



Dogs of war

ARI SCHIFF, 17, is a typical middle-class teen. His cell phone offers a weird greeting. He enjoys the outdoors. He's thinking about college. But the Lincolnwood resident has an atypical goal: He wants to raise \$30,000 to help a wounded American vet.

It began last August when he met a U.S. Marine captain on a Colorado rafting trip and they began talking about Iraq. The captain was recovering from a wound that had put him into a coma. He had also just attended the funeral for one of his men.

"I'd been looking for a charity to raise money for," says Schiff, a junior at Chicago's Francis W. Parker School. "I asked him if he knew any that benefit soldiers. He recommended the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind."

The foundation runs a program called VetDog, which provides service dogs to disabled vets. Not just those who have lost their vision in battle, but those who are missing limbs. The dogs fetch things, provide balance and support, alert others in an emergency and give companionship to someone fighting psychological issues. The problem: Each dog and its training costs \$30,000.

"My aim is to sponsor one dog and one vet," says Ari, who'd like to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. "I love dogs and have great respect for soldiers, and I thought this project would combine the best of both worlds."

So far, he's raised only \$1,500, mostly by hitting up teachers and friends. He intends to go door to door in his neighborhood next. But to reach his 30K goal, he will need a lot of help. An appearance on two radio shows yielded only one donation. Here's a chance to show that print beats radio. Contact Ari at ads7250@aol.com. and offer your money or time.

It's one feel-good way to start 2007.

roamin' numerals

40%

PORTION OF THE U.S. ADULT POPULATION THAT BELIEVES THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS TRUE, ACCORDING TO A UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SURVEY OF 33 NATIONS. ONLY TURKEY (25%) RANKED LOWER.



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social studies

HIS STORY

Making sure they get it right before it's too late is the credo of The HistoryMakers, the video archive of interviews with African-American legends, created by Julieanna Richardson. On this night at the Goodman Theatre, what could be more right: "An Evening with Earl Graves," with the business leader and founder of Black Enterprise magazine being interviewed by NAACP Chairman Julian Bond. More than 1,000 guests at the fundraiser heard the two icons and friends engage in a lively give and take. Bond led Graves down memory lane—when Graves allowed him—from recalling the 1960s with Bobby Kennedy to naming Earl Jr. as CEO of Black Enterprise in 2006. Not all of the conversation was serious. A few missing stories:

Bond: What would you do instead of this?

Graves: "The military. I thought it was a good job but it just didn't pay enough."

Bond: Why are you wearing those sideburns?

Graves: "A guy who worked with me had those and I thought they made him not look bald. Do I look bald?" a good-humored (and nearly bald) Graves asked the crowd.

—Reported by Celia Daniels; photos by Diane Brogan



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1. Julian Bond, Julieanna Richardson, Earl Graves
2. Renetta McCann, Ava Youngblood
3. Faye Raye
4. Laysha Ward, Laverne McCartney Knighton
5. Tammi Abraham, Danita Satcher