

Youth Activity Page

'If our children can't change the environment, then the environment will ultimately change our children.'

—Minister Louis Farrakhan, "A Torchlight for America"

MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago amplifies view, voices of youth



by Allen L. Linton

As the summer of 2007 moves on with all its tradition and glory, something new is here to challenge the norm and provide an outlet of positive motivation to a constantly attacked idea. Almost every day, news reports air that portray inner city teenagers as perpetrators or victims of crime and violence. Rarely are teenagers heralded for positive events in the mass media.

That negative media dominance was challenged this summer as the non-profit organization MAGIC (Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc.) launched MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago, an innovative magazine television program. MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago is the official, new, mature teen talk show in the city. It is "by teens, for teens, and about teens."

Each week teens present a topic relevant to high school age youth, with engaging conversation and information on where to go for help to address the issue. The first show discussed "Teen Dating Violence," and which age group is most affected and how it actually happens among teens.

What's refreshing about MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago is the mix of factual information presented by professionals and the youthful perspectives of a diverse group of teenagers. Even if information presented is not new, hearing it from someone of the same age group affects young listeners differently and more effectively.

Teenagers on the show are from different age groups and live in different parts of the city and nearby suburbs. Boys and girls, freshmen to seniors, high school graduates, suburbanites, urban boomers, and everyone in between is represented—even rival Chicago Cubs and White Sox baseball fans.

The show, however, is not just dominated by one subject for the entire hour. A bevy of quick hitting, but provocative segments give the show its flavor. A series of minute and a half segments cover news, fashion, politics, cultural arts, and alternative thoughts.



Members of CASL (Chinese American Service League) were the first to arrive on the scene of MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago taping held at Northeastern University, Jacob H. Carruthers Center in Chicago, Ill. June 30.

Each member of the teenage panel, known as the "MAGIC Teen Talk Crew," hosts a particular segment that is their specialty and shares what is going on with the audience. Each member of The Crew has his or her own way of engaging the crowd and produce engaging television that is ingrained with a positive message.

Students that work with the show are ex-

posed to how to develop and produce a television program. Hours of production meetings, topic reviews, research, and actual execution of the show require tremendous teamwork to perform at expected levels. Participation in the show reinforces skills needed for school, such as research and note taking, but in the end, youth still have fun and end up on television.

There is also a new appreciation for the TV

experience and greater understanding about what is seen on television and what actually goes into creating it.

MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago is exposing youth to Chicago, and Chicago is being exposed to a diverse group of youth on television, who are not part of another negative news story. They are offering news from a youth perspective.

What is in the future for MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago? With one episode taped, the MAGIC Teen Talk Crew plans to deal with topics like gang violence, education, and other teen issues. Plans are in the works to begin airing the show over a local cable access network.

One cannot help but expect immense success from the show and to see outlets for the talents youth possess in school affairs and extracurricular activities. MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago includes youth who are designers, artists, musicians and poets, along with other talented young people.

With the leadership behind the scenes and individual talents of the cast, MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago is sure to rise to be the city renowned talk show that it strives to be.

(Allen L. Linton III is a MAGIC Teen Talk Chicago panelist and segment producer of 'A.L.L. Talk,' which covers education and politics. He will be entering the University of Chicago in the fall. He can be reached at allenlinton@magicchicago.org.)

BEAUTIFUL ROSE GARDEN

Sweet-smelling

Making civilizations around the world envious

With seductive, thick, free blowing pedals

When we, my people, try to understand and capture the

True beauty of our rose

We bleed

When we try to live the life THEY tell US we live

We bleed

We bleed the blood of reality

We bleed the blood of truth

We bleed the blood of life

We bleed the blood of experience

As we see

That we are not really free

As reality and truth snags and catches on the thorns

Hidden by the broad, sweeping, soft red petals

Red with my spilt blood

Red with my heart

For bleeding the blood of truth

Is better than living a life like roses

Because roses have secrets too

**By Randy Wilkerson, 17
Chicago, IL**

Black Enterprise Top Ten Universities and Colleges For Blacks

1. Florida A&M University
2. Howard University
3. North Carolina A&T State University
4. Harvard University
5. Spelman College
6. Hampton University
7. Stanford University
8. Columbia University
9. University of Pennsylvania
10. Wesleyan University

The list, based on the DayStar rating, was calculated by developing a regression-based, weighted, multiplicative index combining four variables:

- The school's five-year graduation rate for Blacks
- The school's percentage of Black undergraduate students
- The school's average survey score for the school's academic environment
- The school's average survey score for the school's social environment