



We See

What We See
Changes
Who We Are

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Insult

By WITNESS Youth Staff

In my community, usually there are a lot of disrespectful men who have no regard for women and teenage girls' pride and privacy. They always seem to know what you have better than yourself and your parents. They sometimes whistle at you or call you uncomfortable names like sexy, big butt, or baby. They also use expressions like, "Look at that bird", "Look at the thing," or, "I want to experience the thing under your skirt." Some are conductors who tug and pull at you to get you into their bus, and when they do they converse with you. They use a certain tone, sweet talk you, and try to make you feel good about yourself to get what they want.

One afternoon when I was on my way to the Diamond Scheme in the East Bank Demerara, I saw a girl and her older companion walking past some middle-aged men, about 39 years old. One of them whistled at the younger girl, and the older girl responded "You can't see this is a little girl?" so he said, "She got the strength fuh i handle she is nah like if she can't handle it."



WITNESS Youth learning how to use the camera at film camp.

Flogging in School

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It was a Monday morning and I was as happy as a lark, all ready for school once again. As we entered the school everyone was well-groomed and well-behaved. The bell rang as everyone entered the auditorium, awaited by the Head Mistress. The teachers were happy to see the students once again, including the first formers of the school. Everyone was welcomed by the teachers and was taught as usual what we should obey and what we should not do.

After hearing all the teachers' praises, everyone left the auditorium. A minute hadn't passed when everyone heard a scream, so we all briskly ran down the stairs. When we

arrived at the incident it was two fifth form boys fighting over some small, silly issue. Indecent language was being used in addition to the fighting, but that happened before any teachers arrived there. When the teachers came, they were taken to the Head-Mistress' office and flogged.

I could feel the lashes that were given to them. I heard the sound from a distance. If I was the head mistress, my only choice would be flogging and giving out suspension letters, because the boys who were involved in the fight/incident crossed all limits for being spared.



WITNESS Youth learning how to use the camera at film camp.

The Plight of the Poor A Solution

By WITNESS Youth Staff

In my area, there's a poverty problem. The evidence of this social ill is the children from impoverished families walking all around the streets shirtless, and sometimes naked. They use the streets as washrooms. There are many poverty stricken families living in Tiger Bay. Everytime I go to school in a car, I see the children walking around, garbage everywhere and mud are at the side of the street, men are cursing each other, and women are always wearing tanks or underwear, and walking around their village.

Even though I am not poor, poverty affects me a lot. For example, people dump trash everywhere, men are peeing by the streetlights, people poop in the grass, the insane men walk around cursing people, and poverty causes crime; people are poor and decide to rob. Mad men carry knives, and walk around the streets and stab people.

There is only so much I can do for the poor. I will give them food and clothes. I will give them some money, although it won't help much, but at least they are being cared for. I am aware that this may not have a great impact, since it is only little help; it can only help them to escape hunger for a short time.

I can't help them continuously, and my help won't change much, because there are a large amount of families affected by poverty.

It's sad that nobody helps in the area. Although there are some rich families who live in my area, they think poverty stricken families are dirty and scary; like the mailman, they avoid that area most of the time.

I think that a solution to this social ill is government intervention. Only government help can cause/influence people to care about poverty issues. The government can build a shelter for the homeless people and provide jobs for them so they can work and become wealthy.

We can speak to the government and encourage people to donate money. We can also contact business places for donations, and the community can play a part by gathering up and encouraging more people to start being generous and donate to families affected by poverty.

This calls for universal participation. Every member of society has to play a part. If we are more fair and generous, then we can take care of everyone.

"What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.