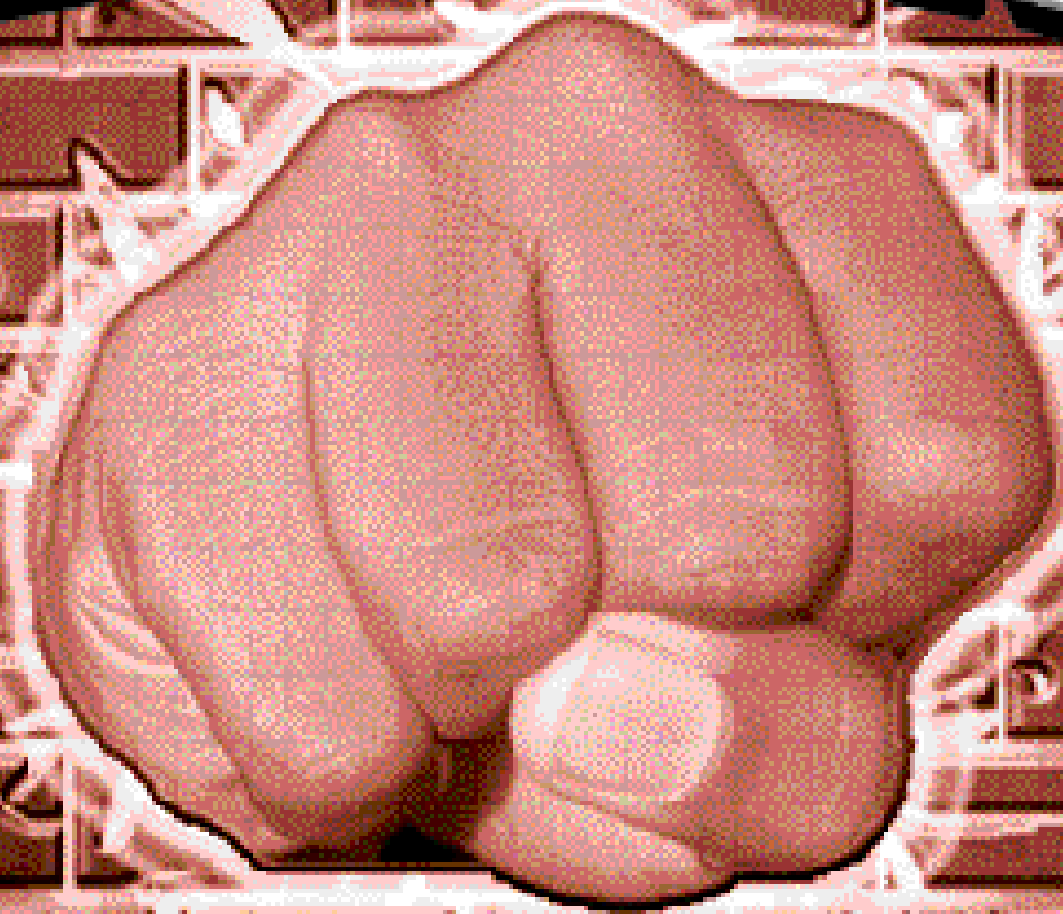


BREAKING



OUT

"Our business in life is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves, to break our own records, to outstrip our yesterday by our today"

- Stewart B. Johnson

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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WE WELCOME
YOUR FEEDBACK!!

Views expressed are
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views of Project
H.O.M.E.

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.

Remember **Project H.O.M.E.** when you sign up for your United Way Workplace Giving Campaign!

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Project H.O.M.E. only receives critically needed funding if you designate us on your campaign form.

Questions? Please contact Amanda Aronoff at 215-232-7272

Corrections:

The Poem "True Definition" in the last issue was written by Javany Shamwell for his Great Grandmother Dorothea Shamwell.

Well, we're still here! After one year, the NPM has gone from a little magazine printed on our little printer, to a full fledged newspaper. This also marks the end of an era, as we finally (any minute now) sadly depart from St. Elizabeth's and move that whole block and a half to the HLC/CTL on Judson St. We're going to miss everyone, and we're sure that they will miss us as well. (Especially you HB!)

To be finally entering the HLC/CTL, is as exciting as opening new toys on the holidays, and to be honest, it is filled with some incredible new "toys." From the new video equipment, to the computer labs and the full music recording studio, the year-ahead will be full of excitement. For both the staff and students, there is much to learn; new equipment, new software, and a world of technology at our fingertips.

In other news, we are excited to announce that this is our first completely advertising-sponsored issue, meaning that the ads sold in this issue completely covered the printing costs. A big, big thank you goes to all of our sponsors. We hope our readers support them, as they have supported us.

Respectfull,
Benjamin Harris



Special Thanks: Ms. Lynn for everything, but especially your visits and inspirational words. All the volunteers- Chris Driscoll, Gordon Southam, Jen Banks, Rachel Myers, Monika Wright, and everyone else. Ms. Chris and Ms. T., Mr. Malcolm, Healthy Partners, and a big big thank you to Laura Weinbaum who keeps our grammar and spelling straight as an arrow!

OPENING JAN 2004: HLC/CTL

Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs
Linking Young Minds to the Future!

Project H.O.M.E., in partnership with Lynne and Harold Honickman, Aileen and Brian Roberts, the Comcast Foundation and the Honickman Foundation, is developing a 38,000 square foot, learning center on the 1900 block of Judson Street in North Central Philadelphia. The Center will offer programs for children from kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adult learning and workforce development components. The programs in this Center will be tailored to help the residents of the community - young and old - move towards greater prosperity by increasing their educational and employment opportunities through comprehensive technology and literacy instruction.

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in our country's economic, political, and social life. There is, however, strong evidence of a "digital divide" - a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to Information Age tools and those who do not. The programs housed in the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs will focus on the integration of technology with art, education, and enterprise.

The Center, which will be equipped with 200 computers, will offer:

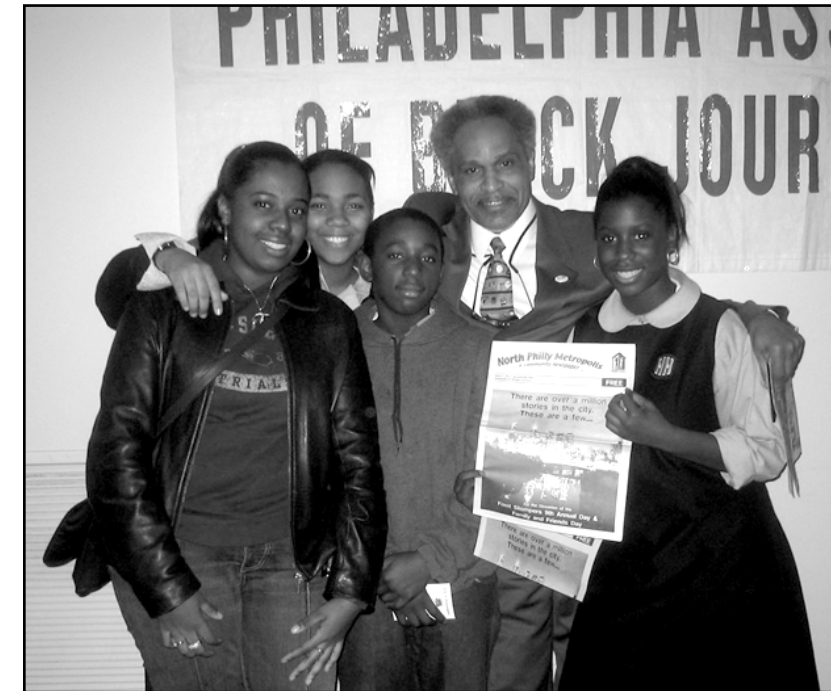
- An after school program with comprehensive literacy instruction.
- Technology/computer classes that teach children in kindergarten through 6th grades to be "users" of technology.
- Technology/computer classes that teach teens in 7th through 12th grades to be "creators" of technology (including classes in web design, video production, computer programming, and networking).
- An adult education program offering computer training, G.E.D. classes, and job search skills training.
- An art and music program that will include digital photography, computer graphics, ceramics, and landscape design, as well as opportunities to compose music on the computer.



Neighborhood NEWS

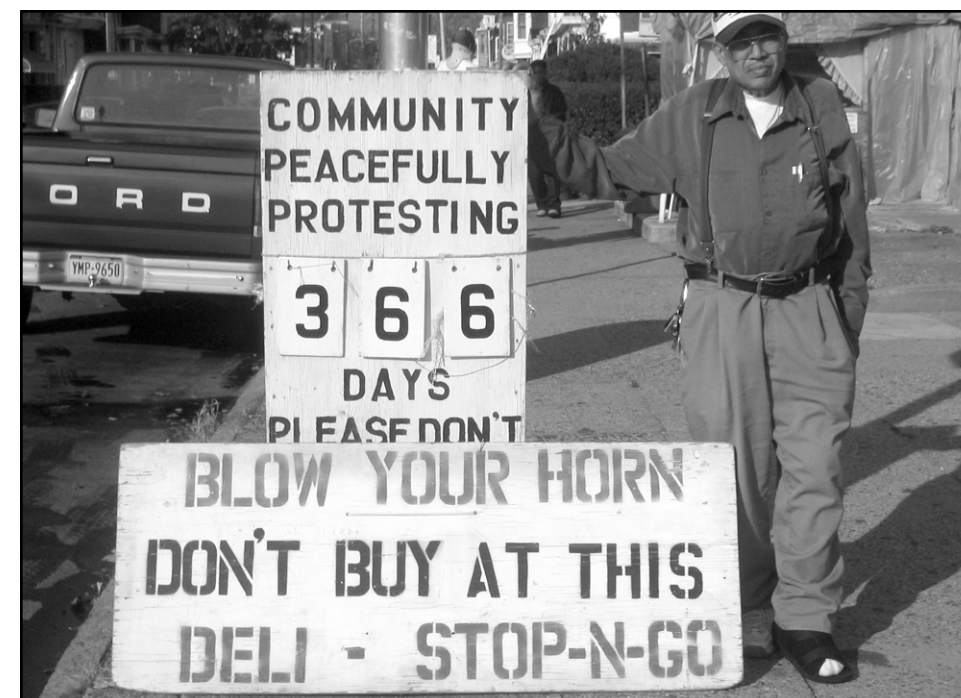
NPM Meets PABJ And Mayor Street

of the North Philly Metropolis were invited to the Philadelphia Assoc. of Black Journalists 30 Year Anniv. reception. Five students ventured down to the Daily News/Inquirer Building to listen to the likes of Whyatt Mondesire, Acel Moore, Reggie Bryant, Francine Cheeks, and our (newly re-elected) Honorable Mayor John Street. Many of the top Black journalists in the city met our students and received copies of the NPM.



The Final Straw By: Alfred Thomas

Since Oct. 2, 2002, the neighborhood of 55th Street and Larchwood St. in West Philly has protested to get drinkers and smokers off the corners. The NPM visited them one year and one day since they started, and spoke with the block captain. Mr. William Wright Sr.. After two years of fighting off the dealers, a "stop-n-go" was opened on their corner (We have three on Ridge Ave.), and that was the final straw. The store did not have the usual groceries, but sold mostly alcohol and drug paraphernalia. The neighborhood wanted a real store, not a store for alcoholics. They decided to stop the store. They made it happen by making a hut and staying on the corner day and night. We salute you and your efforts.



PAL OFFICER TYRON CRAWLEY INDUCTED INTO THE NEW JERSEY BOXING HALL OF FAME



Most everyone in the neighborhood knows Mr. Ty, the police officer, from his work at the 23rd St. Police Athletic League (PAL), but not everyone knows him as Tyrone "Butterfly" Crawley, the hall of fame boxer and once ranked in the top 10 in the world. Officer Crawley began his boxing career at the age of 14, and after 56 wins - 6 losses, a Golden Gloves title, and time on the All-Army Boxing team, went pro in 1980. As a professional, he won two titles; ESPN Lightweight Championship as well as the United States Boxing Association Championship, in a fight voted fight of the year by the USBA Committee. The NPM would love to congratulate Tyron Crawley for all his achievements, for his induction into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame, as well as all the positive work he does at the PAL for the young people of the neighborhood. He truly is a role model for all of us.

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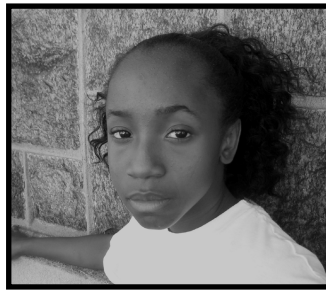
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EDUCATION

**"The function of education is to help you from childhood not to imitate anybody, but be yourself all the time."
- Jiddu Krishnamurti**

Public Schools vs. Private Schools

By: Fatima Thomas



Public School vs. Private School
By Fatima Thomas

Talking about public school versus private brings up a big discussion. It makes people want to argue and fight because they care about their schools. But people from both schools don't know it's not their fault. In this article I'll tell you about public school versus private school and whose fault it is that the public schools and private schools are so different.

First, I want to say that I'm not putting any school down, I'm just making a point. I want to start with the public school's advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of public school are:

- It's free and you don't have to pay for books.
- It offers more opportunity for you to get to next school.
- Bigger school yard.
- Diverse student population.
- Teachers and administrators who care about inner-city students.

The disadvantages of public schools include:

- They don't use money wisely. They use it on things that are useless. Instead of using the money to pay more administrators, they should buy microscopes and things that really matter.
- They try to make room for new grades/classes within existing schools that they don't

Interview with the Director of the HLC/CTL

Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs

Cindy Ferguson

By: Destiny Lewis



Many of you have watched the construction on Judson and Berks St. for the last year, and might still be wondering what they're building. The HLC/CTL (or the Learning Center as many call it), is a Community Technology Center (CTC). A CTC is a place where people from the community can come to take advantage of today's technology. Ms. Cindy Ferguson is the newly appointed director of the HLC/CTL, and here is a chance to get introduced to who she is.

NPM: How did you hear about Project H.O.M.E.?

CF: I have been associated with Project H.O.M.E. for a number of years, kind of like a friend of Project H.O.M.E.. I've been a supporter and I have come to events. I have known Sister Mary for a long time and I have known about all the good work Project H.O.M.E. has done.

NPM: What will be your position or role and duties when the Center opens?

CF: I am the Director of the Center and I will be responsible for bringing the dream of the Center to reality. The dream of the Center is to make state-of-the-art technology available to the young people in the community, to the adults in the community, and help the community to reach its educational and employment goals.

NPM: Have you had experience working with big facilities like the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs?

CF: Not exactly like the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs because I think this is a one-of-a-kind Center, and there is nothing currently like this in the United States. The Learning Center has the potential to be a national model. Before working with Project H.O.M.E. and the Learning Center, I was the Executive Director of a community-based organization called Community Women's Educational Project (CWEP). There are some similarities, in that CWEP had an adult education program, there was the use of computers, there were after-school programs for young people, summer camp... But this takes it to a whole different level.

NPM: In what ways do you think the Center will be a success in the community?

CF: A lot of the students as well as adults in the community don't have access to the kind of technology the Center will be offering. There are things that are going to be at the program that most of the staff have never seen or experienced before. The

have room for. Instead they should make another school.

-Some kids have a lot of experience but the school system is so slow that when they go to a good high school they're behind. This is because their previous school slow, underestimating the students intelligence..

The advantages of private school are:

- Private schools are ahead and are more challenging.
- Lunches are warm and fill you up.
- Extra help (reading help etc.)
- Experienced teachers that have diplomas.
- Cleaner and well paid teachers.

The disadvantages of many of private schools in Philadelphia include:

- They cost too much money.
- They are not diverse (all of the students are rich and generally of European).

Now, I don't blame the public schools. It's not their fault. You know whose fault it is? It's the government for not paying enough attention to the public schools. Because they have little money to put into the schools, they neglect them. But not all of the schools are neglected. The government pays so much attention to those schools in Delaware, New Jersey, and the schools with populations of whites, better teachers, and better standards.

So instead of taking it, the schools should try to get the students to fight for the cause and show that there is still racism and discrimination. I have a strong point on the government's malignant ways.

I'm also not here to criticize whites or show any discrimination against whites, and I'm not saying that whites are to blame. It's not their fault. It's our fault for not enforcing our rights that we have in the Constitution. I want to end this on a good note: take your rights seriously and keep voting, don't quit!



computers that are going to be there are beyond what you would find in a regular nonprofit organization.

NPM: Where are you from?

CF: I was born in Philadelphia. I live in Bucks County. I live right on the Bucks County-Philadelphia border.

NPM: Are you excited about starting the new program?

CF: I am very excited. I had no intention of leaving and I loved where I was, but when I found out about this wonderful opportunity for the community, for Project H.O.M.E., and for me being involved with it, my decision was not hard to make. It was very emotional for me to leave where I was, but this has so much incredible potential.

NPM: Will community residents be allowed to come in and hang out without being part of the after school program or camp?

CF: That is something we still have to figure out. We want it to be open and available to the community but it is a Center for technology education and what we wouldn't want to have happen is that people would just come in to hang out. We want people to be there for a purpose. We want people to improve their technology skills or to be doing innovative things that are going to be there, like digital video, digital music, web design and things like that, developing those kinds of skills.

Contact Cindy Ferguson at either 215.232.5866 x206 or 215.235.2900

Before and After

By: Martez Burton



I was just running around, having nothing to do. I was getting into trouble. I was doing things that you're not supposed to do. I was hanging out with the craziest kids; I was being a follower instead of a leader. Being a leader gets you somewhere in life. Following will get you in a lot of trouble.

One day I met a man. He was with a lot of children. They were making a video. They saw me and asked, "Do you know how to rap and dance?" I said, "yes." So I started rapping first and then I started dancing. The video came out good. Everyone who saw it enjoyed it.

They asked me if I wanted to be in the after-school program in the spring. I said, "I will see you there." So the spring came and I went to each class. I met new people and started on a new set of videos. I made some videos myself. One video was titled, "Shoot Hoops." This video was about me making baskets. The other video is about the drill team. A drill team is made up of two groups of people. One section plays the drums while the others march. The video was a showcase of Project H.O.M.E.'s drill team, The North Philly Footstompers. The performance and practices of the drill team are the main parts of the video. People seem to enjoy the video and are proud of the drill team. Currently, my teacher, Mr. Ben, and I are still working on that piece.

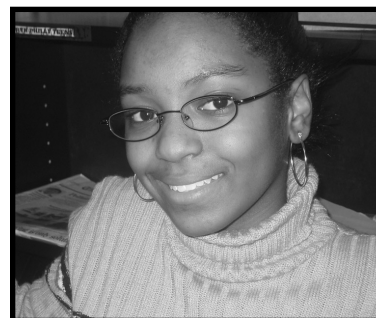
My friend Alfred and I have a new idea for a video about making a band. Here at Project H.O.M.E. we have a band. We take a person who does not know how to drum and have one of his friends teach him how to play. The hope is that we will show people how hard it is to play the drums. We also want to show people that you can learn from your classmates and friends. This is also to prove that it is ok to ask for help when you need it. The idea is that you have to keep on trying in order to succeed in what you want to do.

Project H.O.M.E. has given me the help that I needed to become a leader instead of a follower and I am just trying to achieve my own goals. Graduating from high school is at the top of my list. I hope to get a good job and raise a family. The life that I want could not be gained with the direction that I was going before Project H.O.M.E. Now I know that I can achieve my goals.

WHAT ARE YOUR EDUCATION GOALS?

Grades

By: Diandra Davy



In school you have to keep your grades up. There are many things you need to do to keep your grades up like pay attention in class, participate in class, and do your homework. We all know this, but sometimes it's hard when you have a lot going on in your life. Some people just don't care about school and they decide to fool around and their grades start to drop. When you're dealing with a lot of drama you may fall into the wrong crowd. You should not worry about what everybody else is doing in school and worry about yourself.

There are a lot of distractions in the world, such as drugs, violence, and sex. You could be going through boy and girl trouble. Some girls and boys have sex at an early age and the girl may become pregnant. Many single parents are very worried about their children dating.

If you are in a sticky spot you should try to work it out with your teacher, classmates, or family members. At home I have gone through a lot of drama (haven't we all!), but I had to put all that aside and focus on my grades and my future. If I need help in anything in school, even though my Mom and I might be going through a hard time, I still can come to her (love you, Mom!).

My mom wants me to go to Masterman or Central, but I want to go to Dobbins. She says that I am too young to make my own choices. I say that I am old enough to make my own choices. Just because I am 13 years old does not mean I can't make my choices. I really don't think that's fair. If I want to go to that school I should go! Either way, my hard work has given me the choice between some of Philadelphia's few great public schools.

All I can say is, one should try to do their best in school. Hard work pays off.

Society

By: Kediah Thompson



Most of my life, society has presented to me that dark skin tones are worthless. It seemed as if society makes dark-skinned people feel like they are not pure, or that they are a threat to everyone around them. Society lied to me numerous times, but this was the one situation that really got under my skin because I was born dark skinned. Now I have grown to be a heavy-set dark-skinned female, and to society that is not a good combination.

For many years, I believed what society said and did to me. I was a dark-skinned child, and very vulnerable to what people said. During my elementary school

days, it was very easy to intimidate me and hurt my feelings. Adults would say things to me and about me like, "you are very pretty," or, "she has very pretty skin," or "she is a cute chocolate kid." But the things that my peers would say would be so cruel that I'd forget about all the compliments the adults would give me. My peers would say things like "burnt cookie," "gorilla face," or "dirty." Those types of things would make me go home crying to my mother. The result of my peers' actions was that my intentions toward school began to change. I began to feel afraid when I didn't understand something. I cried whenever I was put on the spot. Basically, I felt as though I was the little dumb fat black girl that goes to Edward Gideon Elementary School.

In the years since, I've told myself that I am not worthless, and I can do anything I choose. Time passed and before I knew it, I was in the eighth grade at E. Washington Rhodes Middle School. Time changed. Also I've changed, both physically and mentally. I basically grew up into a better person. A year later, I met my best friend, Tynitta. She said to me one day, "life is too short to let someone who breathes and bleeds just as you do intimidate you." From that day on, I took her advice to better myself. People say I have grown to have a nonchalant attitude, but if you ask me, I think I am just very confident in myself. I always thought society would come around. For a while, it didn't budge. Eventually, it did, and now chocolate is in.

That's my opinion and it's never going to change.

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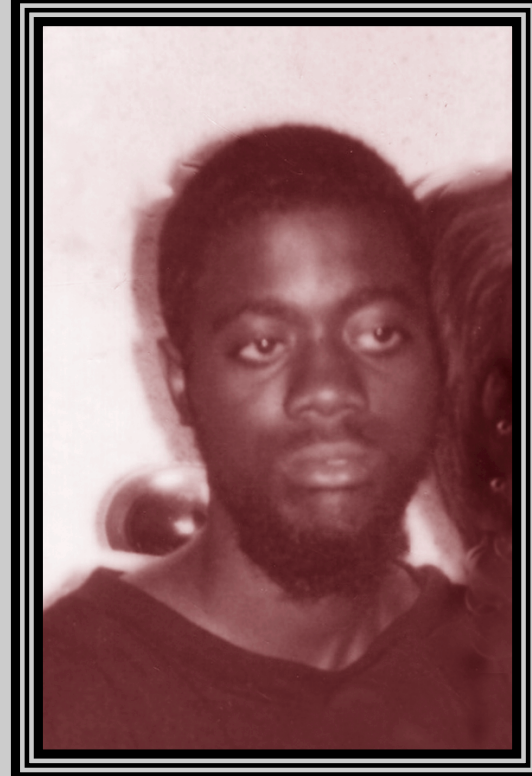
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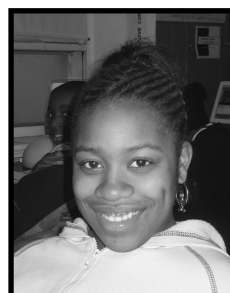


Calvin "Cadillac" Alexander

Today's Teens

By: VelvetPierce

Today's teens are so uptight with their clothes, shoes, hair, face, the whole nine yards, they need to realize that it's not about your looks all the time. When teens worry about their looks it's because they have low self-esteem and that's not good because that means that they will want all the high-priced clothes, shoes, lip gloss, and weaves. I understand you want to look your best, so you buy the best, but then when you need some money for your cell phone bill or anything, you're not going to have it because you spent all your money worrying about what you look like. In conclusion, teens should pay attention more to how they feel on the inside than about what they look like on the outside.



My Crazy Experience

By Kaesid Stuckey



It was a nice autumn day in the afternoon, in October. I walked to the corner of my block (Newkirk Street). All of a sudden, I saw a friend of mine taking somebody in a house at gunpoint. I stood there, wondering why he would do this. Later, I found out that the gunman lost a bet of \$250 on a football game. Ten minutes later, I hear screeching cars turning the corner. One was a black van with the acronym of S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons And Tactics). And I said to myself, "this is really serious." Then one of them told me to "get back, now!" As

soon as he said it, I darted right back to my steps. I saw the men talking, and it looked like they were going to make a move. Then they saw my friend with the man on the roof. He said that if they came in, he would kill the man. My friend's aunt tried to talk him out of it. He said he wouldn't do anything crazy. And then they went back into the house. Five minutes later, he let the man free, the S.W.A.T. men asked him questions and then they took him into a police car and drove off. Then everybody went back into their homes. The S.W.A.T. team was still out there. Night broke out and I was in bed. Nothing still. Then a cop helicopter with a search light circled the house. I wasn't awake to hear what else happened that night, but they caught the bad guy the next day. That was my Crazy Experience!

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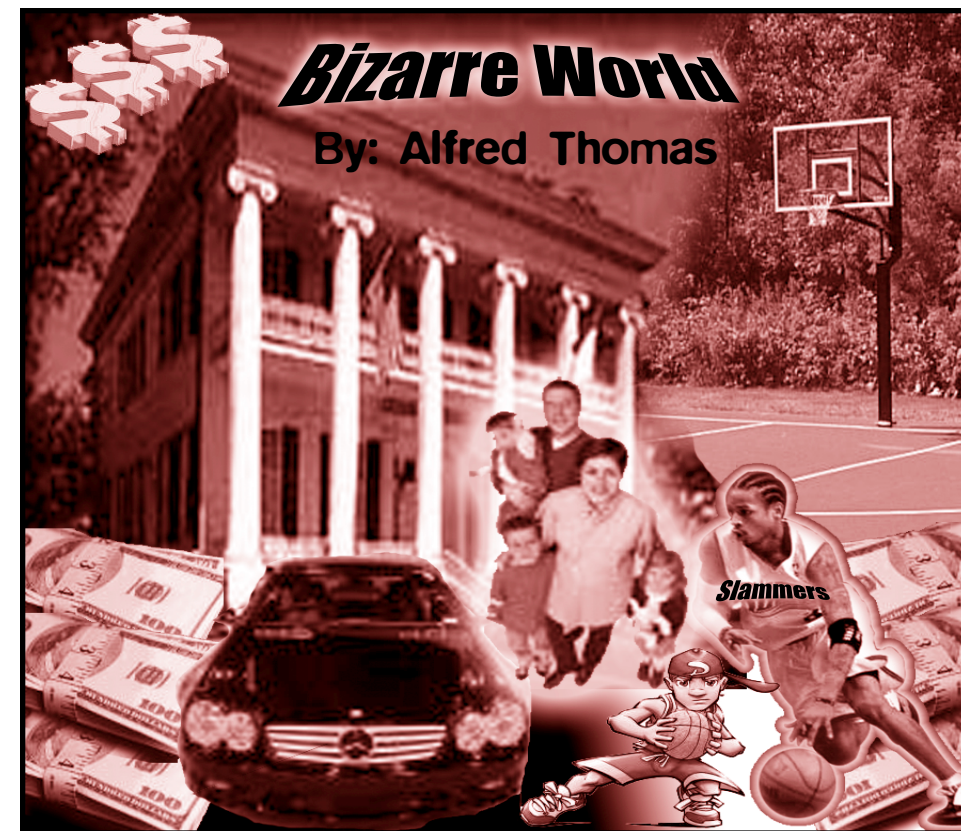
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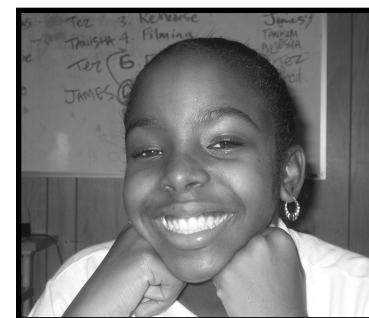
or Drop by St. Elizabeth's (North 23rd and Berks St.)

GET UP! GET INTO IT! GET INVOLVED!



About President Bush

By: Miranda Jenrette



The President of the United States is currently not doing a good job. This article is about President George W. Bush. As president, all he has done is attack and take over two countries. He spent the budget surplus and bankrupted the treasury of this country. I think the reason that 9/11 happened was because he was in office and he was changing foreign policy. I think people would like him if he paid a visit to the schools and talked to the children of this country, instead of always talking to children of foreign nations.

My opinion about Bush is that he never should have become President. He did not win the popular vote of this country. He cheated his way into the White House. I think the reason that 9/11 happened was because he was in office and he was changing foreign policy. I think people would like him if he paid a visit to the schools and talked to the children of this country, instead of always talking to children of foreign nations.

He is trying to give Iraq \$15 billion to rebuild that country. For that much money, an additional 8,252,682 children could attend a year of Head Start; 25,019,900 additional children could be provided with a year of health care; 1,480,570 additional four-year scholarships could be given out at public universities; 833,879 additional affordable housing units could be built. These numbers show how much he is trying to give to Iraq and take from us. If he used that money on all the problems we have in this country, we would be just right.

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Once upon a time there was a guy named Joe. He was a talented guy. Joe had his own basketball team, the "Slammers," but he never entered them in the NBA because they were no good, and the other teams would make fun of them. Joe had a good job as a lawyer. He had just won a big case so he had lots of money. Joe had a good, beautiful wife. She earned lots of money from being a model. The two of them had a nice income. They had three kids who learned a lot in private school and were growing up quickly. They lived in a big house. Life was good for Joe.

One night, Joe went to sleep and dreamt about his life. In the dream, everything he has is taken from him. His basketball team quits on him. His beautiful wife leaves him for a richer man. His house burns down. He was feeling pain that he had never felt or known before. Then his kids go to jail for burning down the house. They wanted to kill their parents.

Then it went from bad to worse. He lost a major case. The guy who won was a liar who won by creating false documents against Joe's client. The jury believed this lawyer instead of Joe. After the case, Joe's client acted cool. When Joe came to tell him about filing for an appeal, the man took out a gun and POW! He shot Joe.

Joe woke up in a cold sweat. From that day on, Joe learned to love everything that he had in his life. He decided to never take things for granted ever in his life to come. Three years later, the "Slammers" signed a big guy with lots of money named Alfred Thomas who coached them to the NBA championship.

Weed

By: Jovon Fischer



Why do boys think weed is cool? Well, God put me on this earth to tell you that it's not cool. Personally, I think boys smoke weed because they think it gives them the confidence to talk to girls, not good confidence but bad confidence. When they smoke, they talk to girls in a very ignorant way that makes girls uncomfortable. If a girl will not give any attention to a boy who is smoking weed, he will get mad and start to call her bad names.

From my point of view girls do not like boys who smoke weed. Boys may think that smoking makes them a man. I know that this is not true. A man is someone who has a job and takes care of his responsibilities.

Smoking causes a lot of different problems: a person's teeth turn yellow; their breath stinks; and it gives a person acne. There are also mental problems associated with smoking weed. Weed kills your brain cells and makes you become very forgetful. It is also illegal to smoke weed. Did you know that if a college gives you a scholarship and you are caught smoking weed, the college can take your scholarship away? Everybody that I know would pick college over weed.

I know I would pick college over weed.

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Cash needed for settlement \$3,500
Sales Price between \$35,000-\$55,250
Estimated Monthly Payment \$350.00-\$450.00 dollars a month

Project H.O.M.E



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- 1.5-2.5 baths
- Gas Heat
- Full Basement
- Fenced Yard
- Energy Efficient

Washer/Dryer Hookup

These homes are for first time buyers only!

SEEDS OF HOPE:

Since 1995, Chris "Ms. Chris" Whaley and Priscilla "Ms. T" Bennett have held down their neighborhood around 28th and Diamond thru their Seeds of Hope Community Center, a part of Project H.O.M.E. In order to take advantage of the new Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLC/CTL), they will be moving their K-6 classes down to Judson St. Currently, they are hoping to maintain their community programming on Diamond St., by transforming Seeds of Hope into a NAC (Neighborhood Assistance Center). From organizing the block captains as POP (People of Progress), to starting the first teen program in the area (Diamond St. Productions), to providing weekly food baskets, their effect on Diamond St. has been as large as it has been unique. Here is a brief listing of their efforts in the area: Maintaining 6 community gardens. Hosting the 22nd District's Community Workshops for Youth, Serving on the advisory board of the Food Bank, Providing food assistance thru the Food Bank and Phil abundance, Nutritional education for youth and adults thru the Food Bank and Drexel Univ., Providing energy assistance thru LiHeap, ECA, and Cool Roofs, and the list goes on. This is in addition to providing a safe, comfortable, cosy, and inviting community meeting space. For their positive presence in the community., we salute their efforts.

The following is just a sample of some of the beautiful writing of their K-6 Program. The NPM would like to acknowledge the excellent writing skills of each and every "Seed", as it was very difficult to decide what to print.



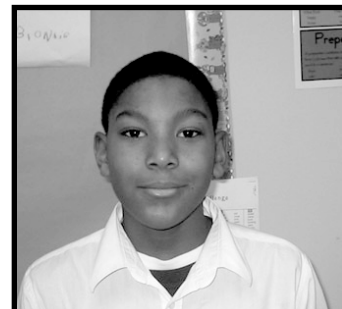
Something That I Do Afterschool

By: Rasheen Sloan Grade 6

I come to Seeds of Hope Afterschoolership Academy. First, I read my books for the 100 Book Challenge, and then I write in my journal. I hate reading aloud, but with the help of volunteers, I do not mind reading. After I read, I do my homework. Then I have to stay here until I am done until my homework.

Then I walk home with my sister, Niberia. When I get in the house, I get in the bathtub. I watch Rug rats on Nickelodeon. I eat dinner after I watch the rug rats, then I get ready for

school the next day.



The Conditions in Philadelphia

By Jamil Shabazz Grade 4

The conditions in Philadelphia are getting worse and worse. But people from the community are helping Philadelphia's streets get cleaner and neater. Homeless people are dying because of drugs. In Philadelphia, the conditions are worse, but I know people are trying to clean

the streets. So we should be kind to others and help them clean other parts of the street. There are people selling drugs and some people are dying from them. People are making mistakes selling drugs. They are making the conditions in Philadelphia worse again. You ask how I know? Because they are selling drugs all over the streets. We should stop people from selling drugs.

The Best

By: Henry Jones Grade 3

Will be the best I can be, for things to be fun for me!
At home, I will clean up after my dog.
At school, I will behave,
In the center, I will listen,
In the community, I will not cuss,
I will be the best I can be, because Project HOME believes in me!



My Life

By Launa Clark Grade 2

I love my life for many reasons. First, I know life can be rough, but I still love life. It's awesome! When I was four I thought life was going to be easy. I thought life was so easy I thought I could kick a door down all by myself. I thought I could do anything when I turned seven, but now I am seven and life is a little harder. I thought I could rule the world, and be Mayor when I was four. I now know that life can be very difficult. My life is great, and I really want to thank God for giving me another day of life. Soon I will be eight, and when I am older, I want to be a hairdresser, and an E.R. Doctor. I am really lucky to have family, foos, water, and love at home. I am lucky to have a house and a bed. Now, I am very proud that my family, friends, and God are right beside me. Now you know all about my life. I really enjoy my life. I know I can be anything when I grow up.



More Murals

By Diamond Walker Grade 3

We need more murals for houses that are abandoned to make them look pretty, not scary, and remind you of people you know. It looks very bright and sweet. I've been so happy and say thank you Lord. Like they say, the more morals, the more the merrier. I love murals. I would like a mural of my own someday that

would say when I was born, 1995, and when I died. Other people that are on drugs will it's ugly. They are jealous. We have fun just looking at it. We can keep the murals if we just try. Please try you need to. Just believe in yourself and your dreams will come true

Don't Make Life So Difficult

By Imani Cook Grade 2

Life would not be so difficult if you just put your mind to it. If you are a child and you are in school, don't make life so difficult. Just put your mind to it and you will get it. If you are a grownup and you work, be sure what you are doing. I am just saying that you should not make life so difficult. If you have a problem and life is hard, you can keep your head up and not worry about mistakes. Difficulties are in everyone's lives and we need to try to do our best to overcome them.



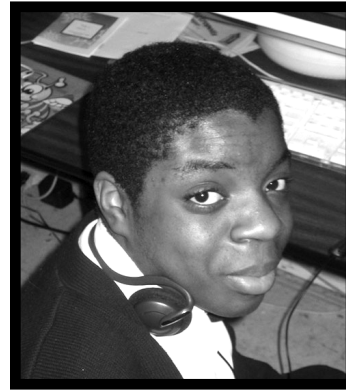
How to Make Our City Better

By Nibreia Sloan Grade 3

We can make our city better by stopping drugs, fights, and killing, because people get hurt. They use spray paint and other things like that. They rob stores. They blow peoples' houses up, and other things like that. They cross the street on red lights instead of green. They break into other people's houses, and take other peoples' kids. You should mind your own business. Stop touching other people's stuff without permission. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Treat people the way you want to be treated. Stay away from violence. Say please and thank you when people offer you something. Stay in school and learn more, and get a good education. Help children from abandoned houses, and stop littering. Start listening to your teachers. Spend time with your children and your grandchildren, instead of people on the street. Walk the other way if you see something going on. Thank you for making our city better

An interview with "Cheats" Cory Rouse

By Peak Johnson



If you ever watched the show 'Cheats' on the video game channel G4, then you probably know who Cory Rouse is. If you never watched the show, then this article is just for you. I never met Cory, but I did interview him via e-mail. Here are his answers to some of the questions that I asked:

1. PJ: How did you get started in the video game business?

CR: Before G4, video games were just a hobby. A hobby I spent A LOT of time on, but still just a hobby. I got a call from the producers of "Cheats" telling me they were looking for a host. When I came in to audition,

they asked me to just talk about video games for a couple of minutes while they filmed me. Instead of talking about them, I made up a rap about "Counterstrike" (another video game). They hired me and since then I have the best job in the world.

2. PJ: If you were not working at G4, where would you want to work?

CR: Well, this is a good question. I have been an actor for over 12 years now. I stay pretty busy with other stuff as well. Being on G4 allows me to bring together the two things that I love: video games and acting.

3. PJ: Was it your idea to come up with a show about cheats?

CR: No, as I understand it, "Cheats" was a show that they wanted from the very beginning.

4. PJ: I feel only certain games should be given cheats like complicated games such as, 'Kingdom Hearts' and the 'Final Fantasy' series. This is because sometimes you can beat games without any cheat codes, and it's fun without

These are only a few of the best codes.

JAK 2
Collect Precursor Orbs to unlock these options in the secrets Menu

Hero Mode-200orbs
Invulnerability-175 orbs
Level Select-145 orbs
Unlimited Ammo-155 orbs
Unlimted Dark Jak-165 orbs

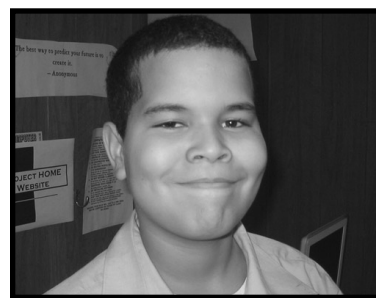
True Crimes
Master Code- In the Map Prompt push Up, Right, Down, Left, Up, and X
Weapon Upgrade- In the map prompt push right, Left, right, Left, and X
Every Upgrade- In the map prompt push up, left, Down, Left, up, and X
Driving Upgrade- In the map prompt push left, right, left, right, and X

Viewtiful Joe for Gamecube
Play as Alastor- Complete the game on V-rated difficulty
Play as Captain Blue- Complete the game on Ultra V-rated difficulty
Play as Sylvia- Complete the game on Adults difficulty
Ultra V-rated Mode- Complete the game on V-rated difficulty
Viewtiful World Music Video- Compete the game on kids difficulty

Max Payne 2
All Weapons- Pause the game press L1,L2, R1, R2, Triangle, Circle, X, and Square
Invincibility-Pause, L1, L1,L2, L2,R1, R1, R2,R2
All weapons full Amunition- L1, L2, R1, R2, Triangle, Circle, X, Square

Why a Dirty Country???

by Elijah Smith



(The message I'm trying to send is that we should not have a dirty country...)

For the longest time, mayors said that they were going to put people on the street and start to clean. What happened? I spoke to some staff at Frederick Douglass Elementary School about this problem. The first person I asked was the lunch lady, Miss Kemp. She said, "The environment is dirty because of germs and because people keep throwing trash on

the pavement and empty lots."

Then I went to a teacher named Miss Pow, and she said the same thing. The next person I asked was a NSCC (National School and Community Corp.) worker and she said, "I think it's a mess because these people know exactly what they are doing."

Then I stopped and thought to myself, the people I should be going to are my parents, they would know what to say. They gave me the best answer. They said everybody should clean it up because everybody messed it up.

them, but sometimes the games gets really hard and you start getting mad and that's when you definitely need cheats. What do you think?

CR: The question of whether cheat codes should be allowed is always one that sparks debate. Here is my opinion on cheat codes, and mind you I'm not talking about walk-throughs or Easter Eggs (things you wouldn't normally find in the game without knowing where to look).which are two completely different issues all together.

Cheat codes are game enhancers. The two games you mentioned are very in-depth role-playing games (or RPGs). I have had requests from countless gamers who are playing these games, asking for different codes to help them past a particular "choke-point" [a difficult spot in a game]. They are looking for codes because they have exhausted everything they can think of to get past that point in the game and many times, if they can't find the codes to help them, they put the game away and move on to another game.

Video games are made to be fun ways to escape. Cheat codes allow the developers to give gamers little pushes here and there to keep gamers playing the game.

When thinking of whether or not codes should even be made, I am reminded of something my father always says, which is, "better to have and not need, than to need and not have."

5. PJ: What is your favorite video game of all time, and do you have a favorite cheat for it?

CR: My favorite game of all time is CONTRA which also has one of the most famous cheats of all time, the famous KONAMI CODE!! This code gave you 30 men with three continues which ultimately gave you 90 MEN!!! Who can't beat a game with 90 MEN?! By the way, if you don't know the code, it is: Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A, B, A, Start.

6. PJ: Could you give us any advance cheats from any upcoming shows for either Playstation 2 or X-box? (We print in December.)

CR: For this, you will have to check out the show :) All I can tell you is, Knights of the Old Republic.

An Interview with Ms. Alice Berry

By: Jovon Fisher



In 1933, a wonderful woman moved in to this neighborhood, named Alice Berry. It is now almost 2004, so she has lived in the same house on 23rd Street for 70 years. She's lived here since Cecil B. Moore Avenue was called Columbia Avenue. Since she's been here so long, I decided to speak with her about the neighborhood and all the things she's seen.

She got married in 1933. She had five children, and they all finished school and college. She said the neighborhood has changed over the years. She doesn't have the same type of neighbors that she used to. She has outlived her contemporaries. I wanted to know if she felt her neighborhood has come and gone. She said that she wouldn't say it's gone, but there's been a lot of change.

She felt positive about the new Center being built on Judson Street. Then Jennifer asked, "What are some of the positive ways the neighborhood has changed?" She said that they have built more homes and educational centers. Some of the negative things she said were that there are not as many shopping centers as there were back then.

Back then you didn't even have to go to Market Street, all you had to do was go to Ridge Avenue. Also, a lot of new people have come around and do drugs and shoot guns on the street. Mayor Street has done lots of stuff for the street., including putting police on every corner. Hopefully, she will see more positive things happening in the future, such as safer street corners and more shopping places on Ridge Avenue.

My Mom

By: Myesha Donovan



My mother is my biggest inspiration because she cares for me the most.I don't think no one has cared as much. My mother raised me and her best to get me where I'm supposed to be,She also tries her best to give me what I need. She makes sacrifices for me. I'm not saying that,the rest of my family does not inspire me,but my mother is the one I can rely on and I can really talk to. I can also talk to my mother about basically anything. I can also talk to my cousins who are around my age and older,but no one compared to my mother. My mother

knows all the right things to say console and also guide me.

My mother helps me be more myself other the someone else,that's why my mother inspires me to be an individual. My mother teaches me more thing's at home then what school teaches me in school. School is a big part of my life but so is my mother that's what my mother is my consoler, healer, teacher and my everything that's why I love her. That's my inspiration.

POETRY

My Neighborhood By Helen Oates

People doing drugs
People feeling sad
People wondering why
People moving out
Kids staying out way past midnight
Horns going beep-beep
As the traffic goes by
Smelling like old feet
As people come
People not knowing what's going on
People having babies while they're still babies
People fighting
People getting scared
People not understanding
How I feel
Making me think I'm sometimes
Not real
But at the end it's my neighborhood



I Want to Be Equal By Helen Oates

I want= to be equal
I see= you looking like I'm not valued
I feel= you feel I'm not measured
I touch= your head and I feel what you think I'm not loved
I taste= success that I'm the same
I want= to be equal
I fear= that you know I'm different
I hope= that some day you'll understand
I'll love= to fit in when the time comes
I cry= because of the stares I get
I want= to be equal
I hear= the things you say
I say= I'm valued
I want= to be equal
But at the end I'm what I want to be different



Mom By: Shantel Moris

Mom love is for you
You did a lot for me
You made me happy
When I was sad
I will miss you
With love
This for you.

Why By :I'm Looking For a Boyfriend

I'm look for a boyfriend
Someone fun to be with
Someone who loves me for who I am
Be with me from up to down.
And who does not want me just for my money
I want to be called honey maybe wifey
This what I'm looking for
Someone I can talk too!!
I will love for ever and ever.

Why By :Miranda Shonique Jenrette

Why did binladen blow up them three
Great buildings, why in rich american
We have hungry children, why are
People teasing
One another god made you.
I go to church, you should too
Why do young girls have babies?
Do you see how most of the men
Treats their ladies?
Why do peolpe leave thier only
Kid?
It isn't their fault that you got
In the bed.
Why don't people go and get
A job?
Oops I forgot, they rather
Go out and rob
Why do they want fast money to get
Some friends?
After you do all that your life will come to an end!!!



At the Moment of Death By: April Larayia Gibbs

At the moment of death

In one day you are born.

In that same amount of time you can die.

While you are dyeing your life seems to flash before your eyes.

You think of your parents, your lover(s), children, friends, family, an all the things you wish you would have done before you died.

For the last chance your real with yourself.

For the last chance you're honest

For the last chance yourself for who you really are.

You see if you liked what you have become.

You see if you have accomplished any of your goals.

You see if you're mad or frustrated at yourself for not doing the things you wanted to do all your life.

After that moment passes all of that doesn't matter any more.

You have reached salvation.

Salvation is the next step up the ladder until you reach the perfect moment of happiness; some people say perfect happiness is when you have an orgasm.

You're at the point where you have been forgiven for all of your sins.

You're at the point where you feel at home, where you will the peace inside your soul.

You're at the point where your heart starts to cry because you're finally at rest.

You get to hang out with everyone one, dead rap stars, dead R&B singers, friends that have passed away, and dead family members.

While living you would have to pay for everything, here you see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Another great thing about being here is that I'm get to watch, protect, guide, and be with friends and family even if you don't know I'm there

I take a deep breath, and say peace at last.



How Jail Is Rubbing Off On The Streets By James Butler

To start, I have to tell you about the percentage of people in jail in this country. The United States has the highest percentage of people in jail in the world, this year as well as in the past few years. Over 2 million Americans are in jail!! That's more than 1 out of every 150.

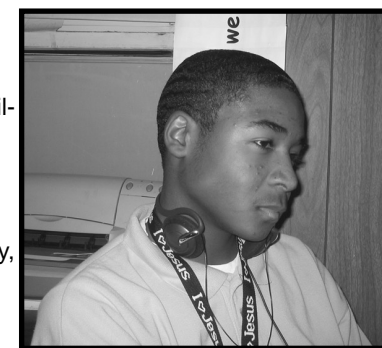
When we take a closer look at the percentage of African Americans in jail, it is more shocking. In Philly, one out of every 18 black males is in jail, while only one out of every 236 white males is in jail. What does that tell you?

The public is awed that some people, such as recording artist 50 cent, have survived despite getting shot approximately nine times. To many, getting stabbed or shot or getting put in 'the hole' is fascinating. Also, people are using names such as D Block, which is a jail cell number. It is also fashionable to wear jumpsuits similar to those worn by prisoners.

Now, young blacks think that jail is a normal part of life. Half of the black males in jail today are between the ages of 18 and 25. Now you don't even have to be 21 years of age to go to jail, you only have to be 18.

Many smart people are behind bars these days, but after ex-cons get out of jail they can't even get a good job, such as working on computers making a very good living. Instead they have to work at corner stores or other jobs making little money. It's not that ex-cons are dumb, it's just that their criminal records follow them everywhere they go and people don't want to hire them.

When I ask people questions about jail, some say it was the best years of their lives, but really I think they are wasting the best years of their lives. Since so many young folks are in jail, we need to use things such as after-school programs to keep them off the streets and give them a future.

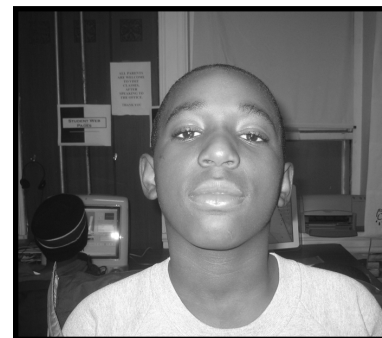


Crack Kills By: Hayden "Stormy" Cheseboro

I'm going to tell you about drug dealers. Drug dealers are people on the corner wearing big coats with their hands in their pockets. Drug dealers are bad people. Not all drug dealers stay alive. Some go to JAIL, and some go to HELL. That's just my opinion. Well, this is my story.

For the last two years, Mayor Street has run Operation Safe Streets. Operation Safe Streets is a police program to get drugs off the corners. Police officers are trying to be seen more in the community. They are walking around on foot instead of driving.

Well, I'm not saying he's a bad Mayor, but it's not working. On the corner of Diamond & Gratz Streets, there are many crack "smokers" outside, and it's not funny. I have to go into my house at 8 o'clock because of gun shots. At school, I ask kids, "Do you like going to school with drugs and guns on the streets?" My teacher, Miss Attaway, says drugs should be off the streets for good. Everyone in my school says drugs should get off the streets. Wouldn't you agree?



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