

Photo by Andrea London



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## Youth Accomplishments in Black and White: Highlights from WKCD's Kids on the Wire 2003

"Vermont Teens Raise Money to Help Afghan Girls"

"Oakland Students Design Transformation of Blighted Park"

"Arizona Bilingual Students Serve As Interpreters For Parents, Schools"

"Ohio Students Rally at State House for Education Funding"

"Waiting List Grows for Preschool Run by Indiana High School Students"

"Central Texas Students Use Day of Silence to Educate About Discrimination"

**A**t WKCD we believe that young people need to be both seen and heard—with the nation's attention focused not on their malfeasance and shortcomings, but on their tremendous energy and idealism, accomplishments and contributions. That's why, for our Kids on the Wire feature, we scan the country's newspapers daily for stories about youth we think everyone ought to read.

In a year when tumultuous world events, corporate scandals, and celebrity trials claimed so much newspaper copy, the headlines and stories captured below remind us of a rising generation of newsmakers. Read through them to get a glimpse of who'll be making front-page news before we know it.

Every day, WKCD researcher Montana Miller scours Internet newswires and databases for the latest stories involving young people. The selections she posts on our [Kids on the Wire](#) give WKCD readers a steady stream of breaking news about teen accomplishments and concerns nationwide.

In December 2003, Montana Miller earned a Ph.D. in Folklore from U.C.L.A. Her diploma is among the first to bear the signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger, new Governor of California.



## Youth ...

**serving and giving**

**speaking out**

**taking action**

**inventing and investigating**

**embracing media and the arts**

**tending the environment  
doing adult work**

**spreading tolerance, understanding, and peace**

Note: To read full summary of article, go to <http://www.whatkidscando.org/studentwork/KOW2003list.html>

## I. Serving and Giving

### **Boston High School Human Rights Squad Members Work in Homeless Shelter.**

Members of the Ayer High School Human Rights Squad went into Boston to work in homeless shelters and soup kitchens as part of a Youth Outreach Weekend (YOW). YOW brings a diverse group of high school...— 1/2/2003 ☐



### **North Carolina Students Offer Help Filing Tax Returns.**

Filling out a tax return is complicated, and paying someone else to do it can get expensive. But free tax help is now available in a business classroom at Southwest High School, an official Volunteer...— 2/10/2003 ☐

### **Hundreds of Young Coaches in Los Angeles Coach Sports Teams and Volunteer at Recreation Centers.**

He looks like he'd be more at home in a rap music video than on a basketball court...baggy shorts, big shirt, braided hair wrapped in a bandanna. But 18-year-old Alex Cruz leads the Mason Park Sparks...— 2/24/2003 ☐

### **Youth Board Reviews Youth-Led Charities in Sacramento.**

High school freshman Elizabeth Marder is a member of the Grants Advisory Board for Youth, a local panel that provides young people a leadership role in charitable giving. The 12-member board recently...— 4/10/2003 ☐

**Texas High School Students Organize Relief Efforts for Towns Struck by Tornadoes.**

Parsons High School senior Eric Olivas moved to Parsons from Texas after the April 2000 tornado had struck, but he heard first-hand accounts of the tornado's victims. When tornadoes swept through Kansas...—  
5/8/2003 ☐

**Vermont Teens Raise Money to Help Afghan Girls.**

At first, 14-year-old Elizabeth Percy, her stepsister and cousin wanted to sell Girl Scout cookies and send them to members of 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan, giving the proceeds to a charity...— 6/12/2003 ☐

**Youth Advisory Council Provides Funds for Programs to Benefit Michigan County.**

\$50,000 would buy more than 3,000 CDs—or it could pave the way to build a shelter for runaway teenagers in Port Huron. Members of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County's Youth Advisory Council...—  
9/14/2003 ☐

**Montana High School Students Dig In to Help Build Houses.**

A couple of dozen teens with yellow hardhats got a head start Wednesday on this year's high school houses. There was no groundbreaking ceremony or first turning of shovels; the 12th and 13th houses being built...—  
9/19/2003 ☐

**Young Volunteers Fan Out Across Latin America.**

Fiona Bracken, a senior at Novato High School, helped Brazil battle soil erosion this summer when she and other student volunteers planted hundreds of trees. Bracken was among 53 student volunteers from...—  
9/29/2003 ☐

**South Dakota Students Help Townspeople Leave Messages for Military Personnel in the Middle East.**

It's difficult to find anyone in the area who doesn't know a soldier currently serving in the Middle East. And while telephone calls, emails and old fashioned snail mail are all good ways to send messages...—  
11/24/2003 ☐

**New Hampshire Students Overhaul Bicycles for a Good Cause.**

The components wait in bins outside the Seacoast School of Technology welding classroom: gears, handlebars and a pink "banana seat." Though the hallway looks like a junkyard, SST students, teachers and...— 12/7/2003 ☐

**Kansas Students Help Post Office Answer Children's Letters to Santa Claus.**

Dozens of student volunteers from Free State High School are helping write the responses to area children who have sent letters to Santa asking for toys, dolls, gadgets, games—even a motorcycle. The...—  
12/15/2003 ☐

## II. Speaking Out

### **Massachusetts Students File Lawsuit Over Religious Candy, Free Speech and Expression.**

Six Westfield High School students who were suspended for distributing candy canes with religious messages to their classmates filed a federal lawsuit Monday claiming school officials violated their constitutional...— 1/15/2003 ☐

### **Schools Nationwide Seek Balance as Students Join War Debate.**

Thousands of debates have played out in U.S. high schools in recent weeks. "During the Vietnam War, students across the country fed the call for withdrawal and forced the government to rethink its place...— 3/7/2003 ☐



Courtesy of Global kids

### **Student Poets Spark Controversy at New Mexico School.**

Bill Nevins was recently suspended from his teaching job. The student Poetry Slam Team/Write Club, which Nevins organizes and sponsors, was also barred from performing their outspoken words in public...— 4/13/2003 ☐

### **Urban Youth in Chicago Writing for Change**

More than 150 Chicago inner-city youth have benefited from an innovative program that trains young journalists to cover issues that typically go unreported in mainstream newspapers. Ethan Michaeli, publisher...— 5/5/2003 ☐

### **California's "Radical Cheerleaders" Add Pep to Political Rallies**

At recent political rallies in LA, a team called Radical Teen Cheer chant: 'We're teens, we're cute, we're radical to boot!' and 'Who trained, who trained, bin Laden? Who armed, who armed, Saddam Hussein...— 5/11/2003 ☐

### **Students Across the Country Flood Web Site to Critique Teachers.**

Middle and high school students across the nation are describing their teachers on a popular Web site that has some educators chuckling and others fuming. Ratemyteachers.com posts unflinching comments...— 6/15/2003 ☐

### **Hispanic High School Debaters Convene in Texas.**

More than 130 high school students are participating in the National Hispanic Institute's Great Debate, which started Friday and lasts through Sunday. The annual debating competition takes place this...— 7/20/2003 ☐

### **Detroit Students Tackle Issues at Metro Teen Conference.**

The war in Iraq, sex, drugs, and booze were among the top issues on the minds of teenagers who met Thursday at Wayne State University for the 20th annual Metro Detroit Teen Conference. It's an opportunity...— 11/7/2003 ☐

### III. Taking Action

#### **High School Students Join National Protest Against Iraq War, Walking Out of Classes.**

On Wednesday, students all over the nation walked out of class to demonstrate their opposition to an invasion of Iraq. A new generation of students have been introduced to the prospect of war; they are...—  
3/6/2003 ☐

#### **Columbus Students to Rally Tuesday in Support of Education Funding.**

Teenage leaders at Norton High School have learned the intricacies of property taxes, school funding, and state government—and are experts enough to hold school assemblies, lecture, give quizzes, and...—  
3/17/2003 ☐



Courtesy of Ohio Rural Action

#### **Native American High School Students Join Elders in Washington Lobbying.**

A shadow tracked the footsteps of leaders of the United South and Eastern Tribes during their annual Washington lobbying week recently. As the elders and councilmen called on Congressional offices and...—  
4/4/2003

#### **New Jersey Students Circulate Petition to Help Deported Parent.**

About 500 Mount Olive High School students signed a petition asking government officials to reconsider the case of Juan Carlos Ortiz, who has an American wife and children who live in Mount Olive and...— 4/21/2003  
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#### **Oregon Teenagers Ask City to Restrict Self-Serve Tobacco.**

Hillsboro city councilors have been asked to restrict tobacco access by a constituency that doesn't normally come forward: teenagers. Led by senior Cassandra Geer, Century High School's Natural Helper...—  
5/27/2003 ☐

#### **Student Group Protests Beer Company Advertising.**

About 75 high school students staged a protest in front of the beer industry's Washington lobbying headquarters Friday, accusing manufacturers of continuing to target children with alcohol advertisement...—  
6/27/2003 ☐

#### **Students Across the Country Turn for a Change: Plans for Action Reveal Youth Voice.**

Over 140,000 high school students around the country who participated in a year-long democratic dialogue process are implementing civic action plans to address concerns in their schools this year. The...—  
10/30/2003 ☐

#### **Tobacco Companies Agree to Halt Advertising, Under Student Pressure.**

Four tobacco companies will stop advertising their products in news magazines sent to schools across the country, Attorney General William Sorrell said Monday. The tobacco companies agreed to remove...—  
11/10/2003

### **Hundreds of Fresno Students Protest School Board's Budget Priorities.**

Hundreds of Fresno High School students protested on Friday, asking why their superintendent got a nearly \$25,000 bonus when students and other employees are suffering from budget cuts. Like many districts...— 11/17/2003 ☐

### **MA Students Confront Governor on Underperforming Label.**

Governor Mitt Romney received a stinging earful yesterday from high school students who were angry that their district was labeled underperforming, and who grilled him about the reasons for his visit....— 12/4/2003 ☐

### **Public School Students from Across Arkansas Protest Governor's Plan to Reform System.**

More than 2,500 students, teachers and others cheered and waved signs outside the state Capitol Monday during a rally against any education reform plan that includes enrollment-based consolidation. The...— 12/9/2003 ☐

## **IV. Investigating and Inventing**

### **Robotics Tournament Draws Hundreds of Problem-Solving Students to Providence.**

Tomorrow the city's high school will host the state's second annual Robotics Tournament, drawing 200 to 300 students from four states. Sponsored by the First Lego League, the tournament is part of a larger...— 1/3/2003 ☐



### **Students Use Engineering, Biotechnology to Design Cities of the Future for Competition.**

Saturday at the Carnegie Music Hall, junior high school students served up their visions of the cities of tomorrow. Dressed in futuristic white jumpsuits, three presented "Novus Mundus," a domed city...— 1/19/2003 ☐

### **Treatment for Infections Takes Top High School Science Prize.**

Jamie Elyce Rubin, 16, of the Canterbury School in Fort Myers, Fla., who researched a treatment for infections that are especially dangerous for AIDS and cancer patients, was awarded the top \$100,000...— 3/12/2003 ☐

### **High School Students Unravel Mysteries of the Double Helix.**

Two young biologists hunch over their test tubes, debating the secret of life. One drips clear liquid into the cloudy mixture; another slowly runs a long ultraviolet light tube along the length of the...— 4/26/2003 ☐

### **Young Women Take Top Awards at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.**

A century after two brothers from Ohio launched the first powered aircraft, more than 1,200 high school students from 31 countries last week descended on Cleveland in a celebration of science and engineering...— 5/23/2003 ☐

### **Teens' Yellow Submarine Rises Above the Competition.**

Sussex County Technical School's submarine team dove into its first competition last week and came up with two top prizes. The team finished third overall for the fastest speed for a two-person, propeller-driven...— 6/30/2003 ☐

### **High School Students To Race Solar Cars To Florida.**

High school students from across the nation will power up hand-built, solar-powered cars Tuesday and begin a 1,500-mile race to see who can make the fastest trip from Texas to Cocoa Beach, Fla. The eighth...—  
7/15/2003 ☐

### **High School Teams Will Work With NASA on Mars Exploration Missions.**

NASA is giving high school students the opportunity to explore Mars by working on specific research projects during the Mars Exploration Rover missions, set to land on the red planet in January 2004...— 7/25/2003 ☐

### **LEAD Lures Bright Minorities Into Inventing New Products.**

Millions of dollars were at stake for the fledgling business groups trying to persuade a panel of investors to fund their new products. How about a shoe with an easily detachable high heel for women wearing...—  
8/4/2003 ☐

### **Students Work to Rid World's Computers of Spyware Problems.**

Outraged by the damage inflicted by a fast-spreading spyware application, a pair of high school students have teamed up to fight back. Jay Cross Jr. and Christopher Carlino, two high school seniors from...— 10/6/2003 ☐

### **Montana Students Contribute Projects to Aria-9 Project over Antarctica.**

Experiments from 10 Montana schools will fly in a high-altitude balloon over Antarctica this winter, through the Montana Space Grant Consortium at Montana State University. Bozeman and Manhattan students...—  
10/27/2003☐

## **V. Embracing Media and the Arts**

### **Students' Artwork Celebrates Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.**

Kentwood High School students have spent the past five months creating artwork for an exhibit, "Seeds of Change in the Garden of Diversity," that celebrates the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King...—  
1/14/2003 ☐☐



Courtesy of Santa Monica HS, Santa Monica, CA (D. Campbell)

### **Massachusetts Students Make Waves on the Air, Running Radio and TV Stations.**

Schools are eager to help students hone public speaking and presentation skills, but few offer the sort of experience students get at WAVM, Maynard High School's radio and television stations. Begun 30 years ago...— 1/26/2003 ☐

### **Young Poets Compete for HBO Spots, Through Youth Speaks NY.**

They were declaiming, proclaiming, instigating and proudly strutting about the stage. They were by turns beautiful, exuberant, arrogant and exhibitionistic, 28 teenage performance poets at the HBO studio...—  
1/31/2003 ☐

### **Pennsylvania Students Produce Rap CD with No Place for Hate Theme.**

In a take-off from a popular television show, students in Darby have launched a search for an urban idol. The halls are alive with the sounds of youthful would-be rappers and hip-hop artists vying for a spot on a...—  
2/12/2003 ☐

### **Dance Troupe Unites Arab- and Jewish-American Teenagers.**

Their legs moved like scissors as instructor Adib Mattar counted out the beats. "1-2-3-4. Move forward. Stomp. Stomp. And now back," Mattar, 25, shouted Sunday as he tried to lead the group of 14 youngsters...—  
3/26/2003 ☐

### **Keyed Up: Wasilla High School Students Take to the Airwaves with Amateur Radio.**

Computers aren't the only media making the world one giant neighborhood, as some Wasilla High School students are finding out. The school has become the first in Alaska to have a ham radio. Several years...—  
6/4/2003 ☐

### **NPR: Teens Launch Hispanic Radio Show in North Carolina Town.**

On Thursday's All Things Considered on National Public Radio, Leda Hartman reported that Hispanic teens in the small Central North Carolina town of Siler City have launched their own weekly radio show...— 7/3/2003 ☐

### **Off the Streets, Immigrant Youths in San Francisco Learn 'Turntablism.'**

In the corner of a renovated building that resembles a large shed with high ceilings and wide windows is a colorful splash of graffiti that's hard to miss. The graffiti marks the home of DJ Project, a recording studio...—  
7/16/2003 ☐

### **Teens Produce Varsity TV for Teens.**

Joe Shults is building a TV network whose "affiliates" are high schools across the land and whose producers are camcorder-outfitted students. "It's a confederacy of kids," says Shults, whose venture...— 7/21/2003 ☐

### **3,800 High School Students Strut Their Stuff in Band Competition at Arizona Stadium.**

It's hot, it's dusty and your marching band uniform feels like 25 pounds of dead weight draped over your shoulders. Just then, thousands of people in Arizona Stadium start cheering: It's the University of Arizona's...— 10/25/2003 ☐

### **Student Photographs Tell the Story of Houston's Third Ward.**

Through the eyes of students at Jack Yates High School, visitors to the Museum of Fine Arts are given a glimpse into life in Houston's inner city. Student photographs capture the people, places and emotions of the...— 9/7/2003 ☐

### **Mural Project Lets Louisiana Students Learn Job Skills in Painting.**

The year is 2003, but teenagers participating in the Artworks! Program have spent the summer months soaking up 1803. Program participants have been commissioned by the Children's Museum of Acadiana to paint...—  
8/11/2003

## VI. Tending the Environment

### Oregon's Future Farmers Debate Natural Resource Policy, Healthy Forests Initiative.

Members of Glide High School's Future Farmers of America program met with about 30 officials, timber industry representatives, and policy activists at the Douglas Timber Operators' morning breakfast meeting...— 3/1/2003

### Oakland Students Design Transformation of Blighted Park.

Three dozen McClymonds High School students have big dreams for the grubby park across the street from their school. They want trees and benches, slides and murals, colorful walkways and trees. "It's...— 5/4/2003

### Sowing Seeds of Hope, Neighborhood Nutrition Network Teaches Gardening Skills to Florida Teens.

A couple of years ago, Johnny Carr couldn't tell a cucumber from a kumquat without a supermarket sign to show him the way. These days, the 14-year-old can navigate the rows of a garden, telling you why he planted...— 6/11/2003

### Isabel Gives Virginia Beach Students Chance to Study Storm Activity.

Looking up from his tracking chart, meteorologist Johnathan Bermudez offered his studied prediction of Isabel's consequences. "I don't think it'll be that bad," Bermudez said Wednesday. "I don't think...— 9/18/2003

### Earthwatch Institute Sends Wisconsin Students to Study Salmon Populations, Habitats.

High school senior Nicole Sauer hates fish, but as one of 75 students selected for the Earthwatch 2003 Student Challenge Awards Program, her summer project was Tributary Junctions...— 9/23/2003

### Timber Industry Gives Sacramento-Area High School Students Close-up View of Forest Management.

Thursday morning, as he surveyed the aftermath of the county's catastrophic 1992 Cleveland fire, Tim Mata, a student at McClatchy High School's fire academy, said, "This shows where we've failed...— 9/27/2003

### North Carolina Students Study the Ozone's Effects on Plants in Cradle of Forestry.

At the Cradle of Forestry, students are learning first-hand about the ozone and its effects on plant species through a program called Students as Scientists. "This gives the students an actual hands-on...— 10/14/2003

## VII. Doing Adult Work

### Police Explorer Post 110 Allows California Students to Learn from Police.

In the Richmond Police Department lineup room, teens in uniform learn their 10-codes. "10-51," reads a young sergeant sitting in front. "Drunk," comes the reply, somewhat in unison. "10-56," the sergeant...— 1/4/2003



Courtesy of Connect for Kids

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**Waiting List Grows for Preschool Run by Indiana High School Students.**

A preschool program run entirely by Carmel High School students has become so popular that many mothers call from the hospital to reserve spots for their newborn children. A waiting list that extends...□— 1/9/2003 □

**Cincinnati Teens Keep Up With Studies at Zoo Academy.**

At the Zoo Academy, a partnership run by the Cincinnati school system and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 35 juniors and seniors learn the ins and outs of caring for animals and plants while...□— 1/29/2003 □

**All-Girl Brigade of Firefighters Saves Lives in Alaska.**

On Christmas Day 2002, 14-year-old Erica Kameroff rushed into a burning house to rescue a 2-year-old child inside. She has been trained to save lives, as a member of the Dragon Slayers, an all-girl firefighting...□— 2/4/2003

**Wisconsin Hmong High School Students Learn the Voting Process to Translate for Others.**

Fourteen Hmong high school students attended a training session to prepare them to translate and answer questions for Hmong voters at the April 1 general elections. "I think it's a good experience for...□— 4/1/2003 □

**Louisiana High School Students Get a Taste of Medicine.**

More than 20 high school students clad in vibrant blue scrubs listened attentively while an instructor taught them the correct technique for sutures. The students mimicked the instructor's motions and...□— 6/26/2003 □

**High School Interns Get Glimpse Of Secretive World Of Shipbuilding.**

High school senior Cheryl Knapp worked this summer at Electric Boat, where she handed out inspection forms, blueprints and other classified paperwork to shipbuilders and inspectors working on the USS...□— 8/24/2003 □

**Minnesota Teens Provide Expert Medical Care, Earn International Awards.**

Teenagers from the 40-member Spring Lake Park High School OEC (Opportunity in Emergency Health Care) team traveled to Dallas for the annual International Rescue and Emergency Care Association competition...□— 9/11/2003 □

**Arizona Bilingual Students Serve As Interpreters For Parents, Schools.**

A student volunteer program is trying to relieve the fear that non-English-speaking parents may feel when visiting their children's school. Bilingual students at Springdale High School are giving their time to interpret...□— 10/1/2003 □

**Georgia Student Restaurant Cooks Up Practical Skills, Hands-on Learning.**

In the kitchen of a popular Augusta restaurant, Rose Butler sampled the cheese biscuit batter as the cook stood by anticipating her reaction. Butler runs the Black and Gold Room, a fully licensed restaurant...□— 11/8/2003

## VIII. Spreading Tolerance, Understanding, and Peace

### **Iraqi and American High School Students Discuss War in Live Broadcast.**

High school students held a live videoconference from Baghdad to Bloomfield, Conn., on Monday, talking about life, relationships, and war. The 90-minute gathering of about two dozen students on each side...— 3/5/2003



Courtesy of Global Kids

### **Indian Students Raising Money to Help Create Cultural Curriculum.**

Students from at least two Indian reservation schools are raising money to help the state create and distribute a curriculum for the Indian Education for All program. The 1999 Legislature had passed a...— 3/15/2003

Courtesy of Global Kids

### **Public Forum for Six Hundred NYC Public School Students to Address War and Peace.**

At the Global Kids Annual Youth Conference, War—Stop It! Peace... Be It! on March 27, at New School University, high school students from across NYC will gather with experts in a large public forum a...— 3/18/2003

### **Central Texas Students Use Day of Silence to Educate About Discrimination.**

More than 100 Central Texas high school students spent Wednesday in a vow of silence to teach their peers a lesson about discrimination. The "Day of Silence" is a national effort organized by...— 4/11/2003

### **Gay-Straight Alliances in Washington High Schools Raise Awareness and Fight Discrimination.**

Members of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Mariner High School see their role as activists, raising awareness of sexual diversity and fighting discrimination and homophobia. Now in its third year and recently recognized...— 5/1/2003

### **CA Students Push for Curriculum to Study Mexican-American Heritage.**

Students at Ontario High School want to read about events and historical figures like Cesar Chavez, Pancho Villa, the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement and the Mexican-American War. They want to...— 5/21/2003

### **Teens Gain Insight from Each Other in Pittsburgh Vision Services Summer.**

Teenagers at Pittsburgh Vision Services this summer are preparing for a dance—and for life. The nonprofit organization holds programs for visually impaired teens, some of whom also have developmental...— 7/30/2003

### **Global Kids Lead Workshops on Japanese Peace Boat.**

Nine Global Kids Leaders are leading substantive workshops and participating in cultural events designed to promote an appreciation of diversity on the Peace Boat. They are joined by youth from Educators for Social Responsibility...— 8/12/2003

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**Albuquerque Teens' Group Educates Others About Bipolar Disorder.**

Kelsi Clayton remembers fellow students asking if she heard voices, if she scratched off her skin, if she felt suicidal. "People see one type of mental illness repeatedly and think that's what it all is," she says ...☐—  
8/26/2003 ☐

**Wisconsin Students Look to Play a Role in Building Sister-City Partnerships.**

High School junior Brittney Rathsack will serve ravioli-like pelman and "bubbly water" Wednesday as she shares daily customs she experienced while visiting Shchuchye, Russia, last year. Junior Kalyn Gigot plans...☐— 9/30/2003 ☐

**Students Embrace Arabic Language**

As the fortunes of the United States and the Arab world grow ever more intertwined, the need in the U.S. for Arabic speakers becomes more acute. The language typically isn't taught in public schools, but a new...☐—  
10/17/2003 ☐

**Training Students to be Global Citizens, NY Launches Multimedia Human Rights Initiative.**

Human Rights 101, a new initiative from Thirteen/WNET New York, offers students insight into such complex topics such as tolerance, racism, women's rights, refugees, and religious freedom, and helps students...☐—  
10/21/2003 ☐