



YDC editors and cartoonists with professional cartoonist and workshop presenter Lalo Alcaraz, Nov. 9 2002.

YDC file photo

Young D.C. wants you

You can find out more about joining, receiving or helping *Young D.C.*, by calling

202-429-5292



Illustration by Dan Wong, *Young D.C.* volume six

NEWSEUM

FUNDED BY THE FREEDOM FORUM

Printing donated by the Newseum, which will open at 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW in 2006.

Young D.C., Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, exists to create opportunities for young people from diverse racial, ethnic, geographic and economic backgrounds to work together to develop a responsible, independent media voice.

Its program encourages teens to cross barriers in the region's fragmented society to produce the newspaper *Young D.C.* In the process, its editors, reporters, photographers, cartoonists, illustrators and interns develop skills for college and career. Equally important, *Young D.C.* readers gain a new understanding of teens throughout the region.

Young D.C.

The newspaper by and about Washington area teens

Bridging differences

Giving voice

Experiencing the world

Building skills

Tackling serious topics

Having fun

Young D.C. wants you

www.youngdc.org

Bridging differences

Poor and rich and middle class...black and white and Hispanic and Asian...male and female... from D.C. and Maryland and Virginia...public and private school students—all come together to produce *Young D.C.*, a 15-year old newspaper by and for teenagers throughout the metropolitan D.C. area.

Giving voice

Young D.C. is an independent newspaper. In its newsroom and in their community, young people practice journalism with the freedom and accountability that flow from the First Amendment.



YDC managing editor 1994-95 Nathan Postell interviews Attorney General Janet Reno. After a stint as editor of a weekly newspaper in North Carolina, Postell has opened a small business in New Orleans.

Photo by Mike Sese

Experiencing the world

Like no other institution in the region, *Young D.C.* offers young people broad exposure to the people, issues and cultures that will shape their futures.

Opportunities abound: to attend big events; to report on breaking news; to break their own news; to review music and movies and books, to make editorial comment.

Immigrant teens, often marginalized at their high schools, provide vibrant viewpoints to our readers. For example, teens from Sudan, Sierra Leone and Nigeria wrote about turmoil in their countries of origin. They also tackled hard news, features and entertainment assignments. The three were in public schools in Fairfax County, D.C. and Prince George's County; all have gone on to college.



Teamwork: volume 12 co-managing editors Clio Andris and Aisha Russell covered the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Sept. 16, 2002.

Above, Andris interviews actress America Ferrera.

Photo by Aisha Russell

Building skills

The top three challenges for teens remain organization, time management and peer pressure. As *Young D.C.* staffers, dozens of teens learn to deal with these while they're gaining confidence in reporting, writing and illustrating stories.

Journalism professionals coach them as their skills develop. They learn the real meaning of deadlines. Hands-on experience and year-round workshops have been key features of this newspaper since 1991.

Check out the newspaper's masthead: teens do the jobs that must be done to get their newspaper into the hands of their readers. They add distribution sites. They bring in advertising. They recruit their own successors.

Serious topics

Many publications aimed at teens are not read by teens because they're filled with the bland and the obvious—who won last month's game, for example.

Even award-winning high school publications must tiptoe around politics, religion and other compelling topics. *Young D.C.* staffers tackle big issues such as teen gambling, phony IDs, self-injury and more as they strengthen their skills. They find the truth behind rumors circulating in their communities. Were teen "super-predators" stalking our cities? (No). Was D.C. planning to sacrifice parkland at Oxon Cove to build a private prison? (Yes).

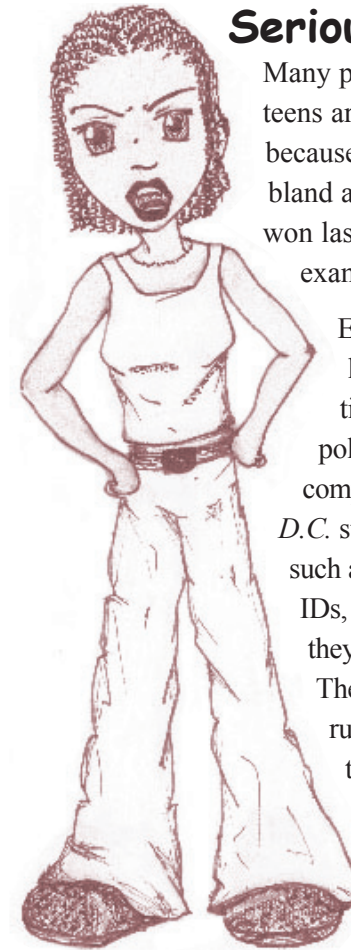


Illustration by Sarah Warran
Young D.C. volume 12

Just plain fun

Humor, fashion, entertainment and cartoons add pizzazz. *Young D.C.* was the first area newspaper to declare *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* a big fat hit. Its reporters have been backstage with Ani DiFranco and on the D.C. location set of *Enemy of the State*. Teen writers and editors follow trends from retro clothes to music swapping. Teen readers who love indie bands, quirky novels and the occasional museum exhibit rely on *Young D.C.* to tell them what's worth their time.