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December 2003/January 2004 Volume 26 Issue 9



New Expression
NewsMagazine



By Teens. For Teens. ABOUT Teens

This Month in New Expression

You Don't Know Jack

Former Hales Franciscan teacher Jack Ryan wants to be the next U.S. Senator for the State of Illinois. Political columnist Haamid Johnson tells you why you should get to know Jack.

Page 4

Reflections on a Fallen Friend

On November 15, Humboldt Park teenager Alia Chavez was found stabbed to death. Her ex-boyfriend was charged with murder. Franklin Piazza writes about coping with the loss of a good friend.

Page 7

Homeless Teens

Most people spend the holidays surrounded by loved ones. Reporters Joi Hampton and Erna Dzafic tell us about teens who will celebrate the holidays in a shelter.

Page 14

NE Catches Up With Tribune Music Critic Greg Kot.

In part two of our interview, Greg Kot, Tribune and Rolling Stone music critic, talks about his favorite rock bands, politics, and the future of rock.

Page 19

Chicago's fall Pow Wow

The word Pow Wow comes from the Algonquin word "PauWau" which described medicine men and spiritual leaders. Early Europeans thought the word referred to a gathering. As Indian tribes learned English, they accepted this definition. Today, Pow Wows help maintain Native Heritage. NE's Malissa McGivern reports from the Chicago Native American Indian Center's 50th Annual Pow Wow.

Page 22

Point/Counterpoint
Essay Contest

Page 5
Page 8

Letters to the Editor

Page 9

Teens Mean Business

Page 10

Calendar

Page 20

Dear Audriena

Page 21

Classified

Page 23

Sports

Page 24



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December 2003/January 2004

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From the Editor's Desk



School's Decision to Call Cops Appropriate

In early November, the nation turned its attention to Goose Creek, South Carolina, home to Stratford High School. The high school was criticized after police entered the school with guns in hand and a canine unit and searched the students' belongings.

The high school students were suspected of selling drugs and the principal reported the information to the police. The police then monitored student activity in the hallways through surveillance cameras. The suspicions were proven correct after students were seen acting as lookouts and selling drugs to other students on a regular basis.

In response, 14 policemen moved into the school's crowded hallway and in 30 seconds had controlled more than 100 students. The students were ordered to sit against the wall and throw their backpacks into the middle of the hallway. The policemen had guns in their hands pointed toward the floor and dogs were brought to sniff students' bags. However, no drugs were found.

As expected most parents and students felt that the drug bust was not justifiable and that police were acting carelessly by pulling out their weapons. Parents claim that only the drug-selling students deserved to be investigated by the police and that the police should never have pulled out their weapons.

The outrage from parents and community members was heard everywhere, but my question is why are they so upset. A high school principal's job is to create a learning environment that students and parents are comfortable with.

Stratford's principal acted correctly in calling the police because when kids start selling drugs in schools, the disciplinary action should go way beyond a parent conference and a slap on the wrist. By allowing these students to feel the wrath of a drug bust they should be scared into the fact that schools aren't breeding grounds for drug dealers and junkies. Now more than ever the Stratford students think twice before becoming rookie criminals, all because they got a taste of the "real" world.

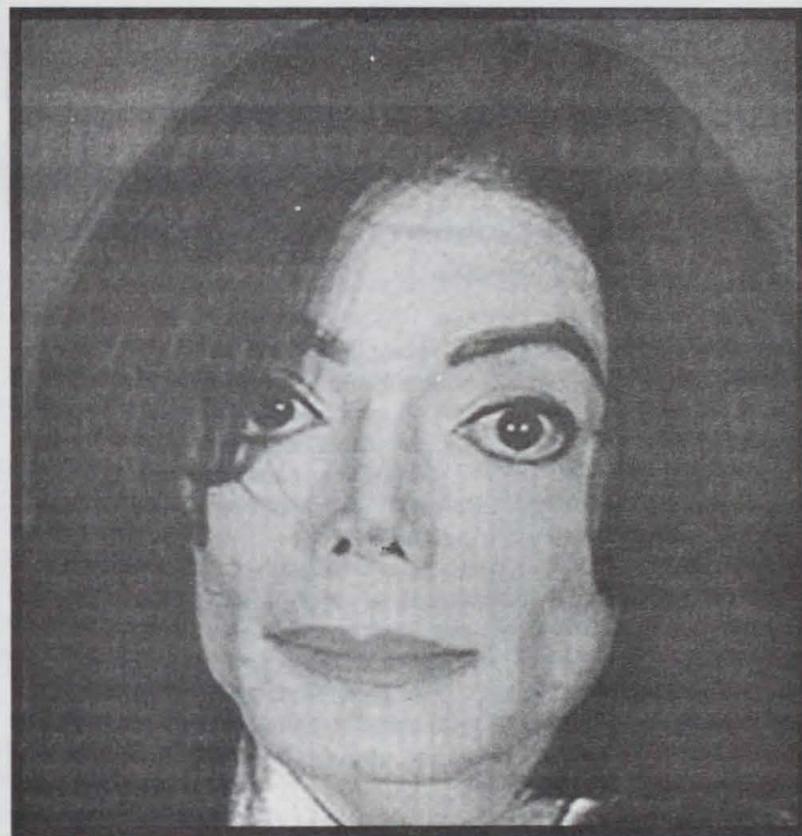
Audrey Galo

Jacko wacko? Not according to friends, family.

Thousands of Michael Jackson fans took to the street after his recent arrest on Child Molestation charges. In Hollywood, supporters have gathered at his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Supporters, like Jackson's older brother, Jermaine, and movie actress Elizabeth Taylor, have urged fans to stand behind the besieged star.

Others, like WVON-AM talk show host Cliff Kelley, have suggested that fans buy as much Michael Jackson merchandise as possible to show their support.

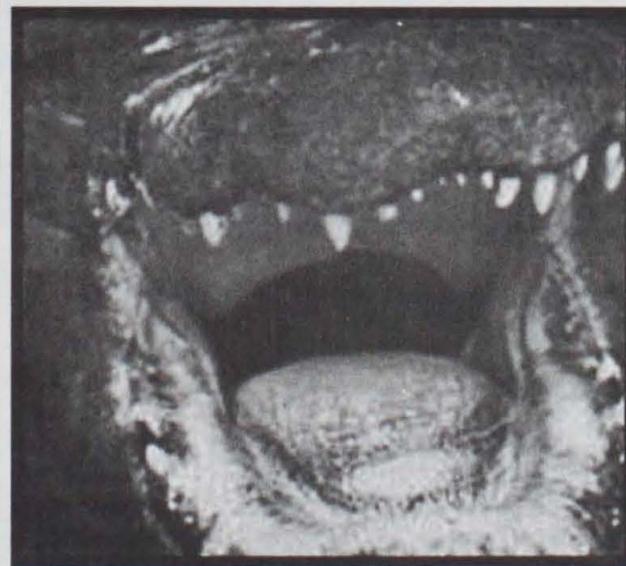
This is the second time Jackson, 45, has been accused of child molestation. In 1993, Jordy Chandler accused Jackson of molesting him. The case was settled out of court for \$18 million.



NEWSBRIEFS

Tricky Scholarships

A high school in Guntur, India received a letter offering their students scholarships if they trimmed their hair. The administrators failed to check the validity of the letter and hundreds of teenage girls cut their hair. The applications were mailed, but the school never heard back. The letter was a hoax.



Strange Shipments

A US postal worker in Wisconsin was sorting through mail, when she discovered a four-foot long alligator chewing its way out of a box. Workers tried taping the box but had to resort to throwing the alligator into a hamper. The postal service has not determined the alligator's owner's identity.



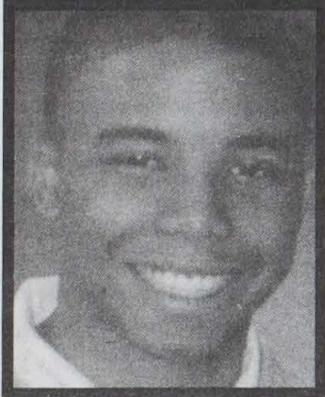
Vietnamese boy sold as dog meat

Two Vietnamese drug addicts kidnapped a mute teenager, bundled him in a sack and sold him to a dog-meat eatery as a stray canine. The Gia Dinh Xa Hoi (Family and Society) newspaper said the two addicts grabbed the homeless 13-year-old from a busy market in Halong City, a United Nations heritage site. The kidnappers tied up the boy, bundled him into a sack and sold him to the restaurant for 300,000 dong (\$19), the newspaper said. The restaurateur, shocked to find the boy, fed him and released him. Dog meat is a delicacy in some Asian countries such as South Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos. In Vietnam, eating specifically farmed breeds is believed to bring health benefits and is seen as auspicious.

Political Perspective

JACK Is a Republican Who Thinks Outside the Box

By Haamid Xavier Johnson
Georgetown University



The next United States Senator from our state needs to KNOW the issues that are of most importance to you, as a voter or potential voter.

Illinois' United States Senator needs to KNOW that we want a public servant who will do more than just talk about the significance of reaching out

to young people and minorities.

Illinois needs a United States Senator who KNOWs that energizing the youth of Chicago and this great state to participate in the political process, must be a benchmark of their campaign.

Illinois needs a United States Senator who KNOWs that young people want our elected representative to champion the issue of improving education, provide real ideas to decrease drop out rates amongst high school students; and espouse bold solutions to increase the graduation and college acceptance rate of our secondary students.

Known to the Land of Lincoln affectionately as Jack, I, along with many political commentators believe he is one of the best candidates to seek the United States Senate seat in the history of Illinois politics.

Illinois needs a United States Senator who KNOWs that empowering members of the minority community to increase voting percentages is essential to attaining the highest levels of civic participation.

Most of all, Illinois needs a United States Senator who KNOWs and optimistically believes in the future of our youth and the role disenfranchised minorities must be encouraged to play in it.

Therefore, if you are 18 years old – living in the city, then you should KNOW about the previous raised concerns, because they will inevitably impact your life!

Secondly, if you pay close attention to your city and state elections, then you might KNOW that

www.newexpression.org

on March 16, Illinois voters nominate candidates for U.S. Senator

In that case, then you ought to get to KNOW JACK Ryan.

Known to the Land of Lincoln affectionately as Jack, I, along with many political commentators believe he is one of the best candidates to seek the United States Senate seat in the history of Illinois politics. As a candidate seeking the Republican nomination for United States Senate, he has encouraged young people to become more active in the political process.

Jack has done this by effectively stating his clear purpose for seeking this office, passion for people and policy, and the principles in which he stands for. On his website www.jackryan2004.com, the candidate states that he is "optimistic about the future of our country, but for too long we have ignored schools in our inner cities."

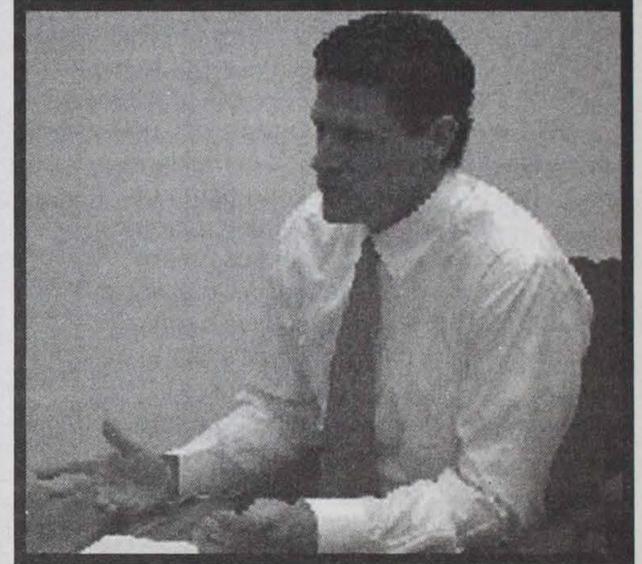
His candidacy is about more than just spinning rhetoric about reaching out to the minority community. Jack has and will continue to widen the GOP's tent by his actions and not just by his speeches to Illinoisans.

Most Democrats and Republicans would not dare to state some of the inclusive initiatives that he proposes and stands for.

An example of Jack's inclusive policy regarding education is school choice: "A quality education is an essential component to success in the new global economy. Giving parents a choice and introducing opportunity to make failing public schools better is one solution to this problem."

As a Republican, Jack's diverse group of supporters is unprecedented for this type of candidacy. People rallying behind his ideas has been exhibited on numerous occasions; he was the only Republican Senate candidate to march in the Bud Billiken Parade. Over 200 South Siders took the day off of work to accompany Jack in Springfield for the State Fair.

Though Jack is no longer my high school



NE File Photo

Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Jack Ryan

teacher at Hales Franciscan High School, an all boys African-American Catholic school – where he taught for three years after leaving his industrious job at an investment banking firm – he constantly teaches me lessons about government and public policy outside the classroom.

Many of the students at Hales view Jack as an exceptional role model and a very motivated and dedicated teacher.

During my SAT/ACT Prep course, Jack routinely told his class of all African-American males that, "there is nothing you can't do." After a while, I, like so many of peers began to heed his message. His teaching method was unlike any other class I had taken.

A lot of my teachers were challenging, but Jack not only wanted us to excel in the rigors of his curriculum, he wanted to motivate us to believe in ourselves.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from someone who has experienced as much as Jack has. During his three years at Hales, he encouraged me and my peers to be committed to working as hard as it took to excel in school.

Hard work has paid off, and I have taken the principles of that work ethic with me to Georgetown University. Many of my peers, including myself herald Jack's tireless efforts as a teacher and role model, and his unwillingness to settle for mediocrity.

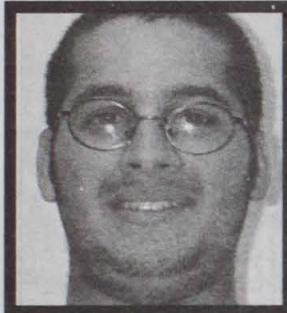
Nevertheless, within the plethora of candidates seeking our US Senate seat, Jack's Republican candidacy represents the best chance, since Ronald Reagan, for a non-career politician to have such an inclusive agenda and diverse representation of support.

Get to KNOW JACK!

December 2003/January 2004

AMERICA'S ARMY

Point



Kumar Zaman
Walter Payton
College Prep

I think that the Army is justified in making a video game to help recruitment, because many teenagers have no real desire to enlist in the army. This game does give them a reason. It shows them what it's like to be in the army. In order for teenagers to make a conscious decision about anything, they must undertake an investigation. The army, in this instance, is helping teenagers with their decision, by showing what life is like in the Army.

I don't think that "America's Army" is breeding violence, however, it is adding to the problem of violence in video games. The game's website features links to websites of its makers and links to U.S. Army related sites. All of this is done to make the game player make contact with the people who help make the game enjoyable for them. The U.S. Army stated the following position on recruitment through use of their video game, "The game is designed to substitute virtual experiences for vicarious insights. It does this in an engaging format that takes advantage of young adults' broad use of the Internet for research and communication and their interest in games for entertainment and exploration."

The Army admitted that because of the elimination of the draft, the recruitment rate has suffered, and they are trying to attract teenagers to join the Army. By making a game, all they are doing is reaching out to a group of people whom they are not able to regularly reach. The video game is fun, and some of my peers have told me that they can decide whether or not they want to join the Army. They like the shoot-em-up type games and they like the realistic look of the game. But, it is up to the player to decide if he/she is being tricked into joining the Army or not. Most of the time they just want to have fun.

Army War Game Helps Recruitment Efforts

By NE Staff

In November, the U.S. Army released "Special Forces" the newest version of its popular on-line video war game "America's Army."

Similar to "America's Army" Special Forces allows gamers to train as Green Berets in real exercises at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and dive into simulated combat and battlefield action in an advance, state-of-the-art virtual environment.

Gamers worldwide, who play against one another simultaneously, have praised both versions of the game for their rich, detailed graphics and game play. Real soldiers were videotaped to create realistic play and missions are taken from actual locations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though there is a real war going on in the Iraq, about 3,000 gamers sign up daily to engage themselves in the video war games, Army officials said.

"When we first released the game a year ago we had more than a million downloads in the first few days," said Paul Boyce, a spokesman for the Army.

Army officials said the games have played a significant role in the Army's recruiting efforts, but Army officials did not have numbers regarding how many new recruits signed up after playing the game.

Though Army officials said the game has helped recruiting efforts, Boyce said the Army's goal was not to use the games as a method of recruitment, but instead, give civilians a look inside today's Army and its operations.

"We use the game for educational purposes. Players learn the values of the Army, what it's like to deal with a drill sergeant, be part of a team and engage in battle. Unlike other war games, players don't have super-human strength," Boyce said.



NE File Photo

"We found that the games are a wonderful vehicle for introducing young people to the modern day Army and they seem to be enthused by these games," he said.

Boyce said that he does not believe that the game alone encourages young people to want to join the Army.

"That is a decision based on what is right for the family and right for the nation. Ideally, the decision to join the Army should come from sitting with a recruiter and making the right choice for your future," he said.

The game can be downloaded for free at www.americasarmy.com and is available on CD at Army recruiting offices.

Singing up for the game involves creating a user name and user e-mail address. When the 500-megabyte file is downloaded to play the game so are cookies, which identify the users computer and records how far the player advances in the game. Boyce said the cookies do not identify the user or gather any information on the user. Some critics of the game are skeptical of the Army's claim.

The games put all players and squad members in the uniform of the U.S. Army.

"The lesson here is teamwork. You play with up to thirty on a team. No one plays a bad guy," he said.

The game is rated Teen by the Entertainment Software Rating Board, meaning the game is suitable for ages 13 and up.

CounterPoint

Joseph Struck
Providence
High School



War is a travesty for humanity that should be avoided at all costs. It breaks up

families and destroys the hopes and dreams of the people who so bravely choose to fight in their country's desperate time of need. It is a last resort and it is the job of the military to build up defense while avoiding war.

In a new weapon of recruitment put forth by the U.S. Army, war is seen as an exciting activity. One that you should even do with your friends.

This game promotes killing human beings. The message being sent here is that violence in video games is bad because it causes violence, but if the violence created can aid the military, that's okay. If only the shooters at Columbine High School had played America's Army instead of Doom.

Being in the army is about showing service and gratitude toward the nation in which you live. It is about putting your life on the line in the worst of times. It is not about having a good time blowing people up. Nor is it about getting the best score. There is always that thin line between make-believe and reality and a game that creates a virtual experience of a war that that is currently taking place crosses that line.

The game is extremely realistic. From the small details on the guns to the scenery, America's Army is made to appear as if you're actually in America's Army. Except when you die there's no funeral procession, no hearse, and nobody cries. You might laugh instead, or not show any emotion at all. And you don't add to the four-hundred-and-twenty-two troops already killed in Iraq.

When Saving Private Ryan debuted, many veterans who viewed the movie became too emotional to stay and left the theater. There are scared soldiers in Iraq right now being portrayed on people's computers for their sure enjoyment. Would they want to play?

Growing Number of Chicago's Black Males Out of School or Jobless

By Brian Lewis
St. Ignatius

One in five 16 to 24-year-olds in Chicago, and one-in-two Black males between the ages 20 to 24 are not in school or working, and last year more than a fourth of Black male students in Chicago's public high schools dropped-out or were "forced-out."

A recent study based on the 2000 census found that 14 percent of 16 to 24-year-olds in the state were not in school or working. These numbers reflect the national average. In Chicago, one in five 16 to 24-year-olds were jobless or not in school, according to the study published by the Chicago Alternatives Schools Network.

The study also revealed that 45 percent of the city's black males, and 38 percent of the Latino females between the ages of 20-24 were not working or in school.

In another recently released study by the Greater West Town Community Development Project, more than a quarter of black male students dropped out of Chicago's public high schools in 2001-02. Based on the study, blacks have the highest dropout rate of any of the city's ethnic groups.

Before jumping to speculation about the many factors affecting the high dropout and unemployment rate of black men, the right questions must be verified and the facts must be identified, said William Leavy, Executive Director of the Greater West Town Project.

Leavy pointed out that many kids who are not in school are "push outs" of the school system and not drop outs.

"Why is it that so many young black men and Latino men are not in school, can't get in school, and are barred from CPS after age 16?" he said.

Greater West Town is a community based education, employment and training initiative dedicated to the personal empowerment of inner city residents through community responsibility. Since its creation in 1988, the group has jump-started a variety of programs, including: woodworkers training, youth employment, adult work placement, and the West Town Academy Alternative High School.

West Town Academy Alternative High School was set up to specifically help students affected by these negative trends. The school was started in 1995, and since then, it has helped over seventy-five high school dropouts earn their diploma and prepare for college and/or employment.

"They can succeed. Programs focused on dropouts have very high success rates. That is a fact we should verify," Leavy said.

Leavy says CPS needs to look further into the issues and explain the continuation and acceleration of these negative trends.

One study says that although black men

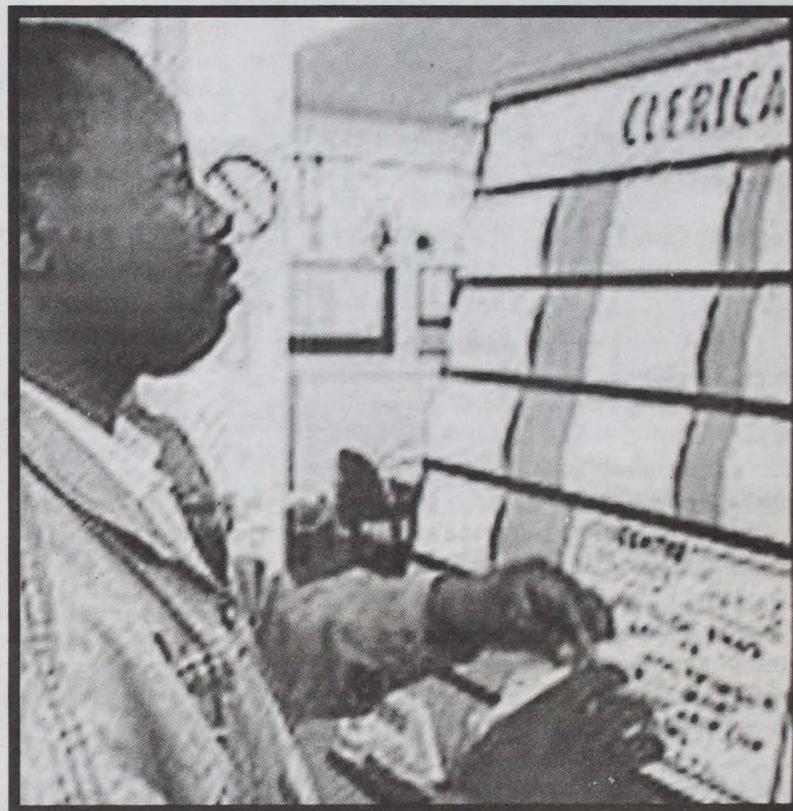
account for 25 percent of the population in Chicago Public Schools, they account for more than 40 percent of the system's expulsions. About eight out of every one-thousand Black students are expelled from CPS each year, according to the study.

CPS officials say the numbers from the studies are not correct and don't reflect the problems with the jail population.

It is increasingly difficult for dropout and "force-out" students to find employment, Leavy said. The jobless rate for white men in Chicago has been dropping since 1994, but the jobless rate for Black men is on the rise, he said.

"It's extremely important to finish high school," Leavy said. "In today's highly competitive economy kids need the service and experience a high school education provides them to land jobs almost anywhere. Many places won't hire if you don't have a high school degree."

*New Expression will be following up and taking a closer look at these statistics.



NE File Photo
According to the Chicago Alternative Schools Network, 45 percent of the city's black males, and 38 percent of the Latino females between the ages of 20-24 were not working or in school. |

Teens Sue For Being Used in Police Lineup

By NE Staff

The parents of four south suburban teenagers are suing Rich East High School and the village of Park Forest for using the teens in a police lineup without parent consents.

On Oct. 14 two Rich East assistant football coaches voluntarily pulled five players from practice to have them participate in a police lineup, according to the suit. The teens were taken from the school to the Park Forest police headquarters by police to participate in a police lineup with a robbery suspect.

"I was scared. No one told us what was going on. The coaches just said go with the police and next thing I know I was in cop car and then a police lineup," said Cordell Chavers, one of the four teens.

After the teens were fingerprinted, photographed and stood in the lineup, a process that took about twenty minutes, they were taken back to the school by police, Chavers said.

"The cops gave each of us each twenty dollars and then dropped us off behind the school," he said.

Marilyn Chavers, Cordell Chavers' mother, said she is still furious.

"My son is a good student and I have tried everything I can to prevent him from ever having to be in a police lineup or involved with the legal system," she said.

Janet Muchnik, village manager for Park Forest, said using teens in a police lineup without parent consent has been an informal practice by the village's police department. Because of the recent incident, Muchnik said that the village now requires the consent of a parent to use a minor in police lineup. Rich East High School officials could not be reached for comment.

Warren Ballentine, an attorney representing the four teens said though all five teens were black and had braids, the issue is not one of race, but one of poor judgement.

"This should not have happened especially to freshmen who are only fourteen and fifteen-years-old," he said.

The suit seeks unspecified damages, and an injunction prohibiting police from using minors in lineups without parental consent.

News

We Still Weep - Memories of a Good Friend

By Franklin Piazza
Best Practices

When I first heard about the murder of my friend, Alia Chavez, 19, I was in shock. It's sad to know someone whose life was taken away at such a young age. I still can't believe Alia is dead. It's like an awful joke.

Alia was found stabbed to death on Nov. 15 in her Humboldt Park basement apartment. Police said Alia's family found her lying in a pool of blood. Two days after the murder, Alia's ex-boyfriend and the father of their little boy, Steven Lopez, was arrested by police and charged with her murder. Steven, 20, seemed to be a happy-go-lucky type of guy, but maybe their recent separation was too much for him.

When I heard the news of her death it dawned on me how easy it is to lose your life, and it doesn't matter what age, or race you are. It's a scary realization.

Alia was one of the heads of my graffiti crew, INC CREW .C. She was also an inspiration, and a good friend. Whenever I needed to talk she was there to listen with an open mind. I remember some nights she would come to hear my band play, even though she really didn't like the type of hard music we play. She was very supportive. She was a good person, always looking out for other people and

telling them to be careful.

Alia loved to draw and paint and she was very talented. She used her talents to make her urban jungle a pretty place.

What I appreciated most about Alia was that she was a good mother to her son, who was less than a year old when she was murdered.

Some of Alia's other friends are trying to get a mural together to honor her memory. They are not sure where the mural will be painted but it's going to happen. The memorial will include her name and images of things she liked. This is how graffiti artists memorialize their friends.

Alia's best friend, Yola, 18, said she and Alia were like sisters. They had known each other since they were eight-years-old.

Yola said that when she heard about Alia's murder she laughed in disbelief at first, then she felt like she wasn't afraid of dying because wherever she goes she knows she has a friend watching over her.

I think about how easy and sad it is to lose someone but the way I look at it is that it's better to have known them than to never have known them.

I'm dedicating this story to Alia because this is my way of remembering her, and I really think she would like it.



author Franklin Piazza



Almost Like Winning the Lottery

New Expression October and November Essay Winners

(from left) Bethsaida Gonzales (October first place), Pina Remedios (October second place), Cory Joseph Shuck (November second place) and Juana Cortes (November third place). November first place willer Lasundra Carter not pictured.



Catch NE on TV
Wednesdays at 7:30
On CAN-TV Channel 21

Essay Contest

This Month's Essay Question: "Should high school classes begin later in the day?"

First Place

Octavia Willis

Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep

After learning about this essay I decided to poll my classmates on the topic at hand. My results showed that out of the 21 students, 19 were comfortable with the way things already are. Therefore I can conclude that in the best interests of the students, high school classes should not begin later in the day.

To begin with, it appears that if students began their day later then they would be dismissed later as well. Although it may be the same amount of hours as before, students hate being in school late in the afternoon. Even students who have 9th period classes can testify that once you make it home after being dismissed it feels as if your whole afternoon is gone. Worse, students, especially at my school, almost always have homework, and hours of it. Therefore the little time you do have is snatched away as you get lost in books and evening approaches.

Consequently starting school later in the day would not allow for students to carry out their responsibilities such as work, extra-curricular activities and more importantly family time. As I stated, a student would get home rather late, have to do homework, have dinner, do chores, and by that time would be rather tired and go to bed. That means there is little time for family interactions such as playing with siblings or talking with mom and dad. Sure the students would have a little free time in the morning, if they wake up early, but most parents would already be gone off to work.

Next, being in school late is an inconvenience for some students. There are many children whose parents are not able to pick them up from school and therefore have to catch public transportation as a means of getting home, as many schools do not offer bus service. This can pose a risk on children specifically in the winter time when the sun sets about 5 p.m. Females who travel alone may be singled out by rapists or burglars, the same goes for young males.

In conclusion, classes should not begin later in the day for high school students. Having classes later in the day would cause inconvenience to students in a number of ways.

It would cause students to miss out on much of their afternoon, if not all their afternoon. Accordingly they would not be able to commit to other responsibility and cut down on time spent with friends and family. This could also decrease the number of students involved in extra-curricular activities because parents may not want their child travelling at night. And even if a student is not involved in after school activities they could still be faced with the danger of travelling alone as many parent do not pick their children up from school.

Second Place

Nidia Diaz

Tilden H.S.

I think high school classes should begin later in the day because it will be better for students. If

classes begin later in the day students will have the urge to come to school on time. Classes should also begin later because students won't be as tired as they are when classes begin early in the morning. Nowadays, students have to rush through their time so that they can get to school on time.

If classes begin later in the day, students can have an opportunity to have a healthy breakfast at home. Students can also get a chance to finish any homework they did not complete or work from their classes. By beginning classes later in the day students have an opportunity to study for tests; this would help keep most of the things you reviewed for your test fresh in your mind. I also think that tardiness will decrease as a result of classes starting later.

This would also be an advantage to teachers because they can get a chance to finish grading papers or finish their lesson plans. They will also have more time to prepare if they live far away from school.

I think that students would just prefer to start classes later in the day because they will be more energetic and attentive to learn. This will make students want to learn something in each class because they will be more awake.

Students can have a chance to come early to school to get extra help, which will help improve student's grades and mentality towards school.

Having classes begin later in the day would truly be an advantage for students and teachers.

Third Place

Anita Simmons

Best Practice High School

I strongly disagree that high school classes starting later in the day because students lose a lack of responsibility, become lazy, and are more likely to get in trouble or commit a crime.

School starting later in the day reduces a student's need for responsibility. Going to school makes students feel as if they have a responsibility besides household chores. School responsibilities include: doing homework, getting to school on time, obeying school rules, and it's staff. It's routine for students that have been going to school for over a decade.

School responsibilities and expectations have been drilled into our heads. School is a big responsibility that we have to face if we want to be successful in life. For as long as I can remember, school started at 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. When I started school at the age of three, getting up early for school was a difficult task. Now that I am in 12th grade, I have conquered that task, because I knew that it was MY responsibility to get up and get to school on time – not my mother's.

Years have passed and suddenly the issue comes up about starting school later in the day. I know it was Mayor Daley's idea, but the mayor is suppose to help young people in society gain more responsibility and become successful like him. He encourages students to read, and join book clubs, so why can't he keep up the good work, and help enforce the start of the normal school day.

Statistics show that teens are lazy, likely to commit criminal activity and join a gang. I know that if school started later in the day I would become lazy.

High school is a little bit late for me to try and become lazy. With school starting later in the day, students are more than likely to stay out late, come home and go straight to bed without thinking about homework or chores. Staying out later and going to school later makes you tired, lazy, and unable to complete responsibilities given to you. If school started later in the day then I think the rate of completed homework would begin to decrease.

Kids would be too tired to learn anything because they have been outside too late. They have been outside trying to have fun because they do not have to get up as early as they used to.

Starting school later may seem like a luxury now, but there would be a big price to pay for being lazy, and irresponsible. I believe there is a price to pay for every action in life.

Crime rates and criminal activity rise when students have nothing to do. What is there to do with the extra time we have before starting school besides having a little fun?

Would you rather sit in the house and listen to your mother nag all day until it is time for you to go to school? On the other hand, would you prefer hanging out with your friends until schools starts? Exactly. When friends get together, they want to have fun. An idea of fun maybe beating a homeless person, getting drunk, getting high, trying to rob a store or steal a car.

For some, starting school later in the day has its advantages: getting up later, staying out later. I have given you the disadvantages. Which one do you think will make you more responsible?

**Want to
earn
money
for your
opinion?
See how on
page 9**

Letters to the Editor

Readers sound off to 'Teens Demand Better Performance From School Security Guards' in the October edition of NE

I agree with what the students have presented in the article, 'Teens Demand Better Performance...' There are numerous security guards who are unprofessional because they are so close to the students' ages. I have heard stories, myself, about my school's, South Shore, security guards having sexual intercourse with fellow female peers. I agree on the age requirement.

These guards should also receive proper training, and they should be required to respect themselves and the female students while in the school. I think that if they don't abide by the rules, then they should be asked to leave.

Dominique Jackson

I agree with the members of Chicago Youth United. Security guards at schools are sometimes too comfortable with the students. Students do need better performance from the security guards. A security guard at South Shore H.S. once said to me "What would I look like stopping a student from leaving school?" Students get the idea that they could leave school when they want and no one would stop them.

If CPS is hiring security guards that graduated from the school a year ago, the guards and students are seeing faces they are familiar with and people they probably have hung out with. The security guards are not much older than the students so they probably allow things to go on. To solve this problem CPS should only hire people at a certain age; I think it should be 25 or older.

Brittany King

I disagree that security guards act inappropriate because the security guards at South Shore are not like that. They don't smoke, drink or flirt with the girls in our presence. While attending previous schools, including South Shore, I never came across a situation with any security guards like that.

A majority of the security guards encourage the youth not to smoke or drink. I think that the teens that wrote this article should not take any actions until they see these types of actions for themselves. I do agree that there should be specific requirements to become a security guard and that includes a thorough background check.

Artesia Strong

I agree with Bi-shun Zeng, a senior at Whitney Young H.S. about the school security guards not doing their jobs. I myself cannot speak for other schools, but as for South Shore, our security is not actually secure. They allow kids to leave campus whenever they want, which is against school policy. Some students even smoke in the bathrooms and have been caught in action, but that has yet to be reported to anyone. And the junior at Schurz H.S., Tay Callings also made a good point about how the schools should have requirements for people to become security guards. They should have at least a high school degree or have gone through law enforcement courses.

Llaqueshia Arthur

Youth Communication encourages written and other forms of submissions from its staff and readers.

Youth Communication considers submissions to be a representation of authorship and a consent to reprint in full or as abridged or modified in New Expression. NEW EXPRESSION is published monthly except in July, August and January by Youth Communication, a not-for-profit organization.

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Email submissions to: brentw@youth-comm.org

FEBRUARY NE ESSAY QUESTION:

"Should reparations be paid to black Americans for slavery?"

MARCH NE ESSAY QUESTION:

"Should same-sex marriages be legal?"

Essays must be 300-400 words. The top three essays will be reprinted in the November and December 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 the essay was assigned. 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: brentw@youth-comm.org

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

Deadlines : December: November 24 by 5 pm.

February: January 21 by 5 pm.

No Exceptions.

Teens Mean Business

Little Black Pearl

By Pia Johnson
Seton Academy

Ten years ago, founder and executive director Monica Haslip pursued her dreams of opening an organization solely based on creating avenues for exposure to art and culture while teaching the profitable connection between art, business and education.

This organization is Little Black Pearl Workshop (LBPW), a non-profit art organization based in the Kenwood/Oakland neighborhoods that offers free after school programs and summer programs for youth between ages 10 to 19. At LBPW, participants learn the overall operation of business, from acquiring a business license to preparing operating budgets.

I am 16-years-old and a junior at Seton Academy. I am president of the Little Black Pearl Club and I have been a student at Little Black Pearl for five years. As president, I have many responsibilities, from student teaching to artistic training. I've learned the true meanings of art and business and now truly appreciate my talents.

There are so many different facets of LBPW from the Art = Smarts After School Program, Summer Program, The Black Pearl Club and the upcoming Cultural Corner.

The Arts = Smart After School Program is an introductory program that provides children with a creative learning environment that explores the connection between art and business. As part of Art = Smarts, students have an opportunity to practice owning and running a retail business. As entrepreneurs, the students are given \$1,500 in fake revenue to start their business; \$750 in cash and \$750 in a checking account. During the seven weeks of the program, the students learn to write checks, balance a checking account, become confident at giving a sales presentation, and of course understand the connection between art and business.

At the end of the seven-week program the students get to use their skills to sell their products at the KID BIZ EXPO. This is an event created specifically for the students of Arts = Smarts. At the KID BIZ EXPO students participate as vendors and earn a percentage of the money. This program is a catalyst for further business exploration. From Arts = Smarts students move on to the Black Pearl Club.

The Black Pearl Club allows students an opportunity to continue their artistic expression and entrepreneurial exploration. Any student who completes Arts = Smarts is eligible to join and become a lifetime member of the Little Black Pearl Club.

The club is divided in a three-tier member system. The advanced levels of the club are Gold and Platinum. Students reach these levels based on their technical competency, business knowledge and maturity levels. At the most advanced level, Platinum members are encouraged to manage their own com-

'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.**

mission projects and participate in community outreach projects.

Commission projects are special ordered art works, commissioned to the Little Black Pearl Club by different organizations where club members design and fabricate mosaic tile structures. Some of our most exciting projects include the restrooms at Operation P.U.S.H., the elevator of the Hubbard Boutique building and two floor mosaics for Sen. Bobby Rush's office.

The Summer Program is another free program that is centered around art and entrepreneurship.

Participants create custom order works and art that will be sold at Black Pearl's biggest event of the year, Pearl Fest. The festival is our annual outreach activity that continues to celebrate the community spirit of the Kenwood/Oakland neighborhoods. It is a daylong event where students act as vendors selling their artwork, while informing the members of the community of their projects. At the end of the summer the students receive a percentage of all art sold throughout the summer.

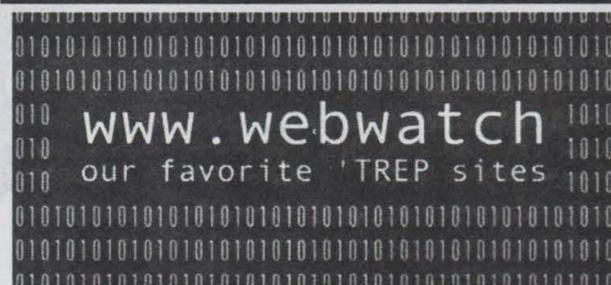
The growth of Little Black Pearl has continued, and the demand for programming has exceeded our space capacity. Little Black Pearl has undertaken a major capital project, the construction of the Cultural Corner. The Cultural Corner will offer opportunities in art, culture and entrepreneurship, give students an opportunity to create large-scale items and work as



NE File Photo

An example of the work produced by students in the Little Black Pearl program.

vendors in the gallery. It will house state-of-the-art workshops from ceramics to computer graphics. Little Black Pearl has grown from a modest organization serving 20 children in its first ten years of operation to providing free art classes, business training and business events to over 1,000 children. Little Black Pearl will continue to be a pioneer of artistic and entrepreneurial exploration throughout the Chicagoland area.



Gen X Startup at Idea Café

By Audrey Galo
Northside College Prep

If you have hit a dry spell while trying to start or maintain your business, one visit to the Idea Café can be the answer to your prayers. Regardless of the website's distracting confetti background, it has a wide-range of information to offer its visitors.

Click the "Biz Nuts and Bolts" link for articles on writing a business plan, discovering business entities, presenting your ideas and applying for patents. Don't miss out on the website's extensive collection

of business ideas, which feature the start-up, advertising and equipment costs and job responsibilities.

Buried within the "Show Me the Money" section is a first year budget worksheet that calculates a business's expenses for the first year. The section also contains a financial glossary to help entice a potential investor with a savvy vocabulary.

The only significant problem with Idea Café is that the information isn't organized in a way that allows the reader to realize the wide array of information the website possess. This can be frustrating because it takes longer to find the right link. But 'treps don't be discouraged by this one drawback because Idea Café is a good place to start learning more about the business world.

However, if Idea Café still doesn't satisfy your business needs then visit its parent website, www.businessownersideacafe.com. Although this website is geared toward an older audience, it still offers many great ideas for increasing profits from your business.

NEW EXPRESSION

Holiday Guide

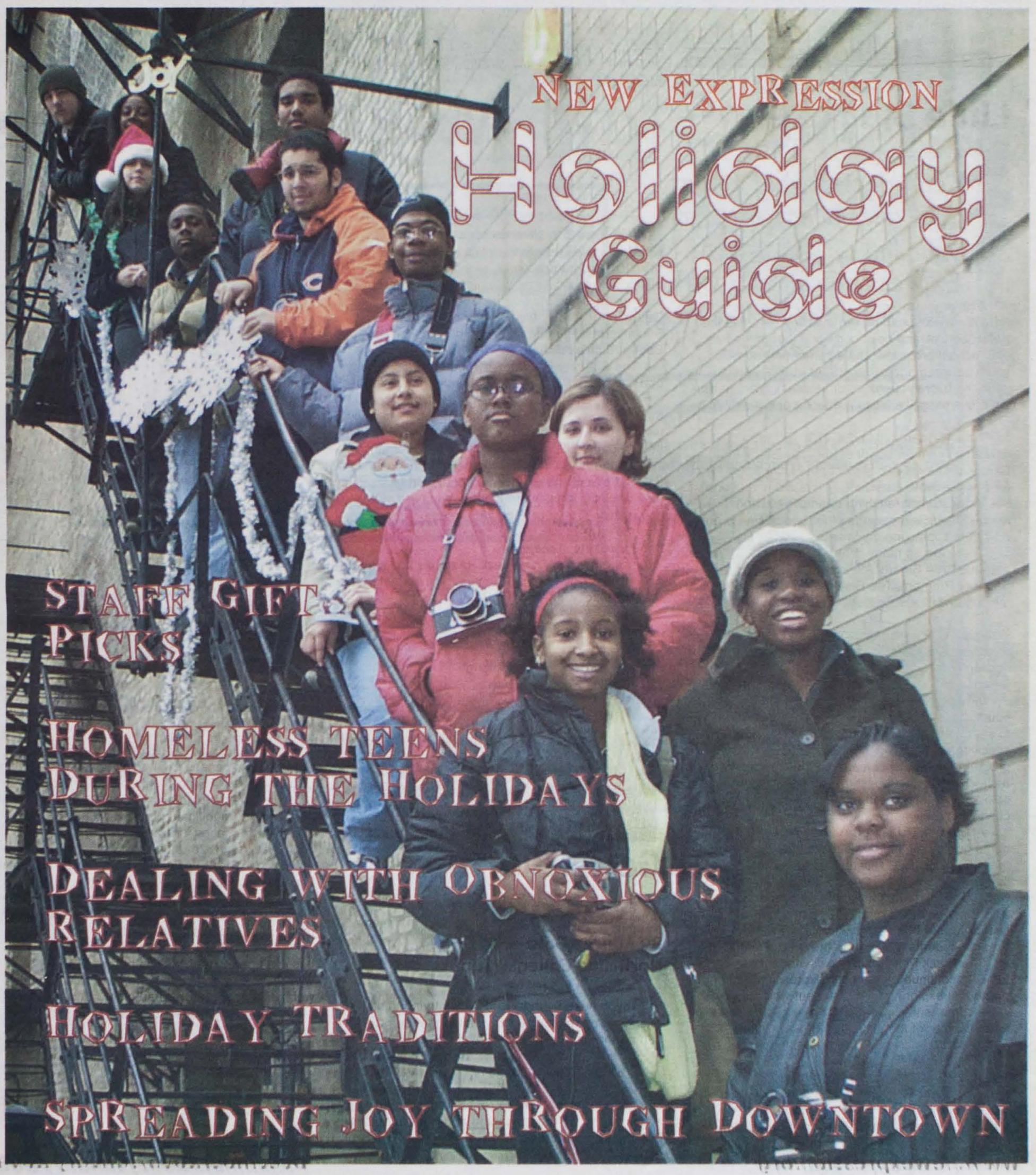
STAFF GIFT
PICKS

HOMELESS TEENS
DURING THE HOLIDAYS

DEALING WITH OBNOXIOUS
RELATIVES

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

SPREADING JOY THROUGH DOWNTOWN



NE Staff Wish List

Can't decide what to get that special someone on your list? The staff of New Expression came up with a few items they'd like to get this holiday season.

Audrey Galo

- 1) Velvet Ribbon Train Case (Bath & Body Works)

This beautiful red velvet case holds an assortment of skin products from bubble bath to body splash.

- 2) Skiing/Snowboarding Vacation

Imagine spending the day skiing and snowboarding in Wisconsin, then sitting by the lodge's fire drinking hot chocolate.

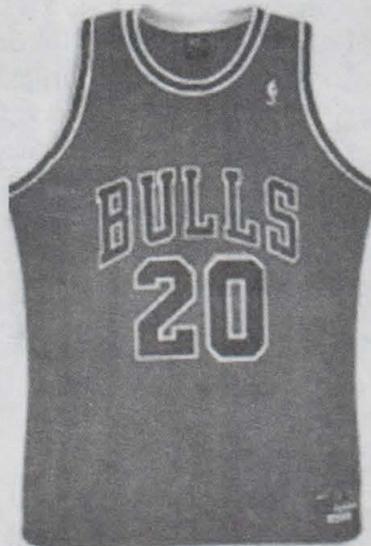


Kumar Zaman

- 1) iPod by Apple - 10, 20, 30, and 40 GB varieties for either Macintosh or Windows operating systems. Cost is \$299 and up (

2) Customized Sports Jersey - These are easy to get from any on-line or in-store sports retailer. Depends on the team and whatever else. Price range depends on type of jersey, lettering, etc., but should be \$100 and up for authentic jerseys. Personally, I'd want personalized Cubs, Bulls, and Bears jerseys, with "Zaman" and "20" on the back.

3. Cash Money - They are better than gift certificates, and are helpful for people in the rush for holiday shopping.



Brian Lewis

- 1) The Sony PEG-SJ22 CLIE handheld PDA. You can save documents from school and upload them to your computer so you never miss a beat on you work. It comes with a free leather carrying case. Price: \$149.99

2) The High Speed Net MD Walkman Recorder is a portable audio device lets you record audio from the net and CD's at up to 32 x speed. it also has skip protection and continuous playback. Price: \$99.95

- 3) The book: Said the Shotgun to the Head by Saul William is a must have for any serious poets or fans of literature period. Saul Williams weaves a tapestry capturing the essence of intellectual existence. Price: \$11.95



Isis Jackson

- 1) Nokia 3300 Music Phone - The Nokia 3300 Music Phone plays MP3's, has a full keyboard, a radio, and you can access e-mail and play games.

2) Kim Possible sound track

- 3) A basket of lip gloss



Jocelyn Grove

- 1) Ruched satin pants.

These pants by Cynthia Steffe are black satin with ankle ties. They can be purchased from Neiman Marcus for \$195.

2) Stiletto boots. These are black leather boots with pointed toes. They can be purchased at Victoria Secret for a special price of \$99.

3) Classic wool black coat. This coat is in a classic style with Peter Pan collar, flap pockets, and side tabs. It is

3/4 length and has a back vent. It is available at Victoria Secret for \$129.



Jesse Hall

- 1) Etch-a-Sketch - I had one years ago. I was good with it, too.
- 2) Batman Action Figures - Batman toys always have the best designs. Even Arctic Action Batman.
- 3) Air Jordans - I love the designs. I've never had any.

**Joi Hampton**

- 1) Olympus C-4000 Zoom - The C-4000 Zoom is an inexpensive advanced digital camera that doesn't skimp on features for hobbyists who seek a feature-rich camera that takes excellent photos.
- 2) iRiver MP3 PLAYER - iRiver is the first flash player to come in at a price that's less than \$1 per megabyte of storage.

**Brandiss West**

1. Philips Slim Portable CD Player with Car Kit \$59.99
The color is silver, blue, and black. This item can be found in Radio Shack or online at radioshack.com

2. Nokia 3595
With the Nokia 3595, you can take your instant messenger along for the ride. Besides a color display and loads of personalization features, the 3595 boasts extra-large keys for easy dialing/typing without bulking up the phone. All the better to chat with.

**Erna Dzafic**

1. Canon Power Shot SD10

The camera is stylish but at the same time has a 4 megapixel 1.5 in TFT active matrix

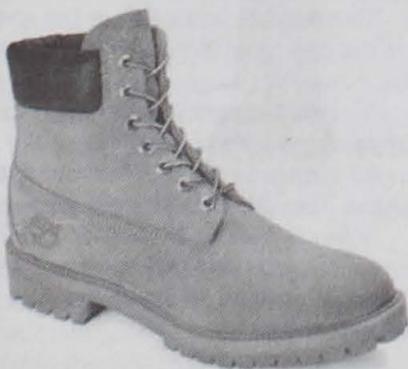


2. Pink - Try This

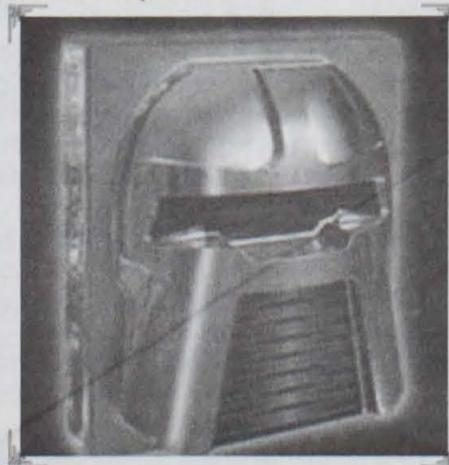
3. Enrique Iglesias - Seven

Tommy Thomas - Program Coordinator

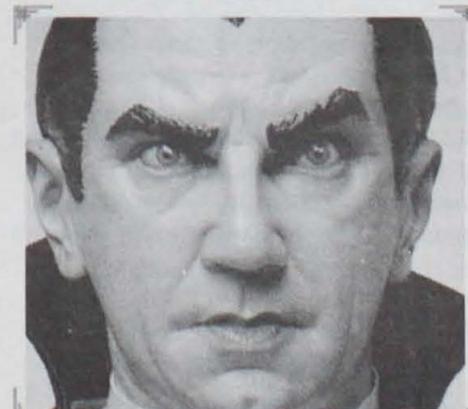
- 1) A new pair of Timberland boots
- 2) Plane tickets to Guatemala
- 3) World Peace

**Brent Watters - Editorial Advisor**

- 1) A puppy - a dog that looks like Benji
- 2) The New Basement Jaxx CD - Kish Kash
- 3) The New Battlestar Galactica DVD set in the Cylon Helmet

**James Alsup - Designer**

- 1) Isaburo City 1-2-3 Backpack. A transformable backpack made to protect your stuff from the elements. \$195
- 2) 1:4 Scale Bela Lugosi as Dracula Statue. Who could pass up the chance to own a statue of the creepiest actor ever to play Dracula? \$225



Holiday Guide

Night Ministry Provides Year Round Safety For City's Homeless Youth

By Erna Dzafic
Amundsen High School

Most young adults arrive to a crucial point in their lives but most have the support and love of friends and family. But what about those that don't, like 19-year-old Juanita and her two-year-old son. Shelters like The Night Ministry grasp the idea of providing support and are successful in communicating with youth, like Juanita, who need a place to gather in safety, especially during the holidays.

"They really make it feel like home here and they go out of their way to make sure that the holidays are bearable for people who are having a hard time," said Juanita, a resident of the shelter. Juanita, along with her son, has been in and out of shelters for the past two years because of problems she is encountering with her family.

"It's good to have a place where I can come with my son that's clean, safe, and provides support, especially during the holidays. Last year we came to this shelter a few days after Christmas and they provided my son with food, toys and clothes," Juanita said after enjoying a Thanksgiving dinner with many of the other clients who come to the shelter.

The Night Ministry is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that serves homeless and runaway youth.

Clients collectively appreciate the comfortable and unthreatening ambience of the shelter, especially during the holidays. The three-flat, which serves as the shelter, is like a home with a poster stating, "Welcome to odds" at the entrance. A chore list hangs in the kitchen indicating chores to further create a home-like environment.

The holidays are a time during which many chose to spend with their families and loved ones. The youth that reside with the Night Ministry feel the same way, because they consider it a safe and loving environment.

"Many kids go through a roller coaster of emotions during the holidays because Christmas is a family holiday," said David Brown, an employee of The Night Ministry. "We try to give them as much hope as possible."

Every resident that enters the doors of The Night Ministry faces unique challenges but have the support of the organization, especially during the holidays, which are a depressing time for most. During the winter there are "Freezing Fridays" in which food and support, among other things, are offered.

"I have been in other shelters that were dirty, and you always had to keep an eye on your belongings. It just wasn't a safe place. It's not like that here," Juanita said.

"What I appreciate most is that they have case managers that are here to support all your needs. I've been to shelters where there are no case managers to help you. At those places you end up feeling like, 'I need help. I didn't come here to stay here. I came here to try and get help so I can improve my situation,'" Juanita said.

The shelter, which helps homeless youth ages 14 to 21, is a close knit community which is occupied by a group of interacting individuals. The organization is unique in that it is the only shelter in Chicago that takes pregnant and parenting teens as young as 14.

For assistance from or more information on The Night Ministry call (773) 296-6500 or on the internet



NE File Photo

Homeless Teens Hold on to Hope

By Joi Hampton
Thornridge High School

During the last two holiday seasons, Janet, 14, has sat mesmerized watching images of holiday trimmings, turkeys, toys, and other items she can't have or afford flash before her on the television in the family shelter where she lives.

Behind all of the wining, dining, celebrating, and advertisement during the holiday season, there are those, like Janet, who can't spend their holidays in the comforts of their own home with friends and family.

Each year hundreds of teens in the south suburbs of Illinois spend their holidays in shelters with other families. Janet, along with her mother, is spending the holidays in a shelter in south suburban Dolton. Janet says she hates living in a shelter.

"There is a TV in here and it is hard not to think about new stuff for Christmas and eating a big dinner with family because of all the commercials they show advertising sales and toys for the holidays," says Janet, who did not want to reveal her last name.

The shelter receives donations of food, clothing, and gifts for the families who live there, but the lack of presents is not what bothers Janet the most.

"I want my mom to have a house where we can just sit and be together. She is so sad and I really want her to be happy. She tries to hide it from me so I can stay strong," Janet said.

Another teen that also stays at the shelter said, "I don't like it. I wish my parents were together and

everything would be cool. I'm not worried about any presents though cause we need to get a home first."

Michael, 15, has been at the shelter for a year and his only goal is getting out as quickly as possible.

"I never thought I would have to live here. I want out you know. It's boring," he said.

All the teen said they have hopes of leaving the shelter. They are determined and are staying strong.

"We will get out of here and then I can remember we stayed here and be grateful to God that we finally got a home," said Janet, with a look of determination in her eyes.

Holiday Guide

You're my family; Do I know you?

Holidays with family can be awkward

By Brandiss West
Jones College Prep

Everyone has their own perception of family. Family sticks together through thick and thin, when times are hard, and when the laughter roars. If your family is anything like mine, Christmas is the only time these moments are shared.

Christmas is a time where most families come together to exchange gifts and to eat a good meal. Included in this "package" are fake hellos, unwanted kisses, and forced hugs. Who wants to have to go through this each year just to please parents? Well, most everyone does at one point or another.

'You're so big!' 'You're so cute!' 'How old are you?' These are some things that Vanessa Tillman, of Jones College Prep hears during this special time. Like a majority of teens that only see most family members every couple of years at Christmas and special events, this can become very annoying, Tillman said.

"Well, if you came around more then you would see me more!," Tillman said with an attitude, "Why do we have to pretend like everything is alright for one day then go back to the way things were yesterday?"

"On December 25...I will be in my room, sitting on the floor, watching television, and enjoying my privacy"

Danielle Curry, a student at Hyde Park H.S shares her Christmas experience saying, "Christmas is fun, but it is a little over-rated and strange." Curry says she enjoys the gifts and the food, but most of all the sound of family. "I hear them telling jokes and laughing, and I like it, but it seems so fake, like we have to force it. It makes Christmas feel empty."

On Dec. 25, while everyone is around their dinner tables surrounded by family and food and giving thanks, I will be in my room, sitting on the floor, watching television, and enjoying my privacy. I do not like Christmas very much except for the gifts, but I refuse to give in to a tradition that last for one day, for a couple of hours, then the family leaves and we go back to regular life. That is until the next holiday season.

So when you are grown and have children, remember that moment at Christmas when you are feeling a little discomfort before you make your own children take part in the activities that come along with the holiday, because they may also feel how you felt.

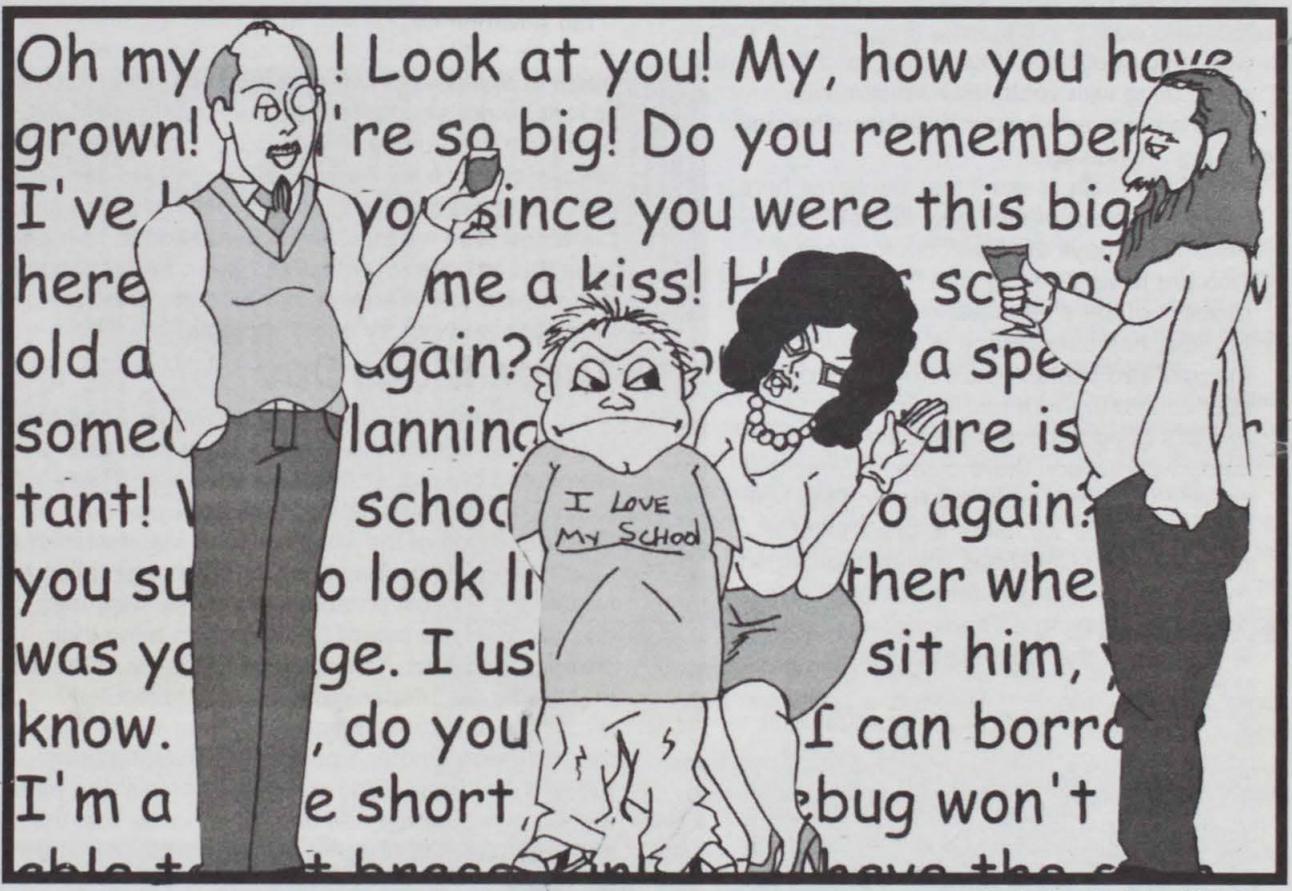


Illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

Budget Before You Buy

Don't let the holidays become a financial burden

By NE Staff

During November and December, money seems to ooze out of our pockets and bank accounts like a balloon with a slow leak. Before we know it, our cash is depleted and our credit card balance is through the roof. Here are some simple tips for holiday spending.

Make A Budget

- *Decide how much money you can spend. Too often people head to the mall, with a credit card in hand, and charge all their purchases without keeping track of what they are spending or having a limit in mind.
- *The credit available amount on your credit card should not be your budget.
- *Try using your debit card instead of your credit card.

Make A List And Don't Leave Home Without It

- *Keep track of whom you need to buy for. Money can go fast when you are just winging it.
- *Take A Break
- *If you are tempted to buy an item that is more cost-

ly than you've budgeted for, put it on hold, and take a snack break. Distance yourself from the purchase in order to re-evaluate. Can you really afford it? Making responsible choices while you're shopping provides greater financial stability.

Be Creative!

- *Instead of giving money or buying an item someone might not like buy gift certificates.
- *Try giving a coupon or IOU. for dinner, a movie, or a play. Put the coupon in a pretty box.
- *If cash is really tight, have family members discuss the options: perhaps they would rather give up gifts in exchange for a family night on the town, or receive services such as a car wash, help with the laundry or babysitting. Being and working together and appreciating each other is what the holidays are really about.

Plan Ahead For Next Christmas

- *A Christmas account that you add to all year can provide a good foundation for holiday spending.
- *Make purchases all year long. Look for sales.

Holiday Guide

Holidays More Than Just Christmas

By Isis Jackson
Northside College Prep

While many people celebrate Christmas and the Christian tradition of opening presents on Dec. 25, there are many additional holidays that are being celebrated during this special time. A few of these holidays are Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and Three Kings Day. Kwanzaa a seven day African-American celebration honors a different principle each night.

Chanukah

Chanukah is an eight day Jewish holiday that is quite historical and represents the Jewish victory from Greek persecution and religious oppression. This year Chanukah begins on Dec. 19. Each night each participant receives a gift.

"To me, the menorah represents a connection to all Jews everywhere past and present. My family doesn't really have any unique Chanukah traditions," said Abby, 16, a student at Northside College Prep.

A Jewish family lights what is called a menorah, a candleholder with nine places. The middle one stays lit every night and for the remaining eight are lit each night, for eight nights.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa an African American holiday that was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University in 1966. The word Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase "mutunda ya kwanza" meaning "first fruits." Dr. Karenga decided that African-Americans needed to come together as a community. The holiday is based on seven key principles that are celebrated over the span of seven days, from Dec. 26 - Jan. 1.

While many people celebrate Christmas and the Christian tradition of opening presents on Dec. 25, there are many additional holidays that are being celebrated during this special time.

Unity or Umoja, calls for people to strive for and maintain unity in families, communities, nations, and races. Self-determination or Kujicaogulia, is the idea that we define ourselves, name ourselves, create ourselves, and speak for ourselves. Collective work and responsibility or Ujima, is the concept that in order to build and maintain our communities together and we must make our brother's and sister's prob-

lems our problems and solve them together. Cooperative economics or Ujamaa, states that together we must build our own shops, stores, and other businesses profiting from them together. Purpose or Nia, to make our collective vocation the building and developing of our communities in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. Creativity or Kuumba, this concept states that we do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our communities more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. Finally, faith or Imani, says that to believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Three Kings Day

Three Kings Day, also known as Epiphany, is a holiday ending the "Twelve Days of Christmas" celebrated on Jan. 6. Although known as Three Kings Day, it is also called "Feast of Epiphany" or "The Adoration of the Magi" or "The Manifestation of God." Three Kings Day is a Christian celebration that honors the Biblical parable of the three wise men that followed the star of Bethlehem to bring their offerings to Christ. This specific holiday is celebrated in large by the Hispanic community, particularly Mexican Americans. Some see Three Kings Day as the gift giving time as opposed to Christmas day. Filling their shoes with hay for the camels and placing them out the night of Jan. 5, in hopes that the

three kings would be generous, children are often rewarded the next day with shoes filled with gifts and toys. One very popular tradition is the serving of Rosca de Reyes, a crown shaped bread with a baby Jesus baked in the middle. The person who gets the slice containing the baby is traditionally supposed to host a party before Feb. 2 also called El Dia de la Candelaria (Candlemas), marking the official day of Mexico's Christmas Season.

Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although it should be a twelve-day celebration of his birth, most people only celebrate it for one day, Dec. 25. The twelfth day, Jan. 6 is also known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

Reflection

Though the holidays may come and go there are many traditions that will stay in our hearts at each passing. From Chanukah to Christmas to Kwanzaa to Three Kings Day there's a holiday that means something to everyone. For me it is Christmas that brings me joy at the end of each year for you it might be another. Every holiday is special no matter when, where, or how it is celebrated.

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December 2003/January 2004

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Holiday Guide

Spreading Joy

a Photo Essay by Isis Jackson and Christina Billy



Health

Slipping Into The Twilight Zone

My experience in a floatation tank

By Brian Lewis
St. Ignatius

The mind can exist without the body and the body can exist without mind. This only happens when a person allows their senses to fall away and focuses solely on their stream of consciousness. Floatation tanks, also known as isolation or sensory deprivation tanks, are designed to let everyone experience this philosophical phenomenon of mind without body.

I recently had an opportunity to have one of these out of body experiences at Space Time Tanks on Chicago's North Side. The first thing I saw when I walked in the door was a sign requesting I take off my shoes. The smell of burning incense and earthy aromas was thick in the air. I left my backpack and shoes beside the door and took a seat in the waiting area, a low lying couch in front of a huge, light blue, tropical fish tank. Ambient music blended with the gurgling sound of the fish tank motor to provide a back-drop as I asked the owner of the shop, Eric Polecyn, more about his business.

"These tanks are filled with 800 pounds of Epsom salt and heated to 93.5 degrees (body temperature). You enter the tank, then lay (back) down and float. It's completely dark and quiet to remove stimulus." Polecyn said. The ten-inches of water in the tank is heated to 93.5 degrees in order to reduce the sensation between body and skin, he said.

A float (or session in the tank) can cause muscle tension relief, pain relief, stress related hormone relief, lower a person's blood pressure and increase spinal alignment, he said.

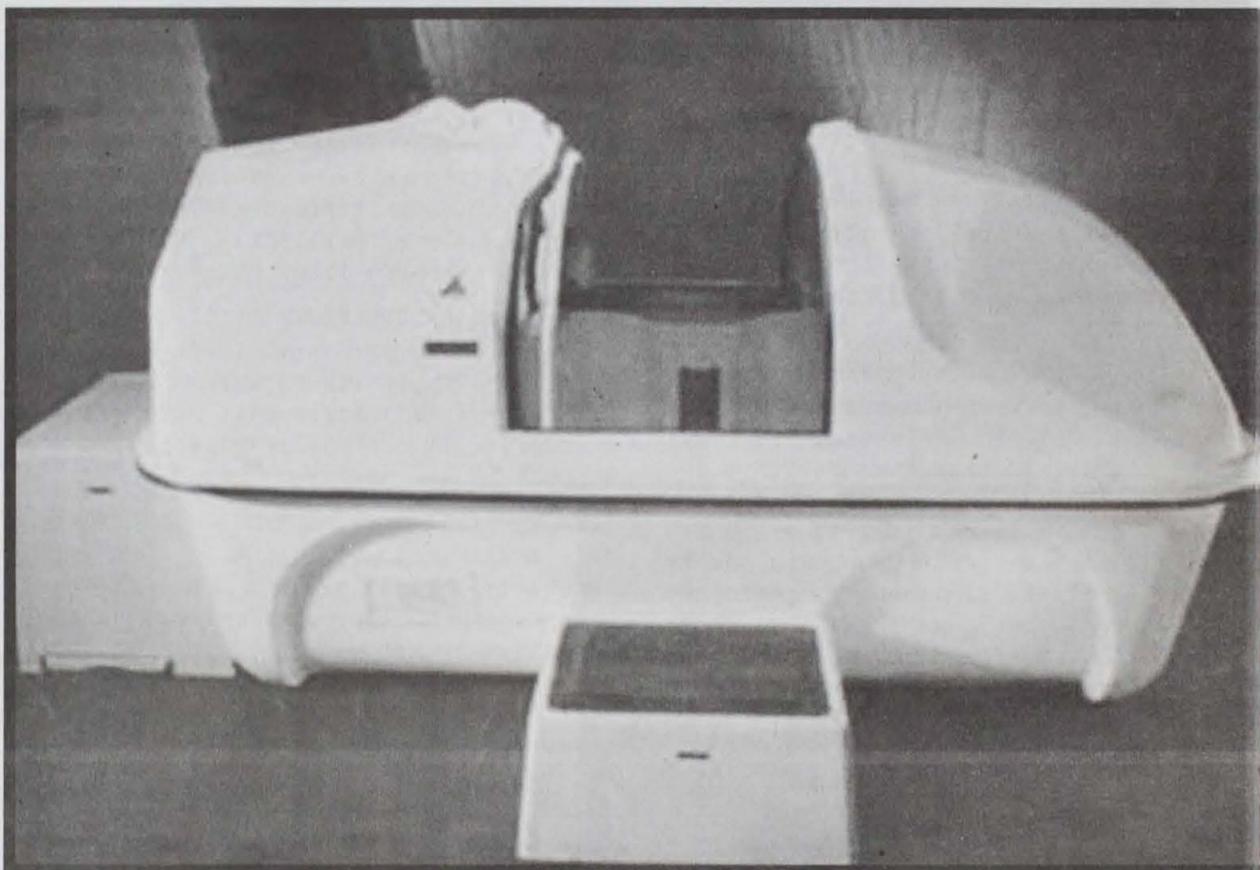
"People are so much more fascinating than they give themselves credit for," said Polecyn, pushing back his long hair. "It's fun to connect people with themselves."

"Floating can be especially good for students because everyone is pulling them a billion different ways. In the tank all that stops and they achieve a centeredness and connectedness," he said.

I was skeptical after listening to Polecyn's explanation. I became wearier when I went to the back of the facility and finally laid eyes on the tank. I was expecting to see a large metallic contraption similar to the one Homer used in an episode of the Simpsons. Instead, I looked to the corner of the dimly lit room to see a modest looking four sided, completely enclosed, eight-foot-long black bathtub.

As soon as I opened the door of the tank, I smelled the saturation of salt in the air and water. Apprehensively, I took off my clothes, closed my eyes and climbed inside.

For the first fifteen minutes, all I heard was the voice in my head. I asked myself a lot of questions about what was going on: Why am I here? Why is it so dark and quiet?



Floatation Tanks can be used to treat several ailments.

NE File Photo

Eventually, I let myself go and allowed the stillness to seep into me. Once I stopped thinking so hard about what was happening, I entered a state of sleep-like consciousness. Before I realized how relaxed I'd become, I heard two knocks on the door of the tank, letting me know the hour float was over.

Polecyn said there are two parts to floating. The actual float itself and the post float. On Polecyn's website (www.spacetime-tanks.com) he's posted journal entries and poems by post-floaters.

I also had an urge to write and engage in a creative activity after my float. I felt very refreshed and rejuvenated. The float was invigorating and left me with a clearer mind. I'd recommend a float to anyone, especially to students who are under a significant amount of stress.

Space Time Tanks Floatation Center

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It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (And He Likes It)

Part Two of a chat with Chicago Tribune music critic Greg Kot

By Joseph Struck
Providence H.S.

Having an interest in journalism since the eighth grade, Greg Kot always made his opinions known through writing. Being critical about any subject and challenging anyone in his path is what has kept him going throughout the years. It has always been important for him to write his feelings or reactions out, often not even caring if it would be read by anyone.

NE: Radiohead recently released their new album, *Hail to the Thief*, a very politically motivated album. Pearl Jam's *Riot Act* was also very political, among others. How do you feel about the sudden increase of politics in rock?

Greg Kot: Well, it's about time. I mean, I don't think there was a whole lot of conciseness in a lot of the rock music of the 90's. At the same time it was the kind of reflective of an apathetic culture, youth culture anyway. I think the concerns were more private, more insular. I think it's great that people are looking out at the world around them and at how it's affecting them. I think it's a necessary aspect of any culture and any art form to sort of look at the world around you. I was really encouraged to see all those songs popping up on the internet-those protest songs in the days and weeks before America invaded Iraq. That was really startling and beautiful that artists were using the internet in the way, to put music out there, that had nothing to do with, you know 'Oh, I'm selling my latest single, I'm putting out my new product, will you buy it?' It was more of a use of self-expression thing, you know 'were concerned about this, and here's what we think'. At the very least that's what art can do. It can show other people that there are like minded individuals out there, that you are not alone in thinking this is wrong or this is something to be concerned about.

NE: What bands do you think are currently the most overrated or underrated?

GK: Well, lets see. That's a good question. [As for] overrated I'm thinking about people that sell a lot of records I guess. To me a lot of stuff that sells a lot of records is usually selling it for the wrong reasons. Fifty-Cents is a good party rapper but I don't see a big term future there. I don't see that music having a lasting impact. I always sort of take it as, is this music gonna mean anything ten years from now? In a way it's kind of embarrassing that Liz Phair has gotten all the press she's gotten for this latest record. I feel almost embarrassed to contribute to the pile because the record really isn't very good. It's kind of vague. They're certainly not. To me bands like Bright Eyes or Fugazi [are the biggest right now]. Fugazi gets taken for granted a lot. They do have their hardcore fans but they do so little to publicize themselves to make people aware of what they've done with the label over the years-putting out independent music with no strings

attached. That's the stuff that brings a tear to eye. The stuff that's done under a radar completely for its own reasons and not really caring about what the machine thinks and not participating in that publicity machine. Those bands are a lot harder to find because everything is publicized these days. To me it's kind of like an inverse relationship between how often you see them on MTV and TV and in the press and on the radio and their relative worth. Those to me are the overrated bands, the J-Lo's the Jay-Z's and the Fifty-Cents, the Kid Rocks. At the end of the day, their music really doesn't matter much.

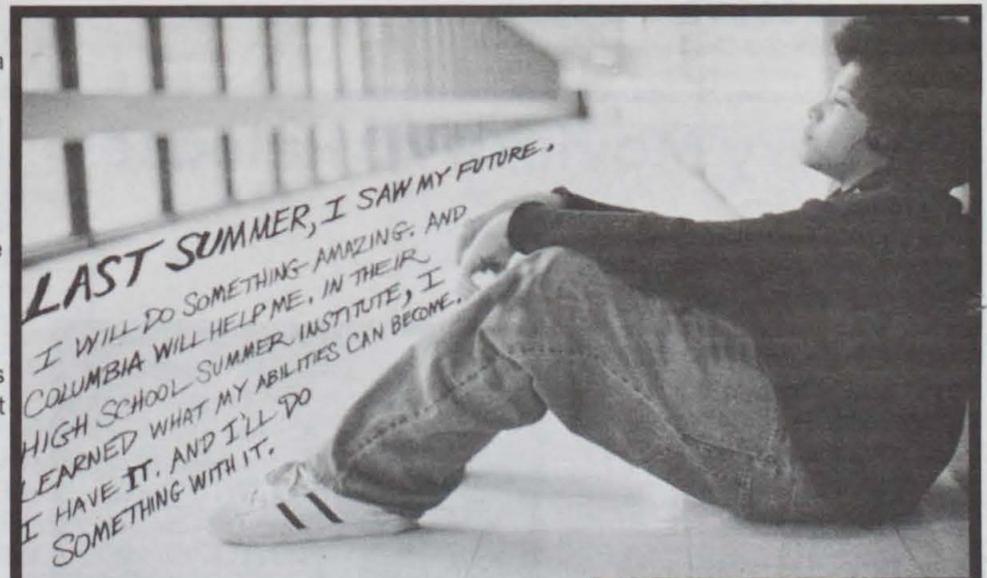
NE: You've won the Lisagor Journalist Award and you write for the biggest newspaper in Chicago and arguably the biggest rock magazine in the country, *Rolling Stone*. What advice would you give to a rock journalist, or any journalist for that matter, just starting out?

GK: My advice to any journalist and any aspiring writer is to practice every day. And by [practice] I mean write. That's kind of what I did. It's never been easier to publish yourself than right now. You can start on the web page right now and start writing. Buy a record at a record store and write about it. I'd go to a show with my friends and I'd come home and write about it. It didn't matter who saw it. I had to write about it. Sometimes my friends would read it, sometimes they wouldn't. I've got stacks and stacks of my own zines that I put out over the years, basically saying that I want to write about this stuff. Little did I know I was practicing for what I would do with the rest of my life. But the most important thing is that you've got to do it-you actually have to sit down and write. Writing about music is particularly difficult. The only way to get good is to keep doing it. Develop a language enlightening, and elusive. You have to figure out how to do that and the only way you can figure out how to do that is to actually do it and do it every day.



NE File Photo

Chicago Tribune and Rolling Stone critic Greg Kot



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December 2003/January 2004

Calendar

December Movie/DVD Releases

December 9 DVDs

Bad Boys 2

Battle of Shaker Heights

December 10 Movies

Big Fish

December 12 Movies

Love Don't Cost a Thing

Stuck on You

December 16 DVDs

Freaky Friday

South Park: Complete Third Season

December 17 Movies

The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

December 19 Movies

Mona Lisa Smile

December 23 DVDs

Blood

Medallion

December 25 Movies

Cheaper by the Dozen

Cold Mountain

December 30 DVDs

Leprechaun: Back 2 Tha Hood



"Return of the King," the Final installment of the "Lord of the Rings" Trilogy comes to theaters December 17

December CD/Video Game Releases

CD Releases

Tuesday December 9, 2003

AVANT Private Room

HOWLIN' WOLF The Howlin' Wolf Story

RUBEN STUDDARD Soulful

VARIOUS ARTISTS Love Don't Cost A Thing OST

Tuesday December 16, 2003

COLD MOUNTAIN OST Cold Mountain OST

GOODIE MOB Dirty South Classics

JOE And Then

MEMPHIS BLEEK Made

Tuesday December 23, 2003

DAVID BANNER MTA2: Baptized in Dirty Water

Video Games

Week of 12/07/2003

Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance - GBA

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Xbox

Fatal Frame II: Crimson Butterfly - PS2

King of Fighters EX2: Howling Blood - GBA

Midway Arcade Treasures - GC

Sega GT Online - XBOX

The King of Fighters 2000/2001- PS2

Week of 12/14/2003

Hyper Street Fighter II: The Anniversary Edition - PS2

Ninja Gaiden - XBOX

The Sims Bustin' Out - PS2/XBOX/GC/GBA



8 Bit superstar Joe Hayabusa returns to videogaming in "Ninja Gaiden," coming to a video game store near you the week of December 14.

January Movie/DVD Releases

January 2 DVDs

American Wedding

January 6 DVDs

Family Business -The First Season

Godzilla Mothra & King Ghidorah:

January 9 Movies

My Baby's Daddy

January 13 DVDs

Freddy Vs Jason

Superfly

January 20 DVDs

Blacula

Once Upon a Time in Mexico

January 23 Movies

The Butterfly Effect

January 27 DVDs

Time Bandits

January 30 Movies

You Got Served

February 3 DVDs

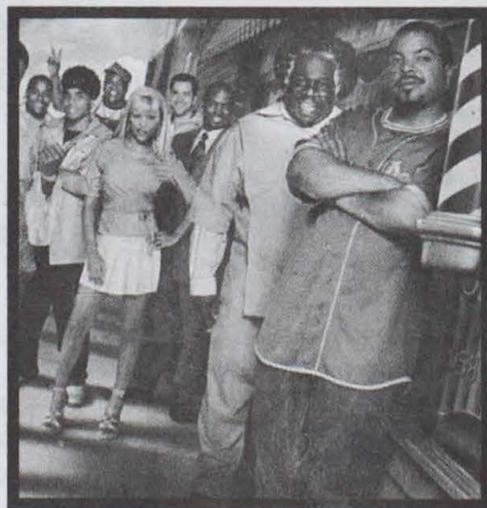
Ed Wood

Fighting Temptations

Kill Bill - Volume 1

February 6 Movies

Barbershop 2



The cast from the hit movie "Barbershop" returns in "Barbershop 2," Opening in theaters February 6

January CD/Video Game Releases

CD Releases

Tuesday January 13, 2004

CRYSTAL METHOD Legion of Boom

Tuesday January 20, 2004

CEE-LO Cee-Lo Green Is The Soul Machine

THE CURE Join The Dots: B-Sides & Rarities (Box set)

Tuesday January 27, 2004

10,000 MANIACS Campfire Songs

40 BELOW SUMMER The Mourning After

KILL BILL VOL. 2 OST Kill Bill Vol. 2 OST

Video Games

Week of 01/04/2004

Fallout: Brotherhood of Steel - PS2/XBOX

Final Fantasy XI - PS2

Harvest Moon: A Wonderful Life - GC

Sonic Heroes - PS2/XBOX/GC

Sudeki - XBOX

Week of 01/18/2004

Maximo vs. Army of Zin - PS2

Week of 01/25/2004

Bomberman Jetters - GC

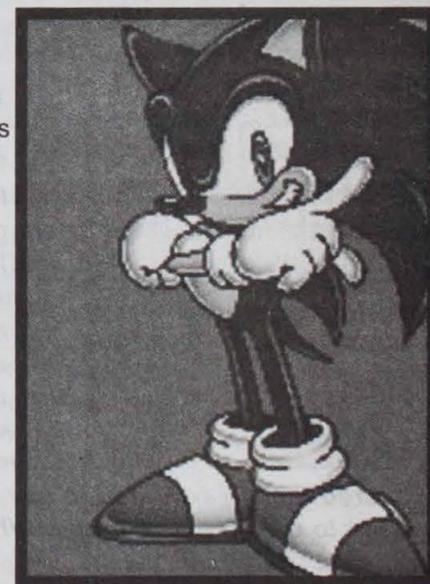
Mafia - PS2/XBOX

Week of 02/01/2004

Armada 2: Star Command - XBOX

Champions of Norrath - PS2

Static Shock - GBA



Video Game icon Sonic the Hedgehog comes to Xbox, PS2, and Gamecube in "Sonic Heroes."

Fashion

What is the key to applying makeup for every day use?

By Jocelyn R. Grove
Columbia College

The magical secrets of makeup are known by many to enhance our best features and to minimize our flaws. After looking into this subject, I decided to ask Triphena Jeton Johnson, a makeup artist to the stars, to give me some answers to the questions we need to know.

What have you learned by applying makeup to so many people?

I feel that I learned that the "perfect beauty" is the woman who has learned to give the illusion of perfection by using the subtle application of complimentary makeup to play up or down her naturally beautiful persona. Select shades of makeup that will enhance your eyes, hair, and skin. Bright, flashy colours and glitter powder are fine at night, but are too colorful for daytime wear.

How does one tell what colours to use with their skin tones?

There is no prescribed set of rules when selecting makeup. Make sure the makeup enhances your look. When trying to pick colours, visit a makeup counter and speak with a beauty advisor about your concerns and interests. When visiting department store beauty counters, make sure that the featured advertisements represent the image that is similar to yours. Also, change or add to makeup colours when changing your hair color, style, or cut. These subtle

adjustments to your look may affect the angles or the shape of your facial features.

Is less makeup better or does it matter?

A teenager or young adult is well advised to apply a minimum amount of makeup. Use neutral and soft colours when applying makeup. Remember, you want to give the appearance of natural beauty.

What brands do you recommend? Does the brand matter?

I use a variety of brands. I shop around for products. I find that I can get some great products at department store prices and then I get excited because some of the best products I use in my makeup kit are from my local drug store chains and beauty supply stores. Everyone will find her own great deals and some will discover expensive products that they just cannot live without. Shop around. Makeup is used to create an illusion and, therefore, it should be fun to experiment.

With that in mind, the question that all American women want to know: Is there a lipstick that will stay on the lips without being reapplied throughout the day?

I have to be honest. There are no surefire ways to help your lipstick stay put for hours. Only if an ink stain is tattooed to your lips are you going to have permanent lipstick color. I don't recommend that

process. To have lipstick last longer, try layering the color. Use foundation around the mouth, brush with powder, stain the entire lip outline with lip pencil close to the color of the lipstick, then fill in with lip color.

What is the biggest mistake teenage girls make when applying makeup? Everyone needs a consistent cleansing regimen. Do not leave your makeup on over night. Feed the skin. Use a cleanser, toner, and moisturizer formulated for your skin type. You must start with a clean canvas or your makeup will not look polished and fresh. Master the art of blending makeup application to make the face look uniform. DO NOT over tweeze the eyebrows.

Cosmetic application is now considered a "fashion accessory." This lets us know that whatever cosmetic colours and products we use, they must be complementary to our specific style. Choose and apply according to colours and methods that are current. Don't get stuck in only one way of applying your makeup. Add current shades from fashion conscious lines to your makeup collection. Don't be scared if you can't get it right, keep practicing.

Makeup is fun and if all else fails, it washes off. Practicing these techniques and suggestions will help our natural beauty shine through. Feel free to explore and enjoy the results!

Dear Audreina...

By Audreina Comeaux
Mother McAuley



Dear Audriena

I am 15 and there is a guy that I have been dating for about a month. We have messed around a little but I know that he wants to have sex, but I am not ready to. I want to wait a few months. I am

scared that if I continue to say no he will not want to date me any longer. What should I do?
Signed Confused

Confused, if this guy is really into you he would respect your wishes and wait. You should NEVER let any one pressure you into doing something you don't want to and are not ready to do. If he doesn't want to go out with you after telling him this that just shows what he was really in the relationship for and that it was probably good that it ended.

Dear Audriena,

What would you say the best way is to get a guy's attention who is in class with you. There is a guy in my class that I really like but I am to shy to say anything to him and don't know if he even knows who I am?

Signed Crush

Well Crush, I personally am more the aggressive type so it really depends on what type of person you are. It seems to me that guys really have a problem expressing their feelings right off the bat and girls really should get their message out there quicker - but not in a stalker type way of course (giggle). Just ask him for a pencil or something one day, then thank him and ask him "what's your name again?" Start up a conversation with something like, "Did you get the home work assignment last night?" "Don't I have a class with you?" Stuff like that. Just a simple "hello" can really spark a long-term friendship if you're lucky.

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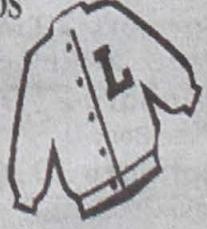
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News

Chicago Fall Pow Wow Brings Celebration of Life and Friendship

By Malissa McGivern
Columbia College

Pow Wows are festive celebrations that allow Native Americans a chance to come together and join in dance and song while renewing old friendships and making new ones. Chicago's Native American Indian Center 50th Annual Pow Wow at the UIC Pavilion in late November was no exception.

The smell of fresh sage, used for purification, and tasty, freshly cooked fry bread intertwined and spread through the corridors of the pavilion where merchants sold a variety of arts and crafts. From dream catchers to handcrafted jewelry there was something beautiful everywhere you turned.

The Pow Wow kicked off in the traditional way with a colorful and marvelous grand entry involving all the Pow Wow participants. Elders proudly led the grand entry waving the American flag, POW flag, eagle staffs and tribal flags.

As the Pow Wow got underway roaring drums played from the center of the circular dance floor, and penetrated all areas of the pavilion. The drums seem to pulsate through the souls of the dancers and control their every movement.

"There is no playing in the circle. Everyone is there to have a good time celebrating, dancing and enjoying themselves," said 13-year-old Chayan Mahkinetas, who was one of hundreds of young Native Americans that took part in the celebration.

There are several different thoughts about how Pow Wows began. Some believe that when the government forced many Natives Americans onto the reservations they also forced them to dance for the

public as entertainment. Others believe that the war dance societies of the Ponca and Southern Plains tribes are the origins of the celebration.

But as Mahkinetas said, dance has always been an important part of Native American culture.

The songs, spoken in native tongue and drumming are also important aspects of the cultures. Many of the songs are stories handed down from the generations and others are about the spiritual beliefs of the various Native American societies.

"We believe in a creator. A creator that has created everything here for a purpose," said 16-year-old Anthony Gutierrez, one of the Pow Wow dancers from Green Bay, WI.

Gutierrez also noted that the dancers move around the dance floor in a circular formation because of the symbolic significance of the circle in Native American culture.

"Everything is in a circle. A circle is a symbol that shows how everything is connected," he said.

Teens like Gutierrez and Mahkinetas engage in some of the traditional activities associated with the spiritual beliefs, such as cleansing one's self with the use of smoke from burning sage, an herb believed to have great spiritual value in Native American culture.

"We cleanse ourselves with the sage by burning it and letting the smoke rise around our body," Mahkinetas said. The act of cleansing with sage is called smudging.

Mahkinetas said he looks forward to the day when he can participate in his first Sweat Lodge, another cleansing ceremony which involves enduring a great amount of steam and heat, and a vision quest, which involves fasting for several days and sitting in an isolated, natural area to have a vision from God.

In the meantime, Mahkinetas said that he will continue to participate in the many Pow Wows that take place around the

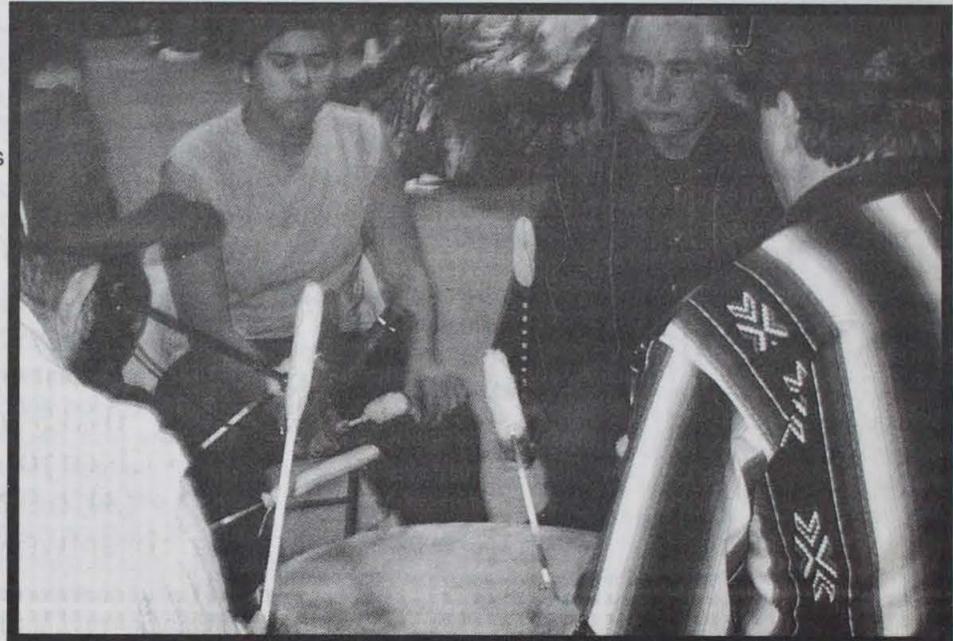


Photo by Malissa McGivern, Columbia College



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Sports

Last Chance to Relive Chicago's Sports History

By **Qumar Zaman**
Walter Payton College Prep.

Do you ever wonder how Wrigley Field got its name? How about Comiskey Park? Have you ever wanted to know about the rich history of sports in Chicago? If so, the Chicago Historical Society is the place to be.

Since last spring, the Historical Society has presented Chicago Sports: You Shoulda Been There! The exhibit features the moments that make Chicago such a great sports town.

At the exhibit, visitors will have the opportunity to see the six NBA Championship trophies that the Bulls won from 1991-93 and 1996-98. They will also be able to learn more about the Black Sox scandal that rocked the 1919 World Series.

Even the lovable Chicago Bears are a part of the exhibit, discussing the beginning of the NFL and its creator, George S. Halas. For all the die-hard Cubs fans, they can learn about the rich history of Wrigley Field, and its inhabitants, the Chicago Cubs. Plus, visitors are able to relive other memorable events in Chicago's sports history, such as DePaul's NIT championship with George Mikan, one of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players; the history of the Chicago Stadium; the Chicago Sting soccer club, and much more.

Luckily enough, I was able to participate in this once in a lifetime project. Over the summer of 2002, I was working at the Historical Society conducting research and creating timelines for the exhibit. It was a proud achievement in my life, and I'm sure you will love the mystique that this exhibit brings to the table. The exhibit, which opened in March, is close to shutting its doors. The exhibit ends Jan. 25, 2004.

Admission is quite fair for students and seniors, but the best time to go is on Mondays, where admission to the Historical Society is free. Hurry up and don't miss out on a piece of nostalgia like this exhibit. If you don't go, you'll end up saying, "I shoulda been there!"



Memorabilia from the Chicago American Giants Negro League baseball team is on display at the Chicago Historical Society's "Chicago Sports: You Shoulda Been There!" exhibit. *NE File Photo*

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