



September, 2011  
Issue 45

### A TEENAGER'S POINT OF VIEW!!

Today in society, the term that Merriam-Webster defines as a group of people associated with vigority, freshness, and immaturity go both unheard and unseen. This one seemingly minor and unaffecting factor is quite the contrary. The youth of today can be compared to the youth of past decades. Both groups lacked something of great significance ,but with a little inspiration, aspiration and drive they were and are capable of doing anything and taking this nation by force. This inexperienced body of people are the future leaders of tomorrow and will potentially hold this nation's status in their care.

As many of you know the people of our nation seem to lack that je ne sais qoui that many of our extraordinary former leaders possessed ....leaving us with even bigger shoes to fill .With such a great challenge before us...I feel that it's the youths duty to unite, take a stand and make a change for the better.

Before we take such a daring journey we must first take a closer look at the faults that have came about over the years. Now the ideal youth would be defined as a balanced individual exhibiting a highly spiritual life informed by moral values and whose behavior demonstrates qualities such as righteousness, honesty, humility, and conscientiousness in everything he or she does. My generation of people are literally ran and influenced by a privileged class of people in a community, commonly considered superior or fashionable in which we all are a part of....Society...which is far from this ideal of perfection.

The problems facing today's youth are not restricted to any one ethnic or religious group ,but affect young people generally.

Of course when you think of media we think of the news ,but we often look over the newly founded social networks ,music videos ,internet and even movies all of which in manner portray a specific body image that all are not capable of acquiring. With this body image comes the fame ,money ,and power that I'm sure we all wish for ....sometimes causing others to change themselves all in hopes of obtaining it all.

Another issue that commonly faces today's youth is peer pressure. The need to "fit it" is for some youth is more important than what they truly believe in. Pressure to be in a certain group sometimes steers us in the wrong direction. That's why it is important

that we stand for what we believe in even if it means we stand alone.

Single Parent Families are another big issue. Often teens are being raised in a single family environment which sometimes makes it difficult to have positive male or female role models. Parents are taking on two jobs to make ends meet and try to take on the role of being both mother and father. Finding time to instill values and morals becomes more difficult because of less time being spent with the youth. Older youth are sometimes left with the responsibility of caring for their younger siblings thus taking away study time and time just to develop mentally, socially, and emotionally.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Teen pregnancy are major problems with today's youth. Again the need to "fit it" plays a major part in these issues, but is not always the case. Drugs and Alcohol are sometimes used as a way to deal with the problems that we face concerning home life, school, and dealing with what we feel are our short comings. Girls often feel the need for attention, love and acceptance and think that a young man may fulfill that need but fail to consider the consequences of having unprotected sex. Not only are they putting themselves at risk of becoming pregnant, but they also take the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and having their hearts broken.

Lack of Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem is also another big issue faced by today's youth .In many cases one's own insecurities becomes the initiative to disrupt another's life by instilling similar insecurities in their lives. These insecurities come about because of the belittling and the discouraging of one youth to another. Some youth often become set in a mind set that they are not capable of achieving their goals or becoming successful because of one's constant degrading of one's being. It's said that life and death is in the power of one's tongue..believe it or not when you speak negatively to someone you can affect that persons ability to lead a productive life ,but by instilling confidence and encouragement one can go on to achieve much greatness.

Issues that face the youth of Blackville are similar to those that face youth in all areas but to a greater extent. I personally feel that because Blackville is such a small town it has its advantages as well as disadvantages. Advantages in being apart of the youth of a small community such as Blackville include having a close knit family type atmosphere, everyone having concerns for their fellow neighbors, and in times of need everyone bands together to help the cause. Disadvantages include limited resources, job opportunities, and limited opportunities to expand a higher level of education, my greatest fear.

The above stated issues are not the only ones that face today's youth. Although majority of these

issues are influenced by various people in our lives and our environment I've realized that some of the greatest issues are caused by ourselves and our peers. The discouraging that we receive from one another is definitely a sign of what may become a discouraging and unfulfilling life. With that being said I've even discovered what may be the solution that we've awaited for ....communication, the key to it all.

As of to this day one of the most shocking yet truthful statements that I've heard states that ...we are preparing followers and imitators and not leaders, innovators, or problem solvers. The youth is being asked to give up certain family and social values that were an integral part of their identity and adopt in its place a sense of self-alienation and become a self-estranged imitator of everything modern. So I challenge myself as well as all other members of the youth to prove this statement wrong.

We as youth must love ourselves first. Take pride in what we do, strive to be the best. set goals high and reach even higher to achieve them. Believe that we can achieve.

In closing, in the words of Whitney Houston ,...."I decided long ago, never to walk in anyone's shadow, if I fail, if I succeed, at least I live as I believe, no matter what they take from me, they can't take away my dignity, because the greatest love of all is happening to me. I found the greatest love of all inside of me. The greatest love of all is easy to achieve, learning to love yourself, Is the greatest love of all".

**Raven Woods, Youth Council President**

#### SENIOR CITIZEN BANQUET

September 17, 2011, 3:00pm

Blackville Community Center

Sponsored by "Together Sisters Club"

#### MEETINGS

- **September 1**, BCDC, Town Hall, 6:00pm
- **September 12**, B-H Schools, Board of Education, Board Conference Room, 7:00pm
- **September 12**, Blackville Civic Club, Edwards Heating and Cooling, 7:00pm
- **September 13**, Barnwell County Council, Agriculture Building, 6:00pm
- **September 19**, Town Council, CC, 7:30pm
- **September 22**, BDDA, Russell's Pizza, 6:00pm
- **September 27**, Barnwell-Blackville NAACP, Macedonia Baptist Church, 7:00pm

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**September 5**, David and Joann Elmore  
**September 20**, Billy and Olanda Johnson

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**September 3**, Marcus Sanders  
**September 5**, Jamisha Roberts  
**September 6**, Billy Johnson  
**September 6**, Carneal Hammonds, Sr.  
**September 11**, Mrs. Janie Etheridge  
**September 12**, Tiffany Aiken  
**September 14**, Larry Elmore  
**September 14**, Linda Roberts  
**September 15**, Mrs. Annie Lee Washington  
**September 16**, Susie Miller  
**September 16**, Willie "Lowe" Washington  
**September 17**, Andre Patrick  
**September 20**, Isabell Parmlee  
**September 21**, Ashley Woods  
**September 30**, Sterling Dunbar

#### LIBRARY NEWS

**Pre-School Story Time, 10:30am**  
**September 14, 2011 and September 28, 2011**

#### SCHOOL NEWS

**NO SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 5, 2011**

**September 20, 2011, PTO/SIC**  
BHJH – 6:00PM, BHHS – 7:00pm

**September 28, 2011, Beta Club Blood Drive, BHHS**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, 803 284-5700**

#### September 10, 2011, 9:00AM

The Blackville Fourth Annual  
Longest Drive Golf Contest  
Blackville Golf Course  
Car and Bike Show  
For Details 803 284-5605

#### **"POSITIVE PARENTING POWER"**

**Opening date, September 6, 2011**  
Volunteers needed, call 803 284-5624 or 5625

**"IT'S A DAY WITH RAY"**  
Wednesday, September 8, 2011, 8:00am-4:00pm  
Bus Trip and Tour of Heritage Corridor(Region 3)  
Approximate cost \$25.00 plus meal  
Call Ray at 803 284-3117, 541-2004 or 284-2444

Contact information: [blackville@bellsouth.net](mailto:blackville@bellsouth.net) and  
[vtalston@bellsouth.net](mailto:vtalston@bellsouth.net) add "NEWSLETTER" to  
subject line.

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