

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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SKETCH

By: Ulises Cruz

REFLECTIONS

I try to forget his name; I try to forget his face
His kiss, his taste, has been replaced
I know he has someone new
But now I remember I do too
I forgot about those songs
Because as long as I'm with you I can't go wrong
I forgotten his walk, the way he use to talk
I forgotten the things he use to say
I know he has gone away
All I want now is just to go your way...

-Crystal Hidalgo

POEMS

I never knew what it was like to be loved
Before I meet you I realized I was unloved
All the things he used to say.
Everything he did was just for a play
Hoping one of these days he would pay
You showed me what happiness can really
mean
You're the only one who treated me like a
queen

-Crystal Hidalgo

Thinking of you. wherever you are we pray
for our sorrows to end.
And hope that our heart's will blend.
Now I will step forward to realize this wish.
And who knows: starting a new journey
may not be so hard or maybe it already
begun.
There are many worlds but they share the
same sky-one sky.

One destiny -Gregory Capote

ARE TEENS TOO YOUNG TO HAVE SEX?

By: Brenda. P

19yrs old

Planning to have sex? Teens, like me are too Young to have sex. We have a lot going on. To keep our grades, extracurricular activities, making friends and learning about life as we go along. Some of us can't make it through the drama. Can you actually imagine adding "SEX" to our life? Sex is a big word don't you think? It requires a very profound level of what you call MATURITY. Maturity isn't about finally convincing yourself that you're sexually mature. It's also means that being able to contact /communicate with your partners and tell them what you want and what you don't want to do. It also involved action. If you think that you are mature enough to have Sex at a young age. So then you can't be embarrassed to get tested for S.T.D or to buy condoms. Did you know that a 23% of the new cases of AIDS are from the Bronx. The South Bronx has one of the highest AIDS infections rates. If you actually sit down and think about it, do you honestly think you are mature to deal with the responsibility and consequences sex will bring in your life?



Terrible 2



At the age of 17 years old I had my first child. I had little work experience and going to school. It's hard waking up in the morning and preparing food for him and all his needs. And now New Heights is helping me to get my G.E.D for my future. New Heights is teaching me how to talk professionally and also taught me how to do an interview and resumes. My life is not as easy as it looks but I am doing it for my son who is 2years old. I am doing the best I can for my son. Not having my father around as a kid was tough because he was never there for me to advise me on the right things to do in

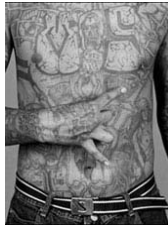
life. Me being a father I would never leave my child without a father like my father did to me. I will always be with my son to the end. I will show him how to be a gentleman something I learned to do without my father. It's going to be easier once I get my G.E.D but it's going to be a lot of work. Doing all this is pretty fun for me because I like a lot of work. It is not easy but you can work with it. New Heights is the best for young adults. They help us do the right thing in life and help others for their needs. For anyone raising kids and needs help, New Heights is the best place to be. They will open your eye to see what is out there for use. -Gregory Capote

REALITY CORNER

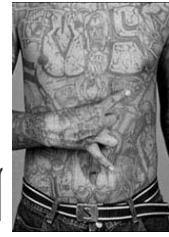
The reason I came to new heights was to get my GED. That is my main priority for the next 3 months. I believe I can achieve this goal within this timetable I have set up for myself. I am also a goal oriented person and am very focus. When I set my goals I usually achieve it. A few of my friends attended this program and received their GED so if they can do it so can I. And if I don't succeed within 3 months it does not mean that I am going to quit, it will only give me another reason to overcome this obstacle. I know if I would have done my work in high school I would not be here. But as they say, everything happens for a reason. I won't complain because it's my fault and nobody else's. I hope to move on from here to go to college which is the big picture. I always wanted to attend college to make my family proud of me and to experience it first hand for myself. My brother went to college and received his associate's degree. I want to follow in my brother's footsteps and do the right thing. I don't know exactly what area I would like to study but I would mostly go with social studies because it's my favorite topic. Since I started school as a young kid I always liked social studies and I would also get good grades in this topic. Throughout high school I always passed my social studies classes. Even though I would flunk any other subject I would pass social studies. That is why I would most likely study this topic. Where I come from not everybody goes to college only a few take the opportunity this country has to offer. In my neighborhood, girls go to college and

boys go to jail. It sounds sad but its true because in this country you can be whatever you want. In my parent's country, the Dominican Republic, people don't have that choice because the resources are very scarce and not a lot is done for education. People here don't take advantage of what they have. Here in USA you can go to school fully paid for if you put your mind to it. Education can take you anywhere you want there are many paths to take. Unfortunately some of us get off track like me and put the mind to focus on other things that are less important. Also the people who you choose to be your friends will have an influence on the path you take. For example if you hang around kids who are always doing bad things chances are that you too will start doing bad things even if you are not a bad person. Sometimes peer pressure takes its effect on weak minded people who choose to do things just to impress his or her friends. In my situation that was not the case, everything I did was because I wanted to do it. If I decided not to go to class it was because I didn't want to not because any of my friends said to do so. That's why I only blame myself for being here in this program. Not to say this program is bad or anything, actually these people care if we get our GED. I think some even care more than my old teachers back in high school. Here they make sure that you're provided with the tools you need to get your GED.

- Riquelbyn Gomez



Gangland



A Gang is a group of people who thought of an organization, formation, and establishment of a group that share a common identity to feel like they belong. They usually have criminal affiliation. They sometimes can't defend themselves and need to join a gang to feel safer in their own community. They usually come from a dysfunctional home where they don't have a role model, or anybody to look up to and they see that gangs are like the family they haven't had in their life time. They usually get drawn in by the brotherhood they show. Usually to join you have to commit a crime or do what's called the "jump-in" where 5 members from the gang beat you up for a certain amount of time and when this initiation is done they pick you up and greet you as the new member of their gang. Once joining the gang they feel like they are protected from their enemies and that their so called brothers are going to have their back. but even inside the gang there's a lot of tension. they feel they might be betrayed.

MS13, Bloods, Crips, and Latin Kings the United States. They are usually made were born here or people who emigrate with most gang action is California. It is come into the country come in through southern part of the United States of



are four of the most notorious gangs in up by Latinos or African American who from Latin American countries. The state mostly because people who are trying to the Mexican-American border in the America.

These gangs have brought fear into our communities. People are scared not only because of the bad influence but the violence that they bring. Killing or hurting innocent people who are at the wrong place at wrong time.

Gangs often establish distinctive characteristics to identify themselves within their gangs or so other gangs could recognize them. They use a certain color bandana, du-rag or beads. They wear them a certain way to let others know where they come from. They have secret greetings, hand signals and a certain code to define the difference to other gangs. People who are in gangs might think their positive but people who are outside the box don't think the same thing. They feel like gangs are a bad influence to our youth because of the violence they bring.

Clover: From a personal point of view I think people who join gangs are weak minded and have low self esteem I have a lot of cousins who have giving themselves in to gangs they were left alone by their parents without a chance to prove themselves that they can change instead they took the wrong path and their future looks gray every day that goes by.

Roselio: I think people who are gang members should stop the violence that has taken over our community because what goes around comes around.

STOP WATCHING AND START DOING

From A young boy people notice all my skills. And told me how I should become. Whatever I did, I did well. Being young I didn't know how good I was at certain things. My father would always talk about when he was working. All these stories taught me how to have a "back bone" and making sure you did your job the best. And, he had funny stories that happened on and off the job with his co-Workers, bosses etc... Those stories made me feel like I wanted to be part of that too so I can have my own stories. Having my first job made me feel important to somebody's business. I had something to prove too! Working, doing retail, and doing other odd jobs made me respect the grind. When I go home at the end of the day, while I am on the train I look around and think about where do these people work at just on appearance and know that I worked just as hard as the rest of them. Seeing other people on their jobs made me feel like I could do their job better than them. Maybe it's because I took interest in it, or they just didn't represent the company right that made me this way. It made me want to go back to school so I could stop watching and start doing.

-Devon Palmer

SPORTS

I'm going to be talking about the Dominican Republic world baseball classic. It's a tournament of 16 national teams. It features professional players from around the world. The best baseball players in the world come to compete against one another while representing their home countries. The world baseball classic was created in order to further promote the game around the globe. I thought that the Dominican Republic was going to win the world baseball classic but they didn't. Saturday's game 1, the Dominican Republic vs the Netherlands they lost that game by a 3-2 score. Then on Sunday game 3 the Dominican Republic beat Panama on a 9-0. After Tuesday's 2-1 loss, the Dominicans were eliminated from the classic in extra innings to the Netherlands in game 5 and in the first round. The loss is considered a huge upset.



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Alexis Requena

March Madness is a big tournament that happens every year in the same month. It is estimated that America loses \$1.7 billion in productivity every year to March Madness, as people like the President and myself sort out their brackets for pool entries. Basketball is not only a sport filled with excitement, slam dunks, and unbelievable athletes; it also is full of mathematical concepts with 0.4% of all brackets filled out being accurate. New Heights does brackets just for fun to see who can guess the winners or who can make it to the end. March Madness has even bigger than the Super Bowl. Men in America do just about anything to see the games. Many men try to get sick or work extra time just to have free time during game time. Men even get vasectomies just to stay home and heal while watching March Madness. Vasectomies go up 200% the weekend before March Madness so men can recover and watch the games. The reason why men get so excited about March Madness is because they feel like they are still a part of history from their colleges. This year everyone thought a Big East team would win it all but the North Carolina Tar Heels from the ACC won it all with a blow out win against Michigan St.



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Francisco Ascona

What Do You Know About Washington Heights?

By: J.C. Rodriguez

Washington Heights is a very small but famous and infamous place. Its known throughout all New York for many reasons. It's Located in the upper section of Manhattan in New York City. It's known for the people, its' kindness and the things it has that makes it so wonderful. It's known for what we have and do that is so special. Read along and I let you know some interesting things...!

- Did you know Washington Heights is a small community in upper Manhattan that is very diverse? Mostly Dominican, the neighborhood is full of immigrants and more recently, native New Yorkers looking for cheaper rent.
- Did you know that the first Yankee stadium was built in 168th street in Washington Heights for major league baseball from 1902-1912 and it was called Hilltop park?
- Did you know Washington Heights had an amusement park? In the late 1800's Ft. George Amusement park was located on 190 street and Highbridge Park.
- The George Washington Bridge is connected to Washington Heights. It's our closest and most local Bridge to any other. It is also the most traveled bridge in the United States.
- Washington Heights is bounded to the south by Harlem and to the north by Fairview Avenue and runs from the Harlem River on the east to the Hudson River on the west.
- Did You Know Malcolm-X was killed in Washington Heights on 165st? In a building called "The Audubon Ball-Room" which is now a museum and has various businesses.
- Washington Heights is Manhattan Highest natural point. It stands 265ft above sea level. The amount of land in Washington Heights is 3.894 sq kilometers which seems 2 be small.

Washington Heights is a unique community. It's known for its features such as, historic pre-war homes, a strong neighborhood association, prospering small businesses, museums, great nightlife and close proximity to the heart of Manhattan are what makes Washington Heights an ideal place to live. Washington Heights is "in the city and out of the ordinary"! It's considered our community.

(To learn more about Washington Heights you could either Google it or go to washington-heights.us. they would love to tell you more about our community.)

100 Years of the Armory



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Special Points of Interest

- ❖ Congratulations to the students that have finished the W.A.T.T. program.
- ❖ Thanks to all the New Heights staff on helping us to achieve our goal of getting the G.E.D and employment.

Congratulations to
Ulises Cruz
for obtaining his
G.E.D!!!