

Dear Chronicle,

*I'm having a real hard time with this accountability thing. Where I came from, if it wasn't any of my business, stay out of it. I've always done my time like this. I understand that we're all here for change, but the guy who's trying to hold me accountable hasn't even told me his name or said hi to me. And for him to come and get pushups from me, kind of makes me feel some type of way towards this dude. Can you please tell me why this accountability thing is so hard for me to grasp? – Thug Dizzle from Leadership Academy*

Dear Thug Dizzle,

I just want to say great question and on the behalf of PEP, I'd like to say welcome. My name is Cherry Dr. Pepper, because when you shake me up and open me up; sweet cherry Dr. Pepper comes gushing out all over your face. I'd like to say there's a broad aspect to this accountability "thing". But to help you out little brother, I'm going to shed some light on the importance of accountability. Your accountability is your responsibility. That's the key. You first have to be responsible for yourself and to take responsibility for your actions. And when your comfortable with that, then you can start to work on your "community". Your community; as of right now, is your PEP brothers, the guys you live with and even the guys you hang out with on the rec yard that are not part of PEP. This is the concept you want to achieve- assertive citizenship. Because I want to be better for myself, I should better the people I surround myself with and someday the people you don't even know. What you will realize one day is that everything you learn and do here, you will take with you when you get out. Some of you will be going back home to your wife and kids, some will just be going home to their kids, some will be going home to Mom and Dad, some will be going to their Grandparents' house and some will be going to a PEP transition home. Wherever you go, the family you will be going home to will be your "community". But your community will not only be your family, it will also be who lives next door to you, who lives down the street, who goes to church with you, who you work with, who you work out with, whoever you surround yourself

## Writer's Corner

with. That will be your community.

How does this accountability thing work; First there has to be permission given by the receiver. The man that holds you accountable without even knowing your name is in the wrong. Forgive him. Before we start telling each other about the wrong things we are doing, we should tell each other our names. Growing up, when someone would move into my neighborhood, my parents would welcome the new neighbors, by going down to their house and knocking on the door and introducing themselves and sometimes giving them a gift. This was how they welcomed new people to the community and letting them know that we are happy they are here and that we are here if they needed anything. This is what PEP brothers should do when a new brother arrives. We might not have a gift for you, but we should welcome you and let you know we got your back if you need anything. As well as, letting them know that we are happy they are here. When we do this, we break the ice, and start a new relationship. As our relationship grows, then we can take it to the level of accountability. Because we are friends, you can sense that your new brother is holding you accountable with love from his heart. Quick note, there will be moments when someone else will hold you accountable even if it's not with love from there heart, be open minded and accept it if you are in the wrong. We're all here to change. If we don't acknowledge our mistakes and learn from them; change will never happen. Furthermore, how can we become better men?

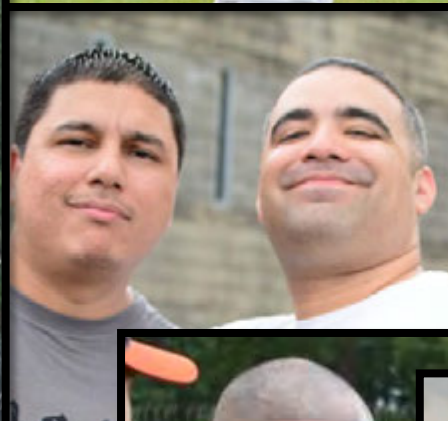
Sometimes you may never hear from another man in the dorm, so this is when you should go and introduce yourself to him. Just like a new neighbor in the neighborhood, sometimes you have to go welcome yourself to the community to get to know your neighbors. When you go back home, you will be part of a community. What happens to you, to your family and to you community will be your responsibility one day. So my question to you, is are you ready to be responsible for yourself, for your family and someday your community? This is accountability. PEP is family.

P.S. Build a relationship, hold each other accountable with love and be receptive, more so be open-minded.

-Cherry Dr. Pepper

# Cleveland World Series

## RECON vs ELITE









# Guess Who Trivia???

This actress is famous for her first leading role in an autobiography film of another famous singer/songwriter in the early 90's. She later ventured into the music industry in the late 90's and by her second album, she became the first person to have a number one album and film in the same week. She's regarded as the most influential Hispanic performer in the United States, as well as the highest paid Latin entertainer. Who is this?

This successful entrepreneur is the son of New York City real estate developer. While attending college he began working for his father and a year after his graduation he was given control of his father's company. He renamed the company after his last name. He is known for all the real estate he owns across the world as well as having amplified his success by his NBC reality show, The Apprentice. But he is mostly known for his recent activity as becoming the President of the United States of America. He also recently made an executive call for dropping the biggest non-nuclear bomb ever in our planets history. Who's this?

I'm a singer/songwriter. Born in Jamaica. After splitting up with my former band mates, The Wailers, I pursued a solo career in the early 70's. I am the world's best selling artist of all time, with sales of more than 75 million records. I was a committed Rastafari who infused music with a sense of spirituality. I am considered one of the most influential musicians of all time and credited with popularizing his type of music around the world, as well as serving as a symbol of Jamaican culture and identity. Who am I?

# Express Yourself

## Wake Up

I'm trying to work with Integrity.

Father God, why does this devil keep on testing me.

I need another recipe  
because he doesn't want to see me breath.

He wants to see me bleed,  
so I know I got to succeed.

"Wake Up!"

On to the next level  
because iron sharpens metal.

I ask you can you help me shake off this devil  
because I know he moves so clever.

"Wake Up!"

I've lost everything in the past  
Got me wanting to gain it back fast.

"But wait," all I'll be doing  
is gaining back my past.

"Huh," now it makes all sense.

This explains why I'm sitting in the pen  
because my past full of sins.

"Wake Up."

I use to drink to ease the pain.  
But it still didn't do a thing  
because when I'm back sober,

the pain comes all over.

Back trapped inside of this maze  
with nothing left to do but pray,

Dear God help me,  
show me the way  
because Satan's here to play.

"Wake Up."

And I almost feel defeated  
but that's not a good enough reason.

Because I won't stop fighting  
as long as my heart stay beating.  
Feeling awoke, but not quite awake.

"Hold up".

This is a vision  
of me praying at my weight.  
Then God answered my prayers,  
"better wake up before its too late"

Then my eyes popped open  
and I sat up straight  
Now I'm standing here today.

"Wake Up."

-Kevin A.

A.k.a. "Mush Mouth"



# Kings of Spring 17



*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. In the long run, we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die.*

*(Eleanor Roosevelt)*

*This publication is brought you by:*

