$10. The fries are always \$2.50. You get great food without spending a lot of money. The top five menu items I recommend are:

- 1. Chicken teriyaki sub.** It has that special sauce that makes the chicken extra good.
- 2. Baconator fries.** They are like Wendy's baconator fries, but thick cut like Burger King fries.
- 3. Philly cheesesteak.** The melted cheese blends in well with the steak in order to achieve a delectable taste.
- 4. Steakhouse salad.** This is a healthy option for people who want to stay fit.
- 5. Bacon three cheese steak.** This steak sub has three cheeses and bacon mixed in.

2. WENDY'S

The moment you walk into Wendy's you can smell salty fries. They have cushioned seats so you can sit comfortably while enjoying your food. This location has two floors, which is great because it gets packed during rush hour. Even though Wendy's is a fast food restaurant, the food

can take a while to make, because they are cooking delicious burgers. I recommend:

- 1. Baconator fries.** This is my favorite because they put bacon bits on some extremely good melted cheese.
- 2. 4 for \$4 Meal.** This combo lets you pick four items for only \$4. It's a hard deal to beat.
- 3. Baconator.** This burger has two layers of beef and cheese topped with six strips of smoked bacon.
- 4. Grilled chicken wrap.** The spice they put on the chicken makes it unique.
- 5. Frosty.** There is nothing better than getting something sweet for only 99 cents.

3. MCDONALD'S

There is always a McDonald's nearby with very affordable prices, and most are very clean. The moment you walk in you will be punched by the delightful aroma of McDonald's signature fries. They have an amazing dollar menu that not many restaurants have. On the dollar menu, you can get great food options like the McChicken sandwich. I recommend:

- 1. McChicken.** This delectable delight is only \$1.
- 2. French fries.** The fries are salty, but when you bite into them they are soft and good.
- 3. Chicken McNuggets.** These are some of the best chicken nuggets I've tasted. They are a McDonald's classic.
- 4. Sausage burrito.** This breakfast burrito has cheese, sausage and other ingredients that makes it a great way to start your morning.
- 5. Hash browns.** A classic and cheap menu item.

4. BURGER KING

Burger King has some of the best fries. They are thick, crispy and lightly salted. Their value menu offers a variety of burgers for under \$2. Basically everything on the menu is good and cheap, from the fries to the bacon double cheeseburger. I recommend:

- 1. Chicken fries.** Hot and tasty chicken strips shaped like french fries.
- 2. French fries.** These fries are fat and salty.
- 3. Bacon Jr. King sandwich.** It's cheap and it has bacon on it. Enough said.
- 4. Bacon egg and cheese croissant.** The breakfast of champions.
- 5. Cheeseburger.** They are known for these burgers.

5. FIVE GUYS

The restaurant has red and white stripes throughout and it's very clean. All of their meat is fresh and cooked as you order it. So if you want real meat, come here. It typically costs \$9 for a burger, but it's quality food. If you don't have that much money, you're better off going somewhere else. My top recommendations are:

- 1. Cheeseburger.** Fresh grilled meat paired with as many free toppings as you like.
- 2. Little bacon cheeseburger.** Fresh bacon and meat make for an excellent combination.
- 3. Patty melt.** While it's not officially on the menu, you can ask for a grilled cheese sandwich with a beef patty inside of it. Order it next time you are here.
- 4. Fries.** Fresh cut potatoes cooked in pure peanut oil.

YOUR EASY GUIDE TO LIVING SUSTAINABLY

By: Kelly Thai // Staff Writer

Marine biologist and conservationist Rachel Carson once wrote, “For most of us, knowledge of our world comes largely through sight, yet we look about with such unseeing eyes that we are partially blind. One way to open your eyes to unnoticed beauty is to ask yourself, ‘What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?’”

Imagine waking up one day and not seeing any trees, grass or flowers. Imagine not being able to take a hike or canoe on a lake. Imagine the day we run out of nonrenewable resources. I know I do not want to.

Living a sustainable, minimalist lifestyle can seem daunting. You may doubt your ability to change

environmental impacts of your actions— but it gets easier.

Vicky Chen, who was in the recycling club her senior year of high school, said that she believes recycling and leading a sustainable lifestyle is important because “by repurposing recyclable materials, we can reduce the amount of waste products disposed in landfills that would otherwise sit for centuries before natural decomposition occurs.”

Chen also stated, “It’s the little things people use and throw away everyday that can make a big difference in the long run.” Choose to start making a difference in the environment today by utilizing this informative advice.

SUSTAINABLE SUPERSTAR: LAURA PRESHONG

I chatted with the owner of Laura Preshong Ethical Fine Jewelry about how buying jewelry from ethical stores can contribute to a better environment.

How did your brand mission, “make ethically sourced jewelry we would like to wear, treat people the way we would like to be treated and protect our human rights and environment like our lives depended on it” come to be?

The business mission statement comes from my heart. What I believe is the best way to run a business.

What are the environmental impacts of mass-produced jewelry and accessories?

The environmental impacts are the devastation that comes with clearing large areas of land for mining. Mining produces chemicals that leach into the water which disrupts the migration of animals. Any type of large-scale anything is horrible for the environment and usually pays very little.

Where and how did Laura Preshong Ethical Fine Jewelry begin using the manufacturing practices that the store stands by currently?

We started our ethical sourcing and branding around 2010. There was a small movement by independent brands after the

Leonardo DiCaprio movie “Blood Diamond,” and we joined in.

Can you go into detail and expand on the statement that you “use very little large scale manufacturing or chemical processes in our ethically sourced jewelry”?

We are hand making everything in our Boston studio. Less big manufacturing means less impact and waste on and in the environment. All of our diamonds are sourced from Botswana, Africa, or Canada; all the rest of our materials are U.S. made.

What is some advice you have for teenagers who want to begin living a more sustainable life?

Reduce, reuse and recycle.

10 WAYS TO BECOME MORE ECO-FRIENDLY TODAY

EVERYONE KNOWS TO USE REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES AND SHOPPING BAGS, BUT HERE ARE SOME LESSER-KNOWN TIPS TO HELP YOU LEAD AN EVEN MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE.

Start buying and using microfiber towels, old t-shirts, or cotton dish rags instead of paper towels. Dirty paper towels cannot be recycled.

Start a small garden in your backyard or even on your kitchen countertop. Nothing beats fresh grown produce right from your own home, plus plants help purify the air.

Trade your current light bulbs for LED or CFL light bulbs if you do not currently own them. They consume less energy than incandescent ones.

Invest in a shower timer and a water-saving shower head. It will amaze you how much water you have wasted previously.

When doing laundry, only dry the clothes you are going to wear within the next few days. The other clothes should be air-dried instead to conserve energy.

Ask for digital notices, bills, and invitations instead of getting them in the mail to create less paper waste.

Check out trendy and stylish metal straws! They are reusable and come in a variety of colors. Plastic straws are a danger to wildlife, and contribute to ocean pollution.

Store gift bags and boxes you receive for future uses instead of going out and buying gift bags and boxes—that way they are there when you need them.

Make your own natural home cleaners. For flat surfaces, water and vinegar are most fitting, and for clothes, you can use saponin from quinoa as detergent. They are eco-friendly because they do not pollute the environment or release toxins.

Invest in solar energy chargers along with solar water heaters. These can reduce energy costs along with noise pollution and greenhouse gases.

7 TIPS FOR TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

By: Rebecca MacLean// Staff Writer

I am on the trip of my dreams and stepping off the plane when I realize how little I have really prepared. I have a hotel and I am packed, but I am unprepared for the biggest challenge of all—visiting a country where English is completely foreign. With all the signs in Chinese, I do not understand where to find baggage claim, cannot find customer service and I cannot even buy a bottle of water.

How could this been avoided? Here are some tips for traveling outside of the U.S. to put your anxiety at ease.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE US:

➤ **Make sure there are more than 6 months on your passport.**

Some foreign countries have very strict rules when it comes to passports, so it is always better to be safe than sorry when traveling.

➤ **Make sure to tell your credit card company that you are traveling.**

It is better to do so in case of emergency and you need to use your credit card. You need to tell the credit card company where you will be traveling and for how long, even if you do not plan on using your card.

➤ **Learn the conversion rate.**

Knowing the conversion rate can help you find out if something you want to buy abroad is a good price. Make sure to check on the same day you start your trip to see if the rate has changed. Do not get intimidated.

“It is not hard once you get the hang of it. It is easy and quick to pick up,” said Kemmara Bailey, a young teen traveler.

➤ **Get a translator app that doesn’t require the Internet.**

Getting this app will

be helpful, but also try to learn some basic words and phrases, such as “Hello,” “Where is the bathroom?” and “Do you speak English?” This way, you won’t have to keep looking them up every time.

➤ **Learn the culture.**

Some cultures in other countries are different than American culture. It is important to find out the offensive and acceptable behaviors for foreigners in different countries.

Eric Jeffords, a long time traveler, said, “Look into how to be respectful in basic interactions, whether it be bowing or what to say to be polite.”

ON THE PLANE RIDE TO YOUR DESTINATION:

➤ **Stay hydrated.**

On planes, they lower the humidity to create a clean and comfortable environment for travelers. But, this causes the body to release moisture quicker than normal, which leads to dehydration. The best thing to drink is water.

WHEN YOU GET TO YOUR DESTINATION:

➤ **Get your hotel’s business cards.**

If you get lost while traveling, you can give your hotel business card to someone nearby to help you find your way back. I tried this tip, and it was really helpful.

FALLING INTO STYLE

By: Kenneth Bufford // Staff Writer

Pumpkins, apple cider, Halloween and that nice period between t-shirt and winter coat season —fall is a great time for all of us. It's just warm enough to go for a walk in the park to admire the scenery, yet just cold enough to snuggle up in a nice blanket on the porch to watch the sunset.

For some, with fall comes a new wardrobe. People with this understanding have designated seasonal clothing and continue to slay year-round. These pioneers truly encompass what fall should look like and for that reason this article isn't for them for they do not need help. That being said, ladies, you need read no further... men, this one's for you.

First, let's cover the fashion basics. Wear neutral tones to parallel the aesthetic of the scenery around you. Deep green, golden yellows and plum purples are great fall colors and allow men to extend the color vocabulary they tend to not have. Do not wear shorts. I understand that 60 degrees is some sort of magically warm weather haven for you guys, but save it for spring. 65 degrees and below is not shorts weather; you want to be comfortable while fashionable, not cold while tacky. Fix it.

Now let's talk about outfit choices.

Peacoats are a great accessory to any neutral outfit you wear. Long and fashionable, they allow you to give your fit a little *je ne sais quoi*. Now while you have peacoats on top how about trying some plaid combinations on the bottom? Plaid in some instances can be tacky, but paired with a nice khaki or dark jean they work well with your outfit. Finally time for some fresh kicks. Save your hot pink, red, white and blue shoes for the summer. Sperry, Vans and Toms are cute and provide versatility while comfortability.

Aside from color blocking, many men—including myself—struggle with one major category: layers. Layers are a simple and efficient way of staying warm and looking cute. Layers allow one to replace certain types of clothing for other types to provide the same function but for less of a climate hassle. For example, wearing a cardigan and a thin shirt because the thin shirt is fashionable, but your cardigan can keep you warm.

Men, you can be complicated, but that doesn't mean your clothing choices have to be. Always keep in mind that fall outfits can be recycled every year so don't be afraid to start or add to your collection.

BREAK UP WITH BREAKOUTS



A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO CLEAR SKIN ALL SCHOOL YEAR

By: Kiana McLean // Staff Writer

Have you gotten so stressed about school that your tears become your new face cleanser? School just started, but teachers are assigning mountains of homework. You are working after school and squeezing extracurriculars into every gap in your schedule. With all that, who would have time for skin care?

Believe it or not, it is possible. Skin care does not need to be a “Korean 10-Step” method. The answer to getting clear, glass skin, or at least maintaining and not harming it, requires only a few simple steps.

— FACE MAPPING —

In an interview with Refinery29, skincare brand owner Chapman Lee described face mapping as “the ability to see the reflection of the body’s organs on each part of the face by observing the face’s complexion—such as luster, dullness and color.”

For example, I break out primarily on my right cheek, and according to face mapping, this is caused by eating too much junk food. This methodology is detailed but easy to understand, so a quick look at Refinery29’s article about the study can lead to long term skin success.

— SUNSCREEN —

According to Olay, “The impact of stress can cause premature wrinkles and...cortisol, the primary stress hormone, has been known to break down the collagen in your skin.”

Sometimes stress is inevitable, so instead of forcing yourself to stay chill while drowning in assignments, try tackling premature aging in other ways. The sun is another natural cause of premature aging, and since you cannot delete it or become a hermit, you should definitely wear sunscreen. I recommend the Neutrogena Clear Face Break-Out Free Liquid Lotion Sunscreen. This is an affordable drugstore sunscreen formulated to not cause breakouts. It is not thick or heavy, does not leave a white cast (even on dark skin), and comes in varying amounts of SPF.

— HYDRATE AND MOISTURIZE —

Hydrating and moisturizing serve two distinct purposes. According to True Skin Care Center, “Dehydrated skin lacks water and therefore needs to be hydrated. Dry skin lacks oil and needs to be moisturized.”

To achieve plump, glowing skin, you need both. For dehydrated skin, drink lots of water daily and consider the seven toner method: use a water based toner formulated primarily for moisturizing and apply it seven times during your skincare routine.

This may seem time consuming for you. However, according to Edward Avila, a beauty YouTuber with over 850,000 subscribers, “If you are going to be applying toner seven times, you do not want to be waiting for it to absorb so you should just be using it a little at a time,” meaning this is not as wasteful of your time and money as it sounds. This allows optimal amounts of moisture to sink into your skin, boosting hydration overall.

Commitments may consume your life, but you should not let blemishes do the same. So, before the salt from your tears exfoliates your cheeks, remember that there are easy ways to keep your skin from suffering, regardless of how much you are.

FINANCIAL TIPS FOR SAVVY TEENS

By: Kelly Thai // Staff Writer

Omarlyn Martinez, a Boston teen, worked full-time this summer in hopes of paying for his college tuition and also to save money. Since Martinez comes from a single parent household, saving money was always difficult, especially since he only had a checking account at first. Now, he's able to save with a savings account. Martinez is hoping to get into investing and aspires to buy a house for himself, and one for his mom in the Dominican Republic.

We all struggle when it comes to saving money. Despite some of us having bank accounts and reminding ourselves not to overspend, we do it anyway.

Jeff Paddock, a Financial Empowerment Coordinator at Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, is a financial coach for low-income families. He guides people of all ages on saving, as well as encouraging them to reach their financial goals.

"For kids, I recommend getting in the habit of putting change away in a jar in their room," said Paddock. "When you become a teenager, I recommend setting savings goals. This is something that is very important."

Getting in the habit of saving early fosters discipline and control. Paddock recommends for teens to open a savings and a checking account because "once they have a steady income, they should set up an automatic transfer of a few dollars from the checking to their savings. This will build the habit of saving a little every month."

Kathy Lee, a freshman at Northeastern University, does not have her own bank account, but has one under her parent's name.

"I was told to save money by my

parents. But that never ends up the way they expected it to be," said Lee. At a young age, her parents advised her to save all her money from Chinese New Years. "However, much like a child, I did not learn my lesson," she said. "I still spend a bit here and there but it has decreased quite a bit."

In her spare time, Lee likes to shop. "I only make the purchase if I believe that item is absolutely necessary and practical for my daily lifestyle." Following this method, Lee learned to save money little by little.

Paddock has two tips for teens to practice when preparing for their first big purchase.

The first tip consists of three rules:

Rule one: open a bank account so that your money is safe. Storing your money in your room could be dangerous because it could be lost, stolen, or destroyed.

Rule two: track how much money you have in your account.

Rule three: spend less than what you make. Even though it sounds simple, it could be difficult.

The second tip is to open a separate emergency savings account where you put a little bit of money away. "Emergency savings are like first aid kits. They should be close, accessible, and hidden away," said Paddock.

An important thing to do is to calculate your monthly income, as well as bills or monthly expenditures you have to pay for. Next, generate a budget that includes how much you'll spend on eating out, entertainment, social activities, shopping for clothes, etc. Subtract your monthly expenses and social spending from your monthly income, and you'll get an idea of how much you spend

monthly.

That way, you can estimate how long it will take to save for that large purchase.

Jeff Babcock, a Senior Associate at WS Development, said an overarching principle is that the earlier you start saving, the more time your money has to grow. For this to happen, Babcock recommends that teens seek out a savings account that has a high interest rate. If you want to save even more money, finding an index fund could be an alternative. Index funds are composed of a variety of stocks and bonds, Babcock explained.

"You're investing a little bit in a lot of different things, diversifying your risk. When you invest \$100 into index funds, it can be spread across all these investments, industries, or even the entire economy." The downside to this is that there is a bit more risk at play, and you may lose money.

Once you get in the routine of saving, you can decide whether to put that money in a low-risk savings account or higher-risk index fund. Students can open a brokerage account to begin investing in index funds even though it is a bit more advanced and complicated, so research is crucial.

"It is important to know what investing is like. Time is really your best friend when it comes to saving money, the sooner the better, for sure," said Babcock.



ARIES:**MARCH 21 - APRIL 19**

While Mars may have just left retrograde, you are still feeling its effects.

You will start falling back into habits of self-care. Be careful of your finances for they may shift unexpectedly.

TAURUS:**APRIL 20 - MAY 20**

You may start to feel the least connection to your sign. Your emotions may lead you to being more concerned for others and yourself. Your instincts for others may lead you down the wrong path.

GEMINI:**MAY 21 - JUNE 20**

Emotions will reach all time highs as you start to feel the effects of Saturn in retrograde. Do not play into your emotional weaknesses and if needed, separate yourself from situations. Rely on your intelligence to help you combat insecurities.

CANCER:**JUNE 21 - JULY 22**

September will be a rough time for you. Having those you trust around is going to be key to your survival this month. You will find yourself in the middle of plentiful offers; some will be good.

SEPTEMBER 2018 HOROSCOPES

By: Kenneth Bufford // Staff Writer

LEO:**JULY 23 - AUGUST 22**

As summer comes to an end, your professional affairs will start to dwindle. Use this time to invest in family matters and your emotions. Your open-mindedness will allow you to grow and adapt to issues that present themselves.

VIRGO:**AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22**

As you enter your astrological season, this month is all about you. Listen to your heart. Allow it to guide you, but be wary of professional and personal relationships, for they may take a dip this month.

LIBRA:**SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22**

As Libra season approaches your mood and emotions will take a full swing. Love is in the air for Libras in this month. Take a chance. Be wary because with love comes heartache. Listen to your heart but trust your brain even more.

SCORPIO:**OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21**

In September your ability to be oneself will blossom so explore your inner thoughts. If there is something you thought about doing but were unable to, now is the chance. Add a new work out to your routine. Be spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS:**NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21**

Slow and steady wins the race all throughout September. While you are known to be spontaneous in nature, it is time to settle down and think things through. Karma is coming so be ready for your bad to catch up to your good.

CAPRICORN:**DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19**

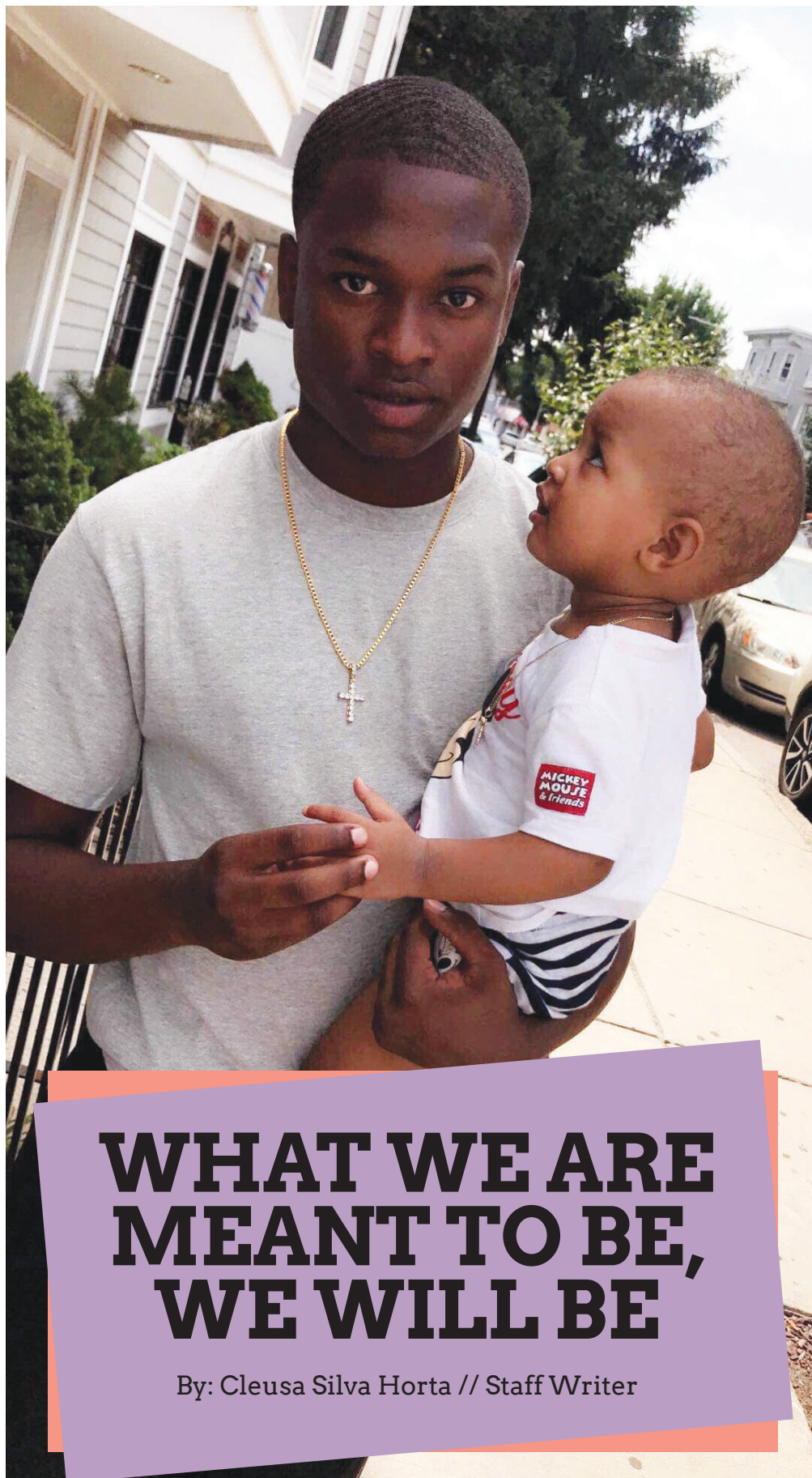
September is your month for love! Recently you have found yourself distracted by your thoughts and emotions towards other issues. Allow work to take a back burner and work on yourself. Spice up your life and do the unexpected!

AQUARIUS:**JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18**

September is a month of self-care for you. It is time to take a moment and take care of yourself. Freedom will find its way to you as Uranus stays in retrograde. Expect the unexpected and do the unexpected.

PISCES:**FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20**

Let's talk about how out of all the signs, September will be the best for you. Neptune's retrograde will help you find yourself. You may not think you are lost, but regardless, you will be found. Use this new you to find a date or go see a play. Be fun and be free!



WHAT WE ARE MEANT TO BE, WE WILL BE

By: Cleusa Silva Horta // Staff Writer

I used to go to the beach every day after school to contemplate the most beautiful landscape in my city. I also went there to play soccer on the hot sands with my friends, or to help my dad fish. He used to ask me and my other two big brothers to help him bring the boat back to the sands and help him take all the fish to the fishmongers in my village.

One day after school I went to the beach as I usually do, but something different happened. There was a girl named Mirrian who I always liked. I always thought that she didn't pay attention to me because I have really dark skin, but I was wrong. She came at me wearing a long traditional Cape Verdean dress and said hi. She was really short, with chocolate skin and brown eyes that looked like caramel candy.

She told me that she always wanted to talk to me because she always loved boys with really dark skin and afro hair, just like me. My heart started to beat fast. Imagine the girl that you always wanted, the girl that you had a crush on, liking you back.

That day, we talked for hours and hours, appreciating the beautiful view from the beach. The next day after school, I was rushing to go to the beach and find that beautiful girl again.

The thing that I liked about her the most was the fact that she was a hard worker. She was 20 years old.

We talked to each other for two months before she decided to be my girlfriend. I worked so hard to earn her love and respect.

At the age of 17, I lost my virginity.

3 months later she told me she was pregnant.

I felt like my entire world was falling apart. I was only a 17-year-old boy with no job, a full-time student with dreams to achieve.

I had two options. One: tell her to leave me alone and leave her by herself. Two: drop out of school and forget about my dream to work in order to provide a good life for my future child. I chose to drop out of school and work really hard to have my little baby.

At first, life seemed as confusing as the card deck of a magician. I had no idea what would be the best for me. I had to talk to someone else, someone old enough to understand my situation. I decided to speak to my mom because I was so afraid to tell my dad; he was a strict parent with a lot of rules.

When I told my mom what happened, she got mad at first, but then she told me to keep the baby and not drop out of school.

Then, it was time to tell my dad.

What happens next? Read the rest at bostontip.com.

LITTLE SPARK IN THE DARK

By: Cleusa Silva Horta // Staff Writer

On December 2099, my life rotated 360 degrees. Bodies floated like plastics bags, people screamed. It felt like a horror movie. Boston was unrecognizable: trash everywhere, poop floating in disgusting water.

Everything started back in 2090.

We humans are rational animals, but we didn't act like it. Every day, more and more cars were in the streets, more and more cows were becoming hamburgers. The Earth started to become hotter and hotter, the levels of the oceans started to rise, small islands started to disappear.

The day that everyone was afraid of came. August 1, 2099: the chaos. The Earth fell apart. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, the raw ultraviolet rays destroying half the ozone layer. People died instantly, mostly white people, because their skin didn't have enough melanin to fight the rays.

Carmon was the richest man in the world. I hated him so much because he had a lot of stupid thoughts and beliefs. We were part of the only one hundred thousand survivors on the

whole, destroyed Earth. Carmon wanted us to nominate him king of the galaxy because he was the only rich person who survived. He wanted us to give up our rights, freedom of speech, privacy, and our right to choose who to marry. He wanted to control our destiny. He called himself God.

We had no option—we had to accept it or die.

After everyone accepted all his stupid conditions, he declared that all living things were moving to Jupiter, explaining that Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun and can hold the human species for a long time.

Carmon took all the survivors, including me, and put us in a place with fake oxygen, fake trees, and fake happiness. All that was a fake illusion. After two years of recovering from all the lost humans, I never recovered from losing my family. I missed my entire family. I missed my dog and cat. I missed everything that reminded me of how the world used to be.

We finally traveled to Jupiter on a Sunday morning in a giant rocket. That was the day I met the love of my life. She was 5'9" with big, black, curled afro hair, and she wore a ripped shirt and black pants. I was too shy to go talk to her, but I couldn't hide my feelings. My heart was beating too fast; I was so in love. I stared at her for exactly one minute without even blinking my eyes. I didn't notice that she was walking towards me.

"Hi, I'm Luna," she said.

"H-h-h-hi," I replied, stammering, my entire body trembling.

"So, why were you staring at me?" she asked me with a huge smile.

"Because I'm totally in love with you," I replied.

I covered my mouth after realizing what words came out. She didn't say anything.

After a minute of silence, she kissed me, then walked away. No words could describe that moment.

What comes next? Read the full story on bostontip.com.

WIDOW'S PIQUE

SOUND ADVICE ON GRIEVING, WORKING HARD AND NOSTALGIA

JOHAN D. SPOONER IS AN INVESTMENT ADVISER, author and novelist. His most recent book is *No One Ever Told Us That: Money and Life Lessons for Young Adults*. Here, he responds to queries from advice seekers of all ages. Send your conundrums to thedance@improper.com.

I'm a young widow. Before my husband died suddenly, we had a close marriage, but after a few years I have started to date a little. Now, there's a man I'm attracted to, but he's never

been my husband. I've always had tons of family

and on tables, shelves,

many of

but

ne

you

relationship blossomed. I was forced at

some point to drastically reduce the number of

photos. Ask your kids to each choose a couple for

their bedrooms. Then pick no more than three

of your very favorite snaps and put them in discrete places—mostly places where guests don't

necessarily wander. No, *not* your own bathroom... hmmm, on second thought, it's the first place

you'll go each morning.

I'm a little leery of people who will say to you: "He would *want* you to be happy, to marry again."

Not necessarily. I know many people who would say, "I want *no one* in our bed. *Ever*."

So lose the guilt, boil the shrine down to a few perfect snapshots and remember your husband while focusing on your own future happiness.

My dad used to tell me: "There is no such thing as *one* person for one person. There are probably 1,000 women from here to California who you could fall in love with and marry, if you could meet them all."

Hold the memories dear. And have new



ple in America taking pride in their daily work. What can we do about that in this country?

It's tough to answer cosmic questions in a sound bite. But part of the answer is simple: We live in a democracy, a nation of immigrants that have made us an extraordinary country. With that freedom comes endless choices, including having no pride in one's work as well as entitlement, laziness, resentment, discontent and everything that is allowed in a democracy. In China, you have no choice. Sweep that threshold, polish whenever you're told to polish until it shines and you hurt.

If someone dear to us is gone, guilt is an amazing emotion and affects almost everyone.

"work ethic" is many took years to fix that have clients in C back here. Th n—or paying ph school—even the floors when you

I have spent 20 years. Now I am getting wants them gone. purpose, and we are little bits of A tory and you don't any more. Should They might be wo probably only to me. You're not the probably millions

A SENSATIONAL GUILT

By: Lisa Nguyen // Staff Writer

After reading several first-person accounts of substance abuse online, the author of this story interviewed a former teen heroin addict in person to hear more about what life is like for young people with addictions. The following is a fictionalized narrative inspired by these accounts.

Flickered lights and sunlight shining through blinds. I stumble towards the bathroom. Recalling the previous month, I remember that I ran away—terrified.

My mom was not who I once thought she was. After dad passed away in the accident, I began to push everyone away, as if it was their fault. A year after the incident, mom began dating a hostile meathead. One day, I ran out of patience and I had to leave. I began to live on packages of 89-cent ramen and my stash of substances to make money in my motel room. I would sometimes think to myself I could just disappear. Like a bomb, I could just destroy everything around me.

I remember the day I walked towards the front of the miserable building known as school. I busted through the double doors, all eyes on me. I blankly stared at every face, old and new. Brushing past those who I once knew. Quickly, I paced to the bathroom and rushed towards the mirror. I put my hands on the cracked porcelain sink, transferring all my weight to my upper body while looking down.

As I looked up in the foggy mirror, I saw a bearded man in the reflection. Rick. Frightened, I slowly backed away but I ended up hitting my back on the hard sink.

“Well if it isn’t Trenton Dean. So?” he said in a venomous voice, sending chills through my spine.

“C’m on man, I don’t have any more cash,” I pleaded.

Rick stepped closer towards me, breathing in my face.

“I’m not playing games, man.”

He grabbed my neck and pushed me back into the wall.

“I need my cut by tomorrow morning or else,” he threatened.

Panic runs through my body as I wonder how I am going to get the cash.

I step up the stairs, walking towards my motel room. I take out my rusty room key, inserting it in the keyhole. I have to run away. Wouldn’t be the first time.

I throw my bag on the ground, sinking into my bed, the packs of junk and coke flashing at me. Rapidly, I get up and storm outside with the bags. Tapping to open my phone, I go into my messages and find Chad. Shuffling my

fingers, I begin to type, “Do you still want the smack?”

In a few seconds, a response pops up in the display, “Yes, how much now?”

Raising my brow, I type out, “\$20 per gram.”

As pricey as can be: I’m in need. Sunset-colored leaves and plastic bags flowing, I walk, feeling free for the first time.

Now, as I look back on the past five years, I regret my decision to leave my mom in despair and worry. I should have been there. I should have grabbed her hand and told her it was going to be okay.

Lying here, I stare at the cracked ceiling still, feeling different than before. Trash surrounds the bed. I quit school to sell stashes of cocaine, heroin and weed as a supporting job since I figured that’s what I’m best at. I have some myself every now and then. But after chasing that high, I ended up here, in a dirty motel room. I look down at my arm, a needle pumping black tar heroin into my veins.

Moving the toggle forward with my fingers, I increase the dosage.

INTRODUCING:

Next Chapter

Teens in Print is thrilled to announce **Next Chapter**, a new college and career readiness program designed to take you from the start of your application process to the finish line! Complete with individual essay editing sessions and group college readiness workshops, we are dedicated to helping you create an application encompassing your unique skill set as a student and individual.

All Boston resident teens will be eligible for:

- Individual support brainstorming/editing personal, supplemental, and scholarship essays
- Free college tours of Boston area schools
- College readiness workshops on building your resume, writing professional emails, and more

Interested? Email
sarahrobbins@writeboston.org



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