

October 1994

New Expression: October 1994 (Volume 18, Issue 6)

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "New Expression: October 1994 (Volume 18, Issue 6)" (1994). *New Expression*. 131.
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NE

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UP FRONT:

HOOP DREAMS

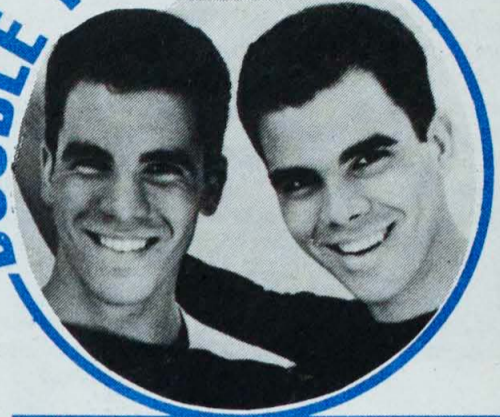


NE looks at a documentary on the aspirations of two Chicago high school basketball stars and the issues surrounding the development of prep athletes

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The Betances brothers act up
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20TH CENTURY FOXES



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NE

new expression

OCTOBER 1994
VOLUME 18
NUMBER 6

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The adult and teen staff of Youth Communication/New Expression would like to express heartfelt thanks to the City of Chicago's Gallery 37 summer arts program and the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund for making the summer workshop and publication of this special edition possible.

New Expression is published once a month except July, August and February by Youth Communication/Chicago, a not-for-profit agency. New Expression is a member of Youth News Service. Editorial offices are at 70 E. Lake Street Suite 815, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone (312) 641-NEWS. FAX 641-6470. For mail subscription send \$12 per year (nine issues) to Circulation, New Expression 70 E. Lake Suite 815 Chicago, IL 60601

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Write in the beginning...

Journalism workshop showed me how to make a difference



When I read a novel about teens, I get the impression that the only things we care about are music, movies, our looks, and who's popular and who's not. I always knew that my friends and I cared about more in-depth issues, but I sometimes wondered if we were part of some alien breed of teen.

After working in the Gallery 37/Youth Communication Journalism workshop, I realized the issues I care about aren't foreign to other teens. The workshopers cared about many of the same issues, while each put a unique twist on the tail of each topic.

We talked about current events and how they affected us as teens. I remember one of our first discussions on religion. Everyone voiced their opinion of respecting others' beliefs. Roman Catholics, Muslims, and agnostics echoed

each other, saying religion was important in each life, but didn't mean any one was less important than another.

On occasion the discussions turned to race relations. A semi-heated debate arose when affirmative action was brought up. As usual, there were people pro and con on the issue, but everyone agreed that racism needs to be tackled, not handled with kid gloves. No agreements were made on how to settle the problem of racism, but when everyone went home, I'm sure they were pondering a new point of view they hadn't even dreamed imaginable.

All the teens held their families very close to their hearts. Whenever the floor was open, people shared stories about parents, siblings, grandparents and cousins. While writing, almost all the teens told a touching story about a family member. Stories ranged from the agony felt after the loss of a loved one, the pain felt when a relative hurt himself or others, to the special relationship between the writer and a family member.

Don't get the idea that we all thought like people too old for our time. We often talked about light issues such as popularity. No one dismissed such issues as unimportant, and you'll see that when you read this special workshopers' edition of NE. But the consensus was that issues like popularity are a side item compared with the problems plaguing society outside the confines of high school.

Teens in the workshop had obvious personality differences. But we each cared about improving a stagnant world. And we each believed, by learning about ourselves and others, we could learn how to make a difference.

Marjani Coffey, St. Ignatius photo by Sandy Struglinski, Maria



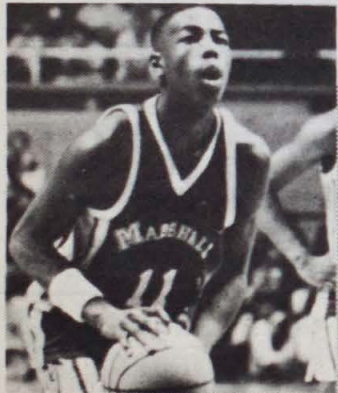
UP FRONT

HOOP DREAMS is a wake-up call for Chicago-area high school athletes

For five years filmmakers Steve James, Peter Gilbert and Fred

Marx followed high school athletes William Gates and Arthur Agee through their everyday lives, to learn about their hopes, their successes, and their disappointments. What they emerged with was a three-hour documentary film "Hoop Dreams," which premieres this month in Chicago. The film raises many issues NE reporters felt warranted more than just a movie review. The next four pages explore some of the

questions "Hoop Dreams" asks. We answer some of them, and ask some of our own.



Arthur Agee prepares to shoot a free throw during his senior year at Marshall High School. Agee is now a senior at Arkansas State University.

sitting
on the
edge of a
dream

Do you have a dream?

Not just any dream, but one that you dream every night and work for every day? William Gates and Arthur Agee do. They dream of playing professional basketball, becoming famous and making millions of dollars.

"Hoop Dreams" chronicles the high school years of these two young student-athletes as they fight to make their dreams come true. Against the gritty backdrop of Chicago's inner city and the lush suburban landscape of Elmhurst, this movie provides a refreshing, realistic view of life. It makes no apologies for its unabashed honesty and never goes for the easy shot or easy answer.

William Gates grew up in one of the most notorious projects in Chicago, Cabrini Green. Residents there must cope daily with violence, gangs and poverty. William's ticket out of the ghetto was the basketball skills sending him to one of the premier basketball programs in the state.

Arthur Agee grew up in the West Garfield Park neighborhood, and perfected his basketball skills despite the fact that his court was a well-known hang out for several drug dealers.

This movie does not fall into the cliched sports movie pothole. First of all, sports are not the main focus, since they are merely the setting for the two main characters. Secondly, there is no script. This is real life with all of its ugly sights and sounds.

This movie raises countless timely social issues everyone can identify with. Most importantly, these issues are presented fairly and in an unbiased manner. No fingers are pointed, and no blame is laid, unlike many documentary-style movies. Also, this movie is completely unpredictable-like real life. We are made painfully aware that things are never quite what they seem.

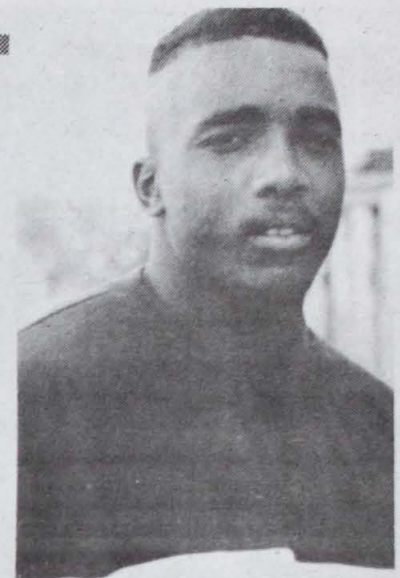
Both William and Arthur give their dream all they can. Whether or not it is enough, addresses a completely different matter. For the answer you will have to see the movie.

Heather MacDonald, Kenwood

TIME

Heather MacDonald talks to William Gates about college and life inside and outside of basketball.

OUT



William Gates

Q: What was it like having cameras follow you around for five years? Did it put added pressure on you?

A: (It was) pretty, I guess, embarrassing. When you're 14 or 15, you're awkward enough, and the cameras following me around didn't help. In the beginning, it was cool, but as it dragged on, it got kind of tired. It had its ups and downs. But as to the pressure it put on me, it was all positive. It made me work harder at both basketball and school... I wanted to let them know who I was.

Q: What was your relationship with the filmmakers?

A: When the filming first started it was kind of tenuous. I didn't know what they thought of me, and the trust factor was there, too. It was a business relationship that eventually turned into a friendship.

Q: How is your family?

A: Well, my wife Catherine just graduated from a community college and is working as a nail technician here and my daughter Alicia just started kindergarten. My mom is fine and my brother Curtis has a new job at Federal Express.

Q: How did you make it through high school and now college as a teenage father?

A: It was really tough. Just being myself was hard. I already had a lot of responsibility, and this just added to everything. I was so young and trying to make something of myself. It ate me up, because I was afraid to tell anyone. I'm sure both my basketball and school suffered greatly.

Q: How do you like Marquette University, your college?

A: It's OK. There was an adjustment period, of course, but I have no complaints.

Q: Do you still want to play in the NBA? How do you feel about basketball now?

A: Playing in the NBA is in my heart, but I'm so prepared not to play. Deep down in my heart, I still want it, but it isn't my first priority anymore. My family is. As for basketball, I still love it but my drive and passion isn't there as it used to be. I'm now more a fan of the game.

Q: Did you like the St. Joseph program as a whole? Were you happy?

A: In the beginning, yes, I loved it. But later I saw that this system wasn't designed so I could succeed, but I learned the system and made it through. It didn't really do its job, though. I mean, I failed my ACT five times. The transition was really rough, though.

Q: Did you like the basketball program at St. Joseph? Did you like the coach, Joe Pinatore?

A: Yes. It was great. I could really be myself on the court there. I liked coach a lot. We had a good, but not great relationship. It wasn't your typical coach/athlete relationship, either. He taught me all I know about organized ball, and helped me grow as a player.

Q: Do you think that St. Joseph was the best program for you?

A: That's hard to say. If I had gone to a neighborhood school I probably would've had more fun, but scholarship wise, I think it (St. Joseph's) was (the best for me.)

Q: Did you feel pressured to go to St. Joseph's?

A: No. I wanted to go there probably more than they wanted me.

Q: Did you ever feel any competition with Arthur Agee, the other teen featured in the movie?

A: No. I think he admired me.

Q: It sounds as if you were under a lot of pressure for an awful long time. How did you handle it?

A: I just tried to keep everything in focus, and when things got really bad, I'd go to my room and concentrate on my basketball card collection and play my music. Marvin Gaye, Earth, Wind and Fire, are really relaxing.

Q: What kind of influence did your brother Curtis have on you and your basketball career? Did you resent that influence?

A: He was my biggest influence. I always wanted to beat him one on one and that pushed me. It made me get better. I still haven't beaten him. The only thing was that I always had to be better than, or equal to Curtis. Also, he jumps on me if he thinks I can do better. He helped me more than he hurt me.

Q: Why did you quit the team at Marquette last year?

A: I needed a break. I had just gotten married, and I needed to focus on things outside basketball, so I decided to quit two weeks before the season started. It had been in my mind for awhile and the coaches and other players knew it and were expecting it. I was lost and I needed to find myself. Now I have, and I have a whole new fire for the game, so I rejoined the team. We're in pre-season now, and it's hard. But it'll pay off. Marquette was great about it, too. They supported me totally.

Q: If your dream of playing in the NBA doesn't come true, what are your plans?

A: I want to own my own business, be my own boss. Maybe in marketing or public relations.

Q: What message do you hope people will walk away with after seeing your film?

A: That it's hard growing up in a situation like mine. That it's hard beating the odds, but it can be done, and I did it... I want white America to wake up to the fact that it's hard for inner-city black kids to get breaks. Many don't get opportunities at all.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Everyday life struggles can complicate a "hoop dream"



Filmmakers Steve James, Peter Gilbert and Fred Marx during filming of *Hoop Dreams*, directed by Steve James. The film is being released through Fine Line Features. "People don't think of documentaries as being emotional, dramatic or able to move people's hearts," says Gordon Quinn, executive producer of the film. "There are lines in the film that are very powerful and very dramatic that you wouldn't believe in a feature film. In a documentary you know it's real."

In reviewing "Hoop Dreams", I was surprised to see just how much pressure many basketball players such as Arthur Agee and William Gates go through just to live up to their coaches' expectations. For example, Arthur was unable to finish his basketball career at St. Joseph High School due to so-called "financial" problems.

In my opinion, the real reason was that Arthur just didn't live up to St. Joseph's goals for the future. By watching this movie, you get a better understanding of what goes on in the every day life of a basketball player, from the happy times to the sad times. In the continuing quest to reach their goal, some players will do what ever it takes to stay at the top, even if it met playing with an injury.

The question I constantly asked myself while watching this movie was, 'Why do they go through all the pressure and heartache?' Even with the pressure and heartache that both Arhtur and William went through, they always had their dream and worked hard to reach it.

This is only one side of a very complicated world called "Basketball."

Some play it for fun. Others make it their lives.

Whatever the case may be, the greatest thing about pursuing a dream is some day reaching it. It remains to be seen if Arthur or William will reach their NBA dream.

James Boozer, Simeon

"Hoop Dreams" scores with truth, realism

Exciting shots, life-altering decisions, up-close real life interviews, heart breaking struggles...these are just some of the elements "Hoop Dreams" has to offer.

The camaraderie, irony and symbolism in the three-hour documentary gives you a feel of being "right in the action."

In most movies today, a strong message, important values and general story plot are expressed through violence. But "Hoop Dreams" offers more by focusing on lightweight Chicago subjects known by a few and hidden from many.

Here's some of the themes the film so vividly explains:

"The ugly recruiting game, which treats young men with extraordinary talent like pieces of meat.

"The ghetto" and the struggle to keep the "athlete commitment" despite rough living, tough family problem, and trying to live up to everyone else's expectations, while losing sight of yours.

Most important, this movie expresses dreams of mostly every kid--the dream of being the best, being looked upon by everyone, making pro.

The harsh reality is what sets in and kids realize they're not great--they're just average, that thousands of kids play just as good as or even better than they do.

The overwhelming pressures and not performing to great anticipations are also included in the harsh reality menu.

Finally, the aspect of getting injured and knowing you will never play the game sets in--the overall loss of confidence and mainly underachieving.

Yes, this movie has great moments, that can be related to anyone's achievement and give a sense of hope to all who view it.

I highly recommend all high school athletes watch this movie. There's lessons to be learned, problems to solve, and aguaranteed benefit for every viewer.

Adam Little, Lindblom

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PLAYING BY THE RULES

Qualifications for NCAA- eligibilty complicated

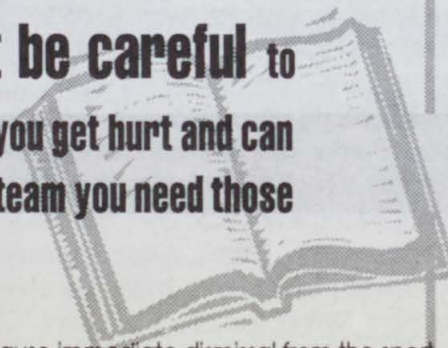
Hey, sports fans, if you have dreams of becoming a Division I athlete for the NCAA and hope to get make it by simply concentrating on sports, think again.

To apply to the NCAA, you must graduate from high school, earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and earn a composite score of at least 17 on the ACT or a combined score of at least 700 on the SAT.

Scholarship offers vary from player to player and if certain bylaws aren't met, there is no guarantee you will have a full, four-year scholarship in Division I athletics.

There are also many rules and regulations that must be followed—ranging from the appropriate way to send in your application to being visited by a recruiter by a recruiter. For example, did you know that if you say more than "hello" to a coach who is considering you as a possible team player, you could be guilty of what's called "contact." And contact can only be made under strict circumstances in a specific period of time. Also, when New Expression contacted "Hoop Dreams" Arthur Agee for an interview, he declined at first for fear of possibly violating an NCAA rule.

"Student athletes must be careful to keep their grades up and study. If you get hurt and can no longer play or are cut from the team you need those studies to fall back on."



The point is that if these rules are broken, it may cause immediate dismissal from the sport. Mandatory drug-testing is also a part of the NCAA's rules. Use of tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, etc.) is prohibited during any practice or competition. If caught, you are immediately dismissed from that game.

Student athletes must be careful to keep their grades up and study. If you get hurt and can no longer play or are cut from the team you need those studies to fall back on. Even if you stay on the team, there's no guarantee that a pro-sport career is waiting for you.

If playing for your favorite college team is a dream of yours, keep in mind that grades do count and that everything you do greatly affects your sport acceptance ability.

Suzy Struglinski, Maria

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The trouble with high school sports

Reflecting on all the last minute shots, the tense double overtimes, clinching home-runs, last minute tackles and unforgettable player personalities, I can't help but get excited about this year in high school sports.

On the other hand, I must take a deep breath and a bleak look at what high school sports has become.

Instead of my usual joy, I'm upset this year. In reading the paper, I've seen numerous high school sports articles that glorify the top players, praise the best teams and comment on the so-called "great coaches."

This at a time when players academic scores are at an all-time low.

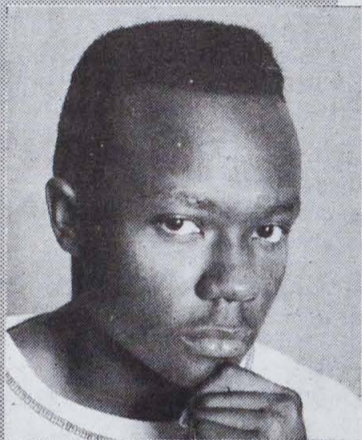
As you have noticed, great public school league players live their pro life in high school and inevitably end up sitting out one year in college.

In college, most of the misguided players get into trouble, foregoing any chance at the pros and often failing to complete their degrees. They're crippled, then, for the real world.

I place the blame directly upon the media's glorification of sports and coaches who put the athlete before the student.

If the mainstream attention was shifted to grades and counseling instead of all day sports, there wouldn't be so many ex-Chicago high school stars in the predicament they are in now.

Let's get it together this year and try to produce whole players instead of carbon copies of the same misguided youths who can't even read the articles praising them. At the end, this will really be an unforgettable season.



Adam Little, Lindblom

Photo by Darius Smith, Westinghouse

UNDER PRESSURE

Parental demands tend to make a teen's "hoop dream" stressful

"You are going to be a dentist, just like your father."

"You know we're all counting on you to be the first in our family to go to college."

Do these phrases sound familiar to you? To many teens today, this is second nature to them. Our parents have an idea of what they want us to become in the future. Many teens might say, "Cool, now I don't have to worry about what I'm going to do with the next 80 years of my life." Other teens might say, "Mom wants me to go to medical school, but I really want to be an actress."

Do I detect a problem?

Many teens know what they want to do as adults at a very early age. But many teens face real pressure from their families' dreams and expectations of them.

Take Hoop Dreams' William Gates for instance. In the film, we see him pursuing his dream of basketball stardom. But he's also carrying a burden added to by family member Curtis Gates, his older brother, whose own efforts to make it to the pros failed. Curtis could not make his dream come true because he could not make the ACT score of 18 to get a basketball scholarship to Marquette University. Clearly, William is bothered by the unnecessary pressure from his brother. When families push too hard, many teens turn to rebellion. Some, though, just give in to what their families want. Neither scenario is the ideal.

A word of advice to parents: Let your kids pursue the dreams they have (unless it's murder or something like that). A word of advice to teens: It's your life, do what you love. If your parents have something else in store for you, get YOUR expectations out in the air as well. Don't give in to something you hate.



Karla E. Rivera, Von Steuben

Photo by Darius Smith, Westinghouse

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SOUTHSIDE BUREAU

DUSABLE STUDENTS VISIT NEW MEXICO

Cultural connections made with Native Americans with help shatter myths, stereotypes

Editor's note: Monica Peuges, a student at DuSable High School, participated in the Global Awareness Program, which involved a trip to New Mexico. Here, she writes about her experiences:

First thoughts of New Mexico...

My first thought was that it was this big hot desert, in the middle of nowhere and that I wasn't going to enjoy it. Once we got out of the airport, I was so amazed at how big and beautiful this place was. There were so many mountains, I couldn't contain myself, I just had to take pictures. From the plane you can't see all of the mountains. Everything looks like a big dirt patch, but once we got off the plane in Albuquerque it was amazingly beautiful.

Once our driver came to the airport, we went to eat at Taco Bell. I was shocked because they have the same things there that we have here. People were walking by wearing the same clothes that you or your friends would wear.

After we ate we hit the road. While we were in the car, we got to know each other, we told each other about ourselves, we exchanged pictures, etc. It took us eight hours to get to the The Denehotso Boarding School. We got there Saturday night, and since the kids go home on the weekends, no one was there.

Once we got to the school, we settled in and talked to the school's assistant principal, Fanny Lomax. She told us that we could go around to the classes that Monday morning and introduce ourselves to the students. Since the next day was Sunday, Fanny set up a trip for us to go to Monument Valley, the place where there is a lot of mountains and historic rocks.

Back to school

That Monday we went to all the classes and introduced ourselves to the kids but they seemed like they were afraid of us. They were very shy. We met the principal and she told us that by the time lunch hits, the kids would be all over us. By the way they were acting, we didn't think that was true. Sure enough, though, once we got our lunch they were saying, "Oh, please sit with me." We were so shocked! They were asking us so many questions, and we were showing them our pictures and everyone wanted them. Well, at that time we knew it was official—we were a hit!

We learned a lot about the Native American culture. All that stuff you see in the movies about the Indians is not true. What they don't show in the movies is that the Native Americans were here first and that they helped the Pilgrims survive their first winter. The Native Americans are like us (Black people) if you think about it. The only difference is that we were taken from our homes and brought here as slaves. Their homes were snatched right from under them, they were killed, they were tortured, they were nearly extinction. On this trip I realized that we've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go.



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CHECKING IT OUT

Grocery store attracts teens looking for latest word

"Gimme a price check on Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice!"

"Clean up a spill in Aisle 2."

"Are y'all goin' to the Riv' tonight?"

Whoa!! Hold up. Are y'all goin' to the Riv' tonight? That has no place in supermakret lingo. Unless, of course, the supermarket is Stony Island Food Mart.

When Peter Fetsis decided to open his friend's building, located at 83rd and Stony Island Ave., as a grocery store, he had no idea he'd be opening a teenage soapbox. Fifteen-year-old Nikki Dixon said, "The stockboys at Stony Island are cool, but some of them do very little work. One time my friend and I went into the store and this boy was supposed to be working, but instead he tried to mack to us while putting up a cart full of cans."

Fifteen-year-old Mose Vines recalled an experience when a stockboy begged him for money. "I walked into the store and this bagger came and asked me for 50 cents.

"I told him I didn't have any change. After I brought my candy, I went to give him my change, but when I saw he was eatin' a bag of chips I figured he had gotten his money. He had forgotten about beggin' for money and was tryin' to mack to a cashier that was too old for him."

Although he's an Arab-American, Fetsis has had no trouble being accepted into a predominately African-American community. "The community has been happy to have our mid-sized grocery store that competes with larger chain stores by offering quality service and merchandise at competitve prices. We are convenient for the older people in the neighborhood," said Fetsis.

Fetsis has also been welcomed into the store because of the jobs he provides for Avalon Park's youth. During the summer of '93, the Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Watch Organization gave Stony Island Food Mart an award for employing many of the community's youth. "We didn't intentionally set out to employ teens, but their needs fit our needs like a glove. Older people either already have jobs or they don't want to do the work for the wage" Fetsis said.

Having many teens in one environment has minor drawbacks. When business is slow many of the cashiers can be found playing cat-n-mouse games, engaging in tongue-in-cheek lashing, and of course gossiping. Conversation can range from "Oh, my goodness, he finally got a new coat" to "Look at that fine brotha in the produce section."

Fetsis said he has received complaints from his older customers about the antics of some of his teenage workers. However, he said, young workers generally aren't a problem.

"Once the young men mature and go through the learning process, things are fine."

Many of the teens that patronize Stony Island Food Mart have grocery lists that read: Bring home something to do on Friday nigh, find out who's going out with whom, and what pray tell, has Janet Jackson done to her hair.

On a rare occassion, someone may even remember to pick up that loaf of bread mom asked them to bring home.

Marjani Coffey, St. Ignatius

A TASTE OF MEXICO

Nuevo Leon offers flavorful, affordable Mexican cuisine

Hey, are you hungry?

I sure am. I know a place where the smell of tortillas, tacos, burritos, and enchiladas surround you, the beautiful sounds of a mariachi band plays, and red, white and green pinatas hang from the ceiling. Come on, I'll give you a taste, or as we say in Spanish, un savor, of Mexico.

Well, here we are, Nuevo Leon, located near the Pilsen area. This place is always packed so we should hurry and get a seat. "Table for two, please." Wow, look at the waiters and waitresses, their outfits are so unique. You know, a long time ago the people in Mexico wore outfits just like those. The men in sombreros with black pants, bolo jackets and ties, and as the women wore green, red and white ankle-length skirts like the waitresses. It's good to know that some restaurants, like Nuevo Leon, keep tradition alive.

Here comes our waitress. "I'll have un torta de milanese." That's a breaded steak sandwich with lettuce, tomato, beans, cheese, avocado, onions, and sour cream. Sounds good, huh? It's also affordable, only \$2. Everything on this menu is affordable. Prices range from \$5-12. And that's not bad, considering the food is so good and they give you so much of it. My torta comes with Spanish rice and salsa.

Listen to that beautiful music. That's the sound of the mariachi band playing. Years ago, groups of men would stand in front of a girl's house and serenade her with beautiful music like this. I really don't know if they still do that in Mexico, but at least we have it here.

Boy, am I full! How about you? By the way, let me take a look at what you ordered. Oh, you ordered the Carne Asada. That is steak with Mexican rice and beans. You made a good choice!

The check came out to a total of \$10. That's good, don't you think? We better head back home. Thanks for coming out to eat, hope we can do this again.

Nuevo Leon has two locations: 1515 W. 18th St. and 3657 W. 26th St.

Lesley Padayao, Maria

DO YOU ATTEND ANY OF THESE SCHOOLS?

Calumet

CV S

Curie

Fenger

Harlan

Harper

Hirsch

Julian

King

Leo

Lindblom

Morgan Park

Phillips

South Shore

Tilden

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NE
 new expression
 It's about youth

Remnants of neighborhood traditions keep my Polish heritage alive



I'll never forget my grandmother... with tears in her eyes when my sister and I began to speak in Polish for the first time."

You walk into your local Dominick's, minding your own business, when you notice the two men standing behind you are videotaping the meat counter.

This isn't a new kind of inventory. The men are Polish immigrants. The tape is being sent back to disbelieving relatives in Poland to prove the enormous "supermarket" in their neighborhood really does exist.

You walk out of the store and down the block when a Mexican restaurant seems to jump out at you, followed by another, and another, all the way up to the corner. Waiting to cross the street you check up on your Spanish I vocabulary so you can eavesdrop on two women talking.

This isn't a scene out of a strange foreign film. It's just another day in the South Side community called Brighton Park. It's the only neighborhood I've ever called home.

A community with a population of roughly 32,000, Brighton Park is a combination platter of Polish-American and Hispanics. Latinos are the fastest growing ethnic population in America, and that's certainly evident in Brighton Park, where their numbers increase as the Polish presence declines. Still, the Polish culture—my culture—is very evident.

At the local Five Holy Martyrs Parish, where I attended all nine of my elementary school years, five Polish-spoken masses are said. The three on Sunday are so crowded the pews resemble sardine canes and many attendees are forced to stand in the back, but the two on the weekdays are being cut down to one because of the diminishing congregation.

Yet the Polish religious traditions and customs are still practiced by large numbers. The Catholic tradition of blessing food to be eaten at the Easter Sunday meal is one example.

Family members cram into the parish hall waiting for the priest to bless them and their straw or wicker baskets overflowing with sausages, pierogi (meat, potato, or cheese-filled dumplings). Deep brown and bright pink colored eggs don't get their colors from store-bought dyes, but from being boiled with onion skins or beets.

Growing up in the parish really helped me get a firm grasp on my roots, though one not as tight as I'd like it to be. For two years I struggled to learn Polish by taking classes at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School sponsored by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The classes were held on Saturday mornings at Five Holy Martyrs. It was very difficult to learn. I think there was too much American in me to go to school on Saturdays, too, so I dropped it.

I watched as my friends who could barely speak English in kindergarten spoke better English than me by the time we graduated eighth grade, thanks to TV and teachers.

I remember folk dance classes at Five Holy Martyrs, dancing in my black beaded vest and flowered skirt. The ribbons attached to the wreath of silk flowers in my hair hit me in the face as I spun around.

I remember the time I was my grandmother, or "Busla" (pronounced boo-sha) with tears in her eyes when my sister and I began to speak in Polish to her for the first time.

I remember the four men dressed in the traditional cream colored wool pants with embroidered belts and black hats, playing the violins as they led a wedding party down the street in front of my house.

And I'll never forget each Polish-owned store that closed down as the owners moved, and seeing another Mexican restaurant take its place. At least five sit in a two-block stretch.

I'll never forget the first time I heard the monotonous ringing of the "helado" cart bells, and on Mexican Independence Day, the cars speeding down my block with Mexican flags hanging out the windows.

It's not that I have a problem with the neighborhood changing. It's just strange to see "Paco's Tacos" (the real name of a restaurant) where the old fish market used to be.

As Brighton Park changes, I change too. I sometimes forget the old customs and traditions, and who I really am.

But at these times, all I need to do is to walk into Dominick's and see another video camera, or pass by Five Holy Martyrs church on a Sunday. As the Polish mass is ending and a steady stream of people is pouring out, I quickly remember exactly where I came from.

Suzy Struglinski, Maria

Photo by Sandy Struglinski, Maria

In June, New Expression will run the first-ever official city-wide yearbook for the Class of 1995. We want to run photos of at least two students from each school on the North Side (we may do more for certain schools where seniors REALLY stand out.) Just imagine—a complete guide to the movers and shakers among the Class of 1995...

This could be you!

How do you apply? Simple: 1) Mail us a photo of yourself. 2) Include a page listing all your accomplishments (in academics, sports, drama, etc.) 3) Make sure you include a phone number where we can reach you to let you know if we're going to use your information.

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New Expression
70 East Lake Street, Suite 815,
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SORRY, PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED. You must comply with the three rules in order to qualify.



flipping THE SCRIPTURES

Tagger sprays his love for Jesus

Try taking two steps in Chicago and not seeing graffiti. When someone mentions the word tagger, what is the first thing that comes to your head? Maybe a young teenager that has nothing better to do than to write on walls, with no future ahead of him, does drugs and parties all night. Right?

Well, let's take an 18-year-old graduate of Gordon Tech. He is an Illinois State Scholar who now attends Oral Roberts University, in Tulsa, Okla. In his spare time, you can often find him at church.

Sounds too good to be true? Well, it is. But it's also true that he spends much of the rest of his free time hanging with his friends tagging.

Yovan Rodriguez is not your normal tagger, however. When is the last time you met someone that does great in school, loves Jesus Christ, and tags? Here's your man! His work looks exactly the same as any other tagger's except for one thing. He only does his work where he is allowed to (permission walls) and what he writes are only Christian logos. Most of the stuff he does includes the letters CTA, which stands for the Christian rap group he and his friends belong to, Christians Taking Action.

"I Love Jesus, and what better way to show it than by tagging where everyone can see it?"

Yovan Rodriguez

When asked how he makes time for his studies and his "art work," he said, "I don't know. Usually I don't have to study for school, it just all comes to me." Unlike most taggers, Yovan thinks there is a better solution to tagging without getting into trouble. "You can show your work on permissible walls where you are allowed to do it, that way people can see it but can't argue that we destroyed peoples' property because you had permission to do it there," said Yovan. "I love Jesus, and what a better way to show it but through tagging where everyone can see it?"

Leslie Padayao, Maria
Illustration by Mark Flores, Latin

dangerous liaisons

Gang ties fail to break friendship's bonds

Fifteen-year-old Stephen* is a high school junior. During his first two years in high school, he had a B-average. Last year, he was a junior varsity wrestler and this year, he plans to run track. This summer, he went to space camp, vacation Bible school, a Christian retreat, and an ACT review course. His best friends Matt and Simon are in gangs, but Stephen isn't. "I want to attend college and become a successful business executive and I don't believe being associated with gang members will affect me in any way," said Stephen.

Stephen is only one of probably hundreds of high schoolers who are not in gangs, but have friends who are. And like many others, he says his relationship with his gang member friends, (in this case, Matt and Simon) hasn't changed since they joined gangs. "They're the same people; they haven't changed a bit," said Stephen. "Matt and I live near each other and we have a strong bond. Simon and I are blood brothers. When we were 6 I was cutting an orange and Simon was holding it. After I accidentally cut Simon, we wiped the blood on each other making us blood brothers for life."

Stephen says gangs are a phase for his friends. He doesn't think they'll end up dead or in prison, and they won't be banging for all of their lives. "Matt is too smart to get that deep into it. His mom doesn't know that he is in a gang. If she found out she would kick his ass."

"Matt was in the park one night and some Brothers were shouting BD and BDN. He went up to them and said GDN. When he tried to run they shot him in the leg, the buttocks, and around the ankle," Stephen said solemnly. "I felt surprised when I found out what happened. This usually doesn't happen to someone you know."

"Afterward Matt had to walk with a cane for a long time. It took him a long time to recover. Later that fall he went to live with his grandmother. He never told me why...we don't talk about it."

"I don't think he'll get shot again. He's smarter now. We don't even talk about shooting or gangs unless somebody's in trouble or some VLS are talking crazy. He's not as into it now as he was before he got shot."

Stephen understands why his friends joined gangs. He labels gangs as "a way out." That's why his friends joined. "They are a way to bond with people of your own nature, a way to escape from the real world and release your other side. They give you something to do and allow the outcasts to be heard," said Stephen.

"Most people consider joining a gang because they glorify the image. It usually dies down at a certain age unless a person gets benefits from the gang, such as sex or a lot of money," Stephen continued. "For instance, Matt's uncle used to have lots of authority in the gang and one day he just grew out of it."

Teachers close with students have seen gang/non gang member relationships and their effects. Morgan Park High School teacher Peggy Chase said, "The only time there is a problem with gang members being friends with non-gang members is when gang affiliates ask, 'Why are you with him? He's not one of us.' The gang member goes with the gang and his friend will understand."

Simeon High School teacher Margie James said erupting fights strain relationships between gang and non-gang members. She recalled a fight on a bus. "The non-gang member wouldn't join a gang-related fight and his friend was upset. Afterward, they did remain friends." She said when physical contact is involved the common line is, "Man, you could've helped me."

Sara prays for her friends Jeff, John and Troy, who are gang members.

"If you hang around (John) and the rival gang comes around", she says, "they'll shoot you".

"I've never thought about being shot because I hang with Matt or Simon," said Stephen. "It wouldn't happen because Matt doesn't gang bang out in the streets, he only does it in safe neighborhoods, i.e., Folks territory."

"I've considered joining a gang, but my friends haven't pressured me. I really don't have time. Gangs are for people with too much time on their hands. I spend my time wrestling and weight lifting," said Stephen.

Chris,* 18, has friends in gangs, but unlike Stephen, he calls gangs stupid. "My relationship with my friends hasn't changed because they are the same guys. They just put up a hard front when they're around other gang members," Chris said.

"My friends joined because of peer pressure, but they don't pressure me to join or to take part in gang activities," Chris continued. Despite his claim that his friendships haven't changed, he said he and these friends have different lifestyles. "We hang out with different people and go to different parties."

Chris sees no future for his gang member friends. "My friends will soon be dead. I make sure that the new friends I make are not gang members. If a rival gang comes up while I'm hanging with gang members I could get shot and I'm not even part of a gang."

Kevin,* 16, had been friends with Dave* since kindergarten. In seventh grade, Dave joined a gang so he could have nice clothes like his friends.

Dave and Kevin were still friends and went to the same high school. But during freshman year, Dave's drug selling began to take over his life. By sophomore year, Dave and Kevin only saw each other in passing. Then Dave disappeared. It was rumored his parents moved him to Oak Park to sever his gang affiliations. Kevin couldn't be reached but as of May, he didn't know if Dave was dead or alive.

Sara* prays for her friends Jeff, John, and Troy, all who are gang members. "I talked to Jeff the other day and there were some 2-2 Boyz after him. I don't know how those guys can call themselves tough when they can't even go to another part of town," she said. "If you hang around John and the rival gang comes around, they'll shoot you."

Sara looked at the floor as she talked about Troy. "Troy and I have been close friends since seventh grade. After we graduated from grade school he turned Ambrose. He killed a Two Six. Our relationship has changed big-time. I used to talk to him all the time; I thought he was cute. Now he's rude, ignorant, and he threatened to kill my friends," she said, concern in her large brown eyes. "I'm afraid of him."

Regine knows gang members who are in her honors classes. "They made it into honors classes; who knows what they could've done in life?" Regine, unlike Stephen, is unsure her friends will end up OK. But if they don't, she says they have nobody else to blame. "I sympathize with them, but whatever happens is their own fault."

*All names have been changed

Marjani Coffey, St. Ignace

NE *opinions*

A REAL LOLLAPALOOZER

Alternative music fest now mainstream banality

LOLLAPALOOZA!!! Sounds cool, huh? Well, things have changed drastically since former Jane's Addiction front man Perry Ferrel organized the all-day punk/alternative festival in 1991. Lollapalooza '94 sucked! I am so disgusted with every subculture, i.e., hip hop, punk, alternative being so overly-publicized that it becomes mainstream culture. It seems as though over the past two years film producers, advertisers, and TV used many of the subculture dress, ideas, and music to create a new generation trend. I call this trend the new MTV age, an age that takes things that used to be considered "different" and makes them "normal." Take Lollapalooza. It began as a concert that featured underground alternative bands in a 3-day festival. Now, it's lost all of its uniqueness and has become a concert where people go to be "cool."

I attended the very first Lollapalooza. The concert was awesome. Jane's Addiction was the headlining band preceded by Nine Inch Nails, Souze and the Banshees, Living Colour, Ice T and Body Count, among other extraordinary acts. The audience was a melting pot of punk and alternative rockers, Ice T fans and thousands others who came to participate in the largest rock concert since Woodstock. The concert was an energetic performance combining the talent of the bands and enthusiasm of the audience, whose members had dyed blue, green and purple tresses, eight-16-hole Doc Marten combat boots, and tons of black eyeliner and lipstick.

The only dress code was, be yourself. The crowd bonded with music as its universal language. It was two years before I went to another Lollapalooza. With a great line-up including Smashing Pumpkins, the Breeders, and the Beastie Boys, I was so psyched that I bought tickets to the opening day show two months ahead of the concert date.

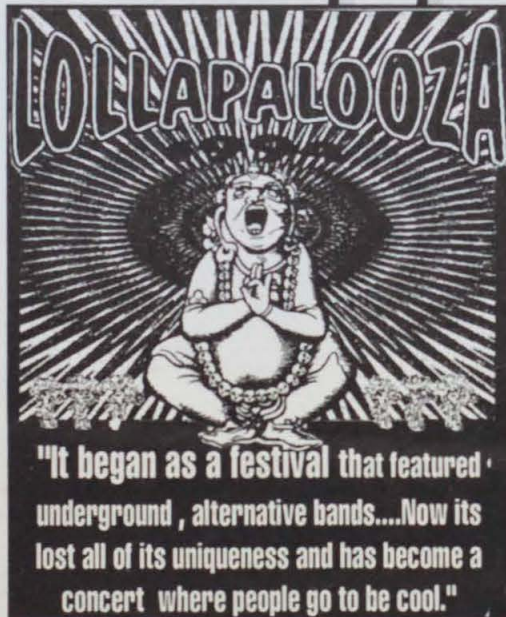
Finally, July 15 arrived. My friend and I drove to the World Music Theatre for a day of fun. But to my surprise, when we entered the concert gates, everyone in the crowd looked like an MTV buzz clip video, or Grind dancer (a dance show on MTV). The dreaded "grunge" look: strategically ripped jeans, new flannel shirts, and combat boots. For a few minutes, we actually thought we spotted Eric Nies, the Grind host. In the women's restroom, girls were on a grunge assembly line applying lipstick, rolling and parting hair, adjusting shirts, and talking about how "cool" it was to be there. I wanted to gag. It was a totally different scene from the first concert. I felt really out of place.

We headed for the main stage to check out the Breeders. I suddenly felt very uncomfortable as I watched kids huddle together, not interacting with the rest of the crowd. Very few knew the bands' songs. Practically everyone was seated throughout the performances, only applauding when the band was finished. Maybe since I hadn't been to a concert in such a long time, I missed the new trends in audience appreciation. It was like being in a movie theatre.

The performances were great. Smashing Pumpkins rocked! The Breeders and the Beastie Boys were awesome, although I think they would have done even better with more crowd feedback. Everyone seemed more mesmerized with being at Lollapalooza than enjoying the music. The entire "grunge" scene makes me nauseous. So does the whole Generation X stereotype, MTVesque advertisements, and twentysomething films. They all seem to contribute to the deterioration of the unique subculture. This attracts attention and makes underground "normal." Therefore, it loses its original appeal and becomes mainstream. For a teen, being "different" can be a very important personality element, whether it's belonging to a subculture, a hobby, or just thinking or dressing out of the norm. Uniqueness creates a feeling of being special, and having your own identity.

The Lollapalooza '94 crowd left all its energy at home, using it up to get dressed. It was so commercialized, from the grunge girls in the restroom, to the poor excuse for a mosh pit. I thought Lollapalooza was the only underground event I could look up to after a year of non-stop grunge. Now I see it's too late - mainstream has drowned and punk and alternative.

Kim Cambric, Antioch College



head tripping

visor fad needs to end now

"What up, homie? Look at dis new way I'm wearing my visor!"
"All dag, that's dope the way you're wearing that visor!
Hey, you know what? I'm gonna tell the rest of my homies about this!"
This is the kind of conversation that starts silly trends. Wearing a visor upside down and backwards is "WACK" (bad) or in other words, "BONK." What possesses people to wear a visor like that? A friend of mine said, "Well, maybe they didn't have anything else to do." But why a visor, why not T-shirts inside out or hats inside out? It all looks silly.

OK, maybe you think that I'm wack, or even bonk for trashing this visor thing, but it's true. To find out what other people thought about this visor trend, I surveyed about 20 Chicago teens who were employees of the Gallery 37 summer arts program. To my surprise, only about one-third of the teens agreed with me, that the trend is too silly. Sixteen-year-old Justin Ruhnke of Gordon Tech thinks teens wear their visors that way "To collect water when it rains."

Miraculously, nearly half of the teens said they liked the trend. Shenise Smith, 16, of Lincoln Park High School, said, "It looks better and plus, they bought it and it's their money they're spending."

Another third of them didn't care about the trend. In fact, they didn't even know it was a trend.

If a visor is supposed to protect your eyes from some of the harmful rays of the sun, why do you wear it backwards and upside de down? Well, I also ventured off and asked some kids from the South side.

Stephanie Cheers, 15, of Morgan Park said, "'Cause it looks dope that way and you can buy you some sunglasses. And in a funny way, it's protecting your neck from the harmful rays of the sun."

I think that the visor trend is part of the ghetto mentality. Some other trends in that same class are afro puffs, guys with fingerwaves, white people with dreadlocks, and those silly trolls glued on the brim of hats.

Every generation has its own trend. In the '70s, it was polyester suits, and in the '80s, it was Carefree Curl. I hope this is a trend for the '90s that will soon be played out. Most trends die out with the generation and come back. Hopefully this one won't. In the near future when the next trend comes out, let's hope it's not so weird.

Kenya Davis, Kenwood

photo of Adam Little, Lindblom

by Darius Smith, Westinghouse



Gallery 37 jams through its fourth summer

In its fourth summer, the Department of Cultural Affairs' Gallery 37 summer arts program employed hundreds of hat designers and creative writers, textile printers and ceramic artists, muralists and musicians, architects and journalists. In locales throughout the city, artists 14-21 spent eight weeks in the program that won the city of Chicago the First Place City Livability Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The teen artists' experience was enhanced by the presence of six international artists. Hailing from Prague, the Ukraine, Lithuania, Sweden, and Australia, who directed apprentices in furniture painting, printmaking, costume design and ceramics. Look to the spring issues of NE to find out how you can participate in next summer's program.



A WHITE SHADOW

Student feels she's part of an

"invisible minority"

"Black history assembly tomorrow."

Announcements such as these pour out of our intercom every day at Bogan High School. Administrators try and emphasize minority students and events that relate to them, but what happens to the white students that make up the smallest percentage of the population at this school?



As a white student, I feel like I'm just a body put in a few classes to make up a required percentage of whites to write down on a piece of paper. I feel that I am expected to always accomplish positive things and shouldn't expect recognition, but am I to climb in a hole and hide so minority students can shine?

Why do I have to accomplish twice as much to be considered equal to a minority student? Why should I have to climb an extra flight of stairs for scholarships because I can't receive those set aside for minorities?

In the halls, I'm called a stuck-up white girl and caught in the middle of fights that break out between African Americans and Hispanics and Muslims and Orientals. Some of my white friends were beat up just for being white and thought of as easy targets.

I still love going to an ethnically diverse school because I get to learn so much about different cultures. I wish that white students weren't always lost in the crowd.

Even though I'm supposed to be the majority, I feel like the invisible minority. At Bogan, I'm never unique or special. I'm not Jennifer. I'm just white.

Jennifer Meyer, Bogan

Photo by Sandy Struglinski, Maria

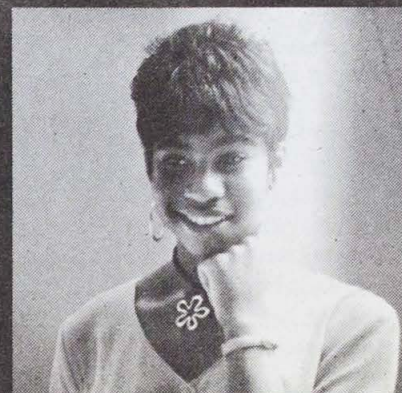
NE *opinions*

BLACK LIKE ME?

Knowledge of self helps to eliminate stereotyped identity roles

To be a black man is to be slang talkin', bud smokin', baggy jean wearin', 40s drinkin', way out hairdo sportin', woman dissin', and gun toin'.

To be a black woman is to be gum smackin', poor English speakin', long nail wearin', fly girl dancin', and no self-respectin'. Question - Why is it if way they don't consider themselves I am exasperated at the number they aren't Black because they knocking slang, fly hairdos, long nails, however, I don't understand why adults feel this is what it means to be Lawrence acts the way he does because of his personality? What African-Americans must act the For example, when I started high Monica. Both of their parents are lighter shade of brown, you have no African-American. Monica feels that doesn't like rap music, can't dance, double dutch. She said she doesn't "white neighborhood and be safe or



live," even though her neighborhood is mixed with people of all races. Will someone please tell me who made up the rule that being black means you have to like rap, you have to dance well, and your neighborhood is dangerous but lots of fun? Get real. This summer I had the joy of meeting Dennis. He feels he's not black because he doesn't wear Karl Kani's or Cross Colours (He dissed my best friend for wearing Cross Colours to the Taste of Chicago), doesn't have lines shaved in his head, doesn't use profanity, and respects women. Where is it in "The Key to Being the Perfect African-American handbook" that you have to wear Kani's, shave zig zags in your head, use vulgar language, and dis women to be black? I know many African-American brothas that would fail the test miserably if those were the guidelines. My African-American peers who have been led astray by stereotypes, wake up! There is no rule to being African American. Like members of all other races, African Americans are each blessed with a personality. We can like anything, be anything, and do anything we choose. The key to being black is to be yourself.

Marjani Coffey, St. Ignatius

Photo by Sandy Struglinski, Maria

confusing my religion Muslim troubled by misinterpretations of beliefs

Picture this. You are wearing a cross around your neck, which identifies you as a Christian. Every time you walk down the street, you are greeted by people telling you how much they admire David Koresh and how they thought he spoke the truth, even though you could care less. For a while, you stand and listen to some stranger kiss up to you. He assumes because you are Christian you must have followed Koresh. Sounds aggravating, huh?

Well, imagine this sort of thing happening almost every time you step foot out of your house. This is pretty much what many African-American Muslim women experience on a regular basis. Yes, we are Muslims, and so therefore we are recognized by our scarves. Yet, that doesn't brand us followers of the so-called "Nation of Islam."

Islam and "Nation of Islam" are two different religions. In fact, the only thing they have in common is the language used by both (Arabic; example, Asalamu Alaykum, "may the peace and blessings of God be upon you" the Islam greeting).

My father doesn't wear a bow tie. We don't sell bean pies, and I've never read, much less bought, a Final Call newspaper (all of which are trademarks of the "Nation of Islam".)

I don't appreciate being told how much you agree with the "Nation of Islam's" view on Jews. I don't, so don't assume I do.

I don't care if you saw Farrakhan on TV last night or if you admire his guts. I don't. In fact, most of what he preaches goes against my religious beliefs.

I believe in One God, Allah, who has never appeared in any physical form. They (the Nation of Islam) believe Allah (God) appeared in the person of Master W. Fard Muhammad in July 1930. Islam also teaches that Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was the last Prophet and the last Messenger of God. "The Nation" believes Elijah Muhammad was the Messenger of God. Muslims pray five times a day, while followers of the "Nation of Islam" do not. These are just a few of the many differences between the religions.

To stick all Muslims in the same category with the Nation of Islam because the Nation's followers claim to be Muslims is like lumping all Christians together as Branch Davidians because they claim to be Christians.

No one enjoys being stereotyped. Give me and the rest of the Muslim population the same respect you would want for yourself and the followers of your religion. Get to know us. Get to know our religion. Asking questions is OK. To stereotype us is not.

Nikia Bilal, Loyola University

NOBERTH INSIDE

take two

The Betances twins are working twice as hard to make a name for themselves in Hollywood

Partying with sitcom stars, playing basketball with 227's "Calvin" seeing Al Pacino eating lunch, actually being in a movie...sound too good to be true? For 20-year-old identical twins David and Daniel Betances, it's all part of everyday life.

These 1992 graduates of Von Steuben are pursuing their dream of acting by attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena, Calif.

With their dark brown hair, deep brown eyes, and perfectly straight teeth, the only way to tell the Betances apart is by David's earring. Even their white T-shirts, cream-colored vests, jeans and watches match perfectly.

"We don't dress alike to confuse people," David says. Daniel completes the thought. "We want people to be able to tell us apart by our personalities, not by what we are wearing."

Talking with them proves they are two different people. They are funny, outgoing, very serious about school and acting, and very down-to-earth. But while David sits perfectly straight, listening very closely with his head slightly tilted and answering questions in the tone of a seasoned professional actor, David is more playful, talking about the Animatics. He uses his hands to explain things, and seems more excited than Daniel about their good fortune.

The Betances' first acting job was a *Chicago Tribune* commercial. "They were having some kind of deal for home delivery and you got a special 'Press Pass' for discounts at local restaurants," Daniel says. "They wanted to stress the 'Twice the Deal' idea using a bunch of twins. It was cool. Horace and Harvey Grant were in it. It was a lot of fun."

Shortly after that taste of the business they moved to California to go to school. They received their big break with supporting roles as hockey players Mark (David) and Tony (Daniel) Banducci in the 1993 rollerblading movie "Airborne."

They were cast after getting an agent through what David described as "a typical L.A. story." An actress sitting behind them at a play gave them her agent's card.

The agent told them about the "Airborne" audition for a set of identical twins. They both agree it was a weird feeling to go to the Warner Bros. studio lot and have the guard at the front gate have their name on the list. "Here we are driving past Ferraris and Porsches going to an audition and we weren't even out there four months," David says.

After they auditioned the casting director told them they needed to meet the producer. "It was funny. I thought everyone had to go meet the producer so it was no big deal," David says.

"But after we called and told our agent she starting freaking out saying, 'You're in! You're in!' then I finally realized what was going on."

They went to the call back. They found out they got the part when they were called in for a wardrobe fitting. "I picked up the phone and some lady was asking me when we could come in, I wanted to scream, YEAH! But I knew that since it was for work, I had to act real professional, so I just wrote down some information, hung up the phone, and sat back in awe," says Daniel.

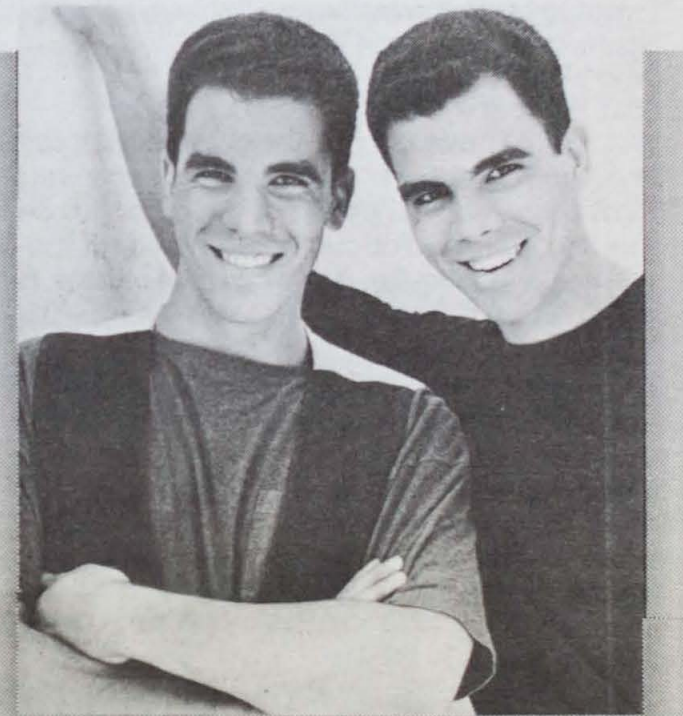
They quickly found out that the movie business isn't all glamour. They shot for seven weeks on location in Cincinnati. "Shooting is hours of boredom and minutes of panic," David says. "It could take hours to shoot someone sliding across the ice or running or whatever that takes about 30 seconds in the actual movie."

The movie opened in theaters Sept. 17 1993, but the Betances viewed it at a special premiere the night before on the Warner Bros. lot. "I had to watch it three or four times before I saw the whole thing," Daniel said. "The first few times you watch it you're looking solely at how you did, then you concentrate on the rest of the movie."

Are the brothers unhappy about playing twin roles?

"No," David says. "Any way you can get into the business is the best way. It's up to us to prove to ourselves we get roles because of us — not because we're twins."

Says Daniel, "People need to realize that we're not twin actors, we're actors that just happen to be twins."



Daniel & David Betances

Suzy Struglinski, Maria



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

No Exit and Heartland cafes offer unusual dining just steps away from each other

The writing's on the wall: No Exit Cafe the place for a way-out time

Sheila, Sandra, and Kathy softly argue about something that to the average person would seem insane. The argument goes a little like this—

"I want to go to the bathroom first," says Sheila.
 "No, I want to go," says Kathy.
 "Who went first the last time?" asks Sandra.
 "I did. But I still want to go," argues Kathy.
 "Well, since I have the pen, I should go first," says Sandra firmly.
 "Fine, but I'm second," says Kathy, as if she were claiming a piece of land.

We all know that you need not use a pen to use the bathroom, and when you've gotta go, you've gotta go, no need to argue. But what one must understand about the bathroom at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood, is that you need the pen in order to do what you've gotta do in there. What you've gotta do is not urinate, but to do some heavy-duty wall scrawling.

When I first went to the No Exit Cafe I thought it would be a nice opportunity to play cards, breathe in the cigarette smoke-filled air, and listen to lively jazz music, spiritual poetry, amateur comedy, or even my friend playing guitar on open mike night (each event takes place on different days of the week.) I anxiously thought about what I would order from their menu. Would it be hot chocolate for \$1, a muffin for \$1.50, a sandwich, or a traditional bottomless cup of coffee for \$2 (probably the most popular item on the menu)? I decided on the coffee.

The bathroom walls were covered with phrases ranging from "I love Dan!" to Doors lyrics. I looked at what my friends wrote, then I found a spot and wrote a little, almost meaningless saying that joined the hundreds that put their feelings, thoughts and dreams on the walls of the No Exit bathroom. I walked in and out of that bathroom four or five times that night, as the loud jazz music played in the background and my friends played cards.

So if you're looking for a nice place to read, play cards, listen to good music, comedy, poetry and open mike, get a bottomless cup of coffee for two bucks, and most importantly, a great bathroom to go to, don't hesitate to go to the No Exit Cafe, where the bathroom is as exciting as the cafe itself.

Karla E. Rivera, Von Steuben



No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood

Take the Howard train north to the Morris stop. Follow Morris and turn right at Glenwood, and walk north (right) on Glenwood, and there you are. The Heartland Cafe is just a little bit away on Lunt Avenue. (Heartland Cafe review on following page.)

Do you attend any of these North Side schools?

- Amundsen Clemente Foreman
- Gordon Tech Kelvin Park Lakeview
- Madonna Roosevelt Schurz
- Senn Spaulding Sullivan
- Weber Von Steuben

Are you involved in an interesting club on the North Side?

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 Tell us what's going on in your neighborhood!
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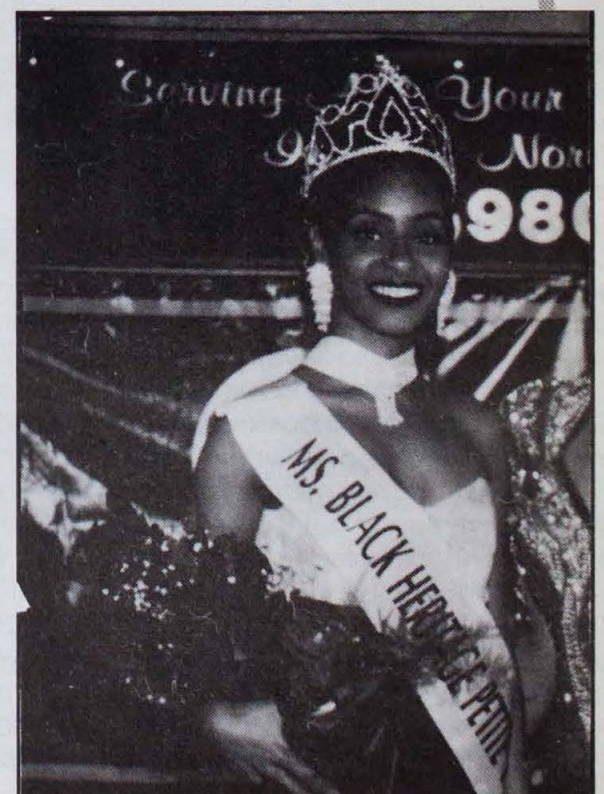
Call Adolfo at
 (312) 641-NEWS.

you go girl!

Former NE staffer named Ms. Black Heritage 1994

Roosevelt High School grad Monique Chandler, a journalism student at Columbia College and former *New Expression* reporter, was named Ms. Black Heritage Queen at the Black Heritage Petite Pageant July 31 at Rosemont's Clarion Hotel. With her crown, Chandler won a free trip to Las Vegas and a slot in the Las Vegas Starmania Model Search Competition. Along with all finalists, she is automatically entered in the Glamore Girl Midwest Pageant, which will be held in Spring 1995.

Monique's former pageantry wins have included first runner-up in the Miss Illinois Pageant and finalist in the Miss Black USA Pageant.



give peas a chance

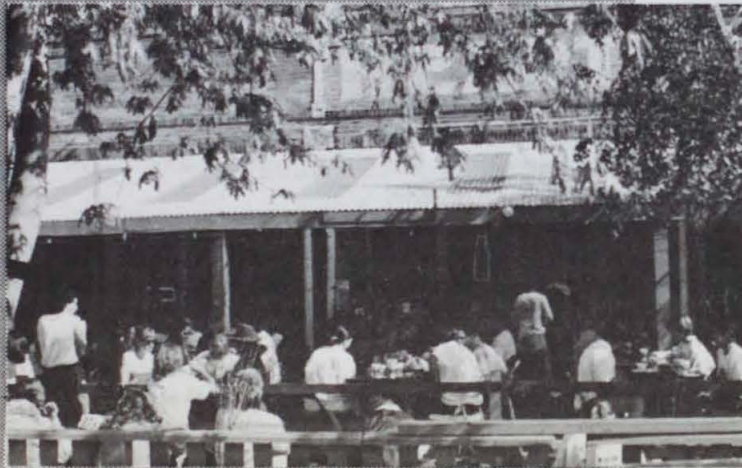
Heartland Cafe's '60's ambiance and healthy food are winners

Are you trapped in the Age of Aquarius?

Do you still search for that haven for flower children and free spirits? Search no more farther, my friend, than the Heartland Cafe, 1234 W. Lunt. While you won't find the Utopian free love here of the '60s, but you find good food galore.

Complete with general store, Buffalo bar, and pastel furniture, the Heartland provides a relaxed atmosphere perfect for kicking back while sipping some organic beverages. Or bring a buddy and participate in the heated political discussions. While the food here is very edible, it always takes a back seat to the cafe itself, and the atmosphere it creates.

When I walked up to the Heartland Cafe the first thing I noticed was the outdoor patio, painted bright shades of yellow, pink, blue, and purple. The sign, faded pink and purple paint on the building brick, advertises that



although I may not have been around in the '60s, the Heartland surely was. A bulletin board at the entrance on Lunt advertises the Heartland's latest off-shoot, a concession stand on the lake in Loyola Park, and a one-man play to be performed at the Heartland's own theater located just behind the cafe. And just to remind me that this is only an oasis in a cold, cruel world, a flier asks if I've seen a lost puppy. Another bulletin board promises apartments for rent and sale, while another ad promises I, too, have the power to know the future through Madam X (For a small price, of course.) I stumble over a pile of alternative newspapers ranging from the bi-monthly neighborhood paper to the local gay pride paper.

My first order of business was to find out what the heck a general store is doing inside a restaurant and what was a Buffalo Bar. While the general store doesn't fit the traditional definition of one, it still sells really cool stuff. Need a tie dye shirt? A pair of tie dye overalls? Incense? Jewelry? A politically correct T-shirt? (My favorites: "Abort the Supreme Court" and "It doesn't matter who you love. It matters that you love.")

Leaving the general store, I walk past the Buffalo Bar, trying not to stare at the hunk of man behind it. I decide he must know why the owners named their apparently normal bar after an endangered species. I ask, using my best "I'm so cool it hurts" voice. Seemingly indifferent to my adolescent charms, he replies, "They thought it sounded cool." With that burning question cleared up, it was time to check out the food.

Grabbing the menu from a pile above the sign saying "Seat Yourself," I headed outside onto the patio seating area and chose a seat near the sidewalk that is painted a lovely shade of bright yellow. It soon becomes apparent that the fare isn't going to be the usual American fat-laden, greasy, unhealthy food. There are too many exotic Spanish dishes, such as Nachos y Sals and the words organic and tofu are used too often for it to be otherwise. The petite, perky, blonde and oh-so-hip waitress comes over and asks if you're ready to order. I suavely say "sure" and order and organic lemonade and the house specialty.

Waiting for my food, I begin to eavesdrop on my neighbors. The couple on my left is discussing who forget to put the cap back on the toothpaste yesterday morning. The group on my left is arguing about whether Woodstock '94 is really worth going to see. Everybody is just doing their own thing, not being too loud or too soft and not invading anyone's individual space. I felt my batteries beginning to recharge, breathing in the faint aroma of incense permeating the cafe. When the food comes, all of it is heavenly, the portions are generous (the two wheat blueberry pancakes are at least six inches in diameter, and the five long pieces of turkey bacon hang over the edge of the plate.) And, since it's all natural, I don't feel even a twinge of guilt eating so much.

I'm on my second lemonade, savoring the peaceful feeling that is the Heartland Cafe when unexpectedly a loud, insistent beeping noise invades my space. I jump, startled, and realize that it's my pager. The Age of Aquarius is over, after all, but all it's nice to be able to return, if even for a little while, at the Heartland Cafe

Heather MacDonald, Kenwood

photo of the Heartland courtesy of the Heartland

Gordon Tech Fall Festival serves up food and fun

Ethnic food, blues, rock, country/western and German tunes, a raffle and bingo for cash prizes are just some of the high lights at Gordon Tech's Fall Festival. The festival, which will be held at the school, 3633 N. California, Friday, 5 to 11 p.m. and Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight, will wrap up on Sunday with a "Dabber Bingo" afternoon. Games begin at 2 p.m. with doors opening at noon. Besides regular games at \$80 and two games at \$500, participants will have a shot at cash door prizes and a special house raffle. A festival raffle will offer as first prize a 1995 Plymouth Neon. Other prizes include hotel weekend and restaurant packages.

**Attention all
high school
seniors
on the
North Side:**

We want you!

**your
photo
here**

In June, New Expression will run the first-ever official city-wide yearbook for the Class of 1995. We want to run photos of at least two students from each school on the North Side (we may do more for certain schools where seniors really stand out). Just imagine—a complete guide to the movers and shakers among the Class of 1995—This could be you!

How do you apply? Simple: 1) Mail us a photo of yourself. 2) Include a page listing all your accomplishments (in academics, sports, drama, etc.) 3) Make sure you include a phone number where we can reach you to let you know if we're going to use your information. Remember, our goal is to include EVERY high school. How will we determine who gets in? Say, for instance, only two students at Kelvyn Park submit photos. They're automatically in! But if we get 50 seniors sending information, well then we've got to choose. There's no cost (of course not, we don't want your money, we want your picture)! Send your information to Salute to Seniors 1995, New Expression, 70 E. Lake St., Chicago, IL, 60601. Sorry, photos cannot be returned.

**NORTH
SIDE**

MATTERS OF DEGREES

Collegiate info and insight

College, money for college, life in college, friends in college. These are the main things on my mind as a high school senior. I need to know everything about college. First I talked to adults about which are the best. Then I started finding out if the college I want to attend is really for me.

My information search had one logical landing, college guide books. I read Peterson's, Lovejoy's, Barron's, and Rugg's. They all provide basic information, such as student population, curriculum, tuition, and location. These books gave me enough background information to help narrow down my choices.

Breaking down the guide to the guides

Location, location, location...

If *what part of the country* you go to college in counts -- Peterson's Guide book divides colleges by location -- Midwest, West, South, etc.

...If you want to start where you finish...

Peterson's offers guides to graduate schools.

...Or maybe you want to go the two-year plan... Peterson's also offers two-year college guides.

...If you know what you wanna do when you get out...

Planning on becoming a rocket scientist? Or maybe just a nuclear engineer? "Ruggs- Recommendations on the Colleges" tells what schools offer the best programs to get there.

...And if you want to get there in style...

Ruggs' also says which colleges are most selective.

...If you just want to know you're gonna get there at all...

Ruggs' ranks schools according to selectiveness.

...Or if you want to be sure the trip will be a comfortable one...

Beckham House has guides discussing black student life on campus.

...While you're at it, save your change, chump...

The Harold Washington library, and many branch locations, have most books you need. And they're in reference so they're always available!

...And if you need more money for school (who doesn't)...

While at the library's main branch, ask the sixth floor's reference librarian where the college scholarship info is. Guides and other printed info explain *who* to apply to and *how* to apply.

Also, for those in need... Robert and Anna Leider's "Don't Miss Out: The Ambitious Student's Guide to Financial Aid", Octameron Associates. This book may not be at the library, but it's only \$7, so pitch in and share! Reviews aid sources. Anna's also got a \$5 guide to fed loans, "Loans and Grants from Uncle Sam."

Other books you can buddy up on to find the bucks...

"Cash for College," by Cynthia Ruis McKee and Phillip McKee, Hearst Books, \$16.95; "Free Money for College," by Laurie Blum, Facts on File, \$14.95 - grants included for women, minorities, and the disabled.

Look for more books and reviews in upcoming columns!

While all books mentioned give detailed info, using college guides as the only information source is a mistake. Books can't talk and don't give info on study habits, cafeteria food, and heat in the winter.

After reading the guides and comparing schools, I wrote the schools for info on majors, scholarships, and dorm life. I then found someone who attended the school and talked to them. If you don't know someone at the school you are interested in, contact the alumni relations office and ask for a Chicago contact.

What the "experts" say about the guides

Girod Walker, director of guidance at Morgan Park High School, says "Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges" is the best. The book is comprehensive as it contains all the characteristics of the schools.

Accurate addresses are given and phone numbers are given."

Walker likes Peterson's Guides because they are updated yearly.

Walker also likes a series of books published by Beckham House that markets to black students. These books include "Black Students' Guide to College" and "100 Best Colleges for African-American Students."

Each book details black student college life. The books discuss race relations, social activities for black students (Greek societies, etc.)

Nancy Byrne, branch librarian of Beverly Branch Library on the South side, prefers Barron's college books to any other. She bought her son a Barron's so he'd see the seriousness of application procedures.

The book she bought her son is now used by the many students who come to the library. "Most branches have Peterson's, Lovejoy's, and Barron's but Barron's has very good information and good descriptions."

Byrne says the best guides are those newest and easiest to understand.

Patricia Sanders, a Whitney Young counselor, recommends Fiske's Guide to Colleges. "It offers a very good narrative description of most competitive schools."

Sanders tells students to look for books giving info about student body and entrance requirements. The best books are those that talk about students' campus life. "Universities look beyond ACT and SAT scores," She said. "Fiske gives details about the types of students wanted."

Adrienne P. Samuels, Morgan Park

NOTE: We want this column to be something you can really use, so write us and tell us what you need to know! Also, drop us a line on what you can share with the rest of our readers! Do you have any tips on how to get money for college? Any info on little heard-of schools that we can write about? Any good stories about college life that we can print?

Send your stuff to:

MATTERS OF DEGREES

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Eleanor Roosevelt

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TAZ IN ESCAPE FROM MARS
 He's back!!! This new Taz (the Tasmanian Devil) game features Marvin the Marfan, those pesky marfans! Bigger, faster game play and cool new features will definitely make this one a hit!

Published by Sega
 Available for: 1 PLAYER ONLY
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 HE'LOCKED ON WITH KNUCKLES ON SEGA GENESIS AND IN TRIPLE TROUBLE ON GAME GEAR!

A double-dose with triple trouble and Sonic and Knuckles! First there's Sonic versus Robotnik; the never-before seen Nack the weasel; and Knuckles in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG TRIPLE TROUBLE by Sega for the Game Gear. Then tackle a whole new world with SONIC AND KNUCKLES featuring new revolutionary technology. First play as Sonic or Knuckles in this new-level action adventure then play SONIC 2 and SONIC 3 as Knuckle too!

It's an add-on, it's a game, it's SONIC AND KNUCKLES with Sega Genesis and lock-on technology
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Auto is going hunting.

How many of u made the wrong choice in the home video game system wars?

Who's got a Turbo GrafX 16 in their junk box?

Who uses their Sega Master System

as the missing foot of ya couch?

if the preceding describes U,

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70 E. Lake, Chicago, 60601

or call Auto at

641-NEWS.

THE SECRETS

advertorial

College doesn't cost -it pays!

Do the prospects of paying for college make you wince? Does the cost of a college education seem sky high? Are you afraid your student loan will look like the National Debt? Although these fears and anxieties may seem real, the real fear is competing in today's job market without a college education.

Recently, USA Today reported: "Workers who didn't receive a college degree have seen their earnings plunge 30 percent in the past 15 years... and coping without college will be even harder in the future."

Given this fact, you may be convinced that college is a smart move, but if you are already working, just how do you get started? How do you pay for it? How do you juggle a job, family and college? "These are normal fears," states Ana Mendez, senior admissions counselor at Robert Morris College. Mendez goes on to explain, "The best thing a working adult can do is enroll in evening classes. You don't have to abandon your job to pursue your dream of an education."

Evening classes at Robert Morris College meet just three nights a week and lead to a diploma in only 10 months. During that time, students will concentrate on career skills like accounting, business management, compute technology, computer graphics, paralegal or medical assisting. After 10 months, most evening grads elect to go on for an Associate degree, but maybe at a slower pace of two nights a week and Saturday.

Angelia Millender, dean of students and director of placement at the 81-year-old, NCA-accredited institution offers this advice to evening students. "When you enroll in night classes, it makes a real positive statement to your employer. It says you're serious about advancement and that you're willing to sacrifice some personal time to pave the way for future success and career growth. With new skills and a degree many of our evening students can secure promotions with their current company."

Evening classes begin Aug. 16 at Robert Morris College, which is located at 180 N. LaSalle, and in Orland Park at 43 Orland Square. You can call the college toll-free at 1-800-225-1520 to learn more about making the most of your night life.

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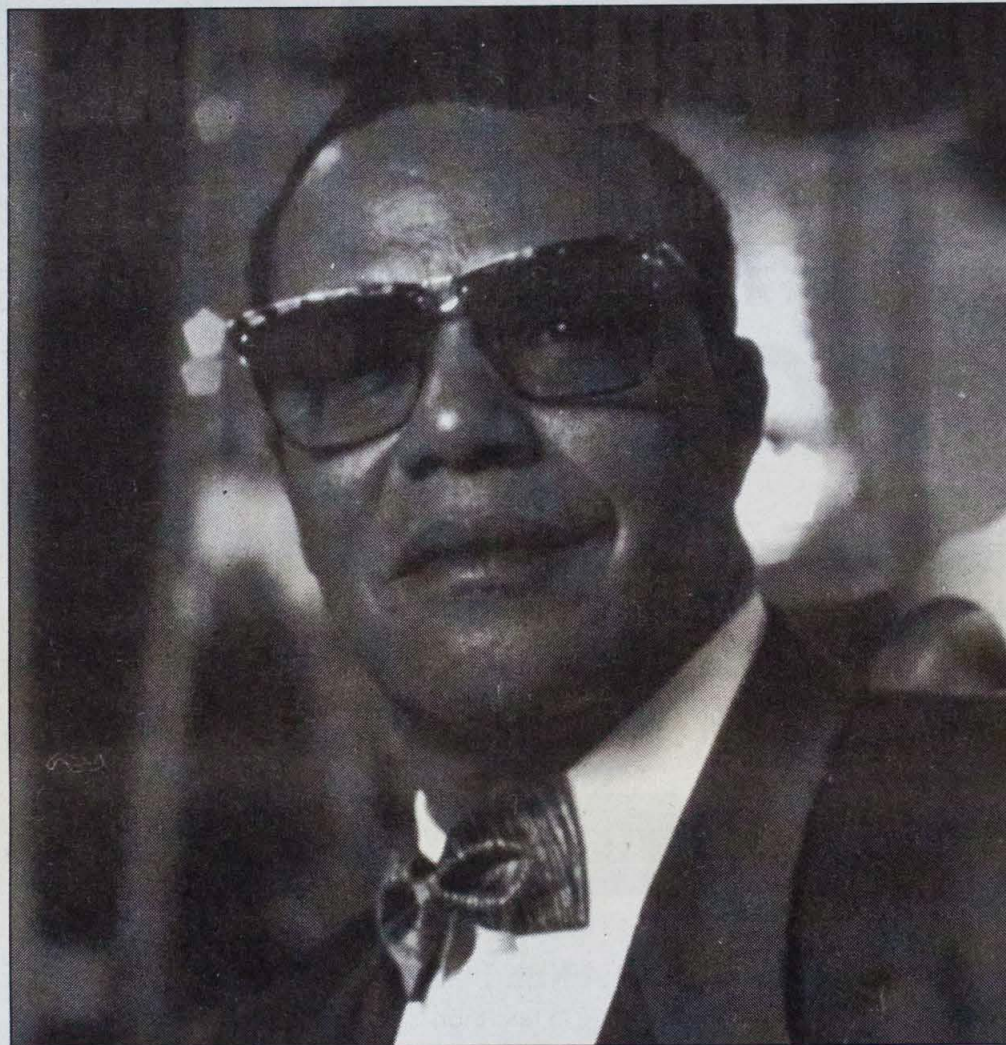
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RMC is a private, not-for-profit institution accredited by the North Central Association.

Should this man be allowed to speak his mind at your school?



MICHAEL L. ABRAMSON/TIME MAGAZINE

First consider this: Louis Farrakhan preaches what some call anti-Semitism and a form of black supremacy.

Now consider this: Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that the First Amendment protects those ideas "we loathe and believe to be fraught with death."

Across the nation, schools are adopting policies to squelch what some call racist, sexist and hate-filled speech.

Some view these codes as necessary to

end discrimination against historically disadvantaged groups. Others see them as "politically-correct" violations of the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

Where do you stand? What should happen when civil liberties and civil rights collide? Should freedom of speech be absolute?

Think about it. Debate it. Because talking about the First Amendment means talking about freedom.

For a free guide to your First Amendment rights call: 1-800-815-5335.

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NE

new expression

turn the page books and mags in review

'Teen is barely kid stuff

"Girl power!" "Does he like you? Ways to tell" "Find out how to be more popular." Ahh, Teen Magazine, every 13-year-old's guide to beauty, popularity, and of course, GUYS!

If you're a girl aged 11-13, this is the magazine for you. Articles like "Sex and Body Talk" and "Mom Wars: 25 ways to make things better" give the reader a close-to-home kind of feeling. And as in any other magazine, we can never forget the inevitable "Does he like you" and "How to be more popular" articles. One unusual article that caught my eye, however, great to be a girl," an entire three pages containing a list of fant things women have invented that have definitely made easier place to live in — things like the dishwasher, disposable bra, flat-bottomed paper bags, Scotchgard, the drip maker, and of course the ice cream cone. But women dedicated their time to home improvement. Bullet-proof heating, and computer programming are among other women have done. You don't see many articles like that. this article, any woman would be proud and any man envious.

Like poems? Well, join the crowd. "In your own words" chance to express yourself through your poetry and let your work. And obviously, the highlight of the entire magazine beauty section, of which there is more than one. These give you answers to your problems about hair, complexion, and clothes, including a chance to win a fall wardrobe.

However, despite of all Teen's good points, I wouldn't recommend this magazine to an audience of an older teen age group because Teen Magazine has a delicate (not very straightforward, and using kind of silly language) way of writing things that will only appeal to a younger audience.

Although I loved the article on why it's great to be a girl and would recommend any age group read it, the overall approach appeals to an audience 11-13 years of age because the articles featured tend to contain things most older girls would not be interested in. For instance, an article like how to be more popular is something older girls wouldn't worry about so much because they know that there are more important things than popularity. Most older girls concentrate more on real life stories than on the types of things Teen focuses on.

Veronica Vera, Bogon



was "Why it's the impor- this world an able diapers, coffee haven't only vests, solar useful things After reading would be

gives you a others see zine is the beauty tips make up

Sassy is just that; YM is a Yawning Menace

For all you teenage girls who didn't get a chance to take a look at the August issue of YM (Young and Modern) and Sassy



magazines, you missed out on tons of funny, educational, and interesting articles. Both glossy mags point out tips on guys, fashions and beauty, and offer lots of information on music. But after reviewing and comparing the August issues, I found that I prefer Sassy.

The article contents are different. YM's articles focus a lot more on sex-related issues, while Sassy's articles center on teens overcoming issues in their lives.

In YM, an article entitled, "I'm sleeping with my best friend's father", is about a 16-

year-old girl having sex with her best friend's 39-year-old father. Now, how realistic is that (or, should we say, how often does that happen)?

Sassy has a column "It happened to me", in which girls tell life stories. The August column was about a black girl from upstate New York who was resentful because she didn't learn about other cultures until she was in college, a likely story for teens of different races who live in upstate New York.

YM has six pages of models Tina and Emma flashing their hottest new outfits for the summer. YM was cool enough to put the places to buy these clothes and their prices next to the photos. The prices range from a \$2 bandana made by the Family Jewels to a \$78 necklace by Agatha — that's right, a \$78 necklace. Why do most of the models in YM look like they can't really be your friend? Why do the people in Sassy look more like regular people and not models? Only the magazine editors KNOW.

Both magazines contain lots of the same advertisements for make up. So, you see, they do have something in common. In my opinion, however, that's all they share.

Eddie Furlong was YM's August star of the month. In his interview he tells how he got into acting and about his family problems which have attracted much media attention.

On the other hand, in Sassy, Angela Chase, who stars in a new TV show, "My So-Called Life", tells all about the series. The article explains how the show doesn't confront or attempt to solve social issues like sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) date rape, and universal health care. Instead, it deals with smaller, much more honest moments — like Angela's dad's flustered reaction when she talks to him wrapped only in a towel, according to the magazine.

To me, Sassy's articles were more eye-grabbing than YM's. Sassy has an article that jumps off the page, "Thirteen Reasons Not to Diet." It tells the bad sides of dieting, things Jenny Craig commercials don't tell you.

YM's articles are pure boredom. There's this article, for instance, "What makes you ask a girl out on a second date." Typical of YM, it is boring because they don't have the boys express themselves more on the question.

Kenya Davis, Kenwood



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MODELS? ICK !

Popular Fox-TV series slips and falls off real-life runway

Passion. Obsession. Betrayal. Murder. This is what Fox's latest primetime soap, "Models Inc." from the creators of "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place" is about. It's the story of an up-and-coming modeling agency and its models who will do anything to make it to the top - from sex, to murder.

Like most soap operas, the cast includes a few rich playboys, an abusive boyfriend and his battered girlfriend, a former porn star, a drug dealer, an unfaithful husband, and one black face (you know, to even out the racial imbalance). Following in the footsteps of "Melrose Place"'s Amanda (Heather Locklear) "90210"'s Brenda Walsh (Shannen Doherty) and "All My Children"'s Erica Kane (Susan Lucci), "Models, Inc." has its bitchy female, Julie Dante (Kylie Travis). In fact, the only difference between "Models, Inc." and other soaps is that "Models, Inc." has no characters named Bo or Jack (yet).

Within only one month, "Models, Inc." already had one murder, two shootings (not related to the murder) six sexual liaisons, one extra-marital affair, one wedding (crashed by a jealous ex), one drug deal and one attempted suicide (Is it just me, or do you get the feeling the writers of "Models, Inc." are probably die-hard "Geraldo" fans?!?)

As for the scripts...well, here's an excerpt from a recent episode of "Models, Inc.": Carrie, one of the models, is talking to her married lover, Paul (whose wife recently overdosed on tranquilizers after finding out he was cheating on her) about their future.

"I feel terrible," Carrie exclaims after Paul admits his love for her. Of course, she feels terrible after she has seduced him and wrecked his marriage. And did I fail to mention that Paul is also the man who adopted her son after she gave it up when she was 17, although he doesn't know she is the birth mother?

"You can't love me!" an overly emotional Carrie tells Paul.

"I do," Paul exclaims. "I'm crazy about you!" (*Oh please*)

"There are things about me that you need to know Things that will change your mind about me!" (And of course he won't ask what those things are and she won't tell!)

"Nothing will change my mind about you, Carrie." (Where have I heard *that* line before.) "Love me," he whispers. "Love me."

They share a passionate kiss, before Carrie dramatically whispers back, "I do love you. I love you!"

Luckily, a commercial ends this "romantic" scene.

"Models, Inc." is made up of relatively unknown actors and actresses with the exception of former "Dallas" star, Linda Gray. The actors and actresses are pretty good, but come on! With scripts that stink like three-month-old milk, even Kevin Costner would look bad!

I think "Models, Inc." was meant to be a soap for the MTV generation (twenty-something). However, the people that actually watch "Models, Inc." are probably pimple-faced adolescents between the ages of 12 and 14 with raging hormones, housewives who have nothing better to do, and/or sex-crazed men who enjoy watching scantily clad models parade across the TV screen.

It appears the writers of "Models, Inc." are trying to avoid the slump in ratings Fox's "Melrose Place" experienced during its first few seasons by starting off with as many eyebrow-raising plots as possible.

But "Models, Inc." writers cannot be afraid to break out of the regular story plots of most soap operas. Sex sells. But when there's practically two (or more) sex scenes during every show the plot gets stale and becomes entirely too predictable.

Nikia Bilal, Loyola University



The cast of Models, Inc.

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CARREY is so very! NE unlocks the info on Slim Jim

Look at that crazy green guy. He thinks he is going to sing his way past the cops. Sorry, Gumby, even donuts ain't going to get you out of this one. I can't believe this guy is dancing on top of a police car. Oh my God, he's got the cops singing and dancing now! Isn't anybody gonna arrest him? That green guy assaulted an old lady and robbed a bank, and you cops are just gonna let him go?

I can't believe they let him go. He got away and he didn't even use donuts as a diversion. That guy was good. That guy just did something that would never happen outside of a movie and made it seem real. You know, no guy is going to dance on a cop car and get away with it, unless he's Jim Carrey.

You better watch out, Carrey is on the loose and is out of control. He fell into "Ace Ventura" (now available on video - get it!), and then his ability to alter the color of his skin and make it green landed him a leading role in the big hit movie "The Mask." Now Carrey is getting the opportunities to make all these movies, and he is. He's making all the movies they let him make. The guy's gone mad, he's just completely flipped out with making movies.

While doing this, he still played a part of "In Living Color", a comedy smash on Fox. "In Living Color" might have been an all-black cast, but then they hired Fire Marshall Bill, also known as Jim Carrey, the show was smoking. "In Living Color" offered Carrey one of his first shots at public recognition, and he continued to appear through the end.

Carrey's unique style makes the unimaginable come to life. What if he saw me? What if he heard what I said? What if that was him dancing on the chair next to me? I was sitting in the front row. If he could do it in that movie, he could do it in every movie. Now when I go to see his movies, I'm going to have to watch my back.

"The Mask" has some great special effects, including a 20-foot-long tongue, and Carrey's eyes popping out of his sockets.

Watch for Carrey's three newer movies lined up, which include "Batman Forever" in which he plays the Riddler, a sequel to "The Mask", and "Dumb and Dumber", which should be coming out late '94 or early '95.



Jim Carrey as "THE MASK"

Theodore Figueroa, Roosevelt

Whachu wanna do ?

What U wanna Do?

DO IT! Use phone numbers for events requiring tickets. Otherwise, just show up. Take the bus if you have to.

OCT 5
Can you appreciate a good play? For free! Equity Library Theatre Company presents: Home Boy. Chicago Cultural Center Theater, 78 E. Washington St., 5:30 pm, FREE. Call (312) 744-6630 for info.

OCT 7
Thank Goodness It's Friday!

OCT 7-9
Beautiful Bodies, Balance and Beats. You know you like that African Dance. Then support Dance Africa/Chicago 1994 Rites of Passage: In Celebration of African Women. Medinah Temple, 600 N. Wabash, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm, Sun. 3:00 pm, \$12-16 (312) 271-7928.

OCT 8
Go ride a bike, roller skate, bowl, or read a book. In other words, get off your butt and interact with other people.

11th Festival of Latin Music
La Fiesta en el Bosque (Fiesta in the Rainforest) Bilingual environmental awareness with puppets and

musical games. Field Museum, Roosevelt Road & Lake Shore Drive, 2 pm, \$6, (312) 525-7793.

OCT 9
You can watch professional football every Sunday this month! (If you want to.) TV. Your place. Check local listings. Free (but you have to watch commercials).

If music is art, this concert should be some exhibit. Michelle Shocked, Ted Hawkins, and Pop Staples. Orchestra Hall, 220 S. Michigan Ave. 7:30 pm, \$15-30, (312) 435-0206.

Anyone hip to the Meat Puppets? They're playing the Vic (All ages) 3145 N. Sheffield, 7:30 pm, \$18.50, (312) 559-1212.

OCT 12
"Hoop Dreams" Premier. This is Chicago's own basketball movie! Hollywood-style premier. Downtown. New Expression has exclusive VIP passes for sale, just \$15! Who's got game? Call (312) 641-6397 for details and tickets. First come, first served.

OCT 15
Play video games (at least three). Call a cute friend of the opposite sex and listen to what they have to say.

OCT 21
Violent Femmes w/ G Love & Special Sauce. Riviera (All ages) 4746 N.

Racine, 7 pm, \$18.50, (312) 559-1212.

The Blond leading the band. Hole w/ Madder Rose - Metro (All ages) 3730 N. Clark, 7:30, \$12.50, (312) 559-1212.

OCT 22
Cute bands, anyone? CandleBox w/ Flaming Lips & Mother Tongue, Aragon Ballroom (All ages), 1106 W. Lawrence 7:30, \$18.00, (312) 559-1212.

OCT 24-NOV 7
Go to the park house and chill. The Chicago Park District has hip-hop dancing, drama, arts & crafts, music, fitness, football, wrestling, pool, table tennis, and more. Go to the park near you and register, or call the regional office, (312) 846-6438

OCT 24
FREE MOVIE HALLOWEEN FUN BEFORE DARK:
Young Frankenstein, Chicago Cultural Center Theater, 78 E. Washington, 5-6:45 pm, free.

OCT 29
Ya Mon, The Chicago Compatriots of the Caribbean, Inc. present Carifesta 1994. Come down! De Islands' callin'. Vendors, costume contest, dance contest. South Shore Cultural Center, S. Shore Dr., 12-6 pm. \$5 for adults \$3 for children. (312) 326-4308

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Coolio's *It Takes A Thief* allows no escape from reality

"Dis ain't funny so don't you dare laugh." This line from "County Line," the first single from Coolio's "It Takes a Thief" (Tommy Boy) describes the entire CD. "It Takes a Thief" is designed to educate those not familiar with the struggle of the African-American community. Its purpose is to make poor urban African-Americans aware that someone recognizes their pain, speaks their language, and wants to give them a way out. The CD is political, thought-provoking, and relative to life, which is why it's in the ideal genre down right hilarious.

Within the ideal genre "County Line" for ex- as a welfare recipient, "Gangsta" is the all-too story, told from the point

lonely people searching for love, not stereotypical callous people abusing In "Can-O-Corn", Coolio wants to make his audience aware that you anything important. He makes light of one day when he was so poor all he Somethin' Fo Da Hood" addresses people who climb the ladder of success, rung. "N Da Closet" describes the mentality of a cocaine addict. In the end, of the closet.

The CD's best track is "I Remember." The lyrics illustrate how relaxed life was on the porch drinking brew and not a drive by," sings a soulful voice.

The entire CD isn't about saving the African-American community and tic Voyage" has thumpin' bass grooves that make you want to dance. "On suggesting rollin' down the strip, hangin' wit da homies. "Ghetto Cartoon" animated satire on stereotypical poor urban life.

Most of "It Takes A Thief" is true to life and not demeaning to women. It reviewer feels is rap's true purpose: addressing urban problems to show how Coolio uses his experiences as a crack addict, thief, and inmate to convey paint a glorified picture of the 'hood, Coolio tells it straight. His directness is emphasized by the message on the inside cover of his CD: "Thanks to those who know they deserve it." Plain and simple, no brown-nosing.

However, even a rapper as positive as Coolio can't completely sever his ties with the kind of rap performed by Luke and Domino. The track "Ugly Bitches" demon- strates the joshing that goes on among guys as they rate women. Although it is unnecessary to the CD, rap wouldn't be authentic without at least one song dedicated to "bitches and hos".

"It takes a Thief" probably won't make it to the top of the charts because it forces those who have forgotten where they came from and those who have been led astray by gangs, drugs and other illegal activity to look in the mirror. But for that reason, it is a must-hear. Listening to it makes you think about the problems of society, educates you on "Urban America" and gives good music to blast from the stereo of your convertible Mustang. Coolio's voice may not be as powerful as Dre's or as menacing as Chuck D's, but it works, it challenges, it's purposeful, and most importantly, it's real.

Marjani Coffey, St. Ignatius



of rap, rappers should use their powerful voice to promote self-reflection among listeners. ample, satirizes the welfare system. On the surface, it's a frivolous account of Coolio's days but it's actually expressing the need for welfare reform. "Mama, I'm in Love Wit a true tale of a jailed black man and his woman and child struggling on the outside. The of view of the man and woman, shows them as the system.

must undergo hard times if you want to achieve had for dinner was a "can-o-corn." "Bring Back forgetting those trying to hop on the bottom the addict defeats his addiction and busts out

back in the day. "I remember when we used to sit

addressing social ills. The popular track "Fantas- My Way to Harlem" has mellow jazz beats is a takeoff from teen jokes about creating an

accomplishes what this African-American the black man is on his way to destruction. his message effectively. Unlike most artists who

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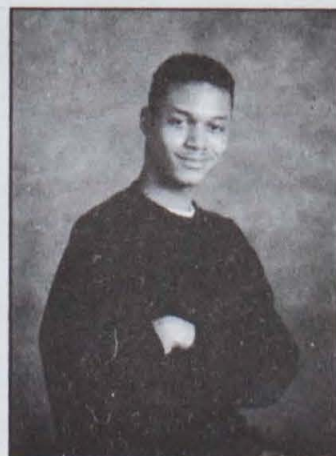
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