

## Education:

### *A Proposal to eliminate racism, ignorance and hatred*

By: Ben Turrano

What do most humans fear above all else? In general it is the fear of the unknown. Anything unfamiliar, new or different. New people, new houses, new schools, almost anything for which we do not have a set of preconceived response patterns.

We all have had a frightening first experience with something. Perhaps it was that first day in school or the first time we learned to drive a car or the ever popular first time away from home. All of these things probably elicit some sour memories for us, but it is these events which helped us grow into better people. At that moment when we crossed the threshold from the comfortable known into the awaiting unknown, we exposed ourselves to many new stimuli and that takes a certain kind of bravery. The kind of bravery that, in part, makes us human beings.

Yet, the question still remains as to why we need to have this bravery in the first place. I believe that it lies in

our upbringing. It has been inbred in us to stay close to familiar surroundings, in this manner our parents can watch us and protect us more easily. Unfortunately, the lingering effects of this self protection practice remain with us throughout our lives and when we are able to make decisions for ourselves, we often choose not to deviate from the familiar. It is this lasting impression that narrows our view of the world so that we see only those people who are like us and those who are not, and we almost never even want to get to know the latter.

I ask you the readers to now contemplate very thoroughly the proposal that all school children be exposed to a multi-cultural lesson in addition to the regular school curricula. For example, in the school district that I attended, the enrollment was 98% Christian and 100% white, which naturally made us all very ignorant of any other religions or other cultures and customs observed elsewhere in our ever shrinking global

village. I have since tried my best to learn as much as I can about other peoples of the world, and have since gained a great respect for them all, as well as feeling a heightened sense of belonging to my own culture.

If we expose very young, impressionable children to small amounts of the diversity their world holds for them, I believe we could drastically improve how they see themselves and others later in life. I believe we could achieve this by pointing out certain important dates to the children by saying to them: "today is ... the first day of Chanukah, the Hindu festival of lights, Boxing Day, Rosh Hashana, May day, Philippine Independence day, Mardi Gras, etc." Then the teacher could relate as much information as possible about that particular day to the lesson on that day. Perhaps let the children taste a food, read a relevant story, show them a map, a brief video, let them hear a song in another language, have them act out an

excerpt from what the day represents... anything to help them get to know their neighbors in the world.

I have had five and six year old kids come up to me when I am at work and say things like: "I can count to ten in Japanese", or "I can say I love you in: French, Italian, Spanish, German, etc." They love being able to demonstrate a newly acquired piece of knowledge to anyone who will listen, and even to those who won't.

Children, our one greatest asset, our shining hope of the future, our immortality; what better gift can we give them than the ability to appreciate those around them and the respect for that which they don't understand. If nothing else, we will at least give them tolerance for each other and each other's beliefs.

Idealistically, it would be a wonderful sight, if someday our progeny suddenly remembers an elementary school experience and realizes a certain date and wishes someone a "happy..." or "warm... greetings", etc. Maybe if we started turning our diversity from a cursed disadvantage into a form of education we could at the same time, turn it into an advantage. That is one of the most difficult, most rewarding things one can accomplish in life.

## A Letter to George Bush

By: Todd Ritter



Dear Ex-President Bush;

It was bound to happen, George. You knew you couldn't stay in office forever, though you did try, didn't you. I guess you thought you'd be in the White House for at least four more years.

Well, frankly, George, the American public was tired. Tired of your lies, tired of "reading your lips" and tired of hearing about a thousand points of light that have faded long ago. Yes, I know you promised to be "the education president" and "the environmental president", but promises aren't enough. (And since we're on the subject of education, George, what did you do to help me get into college?)

The truth, George, is that Bill Clinton will be a better President. He's actually concerned about the sorry state

of the government and, as an added bonus, he seems to care about the people. (Caring about the people. What a concept! Too bad you didn't think of it, George.) Yes, Clinton understands the importance of the real issues such as health care, jobs, education and the environment.

But you did put up a good fight. That stuff about Jennifer Flowers, marijuana and draft dodging was really effective. Bill Clinton isn't perfect-so what? You only wish you were half as moral.

Well, I guess this is goodbye, George. I'll miss Barbara and Millie and I'll fondly remember Dan Quayle. But you, George, I won't miss. In fact, I'm looking forward to the next four years and the four years after that and the four years after that and the...well, you get my drift.



## Cancer Telethon

By: Gina Hammond

On Sunday November 8, seven students from the Hazleton Campus Video Club traveled to Berwick for the National Cancer Association Telethon. From 11:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. these students worked cameras for the event. The telethon consisted of having one star football player from each of the local high schools placed in jail to raise money. Other people who were in jail were Joe Zone, the local sports newscaster and a school coach. While these people were in jail, a variety of entertainers performed. Pennsylvania polka singers, Italian singers, piano soloists, a

German band and a duet, just to name a few were all present.

These seven students took turns using the three video cameras to tape the different acts. Two cameras were located in the entertainment room. These students had the opportunity to work with zooming in, (bringing the entertainers closer or farther away from the cameras) and panning, (moving the camera from side to side following a subject or viewing a set) thus being able to scan all the performers. The telethon gave these students the chance to experiment with different shots on live performers, as well as helping the cancer society to raise money for cancer research.