

DAILY NEWS  
**The Front Page**

**Inside 'The Loup'**  
**Our 'teen' caller finds freaks and filth -**  
**older men trying to have sex with young girls**

BY JENNIFER LEBOVICH and TRACY CONNOR DAILY NEWS WRITERS

It's called The Loup - a supposed safe place for teens to gab over the phone. But the popular telephone chat line, where 13-year-old Tyisha McCoy allegedly met her killer, is really a fertile hunting ground for filth-spewing, cradle-robbing men. A Daily News reporter who dialed into the free service immediately was pelted with X-rated come-ons from other callers looking for sex from underage girls. "I'm 24," said one male caller who believed he was communicating with a 15-year-old. "You sound like you're a freak and I'm hollering at you. I'm a freak." Tyisha, the 13-year-old found strangled in her Harlem bedroom last week, was among hundreds of New York City teens who subscribe to The Loup, her friends said. Police say that's how she met Kenneth Smith, the ex-con accused of murdering her over a \$100 debt. At 24, Smith never should have been on The Loup, which claims to be a network that connects kids between the ages of 13 and 18. But The News found that anyone can set up an account on the chat line by making up a fake birth date - giving him instant access to young girls and boys. A user named Chris, who said he was 19 and from Harlem, sounded impressed that he had connected with someone so much younger. "You 15? You mad young," he said, requesting a photo of his chat partner. "I talked to one lady on here who was like 35," he added. "She said she took mad young people's virginity. I was like I don't care." Even among the under-18 crowd, the dialogue is raunchy enough to horrify the parents of any eighth-grader, rife with unprintable obscenities and solicitations for sex. Although the California-based company that runs The Loup claims it monitors the chat rooms and will kick off anyone who violates its policies, there was no evidence of supervision yesterday. And unlike Internet chat rooms where police conduct sting operations to catch pedophiles, The Loup has not been a law-enforcement target in most areas of the country. Parents and watchdog groups are concerned, however. A mother of four from Uniondale, L.I., told how her 13-year-old niece used The Loup to hook up with a 19-year-old online without her parents finding out. "They should shut it down," she said. "I got a house full of teenagers, and it's scary. We watch them on the Internet, but you never know who they're talking to on the phone."

In New Jersey, several sex crimes have been linked to The Loup, including a videotaped liaison between a 21-year-old New York man and a 13-year-old girl in a Paterson hotel. Some school districts around the country have sent warning notices about The Loup home with children, but many other parents are in the dark about the network.

Katya Gifford, program director for the group CyberAngels, said teen chat lines are just as vulnerable to predators as Internet sites. "We're talking about teenagers talking to strangers ... and the same kind of things that can happen on a computer can happen on a phone," she said.

VoiceWeb Corp., which owns The Loup, did not return calls seeking comment on the content on its chat lines and the slaying of Tyisha.

**Originally published on July 9, 2004**