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# Peer Pressure Often Influences Teenagers

By KATHIA MANZI

A year ago, Luz Marina strolled into the ladies room at Cambridge Rindge Latin High School and was surrounded by a group of female students who had been smoking cigarettes.

They began taunting Marina, a 17-year-old immigrant from Colombia, who had been in this country for the past six years.

As Marina tried to ignore the group, they pushed a cigarette into her hand and shoved her. Terrified by the experience, she tried to escape but was stopped by the girls. Tears rolled down her

cheeks. Finally, she ran from the room.

Marina resisted smoking a cigarette and becoming a member of the crowd that day. In a recent interview, she recalled the incident and said she still doesn't smoke cigarettes.

However, every teenager does not have the will power of Marina. Some, because of pressure from their peers, begin bad habits, such as smoking cigarettes, using marijuana, drugs and drinking liquor.

Interviews with a number of youths from different nationalities

showed that peer pressure is a problem for all ages. It can begin in lower grades, then reach different levels - often more severe - as children continue their education.

The youths also said peer pressure is not always brought on by outsiders but can also be brought on by the individuals, who feel pressure from within themselves to be more like the people around them.

For instance, Marina said many Latin youths feel pressure to socialize among themselves because they fear that American youths don't want to be around

them.

"There are students who do laugh and make fun of me when they find out I'm from Colombia," said Marina. "They even talk about my parents, saying that they're drug dealers back in Colombia. Whenever there's a drug bust on the news, they tease me about that. I wish things could be different but people are different and I've learned to deal with it."

Other high school students also talked about the various kinds of pressures that they feel from fellow students.

Norman Fu, an immigrant from Taiwan, came to this country at the age of 14. He is presently attending Cambridge Rindge and Latin High and going into his senior year. Peer pressure has affected him in both countries.

In Taiwan, he said, students felt pressure from other students because there was keen competition in their school work as they worked toward getting good grades and tried to rank at the top of their class. In this country, he finds that the pressure is not education related but more

See Pressure pg. 3

## Young Perspectives

Vol. 2, No. 1

The Suffolk University Urban Journalism Workshop

August 30, 1985

### Youth Group Keeps Area Teenagers Off The Streets

By NICOLE JOHNSON

On Friday nights when the city lights of Brockton come on, many assume that teenagers gather at house parties, school dances, under twenty-one clubs or basketball courts. But the youths of Mount Moriah would tell you differently.

The place to be on a Friday night in Brockton is the basement of a Baptist church. It is not a church with basketball courts, ski trips or excessive spending money. In fact, most youths would say that 60 kids in a room on a humid night is not the most desirable environment. However, the communication, the encouragement and the love keeps them coming back.

Larry Johnson, who resides in Weymouth, has been successfully directing the youth for the past

four years.

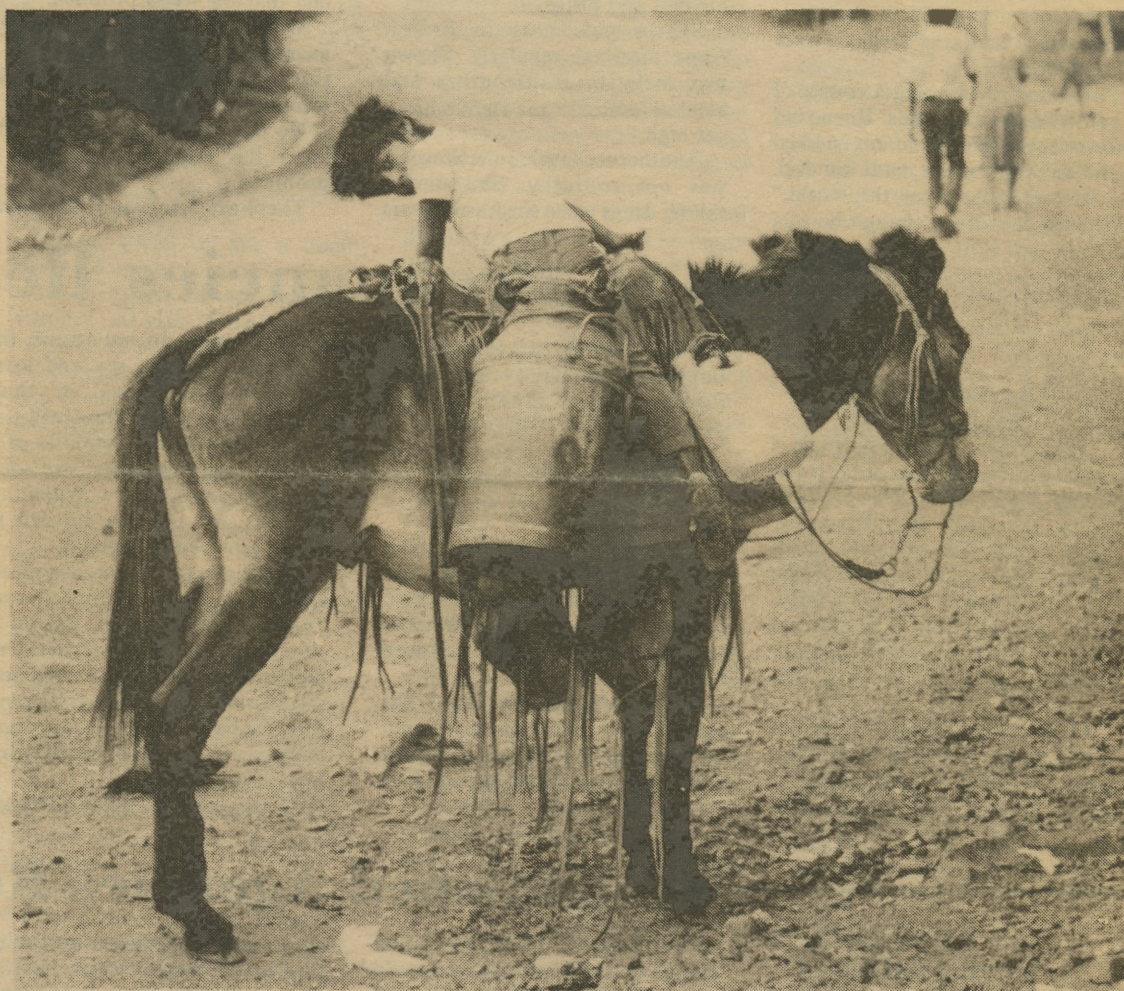
Deacon Al Anderson, the former director, told Johnson back then that he would no longer be running the group and suggested that Johnson take over.

Johnson admits that he was very hesitant. "I knew that I didn't have any degrees that would make me an expert on teens." But he felt the desire to follow through.

"I felt the need to try to give as many teens as possible, a reason for living a goal" Johnson said.

When the youth group began four years ago, there were only eight teens attending regularly. Johnson states that now he averages 60 youths every Friday night. The meetings are held from 7:30 to 11:00 in the lower auditorium of Mount Moriah

See Youths pg. 6



Child in Matagalpa, Nicaragua carries milk to the hills. See stories page 6.

By Ken Martin

### Ice Cream Man Is Popular With Children On Hot Days

By DARIN VEST

"Ice cream man! Ice cream man! I need an ice cream!"

The call rings in his ears at night. All day Sam passes out happiness on a stick; every 5 or 10 minutes he instigates a family fight as kids are dragged past the truck wailing because they can't get an ice cream.

With a wide-dimpled smile on his face, he takes the people's money and drops it into his pocket. He reaches into the freezer and gets an ice cream, which he then wraps in a napkin and places in the eagerly waiting hands of another satisfied customer.

This is what being an ice cream man is all about. Some are nicer than others but most are in it for the money, and when they're not smiling at little kids (which for some isn't very often), they are real cutthroats.

One doesn't have an ice cream truck because one likes kids. One has an ice cream truck because kids

See Ice Cream pg. 4



Two friendly Ice Cream men.

By Kathia Manzi



Two punk hairdos at Harvard Square.

By Kathia Manzi

### Bizarre Hairdos

By DAN McCLURE

As 16-year-old Marc McGovern skateboarded through Harvard Square, his all black outfit (including his skateboard) and spiked hairo did not receive any prolonged stares from the people (mostly young) congregated throughout Harvard Square.

This is because young people have accepted and exhibited expressive and creative fashion. Hairstyles have become an increasingly popular outlet for personal expression and have also given young people a chance to exhibit their creativity.

When McGovern began to

change his hairstyle, he claims, "People started to treat me different because of my looks. I got tired of narrow-minded people."

He says that he went "all the way" to make his looks different and he believes, "looks mean s---". McGovern said his parents don't mind the change in his looks because his personality and interests have not changed.

Robert, 21, a cart vendor at Quincy Market who wears a shoulder length hairstyle that is short on the left side, says his hairstyle "is for decoration." Robert was formerly a figure

See Hair pg. 4



# Today's Teenagers

## Some Teens Plagued By Drugs And Alcohol

By INA HOWARD

Drug abuse and drinking by teenagers has become a serious problem in this country, but recently when a number of Boston area teens were asked about the scope of the problem, they replied: "Are you kidding? Drugs and alcohol will never hurt me."

Research has found that teens like to drink for various reasons for a pick-me-up, to reduce anxiety, and tension, to escape unhappiness, to help relate to people, for kicks, to relieve boredom, and because of peer pressure.

Several teens said their reason for drinking or using drugs was peer pressure. Two others had reasons not relating to peer pressure.

Shawn Powell (name has been changed) of Swampscott, said he took drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, and speed because, "I loved the feeling of being high, I can tell people my true feelings when I am high."

It started in junior high, where Shawn recalls, "Drugs were everywhere."

He started smoking a couple of joints on the weekends. He moved on to speed and found out he liked the way those drugs made him feel.

"I was on top of the world," Shawn says. Even though he was

starting to skip school and get in trouble with the police, Shawn felt it was not the drugs controlling him. He felt that not going to school and getting arrested every Friday night was what he wanted.

Luckily, Shawn's parents noticed a change in his behavior. They decided to seek help for Shawn. His parents took him to a Project Cope meeting, where a lot of teenage drug and alcohol users get together to talk about their problems.

"I felt like a freak, I hated my mom and dad for making me go there," he said. At the first meeting, Shawn did not really participate. He had a, "I shouldn't be here," attitude.

After the first meeting, Shawn said he'd never go back.

Shawn still drank and used drugs. He did this so much he almost died.

Shawn recalls, "When I was in that hospital bed and saw my mom in tears I thought about my life and decided I would try hard to give up alcohol and drugs."

Shawn now goes to Project Cope meetings regularly. Shawn was lucky to realize drugs and alcohol were not the right way to get high.

Another teenager, Julie Stevens, was not so lucky. She started taking drugs when she was 12 years

old. It was easy for Julie to purchase drugs because she grew up in a neighborhood where she had easy access to drugs.

Julie often stole liquor from her home. It was very easy because her parents were heavy drinkers. And they always kept the bar full. "It was like taking candy from a baby," she laughs. Julie feels that drugs are on her side because they make her forget all her problems.

When asked if she felt drugs would ever harm her in any way, Julie looked at me and asked if I were crazy and replied, "Are you kidding? Drugs would never hurt me."

Julie does drugs everyday. She does all types of drugs such as quads, ludes, barbs, speed, coke, marijuana, and mescaline. She will try any new drug. Julie often steals to get the money for the drugs. She has not been in trouble with the law yet. Her parents don't know she has a problem because they are always drunk. Julie can't face the fact that she has a problem.

When I asked her about going to meetings, such as Project Cope, she answered bluntly, "Those meetings are not for me."

No one can help Julie until she faces the fact that she has a problem.

These are just two of the many

drug and alcohol users who are around today. It is a serious problem among teenagers. Drugs are dangerous. There are five basic kinds of drugs that are commonly used. Stimulants, depressants, hallucinogenics, narcotics and cannabis. Abusing these drugs can have serious effects on your body, as follows: heart problems, destroying nasal tissues, hallucinations, coma, and the most tragic — death.

Teens die because of overdoses every year. Also, about five thousand teens die from alcohol related accidents. The most common being drunk driving. Most teens think it's okay after they have had a few drinks.

The Massachusetts law states that a person is legally drunk when his or her blood alcohol content is 0.10% or more, which is approximately three to five drinks in an hour. Drinking and driving is a serious offense. The penalties include, for your first offense, loss of your drivers license for a year or being placed on probation. Also you pay \$450 for driver school safety classes.

For your second offense, you must go to jail or to a residential alcohol treatment center and you must pay a fine of \$300. You also lose your drivers license for at least two years.

Teens are sick of people telling them about drinking and driving. But I can't begin to tell you how important it is to inform them of the dangers. Children should be taught about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse at an early age.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston have an Alcoholism program.

The youths range in ages from six to 14. They are shown a film about the dangers of alcohol. Several said they had learned from the film. "Not to take drugs because if you do you will die," Joni Jenkins, 8. "Don't take drugs or alcohol," said Audrey McQueen, 12. "Stay away from alcohol," said Jerome White, age 10. Later, Mrs. Stead (Counselor at the Club) said the drug problem is "Very bad, the children go to school with drugs and alcohol. Also the liquor stores in the area don't help any."

When asked if she had any solutions for the problem, she said, "I can only teach children about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. And try to help prevent them from using them."

Drug and alcohol abuse are very serious problems, but there is help. Teens can go to many programs to sit and talk with kids who have the same problems.

## Teenage Pregnancies Remain A Problem

By JEANNETTE WILLIAMSON

There seems to be an epidemic of births among teenage girls in the United States today. This problem seems especially serious among black teens. The majority of all black children are born to single teen-age mothers. In 1984, fifty-seven percent of births to mothers 15 to 17 years of age were to black teens, according to recent studies.

Many teens engage in sexual activities for more reasons than satisfying their sexual urges. It could be that they are not told

enough about preventing an unplanned pregnancy and about the consequences of having a baby at a young age.

Teens are also subject to peer pressure. Boys, for instance, are not "cool" if they are virgins.

Some girls have babies so that they can feel important and needed. They think, "At last I am somebody and I have someone to love me," as they hold a newborn baby.

Boys, besides proving that they're cool because they're not virgins, feel that they prove their manhood by fathering children they do not want.

Many teens do not realize the difference between sex and love. Love is often lack in their relationships. Most boys will tire of the added responsibilities of a girlfriend and baby and will soon find a reason to leave. When this happens, the mothers are left to head their own household.

These young women are rarely able to support themselves and depend primarily on the food stamps they get from welfare. One mother interviewed described how she felt when she went to buy some food for her baby at a local grocery store where one of her friends from high school worked.

"I was never so ashamed in my

life," she said. "I got to the front of the line at the register and there was one of the girls from school. I remembered how, at school, we used to laugh and talk about those girls that got pregnant and had to get food stamps from welfare. I was sure that she remembered this as I paid for the food with my food stamps and lifted my baby out of the carriage."

"Needless to say, I never went back to that store again."

Some teen mothers find that they often lose a lot of so-called friends when they become pregnant. When 17-year-old Tina moved out of her parent's home and got an apartment with her

boyfriend after she became pregnant, she had a housewarming party and invited all her friends from school over, but few people showed up.

There are places that single teen mothers can get help. Many single mothers have benefitted from a program launched in 1982 by the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. It is called SMART—Single Mothers Advance Rapidly through Training.

SMART is a program designed to improve the job skills of young single mothers through classroom and on-the-job training. The ultimate goal is to help stabilize the life of the young mother.

## Established Agencies Ready To Help

By ARTHUR SHERIDAN

Some youths find the streets of many communities difficult. During the summer many teens

become bored. They run out of things to do. Some choose to add some excitement by grouping with other kids and doing something destructive instead of something

constructive. Agencies are being formed or already exist in area communities that help teenagers in structuring their educational and social development.

Recently, I visited some of these places for the youths of Greater Boston. I have listed some information that will help you in understanding what some of the organizations provide for services and how the teens react to these services.

### BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF BOSTON (Roxbury Clubhouse)

According to Donald Potts, director of the club, parents bring their children here for many different structural programs.

Potts also said the club offers many different types of activities for teens from Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, and other selected communities.

The director also pointed out that the facility used to accommodate the activities is ninety years old. But the interior of the clubhouse hardly shows the age of the building.

The club keeps up to date with the changing technical desires and drives of the entire community. Don Frye, assistant director said the younger youths are supervised by the older teens from the ABCD Job Placement programs.

### BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE

Here are the views of some teenagers connected with this club in one way or another.

Kim Webb, 15, of Cambridge is a counselor working at the Cambridge Center. Kim finds that

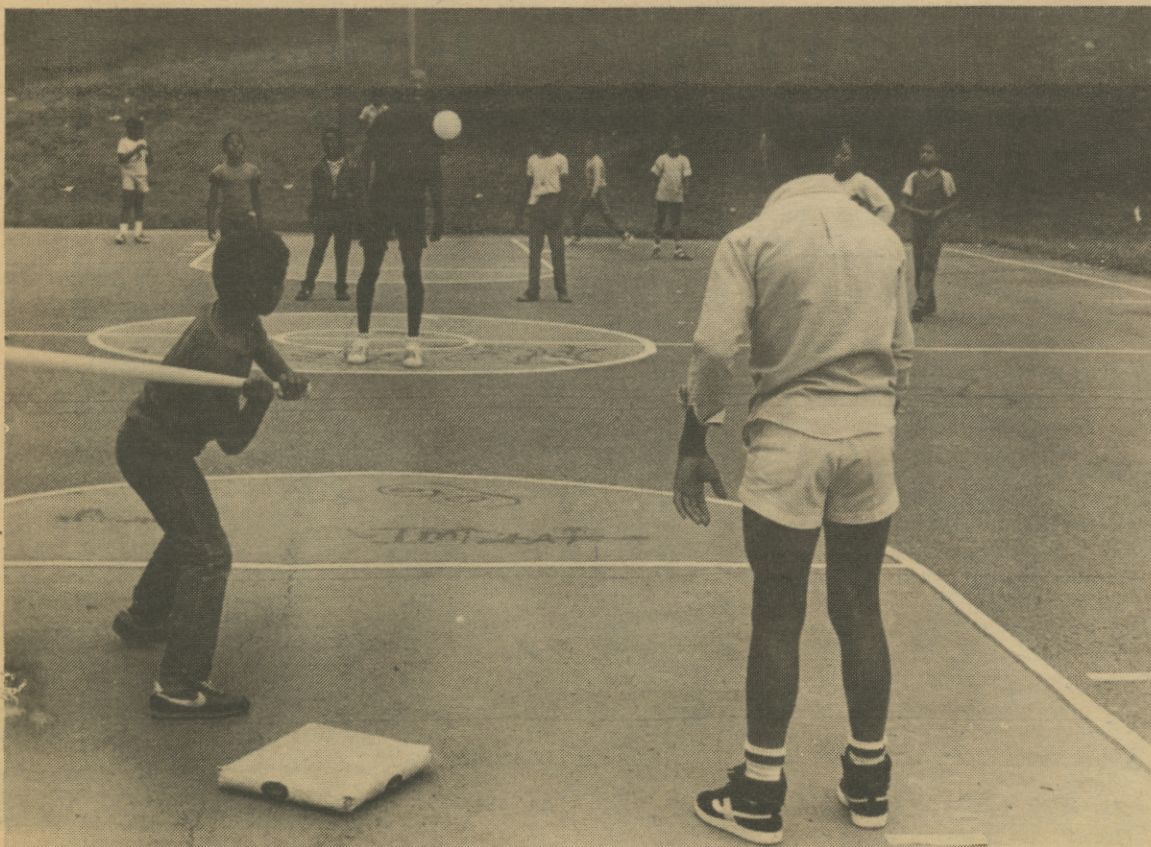
working so close to the younger kids helps her to learn about them more and how to deal with their problems. There are also many other kids around Kim's age working at the clubhouse through a job placement agency for teenagers called E.R.I.

Tevis Colon, 10, of Cambridge said he was "very happy coming here." He, like many of the other kids, gets a chance to meet new people, have fun, go swimming, and participate in other activities that are safe, and in a supervised atmosphere that normally would be difficult to attain on the streets of any community.

Alex Sanchez, 17, also of the Cambridge area is one of the head (teen) supervisors. Alex likes to work with the kids at the club because he enjoys getting involved with the kids and he thinks that it is important for him to be there.

It is evident that people understand that we must have responsible civic leaders and for the government to provide and insure that these types of places remain open for youths of all ages. Any investment in today's youths will bring about a better future for many tomorrows.

With the leadership and training organizations put into their programs, agencies can offset teenage crimes on the street. The structure of the program will help the youths to become responsible citizens.



Children play baseball in Boy's Club Activity.

By Ken Martin



# Teens Discuss Fear Of AIDS Epidemic

By NICOLE JOHNSON

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is the disease that Newsweek refers to as the "nasty new epidemic." Headlines across the nation label AIDS as "the end of casual sex."

This disease has become a threat to our society not only by extreme humiliation and pain but, more importantly, death. Teenagers of the 80s, who will be affected by the AIDS syndrome and the trauma it will cause in the next few years, are basically unaware of its potential

danger to the human race.

When asked "What is AIDS?", teens and college students responded honestly, saying they either knew very little or weren't sure how afraid they actually should be.

Theresa Harrell, 21, of Philadelphia, Pa., stated: "AIDS is a disease that breaks down your immune system."

Michelle Cerchiare, 15, of Westford, Mass., admits that the first time she heard of AIDS was from the situation involving actor

Rock Hudson.

"I just know that Rock has it, and now the only way to avoid it is by having no premarital sex," she said.

Chris Sanborn, 18, of Somerville, said "It's a disease that is transmitted through blood and excretions."

Is the fear of AIDS real in our youth? Are we, as teens, aware of the danger that AIDS produces?

Andrew McLaughlin, 16, of Melrose, says, "I am not afraid of AIDS because I am not a homosexual nor do I fool around

with needles."

Jose Rivera, 18, of Boston, said, "I fear it because you can die from it."

Rachel DeAngelis, 15, of Quincy, said, "I'm not afraid of it. I don't think I'd get it, but there is no preventing it."

There is no secure solution for teens who are sexually promiscuous. The media says that anyone who dares to be sexually involved with many people is signing a contract with suicide. How do we stay away from AIDS when doctors admit that they aren't sure how it is transmitted?

Cerchiare said, "No premarital sex. Make sure he is a Christian."

Jill Chandler of Weymouth stated, "All I know is that God must have had his plan when he

said no premarital sex."

Where does that leave us? Will many people give up their sexual freedom and return to old fashioned standards because of the disease that is sweeping our nation, the epidemic called AIDS. If AIDS afflicted thousands in the United States last year, how many will it afflict now that it is a relevant problem?

Though many people will ignore the news bulletins that have the big black letters AIDS behind every anchorperson, the threat will continue to kill victims day by day, year by year.

As DeAngelis say, "There is no cure."

The question is, will AIDS continue to injure the reputation of our society?

## Peer Pressure Hurts Teens' Development

(Cont'd from Page 1)

social, involving drugs, alcohol and sports.

"I get very angry when my peers laugh at me or make fun of the way I speak," said Fu. "I walk away and ignore them. Many people seem to think that because I'm Chinese that makes me smart. They're wrong, it's just that some Chinese work harder."

Does attending a smaller and private high school change the peer pressure?

Ann-Marie Hayes, a senior at Matignon, thinks there is some differences. This is because the students get to know one another better. "I was more vulnerable as a freshman and sophomore compared to my junior year," said Hayes.

"I guess by now I am more established from growing up and the earlier experiences I had. I just know myself better now."

It appears that knowing who you are and learning more about yourself helps against peer pressure.

Hayes had a friend, in her freshman year, who was very friendly and well liked by her peers, but she was also insecure because she wasn't satisfied with who she was. As the girl entered her sophomore year, she started acting differently, she started going out drinking, her grades dropped, she lost weight and had a new group of friends.

Ann-Marie wasn't sure how to help, so she did what she thought was best and just avoided her. A year went by and her friend finally confronted her, telling her she had changed her ways and that she was no longer hanging around with that group of kids. It impressed Ann-Marie to see how her friend handled the situation.

In high school, the peer pressure seems to be more intense because of the pressure to become involved with drugs, alcohol, and joining a particular group of kids. In junior high youths are also faced with these decisions, but they are not as afraid to walk away and say no. But, there are still those who weaken under the pressure and don't walk away.

Maria Mantia, an eighth grader

at the M.E. Fitzgerald, has been in a situation where the girls she hung around with bothered her because her best friend was a boy. They talked about her behind her back, teased her and for a while tried to convince her to give his friendship up. She was very proud of the friendship they shared.

"I'd rather stay friends with him than hang around with the other girls," said Mantia. "He's not judgmental as they are; I'm happier with his friendship. They're just jealous because we happen to be very good friends and we don't let any of them get to us."

"The best thing to do in a situation like this is just to walk away and turn your back. There are those kids as well as adults who don't believe we're only friends, but there's nothing we can do to prove it and I don't feel we have to. I'm happy and that's all that matters."

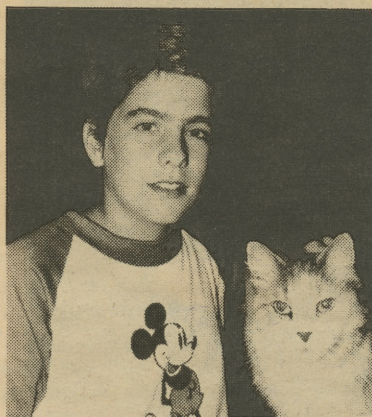


Luz Marina

Many of the youths agreed that they often encounter peer pressure when they begin thinking about dating.

Dale Miskell, of Cambridge, recalled that in the sixth grade he had a friend who he had been dating off and on for years. They decided to go steady and their relationship was fine until his girlfriend began pressuring him. "All she wanted to do was kiss and stuff like that," he said.

She frequently would write him notes about her sexual thoughts and how much she wanted to be with him. He asked her to stop, but she continued to write them. Finally, one day Miskell's mother



Dale Miskell

found one and she confronted her son's girlfriend.

He said that his mother told his girlfriend that she would tell her mother if she didn't stop. That didn't even stop her.

"Many times I'd ask a good friend of mine to come with us because I didn't want to be alone with her," he said. "I liked her, but I didn't like her pushiness. I think the problems started because her best friend was telling her about the things she was doing. My girlfriend would tell me and she would want to do them."

Finally, Miskell's girlfriend got so frustrated that she broke-up with him.

It seems that the pressures begin at junior high level and continue through college.

Milton Shell, a sophomore at Bentley College, says college life is a lot of partying and the major pressure is to get into a popular "click" of friends.

But Miskell, like others, realized that you have to be a friend to yourself before you can be friends with others.

Kathy Morrow, a junior at Boston College, said she has never been affected by harmful peer pressure. She has rejected offers of drugs and alcohol. But she thinks some peer pressure can be helpful.

"Fashion peer pressure has affected me," she said. "If I like what someone is wearing or how it looks on them, I want to buy something similar. That's not harmful pressure. I guess I'm lucky to have developed my own views about certain things and have been able to stick to them."

As for the actors, the troupe consists of Joanna Geltman (Lexington), Hillary Schroder (Boston), Bill Triessl (Lexington), Amy Gershonson (Brookline), Joseph Entin (Cambridge), Lace Cambell (Cambridge), Jennifer Cummings-Saxton (Nahant) and Sam Jordan (Lexington).

The Planned Parenthood League creates a new troupe every year to keep it fresh. The members called "yettters," have a year commitment and must make it to every rehearsal and performance. The teens in the group seem to have become very close, just from the time they spend together.

Any individual problems are talked out with the leaders of the group, Michael Castalan and Nancy Olen.

Teenagers need to see more of this type of teaching.

## City-Suburban Relationship

By SAM JORDAN

As a longtime resident of Lexington, a suburban community to the northwest of Boston, I have noticed that the town has a different atmosphere than the inner city life of Boston. There are physical differences, such as more open space and large colonial houses. And there are imaginary differences—age-old beliefs that for some reason there are fewer social problems in beautiful Lexington than there are in Boston.

It is clear that some physical differences do exist. Lexington does have bigger lawns. Boston has many housing projects. But it is wrong for observers to pre-determine that there is something evil or wrong for society to name a neighborhood a "slum" without investigating why the residents are forced to live in such a plight.

A major disbelief has to do with the problems of child abuse. One normally expects this to be a problem in the inner city and most programs to detect it centralize their efforts there, but the world would be surprised to find out that, yes, Lexington also has problems with child abuse. But, because it is a "beautiful" suburb, it is hushed up so the doctors, lawyers and other professionals who live there do not have their communities tarnished.

Religious tolerance is another major difference between

Lexington and the city. While Lexington is home to many houses of worship, most are Roman Catholic or Jewish. Boston features religious that range from Baptist to Buddhist.

Racism exists in Lexington as it does elsewhere, but it has never reached the point of violence. Instead it takes on the more subtle forms of ignorance and superiority. Inner city people tend to be more accepting of different cultures and lifestyles. Not all suburbanites are snobbish, but the broad pictures gives that attitude.

The drug problem is very real in Lexington as it is in the city, but the reasons for obtaining drugs are very different for inner-city and suburban youths. Lexington teenagers tend to go to the city for the adventure of the trip and if they are able to obtain some drugs, it makes the journey even more exciting. Innercity youths are able to deal and obtain drugs much easier in their environment because adults don't take as much notice as they do in the suburbs.

Abortion is another source of difference between Lexington and the city. City teens are exposed to the issue of abortion at an early age, while suburban youths are not as aware of the problem.

Ending on a positive note the cultural exchange of fashions and music do serve to link the two communities on a similar basis.

## Teen In Egypt

By RANIA RIZK

From the tips of the magnificent Pyramids to the depths of the mysterious Nile this ancient land of Egypt is clearly unique. The past of this land can never be duplicated nor its accomplishments erased.

Who are the sons and daughters of this land? Who will take pride in her past and determine her destiny? The answer lies in the youth—Egypt's future.

Having been born in Egypt and living there on and off throughout my life, I have had the chance to view the life of teenagers there firsthand.

Teenagers are divided into two classes, and the difference between the upper and lower class teenagers are vast.

I shall begin with the lower or average class. One of the things that would draw the attention of the visiting teenager to the different lifestyles is that Egyptian teens tend to go out in groups of the same sex. This is because of religious beliefs and traditions.

An average summer day might be spent at the beach, where the guys would go swimming or play a few games of paddle ball, while the girls would sit under umbrellas gossiping or going for walks.

Upper class youth, with the exception of those with strong religious convictions, are more apt to travel in mixed groups and

participate in all activities together.

Their day at the beach might start off with a swim for all, to be followed by a game played by the group.

Country clubs are also a favorite with this bunch. At the local club they may go horseback riding, play a few sets on the courts, take a dip in the pool, or spend fun-filled hours in the game room.

Evenings in Alexandria usually mean walks along the sea shore, an ice-cream, a pastry downtown, or an occasional party at one of the local hotels.

The glittering lights of Cairo, on the other hand, find its teens driving out to revel in the enchanted atmosphere of the moonlit Pyramids or at the little cafes along the Nile.

One of the few things that all Egyptian youths have in common is their tendency to stay indoors during the school year.

Long study hours are definitely normal and all other activities are forgotten except for a rare party or day at the club. For the less fortunate, there is a day at the park.

Youth is the future, and world peace lies within their power. Understanding between youths and knowledge of youths from all nations will help us to build a better future for all of humanity.

## A Unique Theater

By SAM JORDAN

The Youth Expression Theater spends a great deal of time in high schools teaching teens about themselves, their peers and sexual issues concerning teens.

The participants seem to have no regrets in joining the troupe. Most say its been an experience not to be soon forgotten.

Friends become family, and the overall feeling of successful teen teaching of sexual issues is fulfilling.

The troupe began in 1978 in response to the rising teen pregnancy rate and since then has had an overwhelming response to Boston teens. The people behind its success have been the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, which has provided educational sessions in which the

teens learn about such things as birth control, abortion, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and teen parenting.

Teaching teens about sexually related things through theater seems to be an effective way of relating feelings and problems that most teens haven't taken the time to think about.

The teens in the group seem to sense their helpfulness in the role of making teen decisions easier for the youths.

These decisions are based on real life sexual feelings and issues. This requires that the actors have to be real to the audience, therefore they (the administration) must select only the people who are right for the job (although it is voluntary and the actors do not get paid. The actors are chosen after many auditions.



# Skateboard Fad At Harvard Sq

By TONYA WELLS

The skateboard fad is here to sweep the nation ... again? People are finding that skateboarding is very commutable and lots of fun. People between the ages of 11 and 23 are riding this practical product. I interviewed Mark McGovern, a 16-year old skateboarder whom I found on his daily ride through Harvard Square. Mark took time out to answer a few questions for me.

**Q.** Mark, what got you interested in skateboarding?

**A.** I can get around on it and it keeps me out of trouble.

**Q.** Why did you buy a skateboard, Mark?

**A.** Basically, to get around.

**Q.** How long have you had your skateboard? And how long have you been riding?

**A.** For both questions, about a year and a half.

**Q.** In your opinion, why have people gone back to skateboarding?

**A.** Skateboards were dead for awhile. Then people just started buying them and riding them again. Most people just use them for transportation.

**Q.** My last and final question is how much did you pay for your board?

**A.** The total of my board was \$170. Usually you have to pay for everything separately.

Skateboards can be purchased in any toy store and in other stores in which they sell rollerskates.

"Wheels" spokesperson, on Newbury Street in Boston says, "Sales have definitely gone up."

"People are buying this product because it is very commutable," said Priscilla Eursky, who is an employee at Wheels. "There are more versatile ways in which skateboards may come."

A skateboard can even come with a motor.



Styling on a skateboard at Harvard Square.

By Kathia Manzi

The Boston Covenant Committee, which consists of churches in Boston, got together to help prevent racism, and Wheels will be sponsoring "Roll Against Racism Competition" at Copley Square, during which a skating exhibition will be held.

Music will be sponsored by WILD Radio Station, and it is absolutely free. The date is Sunday, Sept. 22. For more information, call 236-1566. So come on down and take the oath to stop racism.

## Ice Cream: A Tradition

(Cont'd from Page 1)

like ice cream and are very good at getting their parents to buy it for them.

The first and most convincing method of getting a parent to buy ice cream is the high pitched whine. "But Ma, you said I could have a treat. Ma, I want an ice cream. Ma, please" This is very successful and the incident will usually end with, "Be quiet! Here, you happy now!"

The second technique is stubbornness. The child will pick a stance, judging wind resistance, strength of mom, and temper level of pa. When this is done, the child begins to scream that he/she would like to purchase an ice cream. This method is also very successful and the child usually gets what he/she wants.

However, once in awhile the parent will try to drag the child away and a small fight ensues. At this point, the ice cream man will quietly ask the participants if they could possibly step out of the way of his window. If mom prevails and the child is dragged away, the ice cream man will calmly attend to the next customer in line.

Ice cream men also perform many other duties besides just selling ice cream. They are information and change machines, and a host of other things. Street people flock to the ice cream truck to talk, to try and get free ice cream and to generally make the ice cream man's job easier.

However, the ice cream business is not all fun and games. Permits and licenses are necessary to work in the city and in surrounding suburbs. Without these, drivers can be asked to move, and if they don't listen (which ice cream men have a serious problem doing), they can be arrested or forced to get on their way.

Permits are costly and if one is

leasing a truck, which is how it often works, one must be 19 years of age. Most ice cream men are ancient, rough and have been selling for many years, or at least that's what they'll tell you if you're selling in their spot.

There are several different types of ice cream trucks that patrol the streets. The most common kind of truck sells packaged ice cream, (strawberry shortcakes, eclairs, chocolate chumps) and is smaller than the other trucks.

The second kind of truck is called the Frosty. It sells soft serve, in cones or dishes, and also carries shakes and sundaes.

The last kind is called Mr. Whippy and sells a similar product as the Frosty truck. The competition between these trucks is intense, but ice cream men like each other and feel a sense of camaraderie. However, money comes first and tempers are quick to flare if anyone's selling spot is infringed upon.

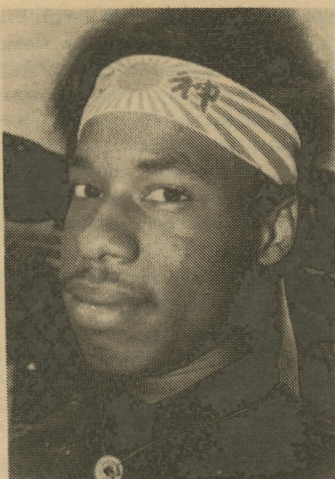
"Excuse me, do you have salt water taffy?" Ah, tourists. They come from all over and an ice cream truck is an international gathering point. An ice cream man must be skilled in deciphering accents and dialects. He must know every item in his inventory and be able to explain each quickly and appetizingly.

This is the life of an ice cream man. It is a fun job, which requires dedication and long hours, but if one leases his/her own truck, he/she can make a lot of money.

It is a job in which you meet many people from both near and far. By keeping your own books and figures one can gain valuable business experience. It is an ideal summer job, and if one likes people, he/she will have a good time.

Every one likes the ice cream man.

## They Are Hair To Stay



Photos by Kathia Manzi



(Cont'd from Page 1)

skater who had to constantly have his hair "short and conservative." He says, "now I'm just experimenting."

According to Koala Bear Hair Cutters of 1253 Newbury St., the latest styles are short backs with sides tapered near the ears and

large on top.

Highlights on the top front part of the hair are used as a framing effect for the face. These types of styles were introduced about a year ago and have been popular since then. The style was introduced for women and has come to be more appealing to men.

One stylist said, "people do it to just be in style." He added that the tapered cut and highlights cost about \$40.

At Reggie's Hair World on 493 Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester, the most popular is "the fade." It starts long on the top and fades as it gets shorter in the back and on the

sides. Youths are also cutting different symbols in their heads, such as their initials, arrows and lines. Reggie says, "they're (the hairstyle like those of the old Indians."

He also said the hairstyles remind him of the old Southern haircuts. "They're easy to manage and they look natural." A haircut

of this type cost about \$7 at Reggie's hair World. He said the shop caters to all kinds of people.

Eric, 17, who has lines down the side of his head, sums up the views of many of the young people interviewed: "I like being different..." "My mom hates it so I do it more."

## What Do Teens Think Of School?

By DARIN VEST

Nine months out of the year, approximately 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 days a week, kids go to school. School is a teenager's occupation and, like any other job, opinions about it vary. Are schools successful in giving students a quality education? What could be done better? Do schools give students adequate support?

These questions were asked of the young people that this institution effects, and their answers tell the real story behind attending school.

"School is challenging," explains Scott Phillips of Cambridge Rindge and Latin, "but

it's really what you make of it. If you don't want to work, there is nothing the school can do."

This problem was one of the basic themes in most responses: "The answer that most schools come up with is punishment," says Helen Sinkel of Belmont High. "However, this usually doesn't help, and kids seem to do worse. Teachers don't spend the time necessary to help troubled students."

Teachers understandably have little extra time, but if they can't make the effort needed to help certain kids, how can they expect these kids to put out that effort?

Among the many concerns that teenagers stressed about school

was money. It was one of the most prominent concerns. Once one has made the push and is ready to go to college, where does the financing come from?

"I liked high school and worked hard," comments Kyle, a student at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. "But money was a problem, and I never got my act together enough to apply to college." This should not happen. If a student has worked hard in school and is motivated, neither money nor lack of knowledge about college application should hold him/her back. A school should have easily accessible counselors who not only talk to students who inquire about their subjects but also go out and push students towards these goals.

"School is fun," Michael Thompson says. "I enjoyed the trips and activities."

Trips, activities, friends, partying—these things are as much a part of high school as academics are. These are the cushions that relieve the monotony of homework and classes. However, very often students cushion their school schedule a little too much, and the friends and partying side of the equation becomes much heavier than the academic side.

"Kids will always come to school because their friends are there," exclaims Scott Phillips of Cambridge Rindge and Latin, "but once they're there, it's the school's job to make sure they concentrate on learning as well as socializing."

How can schools accomplish this goal? By exercising patience and making help and support readily available. The consensus says that socializing is easier for most than academics. And for this reason kids often shun the harder of the two.

High school is a learning experience both socially and academically. If given enough support at home and at school, students can do very well and make the most of their opportunities. When a student has these things going for him/her nothing should stand in his/her way. However, even if students are not in supportive environments, they should let nothing stand in their way.



# Laval S. Wilson

By CHARMANE HIGGINS

Laval S. Wilson, the first black to tackle the task of trying to reform the Boston public schools, will face many challenges. We will soon find out if he has the ability or the perseverance to do the job. These questions won't be answered until he gets to work, but one thing. Mr. Wilson does have is experience and a lot of it. Formally the school superintendent of the Rochester school system in New York, Laval S. Wilson not only raised student test scores and cut suspensions and absenteeism but he also reorganized and computerized a bloated, ineffective central office and cut \$8 million in the process.

It has been said that Mr. Wilson is a hard-working, straight-talking man, but can he use this talent through the muddled swamps of the Boston Public Schools with its racial unbalance in certain schools, inadequate facilities and teacher/staff incompetence?

Recently speaking of Mr. Wilson's 13-member school committee, Robert Spillane, the former school superintendent of Boston, said it would be difficult for Mr. Wilson to deal with this larger group since it may be harder for them to come to an agreement. Spillane does have some good points, but Wilson is really hot!

The major problem that Wilson will have to face is the learning deficiency in many of the public schools. Deflating SAT scores and lowered city-wide test scores are clear signs that a change has to occur in the school system. The reason for this problem is teacher/staff incompetence. Many teachers are given jobs which they are not qualified to teach. The end product is a young student who feels cheated out of his education.

If Wilson does plan on getting the job done, he first has to forget about his past accomplishments and tackle the new problems that lie ahead. That may just mean new teacher performance-evaluation tests, a more rigid curriculum and stiffer disciplinary rules.

Another problem is the classroom surroundings. Broken chairs, graffiti walls and inadequate book supplies are a few of the high hurdles hindering Wilson.

In a recent article, Spillane said the Boston school system is only half-way there. He felt that Wilson would have to put a lot more energy into the system's management rather than on the achievement level of youngsters. Do the obstacles seem a bit too tough?

It is obvious that Laval Wilson in the past has enjoyed widespread acceptance by black and white parents. Laval was considered a "Media Star" in Rochester, but all the parents and the students want is a solid school system with a foundation. Being black may put added pressure on him but, Laval Wilson deserves the chance and he does have the qualifications to "Get The Job Done."

# South Africa

By CHARMANE HIGGINS

As quoted in the "New York Times," "the white dream (in South Africa) of total control of black urbanization thus seems to have been impossible to fulfill in its entirety, but the legacy of the attempt has blossomed."

At the present, the laws (shape a person) from cradle to grave. For instance, legislation requires that at birth a person be classified by race. This predetermines destiny.

The president of South Africa, P.W. Botha, refuses to allow other nations to run this country. He recently stated in an almost belligerent speech that if blacks were allowed anymore "freedom," the nation would run into total chaos and strife.

Furthermore, the government necessitates that blacks and only blacks are required to carry "passes" while other races need not do so. The pass tells whether the holder has the right to reside in a black township in white South Africa. Moreover, the government justifies its action by saying this process is just "orderly urbanization."

In P.W. Botha's recent speech, he stated that alternatives bring bloodshed. He strongly believes that the apartheid is the best manner in which to handle this current upheaval.

Homes are being destroyed and youths killed daily. All these malicious acts only augment the fact that South Africa is headed toward a terrible disaster.

When asked the question concerning the strife in South Africa, Michael Short, Bureau Chief of the Associated Press, responded by saying, "The government isn't in any position to stop further bloodshed. It (South Africa) is a thoroughly racist society."

Many Americans are taking a deep interest in the racial tension occurring in South Africa since at one time the U.S. faced the same problems during enslavement period of blacks.

There also is more controversy dealing with the imprisonment of the black outlawed African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, who has been in jail for two decades.

Botha declared that he will not allow any more boycotts or acts of violence in his country.

It is evident that South African blacks are undergoing massive torture. The governmental officials feel that they are doing the right thing for the blacks, whites and South Africa as a whole. But the apartheid is just another form of slavery, which, if not abolished, will destroy many more lives.

# NEWSPAPER

By CRYSTAL HECK

A newspaper is a source of daily news, in it you'll find many different views.

It's a very unique publication, that can be seen all around the nation.

The latest movies are always listed, a newspaper is never unorderly or twisted.

Daily happenings are what you'll see, it's the greatest source of info for you and me.

The comics are enjoyed by most, across the sea and coast to coast.

In editorials people speak their minds, day after day and time after time.

To keep up to date in our world today, with the newspaper there is no need to go astray.

# Youth Views Of Nuclear War

By MELODY R. GUY

Nuclear war. What is it? To some, destruction, the end; yet, to others, it simply means another phase of life before they enter another. Here are some teenager's views on the subject:

Crystal Heck, age 16, of Dorchester:

"The leaders in the USA and the Soviet Union control a lot of lives and they can't afford to make foolish mistakes. Too many people's lives depend on their decisions, so they should discuss (the whole situation) with the peoples' fates in mind."

Nicole Johnson, age 17, of Weymouth:

"I know that if we have a nuclear war, the world would be destroyed. Less than 10% (of the world population) would survive, and even they would die eventually. I have no fear of nuclear war

because I've accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior."

Walton Sharpe, age 15, of Dorchester:

"I don't worry about it. If it happens (then), it happens."

Carla Sharpe, age 16, of Dorchester:

"It's wrong. We should try to get rid of what weapons exist. Instead of using money for arms, we should help the needy."

Arthur Sheridan, age 16, of Rockland:

"It scares me. There's no reason for the big countries to keep threatening each other. It's about time to disarm. They already have enough power to destroy the Earth."

"When dealing with nuclear power, the leaders of the government have to take into consideration the people involved and keep in touch with the people's feelings about nuclear war. I think the Russians realize no one can

win a nuclear war. They're starting to think sensibly."

Carlton Swinton, age 16, of Dorchester:

"There shouldn't be one. If the U.S. and the Soviet Union both declare war and if they fire their missiles and we fire our missiles, both countries will be destroyed. Nothing will happen except for the two countries destroying themselves. Nothing will come out of it except destruction. It can be easily avoided. One way is to stop making weapons."

Judy Brown, age 16, of Dorchester:

"I have no feelings about nuclear war. I don't want to think about the future."

Some teenagers care about nuclear war and some don't; however, most know that nuclear war is a war that can't be won. They believe its end result will be destruction. To the victor goes the spoils.

# Expressions

## Who's The Real Burger King?

By SHELBY CABRAL

The contest for popularity among fast food places is steadily increasing. The frontrunners are McDonald's, Burger King and Wendy's. All three restaurants

## Friends Forever

By KATHIA MANZI

Special friends, who are friends forever, are truly unique and hard to find. In my life I have met many people and have had many different friends. However, the happiest memories in my heart are those in which I've shared with my special friends.

Beyond my special friends, there is that someone with more than all of the characteristics to make her a true friend. At any minute or hour of the day and wherever we are, we can count on one another.

Time, a key word as well as an element, has helped make our friendship what it is today. We have had our differences of opinions, disputes, and even time apart. Through all of this, we have always managed to pull through together. As the years go on...I pray that her values as well as mine will always remain intact.

Her friendship fills my life with wonderful moments to remember.

Happy times we've shared, funny things we've laughed about, quiet talks we've had and moments spent simply by sharing a special friendship.

## I AM SOMEBODY

I was walking down the narrow dark road one night.

Not knowing where I was going or when I was coming back.

One night I came to the end of that narrow dark road.

And up in the big dark gloomy sky there was a light.

And behind that light which sparkles so bright there were words for me.

Saying:  
"I AM SOMEBODY"

Judith Brown

receive a great deal of publicity and have many television commercials.

I would say McDonald's has the most commercials that come on television. Wendy's commercials are by far the most creative. There's nothing really special about Burger King's commercials.

In evaluating the food, McDonald's wins it for the best French Fries. Wendy's fries, although bigger, don't stand a chance against McDonald's. As far as burgers go, it's Wendy's all the way. Burger King and McDonald's can't compare to Wendy's much bigger and better tasting burger. Wendy's single has more meat than McDonald's Big Mac and Burger King's Whopper.

As far as location goes all three places are quite accessible. Although I think McDonald's has the advantage here also, Burger King and Wendy's don't really

suffer any great loss from this.

The menus at Burger King and McDonald's are essentially the same except for a few name changes.

While Wendy's menu has more than a few variations, Burger King's and McDonald's food looks and tastes quite similar--a day old.

Wendy's food looks, tastes and is, fresh. Wendy's has some wonderful chili in addition to a very attractive looking salad bar, but it's not really worth mentioning.

All in all I feel Wendy's comes out on top each time. I interviewed the people in the workshop and here's how the ratings turned out.

Wendy's and Burger King tied for second place with seven votes each, while McDonald's emerged as the victor with a total of eight votes. Personally, I voted for Wendy's.

## ... Never Forget

By INA HOWARD

It was 10:00 Sunday morning when the alarm clock sounded to wake Jill out of a sound sleep. When Jill's eyes opened, she tried to turn her head to face the clock so she could turn off the alarm, but suddenly pain shot through her head.

Jill thought the pain was dizziness from trying to turn her head so fast to shut off the alarm clock but also her stomach did not feel so good. Just then Jill noticed how she was dressed. She had all her clothes on, even her shoes.

Finally, Jill shut off the alarm clock because the sound was making her head throb even more. She tried to get up.

When she conquered this feat, Jill felt nauseated and struggled to get to the bathroom. Jill threw up a couple of times and then went back to bed. Jill's mind was wandering, and she thought about what events

had taken place the night before.

Jill had attended a party at a friend's house and when she arrived, the last thing Jill expected to see was a couple of six packs of beer. Jill's heart dropped.

She had only drank once or twice because of her friend's nagging. Jill hated the taste of beer but when it was offered to her she drank it. By the end of the night Jill was drunk. And, after that point, she could not remember what happened to her.

She could not even remember the fact that Sharon (her best friend) had to make her stop drinking and bring her home--not only bring her home but make sure she got to her room safely without waking her parents.

After Jill stopped thinking about the previous night, it suddenly hit her that she had just experienced her first hangover.

# Young Perspectives

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# Nicaraguan Conflict Has Long History Of War

By ARTHUR SHERIDAN, JR.

The Nicaraguan Revolution has changed Nicaragua and still more changes may lay in the future.

On July 19, 1979, led by the fighters of the Sandanista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the workers and peasants of that country carried out a victorious insurrection (uprising) against the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

This marked the beginning of a new stage in the history of Nicaragua. The figure of Augusto C. Sandino emerged not only as the popular hero but also as the champion of nationalism.

In a guerilla war, which lasted from 1927 to 1933, Sandino and his peasant army had resisted the occupying forces of the United States. Before leaving, the U.S. had developed a new plan for stabilizing Nicaragua. They created the Nicaraguan National Guard by substituting Nicaraguans for U.S. Marines. The National Guard gradually became the "Guardians of the Somoza Dynasty."

Somoza's dictatorship took place very rapidly. Anastasio Somoza Garcia, son of a middle class coffee farmer, had worked his way into the top position in the National Guard. He knew how to be "one of the boys" when around Americans. Somoza spoke very good English, so it was easy for him to relate to the American personnel.

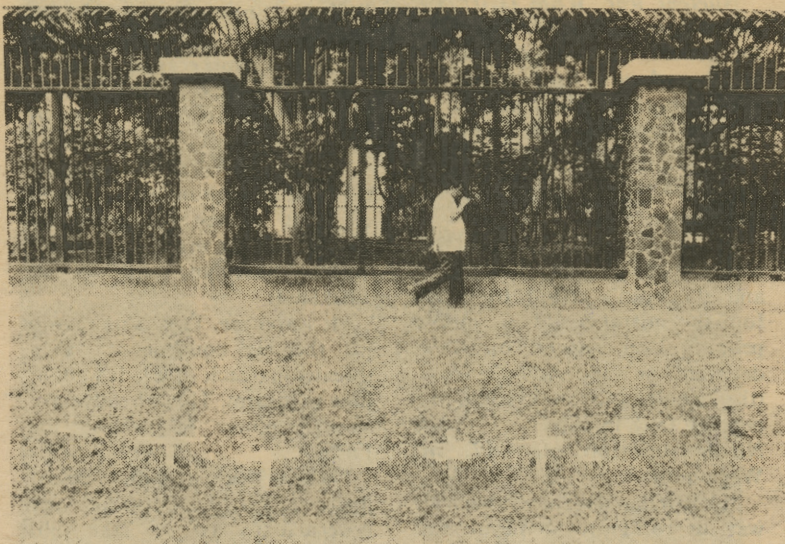
After the Marines left, he worked quickly to collect his power. He pushed all the Guard officers who might have stood in his way out of the picture, ordered the capture and murder of Sandino in 1934, and gained the loyalty of the Guard by allowing officers and enlisted men to participate in various corrupt activities. In 1936, Somoza staged a coup, and had himself elected president.

Anastasio Somoza Garcia ruled as president virtually from 1937 until 1956, when he was killed by Rigoberto Lopez Perez. Somoza's two sons, Luis Somoza Debayle and Anastasio Somoza Debayle Jr. took over.

Both would serve as dictators of Nicaragua, though at different times, but Anastasio Somoza Jr. was in office at the time when the FSLN took over the government and forced Somoza and his National Guard out.

In 1972, the earthquake that leveled Managua, indirectly, also flattened Somoza's regime. Only two buildings were left standing--The Intercontinental Hotel and the Bank of America. Anastasio Somoza Jr. kept for himself most of the \$30 million in emergency aid from the U.S. That act only strengthened the middle class hatred toward him.

With the U.S. presidential election campaign about to move into high gear in 1984, the Sandanistas were strengthening their grip of Nicaragua. Junta



Fence surrounding American Embassy in Managua; Crosses represent people killed by U.S. backed Contras in the past year.

by Ken Martin

leader Daniel Ortega was elected president, but by less than two-thirds of the vote. Many Nicaraguans chose not to vote at all. Did this mean that many people were not sure of letting the revolution take them over fully?

Congress had stipulated in 1982 that U.S. assistance to Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was not for the purpose of overthrowing the Sandanistas. The contras' efforts in Nicaragua were backed by the U.S. military show in neighboring Honduras. This is where the stationing of U.S. forces, the construction of an airport, and an airbase are located.

In early April the United States had been assisting the anti-Sandanista forces in laying mines in Nicaragua's harbors. This news caused a fuss in Congress as well as around the world. Support for continued aid to the Nicaraguan opposition collapsed. Congress had determined in 1984 that further aid to the Nicaraguans fighting the Sandanistas should cease unless it passed a new bill by March of 1985, which it did not.

The Sandanistas used this event as a stepping stone in as a stepping stone in embarrassing the U.S. in front of the world. In April of 1984, Nicaragua formally complained to the World Court located in The Hague, Netherlands. On May 10, the World Court, for the first time in its history, order the United States to respect the political independence of another country.

The United States decided to turn its back on the World Court's decision. Why?

There is little doubt to some Americans and also Washington that Communist governments Russia and Cuba have been supplying military aid to the Sandanista regime. The United States continues to have military presence along the borders of Nicaragua and in the harbor because of the threat of the

Nicaraguans getting military shipments.

There is a theory that the U.S. continues to protect this area because there is a chance that the increased military presence in that country might encourage them to expand into neighboring Central American countries (domino theory).

On Aug. 23, some American people who had visited Nicaragua in 1984 were interviewed as they attended a slide show/concert about a group of artists who went to Nicaragua. The people interviewed were all members of the group who presented the show: "Artists for a New Nicaragua."

Ilona Sturm, a mental health counselor from North Hampton, Mass., said, "I wanted to see for myself what the people were like. I liked the enthusiasm of the people, and their political conscientiousness."

Mrs. Sturm stayed in the country for approximately three weeks while staying in Esteli (located in the northern region of Nicaragua). She and several area people painted a 10' by 30' mural.

"The U.S. embargo affected the Nicaraguans very much; the lack of the U.S. dollar was evident. The media said it would never do much to their economy, but it did," said Mrs. Sturm.

Marie Boyd, of New York, said, she went to Nicaragua to "meet the people, share my skill." Boyd charged that the U.S. is actively trying to overthrow the government. "They are trying to make it appear that the Russians are using it to get into the Western Hemisphere," she said. She also stated, "The Nicaraguan people are a peace-loving people."

Rosemarie Straizer of Cambridge, said the Nicaraguan people "haven't let it get them down. They went to other countries for donations. They are dealing with the problem and are forging ahead."

## Visitors Say There Is Much Suffering

By MELODY R. GUY

On July 19, 1979, in Nicaragua, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (SNLF) destroyed the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. Since then, the country has been at war. The SNLF has been fighting against the US backed contras, who are former members of Somoza's army.

An American group of artists, which includes singers, musicians, painters, photographers, and sculptors went to Nicaragua under the group name Arts For A New Nicaragua.

I interviewed two members of the group, Susan Fero of Boston, a saxophonist, and Jennifer Bowen of North Reading, a painter.

They were there for basically the same reasons: to find out what was going on there, to experience a new culture and to help politically both culture and to help politically. Both artists found the Nicaraguan people very warm, welcoming, gracious and receptive to American doing solidarity work.

Culturally they gained a great deal. Fero acquired a great respect for their music and even bought a few records to listen to back home.

Bowen said that though Nicaragua is a tiny country, fairly rural by our standards, it has a concentration of culture. Culture there is a way of life, woven into family and community. It is important to everyone.

The people there were very careful about taking care of themselves. The only time they were in any danger was when they stayed somewhere in Jalapa, which is close to the Honduras border. The contras' camp is in Honduras. They had to stay inside constantly

and if they had to go to the bathroom or someplace after dark, armed guards accompanied them.

Fero seemed affected most by the extreme poverty she witnessed. So many people lived in poorly made homes with no running water.

To get water, they had an oil drum outside to catch rain water and if one wanted to take a shower, one would have to get a bucket of water from the drum and go behind a curtain outside and shower with that one bucket of water.

Fero also said there was not much privacy; the homes were very crowded. That made her appreciate her life more when she returned home.

Bowen was affected most by the incredible beauty of the country, the warmth of the people, the Latin culture and the devastations of war. Also, the awareness of how our country affects them by cutting off many resources.

When asked if she would ever go back, Bowen said "yes" because she was interested in knowing what changes occurred since her last visit. She said she realizes her responsibility here, but she wants to go back to visit people she met there. She thinks it is important for people to see how foreign policies affect countries.

Fero said she did not know if she would go back. If there was anything she could do to help them, she would go back, however, she thinks there isn't much she can do there right now.

While they were there, people told them to have a good time but noted if they really wanted to help their cause they could do their best back in the states by winning political support.

## Youth Group Keeps Area Teenagers Off The Streets

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Baptist Church. The church, ministered by Reverend Eugene Neville, encourages the youth and takes pride in their growth.

"I opened up the church for the youth because I feel I can relate to them and I have a sincere love for teens," said Rev. Neville. Offerings are taken for the youths at any given Sunday, and Johnson, who is an evangelist, also donates his love to the youth. The money is used to help finance Christian retreats twice a year in New Hampshire. And once a month they rent the YMCA and play various sports there.

Johnson says that he likes to do small activities with them over the summer, such as going to the beach, to the movies or to amusement parks, such as Canope Lake or Riverside.

The teenagers gave similar reasons for participating in the programs: the Christian companionship and the advice that Johnson offers.

Debbie Simms of Brockton says, "The group discussions on social problems, decisions and responsibilities really influence my daily life. It helps me to be a better Christian. While some teens have been with the group for years, others have drifted in and out."

April Tubbs, 16, of Brockton, admits that she drifts but knows that the group will always be there for her. "Sometimes I just stop going for a good amount of time to give myself some space. I guess to see what else is out there. The impact that Mr. Johnson and others there have had on my life will never change. Even when I am

not a part of them."

Though the group is predominantly made up of preteens, college students will rely on it, too. Orlando Harris, 19, from Roger Williams College, said he gets a lot out of it. "The youth group taught me how to tell others about the good news I have found in Christ," he said.

Bernie Harris, who has been with the Mount Moriah youth group since it was started, calls it his ammunition center. "I am 17 years old, and that youth group gives me a lot of support. I go to build myself up and get ammunition to fight the things that are happening in our world today."

Sonya Ränge, 16, of Brockton, left the program a year ago because her family changed churches. She attends a youth group there, but she said that it is not the same. "I miss being with the young people and hearing the way Mr. Johnson spoke. He stresses that becoming a Christian and becoming somebody should be something you want for yourself, not for your family or friends."

Meanwhile, Johnson said his biggest fear is "wanting to change them (the youths) in such a short time and being so aware of how many failures one has to override to succeed."

Though every good group has its dry spots and downfalls, the Mount Moriah youths don't give up. They have many aspirations.

At a time when the streets are offering adolescents a life that can't be refused, there are very few alternatives for support, but Mount Moriah has proven to be one of them.

## Elma Lewis: Years Of Service

By JUDITH BROWN

The Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts presents a comprehensive approach to cultural education for individuals from pre-school to senior citizens with performing arts.

In January, 1950, the school opened its doors in the black community of Greater Boston. In 1968, the school was presented with two buildings, the Temple Nishikan Tefila and the Yeshiva School, both from the Jewish community.

Elma Lewis School raised over \$1 million to restore the building. The Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts program includes art, costumeing, dance, drama and music. A brief summary of the school program is:

- Art: Various levels of skill in design, sculpture, printing,

drawing, printmaking and crafts.

- Costumeing: Fashion illustration, basic sewing and pattern drafting gives students a chance to reflect on their ethnic backgrounds.

- Dance: Ballet, jazz and tap provide discipline of mind and body; awareness of black ethnic dance.

- Drama: Development of creativity, communication skills, verbal expression and reading comprehension.

- Music: A development of basic skills to read, play music and understand the nature of dynamic music interpretation.

Elma Lewis' facilities consist of:

- Three art rooms fully equipped with drawing table and kilns;

- A fully equipped costumeing and sewing department;

- Three mirrored dance studios with bar and dressing rooms;

- A stage and auditorium that seats 300-400 persons;

- A music room that varies in size from individual to chorus accomodation.

The woman behind the School of Fine Arts, Elma Lewis, was born in Boston, educated in Boston public schools and attended 19 different colleges and universities in less than 14 years.

Over the years she has received such honorary degrees as: doctor of humanities; doctor of fine arts; doctor of letters; doctor of music and doctor of pedagogy.

Ms. Lewis has written such articles as "Who Took the Weight," "At the Crossroads," and "Celebrating Little People."

In addition to her success, Ms. Lewis will always be remembered as a Lady of Art.



# Entertainment

## New Edition Bursts Onto Music Scene

By SHAWN UPPERMAN

Ralph Tresvant, 17, Bobby Brown, 16, Ronald DeVoe, 17, Michael Bivins, 17, and Ricardo Bell, 17, are the fivesome that make up the hit group "New Edition."

The group started off with street shows in the Boston area. Their performances captured the interests of people in the community as well as choreographer Brooke Payne. New Edition's first introduction to the business was at a talent show at The Strand Theater in 1981.

Ever since, this group has had hits at the top of music charts. Their first hit, "Candy Girl," which

brought them into music business, topped charts in over four countries. The New Edition phenomenon began right after that smash hit. Shortly after, "Popcorn Love," "Jealous Girl," and "Is This The End" were released.

Since then, they have produced a self-titled album with popular songs, such as "Cool It Now," "Mr. Telephone Man," "Kinda Girls We Like" and "I'm Leaving You Again" were hits that were produced by the group. Most of the album has songs with an uptempo beat.

One good characteristic of New Edition's music is the lyrics. There

is no profanity, drugs or sex written in their music. It seems like most of the songs they sing tell a story or present a positive side of life. New Edition is just like the boys next door! They don't dress up in wild clothes and try to be someone they aren't. They are five teenage boys trying to make it big in the music business by entertaining people of all ages.

New Edition has many fans from different parts of the world. You would think their biggest fans were from the Boston area, but surprisingly that doesn't seem to be so! When I asked a few Bostonians how they felt about running into New Edition on the streets, their

responses were nonchalant. One person said, "it's not often that I run into them, but when I do I get excited." The second person said, "I wouldn't care because they really don't mean anything to me." Another said, "if I were to run into them, I'd just say 'there's New Edition' and maybe ask for their autograph. I do like their music, unlike most boys." I think Bostonians take New Edition for granted because they are from the Boston area. People see them all the time, or more than someone from another state would; so it is really not a big deal when Bostonians see them.

I think New Edition is one of the

biggest things to happen to R&B/pop in a long time. Their timing into the music business was perfect. Michael Jackson mania was spread throughout the nation, and their hit song had a very similar sound to the Jackson's oldie "ABC." Pessimistic people spread rumors that New Edition would never make it famous, and that all they were doing was copying Jackson's oldies.

Well, I doubt that there are as many pessimistic people out there because they have made it this far. New Edition has its own style now and nobody can take that away from them!

## Whitney Houston Album Review

By SHELBY CABRAL

Whitney Houston is one of today's fastest rising stars. The one time model has embarked on a solo career that has her at the top of the pop and soul charts.

Her debut album, entitled "Whitney Houston", contains "Hold Me In Your Arms," a duet with Teddy Pendergrass and two duets with Jermaine Jackson, one of which is entitled "Take Good Care of My Heart" that has become very popular.

In addition to her duets with these famous singers, she does a fine rendition of George Benson's song "The Greatest Love of All."

Her sweet voice and innocent looks have captivated the hearts of many. Her two hits, "You Give Good Love To Me" and "Saving All My Love For You", have made her a star at the tender young age of 22. Not only is she a respected entertainer, but her lovely face has graced the cover and the inside of many established magazines.

This woman has got what it takes to be a star. She recently gave a wonderful performance with Jeffrey Osborne at the Concerts on the Boston Common.

If you like easy listening with a funky fresh beat, then this is the album for you.

## Run D.M.C.

By CRYSTAL HECK

Run-D.M.C. is without a question the hottest rap group around. The trio from Hollis Queens are extremely versatile in their music. They get their name from Joseph Simmons (Run) Daryll McDaniell (D.M.C.), and Jay Mizell (Jam Master Jay). Anything you can name, they have talked about in their music.

A lot of their songs have deep meanings and are very factual to everyday life. For example, in their song "It's Like That," they express how people aren't happy with the world, how there is prejudice in society, and how we are all the same color in God's eyes.

Their song "You're Blind" deals basically with the problem of people being naive and only seeing the things they want to see. "You Talk Too Much" is one of their popular songs. Just as the name says, it's about people who spread untrue gossip, whether it is about

## TOP TEN VIDEOS

By SHAWN UPPERMAN

1. Saving All My Love-Whitney Houston
2. You Give Good Love-Whitney Houston
3. Rock Me Tonight-Alexander O'Neil
4. If You Were Here Tonight-Freddie Jackson
5. My Secret-New Edition
6. Shout-Tears For Fear
7. Glow-Rick James
8. Take Me Home-Lisa Lisa
9. New Altitude-Patti LaBelle
10. Chinese Wall-Phillip Bailey

## TOP TEN SINGLES

By SHAWN UPPERMAN

1. Saving All My Love-Whitney Houston
2. Pop Life-Prince
3. Oh Sheila-Ready For the World
4. Freeway of Love-Aretha Franklin
5. Fly Girl-Boogie Boys
6. Shout-Tears For Fear
7. It's All Over Now-Luther Van Dross
8. I Want Back My Girl-Jessie Johnson
9. Here We Go-Run DMC
10. Angel-Madonna

## Movie Reviews

### Fox Stars In 'Back To The Future'

By SHAWN UPPERMAN

Steven Spielberg has done it again by producing another sensational movie. "Back to the Future", starring Michael J. Fox, is the funniest comedy all summer. The story-line, written by Robert Lemeckis, is quite ingenious! There are a lot of positive morals that can be learned by viewers of all ages.

The movie starts off in the year 1985. Marty McFly, (Michael J. Fox), is the son of a wimpy father (Christopher Lloyd), and sloppy mother (Crispin Glover). His sister (Lea Thompson) is overweight, unattractive, and consistently has trouble finding dates.

Marty's friend, the "weird scientist", started to invent a "Delorian Time Machine" in 1955. One evening while being chased by Lebanese hijackers, Marty accidentally travelled back to that year. His task was to find the

"weird scientist", and make sure his parents fell in love so he could exist in the future.

Throughout Marty's father's life, he gets bullied around by a tough guy named Biff. When Marty travelled to the past he saw how his father was treated and often protected him. His brave actions made his mother fall in love with him instead of his father.

It was Marty's place to try and set his parents up at their high school dance. Marty planned to try and make his father look strong by "fixing" a fight over his mother.

All plans were going well until Biff gets rid of Marty and gets in the

car with Marty's mother. Then his dad comes and beats up Biff. So his parents fall in love after all.

When Marty returned to 1985, things had changed. His sister had a boyfriend; his parents were neither wimpy nor sloppy; but rich! This resulted from Marty's adventure to the past.

In "Back to the Future" Michael J. Fox plays the role of an average teenage boy. If you are a Michael J. Fox fan, definitely go see "Back to the Future".

It is a movie that can't be resisted by moviegoers of any age. This movie has the highest ratings for all summer movies, and it has my vote too! Go see it.

## Fright Night

By SHELBY CABRAL

"Fright Night" has an old and popular story line about a young boy, Charlie Brewster, who realizes that there's a vampire living next door to him. Of course, no one believes him, except the host of a popular television show called "Fright Night."

Now, our vampire is not the typical kind. Not only is he tall, dark and handsome, but he's a very sexy dancer. While dancing with Charlie's girlfriend, he mesmerizes her and temporarily turns her into a vampire. She isn't returned to her human form until after the vampire is killed.

Unfortunately, because of a fresh mouth, Charlie's best friend is also turned into a vampire. The special effects in this scene are marvelous.

"Fright Night" vampires have

the ability to turn into various animals, such as wolves and dogs. The transformation from a person to a vampire to an animal is seen in its entirety. This scene not only impressed me, but made me quiver.

The ending of the movie was good. Instead of the vampire being killed the traditional way, driving a stake through the heart, the vampire is smothered by the morning sunlight.

In my opinion, "Fright Night" is the first movie made in a long time that is actually scary. Rather than a lot of unnecessary sex and killings, like "Friday the 13th" sagas, "Fright Night" has the ability to make you jump.

Hopefully, there will be more movies with the qualities of "Fright Night."

## Pee Wee Herman

By CRYSTAL HECK

Paul Reubens, better known in the comedy world as Pee Wee Herman, is excellent in his first movie role as a nerd in search of a precious possession that was stolen from him. That possession is his beloved, magical red bike.

On his journeys to recover his bike, he encounters such things as: a ghost who scares Pee Wee and the audience out of their minds in one scene; a motorcycle gang that falls in love with him; a waitress who is inspired by his dreams; her jealous boyfriend who is after him; an ex-convict who does not want to get him involved in his reckless life, and much more. Pee-Wee's personality fits right in with the different types of people he meets while on his journey in "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure."

Pee-Wee is the cutest little guy of our time. His voice is definitely a classic. His house is built in the style of a toyland: it is highly advanced in technology and extremely colorful.

Pee-Wee's bike means so much to him. It was his only source of transportation. It had a smoke screen that was used to divert his enemies. It also had a handle that

could regenerate itself. These little qualities help support the features of this fiery red machine.

Although his suit was a bit tight for him, it gave him the features of a lovable, adorable, and fun loving guy. He is very well known by the kids in the neighborhood, the girl at the bike shop, and the guy at the joke shop.

He is loved by mostly everyone except the guy who had his bike stolen.

This guy is Pee-Wee's rich neighbor who is a grown man and is spoiled rotten. He gets rid of the bike when the heat is on, then puts out a \$1,000 reward for it.

Pee-Wee stumbles on a palm reader who swindles him into believing that his bike is in the Alamo in Texas, that's when his adventure begins! It is an energetic movie that is guaranteed to make you laugh in more than a couple of scenes. I will leave it up to you to find out whether he finally recovers his bike.

It's a movie that can be enjoyed by the entire family. "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure" is rated P.G. On a scale of one to 10, I rate "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure" an 8.

## DATING

By NICOLE JOHNSON

It seems to me that the standards of we teens today have dropped tremendously. So many times I hear about 'casual sex'—if it feels good do it.

People sleep together without even the knowledge of what it means to make love. Bodies are just complicated toys, and I am not ashamed to admit that it scares me.

Whatever happened to dating? Why are people becoming so caught up in sex that they are forgetting what it feels like to fall in love?

Or they wonder why they can't fall in love and never try to discover the real reason. Perhaps the relationship was started backwards. Perhaps going to bed wasn't the solution to a closer relationship after all.

At school, our so called friends are telling us what we are missing out on. Our so called friends just don't want us to be happy if they aren't.

On television, sex is portrayed as something so vivacious that one just has to have it wherever it is offered. Even if you sleep with a complete stranger, the tube tells us that he can be the most satisfying lover. But they refuse to show what happens in real life when that young girl sits up in an empty bed, or, why pretend, in the back seat of a car.

They don't show the small insecure face that holds back the tears of being unsatisfied, the heartache of feeling inadequate and the disappointment that sex is not all that it is said to be. Our society is telling us that sex is the answer to compatibility problems.

Sex is love. If you love him, share your body with him. That shows him how much you care.

Perhaps it is I who is strange. I

feel that it is more of a challenge and a reward to explore someone mentally. But even the songs of today encourage infidelity, getting back at your lover by sleeping around. Where have we gone?

I know, I've heard it all before, we are in the eighties, you've got to go with the flow of things. Now, really, is there such a thing called casual sex? Or are we fooling ourselves?

Does each person walk off with a part of us when we engage in premarital sex, or do we go with the philosophy that states that sex is just a way of showing someone you care for them? A little bit more than making out?

Though times change, people basically don't. When a teenager, years ago, was guilt-ridden because of her premarital experience, she felt different than everyone else in her class. It was a secret that she had lost her virginity, something very special to her.

But take the same situation in our time. This teen is taught that she is the strange one because she didn't taste the sweetness that the movies said she would, because she didn't feel the ecstasy that books write about, the joy of making love that her peers had described to her.

If only we could fight to keep our values alive by telling others that it is great to be 17 and a virgin. That it is fantastic to keep your standards high.

Don't forget your morals because these are the eighties; but rather make better goals, strive for higher heights, dream a more victorious destiny because we are the future.

My question to young people like myself is, "Whatever happened to dating, is it a bad word?"

Teens, why not set the table before eating the dessert.



# West Indian Festival



Youth ready for the celebration to begin.

By Kathy Cooper

## Celebration Displays Proud Heritage

By KATHY COOPER

Through the ages, West Indians who have migrated to different parts of the world have managed to hold onto parts of their unique culture.

Last weekend the proud West Indians once again shared their culture with other Bostonians by holding a carnival on Martin Luther King Blvd. It continued a long history of carnivals held by West Indians.

The very first West Indian Carnival is believed to have been held in the Caribbean Islands in the late 1600's.

It all began when the slaves saw their French masters celebrate with grand balls. The slaves decided to have a celebration of

their own. They also wanted to mock their masters, so they made costumes and wore masks on their faces so that their masters would not recognize them.

Clarence Cooper, leader of the band "Unity," said that this led to an annual celebration for West Indian people.

As the years passed, the original meaning for the carnivals faded, but they are still held for dancing, singing, having fun and watching different outfits."

In Boston, the event lasted for about two weeks. Harry Edwards, secretary of the Caribbean American Carnival Day Association, said the purpose of the event is to try and "spread our culture throughout North America." He said, "we are trying

to make our people feel at home away from home."

In addition he said, it is important to expose Americans to the West Indian culture.

The event said Edwards, cost about \$30,000.

Among the most popular events are the bands. Pirates in The City, Tropical Fantasy, Hearsts and Kisses and The Easter Parade, were among the bands that were enjoyed by the crowd.

At the carnival many people chose to pay up to \$30 for elaborate costumes.

One said: "I do it because it's part of the West Indian culture. It is part of the enjoyment. I had this opportunity and I appreciate it. I've been doing it since my childhood. I do it for fun."



Mother and child dress in similar costumes.

By Kathy Cooper



Youth poses proudly for crowd.

By Kathy Cooper