

TEENS

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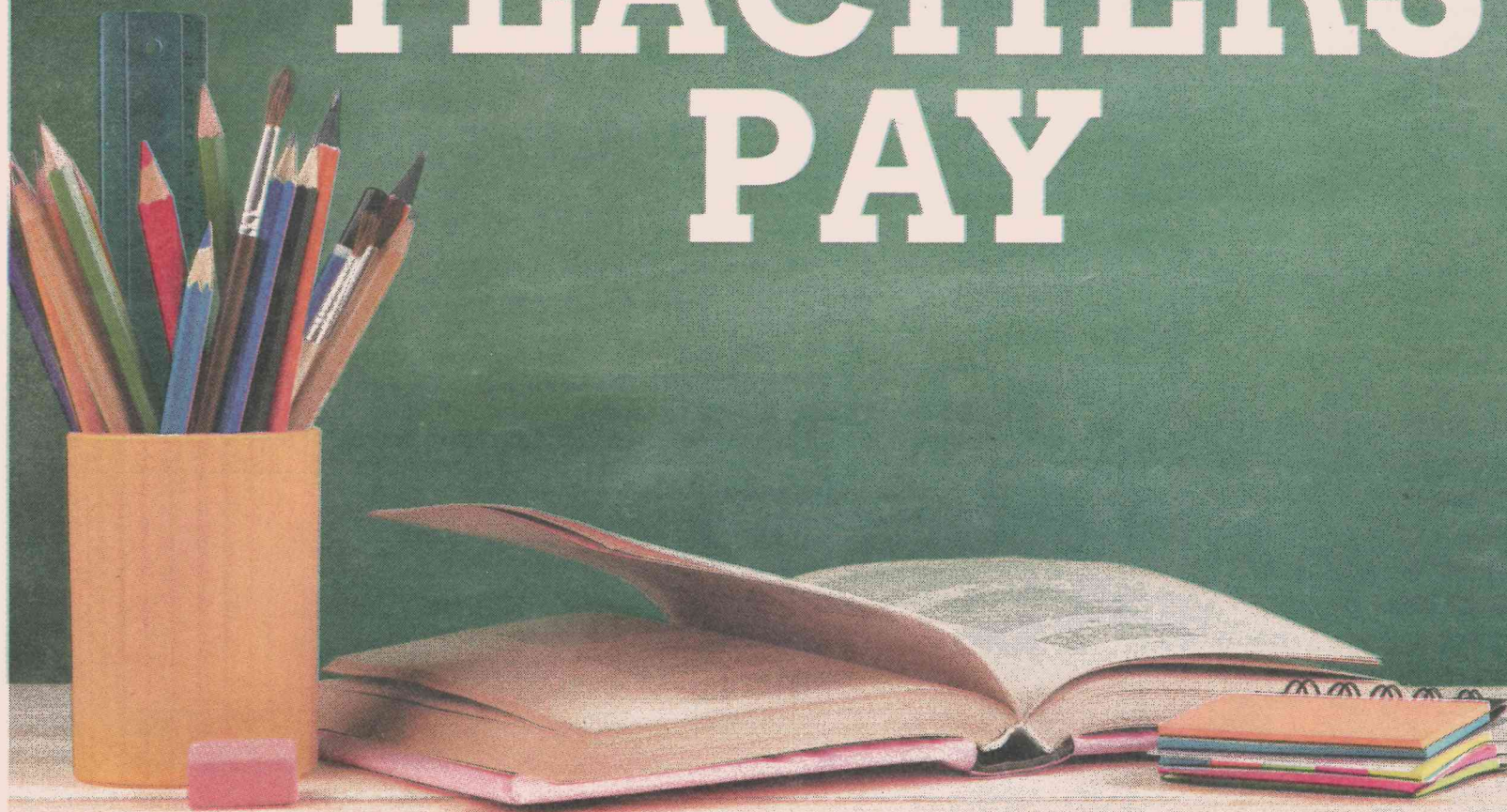
PRINT

BOSTON



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THE PRICE OUR TEACHERS PAY



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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.

WANT TO HEAR MORE YOUTH VOICES?

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Next issue: June 2019

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

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

Please provide your full name, grade and school.
Teens in Print reserves the right to edit for length and content.
We look forward to your submissions!



SEE THIS AROUND INSIDE THE NEWSPAPER?

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

WriteBoston

Building a Community of Writers

MEET THE STAFF



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THE PRICE OUR



TEACHERS PAY

By: Tiffany Cespedes // Staff Writer



As the minutes ticked down from 8:45 a.m., students began to pile up in the third floor hallway of Fenway High School, wondering where their math teacher was. Although they were glad to have extra time before the start of class, the students were beginning to feel anxious when Chadwick Johnson finally reached the top of the stairs. Johnson arrived 10 minutes late to his 9th grade Algebra 2 class. His reason: he was attending a nearby protest for teachers' rights.

The protest Johnson attended was for a contract of teacher rights and for the improvement of the schools. This includes smaller class sizes, enough desks for the students, full time librarians and nurses—and higher pay. According to The Washington Post, 73 percent [of Americans] have expressed that they would support public school teachers in their community if they went on strike for higher pay.

The amount that teachers make has always been a debated topic. Although it is true that most teachers in Boston are fortunate enough to live comfortably, it is no secret that the same cannot be said for other states. With the recent teacher protests across the country, national teacher wage inequality is rising to the surface. For example, according to CNBC, teachers in Oklahoma earn an annual mean wage of \$42,460, while teachers in Alaska can earn up to \$82,020.

Although our local teachers do get paid well, they still face challenges, especially with Boston's high cost of living. Boston is one of the most expensive cities in the U.S., and it's catching up with the teachers.

Rodolfo Morales is currently a principal for the Phineas Bates Elementary School in Roslindale. He began his educational career at the Hurley K-8 Dual Language School and at the Hernandez School as a teacher, then moved his way up to his principal title. As a former teacher and principal, Morales understands the financial struggle of a teacher, both from a personal and administrative point of view.

"There have been some big shifts in Boston, including the pandering to affluent transplants," Morales said. "This has made it challenging for many lifelong Bostonians to stay in Boston. Gentrification has hit the city hard. It seems that each year, I know fewer and fewer teachers that can afford to stay in the city."

While many BPS teachers' salaries fall within the \$80,000-\$100,000 range, a study by research site SmartAsset estimated that rent for the average two-bedroom apartment in Boston costs nearly \$40,300 per year. This means that a single renter will need an income of at least \$143,800.

Siri Carr is a teacher at Match Middle School. She has worked as a teacher for three years, and earns \$52,500. Although she earns a comfortable salary, Carr believes that a teacher's work is worth more than they often earn.

"I think teachers should be paid on par with how much doctors are paid, because I think there are a lot of parallels in our work," Carr said. "We both work long and hard hours, and our jobs work with the public."

Morales recognizes the teachers in his school who go above and beyond in their jobs.

"I have teachers that enter the building with the custodian who opens the doors at around 7 a.m. I then have teachers that stay until the doors are locked after 7 p.m.," he said.

Johnson, along with many more of the Fenway faculty, stays in school after hours, meets with students during lunch and even comes in early to help those who are struggling in class. It is teachers like these who prove to the population how important teachers are.

Students who grow and mature through the help of their teachers have sympathy for them. They too agree with the notion that teachers deserve more than they get. Vladimira Amado is one of these students.

"I don't think they get paid enough for what they do, especially the teachers that cover more than one class," she says.

However, despite these challenges, there are still people who enter the teaching field, passionate about education. Jocelyn Cespedes, for example, wants to become a teacher. Her plan is to become an accountant to be able to raise enough for savings and insurance, then study to become a second grade teacher. The way she plans to jump these hurdles demonstrates a teacher's persistence.

The recent protests in California, West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona and Colorado have all brought up a messy yet important issue. How do you put a price on the education of America's future? The truth is you can't, and the patient and devoted teachers in our schools deserve more. So the next time you see your teacher, say thank you, because it is well earned.

BUILDBPS WILL IMPLEMENT GREEN BUILDINGS, PLAN FOR FUTURE OF BOSTON EDUCATION

By: Shailany Ortega // Contributing Writer

Do you see underfunding in your school? Would you like to see environmentally friendly buildings that last longer than the facilities we're currently learning in? Do you think schools could be structured differently or more efficiently? The BuildBPS plan sets out to answer these questions.

BuildBPS is a strategic, 10 year, \$1 billion plan for investments and changes across the Boston Public Schools (BPS) district. The main focus is to improve Boston's existing school buildings with features like motion sensor lights and efficient recycling, and build new facilities that meet 21st century standards. The plan looks for ways to revamp existing buildings in a "green" way, meaning they will be environmentally friendly. These new and retrofitted buildings

have the potential to save money and energy, which is good for the environment and the district budget.

BuildBPS is a "living plan," meaning it is still being written and revised using community feedback, which allows the community to play a role in this process.

As we all know, the West Roxbury Educational Complex is shutting down at the end of the school year because the building is falling apart. This is not something we want to see happen again. We do not want great school communities shutting down or separating due to preventable problems becoming too big to manage.

We are calling on youth, parents, and anyone that wants to help BPS. We encourage young people to join

our weekly BSAC meeting every Monday to see what we are about and find ways you can speak up at your school and make changes. If we speak up now about issues in our schools, we can potentially stop another school from closing because of avoidable disrepair.

If you aren't comfortable speaking to someone of higher authority, feel free to talk to a BSAC representative—we are here to help! If you see an issue at your school, your BSAC rep can bring that issue back to our committee meetings, contact people within the district who can help solve the problem and ensure student voice is heard throughout the process. Another option is to submit an anonymous grievance through our web-based app BostonStudentRights.org.

ABOUT BSAC

BSAC is a group of students representing their respective high schools and serving as a voice for the students of BPS. Here at BSAC, we share our ideas and discuss changes we want to see within our schools and within the school district as a whole. Our young, intelligent individuals frequently break off into smaller subcommittees based on interest and around issues they believe need change. Those subcommittees are Environmental Justice and Sustainability, Student Rights, and Youth Empowered Learning.



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO IMPROVE YOUR SCHOOL!

Are you interested in making a difference in Boston Public Schools? BSAC is currently seeking dynamic high school students to support youth voices and work on important campaigns including school safety, student rights, environmental impact and sustainability.

**Ready to join?
BSAC is actively
recruiting
representatives
from the following
schools:**

- Community Academy of Science and Health
- Dearborn Stem Academy
- Another Course to College
- BATA
- Boston International & Newcomers Academy

- Brighton High School
- Charlestown High School
- Community Academy
- East Boston High School
- English High School
- Fenway High School
- Greater Egleston High School
- Jeremiah Burke High School
- Madison Park High School
- Margarita Muniz Academy
- Tech Boston Academy

Thank you to all the BPS high 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 meetings are every Monday from 4-6 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Building.

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

IN DEFENSE OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS

By: Sabrina Yohannes // Staff Writer

Imagine that you are a seventh grader in a Boston middle school. You've been at this school since sixth grade, you have your group of friends, and you are getting used to the work. Then, one day, you hear an announcement that the school is shutting down. Now, all your school supplies have to go home and you will have to move to a new school and see new people. This is what could happen to BPS's middle schoolers because of BuildBPS, a educational plan by Mayor Marty Walsh.

According to the Boston Public Schools website, BuildBPS is a 10 year plan supported by \$1 billion that is supposed to strengthen our city's education. One component of BuildBPS is to eliminate middle schools in Boston so that students experience fewer transitions. From 2012 to 2018, there was a enrollment decline at middle schools by 1,800 students. In response to this, BPS is closing down middle schools to merge them with high schools, creating 7-12th grade schools.

When I was in sixth grade at the BTU, I found myself wishing I was in a middle school. Now, as a seventh grader at O'Bryant, I still sometimes think about how different things could be if I were in a middle school. I think O'Bryant is a good school, but my experience might have been different if it were a 9-12 instead of a 7-12. I remember when I first came to O'Bryant, I thought it was so crowded. That made me nervous. I started to get really distracted in class because there were so many people in the hallways.



There was also a lot more homework in every subject. It would take me over an hour to finish it all. I also had to carry more binders and notebooks. My shoulders started to hurt.

For middle school aged students, it's important to be around other middle schoolers. I don't want to be around little kids. I think they are annoying—they cry and scream, and teachers are always yelling at them. However, I didn't want to be around older kids either, because they're also distracting. They're loud and scary. Middle schoolers who are only with kids their age can focus better, do their work, and maybe get better grades.

Middle schools are also smaller. This makes it more comfortable for all the students everywhere. You get a chance to know everyone around you, so it's easier to make friends. You can also get help from teachers or other students more easily in a middle school because there are fewer students. One time, I wanted to go in to talk to an English teacher at O'Bryant, but I

didn't, because I feel like my teacher doesn't care about me. In a middle school, my teacher would know me and my work better, and then I'd feel more comfortable talking to him or her.

When I first transferred to O'Bryant, I felt unprepared in some ways. Math especially was really hard. I got the worst grade I had ever gotten, a C. I feel like I'm adjusted to O'Bryant now, but it definitely took a couple of months for me to catch up. I think I needed more time to adjust to the responsibilities and the work that O'Bryant required. Middle school would have been a good transitional time where I could have learned to be responsible without getting bad grades.

While BuildBPS argues that enrollment in middle schools is down and that transitions from school to school should decline, I believe that middle schools are worth it, based on my personal experience. Middle schools offer comfort, adjustment time, and increased focus for their students. That's what kids my age really need.

WE WANT TO VOTE FOR POLICY CHANGE—NOT FOR “PRESIDENT TAYLOR SWIFT.”

By: Masha Layfer // Staff Writer

On March 11, The Boston Globe ran an opinion piece by Jennifer Braceras about why lowering the voting age to 16, as recently proposed by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, is a bad idea.

The article points out that rights and responsibilities, such as serving in the military, getting married without parental consent, and jury duty, all start at 18. Moreover, politicians across the country, including several supporting lowering the voting age, have also supported bills increasing the age of smoking, firearm ownership and criminal responsibility. How, then, can we reconcile these movements that seem to want to simultaneously lower and raise the age of responsibility?

If we look through the lens of effect, rather than cause (age), the reasons for these discrepancies become clear. Raising the age of criminal responsibility is meant to protect children from sinking into a life of crime and poverty. Serving in the military and smoking can cause lifelong physical and mental damage, especially on a developing brain. The brain keeps developing until about 25, so brain development isn't necessarily the best benchmark for the voting age anyway—while it's true that teens tend to rely more on the amygdala for decision-making than adults, which means that we use our emotions more, this is more pronounced in short-term decisions with an instant punishment or reward rather than thoughtful decisions like voting.

Most importantly, though, voting is a right—not a privilege, as stated in the article—with the desired effect of giving citizens an opportunity to choose policies that will affect their lives and ensure politicians' accountability to their constituents. And teens do have great interests in policy and the people behind it—Braceras claims that teens simply don't have enough “skin in the game,” but,

frankly, this is misguided.

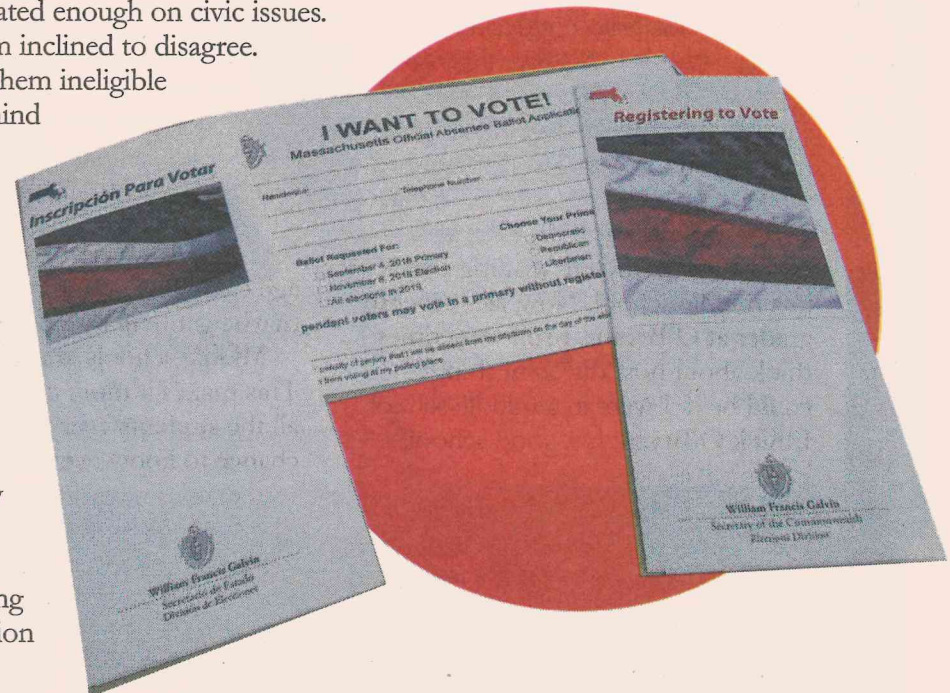
Not only will teens be affected by long-term national policies in areas like climate change, healthcare, and immigration, we are affected by the policies currently being passed on the local level. Massachusetts ballot question 3, for example, which would remove gender as a protected class, was a critical issue for many teens, which is the age group most likely to be openly transgender, as reported by the Williams Institute. Moreover, those who supported the question often pointed to the potential dangers of allowing people into the “wrong” bathrooms because it would present danger to children. Shouldn't those children have a say in that, then?

The City of Boston recently initiated BuildBPS, a 10-year plan led by Mayor Marty Walsh to invest \$1 billion into Boston Public Schools. However, nobody currently enrolled in BPS had the chance to vote for our mayor, nor for any elected official who might have an impact on our education.

Braceras also raises a common concern: teens aren't educated enough on civic issues. On one hand, I'm inclined to disagree. Teens, many of them ineligible to vote, were behind the March for Our Lives and the Standing Rock protests. Our own city boasts a rich tradition of youth civic engagement. The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) has worked on initiatives including encouraging “action civics” and one

resulting in the passage of a statewide law. The Mayor's Youth Council, a group of 96 teenagers acting as advisers on policy and drivers of city-improvement projects (one of which is lowering the voting age in Massachusetts to 16) conducts annual “youth lead the change” votes, in which 12- to 25-year-old Boston students, workers and residents vote on three capital projects to spend \$1 million on. Past winning projects have included a homeless resource board, fans in schools, and a media center.

That being said, however, I'd have to agree that public school civics education is lacking nationwide. Only nine states and DC require a full year of civics. But if the federal voting age was lowered, perhaps that would incentivize increased earlier civics education. In fact, that might be a good way to start the process: implement civics classes, then, after a predetermined number of years, lower the voting age to welcome a newly-educated population of engaged citizens.





REUSABLE BAGS? TOTES WORTH IT.

By: Nateh Panyere // Staff Writer

WriteBoston
Building a Community of Writers

In December 2018, my dad, my sister and I were driving on the highway to go back home. I saw one of those electronic highway signs that read something like: "PLASTIC BAG BAN TAKES PLACE THIS WEEK. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAG OR YOU WILL BE CHARGED." Confused, I asked my dad what was it about, and he only told me, "Oh, they aren't selling plastic bags in all stores anymore."

A few days after, I asked my dad to take me Secret Santa shopping, as the holidays were getting close. When we came to the register, the cashier asked, "Would you like a paper bag with that?" When my dad agreed, the cashier said, "Okay, 10 cents please." I wondered where all the plastic bags went and why my dad had to pay for a bag. When I got back home, I went to do some research on my tablet about what happened to the plastic bags in Boston.

On Dec. 14, 2018, the plastic bag ban took place in Boston. A majority of stores in Boston have replaced their plastic bags with paper bags, and you have to pay at least 10 cents to use one, or, you can bring a reusable bag. The purpose of this was to reduce plastic waste in the environment, as plastic takes years to decompose. But how will this ban affect Boston?

"Business hasn't really been affected by the ban," states 19-year-old Grace Mikounya, who works at the convenience store 7-Eleven. Mikounya finds that the paper bags as an eco-friendly alternative, but weak, as she once witnessed a

customer's groceries break from a paper bag. She finds fabric bags more usable.

Sarah, another convenience store worker, states that she finds the plastic bag ban unhelpful, as she finds it annoying to ask customers for 10 cents. Sarah has also witnessed some reactions from customers who were surprised and confused about paying 10 cents. She advises customers to bring their own bags or just say no the the bag.

This ban isn't exclusive to Boston. Other states and cities in the U.S., such as Washington D.C, San Francisco and Seattle, have implemented similar laws. San Francisco was the first city in the U.S. to completely ban plastic bags back in 2007, and since 2010, this policy has led to a 72 percent reduction in plastic bag litter in the city.

There have been some arguments against the ban, however. According to an article from Plastic Today, plastic manufacturers think banning plastic bags would have a negative economic impact and have them lose their jobs. Some people have also expressed online that being charged for a reusable bag takes a toll on one's budget, or that the environmental damage of plastic is over exaggerated.

However, the toll plastic has taken on the environment is undeniable. The nonprofit Worldwatch Institute reports that 267 species of marine wildlife are known to have suffered or died because they ate or became entangled in plastic debris. A European Commission study on the impact of plastic on wildlife in the North

Sea found that over 90 percent of the birds examined had plastic in their stomachs.

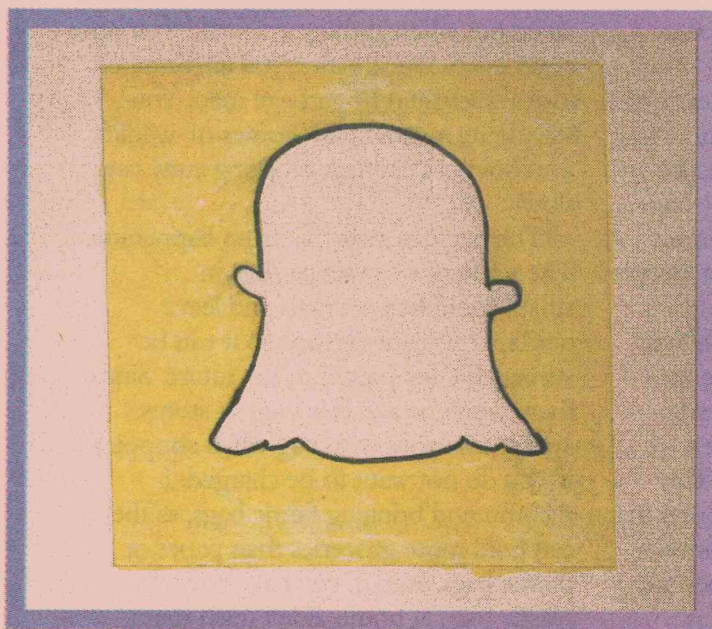
Plastic debris can require more than a century to decompose, gradually breaking down into smaller pieces over time—that's why the Pacific Ocean is now home to a 3-million-ton floating heap of plastic debris estimated to be twice the size of France.

Just imagine yourself as a plastic bag. After being created by manufacturers, you are delivered to a store. A cashier takes you and puts things inside of you and gives you away to someone else. That someone takes you with the things inside of you and puts you aside. You are then used a trash bag, having people put trash inside of you. After being full of trash, you are taken out when garbage men take you once again into a truck. After, you are dumped into a wasteland by garbage men. You stay there, invading the homes of wildlife for about...a century, breaking away very slowly.

The ban can stop this from happening. The removal of plastic bags in stores could help animals and leave our environment cleaner, so it can be sustainable for people in the future. Since there won't be any free bags in stores, always take your own bag when shopping if you do not want to be charged. I recommend bringing fabric bags, as they can hold more groceries than paper or plastic bags. And if you have any leftover plastic bags at home, don't trash them, DIY with them, or use them to decorate your home.

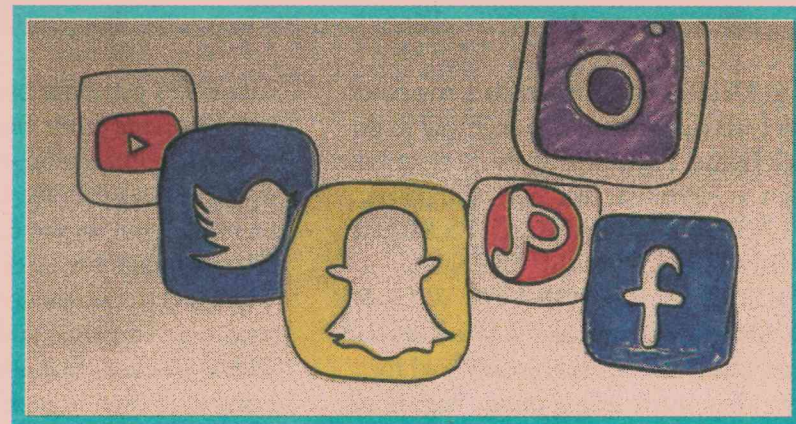
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

In a Teens in Print workshop at the South End's Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA), a creative and diverse group of young minds explored media portrayals of "Gen-Z," the generation of people born after 2000. After analyzing and discussing the work of adult journalists, they were asked to create their own portraits of Gen-Z, in response to the question "What's something that adults don't understand about your generation?"



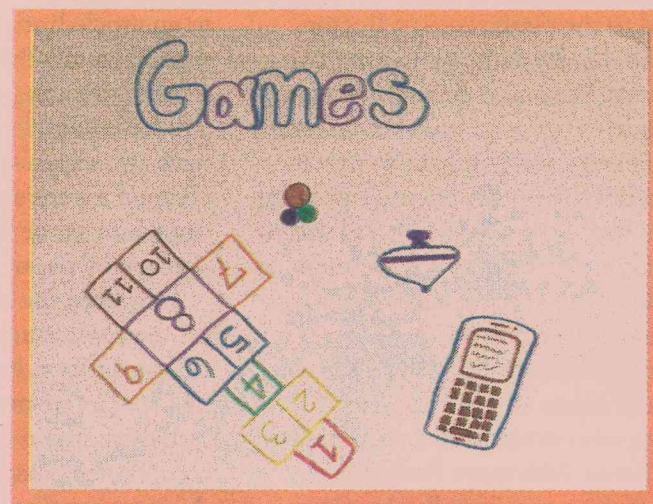
SNAPCHAT

We chose Snapchat because something unique about our generation is that people usually interact on social media and not in person. For example, teens will see someone they know in the hallway and not say anything, but then they'll snap them later to say they saw them. We think this shows that our generation has bad communication skills. We lack confidence when it comes to having real conversations. **-Amaya De Jesus & William Lopez**



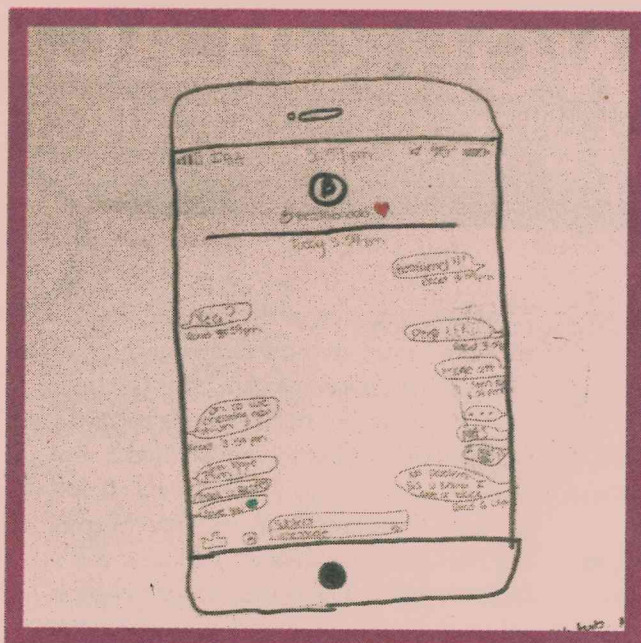
SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is the way we express ourselves. We can show everyone what we are capable of doing on different platforms like Twitter, Snapchat, Kik, and more. Adults do not understand that we use social media to show our own styles, AKA, how we are unique. Our social media shows that everyone in our generation is different in their own way, and that no one is the same. **-Adriana Arias-Guzman & Ciel Vasquez**



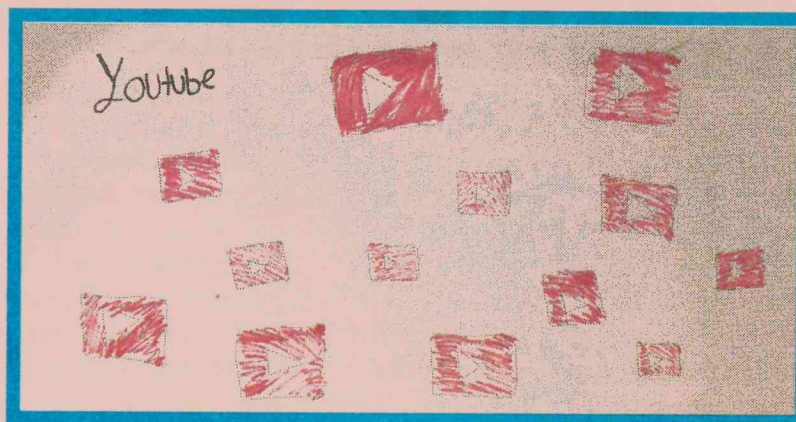
JUEGOS

Juegos era un parte grande de nuestra juventud. Porque nos criamos en Puerto Rico, la tecnología no era parte de nuestra vida, no todo el mundo era adicto a ella. Aún seguimos intentando de demostrar que nuestra generación no es solo adicto a la tecnología. **-Aryanis Betancourt, Germargorie Nieves & Yesenia Nieves**



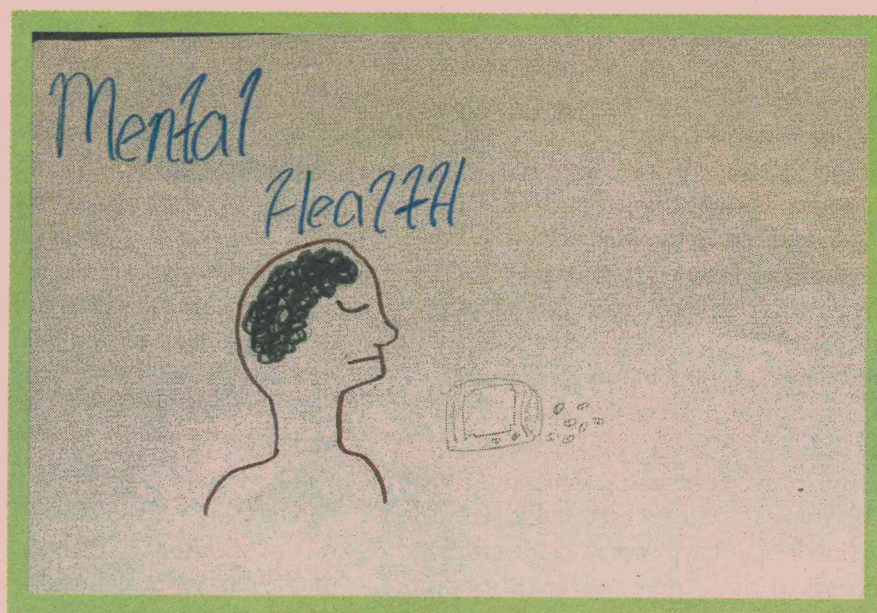
SCREENSHOTS

This is a screenshot. Screenshotting is when you take a picture of a text you get from someone and send it to someone else without them knowing. We chose this because we are the first generation to screenshot texts. We all know that screenshots can catch someone lying or being two-faced. People of our generation are quick to tell our close friends and let them know when something is wrong. We think this shows that our generation thinks being sincere is really important. **-Sebastian Canales & Jarell Knox**



YOUTUBE

We chose YouTube because members of Gen-Z love to entertain themselves on YouTube. Parents think that their children are addicted to YouTube, but what they don't understand is that there's a lot to learn on YouTube. There are videos on all sorts of things, such as cooking and how to do your hair. YouTube shows that teens are interested in learning lots of things. **-Kenny Irizarry & Jadden Martino**



MENTAL HEALTH

Our symbol represents Gen-Z's problems with mental health. Adults don't understand that everything they put on us affects us and adds more stress into our lives. We feel that adults need to know that times are different. Mental health is a huge part of our generation and they don't take it seriously. Adults need to pay more attention to mental health, because it impacts our lives so much. **-Lisbeth Diaz & Stacy Morency**

BARRED FROM THE WORKPLACE

CRIMINAL RECORDS COMPLICATE THE JOB SEARCH

By: David Santana // Staff Writer



Many Americans who carry the burden of a criminal record often struggle. In addition to facing judgement from society, they are often also unable to get hired for a job. Having a criminal record that employers can see isn't fair to those who have changed due to their prison experience and are determined not to commit crimes and live a better, more productive life.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, 1 in 5 American adults has a criminal record, and a Los Angeles survey found that 60 percent of employers would "probably not" or "definitely not" be willing to hire someone with a criminal record.

These statistics have affected many teens in America, including Terron Cherry, a student at Match Middle School. Cherry's father had trouble finding a job when he was released from prison two years ago.

"They'd decline him sometimes because of his criminal record," Cherry said. "When you're a criminal, and you get out, you deserve a second chance."

Xavon Bentley, another student from Match Middle School, has a father who has been out of prison for 10 years after committing a felony.

"He works night shifts at Stop & Shop now," Bentley said. "He gets paid pretty well, but I would like to think that he can do better."

To try to help people with criminal

records get jobs, Massachusetts went as far as to make a "ban the box" law in 2010, which removed the box asking whether the job applicant had a criminal record or not. Although this seemed like a beneficial law, the employment rate for those with criminal records dropped 2.6 percent within the two years after it was enacted, according to the Boston Globe, proving the law to be ineffective.



More recently, the Massachusetts state government decided to alter the CORI, or Criminal Offender Record Information, laws a little bit. CORI is the system in Massachusetts which provides employers and others with the criminal records of job applicants. Previously, misdemeanors were sealed in five years and felonies in 10 years. This means that after that period, employers will no longer have access to the criminal records of their applicants. In other words, this past crime will no longer affect people's future employment opportunities. Last

October, however, it was decided that misdemeanors are now sealed in three years and felonies in seven years. This is a huge improvement, but more actions toward criminal discrimination are needed.

One local organization trying to help is More Than Words. More Than Words is a non-profit organization that strives to help teenagers and young adults get back on track with their lives. The organization

runs a bookstore that sells used books. They hire "system-involved" youth with difficult pasts, pay them, and give them guidance to succeed in life. "System-involved" is the term More Than Words likes to use to describe the youth who have been involved with the court system. More Than Words directly works with Massachusetts courts to help clean teens' records and set them on track to success.

Ryan McCarthy, the Associate Director for Career Services at More

Than Words, thinks that criminal records need to be treated differently. "Right now the system is black and white, and I think that if someone had a charge as a juvenile, that should be looked at differently," he said.

The system is very unforgiving when it comes to criminal records. Different jobs require different candidates but at the end of the day, we're all human, we all make mistakes, and we deserve to get more opportunities if we're willing to change.

ONE TEEN'S WARNING AGAINST ALCOHOL ABUSE

By: Gabrielle Bolden // Staff Writer

Alcohol is one of many things people use to “escape” their problems or reality. Some people drink too much and begin to act differently than how they normally do.

According to alcohol.org, consuming too much alcohol shuts parts of the brain down, and causes insomnia, hallucinations, seizures, vomiting and impaired vision. Sometimes, drinking alcohol causes the consumer to be aggressive and say things they don't mean. In order to be considered under the influence in Massachusetts, the maximum blood alcohol level is .08 percent.

However, it doesn't always get to the point where the consumer acts aggressive or violent. There are many different variations of drinking alcohol. For example, some people drink casually while others may binge drink so that they can get drunk quicker.

According to Talbott Recovery, an addiction recovery clinic, more than 15 million people struggle with an alcohol disorder in the U.S., but less than 8 percent of those people receive treatment. For an individual family, alcohol can cause a separation between parents which can take a toll on the children. It's heartbreaking for a child to see their parents unhappy with each other. According to the American Addiction Centers, as many as 26.8 million American children have been exposed to alcoholism or alcoholic behaviors in their family.

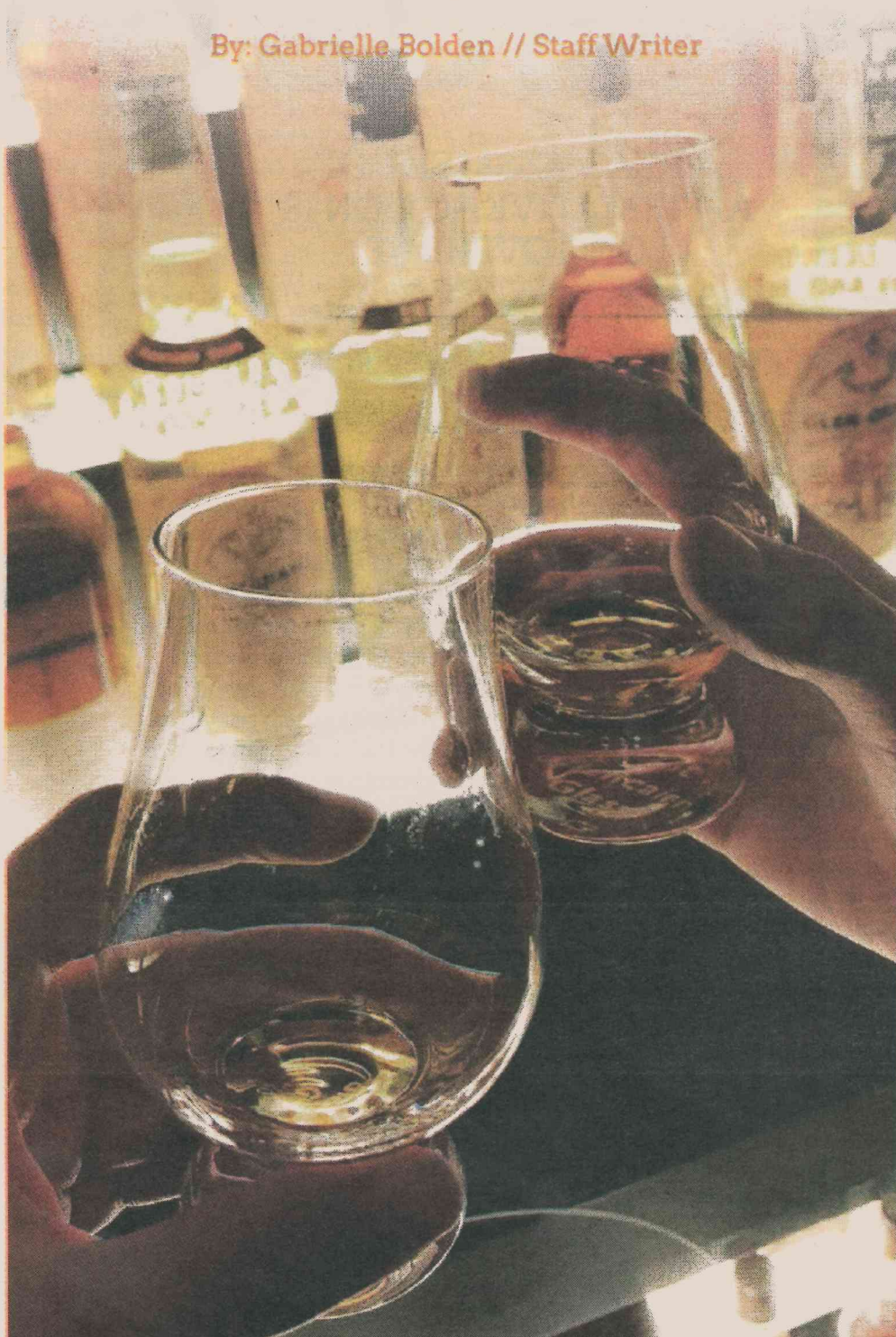
Alcoholism can also negatively affect a teenager's self-esteem, their bond with their parents and their

performance in school. Self-esteem affects the way teens think, act and feel on a daily basis. If they have things going on at home, it can cause their self-esteem to be lowered. If one of their parents is going through an alcohol addiction or recovering from one, it can be difficult for that teenager and parent to once again form a bond.

Teens already face a lot of challenges in school: low grades, drama, trouble with boys or girls. For many, our homes are a sanctuary, so having to go home and mentally prepare yourself for another challenge can be a huge distraction. It can be extremely difficult to focus when you have to constantly think about how the people raising you are consistently consuming alcohol right before your eyes.

In my opinion, no one in any family—especially families with children—should drink because it can cause a disconnection between parents and children. Teenagers have to carry the image of their parent drinking around with them all day. And maybe they'll even start drinking alcohol so they can “escape” their problems as well.

Drinking alcohol is not going to help anyone solve their problems or escape from them. That's why you just have to face them with assertiveness, instead of trying to run away. Running away from them isn't going to improve anything, and the problem is just going to continue to negatively affect you and be something that you constantly think about.





THE EQUITY ISSUE

A REASSESSMENT OF
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS
LONG OVERDUE

By: Masha Leyfer // Staff Writer

When President Kennedy first proposed affirmative action in 1961, it was revolutionary, and, like any revolution, it sparked conflict that resonates to this day. This fall, Harvard faced a lawsuit from a group representing Asian-American students, accusing them of using race-based applications that discriminate against Asian-Americans. The topic, if anything, has only gotten more contentious, and frankly, it's time to reevaluate the efficacy of affirmative action.

Affirmative action, "an active effort to improve the employment or educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women" (Merriam Webster) was started to alleviate the effects of the racist policies of segregation and the lasting effects of slavery. It was meant to give traditionally disadvantaged minorities the same opportunities as those who didn't have to contend with the same struggles to get to the same place. Affirmative action has been criticized for being racist, for disadvantaging certain minorities, and for being unnecessary in a "post-racial" world. But whatever your opinion on affirmative action's fairness, perhaps it's time to examine whether it's even accomplishing what it set out to.

"Affirmative action is a way of rectifying

the wrongs of discrimination and segregation," said Boston Latin School sophomore Ruth Shiferaw. "White privilege still exists...Especially seen in the rise of hate crimes in the past few years, implicit and explicit biases against minority groups clearly remain to this day. Therefore, affirmative action should continue to be implemented in hopes of balancing the playing field between those who have constantly had an advantage, and those who have been pushed down."

Many who believe in affirmative action's goals nevertheless want reform. "I believe in the message of affirmative action," said recent Boston Latin School graduate Ting Li. "The massive disparities between urban and suburban schools, redlining of districts, and other discriminatory practices...is indicative of a systemic failure in our education system, which is rooted in racism that has yet to fade. Affirmative action is...[only] a band-aid on a grave wound."

Diversity isn't just a number, but affirmative action allows colleges to tout percentages as signs of inclusiveness. If different groups of people aren't equally set up to succeed, the impact of diversity is only nominal. Getting into a college is only the first step. Colleges are not consistent with

supporting minority students throughout their academic careers.

More individualized application processes and active efforts to assess and create cross-cultural interactions and support on campus need to be universal equity measures. The National Institute for Transformation and Equity created a five-part metric for equity measure efficacy, which asks about opportunities for students to connect with their cultures, contribute to their community, and communicate across backgrounds to solve real-world problems, among others. In addition to implementing practices reflective of these measures, colleges should also start earlier and invest in low-income communities. Extracurricular college-preparatory programs are hugely beneficial to students. Such programs could be a great way for college students to put their work to real-life action as well. Students in teaching programs could set up after-school programs; students in engineering programs could help build playgrounds. While getting rid of race-conscious decisions might not be an option in a race-conscious world, affirmative action needs to be only one in a series of steps. Equity is a big fight, and we've got to be committed to fighting it.

MEET THE PROTECTORS OF THE PARKLANDS

By: Malia McClerklin // Staff Writer

As city kids, it is easy for us to go about our day-to-day lives without seeing anything but large, smoky buildings. Therefore, we don't necessarily recognize the efforts of wildlife preservers in the city. While their work often goes unnoticed, these people strive to keep the community in good shape. With Earth Day just around the corner, here is a reminder to have gratitude towards the people who work with the environment.

One non-profit organization dedicated to the environment in Boston is the Charles River Conservancy. Their mission, according to their website, is to progress the "renewal, and enhancement of the urban parklands along the Charles River, for the enjoyment of all." Thousands of volunteers come together each year to maintain the Charles River parklands.

Curious about what taking part in the Conservancy would entail, I reached out to Sasha Vallieres. Vallieres currently works at the Charles River Conservancy as the Volunteer Program Manager and has over ten years of experience in the non-profit sector.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OCCUPATION?

I am the volunteer program manager, so I'm taking groups out into the Charles River parklands to do various horticulture tasks in gardens around the parklands.

WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF YOUR JOB THAT YOU THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT?

One part of my job that people don't see is that I work a lot with invasive plant species. Invasive plants are plants that are in this area that are not native. Invasive plants are particularly detrimental because they have this ability to really outgrow other types of vegetation, so they basically take over and create monoculture. Biodiversity is essential to a healthy ecosystem, so you need lots of different types of plants that can support all different types of lifeforms instead of just one type of plant.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF YOUR JOB?

I work outside, even in winter. There's

work to be done all year round in horticulture!

Conservationists lend a huge helping hand in preserving the greener areas of the city. Many people do not realize the importance of the individuals who resurrect our green spaces. The Charles River Conservancy does admirable work with regards to preserving the Charles River, such as strengthening wildlife, creating picnic areas and playgrounds, broadening the open space, and organizing events to encourage people to go outside. They host community swims in the Charles River, and they are also advocating for a cycling underpass at the Anderson Memorial Bridge.

A great way to help this organization is to volunteer—it is very easy to sign up for a volunteer date. The Charles River Conservancy website has an easily accessible sign up schedule on their website, with projects that typically take place on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Don't have time? Feel free to donate monthly; all it takes is a click. This Earth Day, do something that counts!



CALLING A FOUL ON SOCCER'S SEXIST WAGE GAP

By: Miguel Estrada // Staff Writer

Growing up dreaming of becoming a professional soccer athlete is something that many teens, like myself, experienced. Up until now, I have spent a lot of effort playing as a midfielder on a good team.

If I become a professional soccer player I would make more money than girls who also dream of becoming professional soccer players. These are girls who, just like me, put effort into running, learning and spending money to train and be on a good team. Why do male and female soccer players who put the same effort into their careers get different salaries?

"The salaries for the 2018 NWSL [National Women's Soccer League] season are a \$350,000-team cap, with the minimum salary of \$15,750 USD and a maximum of \$44,000," according to the NWSL website. An article titled "Wage Equality in Football" by John J. Merdham from Duke University says, "MLS [Major League Soccer] league rookies make over \$20,000 USD a year more than the highest paid non-allocated player in the NWSL." According to the same article, the U.S. men's soccer team received \$9 million after they lost on the 13th round in the 2014 World Cup, while the women's soccer team won the Women's World Cup in 2015, and received about \$2 million for the tournament.

The next FIFA Women's World Cup is starting on June 7 of this year. "I think it's absolutely wild that FIFA has allowed the 2019 Gold Cup and Copa América to coincide directly

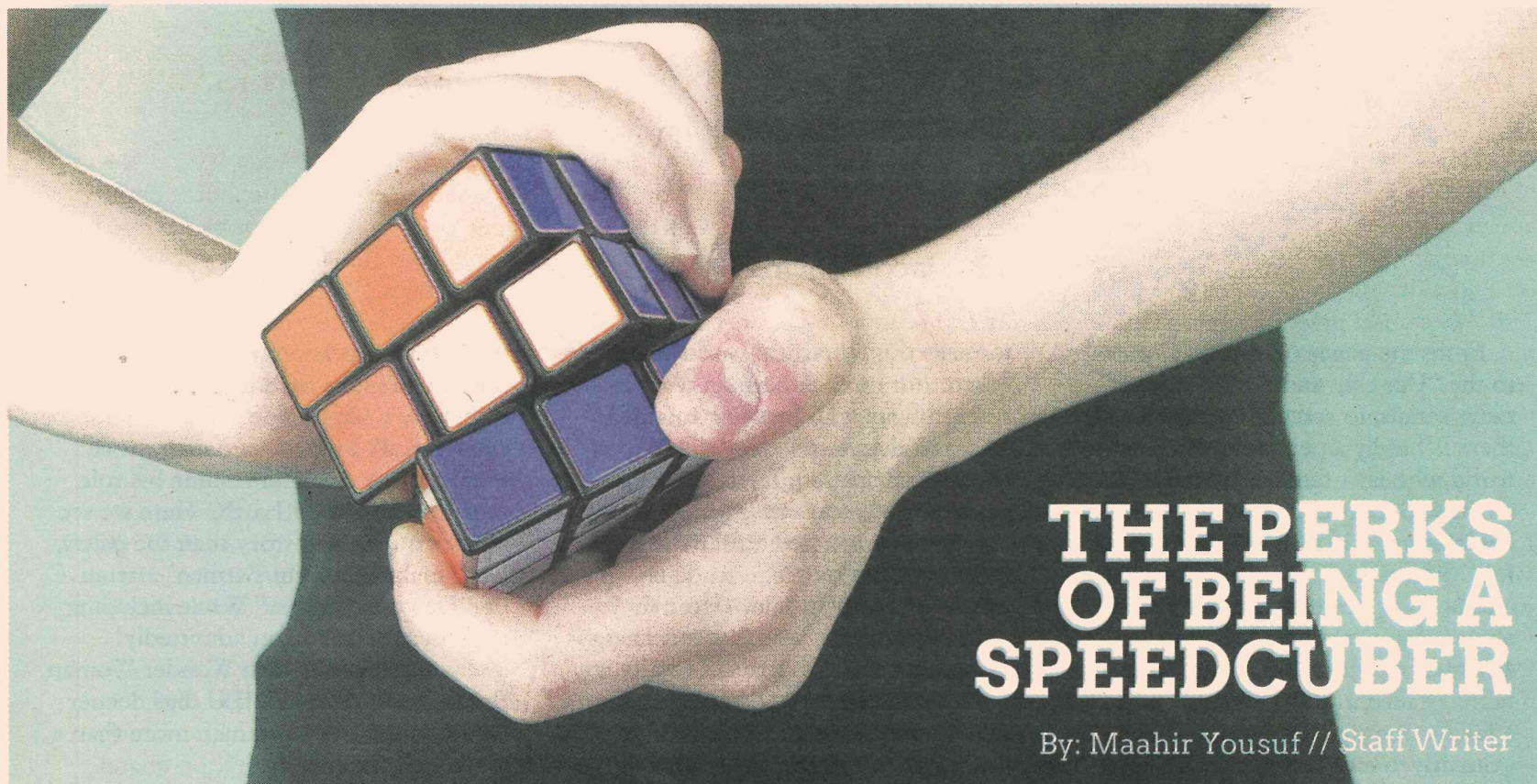
with the World Cup, but that's to be expected and doesn't make me any less thrilled or eager to support this summer's main event," states Jessica Lopez, a Public Relations Manager at The Minnesota United FC. She continues, "The NWSL bumped its salary cap up to \$350,000, with a minimum salary of \$15,750 and a maximum salary of \$44,000. In MLS, by contrast, the average salary in 2017 was somewhere around \$326,000. The gap remains stark."

Salary and pay is really important in a soccer career, so female athletes should be aware of the gender discrimination. In athletic careers, there is extreme sexism, which could tie back to the salary gap, caused by the lack of support from associations like FIFA. This is why "they might feel like they are not getting appreciated for what they are doing, especially if they are a girl," claims Lismeidy Valenzuela, a student of a Boston Public School.

There are many ways to contribute to the solution of this problem. "In addition to better funding, better media coverage and access would go a long way to benefit women's soccer and the young girls who aspire to one day go pro—or simply to see themselves in professional athletes on TV or in the news," explained Lopez.

Gender discrimination has always been a problem here in the United States. A new era is just starting, and there must be equality for both men and women in sports.





THE PERKS OF BEING A SPEEDCUBER

By: Maahir Yousuf // Staff Writer

When I solved my first Rubik's Cube, it was shocking for me and my parents. As I kept watching tutorials and solving cubes, I eventually remembered the whole algorithm. The fun thing about Rubik's Cubes is that when you finally know how to solve a normal cube, you can't take your hands off it. You want to keep mixing it up and keep solving it. And, once you solve a cube for the first time, you get the feeling that you want to solve a cube a little bigger than the original one.

In 1974, the first cube, known as the 3x3, was invented in Hungary by Erno Rubik. The cube was released worldwide in 1980. In the same year, it won the Toy of the Year award. Within a year, the toy hit millions of sales. Now, there are many different variations on the 3x3 cube, including a 2x2 and a 7x7.

Speedcubing, or the practice of solving a cube fast, was born shortly after the cube itself. Ever since people learned how to solve the cube, they have wanted to solve

it faster, and more efficiently. Some have devoted their lives to finding the most efficient way of solving every type of cube's scramble. Others have tried to discover the maximum number of moves required to solve each cube, known as "God's number." Others focused on the speed aspect. The first speedcubing champion solved the 3x3 cube in 22.95 seconds, but now the 3x3 record is 4.22 seconds, set by famous speedcuber Feliks Zemdegs.

It takes me 45 seconds to solve a 3x3 cube, but I still see the benefits of speedcubing in my life. After I started solving Rubik's Cubes, I saw benefits in my math skills. According to a New York Times article, learning to solve a Rubik's Cube can help "with geometry, algebra, direction-following, memorization and perseverance." That's why a dozen schools in New York City introduced Rubik's Cubes in their math classes. I think I'm getting good grades in math because I can solve a Rubik's Cube.

Memorizing the patterns of Rubik's Cubes also helped me with my memory. For example, I was able to remember 300 digits of pi because Rubik's Cubes taught me to memorize.

Most importantly, the Rubik's Cube taught me that it takes time to be really good at something. If I keep trying to solve the cube, I will eventually achieve my goal, and if I want to solve a problem in my life, I know I'll get it with time. When I started playing basketball, for example, it was hard at first because of my aim. But when I kept practicing for 3 months, it got easier. I didn't want to give up when I practiced, just like how I don't give up trying to solve a Rubik's Cube.

My goals for Rubik's Cubes is to solve the 3x3 in under 20 seconds and the 6x6 in 1 minute and 30 seconds. I also want to try out the 10x10. I hope someday I will be in a speed cube competition from 2x2 to 7x7. If I keep practicing, I know I can accomplish my goals.

MAN OF STEEL IS MORE THAN MUSCLE

By: Jacob Downey // A&E Editor

From the pages of Action Comics, to the “Up, Up, and Away” days of radio serials, to screens big and small, there is hardly a person in the entire world who isn’t familiar with the man of steel, Superman. Since his humble beginnings in 1938’s “Action Comics #1,” Superman has flown above his comic book peers to become one of the most recognizable fictional characters of all time. However, despite his undeniable fame, in recent years, Superman has had a falling out with the public consensus primarily due to the poor reception of his most recent film appearances. To quote the Washington Post’s Ann Hornaday, “‘Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice’ begins and ends with a funeral, which is fitting for a movie that plays like one long dirge.”

These opinions, though understandable thanks to the lackluster, bizarre portrayals of the beloved character, should not be held against the entirety of 80 years worth of lore. For a more hopeful and likeable interpretation of the last son of Krypton, we must dig deeper into his mythos and take in the hope he has inspired in his 80-year history.

In the critically panned “Man of Steel,” Kal-El is faced with stopping fellow Kryptonian, General Zod. In an effort to end Zod’s assault on Earth, Superman snaps his neck.

“He’s shown as this bright character. He’s not Batman; he should find another way,” said 8th grader Jack Channing. “He goes from a farmer to a nobody in the middle of nowhere to the guy who can solve any problem.” In an attempt

to make the fantastical world of heroes mirror our own, Superman went from a helpful guy who just so happens to be faster than a speeding bullet, to an angst-filled messiah figure who solves problems by murder.

“He’s just too powerful to be interesting,” senior film student Jacob Carrasquillo said. “How do you challenge the guy whose whole thing is being unbeatable?” Thanks to a faulty public image, Superman has gone from a symbol of American mythology to the butt of a joke.

However, to truly see what the chest mounted ‘S’ can become, look no further than “For The Man Who Has Everything,” a comic book story written by Alan Moore in 1985 and later adapted for the late great, “Justice League Unlimited” in 2004. The JLU story picks up with Batman and Wonder Woman visiting Superman’s Fortress of Solitude only to find him in a catatonic state thanks to Black Mercy, a parasitic plant that enters its victim into a dream state while slowly draining their life force. Superman, or rather Kal-El, envisions an idealistic life on Krypton had it never been destroyed, where he has a wife, Loana, and son, Van-El. After frequent tremors caused by Batman’s attempts to remove the plant, Kal is able to realize that his world, his reality, his family, simply cannot exist. He remembers the responsibility he has to the people of Earth and is forced to share a tear-filled goodbye with his son, promising that he’ll never forget him or the life he might have had.

A tearjerker of an episode to be sure,

but it serves as an excellent example of Superman’s love of humanity. Rather than have a happy ride off into the sunset, Kal’s love of humanity drove him to break free and resume his role as the protector of Earth. Here we see a more interesting story than the paltry, “let’s make him fight Batman” narrative of “Dawn of Justice.” While including superhero action in an admittedly awesome fight between Wonder Woman, Batman, and Mongul, JLU digs deeper into what makes Superman more than a man.

If Superman’s human element has yet to appeal to you, consider the words of JP Comics’ Paul Bryant.

“What makes [Superman] work is he has to be truly decent,” he said. “He’s best when he is the benevolent helping-hand type. He lends himself well to stories that are all-inclusive of his life, a set beginning, middle, end.”

This sentiment lends itself well to stories such as Grant Morrison’s “All-Star Superman.” In a plot by Lex Luthor, Superman’s cells are overloaded with solar energy and slowly begin to deteriorate, signaling that his life is coming to an end. Realizing his time is short, Superman sets out to perform a series of tasks to either prolong his life, or ready humanity for a world without him. In this story we see his final moments with not only his closest friends but even members of his rogues gallery. “All-Star Superman” is proof that there is more to Superman than superpowered beatdowns. He’s a genuinely caring guy from Kansas, who just wants to make his adopted home a

8A

better place with what little time he has left. Again, this story pits Superman against an internal threat, rather than some villain, which allows us to see more character growth rather than the face punching the superhero genre is known for.

To find Superman boring is to admit you have the most superficial awareness of the character. At his best, he is more than your run-of-the-mill crime fighter. He isn't your standard "I'll stop the bad guy, get the girl, and fly off towards the camera" hero anymore. He is a symbol of what we all should aspire to be—because without the cape, without the tights and without the super, he is just a man, and we can all relate to that.

APPLY NOW:

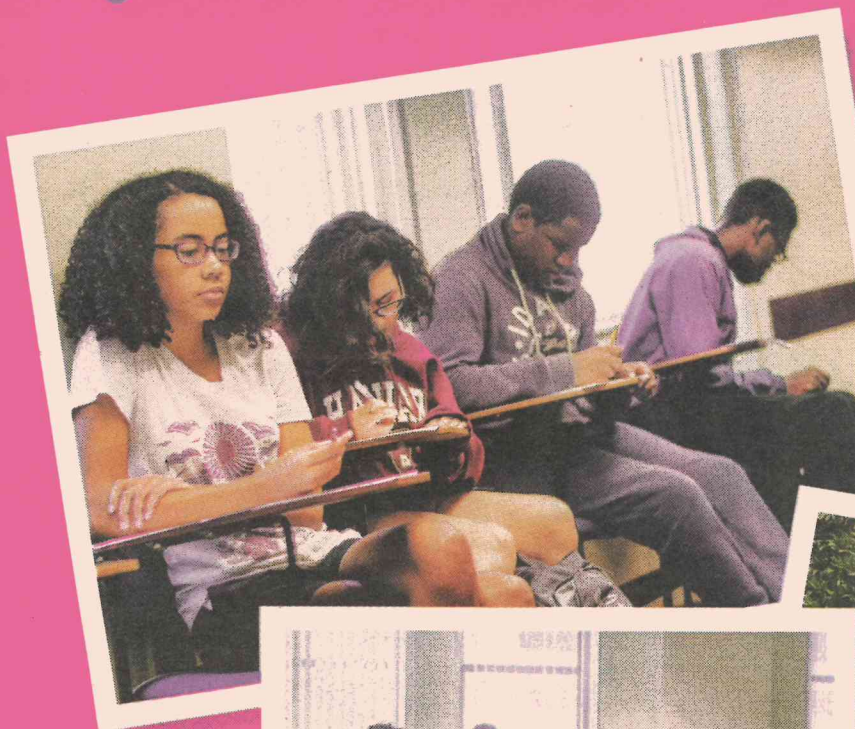
TEENS IN PRINT'S SUMMER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

From Snapchat, to Twitter, to BuzzFeed, news is everywhere you look. Your generation is the first to have 24/7 access to everything that's going on in the world—but that comes with a unique set of challenges. With social media amplifying misinformation and the president calling everything “fake news,” it can be tempting to tune out the noise completely.

However, in the age of the internet, journalism is more important than ever before. Journalists are often called “gatekeepers”—they determine which stories deserve attention, and whose voices get heard. In a world where we have endless information at our fingertips, journalists have the power to determine what we know and whether we care. As a journalist this summer, you'll get to test out that power—and you'll leave with sharpened media analysis skills, something you'll be able to apply in the future whether you're a reporter on the White House beat, or simply reading your news app on the T.

At Teens in Print's Summer Journalism Institute (SJI), you'll learn everything you need to know to critically analyze today's news stories and create your own. Our team of professional journalists will teach you to interview government officials, craft a perfect tweet, and find a story when you're just walking around the city. You'll learn about journalism's checkered history, from the heroic reporters who helped impeach a president, to the not-so-ethical journalists who were fired for publishing lies. By the end of the six week program, you will walk away with a deep understanding of journalism, plus an all-important byline, in the form of a print article, a photo series, a video, or a podcast.





INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

SJI is proud to be part of the City of Boston's summer jobs program. To apply, visit youth.boston.gov and select Summer Journalism Institute as your desired work site. All participants hired through Successlink can earn a paycheck of up to \$300 a week.

THE LGBTQ+ LEXICON

Eunuch. Sodomist. Homo. Gay. Queer. Proud.

The queer experience has weathered the waves of history, and each word in the queer lexicon tells its own story. These are stories of identity, experience, oppression, celebration and day-to-day life. Wondering what these words mean? When to use them? Why they came about? Stay tuned.

WORDS FOR INTERSECTIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Sometimes we imagine queer people as androgynous-looking white girls in plaid or well-sculpted white boys, but the queer experience includes all that and more. These words focus on the intersections of multiple identities.

TWO-SPIRIT: an umbrella term for Native American gender-nonconforming identities intended to foster pan-Native solidarity. Some love it; some dislike how it lumps experiences of diverse cultures together and prefer words specific to their tribe—if these words survive. Perhaps you heard that two-spirits were revered in Native American cultures, and, again, this is true—sometimes. Other times they were persecuted or, sometimes, just treated as normal people.

TRANSMISOGYNOIR: paralleling transmisogyny, this word describes the experiences of black trans women. 47 percent of black trans women will have been arrested at some point. The average life expectancy for black trans women is 31. While there's been significant progress, there's still a long road ahead.

WORDS FOR ISSUES WITHIN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

Like any group, the LGBTQ+ community suffers from a host of internal problems. The queer community has been continually examining what it means to be queer and what our place is in the world.

EXCLUSIONIST: Does oppression make you belong? Exclusionists try to control who can and can't be queer, and tend to be frowned upon. After all, experiences of oppression vary wildly. Do people who suffer more belong more? But if your identity has no negative connotations, do you get to claim a label within a community formed to protect its members from oppression?

PINKWASHING: Emphasizing LGBTQ+ friendliness to distract from other oppressive, discriminatory or otherwise problematic actions. It can be easy to ignore that being gay-friendly doesn't negate other problems. But this word's existence shows that an effort for self-awareness is being made.

WORDS THAT PROVE WE WERE HERE ALL ALONG.

ADELPHOPOIESIS: literally meaning brother-making in Ancient Greek, adelphopoiesis was a practice in early Christianity that joined two men in inheritance. While it sometimes joined relatives, it often joined men with no familial relation and is considered by many to be an early alternative to marriage for Christian gays.

BOSTON MARRIAGE: this is exciting, because it references our very own Best City in the World! Boston Marriage refers to two cohabitating, financially independent, "single" women and references Henry James' novel "The Bostonians," which depicts a relationship of the kind.

BAHASA GAY: Around the world, queer communities have used codes to protect themselves from persecution and detection. Bahasa Gay is just such a dialect in use in Indonesia.

ALLY. Where are you in this story? Like with many words on this list, there are debates over what it means to be an ally. But it isn't too difficult to start: just listen and be accepting. You might not understand everything right away. That's okay. Don't pretend to. You don't have to understand to be kind. If someone tells you an identity is important to them, don't belittle it. Remember: they're the same person they've always been. The world is still a big place. There are always things we might not understand — but that's what makes the world beautiful.

CHEMICAL REACTIONS

A REFLECTION ON THE IMPACT OF MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

By: Jacob Downey // A&E Editor

It's fall 2001, and soon-to-be rockstar Gerard Way is interning at Cartoon Network when he looks outside to see the destruction caused by the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Later, Way would recount his memory of this pivotal moment to digital music magazine Spin. "I literally said to myself, 'F**k art,'" he said. "I've gotta get out of the basement. I've gotta see the world. I've gotta make a difference."

In the following months, Way, who grew up with a passion for music and had been a part of several bands in his teens, would recruit former bandmate Ray Toro, his younger brother Mikey Way, and Pencey Prep guitarist, Frank Iero. The four would become the saviors of the broken, the beaten, and the damned: My Chemical Romance.

After the success of their first album, "I Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love" in 2002, My Chem would defeat the all-too-common "one hit wonder" trope by hitting the scene hard with 2004's "Three

Cheers for Sweet Revenge," a conceptual album centered around themes of loss, sorrow, and most importantly, revenge. Highlights include "Helena," an ode to Way's late grandmother, and "I'm Not Okay," a track Way deemed a "self-help pop song" about being, well, not okay.

2006 would see the release of MCR's magnum opus, "The Black Parade." "Welcome To The Black Parade" is the track that makes the record. Starting with the somberest G-note you'll ever hear, as the song goes on, more instruments are added until you're jamming and crying, in your element but also in your feels, and then suddenly you're screaming "DO OR DIE, YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME" at the top of your lungs on a crowded train and everyone's giving you weird looks, but deep down, you know they feel it too.

Finally, "Danger Days: The True Lives of The Fabulous Killjoys" would be MCR's last full album and consist of tracks such as "Na Na Na" and "Vampire Money," both of which go harder than my head into my

desk as I try to think of an analogy to equal the feeling of blasting "Danger Days" at full volume.

On Mar. 22 2013, Way, in a letter to legions of Killjoys, said "My Chemical Romance is done. But it can never die. It is alive in me, in the guys, and it is alive inside all of you. I always knew that, and I think you did too. Because it is not a band—it is an idea."

Justifiably upset, some fans took the news better than others. Even today, Killjoys old and new are clamoring with the rumors of a reunion, which simply is not going to happen. Fans, music executives, and even Warped Tour founder Kevin Lyman have tried to reunite the emo outfit to no avail.

Although My Chem is gone, their legacy continues on. Despite splitting six years ago, their music continues to touch the hearts of young people all over the world. Even though they're dead and gone, MCR's memory will carry on, and so will we. My fellow Killjoys, may death never stop you. So long and goodnight.

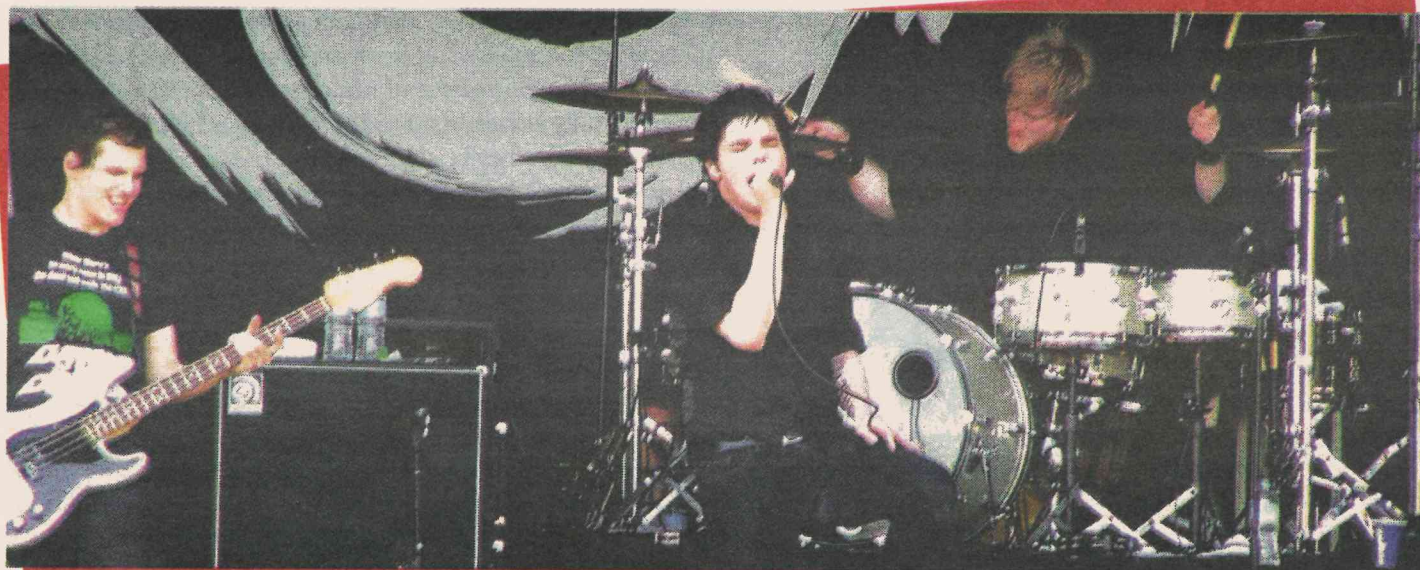
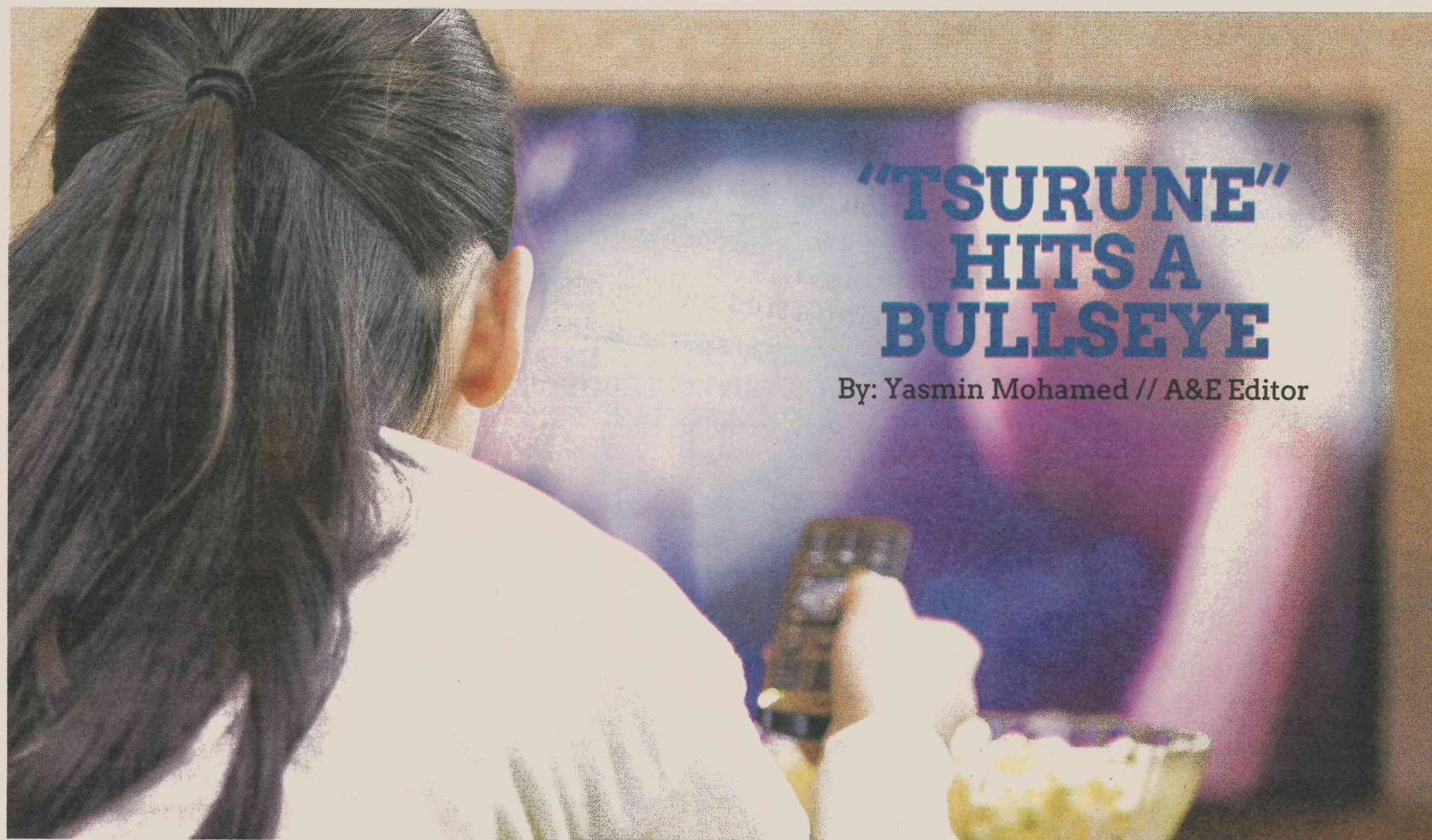


PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPENCER



By: Yasmin Mohamed // A&E Editor

The sports section on any anime streaming platform is filled to the brim with the same plotline: an average freshman year student lives life ordinarily, is academically ordinary, has ordinary friends, and then BOOM! After breathing 10 ordinary minutes into the plot, suddenly the character is talented in sports, beats top players, and lives their life in glory.

However, the anime “Tsurune” is different. Adapted from “Tsurune: Kazemai High School’s Kyudo Club,” a light novel series written by Kotoko Ayano, “Tsurune” centers around a 15-year-old boy named Minato Narumiya, who is a well known Kyudo archer when the story begins. Kyudo is a Japanese martial art of archery, and translates to “the way of the bow.” Learning through his younger years with a close friend and his mentor, who is well-respected in the Kyudo community, the target has been set high for Minato. However, at Minato’s last tournament in middle school, an incident happens that

pushes him to quit archery altogether and develop target panic, a condition in which an archer becomes so anxious, they can no longer shoot well.

At the start of high school, he reconciles with childhood friend Ryohei Yamanouchi, who nags at him to join the school’s reopened Kyudo club. However, it is not until Minato sees a peculiar man that he feels inspired to pick up his archer’s bow once again.

What’s the difference between “Tsurune” and any cult favorite anime? Minato, who starts off as a high achiever, suddenly crashes, and the show follows his character development as he tries to regain the skills he lost. While many sports anime follow a story in which the main character has an eye for a sport, and polishes that talent until they become the very best, “Tsurune” does the opposite. I’ve come to appreciate the character development in “Tsurune.”

The visuals of “Tsurune” are what initially piqued my interest. Every shot of an

arrow had intricate detail, and it was gentle and pleasing to the eye. Animated by Kyoto Animation, who also animated cult favorites such as “Violet Evergarden” and “Sound! Euphonium,” “Tsurune” has a serene animation style and portrays Kyudo archery as it is: a competition between one and the target, rather than one against another.

“Tsurune” simultaneously explores the lightheartedness of high school life and the worries of an adolescent teen struggling with insecurity. I’ll assure you, the series’ 13 episodes are something that you’ll definitely want to add to your watch list, and—while Kyoto Animation hasn’t yet released the bowstring on a season 2—I hope that they’ll let the arrow fly soon.

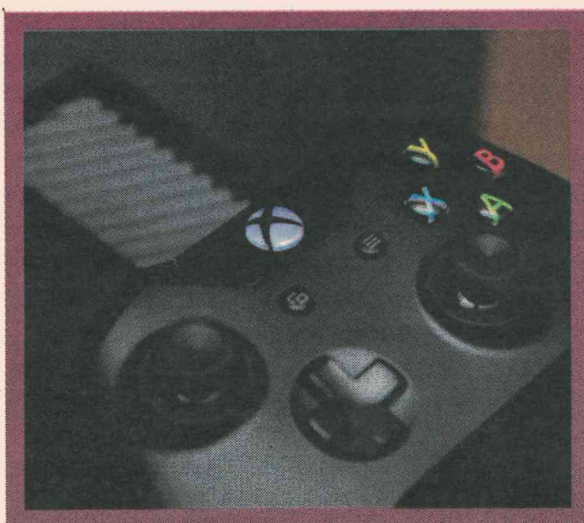
TSURUNE

Directed by Takuya Yamamuru, voiced by Yuto Uemura, Aoi Ichikawa, Ryota Suzuki, Shogo Yano, Kaito Ishikawa, and Shitaro Asanuma. Available to stream on VRV, Crunchyroll, and others.

DON'T MISS LIST

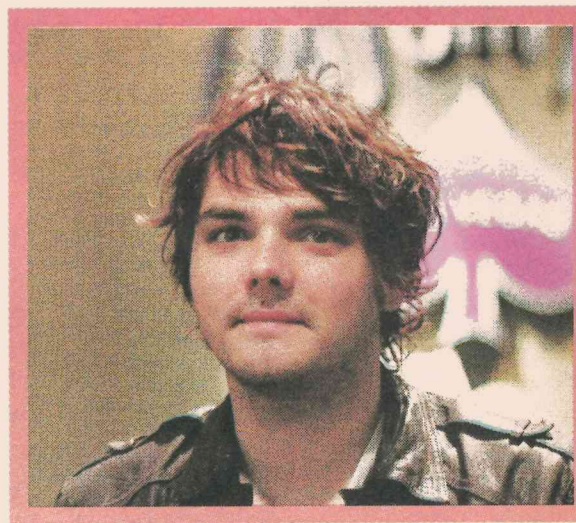
By: Jacob Downey & Yasmin Mohamed // A&E Editors

Your guide to this spring's freshest events and entertainment.



APEX LEGENDS

Fed up with "Fortnite?" Not particularly pleased with "PUBG?" Bored of "Blackout?" If the battle royale genre has been starting to wear out, prepare to fall in love all over again with Respawn Entertainment's "Apex Legends," released earlier this year. A sequel of sorts to the sleeper hit, "Titanfall," this new take on battle royale pits you and your three-man team of unique heroes in a battle to separate the losers from the legends. Apex Legends is free to play on Xbox One, PS4, and PC.



THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY

"Shameless" meets "X-Men" in Netflix's "The Umbrella Academy." Based on Gerard Way's Eisner Award winning graphic novel, "The Umbrella Academy" is a high quality watch for both die hard Killjoys and newcomers alike. Rather than seeing capes duke it out with a maniacal villain, our protagonists are an emotionally-stunted family, reunited to prevent the apocalypse. Complete with time travel, ghosts, and a killer violin solo, the unbridled weirdness tied with the oddly relatable characters will draw you into the most bingeable show of 2019.

THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY PHOTO BY DICKSON; ANIME BOSTON 2019 PHOTO BY SIGISMUND VON DOBSCHUTZ; HAYAO MIYAZAKI PHOTO BY DAPPER GEEK NEWS, FLICKR



SUPERHERO SZN

Everyone loves a night at the cinema, and the summer movie season is fast approaching. First there's "Captain Marvel," the Marvel cinematic universe's first woman-led solo film, out March 8. Then, "SHAZAM!" DC's debut of "Earth's Mightiest Mortal," hits theaters April 5, and "Detective Pikachu," featuring Ryan Reynolds as the titular Pokemon, follows on May 10.



WAKE UP THE EARTH

Surely you probably don't like waking up in the morning for school, but you should definitely attend the annual Wake Up the Earth festival this May. Learn more about the ground you walk on, eat delicious food from local farmers, engage with local nonprofits, and march through the neighborhoods of Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. It's a great day to make budding friendships with humans (and dogs) in your neighborhood.

Saturday, May 4. Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park, 100 Boylston St., Jamaica Plain.



ANIME BOSTON 2019

Impatiently waiting for more anime? Anime Boston, an annual three-day event hosted at Hynes Convention Center, comes to town this April. Find art, key charms and manga at booths, attend cosplay events, and jump from panel to panel. Feeling in the mood to dance? Buy a \$4 ticket to the Imperial Ball—profits benefit the Central New England chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

April 19-21, Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. Tickets start at \$75.



NEVER-ENDING MAN: HAYAO MIYAZAKI

You know what's never-ending? The love for "Ponyo," "Spirited Away," "Howl's Moving Castle," and countless other cult favorites animated by Hayao Miyazaki. The man behind the screen has retired, but he still harbors his love for animating. Follow the life of Miyazaki through a free screening of a 2016 documentary about his life, "Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki," at the Museum of Science.

Wednesday, May 8, 7-9 pm, Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston.



BOBBY ROBOT

By: Frandy Baez // Contributing Writer

It was the year 2050 and everyone seemed worried about the project of High water. It had been five years since the High water company had launched their project, and some people loved it. The project was a robot named Bobby. This project came out because most of the kids were wasting their time using their phones or playing video games, so they weren't spending time with their families. High water company made the name of the robot Bobby, because they believed that the kids would like it. The robot could teach kids how to spend time with their families, but they didn't show the real intention they had with these robots. They decided to charge the robot for \$50,000, so the rich and middle class people could give the robot to their kids. It all started when the kids got the robots. Everything seemed awesome, and a minute later the robot was out of control, and then started treating the kids badly. They told them to be disrespectful with their parents, like not listening to their parents. The kids didn't do their homework, and were also bad in school.

Dondre lived in Atlanta, GA, where the kids had a lot advantages with technology

such as computers and software, and their parents had a lot of money. He was friends with every kid in the neighborhood, but he had one close to him.

Dondre tried to call his best friend.

"Hey yo Rigo. It's me Dondre."

"What's good bro," said Rigo.

"Bro is your Bobby robot acting weird?" asked Dondre.

"Yup bro he been saying bad things that I need to do," Rigo responded.

"Damn bro I thought that it was my Bobby robot only!" Dondre said.

"Dondre bro I'm a little scared about this robot," Rigo said.

Dondre got worried and said, "Rigo, don't be scared, we will figure out how to stop this mean and nasty robot!"

"How are we gonna do that, Dondre?" asked Rigo.

"Chill out bro! Can we meet at 11:00 am in our secret place?" responded Dondre.

"Ok bro I'll be there," said Rigo.

They met in the library where they had a secret room. The robots couldn't go in the library because that's only for human beings.

Dondre and Rigo thought that they needed to know more about the robots. They started to research on the web. The High water company didn't have a clear purpose on their website, and then they were confused and started wondering more. They were thinking of hacking the company, because they didn't understand the intention that High water company had with these robots.

Dondre's grandfather created a software called Triple x, which can hack almost everything. Dondre knew where his grandfather saved this software in Dondre's house. Then he went to his house to get the software, and Rigo stayed to check if anybody got in. He got the software, and went to the library, and then started to hack the company. Still at 12:00 pm they were trying to hack the web of High water company, and when they finally got in, they found out the purpose that the company had.

Need to know what happens next? Read in full at bostontip.com.

ELECTRIC PROJECTOR NERVOUS

By: Hoda Hassan Abdi // Contributing Writer

Lisa went into the room to grab some equipment. The room had many screens to show the patients' information, but only when the doctor puts in the code. She looked at the patients who were sitting in the bed.

"Good morning, I am your Doctor Lisa. How can I help you today?" she asked.

"Nice to meet you. I am John. I have a really bad headache."

After a few minutes, while Lisa was examining John, he grabbed her hand and pushed her to the table, and touched a place he was not supposed to touch. Her face was angry and as red as a pepper when she realized she was getting harassed. She screamed as loud as a lion roared, and in a matter of seconds, members of the staff came to rescue Lisa. They saw John on top of Lisa, and two of the three members of the staff carried the crazy man out of the room.

As Lisa was walking home from work, her mind traveled

to images from long ago, thinking about stories her friends had told her when they were threatened and harassed. Sarah was one of those friends, and she told her about when a stranger followed her into her car. This made her think about using the technology she had developed, called the 'electric projector nervous.' She had been holding back and hoping things would get better. After having to hear about someone experiencing that same feeling, and not wanting it to happen to any other innocent people, she decided she wanted to take action.

Lisa's robot opened the door for Lisa and welcomed her home. Her friend Robert had won a challenge and gotten two robots, and he had given one to Lisa.

"Dr. Lisa, welcome! What can I help you with tonight? You look very tired and angry," said the robot.

The robot brought her some water, and she started to type her message on her Hologram

Machine.

She typed the following: "As you know we have suffered enough with men threatening and harassing women, and I was a victim myself today. I have this technology that I developed a few months ago when my best friend Sarah was harassed, but I was hoping things would get better. Today, I experienced my own incident, so it's time for me to be an upstander and help all the women like me who are suffering and have suffered. Come to my house immediately, no later than 5:00 pm, and I will give you the Electric Projector Nervous shots. It goes to your nervous system and sends the brain an alarm to shoot an electric shock when you're in danger of being harassed. The shot also expires after every year, so you have to get a new shot every year. I will set up a tent in my backyard. I hope to see you soon."

Want to know what happens next? Read in full at bostontip.com.

STOP VIOLENCE

By: Najmo Abu // Contributing Writer

"I want to ask you a question and you have to answer," Taina expressed.

"Okay, what is it?" Dr. Najmo said, wondering what she was going to ask.

"Do you think it is going to work this time?" Taina asked. She breathed.

"Again with that question," Dr. Najmo added.

"Just answer the question!" Taina urged.

"Of course it is going to work this time," Dr. Najmo assured her.

"We don't even know how to put it together or make it work."

"We have been doing this for three years and nothing works," Taina said doubtfully.

"Have patience, Taina," Dr. Najmo told her.

"If it does not work this time, I'm going to quit. I don't want to waste my time for something that is not going to work," Taina warned.

"Taina, it takes time and patience to be successful. We should not give up now when we are getting it right. We should try one more time before we make a decision, to see

if it is going to work. If it doesn't, we will stop the project," Dr. Najmo said, convincing her.

"Okay," Taina said.

Dr. Najmo started putting the gun together. She connected the gun and the chip together using tongs. She felt relieved now that her gun was ready to change society for the better.

After she put together the gun, she started testing it for the last time, as she promised to Taina. She was standing and leaning over the table, and putting the gun parts together to find where to put the chip in. Taina was watching and listening to her as she put the chip in the gun.

Dr. Najmo knew that she had to make this work because she had been working on this project for three years, and she didn't want her three years of work and effort to go to waste. She was walking out on the pavement, and there was a target to test the gun. She raised the gun with her both hands to shoot the target. She closed her right eye under the goggles and shot the target.

"Bang!" The bullet hit right between the eyes. She jumped out of excitement.

"Finally my hard work pays off!" Dr. Najmo grinned.

Now that her gun worked, she decided to propose to the government that her gun was safer than regular guns, and that they should ban other guns and replace them with her new guns. Now, she prepared to meet and shake hands with people from the government who made laws about guns.

"I have a proposal for you that can stop gun violence," Dr. Najmo suggested. "I made a new gun that works with technology, it's called 'Stop Wrong.' This gun has a chip that goes in your brain, that connects them. The gun knows what is going on with your brain, and senses if you are going to do dangerous things. It stops working to prevent you from killing or harming other people with your gun."

Want to know what happens next? Read in full at bostontip.com.

THE INVISIBLE LENS

By: Maroua Malak Beddal // Contributing Writer

Three years ago, Koral was living with both of his parents as a poor family. Everynight, loud voices were heard from their house. A drunk father yelling out at a poor mother, a boy defending his mother, and the mother crying. Koral's father abused his wife by taking her small, daily amount of cash, which she gained by cleaning a huge factory. One day, Koral's mother got sick. At midnight Koral's father came back home as usual, and he saw the mother suffering in the bed with Koral in front of her. Yet, he didn't have an ounce of a conscience.

"Hi you, woman, get up and bring me the money you got this day. Quickly, at least we are benefiting from this money, as you're doing nothing in your life," said Koral's father.

Koral looked angrily at his father and said no words, except telling his mom to not care. Five seconds later, Koral's father repeated his word again with a loud voice.

"Hi, you, useless woman, bring me your money I said," cried the father.

"Don't you see that she is sick, how can she go to work like this?" cried Koral.

"She didn't go outside the house today? What? Am I hearing that right?" said the father. He went to the mother and grabbed her from her clothes, and started shaking her while Koral was trying to push him away from his mother.

"How come you didn't bring no money today, what do you want me to do to you now? Give me your mother's gold ring!"

"No, no please not my mother's ring, it's the only thing I have left from her to remember her, please no, not the ring please," pleaded Koral's mother, while so many tears ran down her cheek. The father used violence against the mother, and tried to take off the ring from her finger.

"Leave her, don't touch her or I will kill you. Stop!" cried Koral while trying to defend

her mom.

The neighbors were all watching from their house windows and listening.

Suddenly, a gunshot was heard from Koral's house. The father was shot in his back and fell down to the ground. Koral looked surprisedly at his father, then in the direction where the shot came from, and he saw somebody go out the door quickly and run. As Koral saw his mother on the ground, he couldn't focus on the somebody, and he tried to make his mother answer him by calling her name loudly. But it was time for her to leave him. After, the police came and arrested Koral with no evidence, only based on what the neighbors said to the police, that Koral had been the killer of his father.

Want to read more? Read in a full at bostontip.com.

BLOSSOMING

By: Ameerah Dada // Staff Writer

There are too many emotions to count in this world. There are the simple ones like happiness, sadness, anger and anxiousness. What about the ones we hide? The ones we don't like to show or talk about because we're too afraid of what people may think or say?

The little flower opened its petals and saw the sunlight, when all of a sudden, a storm cloud formed. It was still in its growing stage so it wasn't strong enough to withstand the winds and heavy rain and it immediately broke down. Then a few weeks later, there had been some rain but it was lighter, more like a drizzle, and the little flower was able to grow. It spread its petals again and reached towards the sun and smiled. The little flower was then greeted by another flower who was brightly colored, perky and looked like she didn't know what a "hard time" was. Not knowing why, she started to cry. She was confused and began to ask herself, "Why don't I look like that?"

When the bright flower walked away, she fell down and suddenly became overcome by a feeling of defeat and sadness. It began to rain again and she broke down. Admittingly, it took her awhile to build herself up again, she still managed to grow tall, but was a little bent from all of the pouring rain. But, she was happy that she was finally almost as tall as the other flowers in the garden. So she smiled at all the other flowers, and they didn't smile back.

She didn't feel so good after that. She wanted to hide but she couldn't let them see how much it hurt her so she just stayed there, silently. She knew what she



was feeling wasn't normal, all the sadness and breaking down. She wanted to talk to an adult flower because she was scared that if she opened up to someone her age, they might judge her. She remained shy and quiet, but all of her emotions piled up after months and months of staying quiet and holding in. Little by little her petals fell apart. She wished that people around her would ask her to talk, assure her it's okay to have these feelings and it's also okay to talk about them.

A few years later, a new flower grew in the same spot. Although this time there was no heavy rain and no bright flower

that was better than her, she still had her bad days. She realized how tall she had grown and how strong she was. In fact, she was the bright, strong, beautiful flower in the garden. She found it hard to believe but knew that this came with taking some time to grow and not letting other flowers, herself or anything on planet Earth destroy her. All she needed was to vocalize how she felt, even if it was to herself, to always feel as confident as she did when smiling at those other flowers. She was appealing to her own eyes and that's all who she cared about impressing.

HIT THE BOOKS AND NOT THE BACKWOODS

By: Amy Aguilar // Staff Writer

The thing about OUR generation is there is a time in life where things aren't a ball game no more. You're on the road, turning at the wrong light, you end up in an empty lot, orange cones, concrete rubble, graffiti and sometimes even some old cars. YOU don't realize till something goes wrong, till you've lost family, "even if not by blood." Now you don't know where you are.

WE don't have to resort to the tip of backwoods, RAW or a medal handle with flavor.

If you really want no problems, if you want to get better, do something about it.

I DON'T MEAN go give a fist to the face,

to end up with the blood of another on your knuckles,

or start problems, but realize that

YOU got a problem and get ya self help, give a chance to someone an spill ya problems and keep it real with them, or hit the books.

Things don't change on they own.

YOU GOTTA MAKE CHANGE.

Our world didn't get to where it got by folks smoking they problems away.

BUT by working, turning the wheel the right way, especially for they kids. The fam didn't work till they dropped or come here illegally for

teens to just be catching smoke or to be

getting cancer,

goin' to juvie.

Doing RIGHT gets

you respect,

Real PRIDE,

Gettin' the dough or even a diploma to show ya folks that you can.

It gets you a better life.

It gets you a productive life.

Ain't no one ever said they got to the top without working. To get anything and keep what you want to be yours, YOU have to work and do it the right way.

If the car doesn't go when you turn the wheel,

then you gotta get out and push it, but you can't push 4,009 pounds on your own.

You'll need help, especially to get back to the light you made the wrong turn at.

WHOLE-HEARTED

By: D'nira Craig // Contributing Writer

A long, long time ago, when dogs talked instead of barked, and snakes had legs instead of none, we the human beings on earth had a narcissistic moon. The sun came and went as it should, and so did the moon. Now, our moon loved himself. He loved himself so much that he thought he was the most beautiful thing in this world, up until now.

One night, as the sun was setting, and the moon was rising, the turtles began to crawl up the shore. Their radiant shells glistened under the moonlight, catching the moon's attention. "Well, hello there, Ms. Turtle," the moon spoke. "What a lovely night we are having, aren't we?"

"Why, yes it is, Mr. Moon," the turtle replied as she searched for food.

"Oh, and how marvelous my reflection is on this bright blue ocean floor!"

The turtle rolled her eyes but reluctantly agreed. Suddenly, a glimpse of the turtle's shell caught

the moon's eye. The moon became envious of the slow-walking turtle.

"Oh my, Ms. Turtle, your shell is so bright and beautiful, I wish I had a shell just like yours."

Ms. Turtle shook her head. "Be happy with who you are. Appreciate what you've got. There's only one you, and not another."

But the moon was caught up in his own little world and ignored what the turtle said. The turtle started to descend back to the ocean. As the moon stared at his reflection, wondering what to do, he said out loud, "I'll change myself and become more beautiful too!"

As the night grew, the moon morphed himself to look like the turtle's shell. The sun rose, the moon set and the cycle repeated all over again. The moon was admiring his new shape in the reflection of the ocean, when suddenly the water splashed and made a commotion. "Why hello good dolphins. Do you like how I look? Cause I sure do," the moon said.

The dolphins giggled and laughed.

"Honestly, you look kinda fat. Turn into a crescent like us. You'll like it."

The moon thought for a minute. What the dolphins had said consumed his thoughts. The moon thought, "I shall take their advice and change my shape again." Out loud, the moon came to his conclusion and announced, "I shall look more beautiful just like my old self again."

So as the next night came, it was the moon's time to shine, when a sassy slithering snake slid by. "You're ugly! What happened? Just go away, no one likes looking at you." That really hurt the moon's feelings. He got depressed. He disappeared, just like the snake said.

As the time went on, the moon didn't show. He was thinking about what the snake had said. He realized he should ignore him, and listen to what Ms. Turtle said. He should try to love himself again. Slowly, he became a full moon again, but he was still insecure. Over time he tried to pull himself together, to make his mind and heart become whole again.

LIES

By: Julia Rivers //
Contributing Writer

You came into my life, then
quickly exited.

It's okay, really. I'm used to it by
now.

I thought you were the one,
since I'm being real with you, but
I guess I was wrong. I should have
learned my lesson from previous
experience, but apparently I didn't.

You were my love; my
everything... My hotline only
blinked for you.

You left me in the cold, crisp
winter air that blew away all of the
love and affection you ever had.

Why couldn't we work it out?!

Was it me and not you? What
did I do to deserve this?

Did you ever really love me
though??! Was all of this just some
cruel joke?

What did I do wrong, baby?

Please just tell me...

I'm so sorry.

I miss you so much.

Your laugh,

Your touch,

Your scent,

Your smile.

You.

I need you in my life!

Don't you understand that I
need you in order to survive?

I can't handle all of this
insanity that I'm going through by
myself...

I need you.

I need you because you were the
only one to ever help me...

You were the only one who
cared.

LONELINESS

By: Bianka Leon //
Contributing Writer

Have you ever
just been in a state of loneliness
but you'd rather deal with the pain
that comes to surface occasionally
when all you want is
companionship,
rather than seek for another's heart
because people also bring
loneliness and pain and

if I can't deal with my own
how can I deal with yours
Crazy part is
I know how to heal your pain and
loneliness

I just can't heal my own
I guess that's what happens
when you look at life
through a two way mirror—
you can't see yourself,
but rather, the world that
surrounds you.

I live life by analyzing,
observing everything around me.
But the day
I can look through the mirror
and see myself, will be the day
I'm no longer in the state of
loneliness,
but a state of bliss.

MASK

By: Bianka Leon //
Contributing Writer

The woman with brown eyes,
you see her,
but all she sees are your lies.
Your heart beating out of your
chest
and sweat falling off your palms
because you're trying to be
someone you're not and in doing
so you'll become your own enemy.
When this war is done,
your insecurities will eat you alive,
and keep you separated
from your heart.
How can I love you,
when all I know is your mask?
How does one love a mask,
the man with the lost eyes.

FLIRTING OR FIGHTING? SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

By: Yasmin Mohamed // A&E Editor

Suppose you want to impress your date tonight. Red roses are the go-to on a date night. You're nervous, hands are clammy, your hair keeps sticking up in odd places and you KNOW you gelled it down. You have 30 minutes until you're supposed to be at your dinner location. But first—flowers.

Stepping into the flower shop, plants are blooming in unexpected places.

The walls, floors and even the door has plants curling around it. Hurrying up to the florist, you ask, "Can I have a bouquet of red roses?"

But why red roses? Why not blue hydrangeas, her favorite color? Red roses are widely known as the "symbol of love" around the world. Every year on Valentines Day, convenience stores turn a violent shade of red and red roses are printed on cardboard boxes.

Victorians are the ones who originally hosted the flower exchange party, the OG's. In Victorian era Britain (1837-1901—the years that Victoria was queen), bouquets with various plants held meaning, and so one who had romantic inclination toward another would send a bouquet, expecting one in return with a response. Let's have a moment of silence for those who never got a response, a harsh left on read at 5:49 p.m. Bouquets weren't limited to romance though—enemies would send each other bouquets full of basil to signify their hate for each other. Yellow roses are arguably a powerful flower, meaning infidelity. Imagine the horror of being sent a

yellow bursting bouquet from your partner! Unfortunate. So this spring, head to your local flower shop, smell the flowers, prance past the red petals and give a unique bouquet to your mom, dad, dog and friend (if they aren't allergic).

AGAPANTHUS - LOVE LETTER

This flower, native to South Africa, is defined as "love letter." Its name is derived from the Greek term agape, which means love, and anthos, meaning flower. A pretty blue color, use this flower when writing a love letter, and press it into the pages for a unique touch.

POINSETTIA - BE OF GOOD CHEER

A classic Christmas flower, named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, who brought the flower from Mexico in 1828, this flower is the epitome of Christmas. I vaguely remember learning how to perfect painting a red poinsettia back in elementary school, and hanging mine on the student artwork board, one of my proudest moments. You don't have to wait till Christmas to break out this flower—gift it to someone who needs a smile.

PURPLE HYACINTH - PLEASE FORGIVE ME

The namesake of this flower is after Hyacinthus, a pretty young Spartan prince, who was both adored by Apollo, the sun god, and Zephyr, the wind god. Zephyr spotted

Apollo and Hyacinthus having a game of discus, and in his jealous rage, blew the discus back, and it then struck Hyacinthus at the head, killing him. Out of his blood, the first hyacinth flower grew. Gift this flower to one who you've wronged, in hopes of forgiveness.

HEATHER - PROTECTION

The only reason why I chose to discuss this flower is because of the movie, "Heathers." A favorite movie of mine, if someone told me to guess this flower's meaning, I would've said "revenge" or "regret," as Heather Duke becomes the new clique leader. Aside from the movie, this flower, I assume, should ward off the evil eye, or keep one in good health from illness. You could also use this flower to say "I will protect you," or "I ask for protection."

MYRTLE - LOVE

If you've read the "Harry Potter" series, you obviously know who Moaning Myrtle is. Killed by a basilisk in the series, she lives as an immortal ghost in an abandoned bathroom, wailing and crying her eyes out. Desperate to be emphasized and loved, she floats throughout the castle, spreading gossip. Apart from morose "Harry Potter" characters, this flower carries a simple meaning, and is synonymous with a red rose. It isn't as well known, but if you want a subtle way to say "I love you," add some myrtle to your bouquet.



LET IT POUR

TIPS FOR BEATING ONE OF THE RAINIEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR

You know how the saying goes: April showers bring May flowers. However, April showers can also bring long, gray days when you're trapped inside the house, and after one of the rainiest winters on record, no one wants any more of those. Luckily, our staff writers have all figured out how to beat rainy day boredom—here's their advice.

RELAX.

I sleep in bed for probably more than is considered healthy for a person. I don't know what it is about the rain that makes it so soothing, but I'm pretty sure it's hypnotic. Although the adventurous side of me would love to sprint across the slippery grass in the warm summer rain, another part of me just wants to cuddle up in a fuzzy blanket on the couch and simply look outside.

-Tiffany Cespedes

I take a nice, warm shower and get myself all relaxed, wrap a towel around my hair, get into some comfy and oversized clothes and peacefully sip my coffee like I don't have a care in the world.

-Ameerah Dada

GO ON AN ADVENTURE!

Make sure to put on a classic raincoat and galoshes combo, paired with a clear umbrella, maybe even a bucket hat. Then, head out when it's still drizzling and meet up with a friend. You can walk around the city together, headed nowhere in particular, and maybe head inside for coffee and tea when the rain gets to be too much. Sit by the window, people watching and talking. Look at all the dogs that pass by and try and name them. Have an existential crisis or two. Go to a bookstore and pick up random novels and read whatever page you open up, or head to an antique shop and make up stories as to how pieces ended up there. And once the day comes to an end, head your separate ways and sleep to the sounds of rain hitting your roof and laughter still echoing in your head. **-Mariella Murillo**

...OR NOT.

I would definitely NOT go outside because I HATE going inside of a dry area all weak and feeling soggy. It's just so disgusting and makes me feel uncomfortable. There isn't really any place I go in the rain except the mall. The mall is the only place I'd be happy to go to on a rainy day. **-Gabrielle Bolden**

GET CONTEMPLATIVE.

Is there a word for raindrops pattering down a window? I'm not sure, but what better time to look for one than while watching the rain slide down the window of an MBTA car? A rainy day is the perfect time to take all of the MBTA lines while searching for words to describe these experiences. Is there a word for the surreal experiences caused by rain? For the inspiration that the pluvial weather causes? I suggest reading a large book of foreign poetry to compete with the kid on the red line who likes to read about astrophysics on a rainy day. Before they get off, ask them for their favorite astrophysics fact, then respond with your favorite poetic line about the rain. Make sure to slip in the word "petrichor," the smell of rain on grass, to make sure they know you're a free spirit. When they leave, stare picturesquely out the window and ponder the fleetingness of human connections, as fragile as drops of rain on an MBTA window. **-Masha Leyfer**

CATCH UP ON YOUR NETFLIX QUEUE.

I'm really into a show on Netflix called "Lucifer." Watching that while the gray light hits the window while I can hear the rain and wind is like heaven for me. "Lucifer" is not too loud and not too quiet; it has just the right amount of suspense and action in it to be relaxing and exciting at the same time. **-Ameerah Dada**

My ideal rainy day situation is to cuddle with my boo and watch TV, and maybe take a stroll along the Charles River. **-Amy Aguilar**

LEAN IN TO THE DARK ATMOSPHERE.

My ideal way to spend a rainy Boston afternoon is to wander the city in search of the perfect spot to sulk. Shady trees, in the glow of convenient street lights, even just in the middle of Copley. I will stand, eyes down, fists clenched, rain flowing through my freshly gelled hair, down my face, eventually becoming lost in the sea of my tears. I use the dark energies gathered by my rain-soaked brood sessions to conjure up the most powerful, most legendary, dare I say even most life-changing of... bad puns. Then I get Shake Shack and read. **-Jacob Downey**

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE?

1. What is your favorite season?

- A) Summer
- B) Spring
- C) Fall
- D) Winter

2. What kind of flower do you prefer?

- A) Sunflowers
- B) Daisy
- C) Roses
- D) Calla Lily

3. What do you do at parties?

- A) Jump into the party games
- B) Try to start a conversation with someone
- C) Take selfies to make sure everyone knows you are there
- D) Stand alone in a corner

4. What is your ideal career?

- A) Professional skydiver
- B) Therapist
- C) Model
- D) Unsure

5. What's your favorite yogurt flavor?

- A) Cheesecake
- B) Peach
- C) Raspberry
- D) Vanilla

6. What is your ideal date?

- A) Enjoying the scenery around your area
- B) Family dinner
- C) Movies and chill
- D) Dating is not my thing

7. Where would you like to take a vacation?

- A) Brazil
- B) Nashville
- C) New York
- D) Paris

8. What do you do in your free time?

- A) Play sports/video games with my friends
- B) Listen to music with my headphones on
- C) Go to the mall
- D) Study

MOSTLY A'S: YOU'RE ADVENTUROUS!

You're a true thrill seeker with an appetite for adventure. Ever seen "Eat, Pray, Love?" Julia Roberts has nothing on you! Know that your life will take you in many exciting directions, and—even if you can't always see the path in front of you—you're bound to have the coolest stories in your friend group.

MOSTLY B'S: YOU'RE CARING!

You're sweeter than a chocolate cake covered in frosting and doused in sprinkles! As a real-life care bear, your prerogative is to make sure the people in your life feel happy and understood. Who wouldn't want to have you as a friend?! However, sometimes people take your kindness as reason to take advantage of you—but that's on them. Know that your caring self isn't a weakness, and make sure to take care of your most important ally—your inner self.

MOSTLY C'S: YOU'RE GLAM!

Oh wow, is that Rihanna?! No wait, it's just you—posing on Instagram in front of that mural like a BOSS. Fashion is your friend, in fact, it's a little scared of you, the way you find yourself cutting up different fabrics to start the latest trend. Jean shorts? Cropped hoodies? The Fab Five might claim it, but it all started with you. You're happiest taking a deep dive into your closet, leafing through bedazzled leather J's and feather boas, because hey, they MIGHT come in handy some day.

MOSTLY D'S: YOU'RE INTROVERTED!

Could you BE any more thoughtful? As an introvert, you've got some crazy secret powers—you're observant, contemplative, and creative, and everyone else is none the wiser. While you may sometimes feel pressured to speak up in class, strike up conversations with strangers, or attend parties when you just want to curl up and read, don't let others knock your lifestyle. Friendships are fleeting, but books last forever!

WHAT KIND OF DINOSAUR ARE YOU?

1. Do you like eating meat?

- A) Yes!
- B) No!
- C) I prefer vegetables
- D) Does fish count?

2. Do you like running a lot?

- A) I'm flash
- B) Nah, I'm too lazy
- C) I'm okay
- D) Does soaring count?

3. What animal would you rather be?

- A) Lion
- B) Turtle
- C) Rhinoceros
- D) Seagull

4. Where would you rather live?

- A) A cave
- B) Under a rock
- C) The desert
- D) The air

5. What type are you?

- A) Reptile
- B) Insect
- C) Mammal
- D) Bird

IF YOU SCORED MOSTLY A's

Congratulations, you're a T-Rex! You're queen of the wild! Or North America, where your species was most commonly found. A ferocious predator, your spirit is dominant and in control. You walk on two legs, and keep the rest of your body high in the clouds. In groups, you lead, in class, you always have the teacher's answer. When people see you coming, they get out of the way.

IF YOU SCORED MOSTLY B's

YES! You're a trilobite!! At one point your species was the MOST diverse and MOST populous on the planet, which means you know how to persevere—although trilobites have an exoskeleton that many find atrocious and unsettling, you know that having a hard outer shell protects your soft, sensitive middle. Strong willed, consistent, and hard-working, no matter how much the odds seem stacked against you, you always pull through. Your stability also means you're the glue of any friend group.

IF YOU SCORED MOSTLY C's

You triceratops—you Vegan/Vegetarian you. Out to save the planet, you're most likely to start a compost bin at the school cafeteria and preserve every plastic bag you've ever found. You also have one of the largest skulls of any dinosaur, meaning you're uniquely strong-headed. Your friends know not to get into an argument with you about the best recycling practices or anything to do with fossil fuels. In fact, you're so considerate and concerned about the world around you, that sometimes you lose sight of the people surrounding you. In any friend group, you're the one getting everyone up at the crack of dawn to pick up litter from the side of the highway.

IF YOU SCORED MOSTLY D's

You Pterodactyl, you BIRD OF PREY YOU!! You often find yourself above other people soaring through clouds, when others can only see the road in front of them. It's not your fault that you're miles ahead of them in both creativity and ambition, and that your predator tendencies mean you have the direction to shoot straight to your goals. Just make sure to slow down every now and then and let your peers catch up to you. You might be surprised to find you're not the only one with a good idea. In a friend group, you're the 'lone wolf,' most likely to recede into yourself, and then chip in with a surprisingly strange idea.

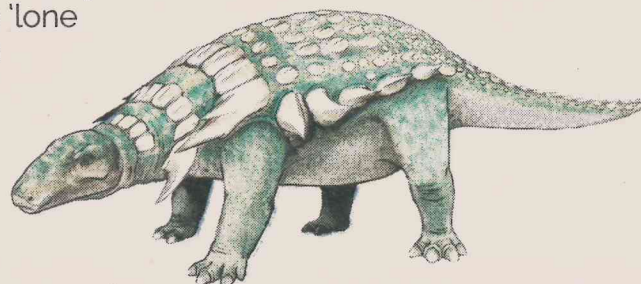


ILLUSTRATION BY MARIANA RUIZ

HOW MUCH TEEN ANGST DO YOU HAVE?

1. Which do you relate to most?

- A. I'm a little teapot!
- B. I'm kinda just here.
- C. i'M nOt OkAy!!!!

2. What is your sleep schedule like?

- A. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise :-)
- B. Naps on naps on NAPS.
- C. Sleep is for the weak. But on the other hand, sleep for a week.

3. What is your favorite drink?

- A. Tea or some sort of healthy juice.
- B. Soda.
- C. uLtRa BIAck mOnStEr!

4. You and your friend are at the mall. Which store do you go to first?

- A. Wherever bath bombs are sold!
- B. FOOOOOD COURRRRT.
- C. To sulk in Hot Topic.

5. What's your ideal first date?

- A. A breakfast date where we really get to know each other and have a good time <3
- B. I don't know, movie or something?
- C. (see question 4, answer C)

Give yourself 0 points for every A, 1 point for every B, and 2 points for every C.

0-3

Your angst levels have reached an all time low. you respond to texts with UwU's and OwO's and odds are, you probably cry at the end of every Pixar movie. You're as pleasant as pie and seek to spread your joy to others.

4-6

You're an average teen and that's okay! You march to the beat of your own drum, occasionally dipping a toe into the dark or light depending on your mood.

7 or above

You're so edgy that people get paper cuts just from being in your general vicinity. Parents shield their children's eyes as you pass, flowers wilt, and babies cry. You've been to the dark side and you've tasted their cookies. You have near maximum angst.

Celebrating 15 years of teen voices.

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