

# Former Chicago Bear speaks in Norton

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Ray McElroy, a former National Football League player for six seasons, spoke to high school and junior high school students from Norton and Northern Valley in an assembly Monday afternoon.

Sponsored by Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mr. McElroy spoke to the students about choices. "We're not born winners or losers — but choosers," he said.

He shared how when he was 7 years old he saw his first NFL football game on television. He knew then what he wanted — he had a vision. He said from that day on he made choices in his life to achieve his vision. But, he had an obstacle to overcome. He said it was himself.

One obstacle, he said, was his football team. From Chicago, he said his high school varsity team only won one game out of his two years on the team. "Our games were so bad," he said, "even our parents wouldn't come to our games."

But he had made a choice — he was going to succeed. If not in

football, it would be in something else.

Mr. McElroy told the students that alcohol is the No. 1 misused drug in America and is the No. 1 killer of young people. When he asked the students, "Do you know somebody who drinks?" Virtually, every hand in the gymnasium went up.

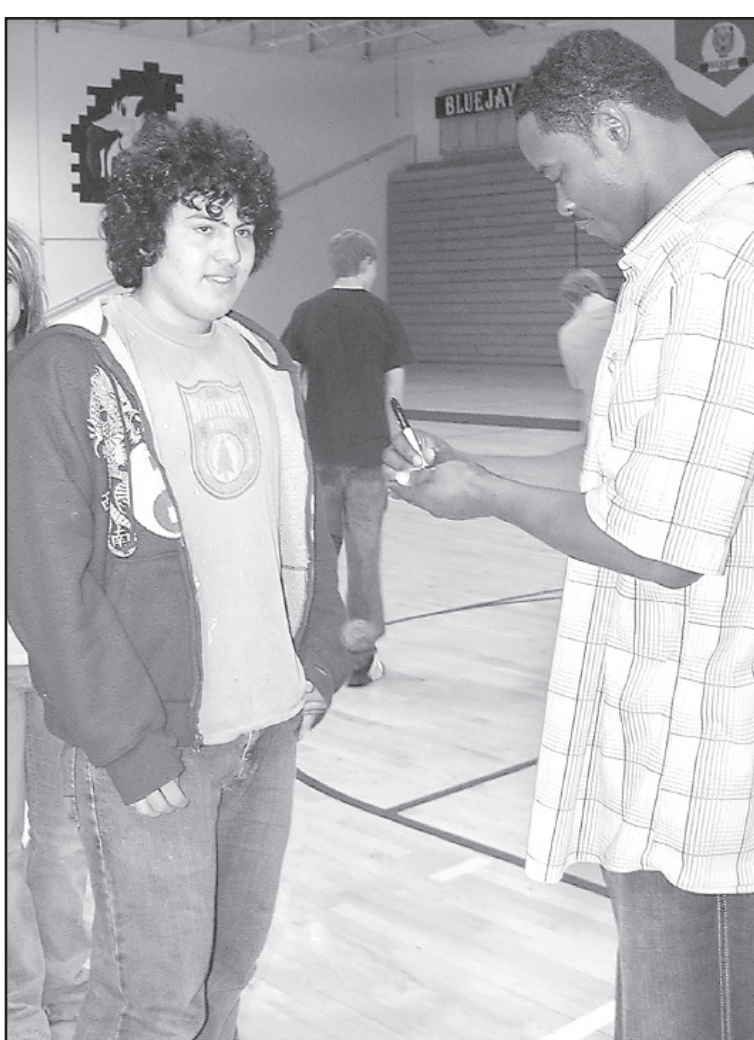
"Alcohol is a poor choice. And, choices we make affect other people," he said.

He also talked to the students about being sexually active. He said he knows that television, movies, music and videos are telling them to have sex. He advised them that abstinence is the best method to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. He said he knows abstinence is not a popular stand.

Mr. McElroy ended by sharing his testimony. He told the students that God had given him life and when he stopped living only for himself he learned God had a plan for his life.

Monday evening he spoke at The Rock Christian Youth Center.

Mr. McElroy was recently named the team chaplain for the Chicago Bears. He is married and has four children.



By CAROLYN PLOTTTS/Norton Telegram

Matt Ramos, left, a sophomore at Norton Community High School, waited while former NFL player, Ray McElroy, signed his football card. Mr. McElroy spoke to a student assembly Monday afternoon about the choices they make.

# Teenage girls sneak a peek at dressing modestly

CARY, N.C. (AP) — Imagine a home with a teenage girl where the most contentious argument over clothes involves whether it's OK for the lace on a camisole to peek through the top or bottom of a shirt.

That seems to be the case with 15-year-old Morgan Morrisette, whose mother, Shelley, is the founder and organizer of a local Pure Fashion group, a Catholic-based organization that promotes modesty and purity among teenage girls.

"I think it's modest because it's a camisole with lace on it," Morgan says. "And my dad's like, 'you know what the guys think, they think it's underwear with lace on it.'"

It's a small quibble in these days where fashion seems to find a new body part to expose each season — from bare midriffs to cleavage to the cheeks not on the face.

Pure Fashion is one group of teenage girls moving the other direction. At spring fashion shows by 18 affiliates in the U.S. and Canada, teens model clothes that abide by guidelines such as "necklines no lower than four fingers below the collar bone" and pants that fit loosely enough that they can be pulled away from the leg.

Groups such as Pure Fashion could be a mere blip on the fashion radar screen, aided by a poor economy that says hemlines go up when life is good and down when the dollar plummets. Or it might be the start of a movement to excise from public memory images of Janet Jackson's nipple or Britney Spears' nether regions.

Shelley Morrisette of Cary hopes it's the latter. She and Morgan went to a Pure Fashion Show in Atlanta two years ago, attended by about 2,200 people.

"At least for that day, everybody was embracing the message of modesty and purity, and the girls were on board," Shelley Morrisette said of the Atlanta show. "It felt good, I think, to them to know that there were others out there who want the same message."

When Pure Fashion began about 10 years ago, the fashion was cropped shirts with low-rise jeans. Keeping the girls' stomachs covered was the major issue, said Therese Walters, another mother involved in Pure Fashion.

"Today, the shirts are much longer, but now the challenge is the plunge, the cleavage, everything is cut so low and the spaghetti straps," Walters says.

Her daughter, Hannah, is a

17-year-old who attends a Catholic school, Cardinal Gibbons in Raleigh. Morgan is in her first year of public school, attending Green Hope High School, where she says she works at converting friends to dressing modestly.

They may have help this year, when a quick glance through stores shows high-collared, demure dresses and coats with names like "The Jackie" as in Kennedy or "The Audrey" as in Hepburn. In February, London Times fashion editor Lisa Armstrong said that "sex is starting to look very last season" and described models at Milan fashion shows as looking like geography teachers.

So, are high-waisted jeans a replacement for the low-rise variety? What do we make of CEO Sharen Turney's statement that Victoria's Secret has become "too sexy" and that the lingerie chain needs to focus on feminine?

"I think what's happening is that we've reached the limit of the 'if you've got it, flaunt it,' philosophy and we're seeing the power of a little mystery and glamour," said Wendy Shalit, author of 1999's "A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue" and 2007's "Girls Gone Mild."

"When exhibitionism becomes the norm, the fact is, it gets boring," Shalit wrote in response to e-mail questions.

Pure Fashion is an outgrowth of Challenge Clubs, groups for girls in Catholic Churches. The local group's membership is about 60 percent Catholic and about 40 percent other Christian religions. But modest clothing has roots in many religions; Shalit, for example, is Jewish.

She thinks the role of religion has been overstated, citing the "girlcoting" of Abercrombie & Fitch for its T-shirts that read "Who Needs Brains When You Have These?" as an example. The girls "just wanted a different definition of empowerment," she said.

National Pure Fashion director Brenda Sharman, herself a model who's signed by Elite Model Management in Atlanta, says that while Pure Fashion has guidelines for how to dress, fashion has too many variables for hard and fast rules.

"I think we're trying to remind our kids that certain outfits are appropriate at some times and not appropriate at some times," Sharman said in a telephone interview.

"I think that women need to examine their intentions when they're getting dressed. Getting dressed with the intention to be pure is different than getting dressed with the intention to lure. Out in public, people will get an impression about them, and they need to be aware that their clothing sends a message about them."

Pure Fashion does have its "modesty guidelines," includ-

ing that "undergarments should never become outer-garments." Still, Shalit says reporters enjoy portraying "the modesty movement as if it's some kind of dress code (or soon will be), and that's because everyone hates someone who tells them what to wear. It's a clever way of trying to make the movement seem really unappealing, without ever honestly examining it."



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### Schedule of church services

Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, Services start August 26th. 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! 4th and 5th

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, following worship.; Sept. thru May: Kid's Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rimregionalchurch.com

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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