

November 2003

## New Expression: November 2003 (Volume 26, Issue 8)

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**ME**

# Hip-Hop: Taking Over or Overtaken?

In the past 20 years, Rap Music has gone from its humble beginnings to a billion dollar industry. Is it still on the cutting edge or is it guided by corporate voices?

Stories begin on Page 11

**By Teens. For Teens. About Teens**





# This Month in New Expression

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Teens in Albany Park speak out about harassment and hidden badges at a community meeting.

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This *Monopoly* clone, where players buy rib shacks, deal in stolen merchandise, and sell drugs, has created outrage in the black community.

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## From the Editor's Desk



I'm embarrassed to admit that I am what you would call a radio junkie.

Most of the day I just tune into the radio because it is easy to just turn a knob than to

carry around my favorite CDs and I don't own a fancy MP3 player.

Since my time is spent either at school or in the car, radio is just the most convenient way to listen to music. Don't get me wrong; if there's one thing I've learned listening to the radio it is that I understand why millions of people download music.

This month the New Expression staff discusses the future of Hip-Hop. But before you start to laugh, you must consider that people in the Hip-Hop world actually met to discuss this very topic. These Hip-Hop connoisseurs believe that this genre of music is a social movement that can carry out a positive global change.

Unfortunately today music is created with only one thing in mind, maximizing sales. The music industry isn't interested in spreading equality and teaching good values to young people. If I wanted to learn good values I'd go to someone I knew and respected.

But I don't mean to pick on Hip-Hop; my opinion spreads over most commercialized music. What's commercialized music; just put on the radio.

Peace

*Audrey Galo*

[www.newexpression.org](http://www.newexpression.org)

## 'Rerun' Cancelled



### Fred "Rerun" Berry (1951-2003)

Fred Berry, the break dancing, squeaky-voiced actor who played Rerun on the 1970s TV sitcom "What's Happening!" died Oct. 21 at his home in Los Angeles. The cause of death is under investigation.

## NEWSBRIEFS



### "Grand Theft Auto" Takes a Fall

In August, two teenage boys from Virginia went on a shooting spree, killing a 45-year-old man and seriously injured a 19-year-old woman. The boys plead guilty and were sentenced to an indefinite term in state custody. The young men claim that they were imitating "Grand Theft Auto," a violent video game. The victims' families have filed a \$246 million lawsuit against the creator and distributor of the popular game. The companies involved in the lawsuit are, Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., designers Take-Two Interactive Software and Rockstar Games, and Wal-Mart.

### Virginia Filters Out Undocumented Students

In September of last year, Virginia's Attorney General, Jerry Kilgore, issued a memo to all Virginia's state schools. The memo advised universities to deny admittance to undocumented appli-

cants, and to report any undocumented enrolled students to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Currently, there is no law that allows the exclusion of undocumented students in college, but Kilgore feels it is a necessary precaution against terrorism. Many Hispanic organizations were bothered by the state's actions. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund filed a lawsuit against seven of the state's schools. In the coming months the two parties will try to reach an agreement before starting a trial.



### Too Big For McDonalds

Fast-food giant, McDonalds, recently settled a lawsuit filed by a 420-pound man who claimed that he was denied a job because of his weight. In his lawsuit, Joseph Connor claimed that McDonalds violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and Connecticut employment law.

Connor requested \$300,000 for financial loss and severe emotional trauma and a job with McDonalds. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

November 2003



## Political Perspective

# Black Republicans on the Forefront of American Politics

By Haamid Xavier Johnson  
Georgetown University



**Washington, DC** – For far too long, blacks in this country have been marginalized by the Democratic Party; it is time that we return to our Republican roots. The Democratic Party has unfortunately been able to pigeonhole black voters in almost every section of the country. This was

done by scaring blacks into thinking that a vote for Republicans was a vote against what their heritage and ancestors stood for.

Actually, voting in line with the Republican Party was the heritage of our ancestors after the Civil War and during the Reconstruction period. It was a time when the Republican Party was portrayed as being the champion of equality.

Things in our political system have certainly changed since then. For example, our two main party's platforms have evolved to encompass a myriad of complex policy matters or as some argue, have not made much progress at all.

Many misinformed and mislead Democratic special interest groups have been successful in casting a grim shadow over Republicans as being too racially insensitive and non-inclusive.

Regrettably, many blacks have been led to believe that the Republican Party does not care about their interests, and that our membership doesn't understand the plight many in our community face.

Well, I am an example of a young black Republican trying to dispel the notion that the Republican Party is not doing enough to reach out and seek the votes and support of the African American community.

Through the leadership of President George W. Bush, at no other time except maybe during Ronald Reagan's tenure as president, has the Republican Party been better positioned to reunite blacks with their original party.

I believe that once a larger majority of blacks realize that black public servants such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary Clearance Page (all appointed by President Bush) are Republicans not just because they are tired of the Democratic Party's broken promises, but because they believe in the principles of self-reliance, less governmental intervention, and economic liberty; more blacks will

begin to rejoin the Republican Party.

Frankly, many blacks are Democrats because they do not realize the historical significance that the Republican Party has played in advocating for the advancement of blacks.

For example, in 1862 President Lincoln was the first president to meet with a group of black leaders, two years later our divided country witnessed the Republican Party National Convention make the abolition of slavery a benchmark plank in its platform.

Essentially, the effects of the Civil War and the period immediately subsequent shook up the political landscape in America and tailored a new fabric of social progress for the blacks, that heavily included the Republican Party's participation.

In addition, this period of Radical Reconstruction

Republicans to banish slavery.

An article in the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education by Maria Watts, also allocates credence to my argument when she points out that "Radical Republicans" were staunch advocates for the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment which gave Negroes citizenship and promised equal protection of the law, and the 15th Amendments of 1870 which mandated them the right to vote.

All of the facts and examples in this article lead to two conclusions: the Republican Party has made progress in rejuvenating its image in the black community – more can and still needs to be done. Secondly, black voters need to no longer be bandwagon Democrats and actually research where Republican candidates stand on the issues.

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**“I am an example of a young black Republican trying to dispel the notion that the Republican Party is not doing enough to reach out and seek the votes and support of the African American community.”**

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(1865-1877) was a time in which existing free blacks and former slaves played a substantial role in shaping the nation's political debate because of avenues the Republican Party afforded them.

The Republican Party allowed blacks to run as candidates on their ballot in statewide and congressional elections. However, blacks were discouraged from running for political office because of the rise of hate groups such as the Klu-Klux Klan

Despite these daunting revelations, blacks were elected and then re-elected to crucial posts during Reconstruction under the Republican Party platform. All of the black congressmen and U. S. Senators until 1901 were members of the Republican Party. This triumph occurred because of the leadership exemplified by President Lincoln, and due to the strong abolitionist ledger in our grand old party's political platform.

The desire for Republicans to assist blacks in perusing equality was a direct result of the many racist and prejudiced Democrats and Dixiecrats that filibustered all attempts by Southern and Northern

It should be noted that the major force for blacks shifting from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party was the 1964 Presidential election. That year the Republican Party nominated U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater (AR). Goldwater (black), was one of the few northern Republican senators to oppose the 1964 Civil Rights Act which many northern Democratic senators favored. A majority of the GOP also supported civil rights. Because Goldwater was the GOP's presidential nominee, the Democrats were able to polarize Republicans as a foe to the black community. The dichotomy that existed between 1964 presidential candidate Lyndon Johnson (extremely pro-Civil Rights Act) and Goldwater served as the impetus for blacks to shift their political capital more ardently toward the Democratic Party. But that was then.

Even though most of our parents have and do vote Democratic, it does not mean this generation of blacks can't become more knowledgeable about our ancestral Reconstruction past and vote Republican.



# News

## Albany Park Teens Complain of Police Harassment

### Teens say police covering badges

By Malissa McGiven  
Columbia College

Albany Park teenagers claim they are being harassed by police officers that are covering their badges to conceal their identity.

During a community meeting held late October at Our Lady of Mercy Church, in the 4400 block of North Troy Avenue, Juan Cruz said there have been various incidences where teens have been harassed by police officers.

Cruz, a student at Roosevelt High School, said an incident involved his friends being questioned by police one evening as they were coming out of a school function.

Cruz said his friends were behind the school by their car listening to music when two uniformed police officers approached them and began questioning them about what they were doing.

Cruz said the teens were polite to the officers, as they answered the officers' questions, but the officers began verbally insulting the teens.

"The police officers showed no respect to my friends. The incident resulted in my friends being handcuffed and arrested," Cruz said.

Cruz said that he has had run-ins with verbally abusive and disrespectful police officers.

"This is a problem that happens all the time," Cruz said.

"The police do a pretty good job patrolling the school and certain areas in the community. But there has to be better relations between the police and the youth," he said.

Nick Kalom, a student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, said there have been incidences when police officers have covered or obstructed the view of their badges when coming in contact with the youth.

Kalom asked Chicago Police Department Cmdr. Sam Christian, who attended the meeting, if he would put a stop to the harassment and police officers covering their badge.

Christian said that he was unaware of any problems between the youth of the community and the police and issues regarding police covering their badges.

Christian said there is no reason for police officer should cover their badge.

"Police officers should have their badges out and not covered. The only time that an officer will not have his badge out in plain view is if they are working undercover. In this case, the officers normally wear a badge around their neck or on their belt, but they still must identify themselves as police officers," Christian said.

Christian acknowledged that there are times when there is a lack of communication between youth and police officers, which result in confrontations.

"Sometimes teens are at the wrong place at the wrong time. I think officers have to learn to do a better job at explaining why they stopped the teens in order to ease tensions," Christian said.



NE File Photo

"There could have been a shooting around the corner and the youth didn't know. When they are questioned by police they think they are being harassed," he said.

Christian went on to say that he will not tolerate inappropriate behavior by his officers and that he will work to create better relationships between the youth and police.

## Government unveils new \$20 Bill

By the time you read this, the redesigned \$20 bill should be making its way to a bank near you. However, the new \$20 bill does not work in many automated payment machines. Although it was designed to thwart digital counterfeiters, bogus bills have been appearing across the U.S. What's different on the new \$20 bill? Take a look...

### Security thread

Look closely for the embedded security thread. You'll find a tiny flag that says "USA TWENTY"



Information gathered from the united States Treasury Department.

### Watermark

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the faint image similar to the portrait. It's part of the paper, and can be seen from both sides.

### Color-Shifting Ink

Tilt the bill up and down and the color shifting ink in the number "20" in the lower right corner changes from copper to green and back



## News

# Danger in the Cafeteria

## Riot raises lunch safety issues

By Joi Hampton

Thornridge High School

Each day as the time for the lunch bell to ring approaches I get nervous because I know there is "danger in the cafeteria."

The cafeteria at Thornridge High School is grossly overcrowded. There is very little adult supervision, a limited amount of time to eat, and an overwhelmingly large amount of students crammed into a grossly small lunchroom. My lunch period contains over six hundred students. Because there are so many students packed together, the cafeteria has become a breeding ground for fights and arguments.

Recently a riot broke out in the cafeteria, which resulted in me sustaining a serious back injury and the postponement of our Spirit Week events.

Students began throwing glass bottles and textbooks during the fight. Hundreds of students rushed over in a stampede, jumping onto tables, shoving and kicking innocent students, to get a "good view of the fight."

In the process, someone jumped on my right shoulder and kicked me in my back trying to see the fight. As a result of this act I suffered a contusion bruise on my spine, a sprained shoulder, and one vertebra was twisted out of place requiring me to have to undergo chiropractic therapy for weeks. Though I am taking medication to deal with the pain, I am still unable to play any sports or do anything requiring a lot of movement and strength.

Besides the dangers that an overcrowded lunchroom presents, some students feel that the lunch periods need to be longer, so students who wait in long lines to get their food don't have to rush to eat.

"There are way too many kids in the lunchroom and when you finally do get your lunch you only have five minutes to eat it," says Chandlor Collins, a junior at Thornridge.

According to the American Dietetic Association, unhealthy eating habits among high school students are increasing because schools have decreased the amount of time available for students to eat lunch.

Turnitta Rayburn, a principal at Thornridge, declined to discuss the issue.

Students feel that the administration is not dealing with the cafeteria issue fast enough or listening to the students' concerns.

Students are now circulating petitions asking for the administration to extend the lunch periods and provide more security guards in the lunchroom. Students are also trying to get parents to support their cause and press the administration to create healthier and safer eating conditions.

Thornridge High School is located in South Suburban Dolton

# Chicago Teacher Strike Looms

By NE Staff

Chicago teachers could be out of the classrooms in December if they decide to strike.

On Oct. 29, Chicago Teachers Union delegates voted 543 - 98 to establish a Dec. 4 strike date.

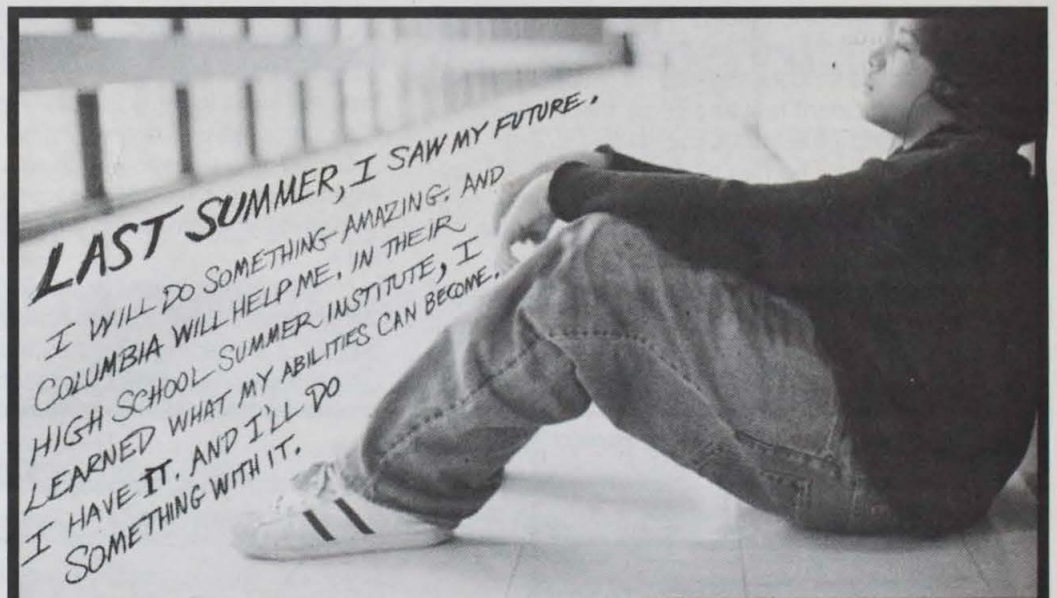
Chicago's 33,000 teachers, aides and clerks, will have the final word on whether or not a strike should occur when the vote on the issue Nov. 18. If a deal between the CPS and the union is not reached by Dec. 4 teachers would go on strike.

The strike would affect 438,500 public school children.

It's been 16 years since the last Chicago teachers strike. Two weeks before the Oct. 29 meeting, teachers rejected a proposed contract that included five years of 4 percent annual raises and an increase in healthcare costs, which teachers said eat into the raises.

Mayor Richard Daley has expressed concern that if a strike occurs public school students may begin entering private schools and suburban schools and ruin any steps he has taken to improve the Chicago's public schools.

Daley along with Schools CEO Arne Duncan vowed to hit the streets to promote the rejected contract in hopes the union will reconsider its position.



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# POINT

Audrey Galo  
Northside College Prep



Most people squirm in their chairs when the topic of race rears its ugly head. We all fear of saying the wrong thing, since the discussion easily turns personal.

However, millions of people never fail to laugh at racial comedy. Theatres were filled to see Bringing Down the House and Marci X, movies that accentuate racial stereotypes. Young people have adapted ghetto into their vocabulary, without realizing its roots in the Holocaust. And who has never heard a Polish joke before?

Unfortunately, this trend in society goes beyond the big screen, we hear music artists mainly rappers glamorize the ghetto experience. Music videos, TV shows, billboards and magazines all attempt to capture the tough, hard-core image of ghetto youth, but only manage to make a mockery of the people they are portraying.

The creation of Ghettopoly has pushed us one step closer to the complete degradation of minorities. The board game is a collection of insulting racial stereotypes and jokes. The creator celebrates the "hardship" of living with crime and violence without realizing that for many it is daily life.

Ghettopoly supporters may argue that I need to have a sense of humor and laugh at the funny looking malt liquor bottle. But the only thing that made me laugh was the shallow warning on the box "For Ages 13 and over." Instead it should read "For racists and worse."

# Ghettopoly

urban-based game stirs controversy



Does acquiring money through illegal activities, buying crack houses and getting your entire neighborhood addicted to drugs sound like fun?

If so, why worry about going out into the streets and risking your life or getting arrested to have a few laughs. Instead, you can stay at home and play the new controversial board game "Ghettopoly."

Similar to Monopoly, the object of Ghettopoly, is to become the richest "playa" by stealing, cheating and dealing in stolen merchandise. Once you acquire your wealth, you can buy rib shacks, and chop shops. But be careful, don't get yourself shot-up or addicted to the crack that you've been selling.

To help players move around the board, which includes places like, Tyron's Gun Shop and Hernando's Chop Suey, game pieces include a marijuana leaf, crack rock, 40-ounce, machine gun, basketball, a pimp, and a "hoe." Most of the characters on the game board appear in black minstrel like form with big eyes and lips, and there are some interesting caricatured Jewish and Hispanic stereotypes.

The game is being marketed to those ages 13 and up. Because the game is a take off of Monopoly, Hasbro, the creator of Monopoly, is suing David T. Chang, the 28-year-old creator of the game, for violating its trademark and copyrights. Chang, who lives in Philadelphia, could not be reached for comment about the lawsuit or the game. In a recent interview with the Columbia Chronicle, Chang said he created the game not to make fun of anyone, but instead, to poke fun at the stereotypes created by white America.

Chang said he came up with the idea for the game after watching an episode of MTV cribs, believing that some of the rap artists would buy the game and have it in their homes to display. In a press release Chang said he was inspired to create the images for the game based on watching rap videos, listening to hip-hop and playing video games.

Several boycotts have been launched against the game and shops that sell it. Despite the criticism, Chang said he plans to launch similar games such as Hoodopoloy, Hiphopopoly, Thugopoly and Redneckopoly. For more information on Ghettopoly: [www.ghettopoly.com](http://www.ghettopoly.com)

# Counter POINT

Tranette Williams  
Northside College Prep



Ghetto – "A section of a city occupied by a minority group who live there especially because of social, economic or legal pressure. "An often walled quarter in a European city where Jews were restricted."

When a person hears the word ghetto today in America it is automatically associated with certain things. Even though the first dictionary definition of the word is inclusive of any group of minorities living together in any area for any reason, most American teens and young adults think of black people, gang violence, and drugs. Jews are the only minority specifically mentioned in the definition of ghetto so why don't we think of the Holocaust or the swastika? Because Jewish people have not profited off of the ghetto stereotype like black people have. Jewish people profit off of the few Hebrew or Yiddish words dropped in a Mel Brooks film or when Ben Stiller has to say a Christian prayer in one of his movies.

Black people profit from being P.I.M.P.'s and "rolling down the street smokin' Endo, sippin' on gin and juice..." We sell songs about what goes on in the ghetto and videos show what the "ghetto" looks like. If you don't live in the ghetto or spend your vacations there, the only things you know about it is what you see on the news or MTV and what you hear on the radio. So what is the fuss about the new Ghettopoly game? What has David Chang, the creator of Ghettopoly, mass produced that is more offensive than what rappers and hip-hop artists produce?

## PhotOpinion:

After reading a description of the game, what do you think about Ghettopoly?



"That's bogus (laughs). I don't agree with it, but everybody has their own opinion."

Edward Wells, 16



"I think it is funny. People take things too serious."

Loretta Lewis, 17



"The game sounds ridiculous. They should not even let people sell that."

Satina Lopez, 15



## Essay Contest

**Lasundra S. Carter**  
**George W. Collins High School**  
**Teacher: Mr. Himmerman.**

Crimes of all sorts have been going on for years and the police have tried a variety of methods to stop crime. Statistics show that crime has only risen. The over all crime statistics for Chicago's population is 5056.31 per 100,000 people in over a year. This includes murders, forcible rape, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, thefts, motor vehicle thefts and arsons. Believe it or not, Chicago's crime level is worse than that national average according to statistics.

Don't worry, I think the police have come up with a good idea. By now, at least everyone who lives or travels to the city has seen or heard of the new police operated cameras. The closed circuit television cameras are suppose to monitor streets, parks, subway stations, schools and other public places. From my research I have found that metropolitan police departments plan to link hundreds of closed circuit television cameras to monitor public places. But the move is creating lots of controversy between police and the NAACP.

Nkechi Taifa, a member of the NAACP's Police Task Force believes that the cameras could lead to racial profiling, and that it is unconstitutional and could land in court. She says the cameras are an invasion of privacy and that police are spying. Those against the cameras feel that use of video will not solve our problems.

"Once the nose of the camel gets under the tent, pretty soon the rest of the camel will be under the tent." That is to say, once the police have cameras that can see anywhere in the city; pretty soon the police will use those cameras to look anywhere in the city. Police officials disagree. They argue that video surveillance is the most effective use of having limited resources to prevent terrorist attacks and crime. According to law enforcement officials, the cameras are only placed in public places where there is no expectation of privacy.

I feel the police operated cameras will reduce crime because now that the criminals know that they are being watched, they will think twice. The criminals know that if they commit a crime they know that there is a greater chance that they might get caught. I live in a neighborhood that's popular when it comes to crime, mainly drug dealing. Walking down by block I overheard someone say, "man those people (cops) aren't playing, and I'm about to find me a job." To sum that up, the young man was saying that the police are getting strict and fast money is getting slow, so he is going job hunting.

In all, I feel that the police operated cameras will reduce the crime rate. People who oppose the cameras aren't doing anything about crime nor are they trying to create better methods to reduce crime. Deep down I feel that with better police work, better intelligence, and better cases for our prosecutors and with the help of the cameras the crime rate with drop.

**This Month's Essay Question: "Do you think police operated cameras placed in public parkways will reduce crime?"**

**Cory Joseph Schuck**  
**Edwin G. Foreman High School**  
**Mrs. Basseas**

Police operated cameras are being installed in some areas to give cops a birds-eye view of things and let them watch an area they are not around. The cameras are bulletproof, lightweight, and can zoom in about four blocks. The question is "will these cameras reduce crime?" I think it will reduce crime in the area where the cameras are located, but it does not guarantee that they will not move into another area.

One of the reasons I believe that police-operated cameras will reduce crime is because people would be more paranoid knowing the cameras are around. People would be aware that the cops are watching their moves and it would make people cautious about what they do on the street. Some people, for example, would worry about the cameras getting their license plate number because the cameras take pictures of cars that go through red lights or drive or out of control.

A lot of people walking around the streets in areas where the cameras are being located tend to get into trouble. Most people don't like being watched, especially by the police. I think that eventually the people committing the crimes will be more cautious and think twice before considering doing something wrong. Neighborhood crime will slow down more if the cameras are in place.

Many people use their cars to conduct illegal activities. It doesn't matter if it is racing, doing a drive-by, or something drug related. A more intelligent person would do those things away from the cameras. I do not think anyone would risk getting their car impounded or having the police bust into their house without even having a clue that the police have a picture of your plates and looked up your information.

In conclusion, the new police cameras being placed in different areas will more than likely reduce the crime rate in that area. But in order for this to work, police must enforce this and pursue the criminals caught on camera. IF they do this people will think twice before doing something illegal in from of those cameras.

**Juana Cortes**  
**Foreman High School**  
**Teacher: MS. Basseas**

Crime, robberies, assaults, rapes and gang activity is getting out hand. Will police-operated cameras placed in public parkways reduce this kind of crime? I think this could help.

It's a good situation to all the crime in the city of Chicago and its suburbs. As soon as these criminals find out that the cameras are there, they will have no more intention of committing anymore crimes because they will end up getting caught.

Crime will quickly stop because the cameras record everything up to four blocks ahead. Anyone can just run from the police, but the cameras will know exactly where they are. If they know the cameras exist, they might not commit anymore crimes in that area or maybe anywhere else.

Prostitutes work in many of Chicago's streets and don't get caught. With the cameras in place, police will know where they are and catch them. Will the zoom of the camera, they will even get the exact identity of the prostitute and the customer. Prostitutes will find a decent job instead of prostitution and this problem will be reduced.

Gang activity is another problem that is already being solved by the cameras. Gangs are constantly dealing drugs, assaulting people, and getting younger kids to join. The cameras will be able to record these activities and gangs will have no where to go because hopefully the cameras will be installed everywhere. Gang activity will disappear slowly, and soon, this city will become crime free.

With the help of these cameras, crime will be reduced and may end. Since these cameras can pan 360 degrees and zoom in on specific activities, criminals will get chased out and put behind bars. With fear of the cameras, criminals will no longer conduct business as usual.

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 opinion?  
 See how on page 9**



## College Days

### College. What's the Big Deal?

By Larniecia Smith

"College is not for everybody," I once heard someone say.

I replied, "How will you know if it is for you or not, if you don't make an attempt to prove that statement untrue?"

There are many notions regarding what college is really about. By definition college is "an institution of higher learning." So what does that mean to you?

If you decide to attend college (whether it is a two-year or a four-year institution), you can expand your horizons through networking with people in various professions, or you can begin a game plan to achieve stronger goals. College will enable you to obtain a clearer understanding of what you might like to pursue as a career.

Simply put, college is place that helps you broaden your perspective on life.

You may attend college to obtain a specific degree, through the process of completing classes, participating in hands-on workshops and (for the most part), volunteering time to do internships that give you work experience.

Classes in your field of study generally tend to provide you with "hands-on" training, which means you actually taste, and experience what it is like to be in a career field.

Keep in mind that you will have to take general education classes such as English, math, science, and history, besides the classes in your field of study.

Okay, now that you know a little something more about what college is...let us explore why you should go.

Earlier, you read about "expanding your horizons," networking with people, and professionals in your field, and creating stronger, more powerful, and efficient academic goals.

Ask yourself what you think you would like to pursue as a career, you know, to make money and hopefully be happy?

Ask yourself how you are going to obtain the ingredients you need to start you on your way down the road of your profession?

Then ask yourself if you are in the right environment to help, inspire, and encourage you to pursue your dreams and goals?

If you answered "no" to any of those questions, then college is a place that can help you turn those answers into a "yes". Attending college can provide you with the tools to be successful in life.

So the BIG DEAL about going to college is



# Letters to the Editor

I read the October article "Dead Man Walking" and I just would like to say I believe that this is a wonderful article. We need people like this to express themselves so we can know who to go to if we need help. I know a few people who have been sexually abused and it still hurts them because they haven't found the right person to talk to. I think by them reading this article maybe they can get some help because there is a lot of information in this article. Who ever the person is who wrote this article I would just like to say that I think you are a very strong person for coming forth and telling someone what was going on. Even though I know it was very hard getting it out. I bet it felt much better when you got the help you needed. Again I would just like to say please continue to write these articles because there are people in the world that need help and could use this information.

Sincerely,

Velisia Noble  
Harper High School

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

Youth Communication considers submissions to be a representation of authorship and a consent to reprint in full or as abridged or modified in New Expression  
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## DECEMBER/JANUARY NE ESSAY QUESTION:

### "Should high school classes begin later in the day?"

## FEBRUARY NE ESSAY QUESTION:

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

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

1) Your full name 2) Home address 3) School name 4) Home phone number 5) The name of your teacher, if the essay was assigned. 6) All essays must be typed. Forget any of these, and your essay will be disqualified.

Send the essays to:

**New Expression Essays**

**600 S. Michigan Ave.**

**Chicago IL 60605**

Fax: (312) 922-7151

e-mail: [brentw@youth-comm.org](mailto:brentw@youth-comm.org)

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

**Deadlines : December: November 24 by 5 pm.**

**February: January 21 by 5 pm.**

**No Exceptions.**



## Teens Mean Business

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

# Virtual Game Prepares Youth for Business Challenges

By NE Staff

Are you looking to be a young, successful entrepreneur?

Market trends, customer demand, promotional strategies. You'll have to consider all of this and more in Opportunity City, a virtual city that allows youth to start a business from the ground up.

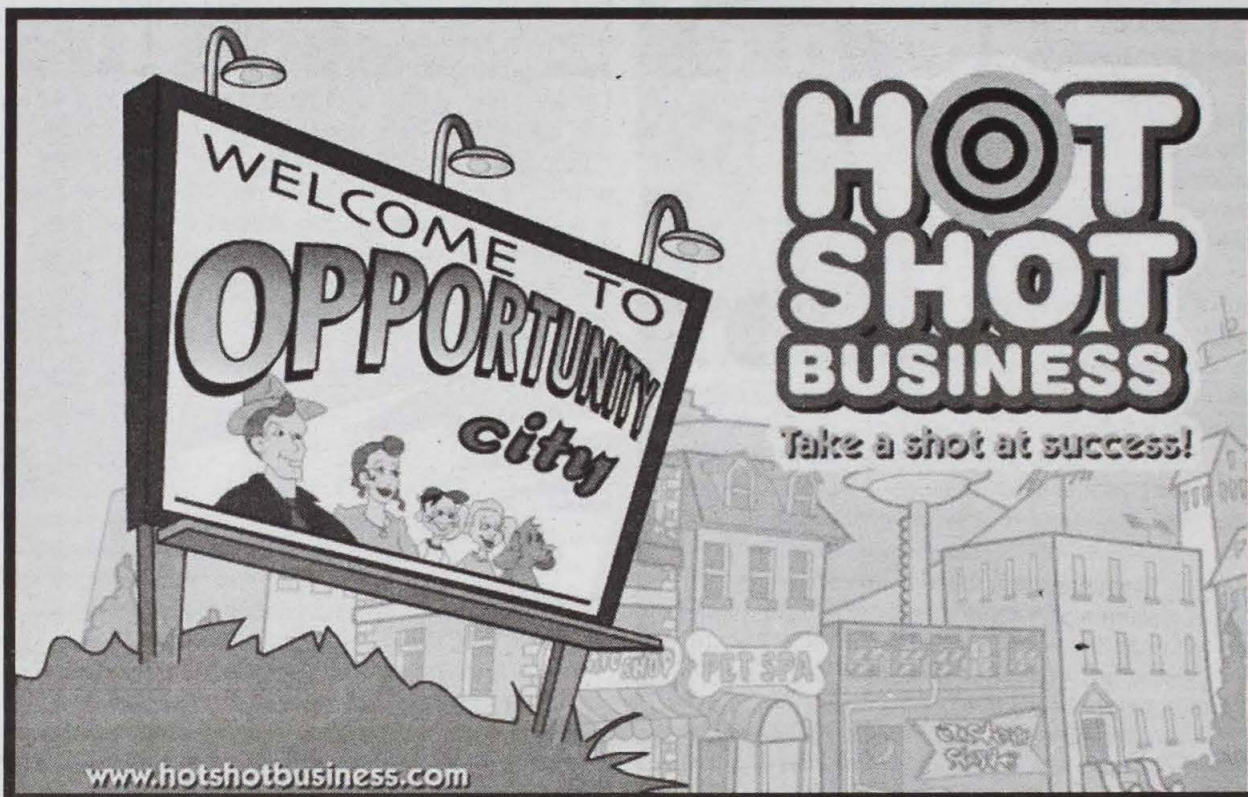
The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and Disney Online joined creative forces to produce Hot Shot Business ([www.disney.com/hotshot](http://www.disney.com/hotshot)), an Internet role playing game that demonstrates the basics of running a business.

With the help of Jack and Kate, the virtual guides and advisors in the game, players have to make all of the important decisions involved in running the business. The first decision is finding a good market opportunity, something that the community needs and wants.

In a survey conducted this fall by the Kauffman Foundation of 3,000 elementary and high school students, more than 41 percent of those surveyed had thought about starting a business. "Hot Shot Business is intended to plant the seed among kids that being an entrepreneur is a real option – an option that not only provides opportunities for them but benefits for their communities and our nation," says Kauffman Foundation President and CEO Carl Schramm.

Other business decisions include financing and marketing. Players are given the choice of borrowing from a bank with interest or using an investor that takes part ownership. In addition, sudden changes in market trends and customer preferences have an effect on monthly profits.

The business choices are limited to a skateboard factory, pet spa, or comic book store but the game does a good job of introducing young people to the idea of starting a business including definitions of important words and monitoring what customers really want.



NE File Photo



## I Don't Flip Burgers!

by Audrey Galo  
Northside College Prep

Website: I Don't Flip Burgers! The Student's Guide to Entrepreneurial Success

URL:

<http://library.thinkquest.org/C0114800/about/index.php>

If serving burgers and fries isn't the way you want to make money then consider the possibilities at I Don't Flip Burgers: The Student's Guide to Entrepreneurial Success. This website is part of Think Quest, an international competition where stu-

dents create educational websites and the winners become part of the Think Quest Library.

The site is definitely a winner, with its ability to create a user-friendly environment, while being technologically savvy. The site is divided into four main categories, Simulator, Tools, Library and Forum.

The Library is the place to visit for all the basic knowledge for starting a business, including books, websites and in-depth articles. The Tools section is for registered users only, but registration is free.

This section allows members to download invoice templates, business ledgers, a business card maker, and a business plan wizard. Remember to take the personality quiz to find which type of business is right for you.

The most unique part of the site is the simulator. The simulator is like a game, the player takes the role of a business owner who must try and gain the most profit from their business. The player can choose to be a web designer or music band manager, and is responsible for buying equipment, advertising and keeping clients happy. Players are scored on their overall business reputation and profit-making ability.

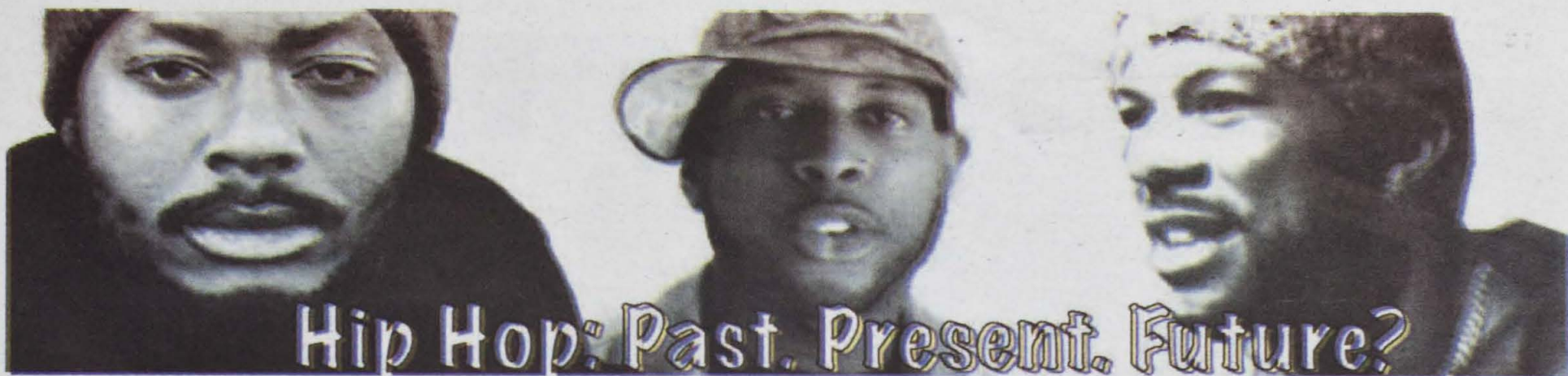
I Don't Flip Burgers, is a great interactive, hands on website for young entrepreneurs. It combines practical business knowledge with just enough fun elements to keep you interested and motivated to start a great business.

Do you know a "trep"?  
Should they be featured  
in *Teens Mean Business*?

Let us know!

Call (312) 922-7150 and  
ask for Brent Watters.





# Hip Hop: Past, Present, Future?

## Conference Loses Focus

By Brian Lewis  
St. Ignasius

For hip-hop to produce positive change in the community, the hip-hop generation must be re-enlightened and come together on pertinent social and political issues of the day. These were the sentiments of artists, writers, and activists from all over the world who were in Chicago last month to attend the Hip-Hop and Social Change Conference.

The event was hosted by the Field Museum and kicked off with a slew of panel discussions attended by prominent artists and writers such as Bakari Kitwana and M1 of Dead Prez.

The discussion topics were centered on the social issues affecting the Hip-Hop generation. Education, gentrification, images in the media, domestic abuse and the criminalization of youth and minorities were central themes of the conversation. Various activists and experts in different fields facilitated workshops on topics ranging from political awareness and education to spoken word poetry performance and emceeing.

The high point of the conference was the keynote address by Mos Def and Talib Kweli.

"We didn't know we were going to be giving the keynote address until we had already boarded the plane for Chicago" said Mos Def, the world-renowned actor and rapper. Mos Def and Talib Kweli spoke poignantly as they improvised monologue and recalled their experiences as rap ambassadors to the world.

"Forget hip-hop. When Mos and I got to South Africa and had a discussion with [Native South African People] they were chastising us for only speaking one language, for having on jeans that cost more money than many of them made in a week," Kweli said.

"We were open to the realities of the situation, so we said: forget Hip-Hop. Hip-Hop helped me get [to South Africa] but that's not important now. Let's address these social issues. If Hip-Hop wasn't around, I would still be an activist," he said.

Mos Def said today's youth should not go searching for leaders, but instead, find the leader that lives within each of them.

"Everybody is looking for a leader to rise from somewhere. They are looking for leaders in hip-hop. They are looking for leaders in the black community.

They are looking for leaders in America. I don't vote. And I don't plan to. The power is in each one of us. We need to be self sufficient," Mos Def said.

Mos Def and Talib Kweli received a standing ovation at the end of their speeches. The floor was then opened for a question and answer session.

At this point the presentation was nearly shut down when Aaron Patterson, a former death row inmate wrongfully convicted 17 years ago and recently pardoned by former Gov. George Ryan, asked what would be the first and only question of the night.

"Why are you only concerned with yourself? You're wrong. We need leaders and good examples. People are dying and getting locked up out here. I was on Death row for seventeen years," a hostile Patterson said.

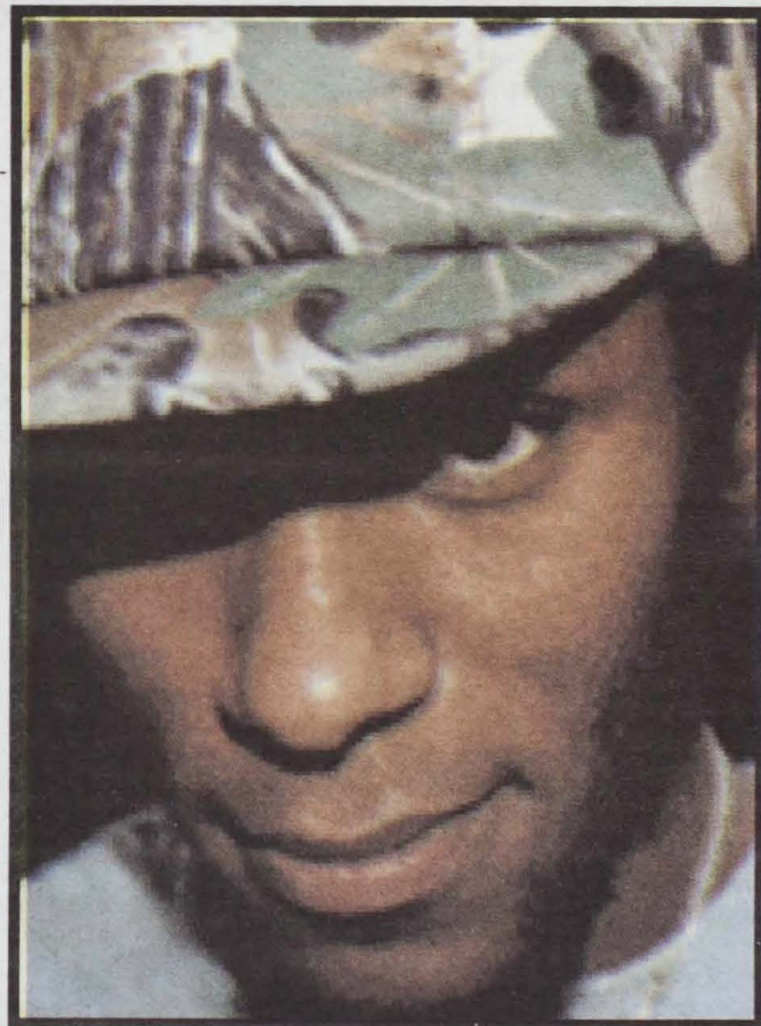
Mos Def tried to address Patterson peacefully but the situation had already gotten out of hand. Security guards were sent in. They unsuccessfully tried to remove Patterson from the building. Patterson continued his tirade, disrupting the course of events for the rest of the evening.

Fred Hampton Jr., son of former Black Panther Fred Hampton Sr., was invited on stage to try and create order amidst the chaos.

"What we need to do is create a code of culture. We all have the same goals. We need each other right now to accomplish what we need to accomplish. That will take writers, poets, rappers, and activists," Hampton said. Hampton's words did little to console an outraged Patterson or restore order to the ceremony.

Laura Courtney, a 17-year-old poet and writer from the South Side, said the night's mayhem stemmed from poor organization.

"The question and answer portion was crazy. It got all out of hand because there were hundreds of people clamoring to ask questions and only three people up on stage. They really needed a mediator



NE File Photo  
Rapper/actor/poet/activist Mos Def delivered the Keynote address at the Field Museum's Hip Hop and Social Change Conference.

or something," she said.

The hundreds of people in attendance left that night feeling uneasy and uncertain about hip-hop's ability to create social or political change. After the conference participants congregated outside the Field Museum and breathed in the cool fall air trying to make sense of what had happened.

Corie Cornwell, a 19-year-old poet from the North Side said that it was apparent everyone in attendance had ideas about how to mobilize but no one was listening.





Hip Hop: Past. Present. Future?

# Hip-Hop Magnifies Stereotypes

Commentary by Brian Lewis  
St. Ignasius

Thugs, pimps, hustlers and hoes. Anyone who grew up alongside hip-hop is familiar with these names. Many hip-hop heads use these labels countless in their conversations. In fact, it's not uncommon for a teenager to walk down the street and be greeted with the words: "What's up Pimp? Or What's up Gangster?"

A stranger may approach a youth dressed in baggy clothes and a baseball hat. In the stranger's mind, the youth is sporting the typical hip-hop trends and jumps to the conclusion that this person subscribes to hip-hop culture, identifying with its mannerisms and styles of speech. The stranger assumes this young person will appreciate being called a pimp, gangster or hustler.

Why should it matter at all? Isn't hip-hop that incredible force that can flip and scratch every social norm in the world? Can't it make the unacceptable accepted? Can't it make the unacknowledged recognized? Can't it give a voice to the voiceless?

Yes and no. Hip-hop is powerful. The genre, which is often referred to as a culture and lifestyle, has grossed billions of dollars since its "birth" in the south Bronx in the 1970's.

The question then is not how has hip-hop spread so rapidly? Instead, the question is why has it become so popular so quickly? And, who is behind its exponential growth?

There is no denying that hip-hop is a commodity. The four major music companies in America, Warner EMI, BMG Entertainment, The Universal Music Group, and Sony, control most of the music in America. Contrary to popular belief, independent labels such as Ruff Ryder, Roc-a-Fella, and Def Jam are not self-sufficient. They rely on the marketing and distribution power of the four major companies to get their music heard all over the world.

These corporations are made up of business people, sales and marketing representatives, lawyers, and other agents who have been in the music industry long before hip-hop came along. When hip-hop popped up on the cultural radar screen in the 1980's, it presented itself to these same business people as

a prime target for turning a buck at the hands of America's youth.

Before it was commercialized by corporate America, hip-hop bred in loud, colorfully lit Bronx basements. People in urban neighborhoods rebelled with their style of dress and figures of speech. By the time corporate America came along, hip-hop was already thriving in the cities. Early artists like Fab Five Freddy, Afrika Bambaataa, and Grandmaster Flash simply needed a way to get their talents and their art form to the masses. The marketers needed a way to target the restless and unpredictable youth of America.

Unfortunately, the artists and business people were never on equal terms. For any relationship to work there has to be equality and mutual understanding. Hip-hop artists had to bow down to the financiers from the get-go. The financiers had the fiscal leverage.

The people who wanted to commercialize hip-hop were already experts at taking forms of expression, packaging it and promoting it as a consumable product. Through their years of experience in the music business, these record executives had learned that one way to make something more appealing is to exaggerate its characteristics, much like they did in Minstrel shows.

Minstrel shows epitomized the effect of characteristics heightened to the level of caricatures. Wildly popular in the nineteenth century, these exhibitions featured white actors, performing with shoe polish on their face and large, exaggerated white lips, engaging in stereotypical activity to the delight of the audience.

Commercial hip-hop thrives off of stereotypes. A fan of the genre does not have to look far to find the image of the gangster in the likes of 50 Cent, or the pimp image in the likes of Snoop Dogg. Whether or not these artists are gangsters or pimps in real life is beside the point. Robert Deniro and Al Pacino are rarely accused of being untrue because their real lives come no where close to embodying the characters they portray in the movies.

In fact, hip-hop artists are often unfairly left holding the bag when issues of social concern and corruption of the youth arise. If the rappers are going to be indicted for demoralizing American society then they must share that indictment with TV shows, movies, or other violent forms of entertainment.

What hip-hop does really isn't all that new. It seems innovative, fresh and exciting. It many respects it is. But really, it draws on a lot of things that have been going on in America for a long time. One of the things it picks up is racism and stereotypes.

Stereotypes reinforce barriers and walls that keep people from understanding each other. Many elements of hip-hop contribute to this negative force. But it isn't doomed to be that way. There are artists like KOS, Common and Mos Def who are dedicated to displaying every dimension of the culture and showing the world the many complexities of the human beings who are keeping the culture alive. These artist have proven they can sell, maybe not with the tenacity and sales numbers of Nelly and P.Diddy, but they move units

Unfortunately many record executives are not necessarily fans of hip-hop or music period. Many of them are simply concerned with economic statistics. These agents do not see the need to diversify and equalize the playing field by putting the kinds of resources and clout behind conscious artists that they put behind commercial artists.

The artists and talent are out there. The people who have all the money and resources have think outside the box. They have to be willing to put resources behind all kinds of artists and not just those who perpetuate the stereotypes already rampant in society.

If more of these people can broaden their horizons and give more opportunities to the multitude of artists who want to represent the many sides of hip-hop and minority experiences then hip-hop and the generation that supports it will open itself up to greater growth and development.





# Hip Hop: Past. Present. Future?

## Holler Back, Listen First

Hip-Hop's future depends on recognition of it's past

By Brian Lewis  
St. Ignatius

Hip-hop is the all-encompassing name for numerous forms of expression. The sounds, movements and visual imagery that hip-hop represents has its roots in aspects of ancient African and Latino culture. Today, hip-hop is being packaged, commercialized and used as a vehicle for connecting with consumers. Closer examination of this phenomenon reveals that it is not only hip-hop, but the timeless artistic elements of black and Latino life that are being made into a commodity.

Despite what most people think, rap did not pop out of anywhere in the 1970's. Griots were engaging in the ancient oral tradition in Ghana hundreds of years ago. Break dancing can be traced to Copowiera, which initiated in Brazil. Slaves began performing the dance techniques during the middle passage as a way to learn martial arts without their master's knowledge. Graffiti did not originate with gangs in the inner city. People have been marking up walls since the time of the first cave dwellers.

Everything has roots and points of origin. Hip-hop is no different. The beats and rhythms in hip-hop were born in Africa. The beats and rhythms traveled to North America, South America and the West Indies with the slave trade. Gradually the beats and rhythms began to change and evolve.

As a result of imperialism and slavery many cultures were forced into interaction with each other. Native American, Portuguese, Spanish, African, French, and English all came in contact with each other in the Americas. All of these ethnic groups had significant influences on one another. Eventually, these aspects of indigenous culture would culminate to create hip-hop.

The Congo tribe in Africa is credited with developing the drum beats and percussion elements that drive many rap songs to this day. When slaves were brought from Africa to America, they were forced to leave every possession behind, including their instruments. In America they had to find and create new

percussion, string and wood-wind instruments. Soon, they began to adapt the Christian Spiritual traditions of the French and English. New forms of music began to develop.

These Latin American, West Indian and African elements fused together to form what is widely known today as Afro-pop, a close cousin of hip-hop.

Hip-hop is unique because of technological innovation.

The development of the mixer and the sampler had a lot to do with creating hip-hop. The sampler allowed the producer to extract pieces of music that had been previously recorded and slice it, cut it, and place it in a way that sounded new and original. The mixer allowed two pieces of music to play simultaneously so that a drum break or riff from one piece of music could cut in and out of another piece of music. This allowed DJ's and producers to take the "break" or the most highly charged percussion portion of the music in a song and play it over and over again.

Afrika Bambaataa, DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash are considered the forefathers of hip-hop because they all contributed significantly to this technological and musical advancement.

Each also brought elements of their native cultures (calypso, reggae, etc.) and used it to create their own music. Today Hip-Hop should be looked at as the result of the interactions of a diverse array of cultures. The result of this influence and interaction is often re-invention and innovation.

If different cultures are constantly holding conversations, than Hip-Hop must continue to hold its ear to these discussions. If it can do this, its art forms can evolve with the times and society, while still preserving its historical elements this is vital to its survival.

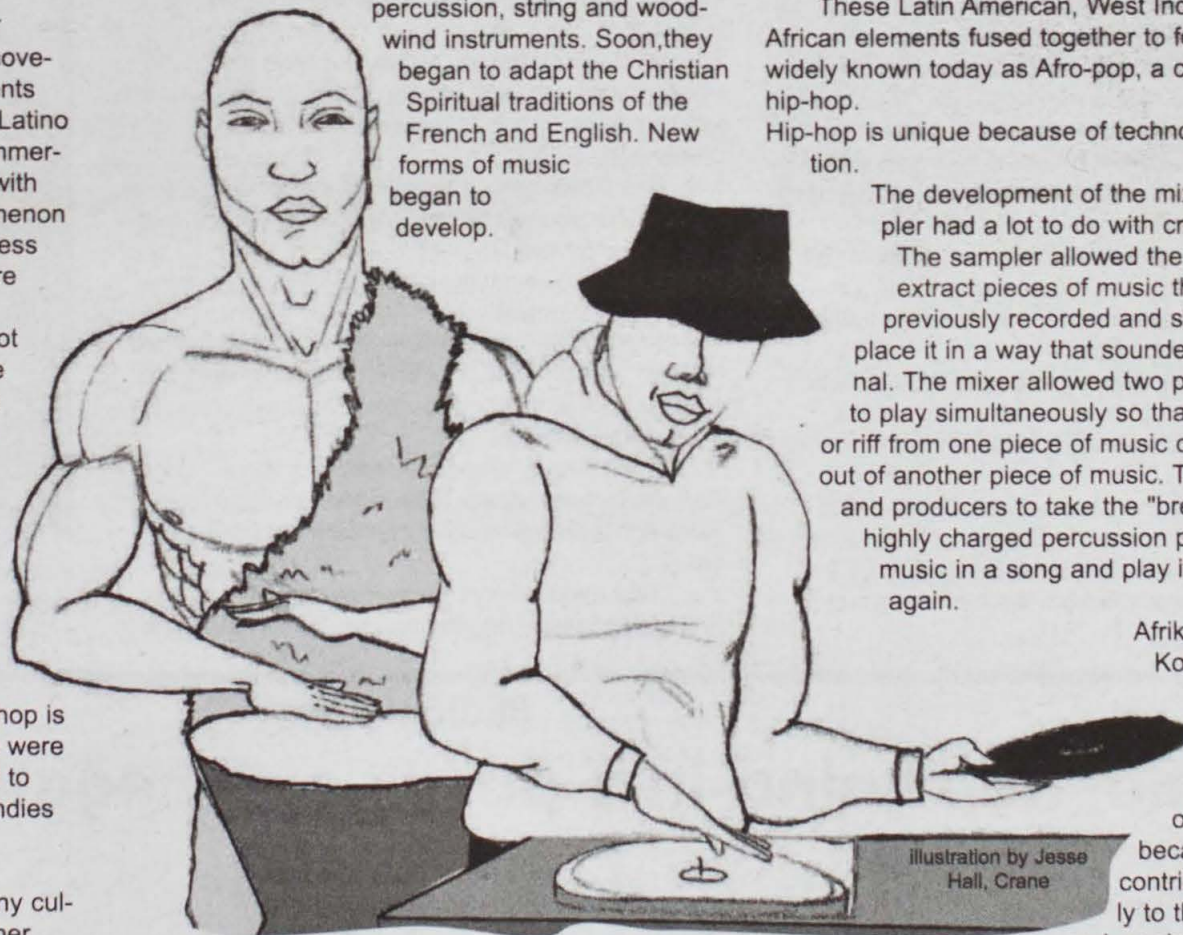
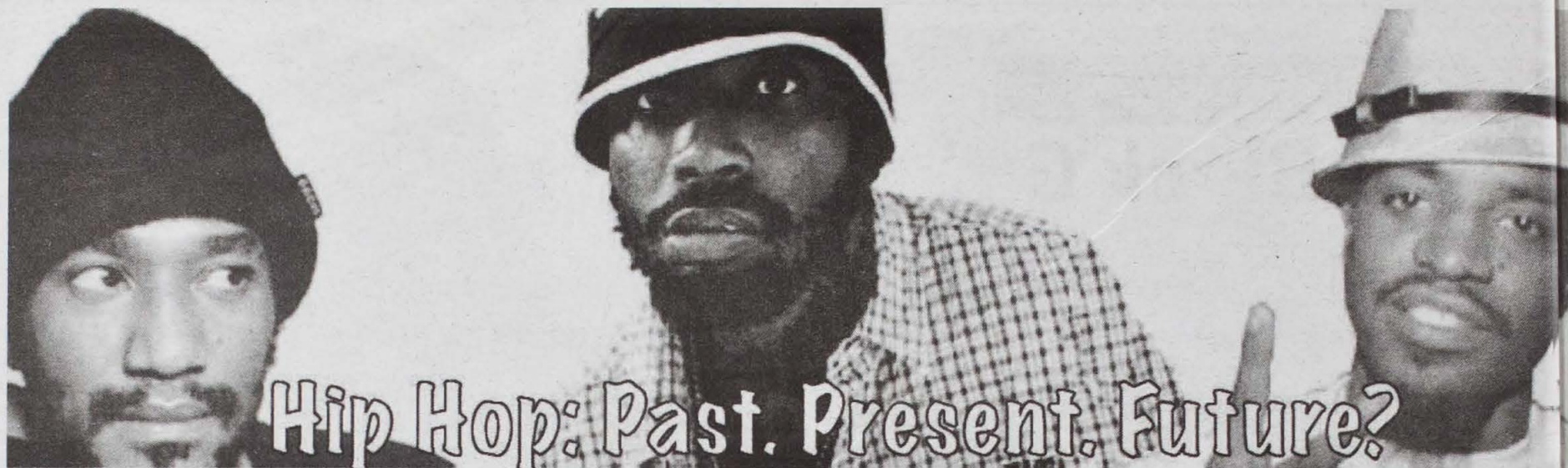


illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

These were the first steps toward blues music, rock 'n' roll, jazz and ragtime. Generations later, R & B would develop, and provide the base for rap and hip-hop music.

In Cuba, Habra music and Clave rhythm developed when Afro-Cubans interacted with Spanish culture. Calypso and reggae resulted in the development of black music in Jamaica, Antigua and other Indian Islands West Indian Islands affected by the slave trade. In Brazil, Samba music developed when Afro-Brazilians were influenced by elements of Portuguese music.





## Hip Hop: Past. Present. Future?

# Teen Summit Meets Teens On Their Terms

By NE Staff

Life in the big city can be hard for the average teenager today but a Chicago Park District program is working to provide teenagers with a forum to discuss the issues facing them.

On Oct. 30, hundreds of Chicago area teens participated in the "The World Is Yours" Teen Summit which was held at South Shore Cultural Center's Paul Robeson Theater. The event was sponsored by the Chicago Park District and the Black McDonald's Owners of America.

Natae Thompson, the creator of the event and a program supervisor with the park district said the purpose of the summit was to reach out to teens and meet them where they are.

"We want (the teens) to be open," Thompson said. "We encourage them to talk about issues that affect them. We're trying to reach them on their level."

Teens participated in a series of panels and interactive workshops with a variety of local and national personalities, like Sam Silk and the FirstLady, and Daddy-O from the hip-hop group Stetsasonic.

Hip-hop artist, author and activist Sistah Souljah was the event's keynote speaker. Souljah engaged the standing room only crowd at the on a variety of subjects.

Wading in to thorny topics like teen sex, gang violence and negative images in the media, Souljah told the teens that they need to be responsible for themselves.

"You either get your mind right and handle your business or you will become somebody else's business," Souljah said.

"You learn what you have to learn to get what you need," she said.

Thompson said the Teen Summit program will not end with the Oct. 30 event. Smaller events are planned to follow up on discussions that began at the summit, she said.

Julian Green, a spokesperson for the Chicago Park District said given the success of the event, more summits will definitely be planned for the future.

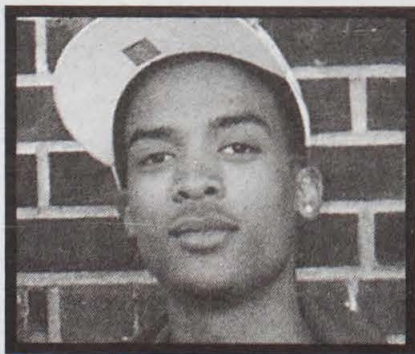
"This event should be duplicated," Green said "This is definitely the direction we should be going in for



Rap artist Sister Souljah was the key speaker at a Teen Summit held by the Chicago Part District and the Black McDonald's Owners of America.

### Photopinion

## Is hip-hop going in a positive or negative direction ?



"There will always be a new artist, and a new artist brings a new style, Fa Sho!"

Donald Green, 18



"It is going in a positive direction, I love hip hop, it will never die!"

Felicia Walker, 16



"Negative, nothing innovative is coming out of it. It's all Bling, money and girls!"

Stephan Jackson, 17

[www.newexpression.org](http://www.newexpression.org)

November 2000



## Perspective

# I'm a Black Girl Who Rocks—So What?

By Jackie Miller

Special from New Youth Communications, New York

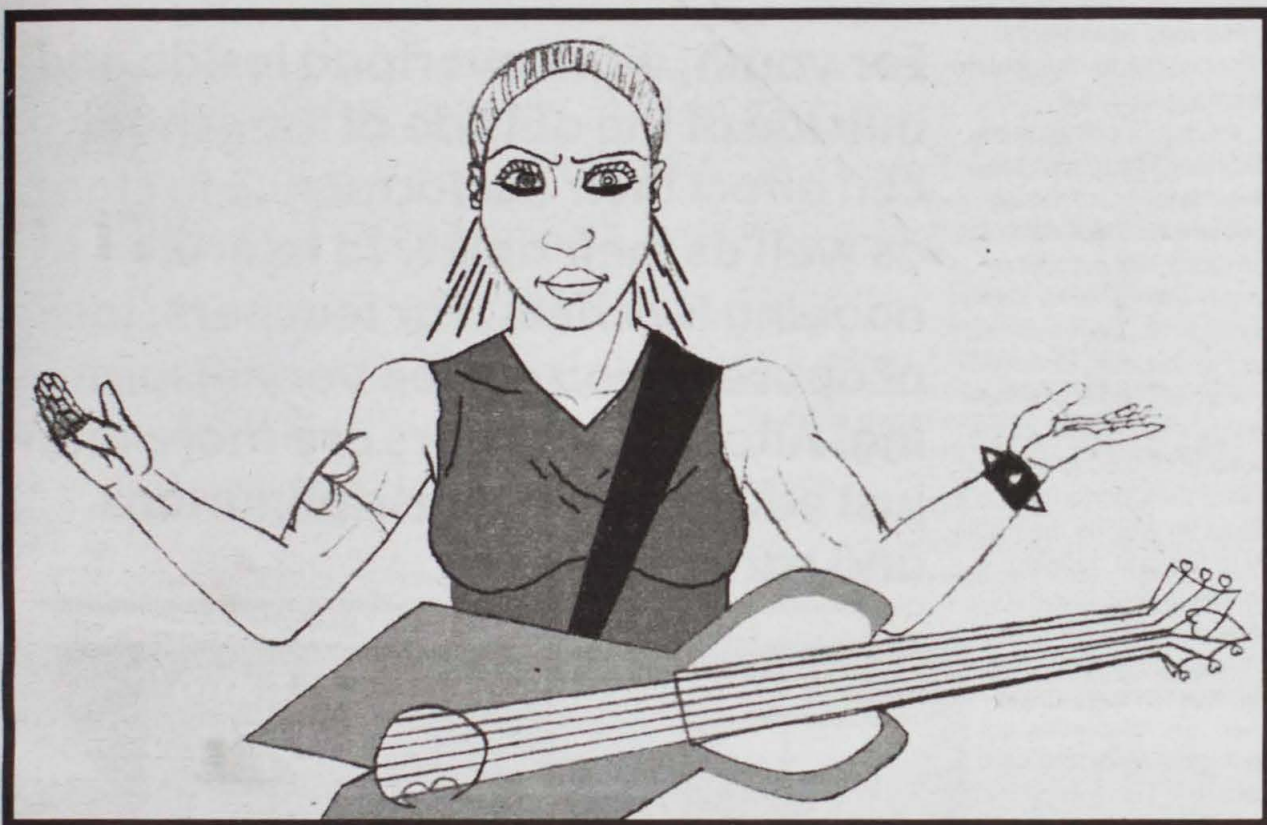


Illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

When I'm upset about something or mad at my parents, I listen to Staind's *Break the Cycle*. One of my favorite songs, "For You," has a rough, edgy beat that speaks to teens like myself who feel different. "To my mother, to my father/ It's your son or it's your daughter/Are my screams loud enough for you to hear me?/ Should I turn this up for you?"

I can relate to that line because my parents sometimes drive me crazy, like when they bug me about not doing my homework. They make me want to scream, but instead I sing along, hiding my screams so they won't hear.

## Rock Speaks to Me

Bands like Staind, Linkin Park, and System of a Down speak to me because they voice strong emotions I identify with, like being alone, expressing yourself, feeling different, and gaining independence. But my parents and many of my peers think that I'm wrong to like rock music because I'm Black. Both friends and family have told me that I'm trying to be White and denying my African-American culture by disliking rap and much r&b and listening to rock instead. My father calls it "White music." The music I play that gets my parents approval includes artists like Patti LaBelle and Janet Jackson.

[www.newexpression.org](http://www.newexpression.org)

I listen to them when I want to cool down and relax

## Didn't Hear Rock Until 10th Grade

I grew up listening to hip-hop and pop because that's what everyone around me listened to. It wasn't until sophomore year that I heard rock music, when a friend played me Linkin Park's *Hybrid Theory* CD. The sound was loud and driving; I couldn't decide if I liked it or not. So I asked my friend to make me a copy so I could listen to it in depth.

Listening at home, I realized I could relate to the chorus of Linkin Park's song "In the End," which goes, "When I tried so hard/ And got so far/ But in the end/ It doesn't even matter."

I identified with the lyrics because often I've worked hard in school or at home, and sometimes felt like I did it all for nothing, like when I worked so hard in 8th grade and expected to get an award for English class, but didn't get it.

After listening to Linkin Park, I was interested in finding out more about rock music. So, I bought a *Disturbed* CD. The band plays rough, with exciting, pounding, in-your-face beats. I liked the guitar and how the player made it scream.

## My Hip-Hop Friends Disapproved

I began hanging with a crowd that listened to the same music. My other friends—the "hip-hop same music. My other friends—the "hip-hop group"—disapproved of my new friends and the music we listened to, saying I was trying to be White. I thought that was an immature thing to say, but I wasn't going to argue with them, even though I disagreed.

I like what I like. To me, rap's got too much cursing and most of the songs are about guns, gangs, parties, and sex. And r&b has too much sex and sorry love songs. Listening to rock music showed me that there are other things to sing about.

Besides, the rocker crowd is made up of different ethnicities, including Dominican, Mexican, Chinese, and African. We're just a group of people who like rock music, regardless of what ethnicity we are.

I decided to ignore friends who couldn't handle me liking rock. Some of them don't speak to me anymore, but my other hip-hop friends decided to live with my musical interests, and we're still cool. I take the same approach with my parents, too. One day at home, I was listening to System of a Down's CD *Toxicity*, I was enjoying the title track, which speaks of a poisonous city, but ends with the lead singer yelling the positive lyrics, "When I became the sun/ I shone life into the man's hearts."

## Family Calls It 'Devil's Music'

Sadly, my family didn't hear those lyrics, but just a lot of yelling. They called it the "devil's music." I knew they didn't like it, but I just kept on listening to it and ignored what they said about the song.

My father makes it clear that he doesn't like my rock music, because he'll tell me to turn it off or complain to my aunt that I'm trying to be White. I don't bother arguing with him because we grew up in different eras. He grew up during a more noticeably racist time, while I grew up where racism is less obvious. My mother is more understanding; she doesn't say anything, just walks away.

?Even though my parents and some of my friends want me to be part of the soul and hip-hop crowd, I just can't. I feel too different and one of the ways I'm different is through music. I'm a Black girl, and I'm one of a kind.

*New Youth Communications is published by Youth Communication in New York*

November 2003



## Perspective

# Wouldn't It Be Good?

Understanding in the classroom would create better learning environment

By Kendra Fortenberry  
Jones College Prep

School is a mechanism. There are many components and units that work together to create an efficient institution of learning. Two major facets are the students and the teachers. Together, they can build a successful and proficient learning system. But when friction arises between the two, learning and teaching becomes difficult and unpleasant.

Attitudes, personal issues and different personalities are important factors that effect the learning environment. In many cases a lack of communication and understanding on each part causes conflict. For both student and teacher, school can become a dreaded destination for learning, growth, and development.

Some students say that pressure and work overload are common factors that result in a lack of enthusiasm for school.

Dealing with teachers who are too strict or act more like an authoritarian that a teacher can also result in a student losing interest in class. Teachers who are prone to have discussions with the students and seem more democratic are among the students' favorite.

Yael Mayer, an eleventh grader at Jones College Prep, said she appreciates a "more laid back style of teaching."

"I learn more and I am more excited about coming to school," Yael said. She also feels that there should be more openness and understanding in the classroom. If teachers are too strict and demanding, they'll never develop a decent relationship with their students. Yael said.

However, for teachers, classroom life can become discouraging as well when dealing with student behavior.

Whether it's lack of attention or respect, a student's attitude can have a heavy impact on the teacher's mood by the end of the day. When a student constantly does something he or she was told not to do, naturally the instructor may lose his or her temper. "I expect students to be polite and respectful," said Peter Grafner, a psychology teacher at Jones. Grafner said he had a confrontation with a student who was using profanity and refused to discard a piece of candy. Grafner said behavior similar to this, or worse, can cause a teacher to become frustrated and irritated. Because negativity is contagious, the students soon become unhappy as well, Grafner said. For students, disrespect on the behalf of a teacher often involves the instructor not listening to the students input.

Kevin Russel, a junior at Jones found himself losing his temper with a teacher when the teacher failed to listen to his opinion. A situation like this can be upsetting to a youth, especially since adults are prone to listen to one another over someone younger. Both teacher and student can become

defensive because both sides may assume the other wants to manipulate them.

Lack of communication leads to a sour student-teacher relationship. But what if the reason for an individual's angst or impatience doesn't involve the school, the teachers, or the students directly? For youth, work overload inside and outside of the school can affect their performance in class as well as their ability to tolerate nagging teachers. For teachers, lack of appreciation can be very dispiriting. After all, teachers are more than just educators, but disciplinarians and care takers.

With the possibility of a strike, and dealing with overcrowded classrooms and a lack of pay, teachers can feel frustrated. One teacher said that although a teacher's salary does not compensate for his or her time spent, the students are more important.

What keeps teachers and students motivated?

Some students recognize the fact that education leads to a brighter and more secure future. Teachers work hard to ensure the learning and growth of these students. If all students, teachers and administrators realized this, there would be less divergence in the school system today.

**For youth, work overload inside and outside of the school can affect their performance in class as well as their ability to tolerate nagging teachers. For teachers, lack of appreciation can be very dispiriting. After all, teachers are more than just educators, but disciplinarians and care takers.**

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**Health**

# Dear Audreina...

**Introducing New Expression's advice column  
By Audreina Comeaux  
Mother McAuley**



*My best friend and I really like the same guy. We would both die to go out with him. He's always saying how much he likes us both but we don't know what he means. We promised each other that neither of us would ask him out, so that neither of us would get hurt. But*

*recently this guy asked me out! I feel like I've waited forever for this. What do I do?*  
**Tisha, 16.**

Tisha, at least let your friend know what is going on. But only do that if you and your friend are close and truly understand one another. Talk it over with her and if she gets mad, ask her what she would TRULY do if she were in your shoes. Maybe you should try asking her twice just to make sure

she thought what she would REALLY do in that situation. Then once you have your situation settled with your friend think about why you want to be with this guy. Is it just a physical thing or is he a really nice guy and friend that you really can talk to. No guy should come between a girl and her best bud.

*There is a girl that I am dating, and it is going well. We do all the boyfriend/girlfriend stuff, but something is missing. I want to be able to take her on dates that she won't forget! But all I can think of is going out to eat, and to a movie. I don't have a lot of money. Please give me some ideas for dates.*

**Lamarr, 16**

Well Lamarr, ask her what she would like to do and if she is fresh out of ideas maybe think of going through a romantic walk in the park, a nice picnic on the beach, something romantic and creative and cheap of course (lol). Just think of really sweet things that would benefit the both of you.

*Can you get genital warts from oral sex?*  
**-Unknown, 15**

Dear unknown, STDs like genital warts, can be passed from an infected person to an uninfected person through oral sex (mouth to genital contact). Some of the STDs that can be passed through oral sex are: HIV, Genital Herpes (Type 1 & Type 2), and Genital Warts (although not very common as the virus that causes genital warts does not particularly like the mouth environment). Soft flesh colored warts in the throat is a sign of Genital Wart infection in the mouth. But like STDs in the genital region, the mouth or throat may be infected but no symptoms occur. If you have had oral sex with someone without using throat may be infected but no symptoms occur. If you have had oral sex with someone without using protection (mouth to penis without condom /mouth to vulva - female genitals without a barrier) then you should talk to your doctor about possible infection.

If you want to ask Audreina a question email: [brentw@youth-comm.org](mailto:brentw@youth-comm.org) or snail mail: Youth Communication/Dear Audreina, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. 60605-1996

## Recent sexual assaults drive need for awareness

**By NE Staff**

A string of sexual assaults against women has occurred in the last three months. Most of the attacks have occurred on the North Side of Chicago near the Wicker Park Area. In most cases, the women were grabbed from behind, beaten and sexually assaulted. By NE press time the Chicago Police Department was still looking for the person(s) responsible for the attacks. The last reported attack occurred Oct. 24 in the 1700 block of West Beach Street.

The Chicago Police Department offers these safety tips to help women try and avoid becoming a victim.

- Always try to walk, jog, or ride your bike with a partner.
- Avoid secluded, dark areas or shortcuts.
- Stay on busy well-lit and heavily-populated streets.
- Walk with energy, confidence and purpose. Hold your head up, look around constantly, be alert and check your surroundings.
- Try not to carry bulky purses, bags or parcels. Always keep at least one hand free.
- When you are alone, avoid wearing headphones; try not to be engrossed in reading; avoid talking on your cellular telephone for long periods of time. You must be able to see and hear who or what is approaching from all directions.

approaching from all directions.

- Always try to wear clothing and shoes that allow you freedom of movement.
- If you do take the bus alone at night, sit by the driver, stay awake and alert, and have someone meet you at your stop.
- Never get in or out of your vehicle without doing a visual sweep of the immediate area for suspicious persons. Be sure that your doors are locked and windows closed. Do not park your vehicle in dimly-lit, isolated areas or parking lots.
- Follow your instincts. If you think you are being followed and you don't feel safe, cross the street, Know of open businesses and other public areas that you can go to, if you need help.
- Keep your family or friends advised of your whereabouts and what time you are supposed to arrive or return.

**Key Points to Remember:**

- There is safety in numbers.
- Ignoring your instincts is simply not worth the risk.
- Don't be afraid or too shy to ask for an escort to your vehicle or residence.
- Adopt a frame of mind that will allow you to recognize and avoid potential threats on the street.

Information provided by the Chicago Police Department website

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## Horror-scopes

# Gaze into Madame CanDace's crystal ball, and see how your future will unfold...

### Aries

This month you are more lazy than usual. Try not to be a burden on another, remember: every one laughs at Homer, but no one really likes him!

Single: The person you have been eyeing is not all you think, but you will find out the hard way: hint, check the throat, Adam had an apple, Eve did not!

Attached: Communication problems are rising, step back from the relationship, you need to let it breath!

### Taurus

Time is on your side, so take as long as you would like to study for that math test, to me F stands for fantastic!

Single: No, you can't take your parent to prom.

Attached: Being in a relationship can sometime keep you away from reality, come to the light! Here are a few things you may have missed... Henry Ford invented the car. A man was on the moon. Phones are touch tone, and you can take one wherever you go, it is called a cell phone, and aliens do exist, one joined the White House, his name is Bush!

### Gemini

The moon is in your favor, forget what your parents say, stay out as long as you'd like!

Single: Don't listen to your friends single people have all the fun!

Attached: Don't listen to your friends, attached people have all the fun!

### Cancer

One positive comment does not make you special, it was actually opposite day.

Single: Start dating the guy/girl you have been trying to get away from they may be nicer than you think.

Attached: Stop dating the guy/girl you once had been avoiding, that person is a psycho, run!

### Leo

Your attitude will mess up a good opportunity today, so smile and be nice

Single: No one called you tonight, I told you to stop with the attitude you just don't listen.

Attached: Good job, that change of attitude went a long way!

### Virgo

Some things you just don't want to know, so butt out of everybody's business!

Single: Spending time with your family may take your mind off of how much of a loser you really are

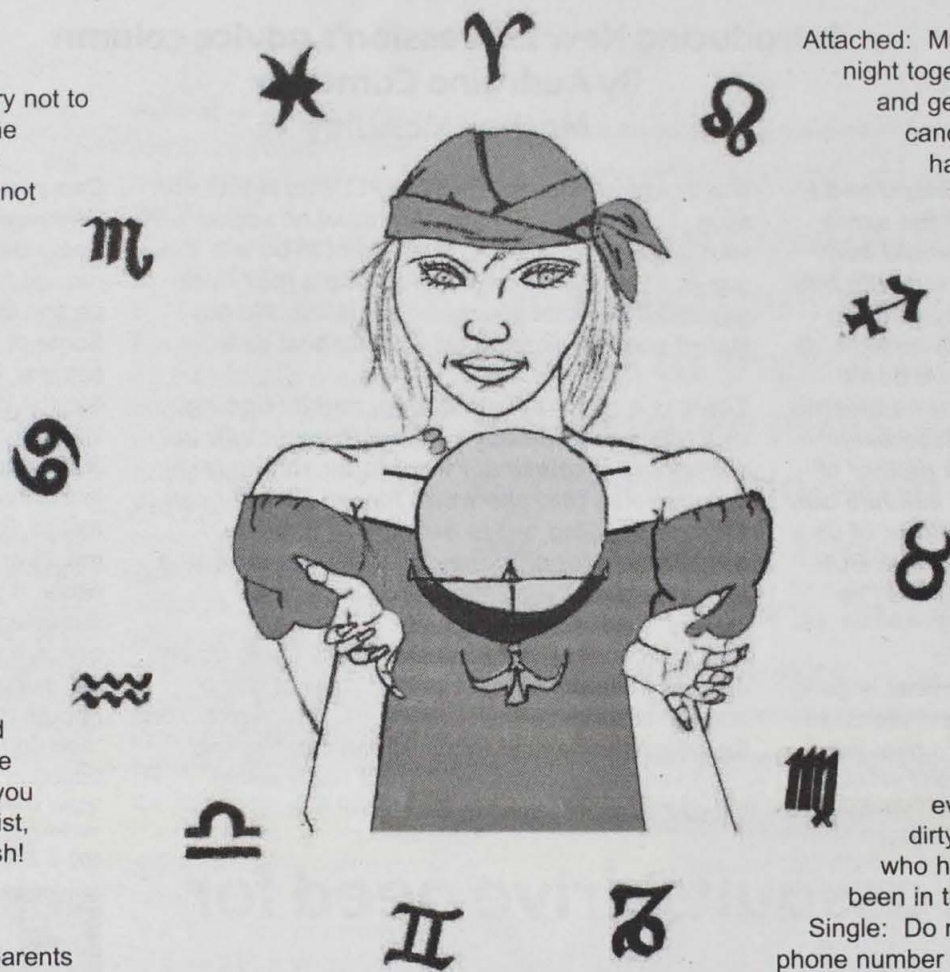


illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

for not having a date. Wait, did I just say that?

Attached: Answering your special someone's phone can never be pretty, I promise, it leads to nothing but trouble. You can find out a lot of ugly things. Like t trouble. You can find out a lot of ugly things. Like when their dentist calls to inform them of their halitosis, and you suddenly figure out why your nose hairs start to burn when they talk!

### Libra

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, not the mirror in the bathroom, Go to class!

Single: Really want a date, try putting an ad in the paper, while you are at it go get a stamp made that says R.E.S.O.L and stamp it on your face. LOSER!

Attached: When your date is choking at the movies it is not the popcorn, it is all that perfume you bathed in, lay off of it, please!

### Scorpio

Walk a mile in some one else's shoes today, just make sure they don't have athletes foot.

Single: Make all your friends have a movie night together, rent all your favorite movies and get loaded off of pizza, ice cream and candy. What do you care, you have no one to impress!

Attached: Make all of your friends have a movie night together, rent all your favorites movies and get loaded off of pizza, ice cream and candy. What do you care, you already have someone to love you, let yourself go!

### Sagittarius

Life is like a dirty diaper... you know the rest!

Single: Buying all that fancy stuff for yourself won't impress anyone. Instead you will have to supply them with fancy stuff. Take my advice and put it away!

Attached: Buy a gift from the heart; it is the thought that counts. Hint: You better think of Tiffany's!

### Capricorn

Getting more organized never hurt anyone, but your mess is hurting everyone. A good example is your dirty locker. It is really hurting that kid who has the locker next to yours, he has been in there for two weeks! Let him out!

Single: Do not go on a date with any one whose phone number has seven digits.

Attached: Change up the pace a little bit, dates are starting to get boring, and the trip to your grandma's nursing home...not original at all!

### Aquarius

The sun is in your favor this month, so you won't get heat stroke, congratulations.

Single: Instead of being so direct, next time try flirting with the person first, and then let them ask for your number, because planning your wedding when you first meet, just won't do!

Attached: Things are heating up between you two, don't make me get ice water!

### Pisces

Being too nice will lead to nothing but trouble. No one likes a pushover, so demand respect and your boyfriend/ girlfriend back...and your jewelry...and your homework.

Single: Stop looking for the right person and let them look for you, really, how many restraining orders can you get?

Attached: Don't worry about your girlfriend's/ boyfriend's parents, but for further notice, next time be a little more polite when you mention their mother's mustache. We all realize she could use a good wax, but honestly!



## Entertainment

# Sexy vs. Slutty

By Jocelyn R. Grove  
Columbia College

Have you ever noticed what's being worn in public today? There is an atmosphere of freedom that is being promoted by the entertainment industry. The question is how far should it take us. Everyone wants to look and feel sexy, but could the promotion be the wrong message? When does sexy become slutty?

Keep in mind that the entertainment industry is trying to sell an image, taking you to a world that does not exist. Famous singers are on CD and magazine covers wearing clothing that should be, in my opinion, illegal to wear in certain public places. But, the problem is that some people are misinterpreting the message and wearing less and showing more.

An example of this is the all too famous low cut jeans with a thong showing when one sits, bends, or even stands. Sometimes it's cleavage that is showing, and I do not mean chest cleavage.

In talking with some students at Jones College Prep, I discovered that one could get judged very quickly by what they wear.

After being asked, what they think about someone who doesn't leave anything to the imagination, Matt Linas said, "It's someone who is trying to stand out. They have to be noticed right away." In addition, most students found slutty to be degrading to the person.

## Kelly puts the "G" In Good

By Brandiss West  
Jones College Prep. H.S.

R. Kelly's newest release, The R in R & B Collection Vol. 1 features 18 tracks of the Chicago artist's best work as well as three new songs.

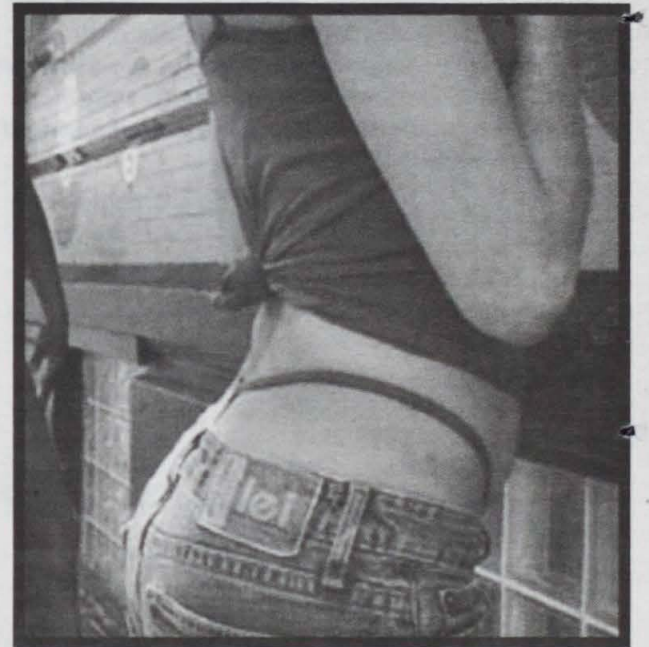
The R in R & B Collection Vol. 1 also includes a limited bonus remix c.d. The remixes were written, produced, and arranged by R. Kelly. A companion DVD for the CD is also available.

R. Kelly released this CD to celebrate his first 10 years in the business. Naturally the CD goes all the way back to "Honey Love" and "She's Got That Vibe" and into more recent material like "Thoia Thoing" and "Touched a Dream." "Touched a Dream" is like a ghetto love song to a woman who happens to be everything to this man; his dream woman. If you ever needed a song for inspiration or just a small boost in self-esteem, "Ghetto Religion" featuring Wyclef Jean, is the song for you. It says that "though your load may be heavy, know that the weight makes you strong." The message is a positive one, stating that even though you are in the ghetto, no one can stop your vision. Also featured is the heart felt "I'm your angel" which Kelly performs

I don't think that everyone understands that when they are wearing extremely revealing clothes they are sending the wrong message. After all, no one wants to be considered a slut. There is a specific place and time for wearing specific clothes. If you wouldn't wear a bathing suit to school or to work, then you shouldn't wear something that comes close to it. School is a conservative place, whereas, a club is a more relaxed atmosphere. And, if you are too young to get into a club, then you should save these clothes for a later time and save your reputation too. It's worth it.

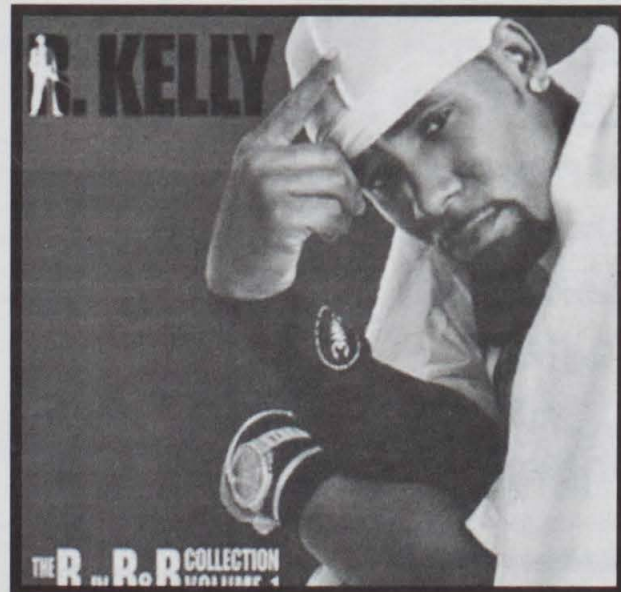
Fashion focuses on sexy clothing. The groundwork of sexy starts with having self-esteem and not needing to dress for attention. As Sarah Yonts, another Jones College Prep student put it, "Sexy is showing just enough to keep them wanting more. It looks appealing to the eyes, but it's something appropriate."

Wearing clothes that fit and compliment your body will give you the right attention, while feeling confident about yourself. That is what fashion is supposed to do for you. Don't confuse a slutty fad for sexy fashion.



NE File Photo

How low can you go? Clothes manufacturers are designing bare-all jeans as part of a new fashion trend.



This new release shines. "The R in R & B", is a little something for both old and new school to enjoy. He also has a message to all, which is, to always keep your head up. There's no doubt that this c.d. should be in your CD player if you are an R.

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

A Chat with Chicago Tribune Music Critic Greg Kot

By Joseph Struck  
Providence H.S.

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

**NE:** Who were your favorite bands growing up and which of these do you still feel the same way about?

**Greg Kot:** Boy, I guess my first favorite band was probably the Rolling Stones, then it moved on to the Ramones, Patti Smith and the Clash. I liked the Springsteen early on. As for which are still my favorite, I still think Patti Smith is as important an artist as I ever encountered. She changed my outlook on a lot of things. Everything from the cover art on her first record, what she was saying in her songs and how she was saying it, so I would say Patti Smith is still a foundation artist. The Stones have pretty much pissed their way of all their credibility. They're still a great band but to me they haven't made a good album in the last 20 years. But they are a very important band. There wasn't a more important band when I was a kid. They set the tone, but I don't think they've been consistent with the standard they set.

**NE:** How did you know you wanted to pursue a career revolved around music, particularly rock music?

**GK:** Umm? I don't think I ever made a conscious decision to be rock critic. I just knew that I had to

**"I started my own fanzine and started writing for a counter-culture weekly and things like that. I never really thought of it as this is the way I'm going to make my bread and butter. [I was thinking] I need to get a job. I need to get hired at a newspaper and I'll do what a newspaper needs me to do."**

write about music. I wanted to be a writer first of all, and I found my subject later on. I knew I wanted to be writer or journalist since I was in about the eighth grade, and music writing just sort of really took over. I studied and played music when I was a kid. The

piano and stuff like that. First as a classical training, then in garage bands. But then I started discovering all this amazing music and how it made me feel and I wanted to respond to it as a writer. So I started my own fanzine and started writing for a counter-culture weekly and things like that. I never really thought of it as this is the way I'm going to make my bread and butter. [I was thinking] I need to get a job. I need to get hired at a newspaper and I'll do what a newspaper needs me to do, but I would always write about music and eventually the two interest sort of coincided where I actually got paid to write about music. Don't tell the Tribune this, but I'd still be writing music anyway, even if I wasn't getting paid for it. It's just something I needed to do. Thank God I found an outlet for it that is gonna pay me for it.

**NE:** We all know you write for the Chicago Tribune, but you also write for Rolling Stones Magazine and co-host Sound Opinions, a weekly music centered talk show with Jim DeRogatis every Tuesday night. Which of these forms do you find most appealing and how are they different?

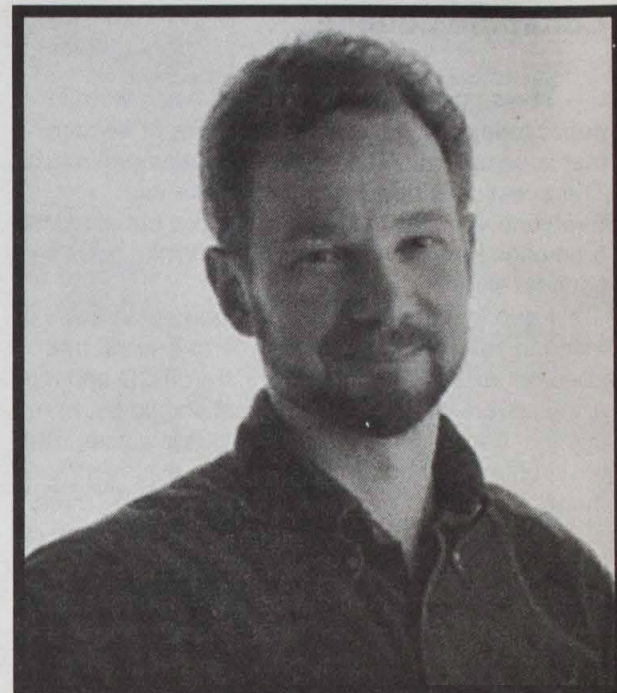
**GK:** Well I will always consider myself a writer, first and foremost. I think that's the one I do best and will always be the core of what I do. Everything else is just icing on the cake.

The Rolling Stone thing is flattering because they approached me to write for them more than ten years ago and I've been writing for them ever since. I do not think I have once made a call to Rolling Stone and said, "Give me an assignment". They called me and said 'would you write for us?' It helps credibility or whatever to have pieces published in Rolling Stone and I like it because they've never changed a word that I've written. I have always said exactly what I wanted to say in the reviews. Occasionally, I've been surprised to see that the star ratings get changed, but that's the editor's decision.

**NE:** They change your ratings?

**GK:** Yeah, they do, they have. It is weird. Occasionally they'll bump up a record that I didn't feel was as good, and they don't change a word of writing so it's like weird, it's like you read the review and it reads like a two star review but there is a three

star rating on it. So it's just kind of strange, but, the editors do have the right. I guess it is in the fine print of the review section that the editors determine the star ratings and not the writers, but often that gets misinterpreted. The writers are assumed to be



NE File Photo

**Chicago Tribune and Rolling Stone critic Greg Kot**

blamed for everything [laughs]. So it's like 'how did you give that thing three stars?' and I say 'I didn't. I wanted two stars on it', so that sometimes gets a little frustrating. But I have to say that the editors there have been great for most of the part. Like I said hey don't try to change my work. My opinion is my opinion, and my writing is my writing and that's a real privilege to have that kind of forum in probably the most widely read music magazine in North America. So it's fun.

**NE:** Many people could argue that the state of Rock 'n' Roll is not what it once was. Are there any up and coming bands that you feel could save the world of rock and roll and steer it in the right direction?

**GK:** Well I don't think it needs to be saved. If it's going to die, let it die. I don't think there is any necessity. I think there has to be an urgency in any art form. If there is no urgency left in rock music then what's the point? To me art is all about self expression. And to me my definition of rock is amplified self expression. If people find rock a valuable way of expressing themselves then that's cool. You know, if it's hip-hop, if it's standing on your head and beating a stick on your chest then that's cool too. Self-expression is self-expression. You've got to find the mode of self expression that means the most to you. If rock is dried out the good riddance let's move onto something else. There's gonna be fresh stuff all the time. What I hate is recycling trends-of stuff that has already been done

**Join us next month for part two of this interview.**



## Calendar

### Movie/DVD Releases

#### November 11 DVDs

Terminator 3 - Rise of the Machines

#### November 14 Movies

Looney Tunes: Back in Action  
Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (

Tupac: Resurrection

#### November 18 DVDs

Aqua Teen Hunger Force  
Ichi the Killer  
Tomb Raider - Cradle of Life  
Lord of the Rings - The Two Towers  
Ultimate Jordan

#### November 21 Movies

The Barbarian Invasions  
Blue Gate Crossing  
Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat  
Gothika

#### November 25 DVDs

Bruce Almighty  
Dead Or Alive - Trilogy  
Star Trek: Motion Pictures Collection  
X2 - X-Men United

#### November 28 Movies

Bad Santa  
The Haunted Mansion  
Timeline

#### December 2 DVDs

Alias - The Complete Second Season  
The Land Before Time  
Pirates of the Caribbean - The Curse of the Black Pearl



"Ichi the Killer," the controversial movie from Japanese slasher film director Takashi Miike comes to DVD on November 18



"Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat," starring Mike Myers, opens in theaters on November 21.

### CD/Video Game Releases

#### September CD Releases

##### November 11 CDS

Lost Dogs-PEARL JAM  
Try This-PINK  
Kid Rock-KID ROCK  
Resurrection-2PAC

##### November 18 CDS

In The Zone-BRITNEY SPEARS  
Blink 182-BLINK 182  
Beg for Mercy-G UNIT

##### November 25 CDS

Folklore-NELLY FURTADO  
Take a Look in the Mirror-KORN  
The Black Album-JAY-Z  
Life on Display-PUDDLE OF MUDD  
Seven-ENRIQUE IGLESIAS  
This is Not a Test-MISSY ELLIOT



Jay-Z releases his latest album, "The Black Album," on November 25.

#### November Video Games

##### November 11 Games

ESPN College Hoops PS2/XBOX/GC  
Links 2004 XBOX  
Medal of Honor: Rising Sun GC/XBOX/Ps2

##### November 17 Games

NCAA March Madness 2004 PS2/XBOX/GC  
Project Gotham Racing 2 XBOX  
Mario Kart: Double Dash!! GC

##### November 18 Games

Final Fantasy X-2 PS2  
King of Fighters 2000/2001 PS2  
Manhunt Ps2  
Counter-Strike XBOX  
Legacy of Kain: Defiance XBOX/PS2  
NBA Inside Drive 2004 Xbox  
XIII PS2/XBOX/GC



The cast of Final Fantasy X reunites in order to find their lost friend Tidus in Final Fantasy X-2, coming to stores on November 18.

## Did You Know?

In 1976-1977, Chicago stayed below freezing for 43 straight days?

## Things to do around Chicago

Dongnae Yaryu: The Masked Dance-Play Thursday, November 13 at 6pm at the Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater 78 E. Washington St., Chicago. Dongnae Yaryu is believed to have originated around the tenth century in Korea and became established as a distinctive form of entertainment in the 18th century. An art form in which dance, words and movement come together as a fully developed drama. Free. Call 312-744-6630 for more information.

"Gustave et Alexandre" Saturday, November 22nd at 4 PM. The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with the Alliance Française and the French Community of Belgium presents Théâtre de la Valette's Gustave et Alexandre in the Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center. This historical comedy was written in 2002 by Jean-François Viot to mark the 200th birthday of French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas, author of The Three Musketeers and The Count of Monte Cristo. Free. Call 312-744-6630 for more information.

The Artful Teapot: 20th-Century Expressions from the Kamm Collection. Through January 4 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago presents approximately 250 artist-made and antique teapots drawn from the more than 6,000 teapots in the collection of former Chicagoans Gloria and Sonny Kamm. Free. Call 312-744-6630 for more information.



## Sports

# Living the Dream: The story of a Cubs Usher

By Qumar Zaman  
Walter Payton College Prep. HS

Sometimes special things happen to special people. I never thought that I would be witnessing one of the greatest Cubs teams in my life. As I started working as a usher in March, I didn't think the Cubs would win their division, let alone the wild card or a playoff spot. But, I still kept my faith in the Cubbies.

It was a long, winding road as the Cubs went through many crazy times. Bitterly cold temperatures in April, extra-inning spectaculars in May, the Sosa corked bat incident, the Yankees series in June, and the playoff push in September. I was a part of it all.

As September crept up on the Cubs, I knew that we were going to win the National League Central Division. The great five-game series against the St. Louis Cardinals was undoubtedly the turning point for the Cubs. As I left Wrigley on Sept. 16, my last game on the homestand, I didn't know that the next time I'd be back at Wrigley, that something special would happen.

Saturday, Sept. 27! That day ranks as one of the greatest days of my life. I felt the Cubs would win the doubleheader that Saturday. I was working ramp 4 that Saturday, where most of the press and mezzanine/skybox ticketholders go. We all knew that 1 was the number. With Matt

Clement on the hill, and with the Cubs poised to sweep the doubleheader, it was only a matter of when the magical moment was to happen. It came in the top of the 9th inning, as relief pitcher Dave Veres threw a pitch to former Cub Jose Hernandez. It was a double play ball! The Cubs won the National League Central Division! "We did it!" The moment was so spectacular and it was once-in-a-lifetime event. I was so proud of the Cubs.

It was hard for me to imagine that the Cubs would be playing in October. After an emotional retirement ceremony for Ron Santo's number 10, the Cubs were ready for the Atlanta Braves. The Cubs played their first home playoff game on October 3rd for the third game in the Cubs/Braves series. The Cubs defeated the Braves in 5 games! It was the Cubs first post-season series win since the 1908 World Series Championship.

Since the Florida Marlins defeated the San Francisco Giants in their series, the Cubs would have to fry some fish to make it to the World Series. The Cubs had the home-field advantage for the series. I felt so out of place when I arrived at Wrigley for game 1. Imagining the Cubs and NLCS in the same thought was weird, but it was reality. Game 1's heart wrenching defeat in 11 innings was a game I

thought the Cubs would win. We won game 2, which made me extremely happy. Sammy Sosa hit one of the most amazing home runs ever. I couldn't tell where it landed, until I saw the highlight the next morning.

The Cubs won game 3 easily, and game 4 in extra innings. The game 4 win gave the Cubs a 3-1 series lead, and a chance to make it to the World Series with one more win. I witnessed game 5 with my parents, uncle, and grandfather, hoping I would witness history.

I had a bitter taste in my mouth as the Marlins' Josh Beckett threw a 2-hit shutout to defeat the Cubs in game 5. In my mind, the Cubs wanted to win the National League Championship at home for their fans.

No one thought the Marlins could beat Mark Prior or Kerry Wood, except the Marlins. We all know what happened in game 6, as Steve Bartman tried to catch a foul ball that Moises Alou might have caught, with the Cubs just 5 outs away from a World Series appearance. After that infamous moment occurred, the Marlins took over, as the Cubs gave up the lead and eventually lost.

I was so enraged that I punched a drunk fan in the shoulder. That drunk fan didn't care, as he was totally wasted, but he knew that the Cubs had given up the lead. If the Cubs wouldn't win game 6, then Kerry Wood would surely win in game 7. Or, so everyone thought.

The unexpected happened, as Paul Bako stepped to the plate with 2 outs in the bottom of the ninth and popped it up. Once Bako's fly ball reached left fielder Jeff Conine, the "Friendly Confines" went eerily silent. The only sound came from the celebratory Florida Marlins. They, not the Chicago Cubs, won the National League Championship. It was one of the worst feelings I've felt in my life.

My heart sunk as I witnessed the bad guys in black celebrate on our home turf. Not only was it the last game for the Cubs in 2003, but it would be the last time I'd get to see many of my friends at work. That hurt me more than anything. It was hard to say goodbye to newfound friends, but it felt even harder to accept that Cubs fans would have to say "Wait till next year" for another fantastic year.

As I look back on this year, I will never forget the sheer enjoyment that the Cubs have given me and all of the Cubs fans. Positively, we accomplished something that took us 14 years to get, by winning a Division championship, our first in the National League Central Division. We have much to look forward to in 2004, and as I say now to all Cub fans: 2003 is history, because the Cubs will win much more in 2004.



NE File Photo

*The Cubs had a breakout year in 2003, winning the National League Central Division. They were defeated in The National League Championship Series by eventual World Champions, Florida Marlins*





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## Poetry

### My Guy

By Vanessa Tillman  
Jones College Prep

Why does this keep happening to me?  
I just don't understand.  
Every guy that tries to holla I would never want to be  
my man.  
The one I want and crave  
Is the one that always gets away  
The one whose eyes hypnotize me,  
Leaves my heart feeling empty.  
The ones I sing to, tunes out my cry for his love.  
The one I stare at seems as peaceful as a dove.  
The one I give my heart to seems to give my heart  
away.  
The one who makes me smile,  
Makes me feel worse everyday.  
When I see him look at her, that's when I want to be  
in her shoes.  
If I competed for him,  
I'm afraid I might lose  
What does she have?  
Is it the longness of her hair?  
Her smile or the curve of her back ?  
I beg myself to give up because it's her that he  
wants.  
I get weaker as it seems that my brain starts to  
taunt.  
You're not good enough, ha, ha...

He wants her instead.  
It's right you know, so I purposely start to hit my  
head.  
I try to get over it but the sight of them brings pain.  
Hopefully I will survive this and my feelings will  
change.

Want to see your poetry  
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more information

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