



Thursday,
March 16, 2006

clique

NEWSSTAND

Finally 15

By KIM OSSI
Knight Ridder News Service

More and more girls are celebrating their 15th birthday with a quinceanera, the Hispanic tradition associated with a young woman's emergence into adulthood. These can be as glitzy as the fanciest bat mitzvah and as pricey as a wedding.

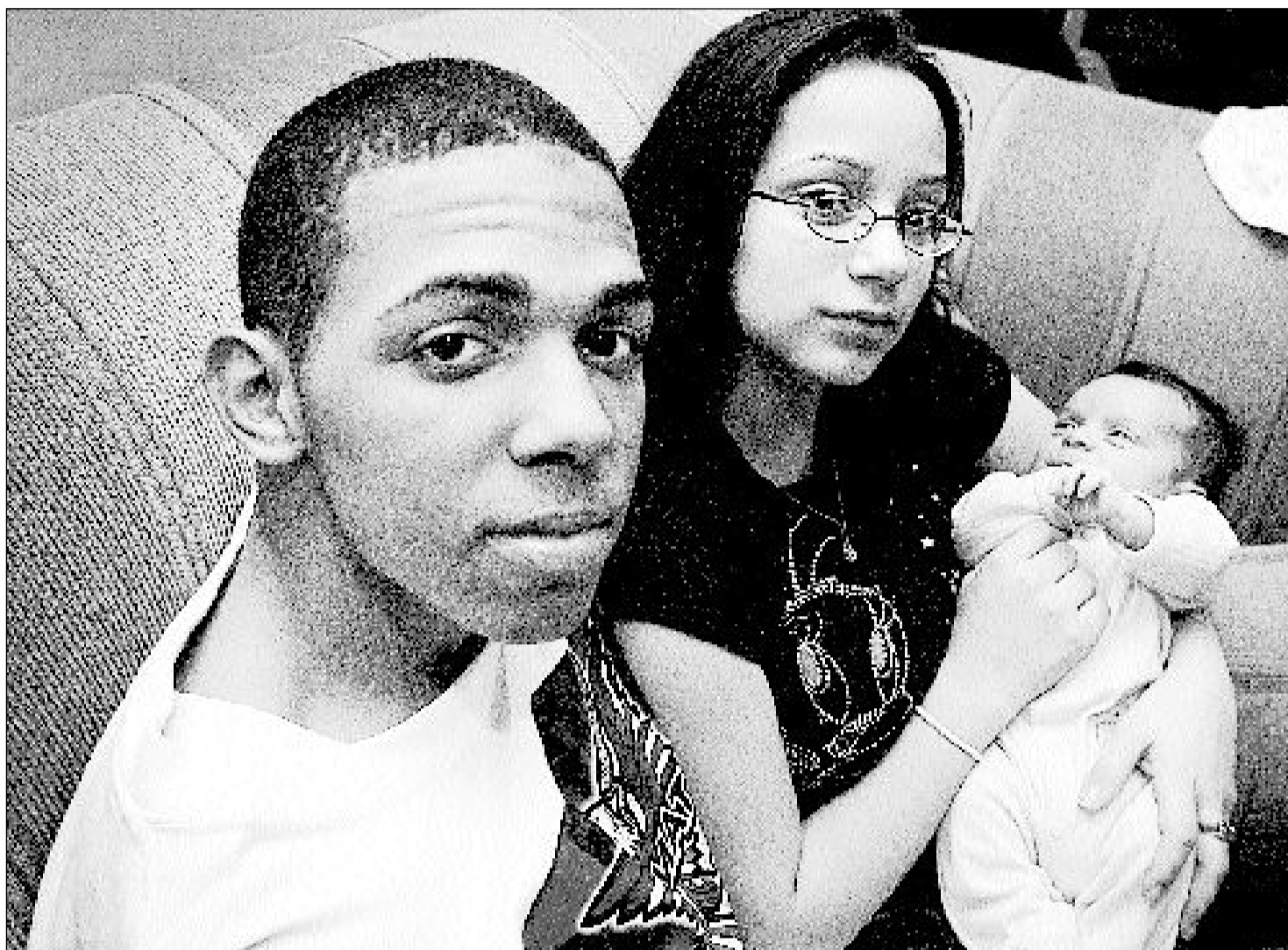
Quince Girl, a new magazine devoted to planning the perfect quinceanera, debuts this March at newsstands in major Hispanic markets. This year it's an annual mag, so if you want a copy, you should grab one (at \$5.99 it's probably the least-expensive thing you'll buy for your quince anyway).

The magazine thoughtfully rates each gown, accessory or anything else you could possibly think of to buy for the big event with a price legend, rather than putting an actual price in the magazine. That way you won't give your parents a heart attack when you see a gown is rated "\$\$\$\$" (priced anywhere from \$1,001 to \$3,000). The price scale goes from a reasonable \$100 and under (\$) to a splurge of \$5,001 and over (\$\$\$\$\$). We also appreciate that the models look like real teens.

The premier issue includes items such as an overview of traditions that you can incorporate into your event, beauty secrets of the stars, fashionable best bets (and where to find them), plus a wide array of quince gowns, where to buy them and what price range they fall into. We like that their "Q Planning List" is in both English and Spanish. And in case you buy the magazine mostly to dream, there's a special feature on how to throw a quince on three different budgets.



FROM CHILDHOOD



LESLIE BARBARO/Herald News

Seventeen-year-old Frangy Sierra and Jasmine Ortiz, 16, of Passaic are the parents of 1-month-old Jayden Sierra.

TO FATHERHOOD

By HANNAH JANOOWALLA
Herald News Teen Correspondent

The media and high school health classes are always bombarding teenagers with statistics and studies on teenage pregnancy. For example, according to The Population Resource Center (prcdc.org), each year, almost 1 million teenage American women — 10 percent of all women ages 15 to 19, and 19 percent of those who have had sexual intercourse — become pregnant. But as these very statistics demonstrate, this method of educating young women and men about the consequences of having sexual intercourse does not keep many of them from continuing down the same path of sex and pregnancy.

Many misconceptions remain about teenage parenthood and the people who experience it, both males and females. What statistics lack is the emotional side of having a baby and the actual feelings associated with it; if the goal of educators and other adults is to reduce teenage pregnancy, it seems it may be important that teenagers be exposed to that sort of information. Most often discussions about teen pregnancy are directed toward girls and focus on the struggles and trials confronting teenage mothers. But here, Frangy Sierra, a 17-year-old senior at Passaic High School and new father, talks about his experience:

Q: What is the strongest overall feel-

"This is going to be very hard for me, and I really want to make sure that I complete those goals that I had set for myself before he got here, so I can make a better life not just for him, but for myself as well."

FRANGY SIERRA,
Passaic High School senior and new father

ing you have right now? Are you scared, excited, just a little anxious, or all of the above?

(Laughs) All of the above.

Q: When was the baby born? And what's his name?

2:55 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital on the 7th of February. His name is Jayden Nathaniel Sierra.

Q: How did the different people in your life react to the news when they found out?

They were shocked, because that's not

something they expected of me. So many people have high expectations of me, and this was something that they said they thought was out of character. It was something they didn't expect I would do.

Q: What are some of the things you're looking forward to, and what are some of the things you don't want to face at all?

Well, right now I'm looking forward to finishing high school, going to college, and just being a good role model for my son. This is going to be very hard for me, and I really want to make sure that I complete those goals that I had set for myself before he got here, so I can make a better life not just for him, but for myself as well.

Q: Do you regret what you did, and if you had the chance, would you go back and change it?

Now that he's here, I don't regret it because I love my son, but before he was born, I did regret it. It's my senior year, and everything would just have been a lot easier if my girlfriend had chosen her other options, like abortion or adoption. But now I'm glad she kept the baby because I really love my son.

Q: How are you planning to support your girlfriend and your son, both financially and emotionally?

Please see FATHER, E10

WEB



Choose your cape

If you were a superhero, what would you look like? Would you wear a mask like Spider-Man or don a cape like Batman? Would you wear your trousers over your tights like Superman? Would you even look human? Decisions, decisions!

If you've ever dreamed of having an alter ego but lacked the drawing skills to bring your ideas to life, HeroMachine (<http://www.heromachine.com>) is here to save the day!

HeroMachine is a Flash-based program that lets you mix-and-match body parts to help you generate the hero of your dreams — no illustration skills required. You start by selecting the body type of your future champion. The template you are then provided is a literal blank canvas; you choose everything from the skin color to the nose type, not to mention the various costume combinations.

As simple as the program is, it can be quite addicting. There are so many options you can choose from to customize your creation, you may find yourself fiddling around for quite a while.

HeroMachine 1.1 is available as a free download, while version 2.0 costs \$19.95 to purchase (the site offers a link to a free preview of HeroMachine 2.0 to play around with). While version 2.0 has more features, version 1.1 is pretty fun, too.

HeroMachine will help you release your inner hero, no matter what form he or she may take. — Eric Goodwin

BODY

Soft salvation

There's nothing like a long, hot bath to help you relax and recharge. But prolonged exposure can actually hurt your skin. Go. Water can wash away your natural defenses for holding in moisture. That's why if you wash your hands a lot (as you should during cold season) you sometimes end up with cracked knuckles — ouch!



Well, bath- and shower-time relief has arrived in the form of Olay Ribbons Body Wash. This new body wash actually has a patent for its dual-stream "ribbon" technology that helps skin retain its moisture.

The body wash comes in three formulas: Aloe Extract, with 20 percent moisturizers; Almond Oil, with 30 percent moisturizers; and Jojoba Butter, with 50 (!) percent moisturizers. Find Olay (\$3.99 for 10 ounces; \$5.99 for 18 ounces) at drug and retail stores nationwide.

— Kim Ossi

hall monitor

KEEPING TABS ON WHAT LOCAL TEENS ARE THINKING, WATCHING & DOING

MARCH 16, 2006	Barry Bonds should ...	Last thing you bought	Where do you get your news?	Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend?	Favorite subject in school
Jimmy Sanchez, 17, Passaic	Stop using steroids.	Probably food ... pizza.	Z100 ... I listen to it everyday.	No.	Math or science
Bianca Dias, 17, Passaic	He should get better ... stupid steroid guy.	Uhh ... yarn for my rug.	Herald News and TV	Eh ... no I don't.	I would have to say precalculus, but I suck at it.
Michael Cruz, 17, Passaic	STOP USING STEROIDS and stay healthy to stop disappointing fans.	Food	Newspaper and the Weather Channel	Yes, one love, Diana.	Math and science
Eric Aguilar, 18, Passaic	Retire.	A shirt that cost me \$30	Pretty much TV	A significant other ... somewhat.	The best one, I think, has got to be Naval Science. ... Oh yeah, and study hall.

Photos by HANNAH JANOOWALLA/Special to the Herald News (teens); The Associated Press (Bonds)