

# what's up

THE LATEST IN GIRL NEWS AND COOL STUFF THAT'S BEEN GOING ON.  
IT'S OK IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN KEEPING TRACK. WE HAVE.

## stay in school (or it'll cost ya)

Skipping school isn't cheap these days — at least not in Plainfield, Illinois. To stop kids from cutting, the Plainfield Police Department has created a new policy that punishes and fines kids who ditch a day of school.

Though the policy is new, the department and school district have set the fines at \$35 for the first offense, \$50 for the second and \$75 for the third.

Sound silly? Plainfield isn't the first area to do it. Minooka Community High School in Minooka, Illinois, has started a similar program (\$35 fines for each day missed) and school officials say that truancy has dropped significantly — from 88 cases of full-day cutting in '99 to just 19 in 2000.

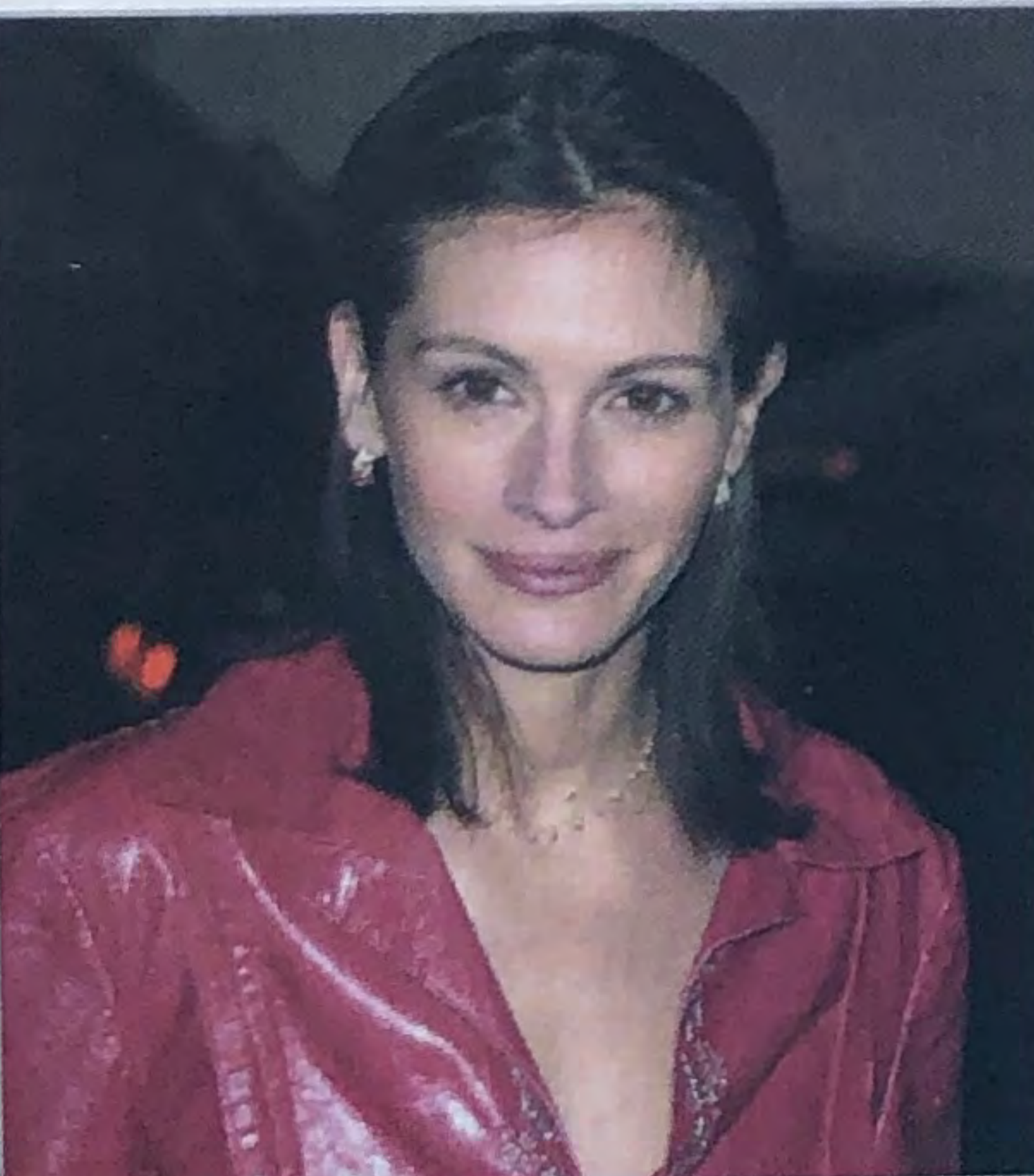


## LAME / GAME



Tara's cool, but her shirt has got to go.

Cameron's got it going on in denim.



## women with wealth

Congrats to Alice and Helen Walton, heirs to the Wal-Mart store fortune — they were the top women on the 2000 Forbes List of the 400 richest U.S. citizens. Alice (daughter of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton) and Helen (his wife) were tied with Jim, John and Robson (Alice's brothers) at spot No. 7, each with a listed fortune of \$17 billion.

As for the rich and famous, they're found on the Forbes Celebrity 100 List. Julia Roberts earned the top spot (with money from romantic comedies, not inheritance), bringing in \$50 million. For the year, she was on seven magazine covers, and she has 105 TV, radio and movie credits.

*mary-kateandashley's* not one to judge, but if we had to, here's what we'd say is cool and what's worth kicking off the planet:

### LAME

Fur collars, way-too-short shirts, simple jewelry, anything mesh other than work-out shorts, dark eyeliner and snow boots (put those away!)

### GAME

Rhinestones, jewelry that sparkles, denim, "The E! True Hollywood Story," boy bands, lip gloss and funky, strappy sandals



## MAKE YOUR PURSE PROUD

Face it. Having to carry around pads and tampons is embarrassing — they're bulky, sometimes they pop out of your purse, there's always the danger that one of the boys behind you in class will see them when you're rummaging for a pen — but sometimes you have to carry them. It's pretty much unavoidable.

The solution? Pack your purse with pride and thank Vinnie, who recognized female angst, and created a line of humorous tampon cases. The canvas cases are a hit for about \$5 and come with a period flowchart.

"I started making cases for my female friends after I heard their complaints about their tampons breaking when they reached for them in their purse," said Vinnie. "Then I got calls from their friends. So I kept making more."

Although this grew into a business, Vinnie resists the business aspect of the tampon cases.

"I wasn't doing it for money," he said "I give them out wherever I go."

Vinnie also hopes the cases help girls — especially teen girls — feel less ashamed of getting their periods.

"I got a letter from a young girl who hasn't gotten her period yet, but she is so excited because she has a case," said Vinnie. "She's at an impressionable age."

Vinnie's Cramp Relieving Bubble Bath and an interactive book with a period chart and stickers is on the way (we aren't kidding).

Not only do these cases celebrate your womanhood, they can hold pads or spare change. They're sold at stores like Urban Outfitters and Nordstrom's. Check it out at [www.tamponcase.com](http://www.tamponcase.com).



## oops i ran for office again

Ever wonder what people in a Britney Spears chat room would have to say about President George Bush? *Washington Post* writer Gene Weingarten did. On a recent visit to the room, Gene (listed below as Weinpost) found teens had the following (very funny) things to say about our new president, including:

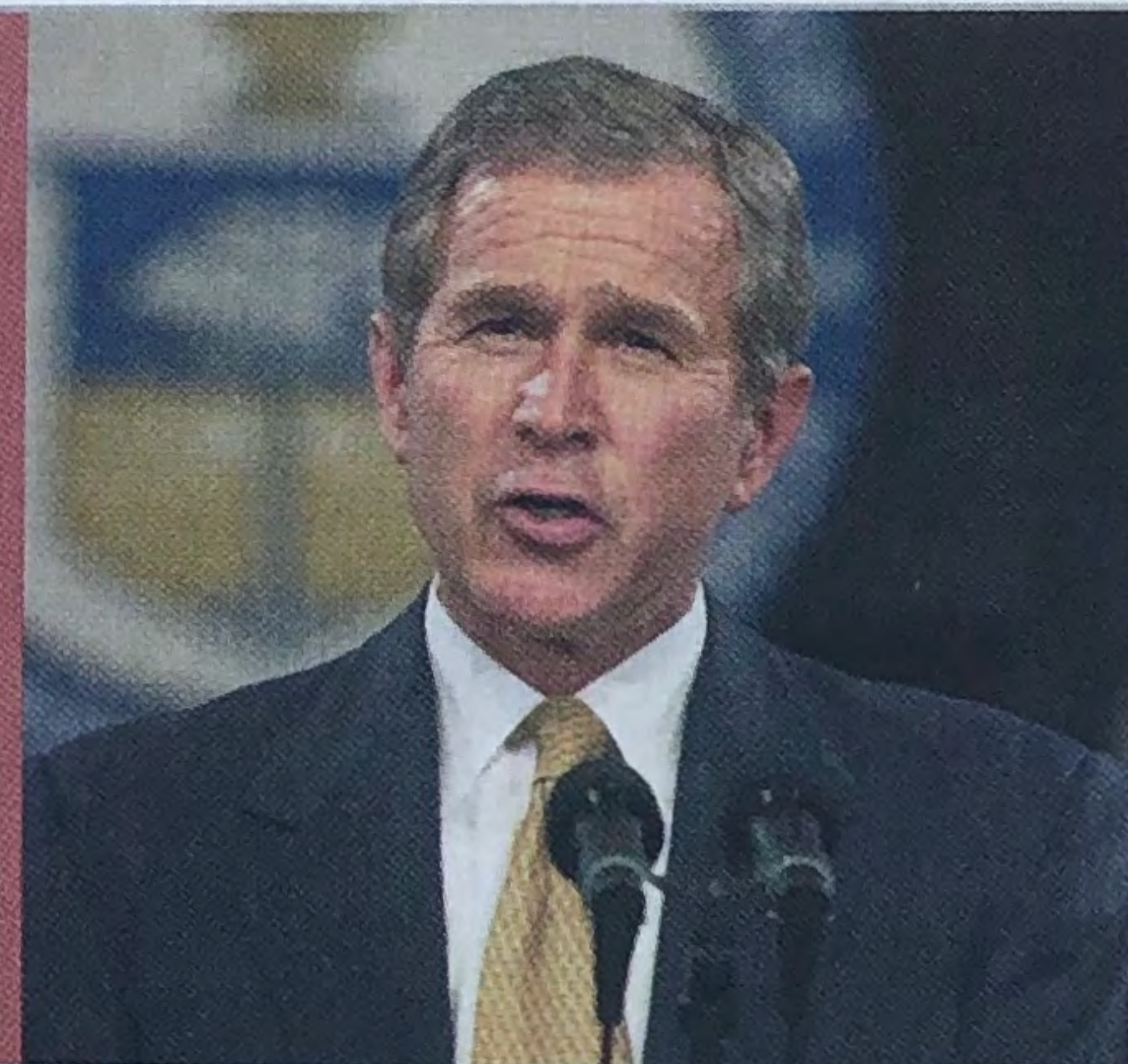
**Weinpost:** Anyone think Geo W. Bush is a hottie?

**Crazy10Guy:** I'm from Hawaii.

**Weinpost:** Anyone here have any feelings about the new presidential administration of Geo W. Bush?

**Angerrelated:** WASSSSUUUUP

**Jmaster96:** I like feet.



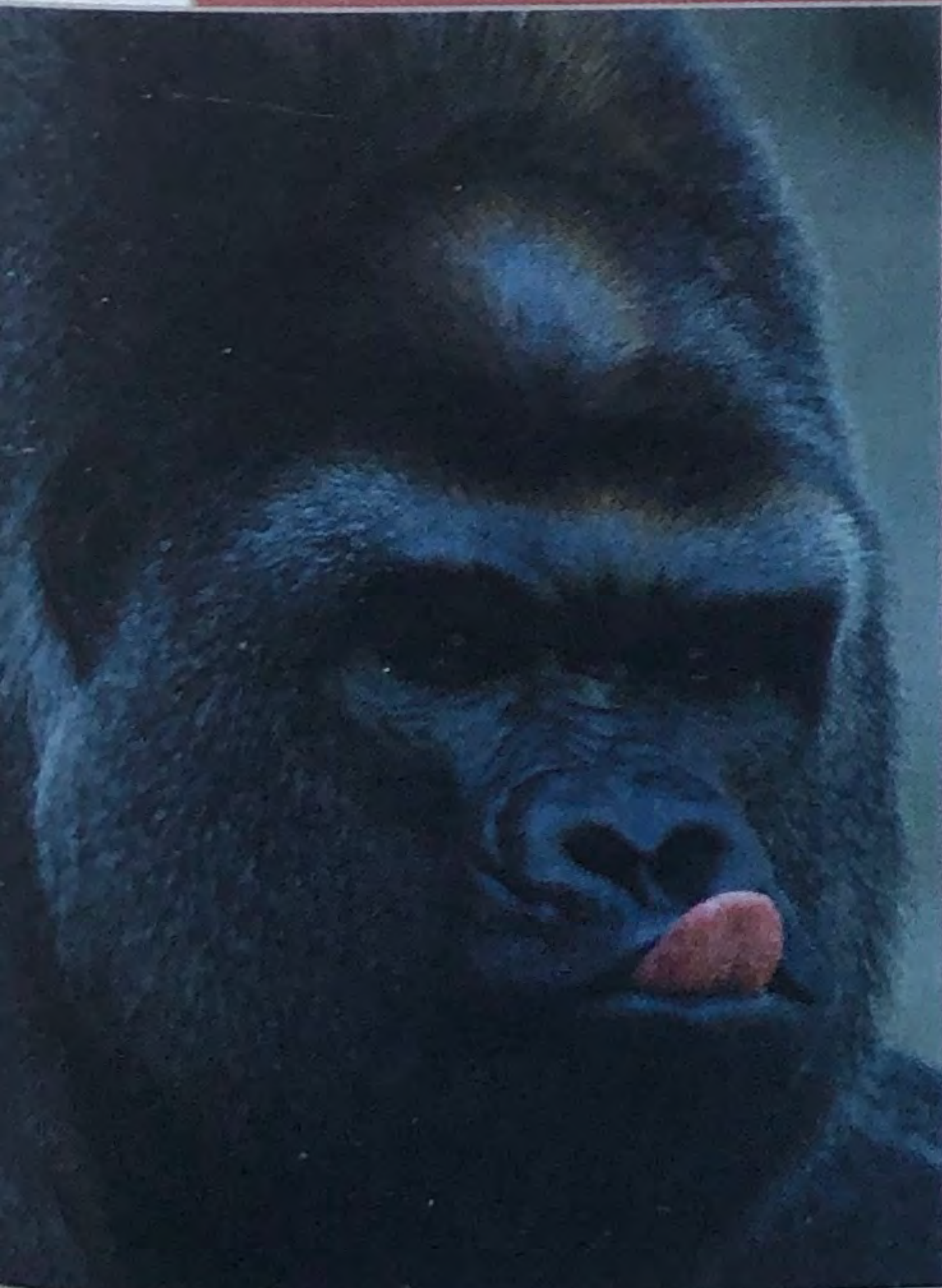
## don't feed the animals (they're serving themselves)

If you're feeling guilty about your last pig out, don't: You've got nothing on the 150-pound gorilla who escaped from a Pittsburgh Zoo and ate most of the contents of a zoo concession stand.

Officials at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium are still trying to figure out how the gorilla scaled a 14-foot wall and crossed a moat (which, by the way, the *mary-kateandashley* staff would probably do if someone had hidden our double stuff Oreos in say, a castle).

The gorilla chomped on muffins, cherry pastries and lots of Orange Slice soda from trash cans near the concession area. She was later captured and returned to her living space — in good shape, despite zookeepers' fears that the rich food would make her sick.

Hey, a little pastry never hurt anyone. And quite frankly, with a standard diet of fruit and monkey chow, who can blame her?







sw productions / photo: s.c.

## avoid the cook's choice

In what may be the most horrible school lunch ever — and there are some bad ones out there — a high school student recently found a small piece of human thumb in her sandwich.

It's nasty, but it's true. The girl, who asked not to be identified, was served up the hand sandwich in early February at Barnstable High School in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Upon realizing what she was eating, the girl spit it out, the Associated Press reported.

According to the school, the thumb piece came from a cafeteria worker who had cut the top of her thumb earlier that week. The Massachusetts Department of Health says there's no chance blood-borne diseases can be transmitted through food, so there's no public health risk.

That may be, but it's still nasty. Thank goodness for Lunchables.



## all together now

What do President Clinton, Miss America and DJ Funkmaster Flex have in common? They've all been invited to guest-star on Hollywood Squares? Nope!

These three famous folks were among the featured speakers at the seventh-annual Team Harmony Rally. On December 5, 2000, more than 14,000 teenagers flooded Boston's FleetCenter — not for a Backstreet Boys concert, but to flex their activist muscles and address prejudice, racism, and violence.

Sometimes we just need a little push to take the plunge from interest into activism. That's where Team Harmony fits in, showing thousands of teenagers that they're not the only ones who worry about what's going on in the world. The organization's latest rally drew students, teachers and celebrities from the Boston area and beyond; students from as far as Northern Ireland and South Africa even had the chance to participate via satellite, sharing their experiences in cultures that are plagued by their own history of violence and racism.

The key to the rally was teamwork, something the Team Harmony Foundation's founders know all about. As the former assistant coach and the captain of the Boston Celtics, Jon Jennings and Reggie Lewis spent plenty of time together on the court. After witnessing the disturbing violence of the '92 Los Angeles riots, they teamed up to create a forum for discussion and activism that would give teenagers a chance to speak out. After Reggie's death in '93, Jon recruited Leonard Zakim of New England's Anti-Defamation League, and together they came up with Team Harmony, a "multi-media celebration of diversity," in Jon's words.

Now in its seventh year, the foundation is rapidly expanding, with plans for a rally in New York City, a Youth Leadership Institute and a documentary film series about non-violent leaders like Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama. More info at [www.teamharmony.org](http://www.teamharmony.org). — Susan Yudt

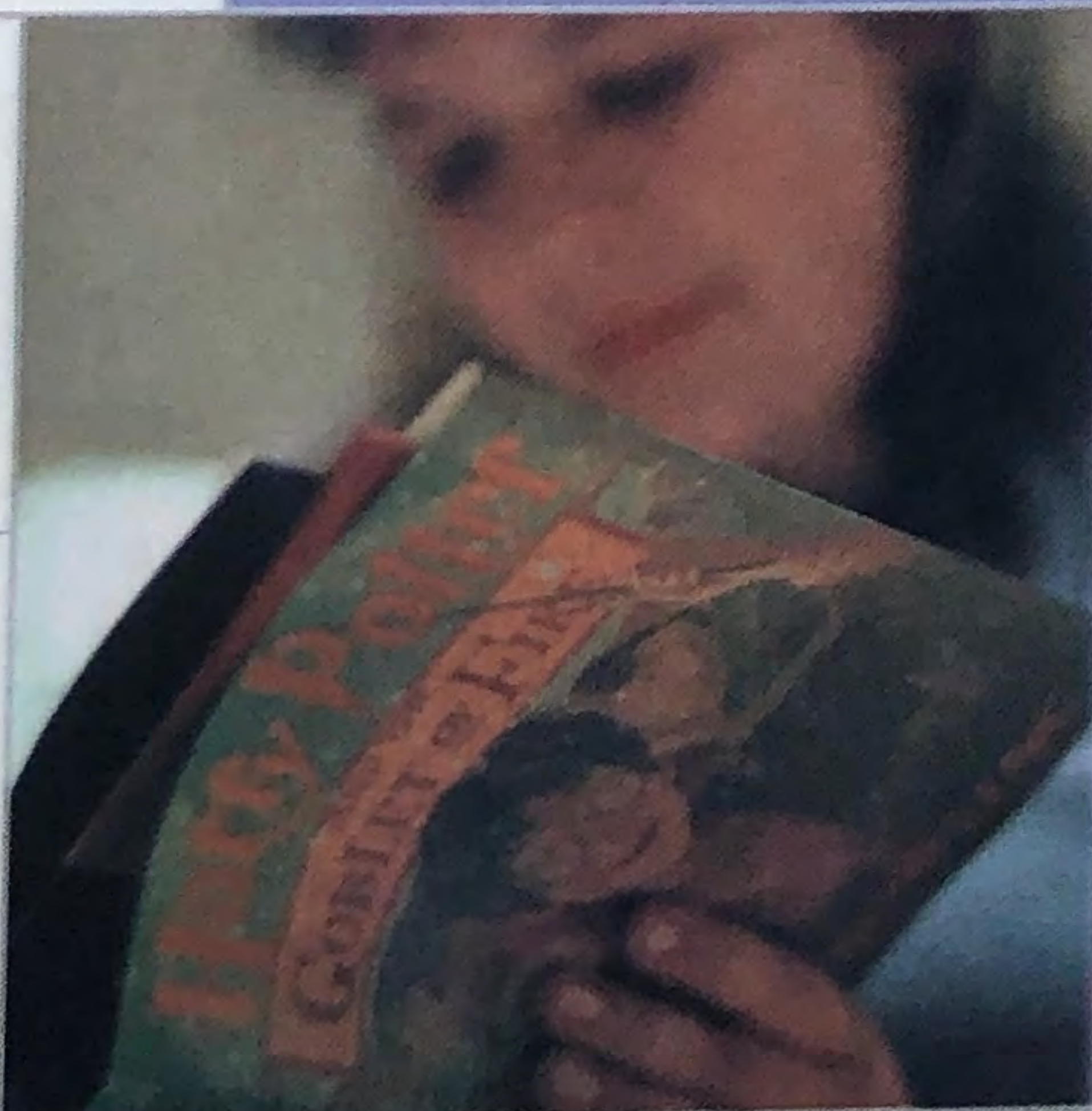
## TOIL AND TROUBLE

Harry Potter may be learning magic, but he hasn't been able to dispel the trouble his books have been causing lately.

Surprisingly, the wildly popular wizard books are on top of the American Library Association's annual list of books most frequently challenged. What's a challenge, you ask? It's a formal written complaint filed with a library or school saying a book is inappropriate or offensive to some readers. Some parents are upset because they feel the Potter books contain occult themes.

Harry was recently banned from the Christian Outreach College school bookstore in Australia because the books were too violent for young people, the *Courier-Mail* newspaper reported.

But not everyone hates Harry. Some parents have praised the books' emphasis on creativity, and a movie is in the works. And Harry isn't the only one taking heat — R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* series has also been pulled from shelves for the same reason.





## a very private prince

Prince William may not be heading to St. Andrews University until October, but school officials are already warning students not to talk to the press about him once he gets there.

The school principal implied that students who do leak stories could face expulsion (yipes); officials want William to be able to quietly study for his history-of-art degree at the Scotland school.

And if they seem to be overreacting a bit, they're probably not: Applications to the university from young women skyrocketed after William announced he would be attending.



## WOMEN'S MUSEUM HAS GIRLS IN MIND

If there's such a thing as the true American female experience, it's gotta be standing on a long and winding bathroom line at a concert, movie, or museum, crossing our legs uncomfortably, tapping our feet impatiently, thinking about throwing caution to the wind and barging into the men's room — which, undoubtedly, would be completely empty.

Talk about injustice! So it's only fitting that America's first Women's Museum should tackle such a pressing issue.

"Finally, a place where women do not have to stand in line for the bathroom!" boasts Jacqueline Bell, director of marketing at the recently opened Women's Museum in Dallas. "According to our building maintenance supervisor, there are 12 restrooms in the Museum, and the ratio of women's stalls to men's stall is three to one."

You won't have to wait in line to use the restroom, but women are lining up outside for the first national museum created by women, about women, and for women. (And any enlightened male guests they care to bring along.)

The Museum, which opened in Dallas on September 29, 2000, hosts high-tech, interactive exhibits like *Funny Women*, *Pathways to Health* and *Mothers of Invention*, that showcase the achievements of already-famous females — and those of women whose important contributions have been overlooked because of inequality.

Step into *It's Amazing*, a maze of bright glass panels that preserves images from the past and present, like Wonder Woman dolls and Cathy cartoons. Check out *Time Capsules*, a case that displays an opened time capsule from 1900 and one that was created a century later. Walk into the giant jukebox that sits in the Poetry and Music Listening room and hear the voices of some great female opera, blues and rock artists.

From sculptors to healers to senators, the museum covers all areas of life that have benefited from a woman's touch, retelling history as a more-inclusive "herstory." Which, certainly, is no small feat.

Now if only they could explain to us why girls always go to the bathroom in groups ...

— Susan Yudt



## rooms of their own

Britney's recent NYC loft purchase may have seemed big-time to other 19-year-olds who don't own property, but it's a growing trend among teen pop princesses who are snapping up homes like there's no tomorrow.

Britney can also add a vending machine to her game room (do game rooms fit in NYC lofts?), compliments of Pepsi because she signed on as their new spokesperson.

Some other homeowners:

Jessica Simpson owns a four-bedroom, Mediterranean-style home in Calabas, California.

Christina Aguilera owns an apartment on Manhattan's Upper West side.