

○ On the Bus:

An art project intended to spark interest in those around you

People say 'Well gee, I'm ready to die'. You know, I'm not ready to die. I think I'm going to fight it every way I can... There's a lot of things I want to do. It would be nice to win the lotto and build a nice duplex. My friend can live on one side. I live on the other side. We'd like a nice pond that we can go out and throw our rod and reel in and haul in a big fish. **-Betty**

I really want to do the marketing for the major sports teams like the NFL and NBA. I want to start my own business, I want to have my own marketing firm when I'm older. Before I'm thirty hopefully it'll come true. And to be married and have kids. **-Danielle**

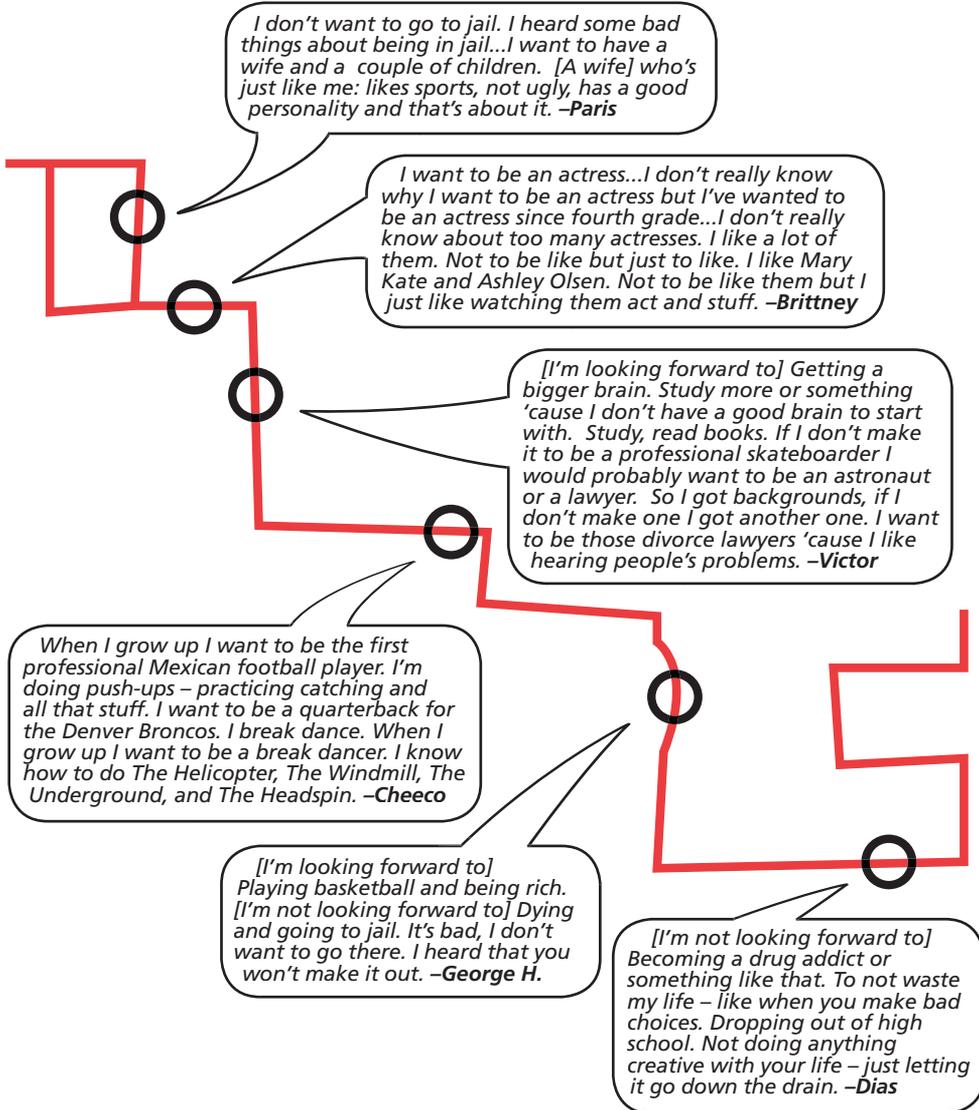
I don't think there are any more hippies. I got to tour with the Grateful Dead for a long time. Got to see them around 300 times. Just hanging out. Just touring. Selling T-shirts and stickers and food. Thousands of people were following them. [After Jerry Garcia died] A lot of us were left homeless I suppose. **-David**

I pretty much like to draw animals - cats especially. I just do the drawings - they say all you need is a #2 really - that's good enough. **-Barbara**

[I want to] Hopefully find me a new place and hopefully a good husband one day - good job, nice home, nice car, financially stable, kind, respectable, nice-looking, good sense of humor. **-Adrene**

It's kind of tough switching from the group of friends that you have. I was in a fraternity at Carnegie Mellon and I was also involved in a lot of drama and things like that so I had a variety of different types of friends... I'm having a tough time since I haven't been involved in things where I can meet a lot of different types of people. So I am looking for stuff to do like that. Which I haven't really found yet. **-Jonathan**

I have a lot to look forward to. You know I plan on going to college. I've gotten a scholarship through a program. I won an award and I won a scholarship. I have part of my college paid for. I won an award from the Math and Science Association. My teachers would recommend certain students that they felt were eligible, because those are probably my two best subjects, and she recommended me for it and I was accepted. **-Evan**



I don't want to go to jail. I heard some bad things about being in jail...I want to have a wife and a couple of children. [A wife] who's just like me: likes sports, not ugly, has a good personality and that's about it. -Paris

I want to be an actress...I don't really know why I want to be an actress but I've wanted to be an actress since fourth grade...I don't really know about too many actresses. I like a lot of them. Not to be like but just to like. I like Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen. Not to be like them but I just like watching them act and stuff. -Brittney

[I'm looking forward to] Getting a bigger brain. Study more or something 'cause I don't have a good brain to start with. Study, read books. If I don't make it to be a professional skateboarder I would probably want to be an astronaut or a lawyer. So I got backgrounds, if I don't make one I got another one. I want to be those divorce lawyers 'cause I like hearing people's problems. -Victor

When I grow up I want to be the first professional Mexican football player. I'm doing push-ups - practicing catching and all that stuff. I want to be a quarterback for the Denver Broncos. I break dance. When I grow up I want to be a break dancer. I know how to do The Helicopter, The Windmill, The Underground, and The Headspin. -Cheeco

[I'm looking forward to] Playing basketball and being rich. [I'm not looking forward to] Dying and going to jail. It's bad, I don't want to go there. I heard that you won't make it out. -George H.

[I'm not looking forward to] Becoming a drug addict or something like that. To not waste my life - like when you make bad choices. Dropping out of high school. Not doing anything creative with your life - just letting it go down the drain. -Dias

The Project

From February to April of 2002, I began an interview-based art project about the bus system in Champaign-Urbana. I rode five bus lines (yellow, red, blue, orange, and green) from beginning to end and back again. Trying to maintain a diverse group, I approached people with two questions: "What are you looking forward to?" and "What are you not looking forward to?". With these two questions as a starting point, conversations developed, each one as unique as the people I met.

This project is about increasing awareness of and appreciation for people we encounter in our daily lives. Have you ever wondered what the person sitting next to you on the bus is thinking about? Is she on her way home to check the day's lotto numbers? Are he and his wife trying to decide what to name their baby?

Because having a specific purpose makes it easier to ask personal questions of strangers, this project gave me the excuse to approach people and ask them what was on their minds. The recorded conversations resulting from this process are the basis of the project installations on the buses and in the bus station. Audio recordings of the interviews are installed in the transit building and quotes from these conversations can be found on area buses. As people encounter these remnants of my experiences on the bus, I hope that their interest in their own fellow passengers is heightened.