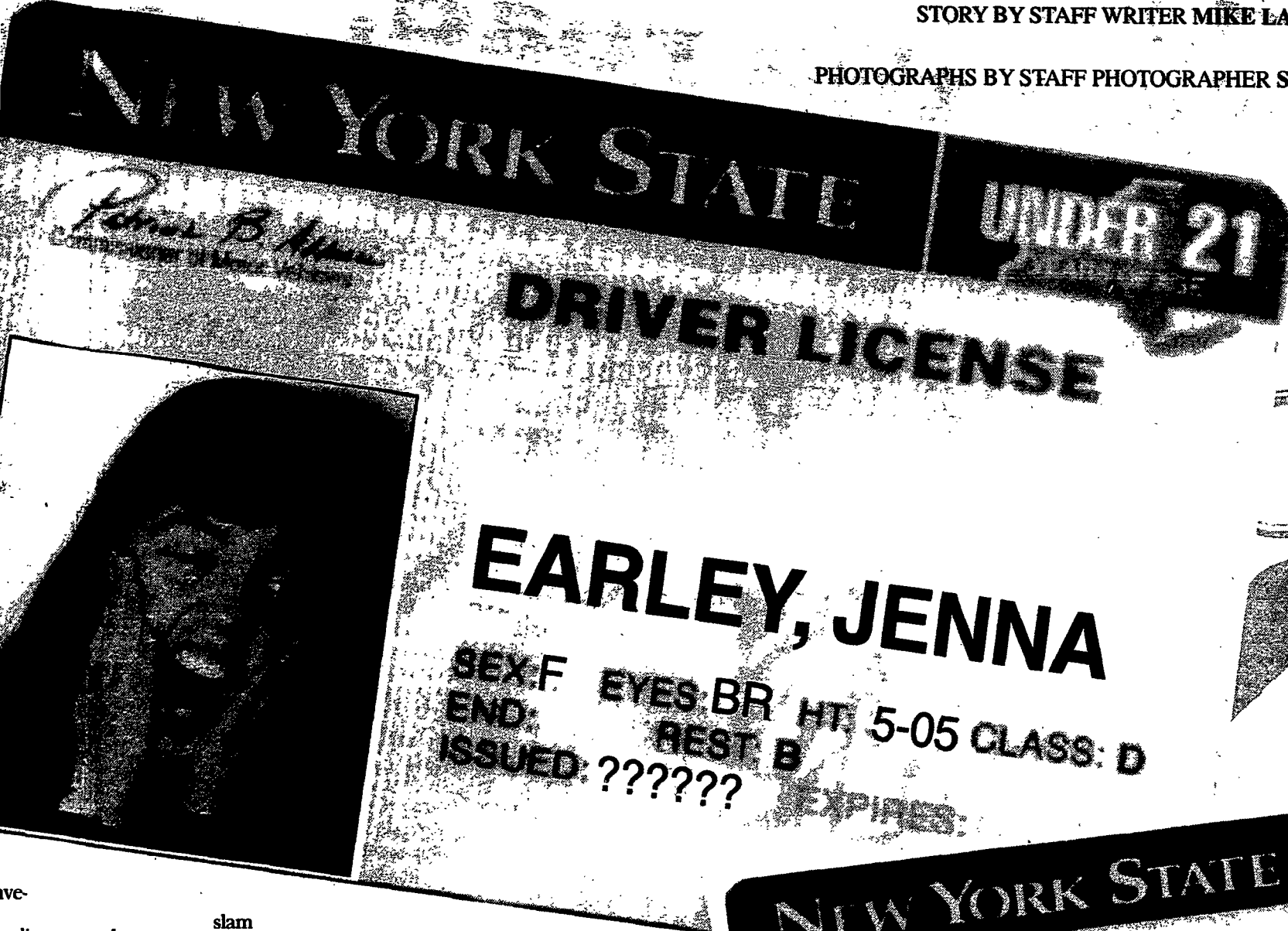
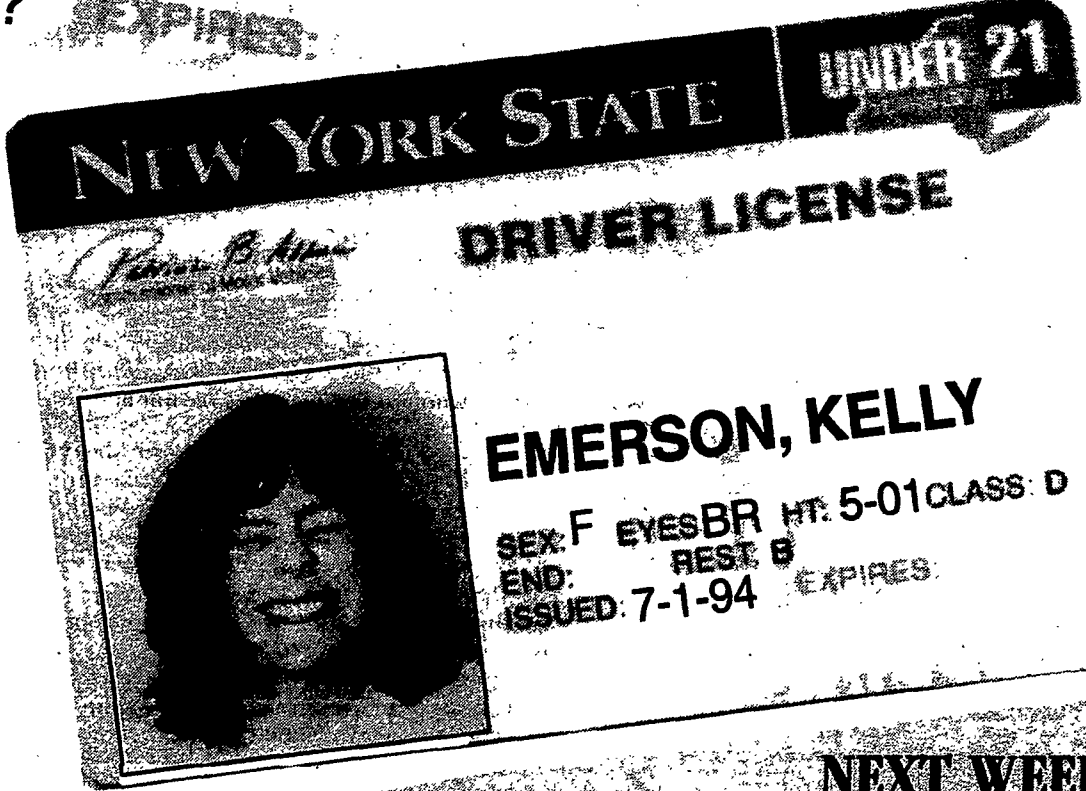


STORY BY STAFF WRITER MIKE LATONA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER S. JOHN WILKIN



"My mom couldn't wait. It was easier for her, because now I could run errands."
 Kristin Swanson, 17




NEXT WEEK:
 Young Catholics describe the challenges of living in a household touched by divorce.

er license so she n to her parttime job. ed her road test in the r their wedding day. erishly to get her li- ent out to dinner, I, other's, I drove," licensed driver for ls like a beginner in as on the expressway. this day," she stated. tion of her car - a it - may influence ur), and everybody major challenge for reasoned that if you e ready for anything." Kelly agreed. during these months. u're on ice, don't

slam on the brakes or you'll swerve," Julie noted. Another tricky task is driving after dark, noted Barb of St. Christopher's. Her first experience with headlights was on a heavily trafficked area of Route 104 in Greece. "There were five lanes of cars. Ridge Road is not a good road to learn to drive at night on," Barb concluded. Without question, then, driving isn't an easy art to master. But does that make those under the age of 16 any less eager to learn? Certainly not in the case of two additional St. Christopher's youth-group members. Kristina Spall, who will turn 16 in June, has been told by her parents that she must wait until she's 17 before she goes for a road test. "They think I'd be a better driver if I waited. I'm like, 'Why?'" she said. Steve DeBellis, whose 16th birthday won't be until May 1997, is already feeling impatient. "A lot of times you need a ride home and you're left waiting if your parents are busy," Steve commented. A moment later, as Steve's recent Sunday-night youth group meeting concluded, he went to the church doorway only to find that his ride had not yet arrived. "This is a classic example!" he remarked.

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