

Manager, all I hear teenagers 'f' that"

Story by Mike Latona

Photograph by Matthew Scott

is able to refrain from uttering certain words.

"Using the Lord's name in vain, you should never do — even in a quick outburst," Adam said.

Josh noted that when little children are around, even people who swear regularly can adjust their language to say "Oh, sugar" — as opposed to another certain phrase.

He added that anyone who truly wishes to cut back on the use of profanity should consider exploring an alternative social environment.

"To really separate yourself, you need to separate yourself from a group," Josh stated.

On the one hand, social worker Jerry Pashby emphasized that teens who swear regularly should not be regarded as immoral people.

"They have to find ways to let out aggression," noted Pashby, who counsels students at McQuaid, Aquinas Institute and Bishop Kearney high schools. "I outgrew it; (other adults) outgrew it."

However, Pashby does warn that constant exposure to profanity could lead teens to continue the habit for life.

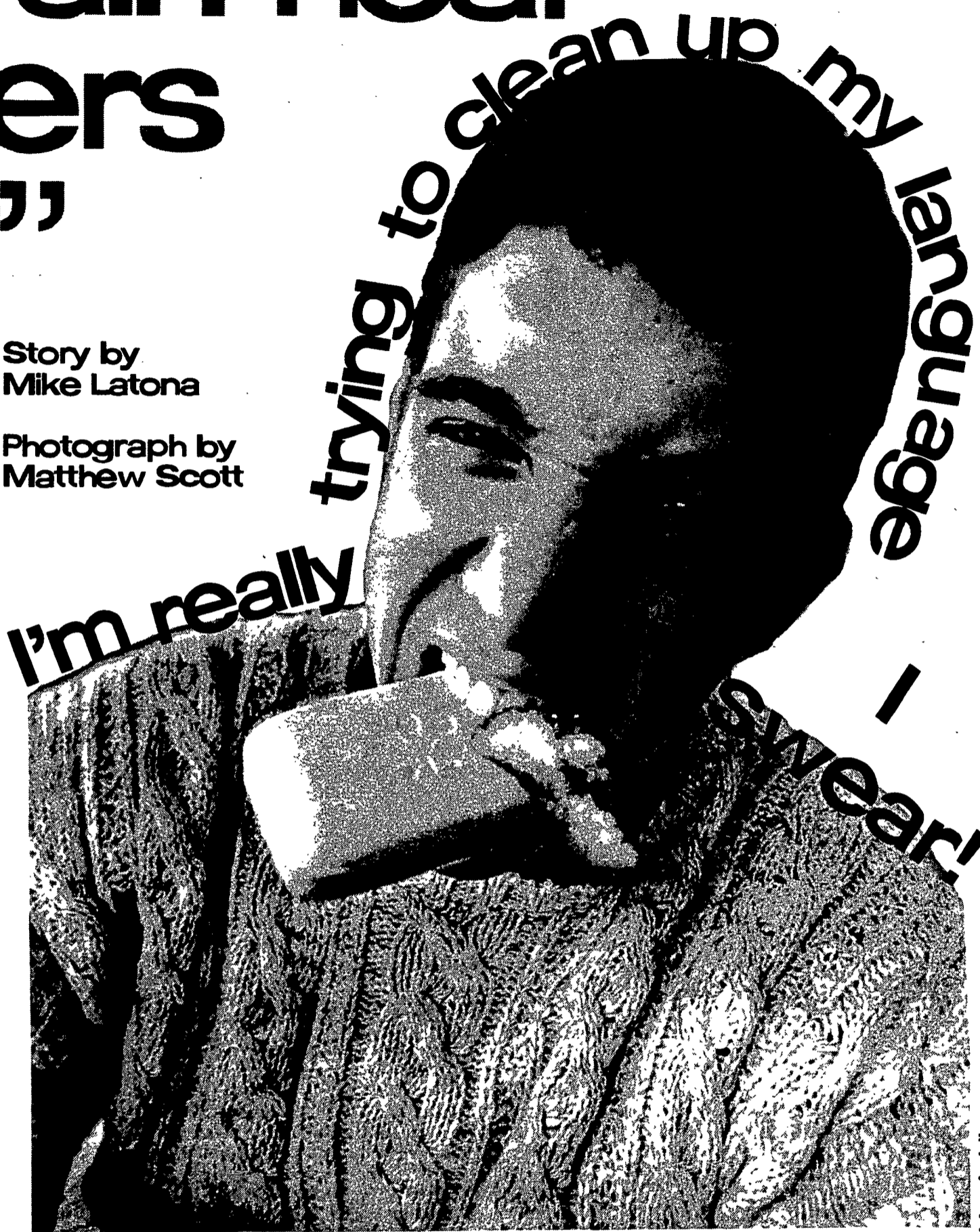
Therefore, he said, it's important to gently remind them that swearing does have a limit of acceptability.

"The danger is that kids will say it's the norm, so why get worried about it," Pashby remarked.

For those who don't give a second thought about swearing and other abusive language, Kate suggested that they should put themselves in the shoes of the people hearing those words.

"People say that it's just a word and it doesn't mean anything," she said.

"But it does mean something. It hurts people's feelings."



Adam Andolina

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