

The Carver Times

JANUARY 16, 2018

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WE DON'T KNOW BUT WE DON'T CARE ANYWAY

“To those who are struggling. To talk about a struggle, you're likely to forget about it. To be shown a struggle, you're likely not to forget it. But, to live through a struggle, you'll understand it.”

—[Valerie Owens, America Huh I'm Going Home](#)

By: Gabrielle Brown

Picture this: From an early age, you endure years of abuse at the hands of your own parents. Then, after surviving such traumatic experiences, you are subjected to even more abuse and forced into prostitution by a menacing pimp. And then you are offered as a sex-slave to a man nearly three times your age. After resisting advances from this man, he threatens you with gun. What would you do? You would defend yourself by any means necessary. That's what you'd do. That's exactly what Cyntoia Brown did in 2004. And as you sit in your Algebra 2 class, she's still serving her life sentence.

In late November a number of celebrities, including Rihanna, revived the seemingly closed case of Cyntoia Brown, who, over a decade ago, at age 16 was sentenced to life in prison after fatally shooting a 43-year old man who had hired her as sex-worker.

Another story we don't know and don't care about is Shandra Woworuntu. She explains her ordeal as sex-slave, newly immigrated to the United States. Woworuntu, at the age of 24, immigrated to the US in the summer of 2001 in the wake of Indonesia's financial crisis in search of work to support her then 3 year old daughter, who was not much older than I was at the time. When she arrived at the JFK airport, a man named Johnny, who she had expected would take her to her new hotel job, was waiting for her. But Johnny was not who he said he was, and Woworuntu never made it to her hotel job. Instead, she spent the next three months forced into prostitution and drug abuse and subjected to physical and mental abuse, all at the hands of Johnny, who was a pimp. Had it not been for a good Samaritan with FBI connections, she may never have escaped and lived to tell about it.

Over the past several weeks the case of Cyntoia Brown has gone viral on social media. Both Brown's case and conviction as well as the Woworuntu ordeal are very unsettling, but what I find even more unsettling is that these are not just two isolated incidents. Everyday young women and men are sucked into the world of sex-slavery and forced labor, objectified and dehumanized, and often nothing is done to stop it.

To show just how prevalent the of problem human trafficking is in the present day, the International Labor Organization conducted a study (2012) that “estimated that there are 20.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide” ([Alvarez](#)). A study by [equalitynow.org](#) also found that about two million children are exploited each year through this trade. Fifty-four percent of all these victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and 96% of these victims are women and girls.

Most people probably don't know this and refuse to believe that slavery, which is illegal in all states, still exists as it did in the past. I was surprised to learn how

prominent human trafficking is in the modern world. But this issue here is NOT just one of NOT KNOWING. It's NOT CARING.

So why should Philly teenagers care about this anyway? Because, “It could be going on in school, near home,” says Anne Marie Jones, a graduate and a counselor at Dawn's Place in Germantown. Anne Marie is a survivor of human trafficking herself. She is dedicated to helping other women subjected to sexual exploitation. “I feel it's not just teens that should know about this, everyone should be informed,” she says, “because anyone could be a victim.”

If you or someone you know is involved human trafficking the “first thing you should do is call the hotline, 1 (888) 373-7888 or text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733,” Anne Marie says. “If you're being held against your will, try to indicate to passerbyers what's going on and where you're being taken. Try to reach out to someone who you feel can be trusted. Or, act sick and try to get to a hospital where you can find help.”

Between February 2014 and March 2017, researchers from three organizations interviewed nearly 1,000 homeless youth across 13 cities, and nearly 300 of these young people were from Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Phoenix. They found that nineteen percent of all the interviewed youth were victims of human trafficking, with 15 percent were trafficked for sex. This entails all commercial sex acts that involve force, fraud or coercion, or if a victim is under age 18. “In addition, they found that while Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth accounted for only 19 percent of the respondents, they accounted for 34 percent of the sex-trafficking victims” ([Field Center at Penn](#))

African American author James Baldwin (1924-1987) once said, “not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” Society as we know it has changed. In my reading of James Baldwin, I felt that he was saying that people have become severely detached from the world and developed an inability to sympathize and, more importantly, empathize with other people. We are too concerned with our own superficial issues and materialistic pursuits to care about girls like Cyntoia Brown and Shandra Woworuntu. And this is a very disturbing truth that still exists today.

Incidents like Cyntoia Brown's will continue to happen as long as we allow it. In order to prevent sex slavery from continuing to happen we need to face some harsh realities of our world. And try not to shy away from that truth.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Campaign 2018

By Guest Columnist: Ms. Pat Logan

Let's take a moment to stop and think about all of the coins we have dropped and never picked up or the ones lying around on the floors and in the streets that we just walked past. **Billions of dollars in coins** are out there just lying around. **These coins are badly needed to fund research and to save lives.**

For five weeks, starting Monday, January 22, 2018, the young ladies in the "Women of Tomorrow Program" at Carver HSES will begin collecting change for the "**Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients 2018 Campaign.**" Last year, Carver HSES students, staff, families, and friends found, picked up, and donated a **Coinstar total of 30, 033 coins**; 23,134 pennies, 2,273 nickels, 2,746 dimes, and 1,880 quarters. They gave a total of **\$1,092.58 in coins and \$312.00 in bills** to the "2017 Pennies for Patients Campaign" to help in the

"Fight Against Childhood Cancer and Other Life Threatening Diseases that affect children everyday". This year we would like to beat that total. We are asking the Carver Community, students, staff, families and friends, to please donate any spare change that you might have in your pockets, find lying around the house, in jars, on the floors, or in the streets

to this a worthwhile cause. Collection boxes will be located in all advisory classrooms, the Main Office, Counselors Suite, the Library, and room 148.

The advisory that collects the largest donation over \$50.00 will receive a Pizza Party.

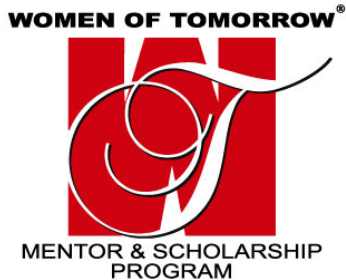
Thank you to Mr. Lick, Mr. Green, and Ms. Puntel's advisories for last year's generous contributions.



RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW

"Changing the world one young woman at a time."

By: Fatima Rabihi



Everyone recognizes that George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science is one of the best high schools in the City of Philadelphia. What is something that makes Carver so special? Students are INVOLVED! One activity Carver has for its students is the Women of Tomorrow. The Women of Tomorrow is a mentoring and scholarship program for high school girls. Adults from Philadelphia come to the high school to mentor students about being prepared for college and other important subjects that help them prepare for adult life. The mentees get career-focused field trips to help them with career ideas in the future. Also the high school girls get specialized college visits to help them get a plan on where to go for college. Furthermore, the Women of Tomorrow mentees have opportunities for scholarships which assist them with college financing. It's extremely beneficial for high school girls to join these chapters to help them be successful in the future.

The Women of Tomorrow chapter at Carver is grateful to Ms Pat and Ms Jordan who remind the young women that they are leaders. They are very organized with the meetings and genuinely want the girls of our school to accomplish their life goals. Recently, the mentees of the Carver's Women of Tomorrow chapter were honored by Comcast. Comcast gave out free laptops as a gift to every girl in Carver's chapter. A member of the program, Sawda Sarah, remarked "It was extremely generous of them to gift all of us laptops because it's something very useful for our education." The girls showed their gratitude by returning notes of thanks. To conclude, the Women of Tomorrow chapter at Carver is another great way to stay INVOLVED in a great mission, helping girls achieve their goals.

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Albums You Should Check Out

By: James Hillyard

I prefer not to judge a book by its cover, but what about an album?

If the album cover is not animated or even a crisp photo, I'm not even looking at the track list.

Feels- Snoh Aalegra

Feels hits you right in...those repressed things we hope to ignore.

Recommendations : All I have, You Got me, Time.

The Visitor- Kadhja Bonet

This release went under the radar for me last year. I found it by scrolling through Tidal by accident; the universe works in beautiful ways.

Recommendation: Fairweather Friend, The Visitor, Portrait of Tracy

No Dope on Sundays- Cyhi The Prince

If you are a fan of G.O.O.D music then you know this project has been long overdue. Cyhi is arguably one of the best overall rappers, period. In this album Cyhi focuses on taking us with him back through the Trap of Atlanta and gives game he's picked up in the trenches.

Recommendations: No Dope on Sundays, Don't Know Why, Nu Africa

Big Fish Theory- Vince Staples

This is one of the most sonically diverse projects from a Hip Hop artist this year. Staples forgoes the usual hard hitting, bay inspired beats to make an arguably electronic album.

Recommendation: Crab In Bucket, Love Can Be, 745

January 16, 2018 Edition Editorial Board

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Interested in joining Carver Times Editorial Board? Meetings during lunches EVERY THURSDAY in the IMC. Google Classroom Code: jdr2ztv

TEACHER INTERVIEW

By Sawda Sarah and Emese Bata

Interview with Ms. Zeng, Chinese teacher at Carver E&S

Name: Yun Zeng

Years at Carver: 6 years

Education: University of Pennsylvania (Graduate School), Specialized Teaching College in China (Bachelors)

Hidden talents: Singing



Sawda Sarah: Who was your role model growing up?

Ms Zeng: My parents. They always taught me to be an honest and good person and have the conscience to make right decisions. I'm a very honest person, I like to tell things like they are and be truthful about everything.

Sawda Sarah: What is the stupidest thing a student has ever said to you?

Ms Zeng: My students are actually really smart and talented, they don't say a lot of stupid stuff (Mostly because I'm a very strict teacher.) However, I did have a 12th grader once tell me that Japan is the capital of China; it was ridiculous.

Sawda Sarah: If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere around the world, where would you take them?

Ms Zeng: I would obviously take them to China! I want my students to know more about different cultures to broaden their minds. I usually tell my classes all about the Chinese culture and history, and I'm also planning on making it school wide so students who don't have my class can also learn new things. Especially because China has a long and interesting history; it's been around for over five thousand years and is one of the earliest civilization and the only that stands strong to this day. It has a really powerful and diverse culture. Even though it follows the rules of communism, people have started to realize that it will be the powerhouse of the future. Most successful people (like Jim Rogers) now educate their kids about

Chinese history and make them learn the language because they believe the 21st century is China's century.

Emese Bata: One quote that you try to live by?

Ms Zeng: "Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill. It is very inspiring.

Emese Bata: What is one good memory from your childhood?

Ms Zeng: I actually have a lot. I almost don't have any miserable memories from my childhood. So when I was a student once I was so sick that I couldn't go to school, and then I got the chance to go back, and I was so happy to be back in school.

Emese Bata: What is the most important thing that you feel that you can teach your students?

Ms Zeng: I want students to learn the skill of learning in my class. It's not like in algebra, where you have a problem and you have to know how to solve that exact problem, but the emphasis is on the way how you learn the new knowledge. That is a skill that you will use in college as well. If you know how to learn how to study, and how to learn a new concept and apply it to your life, that is the most important thing.

Sawda Sarah: If you could meet anyone, alive or deceased, who would it be?

Ms Zeng: Mao Zedong, he was a very great leader (the first Chairman of China), He has a very inspiring personality, and he is extremely talented. He brought peace during bad times and unified China with his wise mind and brilliant and strategic planning.

He went from having a small following to becoming the most loved person in China and that is very inspiring.

Sawda Sarah: What would you do if you won \$10 million?

Ms. Zeng: I would build the perfect school. It would look a lot like the schools in China because I feel like they're way more efficient.

Emese Bata: If you were stranded on a deserted island what 3 things would you bring with yourself?

Ms Zeng: Water- you definitely need the water. A knife- if you need to cut something like a fruit from a tree, and you can protect yourself as well. And a blanket- to keep you warm.

Sawda Sarah: If you had a superpower what would you want it to be?

Ms. Zeng: I would probably want everyone to be happy and all misery to be removed from the world.

Sawda Sarah: What are the best and worst things about being a teacher? Ms. Zeng: Students. They're both the best and the worst thing. Sometimes they make my day and sometimes they make me miserable. They make me laugh but also make me cry. They make me angry but also cheer me up when I'm down. I love every single one of them, they are what keeps me going.

If you are interested in reading more on China, check out the next page.

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NO WONDER WE ALWAYS NEED COFFEE ALL THE TIME:

Schooling in China vs America

Ms. Zeng on The American Schooling System and her homeland

Emese Bata: What do you miss the most about China?

Ms Zeng: My friends and students. And also the Chinese food. Even though you can go to Chinatown or Chinese restaurants here, it isn't the same; they have to customize it to the American taste so they change the texture of the food (because Americans are not used to real Chinese food and how it tastes). In China the popular food usually keeps changing, it's always something new every few weeks because of the vast population. People like to experiment with food more and the general public enjoy the inventions. Also I miss the fancy pencil cases. They're really creatively made and interest people here a lot mostly because pencil cases here are really boring. My students always ask me: Ms. Zeng can I buy your pencil case? (photo on the bottom of the page)

Emese Bata:What one thing would you change in the American school system?

Ms Zeng: I would increase the break between classes to 10 minutes. Because in China the Class is around 45 minutes or 1 hour, then there is a 10 minutes break, when students can go wherever they want to: they can go to the bathroom,they can play sports or just talk. After ten minutes they have to get back to the classroom and concentrate. They are not allowed to go the bathroom during class. So I think in that system students concentrate more in class, whereas here I feel it's not as efficient as in China; students often get distracted in class, and they zone out.

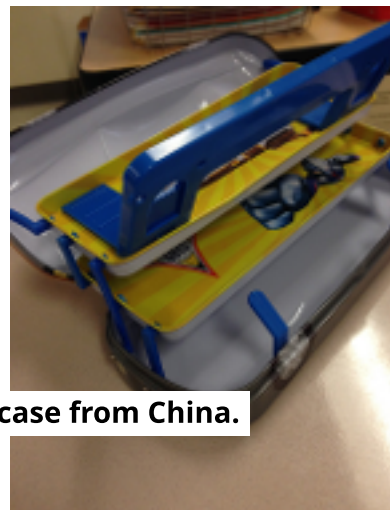
Emese Bata: What was college like in China?

Ms Zeng: In China they have special colleges for

teachers. When you go there you pick the subject you're interested in teaching. I picked English, so basically my major was English in college, and I learned how to teach it for all four years. I would've been an English teacher if I lived in China. After I finished college I worked 10 years as a teacher consultant. I used to train people to become teachers as well.

Sawda Sarah: And finally what does a perfect school like like to you?

Ms. Zeng: Probably like the schools back home; they're very different but they're maintained and structured in a way that teaching and learning never gets boring or tiring. We went to school at 8 am and studied the main subjects (Chinese, English, Math and Sciences) until 12. With 10 minute breaks between each period for us to be refreshed. Then we went home, ate, took a nap to become energized again and came back to school. Yes! A second time. But it was fun because in the afternoon we had gym/music class and after that you could choose a class that you're passionate about like photography and learn about that. School wasn't exhausting because we had tons of breaks and even got to go home. This let us concentrate properly and made school a great and worthwhile experience that let us explore all the possibilities. It wasn't just studying and testing and homework, it was learning actual life skills and enjoying it. Had a really hard time adjusting to the school system here because it leaves people exhausted, both teachers and students. No wonder everyone always needs coffee here.



Ms. Zeng's famous pencil case from China.

INSPIRATIONS @ HSES

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AT CARVER FOR YOU? FOR YOUR PEERS? HOW IS THE MOOD GOING INTO THE MIDTERMS?



Life at Carver ranges from fun to stressful and annoying. Sometimes I don't want to get out of bed. It can be fun when we don't have a lot of things restricting us (like you can't use your phone or not being able to wear this shirt). But when we have things like senior week or different after school activities, we feel involved and a part of something. The stress comes around the beginning of the year, especially for seniors. Then when midterms and finals come around, stress comes around too. The problem is no one really knows how to deal with helping us with stress which could stress you out even more. - **Tiffany**

Life at Carver has been awesome, at least most of the time. I am involved in a few after school activities that match my interest. I study and stay organized so that my schoolwork gets completed. My peers often mention that they are very stressed because they're not understanding what's going on in their classes or because they feel like they have loads of schoolwork. I am certain that no one is excited about the midterms coming up. My advice is: just stay calm, talk to your teachers, and stay organized. Good luck with the midterms. - **Cira**

When I think of Carver, the word community is the first that I think of. Everything that we do here falls under the umbrella of unity, and while we all are uniquely individual in our own ways, we always come together when it matters the most. The events that we host here at Carver are a great way to see some familiar faces and, ironically, see new ones as well.

Just the thought of midterms alone triggers a variety of emotions whether it be agitation or frustration. In many cases, however, the main contributor can easily be identified as stress. While midterms aren't exactly the "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow, with a positive headspace and a good night's sleep (AND STUDY), then everyone will be able to do their best on the midterms. Good luck to you all. - **Akirah**

Life at Carver is frustrating and difficult. High school is not easy and not what it is portrayed to be in the movies. All of my peers feel the same. I have never felt this miserable in my life but the good thing is, it is January, and before I know it junior year will be over. Freshmen and sophomore year was easy compared to the workload I am doing right now. Going into midterms, I try to remain hopeful, study and do my best. All anyone can do is to study and give it your best and remain hopeful of the outcome. - **Agung**

I feel like some people might need more encouragement to study for midterms. Especially if they didn't do very well in the first quarter. - **Brianna**

What I love about Carver is that you could go up to anyone and talk to them about anything. I love the fact that everyone here is very open and are always helping each other out. What I most like is all the extra curricular activities and the student involvement with the school community. Even though it can be stressful sometimes (like right now with the mid-terms coming up) after school activities are what keeps me sane and at peace. - **Sawda**

Life at carver can be a series of stressful events. Sometimes you don't receive all the help you need, and too many teachers often seem to not care. For me and my friends, we tolerate Carver day to day; however, like they say, school is what you make it so we bond with students in our classes to get by. The thing about carver is that there is somebody for everybody. You won't ever feel lonely or like an outcast because we are a diverse school in ethnicity, language, interests, and programs/clubs. - **Habibata**



Huge thanks to the members of the Carver HSES community on the 300+ Toys for Tots donation!
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