

GETTING A GRIP ON HEROIN ADDICTION

BY ALEX SCHLEY

At age 19, Matthew Ganem fell into a two-year nightmare of heroin addiction, leading him in and out of jail. He said he lost everything.

"I thought I was going to die a heroin addict," said Ganem, a father of two.

Like many addicts, Ganem didn't see a way out. Because he had little assistance, there were few opportunities to break free.

"If you talked to my mother or father, they were ashamed of it," said Ganem, recounting the difficulties many addicts face.

Nearly a decade later, he is nine years sober. And now, he is working to help fellow addicts recover from their addiction - and erase the stigma it carries.

Ganem is part of a growing movement to confront the heroin epidemic head on.

Three months ago, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh created the Office of

Recovery Services, which will focus specifically on addiction and recovery. Walsh has close ties to the epidemic, having lost several close friends to addiction, and having fought his own battle with alcoholism.

He said in an interview that the endeavor is personal.

"A lot of people I know are active out on the street. I know a lot of people that have passed away from addiction," he said.

Also, recently, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker released his own plan to address the opioid crisis, vowing "to change the way the Commonwealth treats and even thinks about substance addiction."

He said in a press release that there is not "a one-size-fits-all approach," and conquering the disease will, "require all of us to rethink the way we treat addiction." Baker approved \$27.8 million in the

2016 budget year to combat the epidemic, an increase from the \$20 million that was funded two years ago.

Meanwhile in Gloucester, law enforcement is attempting to redefine its role in the crisis with a new program to get addicts off the street.

"Addiction is a disease, not a crime," said Gloucester resident John Rosenthal, who co-founded a nonprofit that provides addicts resources to combat the problem. "We're not going to arrest our way out of this. We're going to try to get addicts into treatment."

Under the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative adopted in Gloucester, anyone seeking help at a police station will be sent to a treatment center rather than a jail.

Twenty-three addicts went to the police

HEROIN continues on page 10

Two Neighborhoods' Different Paths to Recovery

BY ANNA PENG

Introduction

Since the population decline and urban decay of the inner city that began in the 1950s due to the rise of suburbs and white flight, Boston has been striving to recover.

There is currently a movement of rehabilitation and redevelopment, and Boston has seen dramatic changes in the past few decades. In South Boston, this movement has been largely driven by development initiated by investment firms. In Roxbury, on the other hand, it has been driven primarily by public efforts.

This difference has led to the emergence of distinct visions for each neighborhood and each has embarked on its own path towards recovery.

Roxbury

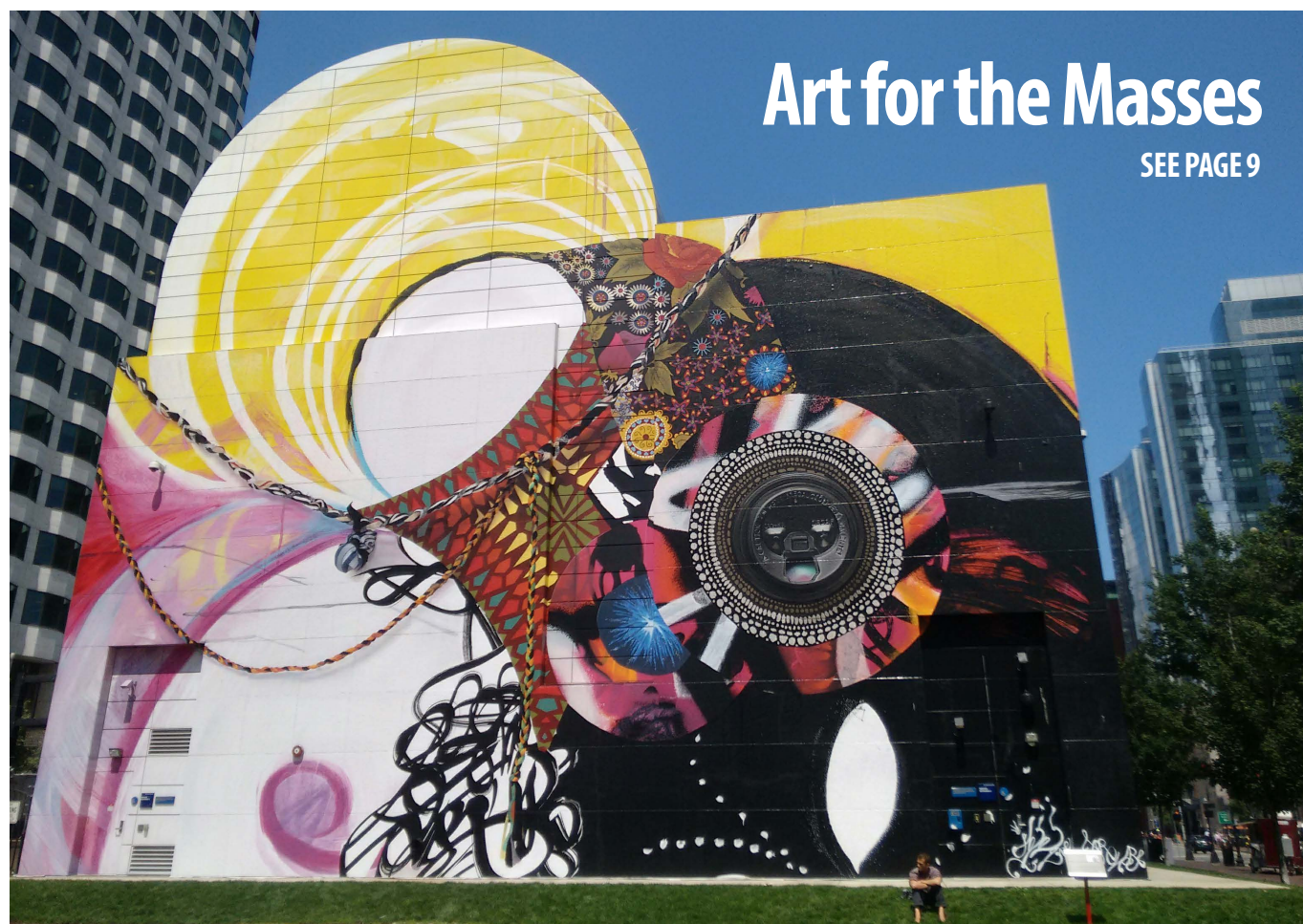
As you walk through Roxbury, you are surrounded by crumbling buildings and vacant lots. In an effort to address this, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), a community-based organization, and the Dudley Neighbors, Incorporated (DNI), a local land trust, partnered to create and carry out a recovery plan with the best interests of the community in mind.

In addition to improvements to parks and playgrounds, some of the land they acquired was redeveloped with gardens, which led to a trend of urban farming throughout the neighborhood.

"There's a lot to see in terms of economic benefits urban agriculture can bring," said Danielle Andrews, manager of the Dudley Greenhouse, owned by DSNI and leased to The Food Project. "It gives more people the opportunity to grow their own food and gets more people involved in feeding themselves."

The City of Boston has also made strides to improve the conditions in Roxbury. In recent years, it has rebuilt the Boston Police

GENTRIFICATION continues on page 4



Shingue Smith's "Seven Moon Junction" in Dewey Square Park at the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

PHOTO CREDIT: HAILEY BRYANT



PHOTO CREDIT: DAKOTA ANTELMAN

A student-athlete takes batting practice.

Academics and Athletics Equals Success at the Base

BY DAKOTA ANTELMAN

Robert Lewis expects the athletes he and his staff members mentor at his program — The Base — to be much more than athletes - he expects them to be successful students. By combining academic lessons and baseball, Lewis is working to send Boston's African-American and Latino students to college.

Located in Roxbury, The Base was created as "a place for Boston's youth to belong." Lewis and the staff he personally recruited tutor and provide test prep and college application assistance to students. The staff also train and coach the student-athletes to participate in national and local games and tournaments. However, Lewis' primary goal is to send student-athletes to college.

"Six to seven percent of black and Latino boys in America graduate college. That is unacceptable for anyone," Lewis said, pound-

ing the table in front of him to emphasize his statement. "We cannot live in a place that is the United States of America where a population of folks don't get access when another population does."

Lewis said he seeks to balance the inequality by providing his student-athletes with the skills to excel in both high school and college. He has an army of teachers and alumni to help him.

"My job is to be directly involved in all of the students' schools in the program and provide services they need," said Mario Austin, the academic and admissions specialist at The Base. "We just work on being almost a surrogate parent as well. We go to graduations, we're there in guidance [counselor offices], we go to schools."

Lewis started The Base in the late 1970s as the Boston Astros. He always sought to further college opportunities for his student-athletes. This year, The Base was given a \$50,000 grant by Gov. Charlie Baker to support the program. Lewis added that the grant, as well as coverage from Boston media, has also allowed him to secure scholarships from colleges and universities for his student-athletes.

The Base doesn't actively recruit students. Lewis said students show up at the Walnut Avenue headquarters, sometimes brought by others who are in the program. However, he doesn't accept everyone. Students must "earn their spot," Lewis said.

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

BY TYLER MAHEU

Playing ball like a girl is no longer an insult, just watch the Boston Renegades. Currently competing in the Women's Football Alliance, the Renegades, Boston's all-women tackle football team, are part of a league that has broken the stereotype that football is just for men.

But now, the Renegades, who lost their owner weeks before the season started, have to figure out a way to keep playing the game they love.

Since 2000, the Boston area has seen several women semi-pro football teams, starting with the New England Storm,

The Renegades, who started playing in 2008, were known as the Boston Militia, the winningest team in the national WFA. Owned by Ernie Boch Jr., the team grabbed three titles in five years, and is holders of a 67-6 record, including playoff games, giving Boston another sports dynasty.

But in January, just before the team was to start practice for the season, Boch gave up ownership and it appeared the team was going to disappear.

"Timing wasn't great," said Mia Brickhouse, one of the team's linebackers and its chief operating officer. "They wanted more competition, they wanted ESPN and they never got that from the league. In their mind they just wanted to focus on something else."

To save their dream, some of players including Brickhouse, created the Boston Women's Football LLC, the team's ownership group. This allowed them to organize the team and find sponsorship.

"This year's been a lot of beg, borrowing, and stealing," said Molly Goodwin, chief financial officer and linebacker coach. "Hopefully this offseason

we can negotiate deals with some vendors, sponsors, and physical therapists to help our training staff."

Because of legal issues, the team needed a new identity. After much deliberation, the players agreed to change from the Militia to the Renegades.

These days money for the team is in short supply, Goodwin said. Renegade players pay a fee to play and bring their own shoulder pads. The fee covers other football essentials such as helmets, and game and practice uniforms. The team covers the day-to-day fees such as field rentals, league dues, and regular season travel April through June.

However, with the team now in the postseason, funds are running out. "If we make it to Los Angeles [where the championship will be played], we would probably have a handful of players that couldn't afford it," said Goodwin. "These are still young kids just figuring out their way, they don't have the money to be traveling."

"I loved football as a child, but never even thought it was an option," said Brickhouse. For many of the women, football was not a possibility as a child, they said -- whether it was teams not accepting them, or their mothers saying no, football was strictly for the boys.

This team means a lot to these women, and they want to see it expand into something bigger. "I would like to see a more competitive level, I'd like to see more people involved in the sport," said Torrance Brown, one of the team's defensive lineman.

However, right now, Brown said, the goal is clear: "Keep winning some rings."



PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED

The Renegades at a recent practice.

The Rapid Growth of "The Base"



2 New "Dugout" workspaces



37 of 40 2015 Seniors to attend college in September

Academics are at the core of The Base's mission. Even though the organization boasts a national champion baseball team, it pursues academic scholarships for the students rather than athletic.

"We don't go for athletic scholarships because those can be taken away if the coach doesn't like you or you get hurt or something," Austin said. "Academics can be hard to get taken away."

Students in the program understand the importance of academics. A large portion of their love for Lewis stems from how much he and his staff have helped them with test scores and GPA.

"If you don't get your education in, you don't get to play baseball," said Miguel

Lorenzo, a student-athlete at The Base. "Some of the guys come here thinking that baseball is everything, but that's not it. It's baseball and school up at the college level."

Lewis said he wants his student-athletes to excel socially, academically and athletically. While he acknowledges equality has not yet been achieved, he believes The Base is helping to create a culture without barriers for urban youth.

"If you look at urban America, our folks know how to get to wakes and funeral homes, but they don't know the addresses to admissions offices of local colleges," Lewis said. "I'm shattering that. I'm creating a new paradigm of change."

ABOUT US

BY SARAH MAYOTTE

We're a group of 15 kids, who all have a passion for journalism. We are the NEHSJC Class of 2015.

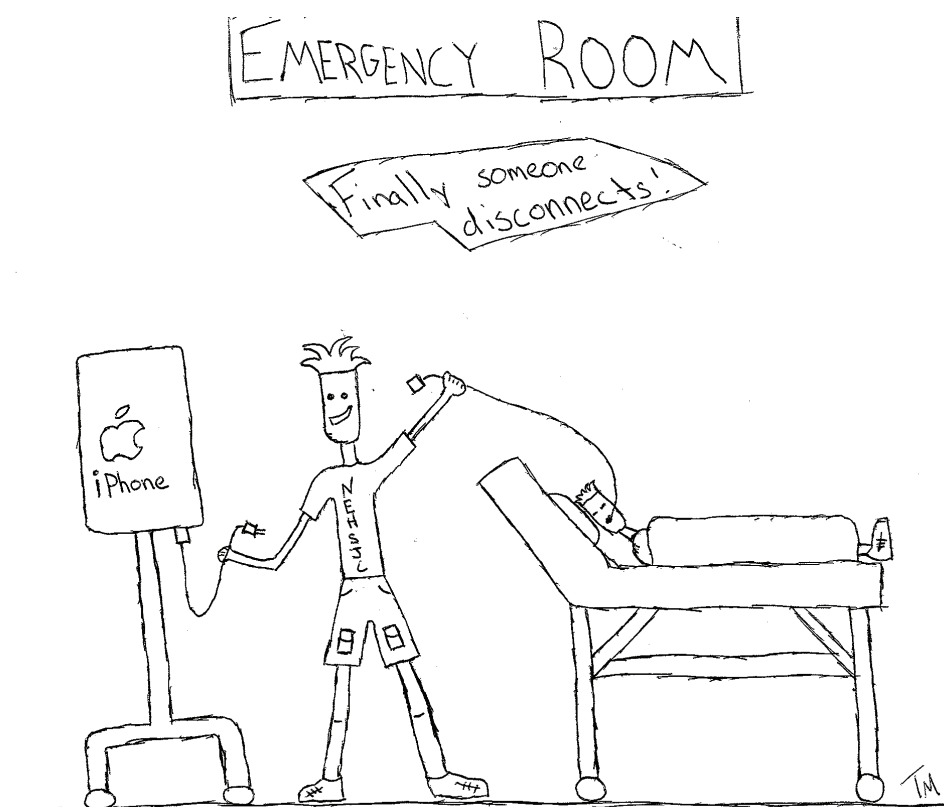
The theme of the program this year is Trendsetters, and we appropriately titled our paper *Zephyr*, which derives from Greek and means "a light wind." Trendsetters bring newness to the table - wind, or a breath of fresh air. We, as the *Zephyr* staff, take in trends wholeheartedly. Trends and change are primarily positive, as trends are up and coming; so are we as student journalists.

In a world where everything's been done before, it's hard to come up with something new. Everyone is brainstorming new ideas. Staring at the stark white paper, raging at the inability to come up with one semi-original thought is a common occurrence these days. It is those with the not just good, but great ideas who have the power to execute them successfully. Those are the Trendsetters. As we look toward our futures, we all work towards being Trendsetters, and creating a breath of fresh air.

A lot of people want to be Trendsetters, but not everyone can do it. Trendsetters don't follow the rules. Trendsetters lead and have others follow. Trendsetters don't look around to see what everyone else is doing, or Google "how to come up with a good idea."

We, as a staff, reported on some Trendsetters with inventive and innovative ideas. From new technology, to food innovation, to bringing art to the masses - from landscaping with goats to gender-neutral bathrooms, there are plenty of Trendsetters in the Boston area.

Zephyr commonly refers to "a soft, gentle breeze," which we bring. But together we are taking the world by storm.



NEHSJC students unplug for a healthier life.

STAFF REPORTERS

Jumayar Ahmed

Boston International High School

Dakota Antelman

Hudson High School

Hailey Bryant

Gorham High School

Emma Demers

Groton-Dunstable Regional High School

Tiffany Lu

Westford Academy

Tyler Maheu

Newport Middle High School

Marzia Maliha

Lynn English High School

Sarah Mayotte

Innovation Academy Charter School

Catherine Monroy

Revere High School

Anna Peng

Boston Latin School

Hillarie Pilier

Boston International High School

Alexandra Schley

Hudson High School

Gabrielle Silva

Saugus High School

Monica Stack

Montrose School

Jonathan Zou

Boston Latin School

RESIDENTIAL ADVISORS

Paige Yurek

Regis College

Alex Paduch

Lyndon State College

Baylee Wright, Assistant

Saugus High School

Tia DiSalvo, Assistant

Saugus High School

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Leah Lamson

Newspaper Manager

Milton Valencia

The Boston Globe, Reporter
NEHSJC Support Staff

Christine Vo

TripAdvisor
Print Edition

Michelle Johnson

Professor, Journalism,
Boston University
Web Production

WRITING COACHES

Jim O'Sullivan

The Boston Globe

Mike Carraggi

The Boston Globe

Cristella Guerra

The Boston Globe

Nicole Dungca

The Boston Globe

Paula Bouknight

The Boston Globe

Paul Makishima

The Boston Globe

Patricia Wen

The Boston Globe

Andrew Ryan

The Boston Globe

Meghan Irons

The Boston Globe

Colleen Malachowski

Regis College

Lara Salahi

Regis College

Stephanie Venachio

Regis College

BOSTON GLOBE LUNCH SPEAKERS

Maria Cramer

Reporter

Stephen A. Kurkjian

Senior Editor and Reporter

Janelle Nanos

Editor of BetaBoston

Cynthia Needham

Assistant Business Editor

Mike Bello

Assistant Metro Editor

Martin Finucane

Reporter

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Corey Allen

NEHSJC Alumni

Helen Smith

New England Scholastic Press Association,
Executive Director

Keith Bedford

The Boston Globe,
Photographer

Michelle Johnson

Professor, Journalism,
Boston University

Ruth Weiner

Freelance Writer
and Teacher

Tony Simollardes

Editorial Page Editor,
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Bob Holmes

The Boston Globe, High School Sports Editor

SPECIAL THANKS

The Carole Remick Foundation
The Boston Globe
Regis College
Write Boston

ABOUT US

Celebrating its 28th year, the New England High School Journalism Collaborative (NEHSJC) welcomes new students to the program. Over the course of a week, 15 students from 12 high schools across New England have worked rigorously to produce *Zephyr*. The program is sponsored by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, The Boston Globe, and Regis College.

Tips From The Pros

Throughout the creation of *The Zephyr*, the 15 NEHSJC student journalists were mentored by professional reporters during the week. Here is what the pros had to say:

"The most important skill to have as a journalist is curiosity."
Cynthia Needham

"As a journalist, you have to be skeptical."
Janelle Nanos

"Be known in your reporting for fairness as much as for thoroughness."
Stephen A. Kurkjian

"Have a determination to get things right and to be fair."
Mark Murrow

"Don't self-censor."
Helen Smith

"Anything you witness is a chance to ask questions."
Janelle Nanos

"Stick to good writing and focus on that. Be curious, if you have a question, go after it."
Maria Cramer

"Read everything. Reading while others are writing sparks ideas."
Cynthia Needham

"Break the rules but follow the guidelines."
Leah Lamson

"Make yourself in demand."
Keith Bedford

"You can be the best writer in the world but if you don't have reporting, the facts to support that; you have nothing."
Mike Bello

"Be the filter."
Michelle Johnson

"Use the First Amendment to persuade people that there's a better way."
Stephen A. Kurkjian

"Do your research."
Ruth Weiner

"The best writing emulates speech."
Tony Simollardes

"As a journalist we're not supposed to have an agenda—but everyone else does."
Cynthia Needham

"There is nothing that beats original reporting."
Paula Bouknight

WHEN NATURE CALLS

BY GABRIELLE SILVA

Boston City Hall is making history - and all for under \$30.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh signed in June an executive order to immediately establish two gender-neutral bathrooms on the fifth floor of City Hall just outside his office. Gender-neutral bathrooms are meant to be accessible public facilities that protects all peoples “regardless of gender identity or expression.”, according to Walsh in a press release of his executive order. This makes Boston the fifth city hall in the nation to establish such facilities.

While the city’s decision was significant, the alteration to the bathrooms were relatively simple, said Boston’s LGBT Neighborhood Liaison Jullianne Doherty. These bathrooms, originally one male and one female, were relabeled with \$30 plaques so that both genders were welcome in each.

This decision follows a trend by colleges, restaurants, churches, and even the White House to create a welcoming environment for all people. These types of restrooms have made such a gain that phone applications such as ‘Refuge’ have been developed to aid the search for facilities that do not distinguish between genders.

Restrooms have long been of concern to members of the LGBT community. For the large and growing number of transgender, nonbinary, androgynous, and queer citizens, having to choose between either male or female bathrooms has created a hardship. Beyond that, the lack of welcoming facilities translates as a lack of acceptance and inclusion.

“It doesn’t hurt anyone to create a safe space that didn’t exist before,” said Doherty.

Amid the spread of gender-neutral restrooms, concerns have risen. Many teachers, students, and parents worry that school bathrooms without gender boundaries may lead to a growth in sexual assault in their educational communities.

“Any time you tear down the appropriate walls of privacy and modesty, you are increasing the probability of sexual assault,” said Andrew Beckwith, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, a non-profit organization that speaks on issues such as same-sex marriage and abstinence.

Boston LGBT activists said City Hall’s attention to this issue began about two decades ago during the first Queer Youth Dance during Pride Week. Dance organizers decided to label bathrooms “gender-neutral” with tape and pieces of paper. This idea resonated with the organization,



PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED

A sign outside one of the bathrooms at City Hall.

and Doherty believes that if the youth could make such a drastic change for just one night, she could find support to make these temporary labels permanent.

While these bathrooms have been pushed by the LGBT community, other groups receive advantages. City officials have noted that such facilities could, for example, benefit a boy with disabilities who is attended by a

female nurse, or a father assisting his young daughter to the restroom.

Doherty said these small plaques may seem insignificant, but they are huge gains, not only the LGBT community, but for Boston’s community as a whole.

This matter is not up for debate in City Hall. Boston is dedicated to making their government accessible to anyone. And everyone.

GENTRIFICATION *continued from page 1*

Department building, repaired the Dudley Branch of the Boston Public Library, and built a new public building: the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building.

With all of these new developments, however, comes concerns about gentrification.

“There’s a real fear around affordability, whether development in Bartlett and Dudley Square will raise rent,” Andrews said.

Local high school student, Zannat Zannatul, has mixed feelings towards the changes.

“I do like the improvements, but I don’t think the whole neighborhood has to be replanned and everything has to be torn down and built back up...There has to be a balance.”

Zannatul also added, “I don’t consider urban gardening programs to be gentrifying the neighborhood...[Urban agriculture] gets city kids who might not get this opportunity elsewhere, because of location or poverty, to learn something that’s going to be beneficial for them.”

South Boston

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, South Boston was known for its mob activity, led by James “Whitey” Bulger, and was dominated by poverty and crime.

To encourage development, and thus recovery, former mayor of the City of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, created the Innovation District in 2010. It encompasses 1000 acres in Boston’s Seaport and, according the district’s website, is “an urban environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.”

What used to be vacant parking lots and warehouses in the district are now being transformed into luxury restaurants, shopping centers, and apartment complexes, which are expected to bring economic benefits.

“New people will be living in the neighborhood and there’s going to be a significant increase in their spending,” said Heather Boujoulian, a senior vice president at Berkshire Group, a firm investing in a mixed-use development in Seaport Square.

There has been, however, apprehension from locals towards the changes that may occur as a result of the new development.

“Property taxes are going up,” said local resident Jennifer Windisch. “It’s going to drive people out of their homes.”

The new developments are primarily targeted towards a young, diverse, white-collar working class--far-removed from the generations of blue-collar Irish families that once made up a majority in South Boston.

“These new developments tie into the Yuppie culture... People are upset that South Boston is changing in a certain direction and isn’t reflecting how they used to know the neighborhood,” said Max Aboko-Cole, a high schooler whose family has lived in South Boston for over 20 years.

Others are more receptive of the changes that are occurring.

“I’m embracing the influx,” said Billy Higgins, a local resident and a member of the newly formed South Boston Business Association. “I wish they would use the local businesses more. You should let people here be part of the development.”

Tech Team Innovates

BY JONATHAN ZOU

Imagine being transported into a crime scene, seeing evidence laid out around you, but you can't touch it. Or consider a drone hovering over a landscape, allowing you to see the world from a different angle. This is the world of virtual technology.

These technologies are among the projects that the WGBH Prototype Innovation Team (PIT) is investigating. The three-man PIT team, which launched in January, is working on the next generation of digital productions for WGBH. The goal is to define, develop and display this technology for WGBH's national and local television and radio platforms.

Experimenting with ideas already planned for commercial use, the PIT team hopes to tailor new technology, such as non-military drones, for educational and broadcast purposes. If they can obtain a commercial license from the Federal Aviation Administration, these drones, or unmanned autonomous vehicles, will offer a unique opportunity for storytelling and filming from different angles. An added goal is to raise viewers' interest in fields like science, technology, engineering and math.

"Like it or not, autonomous vehicles will be a part of our future in a big way," said Thomas Lerra, research and prototype manager for PIT. "We can either cover it as a news story, or we can all participate in it."

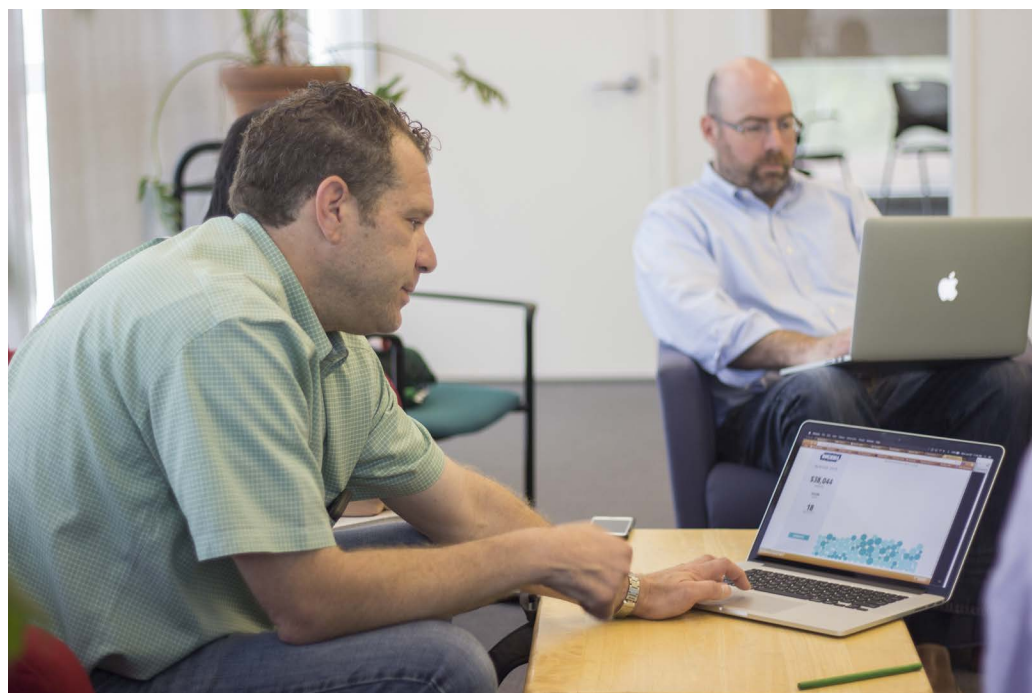
Lerra stressed that true trend-setting is not possible without defending innovation and allowing innovators the freedom to expand.

For their innovation, the PIT team is investigating Google Jump and Google Cardboard, technology that allows for filming and exploring virtual three-dimensional worlds, Lerra said. Their goal is to solve the riddle of virtual reality and apply it to WGBH broadcasts.

The PIT team is looking into other possibilities, such as refurbishing Julia Child's television show, "The French Chef," in the project called "Julia Child 2.0." The episodes will be presented in minute-long "how-to" videos with visual explanations and infographics designed to appeal to a wider audience. The project seeks to create a platform to present other archived programs in a new format.

Lerra said he hopes the technology that the team is developing will also help with WGBH's fundraising efforts by bringing transparency and interaction.

The plan is to show viewers how their dollars will be used by employing what Lerra calls a ball pit. While the team is still working out the details, Lerra said the



Thomas Lerra and Jim Bodor of WGBH.

PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED

ball pit project will be interactive, allowing contributors to see exactly where their dollars go by choosing one of the multicolored balls that corresponds to a specific donation. Lerra added that the project will strive to generate an emotional response and interest.

According to Michelle Johnson, an associate professor of journalism at Boston University, smart marketing and presentation is required for something to be

received well.

"It is a two-pronged process. First building the content that is going to be attractive, secondly, they've got to go to places the younger people are," she said.

Lerra also said these developments are geared toward bringing greater viewership.

"At the end of the day, great content presented efficiently should satiate young or old, omnipotently," he said. "The technology is already in the hands of the user."

Upcoming App *Follow Along* Brings Boston to the Touch of Your Fingers

BY TIFFANY LU

Five years ago, to-do lists were made with pen and paper, directions were found by reading maps, and music was accessed through the radio. Now, there's an app for that.

The app market is growing at an explosive rate and has digitized many of people's daily tasks thanks to the advancement of smartphones.

Apple's App Store, which sees over 300 million visitors per week, has over 1.2 billion apps and 75 billion downloads as of June 2014, according to Tech Crunch, a leading technology website.

Frank Pobutkiewicz hopes to contribute to this market. Pobutkiewicz, a 26-year-old graduate of Boston University, created *Follow Along* - a mobile collection of walking tours in Boston categorized by interests.

The app is a free download, but the tours cost between \$5 to \$20. The user has a variety of categories to select from, including food and drink, sports, history, science and innovation, and shopping.

Once a tour is purchased, the user can access it as many times as he or she would like. The app displays the length of the tour, number of stops, and map location

and pictures accompanied by a description of historical significance, interesting facts and local reviews.

The app also includes interactive content such as trivia questions, videos, and an explore mode that allows users to roam the area freely.

Pobutkiewicz's inspiration for the app came during a 2012 trip to Beijing when he noticed that even though the tour guide was relaying important information, it was difficult to become engaged.

The next year, Pobutkiewicz developed a mobile game with note cards and trivia questions to use during a tour and observed that everyone was fully immersed in what the tour guide was saying. After repeating this on another trip in 2014, Pobutkiewicz and business partner Doug Soons, who runs Revolution Capital in the Cambridge Innovation Center, started developing the idea for *Follow Along*.

In creating the app, one of the biggest challenges for Pobutkiewicz was finding a developer who could bring the idea into reality. There was also the risk of investing into an idea which he, even after extensively surveying tourists and indi-

viduals, could not predict the response.

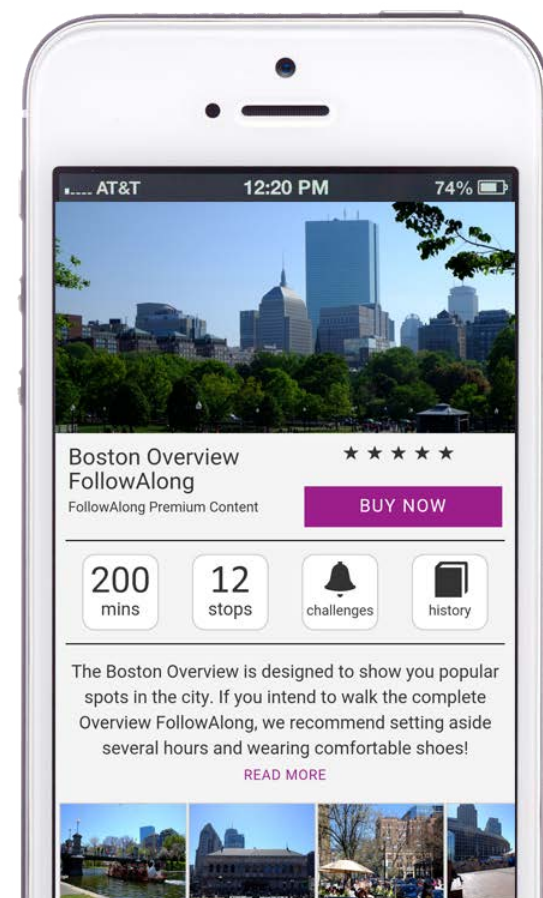
"We had to decide," said Pobutkiewicz, "was this amount of money worth the gamble of seeing if this was a feasible idea and if it wasn't, would we be okay with losing that amount of money?"

Pobutkiewicz thinks businesses need a social impact, which is the reason *Follow Along* relies on the expertise of local companies and organizations for their tours, framing their content through a digital medium.

Follow Along's target launch date is Friday, and Pobutkiewicz hopes that the public's reaction to will give them insight into the usability and potential for the app. If success measurables such as the number of users, sales statistics, and repeat percentages are favorable, he hopes to expand into cities such as New Orleans, Austin, Seattle, San Diego, and Baltimore.

Pobutkiewicz said that *Follow Along's* main goal is to give users the opportunity to explore the culture, history, and beauty of a city without the rigidity of a planned tour but with the same immersion into popular highlights and local attractions.

"We're going to expand as aggressively as we can, one market at a time," says Pobutkiewicz.



Staff Bios

PHOTOS BY PAIGE YUREK



Alexandra Schley

Alexandra, 18, is a Hudson High School graduate taking her talents to American University. She loves all things political and historical and is active in hockey, field hockey, and sailing. Schley, who loves journalism because the “paper has power,” dreams of one day hosting a major news show.

Fun Fact: She was named Massachusetts Journalist of the Year by the Journalism Education Association.

BY GABBY SILVA



Tyler Maheu

Tyler is a 17-year-old rising senior at Newport (N.H.) High School. His favorite course is U.S. History, and he has a strong interest in writing. He plans to major in Broadcast Journalism, hoping to become an anchor for SportsCenter.

Fun Fact: He lost the election for senior class president by one vote... He voted for the other candidate.

BY CATHERINE MONROY



Anna Peng

Anna, 16, is a rising senior at Boston Latin School. She aspires to attend Stanford University and study science or graphic design. She started as a layout associate for her newspaper and is now the editor-in-chief. Anna plays the French horn and is a member of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Fun Fact: Anna was “tattooed” in third grade when a Crayola marker left a permanent blue dot on her arm.

BY TIFFANY LU



Catherine Monroy

Catherine, a rising senior at Revere High School, is an assiduous student. The 17-year-old is involved in several extracurriculars, including The National Forensic League, Model UN, Youth Empowerment, and Poetry Out Loud. She aspires to be a foreign correspondent in the Middle East, citing her love of the region.

Fun Fact: Her favorite show is “Gilmore Girls”.

BY JONATHAN ZOU



Dakota Antelman

When Dakota, a 15-year-old rising sophomore at Hudson High School, isn't honing his writing skills in hopes of becoming a journalist, he acts in school plays and watches baseball and softball. Dakota describes himself as “tall” and “funny, I hope.”

Fun Fact: Dakota is committed to wearing his sparkly bracelet every day.

BY HAILEY BRYANT



Emma Demers

Emma, 17, is a rising senior at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School. Her hobbies include reading, running, and playing soccer. She also enjoys photography and editing. Her favorite subject is English and her dream is to become a travel photographer with a focus on social issues.

Fun Fact: Emma has an addiction to coffee.

BY JUMAYAR AHMED



Gabby Silva

Gabby, a rising senior at Saugus High School, loves to travel, saying her favorite places so far have been Paris and Brazil. She enjoys theatre and singing, and is at the NEHSJC because she likes sharing stories that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Fun Fact: She is obsessed with Krispy Kreme Donuts.

BY SARAH MAYOTTE



Hailey Bryant

A 17-year-old rising senior at Gorham (Maine) High School, Hailey's hair is matched in volume only by her ambitious spirit. She applies her drive to the guitar, ukulele, and drums and organizations such as the Chamber Singers and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Hailey hopes to major in journalism with a minor in political science.

Fun Fact: Hailey has been a vegetarian her whole life.

BY MONICA STACK

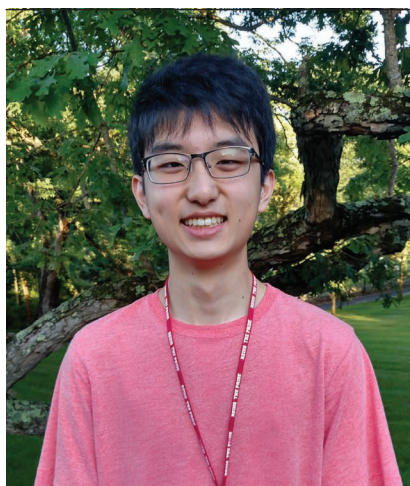


Hillarie Pilier

Hillarie is a 17-year-old rising junior at Boston International School. Her favorite subject is chemistry. Hillarie also works at Chipotle at Boston University and wants to become a psychologist but is also interested in music/choral opportunities.

Fun Fact: Hillarie has written her own book called "His DNA".

BY EMMA DEMERS



Jonathan Zou

Jonathan is a 17-year-old rising senior at Boston Latin School, where he is the news editor of *The Argo*. He is a member of the science, debate, and math teams. Jonathan loves writing but dreams of being a doctor when he grows up.

Fun Fact: Jonathan skipped two grades of math.

BY DAKOTA ANTELMAN



Jumayar Ahmed

Jumayar, 18, resides in Boston and is a student at Boston International. His favorite class is biology, and he is an aspiring photographer who can often be found watching YouTube.

Fun Fact: He thinks penguins can fly.

BY TYLER MAHEU



Marzia Maliha

Marzia, 16, is a rising senior at Lynn English High School. She is creative and quick to find solutions to problems. She left Bangladesh three years ago, and though she misses it, she likes the abundance of extracurricular activities that are available in the US.

Fun Fact: Marzia speaks five languages (English, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, and Hangul) and is learning three more (Spanish, Latin, and Greek.)

BY ANNA PENG



Monica Stack

Monica, a 17-year-old senior at Montrose School, will be attending the University of Richmond this fall to major in PPEL (Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Law). Her ambitious high school career saw her become co-editor of the newspaper, participate in student government, and play field hockey and softball.

Fun Fact: Her yearbook quote from "Annie the Musical": "You are never fully dressed without a smile."

BY MARZIA MALHIA

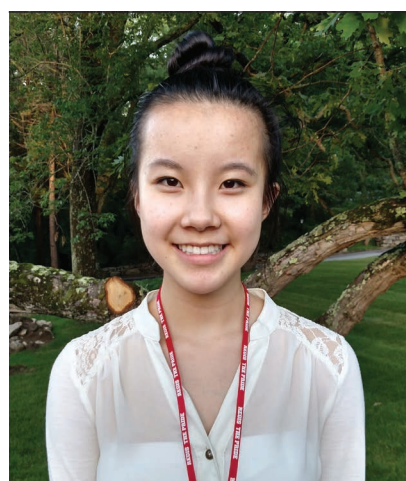


Sarah Mayotte

Sarah, a 16-year-old rising junior at Innovation Academy Charter School in Tyngsboro, wants to study Communications in college. When she isn't running cross country or indoor and outdoor track, Mayotte also works on her school newspaper, *The Innovator*.

Fun Fact: Sarah can sing the alphabet backwards.

BY HILLARIE HERNANDEZ



Tiffany Lu

Tiffany, 15, is a rising senior at Westford Academy. She is a 10-year veteran of the piano and dance. Her favorite composer is Frédéric Chopin because of his expressive musical style. Tiffany is leaning toward following her passion of business.

Fun Fact: She was in an advertisement for the Boston Children's Museum.

BY ALEXANDRA SCHLEY

The Quincy Endeavor

ALONG WITH ITS ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, QUINCY COLLEGE NOW SEEKS THE PERMISSION OF QUINCY CITY COUNCIL TO OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREES

BY MARZIA MALIHA

The definition that comes to mind when people think of community colleges is a two-year pathway for students who cannot afford or make the grade to go into a traditional four-year university. However, since the founding of the first community college in 1901, this definition has been modified to cater to a diverse range of students' needs.

Today, the curricula at community colleges range from six-month vocational diplomas to two-year associate degrees in the fields of general and liberal education. Instead of serving only as a stepping stone to a four-year college, they can prepare students for a job or even a career after graduation.

As a part of this growing trend of adaptation, Quincy College is perhaps the first of its kind to push for four-year Bachelor's degrees. The only community college to be funded by a city of Massachusetts has campuses in both Plymouth and Quincy, and also offers courses online.

"When a light switch goes off, and a student comes here who believed that they didn't want to or couldn't have gone to college, and they're so grateful for just an opportunity, that moment - that exact moment - is amazing," said Eileen G. Knight, the director of admissions at Quincy College.

Quincy College's various services include round-the-clock tutoring, a student coaching office, disability services, a career center, and military and veterans' services.

"The thing about community colleges is that they are so student-focused. They're practical and they give you guid-

ance based on a background and interests unique only to you," said Taggart Boyle, associate vice president for communications and marketing. "Quincy is unique in that it doesn't only offer these aspects of public colleges, but it takes things one step farther by having intensive programs based specifically on students' weak and strong spots."

Community colleges, in general, have a lot of advantages over traditional universities regarding local hiring. The current hiring rate for the Quincy Biotechnology and Compliance Program is 98 percent, while the college officials predict that the Medical Laboratory Technician Program will reach a hiring rate of 60 percent over the next 10 years.

"The easiest part is that the local businessmen are already very willing to hire employees from the pool of community college students. They are familiar with the education of the institution, and the hiring process is quicker and easier as well," said Boyle.

Perhaps these opportunities are the reasons why the students of Quincy love the college, and want to continue

going there. Lucelina D., a Quincy College Biotechnology and Compliance major, said she likes the warm atmosphere of the college.

"This is my first semester and I have already met other students whom I enjoy spending time with," she said. "The atmosphere at Quincy College is like a family".

While Quincy College already stands unique because of its affiliation with the city, it is not yet known if it will set a new trend by being the first community college in the state to offer four-year degrees. That decision to approve the home rule petition rests with the state legislature.



PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED

The main building of Quincy College.

Cambridge Company Empowers Young Entrepreneurs Through Mentorship

BY MONICA STACK

The Cambridge Innovation Center is a modern work environment designed for innovation. Its communal work spaces and quirky conference rooms are products of the Center's dedication to collaboration.

It's a fitting place for Frank Pobutkiewicz, whose business is running entrepreneur-

ship programs for aspiring business owners. The 26-year-old Boston University graduate and self-described "risktaker" is the founder of Whiteboard Youth Ventures, an education company that trains and fosters teenage entrepreneurs.

And there appears to be a need for his services. Across the country, the number of young entrepreneurs is on the rise, but

their success rate is much less than that of startups with founders over the age of 45, according to statistics from Enterprise Nation, Duedil, and the Kauffman Ewing Institute. A lack of experience stifles their potential and inhibits their creativity. Whiteboard Youth Ventures aims to break down the experience barrier by matching each student with an accomplished mentor. The curriculum

for the company's three linked programs, the Young Entrepreneurship Challenge, Founder's Academy, and the Launch Program, "is based around this model of mentorship," said Pobutkiewicz. "Mentors are not parents, not teachers, not friends--we're some combination of that."

The mentors, most of whom have experience starting a company, guide the students, aged 15-19, through the ups and downs of the startup process. During the Young Entrepreneurship program, the students learn the basics of entrepreneurship and development of a company. At Founder's Academy, they learn about the execution of a startup. As part of the 12-week Launch program, participants develop and execute a business plan. Tuition from the first two courses allows the companies formed during the third to launch their business with no upfront costs. If successful, the companies are expected to pay back a portion of the service fees.

This training has served Adam Lorenz-Kruk, 18-year-old graduate of Whiteboard, well. Lorenz-Kruk and Pobutkiewicz first met at a pitch competition at which the former was a competitor and the latter was a judge. Lorenz-Kruk's company, Blanc LLC, presented "a wrist worn device

that helped students and sleep deprived individuals stay awake during the day," said Lorenz-Kruk. Blanc LLC won the competition, and Pobutkiewicz invited the owners to learn about his new initiative, the Launch program.

"Entering the Whiteboard Launch program was genuinely the best decision I have ever made," Lorenz-Kruk said. Whiteboard provided the company, run by 5 teenagers, with a "plethora of resources," including legal and financial guidance free of charge.

In the summer of 2014, the group launched on Kickstarter with the goal of raising \$6,000 in 30 days. They reached their goal overnight.

Lorenz-Kruk has since moved on to a new project, Kickback Pants, a line of trousers inspired by his own preppy style. "Each pair of pants is embroidered with an elegant and fun design," Lorenz-Kruk said, such as a polar bears or sea animals. Every month, a portion of the company's proceeds will go directly to a charity that benefits the animals depicted on the pants. Kickback Pants is planning to launch in Fall 2015.

Pobutkiewicz is still a mentor for Lorenz-Kruk, who said "I strongly urge young aspiring entrepreneurs to reach out to [Frank], I know I still do."



PHOTO CREDIT: MONICA STACK

Frank Pobutkiewicz

Silver and Gold: Art for the Masses

BY HAILEY BRYANT

In terms of art, Boston is proof of the idea that the old and new works can not only coexist, but enhance each other. It's a historic city, founded almost 150 years prior to the founding of the United States, and though the city has been constructed over and over again there are traditions and memories that the city still clings to.

There's also no shortage of creativity in the city. Contemporary art is innovative and exciting, a tour of the city shows.

A leader in Boston public contemporary art is the Rose Kennedy Greenway, which consists of six parks: Chinatown, Dewey Square, Fort Point Channel, Harbor Islands Pavilion, Armenian Heritage, and North End. Each park has its own unique modern artworks, which attract visitors.

"As If It Were Already Here", an aerial sculpture by Brookline-based artist Janet Echelman, hovers over Dewey Square and will remain suspended until October. Shinque Smith's "Seven Moon Junction", the third in a series of abstract murals at Dewey Square, is also featured.

Places like Boston Common, which is the oldest city park in the country, exemplify the opposite. The area is full of statues and monuments commemorating men like Charles Sumner and George Washington, who are important but by no means underrepresented.

"[Boston Common] is a really important civic space," said Margaret Dyson, director of Historic Parks in Boston's Parks and Recreation department. She emphasizes the importance of preserving historical places such as the Common: "Part of that history is the monuments and memorials there; they very much tell the story of that place."

The process of exhibiting public art is complex. It's more than just commissioning a piece and setting it up somewhere; thoughtfulness and care are crucial, said Mary Schneider Enriquez, who has been the Houghton Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art in the Harvard Art Museum's Department of Modern and Contemporary Art since 2010.

"One of the big issues is deciding what's right for the setting," she said. "It has to be something that is deliberately done in the context."

The location as well as the evocation of a piece are important elements to take into consideration. "[Public art] makes the space more dynamic and enhances the art that's here," Enriquez added. "It's important for people to experience art outside of a perfect, white gallery space."

Though Boston is a city full of history, there is still room for novel ideas and artworks. "We have an extraordinary collection of public art in Boston," Dyson said. "I think art can inspire and enlighten and engage. I think it's wonderful that the city has both."



A customer drops in for lunch at the Panera Cafe near Government Center.

PHOTO CREDIT: EMMA DEMERS

Feeding Boston, One Meal at a Time

BY EMMA DEMERS

All across Boston, people are turning away from their fatty burgers and fries in search of a new kind of fast food—namely, a more healthy, green, and convenient variety.

More people are demanding that these nutritious meals be available to everyone, regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic status, citing the need. In eastern Massachusetts, 1 in 9 people are "food insecure," meaning they struggle to provide themselves with enough nutrients to live a healthy life, according to the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Panera Cares, a non-profit agency committed to combating food insecurity, is well on its way to continuing this trend. The organization provides a place for a variety of patrons to eat a meal with dignity and comfort. The food is produced and distributed by the Panera Foundation, but payment is not of the norm—the store runs on a pay-what-you-can model, allowing customers to decide how much they can afford to spend on their meals.

Patrons can also pay using a meal ticket, awarded after an hour of volunteer work. But, these customers are still treated like traditional patrons at a regular Panera Bread, eating the same pastries, breads, and soups. The agency's cafe in Boston near Government Center has partnered with several homeless shelters and mental health institutions to provide their residents with work experience. Under manager Bob Zykan's leadership, Panera Cares has crusaded the idea that everyone deserves to eat healthy.

"If we all do what we can, we can have everyone sit across from each other as equals," said Zykan, who knows firsthand the struggle of food security, having grown up in a poor area of Missouri.

With the same idea of convenience and health, the Daily Table Emporium in Dorchester, which opened in early June, is able to serve the low-income residents of the Greater Boston area. The Daily Table seeks to provide affordable and healthy pre-packaged meals while also limiting the estimated 80 billion pounds of food entering the waste stream every year, according to the Daily Table website.

The "TJ Maxx of food", as described by their website, is able to do this by using donated surplus crops and foods that were thrown away but not spoiled. While the use of expired food may seem like a contradiction to the healthy food trend, food labels in Massachusetts can be misleading, according to Steve Clark, the Massachusetts Restaurant Association media representative.

"Many 'use by' dates are manufacturers recommendations and the food is wholesome and would provide a community benefit," said Clark.

According to Chris Graham, sous chef at the Daily Table, the biggest challenge is keeping the food on the shelves. Customers are attracted to the combination of price, taste, and nutrition facts.

"I can see more stores opening, not only local but nationwide, because there's so many people we can reach out to," said Graham.



Fresh fruit at the Daily Table.

PHOTO CREDIT: EMMA DEMERS



Contrasting the old and the new outside at UMass Boston.

PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED

Goats Lend a Helping Hoof

BY SARAH MAYOTTE

Lending a helping hoof, landscapers will be coming to Boston soon to help clear up some of Hyde Park and the George Wright Golf Course. What makes this interesting is that the landscapers will actually be goats.

The goats come in and eat all of the vegetation in the area, eliminating the need for traditional landscaping methods. They are being provided by Go Green Goats, a company founded by Elaine Philbrick and Jim Cormier, located out of Plympton, Massachusetts.

"The goats love it. Goats are very curious and intelligent creatures, and they just get a fresh variety of greenery all day," said Philbrick. By having 'goatscaping' as opposed to traditional landscaping, is beneficial in many different ways.

"There's no loud machinery; there's a lot of areas you can't get machinery on, like slopes or the way the trees are positioned and we don't have any human laborers facing poison ivy," explained Ryan Woods, director

of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's external affairs division.

The goats also digest all of the species of vegetation, which then get broken down and the goats deposit an odorless fertilizer back into the site.

The \$11,000 program is being funded by the Parks and Recreation Department Nonprofit fund.

The goats were first brought to Hyde Park in 2014. The Southwest Boston Community Development Cooperative proposed the idea to Mayor Martin Walsh of bringing goats into an area of the park.

"It was overrun with poison ivy, Japanese buckwheat, and wild thornberry, which are all invasive species that were continuously growing," said Woods. "It was an area we couldn't get machines into, so this was a great alternative."

The goats will also contribute in the George Wright Golf Course becoming certified by Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf, a subprogram of Audubon International. The

program works to educate golf courses and help them become environmentally friendly.

"It's a five-step process, we [The Boston Parks and Recreation Department] have two Golf Courses: The Franklin Park Golf Course, and The George Wright Golf Course. The Franklin Park Golf Course has three steps complete out of the five-step process, we're just going into the process at the George Wright course to make it an Audubon Certification," said Woods.

In addition to goats, George Wright Golf Course will also be adding beehives in the park in part of the Wildlife and Habitat Management Step.

"The Company Best Bees is coming in and installing hives in an isolated section of the golf course, so even if you are the worst golfer in the world, you would not hit a golf ball in the direction. These are Italian honey bees who tend to not sting people and cause much harm unless they are agitated or provoked but they also produce honey, we could have Boston Honey," said Woods.

HEROIN ADDICTION *continued from page 1*

station in the first three weeks of the program. Each of them are currently in programs, according to Rosenthal.

Addicts like Ganem endorse the movement to erase the stigma of addiction by confronting the epidemic.

"Everyone is worth it," said Ganem, who uses poetry to connect with his fellow addicts. "Everyone who is struggling...you still deserve a chance at getting clean."

One of the people Ganem works with is Keith Laporta, a recovering addict who he met in jail, and connected with through poetry.

"It's true life stuff. Stuff that I've been through, stuff that a lot of us have been through," said Laporta, who has been sober for six months. "His writing inspired me to save my own life."



Matthew Ganem

SUBMITTED PHOTO

TALK NERDY TO ME

BY CATHERINE MONROY

Nerd: An unstylish, unattractive, or socially inept person. Though this may be the common perception of what a nerd is, this is not always the case, and some are trying to change that definition. Nerd culture is up and coming in Boston, a city that is home to many colleges, universities, and tech startups.

“It’s a hub for where that innovation takes place,” says Ethan Gilsdorf, author of *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*, which is a novel that discusses Nerd culture. At schools like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Northeastern University, students are known for building robots and hacking into each others computers.

In Boston, nerds seem to fall into two categories.

“There are people who are into comic books or manga, or the science section,” says MIT professor Scott Aaronson. The comics, cosplay, and graphics are representative of one side, while the other gravitates toward the intellectual.

The tech-oriented group consists of the academics like mathematicians, engineers, and scientists. Tufts University professor Karen Panetta, who holds a doctorate in Electrical Engineering, is the founder of the organization “Nerd Girls”, where she recruits female college students who plan on pursuing engineering careers.

“We celebrate individuality. We celebrate you,” she says.

Organizations and clubs like “Nerd Girls” serve as outlets for young students to freely express their interest in engineering, science, or math. Students are becoming more involved with the maths and sciences, and go on to pursue careers in medicine, mechanics,

or civil engineering and more. Panetta and her “Nerd Girls” have built solar panels, assembled solar cars, and installed LED lights in lighthouses, which are used as their main power source.

On college campuses, Nerd culture has also made its way into academic curriculum. At Bentley University, comic books have been used by professors as course material. The decision by Bentley, a business-oriented university, to add Nerd culture into its curriculum is a

“A Nerd is almost like a position of coolness, a position of power — cultural power.”

step in a different direction from past years.

“Nerds are much more accepted,” says Amy Galante, who is a librarian at the university. Just recently, the library installed a comic book/graphic novel section, which is accessible to all students and staff. Galante adds, “It’s just as important for us to have literature and film and TV that can help students unwind.”

Hugh C. O’Connell, professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, also includes sci-fi literature in his courses. He says that in these classes, he and his students have recently “discussed issues of globalization through science fiction.”

O’Connell sums up Nerd culture this way: “A Nerd is almost like a position of coolness, a position of power — cultural power.”

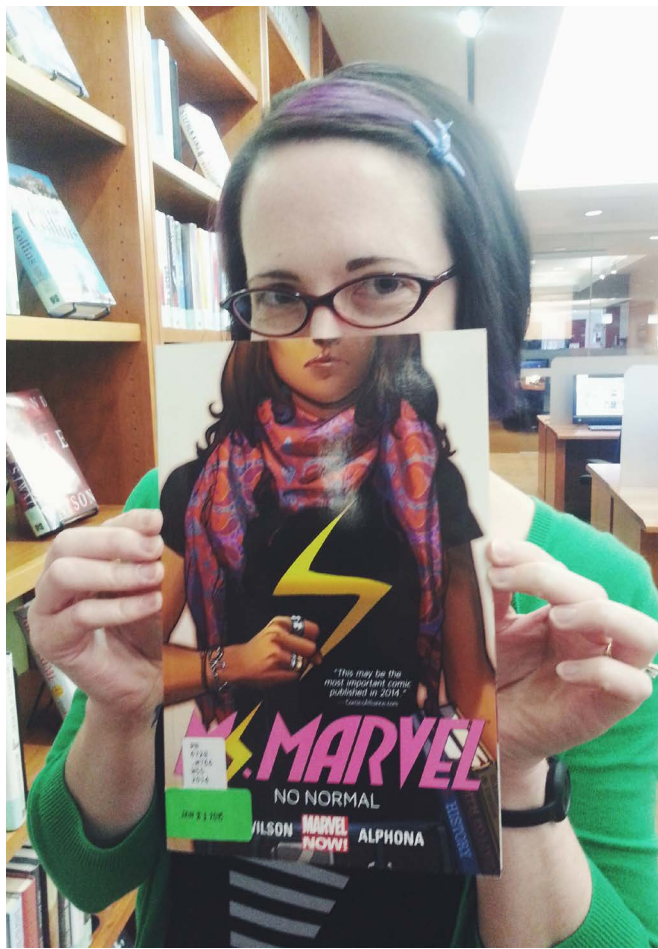


PHOTO CREDIT: CATHERINE MONROY

Amy Galante with a graphic novel.

Tech in the City

BY HILLARIE PILIER

Kendall Square is a center of high-tech innovation in Massachusetts, and Gilad Rosenzweig, architect and urban planner, thinks that Roxbury can be another.

A year ago, Rosenzweig founded a non-profit organization, Smarter in the City, the first high-tech accelerator in Roxbury that provides opportunities for entrepreneurs from under-represented minority communities, specifically Black and Latino, to develop innovative ideas.

“I was driven to create Smarter in the City by a mission to increase the opportunity for all communities to succeed in the high-tech business” said Rosenzweig.

The company, in the heart of Dudley Square, was conceived two years ago to develop companies in the high-tech area, and focuses specifically on founders of companies from the Black and Latino communities.

“The Black and Latino communities are statistically very under-represented as founders of technology companies.” Rosenzweig said. “It is not just a question of increasing diversity in the workplace as an employee, but there is also a need to provide greater opportunities for leaders and creators of companies to emerge from these communities.”

Smarter in the City has been developing some projects, and one successful example is a new app created by Toni Oloko, who is turning 19 this year, called Practice Gigs, a social network for tennis players to connect with more experienced players to practice and get better faster.

“The mobile app allows us to do what a website or a billboard at a tennis club couldn’t, tapping into the

on the go nature of people’s lives,” said Oloko. “Push notifications, a great user experience, and a scheduling tool make this the simplest way for you to play tennis in Boston.”

There are other projects still being developed in the company’s six-month business-development training program. One of them is a nutrition app created by Techtrition, which helps people improve their diet. The plan of the app is to make people send pictures of their meal. The app will then measure the food to determine if there’s too much on the plate—or not enough—and indicates whether the plate has the necessary portions, proteins and calories needed for the day.

Another project under development, Door to the Outdoors, is a website for outdoor activities created by Stanley King II. It consists of socializing and staying active outdoors with activities such as riding bikes, hikes, urban scavenger hunts, and other outdoor activities. The purpose of the website is to inspire people of color to develop an adventurous and environmentally conscious connection with nature.

“These kinds of projects are not only good for people in the community, but also provide advertising opportunities from other companies such as Nike, Adidas and so on,” Rosenzweig said.

Although the Smarter in the City training program is free, there are companies who support Rosenzweig. Sponsors like Microsoft, Google and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) gave Rosenzweig the opportunity to prove the incubator can succeed and make a difference in Boston and educate people in the high-tech sector.

SMARTER IN THE CITY

Smarter in the City, the first high-tech accelerator in Roxbury that provides opportunities for entrepreneurs from under-represented minority communities



HOW DO THEY DEVELOP YOUR IDEA?

Step 1

Advisors talk about your idea. If you have the wrong plan, they help you to build a new one that can make your idea work.

Step 2

Once the plan is ready, you contact the people who can make your idea work; sponsors, or technological industries.

Step 3

Advisors help you to promote and release your product.

TRENDSETTERS OF BOSTON



Sam, 36

"I dress nicely because I think it's a nice way to show self respect and respect to other people. Right now I'm into Bible education, so I want to dress nicely for that too. We want to make sure we represent the message in a good way."

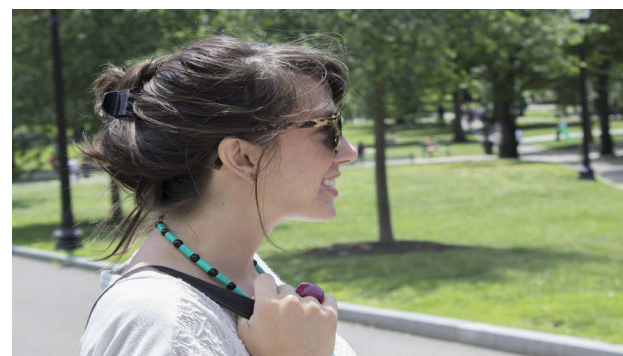


Florence, 28

"I'm pregnant! Her names is Agnes, it can be pronounced in French and English, and it's the name of the street we used to live on."

Khalil, 28

"I have Indian parents, I was born and bred in Dubai, and I'm a Canadian citizen of Montreal who speaks English and French. I try to keep those different viewpoints together when I make decisions because people might have different backgrounds as well."



Lauren, 30

"I'm so used to change, so used to moving, so used to just going for it. That's not really good advice for everybody, but for me it changed my whole life and perspective just by picking up and moving. Don't be afraid to drop everything. Even if it's really hard when you thought it'd be easy, just go for it."



Rudi, 24

"I had a customer tell me once that she never thought of wearing boots like this before, which is interesting because they're just sort of on my feet. I guess I am a trendsetter in that way because I chose to follow the trend in a new and interesting way."



Evan, 23

"I was a philosophy major in college, so I studied everything and nothing. I like to say it's the one major where you're encouraged to be confused most of the time. I didn't necessarily choose it with any sort of career in mind, but I'm really glad I've ended up here so far and I really love what I'm doing."



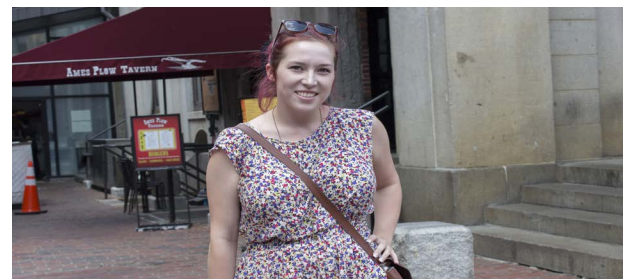
Audrey, 17

"I'm pretty random and spontaneous and blunt. I just like to do my own thing. After college, I want to work as an OT for children, because I want to a job that I find interesting and where I can make a difference in the lives of children."



Caitlin, 28

"I was actually just looking on my phone because I have this thing called synesthesia, and I applied to speak at the Synesthesia Association Conference and I was just accepted! I'm going talk about how synesthesia is a way of knowing. I framed the talk in relation to the recent focus on racial discrimination in the United States and how it's really difficult when you experience something that other people can't experience. And, oddly enough, for people with synesthesia, that happened. As research was able to support what people were experiencing, it gained credibility that it didn't have before. I want to explore questions about different ways we experience the world and how it shapes our worldviews."



Emily, 18

"I dyed my hair because I wanted something different, something that not everyone else had. I get bored of one thing, so I just wanted to try something new. I'm inspired by people who aren't afraid to try new things"

PHOTO CREDIT: JUMAYAR AHMED