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By Teens. For Teens. ABOUT Teens



Liberty for Who?

Teens Give a Voice to
the 2004 Election

Stories begin on Page 8

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This Month

October
2004
Political
Edition

in New Expression



Bush or Kerry: What have U done for teens?

Cover Story

Teens discuss the upcoming November election, and talk about the issues each presidential candidate represents. Who would you vote for?

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Think before you ink!

Often, people get tatoos without thinking it through. The result is an unwanted tatoos and emotional and physical torment.

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Magic from the Mind: What is Wicca?

Take a glimpse into the world of real witches, and hear what they have to say about the misconceptions people have about Wicca.



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Teen fights for right to pose with shotgun

A New Hampshire teen is threatening to sue his school if it won't allow him to appear in a yearbook photo with a shotgun on his shoulder.

School administrators have rejected a photo submission from Londonderry High School senior Blake Douglass that shows the smiling senior on one knee with a trap-shooting shotgun over his shoulder.

Trapshooting, a sport offered in some high schools, involves firing at clay pigeons launched into the air.

School Superintendent Nate Greenberg said the photo submitted by Douglass is inappropriate, given the epidemic of school violence that has swept the nation in recent years.

Douglass said that a school policy that allows students to select their own yearbook photos does not allow administrators to take away that freedom whenever they wish. He's hired a lawyer to help prove it - even if he has to go to federal court.

"Hopefully, the school's attorney will advise them that they're going down a silly path," Douglass' attorney, Penny Dean, told the Boston Herald.

"This could easily cost (the school district) a hundred grand."

"She said school officials will be fighting an uphill battle in the 'Live Free or Die' state, especially given the number of fishing and gun clubs in New Hampshire.

NEWSBRIEFS

Public School teachers send their kids to private school according to study

More than a third or 38.7 percent of Chicago Public School teachers send their children to private schools according to a new report by the Washington, D.C. based Fordham Institute.

The report is based on information from the on 2000 Census.

CPS ranks third among the 50 largest school systems in the proportion of teacher households that send their kids to private school. In comparison, only 22.6 percent of non-teacher households in Chicago send their children to private schools.

Nationwide, 21.5 percent of public school teachers send children to private schools, compared with 17.5 percent of other city-dwelling families, according to the report.

www.newexpression.org



Some teens have yuck mouth

A majority of teenagers, 98 percent, brush their teeth at least once a day, according to a new poll by the Gallup Poll.

About two-thirds of teens brush twice a day, and about a third brush only once. Only two percent say they never brush.

Girls are somewhat more likely than boys to brush twice a day or more, 70 percent to 58 percent.

Flossing, however, is another story.

Daily flossing is considered necessary for maintaining healthy teeth and gums and preventing future gum problems such as gingivitis, a serious bacterial infection that can lead to bone and tooth loss, experts say.

Few teenagers floss as often as they should, according to the survey. The survey finds that only 13 percent of teenagers floss their teeth daily

and 44 percent say they rarely or never floss.

Study says teens that abstain from sex lead better lives

Teens who pledge to abstain from sexual activity until marriage have better life outcomes and are far less likely to engage in risky behaviors than non-pledgers, according to a new study from The Heritage Foundation.

According to analysts, teens have nothing to lose by taking a virginity pledge, since the study indicated that such pledges appear to have a significant effect in encouraging positive behavior among teens.

Analysts found that pledgers are less likely to become pregnant (girls who are strong pledgers are more than 50 percent less likely to have a teen pregnancy than are non-pledgers), less likely to give birth out of wedlock and less likely to have unprotected sex. Teens that make virginity pledges also have fewer sexual partners and are less likely to engage in sexual activity during high school.

Moreover, the Heritage experts note, there is no downside to signing a pledge. A teen pledger who becomes sexually active, for example, is not less likely to use contraception.



Pothheads May Get Slapped With Fines

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is supporting a proposal to fine, rather than press criminal charges, for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

The idea to reduce marijuana possession penalties to a fine came from Chicago Police Sgt. Tom Donegan of the Wentworth District.

Donegan has suggested fines of \$250 for those caught with 10 grams of marijuana, and \$1,000 for 20 to 30 grams, instead of criminal charges. According to Donegan, 99 percent of marijuana possession cases are dismissed, which means missed revenue for the city.

"Sometimes, a fine is worse than being thrown out of court," Daley said at a recent press conference.

Donegan said leveling fines of \$250 for possession of 10 grams or less would have raised about \$5 million for the city in 2003.

American Jobs given to Foreigners

By Vince Dixon
Gwendolyn Brooks

Had any trouble finding a job this year?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 58 percent of Chicago's youth between the ages of 16 and 19 were employed in the year 2000. Three years later, that statistic declined to 22 percent.

"I've tried with Kidstart and going to stores to see if they had jobs but I didn't get one," said former job seeker Lindsey Cox, 15. "The government cut a lot of funds for kids and the jobs I had last year were cut."

More teens like Cox may have also been unsuccessful with their summer job-hunting and may believe that employers are simply not hiring part-time workers as a result of September 11 or the Iraqi war's effect on the economy.

However, employers of part-time and seasonal jobs are hiring, but mainly from outside the country, say experts who follow hiring trends.

These employers are paying adequate wages, providing good benefits and in some cases provide housing accommodations and transportation to the job site for these employees. In many cases these are jobs that are well suited for American teens.

Labor experts say hiring foreigners for part-time and seasonal work has become a popular trend. According to the website of The Department of Labor, H-2B visas allow foreigners to be hired by American employers for non-agricultural jobs.

Visas are passports allowing citizens of foreign countries to temporarily live in the United States for special reasons.

The government began granting H-2B visas 14 years ago. Last year 78,000 of these visas were given out. Transportation and accommodation fees are often taken out of the suitable check the foreigners receive. This increasingly popular approach of hiring foreign workers at cheaper wages is leaving many young Americans asking "What about us?"

"When it's so many unemployed people in America right now and

you're giving our jobs to other people [foreigners] we can't survive in our own country. It's unfair," Cox said.

Teens like Cox may want to know why employers prefer to choose foreign workers to Americans.

Kyle Kinzy, an attorney of Kinzy and Associates, specializes in immigrant concerns and the uses of different types of visas.

"My experience with H-2B is that they're typically jobs that employers just cannot find American workers for," Kinzy said.

Some employers also take the visas to help foreigners. The J-1 visa, accepted by many hotels and amusement parks such as Six Flags Great America, allows young foreigners to work in America as an educational tool. They learn certain American practices and working techniques. Others may use the visas to hire foreign workers to work for jobs that many Americans think are of poor standard such as cleaning, and construction.

"Low-end jobs that most Americans - no matter how bad they need the employment- refuse to do," Kinzy said.

"Usually immigrants like that or people who come from other countries do the jobs that a lot of other people don't want to do, like cleaning toilets," said Traci Turnbow, another 15-year-old avid job seeker who was also unsuccessful in finding one.

"People [Americans] are not humble enough to do those jobs," Turnbow said.

What exactly attracts people from other countries to the "poor quality" jobs of the U.S?

"Well, I guess from their standpoint, the experience of being in the United States," Kinzy said. "It can help them regardless if they're allowed to stay in the United States,"

Many say the foreigners are more appreciative of the jobs and are more hardworking. Many teens see this as no excuse.

"If I can't survive in my own country, I still don't think it's fair," Cox said.

Poor Sportsmanship Results in Violence at Crane High School

By NE Staff

Five members of Crane High School's girls' volleyball team were suspended and thrown off the volleyball team after violence erupted after a volleyball match at the school on Sept. 22.

Crane school officials said the altercation happened after members of Juarez High School's volleyball team refused to shake hands with members of Crane High School's girls' volleyball team.

According to reports, the girls on the Crane volleyball team were upset that players for Juarez refused to shake their hands after the heated game. Juarez won the game 25-23.

The scuffle took place in the school's locker room around 5 p.m. while Crane's coach was reprimanding some of the players in the gym for their conduct during the game, officials said.

locker room to break up the fight, a 15-year-old Crane player punched a 15-year-old Juarez player in the face outside the locker room, said a spokesman for the Chicago Police Department.

The girl was treated at a local hospital and was released, and another Juarez player was taken to a hospital by her family for scrapes and bruises, police said.

The girls are serving 10-day suspensions and have been thrown off the team after fighting with their counterparts from another high school earlier this week, officials said.

Crane Principal Melver Scott handed down one day suspensions to the girls involved in the altercation, officials said. The principal at Juarez determined discipline of his students was not warranted, police said.

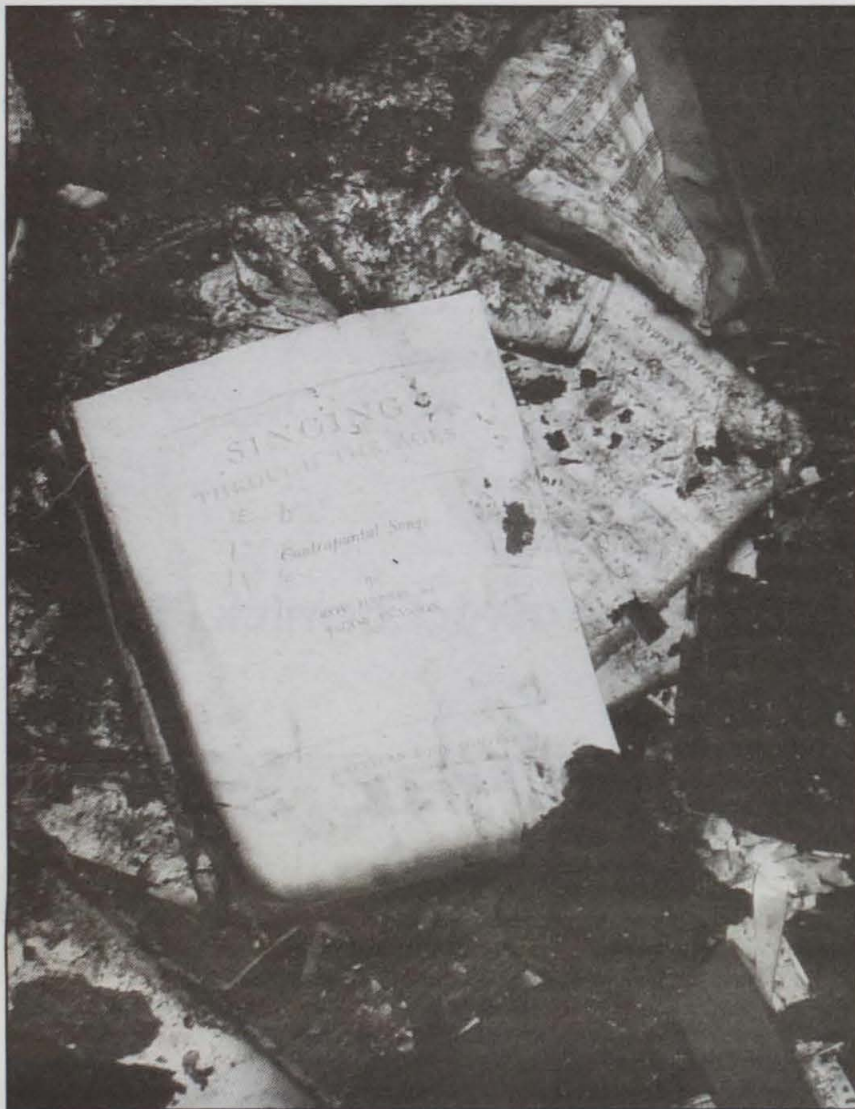


What's Going On In Your World?

If there is an event taking place in your community or school OR if you have a story idea for the New Expression News Team, we want to hear from you!

Send story ideas and information to:

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NE File Photo
A songbook that was damaged in the fire at Lincoln Park High School.

Lincoln Park High School Officials Say August Fire Was Caused By Faulty Wiring

Police still investigating for possible arson

By Jeannette Bruno
Lincoln Park High School

LINCOLN PARK - While police are still investigating a fire that destroyed three classrooms at Lincoln Park High School last month as arson, school officials believe the fire was caused by electrical problems.

On Sept. 21, Phyllis Wright, assistant principal at Lincoln Park, said the fire was an electrical fire caused by faulty wiring. But a spokesman for the Chicago Police Department said on Sept. 21 that the fire is still being investigated as an arson case.

The fire took place on Aug. 15 and police were alerted to the fire at 4:11 that Sunday morning.

The fire completely destroyed three classrooms that housed all the schools' choir and general music classes, and drama program.

The school is located at 2100 N. Orchard St. and consists of a building divided into three parts, which were built in different stages.

The fire started in room 110, which was used as a choir room, Wright said.

More than 40 years worth of irreplaceable sheet music, a piano, electrical equipment and various books

and musical equipment were destroyed in the fire, Wright said.

The fire spread from room 100 to room 109, which is used for general music. The fire didn't get all the way into room 108, the drama room, but the room was considered destroyed due to smoke damage. Everything in it was thrown away, Wright said.

Wright said it would take at least three months to repair the rooms. The administration hopes to begin using the rooms again by Thanksgiving. At the latest the rooms will reopen for use by the end of winter break or early January, Wright said.

"It's hard on all the teachers," Wright said.

The teachers and students that used those rooms are now in temporary rooms that were cleaned out in hopes of using them for the science department.

"The room was a big part of the drama department. It was the source of our sets and props. Lots of people gathered in that room after school," said Rachel Smolinski, 17, a drama student at Lincoln Park.

Healthy Snacks Replace the Usual Junk

By Vince Dixon
Gwendolyn Brooks

Pop Tarts, Nutrigrainbars, mixed nuts and trail mix are a few of the new healthy snacks now being stored in the vending machines of Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy and high schools across the city.

The sight of the healthy treats came as a surprise to many sophomores, juniors and seniors who crowded the school's vending machines during lunch last year, eager to buy chips and candy bars. Flamin' Hots, Snickers, and Starbursts were some of the popular goodies students admired. This year, the vending machine slots in which such sweets were held are now empty or contain healthy snacks.

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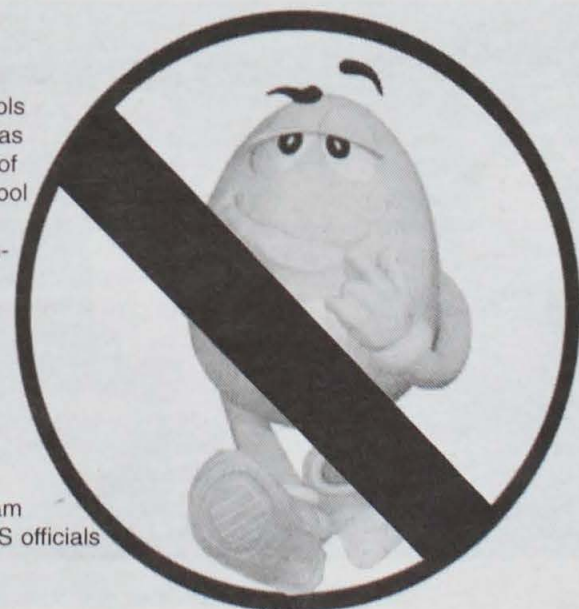
"All we're eating is junk food and teachers are complaining that we don't have enough nutrition or energy in us," said Olivia Mansoer, 15.

Word quickly spread among students that the junk food has disappeared and the fresh stock of healthy snacks has suddenly popped up.

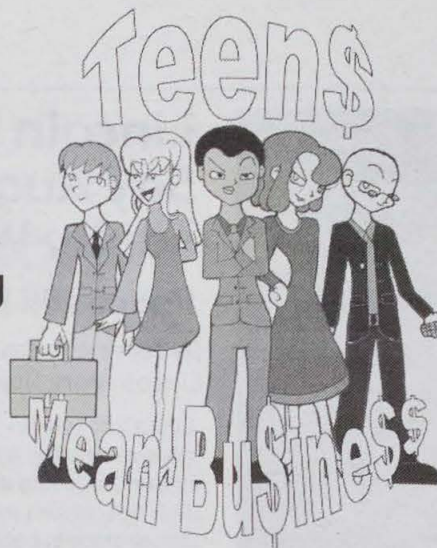
"Some of the snacks are better than the greasy lunch food," Mansoer said.

The school's canteen, popular for its hot chocolate chip cookies and very sweet slushies, was closed during the first week of school, leaving many students wondering if it will follow the same route as the vending machines when it opens.

Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan, has touched on the topic of replacing current school snacks and lunch selections with healthier ones during several of his speeches over the summer, but few students took him seriously. A healthy change in the Chicago Public Schools' lunch program is soon to follow, CPS officials said.



Teenage entrepreneurs have their own name, style, and understanding of what it means to make it on their own.



New Expression will share stories of how teens are making it and what it takes to be successful because..

Student Summit 2004:

International Manufacturing Technology Show at McCormick Place

**Phylecia Thompson and May Millon
Lake View High School**

It's never too late or too early to decide for a career. Teens received a glimpse of what they might like to be at the International Manufacturing Technology Show Student Summit at Chicago's McCormick Place.

The IMTS Student Summit, which took place Sept. 8-15, is part of the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS), a convention for manufacturing engineers to showcase and sell their products that is held once every two years.

The Student Summit is for students in middle school and high school. The purpose of the IMTS Student Summit is to encourage teens to gain an interest in manufacturing, and to show teens that manufacturing is the wave of the future.

"It's (IMTS Student Summit) a great way for students to talk about industries and jobs," said Raymond Prendergast, Manufacturing Program Manager for the Office of Education-to-Careers. Prendergast has been in the manufacturing field for 19 years.

Education-to-Careers is a program in high schools around Chicago where students are allowed to take classes to shift into post-secondary education, career training, or a job that leads into a steady career such as business of manufacturing.

"In my case, I wasn't into manufacturing. The fact that it is starting to grow, there is a need for (Job Corps) to become part of it and grow with it," said Michael Santiago, 20, from Chicago Job Corps. Santiago also

Chicago Job Corps. Santiago also attended IMTS last year.

"It is important to be able to compete in global emerging technology and see what the industry will look like in the future. That's why (IMTS Student Summit) is important," said Stephen C. Mandes, Executive Director of the National Institute for

Metalworking Skills, Inc. (NIMS).

Teens visiting the Student Summit were able to meet with manufacturers from overseas and manufacturing leaders, such as J.D. Buller of J.D. Buller Representatives. Teens also learned about certain careers in manufacturing and compete in robot battles through Comedy Central's Battle Bots™.

"This is great! To see everything, and to see how everything works," said Lawrence Martin, a junior at Roosevelt High School who would like to become an electrical engineer.

Martin and the other students who attended the summit are part of Robotics, a club at Roosevelt High School. Robotics is where students at Roosevelt build robots to command strategies, such as picking up objects. Then the students compete in competitions for the best robot against other students from other schools.

Those behind the Student Summit want to improve the event by expanding opportunities to more stu-

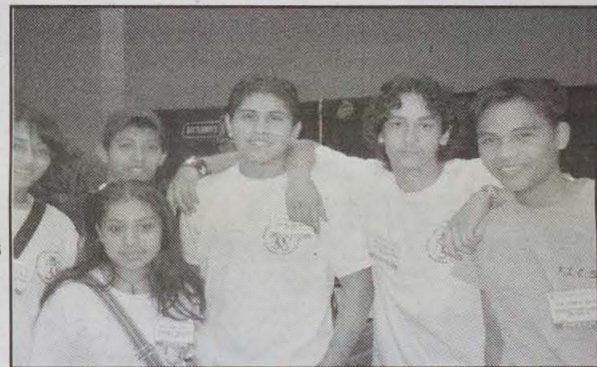


Photo by May Millon, Lake View High School
Teens from Roosevelt High School pose for a picture at IMTS

dents who are interested in math, science, and other subjects. They also want students and teachers to spread the word about the IMTS Student Summit to other schools and bring in new attendees for the 2006 Student Summit.

"It's the way for the future," said Buller, who is pleased to bring manufacturing to a younger audience, and to develop manufacturing as a career choice. NE

For more information, check out:

IMTS Website:

www.imts.com

CPS Education-to-Careers program:

www.cps.k12.il.us/Education-to-Careers.pdf

National Institute for Metalworking Skills:

www.nims-skills.org

October 2004



Photo by Phylecia Thompson, Lake View High School
Teens from Roosevelt High School check out the Battlebots at IMTS

Political Opinion

Teens Should Appreciate Chance to Vote



Photo by Jesse Hall, Crane
Students at Columbia College register to vote in time for the November elections.

As young people, we can fulfill our role as responsive citizens by utilizing our right to vote. There is nothing sadder than hearing news reports that less than one third of people ages 18 – 24 actually cast their ballots in the presidential election of 2000.

For far too long, voting in the youth community has been taken for granted and treated like an event that has no tangible merit. That perception must be dismantled and I believe that the teens of Chicago will heed the call of leadership by voting and will even encourage their relatives to do the same, making voting a familial activity of the present.

A couple of years ago, I was registering people to vote at a Rock The Vote concert, and a young girl asked us "why should young people vote when politicians rarely recognize us?"

This young girl, who had just turned 18, was a junior in high school and continued to question us. She then complained about the ruthlessness embedded in many political commercials and mailings, and said she was disheartened by the ex-

uberant amount of money and greed that engulfs the process.

All of her questions and problems certainly left me in awe and a tad bit tongue tied. I was trying to find a way to rebut all of her cynicism. So I began to think about why I cherished voting so much, and tried to figure out what it was that got most of my friends in high school excited about exercising our right to vote.

However, I was too calculated in my attempt to respond to her. Finally, a volunteer from Rock The Vote stood up and stared the girl directly in her eyes.

He did not say much at first, but tears began to tremble down his face. And then, with enough vigor in his voice to quiet a herd of hecklers - he said to her, "If nothing else, just register and remember me as you cast your ballot!"

The impassioned volunteer told the girl that he was here illegally and could not vote yet, but that voting in an American election was one of the goals that he coveted the most.

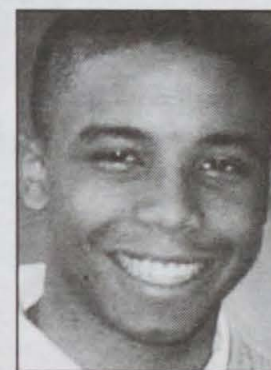
He was not turned away by all the negativity in politics; instead he

encouraged the young girl to think about the issues that impacted her daily life like employment, education, and college tuition. All these subjects, he said, are altered whether you vote or not, so you might as well vote for people with measures that tread toward your perspective.

No candidate is perfect, no election is without mud-slinging and in fact, large sums of money may always heavily influence policy decisions. But as young people we have the perfect opportunity to promote the ideas we believe in by voting and encouraging some of our disillusioned friends to do so as well.

It is important to remember that there is someone amongst us who would genuinely appreciate having your right to vote. Don't let them down, but most importantly try not to let yourself down by dwindling your awesome chance to IMPACT YOUR WORLD.

Haamid Johnson is the NE political columnist, and can be reached at brentw@youth-comm.org.



Political Columnist
Haamid "Happy" Johnson
Georgetown University

Improve Your Political Vocabulary

Moderate - a political candidate whose positions put him or her somewhere between Republican and Democratic points of view.

Platform - a candidate's or political party's agreed-upon list of issue positions and plans. The political parties decide on platforms at their election-year conventions.

Poll - a gathering of public opinion on a specific or general issue. Politicians often use polls to better understand where their constituents stand.

Campaign - the activities, speeches, meetings, strategies, and everything else a candidate uses to help him or her win the party's nomination or the election.

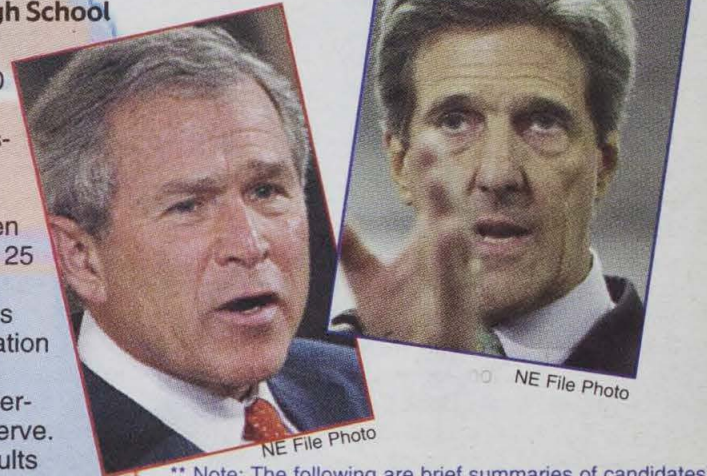
The key Issues: What's the Difference? What have U done for teens lately? Bush & Kerry

By Rebecca Parsons, Columbia College, and Phylecia Thompson, Lake View High School

Young voters are sweeping the nation in this critical 2004 presidential election. Recent surveys show that people between the ages of 18 to 20 have an intensely strong interest in this election – the highest it has ever been since 18-year-olds were given the right to vote in 1972. Early registration is happening at levels not seen in years, according to many state election officials.

This is in stark contrast to the miserably low turnout of young voters in 2000, when only 37 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds voted, compared to 64 percent of people aged 25 and older. Politicians have tried many times in the past to tap into the power of the young vote. All that effort is well deserved, as there are about 40.6 million Americans ages 18 to 29, which is one in five of all eligible U.S. voters. (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement).

Now that young people are finally coming out in masses to exercise the most cherished of our democratic rights, we are finally getting the attention and power we deserve. With this great power, however, comes great responsibility. We teens and young adults must use this power wisely. It is our duty as U.S. citizens not only to vote in elections, but to be an informed voter so that we know for whom and for what we are voting for.



** Note: The following are brief summaries of candidates' positions on various issues, which are based on their statements and information from press releases, speeches, both candidate's official websites, and news organizations.

Bush vs Kerry	
By Rebecca Parsons, Columbia College (Editorial Assistant)	
Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Signed the No Child Left Behind Act, which places increased emphasis on standard testing for public schools and higher consequences for underperforming schools ~ Supports school vouchers for tuition at parochial and other private schools ~ Signed for a tax exemption for students' college tuition ~ Opposes bonuses for teachers who work in schools in poor neighborhoods ~ Opposes federal bonds used for school repair and construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Opposes private school vouchers, predicting they will take money and support from public schools ~ Opposes the standard "one-size-fits-all" testing plans for public schools, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act ~ Proposes to increase early childhood programs like Head Start ~ Believes in full funding for special-needs education ~ Favors increase in teachers' salaries ~ Voted for No Child Left Behind Act in 2001
Economy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Believes that tax cuts stimulate economic growth and prevent recession ~ Signed tax cuts every year since his election, although many believe those tax cuts only benefit the richest Americans ~ Raised the child tax credit and provided relief from the marriage penalty ~ Proposes \$23 billion for job training and employment assistance programs ~ Nearly 1.8 million private sector jobs have been lost since 2000. The new jobs being created pay an average of \$9,000 less than the jobs that have been lost. ~ The unemployment rate went up from four percent in 2000, to 4.8 in 2001, to 5.8 in 2002, to 5.5 in 2003 and to 5.6 percent this year, as of August. (U.S. Dept. of Labor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Plans to raise the minimum wage to \$7 and create 10 million new jobs under his administration ~ The Kerry-Edwards plan states that 98 percent of all Americans and 99 percent of businesses will get a tax cut. ~ Plans to expand tax cuts for the middle class (families with children and married couples with incomes below \$200,000) ~ Says he will give tax breaks to companies that create American jobs instead of outsourcing to other countries ~ Proposes \$50 billion for job creation, training, and economic stimulus programs
Abortion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Opposes abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is in danger ~ Opposes partial birth abortions; signed federal law to ban partial-birth abortions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Supports women's right to choose abortion and believes it is a right that should be guaranteed by the constitution ~ Supports increased funding for family planning and birth control resources ~ Opposes partial birth abortions; voted against it in the Senate
Affirmative Action	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Opposes racial quotas and racial preference systems in the college admissions process and in the workplace ~ Supported the Supreme Court's decision to stop the University of Michigan's numerical formula policy, in which undergraduate school candidates were given a larger amount of points towards admission for being a minority race 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Supports affirmative action policies in college admissions and in the workplace
Bush & Kerry issues continued on Next page	
Websites for Bush: www.whitehouse.gov or www.georgebush.com	Websites for Kerry: www.johnkerry.com or www.democrats.org

Cook County's First Judge Program Brings Teens Into Political Fold

By Devin Ross
Payton College Prep

These days more teens want to get involved with politics, especially with the presidential election coming up in November.

To be part of the political process, some high school seniors are signing up for the First Judge program.

The program is part of Cook County's teen democracy programs. First Election and First Voter are two other programs sponsored by the county for teens.

The teen democracy program is mainly for suburban Cook County.

The student judges have the same responsibilities as other election judges.

Responsibilities include preparation for opening polling places in the morning at 5:15, setting up the election equipment, distributing ballots, operating the voting equipment, verifying the voter qualifications, and much more.

For more info:
David Orr
Cook County Clerk
69 W. Washington St. 5th floor
Chicago, IL 60602
www.voterinfo.net
(312)603-0906

The First Judge program has great participation every year from suburban Cook County, according to Leticia Bravo, coordinator of the First Judge program.

"Every year we have about 85 to 90 high schools participate," Bravo said.

Bravo said that last year the program had 75 percent participation out of about 85 high schools that signed up.

"Of course it's extremely popular this year with the presidential election going on," Bravo said.

Bravo said that word of the First Judge program travels mostly by word-of-mouth.

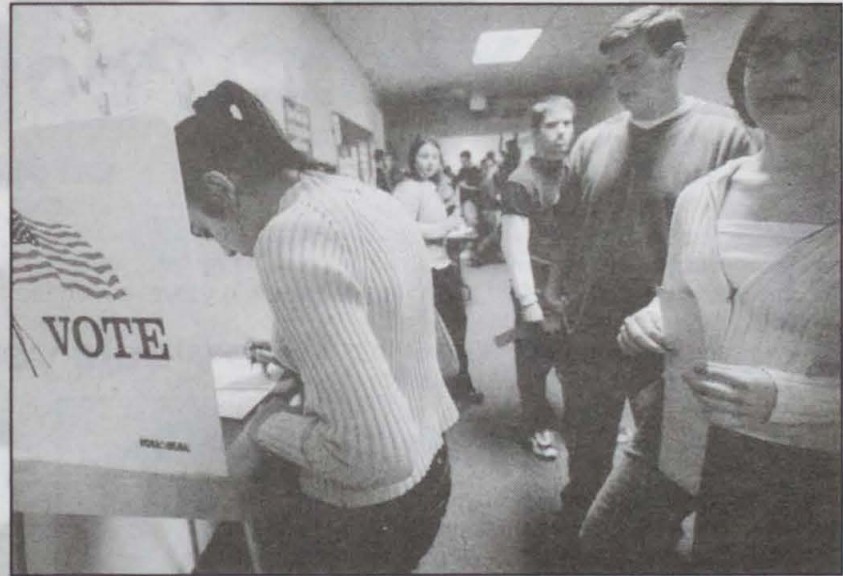


Photo submitted by Cook County Clerk David Orr's office

Teens participate in the first judge program

Qualifications for the program include being recommended by a high school teacher and principal, maintaining at least a 3.0 G.P.A. on a 4.0 scale and being a high school senior in good standing. Also, to be a First Judge, one must be a U.S.

citizen by the next election, successfully complete the election judge training course provided by the County Clerk's Office and have a written approval from a parent or legal guardian. **NE**

Bush vs Kerry continued from last page

BUSH

VS

KERRY

Health Care

- ~ In the last four years, about four million Americans lost their health insurance, leaving 44 million Americans currently without health insurance.
- ~ Created medical savings accounts in which workers put a portion of their own money towards health insurance costs
- ~ Proposes to give the uninsured a chance to buy health coverage through individual saving and tax credits
- ~ Favors a refundable tax credit that will make health insurance more affordable to Americans without employer-provided insurance

- ~ Proposes to spend about \$76 billion each year on health care programs
- ~ Plans to expand access to state health insurance for children plan
- ~ Plans to allow citizens to obtain affordable health care with federal employee insurance systems through subsidies and tax credits
- ~ Proposes a 78 percent health insurance tax credit for the unemployed
- ~ Favors a patients' bill of rights that allows patients to choose their doctor and hold HMOs accountable when they make medical mistakes

Gay, Lesbian & Transsexual Issues

- ~ Opposes same-sex marriage
- ~ Supports constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, which defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman
- ~ Opposes adoption by same-sex couples
- ~ Opposes expanding federal law to punish hate crimes against people based on sexual orientation
- ~ Supports "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for the military, which only allows gays to serve in the military if they are not open with their sexuality

- ~ Against same-sex marriage, but he supports civil unions for same-sex couples
- ~ Supports medical benefits for same-sex couples
- ~ Supports adoption by same-sex couples
- ~ Opposes the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage
- ~ Supports extension of hate crime protection to include sexual orientation
- ~ Opposes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; supports the right of gays to serve in the military regardless of open or closed sexuality

Immigration

- ~ Supports temporary worker program to match foreign workers (documented or not) with U.S. employers when no American workers can be found to fill the job(s)

- ~ Supports legislation that would provide immigration relief to undocumented high school graduates who have spent their formative years in the U.S.

**** Bush and Kerry will square off on the issues in three debates, which will be televised and broadcast on the radio. They will be on Sep. 30, Oct. 8 and Oct. 13; during prime time (between 6-9 p.m.). Check your local TV listings for exact times. We strongly encourage readers, especially those of voting age, to watch or listen to these debates.**

NE encourages young voters to exercise your right to vote!

Rainbow/Push Youth Coalition

Getting Young People to Vote

By Phylecia Thompson
Lake View High School

It's never too early, or too late, for a teenager to get involved with the 2004 presidential election, even if they are not eligible to vote.

Teenagers in the Rainbow/Push Coalition Youth Council have developed ways to get people who are able to vote registered for the 2004 presidential election.

One way the Youth Council is trying to get others registered to vote in the 2004 presidential election is through the HIV Awareness/Voting Registration Drive, which began in September. The program targets anyone who's eligible to vote. Poetry slams about the significance of voting will also be held by the group.

The Rainbow/Push Coalition Youth Council, started in 1971, is an organization dedicated to training young people how to become leaders, and foster a better understanding in communities. The youth involved with the program are given exposure to some of today's top leaders such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder of the Rainbow/Push Coalition.

"It's to have them to start young and active in the community," said Dr. Vonita Carr, National Director of Education for Rainbow/Push Excel, explaining the importance of Rainbow/Push Coalition Youth Council.

The Rainbow/Push Coalition Youth Council is a department of Rainbow/Push Excel.

There are currently 30 members in the Youth Council. The ages of the members range from 13 to 18.

Carr said teenagers who are not eligible to vote can support the 2004 presidential election by convincing their parents to register, or siblings who are old enough to vote.

Teenagers can also help out the elderly at the polling places.

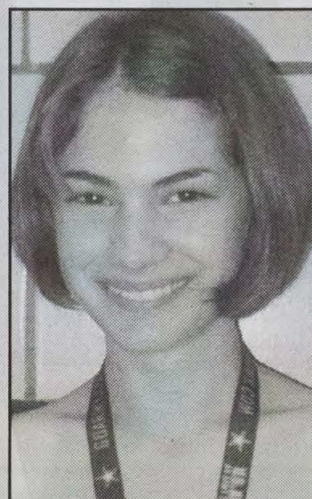
Teenagers outside of the Youth Council can help the organization by volunteering in the HIV Awareness/Voting Registration Drive. Youth can also join the Rainbow/Push Coalition Youth Council by visiting the Rainbow Push National Headquarters located at 930 E. 50th St.

PhotOpinion

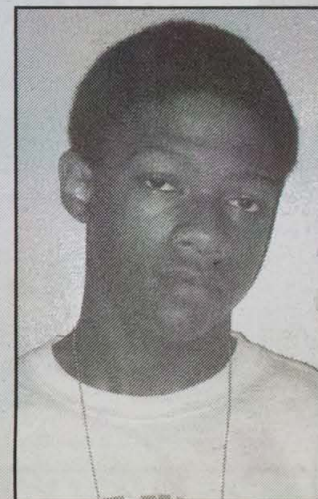
Who would you vote for in the Presidential race?



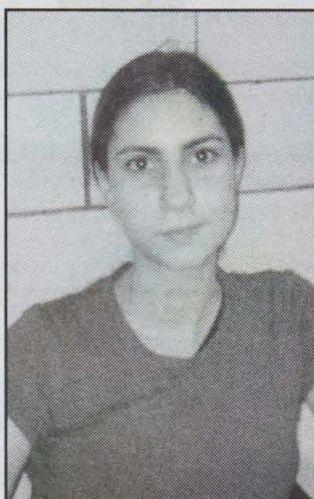
"I would vote for Kerry because I don't think Bush has his priorities straight and thinks that the answer to everything is war"
Laura Pizarro
Sophomore, Lake View High School



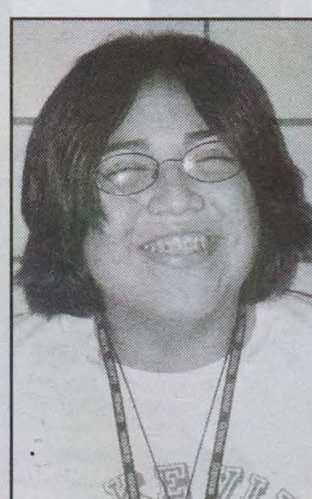
"Bush, he's more dignified and I take the issue of abortion personally because if my parents decided that they couldn't deal with my medical problems I would be dead."
Monica Wenger
Sophomore, Lake View High School



"No one. Bush so far has caused so much chaos that I don't trust him. Kerry is new and does not impress me."
Brian Howard
Sophomore, Lake View High School.



"Kerry, it's about time we get a better President."
Ruth Felseghi
Sophomore, Lake View High School



"I don't know about anybody but I guess I'd vote for the guy that's not Bush."
Katie Somoyo
Sophomore, Lake View High School



"I would vote for John Kerry because George W. Bush is a liar."
Alex Salgado
Sophomore, Lake View High School

Is the draft heading our way?

By Jeannette Bruno,
Lincoln Park High School

The government says the draft is not coming, but do teens believe it?

Though government officials insist that rumors are untrue about efforts to reinstate the military draft, many teens are reluctant to believe government officials due to the current war in Iraq and the escalating U.S. military death toll.

Just over 55 percent of American teens say they expect young Americans will be required to serve in the military because of the ongoing conflict in Iraq, the war on terrorism and the rising U.S. military death toll that peaked 1,000 in September.

"If Bush is reelected, I think it may happen," said Miguel Perez, 17, of Lincoln Park High School.

Seventy percent of American teens said they oppose a military draft, according to a national survey of 1,007 teens from across the country. The report, the 2004-05 "State of Our Nation's Youth", was recently issued by the Horatio Alger Association.

"I don't think a draft will happen just because too many people disagree with the war," said Brian Boller, 17, of Lincoln Park High School.

In 1973, former President Richard Nixon halted the draft during the Vietnam War.

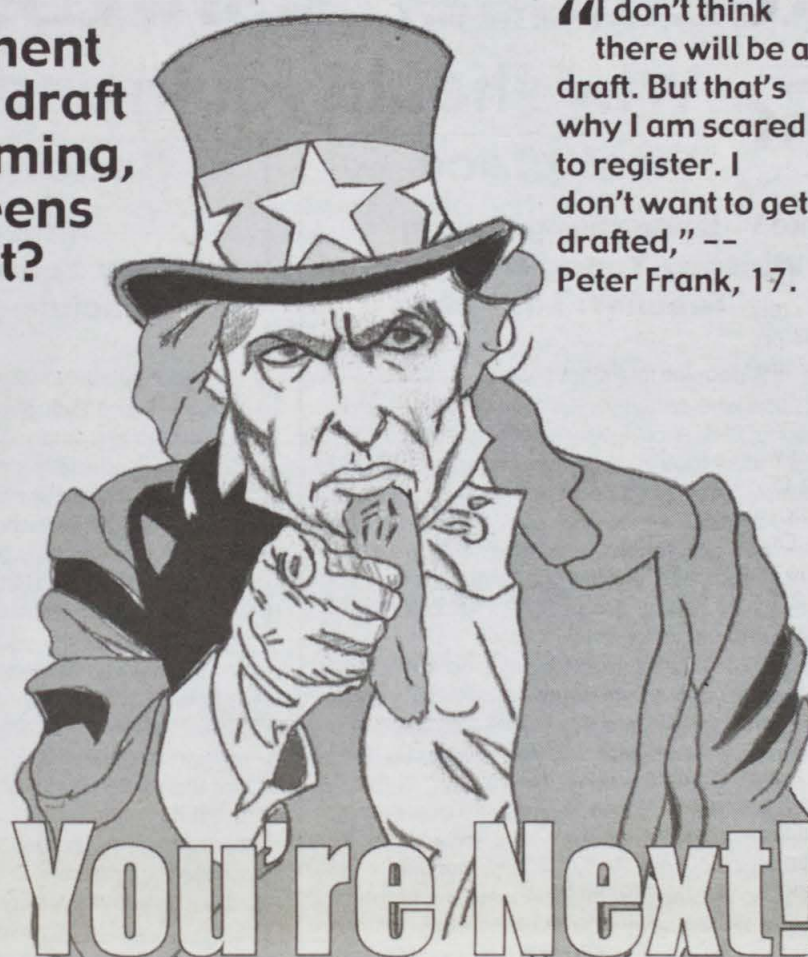
However, some politicians, including presidential candidate John Kerry, believe there is movement towards a "backdoor draft" because of the need for additional manpower in Iraq.

Opponents of the draft look to a \$28 million increase in the Selective Service budget, movement to fill vacancies on the draft board and the proposed Universal National Service Act of 2003 as indicators that young Americans may be sent to war whether they like it or not. The Universal National Service Act of 2003 would require two years of military service and is being pushed by a handful of Democrats.

Some opponents also question a requirement of the federal No Child Left Behind Act which requires high schools to give the names and phone numbers of juniors and seniors to military recruiters who could call and encourage them to enlist. Supporters of the No Child Left Behind Act say the measure is a way of ensuring that teenagers understand that the military is an option.

The Selective Service System, which would handle a draft, has posted a statement on its website that says despite the rumors, it "is not getting ready to conduct a draft for the U.S. Armed Forces."

The statement goes on to say, "Both the President and the Secretary of Defense have stated on more than one occasion that there is no need for a draft for the war on terrorism or any likely contingency, such as Iraq. Additionally, the Congress has not acted on any proposed legislation to reinstate a draft."



Graphic by Jesse Hall, Crane High School

Teens may have to think about the possibility of going to war the United States Draft law is reinstated.

"I don't think there will be a draft. But that's why I am scared to register. I don't want to get drafted," said Peter Frank, 17. Before 1971, if a man was a student showing signs of progress toward a degree then he could qualify for a student deferment from the draft.

Today, the current draft law says a college student can have his induction postponed until the end of the semester, and that a senior can have until the end of the academic year. Contrary to popular belief, "only

sons," "the last son to carry the family name" and "sole surviving sons" must register and they can be drafted.

However, they may be entitled to a peacetime deferment if there is a military death in the immediate family.

When it comes to women, the issue is always being reviewed with the idea that if women are equal to men, they too should be eligible for the draft. Right now, women are not required to register for the draft, but the Selective Service System is capable of drafting women to war. **NE**

U.S. Selective Service Registration and Draft Facts

- ~ Almost all male U.S. citizens and non-citizens ages 18-25 are required to register with the Selective Service System.
- ~ Young men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.
- ~ Men who do not register with Selective Service cannot get federal financial aid, federal jobs, or federal job training.
- ~ Illegal aliens, undocumented immigrants, refugees and legal permanent residents of the U.S. are all required to register with Selective Service.
- ~ Dual nationals of the U.S. and another country are required to register.
- ~ Male non-citizens living in the U.S. ages 18-25 must register to be eligible for citizenship.
- ~ Men who are in the U.S. on a student or visitor visa do not have to register.
- ~ Young men can register with Selective Service online (www.sss.gov), by mail (forms are available at all post offices), or through the FAFSA financial aid application (check yes in box #29 and the Department of Education will register you).
- ~ Just because he is registered does not mean a man will automatically be inducted into the military.
- ~ In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth.
- ~ If a draft is instituted, men can file a claim for exemption from military service based on their religious or moral objection to war, called a Conscientious Objector claim.

Ocotober 2004 Essay Contest winners

Why should youth under 18 care about politics?

First place

Chenghong Huang
Whitney Young High School
Teacher: Mr. Rehak

A popular misconception is that only those who can vote, namely, citizens over the age of 18, should care about politics. That is not at all true. I am under the age of 18, but I know that if I and other youth under the age of 18 participate in and learn about politics, we can accumulate knowledge that we can use when we become old enough to vote, raise the awareness of issues important to us, and influence current votes.

While most of today's political issues seem to only affect people much older than us, their issues are our issues too. Issues such as health care and social security don't directly affect us today, but they will in the future. For example, we are the generation who will have to support a much larger population of seniors once we start working.

Social security may become bankrupt and thus we are in danger of being the generation who pays taxes to support a failing institution. Social Security may have to be reformed, but only by staying abreast of the issues today can we make informed choices in the future. Furthermore, we have to raise the awareness of our own issues and concerns. We have first-hand knowledge of the education system. If there is something wrong, together we can make our voice heard. We may not be able to vote, but we can lobby for change. We can also do campaign work, such as canvassing, for politicians who support our issues. We can influence politics by influencing the votes of older people.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that an informed citizenry is the best safeguard of democracy. By caring about politics today, we will be ready to make the right choices by the time we are old enough to vote. We are young, hear us roar.

Letters to the editor can be sent to New Expression at editor@newexpression.org, or Youth Communication 600 South Michigan Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60605. Please keep letter under 100 words.

Second place

Anne Chan
Whitney Young High School
Teacher: Mr. Rehak

I recently attended an Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights session. Their aim was to encourage voting among minorities. I found myself really interested in politics and eager to learn about the voting process.

Youths under 18 should care about politics because it would only prepare them for the time when they have the power to vote. It would help them formulate their own opinions and learn about the voting process.

Even when adolescents turn 18 and are eligible to vote, many often do not seem to care. They feel that they are not educated enough to make important decisions, or simply that their vote does not matter. If information about politicians, platforms, and legislation were provided for them during their most influential years, there is a decreased possibility for voters to be swayed by media on important issues. It would have to be taught in a manner they could actually process and understand, so the intricacies of politics. They will know what is actually beneficial for their self-interests.

Upon walking into the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights session, I had no idea what to expect. What I've noticed about politics and the political activist groups such as ICIRR are ideals of unity and goals they express. It unites individuals seeking enrichment. With that, I believe teens should consider developing their own political views, for it provides the basis for intelligent political decisions.

Third place

Rebecca Blayer
Walter Payton College Prep
Teacher: Ms. Eileen Murphy

In a nation of freedom and opportunity, everyone should value and make use of their voice. Those under 18 should actively participate in politics, not only because it is our right, but also because it is our duty as citizens. The nation belongs to all of the people, not only those who are old enough to vote. Voting is only one way of expressing political views. countless other ways exist.

Too many Americans do not vote as adults, but by beginning participation in politics as youths, it will likely lead to an active voting habit throughout their lives.

The viewpoints of younger people also tend to give a fresh outlook on many political issues. Young people are just beginning to form opinions on many different issues they are faced with in their lives, including how they see their country. Lots of kids and teenagers don't even see how much politics can affect them, but by participating in politics from an early age they can become well versed in matters of high importance to themselves, and those around them.

Kids often take after their parents in many regards, and one of the most prominent is choosing the same party and or candidate to support. It is important that those under 18 are not blind to the many different parties and candidates that exist. People need to make their own decisions when deciding who to vote for, thus it is important to become an educated voter before one actually begins voting.

Those who cannot yet vote may see themselves as being excluded from the political arena, but in reality they are the future of this country's society.

November NE Essay question:

November:

Do you support Mayor Daley's 2010 plan, which involves closing of several struggling schools and creating 100 new smaller schools that would be manged by the private sector?

Essays must be 200-300 words. The top three essays will be reprinted in the October issue with photos of the winners, who will recieve \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively. All entries must include 1)your full name 2)Home address 3)School name 4) Home phone number 5) Teacher's name, if the essay was assigned. 6)All essays must be typed. Forget any of these, and your essay will be disqualified.

**Send essays to: New Expression Essays
 600 S. Michigan Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60605
 Fax: (312)922-7151
 email: brentw@youth-comm.org
 please make the subject line: "NE Essay Contest."**

**Deadline for
 November
 October 22**

Youth issues should matter to politicians

The 2000 presidential candidates never properly addressed issues concerning teens and it seems that the travesty is occurring once again.

What will it take for the 2004 Presidential candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry to alter their agendas and put youth issues towards the top?

Politics is a combination of policies and philosophies.

The reason why politicians are not eager to discuss youth issues is because young people are the least likely to vote.

In the presidential election years between 1972 and 2000, the national youth voter turnout rate declined by 13 percentage points (among 18-24 year old voters) according to the Youth Vote Coalition.

There are a number of reasons for the lack of interest in politics. Many teens don't believe that the politicians running will be able to have a direct impact on their lives,



Erna Dzafic
Loyola University

which is a huge myth. The cycle of ignorance is a vicious one.

Young people don't vote because politicians don't address issues important to them and politicians place major focus on the voting population, which mainly are senior citizens. Simplistic answers are not the solution for this cultural crisis.

Young people need to take the initiative when it comes to voting and the political process.

Asking about a candidate and researching their positions on issues is the first step.

According to the Youth Vote Coalition, asking a young person (aged 18-25) to vote raises the likelihood they will vote by 8-12 percentage points.

Educating the youth on politics and the importance of voting will raise the voting turnout, and hence politicians will pay more attention to youth and the issues that concern them. **NE**

Are Blacks Losing Their Voting Power?

Rumor spreads that expiration of Voting Rights Act will strip blacks of right to vote

To many teens, the marches through Birmingham, the murder of three little church girls, and the chants of "We Shall Overcome" are as distant as the blurred black and white images that remind Americans of its troubled past.

"When I was a young lady there was nothing that I wanted more than the right to vote because with that comes the power to change and it seems that today teenagers are so nonchalant when it comes to these privileges that our people have died for," said Lillian Broome, age 90.

"You see, the people of my generation had a cause to fight for and the little that we gained, this generation is letting it slip out of the palms of their hands. For example, with voting so many people have been jailed, beaten, and killed over trying to fulfill their duties and for the younger people that are able to vote and that chose not to; it is a slap in their face," Broome said.

In 2007, there is a chance that these gains by people like Broome could slip if Congress does not renew the Voting Rights Act of 1965 again. Though this will not strip blacks of their voting rights, which are guaranteed by the 15th Amendment, it may send America regressing back to the 1960s in terms of political rights for blacks.

Recently a mass hoax email was distributed claiming that if the Voting Rights Act is not renewed, blacks will be stripped of their right to vote. Top political leaders and the U.S. Department of Justice have dismissed the email as rumor and a hoax.

While the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is indeed set to expire, the basic right of all Americans to vote, regardless of race, is guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and can't expire with the Voting Rights Act.

Confusion has arisen and assumptions have been made about the Voting Rights Act, which on its own, guarantees suffrage to minorities. In reality, all the act does is keep in place a set of so-called "extraordinary remedies" created to enforce the 15th Amendment at state and local levels. It was a way to address attempts that were made by whites in the 1960s to put obstacles in place to prevent blacks from voting. These remedies were never meant to be permanent and that is why the Voting Rights Act comes up for renewal every 25 years.

Prior to the creation of the Voting Rights Act, states prevented blacks from voting mainly through intimidation. If blacks attempted to vote, there was the risk of losing their jobs and those few that weren't intimidated by a loss of livelihood, lost their lives in some cases. For example, Medgar Evers, a WWII veteran and civil rights leader, was murdered on his front porch for attempting to try and secure rights, such as voting for blacks. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to end states' disenfranchising of blacks.

By Jennifer Broome
St. Ignatius High School

One way in which it has been successful is through its "pre-clearance" section that requires approval from the U.S. Justice Department before certain states may make changes to their election laws that risk weakening the voting power of blacks.

"Although political rights for blacks have improved, the Voting Rights Act is still needed because voter suppression is still alive and well in America, especially in the Sunshine State," said Mondrea Harmon, of the education department of the DuSable Museum of African-American History.

Harmon referred to recent events in Orlando, Fla., in which armed undercover state policemen went into the homes of elderly black voters and interrogated them as part of a voting fraud investigation that has alarmed many black voters and elderly volunteers. While officials refuse to disclose full details of the investigation, the investigation is said to be linked to absentee ballots. After the Florida voting scandal of the 2000 presidential election, where over 1 million votes were not counted, many blacks have been encouraged to use absentee ballots.

Although the Voting Rights Act has been up for renewal several times, it has never been allowed to expire. In fact, each time that it has come to Congress for renewal, it comes back stronger and covers more ground. For instance, it has expanded to include that bilingual voting materials be available to voters. Perhaps when the Voting Rights Act comes up for renewal in 2007, it will expand to protect a growing number of disenfranchised ex-offenders.

Currently, many states deny the right to vote to ex-offenders. According to a 1998 report conducted by the Human Rights Group, it is estimated that 30-40 percent of the next generation of black men may become disenfranchised because of past criminal records.

"Once you serve your time that should be it. If these ex-offenders, many of whom haven't done anything extremely terrible, aren't allowed to vote, then it's like society is giving them a life sentence," said Chicago resident Queenorah Ohiri, 16.

By frequently having to renew a law that is supposed to protect these rights for blacks is an insult and dishonor to their memory," Broome said.

"As citizens of this union, blacks need to have the right to vote free from intimidation and the paranoia of that right being taken away from them," stated Broome. **NE**

"You see the people of my generation had a cause to fight for and the little that we gained, this generation is letting it slip out of the palm of their hands."
--Lillian Broome, 90

COLLEGE DAYS



Take the first steps in choosing the right school for you

Choosing a college can be overwhelming, but you can ease the stress by starting your search early

By Natalia Santillan, and
Rebecca Parsons, Editorial
Process Lane Tech College Prep

There are many options that seniors have in regards to deciding which colleges to apply for, but remember the first major step is to begin planning as early as possible.

"Plan for college from the very beginning by selecting required classes for graduation and making the best grades possible," said Eltha Wong, a high school counselor from Lane Tech.

When applying for college, the first factor that should be taken into consideration is the school's admission requirements, which vary greatly from one college to another.

Some colleges, especially Ivy League and top tier universities, put the highest priority on academic performance, G.P.A. and ACT/SAT scores. However, many other colleges look for a well-rounded student with participation in extracurricular activities, work experience, and a strong desire to learn and succeed in their respective field of study. Some schools will even grant admission to students with a lower G.P.A. or test scores if that student meets other important qualifications. An example of this is good writing skills, as proven in their admission essay(s) or writing samples.

Colleges also look into community service or high school service learning hours obtained by potential students. It is a good idea to join school clubs, after school activities, and community organizations while in high school. This will look great on your college application and may even help you to get in.



Photo by Jesse Hall, Crane High School
Columbia College students head back to classes on September 27.

College Characteristics to Consider

Here are some of the most important things to consider when choosing a college and the questions you should ask yourself to help determine your decisions:

- ~ Major availability (Does the college have your major?)
- ~ Department size (How extensive is the department that offers your major?)
- ~ Class descriptions (Will the classes you take give you the knowledge, skills and training you need for your career and life goals?)
- ~ School size (Do you want to go to a big, bustling, public university or a small, close-knit private college?)
- ~ College location (Do you want to live in a metropolitan city or a small town? How far will you be from your home and family?)

Another significant part of choosing a college is to consider what you want to study, what you will major in, and what you have in mind as your future career goals.

Then you should look at what potential colleges have to offer in your desired field of study or career choice.

First find out if the school you are considering has the major you want. Then get a course catalogue with all the class descriptions for that major.

Read the descriptions thoroughly and decide if you think the classes will teach the necessary skills or provide the adequate training you need

to succeed in your chosen career. This will undoubtedly be the most important part of your college choice decision.

After all, the reason you are going to college is to pursue a career and make a good living for yourself.

"It's important for students to find a school that matches their needs and to apply to more than one school" said Ananda Drake, College Advisor at Truman College.

The size of a school should be factored in when trying to determine which college or university is appropriate for you. Take into consideration the location, and population.

To find a college that is good for you, begin attending college fairs, such as the Chicago National College Fair, which will be held Friday, Oct. 22 and Saturday, Oct. 23 at Navy Pier. (Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Conduct college searches using the Internet. Look at websites such as collegeboard.com. This is a good source of information because it offers background on many colleges, testing dates, and provides a general plan for getting into a good college.

"I chose Loyola because I wanted to get away from home and I wanted to go to a small private institution," said Meg Went, a Loyola University alum who is majoring in psychology and business. Went is an out-of-state student from Boca Ciega Senior High Center of Wellness and Medical Professions in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Went has some good advice for high school seniors.

"I think they should visit them [colleges] before they apply in order to save money on applications. Take your time, look into colleges because you'll be there for a long time," she said.

College selection is a tough process to go through and can be complicated at times. However, with the proper timing and planning, one can actually come to a point where they are able to enjoy the college hunting experience instead of dreading it. **NE**

**** You can also attend statewide college fairs at these locations. Call the listed phone numbers for additional information.**

- Moraine Valley Com. College (Palos Hills): Oct. 20, 6-8:30 p.m.
708-974-4300

- College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Naperville): Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.
630-942-4700

- Joliet Junior College (Joliet): Oct. 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m. 815-729-9020

THINK Before You INK

Exploring the long term consequences of tattoos

By Linda Davis

Westinghouse H.S.

Monique Cutlet, 17, was introduced to a tattoo gun at 14 when her father allowed her to sit in and watch him tattoo clients.

"I would get his tattoo gun and practice on mannequins so that I would be ready when it came time to doing the real thing," Cutlet said.

At age 15, Cutlet started to tattoo people, beginning with her friends. For over a year, Cutlet would tattoo customers every weekend when her father left for work.

"Most teens would get caught doing what I was doing, but I never did," Cutlet said.

One night when her father was sleeping, Cutlet decided to tattoo her boyfriend's name on her right thigh.

"My boyfriend and I once decided a long time ago that if we were together long enough, we would get each other's names tattooed on us, so I felt like I was ready," Cutlet said, while rubbing her scarred arm. "I was so in love with him."

The next day she went to school happy, thinking that the butterfly tattoo with her boyfriend's name would be identical to the tattoo he would soon get with her name.

"I would never forget when I walked up on him and saw him hugged up with another girl. I ran to the bathroom crying," Cutlet said.

When she got home, Cutlet immediately ran to the kitchen, grabbed a knife and tried to scrape his name off her thigh.

"There was blood everywhere, but I had to get his name off of me as soon as possible because I was so heartbroken," she said.

The pain of the heartbreak put Cutlet on a dangerous path of depression, starvation, and severe weight loss. She was taken to a mental hospital, where she received treatment for six months. The physical scars that tarnish her caramel brown skin are reminders of Cutlet's emotional collapse and her climb back to stability.

"Now that I am doing better with my life at the age of 17, I just want

teens to know that falling in love and getting a name tattooed on you is not the answer," Cutlet said.

Many teens get tattoos today, not realizing that it will affect their life in the future.

"I never ask my customers why they are getting a certain tattoo," said Jason Vaughn, a professional tattoo artist at Tattoos on Chicago's north side. "I just do what I am asked to."

Vaughn, who is 23, has been working as a tattoo artist for four years. He believes that a lot of people, especially teens and young adults, do not think extensively enough about the decision to get a tattoo and what they get.

"Doing a tattoo on someone is one step away from being sure you want it to last a life time," Vaughn said.

Ashley Summers, 16, of Maywood, regrets getting her tattoo.

"I thought I was in love, so I got my boyfriend's name tattooed on my back," Summers said in her soft voice.

When Summers realized they weren't going to be together, she went through a period of emotional trauma.

"I was emotionally stressed out and all I could think about was getting it (the tattoo) removed," Summers said.

After getting over her ex-boyfriend, who is currently in jail, Summers still has the tattoo on her back.

"I plan to get it removed when I get enough money," Summers said.

Dr. Stanley Kovak knows a little

something about unwanted tattoos. He is a Chicago laser surgeon and has removed several tattoos.

"Before a person decides to get a tattoo, they should be sure that it is what they want," Kovak said.

The effects of trying to get rid of a tattoo can cost more than the price of getting a tattoo.

The different treatments for having a tattoo removed can cost up to \$350 per treatment and in some cases thousands of dollars can be spent removing large tattoos.

Kovak said that in many cases it

can take up to six or eight treatments to have a tattoo removed.

"Laser tattoo removal is the safest, quickest and most likely to leave your skin intact following treatment," Kovak said.

Other treatment options include surgical excision, chemical peel and traditional dermabrasion (surgical scraping). These various treatment options are invasive treatment methods and often result in scarring, Kovak said. **NE**

Editorial Assistant Rebecca Parson contributed to this story.

Tattoo removal surgery doesn't always work. As you can see from these pictures, ink residue may be left on the arm. Tattoos are meant to be permanent, so think twice before getting one.



Before



After

Halloween History and Symbols



THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

Our modern celebration of Halloween is a VERY distant descendant of the ancient Celtic fire festival called Samhain, which was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts (pronounced 'Kelts') lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and France. Their new year begins on November 1.

Celtic legends tell us that on this night, all the hearth fires in Ireland were extinguished, and then re-lit from the central fire of the Druids at Tlachtga. The Druids were the learned class among the Celts. They were religious priests who also acted as judges, lawmakers, poets, scholars, and scientists.

The Celts believed that when people died, they went to a land of eternal youth and happiness called Tir nan Og. The dead were sometimes believed to be dwelling with the Fairy Folk, who lived in the numerous mounds that dotted the Irish and Scottish countryside.

The Celts did not actually have demons and devils in their belief system. Some Christians describe Halloween as a festival in which the Celts sacrificed human beings to the devil or some evil demonic god of death. This is not accurate. The Celts did believe in gods, giants, monsters, witches, spirits, and elves, but these were not considered evil so much as

dangerous. On this night of Samhain, the fairies would sometimes trick humans into becoming lost in the fairy mounds, where they would be trapped forever.

In 601 A.D., Pope Gregory the First of the Roman Catholic church told his missionaries in Europe to use the beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert in Europe instead of destroying them.

In many cases, Catholic Church holy days were purposely set to coincide with native holy days. Christmas, for instance, was assigned the date of December 25th because it corresponded with the mid-winter celebration of many peoples.

In 835 Pope Gregory IV decided to move the practice of All Saints' Day to November 1. The Mass that was said on this day was called Allhallowmas ("the mass of all the holy ones"). The evening before All Saints' Day became known as All Hallow e'en ("the evening of all the holy ones").

When people continued some of the beliefs and practices associated with Samhain, the church branded the earlier religion's practices as evil, and began to associate them with the devil. People continued to celebrate All Hallows Eve as a time of the wandering dead, but the supernatural beings were now thought to be demonic.



PENTAGRAM

The pentagram was a significant symbol from ancient times, with the earliest signs being on Mesopotamian pot shards from around 3500 BC.

It was used by the Hebrews, being ascribed to Truth and to the five books of the Pentateuch. It is sometimes called the Seal of Solomon (although the Star of David is more usually called this).

It was also a very important symbol to the followers of Pythagoras in ancient Greece.

Early Christians attributed the pentagram to the Five Wounds of Christ and from then until medieval times, it was a lesser-used Christian symbol. The Emperor Constantine I used the pentagram in his seal.

Through the Renaissance, the pentagram was used as a symbol for man as the microcosm (five limbs and a head), and is associated with the (five petalled) rose of the Rosicrucian movement. The pentagram was also used in freemasonry. Prior to the time of the Spanish Inquisition, there were no 'evil' associations to the pentagram. Today the pentagram is associated strongly with the hermetic, pagan and wiccan movements, and also went through an unfortunate association with satanism in the 1960s.

JACK O' LANTERN



The legend of the Jack-O'-Lantern comes from Ireland from about the 18th century.

According to legends, there was a stingy man named Jack; who tricked the Devil into climbing an apple tree. Then Jack quickly cut the sign of a cross into the trunk of the tree; thereby preventing the Devil from climbing down. Jack made the Devil swear that he wouldn't ever come after Jack's soul again or claim it in any way.

However, this did not stop Jack from dying. When he did, he was not allowed into Heaven, because of his life of being tightfisted and deceitful. And because of the oath the Devil had taken Jack was not allowed into Hell either. "But where can I go?" asked Jack. "Back where you came from!" replied the Devil. The way back was windy and dark. The Devil, as a final gesture, threw a live coal at Jack straight from the fire of

Hell. To light his way and to keep it from blowing out in the wind Jack put it in a turnip he was eating. Ever since Jack and his "lantern" has been traveling over the face of the earth looking for a place to rest.

Wicca

Magic from the Mind

By Randall McNair
South Shore
Entrepreneurship

Graphics & pictures
by Anita Bryant

There is a lot of misinformation and a lot of ignorance about Wicca. Much of it is fueled by the media, which tries to appeal to our imagination,"

-- Russel Thorne,
Manager of
The Occult
Bookshop



If the words Wicca, witch or pagan draws to mind images of people flying on broom sticks, magical potions, spells, coned black hats, satanic rituals and burnings at the stake, you are not all together wrong, but you are not all together right.

Some of these traditional images and associations are derived from Wiccan or witchcraft. However, many of the tools, images, and teachings of Wicca have been bent and misrepresented in children's books, fictional movies, and plays.

"There is a lot of misinformation and a lot of ignorance about Wicca. Much of it is fueled by the media, which tries to appeal to our imagination," said Russel Thorne, manager of the Occult Bookshop, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Thorne has been practicing Wicca for more than 50 years.

Like many Wiccans, Thorne was quick to dismiss the media's attempts to link witchcraft to satanism or any dark practices.

"Satanism has nothing to do with paganism, Wicca, or witchcraft. In fact all pagans' look down on satanism because it is fueled by wants and desires. Satanism is about the exercising of a person's desires and their attachment to things. One of the many goals of Wicca is to turn lust into higher, moral, and ethical principals," he said.

Wicca is a religion based in part on ancient, northern European pagan beliefs in a fertility goddess.

"In Wicca there are many gods and goddesses who bring about the weather, motions, harvest, seasons, and planets, the sun and so on," Thorne explained.

"I think Wicca is gaining popularity today because it accepts everyone's god. It is a poly existence (having more than one god/goddess). What the world is experiencing today is wars being fought over a mono belief system and whose god is better," he said.

A popular misconception about witches is that they use magic to harm others.

While spells are part of the ways of Wicca, those who study or practice Wicca live by a law that governs their behavior.

The first law of Wicca is the Wiccan Rede, which states, "An it harm none, do what you wilt." In other words, do what you want to do as long as it does not hurt yourself or anyone else. The other rule is that of the Threefold law which says any evil that one does will return three times over, and the same for good deeds.

Wicca's popularity has grown, especially among teenagers, in the last thirty years. It is ironic because for years it has been looked down upon by many, especially in the Catholic Church.

"It was the Roman Catholic Church that spread many of the misconceptions about Wicca and associated it with evil," Thorne said.

In past centuries, several practicing witches were burned alive at the stake or hunted down and hung. Scotland alone put to death more than 4,000 witches.

In the 1960s and 1970s, a resurgence of Wicca began to surface and the neo-pagan movement was born.

"Witch covens began popping up everywhere and it became so popular here in Chicago that Time Magazine did a story about the scene here," Thorne said.

"Today more and more young people are being drawn to Wicca because of the positive portrayals of the religion.

"Shows like Charmed, which is still somewhat fictionalized, are showing the religion in a more positive light. In fact, the writers of Charmed have actually incorporated some of the real life tools and teachings of Wicca into the show. That's a good thing," Thorne said.

According to some religious experts and the Wiccan Journal's "Book of Shadows" there are an estimated three to five million people practicing Wicca, many of whom are under 30 and are both male and female. Wicca is considered by some the largest of the minority religions in America and the fifth organized religion in America, following Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism.

"I think more young people are being drawn to Wicca now because they are searching for truth, wisdom, and morality in today's world," Thorne said.

While Wicca is meant to be a positive religion, a 19-year-old Hyde Park teenager who has been studying Wicca off and on for over five years said those learning and applying the craft need to understand what they are getting involved in.

"It can be very beautiful but you can open doors to the spiritual world that you don't want opened and then it can turn into something very dangerous and dark," said the teen, who did not want to be identified.

"I actually wound up in a mental institution for some time after conducting a séance. I was seeing images, spirits around me and it just became too much," the

Institute for Latino Progress gives teens hope

Agency dedicated to helping teens from Back of the Yards neighborhood

By Stephanie J. Rodriguez

Second Chance Alternative High School

Imagine having to wake up early in the morning, eat a quick meal, rush off to a ten hour job, and then come home exhausted. As you fall asleep the last thing on your mind is that when you wake up you will have to do this all...over... again.

While this might sound like the life of many adults who are working hard to make ends meet, this was actually the life of 18-year-old Jose Salgado, just a year ago before he joined the Institute for Latino Progress.

"Before IPL I never thought about my future. I didn't have anything to look forward to in my life," said Salgado, who was only a freshman when he was expelled from high school.

Like many teens in the Back of the Yards neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side, Salgado really didn't have any options that would lead him to a better future. However, IPL has helped Salgado, as well as other teens enrolled in the program, get back on the right track, and make them realize that they still have a chance to change the situation they are in.

IPL opened its doors two years ago on 46 Street and Ashland Avenue due to the limited, if any, programs that were being offered at that time to youth that lived in the Back of the Yards neighborhood.

IPL offers many programs which include: internship opportunities at places such as Mount Sinai, Alivio Medico, Animal Care and Control, Tech Services, Victory Garden, and La Rabida Children's Hospital. IPL also offers career readiness workshops which help youth prepare for internships by providing leadership building and social awareness workshops. The organization provides individualized life planning, which helps teens realize what they want to do with their life, and at the same time,

guides them towards making those realizations come true, whether they are obtaining a high school diploma or G.E.D.

"I was at a program that was supposed to help me get a G.E.D but then I decided against it. I wanted to enroll into a high school program but in order to do that I had to have at least four credits, which I had none. The Computer Comprehensive Program that I am currently attending at IPL will help me obtain those credits," said John Steve, 17, a student who has been in IPL for three months.

Besides having educational programs, IPL also introduces the youth to new ideas through cultural, political and artistic events in and out of the city. Teens in the program have been to Madison WI., where they attended the Hip-Hop as a Political Movement workshop, the Ruiz Valdez Cultural Center, The DuSable Museum of African American history, the Mexican Fine Arts Center, and college tours.

Unlike some programs that teens said left them feeling as if the teacher was only doing their job, IPL offers a comfortable atmosphere where students feel they are accomplishing their goals while forming friendships with mentors.

"Part of what we do is to be there for our youth. We are a support system and try to provide help in any way we can, which sometimes includes anything from taking a youth to a doctor appointment or even more personal, being a bridge between the youth and his or her family," said Samantha Spencer, a mentor at IPL.

The atmosphere and the relationships created between IPL mentors and the students have proven to be beneficial.

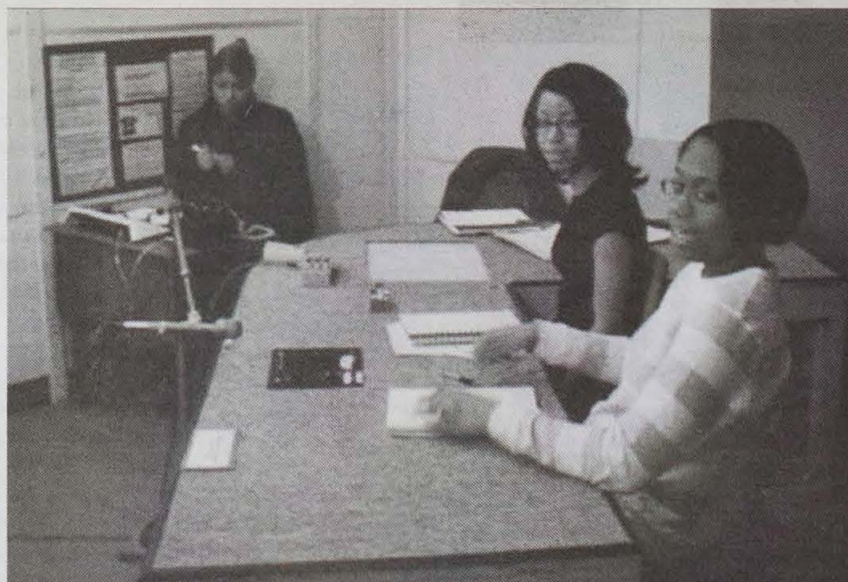
"Now I want to finish high school, and head to college, I want to study graphic design," said Jose Salgado.

Cityscapes



Photo by James Alsup

A view of Damen Avenue from the Blue Line station.



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NE
Fashion
Correspondent

Jocelyn Grove
Columbia College

Hair dyeing tips from a professional

Don't have a scare if you dye your own hair

Florida beautician gives Chicagoans tips for error-proof hair dyeing

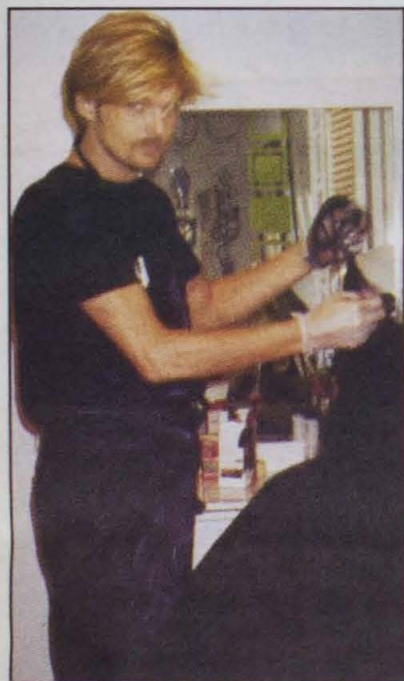


Photo by Jocelyn Grove
Florida hair expert Aaron Castillo professionally brightens dark hair. Castillo says you can achieve a pro look at home, if you are careful.

Most of us have heard the saying "change is a good thing" and for the most part that's true.

We must keep in mind that when it comes to dyeing our hair our attempt at change could cost a high price.

Aaron Castillo, a professional hair-stylist in Sunny Isles, Fla. has been in the business for more than 14 years.

After working in several salons, he began working privately from home. Castillo thinks that the new generation of hair salons are more intimate and pay closer attention to the client.

He believes that there are many things a home dyer should know before jumping into a pool of dye.

For instance, Castillo explained that if you have previously colored your hair, you can't make it lighter by dyeing it with another color. You can only make it lighter by using a lightener or bleach.

Hair colors are very different. No hair color is true. The color that you see on the box is not the color you are going to get. He advises that when choosing a color to go two shades lighter or two shades darker than the color you want.

"Some of the most common mistakes that home dyers make are not leaving the color in long enough. Process it for the recommended time; don't shorten it," Castillo said. "If you're going blond and it looks orange, don't take the dye out. It takes longer for some people, up to one hour sometimes."

"Blonds should try to get all the yellow out before rinsing," Castillo said.

Castillo also advised that if your hair is really light and you want to darken it, then be sure to choose a color with gold in it. This will prevent an ashy or smoky result.

"It won't be drab," he said.

Some other advice shared by Castillo includes using one ounce of peroxide and one ounce of shampoo on your hair if the color turns out too dark. Leave this mix on the hair for five minutes and then rinse.

This solution can also be used if the hair looks smoky or ashy, but leave it on for two minutes in this case, he said.

Castillo suggests bringing a pic

ture of the color or cut that you desire if you are going to a stylist.

"Your vision of a color is different than mine. Your vision of short is different from mine," Castillo said. "So, if you want to be pleased with the final product, a picture will help the stylist know what look you are seeking."

After finding the color that is perfect for you, maintain it by using a shampoo that is designed for colored hair.

"Also remember that if you don't have to shampoo your hair daily, don't," Castillo said.

Shampoo is an acid and acids can harm the hair.

"It's the conditioners that are important to your hair. You should run out of your conditioner two to three times faster than your shampoo," Castillo said.

So, when you are looking for that change in your look, remember hair coloring can be exciting and can add a whole new appearance.

Just take the time to find the right color and follow the tips Castillo suggested. **NE**



NE File Photo

NEQuick tips for dyeing your hair at home

~ Use the shade selector chart on the back of the box to help choose a color. First find your starting color, or the color your hair is now. Then look at the picture on the chart that shows what color you will get if you choose that shade of dye.

~ Do not look at the picture on the box and assume that you will get the same color on your hair as the color of the model's hair. The picture shows the color you will add to the color you already have. Your end result will be a blending of the dye color and your own natural color.

~ You can customize your dye color by mixing different shades, as long as they are from the same product line (brand) and only one or two shades lighter or darker than each other.

What color are you ready to try?



Bold



Subtle



Different



Dear Eyevie

By Eyevie McHenry
Prosser Career Academy

Dear Eyevie,

I am 15 years old and considering having sexual intercourse. I want to talk to my mother but I am scared of what she might say, if that makes sense. I don't want her to get mad at me or stop me from seeing my boyfriend who is 16. Do you think I should talk to her first?

Uncertain

Dear Uncertain,

You say you want to start having sex but you are afraid of what your mom might say and that she might make you stop seeing your boyfriend. But let's say, for instance, you start to sleep with your boyfriend without your mom knowing about it and then she finds out. She will feel upset, hurt, and not to mention disappointed because you never came to her and discussed the matter in the first place.

It is very important to go to your mom with this. You need to talk to her. She will help you figure out if you're even really ready to have sex. You and your boyfriend do not need to rush into this. You guys are young and you have a whole lifetime to think about intimacy in that way. More importantly, you don't have to be afraid of going to talk to your mom. I am sure she will just be glad you came to her first before you made a decision.

Dear Eyevie,

I am 16 years old and I want to get a part-time job so I can have my own money and not have to rely on my parents for money, but my folks say that I cannot get a job and that I should focus on my studies. I like the idea of making my own money. Do you think I should get a job anyway?

Busy Girl

Dear B.G.,

Well, if you get a job anyway, you will be disobeying your parents and you don't want to do that. Some teenagers who get jobs drop out of school all together because they feel as if they don't need school and need to stay focused on making money. You aren't like that, I am sure, but I just thought you ought to know I am 16 and I will admit that when I was 15, my grandfather was against me getting a job as well. He said the same thing your parents are saying and that is that he wanted me to stay focused with school work. I was upset because I really wanted to make my own money and buy things for my own self, which I'm sure, is what you want to do. Money is nice, but it isn't everything.

If your parents think that it is best for you to stay focused with school then maybe you should do just that. Or if you really have your mind set on getting a job, then talk to your parents about it again. Don't fight them over it, just make the same points that you just wrote to me. Tell them how a part-time job will be a good experience for you. Let them know that earning your own money is the best way to learn how to manage and spend it wisely. Your parents will eventually come around.

Dear Eyevie,

Do you think tongue piercings are dangerous? I really want to pierce my tongue, but I am kind of afraid.

Curious

Dear Curious,

I want to get my tongue pierced too and every time I ask someone who already has a tongue piercing about it they all say the same thing: "It doesn't hurt." I want you to know that that's some serious nonsense! You are getting a whole punched into your body, it is going to hurt.

However, as far as it being dangerous, not if you take care of it and have it done by a licensed professional. However, getting a piercing is making another opening on your body and that just means that you are giving germs another way to get inside of you.

So just like the other body openings you have, you need to keep the tongue and the tongue ring clean. I don't mean brushing your teeth. Keeping the ring clean is an important must. Also, just with piercing your ears, the holes close fast if you take the ring out for too long of a period. So make sure you are careful not to keep your tongue ring out too long. Also, when you first get the piercing, the doctor (or another type of person iwho is a professional at piercings) will tell you things to keep the tongue from getting infected. LIS-



Eyevie McHenry

TEN TO THEM! Those warnings are very important. If you have any more questions, thoughts, or concerns about tongue piercing then you should visit wywy.essortment.com/tonguepiercing_rjsl.htm for more tips on how to clean and take care of your tongue piercing if you decide to get it. NE

Got a question you want answered? write "Dear Eyevie"
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editor@newexpression.org

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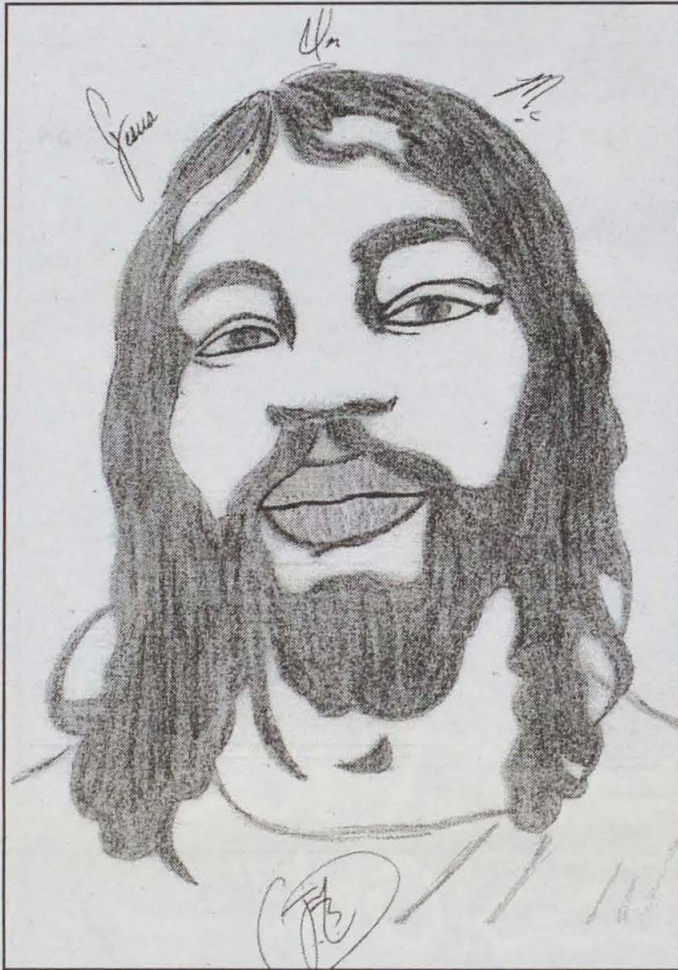


Illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

Little Son

By Krostopher Edwards
Little Black Pearl Workshop

Hah, son just try
You my son, know you can fly,
Be cool, don't never lie,
You wonder why,
God is watching no secrets from him
He sits and watched your every whim
Son you can do it I know you can
I'm trying to teach you as a little man
Life for me has never been a crystal stair
It's had tacks and crush boards - no one
ever cared
They just stared
Go the right way man, I know you're
good
Be a good boy and stay out of the hood

The Subway

By Audrey Gato

Jesus rides the subway, wooden cross and sour
breath, thorns pink his brow
Children Giggle, mothers titter, Jesus winks and
smiles
Who is that? A child wonders. A crazy man that's
who.
His crimson dress oscillates, un-pinned by the
snapping doors,
Tizzy whores are sanctified with the scent of
myrrh,
Homeless men in torn gray shirts pour sins into
empty bottles.
Jesus prays in the third subway car.
Knees callused by the rigid floor,
A decrepit woman bawls, an impious man reveals
his own hypocrisy,
The atheist slips him a dollar,
But Jesus rides the subway home,
The heavy cross now in a closet
He lays in bed, hearing the subway's call.

**Do you have a drawing, photo, or
poem you'd like to see published?**

Send it to:

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I remember

By Brian Lewis

Amidst the masses
You are one
Among the thousands and thousands
You were my queen
The darkness of your skin
Contrasted your white flowing dress
I was your king
Crowned by the creator
Claiming our celestial thrones
I wrote you poetry, of your beautiful unique-
ness
I write you poetry, of the beauty of God's pres-
ence in you
And our love is still eternal
You remember, don't you baby?



Photo by ???



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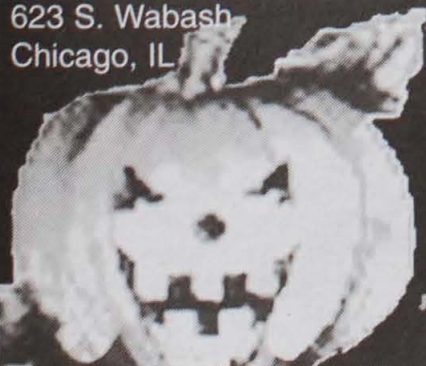
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october calendar



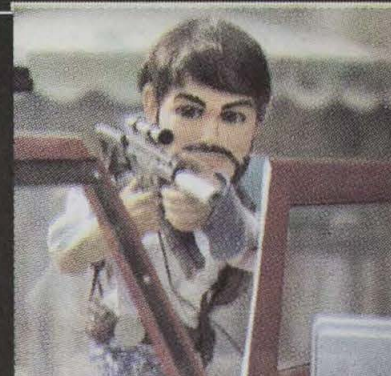
Hugh Jackman stars as the supernatural investigator and monster slayer Van Helsing, coming to DVD on October 19.

DVDs

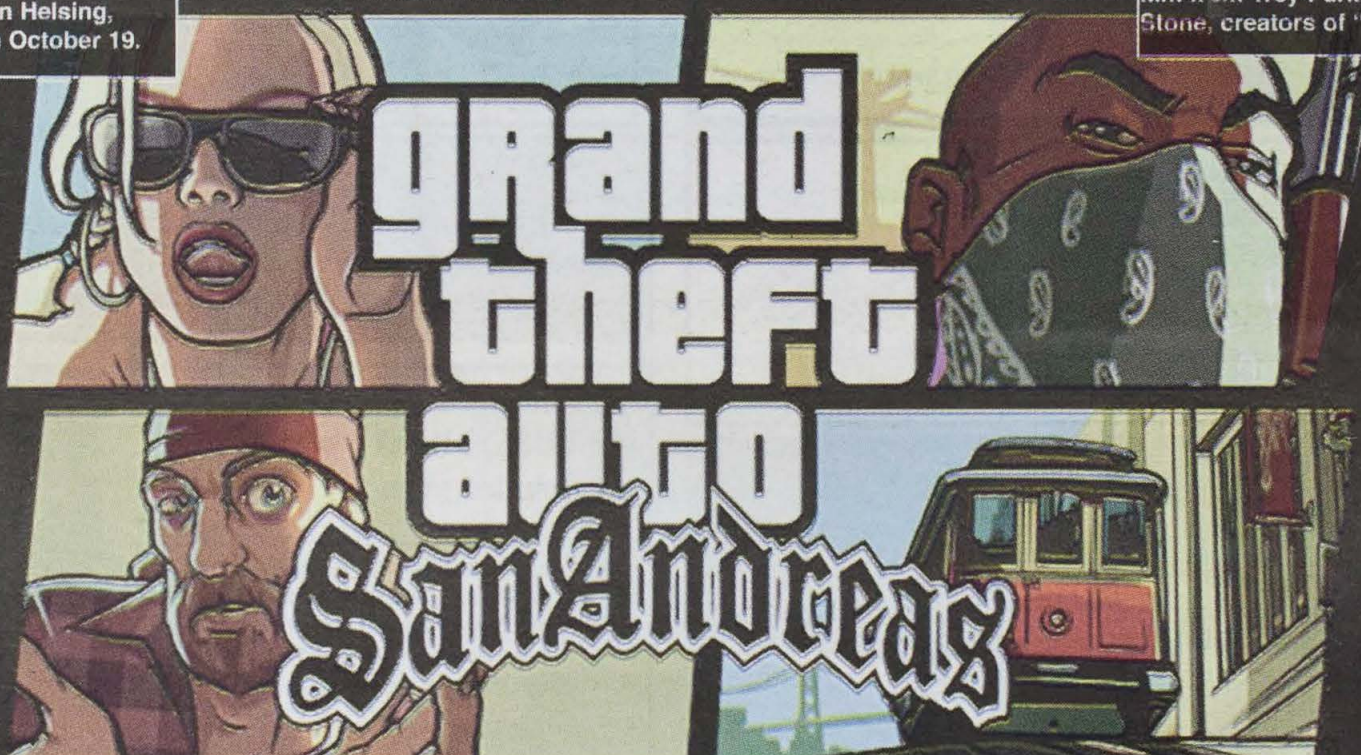
October 5
Aladdin: Special Edition
Fahrenheit 9/11
October 12
The Day After Tomorrow
Gothika: Special Edition
October 19
Cinderella Story
Godzilla Collector's Box Set
Van Helsing
October 26
White Chicks
November 2
Around the World in 80 Days
Simple Life 2

Movies

October 1
Ladder 49
Shark Tale
October 8
Friday Night Lights
Taxi
October 15
Shall We Dance
Team America: World Police
October 22
The Grudge
Surviving Christmas
October 29
Ray
Saw



Team America: World Police, in theaters October 15, is the latest film from Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of "South Park."



Featured This Month: Grand Theft Auto San Andreas

Five years ago Carl Johnson escaped from the pressures of life in Los Santos, San Andreas... a city tearing itself apart with gang trouble, drugs and corruption. Where film stars and millionaires do their best to avoid drug dealers and gangbangers.

Now, it's the early 90s. Carl's got to go home. His mother has been murdered, his family has fallen apart and his childhood friends are all heading towards disaster.

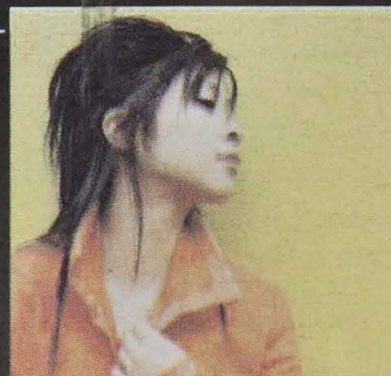
GTA: San Andreas will be at a store near you October 19.

Video Games

October 5
Leisure Suit Larry Xbox/PS2
NBA Live 2005 Xbox/GC/PS2
Galidor GC
October 12
Midway Arcade Treasures 2
Xbox/GC/PS2
FIFA Soccer 2005 Xbox/GC/PS2
Fatal Frame 2: Crimson Butterfly
Xbox
X-Men Legends Xbox/GC/PS2
October 19
ESPN NBA 2K5 Xbox/PS2
October 26
Robotech: Invasion Xbox/GC/PS2
TY the Tiger 2 Xbox/GC/PS2

Music

October 5
Fatboy Slim - Palookaville
Utada - Exodus
October 12
Sum 41 - Chuck
Ruben Studdard - (Gospel CD)
October 19
(hed) p.e. - Raise Hell
Jimmy Eat World - Futures
October 26
New Edition - One Love
Michael W. Smith - Healing Rain
Fabolous - Real Talk
November 2
LeAnn Rimes - This Woman
AFI - AFI



Japanese R&B singing star Utada Hikaru, also known as Hikki, releases her first english language CD on October 5.

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