

November 2007

## New Expression: November/December 2007 (Volume 31, Issue 6)

Columbia College Chicago

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# New Expression

nov/dec 2007  
Volume 31 Issue 6

## Commuter woes over CTA cuts continue into the New Year

Bonita Holmes  
Prosser Career Academy

A reality as harsh as the Windy City's winter weather is about to set in for Chicagoans who rely on public transit for their daily lives. From the first moment the Chicago Transit Authority brought forth the proposed fare hikes, service cuts, and layoffs, Chicago area commuters have been on the edge of their seats, fearing the worst.

The proposed plan for the fare hikes was initially scheduled to go into effect Sept 16, 2007, but at the very last minute lawmakers stepped in, postponing the plan until November 4. Advertisements appeared on every bus, el-train, or anything that would be affected by proposed plans showcasing how fed up lawmakers as well as the CTA board were with constantly patching up the situation, using band-aids to depict how a permanent solution had yet to be made.

On Nov. 2, 2007, two days prior to another alleged Doomsday, a \$27 million state bailout of mass transit saved commuters from experiencing the worst. Several public hearings were

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# mission statement

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Youth must be heard and understood. The expression and sharing of their concerns, experiences and solutions are critical to their ability to shape their present and future worlds.

**mission**

Youth Communication, publisher of New Expression, provides Chicago area youth with multi-media vehicles to voice their ideas and start their careers.

New Expression welcomes reader's comments about stories expressed in this issue and stories missed. Please send your comments on our coverage to our fax 312

922 7151 or email us at [Editor@NewExpression.org](mailto:Editor@NewExpression.org) or just give us a call at 312 922 7150 with your name and school and contact information.

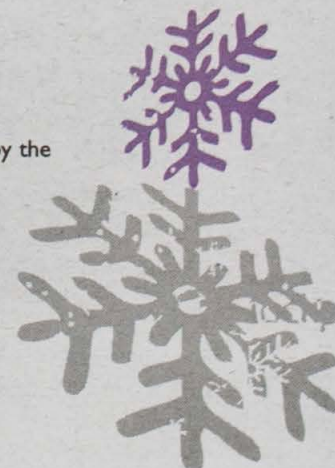
Errors & Omissions – New Expression attempts to be factual and accurate in our reporting. Please contact us if you feel any information does not meet this standard.

To open the doors to all Chicago teen voices, New Expression editors welcome all contributions from our Chicago area Youth Media Correspondents, such as those trained by North Lawndale Community News

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# news briefs

*“Three things in human life are important-The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind and the third is to be kind.” -Henry James*

**Legalization of Illegal Children**— October 25- a proposed bill failed by 8 votes in the Senate that would have allowed the children of Illegal Immigrants a path toward legality. Those would plan to attend college, join the military, or who came to the U.S. before they were 16 would be able to able for legal citizenship.

**Oregon: Known for their Prison's?**— October 24th- an Oregon man was arrested after fleeing from police across Snake River Bridge into Idaho, only to turn back because he reckoned Oregon had much better prison's than Idaho. He started fleeing by car, but stopped just over the state line and reversed back to Oregon territory. He later surrendered in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

**Lincolns Documents Found Right Next Door**— October 26- Scholars from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency have been searching the nation for documents signed by Abraham Lincoln. Unbeknownst to them, several were hanging in an office just down the street. The documents had been hanging in a vacant office of the recorder's. Luckily the windows were covered and the ink had not faded due to sun exposure. They're reported to be in excellent condition.

**Holiday Safety Suggestions**— November 21- Illinois State Police Protective Unit has issued some holiday precautions. Be aware of your surroundings. Don't allow yourself to be distracted when opening your wallet. Inform others of your destination. Anytime you leave home give it an occupied appearance. Keep an eye on paper trail that credit cards generate. Report all suspicious behavior to police by calling 9-1-1.

**Treasure in the Trash**— October 24- A New York City woman gives new meaning to “one man's trash is another's treasure” after she rescued a stolen masterpiece expected to sell for \$1 million. The painting is “Tres Personjares”(“Three People”) by Mexican Artist Ruffino Tamayo. Elizabeth Gibson, the woman who found it strewn with the day's trash, will get \$15,000 as a reward as well as an undisclosed percentage of the selling price.

**It's that Time Again**— October 24- you know Christmas can't be far away when the Macy's workers start to set up the Holiday window displays. This year will honor the 20th anniversary of the Joffrey Ballets' “The Nutcracker.” The windows will debut November 10th and stay up until the New Year.

**Nobel Winner Retires After Racial Crack**— October 26th – James Watson has retired due to pressure after a racial comment left him in the public eye. Known as the Grandfather of DNA and the man that co-discovered the double helix structure in 1962, he won the Nobel Prize and was the Chancellor of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Watson made the comment in the Sunday Times Magazine of London, stating that everyone is equal, but “people who have to deal with black employees find that this is not true.”

**Local Radio Station Relief Effort**— November 7- La Ley 107.9 FM, a Chicago-based Spanish -language radio channel has begun a campaign to raise funds to relieve the people of Tabasco, Mexico from severe rains. The rains are part of the current Hurricane Noel, known as “Mexico's Katrina.” Radio announcer El Peladillo led efforts through his show and helped organize donation centers where listeners could aid giving money and food to the cause.



**cover story**

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held at area high schools and CTA headquarters between October 30 and November 5th. According to the CTA website, "The Chicago Transit Authority Board desires public comment before it considers an ordinance to adopt the 2008 Operating Budget and Program, the 2008 Capital Program of Projects, and the Financial Plan for 2009 and 2010." Public hearings allow the general public to come out and express how they feel as well as become informed about proposed plans. Chicago area commuters and those who feel a deep concern with the current state of Chicago Transit come out and express how much the



**PHOTO by Bonita Holmes**

service cuts and fare hikes affect them. During the final public hearing November 5, Jerry Gross, a retired CTA bus driver stated, "I have been to many public hearings, and I am wishing that it could stop." He goes on to say, "...eliminating service is non-productive and even if funding comes, service is an abomination.

Bring back paper transfers."

Many physically disabled citizens expressed clearly how they felt about the elimination of the Paratransit services on which they heavily rely. High school students also came out to express how the fare hikes, and particularly service cuts, could affect their everyday commute to and

from school as well as work. Ieisha Burrows, a 17-year-old senior at Prosser Career Academy stated that the elimination of the X80 Irving Park Express would intervene drastically with her commute from work, school, and back home again.

CTA President Ron Huberman states that he anticipates that the recent bailout "would be the last of the Band-Aids." Governor Rod Blagojevich states in regards to the \$27 million bailout that "This is not a loan, this is not an advance, this is a direct authorization of funds to the CTA and RTA so that services won't be cut, so that fares won't be increased, and so that the men and women who work at the CTA and RTA won't be laid off."

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## Stabbing Incident Over Woman

*Adult charged in minor's case*

**Miriam Brabham**  
St. Scholastica Academy

In 1977, Fred Rodgers allegedly fled the scene of south suburban Homewood after Kenny Hellstrom collapsed with a stab wound in his mother's arms after his shift at a near by gas station.

After that Rodgers is reportedly said to have gone in and out of jail for the next three decades while police struggled to solve this case. During this time it is reported that Rodgers gained a history of drug and alcohol abuse. After all this time, Rodgers' travels brought him back here where he was arrested, also where he reportedly confessed to the murder of Hellstrom.

In March, when Rodgers was arrested, he confessed to killing Hellstrom because of unwanted sexual advances and taunting. In addition the two men at one point shared a girlfriend.

After confessing, Rodgers' lawyers worked to get him charged as a minor because when the crime occurred he was, but Judge Paul Stralka wanted him to be moved to adult court.

Rodgers' lawyers argued that in 1977 he would not have been transferred. But Judge Stralka ordered that Rodgers be transferred because of his drug and alcohol history.

Since juvenile court doesn't handle getting substance abuse treatment, Judge Stralka says that Rodgers needs help and is a threat to himself and the community, so he should be where he could get the care he needs.

## Real Christmas Grinches

**AuBryn Thompson**  
Beasley Academy

The Grinch isn't just a Dr. Seuss character that rides a sleigh and robs the citizens of Whoville while they sleep. Sometimes he's a comes in the form of two men riding a SUV and rob a church while the parishioners listen to Christmas mass

Daniel Morales, 26, and Dennis Almodovar, 24, both of Brooklyn, NY, were arrested for robbing the Church of St. Mel in Queens, NY. They had stolen more than \$20,000 on Christmas Day in 2006. According to Father Turczany, the pastor, he was preparing for mass when he saw a man wandering near a staircase. He asked the man what

was he doing and he replied that he was looking for a bathroom. He redirected him although he felt suspicious.

Soon a witness saw two men caring a two-foot metal cube from the church to a Lincoln Navigator. Morales reported his Lincoln Navigator stolen shortly after the robbery, according to the New York Times.

Morales was arrested in his home in one of Brooklyn's nicer neighborhoods. He was arraigned and held on \$50,000 bail. Both men were charged with third-degree burglary and could be jailed for up to seven years if convicted.

## School shooting in Finland

**Ashlie Hurt**  
Yates Elementary School

On Wednesday, November 17, 2007, a gunman opened fire at a high school in Tuusula, Finland. According to BBC News, "Pekka-Eric Auvinen opened fire in Jokela High School with his .22 calibre pistol... as students were about to start their lunch break." A teacher said that the principal

stated over the intercom for students to stay in classes. Before taking his own life, 18-year-old Pekka-Eric Auvinen shot and killed seven students and the school principal. This tragic event is expected to encourage Finland's government to address stricter gun control laws.

## Ten Years for Murder

*Rapper gets "Rapped" for jail time*

**Miriam Brabham**  
St. Scholastica Academy

Rapper Belo (Darnelle Smith) confessed to the murder of Ray Dog (Raynard Pinkston). He will be serving a ten-year sentence. Friends and family of the victim are happy with the results and feel justice was served.

The shooting occurred at 2310 S. State Street; the prosecutor's office says that the shooting was over a fight Pinkston tried to step into after being warned by Smith. Smith, who faced first-degree murder charges, opened a door for his girlfriend who tried to swing the testimonies of witness with 1,000 dollars.

Even though the sentence wasn't as harsh as it could have been, those mourning the victim are happy with the turn out.

## Born Protector Tragically Heeds Call

**AuBryn Thompson**  
Beasley Academy

The future was looking bright for Ronald Heard, 23, who was looking forward to a degree and a job promotion. But this all came to a tragic end on October 6th when he tried to rescue a lady being harassed at a White Castle restaurant on 69th and Western.

Heard and his cousin were in the drive-thru around 4 a.m. when a man approached their car trying to sell drugs. They declined and the drug dealer then went to the car of a young lady and grabbed her

through the window. Heard saw what was going on and tried to help her. He was shot five times. The gunman escaped.

Heard was the father of one-year old twins. He had just been promoted to assistant bank manager and was about to get his business degree in December, according to CBS news.

On October 15th, Rashad Johnson, 18, was charged with first-degree murder for handling the gun that killed Heard. He is being held

on \$500,000 bail. Police say he was not the shooter and are reviewing video from the restaurant and nearby police cameras for new leads.

"Ronald was mighty young man, he was a young man who had some DNA of protecting and serving those that were helpless," said James Whitesell Jr, Heard's pastor.

Heard was the son, godson and nephew of Chicago Police officers, according to Chicagotribune.com.



# Phillip Jackson Running for 26th District State Representative

**Sehara Garmon**  
Graduate of ACT Charter

Why are you running for State Representative?

Phillip Jackson is running for State Rep. because he feels there is a lack of leadership throughout the state. "People are saying, 'We want change.' I'm making that happen."

What are your responsibilities if elected?

"My responsibilities would be to introduce legislates, vote on legislates, appropriate resources and budget where money goes, and oversee state agencies such as the Department of Transportation and Human Services.

What are your three main priorities for improvement in the 26th district?

"My three main priorities I will be stressing, if elected are 1) education; "Educating is linked to economics". 2) Employment; "If you can't get a job, you can't live in good housing, have healthcare, or buy the things you want", and 3) housing; "Context for a family...70% of black children are born into single family female households." Families need to have proper places to reside in.

In everything you do there is always someone going up against you. In

this election who's running against you?

"My opponent is the inability of people who live in a district to understand they have power over their district. My opponent is whether or not I can educate black children. Those people [running for 26th District State Rep.] are not my opponents. I'm running toward something."

I know Will Burns is running for 26th District State Representative as well, in an interview he said that he has been part of his community his "entire life." Do you share the same experience he does?

Mr. Jackson is doing and has

done many things for his community and others. He is a small man with a big resume! "I have been chief of staff for Chicago Public Schools, chief of education for the City of Chicago, executive officer for the Chicago Housing Authority and assistant budget director for the City of Chicago. I also am, tenure as CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, founding board member for Hales Franciscan High School, former president of The GAP Community Organization. As well as Former board member for Covent Development Corporation, Elliott Donnelley Youth Center. Also founder and CEO of The Black Star Project, a nationally renowned nonprofit organization that helps people get some type of education (such as a GED) then provides

training so that the individual(s) are able to be employed in today's workforce with a skill they can benefit from.

Mr. Burns has Alderman Toni Preckwinkle, State Senator Kwane Raoul, as well as Alderman Leslie Hairston supporting him. Who do you have on your side?

Although many politicians have other politicians helping them out, Phillip

Jackson appears to be an outcast; "I am running as an independent democrat. If you want to find out who controls whom, find out who endorses them."

What do you think will slow down killing and eventually eliminate it?

"When talking about stopping kids from killing, simply educating

does not eliminate it. Rebuilding the family in its proper form and fashion will help in putting value and morals back into their lives."

Are there any last thoughts that you would like to give our youth before we close?

Phillip Jackson's hopeful words to the youth who read this are, " I would like to apologize to the youth today for giving them a world like this to live in. I am very disappointed in the war that is going on all over the world. I am disappointed with the healthcare and housing, with the relationships among races in this country. You should not have to live in a world like this... I want you to know that this is your world. Protect it. Build it. And then get off the planet."



PHOTO by NE Staff





# Kenny Johnson Running for 26th District State Rep.

Sehara Garmon  
ACT Charter

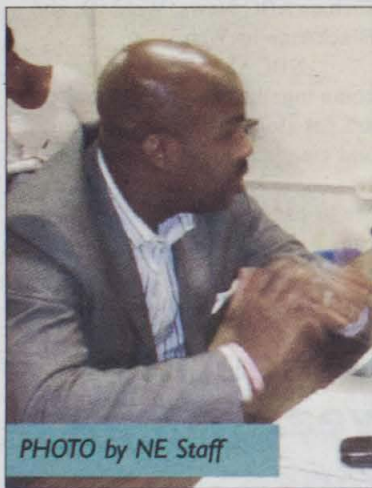


PHOTO by NE Staff

Kenny Johnson is running for 26th District State Representative for the year 2008. He's running because people want new leadership, because he's active with children and our youth today. He also says "There's nothing being done in Springfield," and he wants to do something about it. As a 26th District State Rep., his responsibilities are to handle state issues and laws such as education funding, tougher gun legislation, and also to provide more economic opportunities and jobs. His three main priorities when becoming State Rep will be first education. He wants to make sure that the school that are poor now will have as much as the wealthier schools. Second he wants to make sure that people are safe by making it harder to purchase any gun. And third is to make better job opportunities for people as well as youth.

Johnson grew up in Washington D.C. and moved to Chicago in 1995. His mother is a principal at a high school; father is captain in the Navy. He has always been in the atmosphere of

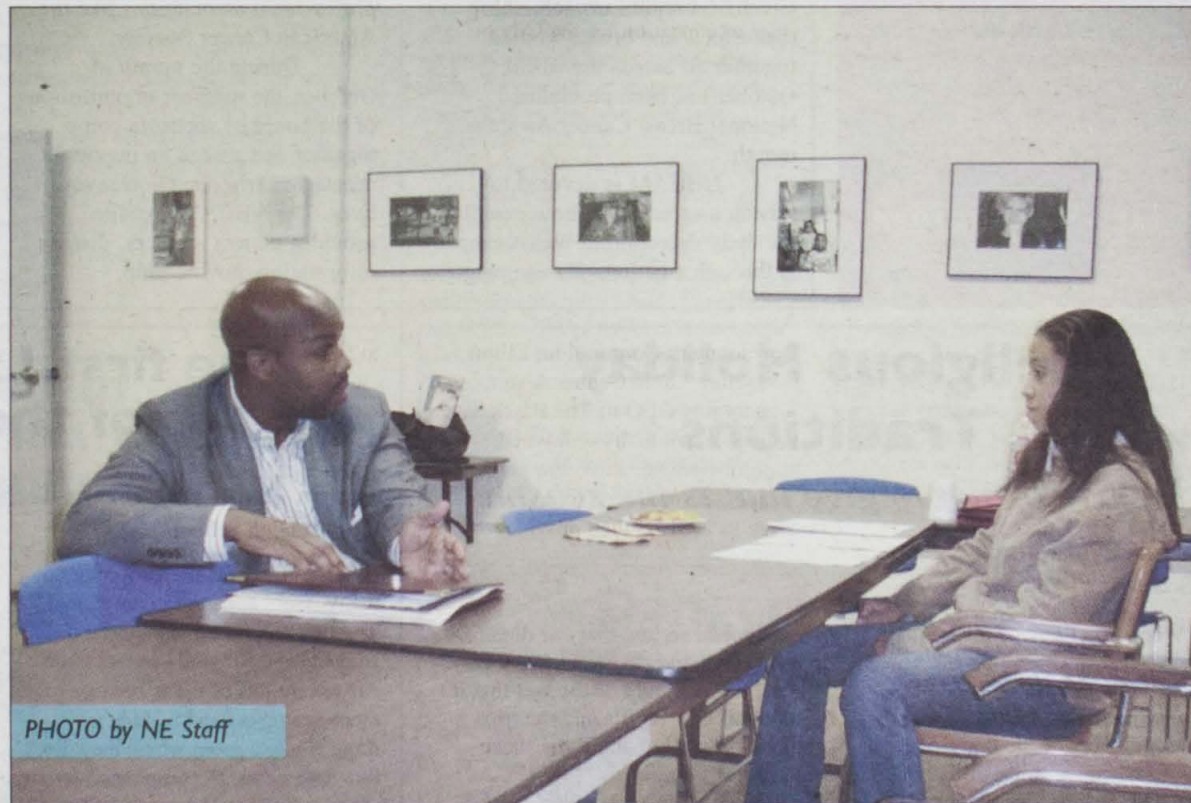


PHOTO by NE Staff

politics and has liked it. He "always tried to help and invest in African Americans and now children, and even give back to the people" as much as he can.

Johnson doesn't feel as if anyone running for 26th District State Rep. would be his biggest opponent. He's very confident in himself. He is an independent, successful man who stands up for what he believes. He wants to "Find out a way where everybody can win...I help you, you help us." He wants to be able to come together with other board members on issues that need to be settled not only in Illinois but in other cities and states as well.

Phil Jackson is also running for State Rep., and Mr. Johnson says that he admires Mr.

Phil Jackson and thinks he is a very bright man. Mr. Johnson spent three year with Jesse Jackson and then he went on to open three businesses that he owns and in all of them he helps people get somewhere and do something with their lives. In one business he hires young people, and if they don't have their high school diploma then he helps them get their GED and then send them to some type of training that they can use for future references. He is part of Rainbow Push, and he is the youngest black male on the Board of Youth.

"If we have good education then we get good jobs and can support our families. When kids don't see

opportunities they turn to fast money." This was in an answer to slow down the killing and eventually stop it. There wouldn't be any time to commit a crime if you're working or in school doing what needs to be done. "Get involved with campaigns; you'll learn a lot and might even be inspired to run for office. Start reading the papers because you can't know everything but you can be involved in many good things."

The Primary Election is February 5, 2008 and the General is on November 8, 2008. You can also get more information on how to enter the program that was mentioned earlier about jobs at JFY.org (Jobs for Youths).





*"You can be an old 30 or an extremely young 50 depending on your attitude. There's no point at which you say, 'Okay, now it's all downhill.'"*

**-Mary Steenburgen**

## Think Pink

**Bonita Holmes**

Prosser Career Academy

INCLUDEPICTURE "http://the-pragmatic-magnet.com/images/pink.jpg" \\* MERGEFORMATINET

A pink ribbon outlined with silver trim represents something that affects and brings women together all across the world. October has been proclaimed National Breast Cancer Awareness month.

NBCAM is devoted to raising awareness on how essential the early detection of breast cancer is through a nationwide campaign.

NBCAM acted as a mere week long campaign with only two founding members in 1985, and today, it has the support of many national public service organizations as well as professional associations like the American Cancer Society.

During the month of October, the member organizations of the board of sponsors come together and spread an important message: early detection saves lives. The NBCAM website provides patient services, disease information, how to help,

newsroom—an outlet for media—and how to contact NBCAM. The NBCAM website also has a section titled "Breast Cancer in the News," providing information from sources such as ABC News, WebMD, and BlackAmericaWeb.

NBCAM allows women to come together and realize that they are not alone. There are women and men who are willing to stand by your side and help you fight breast cancer the best way that you can.

## Religious Holiday Traditions

*To give or not to give that is the season*

**Miriam Brabham**

St. Scholastica Academy

When you think of the holiday season, what do you think of? The winter lights, the Nativity scenes, the wise men, and the North Star. These are many of the things we think of when we think of the Christmas season. But there are so many other people out there being celebrated at the same time. Some of these groups include the Jewish faith, the Muslim faith, and the black community. So, why is it that the main focus of the season is on Christmas? Perhaps it is the materialism that many Americans suffer from. With Christmas being one of the most well-known holidays for gift-giving, why wouldn't advertisers want to emphasize that?

"When it comes to the holiday season, many people have forgotten what it's all about." How many times have we heard that on TV, followed by a soft-spoken man announcing that it is all about warming each other's hearts with expensive gifts and making dreams come true? Have we really forgotten the meaning of the holidays? Have

we stooped so low that our dreams are of diamond rings and fancy cars? Have we lost sight of the fact that it is not about the gifts and the trips and surprises but about the sheer comfort of family?

For the Jews, Hanukah is the Festival of Lights, G-d providing his people oil to burn for eight days and eight nights. The Muslims are celebrating Eid-ul-Adha which is the celebration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son. And the black community is celebrating Kwanzaa, which celebrates the aspects of determination and the support of other black people in the community. In all of the previous groups, the mention of family and the value put into it is clear. It seems that the materialism of America has clouded the real meaning of the holidays: family. So, while you're walking down those magical streets with the lights and the advertisements, don't forget all the other religions out there with the same message during this cold decorative season: value family.

## The first LSC meeting of the year

**Jasmin Lamb and Tezeru Teshome**

Sullivan High School

The first LSC meeting covered many issues apparent in the school. The first one raised that affects students is the closed campus issue. "There are lots of fights because of the closed campus lunch... kids are trapped into a room where they don't like each other..." complained Jeremy Garcia, a senior. Yet, many LSC members beg to differ. In community rep Jill Kempson's and Mrs. Plunkett's view, closed campus lunch is not an issue because students know that fighting is unacceptable.

"Another problem we have with closed campus lunch is that the lines are too long and crazy," complained an anonymous student. Agreeing with that student was Paula, the lunch room manager: "When they come in line, they need to be more orderly and have their IDs visible... In order to do my job, the IDs must be more visible. Other than that, it's good."

In addition, students were promised nine entrees by Dr. Atria and Ms. Wolen. Yet, students receive most of the same lunch items from the previous years with the exception of a few desserts.

The second issue that was

discussed was the after-school programs that Mr. Pope and LaNisa managed which are now cut from the school. "...It hurt us that we were shown the door in our face," expressed LaNisa.

These programs gave students something positive to do once school was out instead of walking around the streets or looking for trouble. The programs took students on field-trips to Northwestern University, the theaters, provided service learning hours, etc. "Rogers Park Community programs have helped children in tremendous ways!" argued Cynthia Henson, another community rep.

However, the after-school programs Mr. Pope and LaNisa managed were not the only ones cut from the school. "Four agencies were turned down last year. And this year seven agencies were turned down as well," explained Dr. Atria. Yet, unlike most of those agencies, Mr. Pope's and LaNisa's after school programs have been at Sullivan longer and "as a community we thought we had a partnership..." complained Mr. Pope. But evidently, a partnership never existed.





## Ms. Please

Miriam Brabham  
St. Scholastica Academy

For as long as time, women have been fighting for simple rights. And until 1971, women had several different titles so that their exact status was known. These titles were very invasive and did not apply to men who have the universal Mr., which tells nothing about their marital, age, or any other status. Women found it degrading to always have to be referred to by one of the many titles available to describe their status.

When the issue was first aroused, it was by the feminist movement who were demanding change and equal treatment. As the dust settled from the feminist movement and their trailblazing, many people found themselves going back to the old ways

so as not to stir anything up from the feminist movement. But there were still women who were not feminists who wanted to have the anonymity of being called by one universal Ms.

The title has many advantages, such as not knowing how old a woman is, if she is married or not, or if she has been divorced. These are great advantages because they provide women with a head start. In the work world, women are at a disadvantage already and having anonymity will help get them a little further ahead. Ms. is also a form of respect; by not inquiring her status, a woman will be provided more opportunities and respect.

## Fur free fun Annual event marches to change minds

Sahar Salameh  
Lane Tech High School

Every year, Chicago's very own Animal Defense League, or ADL, sets up their Fur Free Friday March the day after Thanksgiving in the heart of downtown. On November 23, 2007, over 70 protestors chanted and carried their posters with abused animals to show Chicagoans exactly what is on their backs. We marched in front of stores such as Nordstrom's, Burberry, Macy's, and the newly added Chicago Fur Factory. As we all screamed, "50 dead animals for one fur coat!" passionately, a passerby shopper boasted loudly about how his gloves were made out of deerskin and how he enjoyed them immensely. Another few men yelled at us "Get a life," and the response given from one of the protestors was "Is getting a life going home and watching television?" There were many instances like this where shoppers shook their heads with great disrespect and closed minds toward our crowd.

The Chicago Fur Factory was the main target. Every Saturday at noon from now on, protestors will visit the Chicago Fur Factory until they shut their business down. It seems like a stretch, but it is possible, seeing as one fur market closed after a year of anti-fur protestors, and they had been in

business for 111 years. Many people are discouraged with the thought of protesting, seeing it as pointless or ignorant.

The protest ended with a great speech given across the street from the Water Tower. There was vegan food and items such as gloves and hats passed out for warmth. Afterwards, there was a get-together at a park nearby on Lake Shore Drive, with a vegan grill and soy-dairy ice cream contests.

Having this march exist opens an unbelievable amount of eyes, including those of the protestors. I went to this protest as a vegan, as an animal rights believer, and more importantly, as a human. Leaving the protest, I felt stronger, more passionate, and inspired to make at least one pair of eyes open every day, whether it is a conversation with a woman wearing a fur coat on the Blue Line, or with a passerby eating a hamburger from McDonald's. Save the animals. Empty the cages. Think humane.

For more information on ADL Chicago you can visit their website at: <http://chicago.animaldefense.info> or their MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/adlchicago>

## What motivated him to follow through?

Stive Rodriguez  
Sullivan High School

"I'm tired! It's been too many years, too many lives," said 55-year-old Cesar Izquierdo. Ten years ago, the 24th District Meetings were not available to the Spanish-speaking community. It took a determined man who had the personal integrity to stand up for his community. Cesar used to attend the district meeting along with his brother-in-law who could not comprehend English to his fullest capacity. During the meetings, Cesar used to translate to his brother-in-law and got comments like, "Hey you! Get that out of here!" As a result, Cesar went up to the commander in the police department, Thomas Burn, to discuss the idea of having the meetings available to the Spanish-speaking community as well.

Now, meetings take place during the second Wednesday of the month, every month. At these meetings, the residents that attend get to express their concerns to the cops, Cesar

Izquierdo and Mayra Gomez, another very helpful resource at the police department. Topics such as theft, abandoned buildings, gangs, sexual assaults, and street fights were discussed that night. The concerned residents that attend these meeting not only get to talk about their community's concerns, but they also get informed about the safest and most efficient ways to protect themselves and their families.

Attendance at the meetings varies and is of great concern to Cesar. "We try to inform the people. But does the community show up? No! What more can I do?" said Cesar. Maria Gomez and the 24th District cops keep all that is said confidential. No residents are put in the spotlight. Each resident comes with as much as they know to inform the community. Cesar says, "I would like to continue these meetings. All I ask is for the community to cooperate."

## Danger! Danger! A Teenager is Driving!

Ricardo Albarran  
Bogan High School

When most teenager turns 16, they're excited about the fact that they will have the opportunity to receive a single sheet of paper that will give them the freedom that they've longed for—a driving permit. As my driver's education teacher was handing me my permit, an overwhelming feeling took over me. I was finally able to go wherever I wanted go and do whatever I wanted to do.

As teens begin driving on the busy streets, they can be a hazard to current motorists. A teen has a greater chance of getting into a traffic accident than a seasoned driver. Nearly half of the teenagers, who die prematurely in the United States, do so as a result of vehicle crashes, according to Road & Travel Magazine. Teens involved in these car accidents, are inexperienced behind the wheel or could have been distracted while driving.

In order to prevent teen car accidents, teenagers should spend more time in the driver's education program

and more time practicing with a certified driver on the road. This extra time will allow for the inexperienced driver to get comfortable behind the wheel in many different driving situations and acquire further knowledge of the Rules of the Road.

"Whenever most teenagers are behind the wheel, they are more preoccupied with text messaging, eating or another distraction, instead of fully paying attention to the road," said Stephanie Cortez, a senior at Bogan High School.

As a teen driving, I myself have come close to a car accident because I was distracted by my cell phone while driving. I wondered what would have happen if I had crashed and who could have been injured or possibly killed. After that incident, I learned to pay full attention while driving.

Teens need to become aware of the dangers and distractions all around them on the road. This will help lead to fewer teen accidents and deaths.



# Empathy in the court

*The Feminist Club*

*U of C Laboratory High Schools*

**Mayadet Patitucci**

Ill. Caucus for Adolescent

Empathy: the ability to step outside of yourself and into another's situation; to take on their shoes and eyes. When the Feminist Club from the University of Chicago Laboratory High Schools first met to discuss the new Parental Notification Law recently raised by Attorney General Lisa Madigan, we agreed that empathy was the primary force lacking in the federal court. The law was first passed in 1995, but not proposed for full implementation until now. It would require a young woman to notify her parent or guardian 48 hours before obtaining an abortion. Many of us in the club are minors, so this law strikes close to home. It takes a fundamental and deeply personal decision, once again, out of a woman's hands.

This law is unnecessary and formed on the false assumption that all families work the same way. Over half of the young women who do not involve a parent in making this decision cite fear of abuse or eviction as their main reason for not doing so. Although the law would allow a judicial bypass overruling parental rejection, how many women who have been raped or abused by their parents would be willing to stand up in front of a courtroom of strangers and admit to wanting an abortion? If she would be willing, are we the type of society that would then force her to do so?

This law seems especially unnecessary considering that statistically, most young people already talk to a parent or trusted adult while deciding. 74% of 15 year-old women report that at least one of their parents knew of their

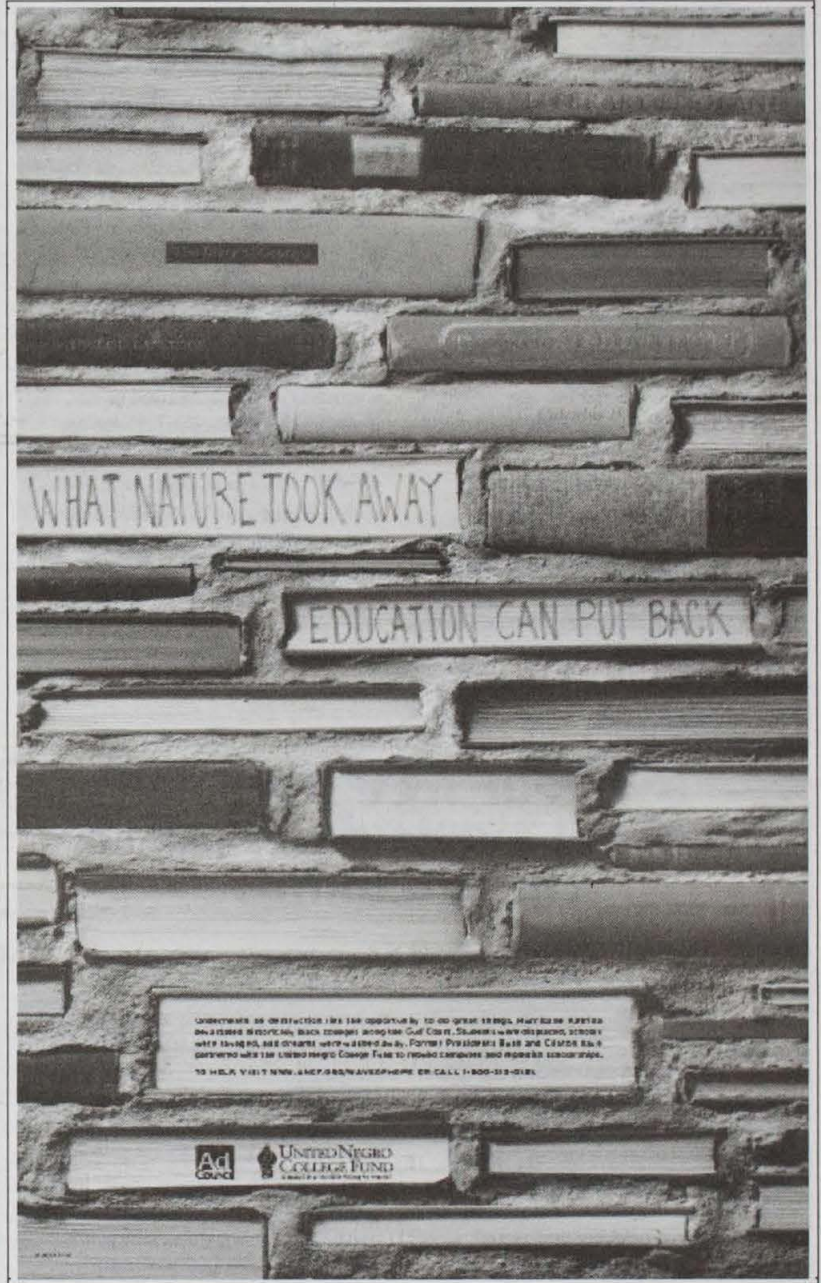
decision and with 14 year-olds, this percentage increases to 90%. After all, a young woman doesn't have to go before a court to make the decision to have sex in the first place, why should she be kept from making the follow-up choice with the consequences? This is an example of why comprehensive sex education is so important in schools, in order to stop minors from having to make this difficult decision in the first place.

Several months ago, a few members of our club attended a speak-out on the Parental Notification Law sponsored by the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health. Youth on both sides of the issue shared their own personal life stories in which they had and didn't have children. Some said their parents were instrumental in helping them make their decision. Others said that if their parents had known, they would have stopped them from carrying through with their plans.

We spoke to one girl who chose to remain anonymous. She has a baby, but said she had considered having an abortion. She said that at the time when she was making this choice, her best friend committed suicide rather than admit to anyone that she had been raped and had become pregnant. We asked this girl "What is the one thing that would have helped you in making your decision?"

She replied, "If my friend had been there."

In the end, trust cannot be mandated, and each of us—no matter our age—deserves the right and respect to decide individually, what is best for ourselves.—



## Hanukkah

**Aquantee Hendricks**

Olive – Harvey Middle College

Hanukkah is a holiday celebrated by people of Jewish decent. It is celebrated on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar. Hanukkah is December 4, 2007- December 12, 2007.

This is a holiday, which was started around 165 B.C.E. It commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Judah McCabe won the battle over Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria; he outlawed the practice of Jewish rituals and forced the Jews to worship

Greek gods.

After the battle, the Jewish people wanted to celebrate but there was only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. The oil ended up lasting for eight days and that allowed the people to find more oil to keep the menorah or Hanukiyah lit that is why traditionally a menorah is lit everyday for the eight days of Hanukkah. Another tradition of Hanukkah is potato pancakes, the deride, and Sufganiyot which is a jelly filled donut.



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## Senior Class Elections Cancelled?

**Christian Cummings**  
Collins High School

Faculty sponsors for Collins High School senior student council are enforcing new criteria for the upcoming elections. Student candidates running for senior council must prepare for another campaign. Candidates for senior class president, Jasmine Dakers, Jerlinda Gray, Ronnesha Wilson and this reporter Christian Cummings are eager to move on to the actual business of perfecting our last year of high school at Collins.

Senior council sponsor, Ms. Johnson is adhering to the new criteria for student candidates recently initiated by Dr. Griffin, the second of four senior class sponsors. Ms. Kania and Mr. Dudley (a new

recruit) are the other two teacher-sponsors. Prior to the appearance of these recent rules, when asked if there other criteria's for student candidates, Ms Johnson said, "No, but all candidates are expected to have regular attendance, must be respectful and not a disciplinary problem."

Sponsors have cancelled elections repeatedly, and here we are in the latter half of the semester still without a senior student council. Why weren't the criteria established before the elections? What's wrong with the criteria from last year's elections?

A faculty memo sent to student

candidates canceling the most recent election date also promises to schedule a hearing to address candidates' concerns and questions; that meeting has yet to take place.

Student candidates must now be re-qualified, and re-post their campaign posters and submit written speeches for approval by the faculty sponsors. Speeches will then be scheduled to be presented to the student voters.

Ms. Johnson shattered the hopes of student who want to be involved with senior student council when she said, "Our mission is to represent and support the interest and academic goals of the class of 2008."

## Lunch-time with UIC

**Chom Pasidparchya and Navarris Harvey**  
Sullivan High School

"Seniors are confused," said Freddy Estrada, an admissions representative for the University of Illinois at Chicago on Monday, November 5. "It's a very complex question," he replied when asked about UIC requirements for admission.

"UIC looks at two major things, GPA and ACT." Requirements work on a balancing scale: if your GPA is low, your ACT score has to compensate for its lack and vice versa. This means if a student has a GPA of 2.9, which is considered low, then their ACT score must be in the range of 20 and above to balance out their academic standing. UIC also looks at the courses a student has taken over the years of high school. Freddy also mentioned that the biggest mistake a senior could make is taking all of what are considered "easy courses."

UIC also requires letters of recommendation that are "academically related." The application deadline for 2008 is January 15. Percentage of admission is different each year. In addition, UIC offers many different scholarships including financial aids, loans, grants, and many general scholarships. All you need to do is research for it and ask questions. "There is money out there; go get it!"

## Stars of Tomorrow

**Ijanekia Dunning**  
Thomas Kelly High School

In the Lawndale community on the west side of Chicago, you see too many teens on the street corners, wasting their lives away. As a society, we can't blame them for their actions: maybe all they know how to do is to survive in the "hood." If they could only realize that there is more to life than what they're doing now.

That is where Sajad Hussaine's--or, Mr. Sid's--career program comes in. These two programs were meant to teach you to start looking outside the box, and to help you realize that the world you're living in goes far beyond what the eye can see. Sid's program not only provides the steps to becoming successful in the real world, they give teens a whole new perspective on life.

The TAP (Test of Achievement and Proficiency) career program gave them a chance to learn something new,

and realize how much the history of TAP relates to the modern world. The career program taught basic life skills and steps to securing employment by acting, dressing and thinking in a professional manner. Over seventy teens were given the opportunity to spend their summer with people of different statuses and careers such as doctors, lawyers, writers and bankers.

These teens took a chance at learning something new to meet such educated and successful people. I can say for myself, since I was one of seventy teens to work with Sid, that this experience was more of a life-changing decision than a sacrifice. Sid and several other friendly co-workers showed patience and actually cared about us being off the streets and inside a safe environment, such as the Better Boys Foundation.

The BBF is a family service

program that provides tutoring, academic and career guidance, cultural enrichment, social skills, arts and entertainment and counseling crisis intervention. It originated back in 1961 when Joseph Kellman wanted a facility that kept boys off the streets, so he decided to create a boxing center called the Better Boys Foundation, which is now co-ed, with 70% of the participants being female. (Who knew such a facility would prosper so much within forty-six years and strive for even more achievement in the future?)

Overall, I can personally say that working with BBF was well worth my time, and the new experience gave me higher expectations of myself and for the outcome of my life.

To contact: BBF, call (312)-277-9582. They are located at 1512 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago IL, 60623.





## Dress codes violate students' rights

**Stephanie Davis**  
Morgan Park High School

"It's a fashion that started in prison." (Verrinder, Matthew. Pull 'em up: Cities started saggy pants crackdowns. Chicago Sun-Times). An Indianapolis judge dismissed a case of school uniforms. The defendants and jury say that the dismissal is a violation of the state's guarantees. The guarantee justifies a free education and the students' rights to free expression. Some parents took this case to a district court and the case was closed because it did not deal with state laws.

According to USA TODAY, Laura and Scott Bell are parents of five children in Indianapolis schools. They stated that their children have the right to dress however they feel is appropriate according to their personalities. The parents should also decide how their children should be

taught.

Judge John D. Tinder (Chicago Sun-Times August 8, 2007) made a statement against the parent's argument stating, "A parent decides whether to send their children to a public school, [a parent does] not have fundamental rights to direct how public school [teachers teach]...their children." This is an unjustified statement seeing as how parents should have an input in what knowledge their child is exposed to.

Uniforms are also out of the Bell family's budget. USA TODAY states that the parents would need to buy five sets of uniforms for the price of \$641 required by the policy.

Additional Contribution by  
Shehara Garmon, ACT Charter School.

## "What's good in the community?"

**LaSaundra Carter**  
Columbia College Chicago

Delece Williams an Englewood native, Columbia College Alumni has contributed a great deal to the community. Delece is the founder and producer of "Kidz Korna" an organization developed to help children that are physically and mentally abused. Kidz Korna started in 1995 and was originally a local children's talk show with skit formation to help children cope with their realities of being underprivileged.

The Television show airs in Romania and this was inspired by other children. Every Saturday at 2PM on channel 36. Kids Korna also have peer work shops, Champagnes, hands on training and the music department which is coordinated at by Delece's husband Farley "Jack master funk" these work shops help build self esteem and help develop leadership skills.

In a recent interview with Delece Williams Former beauty pageant winner

States "I wanted to help underprivileged children out and let them know they can be better than what they see in this community." "Nothing is too hard, nothing is impossible."

I understand you've had starring roles in Oprah Winfrey's there are

no children here and Brewster's Place, You were also appeared as a contestant on the Grand Prize game show Bozo's. To be in front of the camera acting is so many people's dream what steered you away from that. Delece replied I wanted to have more control over what I do. I wanted to do something that would be more meaningful. I wanted to give back to my community.

This non-for profit organization has had many prominent leaders and professionals reach out to support them such as The Chicago Bulls, Donnie McClurkin, Tye Tribbett, Michelle Williams of "Destiny's Child" (Fe-Fe), Dorothy Brown clerk of circuit court, Mayor Richard Daley, Bishop Daley D. Trotter, Senator James Meek, state legislative Former republican House representative Jerry Washington and many more.

The renowned Delece Williams has taken all the tools she's learned from Television and has put together this amazing organization. Kids Korna is located 8100 S. Western and accepts children ages 5-17 years of age for more information visit [HYPERLINK](http://www.Kidzkorna.com) "http://www.Kidzkorna.com" www.Kidzkorna.com or call 773-957-6422.

## Jordan Still Inspiring Youth

### New Expression Staff

"Success is not just being on TV doing commercials. It's being able to do what your dreams have always been." Michael Jordan told a group of awestruck students from Hales Franciscan High School December 3rd, according to the Sun Times. Throughout the meeting Jordan preached striving for academic goals, not necessarily athletic ones.

"Some of these guys may not be able to play the game of basketball professionally, but they're going to be successful."

Jordan had just pledged \$5 million for the historically African-American all-boys school, helping officials raise \$9 million so far toward their \$15 million project to rebuild and renovate the facility at 4930 S. Cottage Grove, the Sun

Times reported.

Jordan sat with the boys at breakfast and listened to stories of success. Like LeeAnder Alexander, who overcame his shy introverted personality to become a confident, aspiring computer scientist. Jordan said he felt "great pleasure that I've committed myself and my time and my money" to Hales and their boys. Little did Jordan know that

Alexander reverted to his old quiet, self when sitting next to his idol at the table. "I wanted to [ask him for his autograph]. But I kept it professional," Alexander admitted.

But it was Clayton Wilson, 17, who summed up the whole day best. "I always saw him as superhuman. Sitting next to him, I realized that he's human too."



## Dear Freshmen

**Miata Phelan**  
Sullivan High School

"These past four years at Sullivan High School has changed my life drastically," says 17-year-old Markesia Taylor, a Senior at Sullivan. She continues, "departure came and went so quick; just yesterday, I was sneaking outside for lunch, at least that's how it seems."

Here at Sullivan, we start off with so many Freshmen and end up with very few seniors. This year we have taken away the off-campus lunch, which has been a big help; the attendance and focus inside the school has been better. As a Senior, you see firsthand the change since Fall 2004. The principal has done a good job on bettering the school. Jeremy G.; a 17-year-old Senior at Sullivan, regrets not getting along

with his teachers. Now he has a hard time finding someone to write a letter of recommendation for college. Getting kicked out of class could cause problems for his future.

Last but not least, 16-year-old Althea Adejude goes to say she regrets not taking Freshman year seriously; here it is her junior year, and she is still making up classes from her Freshman year. Jasmin Lamb, an 18-year-old Senior, has been through a lot. She has gone to summer school and Saturday school just to graduate on time. She says it's much harder when you mess up. She wants the Freshmen to take everything seriously, and no matter what, stay focused.

## "It pays to be a Geek"

**NE Staff Writer**

Milt Hayes, chairman of the Corporate Advisory Council, for the Chicago chapter of Black Data Processing Associates; want to deliver technical and professional skills to high school students, as well as the community at large. Recently, he launched an independent, multimedia web site to highlight opportunities for African-American IT professionals both locally and nationwide. Hayes says, "One of my passions is to help students move from the

classroom to the boardroom." For more information, you can visit **HYPERLINK** "http://www.blacksgonegeek.org" www.blacksgonegeek.org, where you can find updated blog postings, podcasts, videos and different media links.

Source: Brad Spurrison  
**HYPERLINK**  
"mailto:brad@midwestbusiness.com" brad@midwestbusiness.com

## Media Release



### The **KeyPad Kid** comic strip

will start this **Sunday, November 25, 2007**

at **www.gocomics.com/compu-toon**

The **KeyPad Kid** is a charming and witty keypad that's constantly on the front line in the fight against digital illiteracy and other challenges that it brings.



## I Thought It Was Over But I See It's Not!

Christin Willis

Perspective Calumet Charter School

As many of you know, discrimination still exists in many ways, not just with color. Now individuals discriminate against others people's sexual preference as well.

Discrimination exists in schools, stores, companies, and some religious organizations. Example; An African American male walks into a prestigious law firm to fill out an application; he has cornrows in his hair and he is wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and a baseball cap turned to the side. The law firm may think the man is a thug. There should not be any questions about what the man looks like, but instead it should be about what this man can do, how well can he work, and can he make the law firm better.

I do not necessarily agree with homosexual lifestyles. But, I believe people have the right to make their own decisions to choose how they live their lives. Harvey Milk High School in New York, is a school for students who are transgender, bisexual, gay and lesbian. This is an environment where these students can come to know they're safe and not alone.

People face discrimination everywhere. Some of you might say, "Why don't we take a stand?" We have taken too many stands. Our government and society know what African Americans and Latinos in particular go through. Discrimination is not dead; it's still alive.

## Tis the season to be jolly

Deontae Moore

Urban Prep

"You must be good this year for Santa Clause to give you loads of presents." That's the old warning parents use to tell their kids making them believe they're not getting presents if their behavior wasn't up to par. Is it that when we're jolly we get gifts? Not typically, my mother explained to me. "It depends on how much the parents make," she continues, "they're going to get gifts regardless, so it doesn't depend on behavior."

That argument can be countered in two different scenarios. One: when you have a child who is ignorant and constantly in trouble, this person knows that they have to get their act together to receive presents on the 25th of December. Second: when someone is struggling with grades they know that they must bring them up in order for them to get a good gift on Christmas.

Behavior changes towards the holidays, "Behavior doesn't always slightly change in any case, it just improves for a period of time," explains 16-year-old James Brisbon. He knows that when he's good around the house, he'll be given good gifts on Christmas. He also knows that when he has the acceptable grades, he will get good gifts. "It is what it is," he states.

## Defining Beauty "Love Your Body Day"

Elizabeth López

Walter Payton College Prep

October 18 was the annual, "Love Your Body Day" (LYBD) established 10 years ago by the National Organization for Women (NOW) "for promoting healthy body images for women and girls... to be in control of what makes them feel healthy and comfortable with their bodies, on their own terms and not based on unrealistic images promoted by advertisers and the mass media." According to NOW Foundation President Kim Gandy in the "Celebrate Love Your Body Day's 10 Year Anniversary" newsletter, "Is it any wonder that 80% of U.S. women are dissatisfied with their appearance? The NOW foundation is committed to empowering women to say "Enough is enough!"

When I found out about this day, I promised myself I would prominently display some sort of "Love Your Body" sign upon myself and not think of myself in terms of betterment or unattractiveness. Reading about the cause made me think about the degree to which many women, and even the majority of my own friends, see themselves as unattractive. Regardless of the truth, a constant focus on flaws and what social standards have taught them is that they should be defined as acceptably beautiful as opposed to the true and flexible reality of beauty.

If you believe the women I see every day, they're "fat, curve-less, boring, unattractive" or simply "ugly!" Ironically, of course, they are the most

beautiful women. I don't say this as a friend but as a genuine observer.

Each one sees only what they believe, every little flaw, existent or not. All they see is fat, ugly, etc., when what they should see is what everyone else does see: they are gorgeous, beautiful, and amazing.

How can we convince them otherwise if they can't see it themselves? We scream at the initiator, throwing fries at her or threatening physical harm (never delivered) when they repeat those idiotic statements about being hideous. Each of them easily decries her own beauty; not one sees herself clearly.

We all say we're fat, and then say it's okay. We all know we're revolting, but repeat that we've accepted it, laughing but bothered on specific occasions. We all believe we're crazy, boring, psycho, and generally too complex to be attractive. We live with the knowledge of our lack of beauty, but in reality, we're the most beautiful, the "cream of the crop."

It isn't a problem necessarily limited to any group of women, or women at all. It is, however, a problem that affects women the most, especially adolescent women. National Love Your Body Day was created to address these issues in all women and attempt to end them, because every woman should see herself clearly and be able to identify beauty not only in others but within herself. As one young woman put it, "Every woman deserves to feel beautiful, regardless of anything else. Every woman should see herself positively, as she is. Everyone should know that regardless of 'what could be better,' what is there is defined by the beholder, and the way in which you see and carry yourself—the things that you do—have more to do with beauty and talent than anything others can see, anything society can define or limit." In other words, you define yourself. You're as comfortable with your being as you allow yourself to be. You're beautiful, period. LYBD is only working for women to see this, for women to be empowered to construct and live by their own definition of beauty and comfort.

## Discrimination and Applicants

Brittany A. Cannon

Olive -Harvey Middle College

Employers discriminate against potential employees with tattoos or piercings. There has always been a misconception about people with tattoos.

When most people see tattoos and piercings on the body they assume the worst. They figure that the person could be a fighter, sailor, biker, rapper or an overall bad person. What people don't know is that some tattoos and piercings have a religious or tribal background. For example, African and Native

American people use tattoos and piercings to honor their heritage. Also, people get tattoos and piercings to show sentimental value and to express their virtues in life. Adkins Jones, a student at Columbia College, chose to have a labret piercing because, "...all the cool kids were doing it."

Most of the people I associate with have tattoos and piercings. Having a tattoo myself, I personally have been turned away from jobs and looked down upon because of how I look, and I'm not

alone.

On one of my job applications, there was no specified dress code, and the discrimination I faced was completely uncalled for. When my friends and I went to our job interviews and were turned away because of the tattoos and piercings we had, we felt our rights were being violated. We feel that our tattoos and piercings have no impact on our job performance, and employers shouldn't have a problem with them.



## Being Thankful Once Again

**Deontae Moore**  
Urban Prep

It is important to know why we give thanks every year. Thanksgiving is a time where you gather family members and you are thankful for all you've had each year. Before the meal, every single family member thanks God for what he has given to us for this year. But why do we celebrate Thanksgiving? Why is it important that we unite our families to give thanks?

If you look at some of the history of why Thanksgiving is celebrated, you will discover the true meaning of the day. In 1623, Indians gathered for the Plymouth

Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This proclaimed the start of Thanksgiving. Families gathered around and gave thanks to almighty God and this celebration continued every end of November.

Today, we continue the tradition by cooking several dinners and gathering families for thanks. Thanksgiving isn't just the start of the holidays; it is a time for reconciling. Thanksgiving is important because we want to give thanks towards our blessings. So give thanks and happy holidays!

## Our Youth's Greed: What Do You Want For Christmas

**Deontae Moore**  
Urban Prep

It's that time of year again. Get ready for the loads of Christmas list. There are a lot of things this year that parents should get their children. Today teenagers want the hottest trends, and the gotta-haves, which include the updates technology. Interest is are growing bigger and some feel that they should have what they want as soon as possible.

Who is responsible for why we want so much every Christmas? Advertisers; Ads are being seen almost 3,000 times a day and all most of these ads contain material of shopping. Thanks to advertisers, we step out of reality life and within the

ad. Advertisers play a huge role to every year's Christmas "gift giving."

James Brisbon, 16, says that he wants some "timbs, air force ones, Jordan's and some clothes." He thinks that Christmas should be a time to "enjoy yourself." It was interesting to hear that he and his family are not into the Christmas spirit.

So what do people want this Christmas? Why do we always want something for Christmas? Would it be right to not receive anything for Christmas? How do we satisfy our youth this Christmas?



## Did You Wash Your Hands?

**Luis H. Villalobos**  
Bogan High School

What is the one place you would expect to be germ free? That's right, it's the hospital. The hospital is supposed to be free of anything that could contaminate any of the instruments used on patients. There's really no excuse for dirty hands, but in many hospitals, that doesn't seem to be the case. MRSA, or the "superbug", is being spread in hospitals across America. Patients are getting the "superbug" and many other infections because medical personnel, even doctors, are not washing their hands.

When someone becomes a doctor, they are taking the responsibility upon

themselves to keep patients healthy. If medical personnel are not washing their hands in an environment where everything's supposed to be germ-free, they're not keeping up with that responsibility. A health care worker's hands can have up to 4.6 million types of bacteria. With numbers like this, especially in a hospital, it is very important that the doctors, nurses, and any other staff member there wash their hands. Hospital staff should wash their hands before and after coming into contact with a patient. According to the Center for Disease Control, studies show that they're only washing their hands about half the

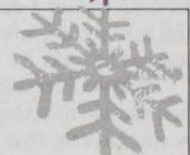
time.

Some hospitals are providing incentives for their workers to remember to wash their hands. In 1847, a researcher demonstrated the necessity of clean hands. Women in a Vienna hospital were dying at an alarming rate because doctors were delivering babies immediately after performing autopsies. After doctors began decontaminating their hands with a chlorine solution, the death rate declined dramatically.

Studies have shown why people who work at hospitals fail to comply with hand hygiene. Some of the soaps used my cause irritation and dryness in

the hands of the user. Some staff believe they are too busy to wash their hands. Others doubt the necessity of hand hygiene and believe that the problem is resolved by wearing gloves. These have proven not be acceptable excuses for not washing hands. For example, the use of alcohol-based gels is faster than water and soap and is gentler on skin. Gels do a much greater job killing bacteria.

There really is no excuse for dirty hands. The next time you go and see your doctor, ask that he or she clean their hands before treating you. That is a good way of protecting yourself from further possible infection.



## Christmas

*The most wonderful time of the year (for some)*

**Edward Ward**  
Excel Academy

As I walked the streets of downtown Chicago, I was aware of a homeless man on his hands and knees begging for a few cents. I thought that he was actually kneeling to the footsteps of every man. While on his hands and knees, he was ignored.

While the man remained on his hands and knees I went into my pocket and gave him my last dollar. What I am trying to say is that every dollar counts. If we just give one dollar more to the homeless, then they will have a place to go not just for

Christmas, but for the time being of living on the streets. Because we sit at home with our families and enjoy the holidays, while they are out on the streets. Poverty in Chicago needs to be solved because it is one of the reasons most people steal what they

need and take what they want. Because they cannot afford it and yet people still look at them and turn their heads the other way. In order to stop the stealing in Chicago we must first end poverty.



## Women's Economic Empowerment Where the buck starts and stops for women in today's globalism

**Lasundra Carter**  
Columbia College

Women have come a long way since the 1940's. Have we come far enough? At the annual one day conference sponsored by Truman College and the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC), Olga Vives, executive vice president of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W) spoke on the cross cultural dialogue on the economic status of women.

Vives explained how women still make less than men in the same positions, and also talked about how women are viewed as having specific roles such as nursing positions and secretary positions.

"When you go to the grocery store, a loaf of bread costs one dollar for a woman and a loaf of bread costs a dollar for a man," Vives said.

So, why do men still make more than women?

Using Wal-Mart as an example, Olga stated that two thirds of the employees at Wal-Mart are women, and only one third hold supervisor positions.

"We are the majority of the population and must speak out," Vives continued.

Many women don't see the problem. They don't know inequity is still going on.

"You don't get anything by negotiation; you have to demand it," said Shelia Gainer, a member of the



PHOTO by NE Staff

labor movement.

Her union represents more than 450,000 active members comprised largely of immigrant, African American, Latina and Asian-American workers.

"We are at the bottom: have we gone backwards, when will we learn I can make decisions as well as my husband?" said Kathleen Morkert, a representative from Maya Works.

Maya Works markets the work of artisans who have no outlet for their handiwork. Maya Works organization believes that community development happens through the economic development of women.

At the end of this empowering conference, Vives asked, "Will it take 50 years to make the same as a man? We've come a long way but don't call me 'baby'."

## Gone But Not Forgotten

**Ellington Turner**  
Edward W. Beasley

The historical funeral home that laid to rest some famous Chicagoans including Olympic sprinter Jessie Owens and Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad will be closing its doors this New Years Eve. The Griffin funeral home located at 32nd and King Drive is closing its final casket.

"I'm glad to retire, to a certain extent but yet I'll miss it," CEO Alyce C. Griffin stated.

The Griffin Funeral home has been open more than 50 years. It opened up in 1947 originally located on 3215 S. Michigan, but then was later located to 3232 S. King Dr. This didn't come easy when Ernest Griffin, founder and husband of Alyce Griffin, began his journey to buy this small amount of space he couldn't get a loan from any of the banks. In fact he had to go through 32 banks before finally Independence Bank agreed to help.

In 1990 an anonymous man with a van painted with a confederate flag approached the memorial expecting to see the POW camp where his ancestor died during the civil war, but what he got wasn't what he expected. He never expected to be in a neighborhood that had as many African Americans as it did, he never expected to talk to an African American, but an employee there by the name Jim O'Neal said that all changed after he saw his ancestors

name inside on the memorial. It was in ship shape condition as was proud to see it they're being represented the way it was. He left a changed man, a man with a smile on his face.

This business is a very important part of history to the state of Illinois because this site was originally the former Camp Douglass, a civil war camp used to contain confederate prisoners captured during the war, according to The Sun times. More than 5,000 Confederates died from camp diseases that are of an unknown cause and they are memorialized on a Heritage Memorial Wall outside the funeral home. The Griffins spent 60 years building up the well-known funeral home "and after taking care of families for 60 years its time to take care our family," according to Griffin.

Many offers have been made in trying to buy the land but Griffin, who is the CEO, has mixed feelings about it.

"Its something that you labored with, and you watched it grow, you had many experiences with," Griffin said.

And you hand it over with all the events that have happened from Jesse Owens funeral to the nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad. They have come to the end of the road and they can't let go. It belongs to them and always will.

## Nikki Giovanni Visits Harold Washington Library

**Baaba Grant**  
Bogan High School

On October 18th, 2007, Nikki Giovanni had a book signing and a presentation at Harold Washington Library Center where she read a few of the poems that she had recently composed. She also received the 2007 Carl Sandburg Literary Award.

Almost all the seats in the auditorium were filled with diverse groups of Chicagoans who had come to see and listen to the famous poet and activist Nikki Giovanni.

The presentation was mostly an account of her recent life and the

poems that had been composed during one of the most difficult times of her life, when her mother died.

At various intervals, the audience applauded at the liveliness that her poems conveyed.

Nikki Giovanni, who received the Carl Sandburg Literary Award the night before, October 17th 2007, also expressed her gratitude to the Harold Washington Library.





# December 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 63rd Street Holiday Parade  63rd Street (1:00pm)
2 Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade  8300 S. Western Ave. (6:00pm)  Jingle Bell Run/ Walk for Arthritis  Merchandise Mart (8:00am)	3 Vote4Me! Inside a Presidential Election  Chicago Freedom Museum (thru November 9, 2008)	4 Hanukkah Begins  The Band Chicago  Chicago History Museum (Exhibit thru March 30)	5	6	7 City of Chicago Commemorates Pearl Harbor  Lakeview Terrace- Navy Pier (11am)	8 Zoolights  Lincoln Park Zoo (5pm-9pm; thru December 31)
9 Winter Wonderfest  Navy Pier (All day thru December 31)	10 Seen and Heard: Student Expression Contest  (Deadline is February 15)	11	12	13	14 Caroling at Cloud Gate  Millenium Park  Miracle on State Street 9  The Chicago Theatre 175 N. State Street	15 New Expression Christmas Party  619 S. Wabash Avenue (10:00am)  2007 Winter Arts and Crafts Expo  Evanston Art Center 2603 Sheridan Road, Evanston
16	17	18	19 Eid Al-Adha	20	21 New Expression Closed thru January 2	22
23 Christmas Eve	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28 Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival  McCormick Place (10:00am-4:00pm)	29 Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival  McCormick Place (10:00am-4:00pm)
30 Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival  McCormick Place (10:00am-4:00pm)  Mystic Eve of the Eve Navy Pier	31 New Year's Eve					





# January 2008

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

1  
23rd Annual  
New Year's Day  
Run/Walk  
  
Lincoln Park  
(11:00am)

2

3

4

5  
Women of Islam  
Photo Exhibit  
  
Michigan Avenue  
Galleries  
(ongoing thru  
March 30)

6  
See and Ski Beverly  
Hills  
  
Beverly Bike and Ski  
9121 S. Western  
Avenue  
(1:00pm Sundays  
thru March 21)

7

8

9

10

11

12  
New Expression All  
City Workshop  
  
619 S. Wabash  
Avenue  
(10:00am-2:00pm)

13  
Light Nights on the  
Magnificent Mile  
  
Michigan Avenue  
(fireworks at 6:30pm;  
ongoing thru  
March 3rd)

14  
New Expression  
Staff Meeting  
  
619 S. Wabash  
Avenue  
(4:00pm-6:00pm)

15  
Playtime: A Taste  
of Ireland  
  
Goodman Theatre  
Club Mezz  
(12:15pm)

16

17

18

19  
Banished  
Film Screening  
  
Claudia Cassidy  
Theater  
(2pm)

20  
Chicago Consortium  
of Community  
Music Schools  
  
Chicago Cultural  
Center  
(3pm)

21  
Martin Luther  
King Day

22

23

24

25

26  
Taste of the  
Neighborhoods Tour  
  
Chicago Cultural  
Center  
(10:00am-2:30pm)

27  
Mayor Daley's  
Speed Skating  
Classic  
  
3843 N. California  
(10:00am)

28

29

30  
YCCS Parent Job Fair  
  
3421 S. Federal St.  
(9:30am-12:30pm)

31



## New Expression Essay Contest:

# What's Your Point!

“If someone wrote your history, what would they say about you?”

### Judging Criteria

**LEAD** – assertive, clear, and concise. Writer demonstrates understanding of the issue and their position taken.

**ARGUMENT** – persuasive, objective tone, fact-based. Writer conveys broad knowledge of topic and key factors.

**REBUTAL** – considers merits of opposite points of view. Writer challenges alternative positions.

**CONCLUSION** – summarizes points in essay. Writer conveys benefits of position taken in logical and compelling manner.

**STYLE** – writer employs proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. Students can easily read the essay.

### AWARDS

The winning entries will receive \$100 and each runner-up will receive \$50 each. Winning essays will be printed in the next issue of New Expression. Also, the winners will receive a DVD copy of “Gracie, Smallville, or Supernatural.”

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Applicants must be under 20-years-old and enrolled in a Chicago area school. Essays must be less than 200 words. Hand-written applicants will not be considered.

All entries are due by Friday, February- 8, 2008, and must be submitted with a cover note/letter identifying: Applicant's Full Name, Home Address, City, State and Zip Code, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Age, Grade, School, English Teacher or Journalism advisor (if available)

Submit your cover note and essay via:  
E-mail: [ldbrown1655@yahoo.com](mailto:ldbrown1655@yahoo.com) or  
Fax: 312-922-7151

## Answer to FCC Big Media Quiz In Sept/ Oct Issue

A&E	TWX
ABC	DIS
AOL	DIS
Baltimore Sun	TWX
Bravo	TRB
Cartoon Network	GE
Castle Rock	TWX
Chicago Tribune	TWX
Cinemax	TRB
CNN	TWX
Cooking Light Magazine	TWX
CW Television Network	TWX
DirecTV	TWX
Dow Jones (agreement signed Aug 30)	NWS
ESPN	NWS
Focus Features	DIS
Fox News	GE
Hartford Courant	NWS
HBO	TRB
Lifetime	TWX
Los Angeles Times	DIS
Map Quest	TRB

Marie Claire Magazine	TWX
Moviefone	TWX
Movielink	NWS
MSNBC	GE
MySpace Records	NWS
NBC Universal	GE
Netscape	TWX
New Line Cinema	TWX
New York Post	NWS
Newsday	TRB
Sci Fi Channel	GE
SOAPnet	DIS
TBS	TWX
Telemundo	GE
Time Magazine	TWX
TNT	TWX
TV Guide	NWS
Universal Pictures	GE
Universal Studios	GE
Wall Street Journal	NWS
Warner Bros. Pictures	TWX





## Ayo Technology

**Deontae Moore**  
Urban Prep

Look out Mac lovers, the Leopard is out! With over almost 300 new advancements, the technology has taken the Mac book to the next level. Leopard has so many fantastic features, including the expansion of the Mac book desktop, Finder, iChat, and more. Over 600 people attended the premier of the Leopard on October 2006.

The Leopard premier was exciting and interesting. After a brief conversation with another customer, it came clear that technology is part of everyday life.

"Not only is (the) technology helpful, but is (it) useful; Leopard has done its work!" said an eager customer.

He wasn't the only one excited about the advancement, obviously, if

there were over 600 people in attendant for the big improvement.

Not only has MacOSX advanced, but technology around world is getting better. We are fortunate to have hands on to the Apple world, with the iPhone, iTouch, and the new iPod nano. Customers are falling in love owning Apple equipment. The prices maybe steep for some, but they would be spending their money's worth when they plug-in headphones to their nano.

Those interested in Apple technology can visit the Apple Store downtown on Michigan Ave. and take a look at some of Apple's biggest features! Soon, many will understand why Leopard was a big deal to the Mac world.

## Nintendo scores a major holiday hit!

NE Staff Writer

According to the PRNewswriter, Nintendo of America has scored a major hit with customers by selling more Nintendo products this first week of the holiday shopping season, than any other time in its history here in the United States alone. This includes 653,000 Nintendo DS portable video game systems, 350,000 Wii home systems and millions of games and accessories.

## Play Station 3 Is it Worth the Price Tag?

**Stephanie Davis**  
Morgan Park High School

The PS3 arrived on November 16, 2007. This is the newest gaming system since the XBOX 360, which was released last fall. It had been the talk of the video game world. The \$600 price tag has been the hot topic of discussion in the video game world.

According to psextrime.com, there are two different types of PlayStation 3. One version is 60GB with complete internet access and the premium package for \$599. The other, more basic system has 20GB and costs \$499. Based on the PlayStation website, it seems the PlayStation 3 does not appear to be as popular as the PlayStation 2.

Several students responded negatively to the question, "Is the PS3 on your Christmas List?" Many expressions on faces appear to be saying, "Are you crazy? My parents would never pay for that!"

Damen Tolbert said, "If you have one system you play the same type of games, so why pay more to play the same game on a different system?" Many students not interested in video games agree.

However, other students would like to receive a PS3 because of the games that can only be played on this system. Darien Dufaurchard said, "Most of the games that I'm really interested in such as Kingdom Hearts 3, won't come out for a while. That's the reason why I want the PS3." This has been the opinion of many gamers since the recent release.

## Fashion hits the streets

**Ashley Johnson**  
Canter Middle School

Wet Seal (items pictured below) is one of my favorite stores so I decided to go to the manager and ask some questions. I asked her, "Is the store normally busy?" She said that the store is very busy when there is a sale or on the weekend because that is when everyone is off and does most of their shopping.

I also asked some students at Canter and family members some questions about fashion. One person that you might know is D'nia Griffin in room 203. Some questions that I asked her were what store does she mostly shop at? She said that she mostly shops at Marshall's. I also asked her what is the most she would pay for a piece of clothing out of Marshall's? She said about 20 dollars. She also likes to shop at Wet Seal, and she goes to this store about 2 days out of the week.

Of the others that I interviewed, 3 out of 7 people say they spend

about 20 to 50 dollars in a store. The other 4 say they spend 60 dollars or more. Some other stores that the people that I interviewed said they like going to are Jimmy Jazz, Man Alive, Fresh Wear, The Limited, and Carson's.



**This item is called the Paisley Suspenders Tee, and it costs \$14.50.**



**This item is called a chunky Trim Vest, and it costs \$17.50.**



**This item costs \$17.50 and is called layered vest top.**



## TEENS MEAN BUSINESS

# High School Staff Interns

### *Opportunity*

Youth Communication is starting a business department that will produce a **Teens Mean Business** publication covering Chicago-area teen commerce. Coverage would focus on; finding and keeping jobs, planning careers, developing entrepreneurship businesses, spending habits and other financial literacy issues (e.g. credit card abuse, identity theft). Eight to twelve students will be interviewed and offered a variety of roles ranging from; writers, photographers, graphics, editors, advertising, and circulation.

### *Commitment*

We are looking for high school students willing to plan, manage and produce a teen publication that will be printed in December, February, April and June. Additionally, copy produced for the publication will be in the business section of our newsmagazine and the web site. Your time will be about one or two hours per week on average with one mandatory meeting per month. Much of your time will be done on email or phone.

### *Benefits*

You will be coached and mentored by business professionals and college interns. Production stipends will be paid for work produced and travel stipends are offered when you attend scheduled meetings.

**Columns - \$15**

**Photos - \$2.50**

**Feature stories - \$12**

**Circulation; update \$1, new sign-ups \$2**

**Entrepreneur profiles - \$10**

**Advertising sales @ 33%**

TMB staff will be eligible for other business internships and may be eligible for scholarships based on the work. Your work experience at TMB will be logged and a portfolio will be created to supplement your college, internships, and job applications.

### *Interested Students*

Call Mr. Phil Costello at 312 922 7150 or email [philc@youth-comm.org](mailto:philc@youth-comm.org) for an appointment.



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*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*





**Sehara Garmon**  
ACT Charter

*—A group of young men who have decided to use their talents and gifts to the best of their ability and beyond.*

Five young men decided to take their talent and love for animation and cartoons to a new level of creativity. Calling themselves "Team X," the group started their own comic book website. The crew consists of Jon and Danny Chatonba, who are brothers; Daniel Sutton, business manager; D. Loner and

Brandon Foster, who design characters and create storylines for the comic. They began collaborating in 1999 while still in high school.

Team X has created characters that have personal connection to themselves such as X, created by Jon it was the first character to be introduced to Chaos Form (a state of mind often referred to in the comic). Fittingly, Danny created X's brother, Zero. Sutton created the character Shin. Team X has designed and created many other characters in this online comic, ranging from little children to powerful beings with full control of their "Chaos Form." Chaos is within a person and it gives them different powers. If a person keeps on digging into whatever

they're looking for, they are called "seekers", but if they are just normal people, they are called "mondy." For instance, the character X is around 14 or 15 old and Chaos gives him the power to see other people's memories and eventually he realizes those memories are related, in some way, to him. The theme of their online comics comes from Greek Mythology and different parts of various religions mixed together. Some of the character's names and attributes come from Greek Gods and Bible characters.

We asked each of them who their favorite characters were: Jon said a "Knight of the moon," and Sutton's is "Shin" because she sacrifices for other people instead of

herself. D. Loner has two favorite characters that haven't been revealed yet. One will be Mars, a character with determination and faith, although he isn't the strongest or wisest. The second character is Lily, who is just a pure and innocent young girl. You look at her and read her story and you get it in the form of a child and that's what's so amazing about her.

Team X wants to put their creations on television Daniel said, "Eventually TV...but right now, we're talking to publishers for a comic book deal."

*Additional contribution by Samori Wood-Columbia College Chicago.*

## Why have a ATM or Debit Card?

**Christina Vasquez**

Many people have a checking account, but why do some of us have an ATM card or debit card as well?

Checking accounts are very common. Checking accounts let a person write checks and transfer money. Sending a check by mail is easy because it is a piece of paper. On the other hand, writing checks at a store register is not as convenient as paying with cash. What if you need a dollar for the vending machine? Vending machines certainly do not accept checks! This is where ATM or debit cards come into play. With an ATM or debit card, you can go over to the ATM and withdraw money. ATM or debit cards are very convenient, but be

careful how many times you use ATM machines. Each time you use your ATM or debit card at any ATM, there MAY be a service charge for using the machine depending on which bank owns the ATM. Do not use the card often or for small amounts. You could pay \$2.50 for taking out \$5.00, that is 50% service charge. Wouldn't that be silly!

Obtaining a checking account and managing or balancing your checking account can be a good way to help prepare yourself to use credit when you are ready. However, BEWARE your debit card transactions will impact your checking account. You must keep your account balanced so that you

do not begin to bounce checks or have checks returned for non-sufficient funds. Also, be sure to keep any sensitive information concerning your account, such as your PIN, safe at all times.

### *A few money smart terms...*

Check = a contract agreeing to pay funds to another person or business from funds you have in your account

Checking Account = a bank account from which checks may be written

ATM of Bank Card = a card that is used to withdraw money from your bank account or to obtain a bank statement at an ATM

Debit Card = a card that is used to withdraw money from your bank account OR to make purchases using money that is automatically withdrawn from your account

ATM = Automated Teller Machine; this card allows an individual to access their bank statement, withdraw funds or transfer funds using a machine

Balancing a checking account = a system used to make sure that your debits (or money withdrawn) does not exceed your amount credited (or money deposited)

Bounced check or check returned for non-sufficient funds = a check that is returned because there is not enough money in the account to cover the cost of the check



## MANAGING FINANCIAL SUCCESS

### - ONE DOLLAR AT A TIME

*Students hear practical messages about managing their money, debt, needs, and investment with every dollar that they are given, earn or borrow.*

#### New Expression Staff

On Saturday, December 1, True Star presented a financial literacy symposium on, "The Next Check - How Are You Gonna Spend It?" Students from all over the south side came to the Gary Comer Youth Center and learned financial lessons about real-world decisions when put to the test.

Over 200 teens learned that becoming rich is more than having lots of money. To enjoy economic success requires them to assume responsibility for making good decisions about every dollar they earn, borrow, spend or invest by

understanding their own needs, wants, and minimizing risks and excess with financial literacy.

26 teenage students from Harlan Community Academy planned and executed this event from beginning to end as part of True Star's after school programs, done in collaboration with leading Chicago non-profit After School Matters.

Selected students from the audience were asked to demonstrate their financial wisdom by considering whether to spend money quickly or budget, save and get more value with their money by

managing it.

Mr. Dave Jeff, CEO and Founder of PHLI Worldwide, a multi-talented marketing and fashion entrepreneur, emceed the event. He led a financial panel that discussed banking, credit and entrepreneur values as a way to empower students.

Mr. Glenn Toby, Founder and CEO of Glenn Toby Marketing and Management and the Book Bank Foundation, Inc. was the keynote speaker for the event. Mr. Toby shared his life story as a rapper, entertainer and financial insights with the students, ultimately taking on civic causes to help youth with the career success he enjoyed.

Mr. Tobey's message was direct - each person in the room needs to manage their own set values and economic circumstances with care and vision. Getting what you want out of life requires a strong sense of who you are and what you want to be. Listen to all advice but always remember that no one should tell

you or direct you as to who you are.

Mr. Tobey discussed his personal mission in helping others. In 1998, he founded the Book Bank Foundation in an effort to boost literacy among the nation's youth with a specific emphasis on inner city children. He noted, "Out of everything I have accomplished in life, the Book Bank Foundation is what truly gives me a sense of achievement. Kids need to know that books are a passport to life's travels, and education is the key that unlocks the chains."

Over 250 attendees get involved with the financial literacy program at Gary Comer Youth Center

Financial panelists from Harris Bank, Shore Bank and TCF Bank with local entrepreneurs discuss keys to managing personal financial success.

Keynote speaker, Glenn Toby, recognizes members of the True Star team and the importance of community activism in creating opportunities for personal success.

The Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education invites you to attend the ...

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- ★ Participate in skill building workshops.
- ★ Learn from experts in six different industries.
- ★ And much more - games, prizes, fun.

To register or for more information ... Visit our website at [www.iiee.org](http://www.iiee.org) or call (312) 587-9296 ext. 5#



# mirror, mirror

a reflection of times

## Hidden Heart

By Miriam Brabham  
St. Scholastica

She built a brick wall around her heart,  
Never to be torn apart.  
She had built it proud. She had built it tall.  
But that was not all to her brick wall.

For you could see neither hide nor hair,  
Of the person that lives there.  
For they are safe,  
She was safe behind her brick wall.

Behind her wall, she hid her heart.  
Never to be loved,  
Never to be understood.  
She told her heart it was for its own good.

Treated like a precious child,  
She hid her heart,  
From the world she had set apart,  
She knew she would be set apart.  
But in that she would hide her heart,  
I hid my heart,  
Never to be torn apart.

## Alone and Lonely

By Miriam Brabham  
St. Scholastica

I wish he knew,  
That I love him.  
Hold him dearly, tenderly,  
Show him my affections

He does not know how sweet my love can be,  
For he does not know me.  
Does not know that these rivers run freely,  
Does not understand he'll one day need me.  
Maybe not to him,  
But this love comes easy.

For him, he sees nothing,  
A little girl trying to be something.

He thinks I'm all play when I say,  
"My love lasts all night and all day."

He does not love me,  
And if he does not notice  
This love that comes freely.  
Then I will always be alone and lonely.

## Young Boy's Eyes

By Miriam Brabham  
St. Scholastica

I used to look into your eyes; I see  
full eyes,  
Eyes of surprise and hope, which  
used to bring me joy.

Now I look into your eyes, I see you  
trying to cope,  
With these ropes that life has given  
you.  
I stare into your heart, but it is only  
there in part.

Where young boy have you hidden  
your heart?  
Where young boy have you hidden  
your joy?

Now I come to you, and tell you  
there is hope,  
You don't have to cope with these  
ropes.

Hold tight young boy, and I will  
bring you your heart,  
Hold tight young boy, and I will  
bring you your joy.

I turn, I ask for nothing, but to see  
your so  
Full of surprise and hope.

Hold tight to this life,  
It is too precious to let go of.

Don't make my mistake,  
Be what I could not be,  
Shine, for I hope in thee.

## "My love and I"

By Ashlie Hurt & Edward  
Ward

The water is wide I cannot get over,  
Have not I a voice to hear,  
And neither have I wings to fly,  
I cry out loud to be heard afar,  
One has heard and has come to be,  
Give me a boat to carry to,  
And I shall never leave my loves  
heart,  
Nor shall we depart,  
And as I pass through to the other  
side,  
I see in the mist a stream so wide,  
As I pass it by,  
I dream so greatly of my love and I.

## TANK

By Sahar Salameh  
Lane Tech High School

We are all casualties, we are all doomed  
they've made our choices; they've made up our rooms.  
There's no space for thinkers, no space for thought  
Just hold in your anger, wait to get shot  
Then rise to show them that we have not been weakened  
Show them that our revolution is anything but treason  
We come for life, we come for the humane  
We come for anything breathing, not just anything tamed  
We will not be quieted, we will not hush our screams  
We will roar our anger, and we will save our peace.  
But you refuse to allow us to commit our own faults  
You judge, you scold, you scream, you taunt  
You find our weak spots, and you poke them still  
You abuse our hearts, and deteriorate our minds with your foreign skills.  
Just let us live, let us bring down our own walls  
Let us breathe, and let us rebound from our own falls  
Allow me this, allow me to think at my own risk  
Allow me to swim smoothly, and be my own fish.



## Parallel Knees- Scene I: Escalators

By Elizabeth Lopez  
Walter Payton College Prep

"But you're slender, athletic, tall. I'm NOT. I don't run. And I definitely can't turn like you, with your long legs." They were arguing on the escalators, playful but serious, about whether he was justified in leaving her on a hot train car to run to another air-conditioned one. He insisted he had given her sufficient warning, but she firmly believed he was unreasonable to expect her to suddenly run at a second's notice and make it all the way to another compartment. She wasn't athletic. He was. "My legs aren't long, they're almost the same length as yours. Look." He moved closer to her quickly and put his leg against hers, comparing length. He kept saying, "Look, look, see?" All the while gesturing to their almost exactly parallel knees. He kept himself in this position, until she suddenly pulled away and moved up a step on the escalator, uneasy. She was flushed, unable to look at him, awkward, as he remained confused and disappointed, behind her. She'd had to move away though, because she'd sensed a moment approaching she wouldn't be able to escape, some sort of connection, an onrush of emotion, and that scared her.

It wasn't until later she would realize and regret what she did, remembering how close they'd been, what the gesture could have meant. After this, their conversation was quieter, distant. He kept trying to talk to her, and she refused, consistently pulling away, embarrassed by what she felt.

"So what's up with you?"

"Nothing."

"So, what happened on the train the other day?"

"Nothing."

She only kept trying to read, and he kept asking questions.

"You know I'm really good at blocking people out, right?"

"You can't block me out, I won't let you."

"So what's up?"

She continued her attempts to read, annoyed by his insistent questions, but not wanting him to leave her alone. So she asked a question.

"Have you done your story for lit?" "Yeah, have you?"

"Actually, yeah, I've been working on it, want to read it?"

She reached to get it out of her bag and leaned over to give it to him, holding on to the pole, so as not to fall with the train's movement. Everyone in the vicinity was looking at her, pretending not to be engrossed in the conversation, however nonexistent. They all watched as she leaned over to hand him her paper. As she sat back, he had already begun reading. She waited to see his reaction.

## Seguridad en la escuela

By Luis Villalobos  
Bogan High School

Quando vamos a la escuela, vamos a aprender y estudiar. En la escuela, se supone que debemos sentirnos seguros. No debería haber una razón para no sentirnos seguros. La escuela es como nuestra segunda casa, y como nuestro segundo hogar, debe sentirse como si fuera nuestro propio hogar, seguro. Pero no siempre es así. Gary L. Gasper es un hombre culpable de tocar inapropiadamente a niños. Fue detenido después de que se descubrió que trabaja en la cafetería de una escuela intermedia en Batavia Distrito 101. Él trabajaba como trabajador temporal en la escuela. La escuela debía llevar a cabo una verificación de antecedentes de todos los empleados, pero no lo hizo. En casos de incidentes como éste que podrían ocurrir en las escuelas, ¿se puede decir acerca de la seguridad en las escuelas? A causa de un error como este, ¿la escuela pone a riesgo la seguridad de sus alumnos? ¿No es la seguridad y el bienestar de los estudiantes de una escuela la número uno prioridad de la escuela además de proporcionar la educación?

## Surre (ality)

By Sahar Salameh  
Lane Tech High School

As I continued to proceed, I proceeded to speed, and as I stopped to see, I couldn't see a thing. Beats are rushing back and forth in my head, represented by bold, neon lights. Take a break young'n; float free...

—I couldn't believe. My entire half leaves me ill. The coast holding my past holds it still.

Denial grabbed me whole, and kept me stable.

The waves don't rush for me, as she is able to cry for you, and not deny herself for you.

I don't want to fall in depth for nothing true.

But I fell deep, my pride burned to death, and I fell drowning, screaming for no more breaths...

no more whiffs of air, no more ounces to feel.

No, I couldn't believe such pain can feel so surreal.

So surreal that it causes my entire body to feel numb, my lips especially. It feels that I went from one heart to none.

I don't feel cold, I am as warm as Hell, but the warmth of anger and hate feeds your conscience well.

Success. The man succeeds. With money, glory, and all of everything he earned. All of everything he craved. All of everything he wanted of me:

Foolishness, surrender, and ease.

All of everything he took from us, girl:

Our minds, our souls, and our worlds.

He is not mankind. He is not any kind.

## Mother

By Miriam Brabham  
St. Scholastic

An old woman life lived,  
dreams fulfilled  
Still her family wants her to stay

To hope, to pray,  
She'll make it to the next day.  
Life support too far away  
Won't take another breath if you pay.

She holds her daughter close,  
Tells her all she knows.  
Baby girl afraid of the world,  
She has never seen this before.

Holds her too, says mama I love you,  
She says baby I love you too,  
Let go now, mama's going Home

She cries  
As her mama closes her eyes.  
Nothing left to say,  
Death comes in its own way.

She only thanks G-d,  
That today her mama wasn't in pain.  
She only wishes,  
She could hug her mama again,  
Knowing this was  
The every end.

## Depresion

By Elizabeth Lopez  
Walter Payton College Prep

Se me viene y se me va  
Pero siempre regresa  
Aqui estoy sentada feliz  
Y al siguiente estoy acostada triste  
No me ven,  
O no notan los sentimientos.  
Para ellos no son real,  
No son validos ...  
Para mi si son,  
Pero a MI me duelen



## bookReview

## “97 Things To Do Before You Finish High School”

by Steven Jenkins and Erika Stalder

**Sehara Garmon**

Graduate of ACT Charter

Every high school teenager has a great deal of things they would like to accomplish before they graduate and become adults in this limitless world. Well I have a solution more like a checklist for YOU! It's a book and it has 97 things you can do and some of them you can keep doing as you go through your four years in high school.

The first thing in the book that I believe just about every teenager wants to do is to DECORATE, redo, or remodel their room. “97 Things” gives you a few inexpensive ideas on how to do that. The first thing you have to do and probably will dread doing is cleaning your pigsty up. You have to clean your room in order to see what you want and do not want. Then, you need to move everything out of the room, so you'll actually know how much space you're working with. Even though you've probably lived in that room your whole life, it might be a lot bigger than you thought. Now, you

have to pick out a theme for your room. Try to pick something that you are not going to hate the next day, whatever hits your button to make you jump. Now you can move stuff in, one—by—one, but instead of moving everything back in the way it was put them in another spot. You'll be surprised how much of a difference can be made by re-arranging furniture.

Re-designing your room is just one thing you can do for yourself. “97 Things” has 96 other potential projects you can do. You can have film festival with your friends. You can pick themes for the night, such as: old films, horror films, lovey dovey films, or the movie with the cutest main character. You can ask your friends to bring movies that apply to the theme. You can have snacks and other things for them. You could also turn this into a slumber party if you'd like.

Now, you need to spend sometime with your family. You can cook a meal with or for the family.

Simply look through cookbooks and find some ideas. You can do many things like pamper yourself, but try to do something worthwhile that'll stick with you for life. High school is when boys and girls get introduced to sex. YES! We're going to talk about it. Since everybody is talking about it or doing it you should prep yourself even if your not thinking about it; you can say your never going to have sex, but just wait there's a future! So try and get some free Sex Ed classes, look on the web for information, go to your school. Also learn about the not so good things like STDs. If you are having sex, PLEASE PROTECT YOURSELF because if you don't who will?

Next you can search around the world! Go to museums and galleries to check out stuff from all over. After that you can start expressing yourself; I know you already do that verbally but now do it in a way where everyone can see it. You can do is a scrapbook of your entire high



school life inside and out.

Now its time to do something for the planet. You can Go Green, join a political campaign, visit your local offices, or even form a group to go around the neighborhood and pickup garbage on the weekends since you usually aren't doing anything but sleeping. This is where your business life kicks in. Apply for a job, do your resume, make and follow a budget, open a savings account (that you can't touch until you go to college).

Last but not least, do something outrageous but not stupid (THINK BEFORE YOU DO). Give yourself a new hairstyle; hopefully it'll grow back. Start a bonfire, not a forest fire or a city fire. Ride a horse, or watch a sunrise/set silently.

I have one more thing for you to do (this is not in the book) FINISH HIGH SCHOOL!!

## THE ALCHEMIST:

A magical fable about following your dreams.

**Baaba Grant**

Bogan High School

The Alchemist, which was nicely crafted by Paulo Coelho in 1988 in Brazil and one of the most widely read and translated stories is perhaps one of the most motivating novels of the 20th century. This book urges readers to follow their dreams as it accounts the story of a shepherd boy whose dream was to discover his “personal legend”.

The techniques employed in this book, mostly follow the conventions

of writing as opposed to many books that seek to identify with its audience by employing colloquial language. The formality of this book does not make it any less appealing; in fact it is mysteriously more captivating. The book is filled with Biblical parables that have been modified to a certain extent, and most importantly, words of wisdom.

If anyone ever said that

sophistication is symbolic of knowledge, the style of this book will make you acknowledge that simplicity is better! One distinct aspect of this book that I enjoyed the most was its diction and how simple it was- it is will not be an exaggeration to claim that a fourth grader will be able to read and fully comprehend this book.

I strongly recommend this book to everyone who can dare to pick up

a book and read because by reading this novel, life takes whole new meaning and most importantly,

...."whoever you are, or whatever it is that you do, when you really want something, it's because that desire originated in the soul of the universe. It's your mission on earth." ...."And when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

- Paulo Coelho.



## THE SECOND WIVES CLUB

**Baaba Grant**

Bogan High School

Jane Moore's *Second Wives Club* is filled with wit, humor and a dash of femininity! This book explores the lives of four women, Alison, Susan, Fiona, and Julia who all happen to be...second wives! Although the circumstances that led to them marrying a man who had had a wife may be different, they all

share the dream of a life free of their husbands' first wife.

The plot of this book will make you think of "Desperate Housewives" as these women are determined to be the center of attention of their husbands. Most of the actions of these women are all but heroic- except for Susan who

seems to be the least vain - readers cannot help but understand the rationale behind their actions i.e. the anti-heroines of this novel will be transformed to heroes in the mind of the readers!

What allow this book to be gratifying are the twists that the turn of each page brings. It will leave

readers in awe due to the extensive femininity it entails.

I recommend this book to all females (age 16 and up) and maybe males who are yearning for a truly escapist story as you will be left in the scandalous world of the "second wives"!

## More for the College-Bound Individual "Colleges That Change Lives"

*Written By Loren Pope*

**Elizabeth López**

Walter Payton College Prep

To quote this book's synopsis- "The forty life-changing colleges profiled may be little known in a status industry, but they are outdoing the Ivies and major universities in producing winners. And they do it not just among the A students but among those who get Bs and Cs."

Anyone looking to find comprehensive colleges that allow and promote individual growth; and fulfill their promises of quality education will find this book extremely interesting and useful. The book embraces underachievers or unmotivated students who only need incentive or a helpful environment, and encourages students to look beyond standard rank when finding colleges they want succeed in. The author focuses on applicants as people, not only as students.

At the beginning of this book, before Pope begins to describe colleges, he inserted several segments focusing on getting students to look beyond the average schools, and encouraging home schooled students to read on, etc. in a chapter entitled *Required Reading*, Pope inserts several lists, including - but not limited to - *You're Not as Smart as*

*You Think You Are; You're Smarter than You Think You Are.*

Basically- according to Pope- you're not as smart as you think you are, if you believe that your college should be bigger than your high school, a name brand university, and the same college that your friends attend. He also stresses that students need to examine themselves and the college, and goes forth with this note to detail some of the aspects of a school that a student should examine.

Most high school students would benefit from this (fairly gentle) wake up as well as the profiles that follow. Throughout the book's profiles of forty "Colleges That Change Lives," Pope presents readers and students with a diverse group of fascinating and unique colleges, each one catering to a specific individual. Even as the reader comes away aware of colleges that are, in many ways better and more accessible than the limited collection society has stressed as brand name colleges, they will also come away with more important knowledge.

Key amongst this important knowledge are the following facts: Ivy Leagues, the Big Ten, and

other highly ranked colleges are not necessarily the best colleges- neither for the individual nor overall

Many schools that are not big-name or highly ranked are actually proven to graduate individuals that are more successful: for example Antioch College, which has a higher percentage of alumni listed in *Who's Who in America* than most Ivies and all the Big Ten except Northwestern; Has better medical and law school acceptance records

Selectivity of a school is not a good judge of academics, success rate or excellence for example, the aforementioned Antioch College, which takes about 80% of applicants and does not use SATs or ACTs

Academic record need not be perfect to be accepted to these schools where the focus is on a variety of factors, including (but not limited to) academics, individual motivation, and much more

The college experience is not limited to: dorms, fraternities, large and impersonal classes, or any of the stereotypical college aspects. Many colleges (such as those forty Pope lists) have unique environments or structure that appeal to select students

such as: Antioch College, which has a term @ an internship every other quarter; Eckerd College, where "a dock with a large underwater tube reaches out into the Gulf of Mexico and sea water circulates through a large tank, where sea animals are in their native habitat so students can observe and work with them as they live;" Hampshire College, where grades are replaced with written evaluations, there are no academic departments, no freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors, no fraternities or sororities, and whose alumni have achieved an astounding amount in film industry; Beloit College, St. John's College, McDaniel College, Southwestern University and many more.

Pope himself, as well as most people who have read this book, would likely recommend that every high school student read it. This is the book for those students, who are willing to demand more of colleges than rank, who are ready to succeed and who are looking for a unique place at where to do so. Highly recommendable, this book is a must-read for college bound students.





## musicReview

### As I Am: Alicia Keys

**Deontae Moore**

Urban Prep

Alicia Keys' new album, *As I Am*, is grabbing major attention worldwide. With the mind blowing single, *No One*, the highly anticipated album debuted at #1 on the charts on November 22. Her hit

*No One* also went straight to number 1 on the hot 100 on the same day.

Alicia Keys is doing it big right now and she isn't done yet. Her newest video *Like You'll Never See Me Again* is already receiving praise

and listeners say she is the best female artist today.

"Alicia Keys album *As I Am* has personality and I can't stop playing it," James Brisbon said after listening to the album, "Alicia Keys

album is a must-have and you will fall in love with her songs *Superwoman*, *Wreckless Love*, *No One*, and *Teenage Love Affair*."



### Patiently Waiting

**Deontae Moore**

Urban Prep

Ciara, one of today's most popular artists, is holding back one of her singles that should have been out by now. Ciara always finds a way to surprise us in all of her videos.

We fell in love with the triple platinum artist when she came out with the #1 smash hit *Goodies*. Her

career soon went places with videos such as *1 2 Step*, *Oh, Promise*, and *Like A Boy*. However, she is postponing releasing her next video *That's Right*.

Some fans have been setting imaginary dates on when her next video should be out. If you know Ciara, she likes to keep her fans

guessing.

"That's Right should be out soon," said Ciara, 22, on one of her fan sites.

"Ciara knows what she's doing," revealed an anonymous source on the same fan site.

The video could have been out by the past summer, the beginning

of the fall, on her birthday, or sometime early this winter. Why do you think she continues to hold back the video everyone is dying to see? Just be on the lookout, because it will be here.

### Immortal Technique

**Elizabeth López**

Walter Payton College Prep

Rapper, activist, and Viper Records label owner Immortal Technique has built a reputation on the streets. He has released two independent albums, *Revolutionary Volumes 1 and 2*, and is set to release a new CD titled *Middle Passage* soon (no set date yet).

Immortal Technique is different from other rappers because of the purpose behind his music. While

many artists incorporate some lyrics or message music into their albums, Technique's CDs are predominantly composed of such music. He raps about various topics; everything he creates is lyrically amazing, very well composed, and consistently intriguing.

Immortal Technique empowers many individuals and groups: minorities, historically undermined

people, lower classes, etc. He addresses things that MATTER, bases his music upon lyrical content, creates music good enough to be lyrically controversial because of facts and perspective, not only because of language and personal attacks. He is very different from the music that crowds our airwaves nowadays. His music is diverse, complex, and realistic. As he states

in *Dominant Species on Revolutionary Volume 1*: "My style is like a ten year old child with a slit wrist, too much reality for the f\*\*\*\*\* hit list."

He not only raps but also writes some interesting analytical documents, among other activities. Check him out at [www.immortal-technique.com](http://www.immortal-technique.com).

### The True Side of Rapper T.I

**Doria Flowers**

Crown Academy

It happened just before the Hip Hop Awards that famous rapper, T.I, was arrested for trying to purchase illegal weapons. According to an account in *Vibe Magazine*, on October 13, 2007 T.I, Tiny (his girlfriend), and T.I's body guard were in the car on the way to the Hip Hop Awards. A decision was made that they make a stop at a store that sold guns and other

weapons. T.I's bodyguard was the one sent to purchase illegal guns and silencers for T.I. The cops arrived and T.I's bodyguard told them that he was told to purchase the weapons for his boss. The cop's arrested T.I and his girlfriend, Tiny.

8th grade students at Crown Academy made different opinions about the arrest. Alesha Carter said, "Well, first of all, I can care

less if T.I was arrested because he still looks good, and that ain't gone never change. It don't really change my opinion about him because he still cool and all, you know his music still raw. This ain't got nothing to do with me so I wouldn't try to get him out of jail or try to change the fact that this situation even happened because that's on him."

Raven Kight said:

"Man, what T.I did was wrong, but that's his problem, he got what he deserved. It doesn't change my opinion about him because everybody makes mistakes. I wouldn't try to help him because if it was any body else trying to purchase illegal weapons, they would've been arrested. Being a famous rapper is the only thing that



makes T.I a little different from us, because other than that he ain't no different!"

Georgette Williams, said:

"I think it was wrong that they arrested him like that but at the same time it was wrong that he was trying to purchase illegal weapons. This doesn't really change my opinion about him much because I still like his music, but he shouldn't have done what he did. I would try to help him but to tell you the truth, I really

don't know how I would do that. I just know that I wouldn't want to be in that situation and I would want someone to help me. So I would have to do the same for them."

### Sidebar: My Honest Opinion

Interviewing all these people kind of made me anxious to say what was on my mind so I decided to state my honest opinion.

T.I was wrong for doing what he did and it's good that he got arrested. That's his fault. If he wouldn't have been trying to purchase things he knew he wasn't suppose to be purchasing, than that's on him. That doesn't have anything to do with anybody but him. He was acting like a punk in the first place. If he would've gone to get his own merchandise than maybe he could've gotten out of it, not saying that's a good thing to do. I think T.I's music

is good and he's cute or whatever but he still needed to be arrested for doing what he did. He was acting like no one would know. I never did like T.I all that much anyways so it doesn't really change my opinion about him. I wouldn't have tried to help him get out of it because like Raven Kight said, "He is no different from the rest of us, I don't care how much money he has!"

And that's an honest opinion!

## movieReview

### Number One Bootlegged Hit

**Jerlinda Gray**

Collins High School

Denzel Washington can bring in \$3 million at the box office, but bootleggers can sell \$10 million in copies alone.

American Gangster is the success story of a 1970's cult hero, Frank Lucas, from the streets of Harlem. Oscar winners Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Brian Grazer, Steve Zaillian and director

Ridley Scott team up to tell the tale of the American Gangster.

When asked was American Gangster a good or bad movie, there were many different opinions. One student said "I like the fact that he brought his whole family into the business instead of bringing people in from off the street." While another student responded, "I thought it

would've had more action then it had, and the movie was a message to young boys saying that if you are into that kind of business you might be able to get away with it now but not for long."

American Gangster has been viewed by many before it even hit the movie theatres. Bootleggers managed to make up to \$10 million

just by selling copies on the street. The movie box office only brought in \$3 million. When asked how was this possible someone explained that people travel around the world all the time in other states, even other countries that show the movies first, then bring them back to Chicago. Do you see some kind of pattern between them and Frank Lucas?

### Passion Play

**Crystal Banks**

King College Prep

Maybe you're familiar with The Passion of the Christ and maybe you aren't, but most everyone is familiar with the manger scene of baby Jesus and his family and the three wise men. Well, you don't have to be a religious fanatic to enjoy this three and a half hour retelling, if you can get through it without sleeping.

A PG-version of The Passion Play, written by Sarah Ruhl, was performed at the Goodman Theater for various high school groups throughout October. The play takes place in three different eras, the first being the Elizabethan era. Each time period is wrapped with heavy themes and controversies, dealing with how the people of each era react to pressures from the ruling officials—such as Queen Elizabeth, Hitler, and Ronald Reagan—of the time.

According to the Goodman Theatre, Playwright Sarah Ruhl began what would become a three-act play after re-reading a childhood book accounting the Oberammergau Passion play (Betsy and the Great World by Maud Hart Lovelace), and the blurring of the line between performance and reality that actors experienced when portraying Jesus or Mary. Using the medieval tradition of the Passion play as a framing device, a cast of 12 characters explore very personal and contemporary questions (sexuality, identity, responsibility and faith) and larger community issues (power, citizenship and war) during three times of war in history.

The play ran at the Goodman from September 15th to October 21st 2007.

### PSP Review

**Miriam Brabham**

St. Scholastica Academy

This machine plays video games from a tiny disc or from your PS3 at home; it also plays UMD movies. But among other things you can access the Internet from your PSP and network with other PSP users playing the same game. These are some really cool features, but what happens when people go portable and stay focused on the game?

Like many people it might be hard to multitask when it comes to walking and playing. For me, I find it nice to have when I have I have a long train ride or wait somewhere but hate it when people try to play and do things like walk. People who attempt this most of the time walk into people or drop their system when someone bumps into them and all the various parts go flying

everywhere.

In my opinion the only downside of the PSP is how expensive it is. According to gamestop.com, the unit itself is priced at 169.00 dollars and then to actually play the game you need a memory card, which is priced at 89.00 dollars, and then you need games, which range from 19.99 to 49.00 dollars and if you want movies you'll need an extra 49.00 dollars. If you want to game with other PSP users or have Internet access you'll have to pay extra. Also the repairs on a PSP can be very expensive and it has a tendency to break easily due to its light weight. In my opinion it is a gift option and will last a long time with the right care and played responsibly.



# “Jugnaut” Beat Battle

**Samori Wood**

Columbia College

“Jugnaut” was the local college scene on Saturday night, October 6th. The clothing store held their first beat battle competition for Columbia College students. Located at 427 S. Dearborn, this small but quaint apparel shop made hip-hop producers, music enthusiasts and fashion lovers alike feel welcome. The four owners and long time friends, Manny, Joker, Brian and Mr. Rogers provided food and for a crowd of over 80 people.

Before the beat battle began, the crowds inside and out were eager with anticipation, waiting on that first “beat” to drop. Mr. Rogers emceed the event; he got on the mic and called all the beat makers to the back section of the store. As the event got underway the crowd packed the small boutique.

The competition began with seven contestants: Jimmy Con, Drew, Slota, De\$, DC, T and Traxxion. The battle consisted of several rounds; each round two contestants would battle each other. The two producers alternated playing two of their tracks. At the end of each round, the crowd cheered for the beat maker they wanted to move on to the next round. Every time a beat dropped, the crowd of people went crazy, dancing and chanting the producer’s names; it was a madhouse, but everyone was having a great time.

The commotion died down as the competition went into intermission. After eight rounds and about twenty

beats the final two producers to emerge from the battle were T and Traxxion. These two producing partners had no idea they’d be going up against each other.

The final round began and producers played one of their two remaining tracks. The audience was equally satisfied with both of their first beats, dancing and grooving to the music. Then Traxxion played his last and final beat. His edgy bass sound captured and drew in the audience, while the rhythm of the snares snapping made everyone want to dance a one two step. T played his track last; the crowd felt the beat, but his R&B sounds was more popular with the ladies, which gave Traxxion an advantage.

Mr. Rogers got on the mic to announce the winner. First he called T, the crowd cheered a little. Then he called Traxxion, and everyone went wild chanting his name. Mr. Rogers pronounce Traxxion as Jugnaut’s first beat battle competition winner. When asked how he thought he was going to do in the competition, Traxxion replied, “I knew I was going to win.” Traxxion’s grand prize included clothing from Jugnaut, and the title of King of the Beats at Jugnaut clothing store.

*P.S. One week later on October 13th, Jugnaut had their official grand opening.*



PHOTOS by Samori Wood



## Turn to the left, and turn to the right

**Sehara Garmon**

Graduate of ACT Charter

--Tips on becoming a model

“The prettiest girl in school doesn’t always make the best model,” says Ivan Bart, a top agent IMG Models. Aging in city, state there are some things that are required of you before you become a model or even think about modeling.

Second, collect pictures of yourself to create a portfolio. Send your pictures to a local or national modeling agency. It might even help if you attend an opening casting call. You can even take modeling classes

if you don’t think you’re ready to enter the big world of modeling. You can also enter modeling contests and possibly get scouted by local agencies.

Just because you’re a model doesn’t mean you necessarily get the big bucks. Your pay all depends on your level of experience. A model that has experience can usually get paid anywhere from \$250 to \$1200 an hour for runway work. From cabs, airfare, to the agencies 10% fees and 20% if signed with a local

agency is deducted from the models pay, and don’t expect any money from the designers, because most of them don’t pay. Some models don’t even know how much they make, so make sure you pay attention to all of your receipts or get yourself an accountant.

Remember, runway modeling doesn’t pay much, but in the future you’ll be glad you did it. On the bright side, it’s additional experience, and more experience means a higher paycheck.

Modeling doesn’t always have to confine you to modeling clothes. You can be scouted by editors, photographers, or even a cosmetic company. Cosmetic models usually get paid \$300,000 to \$2 million a year depending on uniqueness and amount of days the model is expected to work.

Last reminder: a model that sells merchandise will move up the modeling ladder to bigger and better stages, runways, cameras, and agencies.



## New Expression FYI

**Elizabeth Lopez**

Walter Payton College Prep

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

---Franklin D. Roosevelt---

*Jefferson Awards for Public Service- Deloitte Youth Service Initiative*

This national program works to acknowledge (and thus encourage) community participation, volunteering and other positive contributions by individuals. The youth initiative is establishing the program in high schools nationwide, adding to the 80 schools current active participants in four major areas. Schools interested in recruiting a group of student leaders to establish this system for student recognition or just learning more information about it can look up Jefferson Awards @ [www.jeffersonawards.com](http://www.jeffersonawards.com)

### *Colleges That Change Lives*

To quote this book's synopsis- "The forty life-changing colleges profiled may be little known in a status industry, but they are outdoing the Ivys and major universities in producing winners. And they do it not just among the A students, but among those who get Bs and Cs." Anyone looking to find comprehensive colleges that allow for individual growth and the fulfillment of their promises of quality education will find this book extremely interesting. It encourages students to look beyond standard rank in finding a college to succeed at, and embraces underachievers or unmotivated students who only need incentive or a helpful environment. Focus on applicants as people, not only as students.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2008

This annual creative writing contest is accepting submissions now. The program offers U.S. (or Canadian) students currently in grades 7-12 the opportunity to submit Visual Arts or Writing in various categories for consideration by a panel of juries for regional and national recognition.

National award recipients are eligible for scholarships and cash awards, as well as further opportunities to showcase their work. Check out local deadlines and guidelines @ <http://www.scholastic.com/artandwritingawards/enter.htm>

### *Spark Notes*

Yes, this website is already well known for its summaries and in-depth analysis on a wide range of famous books. But while this website (and all related resources, materials, etc.) is excellent as an additional document for understanding and exploring Shakespeare, Dickens or other common literature class books, it's helpful in many other ways as well. One of its best features is the My College Section—a Spark Notes on research. Here, those interested can look up individual colleges for a broad range of statistics, student surveys, etc. Those signed up for a (free) Spark Notes account can bookmark colleges they find interesting in a chart according to interest. They can take quizzes to determine what type of college they might be better suited for and much more. [www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com)

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### **Important Crisis Phone #'s**

24- Hour Crisis Hotline  
 (773) 7696200  
 Emergency Shelter for 14- 21 year-olds  
 (773) 784-9000  
 Center for Disease Control (CDC)  
 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Line  
 (800) 227- 8922

## FLASHBACK of New Expression 1979 compared to 2007

New Expression magazine has been around longer than most of us have been alive. And so this year we decided to look back in time and compare what has happened to what's happened recently. In our 1979 issue, New Expression predicted what jobs would be relevant and needed in 2001. To our surprise, we were eerily accurate to the needs of the future America.

We said that Marine Geologist would be a "hot job" in the new Millennium. Marine Geologist's work with engineers to tap into the resources that lies under the ocean floor. This job is especially important today with a higher demand for oil pushing us to drill in ocean beds. Another job the 1979 New Expression staff picked was a solar technician. With so much attention directed at "going green" and global warming, solar technicians are in high demand today. Ecologist was another New Expression pick that rings true to our current situation. Ecologist's specialize in working toward improving the quality of the physical environment and measuring the degree by which the environment is being poisoned by pollutants.

Food technicians specialize in sanitation processing, packing, researching, and developing chemical analysis of food. It was important in 70's and even more so today thanks to globalization and Americans getting their food from all over the world. We need inspectors and regulators in all food processing aspects and divisions.

Today Al Gore is one person who has proof that Global Warming is happening today. In parts of the Earth like in Antarctica, which is block of ice, is now slowly melting. Many other unusual things are happening with the weather and climate as well. And now all over the globe people as a one body are trying to correct the problem little by little. In Chicago we have new buildings that get their power from solar energy.

Today we are need of food technicians

and sanitation inspectors there have been found E. Coli in spinach. Also in the book called "Fast Food Nation" stated that "There's s\*\*\* in the meat." This was in ground beef.

If you look back in New Expression 1981 the CTA struggles to survive. At that time the bus fare Baxa, the CTA Public affairs Director at the time, said "The CTA Board thinks that having a student monthly pass would be waste of money. And they're not interested in wasting money at the time." Look how much good that did them!

And finally during the holiday breaks from school and work, when your trying to decide what movies to see or what events to attend, remember what was happening around Chicago in 1984. On December 7th "Beverly Hill Cop" starring Eddie Murphy opened. December 11, 1984 "A Christmas Carol" open at the Goodman Theater.

Just about the entire year of 2007 has been back and forth of whether or not

CTA will raise the prices again in the year 2008. In recent years CTA raised the priced from \$1.75 for a transfer to \$2.00 for a transfer. Now the CTA buses don't give out transfers; you have to get them from the train station or from places that sell CTA bus pass like Dominick's or the Currency Exchange. Now if you don't have a transfer you have to pay \$2.00 per bus ride.

This year, laugh just as much and get in the holiday spirit with "Fred Claus." And the next day you can see "City Heat" with Burt Reynolds and Clint Eastwood after you take your ACT test. This year, don't try to cram that last bit of knowledge in right before the test, watch the movie version of the earliest work of literature, "Beowulf." This year, trade in the theater for the theatre. "A Christmas Carol" is celebrating its 30th year from November 16th to December 29th.



## Morgan Park Bowlers Strike with Style

**Stephanie Davis**  
Morgan Park High School

The Morgan Park High School boys and girls varsity bowling teams are back. Coach Norman Whitenhill, who has trained both teams for 11 years in a row, and Assistant Coach Veodis Pickenpak, who has been with the teams for four years, have whipped both teams into shape for the new season.

Bowling season stretches from the start of November to mid January for the boys and February for the girls. Members of the girls' team are Antoinette Johnson (senior), Arielle James (senior), Brandle Blakely (senior), Larina Bourne (sophomore), Darla Meaders (sophomore), Donisha McLaurin (junior), and newcomer Stephanie Davis (junior). Lead players of the team include the Johnson as captain and Blakely and James as co-captains. At the opening of the season against Washington on November 19th, they totaled a series average for three games of 2126.

Members of the boys team include team captain Duane Armour (junior), William Alston (sophomore), Darien Dufauchard (junior), Kerry Epps (freshman), Emmanuel Reeves (sophomore), Nickalus Scarborough (sophomore), and newcomer Derrian Hudson (senior). The boys' series score was 2625 for three games totaled for their opening game against Fenger on November 5th. They have won all their games as the time of this writing.

With a good start to the season and high averages and more members, the teams are hoping to make it to the State Championships in January.

"Last year was the first year I have never taken a team to the championships," Coach Whitenhill said, "but if they want it this year, they'll work for it."

The team has indeed been working by meeting and practicing everyday. It takes a lot of time and dedication to take this season's championship.

## A Football Season to Remember 2007- 2008

**Savacea Fenner**  
Collins High School

Collins High School football team had a great 2007-2008 season. Ending their season at a record of 8-1 with 889 total pet (points carried and touchdown average). Because a couple of screw-ups the Cobras were pulled out of the playoffs and their season ended. The Cobras last game of the year was against Amundsen it was a close game, but as usual the Cobras came out on top beating Amundsen with a score of 24 to 18. When asked who was the toughest teams they played Senior Quinton Emory said it was Michele Clark (14-18), this was the first and last game the Cobras lost and Kelly (32-29).

The Cobras football team consists of juniors and seniors. So next year might be a rough year for the Cobras. The Cobras

still have juniors like Dejon Coleman who lead the defense with 5 interceptions for the season, Kelton Williams with 7 touchdowns and Patrick Perry with 8 touchdowns for the year. Nothing is like the seniors who played their last year of high school football. The seniors lead their school with a great football season. Twjuan Scott, the Cobras quarterback lead his team with more than 15 touchdown passes this school year, Jimmy Williams the Cobras wide receiver had 13 touchdown this season, over 1,000 all purpose yards and interceptions. Last but not least Malik Vaughn had 11 touchdowns and 1 interception. Now doesn't that sound like a championship team to you? They are in my eye!

## Sullivan Volleyball Coach: Exclusive Interview

**Jermaine Blackwood**  
Sullivan High School

On October 31, 2007, I interviewed the Sullivan High School Volleyball team's coach, and also our counselor, Ms. Bock. Ms. Bock has been involved in volleyball since high school, and she played in college at St. Francis University. After graduating from St. Francis, she decided she wanted to be the coach at Sullivan High School. Our principal, Dr. Atria,

Ms. Bock's first year coaching the team was in 2006. She says her players (which she insists are her family) have a positive attitude and enormous respect for her. Ms. Bock's proudest moment coaching the team came this year when they won their first game. The game was so hard-fought and energetic, and after the win, the crowd was so hyped. She remembered the excitement her players had when she looked in their eyes and saw the joy in their faces after

a hard-won game. The Varsity team record this year is 5-7. They had six home games and six away games.

Ms. Bock was asked if there are any difficulties she has coaching the team. She says, "I don't like the ceiling of the gym, which is the practice area, and I hate the fact that there is a lack of funding going on, making money for supporting the team."

I left Ms. Bock with one final question: can you see the Sullivan Volleyball team three years from now as being a force to reckon with? She says, "It starts with a good freshman team that's eager to learn and develop their skills." Then, "we need to build a fundraiser to pay for the volleyball camp." Ms. Bock says that if her plan works, Sullivan Volleyball will be the "most feared team for other schools to play against."

## Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival

**Laura Kozak**  
Columbia College

This December 28 through the 30th Mayor Daley will hold his 8th annual Holiday Sports Festival in McCormick Place. This, for those of you who don't know, is an annual event sponsored by the mayors' office, designed to get more families and kids active during the harsh Chicago winters. Events include Volleyball, Soccer, Floor Hockey, Badminton and Table Tennis tournaments, with interactive zones featuring climbing walls, football skills areas, bowling, martial arts, fishing ponds, 50-yard dash, a skateboarding and blading area, and so much more. This highly attended event will include some new activities and events such as cheerleading clinics, double Dutch jump rope and 2-ball.

This year will also feature an expanded fitness area brought to you by the Mayor's Fitness Council. Certified Fitness instructors will lead beginner classes in salsa aerobics, Pilates, yoga, cardio kickboxing and much more. There will also be 20-minute fitness walks with a pedometer reading and lectures on nutrition, bike safety, family fitness, and fitness demonstrations. Essential Health Screenings will also be available such as body fat composition. Personal trainers can guide you through all of this, including your personalized fitness regime.

All of the interactive zones are free and open to the public. Some tournaments require a fee and pre-registration. Activities take place daily from 10am-4pm. For more info call the Mayors Office at (312) 744-3315 or visit the website at [http://chicago.events.org/viewevent\\_3478.htm](http://chicago.events.org/viewevent_3478.htm).

## Sullivan Tigers soccer team in city finals

**Ogunedina-Fuwad**  
Sullivan High School

On the night of October 11th before students and teachers in the cold weather, the Sullivan varsity soccer team lost their final game by 2 goals. Earlier, they played against Von-Steuben High School in the semi-finals to qualify for the finals. Sullivan won that game by 2 points (5-

3). Sullivan Varsity had an away game with Walter Payton High School to play in the city finals. It was a long road for them but they pulled through. The game was held at Montrose Park. It was a long and intriguing game, but our players are heroes.

Two of Sullivan's players, Emeka and Samuel, were injured during the game. Emeka scored the first goal. Julius scored the second goal. Oze scored the third goal. This was the first time, according to the coach that the Sullivan soccer team got into the city finals. After

the game the players were mad that they didn't win, but the coach let them know that they should be proud of themselves. They have come a long way, and he also said he was very proud of them.



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Wishing you a peaceful break and  
**Happy Holidays**

from everybody at **New Expression**  
and **Youth Communication**

