

Vol 1, Issue 2

Let It Ride - Game Ready 4 Life

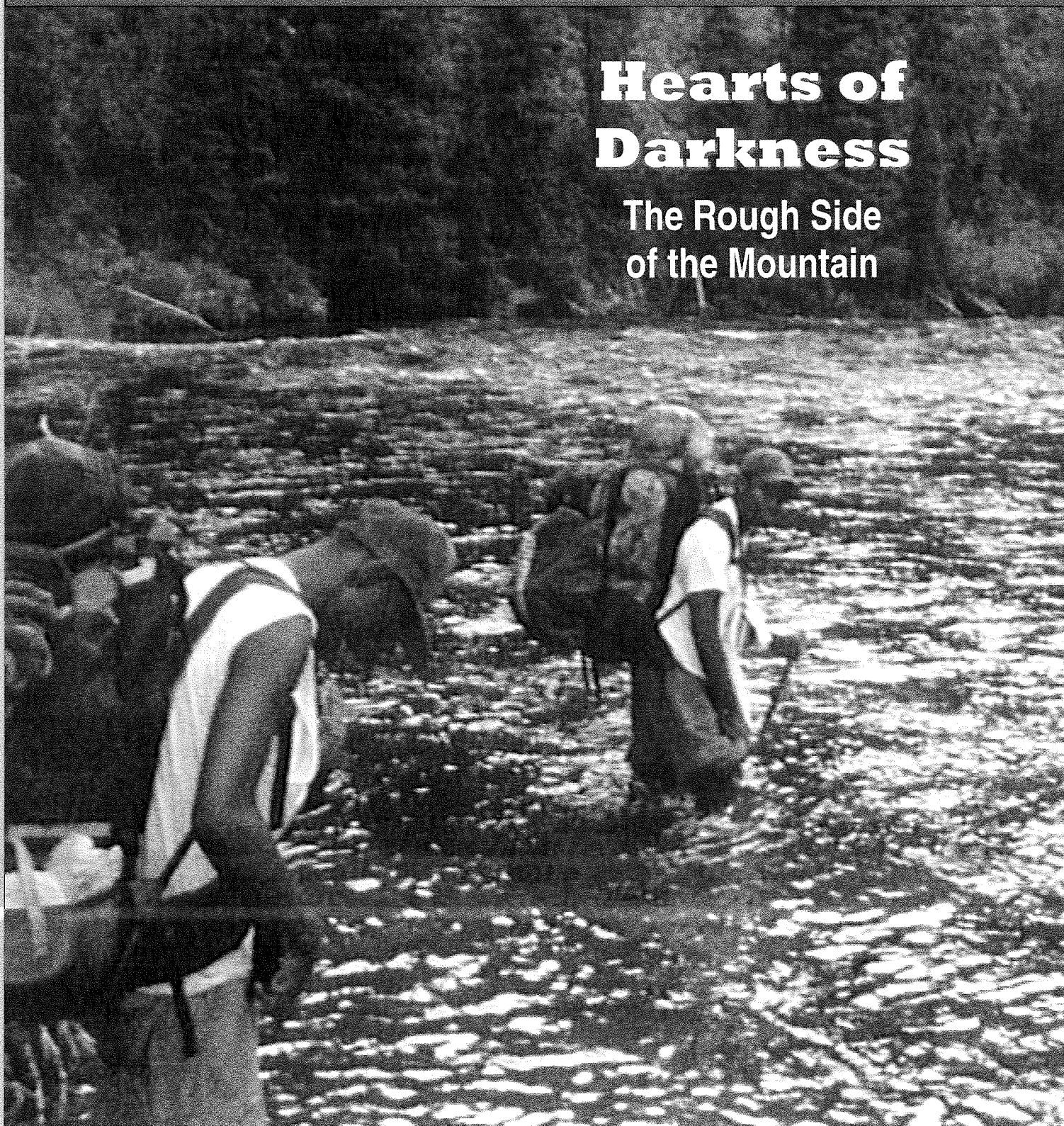
Winter 2011

Through The Window

Graphic Novel

Hearts of Darkness

The Rough Side
of the Mountain



It's Not Just Teaching:

Cultural Immersion and Undergraduate Service Learning

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Through the Window is a graphic novel about cultural immersion in the service learning experience told from the perspective of undergraduate service learners. In the tradition of graphic novels, VOL 1: ISSUES 1 & 2: continues the experiences of undergraduate students who have signed on to work with Let It Ride*Game Ready 4 Life, a work-based learning program for at-risk youth.

Their task as CSU *Engaged Learning Undergraduate Research Assistants* is to test a language arts curriculum for at-risk youth whose barriers to success include fundamental learning skills.

But it's the undergraduate service learners who are tested and, as you will see, the task is not for the faint of heart. They must gain ATOD [Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs], violence prevention and health promotion experience by working with special learning populations. They must gain experience in classroom instruction, including research, preparation, writing lesson plans and experience-based learning and teaching approaches; increase their awareness of African American culture, Cleveland Metroparks and National Parks System, participate in outdoor skills programming, learn creative problem solving strategies through language art and record their learning experiences.

Increasingly, cultural immersion is becoming part of the service learning experience and attitudes of undergraduate service-learners impact the service recipients. Yet few studies focus on how the cultural immersion experience affects attitudinal development on the part of the undergraduate service learner. The Let It Ride language art curriculum model focuses on methodologies for modeling activities whose outcomes engage mutual learning and mutual goals. Learning objectives are designed to achieve program goals for the at-risk youth and educate attitudes and skills sets associated with cultural competency to undergraduates interested in the service learning experience.

Service learning research is coming to know that if interventions are to be effective, the language of intervention must be meaningful to its particular targeted population.

Service learning research is coming to know that if interventions are to be effective, the language of intervention must be meaningful to its particular targeted population. Now we must come to understand the potential

of culture in risk and protection behaviors and the importance of modeling intervention strategies that are culturally relevant to at-risk youth.

The results of these publications demonstrate the viability of these types of instructional activities and the potential of culturally-based intervention models to educate, practice awareness, sensitivity and humility needed to insure cultural competency in service learning outreach.

It is our intention to continue this mission of cultural immersion in health services and service learning and to communicate the learning experience from the perspective of the undergraduate service learner, one student to another, one unique voice at a time.

This story takes place in wilds of the Alleghenies . . .



I'm awake...pitch black, Uneasiness comes upon me in these first moments... Somehow I can't remember where I am.

How did I get here...



I'm trapped...

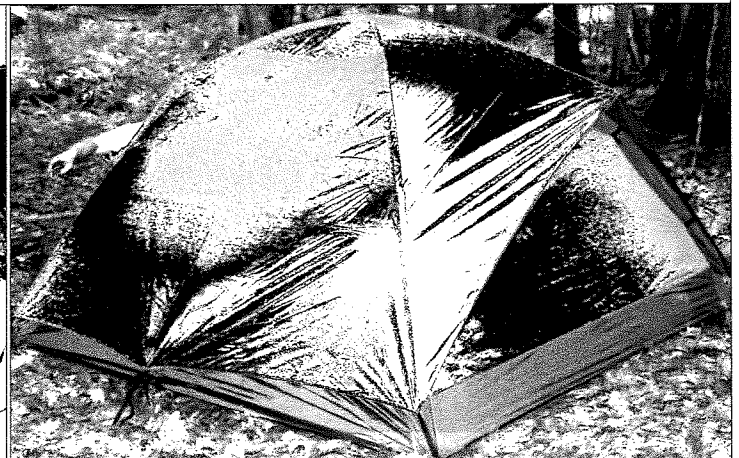
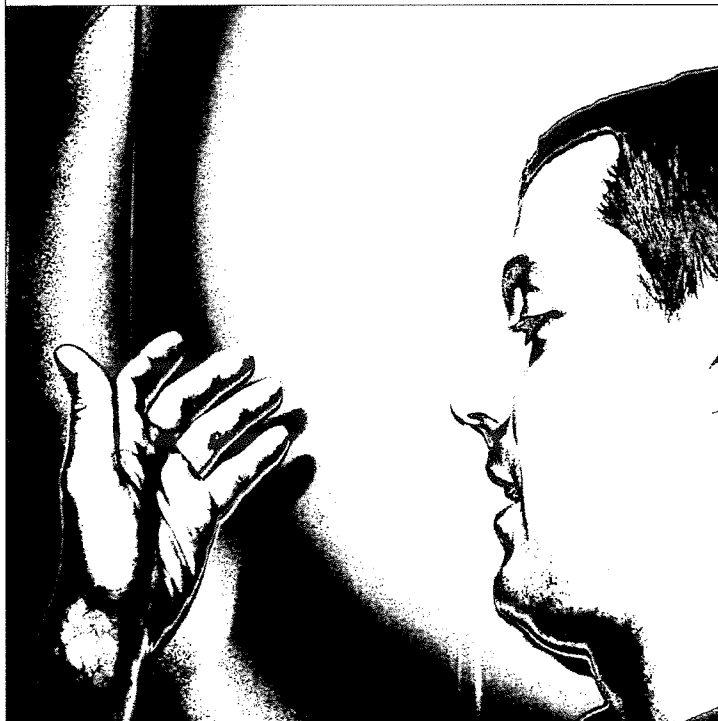


I feel claustrophobia smothering me...

Arrgggh



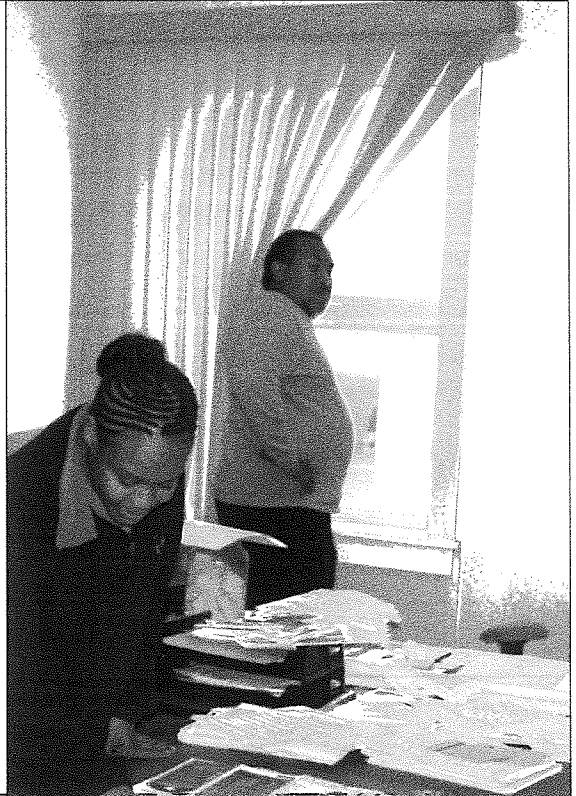
I reach out and feel a vinyl fabric slip past my fingers. I can remember now—



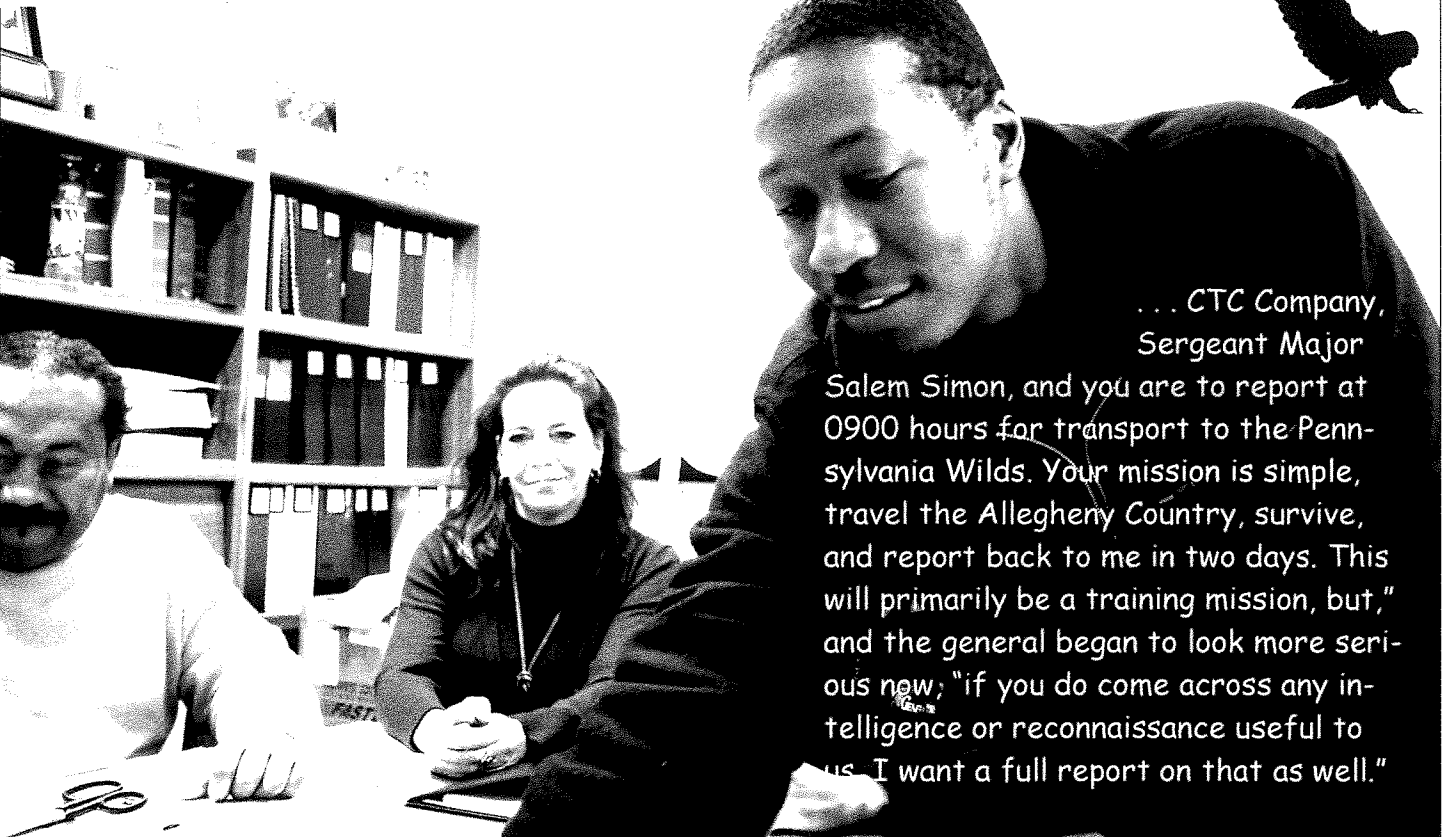
this was the end of our first day in the mountains asleep in a one-man tent.

Early that morning I had been summoned to the General's Quarters.

"Lieutenant, Ron Lemieux reporting," I said as I entered the dimly lit office. There were stacks of paperwork shuffled around a large table that occupied the room. It looked as though General Collins had been confined to the duties of administration for quite sometime.



"At ease" the General said. He tilted back in his chair and began his debriefing, "Colonel, I won't be accompanying you on this mission; however, Special Forces Agents Captain Joe Lerhner and Colonel John Rhode of the Youth Outdoors Division will be your guides through a particular track of mountains . . ."

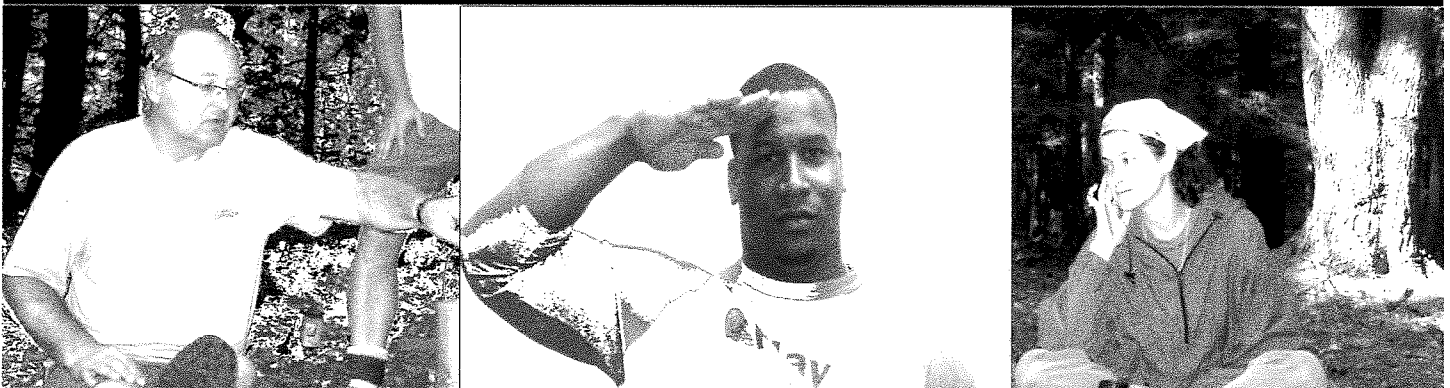


. . . CTC Company, Sergeant Major Salem Simon, and you are to report at 0900 hours for transport to the Pennsylvania Wilds. Your mission is simple, travel the Allegheny Country, survive, and report back to me in two days. This will primarily be a training mission, but," and the general began to look more serious now; "if you do come across any intelligence or reconnaissance useful to us, I want a full report on that as well."

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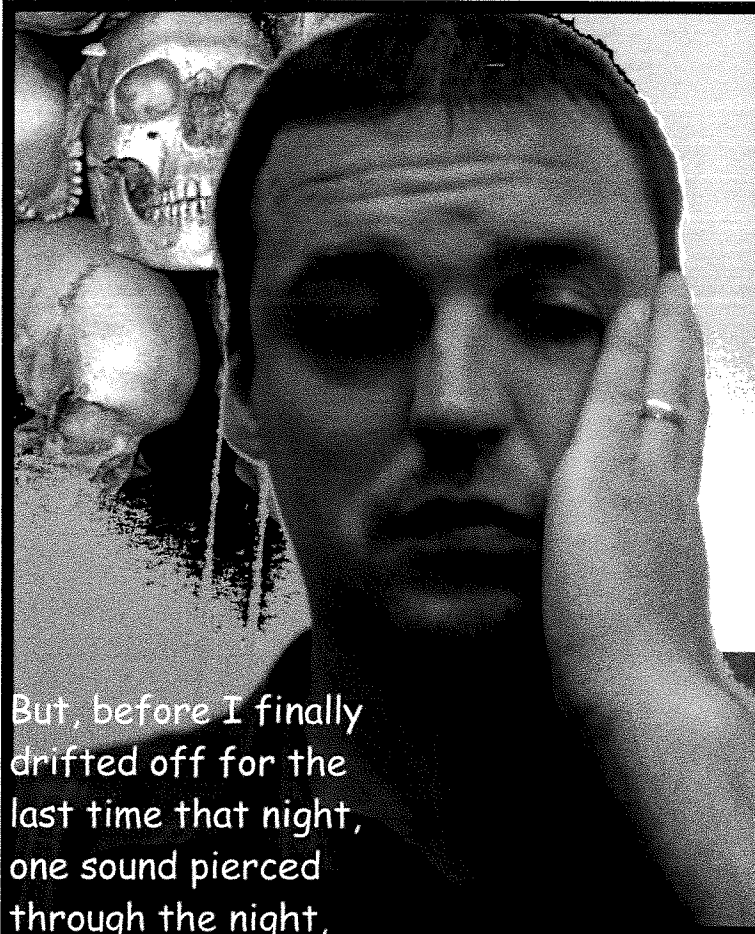


I addressed the soldiers assembled before me, Private Desmond Wilson, Second Private Devante Harris, Private First Class Desharee Wilson, Specialist Chris Cannon, Specialist Jonet Brooks, and Corporal Aaryn Hunt: "A transport is waiting to take our company to the Allegheny Wilds. Captain Joe Lehner, Colonel John Rhode and First Lieutenant Cathy, are going to be instructing you on the Pathfinders course and how to survive."



"You are to learn from them as if your life depended on it, because one day it might. Sergeant Major Simon and I will also be accompanying you as well." With my final statement, I concluded: "CTC Company, it is imperative that you be on your guard—we go without armament."

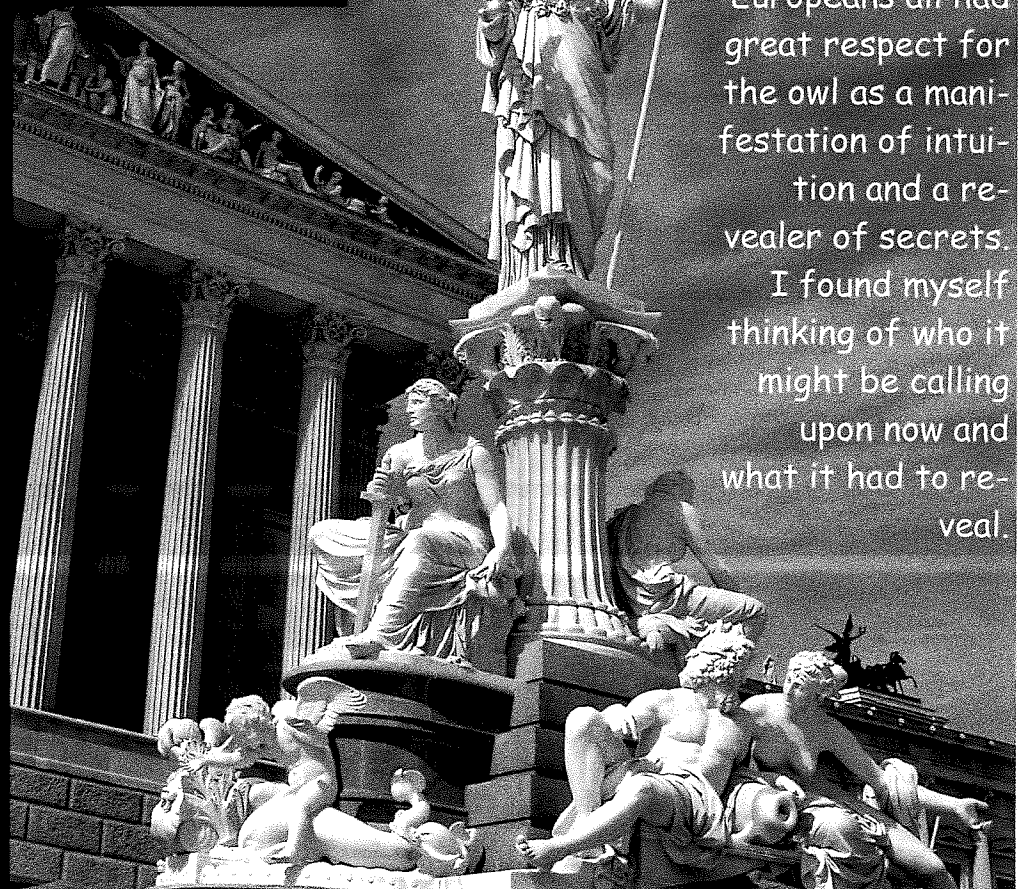
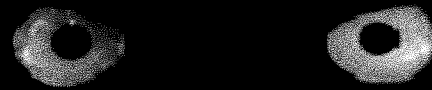




But, before I finally drifted off for the last time that night, one sound pierced through the night, through the flimsy tent walls, through the darkness of my thought—the call of the owl, that unmistakable sound. I knew that this bird was extremely capable and flew silent on its prey in the blackest of nights. I began to recall its history and remembered that since ancient times the owl had been revered.

The Greeks knew it as

Back in my tent the pounding of my blood had settled and it was easier to breathe now. I had laid there for sometime drifting in and out of sleep.



Athena's Bird of Wisdom and the Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans all had great respect for the owl as a manifestation of intuition and a revealer of secrets. I found myself thinking of who it might be calling upon now and what it had to reveal.

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Did his troops struggle with night sounds that bumped around our campsite? Did they have correct backpacking

essentials: tent, ground pad, plastic under-liner, food rations, two quarts of water... eating utensils, sleeping bag, personal items, extra clothing, and raingear.

Additionally had they carried the items that should have been divided among the soldiers including

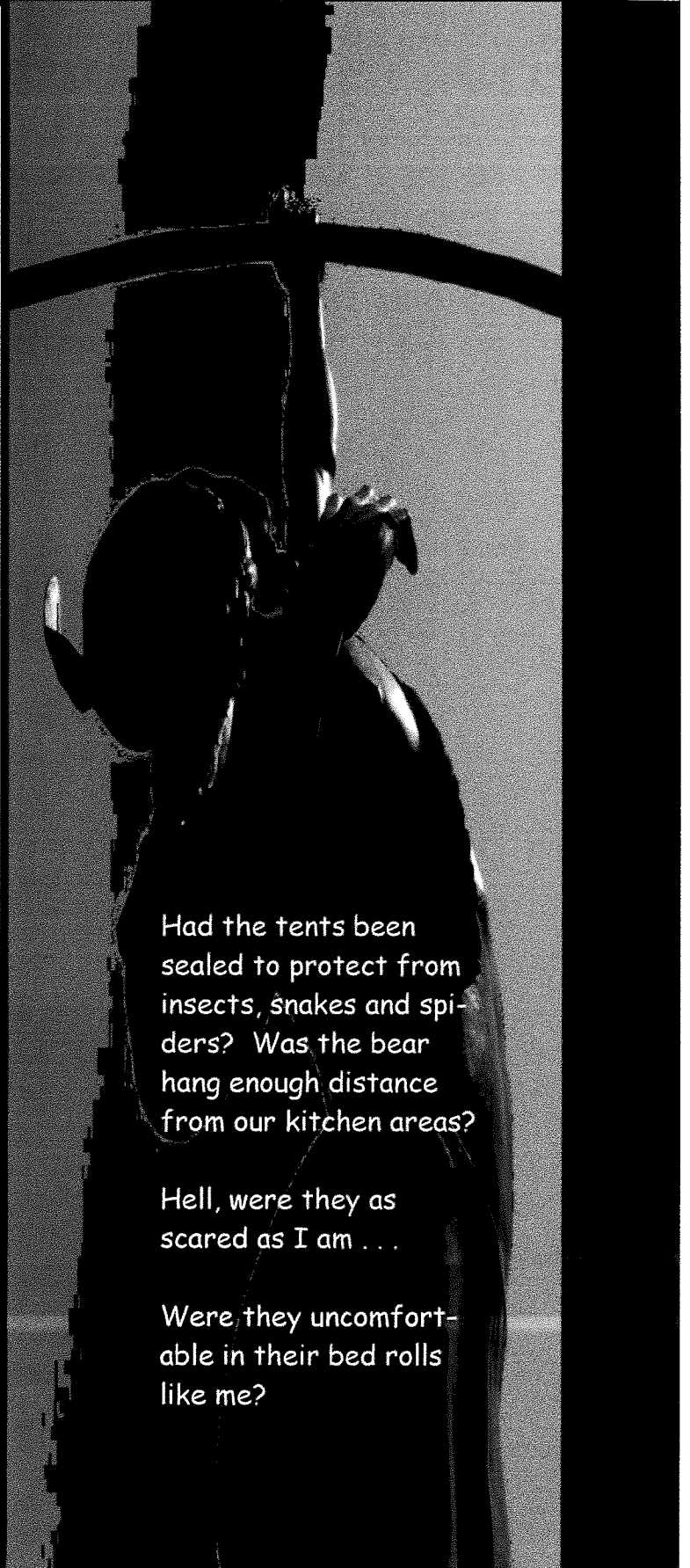
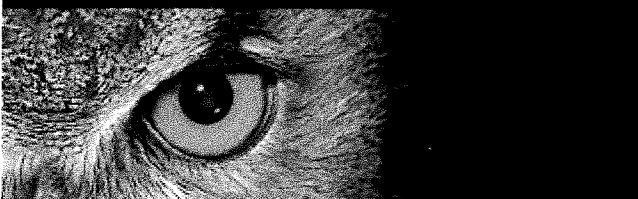


someone is watching!!!





A stove, fuel, first aid kit, mess bag, folding shovel and bear bag.



Had the tents been sealed to protect from insects, snakes and spiders? Was the bear hang enough distance from our kitchen areas?

Hell, were they as scared as I am . . .

Were they uncomfortable in their bed rolls like me?



As the night gave way to morning our second day in the Alleghenies began. This was a place of intense raw beauty, with lush plant growth, massive rock formations, towering trees, and bubbling rivulets. As I approached the common area, I saw that Corporal Hunt was busy pumping water, ensuring our company would not come down with dysentery. It was an honorable and difficult job, but she

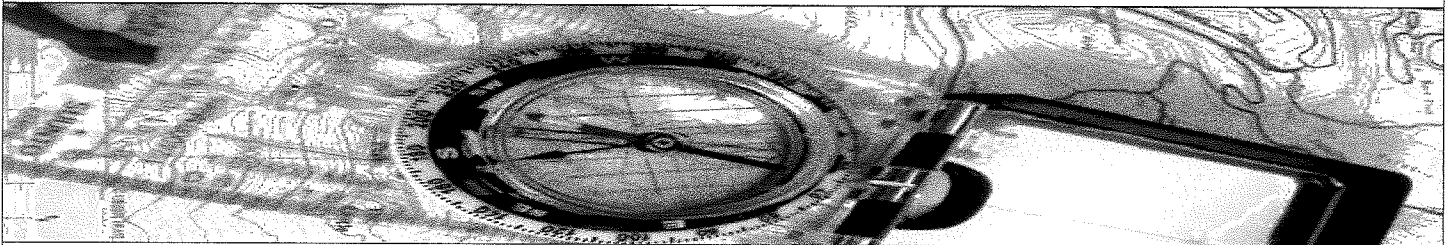
performed it without question and seeming ease. This was her and Specialist Books' second training mission in these mountains and they brought with them a greater experience and knowledge. They were beginning to understand how to lead and command respect from their comrades. Corporal Hunt was to be transferred to an officers academy in Toledo soon and her future days seemed that they would be filled with accomplishment.

After we broke camp

Col. Rodey assembled the company for a navigation debriefing before we set out for our next objective.



Col. Rhode was a seasoned veteran of wilderness expeditions and had instructed many soldiers before. Earlier in his life he had taken an injury during a war and he now walked with a slight limp. He would bring up the rear when we hiked and despite the pain he would arrive within a relatively short time of the rest of the company. Col. Rhode had traveled through these wilds before and knew the area well. "We will strike out northwest," he said, "to our objective which is five miles from this location." He placed two maps, the Cherry Grove and Cobham quadrangles, on the ground and instructed the team on



how to properly orient the map. The company adjusted their compasses for declination on the gridlines, and positioned the map to true north. We could now take a bearing to determine the exact heading of our course. "We will travel mainly on the so called Tanbark Trail," Colonel "Big John" Rhode announced, "to our objective which is a series of caverns near where we will camp for the night. The trail leads north for approximately three miles where it then turns west and again northwest for the remainder."



Private Harris

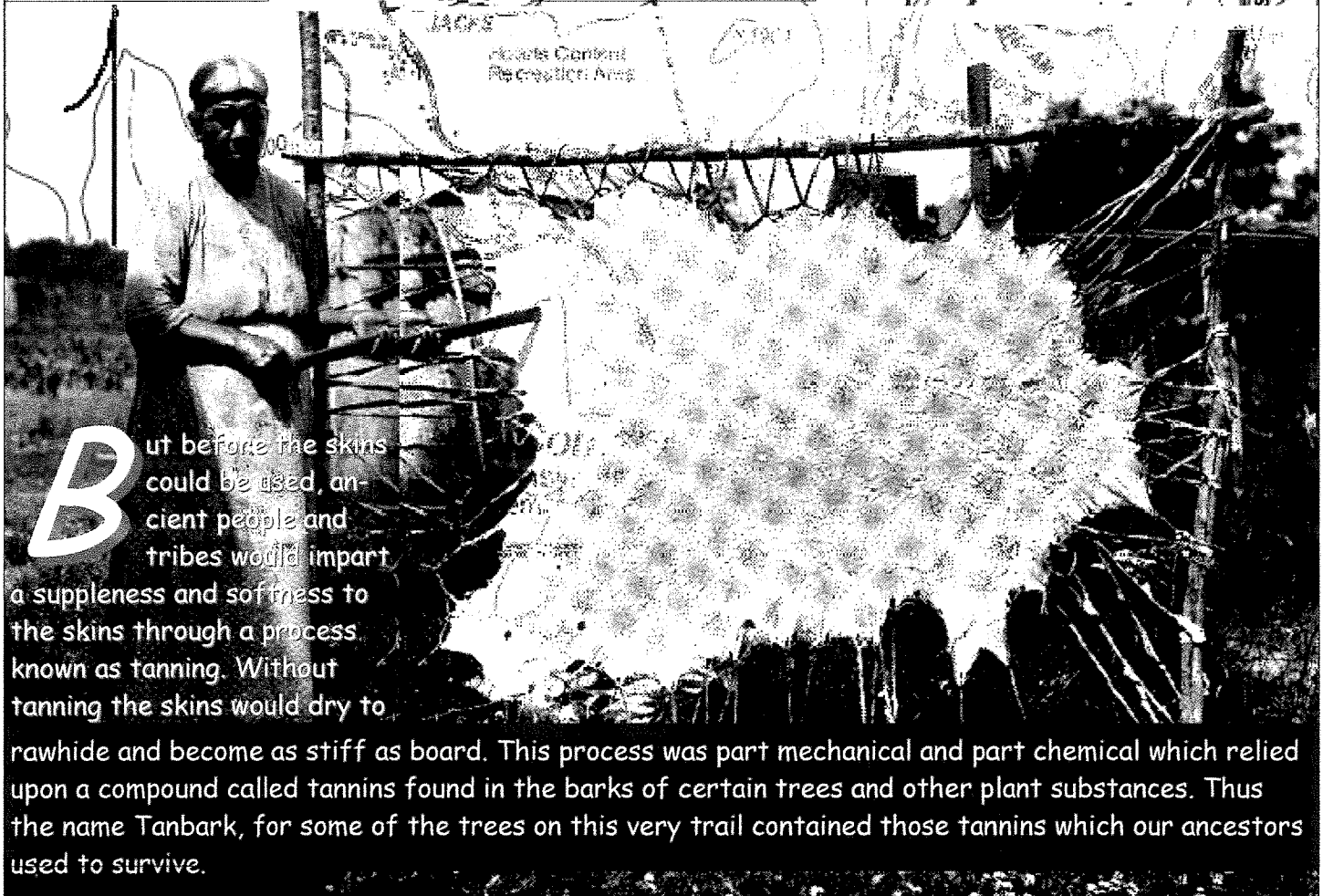
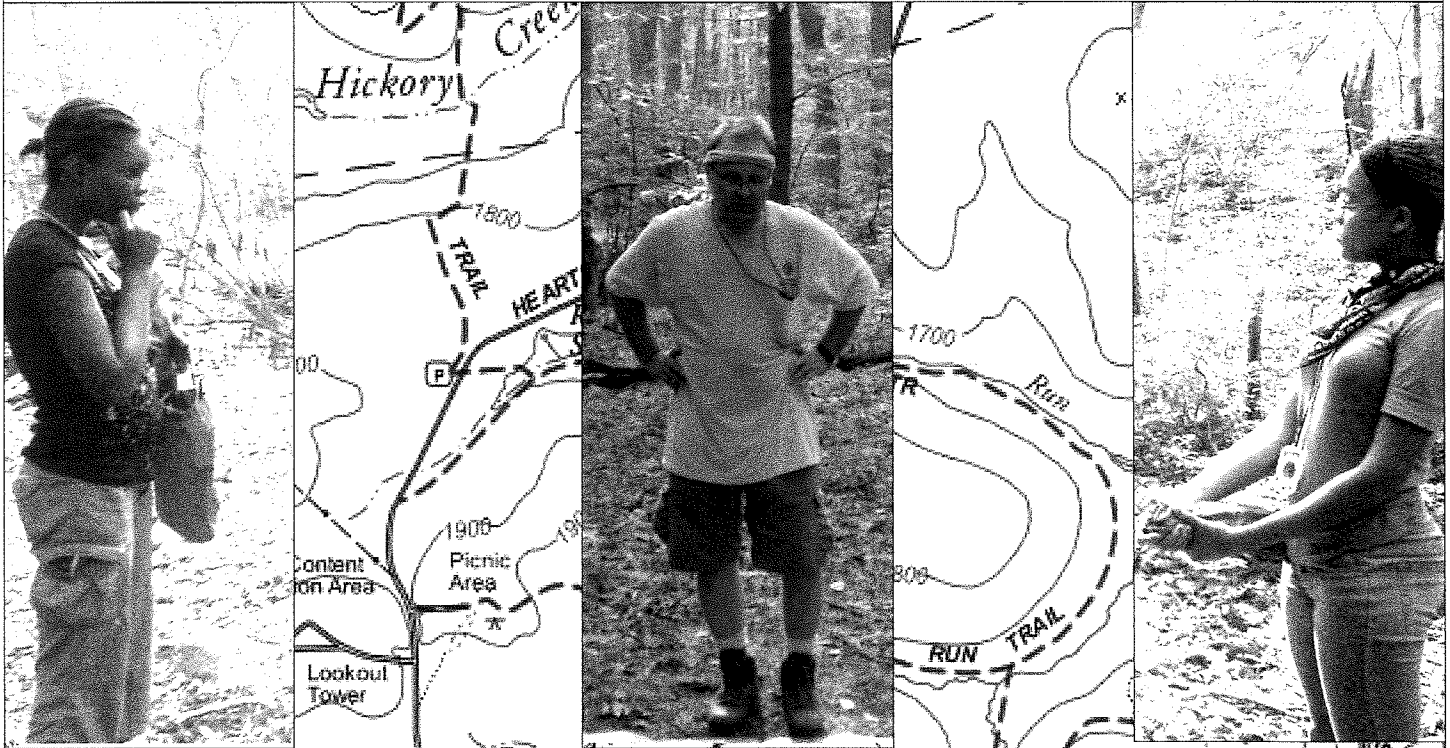


Corporal Hunt



Private First Class Wilson

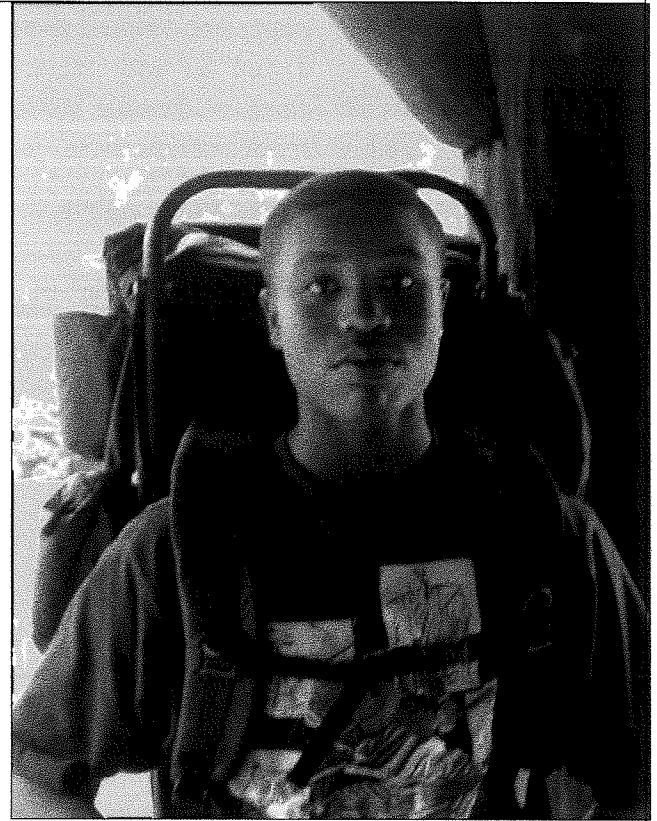
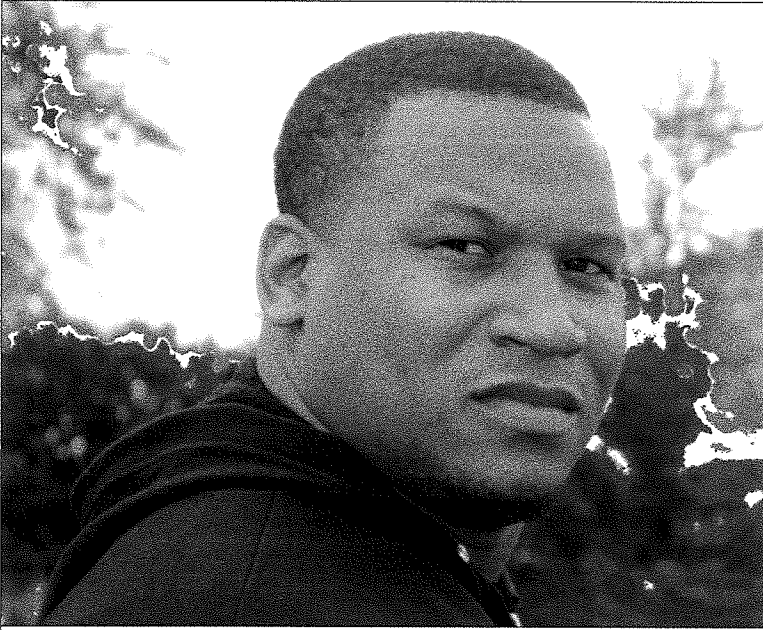
Before we set out, Colonel Rhode explained the history and meaning behind the name of the Tanbark Trail. Throughout the ages man had relied upon the skins of the animals they hunted, using these skins as clothing, dwelling walls, water bags, and many other useful things.



But before the skins could be used, ancient people and tribes would impart a suppleness and softness to the skins through a process known as tanning. Without tanning the skins would dry to rawhide and become as stiff as board. This process was part mechanical and part chemical which relied upon a compound called tannins found in the barks of certain trees and other plant substances. Thus the name Tanbark, for some of the trees on this very trail contained those tannins which our ancestors used to survive.

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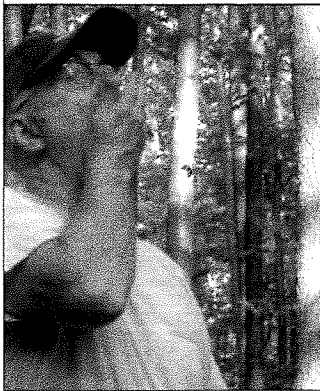
The bugs were on us now and we were ready to move out. Sgt. Maj. Simon was the head Non-Commissioned Officer for this mission and he kept the soldiers on top of their game. He was a natural leader and the



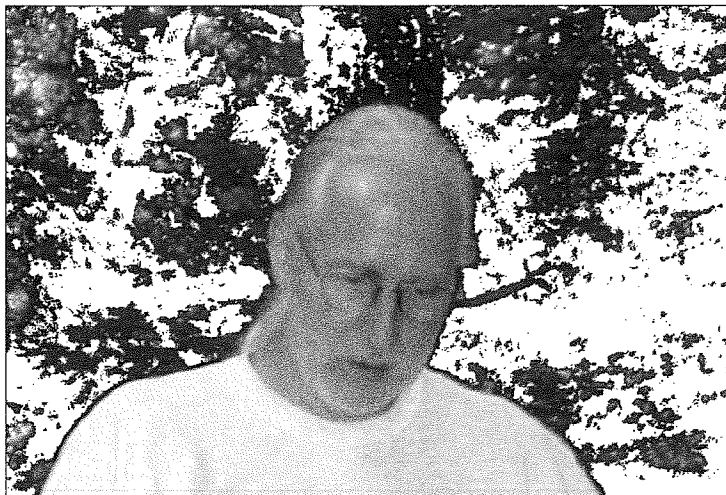
kind of man soldiers follow willingly into battle. Capt. Joe had a seasoned look about him with long blond-grey hair and a disposition that testified to the many nights spent in the wilderness. He was well aware of the hidden dangers and potentials that could be encountered on a mission such as this. Our survival and return, uninjured, was his primary concern. He explained to us the "leave no trace" concept whereby there would be no sign by us as ever having been in the wilds. This protected the forest from the slow destruction of the oblivious soldier, and we were attentive to every detail: not to leave a shred of waste, uproot a tuft of moss, or even kill a bug. We became "invisible," and thus, in the event of war, it would be harder for us to be tracked down.



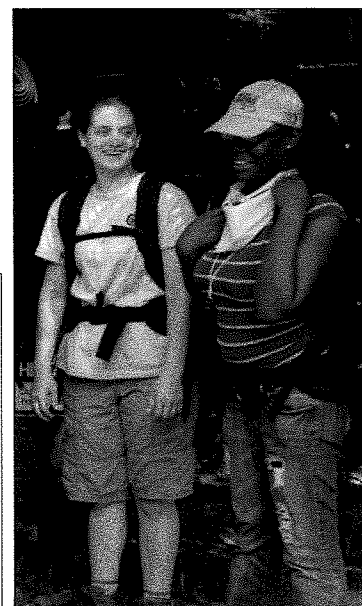
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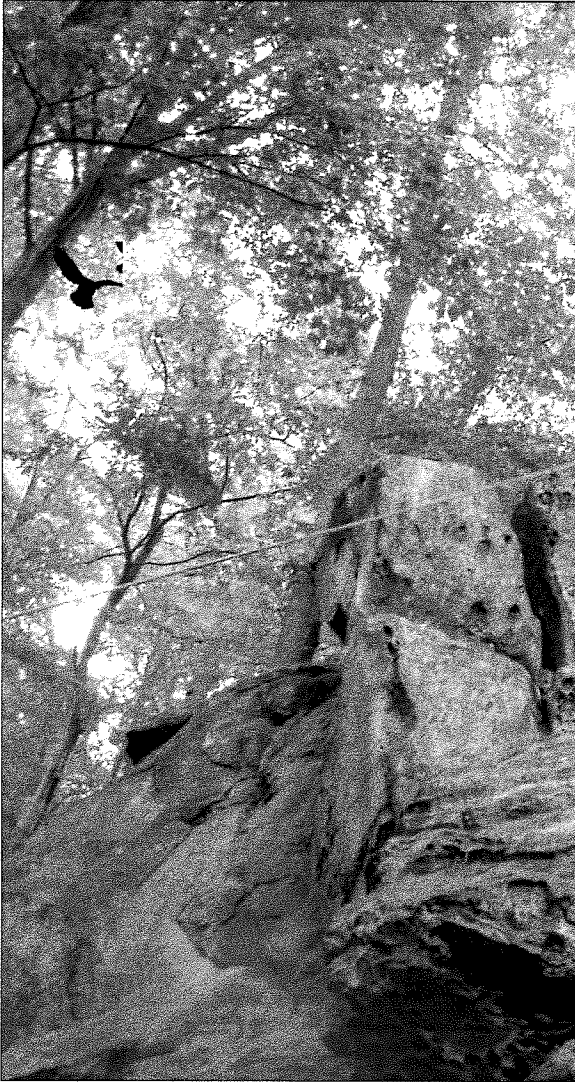
Capt. Joe told us the ethics of the "Leaving No Trace" behind. He said, "We should travel and camp on durable surfaces, including established trails and campsites, rock gravel, dry grasses and snow.



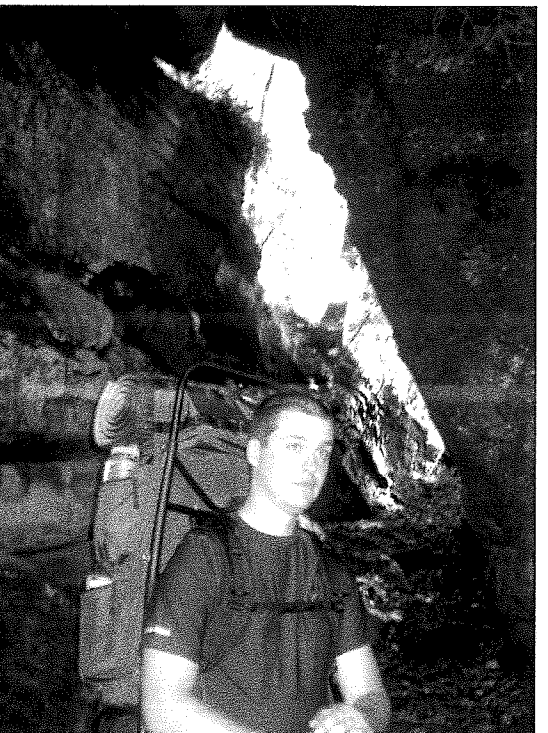
Protect lakeside areas by camping at least 100 feet from stake sand camps. Cpt. Joe quoted Chief Seattle, "Whatever befalls the Earth, the songs of the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand of it." What he does to the web, he does to himself. Then we saddled up and rolled out. It will be a five mile track to our next destination.

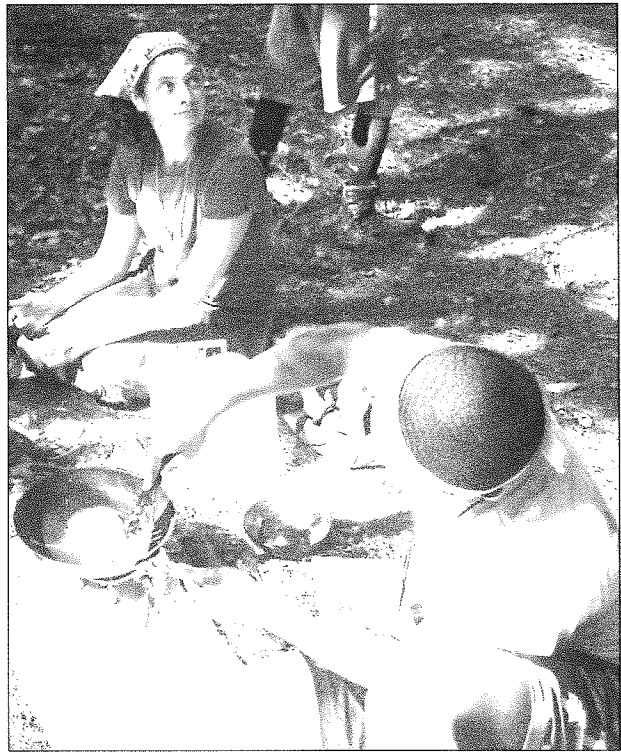


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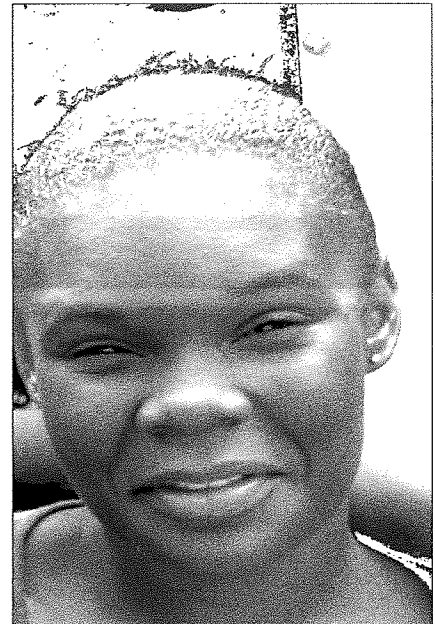


Priate First Class Desmond Wilson and Private Devante Harris were eager to set off and took point, leading the company through the forest trails at the direction of Col. "Big John" Rhode. We reached the caverns within two hours and in short time we stowed our packs near where we would camp and began our exploration. The caverns and rock formations were magnificent and had probably been carved out and tossed around like play dolls in the last ice age when glaciers covered much of the area. The wonder was visible in the eyes of the company. A glimpse from Private First Class Desharee Wilson confirmed to me that these soldiers were awe-struck. At that moment I questioned, did I have what's needed, not just to help decipher the make, but win the hearts and minds of hardened troops like "Big John" Rhode and Sgt. Major Simon.





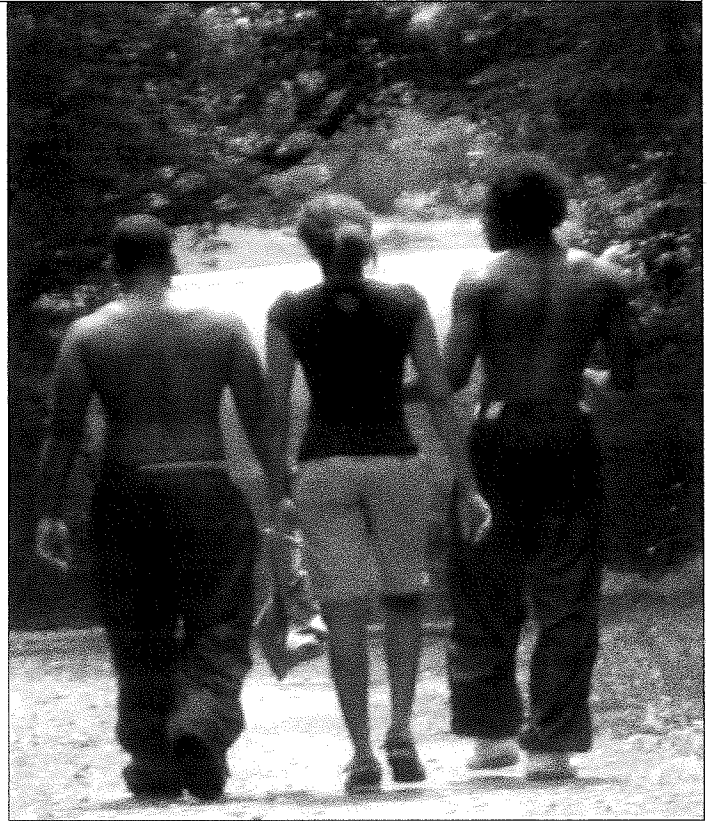
Night was upon us again as the sun ran the last leg of its course. The company was in good spirits and we started a small fire using only flint and steel. The mountain men and pioneers of this country used this technique in times past as their primary means of fire starting. A snap of the wrist and the flint would send shards of molten steel, ignited from the cutting action on the steel, on to a tinder called charred cloth. The tiny spark would then be coaxed into flame by placing the charred cloth into a larger bundle of tinder made of dried plant fibers. In thirty seconds we had a fire that threw light in flickering waves across the faces of the company.





The sounds of the forest were beginning to quiet, and we began to reflect on our experiences for that day. We had worked as one unit, as a team, and reached our objective. I was finally able to take in a sense of relief from the belligerent road rage, nagging bill paying, and repetition of urban life. I had always lived in the city and grew up there, but the forests, rivers, and fields were where I had always felt most at home. The night was silent and the Owl had not sounded, but the call remained as piercing as before.

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The following day we turned south and began our journey back. None of the soldiers had complained on the entire mission. The team looked after one another, asking someone here how they were feeling, asking someone there if they had been drinking enough water. We were living simply and opening ourselves up to the



experience those great woods had to offer. We had stepped right into the present moment and found it lacking nothing. The owl had called to us all and had revealed the secret. Upon my return Sgt. Major Salem and I shall report to the General about our reconnaissance and intelligence efforts; we traveled, we survived, and we found our hearts content, and left without a trace.

Mission Accomplished!!!

Through The Window

Graphic Novel

BLACK

Ministers, pastors, deacons and trustees, sitting in a store front church, from Philly to N.Y.C, everyone is surviving their personal storms, shouting and dancing in the Spirit of the Lord, the ministry is flamboyant, with the Afro centric vision of religious revival, from preachers who turn into congressmen, we welcome our brothers from Sudan, and everybody smiles, the first female bishop is still waiting for generation X to show up, it's not all about Iceberg Slim and pushers, there is more to me than what you see on T.V., my morals run deep, as I celebrate in my most important community institution

Black (Haiku)

Dancing ministry
Flamboyant Afro centric
African brothers

—Alexander Koe



Mission:
Engagment
**CHANGE IS GONNA COME
COME**



At orientation Major Templar warned me that General LC had high standards for persons selected to work in the Prevention Unit. Major Templar emphasized failure to follow policy and procedures would definitely result in termination. Major Templar's words and additional instructions were confusing at the time; she noted that she had earned the right to be known as Ms. Sue. And that I had to earn such a privilege. As an adult, why did I need to prove myself to the youth? At that point I knew I wasn't in college!

My First Step-was awareness of cultural differences. I was given an overview of the group's history, social/political makeup, geographical layout, information about family dynamics, acculturation concerns health issues and their relevance as related to values, norms and meanings surrounding behavior. Being sensitive to a persons' culture is an important consideration for those of us who work with youth, stressed Major Templar. "You must learn to be sensitive to cultural differences and treat such differences with respect" stated Major Templar. Structural and historical factors impacting local level cultural groups need to be understood if you want your program to be culturally competent. The influence and power structure of cultural groups differ across communities as does the manner in which they are integrated into the larger community (Gilbert and Cervantes, 1987). Major Templar asked "Are there barriers such as language, legal status, economic factors? Are there deep historical decisions or resentments between groups that would prelude trust and cooperation?" As I listened to Major Templar I was grateful for this learning opportunity provided by CSU.

I smile as I think of my task at hand, writing to Command about the readiness of Corporal Hunt. I smile because such an assignment means that Command values my opinion. It wasn't always like that. As a third year Psychology major, Miami University of Ohio, this placement at CTC is my first real-world experience. I selected CTC because of their documented success with "at-risk youth". My faculty advisor agreed it would be an excellent opportunity and experience if I truly wanted to be an Adolescent Psychologist.



Just a Few Words That Describe College

Self-dependant
Nasty food,
Small dorms
Boring lectures
Harder exams
Difficult classes
Weird classes
Different People
Many books
A lot of papers
Free time
Video games
Dirty laundry
Messy dorms
Intramurals
Mid-terms
Finals
Longer vacations
Frats
Sororities
No snow days
Parties
No parents
No curfew
A lot of junk food
No parking in lots
No sleep
A lot of walking
Need a lot \$\$\$\$\$\$

College

You're self dependent
You're now faced with challenges
Welcome to college

-Alfonso

College

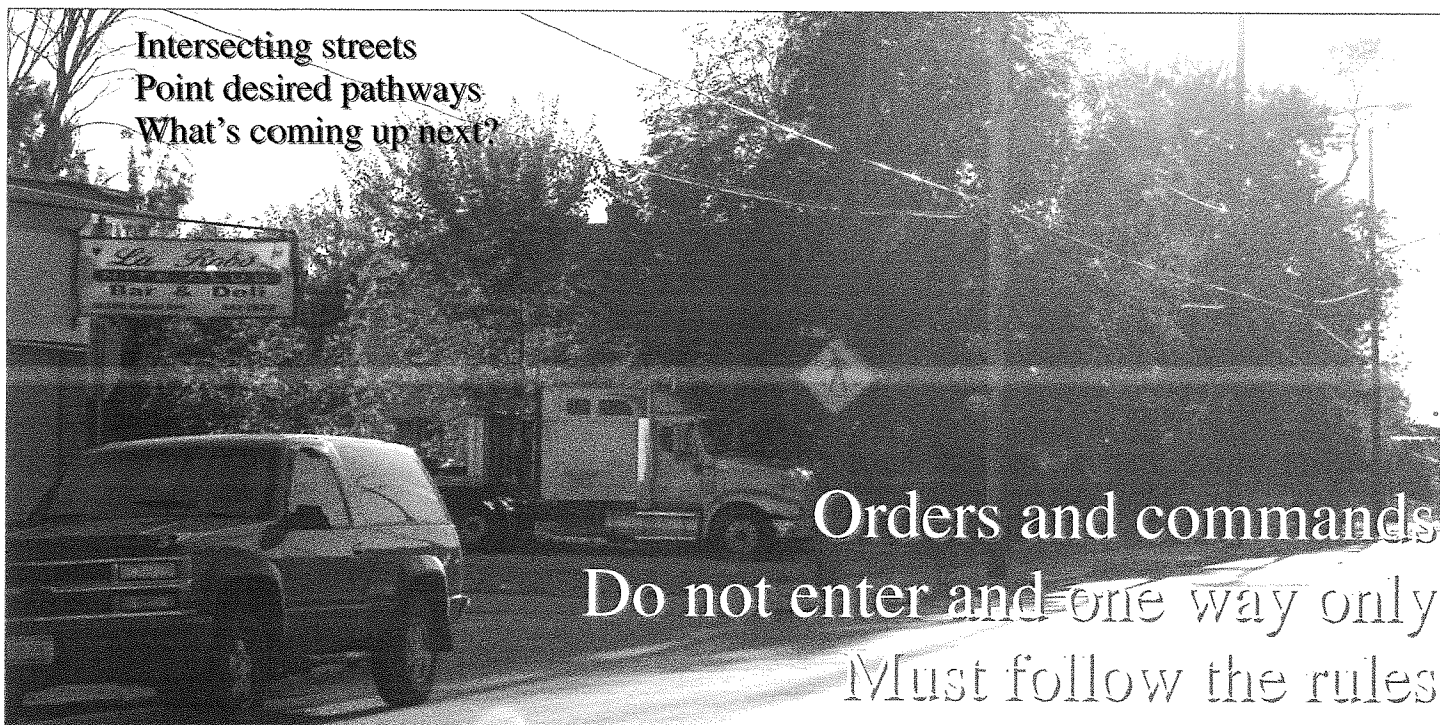
You're self-dependent,
You're now faced with challenges
Welcome to college

A city is a large community where people are lonesome together. —Herbert Prochnow

Cosmopolitan Jungle



Ancient sepia
Roman style architecture
Bright blue cloudless skies



Intersecting streets
Point desired pathways
What's coming up next?

Orders and commands
Do not enter and one way only
Must follow the rules



CTC Company hosted a diverse group of young people that included African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics and trainees of mixed race. My culture also played a role in how I fit in. I am 100% first-generation Indian. I have lived in pretty typical predominately white and suburban neighborhoods for nearly my entire life. On the other hand, the majority of trainees was from an urban environment and have had to deal with health, judicial and poverty issues. But, although my culture and background were significantly different, I never felt that they perceived me as an outsider.

Hence, the Let it Ride program taught me that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that negatively affect their lives. They're not necessarily "bad" and not everything that happens to them is entirely under their control or their fault. Now, that's not to give them a free pass, but it has to be considered that sometimes a student will carry with them their negative situations or stressors

in their personal lives. Sometimes what they need is an adult to listen and understand where they're coming from and to take an interest in their lives.

How has this experience changed

Friends

Some people you can depend on
Those who will never lie to you
Or treat you with disrespect
All you get is trust, so giving trust
Is your next step, they will
Come through in the end, so
They are your best friends
They will make you laugh and
Have your back through
The good times and bad times

—Alexander

me? I have learned that everything isn't always "black and white." For example, a trainee who was typically one of my better behaved pupils was having a "difficult day." The trainee spent the majority of the day sleeping and giving one word answers to any question asked of him. I could tell that there was clearly an issue with him. After numerous attempts to get

the trainee to produce something, finally it came out. He had been locked out of his house the night before and forced to sleep outside. I knew immediately that what happened greatly affected his ability to focus, so I spent some of that afternoon listening to him and offering my support.

Cultural competency is the ability to effectively interact with people of different cultures and backgrounds. In this research and training project, cultural awareness on the part of the student researcher or officer candidate was considered an important part of gaining cultural competency. An interesting fact I became aware of was that some of the troops of Hispanic descent seemed to fit stereotypes usually associated with African Americans. For example, although one of the students was part African American, Polynesian and Puerto Rican, he identified more with his African American roots. Another example of a cultural awareness experience was through a 16 year-old African American whom I was especially connected to. This individual was a bright student but struggled with his social communication skills. He had a hard time blending in with the crowd and was often picked on by his peers in the program. It was often said that "he's from Shaker, but has no hood in him." However, towards the end of the program I was able to notice a drastic change in his social skills. His outlook changed and he was more positive and more open to others. He began dressing differently in order to fit in with his peers, and his communication skills greatly increased. This individual is an example of someone who greatly benefited from this program. By the end, he was able to adapt and socialize in diverse settings, whereas before he was "snobbish" to everyone and everyone was non-accepting of him.



White

From the Appalachian mountains and
Beyond, I am the majority, I've been
Here the longest, watching change,
and sometimes
Fearing it,
new colors and cultures invading
My American dream, my suits brand new, as my
Wife bakes apple pie, while watching
Martha Stewart, damn I had it easy
I had no prejudice to deal with, because
I am the majority, my European brothers
Gave me culture, but I am so far removed, all
I can do is live the American dream, my
Generations run long on this soil,
like Bruce Springsteen
Said, I was born in the USA
I've got access babe, network with me
And you can make it to the top quick
Maybe even president.

—Alexander

Why Do You Judge Me?

Why do you judge me? To give me pain?
Because I'm a different race?
Or have a strange name?

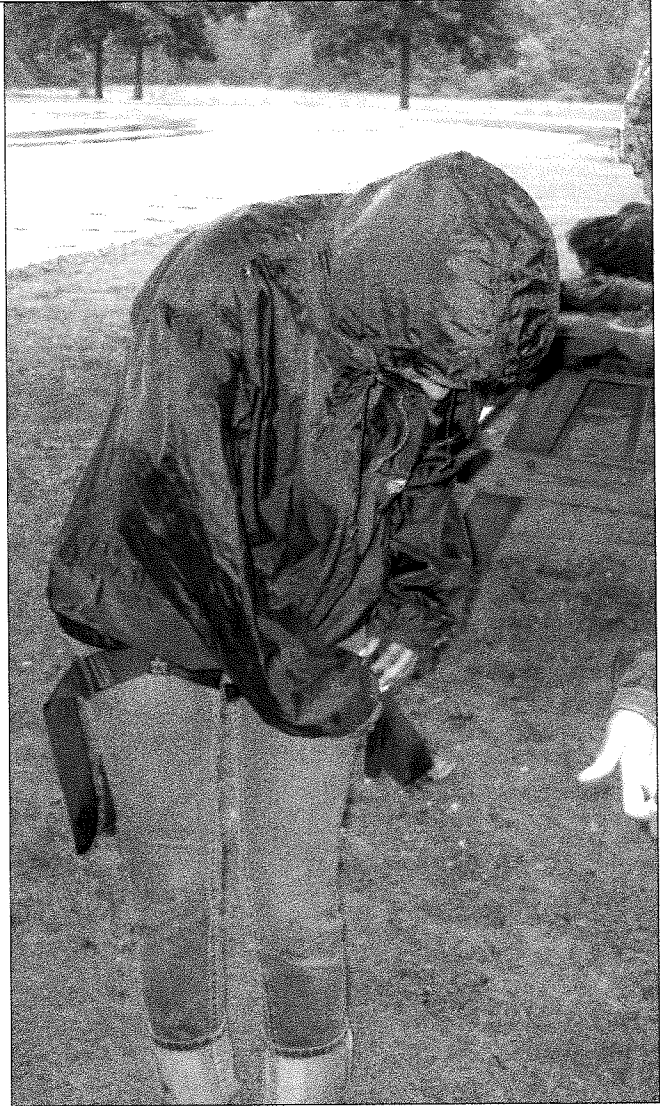
I don't deserve this hurt
Why won't you accept me?
For who I am and what I am?
Can't you see this is the way I want to be?

You may reject me,
But I like myself. I can't change the way I am, but why
should I? It's the way I'll always be. I won't change for
anyone It's my life. You can't live it for me.

Why do you even judge me at all?
No one is perfect. Why do you expect me to be just like
you? I couldn't even if I wanted to.
Why do you judge me?

-Temia





Inside Looking Out

Prada pumps hiking a wooded trail
Dripping Mary J flips that would make even
Helen Keller yell.

Sorry, but none of this is for me
I'd sooner play dolls than climb a tree
Here's an idea. Let's not go camping. How
about a shopping spree? Don't even wonder
why I'm absent the day we pitch a tent. What do
you expect? You said I couldn't wear my Dolce
& Gabbana bag because the color blue draws
insects! Please don't get the wrong idea. I'm
not materialistic. I'm waiting for you to get real-
istic.

—Rebeka



My Second Step was to conduct a Self-Assessment, the awareness of my own cultured values. This experience taught me that I am capable of a lot more than I think. When I first learned that I would be teaching a class on creative writing, I was terrified. I had never taught before. I wasn't even an education major. What the hell did I know about teaching? What made me a qualified individual to teach? I quickly learned that all of that comes second. What's important is passion for the subject and putting forth the effort.

Now that the experience is over I feel like I really imparted a lot of knowledge and skill that these students can use later in life, whether it be in the workplace or in college. At the beginning of the five week period, I didn't know if I would be able to last the entire time. Now I realize that there are a lot of jobs I could do, regardless of my educational background, with the proper amount of effort put forth and passion realized.

I also had many students ask me about my culture and they were very interested in the beliefs and tra-

ditions that I have been brought up with. A few of the students, misunderstanding Native Americans (American Indians) and Indians from the subcontinent of India, took me for an American Indian. These students asked questions that were stereotypical and not culturally appropriate. However, after explaining the histories behind why Native Americans are called Indians in the first place, they were able to have a better understanding of my culture and were able to differentiate between the races and their cultures. Yes, toward the beginning of the program I would receive comments on being more privileged. However, as time passed I was able to prove to the students that I was there for them to talk to and to listen to them talk about what bothered them. This really helped me build stronger bonds.

I have gained and learned more about myself. Coming into the program I had no idea what was in store for me, I did not anticipate learning this much about myself. For example, we went on a training exercise conducted by The Institute of Creative Leadership. This training taught us how to actively participate and take on leadership roles during ac-

Friends

Some people you can depend on,
 Those who will never lie to you
 Or treat you with disrespect
 All you get is trust, so giving trust
 Is your next step, they will
 Come through in the end, so
 They are your best friends
 They will make you laugh and
 Have your back through
 The good times and bad times

Friends (Haiku)

Some people trust best
 Next step never disrespect
 With best friends lies end

—Alexander

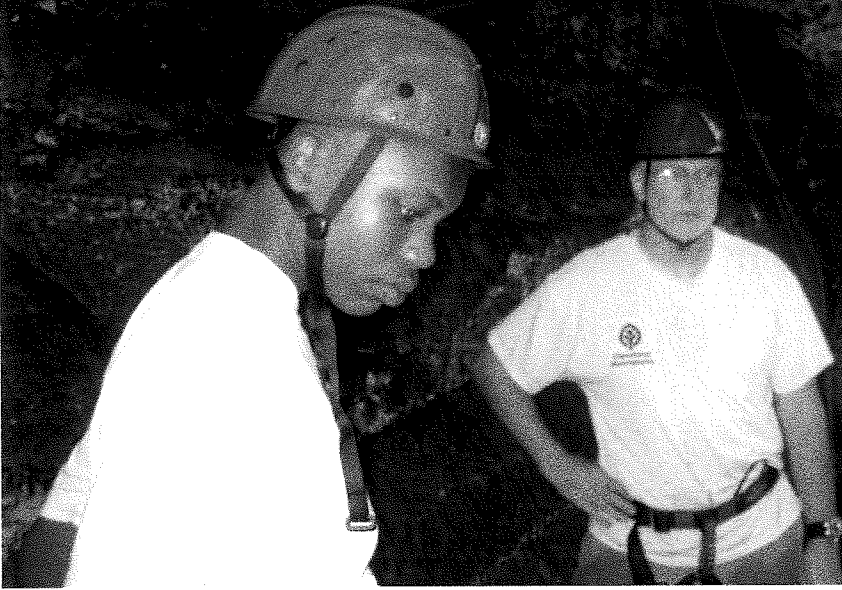
Why

Why are clouds in the sky?
 Why do birds fly?
 Why do I have to wear this tie?
 Why do yellow and blue make green?
 Why doesn't Cleveland ever have a winning team?
 Why do thugs sell drugs?
 Why are people afraid of bugs?
 Why can't men cry?
 Why do people lie?
 Why do we have to die?
 Why should we try?
 Why do we drive on the right side?
 Why is chicken so good when it's fried?
 Why do we have the FBI?
 Why is there so much crime?
 Why is there never enough time?
 Why does this rhyme?
 Why are women so fine?
 Why are women never satisfied?
 Why ask why?
 Why do I always get dirty looks?
 Why can't some people read books?
 Why do the sick get sicker?
 Why do the poor get poorer?
 Why do the rich get richer?
 Why is the trip home so much quicker?
 Why do some things change and some don't?
 Why will some people change and some won't
 Why am I always so broke?
 And why doesn't anyone laugh at my jokes?

Why (Haiku)

Ask why can't men cry,
 Why do things change and some don't
 Why am I so broke.

---Jason



tivities. At the beginning of the day, not everyone was able to work together; however, as the day went on, everyone learned how to work as a team. Our last activity resulted in participation and leadership by everyone. Personally I learned how these experiences impacted and strengthened communication between me as the instructor and the troops. After the ICL mission, I was able to get and maintain the respect as a student leader. I learned how to communicate effectively with the students; and, as a result helped me to get the troops to cooperate with adults.

They also taught me that to be you is important in all walks of life, because "Real recognizes Real". Don't try and be something or someone you're obviously not, because people can see right through it. They taught me that my sunny childhood growing up isn't the same experience everyone has as a child. They taught me that life isn't always easy and that nothing is handed to anyone.

Third Step - My Understanding of the dynamics that occur when members of different cultures interact. Another activity that brought me closer to the troops was rock climbing. Prior to this, the only other rock climbing experience I had was on an indoor wall. From this activity I was able to witness and experience teamwork at its finest. Even though only two people were able to climb at a time, everyone was involved, actively helping, suggesting and motivating the climbers. It helped to build a certain trust between us as climbers

LET IT RIDE 6 August 2010 — 8 August 2010



Mankind

There is no color, but flesh,
Goodwill and kind acts, with
Passion and good intent
Which converges, good individuals
Onto one path, but not into
Murder or death, the world
Is huge and human life is
Based on trust with infinite
Possibilities and dreams fulfilled
Or unfulfilled, freedom and human rights
Are universal, not ascribed, but
Achieved through co-operation and peace

Goals

The knowledge is there to use
Focus your mind and you
Can choose to accomplish
Your goals because you have
Everything under control, there is
No limit to what you can do, and
There is nothing you have to prove
And endless possibilities unfold
Right before your eyes, then you
Will realize that the world is
At the palm of your hand, through
Progress and knowledge
And individual stands

-Alexander

and our peers. It taught me, as well as the students, how to deal with and overcome challenges, and to expect great outcomes. I was extremely impressed by their motivation and determination while rock climbing. No matter how long it took or how tired they were, they did not give up, thus succeeding in reaching the top of the rock, myself included.

Activities such as rock climbing and outdoor leadership activities are what helped me to create great relationships. We became a family, we joked with one another and helped each other. Not only have I taught them, I have also learned a great deal from them. Coming into the program, I had no prior experience instructing children, let alone teenagers. However, from this experience they have taught me that I can talk to a large group people, voice my opinions and instruct others. For me this

might be considered the biggest benefit that I have had working with these talented teens. They have also taught me that no matter your race, background, or culture, we are all the same, brothers and sisters, equals in this world.

These three steps help individuals to adapt, diversify and adjust professional skills to fit within the cultural context of various communities and cultural sensitivity.

**White, Black, Hispanic, Asian.
Look different. Yet one big family**

Mankind

Color and goodwill
World with possibilities
Universal rights

—Alexander



Challenges

As I wonder in thought about life
I begin to reflect on all those great memories
That I have encountered
From when I walk down that aisle in kinder-
garten
To where I am now
Nothing has ever changed, but one thing
As I live my life everyday, I am faced with a
new challenge,
Everyday and every moment
It seems as though we don't have a reason
And a purpose to live, but merely a challenge
So what are we to do, knowing that our
Lives are nothing more than a mere challenge
Live our lives day to day and night to night
And just hope that someday we fulfill and
Overcome those challenges. Then alone will
We know what to do with our lives.

-Alfonso

The Rough Side of the Mountain

Oh Lord, I'm strivin',
tryin' to make it through this barren land,
but as I go from day to day,
I can hear my Savior say,
Trust me child,
come on and hold my hand".

Chorus:

I'm comin' up on the rough side of the mountain,
I must hold to God, His powerful hand.
I'm comin' up on the rough side of the mountain,
I'm doin' my best to make it in.

Chorus

Verse 2:

I'm comin' up Lord, although my burdens
sometime they press me down,
but if I can only keep this faith
I'll have strength just to run this race;
I'm lookin' for my starry crown.

Chorus

Verse 3:

This old race will be soon be over,
they'll be no more race to run.
And I will stand before God's throne,
all my heartaches will be gone,
I'll hear my Savior say, welcome— *F.C. Barnes*

Rough Side of the Mountain

A Lesson of Perseverance

By 2nd Lieutenant Amita Venna

On Friday, August 6, 2010 at approximately 0950 hours, a mission was commissioned by the Commander in Chief of the Cleveland Treatment Center, General L.C. Collins. This mission was assigned in order to promote Corporal Aaryn Hunt to the Tenth Cavalry. Her last mission to graduate from the Ninth Infantry was to climb the dangerous rocks of Whipps Ledges in Richfield's Hinckley Reservation and prepare her for the trip to the Alleghenies. [See Hearts of Darkness] Accompanying her on her mission was Sergeant Major Simon, Lieutenant Lemieux, and myself, 2nd Lieutenant Venna.



Corporal Aaryn Hunt and Pvt. Wilson scaling the heights of Whipps

Corporal Hunt was transported to Whipps Ledges to execute her orders. Upon arrival, our company was guided down to the base of the rocks by Special Agent Captain Joe Lehrner, our rock climbing skills instructor. We all put on our harnesses and filled up our water bottles, before making our way to the base of the rocks. Upon arrival we saw two ropes mounted to the top of the sandstone sedimentary rock. With helmets and harnesses secured, we laced our boots extra tight and we were ready to climb.

There were two routes to choose

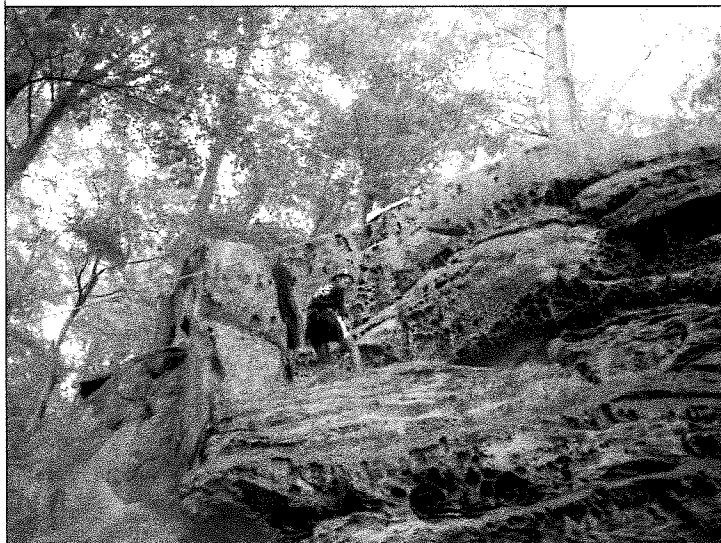
from, each about forty feet in height, which the Youth Outdoors staff had set-up earlier that morning for top-rope climbing. The belay team consisted of Capt. Joe Lehrner, 1st Lt. Kathy Sawicki, and Lt. Ron Lemieux whose job it was to ensure the safety of the climbers by managing the rope attached to the climbers' harnesses. It is the trust and teamwork between the belayer and the climber that is the most critical aspect to all successful top-rope climbing. We were then instructed on how to climb the rocks. We learned how to tie our

own ropes with a figure eight knot and the phrases that needed to be said like "On belay" and "Climbing," used to inform our belaying anchor that we are ready to climb.

The first route was extremely challenging with the most difficult portion, an overhang with limited handholds, about midway up. The youths who completed this route relied heavily upon their belayer. The crux of the second route was not midway or at the top as one

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would expect. Indeed, the very first steps of the climb starting at ground level were by far the most difficult portion. All but the most agile of the youth climbers needed a boost to begin this climb. There was simply no readily accessible hand or foot holds. To make matters worse for both of the climbs, the sandstone was slippery due to the downpour of rain when we arrived.

Corporal Hunt stepped up to one of the mounted ropes. She tied her figure eight knot to her safety har-

ness, said the words “On belay” and “Climbing.” She was determined to reach the top of the sandstone rock. She had a great start at the bottom of the rock but ran into some difficulties in the middle of the climb. The rock was eroded in a way which seemed at a first glance, impossible to surpass.

The corporal took her time, paced herself, carefully throughout the various paths that she could take. Words of encouragement from her peers helped make her climb successful. After fifteen minutes of strategizing Corporal

Hunt was able to find the best way to climb past the middle of the rock. This made it easier for her to complete the last portion of the climb and successfully reach to the top of the rock. In spite of the conditions being stacked against us, the climbers were persistent and many made it to the top.

Corporal Hunt was especially determined and motivated to climb to the top. She conquered both ropes and proved herself to be a good soldier. She completed her mission and is now eligible to be promoted to the Tenth Calvary.





This is Sergeant Major Simon's log. After closely following Corporal Hunt, she has exhibited all character becoming of an officer ready for the academy. Hunt effectively took charge of the men, she had jurisdiction over. She showed grace in the line of fire and swiftly corralled the company to move into action. Despite the company's hostile environment, she was able to settle the group and move them into action. Her skills allowed the company to secure dry land and set-up our campsite. Therefore, it is my recommendation that Corporal Hunt be promoted to the academy, the University of Toledo. My findings are consistent with the findings of 2nd Lieutenant Amita Venna. In the words of F.C. Barnes and Al Green *"As I go from day to day, I can hear my Savior say, trust me child, come on and hold my hand"* We're praying she will be ok!

LET IT RIDE LOG: 11 August 2010



"General. Here is the document you requested," said Major Templar as he rushed into the room. "Bring it forth for review," said General Collins. Major Templar attempted to make the presentation of the document as brief as possible, but because it was going to Command, The Alcohol And Drug Addition Services Board of Cuyahoga County, she knew she had to give a more detailed report.

Let It Ride Executive Summary, State Fiscal Year 2010
Submitted to
Commander William. M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer
Created by
General L.C. Collins, Executive Director of C-Company
Colonel Michael L. Oatman, Consumer Relations Officer

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

As a prevention strategy, Let It Ride • Game Ready 4 Life attempts to mitigate the effects poverty has on the quality of life experiences and well-being of youth with social economic histories of being at risk. It is a work-based learning and occupational skills program, designed as an alternative program with social recreational options, fellowship benefiting both individuals and the groups as a peer support club. Youth are involved in the following occupational work experience areas: outdoor skills such as recreation, park management, conservation, graphic design, video production, theater, creative and business writing. It attempts to bridge the employment gaps between economically-challenged families and their counterparts. Let It Ride involves youth in basic skills, enhancement, work readiness skills, occupational skills, life skills and other competencies needed to be productive not only as an individual, but within one's family and the community at large.

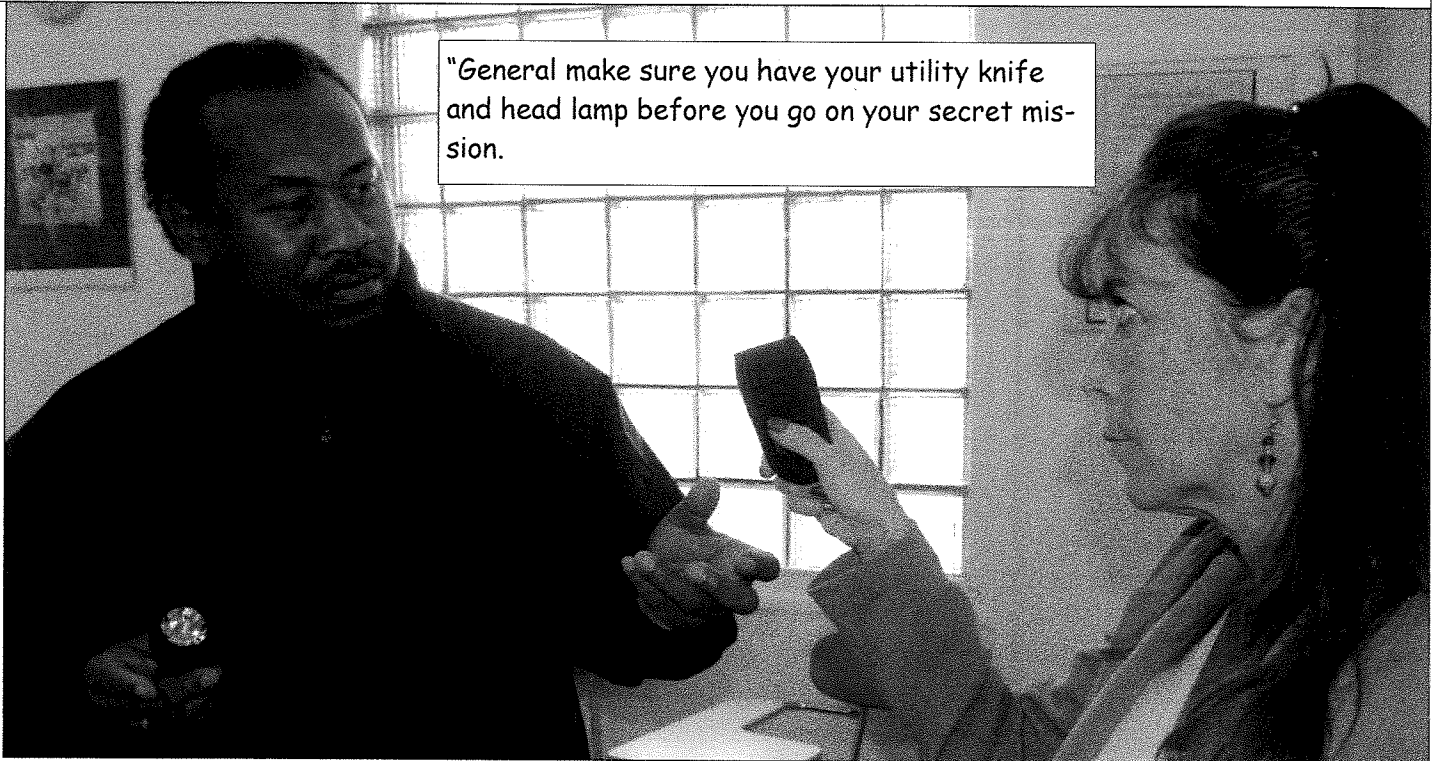
This program does not offer credentialing to its participants; however, all youth receive a certificate of completion. After completion participants are proficient in the basic skills associated with:

- Video - Pre & Post production to include lighting and editing techniques
 - Theater- Script development, stage management, set design
 - Graphic Design – Layout, Illustration Techniques and composition
- Creative Writing – Editing, Technical writing skills, fundamentals of English grammar

The program is in association with Cleveland Treatment Center's Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Program. Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs at the Cleveland Treatment Center is a primary prevention and early intervention program. It targets youth as an early intervention strategy involved with ATODs, violence, trafficking, and those need minimal



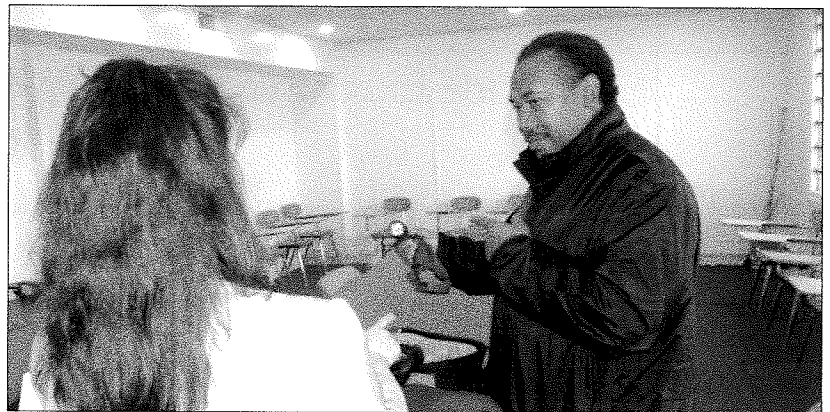
LET IT RIDE log: 11 august 2010



"General make sure you have your utility knife and head lamp before you go on your secret mission."



"I'm packed, strapped and ready to roll," Major. Make sure the proper transportation arrangements have been made. Alert Captain Littlejohn of our Project SAFE Unit and Captain Tony Franklin of Our Prevention Strike Team that I will be enroute by 0800.



"In closing, General, the report is ready to send. Outstanding work Major Templar, the report is a go. Send it and confirm delivery to command. The Chief will be expecting it." Then she turned to the General, "And don't forget the orders to your top secret mission." With that she hands him the envelope containing his orders: Which included a brief description of the group they were partnering with. *The description read: Mission Safety Counts: Objective: Wilderness retreat: The YMCA of Greater Cleveland's Y-Haven Program that assists homeless men, 18 years and older, to become self-sufficient and free from drugs and alcohol. Y-Haven provides transitional housing, recovery services, treatment for mental illness, educational training and vocational "services."*

LET IT RIDE log: 15 December 2010

Site, Annual Director's Meeting Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services board of Cuyahoga County. Chief Executive officer William M. Deniham State of Affairs. "Ladies and gentleman I would like to touch upon the accomplishments of one of our prevention programs. For those of you in the audience who are not aware, The Cleveland Treatment Center, located on 1127 Carnegie is one of the finest prevention programs within our provider network . . . and yes I did say prevention. The work that this program does with youth, I dare say, is second to none. Since 2006 they have been nationally accredited for Prevention/Diversion, Alcohol and Other Drugs (Adult) by the C.A.R.F.— Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities and in 2007 CTC become one of the first to receive prevention certification from The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. . . In closing, let us not forget the organizations within our very own network that, through partnership and collaboration can be utilized as a cost effective approach to quality service".



ADAMS
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
ALCOHOL, DRUG, ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

2010 Program Enrollment -

- 40 Consumers
- Program Outcomes - 100% Adv to the next Grade
- 98% Completed Program Year
- 100% Engaged in community ser
- 100% Engaged in alternative
- 4 out of 6 Consumers
- ment
- 86 % of Consumers
- 81% Of Consumers in
- 98% of Consumers
- 98% of consumer
- All clients compl
- Participants att
- areas: resume
- skills.

... And Our Mission Continues

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The Cleveland Treatment Center

Mission Statement

The Cleveland Treatment Center is a comprehensive, community-based, not-for-profit drug and alcohol treatment agency committed to providing services which are supporting, preventing, and advocating a nature for both people and agencies in the community needing services. It is our goal to

facilitate and foster the emotional and physical health, growth, and development of those through projects and services which are both restorative and remedial in nature.

Cleveland Treatment Center has been accredited by CARF for the following programs: Opioid Treatment - Prevention/Diversion Alcohol and other Drugs/Addictions (Adults) An agency funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and mental health Services Board of Cuyahoga County

Len L.C. Collins, Executive Director
Theodore V. Parran, Jr., M.D.,
Medical Director



The Cleveland Treatment Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

