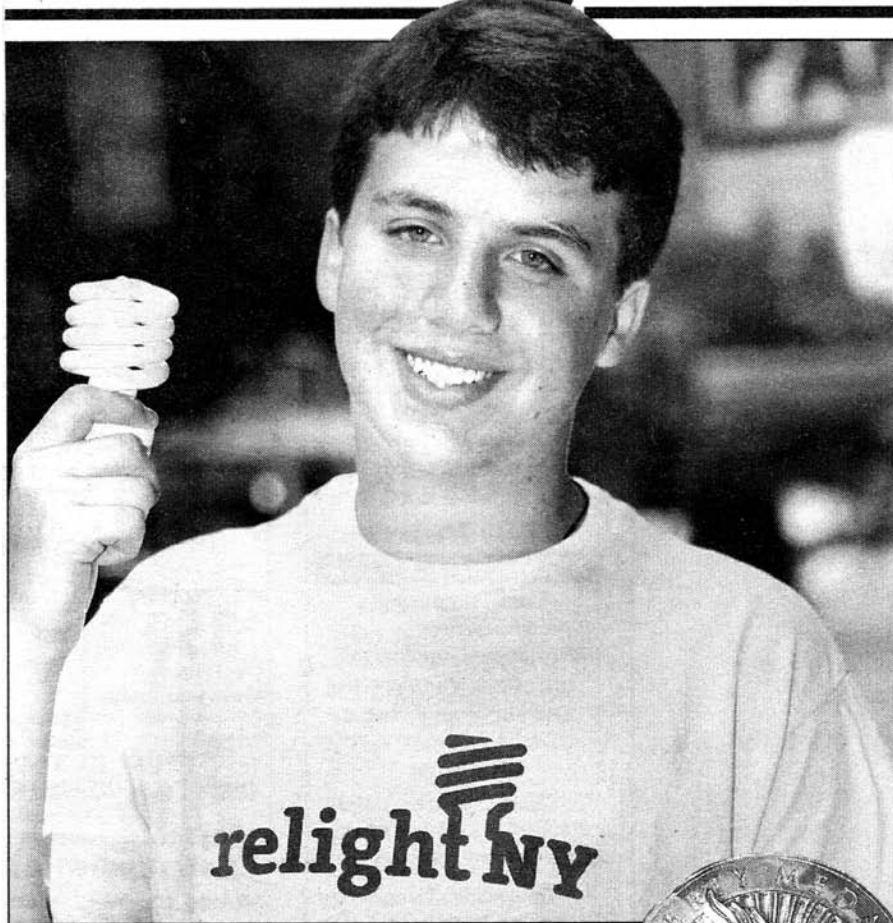




## Kid has bright idea



**BRILLIANT:** Fifteen-year-old Liberty Medal nominee Avery Hairston is helping to fight global warming.

## Turns on poor NYers to eco-friendly bulbs



By RITA DELFINER

When Avery Hairston heard Al Gore talk about global warming, he saw the light—and now the 15-year-old East Sider aims to turn New Yorkers on to energy-saving light bulbs.

Last spring, the Collegiate School freshman founded RelightNY, an environmental group, with a team of “equally dedicated” classmates who raise money to buy compact fluorescent

bulbs, then donate them to low-income families.

“It’s such a simple step,” said Avery, who hopes to spread the word that the squiggly CFL bulbs cost more to buy than traditional ones “but, long term, save you money because they use less energy.”

The son of retired TV producer Charles Hairston and businesswoman Sara Levinson won the

support of his mom’s longtime friend Bob Jeffrey, chairman and CEO of the ad-agency giant **JWT**. He nominated Avery for the Young Heart Liberty Medal.

Since March, the teens, who buy the bulbs at cost from Philips, have raised more than \$70,000 and donated more than 3,000 bulbs to families in HELP USA’s supportive housing facilities in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

“I told them the bulbs would help not only their electric bills but the environment,” Avery said. “They were psyched.”

He added: “I don’t want to be part of the generation that made the wrong choices and kind of let down everyone in the future.”