

This week on Judge Judy:

Judge Judy: What's your name sir?

Bobo: Bobo

Judge Judy: Bobo?

Bobo: Yeah

Judge Judy: Yes (snapping voice)

Bobo: Yes

Judge Judy: Better, now tell me what happened at the drugstore where Mr. Nesbitt was killed

Bobo: We went to the spot, chilled out outside and waited for Harmon to give us the signal. Then we stole the cash, popped the old dude and left.

Judge Judy: Speak in proper English. What spot? Waited where? What signal? Popped what?

Bobo: Man I just told you. Outside the sto, chillin with King, waiting for the signal, stole the money, and shot the old man and left

Judge Judy: Alright Bobo, now I can see why you landed yourself 7-10 years in jail for other crimes. You are an idiot

Bobo: Man whateva

Judge Judy: Watch your mouth, explain to me what happened after you robbed the store

Bobo: We made our way over to the chicken joint. Ate some fried chicken and drank some juice

Judge Judy: I see you have no sympathy, after a man dies in your hands you go eat chicken like it's nothing.

Bobo: Your honor, we got hungry. It was no disrespect to the owner guy

Judge Judy: That owner guy has a name Bobo, Mr. Nesbitt

Bobo: You Right

Judge Judy: *stares for a second in disbelief* so disrespectful and stupid. Well let me tell you what I've gathered, you and your idiot partner, King sold the cigarettes and now they showed up on the hands of another criminal, Wendell Bolden...

Bobo: I don't know who that is

Judge Judy: I AM SPEAKING

Judge Judy: *Stern look* So the cigarettes were found on Mr. Bolden and now he made a plea with the police stating he got them from you and your idiot partner. This places you at the scene of the crime.

Bobo: He's a snitch. I don't know nothing

Judge Judy: Oh I know you don't know nothing.

Bobo: *Rolls His eyes*

Judge Judy: Sentenced is extended to another ten years for the robbery and possession of stolen goods from the drugstore. Maybe in jail you can go back to the books. Lord knows you need it. You are dismissed.

Judge Judy leaves courtroom. Bobo is escorted out by the police officer.

JUDGE
JUDY



Harlem Times

July 13, 2012

(Voices for Equality)

Harlem, New York

JUDICIAL SYSTEM FAILING TODAY'S TEENAGERS?

Steve Harmon's story, A1-A3

Gang life affecting loved ones.
Life, B1



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Steve Harmon: Juvenile being charged as an adult for murder

By: Ashley Quick, Harlem Reporter

On Monday July 6th a young African American teenager by the name of Steve Harmon was brought to trial for the death of Mr. Nesbitt, the local drugstore owner and for the robbery of his store. He is a sixteen year old boy being charged as an adult in the justice system. I have been following his trial throughout the course of the two weeks.

During the trial, Mrs. Petrocelli, the prosecutor has called to stand a fourteen year boy by the name of Osvaldo Cruz who tells the court the plan of the whole robbery and who participated in the act. Osvaldo tells Petrocelli that Bobo, King, and Steve were all involved in the plan and they each had their own role. According to Osvaldo, Steve would go in the drugstore, check for police or people and then make a signal if the store is clear to rob. Then Osvaldo stated that King and Bobo robbed Mr. Nesbitt while Osvaldo was to slow down any people who chased them.



Steve Harmon's Mug shot after the Incident



Steve Harmon Story Continued

By: Ashley Quick, Harlem Reporter

Currently, Ms. O'Brien, Steve Harmon's attorney is fighting for her client's justice, she quotes, "My client is being charged as an adult and the prosecutor is making my client into a monster. That's why my mission is to give him justice even in our corrupt judicial system."

Lorelle Henry, a key witness also testified that she was in the drugstore when the robbery happened. She stated to the court, "I saw two men get into an argument. Then one man sized Mr. Nesbitt by the collar and decided to leave the store before there was any more trouble." At this point, Petrocelli brought in, Bobo, a participant in the act to tell his part of the story.



These are picture taken of Steve out front and inside the Drugstore minutes before the incident happened.

“What did I do? I walked into a drugstore to look for some mints, and then I walked out. What was wrong with that? I didn't kill Mr. Nesbitt.”

-Steve Harmon

“I wouldn't bring anybody into a serious jam unless they wanted to be there.”

-Bobo

Bobo has already been sentenced 7-10 years in prison for selling drugs, breaking and entering, grand theft auto, and fighting a guy who later died. Bobo tells the court that he and King went inside and Steve was the lookout. He said, "King tried to get the gun from Mr. Nesbitt while I went to the cash register for the money." Bobo's testimony also stated that he saw Mr. Nesbitt fall to his death but grabbed cigarettes and left.

New evidence just recently came to light in the trial. Bobo and King sold those cigarettes from the robbery where they were later found on another criminal. That criminal by the name of Wendell Bolden accepted a plea that dropped his time in prison to 10 to 15 years if he testifies that those cigarettes came from Bobo and King.

As of today, we are waiting for the news to be released whether this new evidence will affect the verdict of Steve Harmon's sentence. This trial has had its ups and downs with new evidence and witnesses stepping up to the plate. Steve Harmon and his attorney are now waiting for the news from the jury. In the meantime, I had an interview with his mother to see how she is handling all of this as well as Ms. Obrien to see how she feels about the upcoming verdict.



In the courtroom while Steve Harmon awaits the verdict.



Mrs. Harmon holds up a picture of her son with pride.

Harmon Trial Continued...

I recently had an interview with Mrs. Harmon in front of the courthouse to see how she was handling the case while her son is the main suspect in the murder:

Reporter: "Mrs. Harmon has you ever had to experience anything like this before in your life?"

Mrs. Harmon: "No, I can honestly say I haven't. Seeing my son go through this has been heart breaking."

Reporter: "I completely understand. How are you coping with it?"

Mrs. Harmon: "I keep a picture of him near me that reminds me of the good days. He is a good boy."

Reporter: "That's very sweet. So do you think your son is innocent? How do you feel as the trial comes to an end soon?"

Mrs. Harmon: "I pray every day. I'm praying the judicial system doesn't judge him from his skin color but announces the verdict off of the evidence. My son is good boy and he is innocent. I just want him to come home."

Reporter: "Thank you for your time Mrs. Harmon. I hope the judicial system ensures the proper form of justice as well."

Later that day, I asked Ms. O'Brien before she entered the courtroom this very question, "Do you think your client has a chance of being innocent?" Her response was:

"My client is a sixteen year old boy who was peer pressured by the culture of the gangs in this city. He is a teenage boy who needs structure in his life away from all these negative influences that surround him on a daily basis. Yes, at times throughout the trial, the opposing side has made valid arguments but their key person is a criminal who has been convicted for multiple crimes. My client will come out on top of this injustice that he is being accused of. The system might want to fail him but I will not as his attorney. I am done speaking for now. I need to go speak to my client. Good day Ms. Quick."

Gang Life Affecting Loved Ones

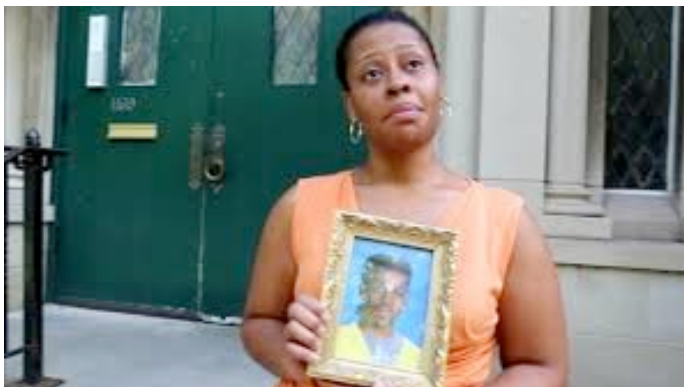
By: Mama Harmon

Harlem is a crime based area mainly related to petty theft, murder, drugs, prostitution and violence. There are many gangs in Harlem; most are based in housing projects, such as the True Money Gang, Air It Out, and Whoadey houses. One of the most notorious gangs is the East Harlem Purple Gang of the 1970's.

As an older mother, I have watched this city turn from a culturally musical based city into a violent city to the point where mothers are scared to let their children play in the streets.

Gangs are affecting loved ones whether it is the families of the victims or the families of the perpetrator who is spending time in jail. Many have lost loved ones in the crossfire, others have been victims themselves. In my own personal case, my son is experiencing the pressure of gang life affiliation to the point where he is currently placed on trial for an act he did not commit.

Therefore, I made it my mission to talk to other people whose lives have been affected by gang affiliation to make known to this epidemic. The stories I found can break anyone's heart.



Coreer Park, Mother of Darius Parker

Seven year old Ralph Johnson discussed how his grandmother was shot and killed on the street outside where she grew up. His mother, Julia, said a gang member walked up to her mother, who was holding her belongings and was shot and killed. She watched her mother die in front of her and will now not let her son play outside due to fear of the gangs.

Coreer Parks, the mother of her twenty year old son Darius is mourning after her son's death when he was shot during a gang shot out at a local drugstore. Darius died at the scene trying to buy cold medicine for his sick sister. Darius younger sister, Stephanie, who is now thirteen years old, said something that I can't get out of my head, "Don't shoot him. He's too young to die" Darius never got to grow up. He died before his 21st birthday because of the violent gangs in this city.

I myself am witnessing my teenage soon experience the unfair treatment of the justice system. The number one death of African American males are from murder, gang affiliated or not. This statistic relates to the increasing amount of African American gang members. As a mother who grew up and still lives in Harlem, it's sad to see this city change into such a violent one. Gang affiliation is affecting so many loved ones. This epidemic needs to stop.



Criminal Lawyer Needed

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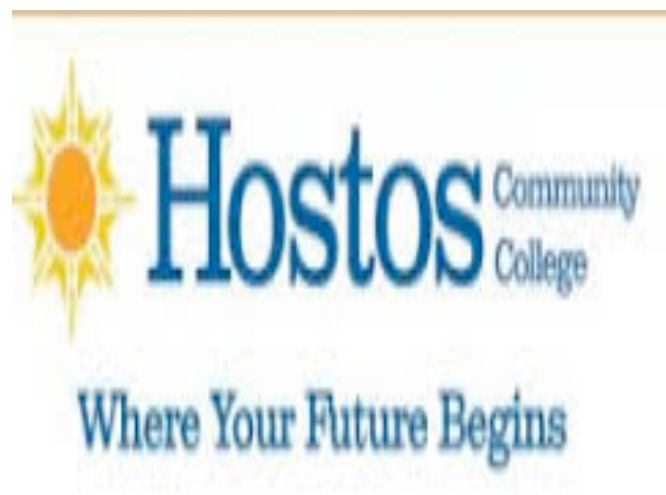
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