



# Cosmogirl!

# 2004

## BORN TO LEAD AWARDS!



**What makes a leader?** Is it courage? Intelligence? Passion? Well, it's all of those, plus a special *something* that is so powerful it just can't be put into words. Maybe you've felt it inside *you*, that compulsion to make a change in your world. This year, CG! is honoring 12 people of your generation who have done just that—and (surprise!) two of them are guys. That's because *everyone*, female or male, who uses their leadership abilities to make a positive impact should be recognized for that accomplishment. If it better the world, it's *so* CosmoGIRL!





*Stephanie Alves, 19, Dorchester, Ma*

## THE MESSENGER

**WHY SHE'S BORN TO LEAD:** She turned a chance conversation with the mayor of Boston into a personal mission to empower young women in her community.

"A friend and I were talking about stuff that was troubling us about our neighborhood. Girls didn't believe in themselves—there was a lot of violence and teen pregnancy. So we went to the director of a community program, The LOG School, and he hooked us up with the mayor of Boston; the mayor asked what we could do. At first, I threw out ideas like create more after school programs. But I thought, This is what everybody says; I have to be different. So I blurted out, 'Why not a radio station?'"

We figured we would reach out to girls like us and could even have women talk on air about issues like HIV/AIDS. The mayor loved it, and Radio LOG (540 AM) went live in February! We won't play songs that degrade girls. Like, we'd never play Juvenile's 'Back That Azz Up.' Instead, we spin stuff like 2Pac's 'Baby Don't Cry (Keep Ya Head Up II).' So I see us as the first step. If there are other stations like ours, we could be the start of a change in rap music—and how girls see themselves."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT JONES