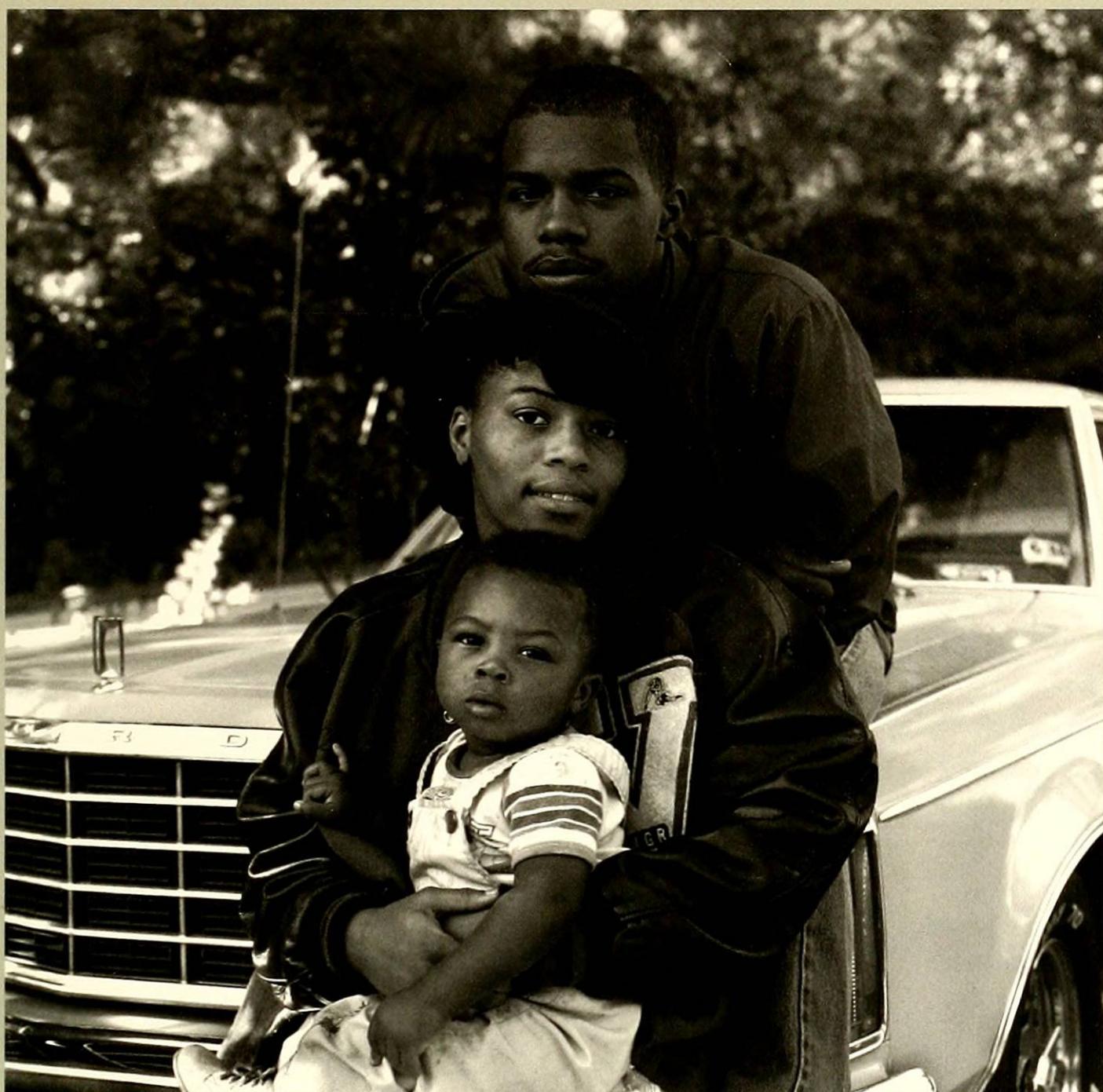
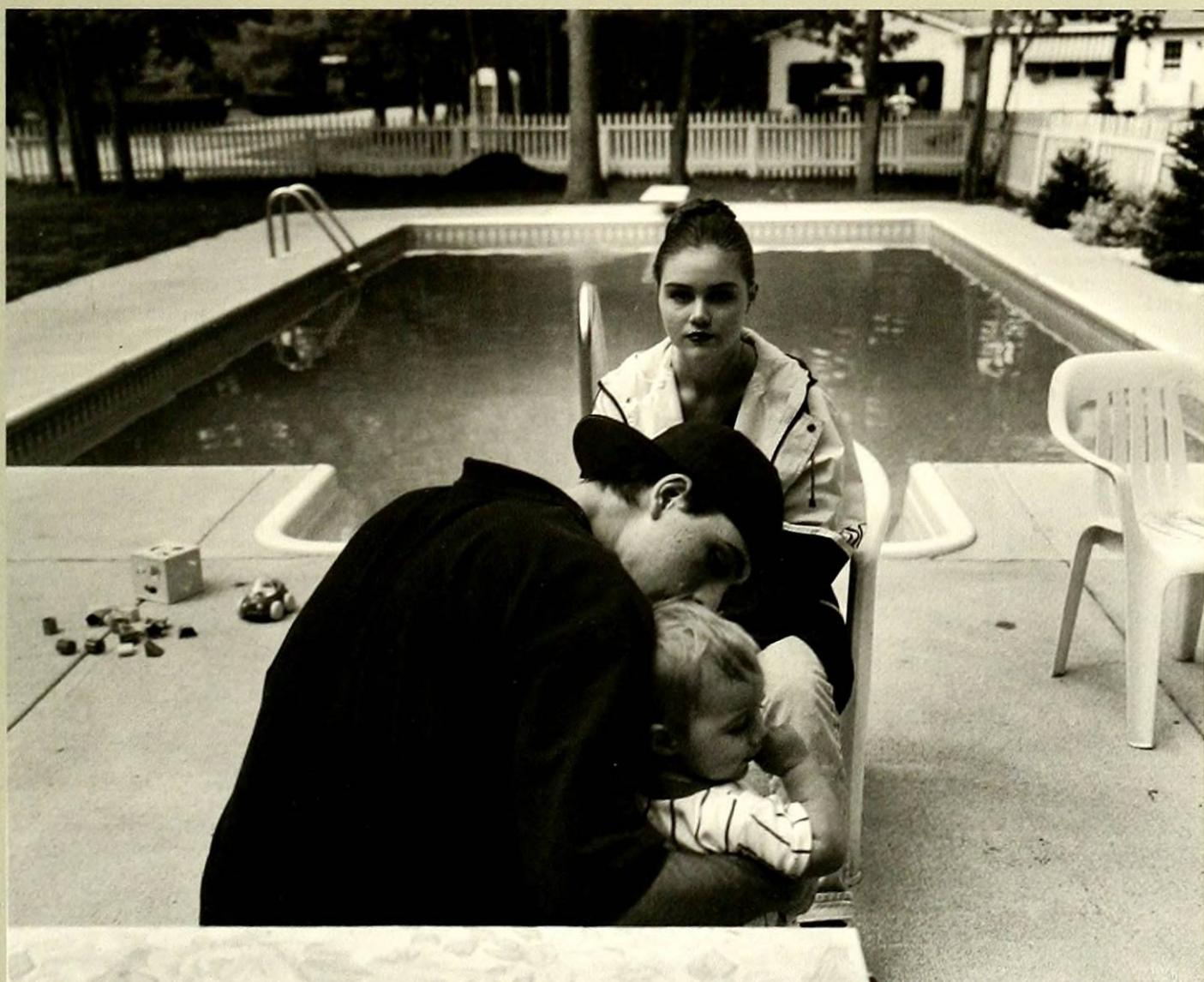


THE YOUNGEST PARENTS



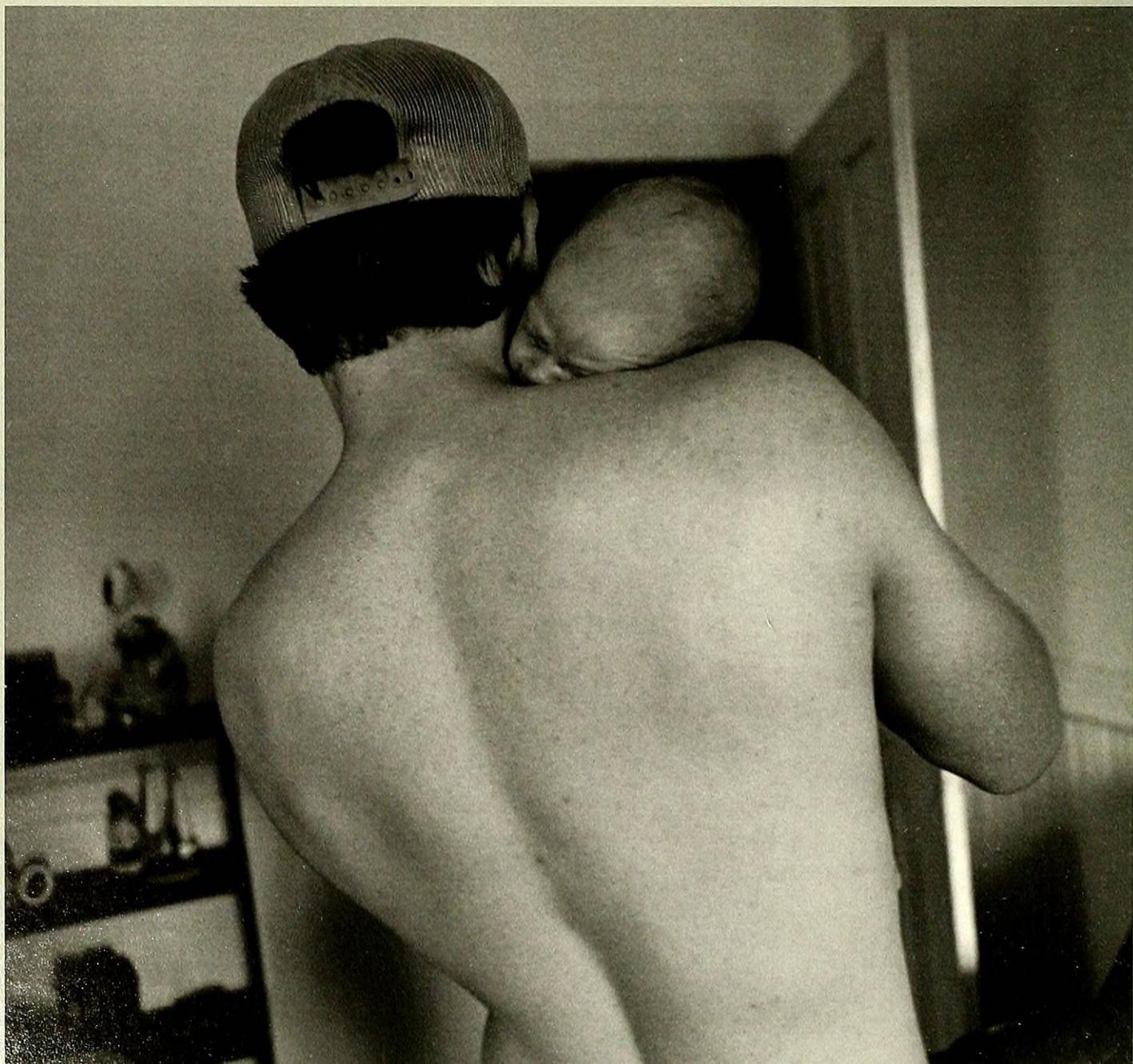
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN MOSES AND JOCELYN LEE



A Traveling Exhibition of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University



“Last night I had a funny thought. I was toting one of the babies up the steps, and I thought, you know, I’ve been doing this since you were born. And tomorrow will be the same way.” — Ruth, Orange County, North Carolina



THE YOUNGEST PARENTS

John Moses and Jocelyn Lee's portraits of teenage parents in their homes and yards show us capable and caring young mothers and fathers who are well supported by friends and family, as well as nervous new parents who seem unprepared for the life-altering responsibilities they face. What results from these intimate portraits, and the words that accompany them, is a document of the rich complexity of lived experience, avoiding easy stereotypes about class, race, and maturity.

John Moses, a professor of photography at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and a practicing pediatrician, spent eleven years documenting teenage parents in North Carolina counties. Jocelyn Lee, a photography professor at Princeton University, spent six years in parts of Texas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Nova Scotia, living and working with young mothers. Friendships of support and caring developed between the photographers and the teens, and the trust resulting from these relationships deepens the character and meaning of their work.

The Youngest Parents exhibition of twenty-five black-and-white photographs taken from 1986 to the present day includes follow-up photographs of the young parents, now adults, and their children, now teens and young adults themselves. The exhibit also includes text panels that allow us to read young mothers' courageously candid reflections.

Despite recent trends suggesting a reduction in the rates of adolescent pregnancy and childbearing, the United States continues to have one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the industrialized world. This exhibition provides an additional means for thinking about this important reality and fosters dialogue about family relationships, sex education, and the day-to-day difficulties of the youngest parents.

The Center for Documentary Studies (CDS) at Duke University offers traveling exhibitions—featuring documentary photography, audio, and video—that foster dialogue about contemporary memory, life, and culture; balance community goals with individual artistic expression; and cultivate progressive change. CDS also offers documentary workshops in conjunction with many of its exhibits.

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Front (top): *William, Sofia, and son, Vance County, North Carolina, 1988.* Photograph by John Moses. **Front (bottom):** *Gorham, Maine, 1996.* Photograph by Jocelyn Lee.

Left (top): *Theresa and her daughter, Henderson, North Carolina, 1986.* Photograph by John Moses. **Left (bottom):** *Henderson, North Carolina, 1989.* Photograph by John Moses.

