

**The Voices
of
St. Albans
V.A.
Hospital**

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V.A. Hospital**

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Dream My Love

Kiesha Crosby

When I think I have it all in my hands,
It blows away and becomes my tears,
Tears of joy or happiness I'll never know,
They say to me sweet dreams,
 but all I have is nightmares
 of the happiness that once was,
To live a life once again
 would be what I need,
To see the sunset would be my life
 set upon me,
To cry no more,
To feel no more pain.

How It Affected Me When My Boyfriend Was Arrested

Keisha Robertson

On October 18, 1996 about 7:00 Jamel got arrested. His friend T-Rock came to my job and told me he got arrested. My whole body got numb, and I just started crying. So I asked T-Rock why Jamel got arrested. He said - for drugs. So I just started saying stupid stuff like - is he crazy? That night I went to his house. I spoke to him on the phone while he was in jail and he told me he was sorry about what happened and said he didn't mean for this to happen.

The next day we went to court to be with him when he went in front of the judge. His bail was \$50,000. After I heard all that I just felt sick. We didn't have that kind of money to bail him out so he had to go to Rikers Island until his next court day. I went

to see him October 25th. Those people treat you like you are the criminals in there. After an hour I finally got to see him. I wanted to cry so badly, but I had to hold it in. He told me not to cry.

For the last two weeks I've been stressed out and barely eating anything. I had to keep up with his grandmother which wasn't bad. I like calling her. When I call her she makes me feel better because all she talks about is Jamel. I like when she tells me about Jamel. We both make each other feel better. Ms. Chapman and I got real close since Jamel was arrested.

When he comes home everything will be better. November 6, 1996 at 10:00 he goes back to court to see how long he has to stay in that place or if his bail goes down.

Yves Etienne

Being unaware, or uninformed,
Never brought to your attention,
Never being told or shown,
Who's fault is that?

Is it my parents,
Is it my family,
Is it my teachers,
Is it my friends,
Is it society,
Is it the media,
Is it a part of my culture,
Is it a part of my race,
Or is it mine.

Who should I blame
 for everything that happens to me
Or where I am today.

How This Program Is Different from My Old School

Keisha Tamara Bonet

I was going to Bryant High School in Astoria. I was following the wrong crowd. I was always cutting my classes. I lied to my aunt sometimes about staying in school when I was really going to my friend, and we were having hooky parties. One time my friends and I almost got caught by the police in the streets. I got left back twice in the tenth grade. I'm supposed to be in the twelfth grade, but everything got messed up for me by following the wrong crowd. I am in a job training program now. I've learned a lot so far. I don't even cut anymore because there's not really any need to. In the program I do volunteer work as an Engineer. It's really great working with the

other guys.

In the next year I plan to go to college and study Nursing. The college I plan to go to is Nassau College. From college I would like to do Pediatric Nursing. I love working with little kids. I loved Nursing since I was five years old. I always told my mother I want to be a Nurse when I grow up.

In my point of view, I really think that this program changed my personality. I study more in the house then I go outside to hang out with my friends. I hope that someday I will achieve my goal to become a Nurse.

A Personal Comparison of High School and the Vocational Training Center

Ron Simmons

I have come to realize that high school is very different from the Vocational Training Center (VTC). High School wasn't hard, but the VTC makes things a lot easier. When it comes to class work, I think I have improved one hundred percent.

In the VTC there are less students in a class. This gives the teacher more time with each student. In return the students receive more time to understand what they are doing. In high school there are 35 to 40 students in a class. This allows the teacher only a short time to spend on any subject.

The environment of the VTC is different from that of a high school. You feel more relaxed in high school because you are

around people in your age group. While in the VTC you are mostly around people in an older age group who are there on professional business. They usually judge you on how you conduct and display yourself so you always have to act in a presentable fashion.

There are times when the teacher will teach a lesson in the VTC but most of your work is done independently. If your study habits are not consistent, then your chances are slim for graduation. Whether taking the GED or getting a high school diploma most of your work is based on you and only you.

Overall, if you find it hard to cope with high school, then I recommend the VTC. This program may not be for everyone, but it was the right choice for me after considering my options.

It's Your --- Yves Etienne

I was granted this when I reached
a certain age,
Time has come, I've touched another stage,
The power, opportunity or right to choose,
Sometimes you win or sometimes you lose.
Decisions that you have to make,
Lots of things could be put at stake,
Do not leave it in the hands of fate.
This word is of preference - it's up to you,
Take your time and think it through.
You can make it quiet or use your voice,
Have you already figured it out, the word is
CHOICE

Luis Lugo

Life has become very hard for people. If you really think about it, you really start to see problems. But now it's good because you are going to start life. Streets have a lot of kids. Do you know what kids have drugs on them? People have problems because kids are not thinking about the things they do. Sorry that I'm writing this, but this is in mind.

Schools have good programs, but kids don't go because kids hang out on the block. Maybe they're making some money out there. That's when the guns come in. Now the kids are dying. People don't see what is happening, because the drug dealers are bending the minds of the little kids by offering them money.

I hope the kids open their eyes. If not, a lot of people will suffer. It hurts me to see the little people kill their own people. Before I pass on I would like kids to see what I see and know that there is hope. The future will be good if only the parents help them.

My Happiest Memory

Yves Etienne

The first party I was invited to all the students from school were there. It was the first time out of the hundreds of parties I was never invited to. The crowd was divided into three sections. The girls, the boys, and the dorks. Unfortunately, I was a part of the dorks.

The party had good music but no one was dancing. All the songs were familiar to me because my sisters and their friends would come back from parties practicing the latest songs. I always made it a point to practice with them. At the party, none of the boys knew how to dance so they stood in the corner. The girls knew how to dance, but there was no one to dance with but each other. A very popular song came on and I

started dancing a new dance step that no one had mastered yet. To everyone's surprise I did it well. At this point I became popular. I danced with all the girls and became a ladies man. After that day the guys who would never say a particular word to me all of a sudden wanted to hang out with me.

Some even became jealous. The girls became my best friends and we exchanged numbers and all.

Now when I look back, and think why did I have go through that to be accepted. Sometimes I think, would I be the person I am today if it wasn't for that party?

Maybe?

Yves Etienne

Have you ever been
in a situation
where you thought about
cheating on your woman?
It would be so wrong,
But it is hard for a man
with his ego turned on.
If I met a girl and
she looked real fine,
I'll have to have her,
Tell her it is love,
When I know it is lust,
I am about to betray
a thing called trust.
I can keep my love,
if I tell a lie.
I can keep my love,
if everything I hide.
But it's hard to deal

with conscience inside.
Society sometimes portrays
the cheating of a male
to be a part of his nature,
If truly a part of his nature
why is it considered unacceptable behavior.

12 Months of School?

Tassev Davis

I feel that having school 12 months a year is something that would stop or decrease the number of young people that are not going to school and hanging on the street corner. Maybe they should have used this 20 years ago because back then young people were different. Most like my father really did want to go to school and someday to college and be successful in life the right way. Now young people have no faith in the school system and the government. If they had thought this idea up before, probably people like my cousin wouldn't be illiterate at the age of 22. He would have taken school more seriously maybe and would have been a success. But now he's passed on. But that's how it is when you choose the route to success and power and it always leads to the same ending - dead or in jail. The majority of young people will take the fast route and not the right one. This is a plan that missed its worth by about 20 years.

Leila Williams

On February 20, 1976 I, Leila Williams, was born. My real parents' names are Gloria and Theodore Jenkins. I don't like them, but I have to love them. My foster parents' names are Leroy and Serita Williams. My brother's name is Theodore (Teddy) Williams. I also have a sister who is from my real father. Her name is Shanike Tiffany Jenkins. She is 16 now. I don't know her. I would like to, but she lives so far away.

That is enough of me talking about my family! I am 20 now. You would know that if you read the first paragraph. I was not doing that well in school so I had to drop out. I regret it. It is hard to look for a decent job without a diploma or a GED. I should have just stayed in school. I will get my GED

soon the way I am presenting my work.

I don't do drugs, alcohol, fight or any foolishness. I like to sing, dance, be around my family and go to church. I don't go out to parties. A nice day for me is just hanging around the house and cleaning up, or sometimes I will cook for myself and nobody else but me. I would talk to my boyfriend if I had one. I am a great listener. I love to help people who need my help. I like children who like me back. I am responsible for my action and what I say. I am a people person. I believe that all things come back to those who wait. I am not a type of person who will get back at a person because of what he or she did to me.



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