

April 2003

New Expression: April 2003 (Volume 26, Issue 3)

Columbia College Chicago

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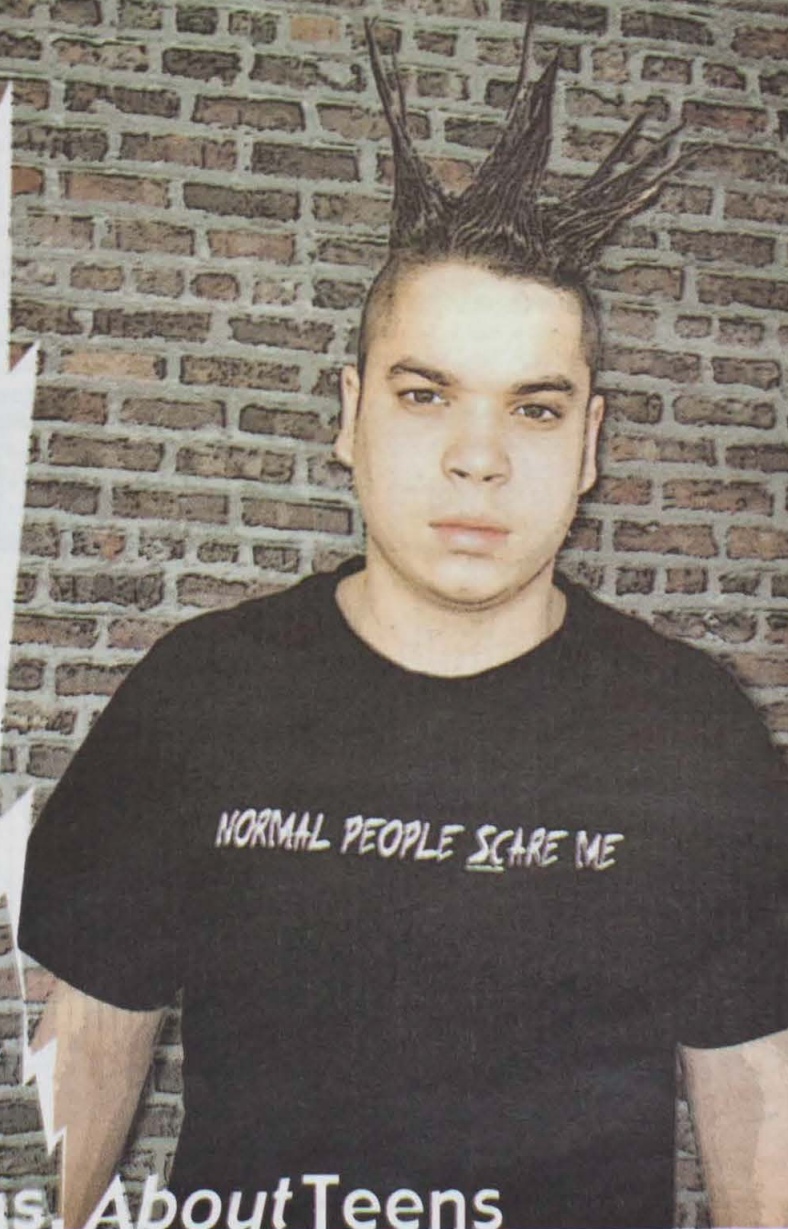
New Expression

Eminem: Oscar winner.....Page 24

Generation gap

Children of immigrants speak
of pride and culture clashes

Story, Page 8



By Teens. For Teens. About Teens

News Briefs



Will Hales keep its title?

Hales Franciscan's Class A Boys Basketball title may be lost, if the Illinois High School Association determines that the school committed recruiting violations. On March 18, the IHSA initiated an investigation into the transfer of Nate Minnoy to Hales from Mt. Carmel as well as the enrollment of Jerome Randle. According to IHSA Executive Director Marty Hickman, the investigation was prompted by comments made by Hales Franciscan Head Coach Gary London in various newspapers regarding the players. Minnoy and Randle were two of the key players in the title-winning game against Mount Carroll March 15. If either or both players are ruled ineligible, the 58-53 win will be discounted, and Hales will forfeit the title. Hales has until March 25 to present all evidence to the IHSA. Read about the results in the May issue of *New Expression* and let us know what you think about high schools recruiting athletes. Are you aware of such violations at any schools? Should schools be allowed to recruit athletes? Send your opinions to: Youth Communication, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60605.

Spring is summit time

The Boys & Girls Club hosted as many as 300 students aged 8 - 17 at its youth gang symposium March 12-15 at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk, 151 E. Wacker Drive.

Highlights of the ninth annual event included a youth forum 6-7 p.m. March 13 where hundreds gathered to hear the story of how Yvonne Pointer Triplett lost her daughter, Gloria, to Cleveland, Ohio street violence at the age of 14. "My heart is with your daughter," one boy announced after hearing Triplett's story. In another session held March 15, former gang members met with Boys & Girls Club members from around the city to discuss how to avoid the pull of gang membership.

Even if you missed this symposium, plenty of similar events are coming up shortly. See our calendar of events to find out more about V-103's 11th Annual Youth Summit April 4 and Columbia College's "Raw Voices" teen media conference April 5. Also, on April 26, the Girl Scouts of America will host their symposium on issues on young women. "Our Time to Shine: 2003 Chicago Girls' Summit" was completely planned by youth and will offer everything from info on becoming a youth activist to discussions on dating older people, joining the construction trades, planning for college and an open mic session. The daylong event will be held at the Girls Scouts Headquarters building, 222 S. Riverside Plaza. **Know of other activities we at NE should be reporting on? Let us know at What's Happening, c/o Youth Communication, 600 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605.**

Prague teenager protests with fire

Zdenek Adamec, a high school student in Prague, set himself on fire in order to protest the country's political situation. In a letter left by Adamec he wrote, "I'm a victim if the so-called democratic system in which it is not the people but money and power that decide." Adamec performed the deadly act only yards from where student Jan Palach set himself on fire in a 1969 protest to the Warsaw Pact invasion.

From NE staff and wire reports



BinLaden becomes a pop singer

Waffa BinLaden, the niece of Osama Bin Laden's, is working on a demo so she can fulfill her musical career. Waffa has rejected her Muslim background and has moved to Europe to throw herself into the London party scene. Bin Laden studied to be a lawyer in the United States and has not been found to be politically connected to her fugitive uncle.

A summer science experiment

Students interested in science might want to spend their summer at the University of Illinois at Chicago's 2003 High School Summer Public Health Institute Program (HSSPHI). Students explore earth science, biology, chemistry, and library research in this early outreach college program. The program will take place June 30 to Aug. 8. For more information on the program, call (312) 996-2549 or go to the website www.uic.edu/sph/diversity. Want to know about other job and volunteer opportunities? See pages 11-14. Or check out page 10 to learn about Youth Communication's urban journalism workshop program!

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School Woes

Lunchtime Odyssey

It's 12:00. Do you know where your piece of pizza is?

By Jose Corona

Chicago Discovery Academy

As the clock ticks closer to 12:19, the earth begins to slowly rumble. CDA lunch sixth period brings with its bell a stampede that rivals anything seen on the African Savannah. Like biblical locusts, we, the students swarm the narrow hallway toward the lunchroom door, leaving no room for anyone to pass. All pleas for a single-file line are ignored as the students inch their way closer to the door. We all desperately try to make it to the front of the line in hopes of getting our lunch tray faster than anyone else.

Eventually, Ms. Acosta makes her way to the lunchroom door to let students with their ID's enter the lunchroom. This slowly breaks up the mass of humanity that looks like a mosh pit. However, the crowd outside the lunchroom door eventually will get into the lunchroom. That's when the Lunchroom Odyssey begins.

It's bad enough that it takes forever to get into the lunchroom. It takes just as long sometimes to get our tray with pizza and fries. The lines have very little room for students to walk through, and when we get bunched up like canned sardines, it makes it worse. The burger line people cannot make their way around the pizza people. The long line and the slowness to get a tray lead to examples of behavior not seen since grammar school.

In grammar school, we were discouraged from cutting the line. The threat of being caught cutting and being stuck at the end of the line was too much. But in high school, cutting the line is a way of life that determines whether you get pizza or micro waved burritos. It is very common to see, and takes many forms. push, shove, or simply walk around the lames

We push, shove, or simply walk around the lames that patiently wait for their lunch. We say that we are security coming through, even though Ray Charles can even see that we are students. At one point in time, we have all done it in hopes of getting in and out quicker. This may seem really slick, but the cutting does not go unnoticed by everyone. Where one person cuts, more people are sure to follow. These people may end up cutting you, so you have to cut the line some more.

But one of the reasons lunch takes so long isn't the students' fault. The lunch staff has to constantly reload on fries for our trays. Also, there are at most four pizzas out at one time to serve the appetites of our students. Reloading the pizza takes a few minutes as the lunch staff tries to make it way through the students to the oven. And in worse case scenarios, the cafeteria runs out of food.

Thus, the mentality of first-come, first-serve takes an even bigger meaning during our lunch time. Those who make it to the line faster will survive and get their tray. Those who don't may not even get a lunch.

That is the CDA Lunch Odyssey: survival of the fittest.



Another day... another busy hallway.

NE File Photo

Tell us your lunchtime woes! Is your school overcrowded? Too dirty? Too old? Let us know by writing to:

In Too Tight
Youth Communication
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

What's in NE this month?



Opinions

New law threatens teen driving rights.

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Want to make some cash this summer?

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The many roles of Bumper Robinson.

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"Fly girl, fly girl, open your eyes..."

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www.newexpression.com

April 2003

Page 3

Opinions

Legislators need to ease up on teen drivers

By Haamid Xavier Johnson
Hales Franciscan High School

About two months ago, the senior class at my high school threw a party in our gymnasium to raise money that was, frankly, aimed to minimize the cost of prom for our graduating class. Spartans had been promoting the occasion across the city by passing out pluggers at the mall and by word of mouth, etc.

I for one know that my group of friends was all dressed superbly and ready to go party on that foggy Saturday night around 9:15 pm, as it was my turn to drive and pick the guys up. And because the party started at 7, that meant leaving the house around 9 when you are 20 minutes away is considered being "cool." So we were off!

As a teen reader, you are probably wondering to yourself, why is this situation important to me?

Well, as more and more teenagers are getting behind the wheel to drive friends to parties, the movies, or even to work for that matter, it is imperative for you to know that all these luxuries are on the table to be dismantled by legislators in Springfield.

Because of a continual rise in teen motor vehicle deaths that tend to occur between the hours of 9 pm and 6 am, our state senators and representatives are considering several proposals that, in my opinion threaten the essential role teens can contribute to the state — whether that be economically or culturally.

Myriad of the proposed measures include banning teens from driving between those aforementioned times — the first year after they receive their driver's license, and here's the stinger, those drivers are prohibited to only have one passenger under the age of 20, unless they are siblings.

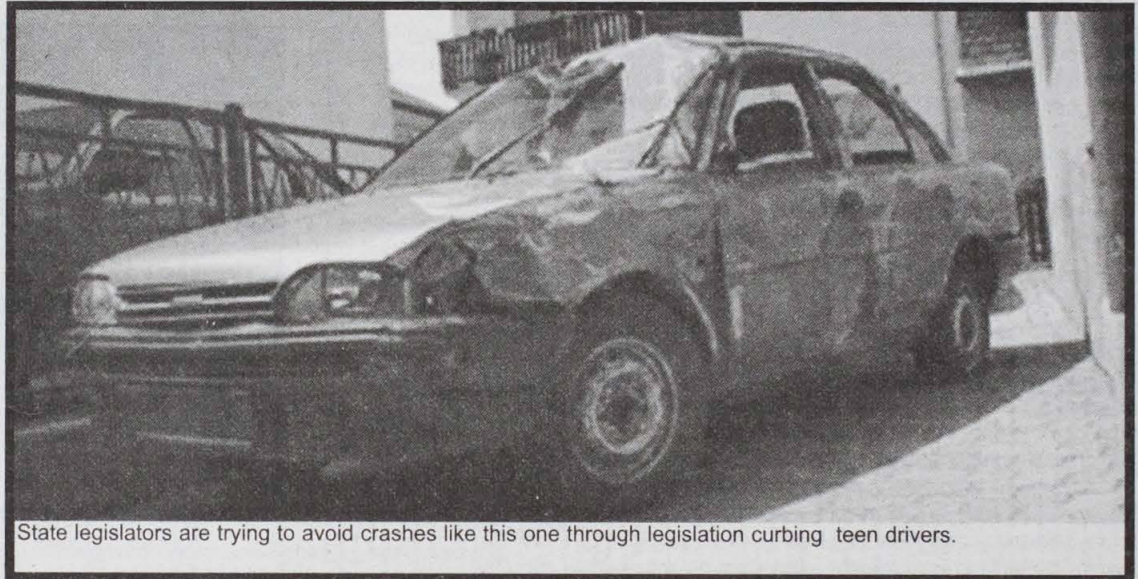
According to a March 5, *Chicago Sun-Times* article, this measure passed the Democrat-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee 7-3, but has yet to summon a vote on the Senate floor.

Chief sponsor for the proposed bill is Sen. John Cullerton (D-Chicago), who said in a *Chicago Sun-Times* article that the measure's primary mandate was to reduce the number of traffic accidents and deaths that involved teens around the state.

But if he is crafting legislation that is supposed to reduce accidents among teens, then why is he spearheading a new law that in due course will lead to more inexperienced 16- and 17-year-old drivers on the street — this will happen because the bill essentially calls for less carpooling and more teens driving by themselves to get from place to place.

That was partly the same question several "common sense" legislators asked Sen. Cullerton. After disreputable opposition surfaced from suburban Republican senators, the chief sponsor had a change of heart for the most part, but decided not to do away with yet a still pivotal provision of the legislation.

Sen. Cullerton could not be reached for comment, but one of his advisors, who requested to be nameless, told *New Expression* that the chief sponsor of the proposal (which is tagged "Senate Bill 58") had to do what was necessary to ensure the safety of teens in Illinois.



State legislators are trying to avoid crashes like this one through legislation curbing teen drivers.

"He (Sen. Cullerton) sponsored the bill, and basically has worked very hard to meet the other senator's agendas with regards to this measure to find broad support," the unidentified source said.

Sounds like his coalition realized the bill wouldn't pass because it lacked the insight of Suburban and rural legislators, and the only other thing left to do was to take the pragmatic route.

As an 18-year-old driver who received his license four months less than one year ago, I herald the meaningful opposition to the piece of the legislation that banned driving curfews for teens. And because of that steadfast debate about the bill's sensibility, the section regarding curfew for teens has been dropped.

But again, with the opportunity to assemble a piece of benchmark legislation with the opinion of actual teen drivers, some of our elected officials wavered. State senators such as Dan Cronin, Antonio Munoz, and Iris Martinez — co-sponsors of the vehicle code amendment at hand — have decided to keep a provision that merely softens the Herculean blow for those new teen drivers that have to now wait six months before they can take three of their friends' home from work, friends who have no car, and get off work at 11 p.m. with no parent to provide ample transportation.

Lawmakers should and must not force an already overburdened law enforcement agency confronting budget woes with dispersing officers to popular teen work sites in rural environments that lack a substantial public transportation system. Many agencies cannot afford to make sure that no more than one under 20 passenger is in the car.

Instead, policymakers could direct their attention to the impetus of teen driving accidents: Driver Education Reform. Why penalize current drivers who have passed a sometime inadequate driver education instruction program, while in the past — representatives have had numerous opportunities to medicate an ailing system.

Senate Bill 58 Summary As Proposed

"This bill amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. It provides that if a person under the age of 18 receives a graduated driver's license, for the first year of the license or until the person reaches the age of 18 whichever occurs sooner: the person may not drive with more than one person in the vehicle who is under the age of 20, excepting the siblings of the driver, and the person may not operate a vehicle on any day of the week between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m."

- Direct Quote Source: Illinois State Senate Web Site.

war!

War and peace

Teens sound off about the war with Iraq
Compiled by NE staff

On the subject of war, a 15-year-old Jones College Prep student named Helios wonders, "Why don't we riot?"

On March 5, students did — sort of. Ignoring the threats of being suspended from school, hundreds of area students converged on the Federal building on an unseasonably cold Wednesday afternoon. Here is what some of the students there had to say about it:

"Amoco, mobile, BP, Shell, take your war and go to hell!" This was one of the many chants we used at the protest. Though it was freezing weather, which caused me to get sick, everyone at the rally persevered even if they didn't have any shielding from the cold. Whether or not we were going to be listened to wasn't

stayed there for the last moments, when the whole crowd marched over to Lake Street toward the Daley Center. The crowd stretched for blocks.

"The atmosphere created was awesome; 'What don't we want? WAR! What do we want? PEACE!' was shouted by the people protesting.

"I never attended something with so many thousands, where that many people got together to march against administrative decisions. It was a very organized and most importantly a non-violent event.

"Pins were passed out featuring a headshot of Bush in a Hitler mustache to support the "anti-war" idea and were used to promote the Bush idiocy. Also, different books on foreign relations were sold to educate Americans about the current situation on war, as well as

to inform the crowd about different opinions that people have about the U.S. and the war that is supposedly coming up.

Whether they rally or not, students from around the city have plenty to say about the prospect of war. Hirsch High School students have responded to NE in very large numbers.

Asia White, 16, says she would not go if she were drafted and wants to know "What went wrong? Why are they after us? What is this all about? I believe I wouldn't be ready to fight even though it is my country. Being drafted is a big step you have lots of training... But when the big day comes, you are scared... We need to sit down and talk and negoti-

ate some kind of resolution because it is not worth it."

Charles Wonsey, 18, says the government should consider war "because of all the lives lost on Sept. 11." He wonders "Will we have any allies in this war?" and says that he "would fight to the end" not to be drafted, "because I have a lot to live for."

Terry James, 17, says: "I want peace. The world would be a better place without war," yet, if he were drafted, "I'd have no choice but to serve my country if I'm selected."

Millicent Smith, 16: "They are blowing this war thing out of proportion. They don't understand the world could be destroyed! I don't understand why President Bush won't consider what the other allies are saying, and back off."

Jason Washington, 18, says we should be considering war because "Iraq is foul, North Korea is foul. Their leaders are just like Adolf Hitler." But he would not want to be drafted, because "War is not for

"Why should we be considering war when we can't even provide for the homeless?"

Tarvez Wallace, Hirsch High School

me. I wouldn't do well."

Karen Lyke, 17: "I don't believe in fighting or dying for a country. I believe in dying for God only." She is against the war, she says, because "Many people will die and the president may be the last to die, so it does not affect him."

Shanika Morris, 18, says war "is not necessary that I go fighting some war over oil... I think Bush is arrogant and irresponsible." Her stepmother is in the military. "She has two kids of her own, and what if she doesn't make it back?"

Rashda Spence, 18, knows four people in the military — "A cousin, a friend, a real close friend, and an uncle... War is nonsense to me. It's a tiresome violence that I want nothing to do with. What was the cause of the U.S. messing with Iraq? Was it their oil? Why did everyone leave Osama Bin Laden alone and get involved with Saddam Hussein?"

Tarvez Wallace, 17, says he does not want to go to war "Because I'm young, intelligent and I have my whole life ahead of me. Also I have goals and dreams, but most of all, I have a daughter to look after. There are more issues to be discussed (than war). Why should we be considering war when we can't even provide for the homeless?"

Tommy Jones, 18, says we should consider war because "If they keep attacking, they're just going to keep coming back."

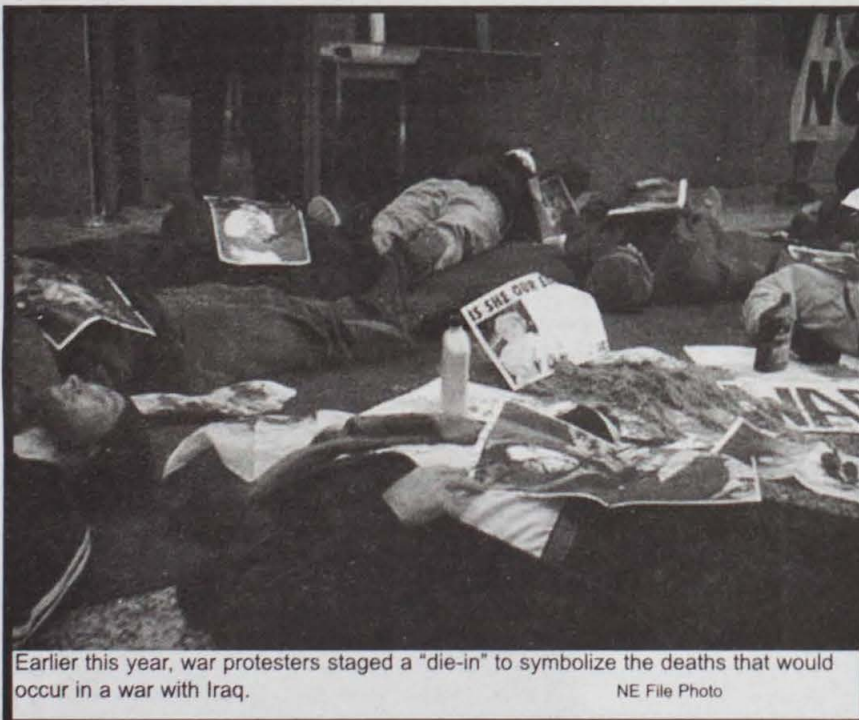
Meanwhile, at Northside College Prep, **Joey Cardona, 16,** has a cousin in the military and an uncle in the marines. "I'm a pacifist... Follow the steps of Gandhi and MLK (Martin Luther King)"

Sarah Kirkpatrick, 16: "I don't believe in war. I don't believe in killing innocent people."

And back at Jones College Prep, **Brandiss West, 15,** has three cousins in the military. Brandiss is against the war because "We need to focus on our country."

Sulamita Trevino, 17: "I don't want to support the war in any way and furthermore, my religious convictions do not allow me to participate in government/political issues."

Brandon Caples, 18: "I am not for war (but if drafted) I would have to fight for my country with pride. War leads to negative effects on our economy. It's not right to kill. We should compromise."



Earlier this year, war protesters staged a "die-in" to symbolize the deaths that would occur in a war with Iraq.
NE File Photo

important, it was the fact we were willing to do something."

—**Rogelio Zamudio, Jones College Prep, 10th grade**

"I went to the protest because I didn't believe in war with Iraq, but also because I wanted to learn more about the issues at hand. I learned that this war can be avoided and I really believe Bush should find an alternative solution. The weather was freezing, but it was fun."

—**Allison Bruckman, Jones College Prep, 10th grade**

But the rallies have not stopped there. Ervin Malakaj, a senior at Amundsen High School, relates his experiences at the most recent large-scale rally, on March 16:

"Sunday was a very moving time for thousands of people who attended the anti-war rally at Daley Plaza. One-third of the people who attended were teenagers. The rally itself lasted the whole day, but I

College Days

How to choose the right college

By Audrey Galo
Northside College Prep

After the countless hours of studying, the early mornings at the ACT testing center and four grueling years of high school, you reach the decisive moment, May 1 — the day that will change your life forever. It's the day you make your college decision.

Unfortunately, many high school seniors make the wrong decision and choose a college for all the wrong reasons.

Patrick Tassoni, a counselor at Northside College Prep, said one of the reasons students make the wrong choice is because they start planning too late. Students "start planning too late because subconsciously they might not want to deal with the fact that college is a life changing decision," he said.

However, more teens are going to college and the market is becoming very competitive. "Teens are becoming savvy and using the resources that are offered to them," said Tassoni. High schools have many resources like books and magazines that offer tips on finding the best college. Books like "Peterson's 4 Year Colleges" and "Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges" offer useful statistics about college campuses.

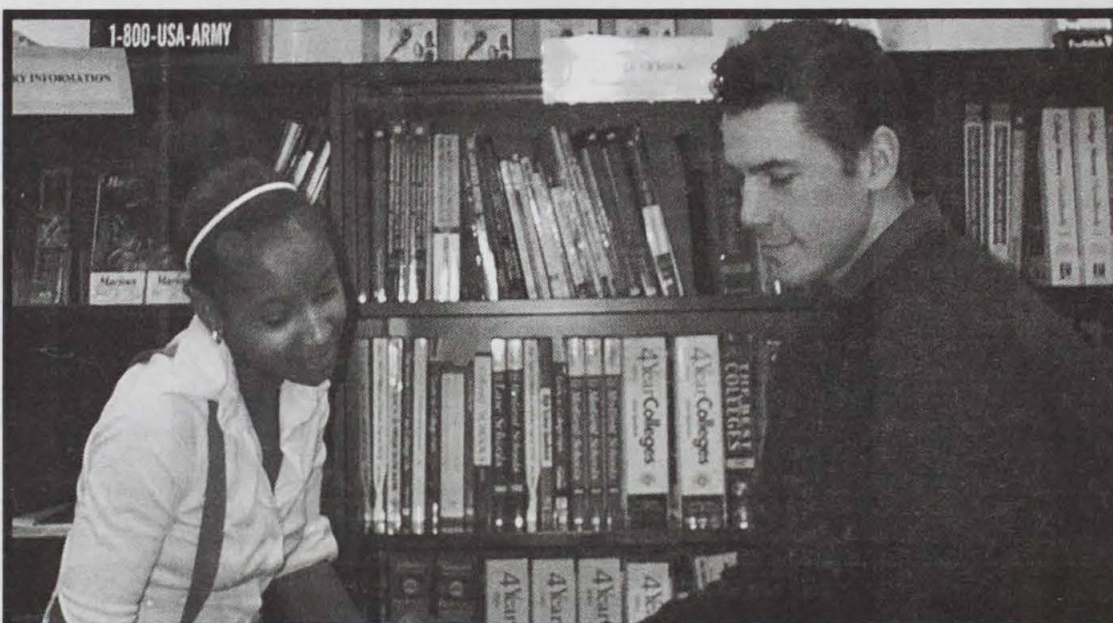
"Start early, visit schools, talk to admission representatives."

—Patrick Tassoni, Northside College Prep counselor

In order to avoid making the wrong choice, Tassoni suggests, "Start early, visit schools, talk to admission representatives, talk to students on campus, meet with professors, and talk to people in your major."

Mistakes are made because students are not sure of their goals for the future. The most important part of the college selection process is to find the characteristics that make up your personality. Personality surveys are available online at Petersons.com, collegeboard.com and princetonreview.com. Chicago Public high schools offer Choices, a computer program that surveys college preferences and finds colleges that fit students' needs. The program should be available through the counseling department.

Not all students will be satisfied with their initial decision, but Tassoni says that "It's human nature to change your mind, and as you get older you might not be so sure of your initial decision, but you keep searching for other things."



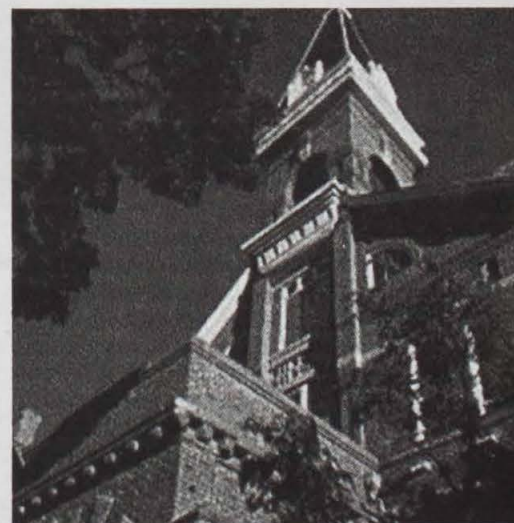
Patrick Tassoni helps a student through the college selection process.

Photo by Audrey Galo, Northside College Prep

Reasons students choose their colleges

- *quality of major
- *value of education
- *employment opportunities after graduation
- *quality of faculty
- *academic facilities
- *academic reputation
- *campus safety and security
- *comfort level with other students
- *availability of particular program
- *campus atmosphere

Source: Maguire Associates of Concord, Mass.



Have any questions about the college selection process? Let NE be your guide. Send us any questions you may have

**New Expression
600 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605**

You can also e-mail us at newexpress@aol.com

Teen Rights

Know Your



Rights

-A Chicago Public High School student recently told NE that he has a teacher who reads students' grades out loud in class. **DID YOU KNOW** that this is illegal in the City of Chicago?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS... IF a teacher reads your class grades aloud in class, TELL the principal, or REPORT it to the Local School Council.

What sort of issues have come up at your school that make you wonder if your rights as a student have been disturbed? Let us know if you are not sure whether or not your rights have been ignored, and New Expression will investigate the school laws that will give you your answer.

Write your concerns to:

Know Your Rights
Youth Communication
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please include your name, phone number and mailing address. We will not print your name if you do not want it printed but need it for verification of information.

Are you safe in school?

Do your security guards make you feel secure?
Do your security guards put more effort in joking
with students than keeping them safe?

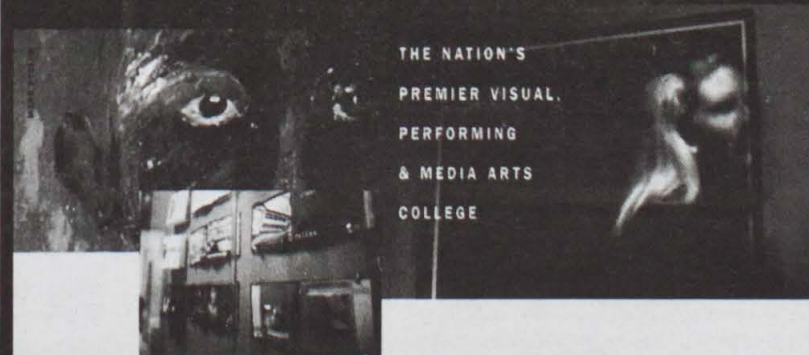
Come talk to the staff of *New Expression* about school security issues at our Teen Forum and All City Meeting 11 am-1 pm. The meeting will be held April 12 at the offices of *New Expression*.
623 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
Second Floor, Room 207

Come speak your mind and learn how you can get involved with the newspaper that belongs to YOU!

Questions? Suggestions? Any Ideas? Please call Liz
at (312) 922-7150

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Cover Story

First-generation teens embrace both cultures

By Enal Hindi
Curie High School

First-generation American teens are unique in every aspect. They have a special life that they often live to represent their culture.

"Having a long and historical background that goes all the way to my ancestors is what makes me different from other American teens," says 18-year-old Curie High School student Lorena Estrada, whose parents are Mexican.

To be a first-generation American teen is extraordinary. You have something special that is a part of your culture, and that is carried on from you to your kids, and the next generation. According to Jackie Mendoza, also an 18-year-old Curie High School student who is of Mexican heritage, "You are living two lives at once." Estrada agreed.

"I am interested in my own culture, I will always retain what I like and what I am interested in. But I will still adjust to the American lifestyle to be able to live here in America."

— Melanie Oliver



Jackie Mendoza (r) and her aunt, who just arrived from Mexico

Photo courtesy Jackie Mendoza

There are many fortunate things gained by being first-generation American, and one of them is to be able to speak two languages. It is another gift that comes with being a first-generation American. To be able to speak and understand a foreign language is another step closer to understanding the world and people in a different way. Melanie Oliver, 15-year-old Curie student who is part Polish and part Lithuanian said, "No matter where you're from, Mexico, Poland, Asia, or Africa, you will fortunately still have the advantage of speaking another language, and that is an advantage that will always remain with you from your original culture and country."

Carrying on your culture's identity and traditional values and bringing them here to America for others to explore and learn about is also considered as a "fortunate gift" of being a first-generation American. It will also introduce many things to the eye and heart of a person in a way no other things can. Sixteen-year-old Myisha Toliver, who is African-American, is interested in her own culture. She studied her culture and ancestors and educated herself about her country Africa. "I learned a lot of wonderful things and it fascinated me that there is part of that thing that actually exists in me," she said. "It's just a wonderful gift you have given to you by your parents and ancestors that can't be taken away."

Although there are advantages of being a first-generation American, unfortunately, according to Estrada, there is a disadvantage. As she said, "There isn't really a 'bad thing' about being first-generation American, it's just how ignorant people judge and how Americans portray us. They portray Mexicans as inferior. Sometimes Mexicans aren't involved in a lot of things including, political, things (etc.), and that's why Americans have no hopes in us. I would probably say the only 'negative thing' about being first generation American is the 'control' Americans have over Mexicans that is making them sit down, and the lack of information Americans lack about us."

Mendoza has a different take. "There isn't a disadvantage being first generation American. You should always be able to stand up for yourself. What ever you are, you can't hide it, and don't try 'cause it will always be there."

Living two lives at once is great, but does it ever get difficult when you want to feel like a part of a couple of things in the United States, and still retain your original country's culture? Absolutely not, say the students interviewed.

"I am interested in my own culture, I will always retain what I like and what I am interested in. But I will still adjust to the American lifestyle to be able to live here in America," Oliver said. "I am interested in. But I will still adjust to the American lifestyle to be able to live here in America," Oliver said.



Lorena Estrada

Photo courtesy Lorena Estrada

Toliver said, "It just doesn't sound right to forget your culture. Of course you are going to blend in and live the American way, how ever that little aspect of your culture will always stand out."

Living in America is pretty cool, but it took some hardships to get here. One of the things Estrada is most proud about her parents is that they are here. They struggled to get here to make a better life for their children and to carry on. "They came here and also bought the Mexican culture with them. That's what's great about America, you can live two lives at once!" she said.

None of these girls fight with their parents about "fitting in." "Yes they are teaching us the 'old world,' but we want to learn it because with out the old world there is no new one," said Mendoza.

"My advice for the first-generation American teens who are having problems getting along

"Of course you are going to blend in and live the American way, how ever that little aspect of your culture will always stand out"

— Myisha Toliver

with their parents or fitting in with their peers is to accept where they came from and use that to be able to live among others," said Oliver. "No matter where you are or who are you with, remember you're here because your ancestors bought you here and gave you a gift of life."

Cover Story

What's the newest brew in our melting pot?

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, at least three out of 10 U.S. residents are something other than white Anglos.

In the year 2006, America's Hispanic population will outnumber the black population.

And in the year 2030, one out of four will be either Hispanic or Asian. This "2030" national profile will show that less than 60 percent of the American population will be Anglo, with at least 25 percent Hispanic or Asian.

The Chicago Fact Book Consortium, which notes that by 1990, nearly 20 percent of the city's population was Latino, with more than 60 percent of Mexican heritage and about 20 percent Puerto Rican.

Poles and Mexicans remain the largest immigrant groups in Chicago. There are more people of Polish descent living in Chicago than anywhere outside of Warsaw, Poland. Between 1990 and 1993, the Polish Association of America reported that there was a 211 percent increase in the number of Polish children in the bilingual program.

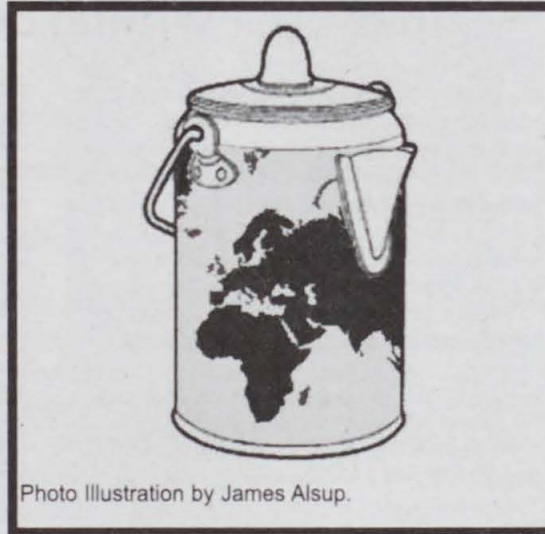


Photo Illustration by James Alsup.

Census statistics notes that two in seven, or about 26 percent of Chicagoans, speaks a language other than English at home. And many studies note that children of immigrants are often required by their parents to serve as their "translators," in everything from filling out paperwork to visiting a medical doctor.

What does all this mean to the children of immigrants? According to a 1997 study by the Religion, Culture, & Family Project at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, immigrant families often adapt to U.S. culture in four stages, generation by generation:

The first generation holds on to its culture of origin and remains relatively isolated from U.S. culture, while the second generation, the first-generation Americans, the study notes, "is filled with tension as it grows up in one culture at home and another in the broader community."

What can be expected for the children of first-generation Americans? According to the study, "the third totally assimilates and can be somewhat embarrassed by its past; and the fourth is safely enough American to take up an interest again in its cultural past."

For more specific information on children of immigrants, try the book "Ethnicities: Children of Immigrants in America," by Rubén G. Rumbaut and Alejandro Portes.

Photo Opinion

How do people stereotype children of immigrants?

Compiled by Cecil Rodriguez, Amundsen



"I'm Mexican... Everyone thinks my parents work in a factory."

-Christina V., Amundsen



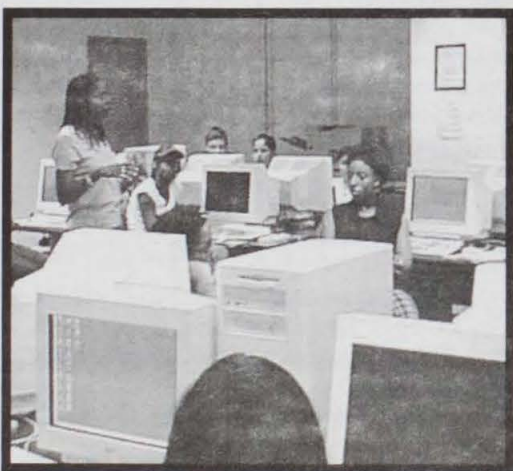
"I'm Mongolian, but everyone thinks I'm Chinese."

Ozzi G., Amundsen



"There really is no stereotype about Serbians. People think I'm just an American girl, which I'm not."

Milka D., Good Counsel



**LIKE WRITING POETRY?
SHORT STORIES?
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Learn about the power (and the future careers) that journalism offers in Youth Communication's summer journalism workshop.

For 25 years, we have been hosting a downtown summer program. From 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Monday -Friday, beginning June 23 and ending Aug. 15, you will take field trips, meet journalism pros, and interview all kinds of people. Your work will be published in *New Expression* magazine, the citywide teen-produced publication of Youth Communication. You will learn about opportunities to freelance for professional publications. And you will have the chance to enter a nationwide college scholarship competition limited to people who are in selected workshops.

So what are you waiting for? Send us this application below with at least one writing sample to:

URBAN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP
c/o Youth Communication
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

URBAN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP APPLICATION (please print all information)

NAME _____ AGE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ SCHOOL GRADE IN FALL 2003 _____

SCHOOL _____

Please answer the following on a separate piece of paper:

Why do you want to be in the workshop?

What do you find particularly interesting about journalism?

Have you considered a career in journalism? If so, what would it be?

What was the last interesting news or feature article you read in a magazine or newspaper? What made it interesting?

Job Guide



Gallery 37 affords teen artists a chance to earn money while making art. Check www.afterschoolmatters.org for application information. NE File Photo

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are as many as 200,000 teens living in Chicago, give or take a few thousand.

Think there will be that many summer jobs?

Think again.

Are you late to find a summer job? Sure you are. Should you give up hope for making some money this season? No you shouldn't!

The next four pages share ideas for paying jobs and volunteer opportunities, as well as information on what your rights are as a working teen. Good luck!

SUMMER JOBS

The following is a general listing created to spur you into action. We in no way promise that any job remains open or that anyone is guaranteed of being hired. Good luck!

ARENA/OUTDOOR THEATRE JOBS

Ravinia Music Festival in Highland Park will be hiring ushering staff, car parking staff and various positions for the outdoor music site beginning this month. For those without cars, there's a Metra train from downtown Chicago that stops directly at the park. For more information on specific positions and how to apply, go to the website at www.ravinia.org, or call (847) 266-5000.

The **Tweeter Center** in Tinley Park (the outdoor musical park formerly known as the World Music Theatre) has lots of great musical acts all summer long and it's located right off of the highway. Ushers, security, concession and maintenance workers are all needed; there are also management internships available. Call (708) 614-1616 for more information or go to the website, www.tweeter-center.com.

BALL PARKS

Comiskey Park/US Cellular Field – home of the White Sox has summer work for teens. Opportunities are offered through three companies – The Levy Restaurants, At Your Service, and Sports Service. Whether you want to serve food, usher or sell memorabilia, it's easier to stop by the park and get your application in than to call – you're going to 333 W. 35th St., gate 4. If the Cubs are more your thing, you might head over to **Wrigley Field**, 3721 N. Clark St., and get your applica-

tion in to work at the concession stands. There are food and beverage positions, but also office assistants, stand managers, cashiers, and commissary computer operator. Apply at the ball park Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm with an ID.

CITY JOBS

The mother of all Chicago summer youth jobs programs, **Gallery 37**, will still be around this summer – but don't forget, it's under the **After School Matters** umbrella, which also now houses **Sports 37**, **Tech 37** and **Words 37**. From June 30 – Aug. 22, students aged 14-21 can shoot photos, paint, play sports or learn how to dance, to name just a few possibilities, at various sites around the city and downtown. Pay is \$5.15 an hour for most apprentice artists; those who are returning to the program and are over 18 may receive extended hours and a pay scale of \$6 an hour. To apply online, go to www.afterschoolmatters.org or for more information call (312) 742-4182.

DAY CAMPS

Park Districts have no time to waste. Many have staffed their camps, for instance, by the first of the year. However, according to Theresa Greinig with the Highland Park Park District, there may be a position or two that has not been filled, so it never hurts to apply. Questions can be sent to Ms. Greinig at Tgreinig@pdhp.org.

Another interesting possibility can be found at the **Morton Arboretum in Lisle's science camp**, which offers \$7 an hour for its science camp assistants. Assistants, who must be 16, accompany camp instructors and students on hiking trips through the arboretum and assist with indoor and outdoor teaching activities. Assistants will work five days a week in the following sessions: June 16-20, June 23-27, 8:45 am to 3:30 pm July 7-11 or 8:45 am to 12 pm depending on the age group. A mandatory training session will be held 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. May 10 Position requires physical activity; lifting, bending, climbing, standing, hiking, kneeling. If interested, send a cover letter and two professional references to: Elizabeth Fedofsky, coordinator of science camps, the Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532. Questions? Call (630) 719-7953 or email efedofsky@mortonarb.org

Below is a listing of Chicagoland camps. Some accept staff members who are under 18; others start hiring at 18. Please call to verify requirements and openings.

Albany Park Community Center Day Camp
(773) 583-5111

Anita M Stone Jewish Community Center Day Camp
Flossmoor; (708) 799-7650

Burbank Park District Day Camp
Burbank; (708) 599-2070 Flossmoor; (708) 799-7650

(Continues on the next page)

www.newexpression.com

April 2003

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Job Guide

Summer Jobs

(Continued from the previous page)

Camp Marimeta For Girls
847-970-4386

Camp Moraine
Woodstock, IL
847-615-9616

Camp Moyoca
847-395-4992

Camp Nebagamon Inc
773-271-9500

M Aqua Camp
Wheeling; (847) 537-9700

Decoma Day Camp
Northbrook; (847) 272-2267

Duncan YMCA Day Camp
(312) 546-8086

Glencoe Park District
Glencoe; (847) 835-3030

Good Times Summer Day Camp
Glenview; (847) 729-4433

Irving Park YMCA Day Camp
(773) 777-7500

Kids' Advantage
(773) 327-4086

Lattof YMCA Day Camp
847-296-3376

Leaning Tower YMCA Day Camp
Niles; (708) 647-8222

Michael Jordan Basketball Camps
Elmhurst; (708) 617-3710

North Shore Country Day School Summer Programs
Winnetka; (847) 446-0674

NU Wildcat Aquatic Adventure Camp
Evanston; (847) 467-1470

Park District of Oak Park
(708) 383-0002

Sacred Heart Schools
Chicago; (773) 262-4446 ext. 346

Seton Summer Day Camp
Clarendon Hills; (630) 655-1066

South Side YMCA
773-947-0700

Spanish Camp
Chicago
(312) 787-9021

Tamarak Day Camps
Lincolnshire; (847) 634-3168

Z Frank Apache Day Camp
Northbrook; (312) 357-4700

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago summer camp
(312) 751-6722 or CromerS@aol.com.

The New City YMCA summer day camp
Contact Jannelle Fitzpatrick at (312) 440-7287.

FOOD

You've already worked the fry hopper at McDonald's. Want to work at a festival? You need to be hired by a restaurant! Want a change of pace? Get into the feeding frenzy by checking out the following:

Wish you lived in Orlando so you could be Mickey Mouse for a season? The next best thing is the walk-around character at **Chuck E. Cheese's**. You'll shake hands, kiss kids and pose for pictures. Locations abound throughout Chicago; the closest are at 5030 S. Kedzie Ave., (773) 476-0500; 1830 W. Fullerton Ave., (773) 871-2484; 1314 W. North Ave. in Melrose Park, (708) 343-1224 and 4031 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn, (708) 425-5800.

A different kind of atmosphere awaits at the **ESPN Restaurant**—go to www.espnzone.com.

Potbelly's—Several locations and free meals to employees! Call 1-866-POTBELLY or go to www.potbelly.com.

To get you on the track of festival regulars, we'll throw in **Eli's the Place for Steak**, papa of **Eli's Cheesecake**. Call (773) 308-7000 and ask for Lisa. Finding the rest are up to you!

MUSEUM JOBS

The **Shedd Aquarium** is looking for young naturalists. The 15 students participating will be trained in biology and public speaking, and will participate in personal growth and career workshops. Applicants must have completed one year of high school, be between ages 15 and 18, and a resident of the City of Chicago. Sign up deadline is April 15, so get to it. For more information, call Melanie Napoleon, manager of community and mentor programs, at (312) 692-3173, or go to www.shedd.org.

The **Yollocalli Youth Museum** in Pilsen will be hiring student artists this summer. For more information, call Anthony Rea or Maria Gaspar at (312) 455-9652.

PARK DISTRICTS

The **Chicago Park District** needs attendants for its restrooms and facilities and to do outdoor cleanup. Other seasonal jobs include accompanying and supervising groups of children on field trips to educational institutions; public functions or recreational activities; leading and participating in games, drills and agility exercises and reading and teaching simple painting,

drawing, songs and similar recreation activities. Must be at least 16 at time of hire for any of the jobs; some of the maintenance work requires you to be 18. For more information, go to the park district website at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com, and go to work@cpd, or call (312) 742-5220.

The park district also needs lifeguards at lakefront, north and southwest beaches and or/or pool areas. Applicants must know how to administer first aid and CPR, and be able to enforce park rules and regulations regarding pool and beach activities. They also maintain aquatic safety equipment by inspecting and reporting repairs needed to buoys, floats, ropes or other equipment and perform pool and beach maintenance duties. They will assist and/or lead aquatic instruction and recreational activities including swimming lessons, hydro-aerobics, water polo and swim team. Applicants should be entering at least their junior year of high school and must possess Lifeguarding Certificate, CPR Certificate and First Aid Certification from the American Red Cross or

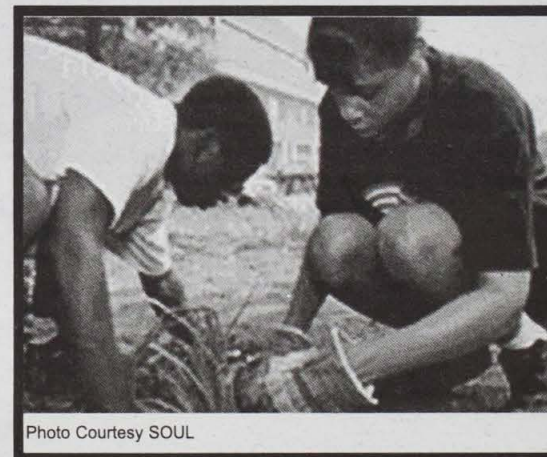


Photo Courtesy SOUL

other nationally recognized organization at the time of hire: 2003 Wage: \$10.45 per hour.

Each park district may have unique jobs to offer. The **River Forest Park District**, for instance, is looking for a horticulture intern who will plan, prepare, plant, prune and maintain flower and shrub beds. Position runs approximately May 1 to Oct. 1, weather permitting. Contact Pamela Deady at (708) 366-6660, or e-mail her at pamdeady@rpfarks.com

Meanwhile, the **Wheaton Park District** hires natural resources interns. Pay is \$9-\$10.50/hour. Applicants must have a valid Illinois drivers license and be able to obtain an Illinois Pesticide operator's license within two weeks of hire. Experience with plant identification and familiarity with landscape equipment is helpful; applicants must be in good physical condition and willing to work in all weather conditions. 40 hours per week through August. Start date is May, so hurry up and apply! Contact Aaron Bruney, conservation specialist at (630) 871-2810 or e-mail him at abruney@wheaton-parks.org.

The **Wilmette Park District**, for instance, has a new outdoor aquatic facility and may need some concession stand help. If you have some experience with food service you may want to fax the district your resume. Send

(Continues on the next page)

Job Guide

Summer Jobs

(Continued from the previous page)

it attn: Brian 847-256-8776 or e-mail budany@willpark.org to find out what opportunities exist.

GENERAL OUTDOORS

Five to seven students will be selected to work in the **Save Our Urban Land (SOUL)** program this summer. Beginning the week after July 4, students will beautify selected vacant lots by disposing of trash, planting vegetables and flowers, and the like. Students aged 14-17 will be paid \$6 an hour and will work from 9 am-2 pm Monday-Friday. For more information and to receive an application, call Ron Wolford at the University of Illinois Extension office at (773) 233-0476.

POLITICS

Public Policy Intern (Part-time) Citizen Action/Illinois seeks an intern who will help coordinate grassroots lobbying and public education. Must be able to devote a minimum of 10 hours per week up to 15 hours per week Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. (Flexible hours during this time slot.) Pay is \$8 per hour. No phone calls. Contact Larisa Morrison, administrative director at Citizen Action / Illinois 28 E. Jackson Blvd., #605, Chicago, IL 60604, or e-mail her at larisa@citizenaction-il.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Web pages of interest include:
The Illinois Department of Employment Security's web site, www.ides.state.il.us, for information on things like the Illinois Hire the Future;
www.inaraft.com — get out of town!
www.coolworks.com — for different kinds of jobs

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Volunteer jobs

All Chicago High Schools require 40 community service hours to be completed prior to graduation. Why not get your hours in when you don't have school work and extracurricular activities going on? Here are some suggested places to try out. Please check with your school to make sure the organization and position suits all requirements:

Alternatives, Inc., a social service organization serving the needs of the families on the Northeast side, needs volunteers to work in its summer camps and arts and crafts programs. For more information, call Zofia Ruzyc at (773) 506-7474.

The **Animal Protective Association's Harmony House for Cats** on the northwest side of Chicago is a cageless cat shelter that offers children 14 and older the chance to care for 120-plus cats. (Children under 14 must be accompanied by a parent.) Volunteers can provide care and grooming; participate in fund-raising activities and special events; or help with outreach programs by going on the road with Harmony House to pet expos and cat shows. For more information, call Jennifer Zameic or Pat Vesper at (773) 463-6667.

The **Animal Welfare League in Chicago Ridge** offers Humane Helpers, a volunteer program for kids ages 13 to 15. Kids directly care for the animals by feeding and grooming them. For information, call Amanda Holwell at (708) 636-8586, ext. 229.

The **Chicago Park District** is looking for volunteers to assist with the Harvest Garden program offered at 15 parks citywide. Each location creates their own working garden that they plant, tend and harvest throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to work with the children who are learning the art of gardening, and to assist with maintenance. Volunteers will also be needed for the Harvest Garden's culminating County Fair Sept. 21, which will include rides, games and food. For more information, call (312) 942-4775. The district also provides a variety of volunteer nature stewardship opportunities as well. Activities include duties such as seed collecting, planting, removing invasive species, monitoring ecosystems, plants, insects or birds and litter clean-up. Leadership opportunities are available as a Volunteer Site Steward, or with outreach and educational programming. There are individual workdays as well as longer-term projects. Each workday involves a brief tour of the site, orientation, and work project. Volunteers work closely with a seasoned steward. Some workdays may include a nature tour or special educational programming. Jackson Park, for instance, will have its workdays 10 am to 12 pm the second Saturday of each month April to October. Activities to be performed may include seed harvesting, brush cutting, invasive removal, weeding and planting. Tools and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call Nathan Schroeder at (312) 735-8188.

Churches and other houses of worship usually participate in volunteer programs; some even house their own food pantries. Talk to your pastor, your priest, etc. and find out what your congregation has to offer.

Felines, Inc. is a cageless, no-kill shelter that houses 160 cats. Teens and kids under 18 can brush cats, scoop boxes, and socialize kittens. For more information, call Abby Smith at (773) 465-4132.

Many Chicagoland hospitals are in need of volunteers in many capacities. Two of the larger programs are through The **University of Chicago Hospitals**, (773) 702-4421; and **Northwestern Memorial Hospital**. You can reach the volunteering department at (312) 926-2070 or contact Dolly Johnson via e-mail at djohnson@nmh.org.

Museums are a great place to volunteer, because of the variety of responsibility, attraction and store discounts, invitations to special events and in some cases, even free admission. The **Chicago Children's Museum** has a "youth volunteer team." Call (312) 464-7652, or e-mail volunteers@chicchildrensmuseum.org. At the **Chicago Historical Society**, volunteers can, among other duties, can work alongside curators. Call (312) 799-2274, or go to the website at www.chicagohs.org. The **Dusable Museum of African American History** has a volunteer hotline at (773) 947-0600 ext. 605; At the **Field Museum of Natural History**, volunteers can, for instance, work on small construction projects in the exhibits wood shop, or do mammal data entry. Call Chavv Wu at 312-665-7277. The **Mexican Fine Arts Museum** offers a children's museum, the Yolloalli Youth Museum, as well as the general site. Call (312) 738-1503. Learn while you work at the **Museum of Science & Industry** by serving as a guide for exhibits. Call (773) 684-9844, ext. 2422 or 2321. Like all things aquatic? Call Melanie Napoleon at the **Shedd Aquarium** at (312) 692-3173. Other museums and the like to look out for include: The **Vietnam Veterans Museum**, a one-of-a-kind place featuring art of and about Vietnam Vets; the Peace Museum; and the Polish American Museum.

The **Mitzvah Corps** is a community service program developed by the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago. High school students can participate in Chicago through the Hyde Park JCC or the Florence Heller JCC. All activities are hands-on, and students have worked in the Lake Michigan Federation's beach restoration program, at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Blue Gargoyle Tutoring, Access Community Health Network and at Ronald McDonald House — University of Chicago Hospital, to name a few places. Contact Allan Bogan at (773) 871-6780 for more information.

The **Tree House Animal Foundation** in Chicago is a cageless cat shelter that offers volunteer opportunities for teens on Saturday mornings. They can volunteer up to six hours per month. For more information, contact Emily Yeager at (773) 784-5488, ext. 228.

The **University of Illinois Extension Service** will offer its Junior Master Gardener Volunteer program throughout the city this summer. Locations range from the Shedd Aquarium to Lincoln Park Zoo to the Garfield Conservatory. For more information and to receive an application, contact Ron Wolford at (773) 233-0476.

Job Guide

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES*

As a teen worker, you have certain rights and responsibilities as set forth by the federal and state governments:

Minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. Employees under age 20 can be paid \$4.25 per hour during their first consecutive 90 days of employment.

If you work for tips, your employer must make sure you earn \$5.15 per hour or make up the difference. And if your employer claims a "tip credit" against paying you, he must pay you a salary of at least \$2.13 per hour for that right.

If you work more than 40 hours per work week, your employer is required to pay you at least 1 1/2 times your regular pay for each hour over the 40.

As a minor, you cannot work:

- At any site where liquor is served
- At filling or service stations
- Anywhere using power-driven machinery
- At any work involving demolition or construction repair work
- At any work involving laundry, dry cleaning or rug cleaning equipment
- Around meat-processing
- In any work exposing you to hazardous chemicals, like spray paints or poisonous dyes

You can find a complete list in the Child Labor Law, 820 ILCS 205/1-22.

If you are under age 16, you must have a work permit, and:

- *You need a "letter of intent to hire" from the person who wants to hire you. That letter must explain what you will be doing at work and what hours you will be working.
- *You and your parent or guardian are required to go to school and get an employment certificate from your high school or administration office.
- *You can work during the school year ONLY three hours per school day and IF school combined with work exceeds eight hours, you must work less.
- *You can ONLY work between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the school year; between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. during summer break (June 1 through Labor Day). You can ONLY work up to eight hours on a non-school day.
- *You can work up to 24 hours per week, but NOT more than six days in a row during the school year; you can work up to 48 hours per week, but not more than six days in a row during summer break.
- *Your employer must give you at least a 30 minute break to eat no later than the fifth straight hour of work.
- *If you are under 14, you cannot work, unless you are a golf caddie, selling newspapers or magazines during non-school hours, or in non-business related work, like babysitting at a private home.

If you think your rights are being abused, call the Child Labor Hotline at 1-800-645-5784. If you have general questions, you can call Child Labor Law Information at (312) 793-2804.

*SOURCES: Illinois Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor



Don't oversleep and miss your chance to get a job!

NE File Photo

The Word of the Day is: **quintessential** \'kwɪn-tə-'sen(t)-shəl\ (adjective)

representing the essence of a thing in its purest and most concentrated form

Example sentence:

UPS is the **quintessential** example of a great place to work. Not only do they provide the excellent pay that Charlie needs, but they also offer him benefits that few other employers can match, including up to **\$23,000*** in **College Financial Assistance**. Talk about a definitive advantage.

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Teens Mean Business

'Treps. Teenaged entrepreneurs have their own name, their own style, and their own understanding of what it means to make it on their own. Each month, *New Expression* will be running our "'Treps" page sharing stories of how teens are making it and what it takes to be a truly successful entrepreneur, because **TEENS MEAN BUSINESS.**

Dollars and sense got Samuel Lo's business on track

By Kendra Fortenberry
Jones College Prep

It's scary, often times appalling and shameful. Just to think about admitting this shameful truth about me makes me shiver. I'm 16 years old, I am almost an adult. Things shouldn't be this way, not now.

The truth about me is...I am broke. If I were to dig in my pockets right now, less than six dollars would be found. But a lot of teens have substantial budgets, at least for our age. They are young entrepreneurs, individuals with their own dream and their own businesses. Each individual has their own procedures for creating a business. Hopefully the experiences and stories of these individuals can inspire you to create a money flow of your own.

Samuel Lo, owner of Viable Network Solutions received his first loan at the age of 24. However, that is not when his career began. Lo started his business individually. He began generating clientele and earned a substantial amount of money. Viable Network Solutions is a technical computer consulting company. They often associate with other small businesses, that don't necessarily deal with computers. Lo eventually decided to go into a partnership, which is referred to as a Limited Liability Corporation. Lo had his company for five years, and receiving a loan at the age of 24 was relatively easy.

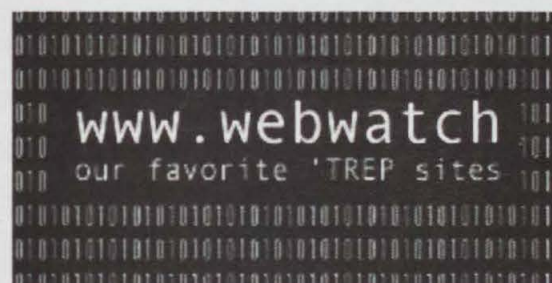
The steps sounded complicated when speaking to Lo, but it all made sense. A lot of paperwork is involved when receiving a loan. One must have a credit line, paper work on revenue, a federal identification number, paperwork from the state of Illinois, and even more documentation.

It was made clear to me that credit was the most important requirement for receiving a loan. The company opened a Visa debit account for six months instead of obtaining a banking card. That way, Viable Network Solutions would build credit history by making purchases and making payments on time. They purchased items such as office supplies and furniture. When asked if it is difficult to regain a good credit history after plummeting into debt, Lo said it can take five to six years. Your credit history is primarily based on how well you can pay your debts back.

I am quite sure you may be thinking, "Most teens don't have credit!" which is true. Banks are extremely reluctant to give loans to teenagers. When I asked Patrick Alwine of Accion Banking, a bank specializing in small loans from \$500 to \$50,000, he said, "It's a policy, you must be a legal adult."

I know, not much help. But Lo felt that having a cosigner with good credit may help your chances. However, for teen entrepreneurs, he didn't think receiving a loan would be the best route. One may start a business by collecting money from organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, or business men and women in the community.

Beginning a business is hard but definitely rewarding. One must remember to begin small. Saving money is also a must in becoming an entrepreneur. Market your service or product to those you know. But most importantly, know it's all a matter of dollars and sense.



Don't judge this book by its plain cover

By Cecil Rodriguez
Amundsen

Emkf.org is the website for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. They are dedicated to helping people of all ages learn to become successful entrepreneurs. They have entrepreneurship programs at all age levels: grade school, college and adult.

The program pertinent to us is the Children and Youth program, it's for ages 5-18. It has sub programs such as EntrePrep. EntrePrep teaches its students to recognize business opportunities, learn how a successful start-up starts up, and much more. Going through this program can get you a \$1000 scholarship for college! EntrePrep also allows you to meet new people and forge a network of connections that will be helpful in years to come.

They also offer summer and internship programs. The summer program is a weeklong session that teaches the sundry stages of entrepreneurship, furthers the development in knowledge, and expands the cognition of the entrepreneurs' role and characteristics. The internship program begins when you're a senior. They connect you with start up firms or firms involved with a business incubator. The intern must work a minimum of 150 hours. Through the internship program you gain hands on experience. You will prepare case studies evaluating your time as an intern and make suggestions on how they can make the program better.

This site gives tons of information for teens interested in becoming entrepreneurs. The site itself is very plain but the content of the site far outweighs its physical appearance. I think this would be a great place for any young hopeful entrepreneur to make a start.

To contact the E.M.Kauffman Foundation write, call, fax, or e-mail the following:

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110
Tel. (816) 932-1402
Fax. (816) 932-1430
www.emkf.org/contact.cfm



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Youth Communication
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600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

Entertainment

NE catches up with Bumper Robinson

By Tina Michelle Blumenberg
Columbia College

Hey, do you guys remember that handsome actor who played Jackie on "Jacksons: An American Dream"? Or, how about that cutie, Ivan, who used to chase Kadijah (**Queen Latifah**) in "Living Single"? Oh, I know! How about Dorian Heywood who played opposite of **Jada Pinkett** in "A Different World"? That's right, his name is Bumper Robinson. Bumper has appeared in many various TV shows ranging from "Amen" to "Guys Like Us" to "Three", and even to such soaps like "Days of Our Lives." He's also starred in the movies, "Enemy Mine," "White Man's Burden," and "Behind Enemy Lines." NE caught up with Bumper Robinson, and here's what he had to say about life as an actor.

NE: What is a typical day in the life of Bumper Robinson?

BR: A typical day? A typical day probably consists of something having to do with music. I'm a music lover!

"I've been lucky enough to do like a variety (of roles) so, you know, sometimes if I'm working on a show at that time, people will maybe respond to me as that character at that time."

And I write.

NE: Really?

BR: Yeah! And something active. I'm into sports. I love basketball. I love the Lakers. Always have and always will, but other than that, you know, just pretty much a normal day.

NE: What about as far as when you have to do a show? What's like the typical day?

BR: The typical day doing a show is usually dealing with a rehearsal and taping. It depends on if I'm doing a drama as opposed to doing a sitcom. The two are kind of different because during the week for a sitcom, you rehearse for a couple of days and then you tape, but for a drama you rehearse and tape on the same

day. So they're different kind of like that.

NE: O.K. How did you get such a unique name?

BR: My dad gave it to me when I was about 2 years old. I used to bump into everything all the time (*laughing*)

NE: At what age did you know you wanted to become an actor?

BR: Early. I loved it when I was a little kid. The first television show I did was "The Jeffersons" when I was 7, and I really loved it, and ever since I was a kid, I always wanted to do it.

NE: Which role would you consider your greatest challenge? Because, I can see you've played in a variety of films from "Enemy Mine," to "The Jacksons: An American Dream," and the "Old Settler," and even TV shows.

BR: You know probably a couple of them. I did an episode of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," and acting in that prosthetic make-up is difficult, but the "Old Settler," too, was a nice challenge because it was the closest to theater and I don't really have that big of a theater background. I have a television background. So I've grown up doing a lot of sitcoms, and that was kind of my close-to theater upbringing, but working with **Debbie Allen** and **Phylicia Rashad** was great, and we did that project in a very short amount of time, so it was a good challenge for me.

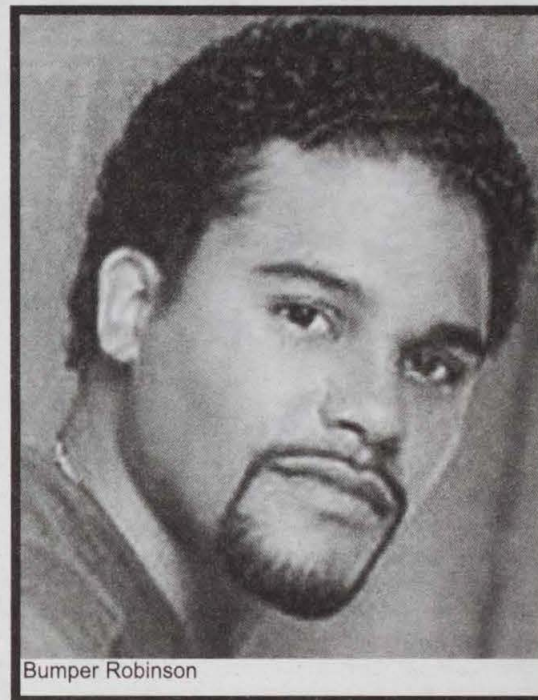
NE: Do you often get recognized as a specific character?

BR: Not really, 'cause I've been lucky enough to do like a variety so, you know, sometimes if I'm working on a show at that time, people will maybe respond to me as that character at that time. But, I'll sometimes get, "Are you the guy from 'Family Matters' or from 'A Different World'?"

NE: What was your most embarrassing moment in front of the camera?

BR: I've been lucky. I haven't had so many, but I remember an episode of "Amen" I was doing with **MC Hammer**, and I had to do some lines and some dancing at the same time, and I couldn't get this one part. And, it was pretty funny to the audience, but it wasn't funny to me. (*He laughs*)

NE: Do you find it difficult as a black actor to get roles in Hollywood?



Bumper Robinson

BR: Yeah, definitely! First of all there are not that many roles really offered for black Hollywood, especially in the younger age bracket. And you may have been familiar with something Samuel L. Jackson said, where he was talking about the hip-hop artists taking roles from actors?

NE: Right. (He said something along the lines of you wouldn't catch him in a film starring a rap artist unless it was somebody like Will Smith, who has some kind of acting background.)

(Continues on page 20)

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Calendar

April DVD/Movie Releases

April 1 DVD Releases

"Red Dragon"
"The Truth About Charlie"

April 4 Movies

"Phone Booth"
"What a Girl Wants"
"Cowboy Bebop: The Movie"
"Dysfunktional Family"

April 11 DVD Release

"Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets"

April 11 Movies

"Anger Management"
"Better Luck Tomorrow"

April 15 DVD Releases

"Drumline"
"Spirited Away"
"The Transporter"

April 16 Movies

"Bulletproof Monk"

April 18 Movies

"Holes"
"Malibu's Most Wanted"
"Mondays in the Sun"

April 22 DVD Releases

"Real Women Have Curves"

April 25 Movies

"Against the Ropes"
"Blue Car"
"It Runs in the Family"

April 29, 2003 DVD Releases

"Treasure Planet"
"Two Weeks Notice"
"Xena Warrior Princess" - Season One



Eddie Griffin hits the big screen in "Dysfunktional Family," a comedy concert film that blends Griffin's standup with footage of his family. Opens April 4.



Teen wizard Harry Potter returns to DVD in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," on April 11.

April CD/Concert Dates

Concert Dates

COMMON
House of Blues, 4/2, all-ages
INDIGO GIRLS, KIM RICHEY
Metro, 4/9, all-ages
JURASSIC 5
House of Blues, 4/16, 18 & over
SALIVA, (HED)PE
House of Blues, 4/17, 18 & over
B.B. KING with BOBBY BLUE BLAND
Star Plaza, 4/18-19
KEB' MO'
House of Blues, 4/22, 18 & over
DUB NARCOTIC SOUND SYSTEM
Schubas, 4/22, all-ages

CD Release Dates

April 1

EL GUAPO: Fake French
JAYHAWKS: Rainy Day Music
SWEET TRIP: Velcity:Design:Comfort

April 15

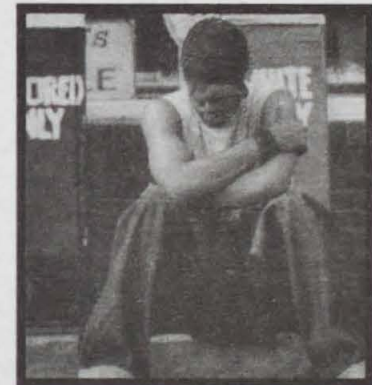
ANTHRAX: We've Come for You All
MADONNA: American Life
WHITE STRIPES: Elephant

April 22

BLACK CHILD: Black Child
GOODIE MOB: Goodie Mob
NOFX: 13 Stitches EP

April 29

VARIOUS ARTISTS: The Matrix Reloaded



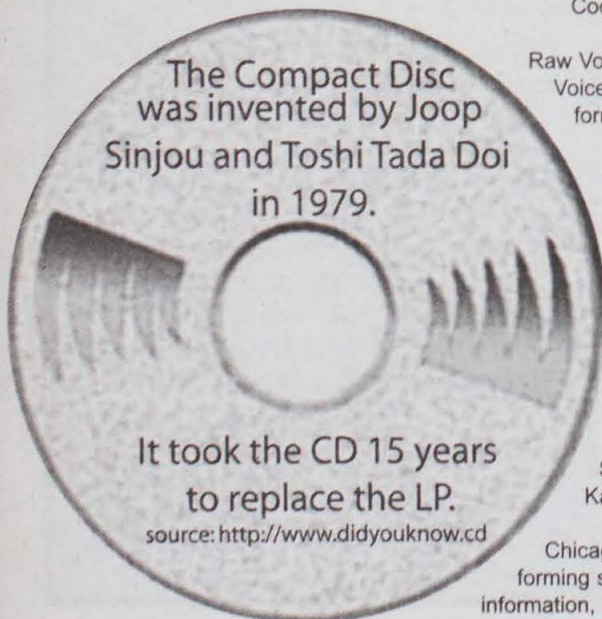
Chicago-born rapper Common headlines the House of Blues on April 2.



Pop icon Madonna releases her newest album, American Life, on April 15.

Things to do around Chicago

Did you know...



11th Annual V-103 Expo for Today's Black Woman presents Youth Summit 2003- Friday April 4 10 am-1 pm. The Youth Summit program provides teens exposure to invaluable practical knowledge. Seminars include topics such as technology and tips on making money. \$5. For more information, contact Roz Williams, Youth Summit Coordinator, (312) 243-3554.

Raw Voices Media Arts Conference, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5 at Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. Raw Voices is a Teen Media conference featuring teen media showcases, discussions on making media, and poetry performances. Free. For more information, call Paula Brien (312) 344-7284 or visit www.colum.edu/rawvoices.

Job/Community Resource Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 10 at Kennedy King College, 6800 S. Wentworth Ave. Find out about local employment opportunities, career certificate and associate degree programs, get resume writing tips, and learn internet job search skills at this day-long resource fair. Free. For more information, call (773) 602-5419.

Live Music Now! Program for Young People: Rythmunity Ensemble, 10:30 a.m. and noon at Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St. Free, but call for reservations. Live Music Now! presents various music style from a range of cultures. Organized by the International Music Foudation for students in the Chicago Public Schools. For more information call (312) 670-6888.

Our Time to Shine: 2003 Chicago Girl's Summit. 8:30 a.m.-4:20 p.m. April 26 at Francis Parker, 330 W. Webster St. Free. Sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Chicago. Forum covering girl's issues. For more information, call Lisa Kathumbi (312) 416-2500 extension 260.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. 3 p.m. April 27 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. The CGMC will be performing selections from its Spring Review, Just a Little Song & Dance and numbers from its permanent repertoire. For more information, call (312) F-I-N-E-A-R-T.

Entertainment

Choppa lacks bite

By Lenora Carroll

Curie High School

"Straight from the N.O."

Produced by Percy "Master P" Miller

Available now



With gold in his mouth and only worrying about the bling bling, the Nelly-look-a-like Choppa has made a ridiculous CD called "Straight from the N.O." If it weren't for the title of the CD or the title of the song you would think that the song said "Straight from the L.O." You can't understand what Choppa or any of the other rappers on the CD are saying.

Maybe it has something to do with all the gold in their mouths.

If you ask me, he is just a replacement for Juvenile. He even tries to sound like him. The song "Choppa Style" almost has the same beat as Juvenile's "Back That Thang Up." The majority of the songs on the CD have the same beats. The only thing that the CD should be used for is dancing at clubs, where a good beat is the most important thing, or in your car's stereo.

Choppa asks that "...if you're an independent woman say Ahhh," but what independent woman would let a man disrespect her the way he does?

Remember to make it loud enough so that you don't understand the bad lyrics, which is not hard to do since all the songs sound like they're in another language. The lyrics don't even make sense. Choppa talks about "skin tight pantses," or "make you put a run in yo stockings." They're not even real words. He just puts '-ins' and '-es' behind words.

Choppa says he's not all about the "bling bling," and that he's keeping it real, but are you keeping it real talking about girls putting their heads between their legs and shaking their behinds for you, Choppa? For goodness sake, his entire mouth is gold! Who'd want him?

All Choppa talks about is respect in the streets, girls, and money and he thinks that is keeping it real. That just proves the stereotypes for rappers to be true. In most of the raps, Choppa's just talking what girls are wearing and how to work it. Who really cares to hear the same thing over and over? When you buy a

a CD, you want a variety of songs.

The song "Shake it Like That" is just degrading to women. Choppa asks that "...if you're an independent woman say Ahhh," but what independent woman would let a man disrespect her like that?

He must think an independent woman is a woman who does not like her baby's daddy or can do without him. People like Choppa make women look like hoes that would just sleep with a man anywhere. If not, we would be kicked to the curb. He seems to think women are only good enough to have sex with and make babies with but that's all. In another song, Choppa talks about guys who are still with the same girl they were with last year and that they need to find a new one. Like we're toys and when they're done with us they get a new one. In the outro that is three minutes and 45 seconds long, Master P, AKA "Ghetto Bill" not Choppa is talking about fake rappers who have to talk about other rappers to make them selves look better. Yet he took an entire song off some one else's CD to talk about these fake rappers.

Now who looks like the fake one? Those three minutes could have at least been used another ridiculous song.

New Expression's rating system:

CD Ratings



Retail Price.



Catch it on sale.

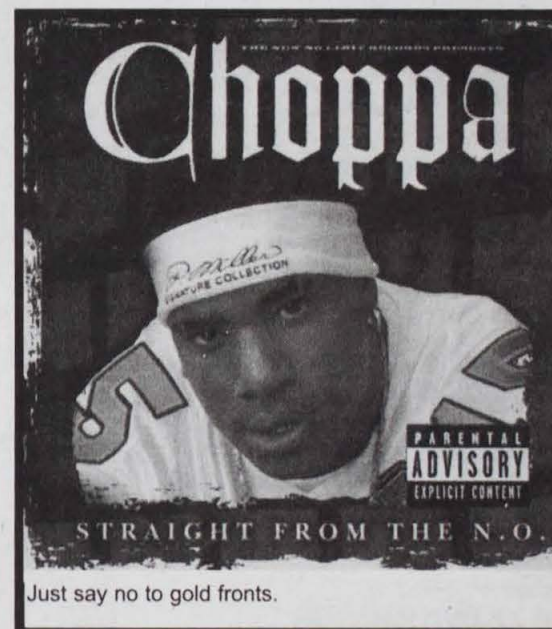


Look for it in the closeout bin.



Buy it to annoy your parents.

Zero stars - Use the CD as a coaster.



NE on TV returns to Can TV in April!

Tune in and watch us tackle important issues in teens' lives.

We'll be tackling the following topics in April:

4/2: The Iraq-U.S. Conflict

4/9: Are you safe in your school?

4/16: Does Prom = Sex?

4/23: Are there a lot of drugs in schools?

4/30: Is school food nutritious?

If you'd like to get involved in NE on TV, call (312) 922-7150 and ask for James.

Essay Contest

May NE Essay Question:
"Do you feel safe at your school?"

June NE Essay Question:
"Is it OK for homosexual teens to be open about their sexuality?"

Essays must be 300-400 words. The top three essays will be reprinted in the April and May issues with photos of the winners, who will receive \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively. The teacher of the first place winner receives \$25, too.

All entries must include:

- 1) Your full name
- 2) Home address
- 3) School name
- 4) Home phone number
- 5) The name of your teacher, if he assigned the essay.
- 6) All essays must be typed.

Forget any of these, and your essay will be disqualified.

Send the essays to:

New Expression Essays
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago IL 60605

Fax: (312) 922-7151

e-mail: newexpression@aol.com

Please make the subject line: "NE Essay Contest."

Deadline:

May: April 22 at 5 pm.

June: May 18 at 5 pm.

No Exceptions.

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Physicians at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine are conducting a research study of an investigational, topical medication for the treatment of acne. The investigational medication combines two approved medications and will be compared with a placebo. If you are at least 16 years old and have facial acne, you may be eligible to participate.

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Bumper Robinson (continued)

(Continued from page 16)

BR: A lot of the black youth, and a lot of black hip-hop industry didn't understand what he (Jackson) was saying... what they were saying was he's dissing a lot of hip-hop artists, but he's not really. What he was saying is that there are not that many roles, first of all. And how unfair for Samuel L. Jackson, who doesn't know anything about rap to release a rap album, and take some of the shine from, you know, Busta Rhymes or something. That would be pretty ridiculous. Nobody would think of it that way. And what he's saying is that some of these artists are brought in with no acting experience, who have no idea what they're doing, and people go, "Well, you know, I mean, it's just their first job, they'll get better." But we can't do that. We can't go crossing into somebody else's career, and say, "Well, you know they're terrible right now, but they'll be good eventually." But what's unfortunate is that there are not that many roles, 'cause if there were more roles, there'd be room for everybody, but there's not. So, when you have some people taking... you know, we're fighting over the roles; it's pretty bad. Also, there's not that much diversity in the roles because the reason why a lot of hip-hop artists are being used to act is because the style of roles. A lot of the roles are tough characters, some thugs, some gangsters, drug dealers...

NE: Right.

BR: A lot of people can play that role, but if there were a lot of young lawyers, if there were some young doctors, then it would start... You'd need people, you know, if

there were some different styled things, then you'd need some acting background. But, right now, not only are there not a lot of roles, there are not a lot of different kinds of roles, so it's pretty thin all the way around.

NE: Does life as an actor ever get overwhelming?

BR: No. It's different, but for some of the things that would make it overwhelming, I've had a lot of great experiences because of it. I just finished doing a show in China for the last 10 months with **Dennis Hopper**.

NE: That was "The Flatlands," right?

BR: Right, and being able to have an experience like that... I mean, there's not many jobs that you get paid to go somewhere and enjoy another culture, but learn, and, you know, work with somebody like **Dennis Hopper** with his history, and I mean, that's overwhelming in another way; in a good way!

NE: Generally speaking, this is over everything, not just acting, what do you feel is your most important accomplishment?

BR: My relationships with my family and friends because I love acting and that, but I mean, it is just my job, you know. Since I've been doing it ever since I was a kid, I think I have a good perspective on that. It won't change. I will always love it, but I love it, I don't live it!

NE: What advice would you give aspiring actors?

BR: Believe in yourself. If you can't believe in yourself then you shouldn't be acting because you're going to get a lot of negative feedback even if you're good. Because in the acting business, you can be great, but you can be too tall, or you can be too dark, you can be too light, you can be too something, you know, and it's a business of toos. And understandably, it gets old hearing, "Yeah, you're wonderful, but you're too..." You know? I think you have to have love for it and respect for it. You want to act, study it. Watch what's out there familiarize yourself with what's going on, but above all believe in yourself and your love for it!

NE: Is it true you were considering a singer career?

BR: Yeah. You'll probably hear something from me within a year.

NE: What kind of songs do you do?

BR: I do kind of within the vein of like Musiq Soulchild/Glen Lewis. My influences are... I mean Stevie Wonder comes first to me, but I still have a real West Coast feel to it so it's kind of a little funkier.

NE: Kind of brought up to today's times.

BR: Right.

NE: Well, that concludes the interview. It was nice talking to you and thank you for doing the interview.

BR: No problem. Take care.

New Expression is doing a story on safety. We want your input. Complete the following survey and mail your responses to **New Expression** 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605-1996. Or, e-mail your answers to newexpress@aol.com. You can answer these questions on a separate piece of paper also. Completed surveys will be entered in a drawing for \$25. Thanks.

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1) Do you have a class trip? Where are you headed? How long is it for?

2) How much is the class trip going to cost you?

3) Is there an educational component to your class trip? (Serious responses ONLY.)

4) Are you planning on going on your class trip? Why or why not?

5) Do you feel safe going on your class trip?

Short Stories

Got a short story? Want to see it published? Send it to
Short Stories c/o Youth Communication, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605

A Life Without A Sense

By Gabrielle Emanuel
Northside College Prep



Gabriela Emanuel
Photo by Audrey Galo, Northside College Prep

Live without hearing or die from a heart condition? James O'Leftin faced this question. He lived in a medium sized cement building deep in the city of Chicago. It was encased in scaffolding for repair work but James could still open his windows. One of his windows overlooked the unpredictable lake that reflected his capricious breathing cycles. The lake was like a deep blanket of

blue velvet, yet as unfathomable as the sky. Through James's living room window he could see massive and lofty looking buildings. They towered over his building as if they were queens and kings and James's scaffolded building was a handicapped structure.

James was a young boy of 17. He was tall and slender. He had long tentacle arms and his mouth traced a thin mobile line. He had large dumbo ears and his transparent, liquid eyes revealed his changing moods. Dark hair framed his face.

In the past month James had visited Northwestern Hospital twice for a period of four days each time. He had visited the hospital because of his shortness of breath, attributable to his heart condition. In his mind it was the inside of a large cast, holding together one massive broken limb. The Northwestern Hospital had almost become his second home. His parents had stayed overnight at the hospital the first time he visited it. But the second time they had decided he was seventeen years old and could handle staying there alone. It felt like an eon even though his parents had visited him every day. But they had not been the busy people James knew. They had worn tired and anxious, weak smiles and their eyes had been troubled. His mother Kathy had sat with him for two consecutive days. Sitting like a layer of silent plaster, she did not say anything of great significance. She had questioned him about being comfortable or wanting anything to eat. She wore her concerned eyes all the time. Whenever she had looked at him it had been for a split second more than normal, her eyes would linger and then pull away.

There was one thing she had whispered that had stuck in James's mind. He had always wished to hear these three words from her lips together and aimed at him. She had purred these three words when she left his room on the second day. Kathy had opened the door and turned back to look at James as he lay in his bed pretending to be asleep and she had whispered under her breath, "I love you." For a long time James had lain awake that night, the words rerunning in his head. But finally his eyes had closed just as darkness closed its eyelids over the sun.

When James's dad, Michel came to see him, he had been

moved. But that seemed to last only for the first day when he came with Kathy. He too had sat gently at James's side and watched his every blink. But on the last day of James's stay in the hospital he had come as his customary self. The first thing he had done was to wake James up and tell him that he only had 20 minutes and wanted to get some pictures of him. He was a self-absorbed and fairly inconsiderate man. He was not easily intimidated. He seldom was home except to sleep. He had never really gotten to know James. Their last conversation had been the day before James had left to camp for two months. Their last exchange was a vituperative tirade against James for receiving his first B+. When James had come back from camp Kathy had warmly embraced him while Michel had awkwardly placed his hand on James's shoulder.

James had gone home from the hospital with the doctor's warning to stay inside as much as possible. When James had heard this news his face had dropped and his eyes had begun to leak. He had gone home and had sat by his window overlooking the lake trying to get a glimpse of the sun. He was being forced to take Gentamycin. One nurse with chestnut brown hair had informed James that there was only one side effect. Another nurse had told James what that side effect was. "The only major side effect is that you might lose a little of your hearing. Don't worry though. That only happens to some of the people who take Gentamycin..."

A forlorn and elongated feeling had come over him, as she had tried to reassure James by saying that she was sure it would not happen to him. That is when his tears started to flow. The news had not really sunk in yet but he felt sorry for himself. More bad news... more things that other kids his age didn't do, knew nothing of. More isolation. He did not want it to sink in.

He would watch the darkness as it swallowed the lake. He would often think of the darkness eclipsing the light as his life, happiness covered by his dark breathing problems. The notion of being deaf was buzzing in the back of his head like a fly perpetually pleading for freedom.

James was impatient for school to start and his mind to be concentrated on new and different things. James could not wait for a change. His days were spent near the window, the computer, the phone or the television. Wherever he was he was hunched over, he had lost hope in his ears. Two of the four things that his day consisted of could soon be taken away. When he thought about his possibility of being deaf the only thing that had brought the slightest hint of a smile across his face was that he, for a fleeting second had thought about not having to go to school. But James knew that not having to go to school was an unrealistic option.

School started but James was not as happy as he thought he would be. People started to call him stupid and forgetful. His hearing had begun to wilt like a flower in fall. But this was James's spring. He would miss complete parts of conversations and he was constantly saying, 'What?' or 'Repeat that.' He knew what was going on and had decided to stop taking his Gentamycin. At breakfast and dinner Kathy gave him a Gentamycin pill. He would take it and

store it in his cheek until his mother and father looked away and he would slip it wet into his pocket.

His father had caught him about a week after he stopped taking his pill. James was taking the pill out of his mouth while his father and mother had both gone into the kitchen for a moment. His father had come out of the kitchen sooner than James had predicted. He had stomped over to James's side, his face becoming plethoric. He leaned close into James's face, encroaching on his space. He seemed to steam at the edges. Then he exploded, "Open your hands! I said, open your hands!" Kathy appeared in the doorway frightened. "We pay for Gentamycin, and what do you do with it? We pay for you to continue living and what do you do? You are throwing your life away. You filthy child. Apologize to me!" James's dumbo ears had become red as he leaned away from his father. James had muttered something sounding like a sorry. He then slid out of his chair and had escaped to his room.

James had started taking his medicine again under his father's strict eye. His hearing had slowly deteriorated. At the end of his first grading period he was only hearing bits and pieces of his lessons and conversations. He had gone from being an 'A' student to being a 'C-' or 'D' student.

James hated silence. The only time he heard sound now was in his dreams. He was happier when he slept or read. That is when he could pretend he was normal. His parents had finally understood what had happened. They had arranged to send him to a new school, a school for deaf people. At the new school there was only one class for all ages. The classes were held in a short, flat gray building. It made James think of a gurney - the kind of stretcher they rolled patients around in at the hospital. Engraved on the wall of the building was:

Gallaudet Middle School and High School
Chicago Branch
A School for the Deaf

He hated this school, despite the fact that it was tailored to people like him. He did not want to be one of them. The children around him seemed dazed and the teachers treated him as if he could not do anything.

He squeezed himself into a small home and could not find a way out. He no longer kept in touch with his friends from his old school. He had not made any close new friends and he could not have a normal conversation with his parents. He was unable to hear but he was able to talk. But James had stopped wanting to talk. He would go through a whole day without saying a single word. The days turned into weeks. He hated speaking, knowing he was speaking but not being able to hear himself.

Not being able to talk had affected his physical state. He would walk around hunched over. Other people seemed to tower over him as if they were queens and kings and James was a handicapped structure.

The silence swallowed James. He knew that he could no longer have a normal relationship with anyone. James had convinced himself that no one would want to be friends with him any which way. He wished for sleep and waited for the darkness to swallow him each day.

Poetry

Fly Girls in the Jets

Anonymous

Fly gear
Ghetto hairdos
Gold hoops and chains
Cell phones
The latest Jordans
Tight hip huggers, Gap jeans
Thongs showing, and tattoos
Most young fly girls either steal their
Gear or pay boosters in the hood.
Fly girls in the jets going with drug slingers

Fly girl drops out of school and spends
her time getting blunted out.
So much idle time on her hands fly
girl gossips a lot and gets in fights.
When summer comes we see what fly
girls has been doing all winter cause big
pregnant bellies are everywhere.
Young girls living in the jets skipping
school banging in vacant apartments
jucking, smoking blunts and having sex

If bangers don't have cars they must
catch bootleg cabs by the jets cause
If they're caught by a rival gang trying
to catch the bus they can be shot. They
can't take fly girl many places because
they must watch their backs and their
workers so they won't steal their packs
or say they got robbed. They spend lots
of time sitting, watching and
collecting loot. So, to please fly
girl they send her shopping a lot.



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Fly girls need to learn that clothes
Don't make the person and there is
a price you must pay for wrong
doing. Material things don't last when
you get them with bad money. The DEA
can step in and padlock Johnny's
house up and everything he owns will
be sold at auction, clothes, jewelry, etc.
The drug dealers and gang bangers never
Think about the lives they destroy and
The kids who go without food because
Their parents brought blow and crack.
Where are the bangers when the people
are being thrown out for non-payment
of rent.

Fly girl, fly girl, open your eyes before
it's too late and you end up in the jets
uneducated and abused by the bangers
with a house full of babies.

Fly girl how you gone feed your
babies cause public aid is a thing
of the past.

Once you've been passed about the
bangers won't buy sex from you
they'll use your house to bag up
their drugs.

Things are going to get rough for fly
girl because she never once thought
to go vote now her welfare check is going
to be a thing of the past.

What can fly girl teach her children
nothing much because she never stayed
in school long enough.

Now is the time fly girl to get a sitter
for your kids if you have any sense and
go to work and night school
and learn to pray to GOD and ask
him to help you change your life.

I wrote this poem and saved it
just for this occasion so maybe
someone will hear my words and maybe
My poem will reach them and stop them
from making a mistake or help influence
Them not to get caught up as a fly girl.
They need to know it's never too late to
make a change. Education is the
only way out.

and gang bangers being passed about
among the brothers just to try to stay
fly, selling themselves for African braids
and the new Jordans and fly gear.
Once the fly girls fall in their trap
they're never respected again.
There are plenty of fights in the jets by young
fly girls fighting over bangers they
call their man.

The Health Department comes out on a regular
Basis passing out condoms and talking about
AIDS and HIV information.
Fly girls and bangers spreading disease all
through the jets.
Lots of kids in the jets are kin to each
Other. Some bangers even bet on what fly girl they're
going to have sex with next.
Fly girls don't know it's all a game to them right along
with their fast money. So they really don't care.
Easy come, easy go, they make more money than
they know what to do with.

Fly girl where is your momma
Somewhere smoking crack or floating
On blower with her man not even caring.
Young bangers banging in the back parking lot
Behind the jets dress in gear drinking
remy and smoking blunts leaning against
their jeeps with fly rims talking about
their flavor of the week fly girl
bragging about what sexual favors
they performed on them.

Young fly girl never thinks about what she's
going to do when her man goes to jail and the loot
stops. Last night somebody did a drive by and
banger Johnny lay dead shot in the head.
Who's going to take care of fly girl now and lil

Johnny. Well, fly girl gets through the
funeral and then moves on to the next
banger. It's a neverending cycle
that the fly girl ends up on.

Poetry

To My Savior

By Jacob Hogan
Borther Rice

I never quite understood how you do
The things you do.
You don't even know you do it.
You don't even know me.
And I don't know anything about you.
I just know that you make me feel,
And I haven't felt in a long time.
Whether this be my own selfishness
Or the fact that I was jaded, but I never
Understood until now. Understanding,
Meaning I finally am
Open for the first time in a long time.
No one has ever done that before.
All my life I've been growing a shell,
And the shell began to consume me,
But in a single glance in your direction,
The shell was ripped from me.
Stripped naked of all my assumptions,
All my inhibitions, all my misconceptions,
But it was the world that became clear to me.
I looked about me and saw the world around
Me as would a child, with wonder and merriment.
It would be impossible for me to profess this as love
At first sight, because you are not the one I am destined
for,
And I understand that, but I have so much to thank you
for.
You may not be the one who opens my heart, but there is
no doubt that you open my eyes.
You may not be my goal, but you were a milestone.
I have not recovered, nor will I ever, from you,
But that is because I will always love you,
Not as my destiny, not as a friend,
Nor as I would family or foe, but for the person you opened
me to be.
To you, I thank you, and I will keep you close to my heart.
all the days of my life.



1000 Words

Photograph by Rosa Rodriguez, Curie High School.
Got a photo you want to show? Send it to:
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The light of the lord

By Anjelica Howard,
Morgan Park



Lord light me a way
I am Blind but I do see
Through the spirit and the
Things I will do through
You.
Lord light me a way
It is dark and I must
See. Till the morning
I shall sit.
In the mist of it all
I know that you won't let me fall.
Lord thank you I say that
For I have found my way
Although I stay in the dark I
Know we are never apart.
For that you never forsake me.
There will always be me where there is you.
Like a friend you are truly true blue.
The surroundings of love and the peace
That is brought through the blood and your
son.
There comes the light that leads the way for all
to
Appreciate.

Photo by Cecil Rodriguez, Amundsen



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One more thing...

Eminem: Is he "The World's Greatest" or "The Most Hated"?

By Gwendolyn Collier
DuSable High School

Editor's Note: The crowd went wild at the Academy Awards presentation March 23 when Eminem won an Oscar for "Best Original Song" for "Lose Yourself" in the movie "8 Mile." Reporter Gwendolyn Collier decided to get an update on what people outside of the Academy think of the artist otherwise known as Marshall Mathers.

Personally, I enjoy every hour, minute, and second of Eminem's music. I don't take it for anything more than what it is. Eminem speaks what's on his mind. I think speaking your mind is much better than actually taking out your aggressions on innocent people. Many people who hold in their problems go through self-destruction and have a tendency to react in a negative and unacceptable way (For example: The shootings in high schools and the 9/11 bombing of buildings.) Eminem is not responsible for anyone's children but his own. The parents who feel their child is acting the way they are because of Eminem's lyrics need to wake up and smell the coffee.

Instead of pointing fingers and blaming others, parents need to take responsibility for their children's actions. Eminem is not making anyone buy his CD's. He also provides a warning on what is on each of his CD's.

The critics try to 'down' him for his lyrics, but now I'm downing the critics. Eminem, just like as anybody else, has the right to FREEDOM OF SPEECH! (As the First Amendment of the Constitution clearly supports.) Now is that a contradiction in itself? Here's what some people think:

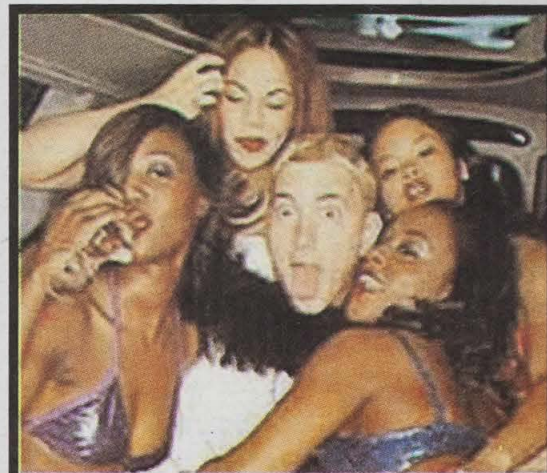
"Eminem is cool. I like to listen to his music because he speaks the truth and is not afraid to express his feelings to the world. I don't feel that he is responsible for other's actions.

Some people are getting the wrong impression of his lyrics. When he raps, he's talking about what he's been through, not what he wants you to go through. People take it beyond themselves to react the way they do."

"I think Eminem is a very talented rapper because he speaks his mind without caring what the media says," Dakota Haynes, a junior at DuSable, said. "I think he should continue to make music because I enjoy it as well as others. It is the youth's responsibility for the way they act. It specifically says on the cover of his C.D. before you buy it, 'Contains explicit lyrics. Parental guidance suggested.'

So you already know what you're getting into." Dr. Dillingham, a counselor at DuSable, said that "I'm not a big fan of Eminem, however I don't dislike him. He is not wrong for speaking his mind. I do, however, believe that he has a somewhat negative effect on the youth today because they seem to get the wrong message. They that it is OK to disrespect mom and beat up a girlfriend. However, they should not try to stop him from expressing himself."

"I didn't like the 'Slim Shady Project,' but when he started expressing himself as Eminem, I was pleased," said Mr. Faik, a science teacher. "I like him



Eminem celebrates with some of his, uh, friends.

NE File Photo

because he speaks his mind with no problem. He talks about a lot of things he's been through in one of the positive ways to express yourself, with words. He does no harm intentionally. The way people see it is the way people see it.

"As far as him attacking and being attacked people in the music industry, he's serving the whole purpose of rap music: TO SELL RECORDS."

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