

# A NEW WALK

by: XYZ28T

I normally don't read the San Quentin News Paper, but just recently a good friend of mine "Dito" gave me an issue with a very inciteful story about "Prison Murals", I enjoyed that work so much, that when I recieved the July 2012 issue of the paper, man I couldn't wait to check it out.

There it was, at the bottom righthand side, front page, "At-Risk Youth Visit San Quentin". An inmate group known as S.Q.U.I.R.E.S teamed up with the Los Angeles Police Department to give 32 at-risk boys a prison tour in hope of diverting them from future criminal activity, That's what the report said.

The story continued on page 6, and I found myself becoming angry at the methods chosen to use on these children.

I will begin by addressing the inmates at S.Q.U.I.R.E.S'. I understand your desire to give back to our communities and I also understand that some prisoners rush to become involved in religious and youth based activities because it works as a manipulative scheme to impress parole boards and alter public opinions, lets be clear, I said, "I understand", so I'm not addressing THAT type.

For those of you around the world who are seriously dedicated to be involved in the positive youth development movement and intend for your participation to cause long term effect, with all do respect, the remainder of this commentary is especially intended to arm you in this war to help re-direct our children from the directions some of us suffered.

Youngsters Oscar and Chris are quoted in this news paper, both said exactly what our generation said when some of us suffered the so-called "Scared Straight" tactics and methods that obviously don't work.

Did you noticed I've used the word "suffer"?

For whatever the purpose intended, any willful intent to scare a child is a form of abuse. When the brain of a minor is not developed to render mature, wise, adult or proper choices, the intent to scare, cause fright or startle that same brain can be even more detrimental to the child.

It is against the law to, let's say, criminals, to scare children who are not considered at risk, therefore it is equally a crime to intentionally attempt to scare any child.

An introduction into reality, or a wake up call is a great idea and you prisoners are in fact my heroes for even getting to live long enough to experience the transition from what you used to be, to what I believe you are developing into, "The Cause of Change".

I said that to say, be very careful not to adopt methods that seem safe because they are commonly used and on the surface appear to be the right thing to do, especially when most of you are creative enough to develop your own methodology regarding the presentation of a wake up call and a reality check.

By now I'm sure some of you are saying or thinking "who in the hell is this cat to even be getting at us on this level"?

- #1. I'm just one of the new generation of Inner City Youth that is now on California Death Row.
  - #2. We was at one time called at-risk youth.
  - #3. Most of us experienced Multiple Scared Straight programs and programs modeled near to it.
  - #4. We wasn't scared then, not scared now.
  - #5. And like Oscar and Chris, everytime, we promised to change, yada, yada, yada, yeah, boring, anyway!
  - #6. Out of 32 of those boys, at least 70% of them couldn't conduct that tour, themselves and couldn't taken you prisoners, officers and councilors through for worse conditions that just may scare adults.
  - #7. 100% of them told their friends about the trip they took to San Quentin Prison and those are the same conversations we had with our friends. When they compared their everyday lives to the few hours they spent at S.Q. They realized that Gangs, drugs, death, violence, sexual abuse, verbal abuse and being told what to do day in day out weighed just about equal, because just like you and me, these kids have seen it all already and then some.
- "Look at that little one there  
He looks like he'll be here  
in a couple of years"

This statement/quote from the News article is factual irrefutable evidence that some peoples brains take longer than other's to develop as that was yelled out by a so-called adult, prisoner, convict, inmate whatever, this is an adult facility and that comment was yelled at a group of Children Society trusted to our care as a prison community, Not funny idiot!

"Inmates began yelling profanities and insults to the Children".

This Quote From the article proves not how off base this method is. In no society, that I'm aware of, would condone exposing children to suffer verbal abuse.

When these children attempted to separate themselves from abusive parents and others, they turned to the street life which exacerbated the abuse only to take a trip to SQ. to experience further abuse under the umbrella of "This is your Wake up Call"?

Showing children photos of people who are dead now, while matching the photo gallery against one successful football player is not impressive to a group of 32 boys where perhaps only 1% of those boys want to grow up to be a football player. when you can only help 2 out of 32, you have failed 30 boys. This is not to say all 32 boys are on their way to prison or did not benefit from the tour, however I am stating the obvious, we as a prison community must take better care of our outer communities children when society trust us with a few hours with them.

In the event that you was successful in scaring one child, know this, kids dont stay scared and before any of you take offense to this critique, I want you to go in your mind and find that thing you said or did, that you know helped and build on it to make it stronger? Never abandon what works, OR alter what works so that your presentation impresses a correctional staff or parole board and deludes it's effective value to our children, stand your ground, get creative, stay informed so that your presentation to youth are relevant to date, times change on the streets so become aware not to recycle primitive tactics that failed past generations.

Then critique yourself by going inside of that little boy that you used to be and have that little dude tell you exactly what he needs to hear and experience to redirect toward positive development. This is your Thinking moment, what was it? "had it been said to you when you was a kid" that would've made the difference?

Getting Yelled at? Shown photos of the RIP's?  
Converted to a religion on the spot? Putting on an inner prison alarm drill to incite terror?

Come on Man, you are the expert, you used to be these boys and y'all still conducting this same dry ass scared straight tactic that has failed my entire generation now sitting on death row and walking the mainline right now?

y'all stood at the door of death row with children, where none of you have experience to cause any effect to what goes on behind that door, so the next time that you escort to the doors of death, do our generation a favor and tell those kids that deathrow isn't just for the super rapers, baby killers anymore, let them know that some of us are here for "street level" crimes, let them know that deathrow is not an over 50 club and that some of us literally just jumped off of a skateboard into this system.

Let them know that the New Generation asked you to let them know that we care about them and we believe that now that they have had this experience that they must now tell all of their friends the truth that sometimes we do it all end up with the same parents that other kids have and coming to deathrow to learn that our parents loved us no matter what, is not an experience that they can't have when they leave here and value the parents they do have.

Tell them that the New Generation said that we believe in them and that we trust them in society because this experience means that when they leave here and go back into society, 32 crimes didn't happen because of them, 32 youth did not get locked up because of them, 32 shootings didn't happen because now society has 32 more young leaders out there.

When they know it's about to go down out there the right thing to do is lead themselves away from that situation, but check this out, the greatest friend, homie and brother they can be is when you lead your other friends to go with you away from those most dangerous situations, now, self leadership, now.

It's very important to us that we all watch our tone when we talking to our youth, show ~~our~~ youth some respect before we fix our mouths to demand it, show them something they don't experience, show them that one thing they don't think they get at home and try to get on those streets, it's all about respect, it's easy to convince kids to quote oaths of respect for others, well, they would've dropped down and given you 20 push ups that day if you would've told them to do so, because they understand consequences already, your lesson was based on consequences for negative behavior and that's an obvious and ancient model, let's build.

offer them solution based ideas about where in their environment they can receive respect and treated as an equal, name programs and people and have resources available to them, let them know that you know their environment, make the connections, they are tired of the foreign feeling everywhere they go, do your own homework and get to know our community.

That news paper article made a lot of our new generation here on deathrow upset because it's almost as if just enough is being done to say "at least were doing something positive". One of our youngest said, "What if they did their best because that news paper don't cover everything that happened that day".

Of course we agree with this young voice of our people, we was only responding to the information provided in that article and it seems S.Q. can stand to step it's methods up to meet the needs of our Inner City Youth in 2012/2013 because it's two older generations of us out here on that mainline and when you add our generation that's on the mainline and now coming to deathrow or doing more life than death, at some point we need to join, well, consolidate our efforts that grasps each end to pull forward the middle because all of us are proof that scared straight "DONT WORK", prison officials are on board with that model because it's what they know and at one time it appeared to be effective.

The New Generation at California Death Row propose a new model, a new project and not an old program, A New Walk and not an old tour, hence,

### (The New Walk Project)

The Next 32 Kids that walk with us inside of S.Q. will walk out of this place with instructions to lead themselves and others away from poor choices.

They will walk out of S.Q. Confident and not scared.

They will walk back into society encouraged to make the necessary adjustments that will insure community safety 32 times 32 times the next group of 32.

They will walk out of S.Q knowing where to go in their own heads for respect and equality and the opportunity to just be a kid and not suffer the stresses of others. It's all kinds of Angels in the Hood.

They will walk back into society realizing the greater value of the rewards for making better choices, one choice at a time.

Walking with their peers being able to face the nemies about the difference between making a mistake and making a poor choice.

A New Walk online social network of Youth talking to each other from all over the world on a site controlled by them where they can express themselves to each other and create ways of solving those everyday issues all of them face, somebody tweet the problem, everyone tweet back multiple choices of decisions that can be made for each situation even to the level of 911 for kids that don't trust adults with what youth view as a secret. How many teen suicides can youth prevent just by being available to listen and share, online.

These are just a few ideas that you can suggest to youth that walk through this prison or any prison. We can join the New Walk as well by providing a standard of safety for them by making sure that they will never be exposed to any further insults or profanity while in our care, or inducive suggestive remarks that will entice them to take residence in prison when they get older.

A lot of our new generation here on the row have toddlers, some of us get kids in foster care and juvenile detention centers as I write this commentary.

Respectfully, T11287



Some of you out here on the mainline know exactly what's going on because a lot of you got kids in the system or had homies and potnaz and family with kid in the system as well, so how is it that we are still making a prison-negative connection? When if there is any place our Inner City Youth should be experiencing the most positive energy from is from the very place where most of their loved ones are, **Real talk.**

It would behoove all prisoners and captives to reinvigorate what comes out of our mouths when we see a group of our children walk these blocks, yards and units, how about at least yelling words of encouragement or whatever it was you needed to hear when you was that age, now to those of you stuck at self-destruction, do you, and remember that times have changed and not everyone in prison supports child abuse.

I personally can't wait to read the next S.Q News paper that highlights how stronger the S.Q. UIRERS group of real men get at our youth. We don't have stuff like that on the Row, everything we doing as a generation is being done without the support of many, but we keep pushing because we don't need all of that other stuff, and they never bring programs at us unless it's food sale time, we support you, now let's all support each other and our youth. **Our Write OR Die Zines are Free to prisoners at:**

MR. Anthony Rayson  
So. Chicago ABC Distro  
P.O. BOX 721  
Homewood IL. 60430

All NON-prisoners can  
donate orders of our  
Zines at:

email: [anthonyrayson@hotmail.com](mailto:anthonyrayson@hotmail.com)

Prisoners, Ask for Issues #1, and #2 of The Write OR Die Zine project -  
Please send Anthony 2 stamps to help  
Pay for postage, You'll know the business!