

HEADLINERS

2001

HEADLINERS

"The hardest book I've ever written"

Children's author Verna Wilkins explains how she came to write about teenager Stephen Lawrence, murdered by racist youths in 1993.

HEADLINERS

"We would use words not guns"

'Talk of War against Afghanistan is just adults getting angry' say teenagers in Northern Ireland. 'Why can't adults think things through?'

HEADLINERS

A Brit future?

Citizenship will become a compulsory part of the National Curriculum next year (2002), but pupils and teachers remain equally unsure about how the subject is to be taught. Children's Express reports on the issues from a national conference on being British.

HEADLINERS

A chance in oblivion

Turning up and studying brings rich rewards to children at one Northern Ireland after-school club - like trips to Alton Towers.

HEADLINERS

After the Attacks

Children reflect on how the attack of the World Trade Centre, and the events that have followed, have changed their view of the world.

HEADLINERS

Aiming for the high life after school

Children's Express meets three young people determined to pursue unexpected careers when they leave school, even if friends or family have their doubts.

HEADLINERS

All mixed-up?

The new National Census allows people to classify themselves as 'mixed race' for the first time. But if your parents are of different races, how do you define your ethnicity?

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children on drinking alcohol

Should parents introduce their children to alcohol at home - or wait until they're old enough to buy it legally for themselves?

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children on embarrassing parents

Parents can be SO embarrassing - but usually because they're not thinking, rather than to deliberately show up their children, say reporters from Children's Express.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children on grandparents

What role do grandparents play in modern family life? They are friends and confidantes far more than fussy old dears, say reporters from Children's Express.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children on studying

It's exam time again - so should parents be on their children's back up studying, or leave them to get on with it?

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children on TV in their bedroom

Does a TV in your bedroom put paid to homework, or does it just mean equal viewing rights for the whole family? Children's Express members discuss.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on career choices

Some kids have parents who will support them no matter what career they choose to chase - but others find themselves steered by their parents' own life choices and opinions.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on discipline

Young people writing for The Times express very different views on whether smacking is an effective parenting tool.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on drugs education

Agony aunts are to give guidelines to parents on how to advise children about drugs - so what advice would children listen to?

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on family breakdown

When parents split up it can cause children enormous distress and confusion. But some young people admit it would be even worse if rowing parents stayed together for their sake.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on fathers

Children discuss the very different roles their fathers play in their lives.

HEADLINERS

Answer Back: Children's views on healthy food

Young people writing for The Times say bad diets and eating disorders come down to bad, or absent, parenting.



Answer Back: Children's views on marriage

For many children, marriage is just an outdated excuse for a party. But some still see it as an important demonstration of commitment.



Answer Back: Children's views on pocket money

Children everywhere get pocket money - but how much should it be and what should children have to pay for themselves?



Answer Back: Children's views on underachieving boys

Boys say they are falling behind girls at school because it's not cool or macho to study. So should teachers be making more of an effort to reach them, or is it just time for boys to pull their socks up?



Answer Back: Children's views on working mums

Should mothers be paid to stay at home, or be out working? Young people writing for The Times discuss their different opinions.



Answer the question - an ethnic minority PM

With the general election on the horizon, young people ask whether Britain could ever have a black or Asian Prime Minister.



Answer the question - books

Computers and TV haven't yet made reading a thing of the past, say teenagers.



Answer the question - Britney Spears

Her latest video has been slammed for being too sexy for her young audience. We ask: Britney Spears: Barbie doll or serious artist?



Answer the question - Fame

Stage schools are more popular than ever, but Children's Express reporters fear young people are being falsely beguiled by dreams of fame.



Answer the question - footballers

Children's Express reporters are open-mouthed at the amounts professional footballers get paid.



Answer the question - marriage

The true meaning of marriage has been lost - perhaps it was always in doubt, say young reporters from Children's Express.



Answer the question - popstars

In a world where apparently tone-deaf singers make obscene amounts of money, Children's Express pundits answer the question: Do you need talent to be a popstar?



Answer the question - 'Relaxing' Afro hair

Is the latest vogue for straightening hair a sign that people are uncomfortable with being black?



Answer the question - stereotyped Africans

Nigerians are loud and study-mad, Ethiopians are needy - and the rest of us need to stop thinking in stereotypes.



Answer the question - teenage sex

Recently another 13-year-old girl became pregnant - at what age do young people think it's okay to have sex?



Answer the question - the Eminem doll

Not content with causing controversy in the flesh, the new Eminem doll has him wielding a chainsaw. But Children's Express members are divided about whether toy shops should ban it.



Answer the question: Christmas

Presents will be traded, and a great deal of money will be spent, but for most of the Children's Express panel, the holiday is a non-religious event.



Answer the question: exercise

Young people aren't getting enough exercise, but don't blame them - schools and parents should be doing more, say Children's Express members.



Answer the question: Football

Can England win the World Cup? Kids have certainly got their fingers crossed...



Answer the question: Harry Potter - hype or hero?

It's hard to find children who don't like the schoolboy wizard - but isn't all the fuss getting a bit much?



Answer the question: School holidays

Young people all agree that summer holidays should be loooooong - if only there was more to do!



Answer the question: terrorism

Teenagers argue for charity and diplomacy rather than war-mongering in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th.



Answer the question: the royal family

Overpaid, corrupt and un-necessary: young people don't think much of the British monarchy.

HEADLINERS [Arson attack leaves questions](#)
An eleven-year-old reporter reflects on how his view of the world has changed since arsonists set fire to his school.

HEADLINERS [Assembly plans to get children involved in politics](#)
Norway has set the example for representing children's views at the highest level - now Northern Ireland looks set to follow their example.

HEADLINERS [At School on Saturday - No Way](#)
St Mary's College in Derry won a lottery grant to open six days a week - and it was the pupils' idea!

HEADLINERS [Bags of burden in getting an education](#)
Ashley's schoolbag weighs 14 pounds. Nafeesa carries 22 pounds - a quarter of her body weight. Just how heavy a burden is school supposed to be?

HEADLINERS [Barnes is on the ball](#)
The down-to-earth ex-footballer John Barnes charms young people with positive messages about race and identity.

HEADLINERS [Belfast Festival reviewed - part 2](#)
Children's Express reporters return to the Belfast Festival to review 'Hymns', 'Convictions' and 'Daaali'.

HEADLINERS [Beyond the pale](#)
Destiny's Child lead singer Beyonce's hair gets blonder with every hit - what kind of a role model is she for black teenagers?

HEADLINERS [Blood and Vikings](#)
A Children's Express reporter reviews two very different novels for young people.

HEADLINERS [Blood thicker than water?](#)
Thousands of children in Britain live in foster families. But what impact does that have on the birth children of the family, who have to share their parents with strangers?

HEADLINERS [Book Review: The Life of Stephen Lawrence](#)
Della Hicks-Wilson reviews Verna Wilkins' book on the life and murder of Stephen Lawrence.

HEADLINERS [Call for proof-of-age cards](#)
Young investigators name and shame the Belfast stores who flout the law by selling fireworks to under 16s.

HEADLINERS [Cartoon Madness](#)
Young reviewers defy received wisdom when they find an afternoon of classic cartoons to be violent, predictable and unfunny.

HEADLINERS [Charl du Plessis: a tale of true courage](#)
The 14 year-old from Soweto who won't let a little thing like Spina Bifida stop him from coming to Britain to try to save his school.

HEADLINERS ['Chatrooms are great - except for the liars'](#)
Internet chatrooms are an easy way for paedophiles to get online access to children. But education, not restriction, is the key to keeping young people safe, argue journalists from Children's Express.

HEADLINERS [Child runaways 'flee from unhappy homes'](#)
Three teenage runaways tell Children's Express what they learned from living on the streets.

HEADLINERS [Children Leaving Care: law at last](#)
Finally local authorities are legally obliged to provide support to children leaving care. It's a major step forward - so why don't more 'looked after' children know about it?

HEADLINERS [Children's Express - Why we love it](#)
Children's Express' Belfast bureau is so popular that members queue up to get in on a Saturday morning.

HEADLINERS [Children's films are just a bore](#)
A Children's Express survey of 10 and 11-year-olds reveals that almost all have watched 12, 15 or 18 certificate videos, usually with their parents' help.

HEADLINERS [Chinese clubbing](#)
Lottery money is helping Chinese children in Northern Ireland learn vital language skills.

HEADLINERS [Chips all round](#)
The farm at the centre of the foot and mouth outbreak had fed its pigs left over school dinners. Children's Express members wonder whether their school dinners are also fit only for pigs?

HEADLINERS [Cosmetic changes](#)
The cosmetics business is a multi-million pound industry. Now a Sheffield businesswoman has spotted a gap in the market. Children as young as seven can book into Pure Health & Beauty for a Little Miss Makeover. But young reporters from Children's Express aren't so sure that's a good idea.



Decky does a Bronco

Adult actors portray the lives of children in the middle of a real children's playground, to charming effect.



Delights through back of a wardrobe

Two young reviewers report themselves 'totally hooked' by a stage production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.



Do not try this at home - or at school

Playground wrestling copycats are a danger to themselves and each other - but should the sport be wiped off our TV screens?



Domestic violence video launched

Children and young people from Northern Ireland who face violence at home are finally starting to get some recognition and support.



'Don't call me Mrs Mandela!'

In an exclusive interview, a team of Children's Express journalists find Graca Michel to be commanding but warm-hearted.



Drawing the Blinds

Tower blocks become art in a fantastic testimony to community creativity - even if it's all over the heads of smaller children.



Dream On

A cast of children brings Shakespeare to life in a new film version of a Midsummer Night's Dream, reviewed by Children's Express.



Eminem - is he a poet or a bigot?

Just what does Slim Shady's target audience really think of him - and do any of music's stars really influence young people?



Ever-decreasing stars

The fluctuating weights of celebrities are constant tabloid newspaper fodder - but what does the battle for a finer figure say to their young, female fans?



Face to face

Young reporters in care, or leaving it, press party politicians on their policies for looking after young people.



Fishmonger flexing his Euro mussels

As Europe starts using its new currency, three young reporters get unexpected results when they try to buy things with Euros in London.



Focus on Foyleview

New Opportunities funding is dramatically extending the curriculum to pupils at one of Northern Ireland's Special schools.



Food for thought

The Schools Standards Minister, Jacqui Smith, gets a grilling over the government's new policy on school meals.



From bad to worse

Teachers and pupils alike are calling for clearer guidelines and better training for teachers on how to handle violent or disruptive behaviour at school.



Fun lovin' activists get serious

Children's Express reports from a conference on youth activism on young people's growing demands for increased political and social rights.



Future Voters: Crime

For their Sky News election series, Children's Express reporters visit the spot where ten-year-old Damilola Taylor died, and challenge the party leaders on crime policies.



Future Voters: Global Warming

For their Sky News election series, Children's Express reporters visit flood-stricken Yalding, and ask the would-be Prime Ministers how they would fight the menace of climate change.



Future Voters: The Internet

For their Sky News election series, Children's Express reporters, meet the teenaged girl whose chatroom boyfriend turned out to be a man in his forties - and press the party leaders on making the Internet safer for children.



Gadgets and Gizmos

Children's Express members reviews W5, Belfast's newest interactive playground.



Ghost in the Shell

A heavy-going, complicated plot doesn't make this Japanese animation any less mind-blowing.



Ghosts and Legends

Children's Express reporters review two more novels for young people.



Giving children a say in the policies that affect their lives

HEADLINERS [A 14-year-old activist finds himself surrounded by adults at a UN conference on children's rights in Geneva.](#)

HEADLINERS [Greatest moments in Science at W5](#)
Cartoons and mad experiments bring science to life at the Cinemagic World Screen Festival in Belfast.

HEADLINERS [Hard work and guts message to young](#)
At a conference on tackling racism, young journalists find guest speaker and former soccer star John Barnes a breath of realistic fresh air.

HEADLINERS [Harry's Magic Casts a Spell](#)
Teen reviewers love Harry on film - but still think the books are better.

HEADLINERS [Has Lil' Kim gone beyond the pale?](#)
Hip-hop diva Lil' Kim's skin seems to be getting lighter by the day. Her fans aren't sure they like the new look.

HEADLINERS [Healthy Debate](#)
The UK Youth Parliament is making a stand for young people's voices - and learning about politics the hard way.

HEADLINERS [HIV children 'forced to lead double lives'](#)
The ignorance and stigma associated with HIV and Aids has a huge impact on children - as two young people who live with the disease tell Children's Express.

HEADLINERS [Hobbit wows young audience with magic and mystery](#)
Young reviewers discuss a stage version of JRR Tolkien's fantasy adventure 'The Hobbit'.

HEADLINERS [Holy Cross - ask the children](#)
In an open letter to both sides of the dispute outside Belfast's Holy Cross primary school, Children's Express reporters call for the children's rights to be put first.

HEADLINERS [I have to take care of Mum](#)
One of the country's hidden army of young carers explains how he manages to juggle school, friends, and looking after a his disabled mother.

HEADLINERS [I just want to get on with my life](#)
Michael doesn't want much - just the chance to go to school in north Belfast without people stoning the bus he's in or hurling abuse.

HEADLINERS [I was a Rat - review](#)
Young reviewers find plenty to enjoy in the BBC's Sunday tea-time serial for 2001, 'I was a rat'.

HEADLINERS [If you don't feel pretty, you damn well best be thin...](#)
Young reporters expose the true cost of being anorexic, and ask why more and more young people are nonetheless falling prey to eating disorders.

HEADLINERS [If you don't feel pretty... What the teenagers say](#)
Young people discuss why they think more and more children are falling prey to eating disorders.

HEADLINERS [Integrated is a step forward](#)
Exactly twenty years after the foundation of the first integrated school in Northern Ireland, cross-community education appears more widely supported than ever.

HEADLINERS [Irish shorts - not a pile of pants](#)
A team of young reviewers cast their eye over a series of short films at the Cinemagic film festival.

HEADLINERS [Is sport cool for kids?](#)
The Prime Minister wants more children involved in sport - so what do children and their sporting idols think can be done to help?

HEADLINERS [Is that all folks?](#)
Bugs bunny had more than a few racist moments in his early years - but do today's cartoons really fare that much better?

HEADLINERS [It runs rings round Harry!](#)
Sorry Hogwarts - Middle Earth is where the action is, according to CE's young reviewers.

HEADLINERS [It's not all hot air](#)
Young people love Belfast's new paper sculpture - but wish more people knew about it.

HEADLINERS [It's spellbinding!](#)
The Harry Potter film may not be quite perfect - but these four reviewers can't wait to see it again.

HEADLINERS [Junior Jury: body decoration](#)
Young people give their verdict on when, and what, children should be able to do to decorate their bodies.



Junior Jury: bullies

Young people share their experiences on what makes a bully, and how to deal with them.



Junior Jury: chatrooms

Young people offer their verdict on the benefits and dangers of Internet chatrooms.



Junior Jury: children's commissioner

Children don't feel their voices are heard by government. Do young people think a children's commissioner would make a difference?



Junior Jury: children's rights

With child rights day approaching Children's Express asked young people their views on what rights are important to them.



Junior Jury: curfews

Children and teenagers give their verdict on the government's plans for youth curfews.



Junior Jury: designer labels

Young people from Newcastle give their verdict on clothes shopping.



Junior Jury: drugs education

Children and teenagers offer their verdict on what children should know about drugs - and who should teach them.



Junior Jury: family break-ups

Young people discuss what happens to children when their parents part company.



Junior Jury: friendship

What makes a good friend? children's Express reporters ask young people about the friends who stick by them.



Junior Jury: homelessness

More should be done to protect children and teenagers from homelessness, young people tell Children's Express.



Junior Jury: my first day back

Children's Express members talk about their first day back at school after the long summer holiday.



Junior Jury: nicotine patches

Smokers as young as twelve are to be offered nicotine patches to help them quite - young people aren't all sure that's the best solution.



Junior Jury: school dinners

Mass catering in Newcastle upon Tyne get a resounding thumbs up from this week's jurists.



Junior Jury: school uniforms

Young people pass sentence on school uniforms: all right in principle, but often disgusting in practice.



Junior Jury: September 11th

Children from Newcastle discuss how the events of September 11th have changed their view of the world.



Junior Jury: slimming

Teenage girls discuss the pressure they feel under to be thin.



Junior Jury: smacking

This week's jurists discuss whether it can ever be right for an adult to strike a child.



Junior Jury: teachers

Do teachers treat their students fairly? Do they punish them too much? Children's Express reporters find out what young people really think.



Junior Jury: the facts of life

Young people give their verdict on what, when and how children should learn about sex.



Kids love the magical love saga of Nicole and Ewan

Young reviewers rave about Baz Luhrmann's glitzy love story, Moulin Rouge.



Les Ballets Trockadero Monte Carlo

Two young reviewers find plenty to enjoy in the performance of this all-male dance troupe.



Listen up!

A Children's Express member looks forward to the United Nations Special Session on young people, where teenagers will rub shoulders with world leaders.



Lofty task ahead for Gary

A Children's Express editor prepares for the trip of a lifetime - sailing a tall ship 1000 miles from Newcastle to Portsmouth.



Look through a lens to a bigger and brighter future

Children's Express reporters meet world-class photo-journalists Sophie Evans.



Love your body!

Jenna Franklin wants breast implants for her 16th birthday. Has it really come to this?



Message comes better from young people

At a debate for young people on drugs awareness, four Children's Express reporters conclude that recovering young addicts make the best teachers.



Money: it's Child's Play

The pound in your pocket doesn't go far these days - even when you're 11. Young people discuss spending - and acquiring - cash.



Moving up a grade

It happens to most children in the UK at 11 - but the move from primary to secondary school can still be a daunting moment.



Musical and visual feast appeals to the young

Young reviewers get the lowdown on the treats on offer at the 2001 Belfast Festival at Queen's, from its director.



My mum says not to worry when I think I'm too skinny

School teachers say they know more and more children so unhappy with their looks they want cosmetic surgery. That's really not appropriate, say members of Children's Express.



Nerve storm - electric impact

A team of arts reviewers from Belfast are spellbound by a young people's dance and drama company.



Neutrino - Unlimited theatre

Human relationships go under the scientific microscope in a funny - but sometimes confusing - piece of theatre.



New laws could mean more protection

New legislation in Northern Ireland could finally be bringing the rights of homosexuals more into line with the majority - but will it change their lives?



New magazine to help abused youths

Young reviewers give a very cautious welcome to the NSPCC's child-friendly guide to avoiding sexual abuse.



News hounds

Two Children's Express members explain what they spend so much of their spare time being young journalists.



No Place Like Home

A new play portrays families in chaos and conflict as they are intimidated out of their homes.



Not so happy Christmas

Family upsets or the loss of a friend can be especially hard to handle at this 'merry' time of year.



Nought to declare

Best-selling Children's author Malorie Blackman has another hit on her hands with 'Noughts and Crosses'. Not bad for a writer who was once told 'black people don't get published in Britain.'



Ocean Colours Seen

World Ocean Day goes off with a splash at the Portrush Countryside Centre in Northern Ireland.



One of the lucky ones

72-year-old Freddie Ingram tells Children's Express how, in 1938, he and his family fled Nazi Germany to escape the impending Holocaust.



One year on

One year on from September 11, Belfast reporter Orlaith Graham Wood says the United States is using mourning as an excuse for further bloodshed.



Opinion: should parents choose your friends?

Parents control enough of their offsprings' lives without interfering in their social life too - let us learn from our own mistakes argue reporters from Children's Express.



Opinions - Negative rap lyrics

Performer Missy Elliott calls herself a 'crazy ho', but girls worry that negative rap lyrics about women influence the way young men perceive them.



Opinions - trendy parents

HEADLINERS Victoria and David Beckham have been called Britain's most fashionable parents but should parents try to be trendy?

HEADLINERS **Opinions - youth curfews**
Young people consider the government's plans to introduce curfews for under 16s.

HEADLINERS **Opinions: Girl Power**
'Girl Power Day' celebrates the launch of the Spice Girls' first single - but has it ever really meant anything?

HEADLINERS **Paranoid Household**
Twenty minutes is all it takes for this play to show paranoid two housemates can become given half the chance.

HEADLINERS **Pupils welcome end of 11-plus**
Young journalists from Children's Express in Belfast welcome the new education system proposed by the 11-plus Review Body.

HEADLINERS **Reaching for the Sky**
When Children's Express reporters interviewed leading politicians and leaders from the three main UK political parties, they didn't always get what they expected.

HEADLINERS **Reporting on a knife edge**
It's illegal to sell knives to children - but three young reportera from Belfast still found them alarmingly easy to come by.

HEADLINERS **Ryusei - Shooting Stars**
The young reviewers can't agree what it's about, but all agree that the Japanese theatre company's futuristic production is brilliant!

HEADLINERS **Sad Christmas without my pal**
13-year-old Andrew's looking forward to Christmas - but isn't sure how he'll cope with painful memories of his friend's suicide.

HEADLINERS **Science fact or fiction**
A young reviewer discovers that media truth is sometimes invented.

HEADLINERS **Secrets, secrets**
Three teenagers with personal secrets form the heart of Sue Hines' first novel - a superb read for teenagers says Children's Express reviewer Annabel McLeod.

HEADLINERS **Self-esteem and empowerment**
Children's Express reports from a conference targeted at improving young people's self-worth, and involvement in decision-making.

HEADLINERS **Should we call time on mobiles?**
Most young people own - and love - their own mobile phone, despite fears about health risks and other consequences.

HEADLINERS **Smacking not the answer, say kids**
As the European Court of Justice starts to look more closely at children's rights in the UK, young people discuss 'reasonable chastisement.'

HEADLINERS **Smart kids put Motty and Co. on the spot**
Young reporters put sporting celebrities to the test during Children's Express's first ever fundraising event, The Sporting Lunch.

HEADLINERS **Sonique goes back to school**
The chart-topping DJ explains why her own experiences led her to support a new national homelessness-awareness project.

HEADLINERS **Take the healthy option**
If children are to eat less junk food in school, they need me more incentive than the offer of a salad.

HEADLINERS **Teach Our Young the Risk of Aids**
On World AIDS day, young people admit to having a false sense of security about the disease.

HEADLINERS **Teachers taught a tough lesson**
Young people say their best teachers are outstanding - but their worst can be a nightmare.

HEADLINERS **Teen tyranny image 'so unfair' they argue**
No Kevins and Perrys here thank you - a new survey shows most teenagers see their parents in a positive light!

HEADLINERS **Teenage dads have a right to parenting**
Young fathers in Northern Ireland will soon be legally entitled to increased parenting rights - Children's Express assesses what that might mean.

HEADLINERS **Teens assess city's wheelchair access**
Young wheelchair users can find Belfast an unwelcoming place, as Children's Express reporters discovered when they spent a few hours in one.

HEADLINERS **Terrible images will last forever**

HEADLINERS Teenagers were as shocked as anyone by the destruction of September 11th 2001 - and they are just as apprehensive for the future.

HEADLINERS [The Blair Switch Project](#)

Young democrats hope that a new national Youth Forum set up by a government agency will finally end the 'seen and not heard' culture.

HEADLINERS [The chips are down!](#)

Even the government minister responsible for school standards wouldn't want to eat our sausages. So what is National School Meals going to achieve?

HEADLINERS [The Cinemagic movies](#)

Children's Express reviewers take in the highlights of the 2001 Cinemagic film festival in Belfast.

HEADLINERS [The day America fell](#)

A Belfast bureau reporter offers a personal perspective on the terrorist destruction of New York's World Trade Centre.

HEADLINERS [The Lion's share for Roger](#)

Musical theatre star Roger Wright tells how having a dream, a passion, and a supportive family, put him on the West End stage.

HEADLINERS [The Princess Diarist](#)

Children's Express gets an exclusive interview with the author behind The Princess Diaries.

HEADLINERS [The Theft of Sita](#)

A review of a must-see shadow puppet play.

HEADLINERS [The youth vote - Birmingham](#)

Young people give their verdict on Museums and Galleries month exhibitions across the country targeted at children.

HEADLINERS [The youth vote - London](#)

Young people give their verdict on Museums and Galleries month exhibitions across the country targeted at children.

HEADLINERS [The youth vote - Manchester](#)

Young people give their verdict on Museums and Galleries month exhibitions across the country targeted at children.

HEADLINERS [The youth vote - Sheffield](#)

Young people give their verdict on Museums and Galleries month exhibitions across the country targeted at children.

HEADLINERS [The youth vote - Truro](#)

Young people give their verdict on Museums and Galleries month exhibitions across the country targeted at children.

HEADLINERS [There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom](#)

Praise from 13-year-old Orlaith Graham Wood for Louis Sachar's latest novel about childhood and responsibility.

HEADLINERS [There's nowhere like home](#)

Nine year-old Kimberley remembers how she and her mother became homeless, forcing them both to live in a hostel.

HEADLINERS [This is what politicians must do for youngsters](#)

Children's charities want a new charter of children's rights - but politicians only seem interested in young people if they help them win votes.

HEADLINERS [This town's coming like a ghost town](#)

Nine months after the death of ten-year-old Damilola Taylor, Children's Express reporters assess the impact of the shocking murder on the South London estate where he lived.

HEADLINERS [To call the NSPCC 'evil' is just not fair](#)

Northern Ireland's Free Presbyterian Church says the NSPCC is evil because it opposes corporal punishment in schools. Members of Children's Express in Belfast beg to differ.

HEADLINERS [To live or die - whose choice?](#)

Teenagers from Belfast consider one terminally ill woman's court battle for the right to die, and wonder what they'd do in her shoes.

HEADLINERS [Too much too young?](#)

Young people consider a fifteen-year-old girl's wish to have breast implants for her sixteenth birthday.

HEADLINERS [Too young for text?](#)

Soaring bills, fashion disasters, 'jacking' and txt mania - young people debate the hazards of mobile phones.

HEADLINERS [Treading the boards at Centre Stage](#)

Children's Express visits the Northern Ireland stage school offering a stepping stone to stardom.



Trust is, insist youngsters

Over-protective parenting is stopping young people from developing street-sense and a spirit of adventure - as well as breeding tension and friction at home.



TV star launches hi-tech project for Newcastle youth

Children helped to design it, now it's hoped the Galafield project will give them more exciting alternatives to playing in the street.



Two words - Lemn's Craic

An encounter with tornado-shaped writer Lemn Sissay makes poets of everyone in CE's Belfast bureau.



Ulster Orchestra family day

Even pre-schoolers find plenty to enjoy in a special classical music event.



Ulster young people say No to smacking

It's a bad form of discipline and makes children resent and fear their parents, according to a new survey by Children's Express.



Under pressure

Ireland's suicide rate is among the highest in the western world - now New Opportunities money is being used to raise awareness of teenage depression.



Video exposes trauma of child victims

A new training video launched in Derry today addresses how children are affected by and deal with domestic violence.



Weddin's, Weein's and Wakes

The lives of two old women offer rich comic potential, CE reviewers report - if you can afford the price of the ticket.



Were we wrong to go war?

Young people offer their perspective on the war against terrorism - and most of them don't like it.



What is Children's Express

A member of CE's Belfast bureau reflects on what she's gained from becoming a young journalist.



What's the Damage?

The R&B stars tell Children's Express why they've joined a national campaign to stamp out hate crime.



When school's out, crime's in

The secret of helping footloose kids in the capital out of trouble during the summer holidays is keeping them as busy as possible.



When Science meets Fiction

Science Fiction writers Paul McAuley and Steven Baxter speak as engagingly - and distinctively - as they write, reports CE reviewer Chris McCartney.



Who can ignore the feel-good factor?

Teen reviewers say the new Belfast-made comedy 'Mad About Mambo' more than measures up to the best Hollywood can manage.



Who's your hero?

Surely there must be more black champions out there than footballers and hip-hop artists? Teenagers debate the shortage of visible black role models.



Why don't you...

There are plenty of alternatives to rioting in Belfast during the school holidays - but they need much more publicity, reports Children's Express.



Why should we go to the polls?

Campaigners at Operation Black Vote tell Children's Express why they're working to mobilise the first-time votes of young black and Asian Britons in the 2001 election.



Working at the Tele'

Children's Express Belfast member Thomas KIELTY, 16, found his week of work experience at the Belfast Telegraph a real eye-opener.



Would you stand for Parliament?

A teenager speculates on how a UK Youth Parliament could change the way adults treat young people for the better.



You rock, baby!

You don't have to be white to be a rock music fan - so long as you can cope with shock and outrage from other black people.



You sexy thing

Was it really a lack of 'sex appeal' that stopped Sheffield from getting the World Athletics Championships? Young journalists have their say.



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