

March 1987

New Expression: March 1987 (Volume 11, Issue 3)

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Inside: Our 10th Anniversary Souvenir Edition

New **Expression**

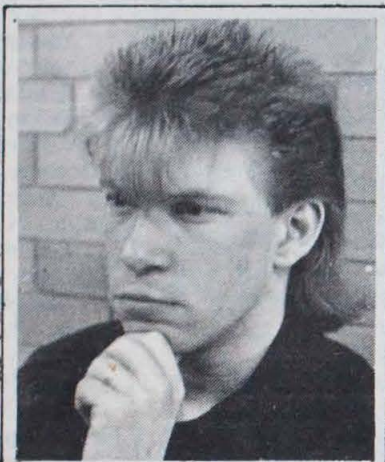
The Magazine of **Youth Communication**
Chicago

Volume 11, No. 3

March, 1987

Teens from terror zones

South African teens are killed every week in race riots and through police terror. Eighteen-year-old Ntombi Makhubu knows—her parents isolated her from the dangers of protesting with her friends by sending her out of the country to school.



Does anyone care?

Guatemalan teens have little hope for an education; most don't live to be twenty. Fourteen-year-old Jose knows—he was tear gassed in an army raid on a neighbor's house at age 12 and barely survived the machine-gunning.

Teens in the terror zones of the Middle East—Lebanon and Palestine—face bombs and barricades and centuries of religious hatred. Eighteen-year-old Samir

Ali knows—he's learned that it's very risky to be political in his homeland.

Three New Expression reporters talked with these teens, who now live in Chicago. They asked about their experiences living in a world terror zone. They asked for their impression of American teens. Do they find that Chicago teens don't know or care about the rest of the world? Find out on Pages 4 and 5.

Around Chicago

By Les Callihan, Desiree Washington, Mike Benedetto, Cassandra Chew and Yolanda Nash



New Expression

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME... Kings' Marcus Liberty, who was unanimously chosen by the Associated Press as a member of the Class AA All-State Basketball team. Other Chicago players elected to receive this honor are Deon Butler of Simeon and Walter Bnd of Collins. Devastating females on the girls' Class AA team include Bebo Valentine of South Shore, Kim Johnson of Marshall and Sarah Sharp of Robeson.

"WHAT IF I'M GAY"... A drama starring Richard Joseph Paul as Todd Bowers, a popular student athlete with a girl friend who has questions about his sexual orientation, will air Tuesday afternoon, Mar. 31 on Channel 2. Ed Marinana, formerly of *Hill Street Blues*, stars as Todd's guidance counselor.

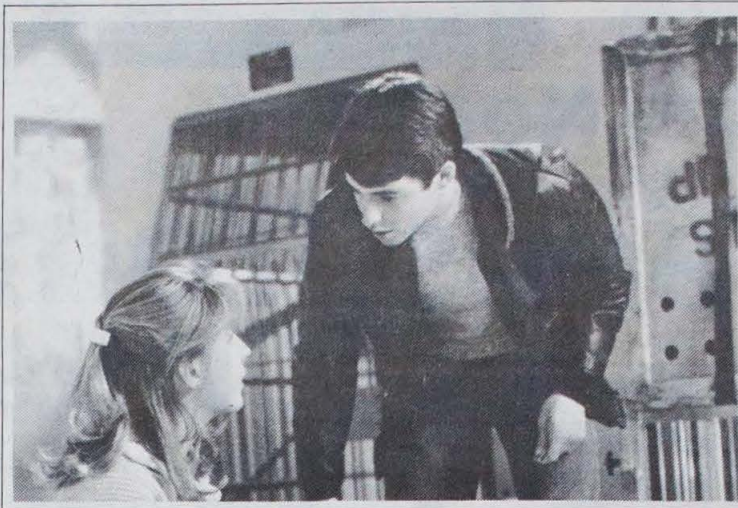
HELP WANTED... The Field Museum is looking for volunteers to staff a new resource center on North and South American Indians. Volunteers would be working with audio and video equipment as well as working with people. Training begins Sat., Apr. 25. Call 322-8959 for information and to apply...The Lincoln Park Zoo is also looking for volunteers as guides, clerks and gardeners. Interviews are going on now, so call 294-2493 to apply.

PUBLIC LEAGUE BATTLES... Julian, led by undefeated wrestlers Eric James and Vernon Harvey, held off a strong Lane Tech comeback to win the city dual meet. Julian also won the city championship tournament...Whitney Young fought fiercely against No. 1 seed Kenwood at the city championship swim meet. The result of this intense struggle between two arch rival schools was a mind-staggering tie for first. Kenwood's Barry Riley broke two city records in the public league meet and went on to take fourth in the 100 yd. breast stroke at the state championship meet.

THEY DID IT AGAIN!...For the 10th straight time the Marshall girls' basketball team won the city title. Marshall's season came to a premature end, however, as the Commandos were defeated in the state quarterfinals by Massac County. Congrats to Immaculate Heart of Mary, Westchester, for winning it all!

WHITNEY YOUNG GOES TO THE OLYMPICS... On April 25, in Irving, Texas. Whitney Young will be defending its State title in the National Academic Decathlon. Young took first place in this year's State competition, defeating 11 teams including New Trier, Lake Forest and Hinsdale South. Last year Young placed 22 out of 44 teams nationally. Team members hope to be in the top 10 this year.

MONKEY BUSINESS... "Project X," a new 20th Century Fox film starring Matthew Broderick and Helen Hunt ("Peggy Sue Got Married"), tells the story of a researcher who trains a highly intelligent chimpanzee. It opens Apr. 17.



PRIZE WINNING WOMEN... Louise Chang and Elizabeth Wilmer both make history as the first women to place first and second in the Annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search. First place winner, Senior Louise Chang of the University of Chicago Lab School, will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship for her entry on genetics.

DANCE FEVER... The Cultural Center is offering concerts by some of Chicago's finest dance companies free of charge during the week of Apr. 23. Some of the modern dance performances will be after school at 5:30 pm on Apr. 20, 22, 23, 27, 29 and 30. On Sat., Apr. 25, at 2 pm the Gus Giordano dance group will present a concert of jazz dance, followed by a dance workshop which is limited to twenty persons. Call F-I-N-E-A-R-T for more information.

IN CONCERT... Peter Case will perform at the Cabaret Metro on March 27. Tickets are \$6...Hewey Lewis and the News will also perform on Mar. 27 and Mar. 30 at the Rosemont Horizon. Tickets are \$17.50...Precious Wax Drippings will play the Metro on Apr. 8. Tickets are \$3...Timbuk 3 will perform at the Metro on Apr. 24. Tickets are \$13.50... Ex-Eagle guitarist, Eric Clapton is at the Horizon, Apr. 19. Tickets are \$17.50.

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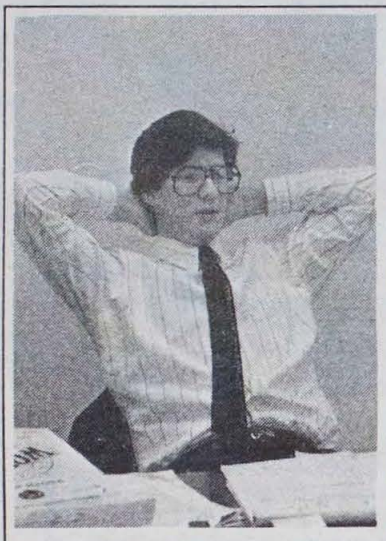
Inside Track

Teens can influence city policy, Mar. 30

The meeting to review the Mayor's proposed program for youth is open to any teen who wants to attend.

All Chicago teens who want to give their input on recommendations to the Mayor on youth issues in Chicago can do so on March 30 at the Department of Human Services, 500 N. Peshtigo Ct. (8th Floor) at 4 p.m.

The Youth Development Coordinating Committee (YDCC), an all-adult committee, released a summary of their recommendations to Mayor Washington in a press conference Feb. 19. The Mayor will receive a "full report" this spring, after teens have had a chance to offer their input on the recommendations.



Fish Brown, Asst. to the Mayor

The current report provides the Mayor with suggestions for improving eight areas of youth concern including education, employment, drop-outs, gangs, drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy. The report is called *A Chicago Youth Agenda: Meeting the Needs of a Generation at Risk*.

Mercedes Mallette, YDCC Coordinator, says that one reason the YDCC is seeking youth input is that the committee does not want to take the "we-know-what's-right-for-teens approach."

Fish Brown, Asst. to the Mayor, expects approximately 20 teens to give their input, March 30. Brown and Mallette are expected to join the group's discussion.

Although the meeting will be open to any teen who wants to attend, Fish Brown said most of the teens the committee have contacted to participate will be selected from those youth agencies

represented in the YDCC such as the Youth Network Council and the Alternative Schools Network.

However, a wider range of city students have been invited to participate at the meeting including SUPR—Students United for Participation and Representation.

"I think it's great that they (the committee) want our opinions," said SUPR representative, Marleen Wilson, a junior at Near North.

Wilson says she has had past dealings with bureaucrats and so hopes the committee members will be receptive and welcoming of youth's concerns.

The report advises the Mayor to "advocate for more local decision making by teachers, administrators, parents and other community residents." Wilson is concerned that the report makes no mention of decision-making by teens, even though Mayor Washington

claims he wants teen involvement "in the whole panorama of government."

"I'm going to ask (the committee members) about that," Marleen said. "Parents and community members aren't the ones who attend school. It's not fair for them to make certain decisions that will affect us that we have to abide by without any say-so."

For teens who wish to attend the hearing, the best way to reach 500 N. Peshtigo from downtown, is to take the northbound State Street bus (#29). Get off at the Kraft Building on Grand Avenue. It's the stop just before Lake Shore Drive.

Adolfo Mendez

Apology

We regret omitting the name of the photographer in last month's photo of Mayor Washington's press conference at Kelvyn Park. The photographer is Reggie Redmond.

Hourly wage up?

Congress is currently reviewing a bill that would raise the minimum wage for U.S. workers to at least \$4.50 an hour.

This bill faces strong opposition from the Reagan administration, who contend that a raise in the minimum wage would mean an increase in unemployment, particularly in companies that hire unskilled teenaged workers. As a counter proposal, U.S. Secretary of Labor William Brock is presenting a plan that would keep the minimum wage for teen workers at \$3.35 while increasing the pay of those over 21.

Senator Paul Simon (Ill.) is in favor of raising the minimum wage for everyone according to Judy White, a legislative assistant for Senator Simon. Simon will fight against the sub-minimum proposal for teens.

The proposal for a sub-minimum wage for teens is not a new one. In 1981, President Reagan presented a plan that would reduce teen pay during the summer months to \$2.50 an hour, while keeping the adult minimum at \$3.35. This plan was bitterly opposed by the Democratic-controlled Congress and eventually defeated. In 1983, Reagan presented the same plan and recommended that teen minimum wages always be kept at 85% of the adult minimum. Again, this plan was defeated by Congress at the urging of labor unions.

Labor union leaders are still fighting the sub-minimum wage proposal. The unions argue that employers would place teens into jobs that are usually given to adult union workers in order to cut costs. Labor Secretary Brock

argues that if the sub-minimum plan for teens is not approved, teen unemployment will increase due to the reluctance of employers to pay unskilled teens \$4.50. A study done by the federal government's General Accounting Office in 1984 estimated that teen jobs would increase by five per cent if the sub-minimum plan were approved.

Since fast food restaurant owners hire more teens than any other industry in the country, they are leading the drive for the subminimum proposal. According to one McDonald's owner, who wished to remain anonymous, an increase in the minimum wage could have a drastic affect on the fast food industry.

"The price of a Big Mac would go up to \$4," the owner claimed. "I can't cut staff be-



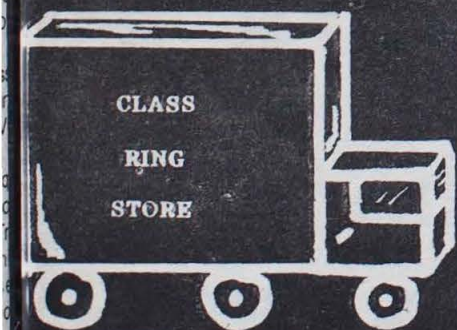
cause I need a specific number of employees to run my restaurant." Wayne Thurman, 17, who works at McDonald's, would be satisfied if the minimum wage would be raised "by at least ten cents for teens."

Wayne doesn't believe that fewer teens would be hired at his MacDonald's if the wage was increased for

teens. "They (the restaurants) need all of us," he said.

"Of course it isn't fair," said Tina Duren, another McDonald's employee. "We work just like adults so we should get paid the same (minimum wage)," she said.

Kevin Davy



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Portraits of teens from terror zones;

By Stephanie Walters

Profiles by Marvine McAllister, Stephanie Walters and Amalia Stodolsky with Jack Stoller.

Chicago teens do have opinions about U.S. foreign policy, and, according to a **New Expression** survey of 100 students, they are making up their own mind about world situations. Only 11 percent of those polled said that their opinions were influenced by adults such as teachers or parents.

In order to compare the views of Chicago students with those of teens around the country, we polled students from other states at the national Journalism Education Assn. Convention last November.

Both city and national teen opinion opposes the sale of arms to Iran by the Reagan administration. Only five percent of those surveyed agreed with the President's decision.

"It was wrong for the President to sell arms to Iran," said Elizabeth Williams, a senior at Lincoln Park. "As best I can understand the situation, Iran's government is very unstable and the arms could pose a serious threat to other nations in the Middle East. But I must admit that I don't know much about the Middle East."

As we interviewed teens about the sale of arms to Iran, we discovered that most teens knew more about the charges against the President for deceiving the American people than they knew about Iran or Iraq or Israel.

The South African issue clearly split Chicago teens from the national teen opinion. Far more of the suburban and small city teen dwellers oppose boycotts of South Africa than do Chicago teens.

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Jessica Hillard, a senior at Whitney Young, is militant against apartheid. "I think it's important to let the South African government know that we oppose their form of government." But Chicagoan Corey Novick, 17, disagrees with Hillard. "I believe that by staying in South Africa our economic interest will be greater, and the greater the amount of leverage we will have in shaping South Africa's internal policy."

Of all the issues covered in the survey, the controversy in Central America seems least understood by teens. Over a quarter had no opinion on the "Contra Issue" although over half disapprove of the U.S. support of the Contras.

"I don't like the idea of our government intervening in those countries (Central America), especially if we're not sure that we're helping the people," said Sara Anderson, 17 from Sycamore, Illinois.

Jenny Lord, Westlake High School, Los Angeles, agrees. "We aren't helping Central Americans; we're really hurting them."

Are teens in these terror-ridden areas of the world really hurting because of U.S. foreign policy? We interviewed three of them who are now living in Chicago—Samar, Jose and Ntombi—to find out. You'll find their profiles on these two pages.

TEEN SURVEY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

What is your view about the shipment of arms to Iran by our government, apparently for the exchange of hostages, without the approval of Congress?

Approve: 5% Disapprove: 84% No opinion: 11%

What is your view of the shipment of weapons and financial support for the Contras in their fight against the government of Nicaragua?

Approve: 17% Disapprove: 54% No opinion: 29%

What is your view of the U.S. government's decision to restrict trade with South Africa because of South Africa's racial policies?

Approve: 74% Disapprove: 25% No opinion: 1%

Jose Guatemala

"My father was one of the leaders of the student political group at the university," said Jose, 14. "The group opposed the dictatorship in Guatemala, so officials started kidnapping leaders and killing them. My father knew we had to get away."

Jose and his family arrived in Chicago two years ago on visas from Guatemala. Since then, their visas have expired, and so they reside here illegally, because if they tried to renew their visas, they would be deported.

He remembers coming to the United States. "I was afraid to come, but I was even more afraid to stay. I didn't want my father taken away."

Jose was lucky enough to know English when he came. "I went to a school in Guatemala run by Canadians. I started learning English when I was in third grade. The school cost \$15 a month, but my parents paid it because the public schools there are horrible. No one can learn there."

Jose says the country is very poor. According to him, no one has much money.

He lived with his family in Guatemala City, the country's capital, so he didn't live through the terror of the villages. "It's worse there," he explained.

"Life in the towns is very bad. The army always goes there and takes all the men and boys to join the army. Sometimes, the soldiers will burn the villages and kill all the people that live there," he said.

Jose is angry that the United States government backs these soldiers. "They are killers," he says.

Jose himself has been in a life-threatening situation at the hands of the soldiers. Once when he visited his aunt's house, soldiers stormed the hideout of a guerilla group living in the house next to his aunt's.

"We heard shots; then saw

soldiers," Jose recalls. "Then we heard glass breaking and saw a guy with an 'oozie' (machine-gun) and then more and more soldiers. They threw tear gas into the house. We had to cover our noses and mouths so we wouldn't choke."

After it was all over, 300 soldiers carried three bodies from a bullet-ridden house. According to Jose, raids like this were common practice for Guatemalan soldiers in 1985.

Jose is disappointed that none of the students in his freshman class at a North side public school know about the situation in Guatemala. Most don't even know where Guatemala is, he claims.

He also admits that he was surprised at the attitudes of his classmates when he tried to explain his life in Guatemala. "Many of them don't believe me," he says. And he added, "Some of them just don't care. They say as long as we're okay, we don't need to worry about anybody else."

Up until the time Jose and his family left, Guatemala was ruled by a series of dictators. Since then, a new government and president has assumed leadership of the nation. Jose is unsure whether the new government is any different from the one he left in fear.

"It might not be a dictatorship, but nothing seems to have changed. There are still spies. Before, you couldn't talk to anyone about the government because he might be a spy. Now we can't write our family because the government opens the mail. It's hard to phone because they tap the wires. It's the same as it was before."

Does Jose ever expect to return home? "If the government ever changes, I would go back. But right now, I'd never go back."

Samar Middle East

"Where I come from, there's not a lot of political activism because if you oppose the government, you are more likely to die. If someone was in a political movement, his brother would be kidnapped, his parents would disappear for a while..."

The Middle East has long been an unstable area of the world. The Iran hostage crisis which lasted from 1979 to 1981 was the first of a series of kidnappings, hijackings, and bombings that have colored American's attitude toward the area as a hotbed of terrorism where life is held cheaply.

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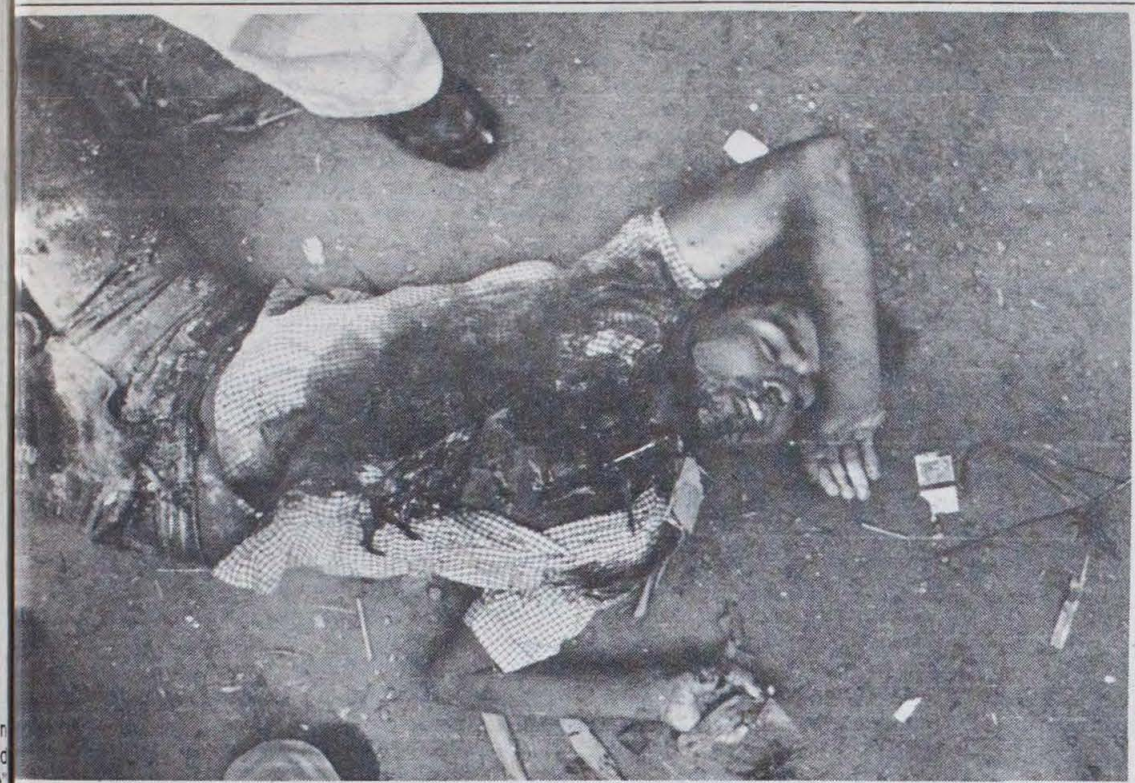
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U.S. teens react



Samer Ali was born in a Middle Eastern country called Eretz and was raised in Egypt. He is currently a freshman at the University of Chicago. Being born and raised in the Middle East, he has some strong opinions about the terrorism there that differs strongly from the views held by most Americans.

He feels that the American press paints an unreal picture of Iran, the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) and the Arab world in general. When a Christian militia, backed by the Israeli government, went into two Palestinian refugee camps and killed thousands of people, it was considered a proper military action to secure government interests. But when an embassy is blown up by Palestinians, it's called terrorism," he said.

Both are the killing of human beings, but they seem unequal to many Americans, and that turns into an injustice against the Palestinian people. Not all Arabic people are terrorists. There are vast differences between the way Arabs view politics within their countries. Beneath the turban, there is a person who feels and has human rights and responsibilities," he says.

The only way that the Palestinians can make their grievances heard by the Western world is through terrorism. They would not be given time at the U.N. if it weren't for the attention they got from terrorism. America sees them as fanatics or as inherently evil. From a Palestinian's point of view, taking hostages or bombing an embassy is not an evil—it's the only choice."

But Samer himself hates violence. "I'm totally opposed to killing in arms. If there are a billion people in the world, really, there should be just a billion arms," he said. But he would like to see improved relations between Iran and the U.S. without any arms deal.

It's also important to recognize that four countries are in-

involved in the Irangate scandal: the U.S., Iran, Israel and the rebel Nicaraguans. When the press calls it 'Irangate', it implies that Iran was the only country involved in wrongdoing. They should see Israel's role in the affair, also."

He realizes that his world travel has helped him grow up fast. "When I go back to Egypt, the thing that strikes me is that the people are very narrow-minded. That's not their fault, but they haven't seen what's around them. They believe that there's just one right way to do things."

Samer went on to say that he hopes that American teenagers are curious about what's going on in their country and in the world. He wants to end the narrow-mindedness that breeds prejudice or indifference.

Ntombi South Africa

"The kids in South Africa say that they won't go to school or get on the bus, so they are

attacked by the police. Some of them are arrested and some of them manage to escape to other countries." Ntombi Makhubu's parents forced her to escape to another country where she would not be a victim of the segregated Bantu school system, and that's why she's watching the terror right now on her TV set in Chicago.

Ntombi's friends in South Africa are all organized into groups called Cosas. They are striking against Bantu education, a segregated educational system, which she claims "offers second class education to black South Africans."

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Ntombi was never a member of a Cosa group because her parents wanted the best education possible for her and that meant a boarding school in Swaziland, a neighboring country. But she doesn't feel fortunate that she's avoided the risks. "I feel that I should have been part of it...and in the summer, when I'm home, things are usually quiet, and we just run in the streets and sing Freedom songs," she said.

The state-sponsored scholarships to the best colleges in South Africa are usually given to Afrikaners (white South Africans), and so Ntombi's parents insisted that she apply outside the country. "My choices for outside scholarships were between a school in London and one in Chicago. Roosevelt University offered me a four-year scholarship, so I came here," she said.

She and her mother have been in Chicago for nine months, and although Ntombi is sensitive to the segregation that exist in Chicago, she's at peace about it. "At least you have freedom of speech (and other freedoms) here, but back home you can't speak at all."

Ntombi feels comfortable in this temporary home, but she gets homesick for her native

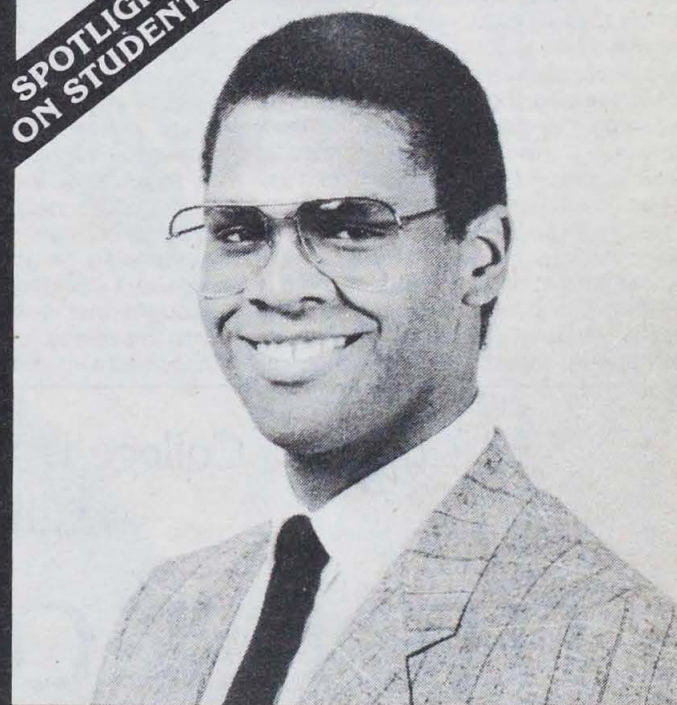
Tsakane, a black location in Transvaal. "Chicago has so many more white people. But, at least, white people over here mind their own business."

The few American friends she's made aren't genuinely interested in the problems of South Africa, she said. "The ones at Roosevelt know about South Africa from news reports so they don't ask a lot of questions or seem to be interested. I don't think they can understand what it's like because they have never been a South African."

She definitely wants to be a part of the demonstrations she is missing because of her educational exile. But the A.N.C. (African National Congress) and U.S. protest groups are no answer for her because she doesn't expect any outside forces to correct the injustice. "She's seen American companies pull out of her country because of A.N.C. pressure, and she is hurt by the number of blacks who lose their jobs when those companies are gone."

"I want to work from within to change things," she said. According to her present college plans her work will be as a journalist or as a social worker.

SPOTLIGHT
ON STUDENTS



SAINT XAVIER COLLEGE OFFERS INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION PLUS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Name: Jim Sledge, a graduate of Chicago's Percy L. Julian High School, now a sophomore at Saint Xavier College.

Major: Political Science. I plan to go to law school.

Interests: History and sports. I'm an Andy Frain usher and I love working at the Bulls, Bears, Blackhawks and White Sox games.

Personal hero: Jean Moulin, a Frenchman who escaped Nazi rule but returned to his homeland to organize the French resistance.

College activities: I serve as a Student Ambassador and belong to the Black Student Organization and the Political Science Forum.

I chose Saint Xavier College because: I wanted the individualized attention provided by the 11/1 student-faculty ratio at Saint Xavier College. The smaller class size at Saint Xavier is really a plus — you get to know your professors as well as the students.

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'He wanted us to act like adults'

A profile of a girl's first love
by Lorna Bates

Paul and I met each other the summer before freshman year, but it never amounted to anything—only a casual friendship. Then, by September, we couldn't stay away from each other. I was sure we were in love.

Well, weeks turned to months and months to a year. Our relationship blossomed into something I considered special. The feelings we had for each other were so strong that we never thought a day would pass that we wouldn't be together.

Then the reality set in. Paul wanted to have a relationship "like adults." That meant having the freedom to do what he wanted to do, regardless of anything else. But inexperience and parental guidance wouldn't allow it for me.

When I explained the situation to him, all he said was, "That has to change. None of my girlfriends get picked up from parties by their parents. And all of them go out on dates."

The fact that he would talk to me that way really hurt a lot. But I just kept thinking to myself, "You have to sacrifice a lot in a relationship that you really want to work." I later found the missing part to that phrase. Still, I was happy. After all, this feeling couldn't happen more than once, could it?

But the bad increasingly seemed to outweigh the good. He was insanely jealous. If I so much as glanced at another guy or if male friends would call to see how I was doing, he'd blow up.

He had to know what I did every minute of the day. He always tried to make me call him at certain hours of the day whether it be at home, school or at other family member's houses. But never could he do any of that for me. It was

only when I didn't call that he wanted to know why I hadn't.

So, as I look back on this, I ask myself why I allowed him to do this to me. But at that time I thought everything happens for a reason. It's a total waste of time if I don't learn from it.

This was affecting my whole life. My grades went down horribly because I was always concerned about the relationship in some way. I also got into a lot of conflicts with my parents because I wasn't at home. Soon my mother restricted my calls from Paul to only ten minutes a day.

But the most agonizing problem came with the subject of sex. I'd heard from adults and other sources, "Don't have sex if you're not ready!" I had come to feel very strongly that I was too young and inexperienced. I mean I barely knew how to kiss. This was my very first serious relationship with a guy.

Paul, on the other hand, was very active sexually, and he felt that it couldn't stop with me. I fought him hard about it. But all he'd say was, "Felicia, I don't want sex. I want to make love to you. Don't you see that this is the next step to our being intimate? I love you and want to show you."

I became so confused. I knew that I enjoyed kissing and hugging him, but I never desired more than that. He never thought about the consequences. I sure didn't know what to do.

In fact, the feeling of having sex embarrassed me. But all I would hear about were his needs, what he wanted. I thought so much about whether or not to have sex that my reasoning became cloudy. Everyday I felt sick. I had constant dizzy spells. I was sure that at anytime I'd be going out of my mind. Finally, I decided, "Okay. I'll do it." I thought that being so deeply seeded into this relationship obligated me to do it. I cared a lot about his happiness, and I

was willing to give my all for it.

I almost did it, but suddenly it occurred to me that this relationship was destroying my life! I shouldn't have to deal with problems like these at such a young age. I realized that he was jealous, obsessive and very insecure. He wanted to be in control of everything, including my mind. He was the one that needed psychological help. Not me.

I stopped calling him and hoped it

would just fizzle out agreeably. I began to rebuild the other half of my life; spent time with my friends and joined the volleyball team. When he found out that my volleyball practices didn't end until late and that it broke into the time I spent with him, he told me to quit. I told him, "If you really loved me, you would understand."

He didn't.

Straight Talk

When a woman has sexual intercourse for the first time, can she become pregnant?

Yes, of course she can. Each woman's potential for becoming pregnant is different. A good, easy book to read about this is *It's Your Choice* by Phylcia Stewart, M.D.

But even when a woman keeps careful track of the clues that her body provides about her fertility such as a daily record of body temperature, the information is very tricky. These methods are not a very reliable way to determine on a specific day of the month that she cannot become pregnant.

Actually, these methods work better for couples who HAVE DECIDED THEY WANT TO BEAR A CHILD and have been unsuccessful. By using these natural fertility signs they can try to predict the days when the woman is most likely to be fertile.

I'd like to mention another point about the woman's first act of sexual intercourse. A woman is born with a natural protection to the vagina called the hymen. The hymen is a thin membrane attached to the opening of the vagina that has the texture of the skin in the

inner-lip. When the penis penetrates to the vagina of a woman for the first time, it must split the hymen (in slang called "burst the cherry") causing a discomfort that is special to that first experience.

Psychologically, it is very desirable for a woman to experience sensitivity and concern from her male partner in this first sensitive experience. If you hear males bragging that they have "burst the cherry," think about what that says about their attitude towards women and about their concern for any of a woman's anxieties about her sexuality.

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