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—The real Park Heights

Neither did incoming black families bring the kinds of financial well - kept neighborhoods that now finds itself facing the money problems. The trouble is that originial black arrivals thought they had escaped.

The real Park Heights is not completely a ghetto. There are a good many stable families living there as there are in other Baltimore neighborhoods. There are other neighborhoods in Park Heights that are not unlike those in other parts of the city.

But the area does have its problems. Many of its residents who have risen to hope that gives Park Heights its name pined up over the past 20 years.

It is obvious as you walk around here. Gone are attractive, 12, 13, 14, but they don't be living with you. You sure enough talk to you like little men. They want to be smart or learn them around you, because they're not much more than they have done with it. They all want to get jobs, but they want to rob people because the big guys did something. They follow the leaders.

Do you think this is a good place to bring up kids?

Yeah, because it's nice here. It's not that much quiet or peaceful but it's quiet here. Little things do happen, but it's a nice place to raise your kids because ain't nobody there's just nothing to do. It's just the same ole, same ole.

Has Park Heights changed much since you were younger or up to the present time?

It's still the same. I been around here since I was 14 and I'm 19 now. It's still the same thing. They're building a lot of houses and repairing the stores, but they need more recreation for the little guys around here. They ain't doing nothing but sending them to jail.

What do you plan to do in the future?

I'd like to have a job. I want a job working with little kids in a recreation center and bring 'em up. I'm really concerned about 'em.

AFRO: How long have you been without a job?

Hill: A long time. It's been so long I can't even tell you because I would be lyne. Most of the time I am with Mr. Hampower and they're registered with them about three years.

AFRO: You can get 'em quick.

AFRO: What do you mean?

Hill: You can rob 'em quick. Take anything you want, quick, and get away with it.

AFRO: What about the police?

Hill: Police up here will just watch some things go on. That's all they do.

AFRO: Is it easy to get drugs up here?

Hill: You can walk up to somebody and ask him for a joint and you got yourself a joint. Free of charge. Everybody around here is together. When we see you grow up around still here?

AFRO: Are the people respect for each other.

Hill: Some of them died of drugs. Some of them killed themselves. Some of them still here.

AFRO: DO YOU THINK IT WILL EVER CHANGE?

Hill: If they put some more recreation up here and try to give all these people some jobs. People are moving out and selling for $25,000 to $30,000.

Lyon

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down on the corner and we sit there and talk about what's gonna be to somebody. I'm gonna be a lawyer and see if they really jump on a guy.

The real Park Heights story as told by Lyon, a 16 year old resident, is typical of many of the people in the Park Heights area. It is also typical of many of the problems that face the area's youth.

Lyon is a high school student who has been in trouble with the police. He is also a product of a broken home. He lives with his mother, a brother and a sister.

Lyon's father died when he was 12 years old. He remembers him as a man who was always there when he needed him.

Lyon's mother works as a nurse's aide at Sinai Hospital. She is a strong woman who has had to be both father and mother to her children.

Lyon's brother is in the Army and his sister is married and has children of her own.

Lyon's mother has tried to keep him in school and out of trouble. She has had some success. Lyon has been in trouble with the police but has never been convicted of a crime.

Lyon's mother has also had some success in keeping him in school. He is a junior at Northwestern High School.

Lyon's mother has had less success in keeping him out of trouble. He has been arrested for breaking and entering and for stealing cars.

Lyon's mother has had to work hard to keep him in school and out of trouble. She has had to work two jobs to support her family