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● "This Week in Joe's Basement" (11:30 p.m. Monday and Feb. 18 on Chicago Cable Access Channel 19) visits the Lincoln Mall in Matteson and Northbrook Court in Northbrook. Host Joe Winston interviews mall kids, and though most are ditzy, a few—particularly one girl wearing silver fish-like earrings—offer thoughtful comments.

This banter is contrasted with anti-war protests in the Loop and peppered by four visits with a Mr. Bill-like character who expounds on the "difficulties" of being the kid in a one-parent household and of getting along with an ex-wife, teachers and fellow soldiers. Entitled "The American Dream," this 26th episode of "This Week in Joe's Basement" is cable access at its most witty and biting.