

For Immediate Release:

Ypsilanti Poets go to the Nationals!

Friday, February 14, 2003
Ann Arbor, MI~

Seven youths from the Ypsilanti area are a select group of poets going to the 5th Annual National Youth Poetry Slam competition in Chicago, IL April 24-27.

On **February 27th** 2003 the Ozone House Youth Drop-In Center is hosting the National Slam qualifiers at Mugg's Hideout. Youths from the area will compete in front of seven judges and the public to qualify for Nationals.

Throughout the year Ozone House, a Washtenaw County non-profit, has been holding the *Lyricist Lounge* at their drop-in center located at 30 N. Huron Street in Ypsilanti. There teens are encouraged to use their voices to speak their truths and listen to the truths of others, building bridges across radically diverse ethnic, racial and socio-economic lines. "It allows youth to creatively express themselves and build a sense of community" states Derrick Jackson, Ozone House Director of Education and Outreach. The Lyricist Lounge usually draws 20-30 teens a week, aging between 13-20 years old.

The National Festival, *Brave New Voices 2003*, gathers, educates and showcases talented, dedicated and courageous young writers from across the country. The Festival creates a forum and community among an ever-growing number of youth who are returning to literature and reinvesting in education through the power of the spoken word.

What: 1st Annual Ypsilanti Area Youth Poetry Slam
Where: Mugg's Hideout, 211 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti
When: Thursday, February 27th, 2003 7-9 PM
Why: To compete or listen
Admission: Free. Hosted by Santiago and Music by G-NICE
For more information: 734.485.2222

The main office of Ozone House is located at 1705 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor MI 48104. 734.662.2265.