## Holy hip hop makes play for ears and souls of young

## By Victoria Elmore THE CHARLOTTE POST

Teens are embracing a new renre of clean rap with posi-

tive messages. Holy Chost Explosion, an event for teenagers, was held last week at Emanuel Church of All Nations on South Pond Boulevard. Christian rap artists such as Tawana Ross, who was host of the event and producer Crucial, among other artist performed in front of many young people who showed up to have a good time. Holy hip hop, better known as Christian rap or gospel rap, has been around since the early 1990s. It is a form of hip hop that is centered around Christian themes and faith. Many Christian rap artists convey lyrics about their past experiences prior to becoming a Christian, to let young people know that God brough them out Other artists rap about their life as Christians. In the end, the messages are all positive and the Lyrics lift up the artists' faith. Michael Stanfield, the co-leader of the Youth Ministry at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and team leader for Holy Culture Ministry, has a positive outlook on holy hip hop He feels anyone is wel-

come to listen the music and

come to lister the music and attend the events. "A church member could bring you to a holy hip hop event. At the end of the event, they ask you if you are saved," Stanfield said He stressed that the pur-pose of the question is not to be saved in a warm manner: "It's not about pressuring teens, but simply sharing the Gospel in another way. It's very inspiring." Then a learn a lot about music and themselves at holy hip hop events. Stanfield said that young people who concerts learn how to appreci-ate a different genre of music other than secular rap music "Thens will have the ability to continue to love the music because it is music with a purpose," he said. Stanfield started a founda-tion called Words of Wisdom and he bases the principles on a basic formula: "First the hydics," Stanfield said. "If what they learn, hear, and repeat is based on scripture, how can we gowrong?"

A system of the sense of the se

## Mary Mary share life experiences

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Continued from page 5B times try to get in the way, but we want to always do what is pleasing to Him, 'Drice said. "Mary Mary' is an album about life experiences and the messages that come out of they said that there are mes-sages of hope, faith, peace, and joy in words. "God's sovereignty is the message of our album. Don' toy this so don't get caught our tyrice, so don't get caught up in the music." That and Erica are dedicat-for their carcers but they fake on a daily task that they ramider more important family time. "We spend time with our children and hus-bave to work hard at what you do," Erica said. "Family

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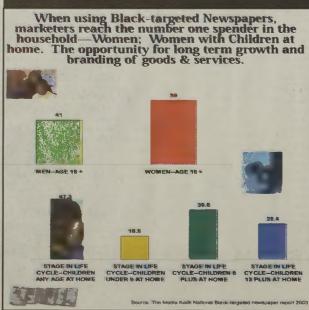
## Gay activists arrested at Va. college

Continued from page 7B permitted on campus, saying he would not allow his school to be used for a media event ed at raising mor y for

gay rights. "Neither will we permit them to espotse opinions or otherwise suggest beliefs or lifestyles that are in opposi-

tion to the morals and values that this institution pro-motes," he said in a state-ment issued earlier.

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young people the opport to create their own culture," Stanfield said. Every holy hip hop event begins with a warm welcome. "Every event opens with standing praise and worship. Then the artists come and perform their hip hop beat," Stanfield said. "All lyrics are based on scripture."



With hip or knee pain, even a flight of stairs needs conquering.

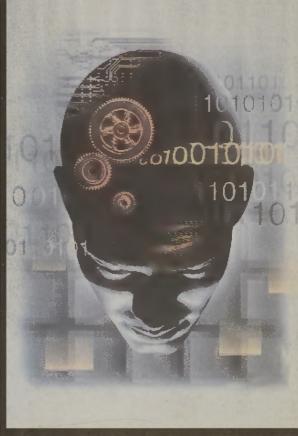
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