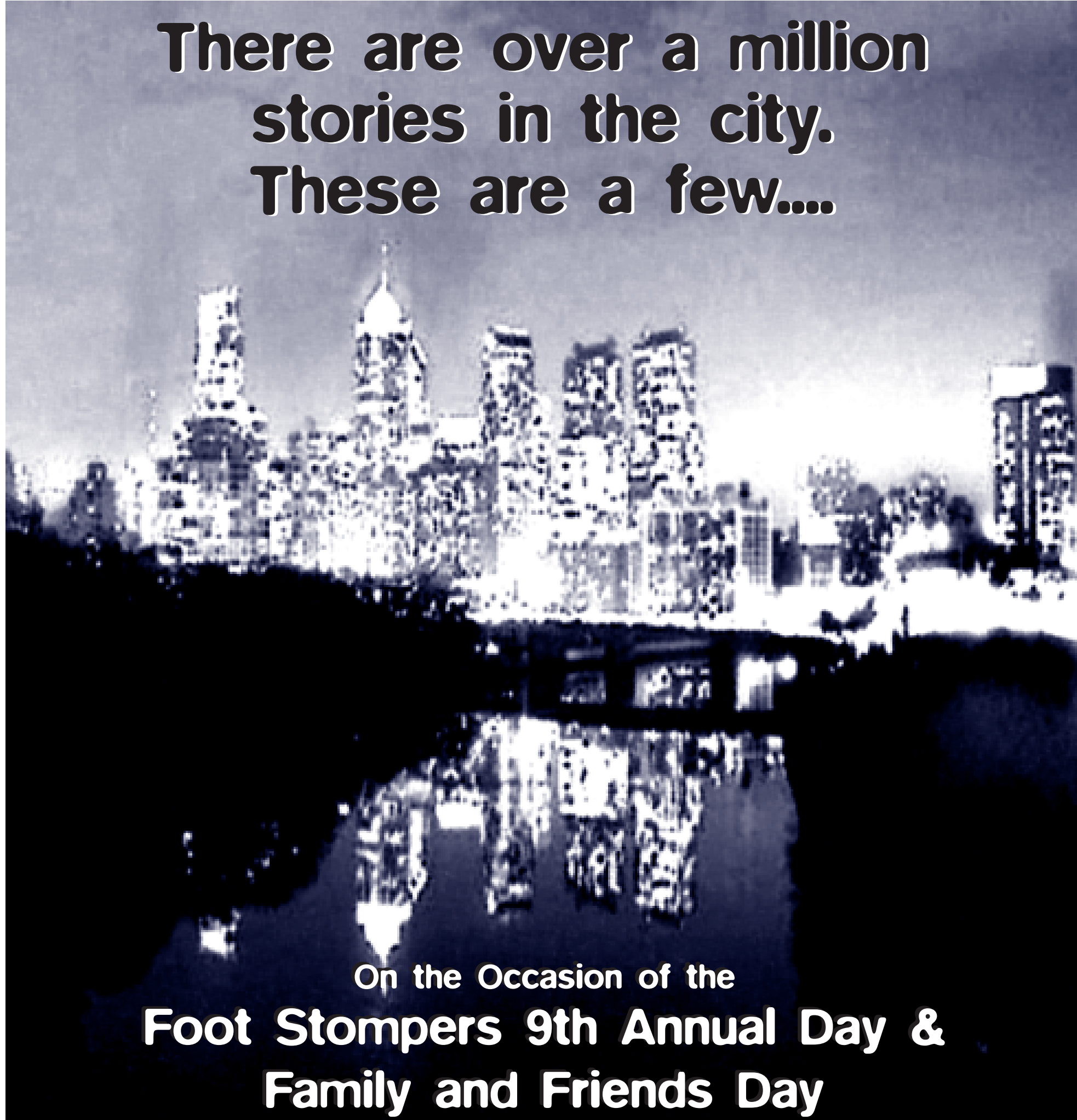


**There are over a million
stories in the city.
These are a few....**



On the Occasion of the
**Foot Stompers 9th Annual Day &
Family and Friends Day**

North Philly Metropolis
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**WE WELCOME
YOUR FEEDBACK!!**

MISSION STATEMENT

We have created this newspaper because we want to share ideas, knowledge, and information with our community. In publishing we will educate ourselves, the students, in writing, photography, editing, research, investigation, and graphic design. We want to present role models from the community that are setting a good example and to counteract the negative images of the inner city in most media. We are willing to take chances to better the community and to show our faith, with love, respect, dedication, and courage.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We've grown! As you hold the second issue of the NPM in your hands, you can feel the difference. Yes, we are 4 pages longer and our circulation tripled, but we have grown in more ways than that. Like a young tree, the NPM has begun to spread its roots and branches throughout the community.

A number of our staff attended the Healthy Communities Committee meeting at Rowan Homes on Judson St.. They demonstrated their seriousness and maturity, as young adults, by presenting the NPM to a room full of concerned community members, in the midst of a very serious and adult meeting. This event helped to promote the paper as a important tool in empowering and improving the community, and not just as a teen after school project. It also set-up the block captain distribution system we are now trying out.

You will also notice a few new features. Just to the right, you will see the "Neighborhood News" section. Please keep us informed on what's going on! We also included a photo section and "Shout Out" section, so keep your eyes peeled for our photographers.

Finally, just like a growing tree needs water, as we grow, we need continued support. For a newspaper, this means advertising. We crammed as much work in these 12 pages as possible! We have a lot more to give, but we need advertisers to keep this "tree" growing! Please contact us if are interested in working together, to help each other grow. I hope you enjoy this issue and, of course, read it cover to cover.

Respectfully,
Benjamin Harris

Special Thanks:

All the block captains, all the parents, our super-proofer Laura Weinbaum, Ms. Mya, Mr. Tom, Mr. Chris, and anyone else who volunteered their time, the Harlem Overheard and T.R.U.C.E. crew for all their help and support (visit Philly again, for real), Sara Steinbauer, S. Mary, Ms. Helen, and anyone who ever gave us feedback on the last issue.

Healthy Communities

From February to June 2003, graduate students from Temple University met with three groups in the St. Elizabeth's neighborhood to discuss characteristics of a healthy community. Their report documents the vision and experiences of the C.B. Moore/Ridge Avenue Business Association, St. Elizabeth's neighborhood Block Captains, and residents of Rowan Homes and their views on building a "healthy community."

To summarize the characteristics of a healthy community include: grass, flowers, trees, gardens, clean streets, good lighting; a supermarket, bank, bakery and drug store; organized community; children and adults involved in community beautification; excellent schools that are clean, spacious and utilized well by community; children playing without fear doctors' practices that are committed to neighborhood; rehabilitated houses; no drugs or crime; constructive things for teens to do such as jobs, education and recreation; good paying jobs in the community for neighborhood residents. .

On July 29th, 2003, the neighborhood and healthy communities committee met to discuss what actions can be taken. Here is a short list:

1. Advocate against L&I Violations on abandoned buildings.
2. Advocate for Crossing Guard at 22nd and Berks
3. Understanding why crime occurs and develop partnerships with the police to address crime.
4. Youth adhere to curfew
5. Advocate for reducing noise at night and to participate in the City's community-wide effort for cleaner neighborhoods.

Many decisions were made: David Cleghorn, Community Real Estate Developer, presented a Clean and Seal Program. Though community members agreed that this is an important program, there was more of a need to address License and Inspections (L&I) violations on the 1800 block of Bucknell and Judson Streets. All agreed to replace the Clean and Seal Program with an L&I Violations Committee.

To be involved in these decisions, come to the next meeting in late September.

To get involved please contact Carolyn Placke 215-235-3110

Neighborhood NEWS



Ms. Helen taking the battle for the street to the streets!

They say that there is "a way things are supposed to get done." Well, look at the repaving of 23rd St. What a fight it took to get it done right, and ready for Annual Day. It took just about the whole summer. And just when we thought we were good to go, some guy drives an 18 wheeler over the unprotected gas lines and causes a leak. With about a week to go, people are talking about tearing it all up again. What's going on here? Didn't all the utilities have a chance to go over what this street might need, since it was the first time it had been redone in... how many years? Well, as Ms. Helen says, "Welcome to North Philly!"



What was this guy thinking?



Check out the Mural on Montgomery Avenue bet. 23rd and Croskey. It was done by Teens from the Project H.O.M.E Summer Program Destiny, Robby, Shanaya, Fatima, April, Mr. Dennis, and Ms. Cynthia (Absent: Tanisha)

Welcome to the Foot Stompers 9th Annual Day and Family & Friends Day

Annual Day is a neighborhood reunion day for everyone to see the community for what it really is: good people, families, friends, neighbors, and businesses working together to make this a safe and healthy place to live. It is also a time to reflect and celebrate how much the neighborhood has changed and all we have accomplished. We can learn other ways to get involved and make a difference. But finally, it's a day for people to come out and to enjoy the festivities and have a great time.

We want to give out a special thanks to all of the neighbors from the smallest to the biggest, the young children to our oldest seniors, all the visitors who came from far and wide, all the block captains, Nello construction, our Councilman Darrell Clarke (for enduring Ms. Helen's emotional intensity), our Mayor John Street, the Water Department, all of the Drill Teams who came out, Project H.O.M.E. and all of our other sponsors.

**Don't forget to come back next year for
The Footstompers 10th Annual Day
which will be BIGGER and BETTER than EVER!**

Peace

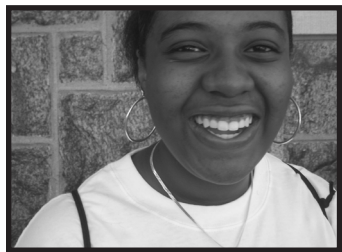


What Happened to Safe Streets?

By: Destiny Lewis and Fatima Thomas

Last summer, every time you turned a corner there were cops. Cops, cops, and even more cops. At times, I felt safe and at other times I didn't because I didn't know what was going on. Later on, I found out that it was an operation called "Operation Safe Streets." It was a vision of Mayor John Street. The cops were on every corner and they traded off shifts for total coverage. The police kept men and women off the corners. (Well at least they tried.) While Operation Safe Streets was going on people would say that things were getting better. I say things were getting better at first. Police were on the corners, but after a while, not all the time. And when they weren't on duty that gave law breakers the chance to break the law.

We thought we were protected but we were still tired and scared. Parents and children were scared for their lives. Nobody worried about us until people continued to die and get hooked on the stuff. Everytime you saw the news someone else was dead. A mother's son or a father's daughter killed, and people raped. Mayor John Street said he had a vision that every child could play in front of his or her house in safety, where the sounds of gun shots are not a daily occurrence, and where people are not afraid to leave their homes, according to the city's webiste (www.phila.gov). Mayor Street knew that it would take "decisive action" and be a "massive logistical undertaking" to accomplish his vision, but after a couple of months there weren't any police in sight, and more drugs came into the ghetto. They shoot right on the corner of the blocks. If the Mayor really wanted the streets safe, why quit after a couple of hard months? I knew it was hard work and it must have been hot. Everthing in life isn't going to be easy. So I ask the question, What Happened to Safe Streets?



WHAT IS HIP-HOP?
illustration by Peak Johnson

Afrika Bambaataa- the godfather of hip-hop explains in his definition what hip hop really means to him. He states that it means the whole culture of the movement. Rapping, DJaying, break dancing, b-boys and b-girls, how you walk and talk are all a part of the hip hop culture. He explains that the music is colorless and it

doesn't matter what color you are or what race you come from. "Whether music gives you the grunt, that funk, that groove or that beat, it's all part of hip hop."

In the community today, if you ask most people to give their definition of rap, they're likely to say that it's just the reciting of rhymes to a beat of music. Hip hop is not just reciting rhymes; it's also a form of expression that finds its roots buried deep down within the ancient African culture and oral tradition.

In the early 70's, a Jamaican dj known as Kool Herc moved from Kingston, New York to the West Bronx. He attempted to use his Jamaican style of DJing which involved reciting made up rhymes over a smooth version of his reggae records. It fell through at the time because no one in New York was interested in reggae (unlike today).

Over time Kool Herc adapted his style by chanting over the instrumental or percussion section of the day's popular songs. By using an audio mixer and two identical records he learned to extend the relatively short breaks indefinitely, in which he continuously replaced the desired segment.

Rap caught on because it offered young urban New Yorkers a chance to express themselves freely. Rap also became popular because it offered unlimited challenges. It continues to be popular among today's urban youth for the same reason it was a draw in early days; it is still a form of self expression.

I believe that hip hop is unity, whether it's old or new. Most old rap was based on storytelling. Today new rap is based on clothes, money, cars, and jewelry. It's like every rapper is in competition with each other. In my opinion old rap is better. I say this because it had more intentions for the fans whereas new rap is all about self.

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE FOR A TEENAGER

By Myesha Donovan



Most of the teenagers today really do not listen to their parents, but would rather listen to other people like neighbors, teachers, peers or worse than that, people in the street. Teens really need to listen to their parents, because they can help them stay safe from the dangers in the streets.

Many parents today have a problem that they can not discipline their own children or maybe a teen that they might have. The reason for this is peer pressure. Teens think that "cool" older teens know everything, but they really don't know nothing. Parents really are not with their teens everyday, all day, so you really do not know what their child or teen is doing when they're not around.

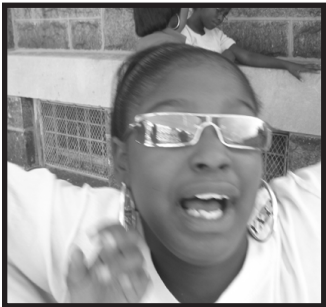
What parents are trying to do is to keep their child or teen from being killed and they're trying to prevent their teen from smoking, doing drugs or drinking. But nowadays, teens think they're grown, so they go and do drugs or drink anyway, just to prove it. I mean, they actually think doing these things makes them grown. I think it is a real shame that teens act this way, mainly because of peer pressure. Peer pressure is the most powerful thing in a teens life.

Most teenagers from 13 up to 17 experience peer pressure. This brings us to my final conclusion, that 90 percent of teenagers, that I see, follow in the bad older teens foot steps. For example, younger teens follow and watch the older teens, and if they smoke or drink or do drug's, of course they are going to try it or do it. They might even get hurt because of this behavior.

This is really bad, because half of the teens that follow other teens and obey them really don't know the consequences that they will have to face. When the older teen does something bad, that's when the younger teens go and follow them! Bad = Cool. Parents try to warn them not to make these choices, but the teens don't want to listen. The teens that make the WRONG decisions you will have to face the consequences. Some of these consequences can be terrible. So my advice is to listen to your parents. Even though they might not seem as cool as the kids on the corner, their knowledge and wisdom can help you to make the right choices, not the wrong ones.

WOMENS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By: Desire Lewis and Myesha Donovan



Today, We hope prove to you that women are better than men. Do you really want to know why we chose this topic? If not, we will tell you anyway. One day, we were in the conference room at St. E's and we were having a discussion and some boy named _____, said that men were better than women and that they do more than women. Huh!? So after that, we decided we would write about this and put it in the newspaper, just to set the record straight.

See, men today want to bring us women down. They want us to feel like we haven't done anything in this

world. The truth, we all know, is there are a lot of women that have made a difference in this world.

We have a lot of women photographers like Berenice Abbot, Diane Arbus, Margaret Bourk, and Anne Leibovitz. Anne Leibovitz is probably the biggest photographer of today and she was Bill and Hillary Clinton's photographer when he was president. She is paid more than any other photographer, man or woman. We also have a lot of women architects like Eleanor Raymond, Natalie de Blois and Maya Lin. See, we women already made a difference. I can keep going. There are women philosophers like Hannah Arendt. Katherine Graham was a publisher and so was Victoria Ocampo. Lets not forget about Rosa Parks because if it wasn't for her we would still be sitting in the back of the bus. We probably wouldn't be free.

Now let's get to the real world right now. Besides all of these famous women, we want to talk about the importance of women in their family. See we know our moms are important. They take care of us and provides us with many things, material and emotional. If it wasn't for mothers, who would teach the girls about their bodies and girlie stuff. Most men have no clue about it, unless they read it somewhere. Who would teach girls how to cook because most men they don't cook? They just want the women to cook for them. Plus, if it wasn't for mothers, who would take the girls shopping, because I know my Dad hates to be standing around?

Besides, do you know how much pain our moms went through to have us. For me, Destiny, my mom had no clue I was going to be born until she went to the hospital to have my sister. After she had my sister, she found out I was in there too. So she had double the trouble. If wasn't for moms we wouldn't be here because dads don't have babies, and women usually raise them anyway.

If it wasn't for moms who would teach us how to do hair, and who would teach us about all the right styles and what kind of boys to date. Plus, women are better teachers in general.

So here it is! If we have not made our point yet, here are some more facts about men and women:

- There are more African-American females in college than males
- When the father and mother split up it is likely that the mother will take care of the children
- There are more male drug dealers than female
- There are more males in jail
- Women cook, clean, and work all day, must men work, eat sleep and watch television
- Face it women are better than men

JAY-Z IS HOT

By Myesha Donovan

Music is a big part of many people's lives. Some people like hip hop, R&B, rap, jazz and many, many more musical selections. But my favorite is hip hop. Since Jay-Z has come into the game, he has made the streets his own. He's a legend making music and rapping. He's always been famous for collaborating with different people, since jump. Each year, Jay-Z has come out with bigger and better words and rhymes; it's a good blessing.

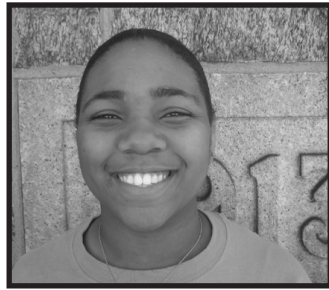
Jay-Z is a big success. He's been collaborating since the beginning of his career. On March 6, 2002 Jay-z collaborated with singer/ R-n-B artist R.Kelly. Soon "The Best Of Both Worlds" was out in stores and people were hitting the racks like it was a ninety-nine cent day at Shop Rite. In 2003 Jay-Z started collaborating with many more rap artists. The big bang of the year was when he started collaborating with 50 cent. That just blew up everybody's radio and it also blew up the stage with their big tour that they did together. Rap artists like 50 cent and Jay-z are making history together like it's nothing. They're both legends to me because in their past, they had already been making hit music.

Every year is a big success for Jay-Z, but in 2003 he really outdid himself. The album was called *The Blueprint 2*, with songs like "Excuse Me Miss" and "Excuse Me Again (Ia,Ia,Ia)." Now it's going around that Jay-Z has met his match with Beyonce. People say that Beyonce and Jay-Z are a real life Bonnie and Clyde. I think that the whole thing with B and J is nice. They look like good, and should be together...

A musical artist like Jay-Z has a big effect on people and the music, period. He's a legend that rhymed with Nas and Biggie and got paid writing rhymes for Will Smith and Dr. Dre. He also sparked Beenie, Freeway, and the whole State Property clique. He has a clothing line, and even the S. Carter Reebok. Jay has everything he could ask for. He has the words, the rhymes, and has had a big effect on people in every race and religion. Jay-z has accomplished a lot in his life, so who knows what's in his future!!!!

MAKE THE SWITCH-UP OR A LITTLE R&R*

By: April Gibbs



Many people are closedminded and they don't realize that there's a lot out there. Today most people are used to listening to one particular type of music. Why do people stick to one type? Maybe they haven't had the chance to be exposed to a different environment to change their view on certain things such as music.

To me Rock & Roll is the bomb. In my opinion Rock & Roll is the type of music that allows you to get your frustration out in a different way than other music. Whereas in Rap you can relate with the aspects of life more truthfully depending on the artists, in Rock you can relate to

its brutal honesty as well. For me, Rap culture goes back to when rhythm started, while Rock goes back to when anger and screaming started. For both, depending on the mood of the song, the lyrics can be very meaningful or just the beat of the song can have your head bobbing, they're just different. In reality, they have more similarities than differences.

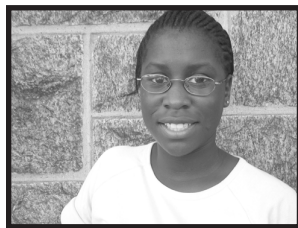
The things that they obviously have in common is that they use lyrics and creative beats. Once you dig in and listen harder they both use drums. These days, depending on the person or group, they both even have a DJ to mix the beats. They also use crazy hooks that some people can never forget. It's interesting how people can like one type of music and not another. They are not realizing how they are similar to each other.

The kinds of music that are out there range from Rock& Roll, Rap, Hip-Hop, R&B, Classical, Jazz, Old School, Reggae, Metal, Opera, Funk, and many more. Many of the older rock artists like Elvis, Jimi Hendrix, Aerosmith, Rolling Stones, The Sugar Hill Gang, Beatles, The Beach Boys, U2, Queen, and more have had a lasting effect on all music and the way music has improved over the years. The early Hip-Hop pioneers took a lot of their samples and "breaks" from rock songs. Rap now gets its beats from producers like the Neptunes, Bad Boys, Timbaland and other very influential producers that we hear today on the radio. The first Rock artists were rebels, because they were taking a chance with what they were doing. It was unusual to people when they were just starting. Today's rappers are rebels as well, for the same reason, because they are doing what has never been done before. Be a rebel yourself, and try to do what you have never done before!

Hope you enjoyed reading this article and that I changed your view on music.

DROPOUT

By: Destiny Lewis.



When I was in the eighth grade, I attended Strawberry Mansion Middle/Senior High School. Around where I live in North Philly, Mansion is supposed to be the "badest" school, other might say "the worst." Mansion students are said to get into fights every day and half of the kids never attend their classes or even come to school.

This is not the truth. We are also said to have the highest dropout rates, but in my experience, our school won't let you drop out. They push us towards success because they refuse to leave any students behind. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice says students drop out of school because of substance abuse, gang activities, and involvement in criminal activities.

In my observation, there are many other reasons why people drop out, Here's a list below:

- They have a child(ren) and in order for them to support their child(ren) they had to drop out of school, whether they wanted to or not.
- They got in too much trouble in school and made the decision to drop out.
- They didn't understand their work and got to frustrated and dropped out.
- They kept getting held back and got tired of it and left school.
- Many began to get in to the drug problem and drop out.

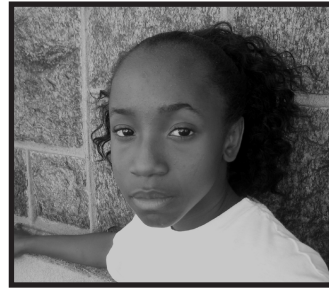
The drop out rates are about the same for males and females, but the rates are not the same for students from different ethnic groups or different income levels. In general, rates are higher for minority students and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We all know that the inner city has its own problems such as the ones that I listed above, but we also have to look at the school systems.

In the Philadelphia school system, ninth grade is the passage way to staying in school. Of all those who repeat ninth grade, 57percent end up droppingout, while of those who pass on time only 11percent will dropout. The solution seems to be to get the youth ready for the ninth grade.

If we had smaller classes and smaller schools children would have a better chance of staying in school. The students and teachers need to be more involved. They need to focus more on basic math and English. That is how private, parochial, and magnet schools succeed. We do have an answer to our problem, but the price tag is large. To get smaller classes and smaller schools we need money. The government is not willing to pay for it. (How much did we spend on this war?) So where will the money come from?

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITIONS

By: Fatima Thomas



There are many foods in this world. There are foreign foods and foods that are just nasty. Mothers cooking has been around so long and has been special since before time. Well, I want to show you some of my mother's cooking as some of my family's African American tradition.

For those of you who don't know what a tradition is, it is a passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation. Big family dinners are a very popular tradition in Africa. Not only are they a tradition, but they are a chance for family to gather and share other cus-

toms. Your family may have its traditions too.

Every Sunday - and not just my family does this - my mother cooks a big dinner and invites people over to eat. She might make her favorite dish, macaroni and cheese. She makes my favorite side meals, collard greens or cabbage.

Another tradition is a family reunion. We make lots of food and bring things to show and tell. Some of the things my family brings are my favorite foods like crabs. They also make pies and other desserts. (A word to the wise, don't eat cereal and then eat crabs or you'll get a tummy ache.)

Now I want to tell you about some famous foods. One, as I have told you, is macaroni and cheese; it's name is a perfect description. It's made with macaroni and cheese. Another famous food is pasta salad. It's made with vegetables like tomatoes. My third pick is potato salad, and it's made of boiled potatoes (of course), mayonnaise, and other seasonings.

Now to end this I want to tell you about my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving! All that food would make a person happy to be in my family. If you came to Thanksgiving at my house you would see ham. This food is very popular in African American homes at Thanksgiving. You would also see turkey. Some people make this food all year round, not just on Thanksgiving. The third is corn bread. This is a dessert that some people dip in other side meals. Collard greens would be the fourth. This food is made in many cultures, not just in African Americans.

There are many other foods, but I can't sit here and tell you about them all or I'd get too hungry. If you want to learn about cooking or food just ask someone in your family that's been around awhile.

Now here's an easy recipe to learn:

This recipe is something my mother does every time she gets bitter strawberries; it's very simple.

First you rinse the strawberries off.

Second you cut up the strawberries in slices.

Third you put the strawberries in a bowl.

Fourth you put sugar in them and stir them up.

Fifth you put them in the refrigerator and let the sugar slick in.

Then enjoy!

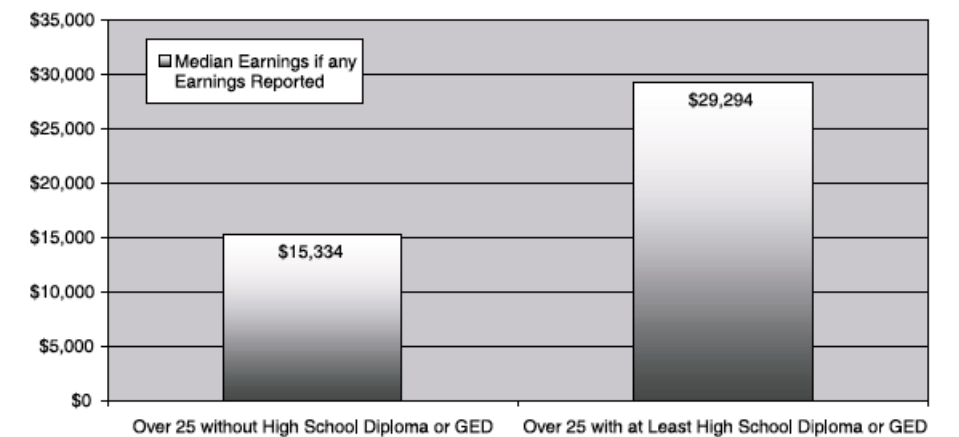
My opinion is that food brings people together and gives you memories that you can't get anywhere else. Food can also teach you lessons and stories about your heritage and where you come from. Food can open you to new worlds and places you can explore. I know because food has taught me many lessons also!

We don't know." I think we have the technical capability, but I don't think we have the political will to solve the problem," said Russell Rumberger of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

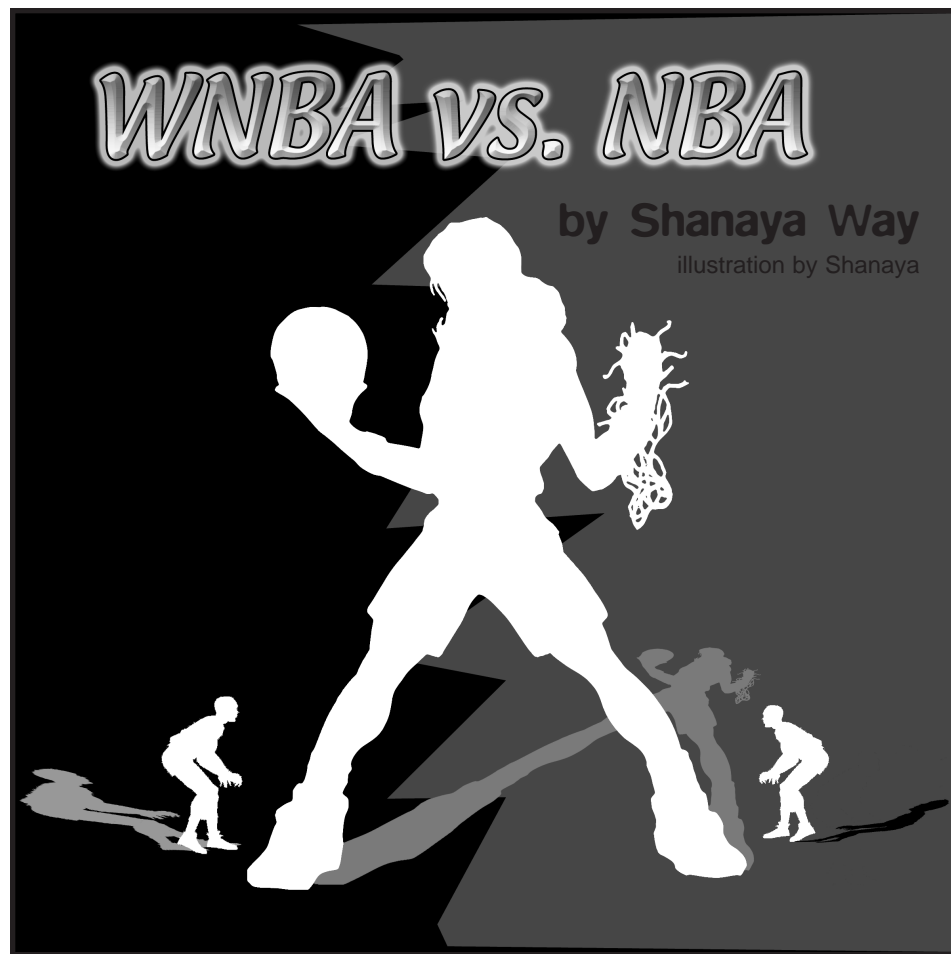
All of this ties to affirmative action because there are a lot of arguments about how everybody should be equal, but we are not all equal because most African Americans go to their neighborhood public schools. Since they go to these schools, when they try to get into college, they are not as capable as other students who recieved a better education at private school or in a sub-urban school. Most of the African Americans who attend inner-city public schools are not able to compete academically compete.

"It's not easy, it's not cheap, it's not quick, but it is possible to make dramatic, powerful changes in these worst schools," says McPartland, of Johns Hopkins University's successful private school. So now you know that before you blame that adolescent, check out the school system.

One last thought before I sign out: Dr. Jay P.Greene of the Manhattan Institute says Philly's African American high school graduation rate is the 10th highest of the 50 states, so Philly isn't that bad is it? By the way, check out how much more money you earn if you finish High School.







The difference between the National Basketball Association and the Women's National Basketball Association is nothing. In fact, the WNBA is the same as the NBA because they both play the same game. Although they play the same game, the WNBA does not get the same type of publicity as the NBA. Why? It's because people think that the NBA, which is male, would be more interesting to watch than the WNBA, which is female? Some people prefer watching the NBA because men think that they can play better bas-

ketball than the women; however that is not true because there are many great women basketball players like Lauren Jackson of the Seattle Storm, who averages about 19.3 points per game, and Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks who averages about 18.2 points per game and was the first female in WNBA history to dunk. The WNBA is just as good as the NBA. Just ask the three-time defending champions. the L.A. Sparks.

I think people would prefer watching the NBA because when they play, they make the game more interesting to watch because they have a certain compassion and drive towards playing ball. Whether it be by slam dunking, layups, or pick and rolls, the players do whatever they can do to win and they draw their audiences into watching them. It's like when men play basketball they get so emotional and when they play they leave you excited and wanting more. Watching a male basketball team that doesn't win a lot but is improving their game, makes people want to watch them more.

From a man's perspective, a man can always beat a woman in basketball. I don't think that's true because if you put Lisa Leslie and Shaquille O'Neal on a court together it's not promised that Shaq is going to win because Lisa Leslie has game too and could probably, in my opinion, play better than Shaq. Also, if a male basketball team is going to play against a female basketball team, the male basketball team might win because men are sometimes naturally good at many sports; however, a woman is only good at doing certain sports.

At universities, men's basketball programs spend more money on their basketball teams than the women's basketball teams. There were only four universities where the women outspent the men. In almost every case, recruiting expenses are far higher for men's teams because their scouts go all over the country for top talent, but the women's teams stayed in their home areas. Men's programs receive more than two-thirds of the dollars that universities budget for basketball even though the women's basketball teams are permitted two extra scholarships under the NCAA rules. At Michigan State, the women's basketball team received \$1.2 million last year, which is only 27 percent of basketball operating expenses, compared to the men's \$3.2 million, 73 percent making the men-women ratio at Michigan State the sixth most lopsided among the 133 universities studied. At the University of Tennessee, the scales tilted in favor of the women. The women's basketball team, the Lady Vols, spent \$3.1 million or 56 percent of the expense dollars compared to the men's team's \$2.5 million or 44 percent. This is the most favorable ratio in the nation. The Lady Vols also brought in \$2.7 million in revenues- second in the nation to Connecticut's \$3.6 million.

Some girls are encouraged to be athletes and some are not. Some females' parents encourage them to follow their dreams of becoming a professional basketball player and some parents think that their children should always have a back-up plan just in case the basketball thing doesn't work. The parents of female basketball players want them to go to college and get a job that they might have for a long time. Women are encouraged to play basketball by their schools because the schools want to have more and more people come because a person from their schools was drafted into the WNBA. Some women are encouraged to play basketball because of the money that they can make.

loud bass and spre-wells. They both have nicknames. John's nickname is Starter aka Officer Chat. Joe's alias is Con Master or Joe Apple.

Junebug was into ladies too, but he couldn't ever get the right woman, or maybe women just didn't like him that much. He was always in greasy overalls and dirty. One time he was walking home and a lady saw him. She thought he was a bum, because his clothes were dirty from work. She was generous and very cute, and she offered him money to get an apartment and some new clothes. He didn't need the money but he took it anyway. He asked her out, and said he'd pick her up at 7 o'clock. She didn't think he had a car, so she said that she'd pick him up. She never showed up. He thought about it over and over, and finally realized that she thought he was a bum and would never go out with him. But he didn't care, because at least he had got some money.

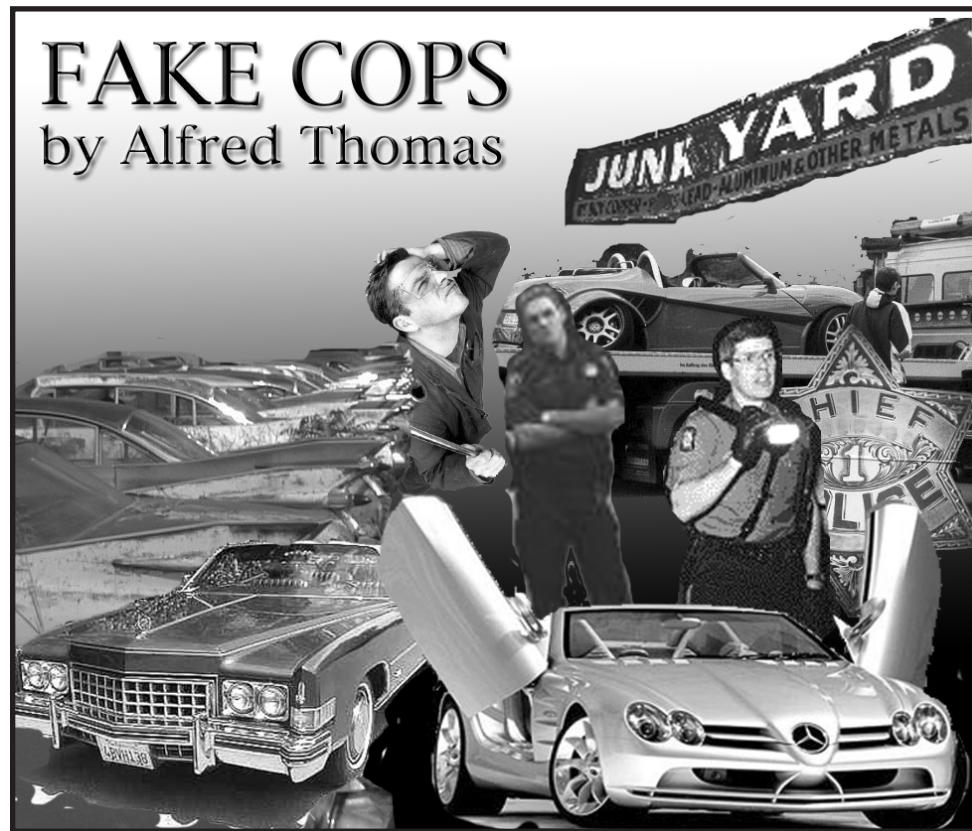
This is how their whole ticket scam began. Once a cop was giving out tickets. He dropped his tickets and the guys waited until he left. When he left they took all his tickets and ran as if they were money. Now that they had tickets, they used an old siren in Junebug's shop and posed as undercover cops and started giving them out to people and taking their cars.

They gave tickets out to people for no reason, but these days, the law says you need all your car's paperwork or they can take your car. If their license, registration, or insurance was out of order, they'd snatch the car up. If they had everything, they'd just say something was out of order, and take it anyway.

For a while, everything was like butter. They were counting the cash in stacks. Even Junebug got a girlfriend, a pretty one too. They kept on doing it even though they were richer than ever, they were greedy. And that's when they made a mistake, a big one.

One time they spotted a green classic 1976 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible. They didn't know that it belonged to illustration by Alfred + Mr.B Capt. Carl Binslow, the chief of a police. It was his pride and joy. Now they knew they were in trouble, big trouble, super duper trouble. The chief had a badge on. They started to panic. They went to the back of the car and started to think. By the time they were done thinking all the cops of the police station were there and they were arrested. They were facing 25 years to life for impersonating an officer and all their crimes.

Joe jumped bail and went straight to Def Jam records. He got signed as C-Dub. He rapped about all the cars he stole, and eventually the record was a hit in Philly, but stupid Joe got busted again. This time for good. John stayed in jail for life. He fought a lot and never got paroled. This was good for society, because he was never any good. Junebug never got caught, but on the other hand, Junebug turned his life around. He is still a tow truck driver and works at a collision shop. Junebug tried working at a teen program and the kids drove him crazy so he almost became a criminal again. He still never met the right girl though, that would be to mushy gushy an ending.

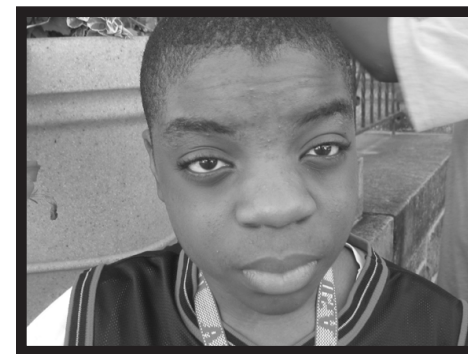
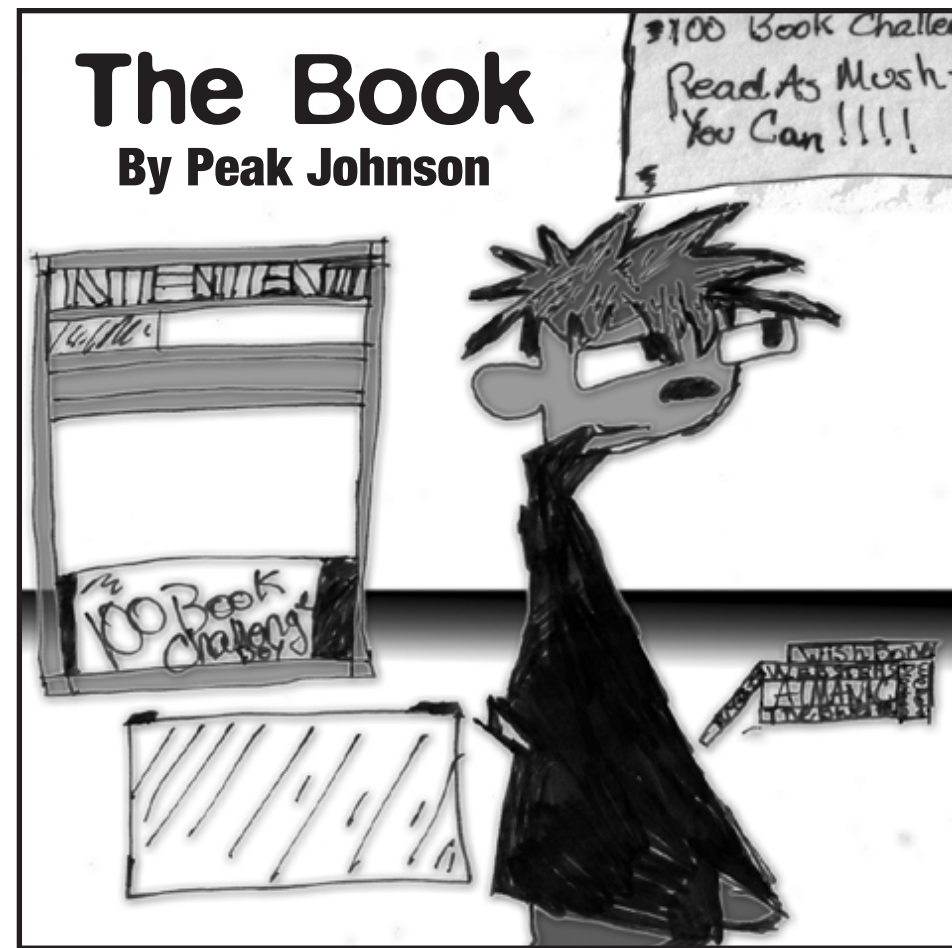


Once upon a time there were two cons by the names of Joe and John. They conned people by acting like cops, stopping people and towing their cars away. They had a friend, named JuneBug, who towed cars for a living, and he would chop up the parts and sell them for the cash.

You can tell Joe loves girls, because every time you're talking to Joe, and he sees a girl, he just walks off, following her down the street. Joe is buff. He's always working out in his backyard.

John lies a lot. He's been lying since he was a kid. He loves money and girls.

John and Joe both love cars and jewels. They like cars that look good. They love platinum. They ride in Escalades, Benz, Coupes, etc. All their cars have loud stereos with



another rock I'll turn you both into frogs that shout and hop."

The two boys run, not looking back too scared to even come back. I leave from the window to go watch TV, until my mom comes back from the market.

"Davon, I'm back, can you give me a hand?" my mom asks me.

I go and help unload the groceries, chocolate milk, macaroni and cheese, fudge, and (yes) barbecue sauce.

"Oh no, I forgot the bread and the milk, Davon can you go get them for me?"

"Sure."

I hop on my big black bike and ride off into the black night, but as I am riding I see one of the kids who threw rocks at me. I thought in my head,

"It's his turn to watch me run... afraid"

I hit the brakes swerve around him

"Your the kid from that house," he says.

"I shall crush you like the bug you are."

Lucky for me, I had my bike and the store was just around the corner.

"Ok," I say raising my hands up high about to chant the words I had said earlier

"That mumble jumble stuff won't help you this time."

He starts to approach me, pounding his fist into his hand. I quickly jump on my big black bike and ride into the big black night.

I rode and I rode while the kid, whoever he was, was still behind me, but this time there were two kids behind him.

"What to do?" I thought.

The store was right in front of me, so I did what any normal person would, but then again to some I'm not normal. I rode my bike into the store and grabbed the milk and the bread, zooming past the cashier, leaving the money for him

"Be gone my friends, before you throw

"Peace of cake," I said to myself, not knowing what waited for me outside.

I made it outside but stepped on the brakes as I gazed up and saw 10, no 13 counting the ones behind me

"Well, well, well," A guy drenched in black like me said.

"What do we have here?"

I looked all around but I was surrounded, nowhere to go or run. I thought about fighting like a man should do but when there's 13 guys about to kill a kid like me you just don't do that.

I dug in my pockets to see what I had/ I dug deep until I found a smoke bomb that I created last week while watching an episode of Batman. I threw the smoke bomb as they threw punches, hitting each other. I managed to escape, I didn't know I could do a wheelie all the way home though.

"Davon, what took you?" my mother asks.

"Sorry, I lost my way" I replied back to her in a cold sweat.

illustration by Rodney Fentress

"Oh I guess I would too, being dark and all but it's just up the block around the corner... anyway, I found this book for you at the market, it's black so I thought you'd like it. I didn't read it or nothing so go ahead."

"A black book, then it must be good!"

I rushed in to the dining room and grabbed the book, ran upstairs and started reading.

"No title, oh well!"

I opened the book and found words combined, misspelled, and just plain weird.

One line said:

"Nimel Reindeer"

The second line said:

"Alabaster Toads"

The third line said:

"The Crimson light of good and evil, light and dark"

I decided to stop and read the rest tomorrow.

"Ding, Ding, Ding," went my alarm clock.

I quickly slipped on my clothes and headed downstairs for breakfast when I saw a.. reindeer

"Holy sugar honey iced tea, a reindeer" I said for the first time, feeling scared

The reindeer looked at me and I looked at it.

"Easy, easy now," I said, trying to calm it down.

As I turn towards the step, the reindeer charges at me, I quickly run upstairs as fast I could, slamming and locking the door, putting everything I could find in back of it.

"I guess getting chased all the time was a good thing," I said to myself.

I looked out my window, thinking of jumping out of it and going to go get help, when I see toads out on the street and the reindeer. I look up at the sky and see it split in half, one side light the other dark. I quickly

shut and lock both of my windows

"What, what's happening" I say to myself feeling really scared now.

I flopped on my bed as the big black book hits the floor, I gaze up at it.

"Could that be the source of this," I say to myself.

"Could what I said last night, could it have made all of this happen?"

I flip through the book looking for some way to reverse all of this ... Nothing. Then I see a flap at the end of the book I rip it open and it reads:

"To reverse all spells and curses One must read thy spells backwards But beware some spells might stay for another day or just in fact might just stay."

I turn back to the page that I read last night. I walked over to my window, closed my eyes and hoped and prayed that this would work!

"Reednier, Lemni

Sdaot, Retsabala

Krad dna, thgil, live dna, doog fo thgil nos-mirc eht."

I opened my eyes and looked out the window. There were no frogs or reindeer, and the sky was as clear as ever. I rushed down stairs and and saw my mom

"I guess she was the reindeer."

I give her a big hug for the first time since.... for the first time I gave her a hug.

"Well good morning to you too, before you we eat can you grab the trash from out back. It's trash day, you know"

I went out back and grabbed the trash, but as I turned towards the door I heard laughter almost like playing by the trees and flowers. I tiptoe towards the trees and flowers and see...

"Elves," I say to my self

"Monday, Tuesday,

"Monday, Tuesday,

Monday, Tuesday"

the elves chant.

"And Wednesday," I add on.

The elves come running over to me, chanting the song.

"Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday"

"Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday"

"Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday"

"Well I guess this is the part of the spell that was non reversible" I say, to myself.

"Oh well, at least I have friends that are weirder than me and Christmas is only two months away. By then they'll be popular.

THE END ?

POETRY:

On July 28,2003 the Literacy program at St. E's Teen Program, also known as the Yet Program, had its first Poetry Slam. Ms. Laura White, who is the teacher of the YET program, taught the students about reading and writing poetry. To me, poetry means a lot of things. For instance, it can be a thought, a song, or even a story, what ever it is, poetry is sometimes a beautiful way to express ones feelings to another.

The poems that the Teens wrote are very good. Some of them get right down to the point, and others talk about growing up, and being succesful and getting a education. There are two sides to the poems; they are our dreams. Some are the nightmares of our reality and on the other side are hopes of what we wish our reality to become.

We would also like to announce the winners of the poetry slams at St. E's Teen Program and Diamond Street's Seeds of Hope: Damien Forman and Laporcha Groom.

When I grow up

By: Brianna Kelly

When I grow up I want to finish middle school, high school and then plan off to go to college.

When I grow up I want to finish college and go off to be a movie star.

When I grow up I want to be a singer or a dancer or a baby doctor someday.

When I grow up I want my GED, my bachelor degree, and my high school diploma and it's off to see the world.

When I grow up I want to help people in some kind of need.

We live soon

By Lamar Hall

We live soon
We eat soon
We live and eat soon
On mama's buffoon.

We live soon
We live soon
No longer on mama's buffoon
We live on our own.

We live soon on our own buffoon
Back at home on our buffoon.
TV's
By: Lamar Hall

TV's rhymes with gg's, tv's moves pictures, tv's have numbers which rhymes with cucumbers, Tv's have letters which rhymes with Lettuce, tv's have A remote that sounds Like coke, and throat.

The World

By Andres Lewis

WE HAVE DRUG DEALERS ON OUR BLOCK.
WE HAVE SHOOTINGS EVERYWHERE.
WE HAVE FIGHTS, CHASES, STABBINGS, AND RAPES.

WE NEED TO STOP THIS.

WHERE IS THE LOVE?
PEOPLE KILLING OUR OWN PEOPLE.
IT IS JUST NOT RIGHT.
LET US BE FRIENDS

The crazy taste of school food

By Sibilette Jeffery

The crazy taste of school food is atrocious
The taste of it makes me vomit.
When I vomit, I have to clean it up and mop it.
The lunch ladies are cruel
They are a part of the reason I hate school.
The food makes us crazy and deranged
And we start acting strange.
That describes the crazy taste of school food.

Criticism

By Robert Wilson

Criticism hurts because feelings involve itself into the situation
Pains, sharp chest pains,
Your head, headaches step in
Your brain, cries out for relief from the meant words, people still criticize what they don't know is true, but, you try to run, thinking that it would make it better,

BUT THE CRITICISM
IS STILL THERE!!!!

My dream life

By: Sibilette Jeffrey

My dream life is filled with no worries and no disappointment.
My dream life is filled with laughter, and tons of fun.
My dream life is all of the money in the world.

No arguments, peace and quiet, and relaxation, just being me with my friends.
But in reality my life is a living hell.
I have all the worries in the world.
My life is filled with arguments and fighting.
me as a young teenager my life revolves around a bunch of back stabbers and thieves.
My dream in life is to be a big time actress.
My dream is to be just like halle berry when I become an actress.
My dream is to live a happy life and just be a kid.

My Life

By: Lavier Blackmon

My life is like an ocean
It keeps on going away.
And my family is so funny
But why are my thoughts so gray?
My life is a vacuum
It really sucks.

Real Life Version (People Always Die)

By Andres Lewis

People sniff weed
People always die

People drink and drive
People always die

People get shot up every day
People always die

Millions of people have HIV
People always die

If this happens to you
You too will die

In the dark

By: Lavier Blackmon

In the dark you can do a lot of things.
In the dark girls get raped.
In the dark people get killed.
So tell me one thing,
Why go in the dark
When you can go in the light?

Curiosity

By Rodney Fentress

Curiosity involves itself and Yourself in situations you Don't need to know about.
I've been involving myself in things I didn't need to know about
Which have almost cost me Everything.
I learned my lesson.

I'VE PUT CURIOSITY
ASIDE MY LIFE!!

Crazy Things

By Andre Lewis

Crazy Things are in town crazy things are all around they have many sounds here, there, where, and square Crazy Things are everywhere, fast, dash, cash, and stash Crazy Things always go past there it go, slow, and so Crazy There always flow my name Ken I drank some gin Crazy Things is at the end.

When I die

By Lavier Blackmon

I came in this world
And it was kind of easy.
When I leave this world
I still think it is going to be easy,
Because people play too much these days.
They try to kill people that didn't do nothing.
So I think the way I'm going to die
Is by walking down the block.

Y.E.T. POETRY SLAM FINALISTS

Success

By Laporcha Groom

Diamond Street's Seeds of Hope



Success will take you far,

Don't let others hold you back while you reach the stars.

If you know your parents can't pay,

Good grades and success will find another way.

If you know your parents believe,

All you need to do is achieve.

If you know you can be what you want to be,

All you need is someone to help you see,

Right is right and wrong is wrong,

All you have to do is beleive and be strong.

Stand up for what you do,

Be the bigger person and good things will come to you.
Smell the swift air of the trees,

Hang around people with college degrees.

Don't get caught up with drugs,

Don't follow the actions of thugs.

After you finish school,

Follow the good actions of good people, that's cool.

Think kids are no biggie,

Well take it from your parents, it's not pretty.

Like I said, before success can take you far,

Drugs and alcohol will only send you to the bars.

Take it from me,

college these day is not free.

Following Our Road to Success

By Damien Forman

Teen Program at St. Elizabeth's



Although life brings many challenges we've learned to just give it our best,

Sometimes we must learn which path to choose when following our road to success.

The things that we must encounter encourage all to succeed,

It's good if we follow a role model, it's better if we take the lead.

So as we travel this highway our goal is to pass every test.

Determined and focused is how we will be when following our road to success.

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GET UP! GET INTO IT! GET INVOLVED!

True Definition

By: Jovany Shamwell

for her Grandmother Dorothea Shamwell

On this day we celebrate "Life" and the meaning there of

To a wonderful women full of joy, exuberance & love

These words are from us, to a mother, Grandmother, and to all a Gaurdian Angel

Though we lead our life, we love cherish & respect you

Today we all meet, as a family, as friends, to honour a women who's love never ends, & when we are in need

We know just where to find her,

For a past generation who has paved the way for us,

Today we celebrate 'Life' & it's TRUE DEFINITION.... LOVE

To the Young Youth for the Future of Tomorrow.

By Mrs. Crystal Smith

a message to the youth

* Be strong be free minded but stay on track.

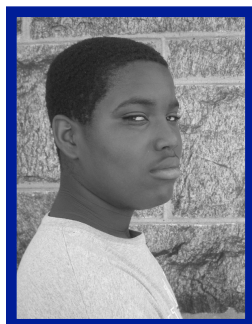
* Stay in school get your education get good grades and you can go to any college you want to go to.

* Listen to your teachers.

* Don't let anyone hold you back from what you want to do.

To Go Home, or not to go home. That is the question

By Kaesid Stuckey



Once upon a time on planet Earth, kids' parents began to get real strict with them. One day the kids couldn't take the stress any longer. The parents took it too far on chores, work, company, friends, family, embarrassing beatings, punishments, etc. They planned to leave planet Earth to be away from their parents. The kids were going to an abandoned planet called NeverMever. The kids were going to make their own civilization without parents bossing them around. The kids decided to make a blueprint for a spaceship they needed to fly them into space to take them to the planet NeverMever. So it was on a Friday night, at midnight actually, when the plan set off.

All the kids in the world met at the Grand Canyon. The kids did not waste any time to blast off into space. It took them one whole day to reach NeverMever. It looked like paradise to them. There was green grass growing, flowers blooming, water running, and a playhouse funny place. It was even better than planet Earth. The kids did not hesitate to start building houses, and to look for a food source.

Five years after they left planet Earth everything was going fine. The kids would rather be on NeverMever than with their parents back on planet Earth. Back on Earth, the

parents still do not have a clue where their children have gone. They felt bad without their children. They stared to think about what they did to make them leave.

Back on NeverMever, they had a huge problem. They detected a huge meteorite twice the size of the planet headed straight toward them. Now the problem is that they don't know where to go. There is one place they could go and that was back to planet Earth. After all those years of freedom, some kids thought would rather die than to go back home to their parents.

So they had a vote, to go home or not to go home; 48 percent of the votes were to rather die than to go back home; 52 percent of the votes said that they would go back home. So the decision was final, they went back home. Without any hesitation they left planet NeverMever and saw it from a distance for the last time.

They made it back on planet Earth safe and sound. The parents almost had heart attacks when they found the children. Then the parents realized that it was them that made the kids leave. So the parents let the kids be more free then they had, and that was all the kids had wanted.

The End

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**AFTER SCHOOL
 THIS FALL!!**

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Hi Cierra this Shantel

Lil Mo- Hi to the people in North Philly

Too all the teens: you are all Starz!!!
 Ms. J

Wasup, Bree this is your brother Peak

This is Destiny I want to give a shout out to all the SD people and all my family and friends

This is Desire, I want to give a shout out to all the people in Mansion and the people that represents Berks.

Holla Back!!!

"The beads are the people, the string is the vibe, the vibe is what mentally connects the tribe. Once you get on it, you can't get off it, you stay off beat, well baby doll you lost it."

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Volunteers are vital to our work and our community. Project H.O.M.E. relies on the commitment and passion of volunteers in all of our sites and programs. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. Come discover how your unique skills and ideas can make a difference in your community.

Some ideas for volunteer opportunities:

***Be a Mentor:** Get involved in Project H.O.M.E.'s after school programs for children. We are looking for tutors who can commit to a weekly session with a student in need. What a great way for you to brush up on your multiplication tables and long division as you help a child with his or her homework!

***Be a Star:** Do you have a special skill or talent that you could share with the residents like sewing, pottery, guitar playing, etc.? Even a game of basketball can be the highlight of someone's week!

***Be a Teacher:** You could participate in our Adult Learning Program. Residents need study buddies to encourage them with their literacy skills, GEDs, and computer training. You could be what a person needs to acquire their high school diploma.

***Be a Friend:** Share some of your time and talents one on one with a resident. Your visit could brighten their whole week. Help a resident with daily living skills like budgeting, cooking, laundry! The opportunities are endless!

To get more information about volunteering for Project H.O.M.E., please contact Robin Bonfield at robinbonfield@projecthome.org or 215-232-7272 x3015

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