

Cierra Moore, 8th grader at Oyer School in Lower Price Hill



J. J. Stamp, fifth grader at Mason Intermediate

# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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FN 50 CENTS

## Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer



### Points leader Johnson wins the Brickyard

Jimmie Johnson won the Brickyard on Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Five of the race's past eight winners have gone on to win the season championship. **SPORTS C1, C8**

### Reds lose; Braves avoid sweep

The Reds' 6-4 loss against the Braves prevented a three-game sweep. **SPORTS C1**

### Women take over Playhouse stage

A one-woman show and a "light-hearted charmer" are coming to the Playhouse in the Park's Shelterhouse stage next year. **LIFE D1**

### BlackBerries beat out baubles

Women preferred gadgets like a little white iPod over garb like a little black dress, a new survey on purchasing reports. **BUSINESS A8**

### Also...

A 15-year-old girl died after being shot at an apartment in West Price Hill. **LOCAL B1**

Provisions in pension bill exempt specific firms, including Delta. **NATION & WORLD A2**

## COMING TUESDAY

Next batter up in Pro Style is Edwin Encarnacion. Learn what the infielder prefers when he's not wearing a glove and his No. 12 jersey. **LIFE**

## WEATHER

High 90°  
Low 68°  
A thunderstorm

COMPLETE FORECAST: B8

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# Rising violence strikes a family hard

By Dan Horn  
Enquirer staff writer

Father, two sons victimized separately doing business

Bob Mlinar winces in pain as he slumps into a chair at his Northside convenience store. He points to his bandaged right leg and explains how a bullet from a mugger's gun two weeks ago nearly hit an artery, which could have killed him in minutes.

"If he'd got me there," Mlinar says, "I wouldn't be sitting here right now."

Some people have told Mlinar he's lucky to be alive, but "lucky" isn't a word he uses much these days.

Mlinar is the third member of his immediate family to fall

victim to gun violence in the past eight years.

His youngest son, Jeff, was shot in 1998 while working at the family's other store in Bond Hill. His oldest son, Rich, was robbed and pistol-whipped last year while delivering a pizza in Golf Manor.

Police and prosecutors say it's rare for one family to be hit so hard by gun crimes, but they aren't shocked. The Mlinars have been swept up in a rising tide of gun violence that leaves hundreds dead or wounded each year.

University Hospital treated 286 gunshot victims last year — more than four times as much as in 2000, when there were 67. Homicides in Cincinnati also are on the rise, climbing from 66 in



Bob Mlinar

2004 to 79 last year. This year's total of 52 homicides is well ahead of last year's pace.

"The use of a firearm in felony offenses is common," says Cincinnati police spokesman Tom Lanter. "And it's becoming more and more common."

See **VIOLENCE**, Page **A6**

## TODAY IN LIFE/SECTION D



Photos by Cara Owsley/The Enquirer

Since the death of her daughter, Carolyn Willis (second from left) has been raising her grandchildren, (left to right) Miykael, 9, Iel, 14, Hannah, 6, Keilah, 16, Zion, 11, and Asia Freeman, 15 (not shown: Yahshua, 12). The whole family has been helped by support groups at Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children, which is observing its 20th anniversary.

# A PLACE to FACE LOSS

Fernside helps grieving kids express pain — and cope

When 35-year-old Tonyah Harrison died from breast cancer, Carolyn Willis lost her daughter and seven children lost their mother. In January, the Forest Park family began attending support groups at Blue Ash-based Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children.

"Fernside has helped all of us. Everybody there knows your pain," says Willis, 58, who has custody of her grandchildren, ages 6 to 16.

Thousands of others have found comfort through Fernside, which this year is observing its 20th anniversary. Today there are an estimated 300 children's grief support programs nationwide.

Rachel Burrell founded Fernside after the death of her son David, the oldest of her four children. He was 27 when hit by a car while riding his bike home from the University of Cincinnati. Burrell, who retired from the center several years ago, discovered that grieving parents don't



Fernside facilitator Beverly Wolfgang (right) tries to get Zion Freeman to talk at a group session about the feelings she has about the death of her mother from cancer.

have the emotional energy to help their other children.

Fernside's philosophy: Children, with guidance from trained volunteers, can help each other by sharing their stories.

"You can gain power over a scary experience if you can express it. We give them that place to express it," says executive director Vicky Ott. The ways they ex-

press it include art projects, music, writing, puppetry, games and activity.

The center, with a \$450,000 budget, relies on donations and grants to provide services free. Five years ago, Fernside merged with Hospice of Cincinnati. Most support groups meet in Blue Ash, but several satellite locations exist.

— John Johnston

### Cart risk

More than 24,000 children in the U.S. were treated for shopping cart-related injuries last year. **A3**

Of the injuries, 39 percent occurred at home, 18 percent occurred playing organized sports, 16 percent were at school but not organized sports, and 4 percent involved car or motorcycle accidents.

The rest reflected more than a dozen other places, including visiting relatives, going on vacation and playing outside.

Experts could not explain why local rates are so high. But the data could help public health officials and community leaders reduce childhood injuries, said Ed Donovan, a neonatologist and director of the Child Policy Research Center at Children's.

See **INJURIES**, Page **A6**

### Two dead from Cincinnati

## Head-on collision kills three, injures five

Two Cincinnatians and a Northern Kentucky man were killed early Sunday in a head-on crash on Dixie Highway in Walton. Five others were hospitalized.

Deputies said a Camry with six occupants crossed the line and hit a Cadillac. Both drivers and the Cadillac passenger died.

**LOCAL B1**

# Raunchy songs, early sex go together

By Lindsey Tanner  
The Associated Press

What's on that iPod? Study links lyrics, behavior

CHICAGO — Teens whose iPods are full of music with raunchy, sexual lyrics start having sex sooner than those who prefer other songs, a study found.

Whether it's pop, hip-hop, rap or rock, much of popular music aimed at teens contains sexual overtones. Its influence appears to depend on how the sex is portrayed, researchers found.

Songs depicting men as "sex-driven studs," women as sex objects and with explicit

references to sex acts are more likely to trigger early sexual behavior than those where sexual references are more veiled and relationships appear more committed, the study found.

Exposure to lots of sexually degrading music "gives them a specific message about sex," said lead author Steven Martino, a researcher for Rand Corp. in Pittsburgh.

Boys learn they should be relentless in pursuit of women and girls learn to view them-

selves as sex objects, he said.

The study, based on phone interviews with 1,461 participants aged 12 to 17, appears in the August issue of Pediatrics, being released today.

Most participants were virgins when first questioned in 2001. Follow-ups were done in 2002 and 2004.

Martino said the researchers tried to account for other factors that could affect teens' sexual behavior, including parental permissiveness, and still found explicit

lyrics had a strong influence.

However, Yvonne K. Fulbright, a New York-based sex researcher and author, said peer pressure, self-esteem and home environment are probably more influential.

"It's a little dangerous to just pinpoint one thing. You have to look at everything that's going on in a young person's life," she said. "When somebody has a healthy sense of themselves, they don't take these lyrics too seriously."



The Associated Press/Baz Ratner

### Rocket attacks hit Haifa

An Israeli Arab woman is rescued from the rubble at the site of a Hezbollah rocket attack Sunday in Haifa. Fifteen Israelis were killed by rocket attacks, and Israeli attacks killed 14 in Lebanon. **World, A7**

Local educator returns from battered Haifa. **Local, B1**

EVERY DAY WE TRY TO PRINT SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT CAN ACTUALLY AGREE ON.

