

Word on the Street

A Free Journal for Youth and Urban Saskatoon
Volume 3 Issue 2, February 2007

*Gangs are taking over the city...
One youth's perspective of the danger of gangs*

No matter where I go in the city's central area (the hood) all I see are gangs. Now there are more gangs than ever. There's not just the usual Crips and Bloods but now there are all of these other gangs. All the new gangs are run by little kids like 13 or 14 years old. I'm not saying you have to be a certain age to be in a gang, but that's so young. Instead of rivaling with other gangs they are harassing and hurting people.

I know about this one girl who was hurt badly by a gang just for wearing the wrong color. That's so stupid man. Like if you're in a gang then keep it to yourself. All these people reppin' their colors and such. When people come to Saskatoon they don't want to see a bunch of gangsters running around. You know what I mean? Sometimes I'm scared to catch the bus at night. It's not only in the hood that this is happening; it's happening everywhere. Too many youth are joining gangs and are also joining the cycle of the hood.

In one of my other articles, I talked about the cycle of the hood and how many youth are following it. A majority of youth that live in the rough parts of Saskatoon seem to have problems in their family. When I was living in the

hood, most of my friend's parents were alcoholics or drug addicts. I got out of the hood in time to get my life together and not get sucked in. My friends, on the other hand, didn't have that chance and became a part of the cycle. It's like they gave up and had no where else to go. Their parents are never home and the only family that's left to turn to is the gang family.

The youth start thinking that the gangs are the only people who will be there for them. Then it's too late and you end up in jail. Your so called "family" doesn't go see you or write you. They disappear. When you get out it's like you have no where to go 'cause you already left your real family. Personally that's what happened to me. My "family" said they would always be there for me but as soon as I got picked up they were no where to be found, wouldn't write me or nothing. When you're in jail your real family is the only ones who can help you. When I was released I stayed with my real family because they were there for me.

~ continued on page 3 ~

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About Word on the Street

Word on the Street is written by young people in and out of school. It provides a forum for Saskatoon youth to express issues and ideas.

Writers for this Issue

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Jordan, Snoop Dogg
Concert Lover, Andrea,
Loring, Emily, Brandon,
Jody D., Sharp

Do you like to Write? Do you like Money?

**WOTS is looking for
youth writers. We'll
even pay you!**

665-2738

What would you change to help your family ?



“Not be such a bad *** ”

~ female teenager

“My past.”

~ male teenager

“I would change my attitude and the way that I talk to my family.”

~ male teenager

To all those who said I couldn't do something

My name is Jesse. I am 15 years old and I go to City Park Collegiate. I live with my parents, my sister Janine and our dog Mickey. When I was born, I was diagnosed with Autism; it allows me to think differently. I get a little shy around different people if they get in my space a little too much. I ask for some personal space and I act a little differently, and sometimes it can be a little embarrassing. This also affects my school work, my social ability and just trying to be normal. In my first year at St. Joes, there were a few nice people but there were some people at the school who were the opposite of that, which goes to show that not everyone can be cool to you. I was also placed in an alternative program. After Grade Nine, my parents figured it would be best if I transferred to another school, so I did.

In September I transferred to Nutana. I was there for three months until one of the teachers assistants there told me about City Park. After hearing some positive things about it, I transferred in early December. I am doing really well at City Park. My teachers say I have a positive learning attitude and I hope one day to be a writer.

~ Jesse

**Youth
will persevere
against all odds
if they know
someone values
them...**

Continued...

Gangs are taking over the City

People are so caught up in everything and joining gangs today that it's getting to the point where I don't know anyone who's not in a gang. I have lots of love though. To tell you the truth I am in the cycle of the hood. I still hang out and roll with them but I'm smarter now and know when it's time to quit. The so called "gangsters" are taking over the city, trying to be "G's". Recently there was a shooting at a club; I think that it was probably gang related. I'm not saying that these gangs are ever going to stop but they need to mellow down a bit.

I've been in a lot of fights over gangs and most of the time it wasn't worth going to jail. I was lucky enough to know my limits but most of the youth now don't. It's not the older ones doing all the damage; it's all the young ones. Thirteen and fourteen year olds doing robberies and such; it's all getting out of hand. The older ones are done with their gangster ways but that means more young ones are getting involved.

I feel that there should really be more FREE programs because I know a lot of youth that would rather be in some hip-hop class or doing something else rather than running the streets all night. The problem is that most of these youth don't have money. There should be some way to fund these programs so that they will be free.

~ Anonymous

Another Bus Rant

In my previous reading of Word on the Street, I read about bus use in Saskatoon and I noticed that there was a couple of things that they forgot to mention. Using the buses usually means that you have to go to the downtown terminal. You always have to watch your back because there are people there that will jack you if you even take out a smoke from your pack. There are also people who will stomp you out for even staring at them the wrong way. It doesn't happen very often but I have seen it happen. Recently there was a stabbing downtown. I don't know what it was about, but that's rank. Would you want to get beat up or stabbed while you're trying to get to school or work? A lot of people use the buses. I wish it was safer!

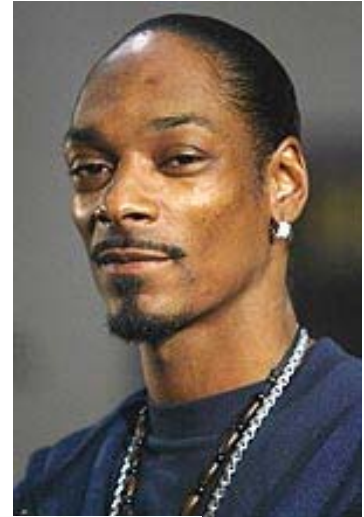
~ Jordan



The Best Concert EVER!

On Monday, January 22, 2007, I went to see Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube. The concert was in Regina and it was soooooo FUN ... I went with my three sisters and had the best time ever. I was soooo happy when Kurupt opened up for them. That was the last thing I expected. I was soo happy. He's like part of the Dogg Pound. It was some real old school gangsta s***. When Ice Cube came out I could have melted! He is so cool and rapped so good. He didn't sound fake live. He's been in the rap game since before I was even born. He played his new and old school songs.

Then my favorite rapper of all time came out. It was W.C. from Westside Connection. That was the last thing I expected to happen. I almost fainted I was so excited! Like W.C. that made my evening, it was such an extra bonus. Then Snoop Dogg came on last. He sang with Ice Cube and he sang his new and old music too. This concert was by far the best that I've been to in my life and I've been to quite a few. The reason why it was so good is because I was only expecting to see Snoop and Ice Cube, but the old school peeps showed up too.



I just wish it was in Saskatoon because the place where the concert was is so small. The concert was sold out but there could have been twice as many people if it was in Saskatoon's Credit Union Center. The concert would have been so much bigger. I wasn't used to being in such a small place for a concert. And if it was in Saskatoon I could've gone to an after party or something. But we had to drive back right away. I would recommend this concert line-up to everyone if they come back. It lasted nice and long too. It was from 7:30 to 11:30 so it was time well spent. To the people who didn't go. . . you should've been there.

~ Snoop Dogg Concert Lover

May's Gourmet Chicken

450-20th Street W 244-5541

Winter Specials:

3 Pc. Chicken & Fries w/ tea or coffee	4.99 + tax
2 Pc. Chicken & Fries	3.49 + tax
12 Pc. Chick, Fries & Gravy, 2L Pop	20.00 + tax
15 Pc Chicken Combo Pk.	22.50 + tax
Fish & Chips (3 pc.)	4.49 + tax
Boneless Ribs, Fries & Gravy	5.99 + tax
Cheese Burger, Fries & Gravy	2.99 + tax

Make The Summer Holidays Longer

Summer holidays are way too short. Having a short summer can become really depressing. With only two months of summer and the rest in school, you don't have enough time to enjoy your summer holidays. Not having a long enough summer can lead to students who are unwilling to go back to school, skipping, or even dropping out. What really makes me mad is when you're rushing to get from place to place and can't enjoy yourself. When you finally start to adapt to going to bed late and waking up late, it's time to get back to the old school routine. Maybe you shouldn't get into that routine, but it would be hard not to. People are different but, personally, I hate switching this routine. Summer is supposed to be about having fun and getting a break from everything. Most of the time all I do is waste my time planning what I'm going to do next and how I'm going to do it. It doesn't seem fair. I only went swimming once this summer and it was the day before school started. All summer I was too busy to do anything. Now I have homework that I have to worry about. To decrease the amount of procrastination in school, summer holidays should be longer. The school board should hold a conference to make summers

later. It's almost the third quarter of classes and I already want it to be summer holidays. Maybe I'm just lazy but it's so hard to come back so soon.

~ Andrea Durocher

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



Career ED ~Two Opportunities~

For the Career Education weeks I am hoping that I will be able to go and work at the car company Jubilee Ford because for all I know my uncle might still work there selling cars for a living. The building is fairly close to my mother's place so I think that I should be able to walk from my mother's if I stay at my mother's over night. I don't know what I will be doing but I'm willing to do what they ask me to do.

~ Loring

I am going to the Forestry Farm for my work placement. Work placement is when you work for two weeks instead of going to school. We got to choose from many jobs and I chose the Forestry Farm. I will be working with animals and cleaning animals' pens. I am not so fond of the cleaning part but I guess that it will be fun. I like working with animals because they are so cute.

~ Emily

Five Years Takes a Toll on Me!

I am 15 years old. I am a wrestler at Bedford Road School. I have been a wrestler now for 5 years. Wrestling has been a part of me for a long time!

Wrestling keeps me out of trouble and keeps me in shape. When I have a hard day and I have a lot of things on my mind I go to practice and just have fun and not think about what's troubling me. Wrestling is an individual sport but as much as it is an individual sport it is also a team sport, which makes it fun! When you're down in a match, your team cheers louder and keeps you from giving up. My coach is a teacher at Bedford and he's an awesome coach. He never gives up on me or anyone else. He also helps you through the rough times.

I always get better each match, even if I win or lose, because I always say that you win some and you lose some. Losing makes you a winner! Each year I wrestle I get stronger physically and mentally as a person.

~ Brandin

Likes and Dislikes

Everyone has likes or dislikes. I especially loved going to the park as a kid. I enjoyed doing my homework. I hated going to bed and waking up at a certain time. Now that I am older, things have changed.

When I was a kid I would go to the park everyday. Now, as an adult I have better things to do with my time. When I was a kid I had nothing better to do with my time. This is why I would go to the park so much.

Doing my homework as a kid was no problem. I had fun doing my homework; it was more of a privilege rather than a chore. As an adult, homework would be a big chore for me. When I was a kid I had problems going to bed and waking up, even with help. I would do anything to stay up late or sleep in late. As an adult, it is my duty to go to bed and wake up. Most of the time I rely on myself.

Some things I loved as a kid, some things I hated. As an adult, I have grown to like things that I disliked as a kid. When I was a kid, I enjoyed going to the park, and even doing my homework. One thing I hated as a kid was going to bed and waking up for a certain time.

~ Jody D.



An advertisement for Saskatchewan. At the top, it says "Saskatchewan... The Best Place for Young People to Live, Work and Raise a Family!". Below that is a quote: "Ours is a province with abundant career opportunities; a province that is down to earth, but where the sky is the limit for jobs in every corner." followed by "-- Throne Speech 2006". At the bottom left is a photo of Lorne Calvert, and at the bottom right is his name "Lorne Calvert M.L.A." and "Saskatoon Riversdale 651-1211".

Love for the Game A Saskatoon Story

Basketball: a sport loved by all when looking past the game of hockey. I know, because I've played basketball with the most talented players in the city of Saskatoon, and watched some of them proceed to college or university teams. Players like Michael Linklater, who I used to go to school with at St. Mary's. Now this is a basketball player. I used to go and watch him and some others play a game of ball almost every day in the spring, summer, and fall. I'd be there earlier than them just to shoot around or try to demonstrate my so-called skills, so that they would put me on a team. Sometimes I'd get to play when they were short of players, but when they had full teams I had no problem watching because it was just as entertaining. Mike would bring his JVC Boombox and they would play the game with the rhythm of hip hop in the background.

After they were done, me and my family would jump on to the court and play streetball, instead of the fundamentally-played style. Crossing over, dribbling around each other ... I'm guessing that Mike had picked up the cross-over from my cousin, because he had never used it once before that day.

Another great player that I went to elementary school with was Kevin Moccasin. This dude was a true baller, popping threes and taking it to the hole. He would do anything and everything that would eventually put the ball into the basket, and cause a huge smile to cross his face. He could've been one of Saskatoon's most promising athletes, but his life was tragically cut short one night, as he was murdered at a party. His life was ended, but his basketball spirit remained intact with the community, and his love for the game was conducted into the "Kevin Moccasin Memorial basketball tournament," which was set up by Michael Linklater and others. The tournament is in its fourth year, and has demonstrated a dedication to basketball just as Kevin did in the many years before his death.

Basketball is a huge part of the Aboriginal community, as almost everybody between the youngest ages of 8-years-old to the more experienced 30-year-old. It is a game enjoyed by all, from the streets of Confederation, to Meadow Green, to Pleasant Hill, to St. Mary's, to Optimist Park and most importantly, the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. I love the game so much that as a kid I used to shovel the snow off the courts at Optimist Park.

~ Sharp



	Hon. Carol Skelton, PC, MP	
	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	
	Saskatoon Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 12 pm, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	904E 22nd Street West Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S1 Ph: 975-6555 / Fx: 975 5786
	Biggar Office: 948-2446 / Rosetown Office: 882-6447	
saskatoon1@carolskelton.ca		
www.carolskelton.ca		

Upcoming Events in Our Community

Free Drop-in Art Centre Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturdays 1:00 pm to 6:00pm

- For all ages
- Call SCYAP at 652-7760 for more information

Women's Healing Circles

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Tamara's House — 1605 Victoria Ave

Childcare can be provided if requested at least one day in advance. A light lunch will be provided from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Please show respect for the ceremonies and the Elder and honour your womanhood by wearing a long skirt.

Call Patti or Sonja for more information:
683-8667

Aboriginal Aqua Fitness Class

Mondays, February 5 to April 9, 2007, from 8 to 9 pm

Register with instructor on February 5 at the YMCA at 25-22nd St. E

Cost: FREE!

quote of the Month

"Never bend your head. Always hold it high.
Look the world right in the eye."

~ **Helen Keller**

Aboriginal Soapstone Carving and Beading Classes for Youth aged 15-21

Date: November 15th -mid April

Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 7:00

Place: The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op, located at 905 20th St West

Cost: FREE!

Call Taya at 665-2738 for more information.

4th Annual Kevin Moccasin Memorial Basketball Tournament

April 27, 28, 29, 2007

- White Buffalo Youth Lodge
- Boy's Division: 16 and under
- Boy's Division: 19 and under
- Women's Division
- Men's Division

Prizes for division winners.

Call Mike Tanton for more information: 653-7676

Out of School and Out of Work? Want to learn some skills and make some \$\$\$?

The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op is looking for young people between the ages of 15-21 to take part in our job training program.

- You can:
- Learn carpentry skills
 - Earn a high school credit
 - Make money!

Call 665-3889 or stop by 905 20th St West

Planning an exciting community event? Wondering how to let people know about it?

Contact Word on the Street and we'll advertise it in our upcoming events page for free!

Call 665-2738

Please have all relevant information ready when you call.
Information should be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.