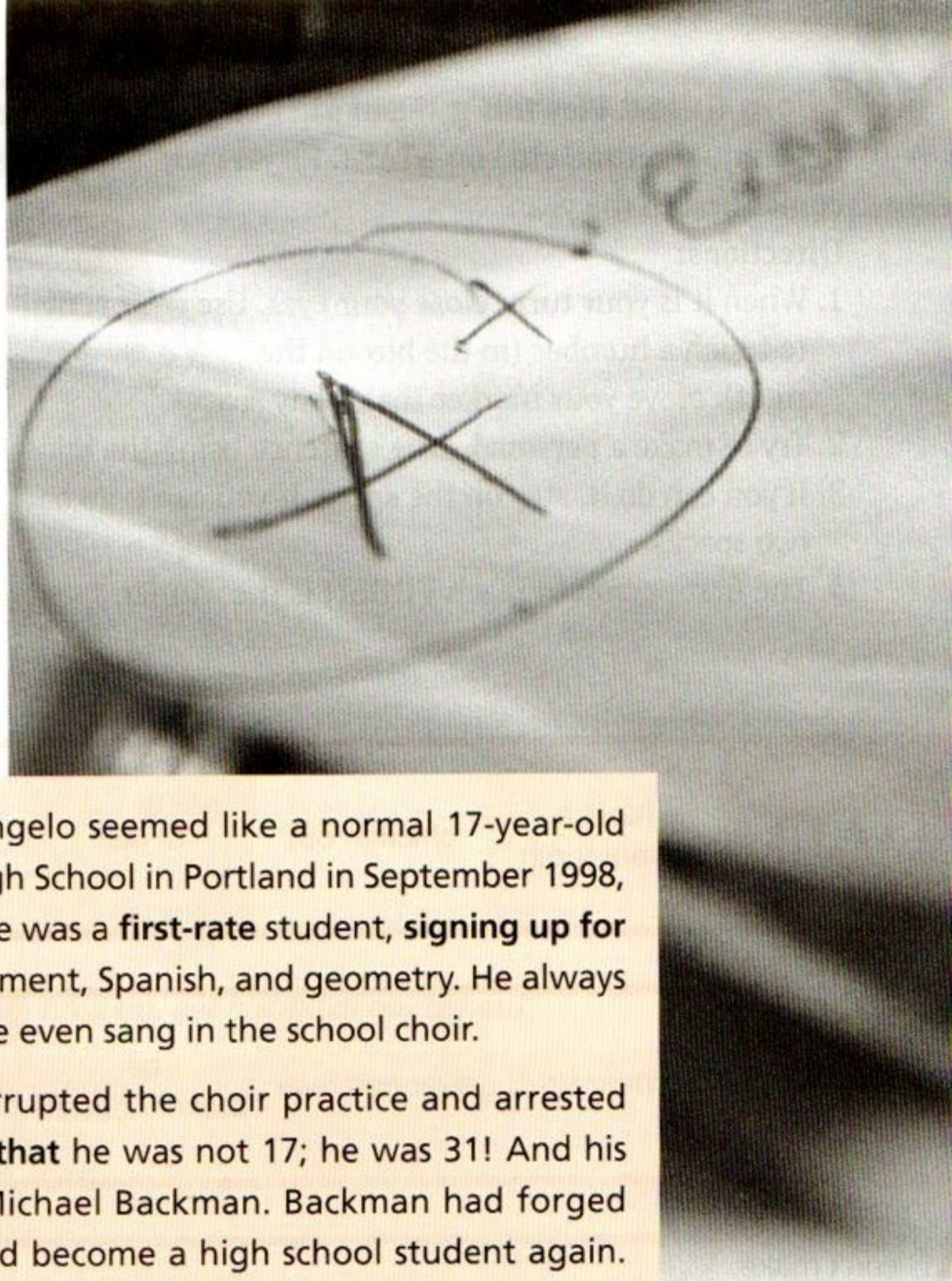


16

Man Tries to Turn Over a New Leaf



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 75.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

PORTLAND, OR, USA ¹Deandre Deangelo seemed like a normal 17-year-old student. When he arrived at Grant High School in Portland in September 1998, he **made many friends** right away. ²He was a **first-rate** student, **signing up for** a full load of classes, including government, Spanish, and geometry. He always **handed in** his homework **on time**. ³He even sang in the school choir.

⁴But three months later, police interrupted the choir practice and arrested Deangelo **on the spot**. ⁵**It turns out that** he was not 17; he was 31! And his real name was not Deangelo, but Michael Backman. Backman had forged documents to change his identity and become a high school student again.

⁶He was trying to hide from police for many different crimes.

⁷Grant High School was the school that Backman attended 13 years earlier. He wanted to **turn over a new leaf**. "I was trying to return to a time when I was not a criminal, to start again, to get a scholarship and go to college," he told police. ⁸Backman is now **behind bars** for his new crime **as well as** his old ones.

New idioms and expressions

turn over a new leaf	decide to improve your behavior
make friends	become friendly with other people
first-rate	excellent
sign up for something*	agree to do something by writing your name
hand something in*	give something that is due to someone
on time	at the arranged time; not late
on the spot	at that exact time and place
it turns out that	what is finally clear is that
behind bars	in prison
as well as	and also; in addition to

recycled idiom: right away

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

 **2. Listen**

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

 **4. Listen and Complete**

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- Why did Backman change his name and return to Grant High School?
- What did he do when he first arrived at the school?
- What kind of student was he? Did he do his homework?
- What did police do when they came into the school?
- Where is Backman now? Is this the right place for him?

About you.....

- Do you sometimes feel that you should turn over a new leaf? If so, what do you want to change about your life?
- Is it easy to make new friends in your school or town? How do you do it?
- Do you want to sign up for a class in the future? Which one(s)?
- Do you always hand in your homework on time?

7. Write about Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I am a first-rate _____.
- I always _____ on time.
- I used to think _____,
but it turns out that _____.

8. Write a Dialogue

Work with a partner. Write a dialogue using at least three idioms from the unit. Act it out for a small group or the class.

9. Take a Dictation

Handwriting practice area with six horizontal lines on a light orange background.

10. Complete the Dialogue

a. Two friends are talking. Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- first-rate
- as well as
- on the spot
- turn over a new leaf
- am signing up for
- it turns out that
- on time



Hi, Ramona. How did your job interview go?

Terrific. You won't believe this! I was hired (1) _____!



Incredible! You're so lucky! Aviron is a (2) _____ company. Are there good benefits?

Yes, I (3) _____ a very good health plan. And (4) _____ they'll provide health coverage for my husband (5) _____ day care for my son.



That's great.

There's only one problem. I have to start work at 8:00. You know how I hate getting up early. I was never (6) _____ at my last job — and we didn't start till 9:00.



You'll have to (7) _____ .
And get a good alarm clock!

b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.