

University District Oral History Interview Index

Interviewer: Lavon Christian

Interviewee: Miles Curtis

Date of Interview: 10/14/2008

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0:17:40-0:20:03

MC:

There are like some gang people, that I'm sure I would love it if they like moved to like the North Side and I never saw them again. But you know, that doesn't really help, they're just on the North Side now and they're fucking up the North Side, instead of fucking up my neighborhood. So that doesn't really matter, wherever they are, they're being fucked up. So the issue isn't like just throwing them somewhere, it's you know like how do we help them be better parents, so that their kids aren't as fucked up as they are. You know like, how do we help them like get some kind of a stable job, you know or like if they won't take a stable job, how do we teach them to sell drugs better, so that they're not just standing out in the middle of the street all day. You know like...

LC:

(laughs)

MC:

You know there are things that can be done...

LC:

Oh yeah.

MC:

To like make things more sustainable, instead of building condos which doesn't really fix anything, because those condos will be empty in three years and then they'll have to come up with some new scam for like getting people in there. You know, ummm...

LC:

Have you had any experiences with the gangs, at all, like...?

MC:

Ummm... well yea actually when I first moved into my house, there was a house directly next to my current neighbors and I don't really know how many of them were gang members, but they were totally from hell. They would just walk up and down the street, like picking any fight they

could get into, and they would just you know smash up stuff and... Like it was really weird... have you seen the movie uhhh... City of God?

**LC:**

Yes

**MC:**

It's... yea, you know how like every generation, like you know, it starts off with like twenty and they're... they're only stealing like supplies that the town needs, you know... then they're like fifteen and they're like in it for the money, but then they kind of share the money. And then they're like eight and they're just murders, you know like... (laughs)

**LC:**

(laughs)

**MC:**

...and that's kind of like how those kids were, like, they were like, the younger you got, like just the more they were just into just breaking shit and causing shit with people... Actually yea, the older one... was in a gang, but he was like pretty focused on like, you know, just how do we like keep things functional like... and then he ended up getting killed and then it was just the young ones, and like, you know... (laughs)... uhhh it got to the point where my neighbor actually had to pour gasoline over their house, and tell them to just leave. (laughs)...

**LC:**

(laughs)

**MC:**

...Which is pretty crazy, but awesome. They did, they did immediately leave. Umm yea, you know, I think that's like the worst thing that ever happened, like you know but... yea. yea.

**LC:**

Is that scary at all for you? Or...

**MC:**

Not really, no, no. I mean I don't, I don't really get scared by like neighborhoods so much easy or like. You know I'm like constantly harking back to New York, but like even when people do harass you, act crazy like piss on yourself or something, you know, that usually will get rid of just about anybody. (laughs)