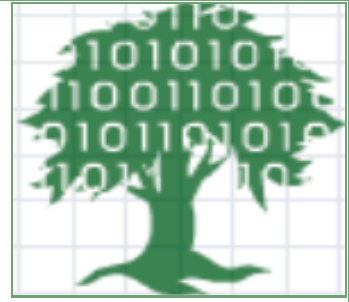


# Clarkitonians

Clarkitonians—(Clark-uh-tone-e-yuns) The people of Clark Academy.



## The "Clark" in Clark Academy

- Stephan Washington

How many people here at Clark Academy know who our school's namesake is? There are photos and information about Ms. Clark up in the halls, but who stops to read that between classes? I think we could all learn more about the life of Ms. Clark and the importance of knowing more about the person who put the "Clark" in Clark Academy.



Clark Academy's namesake, activist and educator, Septima P. Clark.

Septima Poinsette Clark (1898 - 1987) was a civil rights activist and an American educator. She developed the literacy and citizenship workshops that played an important role in the drive for voting rights and civil rights for African Americans. She was a child of former slaves and her parents shaped Ms. Clark and influenced her basic values. Her education came from those who insisted on performance and hard work with pride.

Ms. Clark received her teaching certificate from Avery Normal Institute in Charleston in 1916 and later received her bachelor's degree at Benedict College and her master's degree from Hampton Institute. Though she was barred from teaching in Charleston public schools because of her race, she was able to find a position teaching on John's Island.

Ms. Clark taught children during the day and illiterate adults at night, on her own time. She was also very active with the NAACP. Her first task for them was to knock on doors and ask people to sign petitions to let blacks become school principals in Charleston's public schools. In 1920, Ms. Clark enjoyed the first of many legal victories when blacks were given the right to become principals in Charleston's public schools.

In 1956 the South Carolina legislature passed a law banning city or state employees from being involved with civil rights organizations. Ms Clark was upfront in her refusal to leave the NAACP, and was thus fired

from her job, and soon found that no school in Charleston would hire her.

Before long she was teaching literacy courses, drawing on her experience on John's Island. Clark promised to turn sharecroppers and other un-schooled blacks into potential voters. One of the participants in her workshops was Rosa Parks. A few months after participating in the workshops Ms. Parks helped to start the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

As I reflect on Ms. Clark's life and legacy, I feel it is a privilege to attend a school named after her. She set a good example as someone who fought for her beliefs. Many black teachers, educators, and students may not be in the position they are in now if Ms. Clark had not fought so hard for their rights. Ms. Clark faced many obstacles in her life. In 1979 President Jimmy Carter awarded her the Living Legacy Award to recognize her fight to overcome those obstacles. I feel we who work at and are students at Clark Academy are all fortunate to attend a school named after such an extraordinary person.

## October 2011 Issue 1

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Upcoming  
Events in  
October !!!

**13th** — Snacks will begin being sold during all Activity Days  
**18th-20th** — HSAP Testing  
**25th** — Report Cards  
**26th** — Early Release (2 hours)  
**27th** — Field Day!  
**24th-28th** — "Boo Grams" will be sold at lunch  
**31st** — Boo Gram deliveries will be made

Upcoming  
Events in  
October !!!

# Student Government Association

- Robin Singleton

This year, Mr. Haines is leading the Student Government Association (SGA). Students were selected for SGA based on teacher nominations and student-expressed interest. Students with good grades and without a significant number of referrals (not counting tardiness) qualified as candidates.

The students who are involved in SGA are given an opportunity to serve our school and are responsible for making decisions that affect the school, from planning fundraising activities to selecting party themes. SGA has had two preliminary meetings so far this year, September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>. They are 15 students who will be part of SGA this year.



2011 Clark SGA Candidates:

- Jarrel Bailey
- Aaliyah Blair
- Lamar Brisbane
- Adam Brown
- Derrick Brown
- Errol Chisholm
- Marvin Fine
- Sakia Harris
- Tabitha Hayes
- Kiara Hightower
- Mickey Abdur- Rahiem
- Liz Shepard
- Robin Singleton
- Gary Sumter
- Wesley Vanderhorst

## Clark Academy


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### A Great Place To Learn

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*Small class sizes with less distractions!*

*Helpful teachers focus on student success!*



*Students get along well with each other!*

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 Phone: (843) 762-2774  
[www.spclark.org](http://www.spclark.org)

**CCSD**  
 Charleston County School District

## My Clark Story

- Quintin Frasier

I attended Haut Gap Middle School before I came to Clark Academy. I liked it there but I was always getting thrown out of school and getting into trouble. One day, the principal called me into her office and asked me if I would be interested in going to Clark Academy. I asked her to tell me about the school and she said it was a unique program that helps students succeed by providing smaller classes for stu-



Senior Quintin Frasier, reflects on his journey to Clark.

dents where they can concentrate more on their work and have fewer distractions. So I came to

Clark with my mind set to do what I needed to do to get through school. Here at Clark, they knew that I had been getting in trouble at Haut Gap and the principal that was here at the time pulled me aside and told me he knew I could do the work and encouraged me to apply myself. Now, I only need eight credits to graduate high school and I feel great knowing that I am going to finish what I started here.

**“A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.”**  
**- Theodore Roosevelt**

## Opinion/Editorial

## Cell Phones in School

## Opinion/Editorial

- Deangelo Richardson

Cell phones are a hot topic in schools everywhere. Personally, I feel that they are important for students to have in school, even during class. There are several reasons I feel this way. First, everyone has emergency situations and students may need to contact our loved ones immediately. Second, some students have jobs and siblings to take care of; we may need to communicate a non-emergency message if something comes up. Third, teachers and faculty do not know the personal lives of students and the things we may be going through. We might need to contact our parents for a variety of reasons. Fourth, administrators may not always be able to immediately relay messages from family to students. Finally, some students may need their phones on a daily basis to find out if they have to walk home, take the bus, or if their parents are coming to get them. These are some reasons why students need their cell



phones during school. Everybody has a life outside of school, and sometimes unexpected things happen.

Some of the teachers and staff feel otherwise, saying cell phones are a distraction in class. I spoke with Mr. Smith, our ISS coordinator, and his response to the question of cell phones in school was, "My opinion is students should have cell phones only during lunch. Too many students use their cell phones during their lessons. I think that is fair to say. I also think it would be fair for students to be able to use their phones during lunch. Also, many

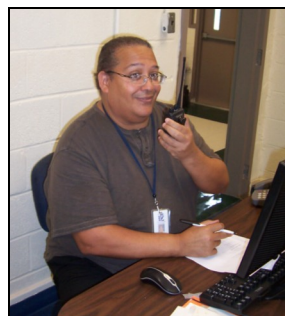
students are not aware but teachers and staff are not permitted to use cell phones during the day either. All teachers have phones in their classroom and students are permitted to use them when requested. Charleston County School District has mandated this rule for all schools." Five weeks into the school year, there were already 97 cell phone referrals at Clark, which was 26% of all referrals. Of all students, half have had a cell phone referral and 10% of students have had 3 or more cell phone referrals.

All of this information indicates that cell phones are likely to remain a controversial issue in schools no matter what side you are on, and that even staff members can have different views on the issue. The bottom line is that the school's policy is firm, and everyone will have to try and follow the rules surrounding cell phones.

## ISS at Clark Academy

- Jacquintus Washington

During my time as a student at Clark Academy, I have seen a steady rise in the number of students being sent to ISS. On Tuesday I had the opportunity to ask Mr. Smith, one of Clark Academy's student support staff, questions about the purpose of ISS, what the main reasons are that students receive ISS, and things the staff do to help students stay on the right track.



Mr. Smith helps students in ISS.

Mr. Smith explained that the main reason for ISS at Clark Academy is to help students who have

broken school rules to stay in

school while still receiving punishment for what they have done. The main offenses committed by students who receive ISS are disturbing class, disrespect to staff, and profanity. ISS always has its repeat offenders who visit Mr. Smith, but parents or guardians of these students do receive phone calls to update them about the behavior of their child.

(Continued on page 4)

# Activity Day

- Samantha Bell

Activity Day is every other week on Thursdays at Clark. It is a chance for students to broaden their horizons and participate in an activity they may not have experienced before. Students are enjoying their activities, so much so that some students have requested continuing their activities every week instead of just every two weeks. Some activities, like Pet Helpers are off campus and students enjoy helping this organization by socializing with the animals and helping the workers. The students and animals would benefit from more



Aaliyah and Ms. Wright spend quality time with the cats at Pet Helpers.

contact. Activities like art, weight lifting, and yoga motivate students and also benefit from regular practice. Activity Day gives students opportunities to get out and experience new things. Activities like art can help students

build confidence, express themselves, and show the world what they've got.

When asked about the possibility of having Activity Day every week, Mrs. Cooper said, "We decided to try having Activities every other week this year because we wanted to have school-wide events, like Field Day, at least once a month." So it seems that we may not get Activity Day every week, but we do have other events to look forward to throughout the year.

(Continued on page 5)

## ISS

(Continued from page 3)

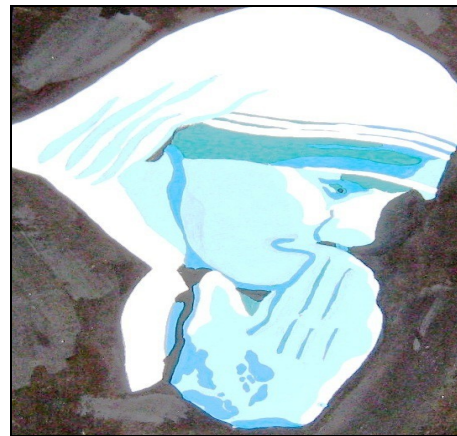
Students in ISS work on their class work for that block. If a student ever chooses to skip ISS they then receive ISS for the entire day. Though Mr. Smith does not normally see extremely high numbers of students in ISS at once, the most students he ever had over the course of one day was 25. As students do their work in ISS, Mr. Smith takes advantage of the opportunity to talk to them about understanding what got them into ISS. It is mandatory for all students in ISS to complete a compliance plan and a letter of apology for what

To help me find some of the standout artists at Clark, I visited Mrs. Trott, our art teacher. She showed me several pieces including a painting of Mother Teresa by senior Jacquintis Washington.

Like all good artists, Jacquintis is very humble about his art. When talking to him about this painting he said, "It could have been done

## Art of Clark

- Sean Stricklin



Mother Teresa, painted by senior Jacquintis Washington.

better." Even though he thinks that it was just alright, Mrs. Trott and I thought it was a great piece and that he portrayed Mother Teresa very well. In a discussion with Mrs. Trott she

said of Jacquintis, "His art work is great, but I am also glad he chose someone that made a big



## Clarkitonians

(Clark-uh-tone-e-yuns) The people of Clark Academy.

## Teen Pregnancy

- Marijo Smith

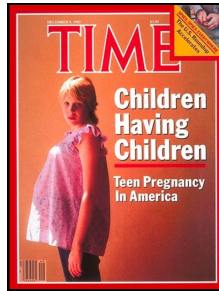
Teen pregnancy can impact anyone who is sexually active. It is something that most teens think will not happen to them, but the percentage of teen parents is increasing. While these numbers rise, there are consequences that follow such as psychological issues, lower graduation rates, unstable employment, greater reliance on social assistance and welfare, higher poverty rates, more marital instability, and potential health problems.

At Clark, seven students are teen parents. But this is only the known number. There could be

more students here who are pregnant or already parents.

People have their own opinions on this topic. For example, anyone can get pregnant and these women should not be blamed. Mistakes can happen even if practicing safe sex, and these women should be supported.

There are many ways that these



women can get support, such as at the Florence Crittenton clinic, which is in downtown Charleston. The clinic provides sex education, counseling, medical care, and social support for pregnant teens in need.

It has been said that no one is ever really ready to become a parent. But for teens, it seems like it would be more difficult to be a parent as opposed to someone who is out of school and independent. Being a teen parent has its ups and downs, and it will

(Continued on page 6)

### Activity Day

(continued from page 4)

There are many activities being offered this year, but Pet Helpers in particular has many students asking questions. Pet Helpers is an organization that helps save the lives of animals. Pet Helpers spays and neuters animals to help reduce risks of diseases and euthanasia. Because Pet Helpers is a “no-kill” shelter it is a safe and loving environment that provides stray and unwanted ani-

mals a place to stay until adoption. Clark volunteers had to go through orientation to understand what our roles and jobs are as volunteers. Also we went through orientation to understand how to handle and care for the animals.

We as volunteers are going to socialize with the animals, walk, and train them. Aaliyah Blair, one of Clark’s volunteers, shared some comments about Pet Helpers. She said the reason why she

chose Pet Helpers as her activity was because she has a love and desire to help and care for animals. Aaliyah said, “I have two dogs and I would like to share my attention and care with other animals that never had the affection that they need.”

Pet Helpers is a growing organization that gives volunteers like Aaliyah the chance to help and discover animals that need her attention and love.

## Fashion at Clark

- Devante Middleton and Robin Singleton

There are many fashion trends from all over the world. People from places like New York, Paris, Los Angeles, and Tokyo, have their own styles and set trends that become popular and spread across the globe. Also, fashion icons, from Gucci, Louie, and Prada, to Snapbacks and Vans, have made designs that have become a way of life all around the

world as well. But from retro-styles to today’s trends, people constantly put their own signature on fashion.

Here at Clark we see trends from the 80’s and 90’s, from high top fades to retro looks. Everybody seems to have taken a time machine to a previous generation and put a personal look on an existing style.

People whose fashion stands out are unique and creative individuals. They build on existing ideas and make them their own.

Look for the fashion section in this year’s yearbook to be full of style, but don’t wait for that, because if you just look around, you’ll see that fashion at Clark surrounds you.

Teacher Spotlight on...  
Mrs. Terrero!



**Status:** Married  
**Pets:** 5 cats  
**Description:** Fun Loving, Caring, Dedicated  
**Favorite Color:** Navy Blue

**Favorite Music:** Beatles, Rolling Stones, Motown  
**Favorite TV Shows:** Date Line and Jeopardy  
**Hobbies:** Reading and Playing Golf  
**Favorite Food:** Shrimp, Lobster, and Skinny French Fries  
**If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?** Malta (Look it up!)

# HOROSCOPES

**Teen Pregnancy**  
(Continued from page 5)

affect their schooling. Teens who are parents tend to have a lot more to worry about outside of school which leads them to have less time on their school work. In the long run, it causes many students to drop out. In fact 80% of teen moms drop out of school or do not get a diploma. This is something that affects their entire life.

There are many opinions about teen parents and whether they should get an abortion, give their child up for adoption, or keep their child to raise. This is a decision that the teen mothers ultimately have to make on their own. No one is perfect. But this is something that will affect the girl's life more than anything else.

There are ways to prevent teen pregnancy and get support. "The Point" is a confidential, free teen-clinic that offers birth control, condoms, and STD testing, all at no cost. The Point is also a place where you can get free pregnancy tests and education on safe sex. Clark's Communities in Schools Staff, such as Ms. Bond, are GREAT to talk to about going to The Point. With parent consent, they can even give you transportation to The Point or teens can visit The Point on their own as well.

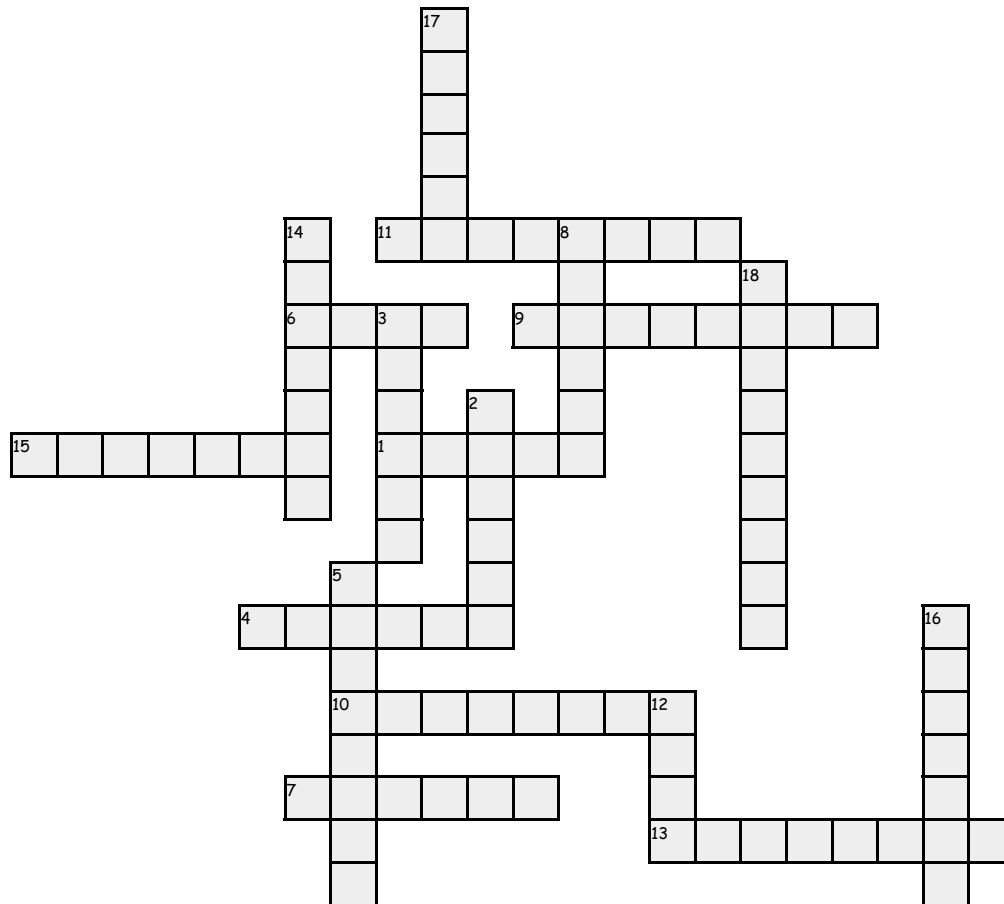
If you really pay attention to young mothers today and see how they are struggling, you will see why it is important to prevent teen pregnancy, but this responsibility ultimately falls with teens themselves.

	<b>March 21-April 19</b> Taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned.
	<b>April 20-May 20</b> Your efforts really pay off and life seems to run smoothly.
	<b>May 21-June 21</b> Taking care of business is a major theme for you.
	<b>June 22-July 22</b> There is a certain amount of transition taking place.
	<b>July 23-August 22</b> This is a productive time and music fills the air.
	<b>August 23-September 22</b> Avoid jumping into a risky opportunity that has too many unanswered questions.
	<b>September 23-October 23</b> You are coming into a time centered on taking what you know and what you have and then making the most of it.
	<b>October 24-November 21</b> You will accidentally find an item that has been missing for some time.
	<b>November 22-December 21</b> You are a great doer, and can accomplish quite a lot. You will find yourself working with the public today.
	<b>December 22-January 19</b> You manage to gravitate to the center of almost any happening these days.
	<b>January 20-February 18</b> Working in groups affords the opportunity to strengthen a unit. You may be required to lead or lend advice.
	<b>February 19-March 20</b> Your keyword is responsibility. You are able to find yourself in others--a mirror or clear pool.

## Teachers of Clark- Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.  
All answers are Clark teachers' last names.

Good luck!



### Across:

1. Likes to camp and canoe.
4. Married to a musician.
6. 2011 Clark teacher of the year.
7. Leads SGA.
9. Coaches track at Academic Magnet.
10. Spent 10 days in Siberia!
11. Likes leopard print.
13. Loves math and it shows.
15. Has 5 cats.

### Down:

2. Professora.
3. Wears a tie every day.
5. Has swum with manatees!
8. Teaches 1/2 the day.
12. Nearly died in a college fire!
14. Clark PE teacher (before Ms. Runner)
16. Doesn't eat meat.
17. Likes to surf.
18. Youngest of 5 sisters.

**POETRY CONTEST WINNER**  
**Gabe Grampus!**



## We Are Three

- Gabe Grampus

I see me; then I look again  
 And I look in the mirror  
 See three  
 My Dad  
 My Mom...  
 And Me

My anger inside  
 Floats like the moon  
 When it's high tide  
 I catch my breath  
 It's foul like I've been sippin'  
 But I am too young to drink!  
 So what's inside?  
 My Anger  
 My Soul  
 My Pride

### WE ARE THREE

Today is a good day  
 The air is crisp  
 With winter's cold  
 I walk down the street  
 With my smile on swold  
 Feeling warm in my hoodie, T-shirt and overcoat  
 But it's not the clothes I have on  
 That makes me feel warm  
 It's my attitude today  
 That makes me feel this way

My Clothes  
 My Swagger  
 My Redeemer

### We Are Three!



**Author:** Gabe Grampus

**Home High School:** R.B. Stall High School

**How long have you been attending Clark?** 2 Months

**Hobbies:** Basketball, Writing Poetry

**When did you start writing poetry?** About 6 years ago.

**What motivates you to write poetry?** When I'm feeling like I need to speak my mind I speak it through my poetry.

## All Poetry Contest Participants—Thank you for your amazing work!

### Left Aone

- Marijo Smith

Have you ever been afraid your mom would leave  
 So afraid you could not breathe  
 Well I have, and it made me real sad  
 Especially cause she told me I was real real bad  
 Was your throat ever as dry as a bone  
 And wanted something to drink but was left home alone  
 Cound't drive because you was too short  
 Wishing you could get a drink and drink the whole quart  
 Afraid to go next door because of their background  
 Thinking if you ask them you might get a smack down  
 And when you get up you spot a rose  
 Remembering around the house is a water hose  
 When you get to the hose you see it in the mud,  
 When you turn on the water it's the color of blood  
 Then you think to yourself mud is brown  
 That's why you think a dead person is buried in the ground.  
 You think to yourself where your mom would go  
 In the back of your mind you say oh no  
 So you turn around and start to run  
 But you're stopped in your tracks by a man with a gun  
 It's not a cop but it's your dad  
 And he's in your face he looks real mad  
 You ask your dad if your mom is dead,  
 He says he hopes so because he cut off her head  
 You look at him and start to cry  
 Making up excuses on how you're too young to die  
 He says it's too late  
 Just then a cop pulls in from every state.  
 They say it's done he's going to jail  
 He did so bad he can't get out on bail  
 It's all over now, you're bored  
 But to go home is sad because no one is with you anymore.

### Back in the Third Grade

- Adam Brown

I've become unstable,  
 All my life I've been impatient.  
 I don't know how much more I can take in.  
 Saying you're hurt to me—you're faking,  
 Until you know pain, you wouldn't  
 be afraid to face it.  
 You want a little of it?  
 No, you're going to get a full face in,  
 repetition—quit pacing.  
 My life is in your hands.  
 So take it.  
 I'm going to say sorry just like Blake did.  
 All I did that day was "smh'd" it.  
 My mind is on the break, tip.  
 Tip to all the souls who are  
 going to fall, slip.  
 Well make it worth your while,  
 Trip into the knowledge of  
 understanding this.  
 Get a firm tight grip.  
 Do you think you're going to miss?  
 No.  
 Trust me you won't,  
 Unless you want to provoke the situation  
 at its highest point.  
 Well, at its most.  
 You just might flip, I'm surprised I didn't.  
 You look surprised, admit it  
 If you haven't gotten the reason  
 of this by now,  
 You just won't get it.

### I Believe.

- Adam Brown

Pain suffrage and sorrow, do you still have hope for tomorrow?  
 I have faith,  
 I got to believe in something, even if it's a little something.  
 I will not put my hope in nothing; we all strive just to survive, and we all try to stay alive.  
 Do I have your feelings caught?  
 Are you still learning from the lessons that have been taught?  
 And I don't think I have been forgiven by Jehovah Ja.  
 Even though I have, this pain still makes me wanna cry.  
 This is a piece of my soul.  
 To all the girls, boys, woman and men. This isn't faking.  
 These speechless words are written. I believe.  
 Oh I Believe.

## All Poetry Contest Participants—Thank you for your amazing work!

### Life is Crazy, Ain't It?

- Toni Jones

If it wasn't for all these killings; all these conflicts in religion  
Muslim, Jews and Christian would you know they  
were all gods children  
There's only one of him plus ain none of y'all confronted him  
We so blind in our minds we wouldn't even know god if  
we was in front of him.

And I read your books know all the remixes to the  
bible what about a verse  
For the thugs curable drugs and survival  
Lets add some chapters name 'em Martin, Malcom, and Farrakhan in  
all my history books only one died was the Americans

And lets point 'em out who's responsible for Vietnam and,  
Hold on there's more we had two world wars and  
How come the judges make more than the  
teachers are making when they  
The one's raising all the taxes and gos us fighting for education  
Life is crazy ain't it

Sometimes I even think the same thing I've been  
waiting on freedom to ring  
Hell but ain a thing change and I lost my homeboy in the struggle  
Tata head done lost his mother and I'm thinking about losing mines  
who's gone raise my sisters;  
Not to be a thug stay in school don't use drugs who'll teach them right  
from wrong sho them girls true love  
And I pray for better days faced a bomb and the run-away's they put  
thereir guuns away and we pray for peace on Sundays  
Life is crazy ain't it.

### The Day I Lost My Friend

- Ashlin Erving

As the night passed we talked  
and laughed  
Words we shared that is in my  
heart and I will always have.  
But to think all this time went to  
waste after you said you  
would be back,  
Not even an hour later I heard the  
bullet that came through  
your back.  
The sound of the ambulance truck,  
The police and people yelling not  
even minutes after.

Running to your rescue, to find  
them picking your body up off the  
ground and placing you  
in the truck.  
As tears screamed from my eyes  
like a waterfall I know  
it was you.  
Just to think you were 23 when  
they take you away from me...  
But today as I would always say  
"RIP William 'Feezy' Jones."

To the readers,

I would like to thank the Clark Academy Digital Desktop Publishing class for all their hard work in writing and designing this first student newsletter. It is an interesting, fun, and enjoyable collection of articles and artwork. If you have any comments or feedback on anything printed here, please feel free to contact me at the email address shown below. And thank you for reading.

#### Digital Desktop Publishing:

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Sincerely,

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Clark Academy's Digital Desktop Publishing Class