

February 1978

## New Expression: February 1978 (Volume 2, Issue 2)

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# New Expression

A magazine by Chicago teens for Chicago teens.

Vol. 2 No. 2

February, 1978



## Inside:

Winter fun  
Teen prostitution  
18 year olds register to vote

Photo by Nona Paramore

## New Expression

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### Cover Photo:

This picture was taken at Mt. Trashmore in Evanston by Nona Paramore.

Young winter "freaks" from all over Chicago ski, toboggan and ice skate at Trashmore.

A two-page spread about winter fun begins on page six.

# Backtrack...

by Kathi Isserman

## "James" stirs censors

In our January issue Ron Harris wrote a very positive review of NBC's new show "James at 15."

Now the creator and story consultant of the show, Dan Wakefield, is threatening to quit the show because of censorship.

In an episode to be aired Feb. 9, James will consider having sexual intercourse. Wakefield's original script referred to male contraceptives. NBC censored the words in the script referring to the contraceptives because "the American people will not stand for any mention of birth control on television."

Wakefield removed his name from the script because he felt "it would be irresponsible not to deal with it

because there are so many teen-aged pregnancies, and VD is a major problem in this country."

We reported similar censorship by Channel 11 in the filming of their documentary, "Guess Who's Pregnant." The pilot film was rejected because it referred to male contraceptives and called one a "rubber" while giving an explanation of it.

On the other hand, female contraceptives have been dealt with on TV programs such as "One Day at a Time" and "All in the Family."

So it seems TV censors will deal with female contraceptives but not male contraceptives. That's not a moral standard, that's a double standard.



## Coed wrestling?

Female high school athletes have made real progress in gaining equal opportunities over the past couple of years. In the August issue of **New Expression**, James Dodson and I reported on the new Illinois High School Association's ruling which lengthened the seasons for girls' sports to give the athletes more game experience.

Now an Ohio judge has ruled that girls can compete in contact sports such as football, basketball, wrestling, and hockey. This ruling could eliminate separate teams.

The IHSA is opposed to the Ohio ruling. So for now Illinois' female athletes must continue to compete against each other.

## A star may be born

Back in our March issue, Malinda Jones interviewed Cindy McGee, who was in the chorus line of "The Wiz" at the Shubert Theater. At that time Cindy was completing her senior year at Lindblom.

Now Cindy performs with the road company of "The Wiz" as the second understudy for the starring role of Dorothy.

She has traveled with the road company since June and has played Dorothy in San Francisco and Denver five times.



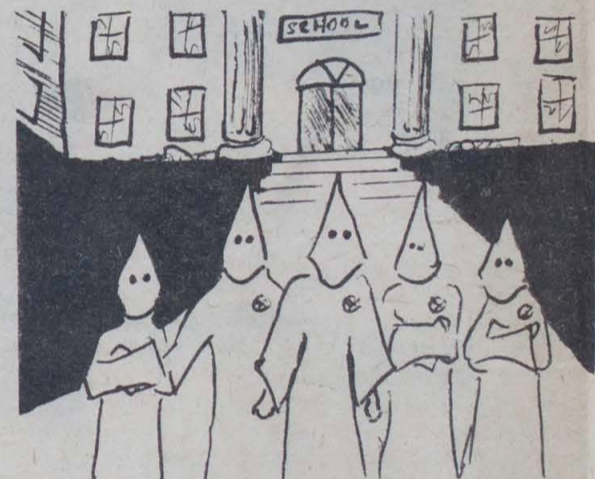
## Teens form KKK

Christy Minger wrote about the CWAC (Desegregation Committee) proposals in our last issue. One of the proposals which was approved would allow 1978 high school freshmen to choose their own high school.

Some people from the Taft high school area on the Northwest side strongly disapprove of the idea. Some young members of the community have even formed a junior KKK.

One resident received a flyer which warned that "the whole freshman class at Taft high school could be minority students."

**New Expression** in a future issue would like to survey Chicago's eighth graders to find out where and what particular high schools they would choose to attend.



# Letters to the Editor

## Youth and King

Dr. King, who died fighting for his people, hoped that his

living "would not be in vain", but today ten years after his death, young people are far removed from the realization of his dream.

Many organizations around the country, who are a part of making King's dream a reality, have failed to reach the nation's young people. Many

have youth divisions and few have young people on their Boards of Directors, but very few make it a priority to get young people actively involved in the continuing quest for human dignity.

In order for these and other institutions to keep their blood flowing in years to come, young people must be more than a national problem area that these organizations are helping to solve and save.

Dale L. Grundy  
 Executive Director,  
 Philadelphia Student Services

## YESS responds

Just for the record, I'd like to set a few facts straight regarding your December, 1977 story on the YESS Conference.

1) I wrote the original petition. The one sent to the **Tribune**, is, for the most part, based on the original. Minor changes in wording were made in the last two paragraphs. I thank Mr. Lyon for the indirect compliment: "I doubt that the petition was

written by teens. The wording sounded as though an adult was involved."

2) The delegates were told that a group of conferees worked together, were behind the petition. As so many of us were involved in various aspects of the protest, I felt it was not necessary for me to single myself out by saying the petition together.

3) When I spoke to Mr. Lyon, I made it clear that we asked him to join us on Saturday to see what we were doing, as we felt he had focused on unimportant aspects of the conference. At this time, no changes were planned in the program. As we remained displeased with his coverage, time was put aside in the program for us to express our opinions.

4) As Eric Bradshaw was present at the Conference as a reporter for a youth oriented newspaper, I feel that his coverage could have been more factually representative of the teen side in his article, particularly the response to Jeff Lyon's **Tribune** story.

Anne L. Galperin  
 Lane Tech

## Learn journalism from the pros

Have you ever wanted to talk to a Newsweek reporter?

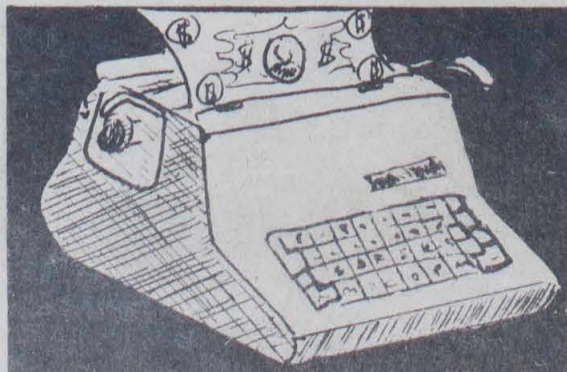
Or the editor of Sidetracks?

Or the creator of RC Cola TV commercials?

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- Reporters (Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 5, May 17)
- Persuaders (Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 19, May 18)
- Editors (Mar. 1, Apr. 12, May 3, May 24)
- Graphic artists and photographers (Mar. 8, Mar. 29, Apr. 26, May 10)



If you're interested, your newspaper advisor has registration forms, or you can call 663-0543 to register. Each of the four series requires separate registration. So choose your specialty and register now.

# Teen alcoholic breaks out — of the bottle

by Frank Burgos

Skokie Valley hospital is surrounded by a long expanse of grass and shrubbery. It's built of steel and glass so it has the look of a very modern, very efficient hospital.

Inside the building that impression is even clearer. The nurses and the doctors move around purposefully. There is a sense of excitement, as if you were in the middle of a movie.

But you're not in a movie. Inside the hospital is a special alcoholism treatment center. And in that center is Joey, a 16-year-old alcoholic.

Joey doesn't seem to fit in with the super-clean, super-bright hospital. He acts like a street-wise teenager. He's always lived in the Uptown neighborhood.

"I started drinking when I was in grammar school. I started with wine. Then I started with beer too. I never thought I was a man when I drank. It just felt good." Joey was sitting on a comfortable looking swivel chair, nervously rolling it back and forth. We were in the office of his therapist.

"I started testing more drinks, you know. Everyone would get together—my schoolmates—and get drunk. We would all ditch school, call each other in the morning, a bunch of girls, a bunch of guys and stay home and get wasted."

And if he couldn't do that, Joey would drink at school.

"I drank before I got to school and if I couldn't, I drank at school. I would get some alcohol from someone at school, buy some coke and put it in there. But you would have to watch out about going to class wasted. A few of my

teachers noticed a couple of times, but they never did anything. I don't know why."

Joey wasn't the only one smashed in the classroom.

"A lot of my friends are alcoholics—at least the people I associate with are. I would run into them around the neighborhood and school because I travel. But really, I don't have any tight friends. We just drink together. And they would leave you if you fall out and get drunk.

"You can't trust anybody!"

After a while things began to change for Joey. They changed drastically. His whole life started to revolve around the bottle.

"I knew that I was sick. I was drinking compulsively. It scared me. It really scared me. I got to the point where I needed it. I would do almost anything to get it."

"I saw I was going down the drain, and I couldn't handle it. And I know what it is like because I've seen people lose everything."

So Joey found the courage somehow to tell his parents the truth about himself.

"My mother never thought it could happen to me, that I could become an alcoholic. They were really hurt. But my mom's very loving, I mean, she's mine, you know? And even though not everything's perfect at home—you know, little family arguments and all, it's nothing too serious. We're just trying to help each other the best way we can."

Joey also found help outside of his family. He went through detoxication (cold turkey) at a local hospital. During his days at the hospital he was subject to shakiness, lack of appetite and depression.

"I thought everyone was



watching me when I was eating.

"But slowly I got better. And then, one day, they let me out, and I came home."

Since then Joey has been going to the center at Skokie Valley for sessions with a therapist to ensure that he doesn't slip into a way of life he fought so hard to get out of.

What is important for him

now is that he's independent of the bottle.

"Now I like to do the things I want to do. I want to go on and finish high school. I want to work, I want to make money.

"I don't want to be the neighborhood burn out.

"But I don't want anyone to think that they have to give me the poor little boy, he got high, he's been through so

much act. I don't like it. I don't want it."

After the interview Joey had a Coke with some of the other patients and several orderlies. He talked them into a game of pool.

At that point the hospital seemed more personal. It was as though everyone had listened to Joey tell me that he wanted to be treated "the way everybody wants to be treated—kind."

## Chicago's new credit switch

# Midyear 'F's' mean no June graduation

by Denise Little

Larry Campbell, a senior at Harlan, failed the first semester of English and history. For the first time since his freshman year, he can't "fix up" his "F's" by passing the course in June. Larry is caught in the new Chicago Public School Semester Plan.

Larry explained that he "didn't understand the semester plan." He didn't realize that under the new plan all credits or failures are final at the end of each semester. Now that he knows what the plan is about, he realizes that it is going to ruin his chances of graduating in June. "Now I'll have to go to summer school or come back to Harlan in the fall to make up credits," he remarked.

When the Board of Education converted the public high schools back to the semester plan, there was a lot of confusion among students at high schools such as Harlan, Lindblom and Wells.

According to Richard Thompson, associate prin-

cipal at Harlan, "If a student fails a course the first semester, he is programmed to take the first semester course over in the second semester."

Barton Gallegos of the Board of Education believes that "The semester plan will probably increase the number of seniors who won't graduate this June. If a senior is behind in credits at the end of the school year, he can either go to summer school or return to high school in the fall." In the future two graduation ceremonies will be scheduled, one in June and one in January for the seniors who need to complete their 18 credits in the fall.

Although the semester plan is used in most of the public high schools in the United States, it was last used in the Chicago public high schools in the early 1960's. The hardest hit by this sudden change are the junior and seniors, who didn't understand the change.

According to Evelyn Polk of Lindblom, "A few teachers mentioned the semester plan to the students, but it was

never fully explained."

Tracy Winston, a junior at Harlan stated, "The principal and division teachers talked to the students just before Christmas. We only had three weeks to do something about our grades."

Otis Caldwell from Wells feels that "Because the semester change wasn't explained well enough, seniors this year should be allowed to work on the old system to gain full credit." A request like this would have to be organized by seniors and presented to Superintendent Hannon's office at the Board of Education building.

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It takes two!

# New voters register for primaries

by Vanessa Baynes

The first major election of the year on March 21 offers a chance for new eighteen-year-old voters to help determine the nominees for governor, senator, all seats in the House of Representatives and all state-wide offices.

In the last state and national election in 1976 only 30 per cent of the eligible 18-to-21-year-olds actually voted. That fact is a reason for some political figures to ignore teen issues.

Last February during a discussion forum on "Teens and Politics" Alderman Block told the audience that politicians don't take teens seriously. "You don't vote," he said.

Charles Epperson, a senior at Farragut, is one of the new eligible voters who intends to vote in the Primary in March. He said, "I haven't registered, but I plan to in the near future. Voting gives me a sense of power, knowing I can contribute in electing someone who is going to help me."

Regina Pauls, a senior at Harrison, has already registered. "I can't wait," she said. "I feel as if I'm doing what's right and exercising my rights as a U.S. citizen."

Selina Ashton of Dunbar

isn't registered and doesn't intend to register. "My vote really won't make a difference," she explained. "If I

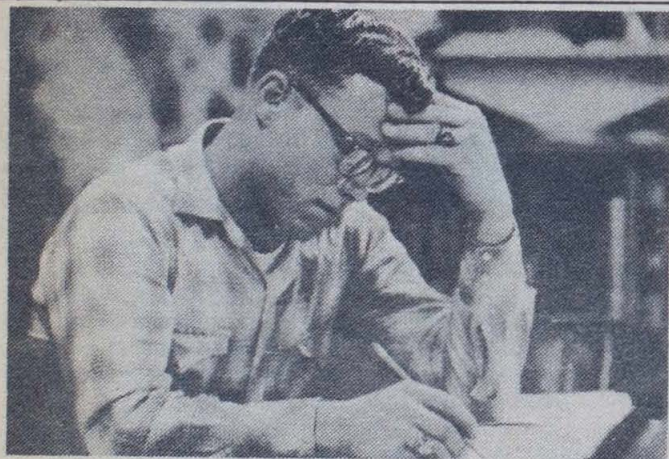
go down to register, I'll just be wasting my time and theirs."

The opportunity to register is open until Feb. 21.



In order to vote on March 21, all new 18-year-old voters must be registered by Feb. 21. Here are some simple facts about registration.

- Q. Where do you go to register?
- A. In Chicago you go to City Hall (Randolph and LaSalle) Rm. 308, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. In case you can't make it to the Loop, you may register in your neighborhood (precinct) on Feb. 21 between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. If you live in the suburbs, you may register at your city hall.
- Q. What information must you supply when you register?
- A. The only information needed is your name, birthday, age, place of birth, address, and, in case you weren't born in this city, you must tell how long you've lived here.
- Q. Do you have to be 18 to register to vote?
- A. No, you can register while you're still 17 if you will be 18 by the day of the election. So, if you will be 18 on March 19, you can register now.
- Q. Could you register and vote if your birthday is right after the primary election?
- A. No, but as a gift to yourself, go down and register on your birthday so you are eligible for the next election, Nov. 7.
- Q. If you have parents who are aliens, but you are a citizen, will your registration affect your parents?
- A. No.
- Q. What happens if you don't register?
- A. Well, it's simple; you don't vote without registering.
- Q. What happens if you register and don't vote?
- A. If you don't vote for four years, your registration card is pulled and placed in a separate file. You will be notified of this by mail. If you don't come to City Hall after receiving the card, you will have to register again.
- Q. Do you have to state whether you are a Democrat or Republican when you register?
- A. No, but if you choose to vote in this Primary Election, you must tell the election judges at the voting polls your party preference. The purpose of a Primary is for members of a political party to choose the nominees for that party. On March 21 you can only vote for Republicans or Democrats. You may change your party preference in future primary elections.



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## Sneak preview!

# Teens open original show

by Brian Miller

The Original Youth Theatre will perform a musical drama on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Woodson Regional Library, 95th and Halsted. The company will give two performances at 1 p.m. and at 3 p.m. The performances are free.

The OYT's original play deals with high school experiences. The production will involve about 35 teen writers, composers, actors, singers and dancers. All of the musical and dramatic material that is going to be performed was written and developed by members of the teen company.

The audience on Feb. 25 will be the first to hear "Let's Go to the High School Dance," one of the songs in the play composed by the teen musicians. Another song, "Personalities of Two Young Girls," written by Mario



Photo by Nona Paramore

Alberts, tells of the conflict between the two main characters.

The cast and writers are drawn from schools like Metro, Lindblom, Quigley South, Corliss, Wells and Whitney Young.

The Original Youth Theatre was organized last November, but the actual writing and

rehearsing for the play started during a week-long workshop over the Christmas holiday.

Even though the play is partly written and parts of it are already being performed, new teen participants are always welcome to join and become a part of the Original Youth Theatre. Call Susan Wolfson at 663-0543.



Photo by Paula Eubanks

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“...A teen call girl can beat the system by keeping the fuzz off her back...”

# Call-houses shield teen prostitutes

by Johnny Vaughn

A growing number of female teens in Chicago are involved in prostitution. Police are finding it more of a problem to locate teen prostitutes because they handle their business by phone instead of soliciting in the streets.

A southside girl, Sharon, told me how the system works. “First you find out where a call-house is located. Then you get in contact with a friend or the manager of the building and tell the manager you’d like a room with a telephone. The teen hooker gets her phone number out through friends, and she is in business. Customers call her number, and she tells them her location.”

The call-house seems to be attracting teens faster because it’s safer—no police interruptions and a less obvious system of soliciting.

“Well, first of all, a call girl isn’t at one place all the time,” Sharon explained. A teen call girl can beat the system by keeping the fuzz off her back. It’s more convenient; a better form of business.”

The new business system doesn’t necessarily eliminate the pimp. Capps, a student at Simeon, recently walked into a call-house on Cottage Grove to get change for a dollar. He saw a pimp forcing a young girl upstairs after she refused to go. “The next minute I heard glass break, and I saw the girl down on the ground hurt. I left in a hurry. I was so scared because I thought he might start shooting,” Capps said.

...at times she needs protection from the pimp himself.

Usually the teen girl can’t eliminate the pimp because she still feels the need for some type of street protection, even though, at times, she needs protection from the pimp himself.

I learned about two typical call-houses while playing cards with teenage friends. The Grand Hotel and Amy Jo’s are both on the southside.

At the Grand Hotel I saw a teenaged girl standing in front of the brown-brick entrance. She looked at me and smiled. I walked inside and asked for the manager. The lady up front looked scared, but she told me to talk to the woman across the hall.

A light-skinned black woman responded to my knock. I showed her my press card and asked her about the call-house. She was mad, of course. “Who told you that? We ain’t running no call-house here.”

“I’ll write that, then,” I said. “What is your name?”

“I ain’t giving any information until you get the person who told you that so I can see him.”

I told her that as a reporter I had the right to keep my sources confidential. I told her I wanted her name because she was the manager of the hotel. She still refused.

As I left the place, I noticed that the teenaged girl was still waiting outside, smiling, as if my next stop were with her.

At Amy Jo’s I tried to talk

with a pimp. A group of five girls were standing around outside the building talking.

When Butter came down the stairs and stopped to check

out my business, he was willing to talk. But as soon as he discovered I had no “bread,” he cut off the conversation.

“Little punks should keep their nose outta my business,” he told me. “If you ain’t got any green, move on.” I did.

## Teens road to hookerdom

### Veronica at Seventeen

by Edward Tharington

“Kojak” isn’t so unreal. The story of teen prostitution traps in Chicago often reads like a “Kojak” script.

My cousin is a typical character in one of those stories. It all started for Veronica Carter when she visited her cousin who sold drugs. She was sixteen at the time. “I started smoking

marijuana and then popping pills,” she told me. “Before I knew it I was on heroin.”

Once she was caught into paying for an expensive habit, her cousin Susan was also ready with a solution. No \$40-a-week part-time job would pay the pusher’s bill. Cousin Susan had contacts. She would arrange a meeting for Veronica with a pimp. In less

than six months Veronica was an addict, a hooker and a street-wise teen.

Veronica later admitted herself to Lexington Hospital for mental treatment and detox. She is now a counselor at a drug abuse center on the southside.

Her story ended on a happy note. Most “Kojak” stories like these don’t.

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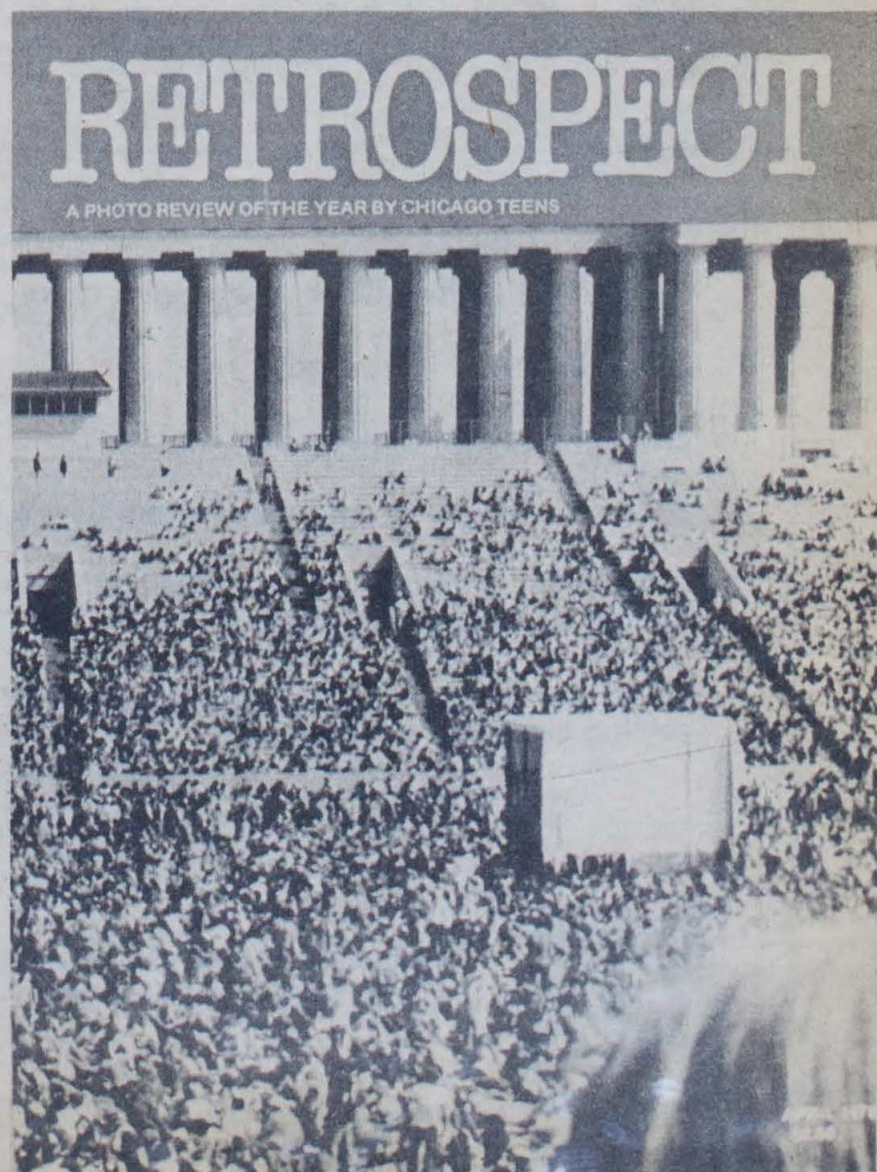
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Slushy Chicago daters

# Tells 'Snow Story'

by Ronald Harris

Winter-time dating in Chicago can be a disaster. Besides the normal pressures and anxieties associated with dating, there is the added pressure of trying not to look like a slipping, sliding klutz in front of your date. Can you picture your last romantic scene in winter wonderland!

"Good night, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Jones.

"Sally, you don't think your mother was too upset about the slush from my boots melting all over her new carpet, do you? Hmmm. I was afraid of that.

"Let's hurry to the car. It's cold out here. Uh, oh! There goes the key. Over on the manhole cover! Oops, down the drain. I guess I should have taken off my gloves before I tried to pick it up. Well, I'll worry about that later. It's only a mile to the theatre. We can take the bus.

"Watch your step as you get off the bus. I'll go first, and I can help you over this pool of slush. Okay, jump, and I'll catch you. Jump! Oops, sorry about that. Well, we can hurry to the theatre. You can dry your feet there. It's only a block and a half away.

"Watch it, the light's red. Now be really careful climbing the slush banked along the



curb. I wouldn't want your feet to get any wetter. That snow plow is driving awfully fast! Maybe we should get back. If he sprays that salt and slop... Splash!

"Well, at least your feet didn't get any wetter. Okay, so it wasn't funny. Don't get mad, we're almost there, and I hear the show is really worth the effort. The snow's really coming down now.

"You know, even with all this much snow and ice that we've had this winter, I haven't fallen once...Boy, that was the first time that I've fallen this year! It must have been a real slick spot. I hope no one notices this wet spot on the seat of my pants. Man are my feet cold!

"Maybe I shouldn't have tried to be so cool by not wearing a cap. Now, I'm more than cool, I'm freezing. I think my ears are about to fall off. Sally, you haven't said much of anything all evening. I know that the evening hasn't gotten off to a great start, but believe me this movie is really gonna be great. Here we are. It's called "The Longest Mile!"

"Sally come back! We can do something else... Well at least let me give you bus fare!"

The purpose of these two pages is to take some of the pain out of winter.

So seeing that winter activities are almost always numbered, we invite you to participate in NEW EXPRESSION'S winter fun Word Find Contest.

The rules are simple! Listed within the puzzle are 30 common words associated with winter fun. Words can be found on the vertical, diagonal, horizontal and backwards. The object of the puzzle is to find words that have to do with winter fun activities and games.

To qualify, after you've worked the puzzle, re-copy the words on another sheet of paper CLEARLY numbering and listing the words you've found. Also submit the puzzle.

Deadline for your entry is: Feb. 25, 1978. Include your name, address and phone number.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries.

# Winter

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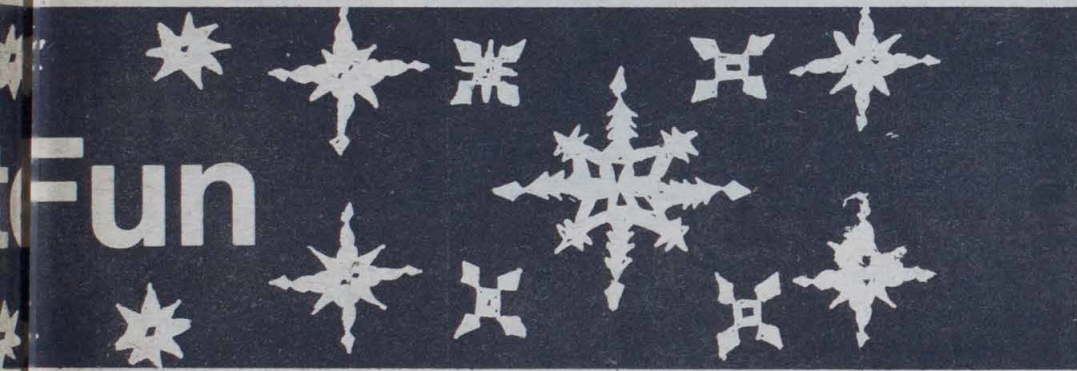
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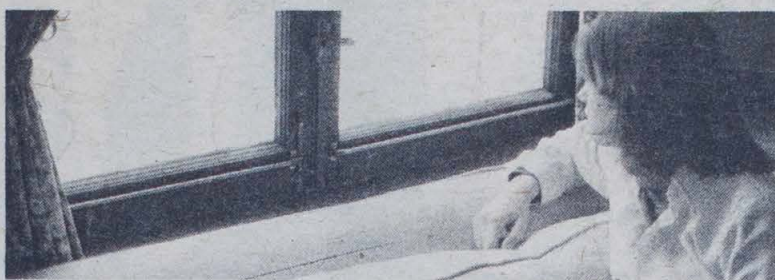
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## Cozy sportsmen

# Find new indoor games



by Paula Eubanks

"Indoor sports" used to mean floor hockey in your basement or Nerf-ball in your bedroom. It used to mean sitting on the floor playing an age-old board game like Monopoly, chess, checkers, or backgammon.

Instead, today's indoor sportsmen are now focusing on a new type of board game with upbeat themes and fast-

paced rules. Games like "Lie, Cheat and Steal," "Group Therapy," "Ulcer" and "London Cabbies" are being sold in Chicago to teenage game players. A few teen Monopoly players use four Monopoly boards put together to give them more challenge.

Some new board games don't even have boards. Games like "Dungeons and Dragons" are largely imaginary. The players make up their own boards, circumstances and pieces. They keep thick notebooks of their games. "Dungeons and Dragons" is a mythological-type game that has creatures created by the players such as a troll, a cyclops, or a pegasus who try to battle each other by rolling dice to see what weapon their creature has and what will happen to their opponent.

Will a ton of boiling led

pour over the enemy gremlin?" Play "Dungeons and Dragons" and find out.

Special clubs and stores cater to these new indoor sportsmen. Clubs like the Lincoln Park Chess Club (2526 N. Lincoln, 929-3035) "sell thousands of these games." The Club also has memberships available (although at the time, they are not accepting memberships). The Club conducts private tournaments at which spectators are allowed to watch through a window. War Games are played on an informal basis.

The Chicago Chess Club at 25 N. Franklin (4th floor) also stocks indoor games.

The Chicago Park District sponsors chess activities for all ages at local levels. Anyone can enter the Intermediate class (17 and under).

Two of the major chess-playing park districts are Gompers Park (northside near Foster and Pulaski) and Kennedy Park (Southside at 113th and Western). These parks hold tournaments at a local level and at the area level. From area levels, chess champions are eligible to compete in city level tournaments.

## Teen Guide To

# Steppin Out

### Down-hill skiing

Robert E. James Park, an area of 33 acres, located south of Dodge Street and west of Dodge Street in Evanston, offers complete sports activities. James Park is better known as Mount Trashmore, a 65 foot "mountain" which is piled from Evanston's trash.

After years of garbage, with a few concessions, is now being used as a ski slide and ski slope. In the complex are a shelter with concessions, washrooms, rest area, one coasting and one hill with two toboggan runs, a sled hill for adults and older children and a shorter sled hill for children. One large natural ice rink at the foot of the hill is a regulation sized hockey rink. Other activities include a rope tow, ski rental and snow-making machine.

James Park Winter Complex is open until March 1. Unlike most other ski slopes, Mount Trashmore is in business on the basis of temperature only. The park makes snow, which holds up as long as the temperature is at least freezing. Park hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Price for coasting and skiing is \$1.50. A day on the ski slopes costs the exceptionally low price of \$3. The price for renting a toboggan is \$1 for the first hour and a 50 cents charge for additional half-hour.

Equipment rental, which includes boots, poles and skis, is \$5 through Friday, and \$6 on Saturday and Sunday. (A piece of identification and \$5 is required to be a deposit on all rentals.)

To reach the park by public transportation, take a northbound El to Howard street. Go downstairs to the bus terminal and catch the number 204 bus (CTA) which stops at Dodge and Oakton. On Sundays catch the number 97 bus instead of the 224 and walk about three blocks north.

### Tobogganing

Interested in tobogganing? The Jensen Slide, located at Devon (6300N) and Milwaukee, offers the best experience inside the city limits. To rent a toboggan sportsmen need a driver's license or school ID or a \$20 deposit. Toboggans rent for one dollar an hour.

The giant slides are about 35 feet high. The tobogganners must walk under the slide and up the stairs, taking their time so they won't slip and fall on the ice. After they wait in line for their turn, the tobogganist puts the toboggan on the slide and signals the gate operator to drop the block releasing the toboggan for a 35 m.p.h. ride.

The park operates a concession stand where there are plenty of teenagers for socializing.

To get to the Jensen Slide by bus, take transportation to Milwaukee Ave., then take the northbound Milwaukee Bus to the end of the line. When you reach the end of the line take the 56A Devon to Devon. To get there by El take the Congress-Milwaukee El to Milwaukee then take the Milwaukee Bus to the end of the line, and transfer to the 56A Devon to Devon.

Besides Jensen there are four slides in the Cook County Forest Preserve: Bemis at North and Ogden; Dan Ryan Woods at 1826 W. 91st; Deer Grove at Quintens and Dundee; and Swallow Cliff, Illinois 83, west of Mannheim, \$1 for sleds; hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### Ice skating

Deep in the heart of the Southwest suburbs there is an active indoor ice rink where Southsiders can lace up their silver blades and skate in comfort.

On Friday nights at Southwest Ice Arena the hockey teams clear out of the rink to make way for public skating from 8:40 to 10:00 p.m. for \$1.75. Rental skates are 75 cents a pair.

A "little something" the rink does for skaters is turn out the lights and point a beam of purple light at a revolving mirrored ball to reflect speckled light all over the rink. A very romantic, pretty environment to skate in.

If a beginner wants to gain poise in this winter sport, Southwest offers beginner's lessons starting Feb. 27 for twelve weeks at \$54.00.

Southwest is located at 5505 W. 127th in Crestwood. To get there by car you can take Western to 127th, go west on 127th for about two miles to Southwest Ice Arena. By bus, you can take the 49A or 351 Western bus to 111th, transfer to a westbound 112 bus on 111th to Pulaski, transfer to a Suburban 385 bus on Pulaski (comes every half hour) to Harlem and transfer to a southbound Harlem 386 bus to 127th, which goes east to Rt. 83 to the Playfield shopping center, where the rink is located (phone 371-1344).

The arena provides a skate pro-shop, pinball machines and a refreshment stand. A smaller ice rink at Southwest is available for parties to rent.

McFetridge Sports Arena, 3823 N. California, has indoor ice skating. Teen admission 75 cents, rental for skates 75 cents. Friday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Sat. from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and 8:00-9:30 pm and Sun. 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and 8:00-9:30 pm.

The Ridgeland Commons Ice Arena, 415 S. Lake St. Oak Park has indoor ice skating on Fridays,

7:30-9:00 pm, Sat. 2:00-4:00 pm and 7:30 to 9:00 pm and Sundays 2:00-4:00 pm. Student rates are \$1 per session and skate rental is \$1. There are also ice skating lessons.

### Cross-country skiing

Cross-country skiing is increasingly popular in the Chicago area. It is quite different from the demands for downhill skiing.

Cross-country skiers need to be in very good shape because they mostly use their thigh and calf muscles. They also need endurance because they may ski two or three miles.

The main difference between cross-country skiing and downhill is that in cross-country, a skier doesn't need a mountain. He can ski just about anywhere as long as there's open land.

Weber-Golf course (9300 Bronx) in Skokie teaches cross-country skiing. On Feb 19 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Weber will hold a lesson for ten, which includes instruction and ski equipment. Registration closes on Feb 15. For more information call 674-1500, ext. 40.

Ski rental equipment is inexpensive. At Morrie Mages (620 N. LaSalle). It costs \$6 a day, \$10 a weekend and \$14 a week for cross-country skis, boots and poles. A \$25 deposit is required.

For cross-country enthusiasts, the Chicago Park District has four parks: North, Lincoln Park; South, Jackson Park; West, Columbus Park; North, Warren Park.

Equipment cannot be rented, however it is a free-bee for any one who wants to ski. Ice skating and tobogganing are added attractions.

Over 149 parks offer ice skating this winter. For more information contact the park district nearest you.



# Talented teens live through Saturday Fever

by Yvette Walker

Saturday Fever runs through every high school at this time of year. It's the fever caught by singers, debaters, actors, artists, even typists, who want to prove their talent in weekend competitions.

These Saturday tournaments aren't as well known as athletic competitions, but they involve thousands of teens each week. Saturday Fever results in hundreds of winners and thousands of losers.

Unlike football and basketball contests, the winners of talent contests are determined by judges. In art, drama, debate and music the judges are supposed to determine the winner by their abilities alone. Yet, students who are veterans of competitions complain that judging is affected by other factors.

"Sometimes it depends on

the school you go to. If a school is known for its musical abilities, the judges will bring your mark up higher because of your reputation in past musical events," said Michael Moore, an entrant from Farragut in many city and state ensemble competitions.

"It's natural to be slightly biased for a certain selection," commented Susan McNeese, a speech judge, "but the judges try their best to give every student a fair chance.

Sr. Mehren Giles, an art instructor, recognizes that, "Any artist's work may remind the judge of a time in his or her background—the subject, the use of color—and automatically the judge may be prejudiced for the selection."

Chentey Morris, who's entered several high school art contests, feels that she's been the victim of this kind of

personal prejudice. "When you enter an art contest, the artists are often unfairly judged. In one instance, my painting, (which was of cats) wasn't given the rank it should have because the judge didn't like cats."

Kimberly Butler, debater, also commented, "When one debater is more well known than another, sometimes the well known person wins regardless of his evidence."

Why, then, do they go? Why, with all these judging difficulties do the teens continue to compete? "Accomplishment! I feel a sense of accomplishment and that I've done something I really enjoyed," said Genevieve Sidoli, junior speech performer.

Kathy Manning, a sophomore debater, said, "Of course, the chance of winning is still there, but I enjoy competing. I meet a lot of nice people, and I have fun."



Photo by Forest Cowley

## Teen Notes

by Alicia Johnson

### To spend or not to spend

The average teenager in the United States today has an income of \$22 a week and doesn't save a cent!

Teens from the 16-18 age bracket have \$45.00 a week to spend. They all basically spend the money on the same things: junk food, hobbies and movies. The boys spend more money on beer and car accessories, while the girls spend more for clothes and gifts.

Apparently teens are going to let the future take care of itself.

### The life you save

Every year nearly one million Americans suffer heart attacks. Many lives could have been saved if cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was administered in the first crucial seconds. Chicago teens can now enter Red Cross classes for CPR training.

Applicants must be 13 years of age or over. For classes contact the American Red Cross (main chapter) at 440-2000 to register in their city-wide program. It only takes 12 hours to learn, and the fee is 35 cents for materials.

### "Upward Bound" works

Upward Bound is a program that gives minority students a chance to experience college life by living on campuses and getting counseling on entering college.

A recent study of Upward Bound students showed that 71 per cent of its participants graduated from high school and entered college, as opposed to the 47 per cent of those who did not participate in the program who come from the same background.

A representative from Upward Bound will help any interested teens join the program. Just call 274-3000 (Lake Shore campus) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. There are sessions going on now at the Lewis College Campus, 820 N. Michigan, room 901 at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. Ask for Jan King.

### New ruling on abortion.

Young women under 18 can again obtain an abortion without parental consent, according to a federal judge's ruling. Judge Prentice H. Marshall temporarily barred the enforcement of the Illinois state law requiring parental consent.

In a suit filed by the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION on behalf of four doctors and two pregnant seventeen-year-olds. The ruling charged that the law violated the teens' right to privacy.

### Recognition for teens.

Q10, Q5, is a new Chicago area program designed to give teens with an A or B average a five percent discount on a variety of products and services. To find out more information call 598-2500 or write P.O. Box 573, Hickory Hills, 60457.

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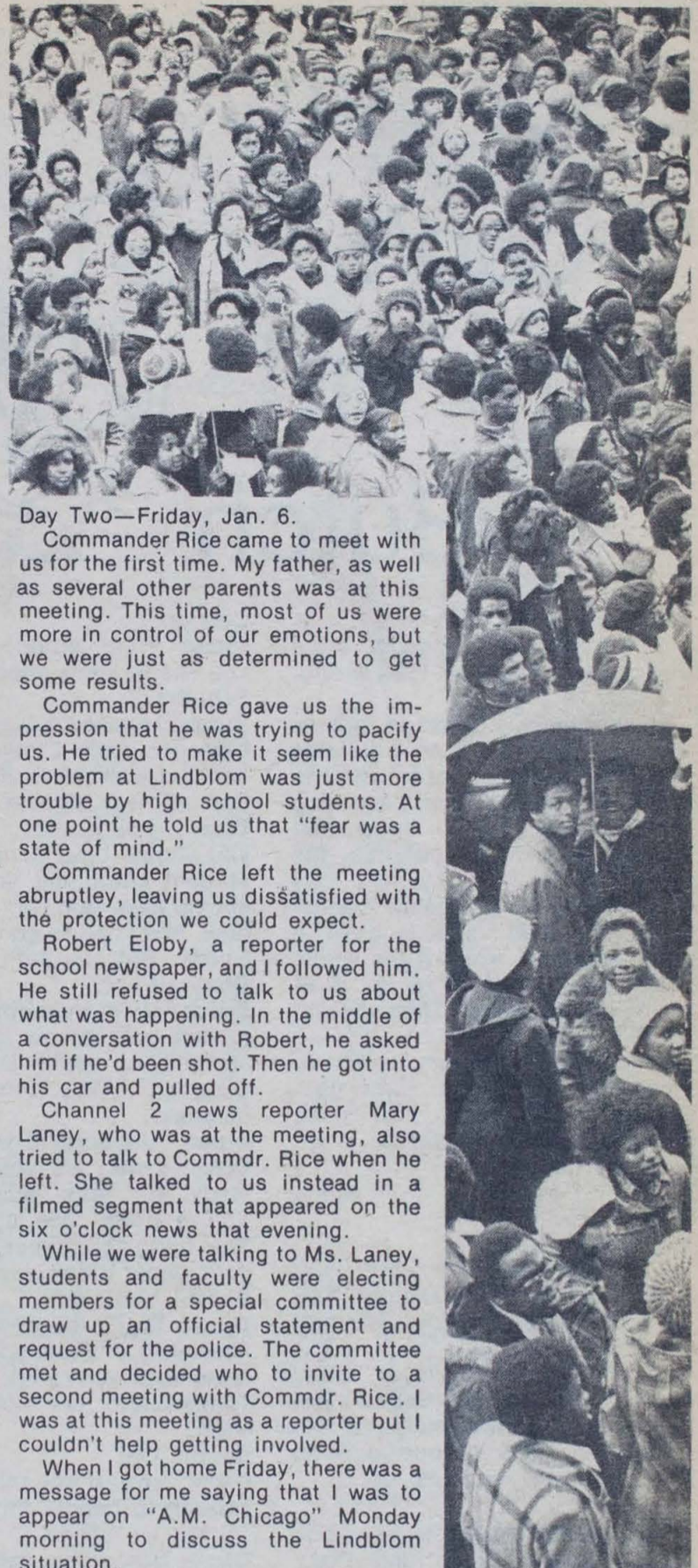
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# TV, press expose Lindblom struggle



Day Two—Friday, Jan. 6.

Commander Rice came to meet with us for the first time. My father, as well as several other parents was at this meeting. This time, most of us were more in control of our emotions, but we were just as determined to get some results.

Commander Rice gave us the impression that he was trying to pacify us. He tried to make it seem like the problem at Lindblom was just more trouble by high school students. At one point he told us that "fear was a state of mind."

Commander Rice left the meeting abruptly, leaving us dissatisfied with the protection we could expect.

Robert Eloby, a reporter for the school newspaper, and I followed him. He still refused to talk to us about what was happening. In the middle of a conversation with Robert, he asked him if he'd been shot. Then he got into his car and pulled off.

Channel 2 news reporter Mary Laney, who was at the meeting, also tried to talk to Commdr. Rice when he left. She talked to us instead in a filmed segment that appeared on the six o'clock news that evening.

While we were talking to Ms. Laney, students and faculty were electing members for a special committee to draw up an official statement and request for the police. The committee met and decided who to invite to a second meeting with Commdr. Rice. I was at this meeting as a reporter but I couldn't help getting involved.

When I got home Friday, there was a message for me saying that I was to appear on "A.M. Chicago" Monday morning to discuss the Lindblom situation.



Dr. Ahern encourages students to come back into school during the walkout.

here until we get some protection." By 10:45 the television and newspaper reporters were everywhere. From this point on we had full media coverage.

When some students saw the cameras, they started playing around. After listening to Dr. Ahern and Jawann, I reconsidered the good of the walkout. The students goofing off for the cameras changed my mind about participating.

Then I learned that there were two representatives of the police department waiting to meet with us. Ahern made it clear that until students were back in the building no meeting would take place. He also made it clear that only a few students would be able to talk to these representatives, members of the Principals Advisory Council and a few other student leaders. I was allowed into the meeting as press.

Eventually all students either came in or went home. Afterward Ahern and the student representatives met with the two police reps, Lt. Hilton and Lt. Lindsey. Another representative of the 7th District had come earlier in the school year to assure us protection: Once again Commdr. Rice had sent someone to represent him instead of coming himself.

Although I was covering the meeting as press, I made comments at the meeting. Emotions were extremely high. I think everyone, including the principal, got overly emotional. Everyone left this meeting feeling dissatisfied.

Robert, Art Mrumlinski and I voiced concerns on "A.M. Chicago" Monday.



Photos by Lindblom Camera Club

Day four—Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Commdr. Rice and Deputy Chief Pep came to meet the committee. Once again students voiced their fears about what was happening to us. This time Commdr. Rice promised us three measures of protection and he also promised to contact someone who could okay special protection from other districts.

Although Commdr. Rice appeared to be more understanding, he still avoided important questions that were bothering us, such as how long the protection would last.

Time magazine interviewed three of us. We talked with nine or ten television and newspaper reporters from local media.

Improved police protection began the next morning and has continued ever since. For over a week there has been no serious incidents involving Lindblom students coming to or from school.

I suppose that our success in gaining protection was due largely to the media coverage. Without the walkout we probably would have received no media coverage. Staging a walkout did for us what staging riots and demonstrations did for the youth of the 60's. With their protest, they helped stop a major war; with ours, we stopped a 'war' of our own.



Commander Rice attends his first meeting with Lindblom students on Friday, Jan. 6.

television cameras and reporters looked at the Lindblom walkout last month from the outside. We asked a Lindblom student to write her journal about the experience from the inside.

by Evelyn Polk

One—Thursday, Jan. 5. I first heard about the walkout in the corridor on my way to German class. I wasn't sure that there was really going to be a walkout, but when I found out that it would be in protest of our lack of protection, I knew I would participate.

The lack of protection really came home to me because a group of friends I was with had been viciously snow-balled. There had been other assaults on Lindblom students traveling to and from stops around the school.

I learned later that the walkout was prompted by an incident which happened the night before when a Lindblom freshman was jumped. After the attack a bottle was thrown through a bus window. Allegedly a police car was on the corner when the bottle was thrown, but the officers didn't do anything.

I went to German and then to my next class. The walkout was supposed to be after division, so when the Division 1 rang, most students grabbed their coats. I still wasn't convinced that there was going to be a walkout, so I didn't bother with a coat. After division a protester pulled the alarm. Everyone including the teachers, left the building because of the fire ordinance. I grabbed my coat and left.

The all-clear bell rang, but most students stayed outside.

Ahern used a bullhorn to encourage students to come inside. Like most other students, I refused to move. I started a chant of "We want protection." A few snowballs flew. Student leaders, such as Senior Class President Jawann Gavin, also tried to get us back inside. Jawann said that he wasn't against the reasons behind the walkout, but that it wasn't organized. He told us that the walkout wasn't accomplishing anything.

Other student leaders were backing the walkout. Marvin King, a senior and co-captain of the football team, told students, "You can go in if you want, but I'm staying out

## Hasslers have feelings, too

by Evelyn Polk

I talked to four Lindblom students who live in the neighborhood surrounding Lindblom. They feel the problems at Lindblom have been blown out of proportion. The junior, Earline Moor, said, "The neighborhood is not as bad as people make it seem."

These teen residents of the area generally agreed that there was not enough protection and that more was needed. Many felt that they, too, even though they live in the neighborhood, needed the

protection.

Debra Seatin, a senior said, "Little kids have thrown bricks at me because I had on a Lindblom jacket. The majority of the harrasing is coming from the elementary school children. The older kids do the robbing and assaulting."

Debra and Sheena Horton, a junior, both think Lindblom students are being attacked because they're unprotected strangers in the neighborhood. "Because we come from all directions, Lindblom students are vulnerable, and the neighborhood kids know

it," Sheena said.

Debra also thinks the attitude of Lindblom students makes them targets for attacks. "The people in the neighborhood think Lindblom students are stuck up and uppity. Some people are like that, but not all. We probably have the same amount of conceited students as any other school."

Debra also recognized the fact that people in the neighborhood steal from Lindblom students because they figure they have so much it won't really hurt!

# Dear Amy, "I can't grow up!" Butch



Dear Amy,

I think I'm failing algebra, and I don't understand what I did wrong. If I fail, I'll die!

I was making average grades until a week ago. Then I did this big assignment, but on the morning it was due, my dog chewed it to bits. I know that sounds ridiculous, but it's the truth!

When I told my algebra teacher what happened, she laughed a mean laugh. In front of the whole class she shouts, "Grow up! Start acting like an adult!" Then she put an "F" in her book.

Since then, whenever I come to class I hear her saying, "Grow up!" I can't concentrate. I'm doing worse than ever in algebra.

Please help me.

Butch

Dear Butch,

I hate to say this, but your algebra teacher may be right. You have a lot to learn about being an adult.

I'd like you to meet Dizzy Dealton of Clout High School. The teens at Clout have really met the challenges of adulthood. I think they can help you grow up.

The following taped interview took place between Butch and Dizzy

Dealton

**Dizzy:** Well, Butch, what would you like to know about Clout High School?

**Butch:** I guess I'd like to know how someone from Clout would have handled a problem like the one I had with my algebra teacher.

**Dizzy:** That's easy. Here's what you should have done—any Clout student could tell you this—you should have said "My grandmother died, and I had to go to the wake."

**Butch:** But she didn't.

**Dizzy:** What?

**Butch:** My grandmother didn't die. In fact both of my grandmothers are in good health and...

**Dizzy:** I don't think you understand.

**Butch:** Understand what?

**Dizzy:** Look, are you sure you're ready for this adulthood bit? You've gotta face up to things. That thing about your dog chewing your paper didn't work, did it?

**Butch:** Well, no...

**Dizzy:** That's the point. An adult, especially in Chicago, knows that if the truth won't work, don't use it. That's one of our mottos at Clout High.

**Butch:** Oh!

**Dizzy:** Now, if you think you're old enough to handle this, I'll go on.

**Butch:** Go ahead.

**Dizzy:** Now when you go to Clout,

there are certain people you should try to get to know. These people enjoy many privileges. I know because I'm one of them. They can walk down the hall smoking; they can eat lunch in history class; they can sit in the teachers' lounge. You name it.

**Butch:** How did you manage all that?

**Dizzy:** First of all you have to get a Clout job. I'm chairman of the Locker Coordinator's Office. You ought to see what a person will do for me in order to get a first floor locker or get somebody else's combination. And if I want something from others, they give it to me. They know I could saw their locks off. I could even change the combinations. Is this too confusing?

**Butch:** Not really, I guess.

**Dizzy:** Good! As far as those privileges go, it helps if you know everything that's goin' on. When you know how everything works, some people think you're dangerous. And when you're dangerous, you get what you want.

**Butch:** I don't think I like all this.

**Dizzy:** It's hard to try to **grow up all at once**. I can understand that. But you do want to grow up, don't you?

**Butch:** Yes.

**Dizzy:** And you want to be sophisticated?

**Butch:** Yes.

**Dizzy:** And wise?

**Butch:** Yes.

**Dizzy:** Then listen. Where was I?

**Butch:** You were telling about people with special privileges.

**Dizzy:** Oh, yes. Well there is Bugsy. He works in the school library.

**Butch:** So do I.

**Dizzy:** Good. Now Bugsy helps his friends out by putting away their overdue books, if you know what I mean. He has a lot of friends.

**Butch:** Gee, I've lost a lot of friends working in the library. They blame me for their fines.

**Dizzy:** Ah, but Bugsy doesn't fine his friends. He's more mature than that.

**Butch:** I guess. Well what else do you want to tell me.

**Dizzy:** Yeah, well, there's Leticia...she works in the counseling office. For a small price she can get you any program change you want. And there's Dudley in the attendance office. And Bosco who dittos tests for teachers. But there are more important things we have to discuss. Tell me, what do you do when a hall guard stops you?

**Butch:** I show him my pass. What do you do?

**Dizzy:** I give him an envelope.

**Butch:** An empty envelope?

**Dizzy:** No, not an empty envelope. I haven't gotten that cheap, yet.

**Butch:** What do you mean?

**Dizzy:** I mean, after a while you can put a quarter or a dime in the



envelope once the hall guard knows you, but the first time you should be generous.

**Butch:** Why just the first time?

**Dizzy:** Because after that he knows you pay and you know he takes, and he knows that you know. You have a special relationship then. It's built on trust. It's really quite nice.

**Butch:** I suppose so. Who else do you give envelopes to?

**Dizzy:** Sometimes teachers. Hey, that would have been another solution to your algebra problem, wouldn't it?

**Butch:** I think I solved it just now.

**Dizzy:** Yeah, what are you gonna do?

**Butch:** Nothin'. I hope she keeps yelling at me to grow up. I think I like being a kid.

Chicago. The attitudes and feelings of city teens towards suburbanites aren't necessarily based on facts or actual experiences. The following answers are what city teens have to say to me about suburban teens:

Q. How do you feel about suburban teens?  
A. "Suburban teens are kind of stuck up and wary when they enter the city," said Mary.

"They don't understand what goes on outside of their safe worlds," remarked Amy. "They avoid the city as if it were a plague."

Q. How often do you come in contact with suburban teens? How do you feel when you do?

A. "I come in contact with them everyday," said Kim. "I'm somewhat offensive because they act as if they are better than city teens."

"I don't come in contact with suburban teens very often, but when I do I feel out of place because my ways are of the city and clash noticeably with theirs," Mary explained.

City teens think of suburban teens as being stuck up, spoiled and able to get away with practically everything. They relate suburban teens with heavy drugs and expensive sports cars. City teens picture suburban teens as individuals without such problems as alcoholism, pregnancy, peer pressures and parent troubles. There are very few occasions and places other than forums, concerts and shopping malls where we come eye to eye. We aren't aware that there are movies and books that appeal to us both. We don't realize that we "dig" the same type of music and foods. We don't realize that we like some of the same fashions and value the same ideas. It never crosses our minds that we could be friends.

## Sound



by Marilyn Ruffin

and

## Silence



by Sue Quinlan

## Impressions of each other

Rolling Meadows. Suburban kids have their own notions about kids who live in the city. Here are some common attitudes that I uncovered:

"City kids are vandals." One senior referred to a newspaper photo of a dilapidated building and shook his head in disgust. "Urban renewal won't work," he said. "The moment you put something new up there, it will be ruined."

"City kids use drugs." Suburbanites hear about million dollar drug busts and often forget that there are millions of people in Chicago.

"City teens are more violent than suburban teens." Some suburban kids are scared to have city kids integrating their schools. They fear that the city kids will be violent.

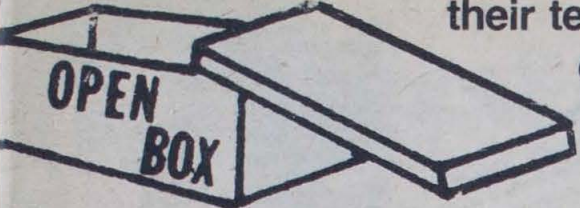
"City kids are inferior because they have less money." People who are poor, suburban kids say, may turn to crime to get more money.

Of course, not all suburban teens have these kind of impressions of city dwellers. Some think that the only thing that separates the two groups is the distance between the city and the suburbs.

I can understand the views of suburban teens who have only newspaper items, television news reports and their parents' and friends' opinions on which to base their opinions of city teens.

The most significant difference that I've noticed between the city and the suburbs is that everything in the city is in greater proportions: vandalism, drugs, violence and poverty. That's my impression every time I come to Chicago: the city is so much bigger.

# How do you feel about the suspension of ten Marist High basketball players from their team because of drinking?



by Amy Weber at Roosevelt; photos by Nona Paramore



**Linda Moy, girls' volleyball team**  
I'm in sports, too. I think the punishment was a bit harsh, but if they knew the rules, they had to take the consequences.



**Lori Weber, girls' basketball team**  
They shouldn't have been drinking and jeopardizing the victory of the game. But the suspension shouldn't have been so long, maybe just for one game.

**Angie Pantazelos**  
If they were going to drink, they should have done it on their own time. It was stupid on their part.



## Teams, clubs, staffs and crew

# Do we commit or submit?

In January a high school basketball team became very well known in the Chicago area. They were in every major newspaper and on every major newscast. But, unfortunately, this fame was not earned by their athletic ability. Ten players had been caught drinking and were suspended from the team for the rest of the season.

At first, the school revolted against the punishment. But now, according to the newspapers, the school has turned around and applauded the two team members who did not violate the drinking rule.

The coach was hailed as a hero by the media because he had the strength to punish his team, sticking to the rules that had been laid down for them.

We at **New Expression** support the coach in what he did. He remained consistent even though it was difficult on him, his team and his school. Most coaches would have done the easy thing. They would have looked the other way.

But we wonder—why so much emphasis has been put on how the breaking of a rule was handled. Has anyone stopped to wonder how the rule was made? It's not that we think its a bad rule. We agree that it's a necessary rule for a



team. But did the team members have a chance to discuss it with one another and with the coach? Did they understand their commitment was to one another and not to the coach or even to the school?

Any group of people who work together toward a goal need to know what their goals are and what commitments to one another are necessary in order for them to meet those goals. They have to hear each other out. It's important that each individual understands that he or she is freely committed. When a group is united in this way, they will confront one another when it is necessary. This is a growing experience in itself.

Why didn't the members of that basketball team keep track of one another? It seems that they didn't feel that the rule had anything to do with their commitment to one another. They were dependent on their coach to keep them in line.

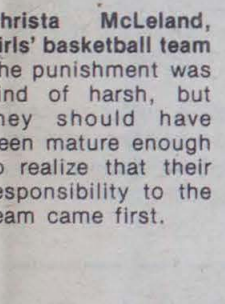
Is it too much to ask this of one another—that we keep our promises to each other? We don't need an adult to make us obey rules. We need to discuss them with one another and agree to them. Then we can confront one another.

Then when we reach our goals,

we'll know we did it ourselves. We chose the goals and the plan of action. We didn't need an adult to "control" us.



**Eli Yurick, boys' track team**  
Well, they broke the rules so there should have been some kind of punishment, but suspending them was a little drastic.



**Christa McLeland, girls' basketball team**  
The punishment was kind of harsh, but they should have been mature enough to realize that their responsibility to the team came first.



**Glenn Williams**  
I don't think it was fair that they were suspended. Everyone likes to have a little fun now and then.

# Playing it off...

by Philip Anderson

On many occasions when I've dined in restaurants my food has not been prepared as I like it. It's either been too rare, too well done, or just didn't taste like mom's! I'm not a real outspoken person, so I just 'grin and bear it.' But it's getting so I never know what to expect. It's enough to make one eat at Burger King!

Cynthia Shepherd Lindblom

At the type of restaurant that you seem to be talking about, it is sometimes customary for the waiter to ask the patron how he wants his food prepared. If he doesn't, you have a perfect right to tell him.

Teens, because of their age, tend to be treated somewhat as inferior beings. The waiter is very often influenced by the tip he thinks that person may leave. Being the age that you are, he feels he won't get anything out of it anyway. The smart thing to do is to go to the management if it comes to that point. The management cannot function without the income of the consumer. Therefore, he is more apt to help you.

No matter how young a person is, if he is paying for goods or services, he has a perfect right to have these things as he expects, for the price he pays.

If you are not an aggressive person, but you wish to stand up to what you know to be right, there are many assertiveness training groups for teens around the city. It would be advisable for you to take such a course if you have many such problems. If not, get a brush to wipe the footprints off of your back!

One afternoon, as I was about to partake of the scrumptious food for which the Board of Education is known, I was joined by a friend of mine. As I began eating my "deathburger," to my surprise, my friend began saying grace. She began to recite passages from the Bible that I've never heard.

How does a person know when to say grace? I always thought it wasn't necessary in the school.

Anna Crowe Fenger



Grace is an act that is said before each major meal. Lunch is a major meal of the day. She happened to be eating her lunch in school. Consequently, this so called 'religious' act was performed in the school cafeteria.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that your friend was being an individual, which should in no way embarrass you. There may be lots of other students in that cafeteria who want to do the same thing but think, "what will the others think of me if I do." Individuality should be encouraged early in life, whether it be by saying grace or riding a bike in a snowstorm.

The odds are you will run into many people in your lifetime who do not think or act as you do. At social gatherings, there are bound to be a variety of ethnic and dietary mannerisms that you might have to deal with. The key is to respect this right to be themselves—and just be yourself. As the old saying goes, 'different strokes for different folks.'



Ken Bernstein turning into a clown as he puts on his white face (left).



Klown paints on a mouth which is unlimited (right).



Photos by Beverly Modloff

## Street clown auditions for circus

# Teen reaches for 'brass ring'

by Kathi Isserman

Some teens clown around and get paid for it.

Ken Bernstein of Skokie, a professional street clown, recently auditioned for the Barnum and Bailey Circus and applied to their clown college for next September. If he gets a contract, he'll attend clown college for eight weeks, learn how to perform for the circus and then clown with the circus for at least a year.

"It's hard to get into the circus," he explained. "Over 5,000 clowns try out each year, and only 50 are accepted. Barnum and Bailey wants fresh, young clowns."

Ken can't actually picture himself as a circus clown.

"They will teach me their ways," he said, which means acrobatics, tumbling, juggling, and make-up. If the circus accepts Ken and his performance, then he must sign a one year contract with a paid salary.

It took two and a half years of free lance clowning for Ken to reach the auditions. The first time he realized he had talent as a clown when he was unicycling at Children's Memorial

Hospital. A professional clown complimented him on his cycling and asked if Ken would teach him how to ride it in exchange for learning make-up.

Since that day he has performed with the Morning Clown Ensemble on the streets of Chicago during the summer. They clown at zoos, on el platforms, parks, ballgames and museums.

Ken has developed a second personality which functions as a clown. That personality takes on the name of Klown. As a street clown he relies solely on pantomiming. He whistles and uses gestures, but he doesn't talk or mouth words.

Ken uses a white face "which isn't limited. If a clown paints a smile on himself, then he always has to be happy," he said.

He believes his make-up is an extension of himself. He does not hide behind it. "It's hard to imagine being a clown unless you've tried it, and then you'll know it's for you. It's a special part of me which I'm very close to."

According to Ken, clowns can do anything. They can direct traffic and even attend parties uninvited which

Ken has done. "As Kenny, I would never be able to just walk into a party. As Klown I walked in one day and the kids thought I was hired."

Ken volunteered to unveil an art gallery in Skokie last spring. Klown pretended to draw portraits at his easel, but what he was actually doing was drawing dot to dots of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. When he gave these sophisticated adults their autographed "portraits," they seemed to enjoy themselves as much as children.

"There's never any violence in clowning. There's some magic in it. I can reach out to people easier as Klown. I'm not an actor. I imitate people and flirt with the crowd. When I'm clowning, I see the world through a whole different perspective," Ken insisted.

He has worked on the party circuit and at a carnival in Old Town. Klown has also chattered out-of-town business executives around Chicago.

"I don't really perform for these people. We are just having a good time," Ken said.

Unlike the college-bound career crowd, Ken would be perfectly happy

working as a bus boy or pumping gas, but only if he can "add life" to the job by being Klown.

"I like clowning when it's not planned. Money also takes the magic away. I don't feel the same when I'm paid."

Ken also flies on commercial flights in character. "It's the only way to fly!" he exclaimed. He participated in the State Street Christmas parade in 1975 and met the late Mayor Daley. "I shook hands with him. That's something I'll always remember," he said.

Ken lists himself as a performing clown at the Learning Exchange, a referral service in Evanston which matches students and teachers, although he considers himself an added attraction, not a performer.

"The Exchange gives me publicity and experience," he said.

NBC's "Today Show," a nationally televised program, taped him teaching students how to juggle and ride a unicycle.

But why is there a need to teach more people how to become clowns? Ken's reasoning is that "there's love in clowning. The world needs more clowns."

## That's Entertainment

by Paula Eubanks,  
Debbie Royce,  
and Alicia Johnson

### Theatre

"A Chorus Line," which opened at the Shubert Theater in January, is a dazzling, energetic, timely musical with a "soap opera" theme.

I admire Michael Bennett's Pulitzer Prize winning musical more for its "show" than its message. The musical is brilliantly choreographed. The powerful dancers do it justice with superb dancing.

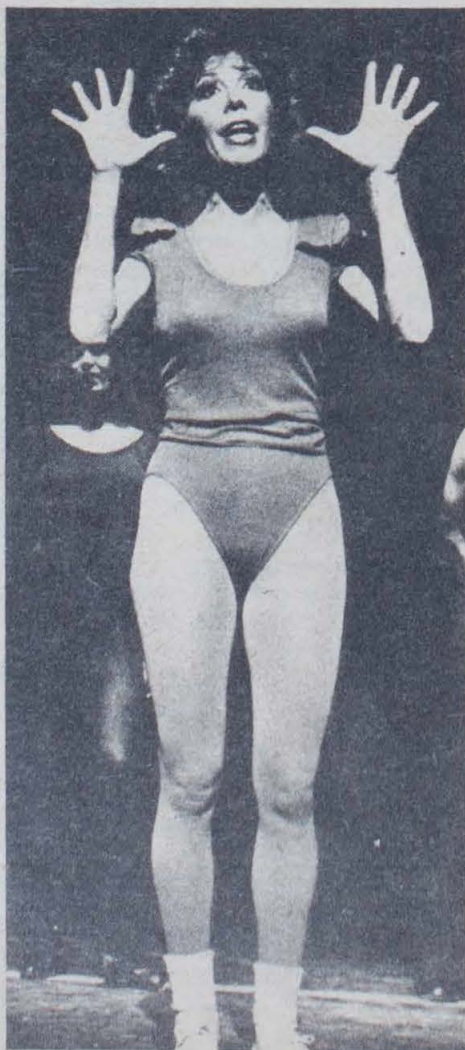
Dancing is what "A Chorus Line" is all about. It's about 25 dancers auditioning for a Broadway show. The director asks them about their lives. The dancers oblige, reluctantly, to take that "do or die" step out of the chorus line and become a personality, a main focus. They answer the director.

One chorus girl, who didn't have a figure, found that life was great after she got "fixed." Another became a dancer because everything at the ballet was an escape from home life. Most dancers portrayed an identity crisis resulting from their career.... "Who am I, Anyway? Am I my Resume?"

Among all of these trials and tribulations, the real message about the short and insecure career of dancers is swallowed up.

All of this is played out on a very simple set composed of a mirrored wall and one white line painted on the stage. The dancers come to put some identity into the mirrors.

The costuming is blunt and realistic, the signature of each dancer. Of course, the women wore leotards. What else do dancers own?



All in all, "A Chorus Line" is a humorous, sometimes touching, and always entertaining night at the Shubert...even if it is short (no intermission).

### Our picks in books

**Interview with the Vampire** by Anne Price is a story, in interview form, that tells about the life of a vampire named Louis. His life as a vampire is not a pleasant one. He feels guilty and confused most of the time. Even though his constant companion is a vampire named Lestat, who gets his jollies by playing with the emotions of his victims, he suffers from loneliness.

A drastic change takes place in the life of Louis in the form of a small girl vampire whose body is childlike, but whose mind is that of a woman. He is involved in an endless search for others like himself who can supply answers to his questions about im-

mortality. The book takes the reader into the very depths of a vampire's thoughts and feelings.

The story is enchanting, mysterious, gruesome, lovely and suspense-filled to the very last word. (Ballantine Novel—\$1.95)

**The Grass Is Always Greener Over The Septic Tank** by Erma Bombeck is a hilarious story about a family, living in the 1940's when people first started to inhabit suburbs. This story is true to life, for everyone, no matter where you live or what age you are. The author wants you to look at life, cope with it and still be able to laugh about it.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

by Tracy Sandle

### Dances

Lindblom is sponsoring a Valentine's Dance at the Howard Johnson Hotel, 600 N. Lake Shore Dr. in the Lakeside Ballroom, Fri., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 a couple and \$3 for singles. For more information call Lindblom at 436-2501.

The Blue Gargoyle presents "Fridaynight Fever" at the Armory, 5200 S. Cottage Grove, Fri., Feb. 10 at 9 p.m. Cost is \$2 and women before 10 p.m. for \$1. A dance contest at midnight with WBMX's Elijah Mitchell as the judge (\$100 top prize).

Immaculata (co-hosted with St. Ignatius) is having a dance at Immaculata, 640 W. Irving Park Rd., Fri., Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$2.

### Special Events

Contemporary Concerts is sponsoring a music workshop for students (high school and college) at Chicago State University, 9500 S. King Dr., Fri., Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.

Cost is \$1 per student. Ursula Oppen, an award-winning pianist, will be guest. For ticket reservations call 642-4990, ext. 602.

### Plays

The Chicago Premiere Society presents "Joy of Socks" at the theater, 3450 N. Halsted, Fri., Sat. and Sun. from Feb. 6 through Feb. 19. Tickets are \$3.50. For more information call 248-6489.

Lincoln Park Theater will present a mystery, "The Burning Man," at 8:30 p.m. Friday, and Saturday, Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25, at N. Stockton Dr. Admission is \$1.00. Reservations may be made by calling 294-4760 after 3 p.m. on weekdays.

### Concerts

Ursula Oppens, an Avery Fisher Prize winning pianist, will be at the Museum of Contemporary Arts, 237 E. Ontario, Sat., Feb. 25. Cost is \$5 and \$2.50 for students.

For other concert information dial TICKETS (842-5387).