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New
Expression

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History, Heritage, and Legacy

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mission statement

vision

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 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

January 11, 2008- Want to make a lot of potato chips? The South Side factory of Jays Brand potato chips will be publicly auctioned January 24th. The factory also produced O-Ke-Doke popcorn before it was sold to Snyder's of Hanover from bankruptcy.

January 11, 2008- The sex defendant who recently sparked protests after being imprisoned for having consensual sex with a minor is heading to Morehouse College. Genarlow Wilson is expecting to enroll this year with the help of radio host Tom Joyner's Foundation. Wilson called it "an honor to be accepted."

January 8, 2008- A 15-year-old Chicago boy was gunned down while walking a few blocks from his home in Logan Square. Leonardo Otero was shot at least once in the chest and doctors at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center pronounced him dead Monday night. Police are still searching for the suspect.

January 10, 2008- When Boy Scouts say they're always prepared, they aren't kidding. For the first time in their illustrious 97-year history, the Boy Scouts have begun to learn comebacks to being bullied. Newcomers must prove they've learned how to avoid being made fun of. The group recommends telling the bully how it feels to be hit or pushed and if they were to make fun of bad skin, ask them "What's it to you?"

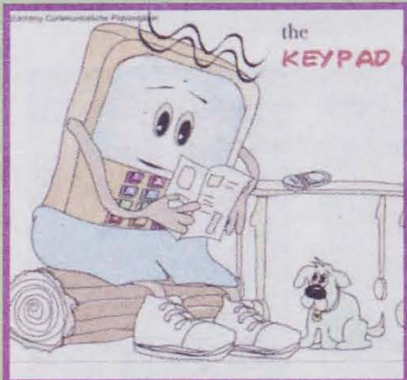
January 13, 2008- The NAACP announced the nominees for its annual Image Awards, with The Great Debaters film leading the way. The drama loosely based on the real-life victories of a black debating team in the 1930's led with eight nominations including outstanding picture, actor and director. Girlfriends and Everybody Hates Chris topped the TV nominees.

January 14, 2008- Roger Avary, co-writer of the classic film Pulp Fiction, was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter when 34-year-old Andreas Zini was killed in a one-car accident involving Avary and his wife, who was also injured. Avary was booked but later released on \$50,000 bail.

January 15, 2008- From the "What was he thinking?!" file, a Garrett's Popcorn employee was charged with fraud when he tried to copy credit card numbers in front of the customers. Julian Sherman, 21, worked at the 670 North Michigan store and was caught using a device that recorded card numbers.

January 15, 2008- A Chicago teen has been charged as an adult for allegedly trying to carry a gun into Bowen High School January 14th. Nyeem Cole was stopped after a metal detector caught sight of a gun inside his book bag. Cole then ran from the officers, but they arrested him at his home later that day. He had been charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in a school.

January 15, 2008- The next time an adult blames soaring teen pregnancy rates on rap music or popular media, tell them we are just continuing the trend the dinosaurs set. Researchers have found a type of tissue—medullary bone—present in modern birds when they are developing eggs, in three dinosaur fossils. The dinosaurs were 8, 10, and 18 years old, indicating they reached sexual maturity earlier than previously thought. Overall, most dinos lived to age 30.



Attention: All High School Students!

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For more information, see the April/May issue of New Expression or contact Manager of Print Media, Lurlene D. Brown at 312-922-7150 ext. 23.

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Running away is "Ludacris"



Ludacris is the spokesman for the National Runaway Switchboard. Image located at <http://z.about.com/d/rap/1/0/9/4/-/LudacrisReleaseTherapy.jpg>

by Jasmine M. Kinsey
A.C.T Charter School

The National Runaway Switchboard received help from the entertainment industry in dealing with runaways. Rapper and Grammy Award winner Ludacris did not know his record "Runaway Love" was

going to have a big effect on people. According to myurbanreport.com, this has affected their lives: "I wrote it to tell kids that they don't have to run away, there are other solutions. But this was much more than a song. It was a movement," Ludacris says.

Ludacris became the spokesman for NRS last November, and in the following year, they have seen a 50% increase in calls and a 60% increase in visits to their website www.1800RUNAWAY.org.

Most of the teens that run away are running away from their problems and abusive homes, with the majority being females.

According to the NRS site, an estimated 1.6 million children run away each year. The NRS receives approximately 100,000 calls annually. The NRS has over 150 volunteers that have gone through 40 hours of training to "provide non-judgmental and non-directive support." Its database contains over 16,000 agencies that offer shelter, counseling, substance-abuse treatment, and child protective services.

Ms. Gonzalez's Class Goes to Court

By Stephanie Alegria and Ashley Boykin
Sullivan High School

Ms. Gonzalez took her law class on a field trip to the Cook County Courthouse on 26th and California on October 29, 2007. The students entered a courtroom where trials were being held before the Honorable Judge Bertina E. Lampkin.

"Englewood has the highest crime rate in Chicago," said Judge Lampkin. "There are over 300 predators in the Englewood area, almost one predator for each block." Dressed in a blue jumpsuit, Terry Price, one of those predators in the Englewood area, was emotionless when he was sentenced to two years in prison after being accused of the statutory rape of a 12-year-old girl.

Shakira Clayton, whose crime was not mentioned, was trying to deliberately delaying her trial, by not taking her seizure medication. "You have done this three times already, no more excuses, whether you feel good or not, I'm setting a trial date for you," Judge Lampkin

angrily, said to her.

Later during the field trip, Judge Lampkin escorted the Sullivan students to the "lock up", where men charged with crimes awaited trial. Entering the hall, the judge directed the female students to stand behind the male students so that the inmates would not have direct contact with them.

"I've been locked up for seventeen years and never really got to see my children grow up because of the choices I've made," one man said. This man was accused of a robbery, which he stated he did not commit.

"I have trial today and I have been accused of first degree murder," said another prisoner. If found guilty, this man could be sentenced to forty-five years to life in prison. Many of the men said they are in lock-up because of the poor choices they have made in their lives.

"After seven years of coming here, no judge has taken my students to view the lock-up. I am hoping that by giving my students an opportunity to experience the Cook County jail, it has a great impact on their lives," said Ms. Gonzalez.

After meeting with the defendants, the students were eager to hear more cases and returned to their seats in the courtroom. However, Judge Lampkin decided to end our time with her. Shockingly, the next case she was about to hear was a man who allegedly raped his 15 year-old daughter.

Leaving the building, students could not stop talking about the experience. "It was crazy being in the same room with murderers," said Carlos Martinez, a senior at Sullivan. Allen Burgess, a junior at Sullivan stated, "I will never end up in there!"

Hijacker or Misunderstood Teen

by Miriam Brabham
St. Scholastica Academy

An unidentified 16-year-old-boy in Nashville Tenn. awaits a hearing on his suspected hijacking of an airliner on January 22, 2008. The FBI has not released any information on how they became suspicious of the 16-year-old, who seemed to be traveling alone. The boy was carrying duct tape, "rope" and handcuffs according to the Associated Press. It's not clear whether he was carrying a rope or yarn. The belongings the boy was carrying were not against any policy

of the airline. After the boy's arrest, the FBI searched his home and found a "mock cock pit" and evidence leading them to believe the boy may be suicidal. The boy was calm during the flight and never tried to commandeer the aircraft, but after his arrest, he confessed his plans. The airline security thought the plan was unlikely to succeed and didn't find the boy to be a threat. Because the boy is a minor, many details pertaining to this case cannot be released to the public.

Local fire puts neighborhood in shock

by Edward Ward
Excel Academy

A huge fire swept through the corner of Madison and Karlov, destroying three buildings on January 4th. Fire fighters spent a day and a half putting out the fire. The first day of putting out the fire, fire fighters were outside hosing the fire for at least 5 hours. The fire was finally put out at the beginning of the second day. The neighborhood is still in shock as it still remains a mystery as to whom or what started the fire.

Fire Kills a Fifteen-Year-Old Boy

Fire fighters investigate; what started the fire?

by Ashlie Hurt
Yates Elementary

A fifteen-year-old boy, Larry Powell, was killed in a fire in Harvey, on January 15th. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, seven people were displaced because of the fire. Sandra Alvarado, a spokesperson from the Harvey Police force, stated that the Harvey Fire Department responded to the fire at 145th & Vine around 5:20pm. She also said that when the fire fighters arrived, they found the house fully engulfed in flames and several of the family members were standing outside. Although the house was completely destroyed, the fire fighters made every effort to save the neighboring homes. They are still trying to figure out the cause of the fire.

Strike! At Congress Plaza Hotel

by Bonita Holmes
Prosser High School



Strikers striking out front of the Congress Hotel downtown on Michigan Avenue
Photo by Bonita Holmes

Members of the "Unite Here Local #1" have been on strike for four and a half years fighting against the expansion of the Congress Plaza Hotel. Located at 520 S. Michigan, the hotel rests on Chicago's scenic showcase on Congress Drive, stretching toward Buckingham Fountain and Lake Michigan, located in Grant Park. The Chicago Planning Commission rejected a proposal for expanding the Congress Hotel, despite Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration urging approval of the proposal. The hotel has been said to have many code violations over the years. 2nd Ward Alderman Robert Fioretti contributed to the decision with his indication of how bad the problems were at the Congress Hotel and this convinced one of the members on the commission, Nancy Pacher, to vote "NO."

Teenager accuses school security guards of abuse

by Strange' Warrack
A.C.T. Charter School

On November 5, 2007, a security officer at Corliss High School just inside the school doors allegedly abused Shaquille Griffin, a 14-year-old freshman student. As he walked through the metal detector, one of the officers asked him to take off his jacket so that he would be seen in uniform. Before long, the officer quickly put him in handcuffs. Alarmed students began to arrive pulling out video cameras, phones- anything that could be used to record the horrible incident.

A videotape recorded by a student captured Griffin on the floor underneath a table with a loose handcuff on one of his wrists. The security officer grabs him by the handcuff and drags him a short distance from the table. Soon after, the

officer's arm was around the 14-year-old's neck and the two hit the floor, knocking over the table. The officer then puts his forearm and knee against Griffin's upper body, pressing his face against the floor. He suffered from abrasions and contusions.

Editor's Note:

"A school spokesman said the incident wasn't just a case of Griffin not wearing the school uniform...School officials said Griffin and three other boys showed up wearing gang colors, showing gang signs and yelling gang slogans. Just before the tape rolled, a source told the Sun-Times the boys were accused of provoking the confrontation by becoming enraged and tackling an officer." -NBC.com

A Historic Reopening McDonald's on the South Side Being Celebrated on MLK's birthday

by Deontae Moore
Urban Prep

Located on 6560 S. Stony Island Ave, the grand reopening of this McDonald's was special. For was one of the first black owned franchise in McDonald's history in the city of Chicago. Former owner Herman Petty has been recognized for his past commitment to the community. Mr. Petty ended up retiring in October 2006 and Yolanda Travis bought it and made great changes to such a historic McDonald's. She devoted herself by

living up to his reputation by donating and giving back to the community. "The community has always supported us. Our customer base in this area ranges from teenagers to seniors, so it is honor to be able to give back to a community that has given so much to me," said Ms. Travis. On such a historic day, it is honored to see that the neighborhood has given back to her, especially on Martin Luther King's birthday, Monday Jan. 21, 2008.

Tattoo shop robbed by hit men

by Miriam Brabham
St. Scholastica Academy

January 25th, 2008 was the day an unsuspecting tattoo shop owner was robbed and beaten. Although he had been beaten, it could have been worse for him, for his hands could have been broken as the hit men's orders were to do that. According to the

Chicago Sun-Times, the hit man received his orders from an anonymous mob boss, whose underage daughter had been tattooed at this shop. The order went to Anthony Calabrese and his partner Edmond Frank. Calabrese was already suspected

in two other criminal investigations: One was the Brown's Chicken murder of Anthony Chiaramonti, and the other was the attempted murder of a Naperville woman.

Mr. Frank was always being tested by Mr. Calabrese, who

supposedly stuck a loaded gun into Frank's mouth while asking him if he would "go to prison" for him. Frank is now cooperating with the Feds against Calabrese. If these charges stick to 47-year-old Calabrese, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Gangs Around the World

What can we do to stop gangs from increasing in the United States?

by Keisha Ruth

Imagine Englewood If

I've learned that there are approximately over 800,000 gangs in the United States. Why is that number so large? This is because the United States is a large area. Cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Little Rock, and New York have large numbers of gangs. Gangs have existed for a long time, they are dangerous and the things they do are outrageous. For instance, gangs kill, rob, fight people, and look a certain way. Gangs like Crips, Bloods, Folk Nation, People's Nation, GDN and BDN are all Chicago-oriented and I am familiar with these gangs because they're in my surrounding neighborhood. Now, I'm not sure who is really in gangs because a lot people claim to be in them, but I see many people doing the

handshakes and throwing up signs everywhere.

Little Rock's gang, the Highland Court Crew, has existed since 1984. Larry Hoover, from Chicago, is known as a gang member. Gang members kill innocent people. They commit crimes. People have identified about 40 named street gangs in Pulaski County with 800 to 1,000 identified members since 1993.

What do we need to do to stop gangs from happening? Police departments need to work harder, detectives need to investigate more, and come up with some plan to catch these so-called gangs. The United States cannot survive with drugs, killings, and robberies. There needs to be a solution.

Student Beaten While Walking to Bus

by Edward Ward

Excel Academy

A teenage boy was beaten while walking to a bus stop on the south side of Chicago on January 10. He was walking home after school, accompanied by his younger brother, who was turning around to see if a bus was coming. In the process of looking back, some local gang members came up to them and asked them, "What are you looking at?"

The teen walked toward the bus stop, when he suddenly heard footsteps behind him. He warned his younger

brother to move out of the way just before the gang members beat him for no reason. A few minutes later, a bus came and the driver pulled them on the bus to safety.

This has had a huge impact on the community because it has proven that it is not even safe to ignore people any more. In any case, they will still find away to attract your attention that will result in you having to "fight" your way home.

How cool is school?

How much does it cost to dropout?

by Miriam Brabham

St. Scholastica Academy

For every student that drops out of school and into an almost inevitable cycle of jail, poverty, and despair, you have to wonder why it is happening and how can we stop it. According to the NEA Fact Sheet, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native American students are graduating or receiving a GED at a rate of 68-71%, while Whites and Asians are at a 75-77% graduation level. While this isn't where it technically should be, there is still hope. But how does this affect our community? The state pays for prisons,

and 75% of state prisoners are high school dropouts, according to Harlow 2003. And 59% of federal prisons are full of high school dropouts. Most high school dropouts are three times more likely to get arrested in their lifetime. On average, a high school dropout makes \$9,245.00 dollars less a year than those that will graduate. This is an increasing problem, and we are paying for it through our taxes. Let's spend our taxes wisely and keep kids in school and move forward in society.

Woman pleads guilty to hate crime

Black woman abused by whites in West Virginia

by Edward Ward

Excel Academy

According to the AP and ABC News, a white woman pleaded guilty for the kidnapping and torture of a black woman who some authorities say was held captive for days last summer.

According to ABC News, authorities say that Karen Burton's crime includes stabbing Megan Williams in the ankle while saying, "This is what we do to n— down here." Burton is the first

of seven people to plead guilty in the case and the only one charged with a hate crime.

According to Betty Gregory, Burton's lawyer, she does not remember much of the abuses against Williams, but she does not deny them. Burton was charged with a felony and is doing multiple years in prison.

Teen held on \$40,000 bail after shooting

by Sherie Ajayi

Hubbard High School

"We are not as safe as we think we are," Mrs. G. Williams of Hubbard High School says as I told her the shocking news of Darius Wilson, a high school student at Philips Academy who brought a gun to his school on January 28th. When he got caught with it, Darius refused to surrender it. An on-duty police officer

present on school grounds ordered him to "put his hands up." Refusing to do so, he pulled the gun out from his waist. The officer then shot him twice in the back. He is now held under a \$40,000 bail and charged with aggravated assault and illegal use of a weapon.

Teen charged as adult

by AuBryn Thompson

Beasley Academy

Sixteen-year-old Darius Wilson, a Chicago public high school student is in serious condition at Stroger Hospital. He was shot three times—two of the shots were in his back—by an off-duty police officer. According to ABC News, Darius entered Wendell Phillips High School Tuesday, January 22nd when a security guard detected a concealed weapon in the sleeve of his coat. Wilson took off running to a CTA bus stop. “An off-duty Chicago Police officer helping at the school pursued him and apparently shot him three times, twice in the back,” said Charles Lauer, Wilson’s attorney. This incident caused Wilson to lose one of his kidneys.

According to Chicago Public

Schools, Wilson was not supposed to be at school Tuesday because he was suspended. Wilson’s grandmother, Sharon Stevens says, “There’s two sides to every story and I do believe that the truth will come out.” While he was in the hospital, a three-inch knife was found on him. Wilson’s grandmother also says she knows he was troubled, but he was trying to turn his life around.

Wilson is being charged as an adult with two felonies, aggravated assault on an officer, and unlawful use of weapon in a school. He is being tried as an adult. His bond was set at \$40,000. His family plans on posting the bond before he is released from the hospital.

Who Are Today’s Young Women?

Do we really know our young women?

by Miriam Brabham

St. Scholastica Academy

In this day and age, women have changed their views and opinions on several things like dating, sex, goals, careers, technology, and last, but not least, guys. These are topics that in the past have been seen as “radical.” But in this current generation, women are changing the face of what a woman should act like, dress, and do. Cosmopolitan

Magazine hosted a survey for women on these topics and how they felt about them. For women today, dating is the talk of the day. 77% of women interviewed by Cosmo said they were happier in a relationship than single. 39% polled answered that there was no point in dating if you were not looking to get married. 78% of the women polled are also looking for men that show chivalry while expecting the guy to offer to pay for the first date, and 61% expecting to be picked up and dropped off, and 77% of women believe men to be less chivalrous these days. But with all this, 76% of women say it is harder to have a good relationship today than in their parent’s generation.

This change may have to do with the change in women’s attitudes towards goals. In the past, the emphasis in life for women might have been to get married and have children, but according to Cosmo, 54% of women want to be established in their careers before they get married. And 48% women would have kids on their own, if they were not married already.

When it comes to sex, women have become less conventional. 37% of the women say they do not always practice safe sex, and 41% of women think an occasional one-night-stand is fine. And 75% of the women say that they would not be bothered if they had slept with more people than their partner.

Truancy Fees

by Christian Cummings

Collins High School

Chicago City Council proposes to enforce new truancy regulations for Chicago school students. One key problem in Chicago schools is the large percentage of students ditching school. The city council states that these new regulations could result in fees ranging from \$50.00-75.00 or possible jail time due to their child’s truancy. The first and second offense, parents would be fined, and the third offense, parents could receive jail time. As a Chicago Public School student, I don’t support any sort of controlling influence over students from outside officials, meaning I do not endorse most decisions made by minor groups of administrators for major groups of students. I could understand if parents and teacher came together in efforts to decrease student ditching. However, this decision was made by a group of people who possibly don’t even have children, or if they do, they may be in another school district or in college.

Would you trust a decision for

your child made by someone who doesn’t even have children? Especially our Chicago Public School students who come from primarily low income homes where there are sometimes three or more children in one household. I am not in favor of a choice that could affect those families or even households with one child; the percentage of single parents is increasing daily. Single parents that have jobs and responsibilities that I’m sure do not include the payment of a \$75.00 truancy fee. Aren’t there enough rules regarding ditching for students in their own schools?

At Collins High School there is an absence penalty for truancy, if you ditch one class you will be marked absent for half of that day. In addition, your parent or guardian is also contacted to inform them of the students ditching. For certain classes in my school, depending on the teacher, there are also additional rules that apply to those who purposely miss a class. Some teachers penalize

the students by not allowing them to complete make-up work or they’ll assign them work that was based on the material reviewed the day they ditched. I believe that is penalty enough for a student, not to mention the parents; a student’s actions and achievements reflect on their parents.

Although student ditching is increasing, there are other methods that could be considered. However, initiating new fees and legal penalties resulting in jail time is just not the route to go. Taking in the fact that some parents are not involved in their child’s life to the point of education and attendance in school, new policies should be enforced, just on other conditions. In most schools around my neighborhood, there are tardiness, truancy, and ditching regulations that have been instilled in students from the beginning. They were not required to adapt to a new change, for it was already standard protocol.

Election Judges

by Bonita Holmes
Prosser High School

On Saturday, January 19th, 2008, juniors and seniors from different high schools across the Chicago land area came out to partake in an election judge training session held at 17 West Washington. Students were trained by various individuals like as Elaine Brown, a MIKVA Challenge staff member who is in charge of the Elections in Action program. Students got a chance to get the hands on experience of assembling and disassembling the touch screen machines, how to handle voters with special situations, where to locate necessary materials, and other things that will allow them to get the full election judge experience. Students were also instructed via videotape.

The number of student election judges has increased drastically in comparison to its start in the year 2000. Cook County has roughly about 900 students who are going to be election judges on February 5th. Denise Holman, a senior at Prosser Career Academy, states "I wanted to be a student election judge because the MIKVA Challenge allowed me to become more interested in politics. The students will be compensated for attending both the training session, and their assigned precinct on February 5th, 2008. Each student will receive \$170.00, and students selected as cell phone judges, or as the judge who is assigned the key to the election supply carrier will be compensated an extra \$25. All CPS students are excused from school on this day, and will report to their assigned precincts at 5:00 a.m.



Teen and adult election judges prepare to count votes



A ballot box, ready to accept voter ballots.



High school election judges from the MIKVA Challenge

Chicago Holds Olympics Over Education

By Michelle Rashad
Imagine Englewood If

The United States has picked our beloved Chicago to enter the worldwide competition to host the 2016 Olympics. The thought of our home town having the honor to welcome 200-plus countries into our city is exciting, but not when we fail to realize that our Chicago Public Schools are deteriorating due to lack of funds.

Chicago is an amazing city; it has a rich history, great landscaping, and historical parks and landmarks, but when looking at how this amazing city manages its funds, there can be a drastic change in the people's outlooks on Chicago.

I find it amazing that Chicago can raise millions to finance the Olympics, but cannot raise more money to fund its public school system.

The Chicago Olympic Committee raised over \$30 million to finance the bid and wishes to raise a minimum of \$5 billion to fund the 2016 Olympics: \$1.1 billion alone will be needed to build a new village, and millions more to construct new buildings and temporary houses to house the 30,000 athletes plus many more.

Mayor Daley says, "This is an experience that I think every city should do because it brings out the best in your city." Chicago's Olympic chairman

Patrick Ryan says that there is a strong chance that Chicago will not go into financial ruin because of the Olympics, yet the U.S. Olympic Committee has concerns about whether or not Chicago will even be able to finance the Olympics. If something does go wrong in which Chicago would face financial problems after the Olympics, the City Council has already voted to offer a financial guarantee of 500 million in local tax dollars. All this money for the Olympics, but do they not know that Chicago is 49th in the nation when funding its schools? There are about 600 Chicago public elementary and high schools with an estimated 400,000 students. Many of these schools could use more books and school supplies so the students won't have to share, new equipment for the classrooms, sports teams, and extra-curricular activities, and more after school programs to provide its students with extra help. Chicago Public School teachers are being laid-off while more teachers are needed.

In order to get the new books, supplies, and more staff, we need more funding.

Having the 2016 Olympics in Chicago would be an honor, but I would like to see my city help its public school system first.

Investing millions into Illinois schools

Short-term fix to a long-term problem

Deontae Moore
Urban Prep

Almost every year, the Governor and General Assembly fail to take responsibility to fund the public schools of Illinois. Lack of funding cuts several programs, further eroding the quality of the children's education, or cause the school to go further in debt. Illinois now ranks last among the 50 states in school funding equity. Districts spend about \$4,500 per student or \$20,000 to the districts that they

spend on students annually. However, Illinois received millions of dollars for the schools. The Illinois House of Representatives has recently approved a measure that includes \$560 million to be sent to Illinois schools. This amount of money will benefit most schools by having more activities, and it will help create a better learning environment for the schools that need this money.

On the road with White House hopefuls

Chicago students aid presidential candidates



Mikva participants rallying in favor of Hillary Clinton.

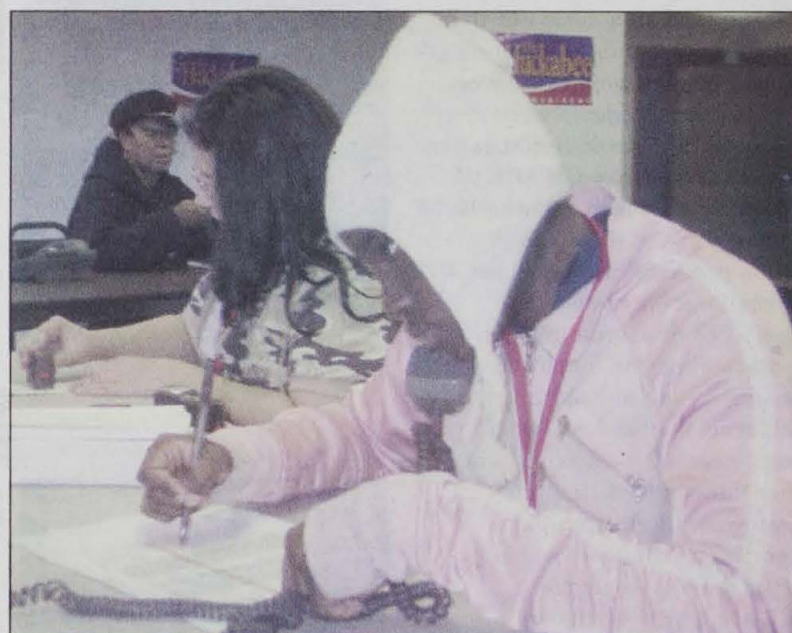
by Miriam Martinez
and NE Staff

Many people would not find the prospect of going to New Hampshire for their winter break a very exciting vacation, but for approximately one hundred Chicago-area students, trips to the Granite State and neighboring Iowa were an opportunity they could not pass up. The recently held caucus (in Iowa) and primary (in New Hampshire) afforded students a glimpse into American politics few get to see, even during an election year. As part of the Mikva Challenge—a local organization which encourages teenagers to be more politically active—these high school students were able to travel to one of the two states in order to campaign for the eight

presidential hopefuls before the state-held elections.

The group of 41 students who traveled to Iowa were able to sound off during and after the trip, commenting on their experiences in the program and how it has helped shape their political sense.

“Even though all the campaign duties were not that glamorous, it felt great to be a part of history,” said Akelia Reed, from Julian High School, who traveled to Des Moines. The students performed a range of election activities from going door to door and holding signs to increase visibility to phone banking, or calling a large number of people, to ensure votes for their candidates. The students did not spend all their time working in the offices; they were able to socialize as well. The program allowed the teens



Students phone bank for Huckabee. (from right to left: Deborah Gonzales and Akelia Reed)

to interact with high school students from Des Moines to learn more about the culture surrounding them. “[This experience] changed my perspectives on kids from other states. I realized that we have much in common,” stated Kelly student Crystal Gonzalez on Mikva’s website mikvachallenge.org.

The students were out of the state before the January 3rd election day, but were still able to meet with and attend rallies for candidates Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Mitt Romney, who were in Des Moines to campaign. The presence of these students is a factor in what aided the caucus to gain such a high turnout rate of voters this year.



Student Ebony Grevious talks to reporters about her experience.



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.

Throughout the New Hampshire trip, the students had the opportunity to reflect on their daily experiences and write short vignettes detailing the activities. Each student was allowed to participate in campaigning for their candidate of choice. The following comments are from the students themselves on exciting moments they had while on the campaign trail:

Julianne for Mitt Romney

"Today we learned all about campaigning from a girl on the Romney campaign. We then went to a town hall meeting where Romney answered questions from the citizens. He did a great job and afterwards he shook hands with everyone and took pictures. I got to take a picture with him! It was amazing!"
— 12th grade, Barrington

Vernizia for Hillary Clinton

"I called 36 homes, left 21 messages, and was rejected 9 times. One gentleman I called mentioned that he was planning on voting for Hillary Clinton, but would change his mind if we kept calling him."
— 12th grade, Brooks College Prep

Tamara for John McCain

"McCain arrived at the place by 12 p.m., along with his beautiful wife and supporters. He did seem to be a man with great courage and remarkable character, especially his being frank, and unwavering opinions; thereby giving him the probability of winning the New Hampshire primary, albeit some of his opinions are met with aversion by a number of citizens."
— 10th grade, Josephinum Academy

Melissa for John Edwards

"On the Edwards campaign, we began

our day by attending a rally in Concord. We got there early and got to sit in the seats behind where Edwards was speaking. As a result we found ourselves on CNN. His wife, children, and parents sat three feet in front of us, which was an amazing experience."
— 12th grade, Barrington

Carlos for Rudy Giuliani

"I was hesitant about campaigning for Giuliani. There are some people that think a candidate is bad, but when you hear them speak, it changes everything... The most rewarding part of this trip was when I went to see Giuliani speak and he signed my t-shirt."
— 9th grade, Gage Park

Jasmine for Dennis Kucinich

"Right before Kucinich arrived at the rally, there was a music performance by some of his supporters. He then showed up with his wife and Viggo from Lord of the Rings."
— 12th grade, Kelly

Jose for Mike Huckabee

"I got to be taped by MTV, which I found unbelievable and incredible... I felt very amazed to finally see Obama so up close. Being from the south side of Chicago and never getting the chance to see him before, I can honestly say he moved me very much."
— 12th grade Brooks

Marc for Barack Obama

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life. I was raised by a single mom, and I have never had opportunities to do things like this before. I met so many nice people and learned so much about the candidates and the election."
— 12th grade, South Shore



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.



Photo: Courtesy of Mikva Challenge.

Closing Time: 50 Underused Schools Being Consolidated

Deontae Moore
Urban Prep

Mayor Richard M. Daley has decided that many underused schools in Chicago are unacceptable. The majority of these schools are located on the South and West sides of the city. Officials attended 147 to 417 neighborhood elementary schools between 1/2 to more than 2/3 are empty. 122 schools are going to be closed down because of the 30 to 50 percent of their enrollment capacity. "These half-empty schools are unacceptable because they don't serve their students," proclaimed Mayor Daley. By closing 10 to 15 schools

annually over the next five year, the city could save more than \$100 million dollars a year. This tragedy confirmed the list of schools announced on January 23. Mayor Daley continues his thought by saying, "You have to have a school that's fully occupied. It can't be 30, 40, 50% occupied, it's unacceptable."

Heart School Principal Reginald Miller disagrees with Daley's decision. "Just because a school is at half-capacity doesn't mean it's not working for the kids." Mr. Miller continued, "An under enrolled school may lack

some of the programming options... There may not be enough children to support a sport or after school program. And a half empty school isn't the kind of vital community anchor that a good school can and should be. He thinks extra space is useful for science labs, a digital photography studio and a computer lab."

To find out what schools are in danger of closing, you can visit Chicago Tribune.com, Chicago Sun Times.com or CPS.org websites.

Only cap and gown pictures

by Katera Allen
Collins High School

The seniors at Collins High School are only taking cap and gown pictures on Thursday, November 15th and Friday, November 16th. They are supposed to be in uniform, and they have to report to the auditorium on time. They will not be taking pictures with their brand new outfits that they spent their hard-earned money on, as well as the money that their parents put in to buy their outfits. Instead, they are scheduled to take pictures some time in January. At first, they were supposed to take both sets of pictures on November 14th and 15th, but on the 13th in 8th period, an announcement was made that senior pictures were cancelled on short notice. Many seniors were disappointed and angry due to the fact they had already scheduled to get their hair and nails done. According to some people, it was not the school's fault. The photographer cancelled, so they found someone else, and that person was only able to take cap and gown pictures at this point in time.

Pattern's Studio saved the day; even though most of the seniors are still a little disappointed, they are all looking forward to January when they take their freestyle pictures. The photographer Mike Potter said, "I think it went great." Over 100 students were photographed, more than 80 percent of students in the senior class. Mr. Potter feels that he inspired the kids to take their pictures because of the great images and backgrounds.

Fighting to keep CPS high schools open

The outrage with education

Edward Ward
Excel Academy

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Public School teachers, staff, and principals are all being fired. It is said that they are not teaching the students the way they should be taught. Some students state that this is a lie. According to the teachers and students, this is crazy; firing all of the teachers is not going to change anything. If a student does not want to learn then it is completely impossible to try and force them to learn, but some students are actually learning in these schools. Some teachers say that the students need more advanced teachers because they do not understand the way they are being taught. One of the students stated, "Why would they get more advanced teachers if already the students don't understand the strategy of the other teacher's teachings?" Because most students choose to ditch school, some come to play, and others are not getting the proper attention at home. Why should all of the teachers and staff have to suffer? If things or attitudes don't change in the community, this is a waste of time.

High School Discipline – It could be worse!

Christopher R. Henry
Sullivan High School

Sullivan High School is one of the most diverse schools in Chicago because we have students from all over the world. Not only have these students attended different schools, but they have also had different and sometimes shocking experiences with discipline in their own countries! If you thought Ms. Bronswick is tough, wait until you read what these students and teachers say about discipline!

"In Nigeria, students get beaten with a cane and your punishment might be to clean up the classroom," says Fuwad Ogunedina, a senior from Nigeria. "You are beaten if you disrespect the teacher, and if you do not do your work, you are beaten in front of the class." Fuwad mentions that "schools in the United States are more resourceful than the schools in Nigeria." Despite the beatings, he prefers teachers in Nigeria because they do not have to ask twice for students to behave the way students should in a classroom. When asked if U.S. teachers should have the right to smack an unruly student, he said "Yes!"

"In India, when you talk back to the teachers, they beat you with a bamboo stick or slap you in the face," says Tenzin Jampa, a sophomore. He also says that "students are always respectful to teachers in India. My parents think punishment is necessary when you do something wrong, but I prefer teachers in the United States."

Ravshan Babakhodjaev, a senior who is

originally from Russia says that, "in Russia, teachers are very strict." He also noted that "the difference between American and Russian education is discipline and behavior. There is better opportunities in America," Ravshan says "I prefer the teachers in the United States."

At Sullivan High School, there are at least three teachers who attended school outside of the United States and who also experienced harsher forms of discipline when growing up.

According to Mr. Akindele, who is from Nigeria, he says that "discipline can be done with eye contact because when the teacher looks at you, you know something is wrong." "Punishment is very harsh in Nigeria", according to Mr. Akindele, "They discipline students by hitting them with rulers."

"In Brazil, most school teachers slap kids around and they get hit on their knuckles with rulers," says Mrs. Nessinger. "Teachers can pull your ears and makes you stand for the whole class period and in high school, if you do something wrong, they just kick you out."

According to Mr. Beck, who is originally from Germany, "The teachers [over there] paddle you when you do something wrong." And if the teachers do not get you, the parents will! "[German] parents discipline harshly when the school calls the parents of the student."

Behaviors in the Hallways

by Navarris Harvey and Nazia Mohiuddin
Sullivan High School

Have you ever felt like you were in the jungle while walking through the hallways of Sullivan High School? When we exchange classes, we see a bunch of different types of "animal-like" activities going on. We see many of our peers acting a little strange when it comes to walking through the hallways during the passing period. We have the loud monkeys to lazy turtles! You've seen them every day. When you're busy trying to get to class, there's always a road blockage by our peers behaving like animals. Here are some of the examples:

- The loud mouth girls (also a description of hyenas) who usually travel in packs of three or more. They tend to move throughout the hallways screaming, "Aaaayyyyy!"

- Students who usually travel in pairs and don't speak to one another or anyone around them. They can be

seen carrying enormous book bags like the back of the turtle while walking slowly as if no one is behind them.

- The outspoken couple, or rather the love birds, who are usually focused dead center of the hallway groping each other's lower backside and keeping their mouths busy on each other for the whole four minute passing period.

- The lonely souls (reminding us of the quick-natured squirrels crawling up the tree with acorns) who walk expeditiously to class while gripping their books in one hand only and whose only concern is their current GPA.

- The group of freshmen males who are behaving like gorillas are posted on one locker trying to appear "cool" and impress the upperclassmen.

Making Drivers Ed Shorter?

Teens facing shorter hours being trained behind the wheel.

by Deontae Moore
Urban Prep

Driver's Education is a community service most teens should be able to take from Sophomore to Senior year in high school. Little do they know that a new rule might come into effect saying that teens will be able to be taught in fewer hours and earn their driving licenses faster. This means fewer instructing hours and more time driving independently. Instead of 12 hours of driving instruction, there will only be 6 hours. This might be beneficial for most teens

that would want to be on the road quicker than most.

However, these changes will take a lot of time and money. Final decisions will not be finalized until July 1, 2008. "If driver's education was shorter for me in Illinois, I think that it would give me time to get my license because I'm not 18," drivers-ed student Justin McNeal said after I told him with what might possibly be "drivers free" for him. Is this a good idea or not?

Dear Freshie: Do As We Say, Not As We Did

Seniors share regrets and thoughts about their early years at Sullivan

by Danielle Cox and Samuel Tassew
Sullivan High School

- "When I have to fill out college applications, I notice I don't have much to say good about myself. I realize I should have joined a lot more extracurricular activities and I should have gotten better grades." – Rebecca Keith
- "The only thing I wish I had done in my first years of high school is that I should have went to summer school earlier when I first failed a class instead of waiting and letting it pile up at the last minute." – Danielle Cox
- "I regret not being able to play certain sports and join certain clubs [because of my grades]." – Jasmin Lamb
- "This may not seem like a big deal, but staying organized is a major factor in succeeding both in high school and in life." – Tezeru Teshome
- "I regret not joining any sports teams. I wanted to join the volleyball team, but I somehow never got around to doing it." – Stephanie Alegria
- "I regret not getting off my butt to do my service learning hours." – Stive Rodriguez
- "My biggest regret came in Junior year when I slacked off, not completing my assignments which led to me having to attend summer school, night school, and now, Saturday school for the whole year this year if I want to graduate!" – Jermaine Blackwood
- "I regret coming to school late every day because Algebra 1 was first period, and I ended up failing that course the entire school year and had to make up that credit in summer school." – Markesia Taylor
- "As a freshman, I constantly cut and failed some of my required graduating classes. I loved the life of being popular. Smoking pot in the school bathroom was also a favorite [activity] which caused suspensions." – Lashawn Sanders
- "Coming to Sullivan is my biggest regret." – Jeremy Garcia
- "I failed Algebra in Junior year. I really regret it now because I am in school Tuesday and Thursday nights." – Sylvia Curney
- "Spending most of my time worrying about everything but my school work, hiding my ability to write poetry, not speaking and not participating in classes." – Ashly Boykin
- "There have been girls that I like that I didn't talk to for numerous reasons, mainly because I had low self-esteem." – Anonymous Senior
- "I really should have at least had fun once in a while, so that what I regret." Shaina Steward
- "Students, especially city high school students, have no respect [for] each other. I felt so bad about them, they have such a great opportunity in their life but they do not know how to use it." – Ravshan Babakhodjaev
- "As a senior of Sullivan High School, I would advise you guys never to get into any type of violence for the rest of the school year." – Afia Agyenang
- "Remember, if someone is being very stupid or obnoxious, report it either to the police, teacher, or the principal." – Nazia Mohiuddin

Dropouts Across the Nation

by Strangè Warrack

A.C.T. Charter

Nearly one-third of all public school students fail to graduate within the U.S. Only 68 to 71 percent of students graduate from their high school. Dropping out of high school has officially affected our community in the city of Chicago. Almost half the students never complete their four years in high school. This means that even though some graduate from high school, they have failed a year or two and will have to go to summer school just to pass.

It's becoming more complicated for a high school dropout to get a job. When someone is unable to work, they tend to commit crimes or steal what they need to survive, and if that person is caught stealing, they get sent to jail. 75 percent of federal prison inmates are high school dropouts, says the Labor Department on the National Education Association website (www.nea.org).

Studies by the Department of

Corrections and the Department of Labor say "Women who drop out of high school usually earn less money than men do, about \$9,100 less annually than male dropouts do" (www.womenstake.org). Most women who drop out of high school will have to struggle to even be considered for an entry-level position. "Today, 2/3 of women who are incarcerated have dropped out of school," says a data report from the Illinois Department of Corrections. This means most women are not considered smart enough to earn a man's salary.

I am a high school freshman and will be a reporter for New Expression. After writing this article, I plan to complete high school, obtain my diploma, and go on to enroll in an institution of higher education. This will dispel the myth that if you're young or old without a diploma, you can't get where you want. You can still do anything despite what any studies say; just keep your head up!

What Do You Know About HIV/AIDS?

by Rose Moore

Teen Parent Family Services

We had World AIDS Day at my school (Malcolm X College GED Program), and it touched me so much that I wanted to share my experience along with some of the research I did on the topic. I was curious what my other classmates thought and knew about the topic, so I also decided to interview them by asking them two questions: What is HIV/AIDS, and how do you think it is transmitted?

I asked Darcie Soto from Mr. Butler's homeroom class what she thinks, and she said, "HIV is a virus and AIDS is what you get after 10 years of having HIV." She also says she thinks "down-low" means a man who sleeps with other men and gives the virus to their wives, girlfriends,

and baby mamas.

In my research, I found out that HIV is a virus, one that infects the cells of living organisms and replicates (makes new copies of itself) within those cells. The virus can damage human cells, which makes an infected person become ill (weak). HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. As time goes by, a person with HIV is more than likely to become infected with AIDS. Their body won't always have the strength to fight off the common cold. A damaged immune system is not only more vulnerable to HIV but also to the attacks of other infections. It is said that you have AIDS when you first become seriously ill or when the number of

Those That Are Left Behind

The Failing of Public Schools

by Bonita Holmes

Prosser High School

President George W. Bush arrived in Chicago with the intentions of promoting his "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act on January 7.

The NCLB Act is a federal law that reauthorized the number of federal programs with the aim to improve the primary and secondary schools in the United States. It also allows parents more flexibility in choosing what type of school their child attends. The law hopes and expects for all children to perform at grade level by the year 2014.

The Chicago Sun-Times recently put the spotlight on three teenagers who were indeed left behind.

Denise Ferrusquia, a junior at Kelly High School located near the southwest side of Chicago, states her school is overcrowded and the classes are very full. Ms. Ferrusquia hopes to be the first in her family to attend college, however due to her limited resources at school she finds that difficult.

"I feel that I have to do learning on my own," she stated.

Brad Johnson, a recent Austin High School graduate, is now struggling as a freshman at Loyola University because of poor instruction at his former school. Austin High School is generally a low performing school and he managed to make straight A's because he didn't have to work so hard.

"I thought I had the study skills," said Johnson, "but now that I'm here (Loyola University), it's been hard."

Mr. Johnson is also a very active

member of the MIKVA Challenge, an organization that challenges high school students to become active in the political process.

David Wells, a Morgan Park High School drop out, has one of the most serious cases. He accepts most of it as his own making, however, he notes that the teachers were distant. Mr. Wells states that at Morgan Park, he was surrounded around kids his age who were drinking, smoking, and no one really seemed to care.

Mr. Wells now attends an alternative school where he is on the fast track of success.

All three of these students were indeed left behind, making it extremely hard to flourish in their new, old or current environments.

Six years have passed since President Bush first introduced the NCLB Act, however, it has not lived up to its standards. Test scores for minority high school students have decreased drastically, and white students are reportedly doing much better than most African-American and Hispanic students. Many of Chicago's teachers say that the test scores, as well as other things, will not change because the school system is inequitable. Schools suffer from no funding, overcrowding, violence, truancy, and the affects of poverty.

In response to President Bush, the Chicago Tribune states that "setting high standards, without the requisite help to get there, isn't any better."

immune system cells left drops below a particular point. HIV transmission occurs when a sufficient quantity of these fluids get into someone else's bloodstream.

There are various ways a person can become infected with HIV. One way is from mother to child. HIV can be transmitted from an infected woman to her baby during pregnancy, delivery, and breastfeeding. Another way is from unprotected sex. This can lead to HIV because the virus that is in an infected

person's sexual fluids can pass directly into the body of their partner. This is true for vaginal and anal sex.

According to the RedEye, approximately 2,000 people are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS each year in Chicago. As of December 31, 2006, there are 21,038 Chicagoans living with HIV/AIDS. As of the year 2005, 1,118 people were diagnosed with HIV, 58% being Black, 25% being White, 13% being Hispanic, and 4% being other.

The History of Krystal Pinex

Gage Park High School

Krystal Lekeida Pinex was born June 5, 1990, in Chicago, Illinois. She was a very intelligent and kind young lady. Her parents were Shonna Jefferson and Robert Grant. She was the third of seven children. Krystal graduated from Woods Academy middle school as well as St. Xavier University.

She received a Doctoral degree at age 28; then she opened her own hospital. The name of the hospital was "Christ Hospital." She was a very successful young lady. The things that will be remembered most about Krystal Lekeida Pinex are her kindness, dedication to her career, and her lovely outgoing personality.

Krystal was a very generous and loving person. She wanted to help people in any way possible. She was not someone who judged others, and she believed in giving second chances. Krystal was very dependable, whenever someone needed help she would be the first to lend a helping hand. She even opened an event center for the sick and disabled children at her hospital. Krystal lived her life helping those in need, a gene which was passed down

from her mother.

When Krystal was 16 she got her first job working at McDonald's. When she got older, she realized that she needed to learn how to really cook, so she entered a culinary art program for two years and learned how to prepare gourmet dishes. Krystal struggled a bit in college, but managed to complete it because her dreams were big. She did everything she could to graduate from college she even took an extra class to ensure her diploma. She had many talents such as drawing, dancing, writing poetry, as well as healing those she could.

Krystal was dedicated to becoming a doctor, and not only did she become a doctor, she opened her own hospital. Krystal was a truly special person. If you didn't know her, she was definitely someone you should have known. After opening the hospital, she was very successful and gave away 118 maintenance jobs, even though she didn't need that many. She helped everyone she could in any way she knew how.

In conclusion, Krystal Lekeida Pinex was a very interesting person, who was dedicated to achieving her goals, helping those that needed help, and being the best person she knew how to be. Krystal managed her hospital for 22 years and it is still open today.

2 Andrea Kwitkwoski

Gage Park High School

Andrea Kwitkwoski was born on October 12, 1989 to Maria and Phil Kwitkowski. She was the oldest of five and in 2000 her parents divorced. She grew up with her mom, rarely seeing her dad. At times it was hard but they got through it. She was always so full of life and very talkative. The talking that had her in trouble quite often as a child became the reason she was very successful in life.

In elementary school things were simple. She had high honors and graduated second in her class in 2004. She attended high school at Gage Park. She started off very well, top ten with high honors. She had a rocky junior year, the worst of her years at Gage, but she graduated in 2008 with acceptance to NIU.

Going away to college was her first big step into her adulthood. She graduated in 2012 with her teaching degree and began teaching right away. She started as an elementary school teacher and as time went on, she moved onto different positions. She was a high school teacher, a high school counselor, then the principal of her high school, Gage Park. She remained the principal until she retired.

When Andrea was 26 she got married and had her first child at 28. She had a boy and a girl and retired at 56 to spend her time with her family. She had a wonderful life.

3 Demetrius Burley

Gage Park High School

Demetrius Burley was an outright outstanding being. He was very unique, very intelligent, very deep, but most of all extremely aspiring. He set out to do many things. He wanted to be a man with many hats. Who would've known a 17-year-old, young individual from Gage Park H.S. from Chicago, IL, would want so much?

In 2004, Demetrius had just conquered his elementary academy by achieving eight successful years of grammar school—including the fact that he graduated as salutatorian of his class, also known as co-valedictorian.

Now entering high school, Demetrius wanted to make a difference in the world, but knew in order to do so, he had to first take the uniqueness of himself and kick it up a few notches. So with intelligence he knew he had to challenge himself a bit. He did so by attending one of the larger schools of brilliant minds in Chicago, C.V.C.A.H.S. (Chicago Vocational Community Academy High School). After two weeks of sheer boredom, he left.

Now at Gage Park H.S. Demetrius dominated 3 years with Excellency. In his 4th year, he reached an extremely rough turn in life. Overcoming the obstacles set in front of him and completing both his Practical Nursing Program and senior year in High School, Demetrius enlisted in the Air Force and became one of the world's most prominent black male registered nurses, Anesthesiologist(M.D.), and successful entrepreneur.

New Expression Essay Contest: What's Your Point!

"Should underperforming schools be closed?"

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.

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, April 11, 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 or

Fax: 312-922-7151

History, Heritage & Legacy

The Shocking Story of Emmett Till

by Abigail Saez

North-Grand High School

Today, a young African-American boy's funeral is not big news in Chicago. In fact, we barely hear about it in the news. During late summer of 1955, 50,000 people lined up outside of the funeral for the 14 year old Emmett Till. His murder shocked the world and put a spotlight on the racism present in American society.

In Mississippi, race relationships were a lot different than in Chicago, so much that by 1955, Mississippi had over 500 black lynchings since 1882. Emmett Till went to Mississippi during the summer of 1955, where the temperature wasn't the only hot thing; rather racial tensions had been brewing and building for over 100 years, and Emmett Till was walking right into a dangerous situation. On August 28, Till went into a local store to purchase some candy, when while walking out of the store, Emmett whistled at a white woman nearby. Immediately the woman's husband and another man kidnapped Emmett and murdered him. Three days later the police found Emmett's body at the bottom of the river.

Emmett Till's mother, Mamie Till, made the decision to have an open casket funeral. She wanted the world to know what happened to her son. It was a horrible sight

to see his right eye missing, his nose broken, and a hole in the side of his head. The funeral for Emmett Till was packed full with people from all around the world. Jet Magazine attended and took photos of Till's body and published the shocking story of the approved killing in Mississippi. Till's murder became an international story. It was a shocking example to the world of the dangers and horrors taking place within society. Mamie took her fight to the people and delivered speeches across the country. African-Americans were angered and enraged by the killing of Emmett Till and the injustice of the United States court system. Those in the trenches of the civil rights movement realized that they had to move their fight to the front lines.

The funeral of Emmett Till helped spread the word of the shocking story and the injustices of the murder of Emmett Till to the world. Not only did it change the social system structure but also challenged the segregation and segregated communities all over the south. Emmet's mother, Mamie, fueled the courage to many of the revolutionaries fighting in the Civil Rights Movement. Because of Mamie, Emmett Till did not die in vain.

Chicago Youth Hip-Hop Empowerment Summit

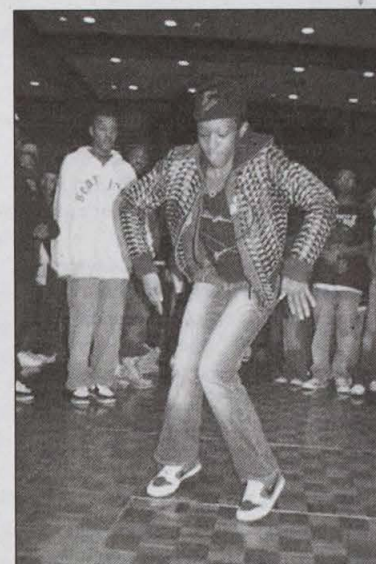
by Zebadiah Arrington

Mather High School

The Chicago "Hip-Hop Empowerment Summit" was hands down, a success. Teachers, students, parents and children from all sides of the city were sharing, learning and living together. The whole hip-hop culture helped make this community event very special. They united break-dancers with the footworkers and the rappers with political personnel, through hip-hop.

The attention of all this should be directed at the importance of inner-city and all-city community events, and organizations. Here is a list of some of the organizers that were involved in this year's Youth Hip-Hop Summit; South West Youth Collaborative, Build, Stop-fly, Fearless Leading Youth, Kuumba Lynx, Alternatives, Little Village, Howard Area, and South Shore. Gangs and violence are usually associated with hip-hop through the media, but seeing all these people unite under hip-hop was a very positive thing.

Last summer, I worked with CPS teachers in a "Students Teaching Teachers" hip-hop program where we learned we can involve and person with Hip-hop. Other countries around the world have accepted hip-hop as a positive thing for youth. I cannot stress the importance of having people support or be involved in youth hip-hop organizations.



Fancy footwork at the Chicago Hip-Hop Empowerment Summit. Photo by Zebadiah Arrington



Chicago Hip-Hop Empowerment Summit bringing people together. Photo by Zebadiah Arrington

African American Woman wants to make Black History of Her Own

Ashlie Hurt

Yates Elementary

According to Angela Hernauer, Patricia Boswell is an African American woman who is creating a change and making a strong everlasting mark in Black history. Boswell states that "while Black History Month is a time to celebrate important people and events, it is also an opportunity to salute the African Americans

of today. Notably, African American women have been making changes in several aspects of their lives and others. Patricia among many others are working relentlessly creating successful business concepts, generating millions of dollars and employing thousands." She also states that Boswell is gaining fame as an innovative

business woman and that her star product gains favor in the market place. Boswell is the creator and chief marketer of "Safonique", a unique liquid detergent that is made with pure aromatherapy and is hypoallergenic. Boswell states "I want to develop a product that is gentle for the entire family, good for the environment,

tough on stains, and affordable for all." Even with a family and a business on her plate, she still finds time to volunteer for her own charity, "Teaming 4 Life", a cancer awareness non-profit organization. Her achievements shouldn't be overlooked and neither should her determination to make a "history" of her own.

"Fade to Black" *Black Bookstores in Danger of Becoming Extinct*

by Bonita Holmes
Prosser High School

One of the few remaining retailers who focus on books that aim towards the African-American audience has closed after a very strong 15 years. Karibu Bookstores, based out of Washington D.C., closed its six store chains on February 10, 2008. An exact reason why the stores closed was not given, however, Simba Sang, CEO of Karibu bookstores, wrote a very sincere email to all of her committed customers thanking them for their business and support.

According to USA Today, African-American bookstores have suffered greatly over the past ten years due to flourishing superstores and Internet sales. They tend to offer lower prices and a bigger selection of books, which makes it hard for African-American bookstores to continue to prosper. Karibu had been regarded as one of the few

bookstores that succeeded.

Also reported in USA Today, best-selling author, Zane, stated shock over the news. Karibu stores kept her books in stock when no one else would.

Among the few remaining bookstores are the Hue-Man Bookstore located in Harlem and Eso Won Books located in Los Angeles.



Speaker-author Vanessa Davis Griggs signs one of her books.
photo by Jim Bradshaw

Cabrini Green; "What's it really like!"

Nastassia Haley
Cornerstone Academy

Growing up in Cabrini Green has been tough but it hasn't always been this bad. My mother grew up in the 'Greens and commented "I never would have dreamed that Cabrini Green would be this way." Cabrini has changed for many reasons, one such as the pressure of the "Gangsters Disciples." They feel that they have to attack on and beat up on someone to prove that they won't be called a name like "sissy," "punk" and maybe even "faggot." They will go to any lengths, just to show them that they are not. I remember about

three years ago, Cabrini Green was all about having fun, having building parties, and just looking out for everyone but I guess those times are over. Nowadays, everyone is so afraid of being called other than their "proper" name, many teens and young adults have forgotten who they are and what Cabrini Green use to stand for. There is no way we can fix it now. One young lady said "If I have to knock a "trick" out, then that's what I have to do."

Bobby Rush's Life-Long Commitment to the Chicago Community

by Raul Santos
North-Grand High School

At the age of 60, Bobby Rush is a respected member of the United States Congress, representing a district on the south side of Chicago. However, 40 years ago he was a member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. The Black Panthers were not your ordinary street gang; their goals and efforts were directed towards the betterment of the poor black communities during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. This is still a goal for Bobby Rush today.

Bobby Rush was born in 1947 in Albany, GA, but he spent most of his life in Chicago. Bobby attended Marshall High School on the south side of Chicago. He served his country in the United States Army for five years (1963-68), after which he attended Roosevelt University and received a Bachelor's Degree in general studies, and a Master's Degree in political science at the University of Chicago.

Knowing the struggle on the streets of Chicago, Bobby Rush had always had a huge interest in politics. His whole college career revolved around political science. Rush became an ordained minister and part of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. He worked to secure basic civil and human rights for not only African-Americans but also women and other minorities alike. All of his experiences with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (S.N.C.C.) in 1968 had helped the great civil rights activist co-found the Illinois Black Panther Party of Self-Defense.

The Panther Party's ideology was somewhat of a blend between Martin Luther King and Malcolm X ideals. The BPP was able to convince local businesses into supporting their efforts to uplift the

community by making small donations to the Party's charities. With the help of the small businesses, the Panther Party was able to establish a Free Children's Breakfast Program for the hungry children across Chicago, as well as other cities throughout America. Bobby also advocated for reparations for African-Americans whose ancestors were enslaved in this country for so many hundreds of years.

The Chicago police killed Bobby Rush's friend and partner Fred Hampton during a raid that took place at Hampton's apartment the night of November 13, 1969. Bobby Rush was at Hampton's apartment just hours before the fatal shooting. The murder of Fred Hampton ignited a huge outcry against the Chicago city police and FBI tactics.

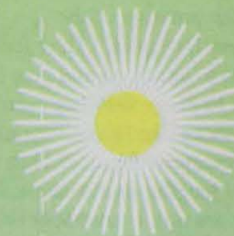
Rush's experience as co-founder of the Illinois Black Panther Party influenced his run for congress in 2000. Now, Bobby Rush takes a bigger role in the government as a democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represents the 1st Congressional District of Illinois. Here he can directly affect change in America. In Congress, Bobby continues his life-long commitment to make positive changes for African-Americans. He advocates for ending gun violence in the streets of Chicago.

Bobby Rush has spent his life trying to help people in need, especially the people he feels the United States government has long abandoned. Bobby shows today's youth that we can use our early experiences to create a better community for all. Bobby Rush is a great role model for young people in Chicago and all over the country.



March 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		





April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Ongoing Wild Music at Hobeart Nature Museum Sugar From the Sun opens at the Garfield Park Conservatory
2 Edward Hopper and Winslow Homer paintings at the Art Institute continues until May 11	3 Chicago Chamber musicians perform free at the Chicago Cultural Center 12:15pm	4 Tour the Chicago Theater for \$5 Tues/Thurs at noon through September	5	6 Columbia College Dance ensembles presents UBW and JANT-BI Exploring the Museum of Science and Industry Collection: Photographs by Terry Evans opens	7 A View Into Ancient Mexico at the National Museum of Mexican Art	8 Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center until the 16th FamilyDance Matinee
9 Chicago Ceramics art show ends at the Chicago Cultural Center Second Sunday at Hype Park Arts Center	10	11	12	13 The Museum of Science and Industry opens The Glass Experience	14	15 Extended Museum of Science and Industry extended hours until the 30th FamilyDance Matinee Bonnyard Prayer at Redmoon Central
16 St. Patrick's Day Ice skating at the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink ends	17	18	19	20	21 The first day of Spring Swan Lake at the Auditorium Theatre Mythic Creatures at the Field Museum	22 Jill Scott at the Chicago Theatre Swan Lake at the Auditorium Theatre
23 Easter Sunday Jill Scott at the Chicago Theatre	24	25	26	27	28 Flouratica - Botanical Fashion Show at the Garfield Park Conservatory 7pm-10pm \$100	29 Mayor Daley's Holiday Sports Festival McCormick Place (10:00am-4:00pm)
30 Women of Islam photographs at the Chicago Cultural Center ends						



School Fights: What Do You Think?

by Nicole Smith
Crown Academy

It seems no matter what school you go to, there are going to be fights. Some kids find them entertaining, some find them stupid. Those kids look like they're rolling around like greased hogs. But, sadly, not everyone is the same. People have their own opinions about this. It seems no matter how cool fights are, you're going to get in trouble. You get suspended, serve in-school suspension, or get detention.

Ms. Doyle, a 4th/5th split teacher at Crown, said, "I feel horrible when I see children fighting." She seems to have the right idea. She also suggested what we can do to stop it. "First, I think that we need to develop more of a sense of community or family in the classrooms. Next, I think that we need to give the children more opportunities to talk out their differences with an adult coach. Last, I think we need to calm down and start appreciating each other more."

Omar Delgado and Paul Scurlock seem to agree with each other, both saying, "There is nothing we can do about it." Kids sometimes feel happy after they've fought. But some, on the other hand, find themselves feeling sorry. "I've felt sorry after I've fought because it was stupid," said Omar. Some kids don't feel hurt. They want to see them cry or bleed.

"It doesn't really bother me. If students are going to fight, they'll fight," said Samirra Daley. "We can talk to the students to see if they have problems and try to get away from the person they hate."

We should talk to them and give them counseling or something, whatever we need to do. If kids keep fighting, they'll start using guns and knives soon. If you have a problem, go tell somebody or tell them to back off. You are not a wimp for sticking up for yourself.

Get It Together!!

By Chaphira Whitaker
Imagine Englewood If

There is a major crisis that is occurring among the youth in the Englewood community. Teens are having unprotected sex without thinking about the consequences that they may encounter. Pregnancy, STD's, and AIDS are growing rapidly among our youth. There is a high epidemic and I believe that this is contributed to the lack of education about abstinence, safe sex, and how it keeps the diseases spreading. Positive role models are needed to guide our youths. We also

need workshops that will educate our youth about making the right choices; our youth needs these workshops to promote positive self-esteem, academics, and personal growth. These workshops will assist our youth to engage in the positive that the negative. "It takes a village to raise a child" and the youth in our community needs the entire community's assistance to save and support us. We are counting on you to bring programs to our community; to promote health to save our youth.

Driving While On a Cell Phone

By Johnnie Butler
Imagine Englewood If

Do you drive and talk on the phone at the same time? Did you know that there are over 200,000 cases of accidents caused by talking on the phone while driving? Talking on the phone while driving is dangerous. It can eventually lead to accidents, possible deaths, and other drastic consequences.

According to chicagopolice.org, there are over 200,000 car accidents related to cell phone use, half of which are teens. Why is that, you ask? Well, according to recent polls, many teens are talking to friends, playing games, and sending messages by e-mail while driving. Teens should not drive while on the phone because it is inevitable that you will have to look down taking your eyes off the road, which will cause accidents.

In some cases, there are passengers in the car when the accidents occur. That makes things worse because when you talk on the phone while driving, you are not only hurting yourself, you're hurting others

who are in the car with you.

When there is any type of accident, there are cases of death. The ultimate price to pay for driving while distracted is death. Is it worth your life and the lives of others? Those few seconds you are on the phone could be your last.

If you drive in Chicago and get pulled over for talking on the phone, you will get a ticket, which might put a big hole in your pockets. Sometimes if you get repeated offenses you will be requested in court which could lead to a bigger fine, and you may even lose your license.

In conclusion, people should not drive and talk on the cell phone because of crucial consequences. There are alternatives; one option is you can buy a hands-free headset. Some new cars come with a "Bluetooth" link built into them. However, the safest way is not to use a cell phone while driving at all.

School closings: For better or worse?

by Edward Nunez
Benito Juarez High School

On February 1, 2008 we woke to between 6 and 10 inches of snow. The official word was that school would still go on as scheduled. Many students decided not to go to school and others decided to go to school.

Throughout the day, conversations between students and teachers, teachers with teachers, or students with students arose, all about the same topic: why wasn't the school closed?

Later in the day, there were rumors going around that the school would be closed during the day, which made students wonder why we even showed up to school. By the end of the day, the school remained open.

Many students believed that the decision to keep the school open was about the money. If the school did not open, the school would lose money. What everyone forgot to take into consideration is that schools provide more than just an education. The decision to keep the school open was made for the good of the students.

The sad truth is that there are situations where some students don't have a warm place to stay or a warm meal to eat due to poverty or homelessness. In some cases, school is the only place where these students eat a meal every day. Here in school is a place for homeless students or students with no heat in their homes to stay warm for at least 6 hours a day.

In a brief interview with assistant principal Dr. Gelb, he stated, "When making critical decisions about school, money is always an issue, unfortunately. In this situation, it was not a decision based on money. This time the decisions were based for the students' good, to provide a warm meal and a warm place for the unfortunate ones."

Although we would have loved to have the day off of school, that would have meant some students would have to go through the day without a warm meal or a warm place. In this situation, we should not lose sight that school provides more than just an education.

The harsh reality of snitching

by Jasper Holt
TPFS

I was raised on the south side of urban Chicago, Illinois. This area is referred to as the "low end." This specific area of Chicago is known for a lot of criminal activity. While growing up in this area, you quickly learn that snitching isn't tolerated. Snitching is when a person notifies an officer of the law about illegal activities. The individual who informs the officer is referred to as a "snitch." People inform the law because they do not want to see illegal activities in their neighborhoods.

Bad things happen to an individual when someone finds out that person is snitching; it can also affect their brothers (people they are affiliated with in the streets). One of the things that might happen is a hit might be put out (assassination attempts) on the streets for the individual who is snitching. Price tags (paying someone to commit murder) are put out on the individual, or in the worst occasions, their family members. If the offense is light, the person will simply be violated (beat up badly by a chosen few of their brothers). Snitches have had their cars blown up, their houses cocktail bombed, people have ran in (burglarized) their house while looking for the snitch, and snitches have been found dead in ditches, lakes, and trunks of cars.

People snitch because gangs trespass in front of their houses without permission. Some residents get tired of these people hanging in front of their buildings drinking liquor, smoking illegal narcotics, drug trafficking, and gambling. It is likely that all of the attention may bring rival gang members to their area and street wars begin. Residents get scared to step outside of their own houses because they hear gunshots. Bullets don't have any names on them.

People start snitching to try to get their communities cleaned up. They believe that if more police patrol their neighborhoods, these activities will cease. Residents also begin community watch organizations to stop the problems. The drug dealers do not like this because it draws police attention to them and decreases the amount of money they are making.

I feel that something needs to be done to clean up our communities because no one wants to raise their children around guns, drugs, gangs, violence, and alcoholics hanging on their front porch or at the corner stores. Nevertheless, I don't believe that snitching on the next man is the answer. As a whole, we need to solve this problem immediately for the preservation of our future.

What Happened To Your Clothes? *Tips on how to stay "Hip" with Fashion*

By Jasmine Kinsey
ACT Charter School

Fashion has really been going down the drain during the year. . . Most teens have

been wearing clothes that generally don't match. Some have gotten lazy and don't

care about what they are wearing. For example, some high school girls are starting to dress like some "elderly" women. They were sweaters with ruffles around the neck and bell-bottom pants that their grandparents wore. What's up with that?

Personally, I think it's TIME OUT for the "kiddy stuff" and time to find clothes that are affordable. It's easy as 1-2-3. For example, you can go to any clothing store and find a plain white-button-down shirt and make it look beautiful. You don't need "brand name" clothes because the only thing you are paying for is the "NAME". Now, that's a waste of money! Ladies, you can add accessories that will bring out any outfit. Go to any store and find some colored bangles or even a nice looking necklace that will bring out your clothes. Does that seem hard?

Males, don't think I left you out because I have tips for you too. For those young men that wear your pants below your waist, STOP IT! From a female point-of-view, that's not attractive. Please stop wearing clothes that's twice your size. Fellas, it's TIME OUT for those wearing 3X t-shirts, when you probably wear a LARGE. Trust me, it doesn't make you look any bigger or buffed, so QUIT IT!

THE 'BAD BOY' BLUES

Kiersten Upchurch
Cornerstone Academy

Why do girls fall for bad boys? This question crosses my mind every time one of my friends comes to me for advice on how to deal with their boyfriend. I find so many of my friends falling for the same "type" of guy: a lying, cheating, but charming person. I guess I can understand the initial attraction because he is typically alluring in some way, but after finding out who he really is, you'd think she would break it off.

Unfortunately, for some reason she doesn't. Nowadays, more and more girls are falling for bad boys everywhere in society.

My friends are always complaining about how wrongly they are treated by their boyfriends. They complain that they wish he would be faithful and honest. Last week for example, one of my friends sent me an email about how she

thought her ex-boyfriend was going to propose to her. He would always send her emails about how much he loved her and how he wanted to settle down and spend his life with her. All signs pointed to him popping the question. However, it turns out he wasn't going to and she ended up feeling depressed. So I let her know that she deserves better and should break up with him, but for some strange reason they don't.

I'm not completely a feminist, but I definitely don't think a girl should have to put up with a bad boy if she doesn't want to because most of the time girls really do want a guy they can trust. Every time one of my friends breaks up with her boyfriend, it's always based upon a lie. No girl should feel sad and emotionally neglected ever.

Year-Round School: Yes or Nooooo!!!

by Tatyana Sims
Crown Academy

Wow! There's just so much going on about year-round school. Most kids would really enjoy year-round school. They seem to think it's more fun learning and getting more help from the wonderful teachers. For those of you who don't like school but really want to learn, year-round school has longer break periods. For example, during Christmas break you get three weeks off instead of two weeks like regular school. Read the opinions from these three students, and then try to form your own.

Leroy Cook, a 7th grader, agrees with the opinion of having school year-round and believes that it would benefit the school and the students. "I think year-round school would be great for this school because it seems that we have

longer breaks. . . I like that," he said. Leroy also stated that, "... year-round school helps your education because we start school back earlier in the year after summer break. . . that's good because sometimes during summer break, we forget what we've learned. . ."

But Rodnesha Murry, an 8th grader, doesn't agree with Leroy. She says year-round school sucks. "It's boring. . . I wouldn't want to [attend school year-round] because. . . [it'll mess] up my summer plans," she says, "... I do think it helps in "your education" in a way. . . then again, it doesn't. [Year-round school] . . . helps to keep things in your head instead of taking a break and forgetting the things that we need to know before

[entering] the next grade. . . we [also] learn more."

Tatierra Powell, a 6th grader, agrees with Rodnesha. She also believes that year-round school is a bad idea. She states, "It's bad. . . I would definitely hate it because it's certain days that kids should miss school. . . they shouldn't be in school everyday." She then goes on to say, "... I do think year-round school helps your education because you get more time for more [studying] and you could learn more. Also, it prevents children from being out on the streets in gangs and doing drugs."

All of these students made great points of views and gave great reasons. But what do you think?

teens mean business

Lights, Camera, Backlight Action!

by Angela Robinson

Gwendolyn Brooks High School

There's a new girl in the entertainment industry, and she's snapping everything she can and making it great! From fashion to flowers, from humans to animals, everything she makes into still shots comes out perfect. "You have to have an eye for this in order to develop the perfect picture."

With only 4 months of her business up and running, 17-year-old Lauren Golston has already been building a great clientele. A part of that clientele is actress/music artist Drew Sidora. "I was given the opportunity to meet Drew's manager by my teacher, Mr. Steward, and

was able present to her my portfolio and she loved it." While her work made an impression on Drew's manager, it also had an effect on Drew Sidora. With that, Lauren Golston, CEO of LoPhotography, has been interviewed by Drew and her manager for Lauren to be Drew's professional photographer. She's already been assigned to do Drew's upcoming photo shoot with Ok Magazine.

Although this is a great step, she had to develop this talent over time. Her friend got her involved in a program by the name of Gallery 37. They helped her develop her eye

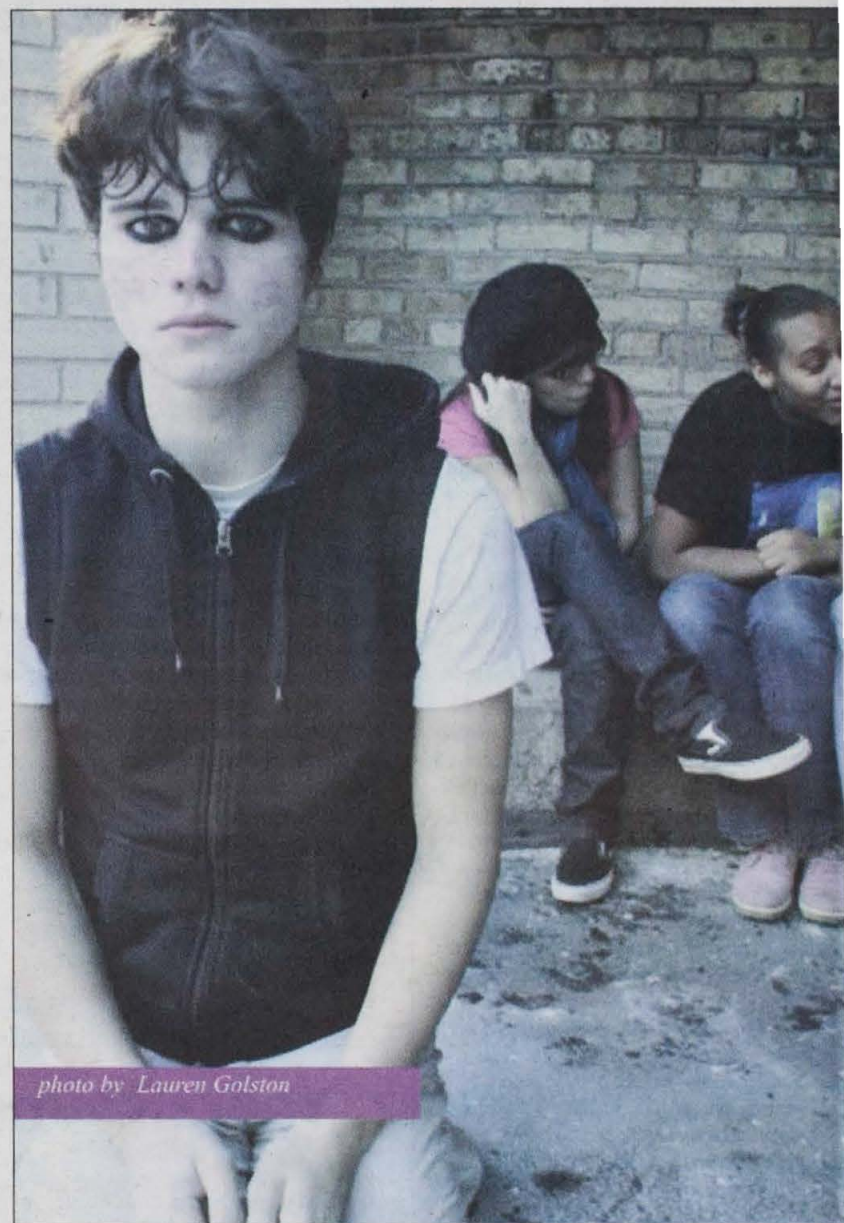


photo by Lauren Golston

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in which photography became very natural for her. According to Lauren, this started as a hobby. "I just liked doing it and taking pictures of things that I thought would make a good picture." She knew one day she wanted to own her own business but not while she was in high school. "I didn't really want to start my business now, but my teacher encouraged me to use it as a money maker, so I did." Since then she's been making profit from her hobby.

As far as a studio goes, Gallery 37 allows her to put their studio to use for photo shoots. Either that or she can set up in the client's home which is very convenient for her

clients. She has packages already set. She's taking gigantic steps and has confidence in every step that she takes. This senior at Gwendolyn Brooks High School is taking charge and is putting a spin on photography. A true trailblazer, such as Lauren Golston, is always sagacious and open to new ideas. Thus, she brings in clients such as Drew Sidora and future clients with even greater statuses.

After graduating, Miss Golston will be attending The School of Visual Arts in New York. This way, it will be easy for her to continue on with her business and passion for taking pictures.

Check Yourself

by Chris Szule

One of the most important things to do once you get a new job is to open a checking and savings account. This will allow you to manage your money received from paychecks in order to save for future expenses such as college or a car. However, you should take caution in what type of checking account you open and the various fees associated with it. There are a few banks that offer free checking accounts with no or a low minimum balance.

A great thing to do to make sure you save most of your money, and not spend it all, is to schedule direct deposit. This option will allow you to automatically receive your paycheck into your checking account every pay period. Check with your employer to see if they offer this option, as most do. When direct deposit is combined with an automatic transfer to savings monthly, you can grow your savings without even noticing it. Most banks will not charge

for either of these features. Also, as an added tip, make sure your savings account offers an interest rate over 2.5%, which is common at most banks. Examples of how much money you end up with after 3 and 5 years are listed in the table below. This is based on a 3.5% savings account interest rate.

Amount Added Weekly	After 3 Years	After 5 Years
\$20	\$3,288.58	\$5,680.83
\$50	\$8,221.45	\$14,202.08
\$75	\$12,332.17	\$21,303.12
\$100	\$16,442.90	\$28,404.16

By having a checking account combined with direct deposit, automatic monthly transfers, and possibly a monthly budget, you'll be able to save a good amount of money to cover future expenses.

College Finance

by Yasmine Lozano

Von Steuben High School

"We work hard for the money!" This is the song everyone will be singing after their senior year... or maybe not. Recently, studies have been shown that many people do not attend college because of the excuse that they can not afford it. However, some other people feel so secure with their current job throughout high school that they do not even consider college because they feel their career has already started. Because of these insecure thoughts, kids fail to see the problem.

There are multiple solutions that these people can use. In fact, graduate student Odalo Wasikhongo has stated, "Before everyone begins to worry about finance, they need to start off with ambition." Once a person has an ambition to go to college, they will strive to be there no matter what it takes.

There are plans such as loans, possible scholarships, and numerous jobs people can work at. Scholarships can surely be pursued by great academic achievements. There are so many

opportunities that people can use to get through college. As far as the people who have a great job and do not consider college, it will be harder in the future when they want a new job, and they do not have a strong educational background. Studies have shown only 80% of high school seniors enroll in college. This shows that 20% of people do not even apply to college. It has been researched people who hold off on college and plan to wait do not even go. Statistically, 86% of people end up not going at all. Therefore, in their future it will be more difficult to find a well-paid job.

All in all, college plays a big role in life; the people who go will most likely succeed in life with a stronger educational background, as opposed to those who do not attend who will most likely struggle to survive because of poor knowledge. The most successful people are the ones who enforce a good education upon themselves and others.

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Expressing Yourself in the Business World

by Steven Alvarez
Cornerstone High School

I can imagine that one does not truly respect major multi-million dollar corporations until they've tried to run a legitimate business of their own. It all starts with an idea, but the rule of thumb is that an idea that does not move the body is just a thought. One cannot run a business with thought, one needs ideas. Really, the beginning of every business is the action resulting from inspiration, meeting, and determination. Yet, once one's product hits the real world, they'd quickly learn that it takes a little bit

more than philosophical clarity to continue their business steadily. And so it is with Artistic Expressions that I learned to truly admire and respect the face of multi-million dollar corporations.

The inspiration came from a teacher named Tiffany Staley, Program Coordinator for Entrenuity, a business focused on teaching entrepreneurship to young people. After all, the leaders of tomorrow are the children of today. Mrs. Staley came to Cornerstone Academy to take over the class then

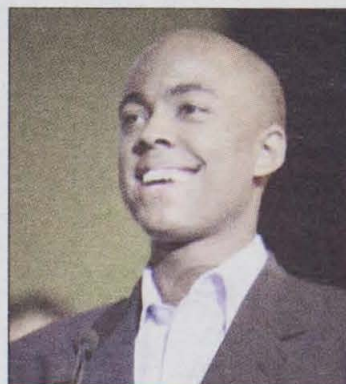
known as economics, and then after teaching the students rudimentary entrepreneurship she asked a question. Can your artwork become a successful business? She simply proposed the thought that became an idea.

From that, Artistic Expressions was born. After initial customer polling and several name changes it finally became what it is today: an outlet of expression for young students at Cornerstone Academy selling Mosaics masterpieces. The idea had natural appeal to the artists

and managing minds already involved in the course, but it attracted many people who saw only the results of an idea and came to add to the movement. The details of the story become our history, and though short and succinct, their accolades come from the length and duration of the initial thought, "We can speak to our immediate community with flexible art that reflects our creativity and contains the potential to change minds and possibly motivate people about our community."

Millionaire teenager becomes role model for others

by Michael Carson
Plainfield North High School



Farrah Gray is a millionaire turned motivational speaker.

When you think of millionaires, you probably think of moguls such as Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates, or your favorite celebrity. Or maybe you believe you have to be in your forties to reach millionaire status. But for Farrah Gray, millionaire status was reached at age fourteen!

Farrah Gray was raised on the South Side of Chicago in the

impoverished Chicago Housing Projects. His mother raised him and his four siblings by herself, like most mothers in her area. However, she was hard working and made sure she provided for her children, despite the fact she did it alone. Eventually, her ambition trickled down on young Farrah, and at six he became a young entrepreneur, simply by selling body lotion he mixed himself for \$1.50. By the age of nine, he co-hosted a Las Vegas radio show. At thirteen he launched his own businesses that were headquartered on Wall Street. Between the ages of twelve and sixteen, Gray was the owner of over five different business ventures which included the production of a Las Vegas Comedy Show. Finally, by the young age of fourteen years old, he sold his company Farr-Out Foods to an Israeli Candy Company. Now at the age of twenty-three he is a real estate investor and full time motivational speaker.

Public Aid Recipients

Are they taking advantage of taxpayers?

by Amanda Jeffery
Imagine Englewood If

Opinion based question: Do you feel most people who receive public assistance from the government such as link cards and/or public aid are lazy and abusing the governmental system?

I believe most people who receive money from the government, such as link cards and or Public Aid, are just lazy and are abusing the governmental system. I say that because my parents don't receive any benefits from the government. They work hard for their money and can't afford to give it away by paying taxes to the government. The money they're paying in taxes is given to those same people who are not trying to help themselves.

My father works at Cook County Hospital and my mother is a nurse. I feel if my parents could put forth the effort and achieve great success, everyone else can as well. I understand many things happen and people make mistakes. It's never too late to try and make your life better.

I interviewed four individuals; two people agreed with me, the

others disagreed. One of the persons I interviewed stated, "If you make a mistake in your life, such as having a child at a young age, you should qualify for governmental assistance if you can't afford to handle responsibility." Another said, "If you have the assistance you should work hard and become successful, and try to make it on your own."

Statistics say, "Almost half of the African American population are on welfare." It seem like a lot of welfare consumers are not trying to empower themselves and make a better life for themselves and their family. Why keep on making the same mistakes over and over. Most people who depend on the government are trying to get out of the system and help themselves. But still others just sit at home on welfare and free load off the government. A lot of people abuse the governmental system by not trying to make an effort to succeed and be successful without welfare. People need to learn from their mistakes if they want to be true leaders.

mirror, mirror

a reflection of times

Untitled

By Darren Jackson
TEEN Parent Family Services

Paralyzed by own unjust ways

Glory be the day I clear my skies of gray

*A new leaf has turned the moment I place
my hands together to pray*

Me and peace, the harmony in my heart,

*Change begins every rising sun and it been
that way from the start,*

*Peace and I let not trials and tribulations
tear us apart.*

*Never shall I be bound to the devils creed
made to mislead and advocate destruction
by greed*

Sin is my want but Heaven is my need.

Blind Street

By Sherie Ajayi
Hubbard High School

*I once saw a blind man
Stranded in the middle of Clark Street.
He didn't ask for any money or sympathy.
Just for some one to help him find his way.
People roamed down the busy downtown
Chicago Street.
No One stopped
So I didn't either.*

Version II

By Sherie Ajayi
Hubbard High School

*I once saw a blind man
Stranded in the middle of Clark Street.
He didn't ask for any money or sympathy.
Just for some one to help him find his way.
People roamed down the busy downtown Chicago Street
No One stopped
So I decided to be blind and didn't stop either.*

In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King

By: AuBryn Thompson
Beasley Academy

C onfident

O utspoken

U nique

R espectful in every way

A lways articulate

G enerous

E xicting

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To Her Own Beat

By Destiny Shanklin
Canter Middle School

*She opened her mind
For the first time
to let her thoughts through.
Some were old and some were new.
Her heart was sore,
But they wanted more.
They took advantage of her feelings.
Her patience jumping from ceiling to ceiling.
Instead of moving on cue,
She wants to know what to do.
That's just the thing.
She has one broken wing.
She wants to get up and fly
But can't seem to get by.
She might take a chance,
And get out of stance.
She's afraid of who to be,
but can't open her eyes to see.
Her pain is almost gone.
I guess it found another home.
In a deep day dream,
She is awakened by a scream.
In a world full of disappointment,
She waited to come out.
To be able to yell, scream and shout.
They held her real close,
But she seemed to let go.
She's going to stand by herself
Without no one else.
It's all so sweet.
And now, She's moving to her
Own beat.*

Version II

By Sherie Ajayi
Hubbard High School

*I once saw a blind man
Stranded in the middle of Clark Street.
He didn't ask for any money or sympathy.
Just for some one to help him find his way.
People roamed down the busy downtown
Chicago Street
No One stopped
So I decided to be blind and didn't stop
either.*

Think Again

By Tynisha Strange
Teen Parent Family Services

*You think you know me,
But you should think again.
Think again if you think
You're going to do me like them
hoes you mess with.*

You better think again!

*You think yon' get me to sell them
drugs for, Mr. Drug Man?*

You better think again!

*My kids are gon' have to think again
If you think they gon' grow up
Living the life I did.*

They better think again!

Why I Walked Away

By Tynisha Strange
Teen Parent Family Services

*I walked away
the day I realized your love not true.*

*I walked away
Even though we made life.*

*I walked away
When you started to think of me as nothing.*

*I walked away
because I started to feel alone.*

*I walked away
with the knowledge of knowing I could do better.*

From Head to Toe, I Love You So

By Tynisha Strange
Teen Parent Family Services

*From head to toe, I love you so.
Your hair so curly and thin
And its little Mohawk stand.
From head to toe, I love you so.
I love the way the rolls on your neck
Overlap each other, and when I go
For them, you laugh and laugh.
From head to toe, I love you so.
I love the way you move those little fingers
Of yours, reaching for things up so high.
From head to toe, I love you so.
Those chubby thighs you have,
I just would like to eat them up.
From head to toe, I love you so.
Those tiny feet and little toes I love to kiss
As I sing a song and a fast-to-sleep you go.
From head to toe, I love you so.*

Es Darte Cuenta

By Elizabeth López
Walter Peyton College Prep

*Vivir alejada de tu familia es cause por darte cuenta-
Que todos-
Teniendo sus propias vidas-
No podrán llamar o escribir-
No podrán hacer el tiempo
Para encontrarse contigo-
A cualquier hora que los extrañes.
Vivir lejos de ellos es causa por darte cuenta-
Que todos-
Con sus propias vidas-
Un día se casaran sin diserte-
Y tendrán hijos que no te conocerán.
Vivir lejos de los que quieres
Es causa por darte cuenta que-
Que hasta con amor no se puede,
Hasta con intenciones no se cumplen las cosas,
Y Hasta familia te olvidara-
Pero también
TAMBIÉN
Te pueden recordar.*

I Will Always Be There for Her

by Anonymous

Even though she has only recently turned 15, Esmeralda has always told me that I was the only one she could talk to and trust with absolutely everything. Esmeralda gets into a lot of trouble. She gets suspended at her school almost every week for fighting. She smokes—not only cigarettes, but marijuana as well. She drinks to the point where by the next day she doesn't remember anything.

On her 15th birthday, Esmeralda didn't look to happy to be having a party with all her relatives. She seemed sad. Scared. Worried. At the party, I never got a chance to talk to her because every time I would ask her what was wrong, some relative would come around and she couldn't say anything. A few days later, I got a call right as I was walking out to door to head to school.

"Can you please meet me outside the library on Clark?"

I heard a girl crying.

"It's me."

I told her I was on my way to school, but I couldn't just leave her like that. She's like my little sister. I couldn't tell my mom I wasn't going to school, so I pretended to go. I literally ran to the library on Clark, and there I saw her sitting on the floor wiping her tears away. She stood up, and I asked her what was going on.

"I'm sorry," she said. She started to breakdown in my arms and said, "I let you down. I'll never forgive myself."

"Stop scaring me. What's up?"

With a shameful look on her face, she said, "I'm pregnant."

I was shocked. "What happened?!"

We walked to the park and we began to talk. What she told me filled me up with anger.

"I was at a party with a whole bunch of people," she said.

Quickly I asked her, "Were you drinking or smoking?"

"Both," she replied.

I asked her if she knew who the guy was and she said, "No. I can't

remember anything and I'm—I'm not even sure if it was just one guy."

What I felt at that moment was indescribable. I was angry that she didn't think about what she was doing, and I was furious at those immature boys who had done that to her. She couldn't tell her parents so she came to me. I decided to come in to school, and then I would sneak out to go and be with her.

"We can't keep missing school," I said.

"I know, but I can't even stop crying. I feel sick," she said.

I couldn't keep missing school because I was already struggling with making up credits to graduate on time. I told her to go to school and try her best to keep it easy and she did.

Soon after, I got another early morning phone call. "Hey, I'm coming over next week because I really need to talk to you," she said.

I had scheduled an appointment for her at Planned Parenthood, a place where women can get birth control, pregnancy counseling, and abortions. (6353 N. Broadway. (773) 973-3393. www.plannedparenthood.org). This organization is well known for helping women when they end up pregnant and aren't sure what their next steps might be. Esmeralda had already made her decision, and she wasn't going to keep the baby. She came as she planned and we went to Planned Parenthood.

The counselors took Esmeralda into an office and told me I couldn't be in there with her. They went in but within a couple minutes, the counselors returned and told me to come in because Esmeralda wanted me in to be in there with her. The counselor was trying to convince her to deliver the baby and give it up for adoption. I was surprised, but Esmeralda didn't want her parents to know anything so she stuck with her first decision to have the abortion.

Within a couple of hours, it was finished, and she looked relieved, but

soon she began to cry.

"What did I do?"

I couldn't answer her because I'm really against abortion, but I tried to calm her down.

I drove her home and she said, "Thanks. Thank you for being there for me."

A couple of days have passed, and the last thing we talked about was when she told me she didn't want to live with the guilt any longer. She was talking about ending her own life.

"That would be so wrong because you should live to make up for what you did," I said.

Finally, I couldn't take it anymore. If I told her parents what was going on, she would lose her trust in me, but if I kept quiet I might end up losing her. I talked to her about telling her parents and after a long time of talking and thinking things through, we decided that letting them know would be the best thing to do.

Her parents took it the way I

expected: her mother began to yell at her, when all her daughter needed were help and compassion.

"We came to tell you this because we thought since you are her mother you could've helped her, but I see that she's better off with me!" I yelled. I took her to my house and I told my parents and at first they hesitated, but because they had already received a call from Esmeralda's mom saying that she didn't care, my parents let her stay.

She was with us for a week, and I guess during that time her mom thought things through. Eventually, she said, "The doors to my house will always be open for you. You can come back home whenever you want to."

At first, Esmeralda didn't want to go back to her home and high school, but I convinced her. I talk to her almost everyday, and I thank god that she's doing fine now. No matter what happens, no matter what she does, I will always be here for her.

"He said, She said"

by Danielle Cox and Navarris Harvey
Sullivan High School

1) How long should I go out with my boyfriend before I get his name tattooed on me? (Female, Senior)

Danielle: If he is willing to get your name on him, where it is visible, then do it when you are ready....together....at the same time!

Navarris: Ok. Shawty dig this here, you need to ask yourself this question: do I really want this fool's name on my beautiful skin for the rest of my life? Even though he could possibly find another girl? Even though he could repeat those famous sad lines, "it's not you, it's me." I say scrap that idea.

2) How do I approach this guy, when I'm not sure he likes me? (Female, Senior)

Danielle: If you are brave enough, go to him and express your feelings then see where it goes from there. But if not, find out his e-mail address and do it that way!

Navarris: I have been in quite a few of the encounters, thanks to my stallion looks, LOL! But really, when it comes to approaching someone these days you

have to use a tactic I like to call "Shake-N-Brake." First, you start by showing a little more attention than usual: longer and more detailed conversations in the lunch room. When there is a large group of people, appear to only notice him in the crowd, even if you may know the rest of the people — you can holla' at them later! Offer to lend a hand, even when it's obvious that you are busy. That is what I call the shake. Do that for about a week and a half, or longer if he is one of those people who miss school a lot. Once he has gotten used to that, he will expect it to continue. Then you BRAKE! That's when you stop completely! After that, act as if he is the last thing on your mind. Act completely independent and happy. Trust me, he's watching. If he doesn't seek you to find out what's going on, he's not interested. If he starts pursuing you, this is how you know that he is attentive to your feelings, and when someone is attentive to your feelings, there is a connection there. Trust me. (Don't expect marriage though!) LOL!

bookReview

THINK BIG: unleashing your potential for excellence *Author: Ben Carson*

by Baaba Grant
Bogan High School

In *Think Big*, a sequel to his autobiography *Gifted Hands*, Ben Carson applauds and acknowledges individuals in his life who have helped him to achieve success. Although the purpose of the novel is to acknowledge those who helped him, it is difficult for readers to overlook the underlying principle of how "talent, honesty, insight, the act of being nice, books, in-depth knowledge, and God" contribute to the academic and social well-being of individuals.

In the book, he gives readers an insight into how his success is not only a product of his hard work and perseverance, but also that of those who labored energetically behind the scenes to make him who he is today—the doctor who undertook the daunting task of separating the Binder twins successfully, thereby making history in the field of medicine; Carson presents his mother in every aspect of his book. He does not forget his mentors and friends

who helped him on the way.

Born in Boston and raised in both Boston and Detroit, Ben Carson experienced a difficult life with his single mother, whose highest level of education was third grade, and his elder brother, Curtis. His mother's encouragement to always "do your best" and "you can do it better" are the recurring quotes throughout the novel. Carson's drive to achieve academic success did not occur until fifth grade where he used to hold the unchallenged position at the bottom of his class. By seeing his mom strive and his determination to become the smartest person in his school, Carson allowed himself to work hard and later acquire an Ivy League education at Yale University where he majored in Pre-Med.

James Baldwin once wrote, "You think you are the only one who has been through struggles, and then you begin to read." I recalled this quote as I read this book. For starters, I live in inner-city

Chicago where life is comparatively similar to that of inner-city Boston where Ben Carson was raised. His struggles are definitely not unknown to the world since I can identify with a few. As a result, I have derived much motivation from this book merely from knowing that someone defied similar obstacles.

Another reason that this book is compelling is the techniques Carson employed, such as grammatical simplicity. Aside from the fact that the book is written in simple language, where the average reader would be able to comprehend what was being said, every chapter began with a poem or quote that summed up what the following lines were to convey. My favorite was a quote Carson used to communicate the essence of reading books:

It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds... In the best books, great men talk to us,

give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours. God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are true levelers. They give to all, who faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and the greatest of our race.

- William Ellery Channing

I recommend this book to all who seek motivation, a drive that compels us to go further than those who preceded us by building on the knowledge they left and also in our quest to defy obstacles. Reading this book will also give readers a sense of how the "irrelevant" is vital to our advancements, if not our existence. Ben Carson's *Think Big* will literally force you to think big!

Stressed-Out Girls: Helping Them Thrive in the Age of Pressure *Author: Roni Cohen-Sandler, PH.D.*

by Stephanie Davis
Morgan Park High School

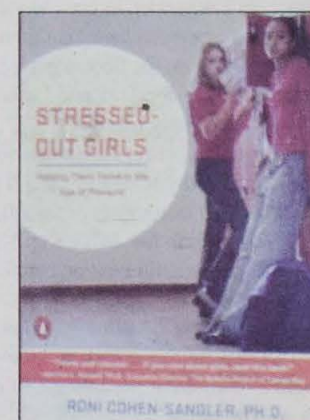
Stressed-Out Girls is an excellent self-help book for anyone who is concerned about teenage girls and themselves. This book explains how the pressure of growing up has increased for the average teenage girl in the past few years. The generation now is stressed by their parents, trouble of getting into college, peer pressure, and too much homework. Dr. Sandler also speaks of the actions that teen girls take because of not knowing how to solve their

problems. The crucial decisions go as far as cutting, starving, and inappropriate sexual behavior. These actions are triggered by the thought that no one has any intention of helping or caring about them.

"Parents only seem to overpressure teens and make them feel like they are never good enough," writes Dr. Sandler. Parents continue to stress to teens how important it is for them to study for a test, clean their rooms, be home at a certain time; and if they don't

follow the rules there will be consequences. Punishments and restrictions are what make teens worrisome and panic-stricken. Dr. Sandler reminds us that, knowing there are more rules to follow, teenage girls obsess over how to follow these rules. This can lead them to high blood pressure at a young age.

The main way to keep these teenage girls from becoming over stressed is to speak to them in a calm manner about what is troubling



them and see what you can do to help. This book has many more suggestions of how to keep your teenage daughter calm. A shocking and educational 268 pages will give your family better communication skills and make them 100% happier.

musicReview

Anxiously Awaiting *Ashanti's Declaration*

by Kahari Kyles

Cornerstone Academy

It's been almost four years since the Princess of Hip Hop and R&B, Ashanti, has been out of the limelight and the tension of the singer's musical comeback is so thick, you need a "cleaver" to cut it. Somewhere along the lines and in the midst of all the drama (in 2006 her cousin died due to a drunk driver incident, in 2007 she encountered some label woes along with a scandal about an assumed affair with her boss Irv Gotti and an unrevealed relationship between her and Nelly) Ashanti's musical career was in question. She gave us little

hope. She managed to give teaser tracks to her fans ("You Can't Deny It," featuring Jim Jones, "Here's My Number, Babe" with longtime colleague/producer Seven Aurelius, and she was featured on Jagged Edge's "Put a Lil' Umph in It"), though they received mediocre criticism. As two failed singles were released ("Switch" and "Hey, Baby") the singer's comeback was uncertain. The winter of 2007, Ashanti went on a promotional tour for her upcoming album amply titled *The Declaration* and she performed two new singles, "If I Was Your Girlfriend," and

"The Way that I Love You." "The Way that I Love You" quickly grew on fans as the low quality video performances were uploaded on YouTube. This song, which is a mid-tempo portrait with the frame of a ballad (produced by L.T. Hutton, the same guy who produced "Pac's Life" and "You Can't Deny It") has an infectious heavy bass line, light piano keys and steady vocals; the song has now been pushed forth as the lead single for the album. It seems like a winner and could more than likely put the singer's name back into the competitive business, as

some of us have gotten very familiar with other R&B acts like Beyonce, Ciara, Rihanna, Keyshia Cole, and others. However, it is unknown what can happen, because *The Declaration* has been pushed back on several different occasions and still has no concrete release date. Hopefully, Ashanti's won't keep the typical fan anxiously waiting in despair for too long as she continues to demystify the choices of her career.

Sources:

ashantidaily.com/ashantidouglass.net

movieReview

This Christmas Movie review

by Naquana Gage

Imagine Englewood

The movie named "This Christmas" recently came out in theaters. This movie is the best; everyone should go and see this movie because it's very entertaining, it's funny, and all families alike can relate to it.

"This Christmas" is a holiday movie you can go see with your family. This movie is based on a

dysfunctional family who comes together for the holiday along with keeping a lot of secrets from each other.

Interview with Nanette Gage, a graduate of Hyde Park High School

Did you think *This Christmas* was a good movie?

"I think this movie was very good and funny."

Did you think people should go and see this movie?

"I think people should go and see this movie because it's entertaining."

Interview with Yvette Gerald, a

graduate of Hyde Park High School

Did you think *This Christmas* was a good movie?

"I think this movie was alright it

wasn't really funny."

Did you think people should go and see this movie?

"I think people should go and see this movie it wasn't all that bad."

If I could, I would rate "This Christmas" five stars or thumbs up, because it's very funny.

Cloverfield

by Luis Villalobos

Bogan High School

Most of the time, when there's a lot of hype on a particular film, the film itself tends to wear thin or turns out to be a big disappointment. Not this time, I recently saw the movie "Cloverfield." There has been a lot of buzz going around about this movie. The anticipation was unbearable. For this, the creator of the movie must be thanked. In all the trailers that were released concerning this movie, none of them revealed the identity of the monster in the film. He's unlike any movie monster I've ever seen before. A very cold and unique design and I think you'll be pleased. The sound effects in the film are incredible.

The movie is basically about a guy named Rob who just got a new job in Tokyo. So he decides to move. On the eve of his departure, Rob's brother Jason throws him a huge going away party that's interrupted by a huge party pooper in the form of a monster who starts attacking the city. The true shining star in this film is a guy named Hud, who appears on camera just a few times. However, you will get to know him very well. Hud is the man behind the video cameras, documenting the thing as it goes down. His running commentary is hilarious, and you will quickly grow to love him. Hud is one of the reasons that "Cloverfield" works so well.

He's the funny best friend. He is more you than Rob, and maybe it's better that way. It's so interesting to see a story from the point of view of this type of character.

The characters in this movie are very relatable. Even the reactions of the people when the monster attacks was very relatable to how we might act in real life if ever we get attacked by a monster. The way the director chose to film the movie was also great. The effects brought you in and made you a character in the film. "Cloverfield" is a fun and action filled movie, plain and simple. It's a sit back, relax, and go roller coaster ride. J.J. Abrams wanted to make an American

monster movie, and he has done just that. "Cloverfield" is not a "Godzilla" rip off, it's the reinvention of the monster film. This is the story about characters aren't trapped, these characters are people running away from the "monster". They have no urge to defeat the monster, they just want to get away and reconnect with their loved ones. This is a human story which just happens to take place during this gigantic moment of fear.

All in all, I give the movie 4 stars out of 5. This is a MUST SEE film to go and see at the movies.



Summer Aburahmeh showing off her style of fashion.
Photos by Latoya Ford and Tezeru Teshome



Chom Pasidparchya's style is playful and undefinable.
Photos by Latoya Ford and Tezeru Teshome



Henry Obasiolu dresses with an urban attitude.
Photos by Latoya Ford and Tezeru Teshome

"Hollywood" in High School

by Latoya Ford and Tezeru Teshome
Sullivan High School

Who said high school is not a fashion show? It is not because our life is fashion show. The way we dress expresses the way we feel and it describes our personality. Every person has a definition of dress which has a history to it, all of Sullivan students' styles of clothing are appreciated but these students caught our attention.

Summer Aburahmeh is a Junior whose style is unique. Summer is focused on the preppy/urban side. In this picture, she wears a pair of dark denim jeans that go well with her maroon long sleeve shirt, with white contrasts. We really like her jeans because they're not only dark but they have a light tan wash to them. She has a nice distinctive combination of colors. She's wearing a dark colored top with dark jeans. Normally you would wear dark boots but she layered a white short-sleeve "hoodies" to balance the darkness of the colors. Her silver jewelry compliments the silver and gold on her silver bag and white boots. Summer proves that you can be stylish and comfortable at the same time.

Chom Pasidparchya is a Senior whose attire can not be categorized. "My style is indescribable because I don't want people judging me and stereotyping me. I don't want to belong to any category," he stated. Chom has a nice combination of warm, cool and metallic colors. The brown "hoodies" correlates well with the brown Etnies shoes. He wears light-washed denim, which is accessorized by a wallet chain. What separates Chom from other students, who normally wear Etnies shoes and hoodies, is his spiked colorful hair and spiked book bag. We see his styles as distinctive, creative, and real.

Henry Obasiolu is also a Senior whose style can be described as preppy/hip-hop/urban. He transforms his style, he can be a little preppy by wearing a polo collared shirt but also hip-hop/urban by wearing baggy jeans.

All three of these students have a unique style because no one dresses like them. They wear the latest trends while still keeping their own flavor and individuality.

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Mind Moving Music

By Amber L. O'Neil

ACT Charter School

The world of music is reaching new extremes. It's also developing its own movement and reaching new heights. Heru, a West African native, can be witness to this. Now living in Chicago, this musician has a lot to say to the public. The founder of Movement Tones, he has started a political and cultural movement with his mind-blowing sound.

MovementTones.com, the website created by Heru, is a combination of historical information, and phenomenal music dedicated to deserving artists. Many of the artists featured on the site practice inspirational and respectful music. They travel with him to different events to discuss politics, and express how they feel about music today. Not to mention, the over the top performances given to the public every chance they get.

These artists understand the importance of keeping the legacy from which this music started. They want nothing more but to be recognized for their love and respect of music.

When we sat down with Heru, he expressed his love for music, but also his disappointment in the direction that music has taken. He feels that music has changed from a message of history to a message of material. He also feels that this musical change has had a contribution to the mentality of the young people of today. Heru stressed how young people of today don't understand politics or history. He also stated that prison has become a new culture and a new slavery to the people. Heru stood firmly on the thought that he believes music of today plays a major role in this epidemic.

Loosen Up My Buttons

The new advancement to technology

by Deontae Moore

Urban Prep High School



The buttons and accesories that go with it.
Image located at www.rev-ed.co.uk/image/full/Log001.jpg

Here's something you can't thread back on your shirt; it's the new "i-Button". It's a device you can use to interact with other s in a better way. The "i-Button" is a programmable, lightweight, multimedia button that features a high quality display screens that offers you both video and audio capabilities. The "i-Button" was designed to interactively and interpersonally demonstrate and promote products, services and information he best way possible. You can place this button on jackets, shirts or blouses.

Basically, this unique piece of equipment is to be used for advertising and promoting. Not

only can the "i-Button" display slide show presentations, videos, press kits and advertisements for up to eight hours, the audio feature allows the user to listen to the action.

The "i-Button" was influenced by CEO Richard Quintana; bringing a twist to the twenty-first century with new and exciting ways for advertising. "I always noticed large political pins with pictures on them. The buttons are used for an event and tossed in a box or thrown away. I thought, why not create a pin that can be used over and over again," said Mr. Quintana. You can find this device in store for a price ranging from \$79.99-\$99.00.

Sullivan Science Fair

by Rebecca Keith & Miata Phelan

Sullivan High School

Our small gym at Sullivan High School was full of students who had been working for weeks, to present a successful science project they completed for a good grade as well as the chance to be judged by professionals, who decides who goes to the finals. Students who make it to the finals have a chance to move to the state finals and eventually win scholarships and other prizes.

Mr. Dobbins and Ms. Velasco the science teachers from Sullivan, held the 2007-08 science fair on December 12, 2007. To successfully accomplish what the judges are looking for, they must do the following requirements: They had to include research, proof that they did the experiment and many other facts about their project.

An interesting project that caught a lot of student's attention was Marena Harvey's project to

see "If hot water freezes faster than cold." The hot water froze quicker than cold water so it turns out that her hypothesis was correct.

Another project of interest was titled, "Temperature vs. Vitamin C." LaFaye Garth said, "I chose this project to determine whether the temperature of ascorbic acid affects how acidic orange juice is. This experiment took me about 2 weeks to do.

There were 2 winners of the science fair. Omar Martinez - his project was titled "The National Way" and Marcelia Bustamante and her project was titled "Baby Wipe Effectiveness on the killing of E. coli."

Everyone did a good job. "The science fair turned out to be one of our best" says Mr. Dobbins, a chemistry teacher here at Sullivan.

The Monday Night Showdown

Bremer High School use Donkeys to shoot hoops and raise money

By Deontae Moore
Urban Prep

Try to Shoot with a Donkey
Bremen High School use Donkeys to Play Basketball

Here's a useful disturbing, but even more creative way to play basketball; donkey: score on the back of a moving animal. Donkey basketball. has been a popular fundraising in all types of small towns across America.

Bremer high school High School decided to fundraise use this sporting event by riding on the butt of a donkey while

shooting to raise funds. "It would be fun, but I wouldn't really want to ride on top of a donkey," my brother said as I shared with him the details of this unusual sporting event. However, some Some don't see donkey basketball as an exciting sporting event, some; they see it as a cruel variation on the standard game of basketball. It is played on a standard basketball court and you ride the donkey up and down the court to shoot.

The game, however, is popular

chiefly in Southern United States in the South where it is usually played for its hilarity a one-shot fund, raiser event. In order to keep them from having "accidents" on the court, donkeys are without food and water for hours before the game. The first person to ever score on the back of a donkey was a man named "Rebate", who was the number one scorer in donkey ball history. He scored more than 15,000 points playing the game.

Slip of the tongue or honesty?

Kelly Tilghman's comment always inappropriate

by Miriam Brabham
St. Scholastica Academy

How does a community respond to a comment made nationally? Kelly Tilghman was engaged in a conversation with Nick Faldo, discussing options with a young golf player, playing against a someone like Tiger Woods. Nick Faldo said "they should just gang up on him for a while" and then Tilghman replied "and lynch him in a back alley." This comment was broadcasted on national television on the Golf Channel. The Rev. Al Sharpton took immediate offense to this comment calling it "an attack on all black people". Rev. Sharpton is calling for her immediate termination from her position. Tilghman and Woods are good friends for 12 years and Woods has stated that this comment is "a non-issue in his eyes" therefore dismissing any harm to himself through this comment and yet the nation is still in shock. The Golf Channel said "there is absolutely no room for that kid of language on their station", and yet she only received a two-week suspension and was back in time for the Buick Invitational tournament. Rev. Sharpton is still pushing for her termination even after Tiger's dismal of the issue. His argument is "that the comments were inappropriate and if we accept t as a slip of the tongue then how can we stop everyone from saying things and calling it a slip of the tongue?" Wood's reaction didn't bother him because he is "a golfer and not a Civil Rights Activist." This issue has made national headlines and caused a lot of controversy because of the tension and the difference in reactions from Woods and Rev. Sharpton. So what do people do when the victim renounces any harm and those around him are still wounded?

Jordan's son enrolls in CPS

NE Staff

Marcus Jordan, son of basketball legend Michael Jordan, enrolled at Whitney Young Magnet High last fall as a junior-year transfer. Whitney Young's principal, Joyce Kenner, admitted him happily. According to the Sun-Times, Kenner said he is "doing an excellent job."

Kenner is happy that the Jordan family put their faith into the Chicago Public School system to educate their youngest child. Marcus met all requirements needed in order to attend the school, including maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher, which Marcus had.

When Jordan left Loyola Academy in favor of Whitney Young, he was 6-foot-2 as well as the top-ranked basketball player in the area's class of 2009.

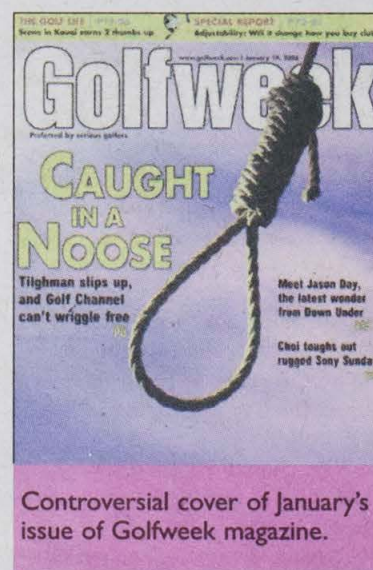
The "Noose" is Loose

Golf Week publishes a noose on the front cover

By: Miriam Brabham
St. Scholastica Academy

Dave Seanor is an editor for Golf Week magazine and printed a noose on the cover of their publication the week of January 19, in reference to the comment made by Kelly Tilghman, from the Golf Channel, earlier about "lynching" Tiger Woods. The issue also included a graphic of Al Sharpton holding this object and offering it to a pair of Golf Channel employees staring into a hole of thin ice where it is implied that Ms. Tilghman had sunk. The two graphics caused uproar among the African-American community who were trying to recover from the Tilghman comment. The magazine was immediately pulled from the Internet after it was released due to the offensive nature of the graphics. Dave was immediately terminated from his position and replaced by Jeff Babineau. Dave had been with Golf Week for nine years, in contrast to Kelly, who has only been with Golf Channel for two years. She has now finished her suspension, made a

public apology to the nation and Tiger, was reinstated and faces no further punishment for her comments.



Lady Tigers "take out the trash" & beats Senn 65-26

by Lashawn Sanders
Sullivan High School

"They are so garbage," "This is going to be an easy win." "We are going to crush them."

On January 11, the Sullivan Lady Tigers basketball team marched into a gym filled with insults from Senn's spectators and basketball players. The first quarter of the game began with our leading scorers Althea Adejudge and Brianna Smith launching the team to a startling lead! By half time, Sullivan was still in the lead and the girls were happy and energetic that

one could not tell that they had been through two exhausting quarters.

On the other side, Senn's players were not so happy- they did not even move from their seats because of the lopsided score. The third quarter came and Sullivan still had the lead. By the fourth quarter, the Senn girls were nearly devastated and even though they tried to work harder, it was not enough: Sullivan earned another victory giving the team a record of 13-1.

Testing for steroids has positive results

by Daizure Martin
West High School

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) is testing for positive steroids reactions in athletes. They were doing the testing to produce drug-free sports. They were also testing for anything that is on the banned list.

This event happened because the NCAA in New Jersey had drug-related issues. In Illinois, the school board had been talking about testing for a couple of years. It was an important issue for both legitimate health reasons and because competitions begin again in the fall. The IHSA had made a rule that

steroids were not allowed, and they heard that some of the athletes were taking them.

They came to a conclusion that if you are taking steroids then they were going to end your athletic career. They wanted to see which athletes were benefiting from this test. St. Patrick's High School athletic director Brian Gloriosio said that his school has drug testing for all their students and their athletes, but not for steroids. They also want to make a law allowing coaches to do steroid testing in the schools.

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New Expressions FYI

by Ijanekia Dunning/Elizabeth López
Kelly High School/Walter Payton College Prep

The history of diamonds

Kelly High SchoolHave you ever stared at the rock on your finger and wondered where did it come from? I bet your answer is "no," which is sad because the history of your bling is worth your while of knowing. Just think about the fact that your diamond could have been apart of a collection of diamonds that floated on the surface of a riverbank in India. To think that it was carried on from the Indians, then traded to the Africans and then found in the gold mines of Greece where they considered it a symbol of "eternity of love," is more exciting and romantic than to say "my boyfriend went to Jared's." So next time you're rocking your ring and showing it off to all your friends, take a moment to think about where it came from.

The history of Cupid

As we all know, Cupid is the most popular symbol for Valentine's Day. He was the Roman God of love whose actual name means "desire" which tells a lot about his character: to desire something means to yearn for something so bad, it makes you do things without thinking to get what you want. That's why Cupid was described as this mischievous boy who pierced arrows through the hearts of young lovers, causing them to fall in love. He's also known for falling in love with a mortal named Psyche. Questions arose in my head about their love being true or not, because I can't see how someone can fall in love with a person, when they are forbidden to look at them. If that is the case for most couples of our time, love would not exist because with our eye contact, how would we know if our partner is lying or not, how would we be able to express love without saying anything if we can't see their face? Although Cupid was known for love, I believe he was just a false mythical tale about having true love for eternity because his actions contradict his reputation of love.

Cupid not only contradicts his reputation, he is a perfect example of tough love: When Psyche can no longer resist looking at her lover he punishes her by throwing her into exile, forcing her to roam helplessly around looking for him. He soon grows sympathetic for his lover and gives

her a list of dangerous tasks to go through before forgiving her. This kind of relates to people in our time who go through so many obstacles to prove they are sorry for their wrongdoing. I believe that if their relationship for one another were an example of true love, Cupid would have never dared to put his lover through so many hardships to prove her love to him. A perfect example of true love would be the tale of Romeo of Juliet. This story clearly shows that their desire for one another couldn't be detained. Even after their parents forbid them to see each other, they did anything and everything they could to go against their parent's rules and when things got too tough they risked their lives and died knowing that when they get to heaven, their love will forever grow in each other's arms.

Love can be expressed in many ways and in my opinion Cupid is not a way to explain love. So when people say Cupid is in the air it arouses me, but in a way that makes me alert of tough love, contradictions and made up stories. The bow and arrows and winged babies are cute, but no one can persuade me to think otherwise about Cupid.

The history of fashion

Trends come and go every day but fashion will always stay alive. Fashion goes back to the 1800s where women wore Kashmir shawls, feathered hats, reticle handbags, hair combs, tippets, and mantels. Today's fashion shows some resemblance to fashion in the 1800s but our style is not exactly the same. Our fashion also includes handbags, hats, shawls, and hairpins but what's also included are graphic tees, skinny jeans, flat ballerina sandals and sweater dresses with leggings. The overall look of fashion proves that fashion has changed isn't as drastic as we think it is. Today's fashion links to the fashion of yesteryear. For example, leggings go way back to the early 1990s and as of today, leggings are the most fashionable undergarments out that could be worn. Underskirts are fashionable in the summer and springtime and under sweaters mostly worn in the winter.

*You cannot live on
other people's
promises,
But if you promise
others enough,
You can live on your
OWN.*

---Mark Caine---

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Find information on this initiative- including yearly deadlines- and download the form at

<http://clear.cps.k12.il.us/ohsp/optout.html>

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Check out information for this scholarship for CPS graduating seniors, sponsored by The Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago-Educational Foundation. The IPLAC Education Foundation awards these scholarships to students in hopes of encouraging a career in intellectual property law - look it up! Students must be accepted to a science or engineering program at a college/university, planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, or electrical, chemical, mechanical or nuclear engineering, or pre-law. Look

up qualifications and other information.

Deadline March 31, 2008!
http://iplac.org/News/IPLAC_scholarship_application_2008.pdf

Online Video Contest For Science-Savvy Teens

PBS's Wired Science series teams with Apple Student to launch Wired Science Student Video Contest. The contest is looking for 9-12th grade students to explore a science-related principle and create a short video. Among other qualifications, judges are looking for creativity, humor, and so forth. Three prizes awarded, first place \$2,000. Registration closes March 15, Submissions through April 1. Look up complete information at <http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/>

Website Recommendations

www.howstuffworks.com
All in the title- includes a wide variety of objects

<http://haircrazy.info>
Info on alternative hair care- dying, do's, etc.

<https://www.donotcall.gov/>
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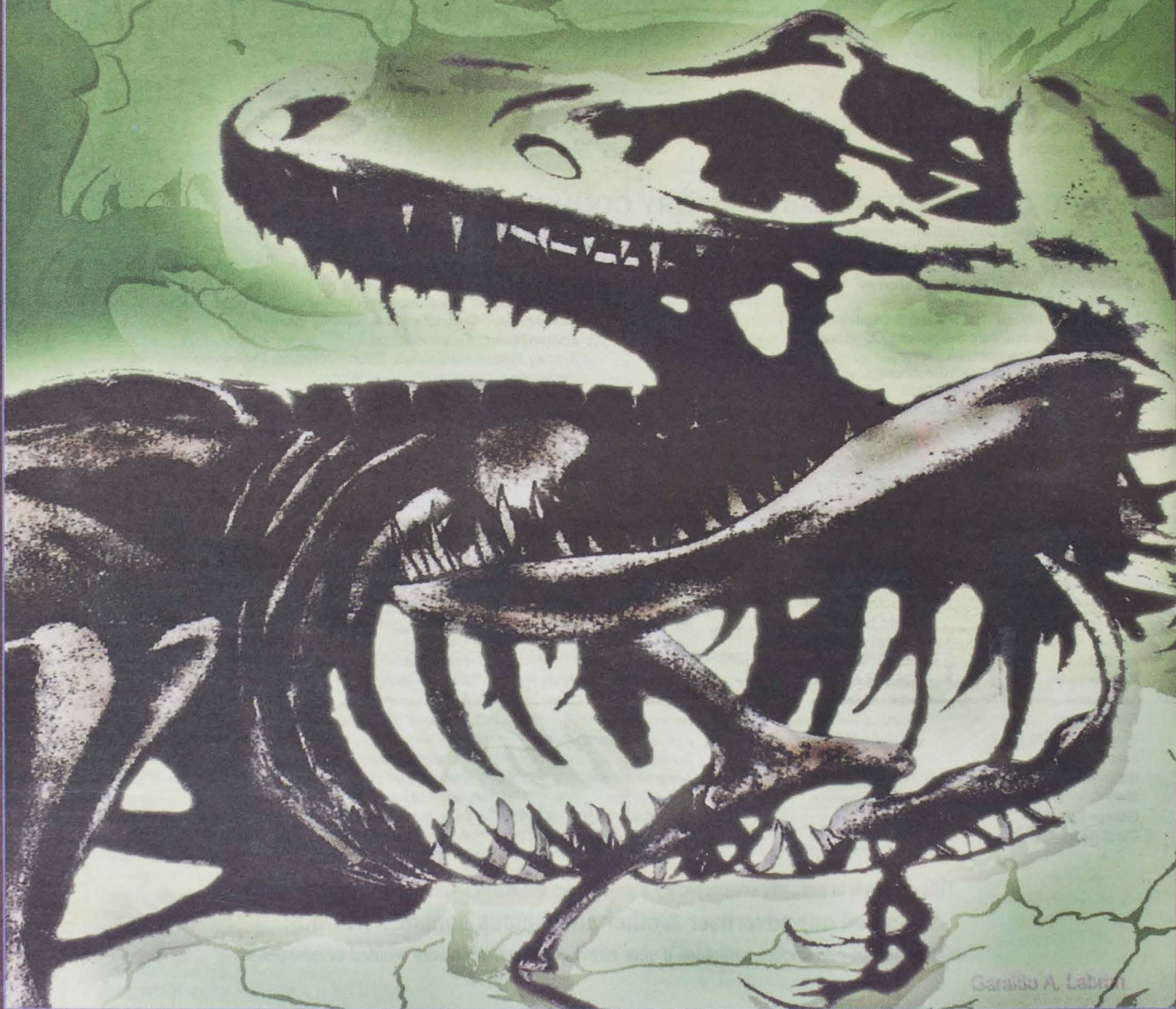
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your past.
your present.
your future?



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