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NEW EXPRESSION

BY . FOR & ABOUT CHICAGO YOUTH

FEBRUARY 1999

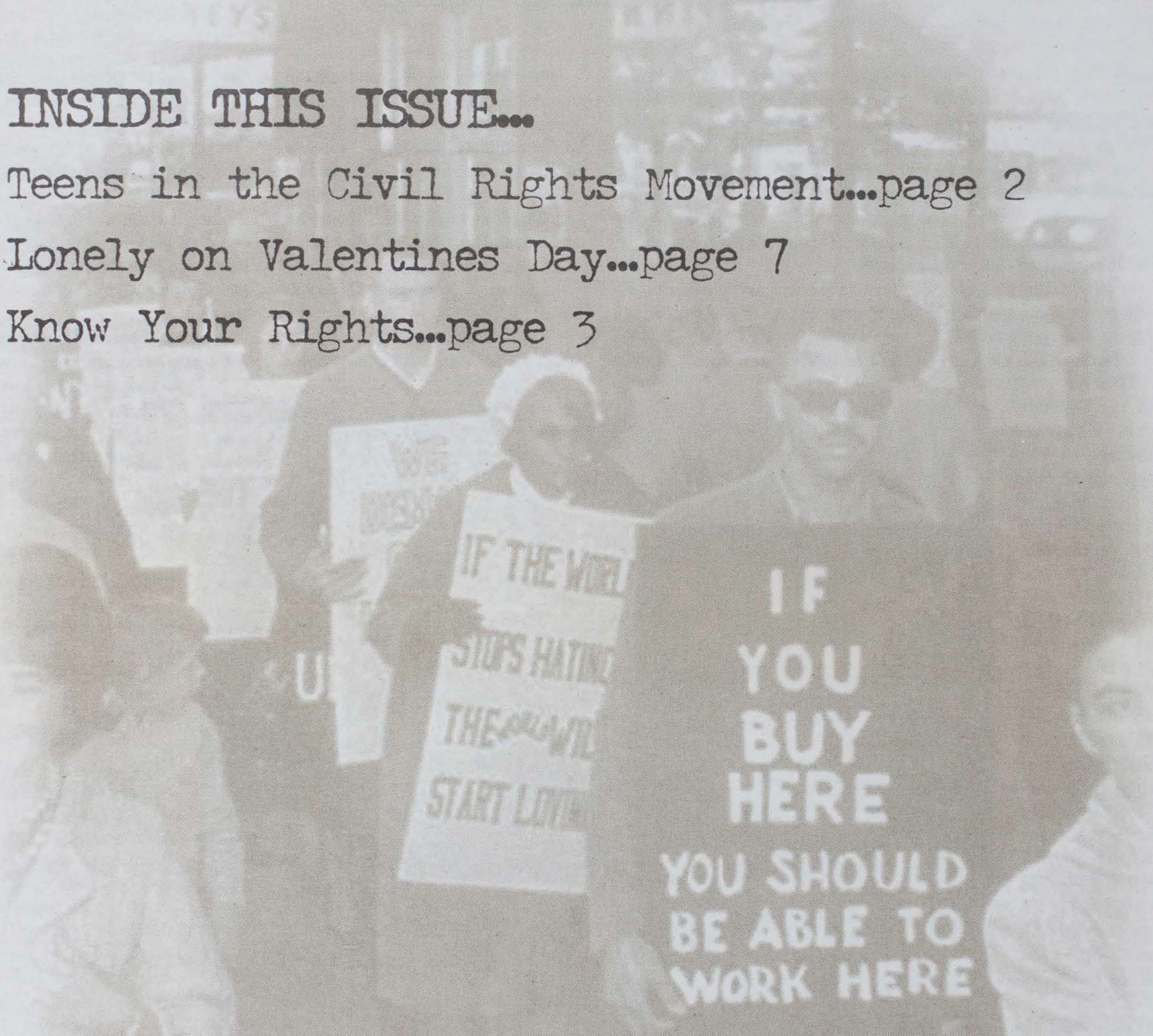
VOLUME 22, NUMBER 4

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During the Civil Rights
movements of the 1950's
and '60's, African Americans
put away fear and crawled

from under the oppression...

Teens sparked the Civil Rights Movement

By Chanel Polk
University of Illinois (Chicago)

(from the cover)

During the Civil Rights movements of the 1950's and '60's, African Americans put away fear and crawled from under the oppression...

...of racism and segregation. It was a turning point in American history which may not have taken place in quite the same way without the participation of teens and young adults, according to historians like Charles Branham, Director of Education at the DuSable Museum of African-American History.

"Older people can become comfortable but younger people don't have as much to sacrifice for principle, which was critical for the movement. [Youth] were willing to live and learn about the struggle," Branham said.

Teens and youth gave the Civil Rights movement life and it claimed some of them through their deaths, as they fought to change social conditions and unconstitutional laws. The number of young victims of racism proved the cost of the struggle, as national attention was given to the movement as a result of these deaths. Such was the case with the murder of Emmett Till.

"Don't hesitate to humble yourself [to white people] even if you have to get down on your knees," is what a 1955 *Chicago Defender* article reports Mamie Till Mobley to have told her 14-year-old son, Emmett, before sending him from Chicago to Money, Mississippi for summer vacation. It was in Mississippi, that he was brutally beaten and lynched by two white men. His only crime had been allegedly whistling at a white female store clerk.

Till and his mother had only lived in their second floor apartment on 64th and St. Lawrence for three years

when the murder occurred. "Emmett grew up in Argo, Illinois," Mobley during a recent interview. He attended an integrated school. Some of the students and teachers were white. He was not race conscious. It was something we didn't dwell on. We enjoyed a comfortable position in society."

There have been varying accounts of the events leading to the murder. It was widely reported that Till was dared to enter a store to speak to a

The evening of the incident, the clerk's husband and his half brother kidnapped Till from his uncle's cabin in the middle of the night. He was taken to a barn and beaten by the two men, who then tied a 75 pound cotton gin fan to his neck with barbed wire and dumped him into the Tallahatchie river. His body was later found by a young man who had been fishing in the river.

Till's body was immediately returned to Chicago. At the request

ture to make people see that the viciousness of the assault was uncalled for," said Mobley.

Though the death of her son helped to inspire the civil rights movement Mobley still feels deep regret about sending her son to Mississippi. "If I could go back to 1955, I would dare to change history, but I guess that's the selfishness of a mother's love," she said.

His mother still feels that children and teens had a immense impact on the civil rights movement. "When children became involved, the harshness of the punishment inflicted on them caught the attention of the nation. We were willing to fight more for the children than for ourselves," Mobley said.

As the years progressed, the fight increased, as more young African-Americans lost their lives. The battle grounds even crossed into sacred areas.

Before church services began at the Sixteenth Street Church on September 15, 1963, in Birmingham, Alabama, a bomb exploded killing four young church members who had been waiting in the ladies lounge.

Denise McNair, 11, and Addie Mae Collins, 14, were both members of the church choir. Cynthia Wesley, 14, and Carole Robertson, 14, were both ushers. According to the book, "Free at Last," all were killed instantly.

According to the book the KKK regarded the bombing as a victory and reported that Connie Lynch, the

white supremacist leader, told a group of klansmen that the four girls "weren't children." He continued, "Children are little people and that means white people [the four dead are] just little niggers."

This tragedy led to multi-racial outrage, especially among whites who



"People are too comfortable with the way things are and aren't faced with the same obstacles as in the past."

white woman. He allegedly accepted the challenge, entered the store and "wolf whistled" at the clerk.

Till's mother testified at the trial that her son had suffered from non-paralytic polio at age 3, which left him with a speech defect. She said that he had probably been trying to ask for bubble gum which apparently came out as a whistle.

of his mother, his casket was left open for public viewing. Thousands viewed his body and the *Defender* reported that every tenth person to view the mutilated body fainted.

"I left the casket open because I was trying to tell the world what happened" Mobley said. "I wasn't an artist and couldn't draw it. I wasn't a photographer and couldn't take a pic-

cont. page 3

story continued from page 2

began to see the lowest effects of racism. This occurrence led to a greater fight for federal civil rights legislation, which sparked a voting rights campaign in Alabama.

During the summer of 1963, large numbers of college students and young adults headed south to assist in creating equality in public restrooms and other accommodations. From that movement, a new political party was launched, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. This party went on to challenge white Democratic delegates for their seats at the Democratic National Convention in 1964.

Three of the many Freedom Summer volunteers were reported missing on June 21, 1963. The bodies of James Earl Chaney, an African-American from Mississippi and Henry Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, Jews from New York, were discovered in a dam on August 4th. Their murders received world-wide attention.

By the end of Freedom Summer, 80 people had been beaten, 35 had been shot at, five had been killed and 20 churches had been burned down in Mississippi.

"[Youth] were acutely aware that they were the transitional leadership," Branham said. "They wanted to change the world and were not going to put up with the same things their parents had."

"The movement would not have been the same without youth involvement," Branham said. They put their bodies on the line and, in some cases, allowed confrontations to occur." Branham also says that the youth of that time fought for principle, which older people were not as willing to do.

Though teens and young adults were willing to sacrifice their lives for equality, some teens today feel that the work of the freedom fighters goes unappreciated by youth.

"Teens don't show that they appreciate what was done for them," said Johnathan Woodall, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Illinois (Champaign).

He also expressed that he doesn't think today's teens would be willing to struggle the way teens did in the past. "People don't care anymore. Everybody is only out for themselves."

Cassandra Liddell, a senior at Prosser, shares those views. "People are too comfortable with the way things are and aren't faced with the same obstacles as in the past," she said.

In *New Expression's* (NE) ongoing effort to give teens a greater understanding of their rights, we are presenting the "Teens: We have rights, too!" series. After the first edition appeared in December, NE received a lot of inquiries from teens about rights in different areas. The following is an interview NE conducted with Heather Grenee, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) High School Civil Liberties Education Project.

NE: Can a school silence its students?

Grenee: Students can be disciplined for (overtly) sexual connotations in an assembly or class presentation. Depending on your administration/teacher, whoever hears the discussion, students can be disciplined for vulgar language among fellow students. At certain schools, yes, profanity is not allowed, but it depends on the individual school handbook whether or not a school can suspend them from talking. Many students aren't looking at the handbook to see if there have been any changes since the summer. Students should check their school handbooks regularly to see if any changes have been made, so they can avoid breaking a rule.

NE: Why can't students bring pagers to school?

Grenee: Pagers were outlawed by the Chicago Public School's in 1986, because possession of such devices had been linked to drug distribution and gang activity.

NE: Aren't metal detectors an invasion of privacy?

Grenee: The ACLU reports that metal detectors are allowed in many states because the courts have ruled that a metal detector is less of an invasion of privacy than frisks or other kinds of searches. Nevertheless, some states have guidelines to protect students' rights.

NE: What's the major difference between the way public and private high schools are run?

Grenee: At public schools, there is a school board which is elected from the surrounding community. They make and adopt proposals, set academic

criteria and listen to teacher/student/parent suggestions for improving the school environment. Whereas, at a private school (depending upon the type of school and administration), rules are already set, which parents clearly know. In short, parents literally pay for a certain type of educational environment for their children's academic development."

In private schools, there is a contract between the school, the students and the parents that they must agree on and sign. Compared to public schools, where there is more of a blending of the mind between teachers, students and parents, it's more open minded and debatable. The difference is almost night and day.

NE: What are my rights if I'm suspended?



pended?

Grenee: In 1975, the U.S. Supreme Court decided on a case called *Goss vs. Lopez* that involved some high school students who had been suspended without a hearing. The Supreme Court decided that if a teacher or school official accuses a student of having done something wrong and wants to suspend that student, the student cannot just be thrown out.

A student has a right to a hearing, so he or she can tell their side of the story. If a student is facing serious punishment, like suspension for more than 10 days, that student has the right to be represented by a lawyer who can call witnesses. Students also have the right to question or cross-examine the accusers and the witnesses against them. Similarly, if a student is found guilty of something, the punishment can't be more serious than the misconduct was. For instance, a school can't suspend a student for just a minor violation, or for

something other kids did and only got detention for.

If a student goes to a private school, due process rights may be different, because private schools are not required to obey the Constitution. Some state laws, however, may give a student some due process protection in school. No matter how long the suspension, a student has a right to know the charges against them. However, a student doesn't have the right to a hearing for a minor punishment, such as being made to sit at the back of the class or detention.

The only way a school can suspend or expel a student without notice or a hearing is if they think the student is a danger to other students or to school property. But even then, they're obligated by law to give the student notice and a hearing as soon as possible after the expulsion.

NE: Can a school punish a student for something done off campus?

Grenee: It mostly depends on whether the behavior impacts the student's conduct in school. In some states, schools have authority over students' activities on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on the

way to and from the school or school activities. While in some states the courts have given schools authority to suspend students who commit serious criminal acts off school grounds, a school would be violating due process rights if it automatically suspended a student without giving a hearing.

The Reciprocal Records Act (passed on Dec 12, 1997) states that any Chicago Public School student arrested off campus may have the arrest reported to their school. From that point the school can decide to further discipline the student, depending upon the severity of their (off campus) offense (this can include suspension and expulsion). This act is detrimental to students because the police can request and receive copies of students records and vice versa.

If you have further questions about your rights not addressed in this article, call Heather Grenee at (312) 201-9740, ext.333.

Domestic violence: A concern for teens

By Suheily Natal
Kenwood

Teens are swiftly becoming a real statistic when it comes to domestic violence, according to the Chicago Police Department's 1996 annual report.

According to the report, the highest percentage of people victimized in domestic violence situations fell into the "teen girlfriend" category. This category accounted for 58 percent of all domestic violence related incidents three years ago. Unfortunately, while the numbers were high, police suggest they may have been even higher because so many domestic violence incidents were not reported.

The Chicago Police Department identifies domestic violence crimes as those incidents committed by intimate partners-spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends. One reason why more teen domestic violence incidents are not filed with police is that many teens think domestic violence is an "adult issue."

In a recent *NE* survey of teenage boys at Kenwood High School, most of the 60 surveyed were split on whether they would physically strike their girlfriend.

"I can't respect a man who puts his hands on a woman. Actually it goes both ways, everyone needs to learn to

keep their hands to themselves," says Kenwood senior, Amy Feuer.

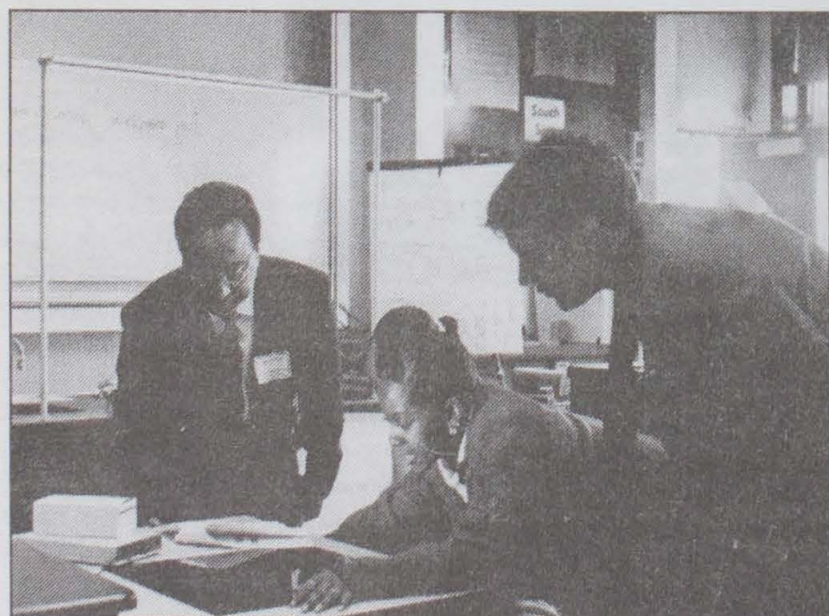
In 1996 alone, there were 441 boyfriends who were victims of domestic related assault, which is very low compared to the 2,095 girlfriends assaulted that same year. Most of the girls surveyed said they would hit their boyfriends back if they initiated the contact.

"I think people hit each other to feel like they are in control," says Paris Hudson, a junior at Kenwood. "It's not necessary to be in a relationship like that."

There are support groups, including local churches and hospitals, to help students out of abusive relationship. High school nurses and counselors can offer a good means of support.

Another place to turn is the Southwest Women Working Together group at (773) 582-0550. They offer domestic violence counseling as well as sexual abuse and incest counseling.

"The most important thing you can do is just get as far away from the person [who is the abuser] as possible, because if somebody hits you once, they will do it again," says Chicago Police Officer Juan Diaz.



Chicago School Reform Board Trustee Tariq Butt, M.D. (left) and Lake View Science Teacher Michael Lach (right) observe students Sheena Brown and Shemeal Kemper completing a physics experiment in Lake View's new science lab. The new lab is part of the Chicago Public Schools \$14 million Capital Improvement Program. The program will allow the CPS to construct new science labs in 38 schools over the next two years.

- photo courtesy of the Chicago Public Schools

We welcome responses to all of our editorials and stories.

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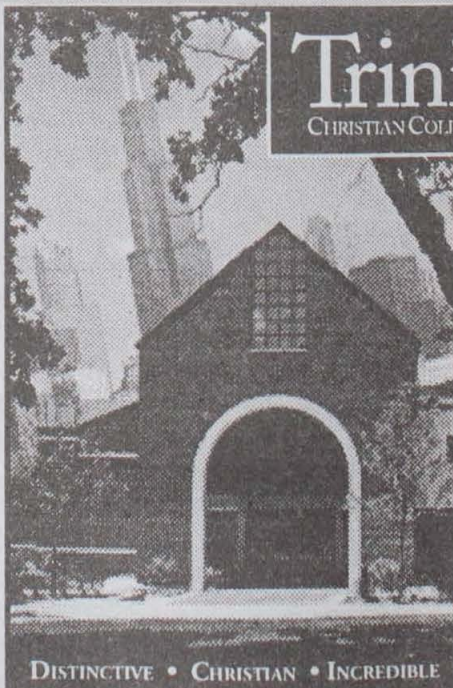
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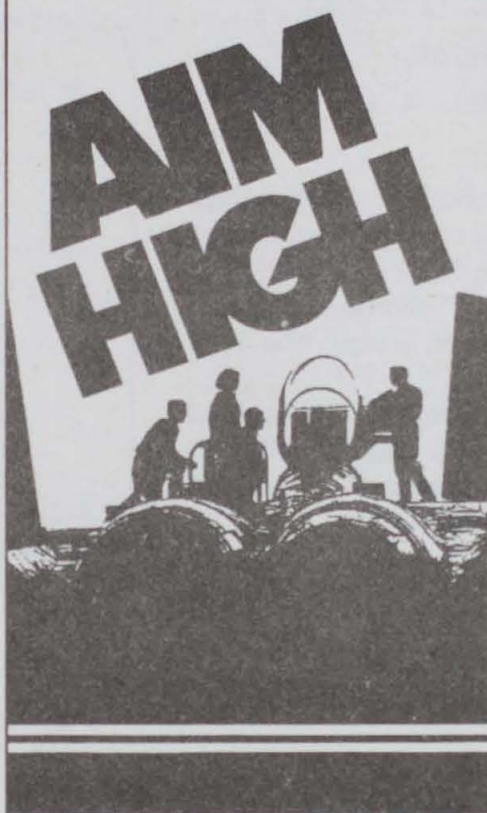
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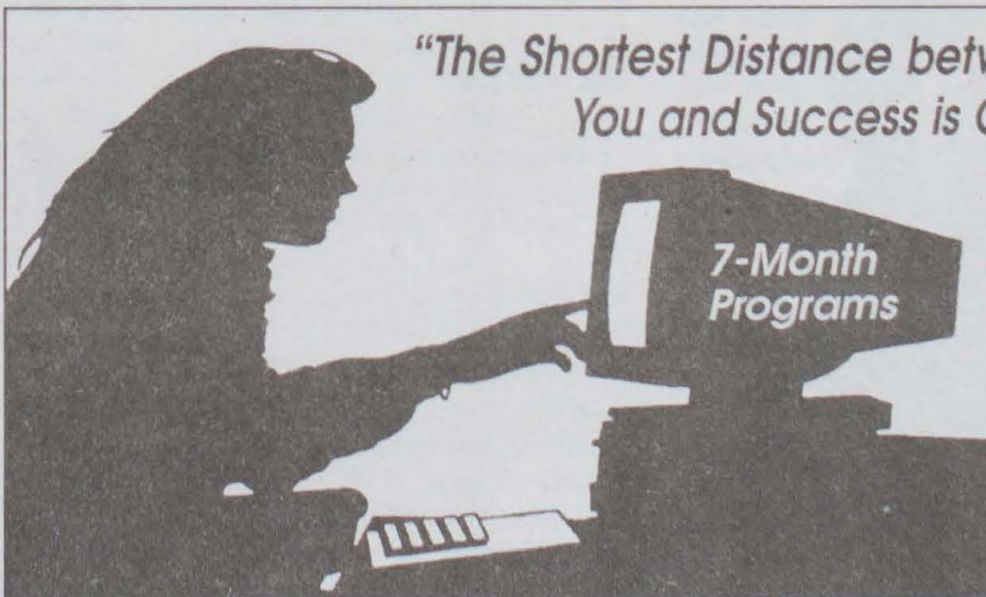
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"One Day You'll Be Mine"

A CD Review, By Jason Smith,
Perspectives Charter

There's some good and bad news about Usher's new CD single release, "One Day You'll Be Mine."

The good news is it's a really nice song about Usher's desire to be with a certain young lady. The bad news is she already has someone.

Also, this song is almost a sequel to "Make Me Wanna." Usher describes how a young lady makes him feel on "Make Me Wanna." The feeling is so intense until he wants to leave the one he's currently in a relationship with. In "One Day You'll Be Mine," Usher dreams to get together with a certain young lady, who is herself in a relationship.

"Magnum Force"
Heltah Skeltah
By Milagros Marchant,
Our Lady of Roses

Heltah Skeltah's "Magnum Force" is da bomb. Not only are the beats "phat," but the lyrics are fresh and the energy is overwhelming. The CD even has a few funny skits, including a female perspective on some of them.

The CD intentionally goes a long way toward uniting the east and west-coast factions of the rap world, by expressing the need to unite and not fight.

Choice tracks include "Black Fonzarelli" and "Chicken Woo."

These two deal with female issues and the pressures of serious relation-



ships. The Outlawz and the Dogg Pound make cameo appearances on "Brownsville to Long Beach" and "M.F.C. Lawz," showing much love and respect for groups who were once rivals.

I suggest you run out and buy it and if you're broke, then dub it from a friend. Don't miss out on this hip-hop masterpiece.

"My Love Is Your Love"
Whitney Houston
By Laila McCloud,
Lincoln Park

"My Love Is Your Love" is proof that Whitney Houston hasn't lost her touch. In the release of her latest CD, Houston assembled a hot production team including Rodney Jerkins (who produced the 1998 hit, "The Boy Is Mine"), Wyclef Jean and Missy Elliott.

For the most part this CD has a hip-hop feel. Tracks like "Heartbreak Hotel," featuring Faith Evans and Kelly Price, are sure to get much radio play. Their three voices together are a welcomed surprise.

There are several beautiful ballads on this CD. Selections such as "I Learned From The Best" and "I Bow Out," allow Houston to display her tremendous vocal ability.

Singers who aren't studio-made are hard to come about nowadays. If you're looking for a genuine voice with great beats, pick up this CD.

"Free At Last" is a book that definitely emancipated my mind. By detailing the history of the Civil Rights struggle of the 1950's and '60's, this book brings readers into a closer look at the movement. For example, it doesn't just give information on the people generally mentioned when African-American History Month comes around. Instead the book covers many people who contributed to the Civil Rights movement, with a special emphasis on the role youth played. Throughout

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Look for options besides college

By Brittany Freeman, Providence St. Mel

While many adults want teens to take the traditional road of attending college after high school, a significant number of students take a detour. According to Baron's Research College Center, 90 percent of high school students apply for college, but only 62 percent actually end up attending a college or university. This is because many of the remaining 38 percent are skipping school for career-oriented programs.

A growing number of students are looking at alternative career programs because they offer several career options in a short-term period, bypassing the usual four-year college process.

One program is VICA, a Virginia-based national alternative program, that trains students for careers while they are in high school. Over 225,000 students are members, as well as over 13,000 teachers. VICA prepares stu-

dents to meet the opportunity to work hard in the career of their choice, and offers a 125-hour internship in a corporation of their choice.

Many manufacturing programs have been luring high school graduates away from the traditional college decisions. According to industry analysts, a high school graduate could make as much as \$40,000 a year, after a year in a manufacturing training program.

Despite that option, some students, like Providence St. Mel junior Iaisha Collins, still want to attend a four-year university for the experience.

"I would like to further my education by learning more and communicating with other people," Collins said.

However, Robert Boxley, who is also a junior from Providence St. Mel, said VICA is definitely for him. "I am going to become an apprentice at a law firm in a few months," he said.

NE Bookshelf: Free At Last

By Jennifer Walton,
Curie

the entire book, black and white college students are highlighted for the work they contributed toward desegregating America.

There are also many full-page, captivating archived photographs to draw readers into the stories in the book.

For people who refuse to vote, reading this book will make them think again. Just reading about the stories of how civil rights workers were slain for conducting voter registration drives in the South should be

enough for you to call the Board of Elections and register to vote.

It also clears up many mysteries I've had about the civil rights movement. For example, the book graphically details the murder of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Chicago boy who was killed at the hands of two white men while visiting his uncle in Mississippi. It also discusses why the Ku Klux Klan didn't show their faces until recently.

This book is highly recommended for people of all races and ages.

Lessons guys need to learn to impress girls

By Johanna Martinez and Johnny Vallejo,
Gage Park



Giving a girl gifts only Valentine's Day cheapens the meaning of the relationship. The relationship was not made in one day. It takes days, weeks, months and even years to create and sustain a relationship.

NE compiled a list of 101 ways to impress girls to help guys go beyond the "Valentine's Day" tradition. We

will print 35 in this issue, another 33 in the March issue and the remaining 33 in the April edition.

1. Always be a gentleman.
2. Buy flowers
3. Buy candy
4. Buy a diamond ring
5. Whisper sweet nothings in her ear
6. Take her to a nice restaurant
7. Be responsible
8. Get a job
9. Be clean and neat
10. Open doors for her
11. Take her home to meet your family
12. Cook her dinner
13. Don't involve kids from a previous relationship in your current relationship

14. Remember special days
15. Choose a night with her, instead of with the guys
16. Learn how to kiss
17. Massage her feet
18. Take her out to party
19. Learn how to dance with her
20. Carry her books/book bag
21. Do something (besides SEX) spontaneously
22. Write her a poem
23. Keep some money on you
24. Go shopping with her and offer to pay for her purchase
25. Buy her a bottle of brand-named perfume
26. Graduate from high school
27. Pick her up in a car
28. Take a walk in the park with her



Art by Erik Perez

29. Have a picnic together
30. Go to the movies with her and let her choose the film
31. Take her for a weekend get away
32. Accompany her to church
33. Be intelligent
34. Have a nice smile
35. Tell her how much you love her

Girls, guys: We welcome your responses to these suggestions.

Whether you agree or disagree with the list, we want your feedback. Send your letters to: **New Expression Newspaper, Ways to Impress a Girl/Guy**, 600 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1996, or, E-mail us at: newexpress@aol.com, or, Fax us at: (312) 922-7151. We will print letters by the next edition of **New Expression**.

What do the lonely do for Valentine's Day?

By Marilyn George,
Lane Tech

Although Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, school hallways and classrooms will more than likely be flooded with love-birds on Monday, February 15, as cupid shoots his annual arrow into the hearts and hormones of teens.

Couples will be paired up closer than ever, and there will be no escaping the bouquets of

flowers, "I Love You" teddy bears, and those disgusting kisses. But what should you do on Valentine's Day if you're single.

"Treat yourself," said teens like Christine Jun, 15, a sophomore at Lincoln Park. Jun says that Valentine's is a free day to get your priorities straight and then "treat yourself to a day of shopping."

"Valentine's is the perfect day for me to finish up the things I've been holding off for another day. Then later on, I would

head to the mall," Jun said. "Shopping always releases my stress. Think of it this way: the money you would have to save up to spend on that special someone, you could spend it on yourself."

Lane Tech's Carlos Rodriguez, 17, suggests spending the entire day either with friends or family.

"Why spend Valentine's alone in your room crying when you can hang out with some friends or your brother and sister," Rodriguez said.

Keeping busy may be convenient for some lonely people, but what if that just doesn't cut it? Psychologist Patricia Farrell suggests developing a deeper meaning of love and how to express it on Valentine's Day.

"Valentine's Day isn't just a day for thinking

fond thoughts of current or lost loves, it's a time to remember all things and people you love," Farrell said. "Perhaps an old teacher or a relative who saw you through a tough time. Don't believe that this day is tightly limited to only those who arouse passion in us. Forget the 'rules' and begin enjoying the day for what it is; a time of celebration of caring!"



Photo by Colleen Vandernot

February Calendar

*Often the test of courage
is not to die but to live.*

-Vittorio Alfieri

Events

Through February 28

Skate on State
Free skating, skate rental \$3
State and Randolph Streets
9:00 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Call (312) 744-2883
for more information.

February 1-14

La Guadalupanas: Images of
Faith and Devotion
50 devotional works of art cre-
ated by Hispanic artists in
New Mexico
Field Museum, Lake Shore Drive
at Roosevelt Road
Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays free
Call (312) 922-9410
for more information.

February 1 - March 17

Black Creativity
Exploring the contributions of
African Americans

Museum of Science
and Industry
5700 S. Lake Shore Drive
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Free with museum admission

February 1-23

Origins: The Africas
Five festivals exploring the
roots of African-American cul-
ture. Chicago Cultural Center,
78 E. Washington St. (Each fes-
tival takes place in various loca-
tions located in the center.)
12:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Call (312) 744-8032
for more details.

February 1-28

The Blood Knot
Two African-American brothers
betray their dream of a better
future with the impossible wish
of passing for white.
Heartland Cafe
7000 N. Glenwood Ave.
Saturday - Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday and

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$10, students \$8
For tickets, call (773) 465-
8005

February 3, 10, 17, 24 (Wednesdays)

African Americans of
Achievement
A series of films about the con-
tributions of Blacks to
American culture.
Carter G. Woodson Library,
9525 S. Halsted St.
10:30 a.m.
For more details, call
(312) 747-6900.

February 5-14

Chicago Auto Show
McCormick Place, 22nd Street
at Lake Shore Drive
For more details, call
(630) 424-6058.

February 6

African Instrument Making
Learn how to make the Nigerian

percussion instrument call
the Shekere.
Garfield Park Conservator
300 N. Central Park Ave.
Fee: \$20.00
10:00 - 11:30 am
Call (773) 638-1766 for
registration information.

February 13-14

Love poems on Valentine's Da
Jan Erkert & Dancers
The Athenaeum Theatre
2936 N. Southport
Call (773) 883-8620
for more details.

February 14

Pottery detectives
Discover the origins of puzzl
pottery pieces, practice restor
ing a broken pot, and decorat
your own pot to take home.
Spertus Museum
618 S. Michigan Ave.
Fee (includes admission
museum) \$10
Register by February 8



Call (312) 322-1747.

February 27-28

Relay for Life

American Cancer Society's event. An overnight, indoor camp-out event, your team of 10-12 people enjoy live entertainment, sporting, educational activities, while your team takes turns walking, running, or in-line skating around the track.

Windy City Fieldhouse

2367 W. Logan Blvd.

Fee \$25, \$100 after Feb. 1st

Call (312) 372-0471

for more details.

Movie Releases

February 2

"8MM" - A thriller starring Nicolas Cage and Joaquin Phoenix. Surveillance specialists follow a trail of evidence to determine the fate of a stranger.

February 5

"Rushmore" - Chronicles a year in the life of Max Fisher, who attends Rushmore Academy. Max falls in love with a 1st grade teacher who is having an affair with Max's mentor. This starts off a war between Max and his mentor, played by Bill Murray.

"Life" - A story of two criminals, played by Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence, who discover the meaning of life after being sentenced to life imprisonment.

February 12

"Blast from the Past" - A romantic comedy with Brendan Fraser and Alicia Silverstone. A man comes into the world after being in a nuclear fallout shelter for 30 years.

Teen Hangouts

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and Thursday.

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(312) 943-5151
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chess, indoor simulator
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after 10 p.m.

Concerts

February 5

Enrique Iglesias
Rosemont Horizon
6920 N. Mannheim Road,
Rosemont
Call (847) 635-6601
for more details.

February 13

Cardigans
The Metro
3730 N. Clark
Call (773) 549-0203
for more information.

February 20-21

Lauryn Hill and Outkast at the
Chicago Theatre
175 N. State St. (the corner of
State and Lake
Chicago, Illinois
Call (312) 559-1212
for more tickets.



Defend teen rights

I read the December 1998 article on "Teens: We Have Rights, Too!" I felt a sense of relief because someone else could relate to issues I have. I don't like the way our rights are being violated. The majority of adults abuse their authority way too much.

--Jacery Jenkins, Harper

Teens should have more rights to do what we want, as long as we can handle the consequences. Adults don't have any respect for our rights. They are always telling us to respect them, but they don't respect us. We should have the right to speak our mind and tell them to respect us, without getting into trouble. We shouldn't have to hold back what we feel.

--Iris Pegus Muhammad, Harper

I feel suspending a student is wrong, because that person's right to an education is being stripped. Sometimes a student can get suspended for talking back to a teacher. But if the teacher disrespected the student, nothing is done to punish the teacher's actions. If a student gets suspended, then the teacher should have a penalty as well. Most students are not going off on teachers without a reason.

--Lucretia McFarland, Harper

Problem solver

This letter is in response to the December 1998 article, "The key to proper decisions."

The violence and hatred in this world has been getting stronger. We (teens) need to come together and find the solution to these problems. The answer is not hard to find. His name is God!

I grew up in a good Christian family. That does not mean that I have an easy life. I serve the Lord Jesus Christ because I know that he loves me like a father and I can always rely on him. Many of today's teens feel lost. They believe that the world has turned its back on them and that no one even cares.

God is someone who will never leave your side.

The article said, "A huge percentage of teens are committing suicide."

Why is that?

They feel lonely and are trying to find an easy way out. Everyone is very special in his or her own unique way and there will never be another person who is exactly like him or her. From a teen to other teens, all I ask is that you give God a chance in your life. Let him give you the fatherly love that you have been longing for.

--Vanessa Centeno, Foreman

Getting to know you

If you take your time and learn about other cultures, you may understand people better. You will learn to respect their goals, values, and actions. My grandmother likes to sit and talk about how life has changed. Thanks to her, I learned to appreciate everything that I have. Most Americans have a family, house, clothes, food, and a warm bed. Yet they still complain. If they would learn more about their culture, and how people lived in the past, they would learn to appreciate more what they have.

--Elena Perez, Jones

Knowing your culture and other cultures is good. You may learn the variety of food and songs that exist and the history of that culture, which is very educational. What I know about my culture makes me feel proud of myself and where I come from. My nationality is Mexican. My family is from Mexico, the most beautiful place to visit. My language is Spanish, which is spoken at home daily.

--Imelda Saldivar, Jones

Who's A Jerk?

I agree with NE Opinion's Editor, Dar'Keith Lofton. People do ignore each other. It's not that we do this to be mean, but we don't know what the reaction from that person will be if we say, "hello."

Let's take this example. If I were to see a stranger stranding along the road, I would not stop to pick him up. I'm thinking about my safety.

The way things are going it seems like you can't trust anybody. We think more of our safety than our attitude.

--Fernando Lucero, Foreman

Are we all jerks? That is a tough question to answer. In my opinion, not everyone is a jerk, just most of us. Now days, it is so dangerous in our world. Most people get nervous walking down the street and they want to ignore everything until they get home.

In Chicago, it can be very dangerous for some people who might not fit in. They keep to themselves for their safety.

I don't consider myself a jerk because I'm nice to everyone and I respect everyone who earns it. If someone is a jerk to me, I will return the hostility two times stronger.

My parents brought me up to be a respectful young woman and I try my best to stay that way. So far, so good.

Peoples' attitudes depend on the environment that surrounds them.

In conclusion, I don't agree with this article because I don't believe you can judge anyone except yourself. If you feel you're a jerk, don't assume everyone else is, too.

--Sarah Streichhert, Foreman

I think we are generalizing when we say, "We are all jerks," because not everyone is a jerk. There are a few, but there still are some gentlemen around here.

As for me, I am a gentleman. I really consider myself one because I always help whoever asks me for help. An example is when I'm at Jewel by my school. There are a lot of older women coming out with bags and they ask me if I could help them with their bags and I do without any hesitation. I think there are others like me, even in this school.

I don't think everyone is gentleman, but I don't think everyone is a jerk.

--Jose Sanchez, Foreman

In the December 1998 edition of *New Expression*, Opinions Editor, Dar'Keith Lofton wrote an article entitled, "Are we all jerks?" My opinion is that he's got it all wrong.

Teenagers don't get enough credit for our kind acts. For example, I have seen many teens give their seats to handicapped people, elderly people or just a woman who was standing.

People who call others "jerks," just don't know the good side of the "jerks."

--Enrique Rebolledo, Foreman

Having only lived in Chicago for barely three months, I have still been quite observant of people. The opinion of the writer may be true, however, I cannot make a generalization in this case because I haven't been here for a long time. I can make a superficial observation, however, for I see lots of people here who pass by each other.

If they greet one another, it is more of a fleeting greeting, very little or no personal involvement or friendship is involved.

Therefore, we cannot exactly say that we are jerks because there are still a lot of people around, regardless of creed, race, color, or nationality who are good Samaritans and friends.

--Patrick-Philip L. Guevara, Foreman

NEW EXPRESSION welcomes letters from our readers on our newspaper or any other views you have. Please send your typed letters to:

NEW EXPRESSION

Letters to the Editor
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1996

NEW EXPRESSION reserves the right to edit letters for space and taste suitable to our publication. Our deadline for letters is the first Friday of each month.



Art by Joaquin Ochoa

Staff Editorial

Abstinence is the best form of birth/disease control

While it may not be the most popular sex policy, abstinence is a good idea for teens. Keeping away from sexual intercourse will decrease the percentage of young people coming in contact with sexually transmitted diseases and becoming pregnancies.

Last October, a rally at the UIC Pavilion supported the goals of abstinence as a part-

of sexual education policy in schools. If abstinence education becomes a reality, students would be taught that sex has moral and spiritual values, and is not just a symbol of pleasure.

Sex is an emotional form of communication expressing deep and personal feelings shared between two people. Students must also know that safe sex does not exist. Even with birth control, STD's and unwanted pregnancies could become a possibility.

Condoms have been known to be defective. According to the Food and Drug Administration, four out of 1,000 condoms are defective. There is no way of knowing whether you

have one because there are no warning labels expressing a poor quality condom.

Groups like the Coalition for Positive Sexuality, also known as CPS (not to be confused with Chicago Public Schools), have issued booklets to high school students entitled "Just say Yes." While support-

ing condom use, the booklet also supports masturbation. Masturbation is not exactly safe. When a person masturbates, there is a good chance that germs can enter the genitalia through

unclean hands and objects.

As with all forms of teaching, repetition is the best form of education. It's not enough to teach safe sex without giving teens all of the information. When teens started getting greater access to guns, there were no calls for safer bullets. There was a call for gun control. With all of the sexually-transmitted diseases, unwanted children, abortions and deaths through AIDS, why are we treating sex any differently?

Even with birth control, STD's and unwanted pregnancies could become a possibility.

Let's stop the name calling

By Alexia Davis
Mother McCauley

"Your neighborhood is ghetto." Teens have been known to be blunt when it comes to teasing or name calling. However, where a person lives and the money their family makes should have nothing to do with what social group they are in.

One of the major statements about "bad" neighborhoods is the popular word "ghetto." But the word didn't begin with negative connotations. Ghetto simply referred to a neighborhood or city where a minority group lived due to socio-economic factors.

Blacks were not the first group to live in a ghetto. Actually, European Jews who settled in New York apart-

ments were the first ghetto dwellers. We have reached an all-time low when we begin labeling all non-white neighborhoods as ghettos. Many blacks live in housing projects and many whites reside in trailer parks, mainly for economic reasons. Both can be considered "ghettos" based on the definition, but it appears that only the minorities get labeled.

In most of Chicago's "good" neighborhoods, major social problems still exist. They have a tendency to be covered up because no one wants to talk about them. All neighborhoods have their share of problems, so let's stop the name calling.



Photo by Colleen Vandernot

So you can't wait to date?

By Brittany Freeman
Providence St. Mel

Teens should establish themselves as individuals before attempting to figure out who other people are. Self-identity gives a person character and distinction from others. This is important in young relationships, especially with teens who have not gained their self-identity before "giving themselves" to someone else.

Such individuals have a hard time discovering who they are because their "worth" lies in their relationships and not themselves. Many teens have entered into relationships without knowing themselves first, and subsequently felt trapped in the relationships. Is that what love is supposed to be, feeling trapped?

Teens should spend more time on school studies, instead of being "committed" to other people. Work is a very important part of the school environment. Becoming involved in a serious relationship will take up a lot of time and energy that can be used in doing something much more

productive.

Teens should enjoy their school years. Life is stressful enough without entering relationships that resemble marriage. Guys should enjoy the fun they have with their female friends and vice versa. Friends can be optional mates for the future. Teens should keep their options open and perhaps a relationship will form.

The prime-time, young adult dramas, such as "Dawson's Creek," "Party of Five," and "Felicity," don't give a realistic perspective of relationships. Let's be real, the teens I know are not the people in these clueless dramas, who have the perfect life, school, house, and relationships. Unfortunately, these TV characters are who many teens mold themselves to be.

Many teens say they want a commitment, but they should remember to make the commitment to themselves first.

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American influence is all good

By Bianca Karriem
Providence St. Mel

American pop culture hasn't imposed itself upon other cultures. We just have the best.

People across the world have to adapt to the American way of life, integrating it into their own culture. It appears as if the American lifestyle is just as real and important to youth in other countries as it is to those in the United States. They listen to American music, wear the latest fashions created by American designers, watch American films and eat American food.

Let's face it - America is da bomb!

The American influence in foreign countries has played a positive role in the development of these nations. Asia, South America and Africa have made many medical advancements thanks to the access of American technology.

Russia, a country that was once communist-led, has recently shifted to democracy. The United States was the first country to form a democratic system. This system has done well in not only influencing the Russians,

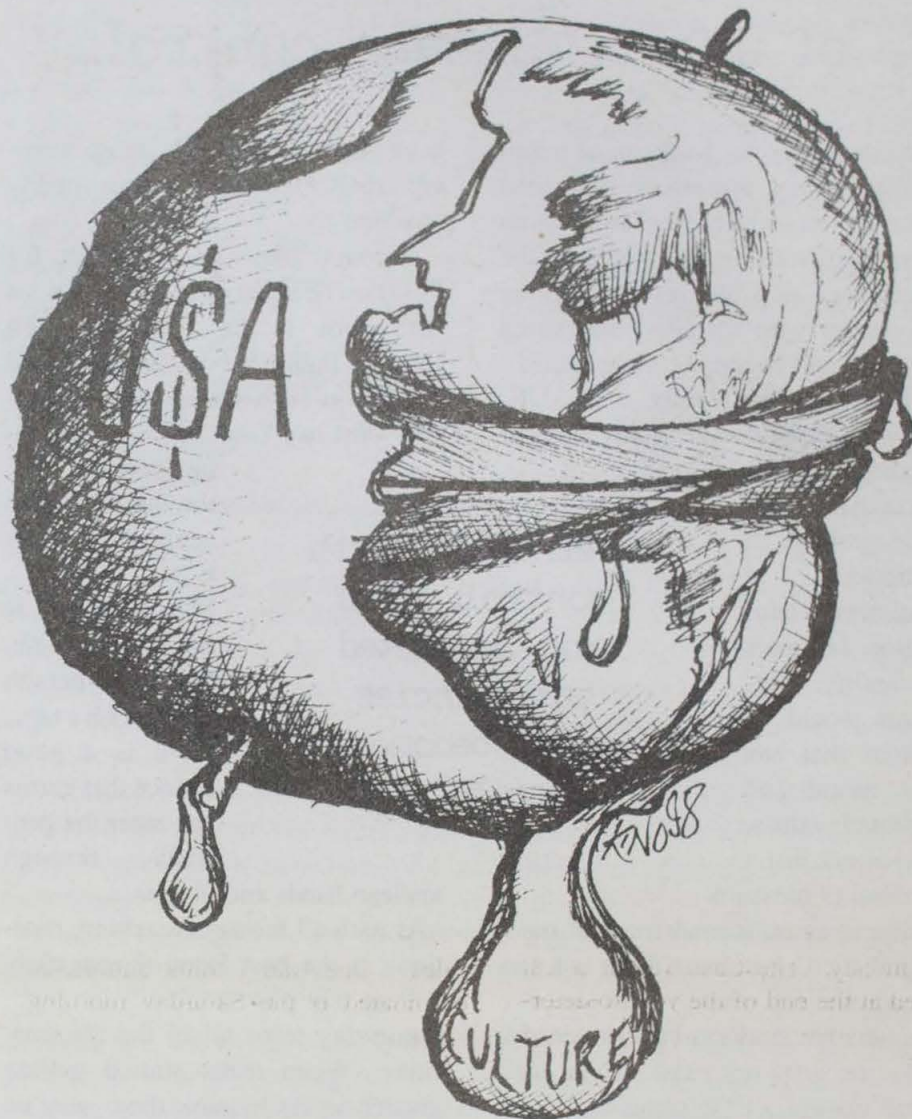
but other countries as well. There is also the exposure that young people encounter.

Teens in other countries are aware of what is going on around the world. Teens in Japan wear Tommy Hilfiger, while teens in France dance to American dance club beats.

Teens in Israel buy lunch from McDonald's, while teens in England watch American stars blow up at the box office.

American pop culture has made good contributions to other countries. This is not only about America's influence on the world, but it is also about learning.

Young people of other cultures come from completely different walks of life, yet they embrace America's culture with enthusiasm. Teens worldwide are not the only ones who need to become a part of the learning process. American youth can also learn a lot. Teens in the United States could be taught to embrace each other as fellow Americans.



Art by Joaquin Ochoa



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America has too much influence on other cultures

By Francesca Eadie
Columbia College

Pop stars like Janet Jackson and Smashing Pumpkins and movies like "Seven," "Titanic," "Independence Day," and "Men in Black," are not only big hits in the U.S. American stars and films have overwhelmingly taken foreign countries and cultures by storm.

Some foreign countries suggest that American movies and music are kicking their cultures to the curb and ruining their individuality as nations.

They are right. Too much of anything is bad.

True enough, America is "da Bomb" when it comes to making great movies and our success and talent should be shared throughout the world. However, too much American

influence has bombarded other countries and cultures to the point where some countries feel they're becoming culturally and traditionally extinct. No countries should ever forget, or even be threatened to forget, the history and traditions that laid the foundation for who they are today.

Perhaps it is that the other countries' movie and music making efforts "stink" bad and this drives the native countrymen toward American Pop culture. Still, no one wants to become a "clone" of anyone else.

America needs to back off and allow these other countries more space to promote their own movies, music, and events. This is for the sake of keeping their cultures alive.

Winners of the December Essay Contest: "What School Rules Should Be Eliminated?"



1st Place
Elpida Davos
Lane Tech

There are two school rules that should be eliminated. One is the Case Test and the other is the mandatory community service hours.

The Case Test should be eliminated from the Board of Education's curriculum, because it is a waste of time and money. The Case Test is a test issued at the end of the year to determine whether students have retained what has been taught. The problem is if students do poorly, the test could prevent them from passing onto the next grade.

A whole year of studies should not be based upon a final test at the end of the year. Students go to school during the year, to work hard and have the summers off.

The community service hours should be removed because they waste time. They make students stay away from their studies, social lives and jobs. The only people that profit from community service work are adults who own all the businesses and make the students work freely for them.

It is time for our generation to stand up. We shouldn't just sit back and allow decisions to be made without our input.



2nd Place
Ngonzi Truth Chrushshon
Longwood Academy

By definition, rules are made by those in authority to regulate action, conduct and procedures. Rules are made to bring order so that certain goals can be accomplished. Rules are also made as a guide so that everyone is playing by the same rules. One rule I think should be eliminated is the Saturday morning detention.

Saturday morning detention is a vast waste of time, money and energy. The school has to be opened, staff have to be assigned and the lights and gas have to be used for two hours on a non-school day.

Additionally, the students have to drive over or take the bus to clean the building, read a newspaper, complete homework or write a meaningless paper on "how I got detention." Judging from the repeat Saturday detention offenders at my school, the discipline is not working very well.

An alternative to detention would be community service. Allow students to read to the elderly, tutor an elementary school student, work at a food bank, or volunteer at a hospital or a church. This will give them the opportunity to serve others, meet different people and use their communication skills. This form of "detention" would be much more interesting and profitable than cleaning chalkboards.



3rd Place
Thomas Raley
Kennedy

Failing students for missing over 20 days from school in a semester is a rule that should be eliminated.

There are many factors that can stop a student from going to school. Perhaps, the student was suspended for something he didn't do, as in the case of someone else provoking a fight with him. Maybe the student becomes really sick or is injured and can't attend class. Then, there are students who have family problems, or experience tragedies, such as the death of a loved one. Other teens have to work long hours to support their families' incomes.

Perhaps, the Chicago Public Schools' CEO Paul Vallas thinks it's easy for a student to focus on school when they have to worry about if there's any food in the house, or they're afraid their dad might come home drunk and beat them up. Because these problems exist, many students can't make it to school everyday. Perhaps, Mr. Vallas has never faced such problems, but it doesn't mean they don't exist.

There are students who come everyday, are always on time and believe this is all they have to do. They spend their time disrupting classes and distracting students who want to learn. While they are in school, it is clear that they are not there for the right reason. They would be better off staying at home.



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February's Essay Contest Question: "How far would you go to help a friend?"

Please present your arguments clearly and concisely. Your essay must be 200-300 words. The first, second and third place essays will be reprinted in the March edition of *NEW EXPRESSION*, and the winners will receive \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively. Also, the teacher of the student with the first place entry wins \$25.

Rules: Must be under 20-years-old to win. All entries must be submitted with a typed cover sheet that includes your: 1) Full name; 2) Home address with the city, state and zip code; 3) Home Phone Number; 4) Age; 5) Full name of your teacher, if he/she assigned you the essay contest. Failure to comply with any of the rules will automatically disqualify your entry.

Deadline: February 3, 1999 - 5:00 p.m. No Extensions!

Class of 99 ranks with the best

By Jabari Evans, Luther South

About ten years ago, Chicago prep stars like Deion Thomas and Eric Anderson dominated the basketball scene. Many sports analysts said they would be part of the best class this city would ever see. They were wrong.

Sports reporters like the *Chicago Tribune's* Bob Sakamoto argued that last year's class was the best in the last 20 years.

"Last year we had standouts such as Quentin Richardson, Bobby Simmons, Lance Williams, Michael Wright, Corey Maggette, Joey Range, Rod Thompson and Kevin Frey. They composed the best recruiting class in 20 years," Sakamoto said. Sakamoto, who also hosts CLTV's Preps Plus show added, "Now the Chicago-area seniors rated among the top players in the country are Brian Cook from Lincoln, Leon Smith of King and Stephen Hunter of Proviso East."

While the current crop of players may not all be nationally ranked, they are drawing comparisons to the elite group of players who preceded them over the last ten years. Many of these players went on to have strong college careers and play professionally.

For example, according to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) records, the top guards from 1988-90 were William Gates, St. Joseph; Howard Nathan, Peoria Manual; Sean Pearson, Nazareth; Tom Klienschmidt, Gordon Tech; and Jamie Brandon, King.

Sakamoto said current top guards ranking in comparison include: Imari Sawyer, King; Sean Harrington, Elgin; David Bailey, Westinghouse; Jitum Young, Gordon Tech; and Odartey Blankston, Hillcrest.

In the forward category, IHSA lists Sherell Ford, Donnie Boyce and Michael Finley, Proviso East; Thomas Hamilton, King; and Kendall Gill, Rich Central as the top in their position in 1988.

Sakamoto said today's comparable forwards are Demetrius Williams, King; Marcus Smallwood, Elgin; Najeeb Echols, Young; Brandon Johnson, Providence; and Darnell

Fields, Zion-Benton.

According to Sakamoto, today's top centers include Andre Brown, Leo; Steven Hunter, Proviso East; Leon Smith, King; Reo Logan, Hillcrest; and Jabari Harris, Fenwick.

She's Got Game

By Jabari Evans, Luther South

Oftentimes when males watch girl's basketball they don't give them proper credit. Comments like "she can play," are usually followed by "for a girl." But when it comes to Luther South's Janet Henry, many males use three new words: she's got game.

A 6'3" junior, Janet is not your average slow and un-athletic center. She has the ability to bang and maintain a perimeter game, which has won her the praises of the *Chicago Sun-Times'* top players in Class A. An example of her abilities was demonstrated with a 43-point game in the Luther South Thanksgiving Tournament.

But for every word of praise, there are critics. In fact, the *Daily Southtown* said Janet, "would be great if she could reduce her tendency to foul out of games and (she should) call for the ball more."

Henry's response? Nobody's perfect.

"Many of my critics focus on my tendency to foul out, but they also rank me the best player in Class A. But I'm for the team. Our success doesn't ride on my shoulders."

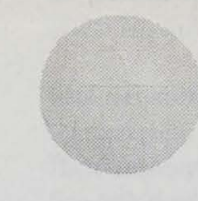
Not only is Henry a star basketball player but she was also one the leaders on the volleyball team, gaining many honors including being named to the Private School League's All-Conference 1st Team.

"Sometimes I think people treat me differently (because of my athletic feats), but it's not a big problem."

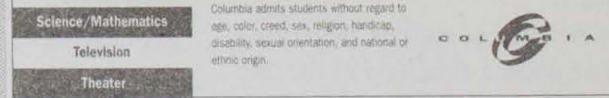
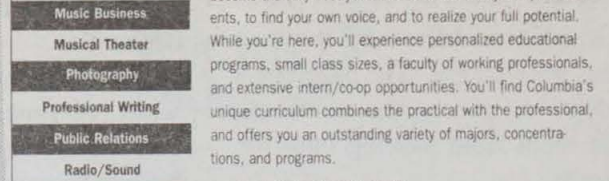
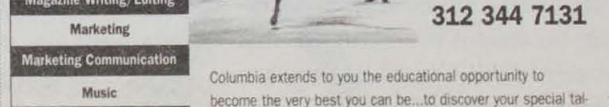
She plans to continue playing basketball for the foreseeable future, but desires to become a police officer, as a back-up plan.

Currently, she's looking at accepting a scholarship offer to either DePaul or Tennessee State. She maintained that making it to the pros is her ultimate goal.

"In 5 years, I see myself as a part of the WNBA," Henry said.



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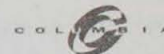
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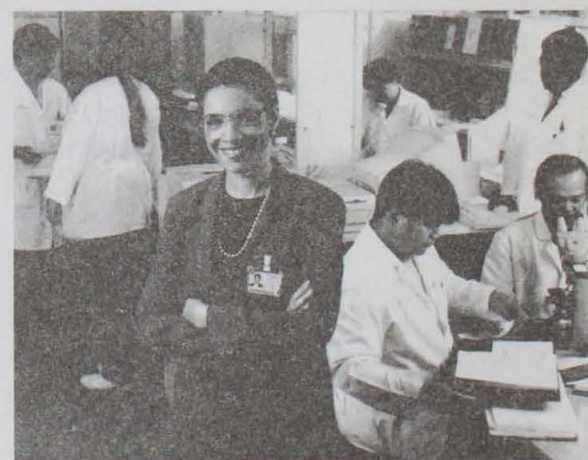
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Game Boy goes colored

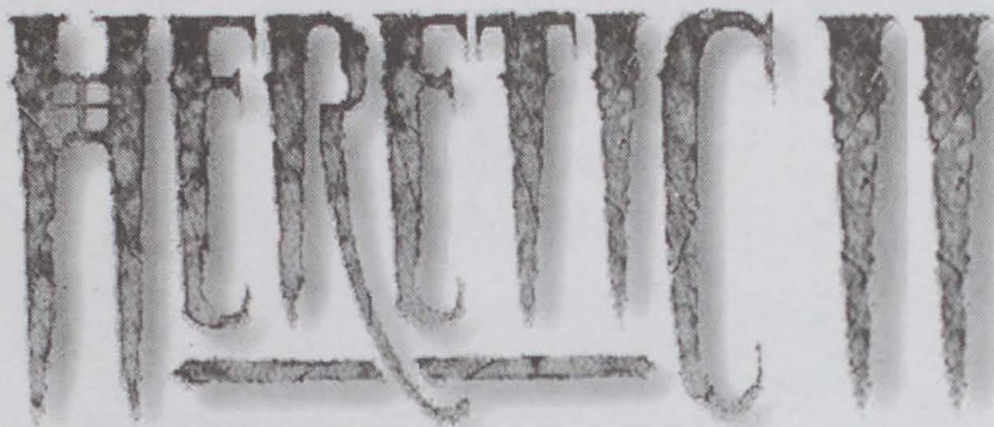
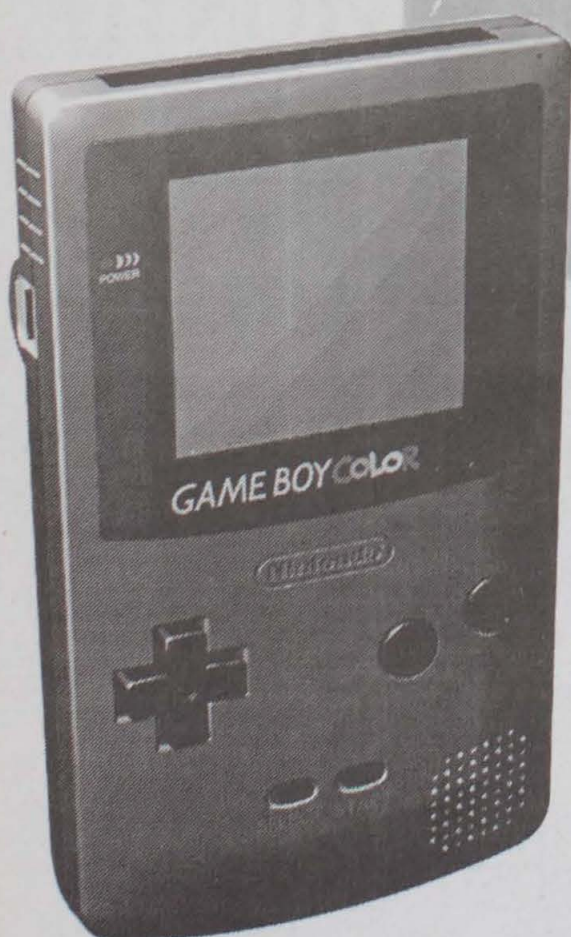
By Orlando Santiago,
Taft

The Game boy, hand held, has finally added color. This is the newest member of the world's most popular hand-held video game system.

There are other changes. For example, the original Game Boy took four AA batteries, then the second, more compact version, only took two AAAs. Now the Game Boy Color, takes two AAs for a much longer gaming experience.

It's also lighter in weight, shorter and easier to store in your pocket. It features an 8-bit central processing unit (CPU), the computer that makes the game smarter and more challenging for the player. It also has a processing speed of 2.1 mhz.

It includes a 2.3 square inch reflective color screen with up to 56 simultaneous colors you choose from a palette of 3,000 colors. But the problem with the Game Boy Color (as well as others) is that you can't play in the dark with it. That's where the con comes in, players have to buy the light.



HERETIC II

By Edward O'Keefe,
Weber

HERETIC II picks up where the first HERETIC ended. Corvus, the hero, has just beaten the last boss of HERETIC and is left to fight D'Speril, the game's ultimate boss. After Corvus beat this boss, D'Speril puts a curse on Corvus. Not thinking anything of it, Corvus sets off into the portal to his homeland, but to his surprise he is cast into the nether world. Realizing there is a curse on him, he is left to wander in this world for the rest of his life. One day, a group of magical books rescues him and leads him in the direction of his home. A confused Corvus jumps into the portal to go home. When he reaches his destination he discovers something terribly wrong has happened in his hometown and finds himself having to be a hero again.

The graphics in the game are great although they vary depending on the type of computer system a user has. But somehow for this game, each

and every level of graphical resolution is just as detailed as needed to play the game. For this game, satisfying graphics shouldn't be a problem.

Because HERETIC II is a PC-based game, the controls may seem complicated. There are many commands to handle and the buttons may get a bit scattered and out of reach. This happens mostly because of the way they are set up. The arrow keys aren't enough to handle the full 3D environment, making moving a bit tedious at times. So, for this game, a control pad is recommended.

The environments in the game are easy to explore. It's full 3D and runs at a smooth rate. Since the perspective is in third-person now, the environment allows more moves than the first-person view could ever allow. Now there are flips, quick turns, permission jumping, rolls and much more. Continuing on a great series, HERETIC II should be a great add-on to any computer.

Cool Boarders 3

By Brandon McGruder,
Whitney Young

Cool Boarders 3 (CB3) is one of the few fast-paced games that allows players to view the landscape while speeding downhill on a snowboard.

This game is loaded with a plethora of modes and options. There are 34 courses with six modes of play for each course. Players have a choice of 22 authentic snowboards, which allow them to perform 32 different stunts.

This game is a vast improvement over CB2 (although CB2 rocked). For example, when the sharp turn button is used, the boarder doesn't slow down nearly as much as in previous games. Also, the buttons really snap to attention when any maneuvers are being performed.

On the "flip" side, CB3 has a new jumping system that requires the player to time his/her jumps so that a power meter can build up. If the jumps aren't timed correctly, the entire jump is screwed. Along with that, the game doesn't initially come with enough decent boards. The good ones have to be earned by way of the vigorous tournament mode. Additionally, most of the time, landing a trick depends largely on luck, which means players must try to perform as many stunts as possible while in the air.

Even if you are already familiar with the Cool Boarders series, the learning curve for the game is about 30 minutes, which is faster than a lot of other games. But a drawback to the game is that the players can access the most competitive mode only when playing two or more players, but not against the computer alone.

Another setback is the game's preset scores. The preset high score is practically impossible to beat. For example, on the half-pipe for Mt. Koji, the game's score is 18,000! To beat that, somebody would have to get at least 9,001 points for each two chances that are given.

The replay value for this game is medium. You'll play it over and over to get all the stuff, but afterwards it'll probably be collecting dust.



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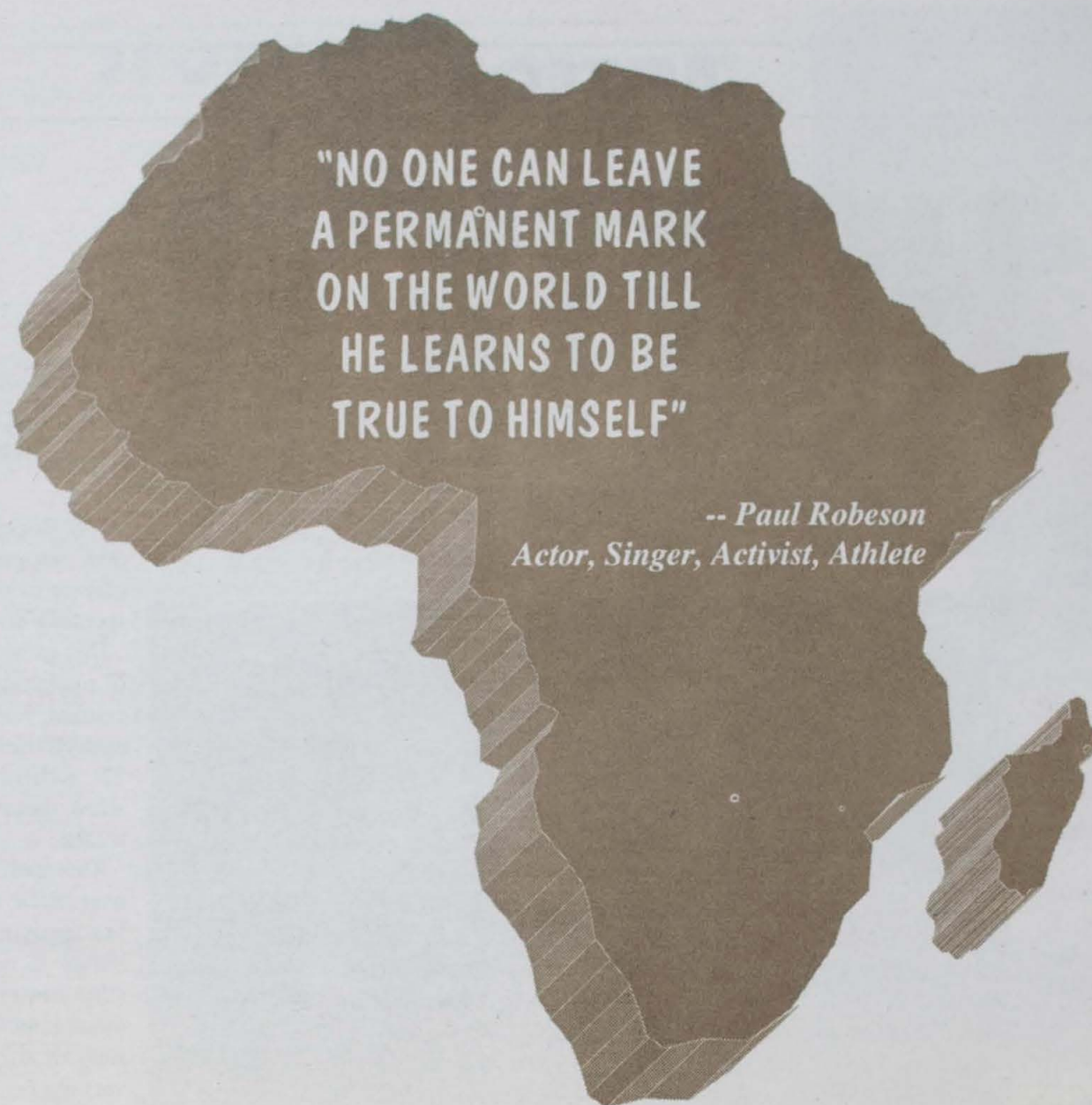
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