



STRAINED RELATIONS

There seems to be strained relationships between the police and those that come from less affluent communities. **2**

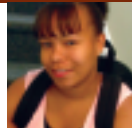
TRUST

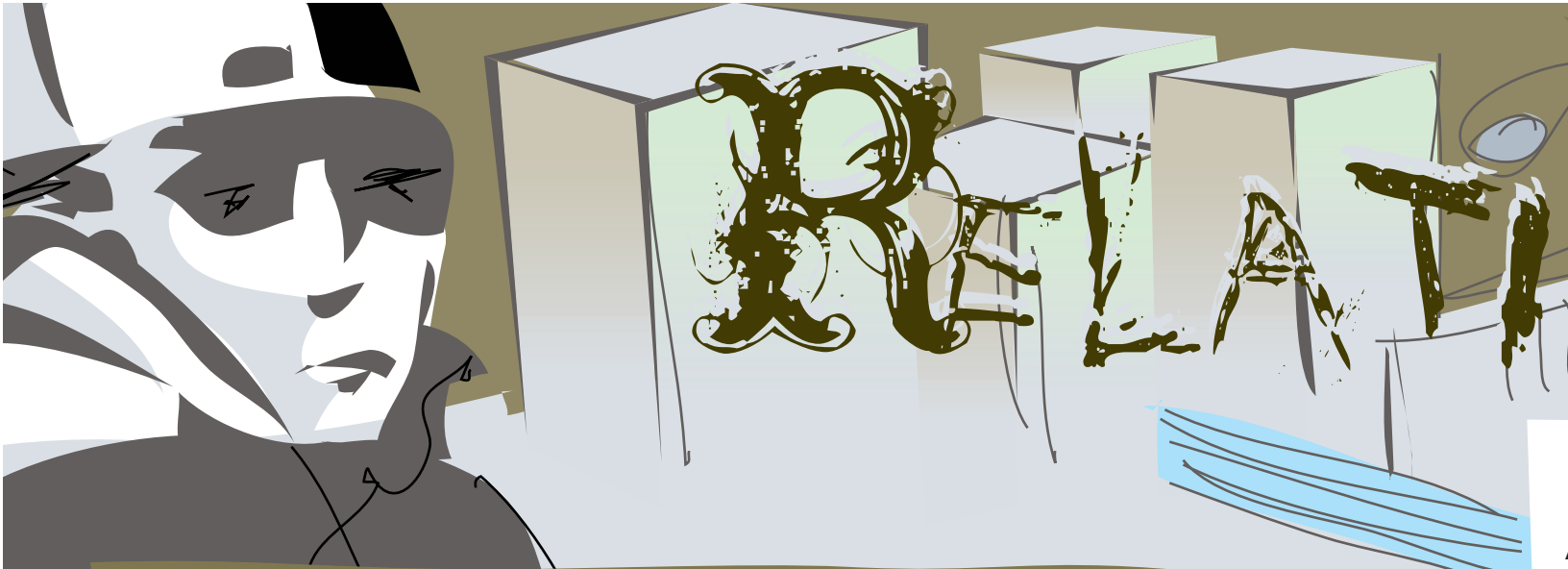


Who could you trust if you can't trust family. **3**

I GOT INVOLVED

I got involved in this program was because I wanted to make a difference. **4**





Everyday we rely on many relationships to give us a sense of well-being, a sense of safety and belonging. Whether it's our family and friends, some personal thing we do that has special meaning, or our involvement with a community organization, we can't deny the importance of these connections. It seems the healthier our relationships, the better off we all are.

Boys in the hood vs Boys in Blue

Regardless of where you go or where you live, there seems to be strained relationships between the police and those that come from less affluent communities. Where did this come from? A better question might be, "how do we repair it?" or "where do we go from here?" First, I think the stereotypes that exist on both sides of the fence need to be dispelled. It is a common thought process for people in the hood to dislike the police because all they see is the police either harassing or arresting, usually there are no friendly interactions. Another factor is that the police are not always from the community and do not understand the dynamics of the community. The police often see these less affluent areas as trouble spots! Gangs, guns, and drugs. The positive interactions of the community are usually overshadowed by media sensationalism of the criminal needs of a small few...

Like a disgruntled husband and wife, this relationship is in need of counseling. Who's going to help? When will the change start?

– Anonymous

THINGS I RELATE TO...

Dancing (to express my feelings and help me deal with my emotions)

My own house (freedom to call your shots and make your own decisions)

Exercise makes me feel better mentally, physically, emotionally (not always positive)

Thursday Peace Meetings (always meeting new people)



Family Trust

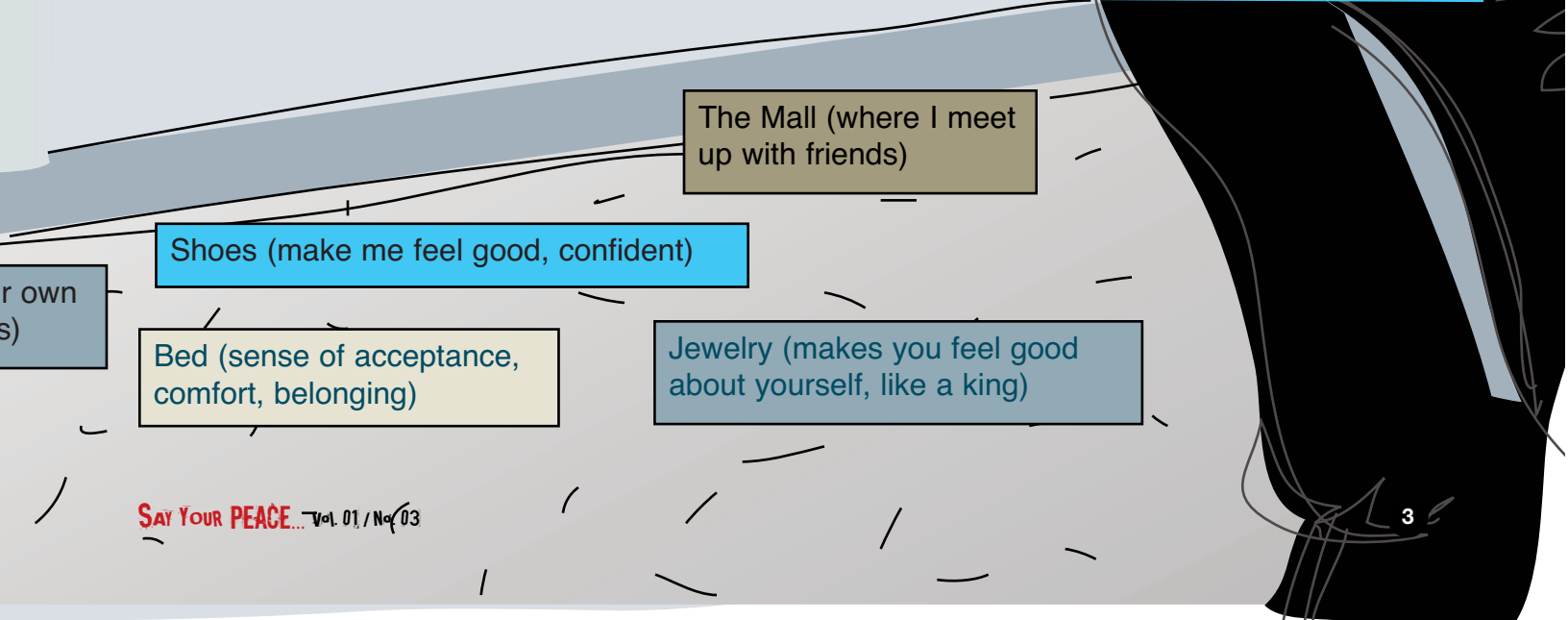
A very important relationship to me is my relationship with my family because the love is unconditional unlike some friends that can stab you in the back. In family relationships you know that if you get into an argument they're not going to pull out a gun and try to kill you or run you over with a car. Sure you might get into a little fight here and there, but at the end, who can you trust if you can't trust family?

– Kadeem

Healthy Relationships

What is a healthy relationship? In the past I don't think I ever had one, not with anybody, family or other. Most times in my life I always took what I could and only gave what I had to. I never had time or the strength to deal with others emotions and that alone made most of my relationships more of a business thing, even if it was my girlfriend. Now I have a theory and the theory is this: If you are in a relationship with a person you need to make sure that you are giving back what you get and vice versa whether it be emotional, financial, mental, and sometimes even time-wise. I've found that people will keep tabs even if they don't notice, and sooner or later it will come on to the table and be an issue that may not get resolved. In your future, please, for your own benefit, watch out for these things in all your relationships, and hopefully it will help you and yours stay "healthy."

– Anonymous



UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE YOUTH MEETING

*All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.

When: Every Thursday from 4:30pm-7:30pm.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

PEACE FACILITATOR TRAINING

*All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.

Facilitation Training Session

When: July 17th, from 10:30pm- 4:00pm

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

MEDIATION STATION

*A radio program presented in partnership with Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview.

When: Every Sunday from 8:00pm- 9:00pm

Where: Tune in to *Voces Latinas* CHHA 1610 AM on the radio dial or to www.sanlorenzo.ca and click on the *Voces Latinas* icon or at Rogers Digital Cable Channel 951.

What do you think?

What kind of relationships are important to you?

Let us know at www.peace-project.org

My sister and I got involved in PEACE after we participated at a workshop. What I enjoyed the most about the program, and what made me want to come back, were the discussions and how everyone in the program was friendly. Something that I really liked about the discussions was the fact that we'd discuss our everyday lives and things that would occur today, and being able to hear what others thought. To me it was nice to be able to have that opportunity to hear what others thought.

I thought that PEACE was nice because whenever I speak to someone about violence outside of the program, and everyone seemed so close-minded, I just didn't think there was any point at all even trying to make a difference. From the way that others thought in general it made me feel as if there was no way at all to convince them [we could make things better]. Having the opportunity to be in the program and once again being able to listen to youths like myself, and talk with adults, I see that we shared many similarities. It just made coming to PEACE something that I found interesting and worthwhile. I say this because I know that I can speak to those



JENNIFER

whom will listen at the program and I know that I will get better feedback.

Lastly the reason why I got involved in this program was because I wanted to make a difference and to be able to reach out to those around me, especially those that I could relate to. In this way I could do something that I knew other people weren't really getting done, especially when it came to getting themselves involved in programs regarding anti-violence. Hopefully in the future, even if I choose to be a lawyer or a social worker, I will still be involved in things that can help youth make everyone's lives a better place.

— Jennifer Bourque

MY MAC



MY MAC ALWAYS HAS MY BACK WITH IT THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE I LACK I TAKE IT WITH ME ALL THE TIME I LOVE TO HEAR ITS POWER-ON CHIME I USE IT FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING IF IT WAS MY GIRL, I'D CALL IT MY TING NOT TO BE OFFENSIVE BUT TO GIVE IT NUFF RESPECT AFTER THE SPENDING SO MUCH FOR IT, THERE IS NOTHING TO REGRET OUR RELATIONSHIP IS REALLY TIGHT, SO MUCH SO THAT I PROTECT HER DAY AND NIGHT I LOVE MY MAC AND THE WAY IT'S A PRO TO ME IT'S LIKE THAT EXTINCT BIRD THE DODO HOW EVER MANY RELATIONSHIPS I HAVE IN THIS CITY ME AND MY MAC PRO WILL BE FRIENDS TO INFINITY

JOEL

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522,
www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411,
www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization

SAY YOUR PEACE

Say Your PEACE is here to give youth an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the things that are important to them and their community. Want to help prevent the negative effects guns and gangs are having? Join the movement.

Call: (416) 597-8297