Diversity Writing Contest Yvonne Bohn

"My Story"

I wouldn't have imagined as a young teenager that I would spend the rest of my life with James. I met him through my cousin Ken over the summer of 1997. We hung out with the same group of friends, that's how we got to know each other. We had our disagreements most of the time but we seemed to get along all right. By the end of the summer he asked me out. It took me by surprise, I didn't know how to react, I told him I would have to think about it. I talked with one of my good friends. Who eventually convinced me that he was a good guy and not just a jerk. I did say, "yes".

James was eighteen and I was sixteen when we started dating. We had a great time together. Always wanting to be with one another. Eventually we spent too much time together, our other friends were upset because we ditched them a lot. They took it pretty hard so we had to make time apart. This proved an advantage for our relationship because when we did get our time together, it made it that much better.

Six months into our relationship we found out that I was six weeks pregnant. I wasn't too surprised because I was not on birth control. We both knew I was pregnant before we saw my doctor. James came with me to see the doctor. Although it was difficult for James to deal with my pregnancy, he was very supportive of what I wanted to do. The day after we found out we were going to have a baby, James and I had dinner with his parents to tell them. They were very supportive of our decision, even though we were so young. We talked about some future stuff; they brought up some things we *newer* thought about. They were really great parents for understanding what we were going through. After we left I was pretty upset with James because that was my first time meeting his parents. I never thought that was how I was going to meet them. He wasn't living with his parents at that time, so he *newer* really cared if I met them, although he met my whole family already.

I waited a week to tell my parents. I was so *scared* to tell my mom, I knew she would be mad. When we told her, she didn't really have anything to say, I guess she was stunned and couldn't say anything. James was with me when I told her, so since she wasn't saying anything to us we left. I *never* when *home* that night, the next day my mom and I talked. Well kind of *talked,* she

called me a whore and said some other nasty things to me. She *was so* mad that she took off on me, I left right after she did. James came *to* pick me up, at this time I packed my stuff and moved out.

James and I ended up living with his parents. I dropped out of school because I couldn't deal with going to school with a pregnant belly. I knew I would be able to take the responsibility of having a baby. I never really felt pregnant until I started to show and I could feel the baby moving around. The movements started off as flutters, *as* the baby grew those flutters turned into waves. It was an awesome feeling to feel the baby move around inside of me and it was even better when we got *an* ultrasound picture of our baby. James loved it, he showed everyone that picture.

We went to my weekly check up and my doctor was concerned for my health. She sent me to the hospital to see a specialist, when he was done checking me he said, "The baby has to be born today." We were in shock! I still had two more weeks until my due date. James and my sister Theresa were in the delivery room with me, they were both great in helping me though giving birth. We had a 9lbs 9oz baby boy born at 5:05 in the morning. Damian Gary Adrian Bohn was born on September 20, 1998 He shares a birthday with my Great-Grandma Li la.

After Damian was born we both enrolled at P.A.C.E.S, it's a school for teen parents. Although I was only seventeen when I had Damian I knew that I was meant to be a mom at that time in my life. I never graduated because I couldn't focus on my schoolwork; I just wanted to be with my baby boy.

I am now 27 yrs old. I have been married to James for five years but we've been together for ten years. We have two children Damian is nine years old and Avery is four years old. I am back at school going for my dogwood, after that I am going for my RN. I can't wait for the day that I become a nurse. I can now clearly imagine spending the rest of my adult life in a profession that I love with the man that helped to make it all happen.