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New Expression

The Magazine of Youth Communication
Chicago

Prom 1991 Elevate your style

...see center spread, pages 12-13



Photo by Najia Zarif, Whitney Young

April 1991
Volume 15, Number 4

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AFTER THE WAR

Student group says teens can't ignore leftover problems

By Andrea Robinson
Von Steuben

"Silence is consent," said Samantha Chaitkin. Chaitkin is a sophomore at Whitney Young High School and a post-war activist.

She was there when students from all over Chicago marched chanting "No blood for oil."

She was there at the Federal Building forming peace signs with her fingers, and blowing kisses to strangers during the vigils.

But many of those voices that chanted with Chaitkin's have stopped.

"The fighting war is over but the political and economical war is just beginning," said Julie Pollack, a Niles West High School senior and Chaitkin's fellow anti-war activist.

"People don't realize that there are still issues at hand," added Chaitkin. Both are members of Chicago Area High School Students Against the War (CAHSAW). The group fights against continued U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Since the U.S.-issued cease-fire was called and negotiations began, membership has gone from about 75 or 80 people to about 10.

"I think a lot of people were in it (the anti-war movement) 'cause they felt guilty about what our country was doing," said Mike Levin, a junior at Lane Technical High School.

Whatever the reason, one thing remains clear. Activist participation, especially among teens, has become nearly non-existent. Not only has teen participation in

groups such as CAHSAW decreased, but the number of rallies and marches, as well as the numbers attending those events, has fallen.

"They (the United States government) are trying to convince us that everything is fine," said Daniel Weber, a junior at Oak Park High School. "All that's on the news is people coming home."

The group notes that, according to media reports, the U.S. allied bombing of Iraq has left the Iraqis with one generator to sanitize water. Water has been severely rationed. Reports continue to say that television systems have been destroyed, and few working phone lines exist. The United States is issuing no aid to Iraq, and the contracts for rebuilding Kuwait have gone to American companies.

Samir Odeh, executive director of the Arab Community Center of Chicago, said that during the Vietnam War the focus of the anti-war movement was on losses of American lives. He said anti-war activists can't forget about Iraqi civilians' lives lost. More than 150,000 Iraqi people have died. Hundreds of thousands more have been injured or maimed.

"Our future is this country. The people who are in power now are going to be out of power soon and they're ruining it for us," said Levin. "It's the point that the youth of America has to stop being silent."

Hot Pavement and Empty Pockets? Mayor's office offers jobs

By K.C. Le
UIC

As warm weather slowly arrives in Chicago, the eternal question pops up—what to do during vacation? Starting April 15, the Mayor Daley's Summer Job Program is offering 16,000 openings to students.

The jobs range from various types of office skills such as receptionist and data entry operator, to aides for community and childcare. Jobs in other areas include tutor and groundkeeper.

Applicants must be economically disadvantaged Chicago residents, who are 14 to 21 years old. Males 18 or above have to be registered with the selective service. Documents of proof are needed for assessment.

If accepted, the applicants are paid \$4.25 an hour, the minimum wage, but if not, they can try two more times for other jobs.

Since last year, the number of jobs have increased by 3,000. This year 13 neighborhood sites are involved with the program.

For place of registration and more information about Mayor Daley's Summer Job Program, phone 744-8787.



New Expression

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Chicago

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Graphics Director: Lorraine Reyes

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Advertising Director: Kelly McCoy

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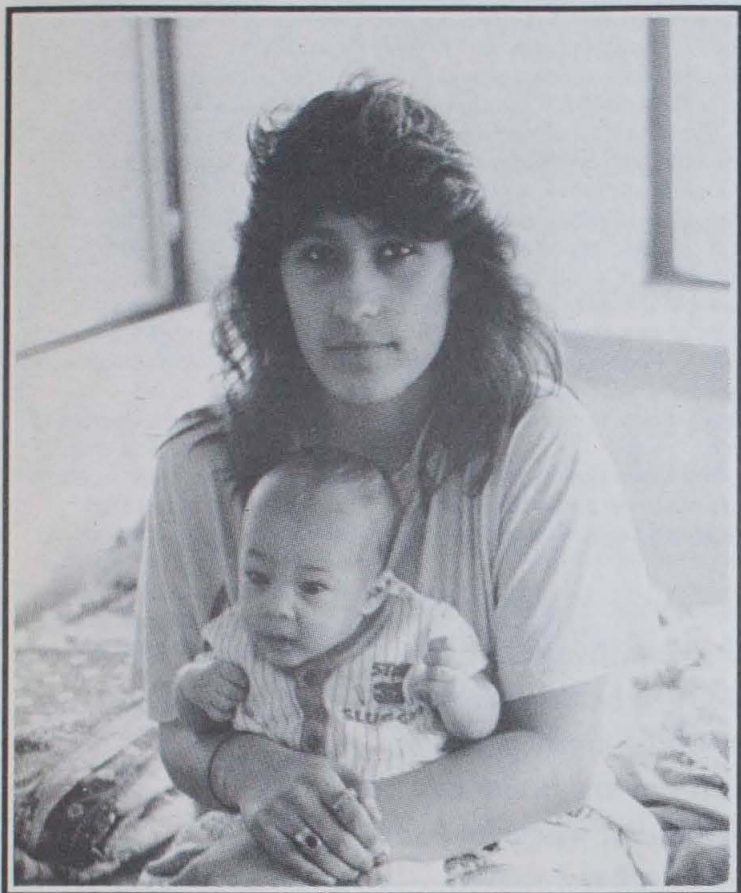
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Linda Harrah didn't drop out of grammar school. But the former Amundsen High School student expresses the kind of frustration with school work many say begins at the grammar school age.

'GRAMMAR SCHOOL DROPOUTS'

The upsetting reality

By John Evans
Lane Tech

When Rita Jordan, a 13-year-old ex-member of the West side's Black Gangster's (BG) gang enters a classroom, she doesn't see math problems and homework on the blackboard. She sees graffiti and gang signs.

"I see gang signs everywhere in school like on desks, on blackboards, and (washroom) walls. I know four grammar school dropouts. Two are girls and two are guys," said Jordan.

Jordan's four friends form a small percent of Chicago's "unverified dropouts," those students under age 16 who unofficially disappear from Chicago public school campuses every year.

Whether they have moved or no longer attend any school is unknown, but an unidentified source at the Board of Education reported about 2,000 such disappearances in recent years.

When the board reports that, of the 1984 freshman class, 41 percent dropped out before graduation, the unverified dropout numbers sound small.

Dropouts like former Amundsen High School student Benny Harrah, 15, however, said he saw the groundwork for dropouts forming in grammar school.

"In grammar school I didn't notice that the kids dropped out. I did see them skip school often, which was probably a start for them," he said.

Harrah said those class cutters were often in gangs. Gang involvement is one reason cited for young student dropouts.

"Children with good, or normal, home living conditions could lose an interest in school because their friends aren't going," Eddie Walker, a dropout prevention counselor at Tilden High School, said. "They want to be accepted by their friends more than family."

Jordan, who is trying to piece her life back together, said, "I was in the gang because it seemed fun, especially having a group with me all of the time."

At least two of Jordan's dropout friends are heavily involved in gangs. "Tolano is 15 years old and dropped out of the eighth grade. He is a member of the BG gang and robs people regularly."

"Chimeka is 13 years old and dropped out of the seventh grade. She's in the BG gang and takes part in jumping kids for no reason."

Dale Ward, a South side resident and student at Malcom X College, started losing interest in school at Medill Elementary, where she said she was a popular gang member. She went on to Crane High School because her mother forced her to.

Being in high school didn't stop her from dealing in gang activity, and in her senior year she got pregnant. Feeling "lost and in love," she dropped out of school at 18.

Ebony Black, an 11-year-old

student of Jacob A. Riis Elementary School, said pregnancy and developing male-female relationships often combine as the first step to dropping out.

"They're thinking about their boyfriends. Many of them want to get pregnant and stay out late," she explained.

Jordan's youngest dropout friend, Bridget, is 12 and has an 8-month-old baby. "She dropped out in the sixth grade," Jordan said.

Gangs and motherhood, Black said, are only two of several common reasons young students drop out. Kids fight every day over stupid things. I thought about dropping out before because the work was too hard and we were given too much.

"I didn't realize how important education was until I was 8 months pregnant."

- Dale Ward

School is important. If you drop out now, you will either have a baby, do drugs, or end up dead.

"Now that drugs are everywhere, many kids want to leave school for the 'easy money'," Black continued.

"When you have drugs in the culture, it distorts the moral fiber of the society," added Juvenile Officer Richard Holman of the Area Four police department. "If the person is 18 or 19, he has a personality to fall back on, whereas 7- to 8-year-olds don't."

Jordan's dropout friend, Kevin,

"...Tolano is 15 years old and dropped out in the eighth grade... He robs people regularly..."

was one such child. "Kevin is 16 now, but left grammar school to look-out and sell drugs for the older drug-dealers."

"One Thanksgiving, my family watched him stand on a corner all day, alone, selling drugs."

"Many of the young dropouts don't know the importance of education and I 'blame' the parents because somewhere down the line they became less demanding and more lenient," Ward said.

"Young dropouts have been a problem for years," said Dr. Thomas Murray, local school council president and advocate for 16 students in Steinmetz High School's student advocacy program.

Steinmetz' program allows volunteers to 'stand-in' for parents who can't attend parent/student/teacher conferences.

"There's no excuse why a

parent shouldn't be aware of a child's absence from school. Many parents don't try to control their child(ren). They sometimes display a 'fear' of the child," Murray said.

"Both parent and child could be the reason for this desire (to drop out). The child may be low-motivated. If they feel they don't need education, they won't go. The reason they may go is because they feel they have to; but as soon as they can, they will leave. They don't listen to advice," said Charles Jaris, a dropout prevention counselor at Tilden High School.

"One reason for the high dropout rate may be because of their home life being in turmoil. Children, in the elementary

schools, often 'belly-ache' about school.

Many stop going because his or her friends stop," said Peter Kempfer, a counselor at Von Steuben High School.

"Children may go through frustration cycles and say: ENOUGH! They perceive education as unimportant and feel that there's something better 'out there'," said

Dr. Constantine Kiamos, principal of Steinmetz.

When Linda Harrah, a 17-year-old dropout of Amundsen High School, went to school, she saw gangs and fights daily. She worked at 'Butera's' part-time, after school, to 10:30 in the evening. \$4.50 an hour was her income. Now that she has dropped out, public aid is supporting her and her baby boy.

"I blame the administration, even though they didn't want me to leave. After being put back three times, I didn't see a need to stay. I didn't talk to the guidance counselors," Harrah said.

"Early childhood education should be increased and improved, so that the children would have a love for learning. Family counseling is an alternative. Many times parents need help to raise the child better," said Walker.

"I didn't realize how important education was until I was eight months pregnant," said Ward. "I came to realize that I should go back and take school seriously, so I could support my baby."

"Next year, I'll be graduating from Malcom X with my first degree and this is just the beginning for me and my three sons. My message to the world is: Mothers get on your child(ren) about the importance of schooling. If this is done, I'm sure the high rate of young drop-outs would decrease," Ward said.

"Kids dropping out of the grammar school is definitely a major problem today," said Holman. "Each day the reality is becoming more vivid," Holman said, "...that many children aren't waiting until high school to drop out, but the choice is made sooner, in the grammar schools."

CITY TEEN, SUBURBAN TEEN

Different home bases don't lessen pressure of peers...or do they?

By Jean-Edouard Armand
Mt. Carmel

Jean-Edouard Armand has grown up in the city. He knows, by heart, the stories of the white-picket fenced-in lives of his suburban counterparts, that the peer pressure city teens face just doesn't exist "out there."

He took a day to try to find out if the stories are fiction or fact...

There is war in the cities, and it's in the suburbs as well. Conflicts are constant within the teen community, and the havoc wrought by battles always seems to leave the same amount of wreckage.

The war is peer pressure. Though the battle sites may be different and the troops on the battlegrounds may encounter a different class of enemy, what they fight against isn't really that different.

City teens like Junior Vic Ahuja of Gordon Tech High School and Shannon Fox of Lane Tech say the most serious forms of peer pressure at their schools are consuming alcohol and smoking cigarettes. Gil Villacarlos of Loyola Academy said smoking, abusing drugs, ditching class, and stealing were the most serious forms at his school. Damon Smith of De La Salle cited drugs and "Gang-banging" (hanging out with a gang and participating in generally illegal activities) as the most serious types there, but, said that doesn't mean it's impossible to overcome. Smith said, "If you know your own values, then you won't give into the negative peer pressures."

Suburban teens, like Sonia Lal of Glendale Heights, noticed peer pressure to take drugs and heavy peer pressure to date as two of the worst types in her neighborhood.

Cyrus Khazai of Elgin High found the hype and pressure to participate in general drug use to be one of the worst types of peer pressure at his school. Queen of Peace High School student Laura Sanchez said that drinking and smoking are the worst forms at Queen of Peace in Burbank. "If you don't know who you are it's going to very easy for others to mold you to what they want you to be," she said.

But hearing the stories of peer pressure aren't the same as seeing them for yourself. As an urban city teen who goes to a private high school, Mt. Carmel, and one who used to go to public school, I know what happens between both groups of Chicago teens. I decided to spend a day at the North suburban Deerfield High School, to see what the suburbs are really like.

As I rode the Metra train to Deerfield High, I put on my headphones and kicked back. It was easy to relax for there weren't the bumps and jolts I regularly experience on my CTA bus ride to school.

There's also the difference in scenery, both inside and outside.

On the bus, I see a lot of people that I know, from the look in their eyes, are gang-bangers. It's really OK once you get used to it, but the route is dangerous. Gold chains are snatched from necks. People on the back of the bus can sometimes be seen doing drugs, and drunks also ride.

The Metra passengers were businessmen and women with shopping bags. Some were

pressure others for the way they dressed and there were no worries of ever being teased. One senior with a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle lunchbox was wearing a cap with Mickey Mouse on it. At my school, you would never — and I mean, never — be able to live that down.

Another student had neon green hair. She was the only one in the whole school whose hair was like that, and she was never pushed around or looked at the wrong way. People are versatile, and the Deerfield students seem to accept that.

The students I met have a great deal of discipline and independence. I believe people like literature teacher Don Hollenbeck make this happen.

Hollenbeck is respectful toward his pupils. The students acknowledge this, and have a lot of respect for him as well.

Hollenbeck is much like a submarine; he dives and he brings the students deep down with him into the abyss of learning. It's really fun and exciting for he goes to the very bottom, or as near to it as possible and works his way up.

Even if the students get lost they look to themselves as well as teachers for the answers to their problems.

The academic pressure is supposed to be very high. Everyone I spoke to said that the only real type of peer pressure they see is competition. I didn't see any proof of that. Most of the students are happy-go-lucky. They seem serious about education but not intensely submersed within their studies.

They told me there is alcohol at parties, but nobody said there was pressure to drink. The issue of drugs was passed over. I'm not sure why.

You always hear in the suburbs that there aren't as many problems as there are in the city, so I just expected it to be calmer. Maybe that was why I saw what I saw.

But I've heard of teen suicides in the suburbs. And even the warm, peaceful Deerfield High has a program where students work with troubled peers to get them counseling. I guess you have to live in Deerfield to really know what it's like.

You always hear in the suburbs that there aren't as many problems as there are in the city... maybe that was why I saw what I saw.

reading; others appeared to be daydreaming, and some slept.

On the way to my school, I ride by a lot of towering housing projects, and a lot of the stores are closed down. The backs of small houses dot the route to Deerfield.

When I got off the train, I saw my first station house. The small square building just didn't look urban. I was welcomed at the station by senior Ginger Goldman, my guide for the day.

Our first class was Spanish, where I was warmly greeted by the instructor and the students. All of the students were very friendly. It might have been because I was a guest, but I think they seemed sincere.

I quickly realized that it was a jock school; sports are a big subject of interest, as they are at my school.

The classes seem to be much more interactive. Everyone has a chance to express their views. "Everyone is pretty much involved," said Goldman.

A really big difference I noticed was that students did not

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INFANT MORTALITY

A real danger for teen mothers' babies

By Elisabeth Heard
St. Ignatius

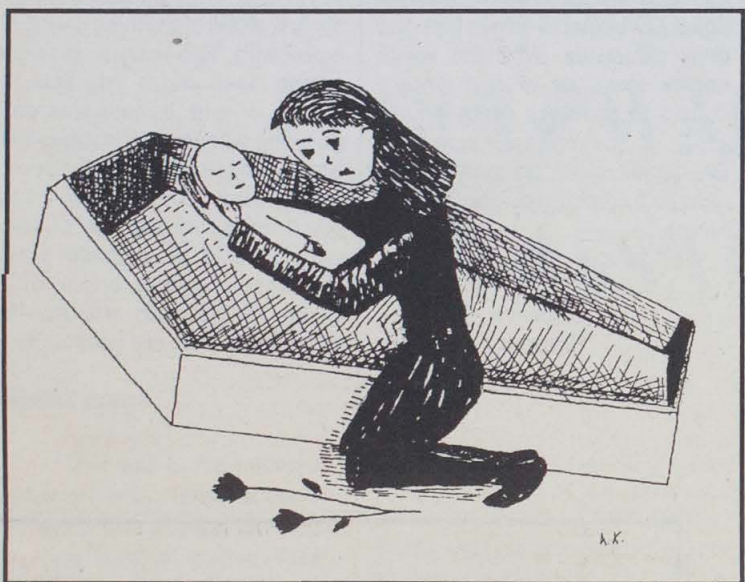


Illustration by Anne Kessler, Lane Tech

Her red T-shirt matches perfectly with her red socks and red ponytail holder. She rocks back and forth softly singing "Come Back to Me" by Janet Jackson. A girl wearing a bright yellow sweat suit turns to the girl in red, smiles and says, "He's a good baby."

"Thanks," answers the young teen-ager as she cradles her 6-week-old baby close to her.

In 1988, 10,660 Chicago babies were born to teenage mothers, but unfortunately, not all of them were healthy and strong.

Two-hundred and two of these babies died before reaching 1 year of age. One hundred and eleven of them died before they were 28 days old, and 91 died when they were between 28 days and 1 year.

Babies born to teens are more likely to die in the first year of life than those born to women over 20. The causes of infant mortality among babies born to teens are numerous. "We once had a pregnant girl come in who was doing two to three grams of cocaine a day," says Heidi Grumbling, a certified nurse midwife at the Erie Teen Health Clinic. "The risk of having a difficult pregnancy and delivery was too high. We had to refer them to another hospital."

Drugs are a problem, especially among teen mothers, who can pass on their addictive cravings to their children. Babies' lives are unbearable as they shake and cry, and many times die for want of a dangerous drug they depend on to live.

Cocaine babies are only a few of those who die every year. Many teen mothers are heavy marijuana smokers during their pregnancy. We've all heard that marijuana does no damage to the body, but this is not true. Marijuana smoked during pregnancy can cause a baby to be born with damaged lung and bronchial tissue, a reduced immune capacity to various infections and diseases, and death.

Smoking cigarettes can also have serious effects on an unborn baby. Mothers who smoked during their pregnancy gave birth to twice as many stillbirths and low birth weight babies as mothers who didn't smoke. Excessive alcohol consumption can also lead to infants born with severe growth problems, low birth weight and death.

Substance abuse is not the only reason some babies born to teenage mothers die. Some of the major problems during pregnancy can be easily avoided by proper care and medical attention. In 1988, 1,266 teens received too late (third trimester) or no prenatal care at all. "We had one girl who came in when she was 16 and pregnant with her first baby," says Ms. Grumbling.

"...Infant mortality is a problem among teens, but it is very easy to prevent..."

"She was late on her prenatal care, and didn't take care of herself properly. She ended up giving birth at 7 months to a baby who was just 5.5 pounds."

In society, there is pressure to be thin, causing many teens to go on diets and starve themselves. When pregnant, however, it is normal, and essential to gain weight. Dieting during pregnancy only robs the baby of the essential nutrients it needs to live. "We get a lot of teens who don't eat well during their pregnancy," says Ms. Grumbling. "They don't like the idea of getting fat, but it just causes them to give birth to premature low birth weight babies, increasing the chance of infant mortality."

Several sexually transmitted diseases can also cause serious problems to an unborn child. "We get a lot of pregnant teens with an STD, and they don't even know it," says Ms. Grumbling. "We have to treat them first before continuing with the prenatal care."

Diseases like chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause premature labor and stillbirth. Herpes can also cause miscarriage and death, and if a child is born while the mother is suffering from active lesions, the child can develop serious health damage and development disabilities.

A mother who is infected with the HIV virus (AIDS) can also pass the disease onto her child. If the child contracts the disease there is no

cure, and it is fatal. One of the most harmful diseases is syphilis, since it usually has no symptoms, can be passed by kissing as well as sexual contact, and if untreated, has a high probability of causing birth defects as well as stillbirth.

Infant mortality is a problem among teens, but it is very easy to prevent. A pregnant teen needs to eat healthy. A weight gain of 25 pounds, 30 pounds, and even more is perfectly normal.

Drug and alcohol use during pregnancy must be stopped to ensure development of a healthy baby. "As soon as a girl thinks she is pregnant, she needs to come in and have a pregnancy test," says Geneva Hayden, community educator and counselor at Planned Parenthood in the Roseland community on the south side of Chicago. "Then we can refer her to a clinic where she can get proper prenatal care."

The "Beautiful Babies" program, which is available to pregnant women of all races, rich or poor, allows them to get coupons for various baby products. "The Beautiful Babies program informs the public about infant mortality," says Rebecca Holbrook, operations manager for "Beautiful Babies."

Beautiful Babies' coupon book has coupons for baby products, shoes, diapers, food, as well as things for the mother, such as maternity dresses, and manicures.

To get the "Beautiful Babies" coupon book, call 1-800-545-2200. The book is for pregnant women, and mothers with babies younger than 1 year old. The coupons are good for two years.

Early prenatal care, the discontinued use of alcohol and drugs, and the immediate checking of any signs of sexually transmitted diseases can all help to prevent newborn death and assure the health of the baby.

Teens and Finance



Funding for this column provided by the Money Management Institute of Household International



Illustration by Jackie Taylor, Bogan

STUDENT CREDIT CARDS: The perils of the plastic

By Anna Mikos
Queen of Peace

As summer draws near, high school seniors are preparing for their college experience. Most have found financial aid and other sources of income. But for those students who plan on going away to college, applying for a major credit card may be a smart decision. That is, if students learn and pay attention to all they need to know.

This is usually the first time that a student is out on his/her own. Although costs such as room and board are usually calculated ahead of time, other costs can accumulate. Instead of calling home for emergency cash, students can have easy access to money.

Janine Winski, who has worked as a credit consultant for banks, said that having a credit card will not only save students from financial

emergencies, but will also enable students to build a credit rating.

Although most students will be unable to apply for the credit card on their own because of no credit rating, most banks allow the parent to co-sign. "Changing Times" magazine found that having a parent co-sign will keep the student from over-charging and will help the student to maintain a reasonable balance.

A credit card is not all luxury. A representative from First National Bank said that if a student doesn't have the money, then he or she can run up credit from the very beginning. For instance, many students do not consider that credit cards have an interest rate of 19.8 percent, which means that each purchase ends up being more than the original price. If they pay only the minimum due each month, they will be in debt for a long time.

Every month, statements can be paid in full to avoid finance charges, or the minimum finance charge can be paid in increments of 2.5 percent of the bill over a period of 25 days, or into the next month.

If for some reason the bill cannot be paid, the students must go to the collection department and try to make arrangements for payment. There is no charge to have a card, and student cards have a \$800

spending limit.

For those students who have a difficult time managing a credit card, Winski suggests the secured credit card. The secured credit card, usually given to people who are bad financial risks, requires a "frozen" deposit for any charges made on the card.

"It's so easy to charge something that you don't realize how fast the money adds up," Winski explained, "it's easy to lose track of plastic."

For a list of banks that offer secured credit cards, students may write to BankCard Holders of America. For a copy of the list, send \$3 to BankCard Holders of America, 560 Herndon Parkway, Suite 120, Herndon, Va., 22070.

"Changing Times" magazine forecasts college campuses moving toward a cashless society, where bank cards will buy meals, books, and even laundry.

Companies such as CitiBank are recognizing the growing demand for credit cards on college campuses. During 1989, in over 1,000 campuses, CitiBank used direct-mail solicitation and on-campus sign-ups to attract student accounts. A spokesperson for CitiBank stated that the 1.4 million college students who carry CitiBank credit cards usually have good credit ratings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Try again, NE

I was very displeased at your feeble attempt at a sports page. When I saw, on the cover that you were going to have a sports page I was delighted, that was until I saw what it looked like. You can do better than this.

I was particularly upset at the article from Washington High School. First of all, it was written by the editor-in-chief of *The Patriot* and not a sports writer which I feel detracted from its significance. You don't read Mike Royko to find out what the Cubs are doing, and Ms. Aguilar is by no means a Mike Royko. On top of all this, it was the third time I read about the same damn thing. Finally, do you honestly feel that two articles constitute a sports page? Give me a break.

I sincerely hope that in the future if you want to make an attempt at something, you'll do a better job of it.

Sincerely,
Robert Sargis

Brown article on the ball; expand on coverage

I was really impressed with this month's sports section (March). The story on Kina Brown was excellent, you got a lot of information on her. I mean her grades, hobbies and future plans. The only complaint I have about this month's sports section is you don't have any information on any other sports.

Yours truly,
John M. Tsiaousis

Sports section welcome addition, needs more pages

It is a miracle that you got a sports section. But you should have more pages than two pages of sports. Talk about all the high school sports teams in Chicago. You should give what place they're in, division (example, Red North, Blue North, etc.) when they play, etc. I play baseball for Von Steuben Panthers, and I hope you write about us.

Thank you,
Jigar Desai

Sexism editorial ap- plauded and questioned

The article "Sexism: Have Women Truly Been Liberated?" by Milda Saunders was very good. She made many very good points, however, there were some that she missed. First, she mentioned how men are tough and make money while women are in beauty pageants and magazines. There are male beauty pageants. There are magazines that "objectify" men. Second, there are millions of women who complain about sexism and claim they want to be perfectly equal with men, yet they laugh at the possibility of a female draft in, the case of war. Many of these women would also never give up the ruffles, ribbons, and bows they wore as children or their lady-like upbringing. I am female, very much so, at that. And, of course, I don't like sexism, but I think some women take it a little too far. If we were all treated and dressed the same since birth, wouldn't life be a little confusing?

Sincerely,
Rachel Levin

Computer column good feature

I really think that Mike Tamez did an excellent job of reviewing the video game, LHX Chopper. He didn't miss a detail about the game! But I happened to notice something, what's the price of the game? I think printing the price of the game being reviewed would greatly help in deciding if I should buy the game or not. Keep up the good work!

Cordially yours,
Michael Jensen

YNS Racism article appreciated

On your article "Hate Crime On Rise Among Teens," I agree with Jefferson that Wimberly and his friends should get what they deserve. That brutal, possibly racially motivated attack was mentally damaging and traumatic; it was cruel and inhumane. Wimberly and his friends should realize that they're ruining another human being's mind and health for life, maybe. How would they like to be put in the same situation? Life for minorities is hard enough; they practically have to work and struggle twice as hard to succeed and encounter more challenging hardships. Besides, I don't think people should try to destroy other people's lives and ignore their certain inalienable rights just because others look and think differently. Who are we to decide who lives or dies when it comes to pointless racial issues, which don't even make sense. As Beethoven said, "No man has the right to trample over the rights of others."

Well, keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Hannah Fernandez

Censorship shouldn't exist

The article in the March 1991 edition of *New Expression* about censorship in music got me really upset. We're supposed to live in a "free" country yet people are not allowed to express themselves. The first amendment says that all people have freedom of speech. It doesn't say, "You have freedom of speech unless we don't like what you say." Ms. Brooks says that the white population has respect for the black population. In many cases that just isn't true. Black people have a right to be angry at white people for what was done to them in the past and even now. There should be no censorship in music. If the music is really that bad, then people won't buy it. It's that simple. Some people are just afraid of anything they don't agree with. This makes no sense, unless deep down you feel the person is right. If musicians don't go along with the mainstream they are usually branded as racist or a bad influence. This is really a tragedy because maybe one of these people could have made a real difference in ending racism, which is one of the main reasons that some musicians are censored.

Anton Zaleski

"Teen's turmoil over war" understood

In the March issue of *New Expression*, the article that interested me most was the front page story. The article was well written and it expressed the feeling a Moslem person had toward the war. It described the different feelings that Moslem people had toward to face. After the war ended, I realized that the Americans were not the only people who suffered. The Moslems suffered quite a bit because they were trapped between what the allied forces thought was right, and what their faith taught them. In the future, I think it would be interesting if you had more articles on what students think about certain issues that are happening in our world.

Respectfully yours,
Consuela Deznar

Write to us!

We invite the readers to share their ideas with other teens in the city. But we reserve the right to edit letters; the more concise the letter, the less we will have to edit from it to fit our space.

Send your letters to:

New Expression
207 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60604

****Please include your school name and telephone number****

We finished our reader survey... Now what?

By Sarah Karp
Managing Editor

The January issue of *New Expression* featured a reader-ship survey questionnaire which probed the lives of the teens who read our paper.

About 1,800 readers responded and 792 surveys were randomly selected for analysis.

The survey is in.

- Readers spend an average of \$99 on athletic shoes. This amount is more than teens spend on clothing, dress shoes, or video games.

- Our teen readers spend \$28 on snack food. They spend \$47 on video games and \$33 on tapes and CD's.

- The black teens who read our paper drink more Sprite and 7-Up than any other soft drink. But all other teens drink Pepsi more than any other soft drink. Fifty-one percent of black teens drink Sprite and 50 percent of other teens drink Pepsi.

- Fifty percent of all teens get their money from allowance and 26 percent get their money from a part-time job.

- Sixty-five percent of surveyed

teens plan to continue their education after high school.

- Eighty percent of the black teens who read *New Expression* also read the *Sun-Times*.

- However, the *Sun-Times* and the *Tribune* in equal amounts.

- The survey alerted the editors of *New Expression* that most of our readers - 62 percent - are female while 38 percent are male.

- The survey also reported that the majority of our readers - 61 percent - are black. Twenty-two percent are Hispanic, and two percent are Asian.

- The number of Hispanics reading *New Expression* increased 91 percent and the number of Asians has increased 233 percent.

- When teens scan the paper, 46 percent enjoy reading articles about parent-teen relationships.

Now what?

Now is the time for us at *New Expression* to take this information to heart.

We will try to find out what guys are interested in. Then we will try to appeal to those interests. We will also try to increase our readership in various communities.

We have started running sports as a regular feature and we are trying to think of new ways to have continual columns or articles on parent-teen relationships.

However, you must remember that *New Expression* is not only for you; it needs you.

You have the inside track on stories in your schools and in your neighborhoods. Our lines are open 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Our telephone number is 663-0543...ask to speak to Sarah Karp or Liz Kaufman.

You also possess the skills that we need. There is no such thing as too many writers, photographers or artists. We are at 207 S. Wabash, on the eighth floor every week day, so feel free to come in and be a part of the voice of young Chicago.



Illustration by Rugen Reyes, UNI

GULF WAR MEDIA COVERAGE AN ASSAULT ON U.S. PUBLIC

The war is over and the dust is settling. Now that much of the action and emotion has subsided, people can look objectively at the events of the past six weeks.

The media have been the "eyes and ears of the people" during the war. They have examined military maneuvers, political strategies and social ramifications. But who has examined the media?

If they are our eyes and ears, it is important that they see and hear clearly. It is important that they report accurately. Who better to judge them than those that they profess to serve?

We at New Expression felt especially qualified to rate media coverage. We are professional enough to know good journalism based on objective standards. Yet we are ordinary enough to know good journalism based on our gut reaction. We also have a special perspective. We see the war through the eyes of teens, the future newsmakers and news viewers.

There are a lot of teens who can offer no opinion of war coverage because they "turned off" the war. Cable and videocassettes became increasingly popular. Granted, in some cases that trend can be attributed to teen apathy. Teens didn't see how it affected their lives directly.

Or perhaps it was so close to home, with a friend or relative over there, that it was too painful to watch. But in most

cases it was due to teens being put off by the coverage of the war.

The most common complaint was overexposure. Given the gravity of the situation, it cannot be called, "much ado about nothing." Perhaps we can more accurately say that it was "too much ado about something."

During the first days and weeks of the war, it was on most stations constantly. That would not have been a problem if they had had anything to say. Preparation and mobilization for war is a tedious process. In all of the confusion there was very little verifiable information.

It was unnecessary to subject viewers to up-to-the-minute reporting when there was often no news for hours on end. As a result there was a lot of speculation and recapping just to fill air time. An hour once a day of pertinent information is better than being on the air all day with nothing to say, just to claim 24-hour coverage.

Another complaint was the lack of depth or focus. When faced with filling large slots of time with little or no news, the media were forced to improvise. Every possible topic even remotely related to the Middle East was explored. Social issues and military strategy took prece-

dence over factual reporting and analysis.

More people were discussing women in combat than were discussing the validity of our presence there. Every citizen knew the weather in the Middle East while

few people knew that region's countries and their political histories.

This war was style over substance, frills over facts.

It was based on the maxim: He who put on the best show, drew the most viewers, got the highest ratings and made the most money.

As one teen noticed, "It was so commercial. They had a logo and theme music. It was more like a TV show than real life."

Also adding to the TV show effect was the melodramatic, emotionalized stories. They got our sympathies and our attention with the crying mothers and wives. We cooed and smiled when we saw toddlers talking to their daddies via satellite on a morning talk show. We watched in horror as reporters stood in a dark background with the lights flashing overhead to tell us that there was "some bombing going on."

The shallowness of the TV news coverage is not totally the fault of the media, nor was it true in all cases. By its very nature, TV has to be more surface-oriented and easily digestible. We are the "People"/"Current Affair" generation. We often just want to be entertained, not informed. It is simply a matter of supply and demand.

There was also difficulty in relaying information because of the difficulty print and electronic media

had obtaining it. Politicians often answered questions with grand generalities. There was also the problem of censorship.

All of the news stories from the substantial to the trivial had to be cleared by U.S. censors. The public still doesn't know the full extent of that censorship. Did they just edit out military secrets or everything that didn't portray the United States in a favorable light?

The shallowness of the news coverage can be excused when it was due to governmental censorship. Yet some actions of the U.S. news media are inexcusable...internal censorship, biased journalism and outright misinterpretation of the truth.

From the beginning of war, much of the media seemed to support Bush and his decision to go to war. They didn't just echo and relay the American people's sentiments; they announced their own opinion. We realize that as citizens media members have their own opinions, but as journalists, they have no need to report them.

"...More people were discussing women in combat than were discussing the validity of our presence there..."

Let's leave the editorializing to the editorial writers. If this was, indeed, a valid war. If Bush was acting in the best interests of our country. If Hussein was such a villain. Then the facts should speak clearly enough for themselves.

The media should only present us with the data needed for us to come to a logical conclusion, they should not parade their own conclusions around calling them facts. Perhaps their biased slant was

caused by misplaced patriotism. In the midst of a war, they thought it best to present a unified front. As a result only those that supported the war were given substantial air time or page space.

Those people who had any hesitation about our participation in the war were viewed either in an unfavorable light or not at all.

In the beginning of the war, Chicago teen protesters were not interviewed. They were shown on the news running into the street disrupting traffic.

Minority, religious and political leaders who objected to aspects of the war were interviewed by "alternative" newspapers. Why is it unpatriotic to question whether a war is what's best for our country? Why is it unpatriotic to say we should concentrate money and energy on "taking care of business at home"? Why is it unpatriotic to realize that although "might makes right," it doesn't necessarily make it moral? The dissenters are also patriots because they took a stand against popular opinion to discover what's really best for the United States.

Of course, to most Americans, fair war reporting is a moot issue. We have overwhelmingly won the war and all is well. But what if things had not turned out that way? What if we had been led down the primrose path to war and had been pricked by the thorns? What if the press' propaganda had worked so well that we were blinded to our oncoming disaster?

These things did not happen, so it is not a problem. What is a problem is that the press was so busy trying to convince us to back the government in the struggle for Kuwaitis' rights that they neglected the Americans' "right to know."

— By Milda Saunders
St. Ignatius

BEST OF CHICAGO SCHOOLS



LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL's

four-year program of studio drawing, painting, sculpture and social studies art history, has helped result in two national awards in the Scholastic Art Awards Exhibit and first place for three years in the Lake View/Ravenswood Historical Association Art contest. The program has been selected for college credit classes at the Art Institute.



VON STEUBEN METROPOITAN SCIENCE CENTER's

academic decathlon team placed third in state, winning over 80 individual medals in district, city, and state competition. The freshman-sophomore girls' volleyball and swim teams placed second in the city, and two members of the girls' tennis team went to state. Several members of the 1991 class scored 30 or above on the ACT test.

JOSEPHINUM HIGH SCHOOL

is flying into the future with a video yearbook. That look ahead includes a year-long course next fall in minority literature, and an expanded business program. The basketball team won Chicagoland's Prep championship, with 12 wins and no losses. Sophomore LaShann Roberts made all-conference basketball, and sophomore Stephanie McKennie made the same for volleyball.

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL FOR GIRLS'

class of 1991 passed 99.4 percent of their fall 1990 courses. Students Haleemeh Mohammed and Michelle Kozak were named as Golden Apple Foundation Academy of Educators winners, and the school held an international festival in February attended by more than 1000 people.

STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

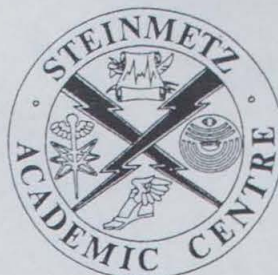
offers a unique college preparatory and fitness program, including summer college internships for junior and seniors, and the centre for wellness and sports science. Senior Mary Beth Small was named Outstanding Young Scientist by the Museum of Science and Industry.

MORGAN PARK ACADEMY's

boys basketball team were the Independent League Champions for the 1990-91 school year. Seventy percent of its freshmen ranked among the top 25 percent nationwide in the National Educational Development Test. Seniors exceeded national averages of both public and private schools on SAT scores.

GORDON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

has its own in-house TV studio. Technical shop classes are offered, as is a new health and fitness lab. The All-American State Bank on Kedzie recently showcased Gordon Tech students' artwork. A basketball player was recently the subject of a Chicago Magazine photo illustration.



KELLY HIGH SCHOOL

has a new principal, Dr. John Gelsomino. In six months, the number of student clubs has grown from 12 to 51 and the athletic program has grown from six interscholastic teams to 22. The attendance rate has risen by five percent over last school year's.



ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL's

senior Chris Kamys was the first St. Pat's student to be named the All-Sectional Soccer Team. Senior Brian Kopf was named to the All-ESCC Teams in football and basketball, and to the Chicago Tribune's all-area basketball team. Tom Warta placed sixth in the state finals of the 100-yard backstroke. Twenty class of 1991 members were named Illinois State Scholars.

CHICAGO VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL's

junior aviation class is rebuilding a helicopter. The first vocational school in the city is the only school in the state offering both air frame and power plant courses, and is one of 12 state schools FAA approved. Eighty percent of the students find work in the field.

CURIE METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL

has set up a college career center to answer individual questions about college. With a pledge from the administration of \$10,000, the center has computers, programs, audio-visual aids. Computers provide scholarship information and write letters for the students to their prospective colleges.

MARIA HIGH SCHOOL

students Rocia Lopez, Amy Lovell, Patricia Rosales, Edna Vacchiano and Denise Nolan started a recycling program with the help of physics teacher Sister Margaret Zalot and Waste Management of America, Inc. Beyond collecting plastics each morning, the girls made an informational video.

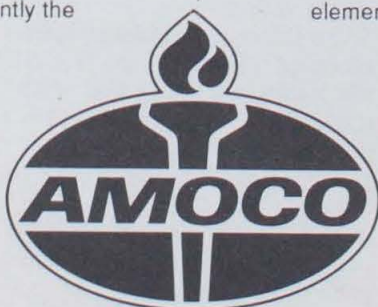
PROVIDENCE - ST. MEL 's

1991 boys' track team placed first in the Illinois State Invitational. Basketball players Tim Ervin, Don Patton, and Arthur Browder were all-conference, and the boys' and girls' cross country teams won the Chicago Prep Conference. The 1991 class is the largest class since the school became independent in 1978.

FOREMAN HIGH SCHOOL

has a peer helper program for future high school students in cooperation with Northwest Youth Outreach. Peer helpers interact with students at their former elementary schools to prevent the anxiety associated with starting high school.

"Best of Chicago Schools"



is funded by Amoco Corp.

Look for more schools in the May and June issues of NE!

Youth Communication and KRAFT GENERAL FOODS

in cooperation with the Department of Cultural Affairs

present the first annual

CELEBRATING

NEW EXPRESSIONS

An art, photography, poetry, and prose contest
for Chicago high school students

The categories are

drawing
painting
photography
fiction
poetry

ENTER TODAY!!

Please make sure you read all the rules before entering!

Celebrating New Expressions

C O N T E S T R U L E S

Eligible entrants include teens who can prove Chicago residency and who are enrolled in a Chicago high school. Students may submit only one entry per category. Please do not submit any work copied from published photographs, illustrations and other artwork.

Teachers are discouraged from submitting multiple entries that represent the same class assignment. If there is any doubt as to the originality of the artwork, the teacher should not submit it.

Entry forms must accompany all submissions and MUST be filled out COMPLETELY and CLEARLY - either printed or typed. (May clip out or photocopy entry blank from *New Expression* March 1991 issue on page 10, or obtain a copy from your art or English teacher).

Teens and relatives of teens involved with Youth Communication/New Expression, Kraft employees and their relatives are not qualified to enter this contest.

DRAWING

PAINTING

ink, pencil (colored or graphite), pastel (chalk or oil), crayon, acrylic, oil or watercolor
8" x 10" minimum 24" x 30" maximum
(NOTE: Measurements do not include mat)

1. Length or width of artwork cannot be less than 8" or exceed 30".
2. All entries MUST be matted in black. (Mat should be at least 2" wide, 4" at most)
3. All entries must be backed, flush with mat.
4. Entry forms must be securely attached on the back of each entry, centered.

Stretched canvases may be submitted, although they are discouraged. Canvas board, and canvases removed from frames and stretched around boards are preferred.

PHOTOGRAPHY

black and white or color

8"x10" or 11"x17"

(NOTE: Measurements do not include mat)

1. All entries MUST be matted in white. (Mat should be at least 2" wide, 4" at most)
2. All entries MUST be backed, flush with mat.
3. Entry forms must be securely attached on the back of each entry, centered.

FICTION

2,000-word maximum

1. MUST be typed, double-spaced, on one side of 8 1/2" x 11" sheets of paper.
2. Margins should be 1" left and right, 2" at top of first page, following pages 1" at top, 2" at bottom of each page.
3. All pages must be numbered at bottom center.
4. Cover sheets should contain title of work ONLY.
5. Entries must be presented in a blue folder (any shade of blue)
6. Entry forms must be securely attached on the back of folder, upper left corner.

POETRY

150-word maximum

1. MUST be typed, double-spaced, on one side of 8 1/2" x 11" sheets of paper.
2. Margins should be 1" left and right, 2" at top of first page, following pages 1" at top, 2" at bottom of each page.
3. All pages must be numbered at bottom center.
4. Cover sheets should contain title of work ONLY.
5. Entries must be presented in a red folder (any shade of red)
6. Entry forms must be securely attached on the back of folder, upper left corner.

Entries may be covered with acetate or cellophane to help minimize damage from multiple handling. Entries of pencil, pastel, or crayon should be spray-fixed to avoid smudging and fading. To avoid damage or loss of attached entry form, we recommend sealing with tape, acetate or cellophane. Send entries by freight service PREPAID or PARCEL POST (if size and weight permit), if unable to deliver in person. We will not accept C.O.D.s. If you would like to know if we received your entry, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

Youth Communication and Kraft assume no responsibility for loss or damage. We reserve the right to reprint selected entries.

Entries will be returned to each school as soon as possible after judging. Entrants can also arrange to pick up entries at our downtown office.

Send or bring entries to:

Youth Communication, 207 S. Wabash, 8th floor, Chicago, IL 60604

If you have any questions, contact Lorraine Reyes at (312) 663-0543

Deadline for entries is on
April 15, 1991!

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You'll spend most of your life working once you leave high school and college. Be sure you love what you do for a living.

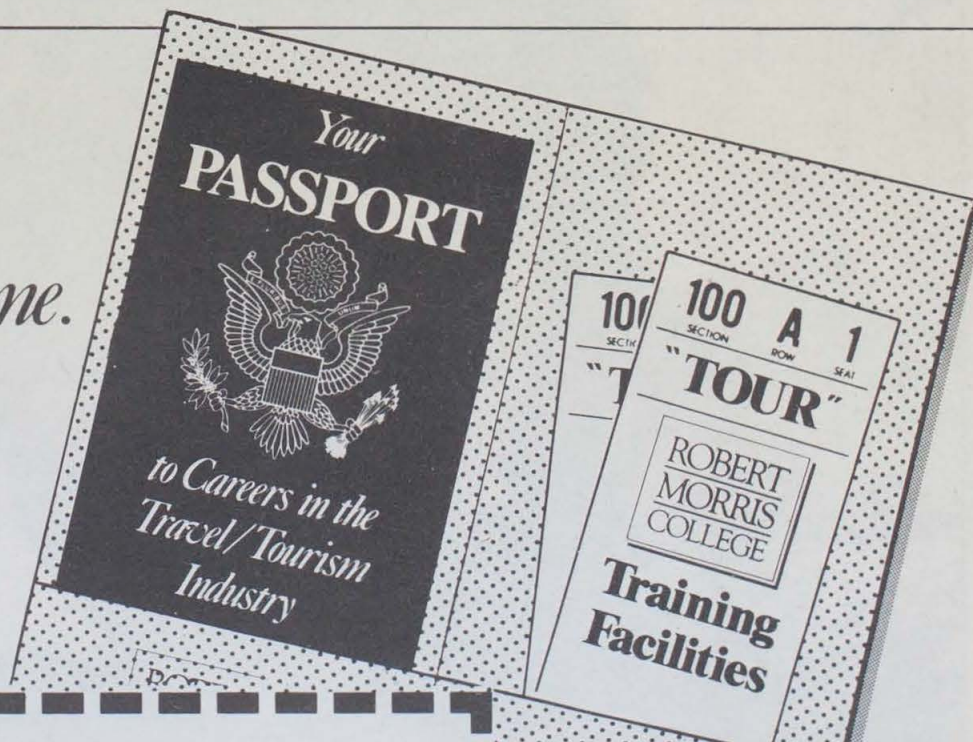
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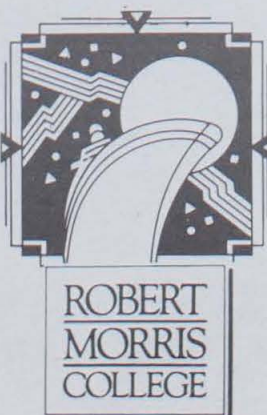
But you need the right training to get your start. The kind of training offered at Robert Morris College.

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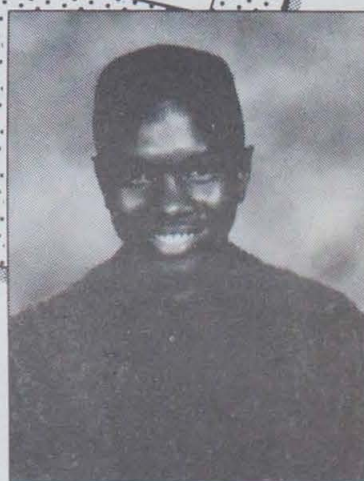


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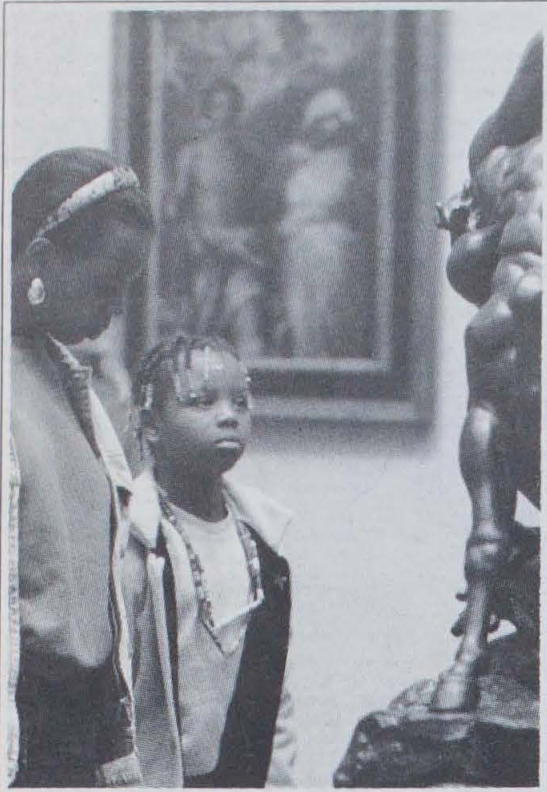
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Two Chicagoans take advantage of free museum day 1990 at the Art Institute.

Chicago Day is a museum free-for-all

Fourteen museums and other areas of historic interest will be open free-of-charge Sunday, May 5 the city's "ChicagoDay."

From noon to 5 p.m, events will also include:

- A Cinco de Mayo celebration at the University of Chicago campus, complete with a fencing and jousting exhibit, and live Hispanic music.
- A family workshop at the Art Institute of Chicago, where participants will make "rainbow sun-catchers."
- The Red Rose Ragtime Band will entertain at the Chicago Historical Society.
- Live jazz and gospel music will be played at the Illinois Institute of Technology.
- Comic lovers can check out the new "Comic as Art" exhibit at the Art Institute, while bike riders can hitch a ride on an antique cycle at the Chicago Historical Society.

Free bus service will be available at all locations from 11:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. For more information or a copy of the Chicago Day brochure, call 312-230-4880.



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New Expression APRIL 1991 **10**

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The Mayor's Office of Employment and Training offers summer jobs to qualified youths-
You may be eligible for a **\$4.25 per hour** summer job.

You Must:

- Be a Chicago resident
- Be between 14-21 years old
- Be a member of a low-income family
- Have a Social Security card
- Be registered for the Selective Service (if male, 18 years or older)

Registration for the program begins April 15, 1991

For more information and a complete list of documents required for the application process, call 744-8787 or one of the centers below:

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GAGE PARK
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Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago

Mary Gonzalez Koenig, Director
Mayors Office of Employment and Training

CALLING ALL MEN!

A guys guide to prom etiquette

By Andres Hernandez
St. Ignatius

Men, it looks like its that time o' year again! Yeah, you guessed it, it's "Prom Time" again buddies!

Time to break out with the patent leather shoes that never stay shined, the half-wilted technicolor corsages that never stay pinned correctly, the semi-luxury cars that cost two arms and two legs to drive, the undersized pastel tuxedos with matching waist and neck harnesses (cummerbund and bow tie for all you proper types), etc.

But anyway, on a more serious note, I'm here to warn you fellow brothers. I have been to the other side men, and I must warn you: GET PREPARED! Now all of you women reading this might be thinking, "What do boys (men take note: most women will never refer to you as a man) have to prepare for prom?"

OK, fine, women have to prepare a lot: find a date, find a dress, get it made, get hair done, get nails done, etc., etc., etc. (the list is endless...or is it?) But we (men, that is) have oh so much more to do.

For starters, we have to find a date because we just can't seem to count on you women to ask us. So we, the strong masculine hunks that we are, must break down, risking our manhood mind you, and ask one of you to prom. We must face our ultimate fear, rejection so we can go to this dance and make our parents proud.

After we find a date, (that is, if we find a date, but then if we don't, well why should we go on living?) we advance to space two on the prom game board, which combines buying the prom bid and picking out a semi-GQ-ish tuxedo (of course with the matching cummerbund and bow tie).

That's right, we must break down once again and ask a woman a question which slowly erodes our manhood away: "Well, what color is your dress gonna be?" or "Uh, duh, what color tux do you think I should wear? I liked the electric blue one myself." Some of us out-of-style men will have our dates accompany us to look for a tuxedo, which is really humiliating. WARNING MEN: although your date says it looks cute, white tails and a pink ruffled shirt looks tacky, believe me.

WARNING #2: Get all of your money together. Pile up all the money you saved from shoveling snow for three months. I know you women are thinking, "Oh, but those are the only things that boys need to do for prom." But, wait, there's a special bonus! Prepare yourself because I'm gonna run through this pretty fast kids!

Men have to get a flower for their dates (and not just any flower, but one that matches her dress)

Men have to find a means of transportation (be it car, limo, carriage, horse, foot, etc.), but of course, that's assuming that the man drives (I know all of you women would love to drive while wearing a floor length dress and high heels!) and he has money to rent this movable object.

And I'm willing to bet that men have to make reservations at restaurants so that their dates won't starve on prom night (but of course, men know that women will resort to transforming into a rabbit and ordering a salad).

WARNING #3 (aren't you getting tired of these?): McDonald's is not considered a post-prom eatery! Boy (I mean "Man" - sorry guys), it seems like a man's job is never done.

Are all you women satisfied out there?

Good! Now you see what men have to prepare for prom. Now it's time for a quick review. Men handle the dates, tuxedo, flower, bid, transportation, and eats. Women handle the dress, hair, and nails (it sort of pales in comparison to what men do, doesn't it?) Women, don't get mad, this is only one man's opinion (or is it? - c'mon guys, back me up). The moral of this whole story? Well, kids, do NOT, I repeat, do NOT take your date for granted. There are about a zillion things to prepare for prom. But, the question is, are YOU prepared?

What's Up In Prom Wear?

By Angela Mathis
Senn Academy

Hey, Ladies! Do you want to know what's up this prom season? Jane Smith, a representative from Carson Pirie Scott said the styles that are most sought after are strapless, full skirt, off-the-shoulder and short-sleeved. Preferred colors are jazzy, bright colors, creams, gold and all shades of purple, peach, white, and pastels. Black isn't used much this season. People are willing to pay up to \$250. The average price is around \$175 to \$200. These prices include labor charges and the cost of fabric.

If you are short, dark, or tall, don't fear. There are salespeople and dressmakers who will help you find what you're looking for. If you are tall and skeptical about wearing a short outfit, don't worry. Laurie Redden of Sew Crazy said short skirts on tall ladies makes them look a little shorter and fuller. If you are unsure about a dress or the dress you want, a dressmaker will stand you in front of a mirror, measure you and show you a book of dresses. If you are a little on the heavy side, don't worry, the dressmaker can create a slimming look by flaring under the abdomen.

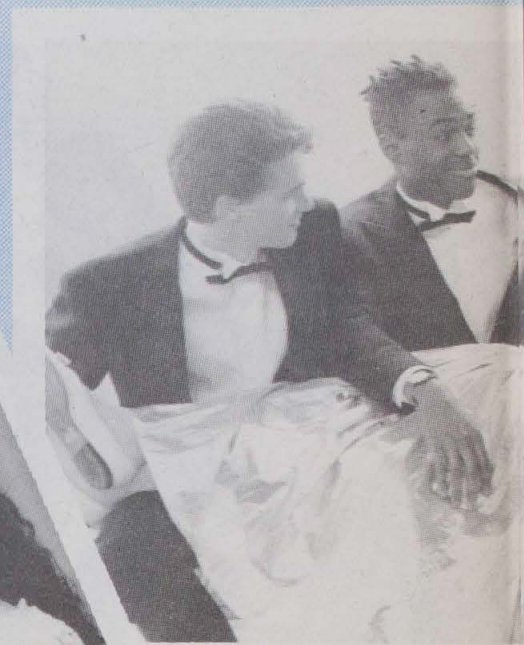
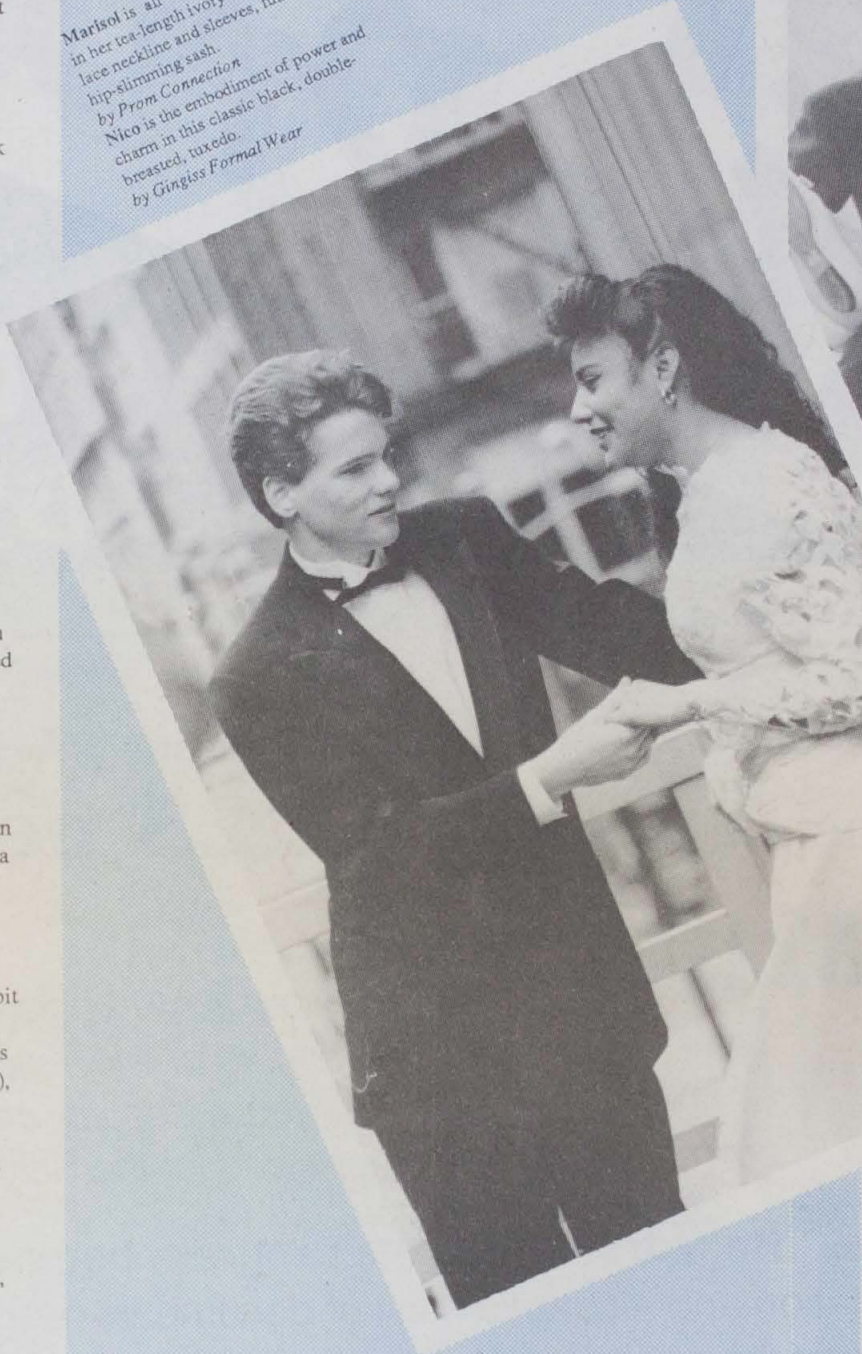
How long does it take to make a prom dress? A rush dress could be made in a week but the average dressmaker likes to take two weeks. There's an extra charge for a rushed dress, between 10 to 20 percent.

Hey guys, double-breasted and show collars are in. Have a safe and happy prom!

PROM

1 9

Marisol is all elegance and femininity in her tea-length ivory satin dress with lace neckline and sleeves, full skirt and hip-slimming sash.
by Prom Connection
Nico is the embodiment of power and charm in this classic black, double-breasted, tuxedo.
by Gingiss Formal Wear

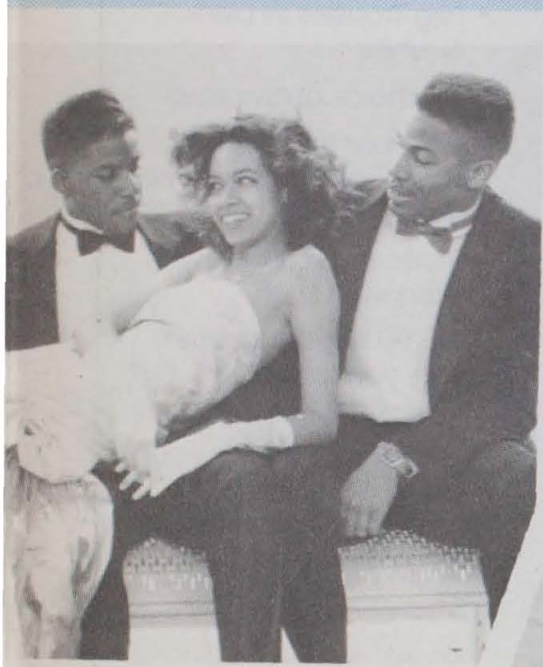


Photographers
Jelani Mahiri, Kenwood
Najia Zarif, Whitney Young

Tuxedos provided by Gingiss Formal Wear.

Dresses provided by Prom Connection and Sew Crazy.

New Expression's Cutest Couple
contest winners Monica Daugherty (third from left) and Ishmael Rideaux (the only man in the photo <woof woof!>) hang with the gang. She is wearing a white halter-topped dress with full skirt in fuschia and delicately wrapped in a long shawl.
by Sew Crazy



Elisabeth is the belle of the ball in a strapless close-fitting bodice of floral lamé print and skirted by floor-length silver lamé.
by Prom Connection
The guys are sporting black tuxedos by Gingiss Formal Wear



New Expression's Cutest Couple Contest winners Jamila Tims and Scott DuPart. She is wearing a sequined mini-skirt with black taffeta ruffles, black bolero jacket and matching silver gloves.
by Prom Connection
Scott is wearing single-breasted black jacket with satin-trimmed pockets, blue satin cummerbund and bow tie.
by Gingiss Formal Wear

Cutest Couple Contest Winners
Ishmael Rideaux and Monica Daugherty from Julian
Scott DuPart and Jamila Tims from Hyde Park congratulations!

Models:
Scott DuPart, 17, Hyde Park
Jamila Tims, 18, Hyde Park
Ishmael Rideaux, 17, Julian
Monica Daugherty, 17, Julian
Marisol Legis, 16, Richards Vocational
Nico Berry, 16, Kenwood
Jelani Mahiri, 16, Kenwood
Kristen Petrillo, 16, Lane Tech
Elisabeth Heard, 17, St. Ignatius



Also pictured is Kristen (second from the left) who is wearing a gold strapless close-fitting bodice of floral lamé print and floor-length skirt with a portrait-collar wrap.
by Prom Connection

Cover models:
(left to right) Elisabeth Heard, Nico Berry, Marisol Legis

PROM JITTERS:

The anxiety of that magical night

By Nicholas Berry
Kenwood Academy

Dad always tells you about he and your mom's first date; Senior Prom. It was so romantic. She was dressed up in a long, beautiful, pink dress. He was looking quite handsome in his black tuxedo.

Unfortunately, he didn't tell you about the horrible anxiety you have to go through beforehand. Who am I going with? How are we getting there? How am I going to pay for all this? Do I have to take her to dinner, too?

Don't worry, you aren't alone. Most guys procrastinate until the last minute to get all of this together. The first thing you have to sort out is whether you are going or not. The reason a lot of people don't go is because they don't know where they can get the money to pay for everything. Some schools are asking up to \$90, and that's only for the tickets. You also have to think about paying for renting a tuxedo, gas to get there if you are driving, or cab fare, or bribe money to get one of your friends to drive you. You also need money if you are going to dinner or a snack afterwards, and many couples rent out hotel rooms, so they don't have to come home late and wake their parents. Many guys pay for prom out of money from their job, or their parents may feel generous, and offer to pay for all or at least some of the expense.

Senior Daniel Mikalic says, "My parents will probably pay for the tickets and the tux, but I'd have to pay for everything else." Since women's lib is so prominent nowadays, are the ladies paying as well as the guys? According to senior Jelani Mahiri, "No, I'll probably pay for everything except the dress. Unless, of course, she wants to pay!"

As for who you are going with, there are three options for most people. Go with your steady girlfriend, if you have one, find a date specifically for prom, or go with a friend. Senior Jordan Williams said, "I'm going to go with a date, unless I can't find one, then I'm going with a friend." This was the opinion of almost everyone I talked to.

Even with all these options, prom still isn't for everyone. The price is very high, and not worth it for some people. Senior Gabriel Mitchell says, "Prom is a joke, the music is lousy, it's too expensive, and the food sucks." Mitchell also said, "If I want to go to a formal dance so badly, I can just wait until after high school, and go to something that's not so expensive."

Why it's OK not to go to prom

By Melanie McFarland
Morgan Park Academy

"So, have you gotten your prom dress yet?"

"No."

"Why?"

"Because I'm not going to prom."

"WHAT?!"

Yep. I'm not going to prom. Horror of horrors. I didn't go last year either. I am a normal person. I'm not exactly bad to look at either, even if I do say so myself. So it's not a question of getting a date. I just don't want to go.

Let me explain. When I was little, I saw my sister go off to prom in May. In my 7-year-old mind, visions of Cinderella and her magical ball danced. I knew that some day I would be able to put on a silky, gauzy gown like the one she wore, wear Mommy's best jewels, and accompany my own Prince Charming off to the ball.

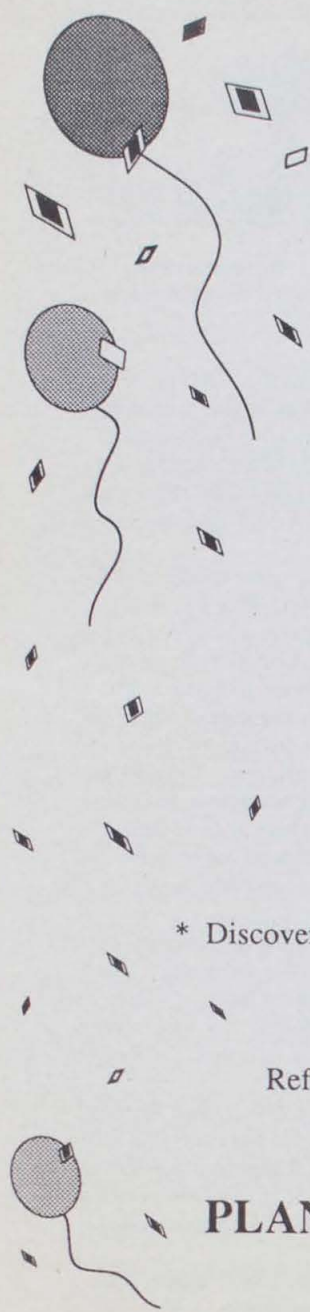
However, I did not consider that this ball would also be attended by my classmates, the same people that make fart noises with their armpits, idolize Johnny Depp, drool at a picture of Cindy Crawford and go into hysterics upon hearing words like "dung" and "booby hatch." Sure, they'll be dressed in tuxedos and ball gowns, but they will still be idiots.

That's my reason. However, there are other reasons that people don't go. For instance, one of my friends isn't going because she's saving her money to go to Greece, and she'd rather have money to buy souvenirs abroad than spend it on a dress that she'll only wear a few times. After all, like she told me: how much sense

does it make to spend an exorbitant amount of money on something that will only last a few hours anyway? A few hundred dollars can buy a lot of great stuff that you can use every day.

Then, there are my friends that just are not excited at the idea of wearing formal wear. Sure, formal dresses are nice, but what person truly enjoys having to worry what or who touches their clothes every minute, or whether their undergarments are slipping? As for tuxes, many guys may think that they look like James Bond, but deep down inside, they know that they look like a penguin. And who can truly be individualistic in a tux, unless you do something wacky to your hair or shoes? (In which case you come off looking like a fool anyway.)

My point is, it's okay not to go to prom, even if it is your senior year. Nobody is obligated to go. If you've been dreaming about it all year, as many people have, then have a great time. But if you are feel uncomfortable about going, don't have the time, or you just aren't interested, then don't go. It's not abnormal, and it doesn't mean that you're less of a person or anything. After all, Kevin Costner didn't go to prom, and he's one of America's foremost sex symbols. So it's not a bad thing. You'll probably end up having more fun than most people. Besides, it's your night, and you can do what you want to, do what you want to, do what you want to...



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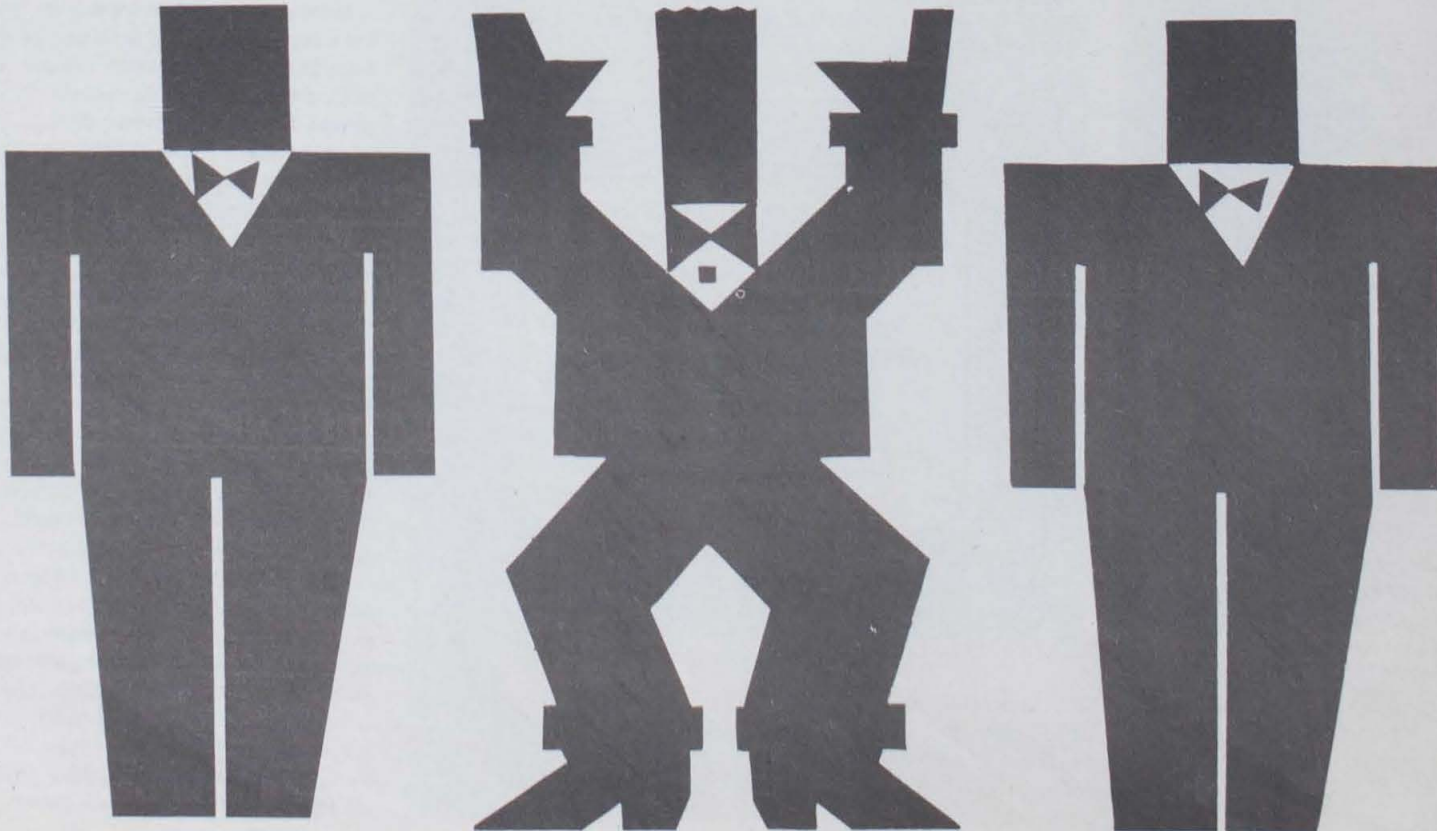
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YOUNG CHICAGO



Illustration by Larry Miller II, Hyde Park

Epic of the Disco Freaks

By Clarence Lang
St. Ignatius

I am in my basement, the cluttered subterranean cavern where I spin and sleep and dwell. It is dark, lit dimly by several strategically placed lava lamps and a strobe light dangling from the ceiling. It revolves lazily, adding erratic illumination. Posters of Miles Davis, Led Zeppelin, the Cure, De La Soul, and the Jungle Brothers adorn my walls. In one corner stands a bookcase, but it holds no books. It houses thousands upon thousands of disco cuts, some accessible, others rare and elusive. Some are from the neighborhood import record store, others from the far reaches of the globe.

In front of it sits my equipment (turntables, microphones, cross faders, earphones, massive speakers, and all). I have chosen my weapon. Bird had a sax. Hendrix had an axe. I have a sound system.

I am not alone in my cavern. My tribe sits with me. Dain and Mahari, Levi and Vasquez. We wait only for Shepherd, who has gone to rent a van to transport my equipment to the club for the ceremony, an event that has been in the making for a month. Flyers, posters, word of mouth. Every form of revelation has been employed to announce my coming. Tonight the tribes will meet.

Shepherd arrives. We spend

forty-five minutes transferring my equipment from the basement to the van. We spend another thirty minutes deciding which records to bring. Soon we are in motion, gliding down Michigan Avenue. I see posters on practically every lamppost, posters heralding my arrival:

THE TRIBES GO TO WAR

BRIAN JONES
(ACID NATION)

ROCKET J. SUAVE
A. MYLES
(DEEP HOUSE
UNDERGROUND) (X)

STEVELAND CHEVRY
(DISCO FREAKS)

SATURDAY, FEB. 23, 1991
9:00 UNTIL

AT
THE CAVERN
166 W. RANDOLPH ST.

\$6.00—NO STARTER GEAR
ALLOWED!
A BROTHERS SOUL
PRODUCTION

I am the keynote speaker to night, as the poster suggests. The others are just going to warm up the masses. For me. Their names, and their tribes' names, might as well not even be written alongside mine.

We drive past the front

entrance of the club. The line winds around corners. The pay will be good. The police can barely contain them, the multitudes of bell-bottomed pants, Doctor Martin's shoes, hoop earrings, processed hair, mohair jackets, funky, psychedelically-printed shirts and scarves and hats, African beads, ankh necklaces, peace-sign chains. My generation is not an indifferent one. We struggle. We fight. To party.

Shepherd parks the van behind the club. We climb out, six 17 year olds swallowed in baggy suits, silk shirts, black oxfords, funky-dope ties, fade haircuts, earrings. Nose rings. The Freaks live well. Dain and I walk in the back door to see the lay of the land while the house security comes out to help my other tribesmen bring in my equipment.

We step onto the dance floor, incredibly vast and incredibly filled. Sparkling, flashing, probing strobe lights shed their freakish sunshine on the wasteland that stretches before me. It is like Sodom. Bodies here, there, undulating to the music, gyrating, groping, revelling in their hedonism.

I smile, inhaling deeply the acrid smell of sweat and lust, feeling the heat of nations, watching the primal rituals take place before me. This is my element.

Dain nudges me. "You got to admit it, man. Myles is pretty good," he says, pointing to the dude pumping out the music atop the platform at the front of the hall.

"He is, " I concede, "but not good enough."

Dain smiles. He loves my arrogance.

A group of tribesmen in Girbaud jeans and snap-brim hats jostle past us, holding aloft a drunken female. They remind me of warriors back from the hunt, showing off their prey.

"Ho!" they chant. "Ho! Ho!"
Dain nudges me. "Let's get into it, man," he says.

We take the floor, twirling ourselves on foot like figure skaters, grabbing our other legs and holding them behind our backs. We spin on the floor. We caper, like Greek gods, and pretty soon people have gathered around us, forgoing their ritualistic dances in favor of watching us do ours.

Myles' set ends at 1:00, and my tribe begins setting up for mine. By then, word has gotten around the club that the Freaks are in the house. The adulation reaches a fever pitch when I mount the platform, where my massive system has been placed and hooked up. I am a god, the sound system is my altar, and the people below me are my worshippers. My ritual can begin.

"Now," Dain says into the microphone. His deep voice echoes through the hall. "Music from the mind. . . of Steve Chevy."

My music begins with a pulsating, throbbing, thundering beat that shakes the club down to its foundation. The crowd resumes its ceremonial dance, the rites continue. Then I add an instrumental. Then a minute later, another. And another. And another.

Soon, a shape-shifting beast is raging over the dance floor. It is invisible, scentless, intangible, elusive. It hypnotizes, saps the individual will and creates a mob consciousness. I alone control it, for I have conjured it. I have breathed polyrhythmic life into it with my turntables, and I have given it strength and mobility with my speakers. Now I release it to wreck and ruin and destroy all in its path. I crank up the bass. The dance floor is in flames. I keep my eyes closed. If I open them, I will disintegrate, become a pillar of salt.

The party people are no longer dancing. They are consumed in hellfire, writhing in agony. They are gnashing their teeth, mangling one another. But after they are done mutilating themselves, after the last heartbeat on the dance floor has ceased, my beat will continue.

*If she can
look up to you
she'll never
look down
on herself.*



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BUILD A FUTURE

Women

By Sarah Karp
Lincoln Park

A little girl sits on the floor fitting Legos together. When she is done she sits back to see what she has made: a colorful, oddly shaped house.

"A lot of times women get caught doing work that doesn't last, like being a secretary (who) does someone else's work. But when you help to build a building, it stands. People walk in and out of it each day.

"I used to fix elevators in the Sears Tower. Thirty thousand people rode the elevator each day. That is satisfying," said Laura Sargarman, an ex-tradeswoman.

A woman may not picture herself working in an elevator shaft smitten with grease. But by not considering this position she may be depriving herself.

Women are missing out on good money and good jobs.

Without a college education, many women sink into low-paying jobs which do not lift them far above the poverty level. The Senate Budget Committee reported that 43 percent of women in the labor force with families of four were employed in jobs that pay below poverty level wages.

But this does not have to be true. Women could break out of traditional jobs and become carpenters, painters, or elevator constructors. They could make from \$14 to \$25 an hour. They can get health care benefits, union memberships, and pensions.

"One of the advantages is on-the-job training. Trades have apprenticeships where you are paid to learn," said Sargarman, who is now the director of Women in Trades, a non-for-profit association of 300 tradeswomen. "You learn skills that you can use to go into your own businesses. Skill gives you power."

"Some women like pink collar jobs," said Irma Jimenez, a 25-year-old electrician. "But others love to build things with their hands.

"I love to get dirty. A lot of times we work in mud," Jimenez said. Jimenez is wearing a purple T-shirt, gym shoes and blue jeans. She is clear thinking and soft spoken.

"I sort of stumbled into this job," said Jimenez who got her job when the government forced unions to open more positions to women. The electrical union needed people. Jimenez spent four years as an apprentice. An apprentice works on the job nine months a year and goes to school for two months.

"When you first become an appren-

tice it is hard. For some you become an outlet," said Jimenez. "You need a sense of humor in the trades. You need to joke around because you are constantly tired. That is a big word in the trades 'tired.'"

"But it is also challenging.

"At first when I told my family they thought it was funny," said Jimenez. "They thought it was a phase. My mother was afraid I would get hurt. My father thought it was interesting.... he is also in the trades, he is a welder. I come from a family of six of which four are boys but I am the only one who went into the trades. My father was instrumental and encouraging.

"My brothers didn't know how to introduce me to their friends. They would blush a little. But now they are like 'Hey Irma my friend has a fan that needs putting up do you think you could come over and put it up?'"

Jimenez's brothers are an example of when time eases people out of sexism. However, the rest of the world isn't so easy to convince.

Women make up only three percent of the trade labor force.

One reason that there are so few women in the trades is that women have a history of being discriminated against in the trades. For years companies have been allowed to openly bar women from high-paying labor jobs.

The Milwaukee-based auto battery company Johnson Controls Inc. has a nine year old policy of not hiring women in jobs with possible high-level lead exposure unless they had medical proof of sterility.

On March 20, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that companies cannot exclude women from hazardous jobs in the interest of protecting their reproductive health.

Justice Harry Blackmun said in writing for the court that "Concern for a woman's existing or potential offspring historically has been the excuse for denying women equal employment opportunities."

"Unfortunately, there has been a lot of resistance by men to let women into the trades. In the Supreme Court decision the company says it is to protect women, but it is really to keep them out," said Sargarman.



Illustrated by Mei Moy, Whitney Young

"There are so few women in the trades that a woman may find herself the only person on the job," she continued. "When sexual harassment occurs it may be hard to stand up to her co-worker. Many women find it discouraging.

"But women should be proud of their history and the civil rights movement. Don't let anybody say 'no' because you are a female. Everyone should have the same opportunities."

Another reason that few women take advantage of jobs in the trades is that they are uninformed about the mechanics of the trades. From Barbie dolls to make-up, girls are not made familiar with tools and materials. Furthermore, girls are unaware that certain opportunities in the trades exist.

At Lane Technical High School it is mandatory that all the students take shop. Some girls at Lane complain that the skills they are taught in shop class are not practical, such as welding. In fact, they say that they resent having to take the shop classes instead of things colleges look for, like language classes.

But Sargarman said that the only way for females to increase their numbers in the trades is for them to be introduced early. "We encourage teachers and administrators to talk to their students. Early discussion about the trades is critical to preparing girls about male-oriented professions," she said.

The bottom line, Jimenez said "is that women should be getting what they are worth and they should be trained to be."

Student finds locksmithing key to future

By Mai Dang
Von Steuben

Instead of spending his time playing outside like he normally does, Jeffrey Beltran, a freshman at Lincoln Park High School, did something different last summer.

He learned how to be a locksmith.

Beltran, a Prescott Elementary School graduate, was given the opportunity to work by Jim Gruber, owner of Ashland Lock Co. through a program created by the Prescott Local School Council. This program was an urgent step to deal with the increasing gang problems in the area. It is the only program of its kind in Chicago.

"Gangs are the major cause of other problems," said Gruber. One of the problems he cited is a rising dropout rate, a problem Gruber understands especially well. He was a high school dropout.

Gruber's purpose is to "show the kids the value of an education and how to get a good-paying job."

Gruber's company is the first to adopt the program. This summer, seven other factories and builders will also join by offering jobs. Students who are interested must fill out an application, meet with the management, and then write a letter to the company explaining why they want the job. Before returning to school after the job, the students are then required to write a letter on the skills they learned.

He said he wants them to learn "to be responsible, to be on time, to be neat, and to know that their are certain skills required to get a decent job." "We want to show the businesses, especially the industries that are very important to the city, that there is a valuable pool of kids with skills."

Gruber's apprentices performed some manual labor and learned locksmithing skills such as using numbers in making keys. They must measure the depth of the key hole to create the notches on the keys. Measuring sometimes must be done to within a thousandth of an inch.

"First we made apartment keys with his [Gruber's] help. He then helped us to get started on our own keys," said Beltran. He recalled his nervousness the first time he was assigned to make an apartment key. However, when the key fit in the hole, an indication that he succeeded in his task, Beltran remembered being extremely relieved. For several weeks after his first accomplishment, Beltran and another apprentice proceeded to make 500 to 600 keys.

In addition to intense concentration on locksmithing, Beltran enjoyed talking and listening to music with the other workers on the job.

"I learned how to make keys, to get a good job, and to have fun doing it," said Beltran.

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF WORKING IN TRADES

1990 Median weekly earning wage chart for various laborers, per information of U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings Division, January 1991.

	AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS	BUS, TRUCK AND STATIONARY ENGINE MECHANICS	TELEPHONE LINE INSTALLERS AND REPAIRERS	CARPENTERS	ELECTRICIANS	ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRERS	WOODWORKING MACHINE OPERATORS	PRINTING MACHINE OPERATORS	TRUCK-DRIVERS (LIGHT)	TRUCK-DRIVERS (HEAVY)
MEN	\$393	\$456	\$511	\$413	\$526	\$575	\$297	\$431	\$323	\$432
WOMEN	\$450	\$450	\$499	\$394	\$394	\$499	\$311	\$309	\$305	\$305

REINTRADES

Project T·E·A·M·

By Clarence Lang
St. Ignatius

Students
become mechanics
in special
program

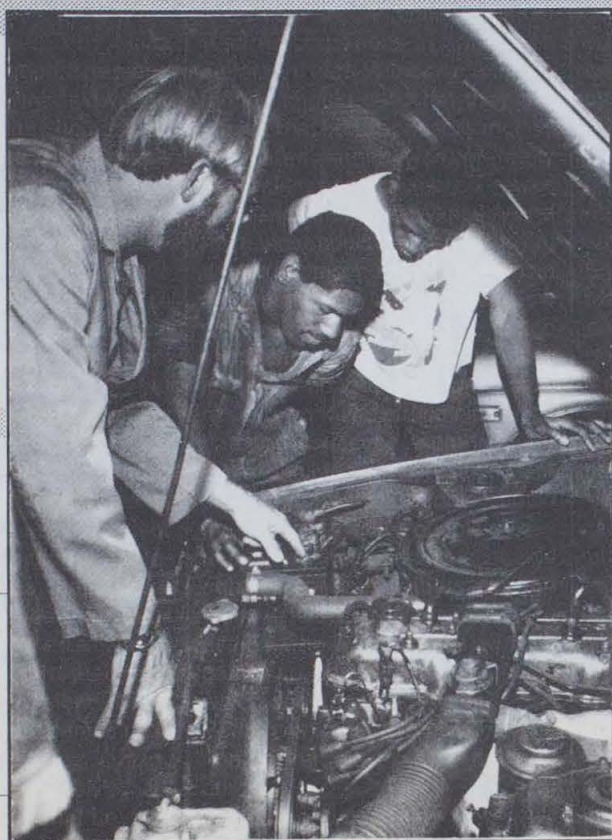


Photo courtesy of Project TEAM

Due to an overwhelming need for people with proven skills in automotive mechanics, learning this trade can be as vital to the work force as studying medicine or law.....and just as competitive.

Because of this competition, a person interested in a career in automechanics should look for training programs that specialize in hands-on experience, offer trainee work on a wide variety of foreign and domestic cars using state-of-the-art tools and equipment, boasts top professionals to instruct and supervise all repairs, has small classes for more one-on-one instruction, and offers tax credits for disadvantaged students who qualify.

Those interested can find such a program in Project TEAM (Training and Employment of Automotive Mechanics). Project TEAM is a highly successful approach to vocational skills training and job placement.

This program specializes in training economically disadvantaged youths and adults living on Public Aid and unemployment income (ranging between ages 17 and 50) to repair and maintain automobiles. After program completion, TEAM places the graduates in automotive jobs which pay a competitive wage.

Salaries start at \$5.50 an hour on the average, said Susan Dixon, director of ProjectTEAM. But, she added, good increases quickly follow.

"No one needs a diploma to participate in this program," said Monica Horton, secretary for TEAM. "All we require is a driver's license and they be from a low-income household."

"The beauty of this program is that it gives people the opportunity to learn a trade free of cost, because we are supported by Hull House Association, Auto Aftermarket, and Fel-Pro."

The program includes a course in basic automotive service and maintenance, instruction in basic math and English skills, training in job-seeking skills and professionalism, counseling for personal problems that may interfere with a person's success in training and employment, placement in entry-level jobs in the auto repair field, and support service after job placement.

"Word of mouth is a great tool," Horton said. "Also, we have an administration counselor who goes to schools, public and private, to get people interested."

Since its beginning in 1979, Project TEAM has placed over 450 graduates in competitive employment. The students benefit from the experience, but the families are made beneficiaries as well. By making taxpayers out of individuals rather than tax consumers, TEAM has saved society more than \$12 million, including the savings from Public Aid expenditures.

FATHERS AND SONS Blue-collar workers keep job all in the family

By Colleen Noonan
Morgan Park Academy

My father is a contractor, which means a supervisor of the building of houses. All five of my brothers have had to work with him summers and during school. My father let me play with the wood, but he kept me away from the manual labor.

Only one of my brothers followed my father directly into the field, while two others went into the related positions of electrician and ironworker, still using their experience with Dad to their full advantage.

The others, Jim and Tim, discarded their past and journeyed into the white collar careers of lawyer and computer scientist. When asked why they chose different fields, both Jim and Tim answered, "because it doesn't interest me," or "I'm tired of it."

You can find many families like mine, where the father shows his sons what the blue-collar world is like, and has some of them turn away for "better" occupations.

But there are also those families like the Laydens. All five sons are electricians. They were "trained" just as my brothers were, working side-by-side with their father, learning the trade from the ground up. Perhaps it is in their blood. Their father, Joe Layden, came to America from Ireland in 1956, and took up construction. Asking the sons why they chose blue-collar occupations, the most common answer I received was, "we have a background in the field plus, you can earn good money without a college education."

Yes, that's right. Money is to be earned in blue-collar fields. My brother Tom, the ironworker, makes about \$21 an hour, and my brother Tony, the electrician, who has been working as an apprentice for the past two-and-a-half years is making \$12 an hour because he is still learning the trade.

A large part of being in blue-collar work is labor unions. It's not that easy to join, but when you're a member the benefits are great. Right after graduating high school, my brother Tony, the electrician, was trying to join.

But he, unlike the Laydens, had no connections, and it took him about four years to finally be accepted. The difficulty in getting into a union may be one reason laborers' sons choose other fields.

As a member, Tony said he has a voice in America's labor force, and finally all those years when he only bought American goods have brought their benefits. Union membership means assured pay, because the union will always find its workers a job, and they also receive union-sponsored medical benefits.

Besides these monetary benefits, blue-collar workers get physical and heart-felt benefits. Blue-collar workers are a group that form a clan, one which is especially close because so many of its members are fathers and sons.

This two-page supplement was funded by



OLIVER STONE'S "Doors" is a pleasant "trip"

By Melanie McFarland
Morgan Park Academy



Jim Morrison sits at a table, surrounded by children. He looks about confusedly, seeing the children laugh and play around him. Suddenly, he sees an image of himself as a child. His child self smiles at him, and goes to sit on the lap of a Navajo Indian wearing a gray and black face of death. Both stare back at him. He turns back around and says after a thought, "What a strange life I've had." Then he passes out.

Sound unreal? Like a long dream? Well, that's what it's like to watch the hot new film, "The Doors." It's a two-hour psychedelic trip through the life of Jim Morrison. The audience gets a chance to not only experience his triumphs and feel the magic and madness that his presence inspired, but also take a roller coaster ride through his tumultuous personal life and his all-consuming addictions to drugs, women, sex, and fame.

Val Kilmer portrays the doomed rock star, and definitely fits the role to a tee. Not only is he a dead ringer for Morrison, but he also sings in some parts of the movie, and actually sounds like him. He delivers each poetic line as if he is actually possessed with the spirit of the tragic poet.

However, while Kilmer does what may very well be the best acting of his career, Meg Ryan, who plays Morrison's lover Pamela Courson, was not at her best. Although she holds her own, her acting just did not have the spark that it had in previous films, particularly in "When Harry Met Sally." Some scenes were shallow and contrived, and she did her best acting when her character was supposed to be angry. Most of the time, she just seemed flaky.

Cheers to Kyle MacLachlan, who played the only completely sane member of the band, Ray Manzarek. He was very natural in the role, and it was a welcome break from his quirky character Special Agent Cooper on the television series "Twin Peaks." And cheers to director Oliver Stone, whose cinematography was outstanding. He truly made the film a journey into the subconscious.

So, what else can I say about the film? Prepare to enter into a state where the bounds of reality are tested. Have a nice trip.



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BLACKENED FAITH

The force behind the power

By Linda McInnes
Regina Dominican



Loud, crashing, raw power.

No other words describe Blackened Faith. Its music bursts with explosive energy.

With Tom Tangelos, 22, on lead vocals and lead guitar, Gabe Grosso, 17, on rhythm guitar, Rob Boggess, 16, on bass guitar and Jason Ballard, 20, on drums, this band combines power with emotion to achieve an extremely original sound.

They describe themselves as "Techno Speed Metal," even though most listeners agree there is no way to classify them.

The "Blackened" boys started a little over two years ago producing their original brand of music. Ballard was the drummer of another band, "Decomposed." "Decomposed" needed a new guitarist, so Ballard went out in search of a good "axe-man." He came upon punk band "Blue Baby Syndrome," where he

met Tangelos.

"We went and practiced right away," Tangelos said. "Just the two of us. We knew something was there when we first met. It just all clicked."

The duo started off playing "regular metal" at first, and eventually progressed to the faster, more powerful speed metal they play now. While working on their original songs, they hunted the streets of Chicago for musicians.

Finally, Grosso met Tangelos at the Thirsty Whale nightclub. Tangelos brought Grosso into the band, and then Boggess joined to complete the line-up.

One reason "Blackened Faith" sounds so unique can be extracted from the members' backgrounds. Grosso started out as a hard-core punk bassist. He has a heavy metal punk influence that compliments the thrash sound. His experience

on bass is also a factor in how well he handles his guitar.

Ballard was originally a jazz drummer with a wide range of classic metal. Tangelos, besides playing the blues, has been a long-time thrash musician.

Boggess had never played thrash before. "We stole him right out of a jazz band," Tangelos said, laughing.

The combination of these elements along with the thrash backbone creates their original and powerful sound. Listeners have put them on the same level as "Slayer" or "Exodus."

Though they have a strong, loyal following of fans, the group has found that quite a few people won't

give them a chance because they believe their name and their music is Satanic.

"We are not Satanic," Tangelos said. "The name simply states our belief that our faith is blackened by society. This is because our reality is tainted."

The songs themselves are explained by the band as "an expression of emotions and an outlet of aggressions." They contain hatred, fear, and heartbreak and cover all aspects of life.

Hardly newcomers, "Blackened Faith" has played at the Exit, Thirsty Whale, and the Clambake Inn. The

band has also performed at various parties around the Chicagoland area.

The band is out to get a big Chicago following, but the main goal of "Blackened Faith" in the near future is to have fun, Grosso said. Beyond that, he said, "the important thing is the music."

The originality of this band and the power in the music is enough to separate it from the masses of Chicago-area bands. "We are Blackened Faith," Tangelos says. "We are nobody else."

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"New Jack City" is action- packed, glamorous anti-gang movie

By Jennifer Thompson
Hyde Park



Warner Bros.

Director and actor Mario Van Peebles on the set of "New Jack City" -- he promised an anti-drug, anti-gang movie, and came through.

Mario van Peebles knew what he was doing when he directed the film, "New Jack City". It was action-packed. It is about a rich drug lord and his crew who were brought down by a police force of Ice T., Judd Nelson, and Mario van Peebles.

Rapper Ice T. is great as Scottie Appleton, an outcast cop who wants to capture Nino Brown, the notorious drug lord of Harlem. Ice T. plays a nice guy and I simply fell in love with him and his character.

Wesley Snipes, who stars as Nino Brown, played his suave

drug lord character to perfection. Most people will remember him as Shadow in Spike Lee's, "Mo' Better Blues." He's cool, he's smooth, and you'll hate him in the end.

Judd Nelson plays Nick Peretti, another outcast cop who's out for Nino Brown. Chris Rock is Pookie, a crackhead who gets rehabilitated and tries to help Ice T., but fails in a big way. Mario van Peebles is Detective Stone who pairs Ice T. and Judd Nelson together.

This movie has lots of action, glamour, and more action, and

will keep you on the edge of your seat, cheering when someone turns down crack, hating Nino Brown, and yelling your approval in the end.

Oh. I almost forgot the musical guest stars. Keith Sweat and Guy had everyone screaming. Flavor Flav also made a cameo appearance.

This movie can evoke very strong emotions and can really hype you up with all of its action and violence. I definitely give it four stars.

★★★★

Violence is sparked in the streets, not the theatres

By Jennifer Thompson
Hyde Park

I think it's unfair to blame a movie for crime that occurs in the U.S. cities. I'm referring to the shooting downtown on Sunday, March 10, and the stabbing that occurred in Hyde Park on Friday, March 8, the day "New Jack City" was released.

Already the media is blaming "New Jack City" and the violence it contains for the two incidents in Chicago and incidents in other cities.

So far the Chicago Tribune has insinuated that "New Jack City" was responsible for these incidents. I and the others I have talked with who have seen the movie believe that it was trying to say violence doesn't pay because everyone in the movie gets killed who thought it did.

The connection made between crime and movies seems to say that if you see a violent film, all senses of thought and reason will leave you and all you are out for is blood. Christal Davis, who attends Hyde Park, comments, "I think it's a phony excuse for people to act ignorant. "New Jack City" had a positive point."

The people at Hyde Park who I asked about this issue felt that neither "New Jack City" nor any other violent picture caused violent happenings around the time of their openings. Most students, including me, are used to seeing violence in their neighborhoods. I have seen a woman bleeding in the street yet still ready to fight over a dumb argument. Someone is forever getting shot or stabbed around 63rd St. These incidents have nothing to do with a fictional movie, but the bad area the people live in.

In New York and L.A., the movie has been banned from the public over a few incidents. Because of a few ignorant people, the movie has been banned therefore rendering it impossible for the millions of decent people in these cities to see a very good movie that had a positive message. It's like a teacher punishing the whole class for what one or two people did.

I wish the media would stop giving so much attention to the theory that crime is created by movies and start giving more attention to the poor state of America and the effects it has on young America. They need to watch "New Jack City" and realize that it was simply telling the truth.

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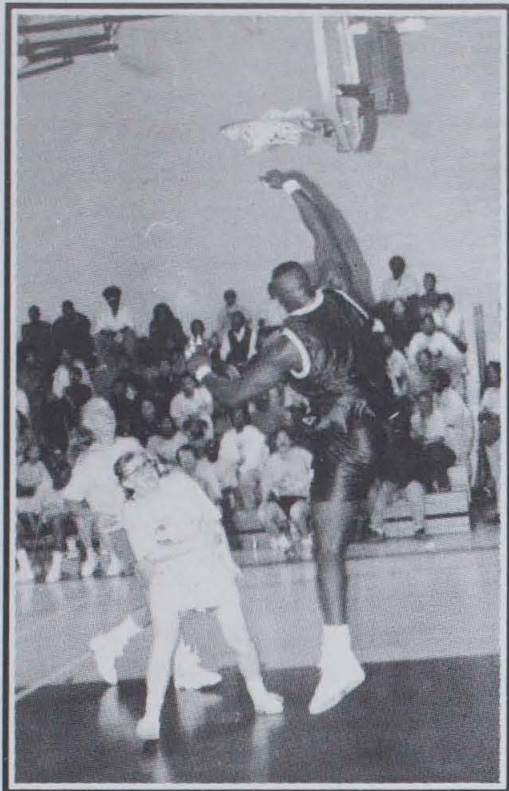
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Bulls or Bears?

Kenwood faculty and alums "bear"-ed with some Michael Jordan style play at the Bears vs. Kenwood game.

Chicago Bears maul Kenwood on the basketball court

By Nicolas Berry
Kenwood Academy

Nicole Henley will have a special story to tell her college friends when she returns after spring break: Henley got to play basketball against the Chicago Bears.

"They were sweaty, nasty, and grim, but it was fun," the Kenwood alum said of her participation in the "Bears on Court" vs. Broncos basketball game March 21.

The Chicago Bears have a charity program, "Bears on Court." It is sponsored by Bresler's Ice Cream and Yogurt.

Although the program is not new, Kenwood Academy is the first city public school to participate in it. Chicago Bears go to different schools and play basketball against members of the school faculty, parents of students, alumni of the school, and members of the community. Students used to play as well, but playing against professional athletes upset the amateur status of a student, so he or she was unable to compete on the amateur level anymore.

The money generated from the sale of tickets, concessions, and players, as well as donations from the Chicago Bears went toward two scholarships, one for a girl, one for a boy, from Kenwood Academy.

Before the game started some of the Kenwood players didn't have a very promising outlook. When

asked about their chances, Spanish teacher Alice Phillips said, "Win? I just want to survive!" The game started with science teacher Rita Nelson making a slam dunk with a little help from her friends. But from there the Bears took over, they jumped to a huge lead by hitting almost every shot they took.

But the game was all in fun, and the Bears let the Kenwood team stay reasonably close. Until the fourth quarter, when the alumni team took over, even taking the lead for a few minutes. In the end the Bears won 67-62.

The five Bears that played were James "Robocop" Thornton, Mickey Pruitt, Quintin Smith, James Coley, and James Rause. There were also some notable players on the Kenwood team, among them, Kenwood's principal, Walter Parker, aldermanic candidates, Toni Preckwinkle, Tim Evans, Alderman Larry Bloom, as well as many respected members of the community and faculty.

The Bears players had a good game, a few of them hit three-pointers from half-court, and did fancy dunks and lay-ups. They seemed to have had a fun time while they were raising money from a good cause.

Everyone was in a good mood after the game, spectators and players lined up to get the Bears' autographs. Alum Michael Gleason said of the game, "I was glad to do this for my school, but basketball isn't my sport. Now if this had been football, I would have killed them!" Kenwood gym teacher Barbara Allie was still ecstatic after the game was over and enthusiastically raved, "I stole the ball from Robocop!" She also said, "It was great to play against Mickey Pruitt, because I taught him how to swim when he was a little kid." ■

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Morgan Park Warriors Win Independent League Title

By Jeff Agrest
Glenbrook North

Warrior.
In basketball terminology, it is a player who would fight off bodies and elbows underneath the basket, battling for a rebound. A player who would stand motionless as another player runs head-on down the lane and would take the charge. No other word can describe a basketball team with such talent as the Morgan Park Academy Warriors. The Warriors ended the 1990-91 campaign with a 10-1 conference record enabling them to win the Independent League conference title. Their closest opposition was University High, who ended its season with an 11-9 conference record.

With members like all-star player Andy Clemens graduated, Chicago Latin lost its dominance over the Independent League. Latin ended this year's season with a 9-5 conference record and a 9-19 overall record, one of six teams in the eight-team league to finish the season with under .500 overall.

Latin's decline gave Morgan Park Academy the chance to show off its basketball program.

At the beginning of the season,

Morgan Park Academy head coach Aaron Harris made his goal clear. "The goal I had coming into the season was to take the conference title. I knew in my heart we had the talent to do it."

The Warriors came storming out of the gates recording wins with point totals such as 101 and 90. The untouchable one-two punch of Captains Vince Williams, a senior, and junior Kareem Daniel, helped the Warriors run up the score. Williams, a center, brutally grabbed rebounds off the boards while Daniel, a forward, was busy putting the ball in the hoop.

"Williams is an outstanding player. He'd do anything you'd ask of him and do it to the best of his ability. Kareem was the team leader.

He's a prime example of the type of player and student that comes from Morgan Park Academy."

Junior Robert Vinson was the team's high-scoring shooting guard. Jason Craig and Demetrius Hawkins also provided scoring for the Warriors' offensive attack.

Coach Harris, in his third season with the team, emphasized a defensive style of play.

"When the defense is producing, the offense will come naturally," said Daniel, referring to Harris' game plan. Harris' main objective was to frustrate the opponent by playing tight, stingy defense. "If we can frustrate the other team defensively, then we'll have a better chance of winning," Daniel explained.

The only sour note in the Warriors' triumphant season was having to play University High, the only team they lost to, in the Illinois State Tournament Regional game. During the regular season, University High ended the Warriors' 16-game winning streak as the two teams split the two games they played against each other.

"I feel we are one or two players away from winning the whole thing again next year," said Harris. Though Williams will have graduated, Daniel and Vincent will remain key players. Jason Ervin hopes to replace Williams as the big man of the team. Sergio Brack, a junior point guard, is expected to help out on offense.

In the 1990-91 season, there were players who filled the void created by non-producers. Next year, it won't be that easy. In the upcoming season, team balance will have to be emphasized for the Warriors to repeat as conference champions. It will be a tough challenge, but one the Morgan Park Academy Warriors will be glad to take.

"Kareem (Daniel) was the team leader."



I feel we are one or two players away from winning the same thing next year

-Aaron Harris

"Junior Robert Vinson was the team's high scoring shooting guard."



"When the defense is producing, the offense will come naturally"

- Kareem Daniel

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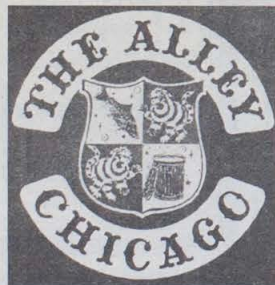
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