

UP WITH THE COMMUNITY



DOWN WITH THE STADIUM

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Church of the Advocate 1801 Diamond St Philadelphia, PA

Issue #2

Decolonize Education and Stomp the Stadium!

By Wende Marshall and Blanche S Brown

As a teaching assistant and an adjunct professor at Temple, I can say that we believe that our educational institutions (public schools and colleges like Temple) reflect the points of view of a country based upon the theft of indigenous land and the super exploitation of black and brown people. History is never neutral, and neither is education. As it currently functions, education remains a colonial force organized to support the lives of wealthy whites and against the interests of ordinary working people in communities like North Philly.

But what is the point of education? What is it supposed to be doing for us? As Stadium Stompers, we believe that education should help us to keep our communities safe and our bodies and souls healthy.

Instead of harming us by displacing us from our communities and miseducating us in a crumbling public school system; decolonized education would

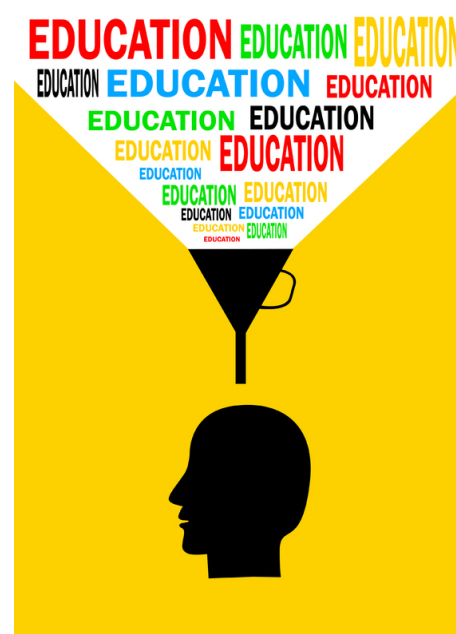
lead us in the direction of liberation and guide us in the re-creation of this broken world. Education should help us to be our best selves, so that we can work together with others to create a just world. The education we need would help us to identify the destructive forces we live in the midst of, and give us the tools we need to control and protect our communities.

A so-called educational institution is trying to destroy the North Central Philly community. How can a malignant force like Temple be trusted with the task of education? It is a fundamental contradiction for Temple to claim its status as a public institution while seeking to destroy the public. Temple has become increasingly corporatized. Instead of serving the needs of ordinary people, Temple caters to the corporate elite. Many members of Temple's Board of Trustees are part of the 1%, representing such destructive industries as private prison corporations that drive mass

incarceration, as well as banks that support the extraction of fossil fuels, destroy the planet, and discriminate against blacks in the mortgage business. Temple seeks to profit with efforts like the stadium, which, if built, would raise rents and taxes and change the culture of the community.

When a school becomes a business, its mission is no longer education, or at least it is not the kind of education that benefits and sustains us. It is an education that trains and prepares its students to further the capitalist mission of profit and exploitation, and the destruction of communities like North Philly.

Our beef with Temple is not just about their attempt to build a stadium in a historically black residential community. We are also deeply concerned with the decline in black enrollment since the 1990s, with the lack of black faculty, and with the lack of job opportunities for North Philadelphians. **(continued on page 2)**



Community Interview No. 1: Lisa Blue

By Gail Loney

My name is Gail Loney and I am a block captain and a Stadium Stomper. As an active and interested member of the community, I want to make sure the greater community is being informed about some of the things that are going on in our neighborhood and that they have a voice; so, this is my attempt to give some of those individuals that voice.

Her name is Lisa Blue. She is a 50 something, lifelong member of the lower north community who was raised as a child on north 21st Street, and later raised a family with her husband on north Lambert Street.

I spoke to Lisa about Temple University's plans to build a 35,000 seat football stadium with taxpayer dollars at an estimated cost of \$135 million on the corner of Broad and Norris Streets, which is a small residential area in our community. As we spoke about the stadium, other related issues came up. These are just some of the things that she relayed to me.

Question: Do you think Temple University should build a stadium?

Answer: No, what do we need a stadium for? How is that going to help us? I wouldn't want a stadium across the street from my home especially when I live on a small block and you're putting up such a large building.

She went on adamantly to say that they have a lot of nerve building anything when they sit in this neighborhood and tear down schools to replace with a track while the children here are not being educated.

Question: What do you see happening if the stadium is built?

Answer: Once they build that stadium, I feel that they will just keep coming.

There will be no end and I feel like I'm being pushed out. I think they will build other types of buildings that the school wants and not anything for the community.

Question: Are you against development?

Answer: No, but I don't see how building a stadium is considered development. Development should help the the people and the neighborhood they live in and improve the community.

Question: Is development a win, and if so, for whom?

Answer: Development in our neighborhood has made it unrecognizable. It's not good for us because they are not building housing for the community-- meaning affordable single-family housing. They are building more and more apartment buildings that we cannot afford. I feel like we, the neighbors and the community, are not winners in this situation.

Question: What role if any do you think politics plays?

Answer: I think the city has a responsibility to the community to NOT let any and everybody build any and everything they want in this community!

Lisa Blue has lived in this neighborhood her entire life and actually likes where she lives. She would like to see improvements such as more small businesses, help for seniors and children, and more homeownership and repair options. It has great transportation, and is relatively quiet and free of danger because the neighbors look out for one another, but there is room for improvement. We are underserved and underrepresented, and we deserve better from the city and the politicians that are supposed to represent us, but we are survivors. We are not going anywhere without a fight.

The Ugly Ivory

By Becky Cave

*Is there a name for the feeling
Walking through a place you don't
belong?
I can't pretend this is my
neighborhood.
But others do,
And I'm not saying
I'm some
high
And mighty
White girl
Because I can recognize
That I'm just visiting,
That these aren't my sidewalks.
Their cracks hold struggles-
That I will never know.
What I'm saying is
The recognition is important.
The respect
Is a requirement.
And understanding is a mountain
That I cannot climb
But we must try anyways
And listen to the winds
Making tunnels
That shouldn't exist
As white and glass fingers reach
high high high
Above the blight.
Above the poverty.
They won't even try to understand.
Sitting in an ivory tower
Funded by us without our consent
They look down at the little
ants marching
And laugh because their colony
will never be as rich as theirs
And they've made sure of that.
But richness isn't all dollar signs
The richness of the neighborhood
Is built on culture
And history
And love.
This is something those in the
ivory tower can't understand,
Or rather choose not to,
But we will make them
Or we will die trying.*

Want to get involved with us? Join us for a meeting at the **Church of the Advocate** (1801 Diamond St, Philadelphia, PA 19121) every **second and fourth Wednesday** from 6pm-7:30pm. You can also follow us on: Twitter: @StadiumStomper1, Instagram: @stadiumstompers, Facebook: www.facebook.com/stadiumstompersphilly
www.stadiumstompers.tumblr.com

Colorado Community Youth Program: Decades of Educating for a Brighter Future

By Kevin Rossi

There is no such thing as a bad kid. When you speak with Marcel Logan, you will probably hear that line. It does not just guide Logan's personal outlook on life. It is at the heart of all the Colorado Community Youth Program's work.

In addition to his position with the city's integrated town watch program and work as a vice president in the 16th Ward, Logan serves as the Executive Director of CCYP located at the corner of 20th and Dauphin. His father, Lloyd, was a legend in the neighborhood and started the organization out of the family's home before becoming officially recognized in the early 1970s and moving to its current building. When CCYP began, Logan recalled the mission focusing on sports, fielding football, basketball, and baseball teams after school as a form of constructive activity for kids.

Over time, CCYP added more after-school programming and summer camps, anything the Logans could do to keep the neighborhood kids off the streets. As Lloyd was aging, he began to make plans to pass on the torch to his kids. In 1996, Lloyd died of a heart attack at the age of 80, while at work. Logan thought his brother Demetrius would replace his father, but an earlier subtle push from his father and former CCYP board member, Ruth Birchett, eventually guided Logan to learning to run a community center.

"I did the best I could do," Logan said. "I did a lot of things he did, but I tried to update them. Times change, and we had to, too."

Now, two decades later, Logan has made his mark. Education has always played a big role in the CCYP mission. Even in the beginning, kids who wanted to play on a team had to maintain at least C grades. It was among the first community centers in the area to make computers available. Logan stepped up the educational focus by adding childcare to CCYP's services. To Logan, it was a natural next step. He wanted to teach kids the skills and knowledge they may be missing out on at home.

"Education had always been a big part of what we did, but we wanted to help even more," Logan said. "We decided on childcare so we could teach the basics from the beginning. Now when kids get to kindergarten, they know how to tie their shoes, they know their ABCs and they're in a better place to start to learn to read and write."

Logan and the staff also saw the challenges mount as children grew up, so they continued to add programming to educate on issues like drug addiction, alcohol addiction, gun violence, domestic violence, and what to do during a stop by police. These programs are not just a list of don'ts, though. He wants to help them become better people and envision a different future. They have to see another way than settling for the streets swallowing them up, he said.

It is tough to put into words what CCYP truly means to the community. The organization also hosts community meetings, organizes trips, provides meals when possible, and serves as an impromptu emergency crisis center. CCYP has been known to host the occasional funeral repast, too. It's not just a center; CCYP is the pulse of the community, and has been for decades.

"The Logan family has made a tremendous impact in the North Philadelphia area," Birchett said. "People look down on us, they blame us. They see empty

lots, they see problems. We have families like the Logans with an amazing tradition of service and who are mainstays in the community."

Logan sees a bright future for CCYP as it nears 50 years of service. He sees more workshops, more ways to get kids involved, more healthy meals, and more summer trips. He wants kids to know there is a world outside the neighborhood. Most of all, Logan wants to see kids who grow up through the programs to stay in the community and give back. The more kids who see positive role models – instead of drugs and violence – the better for the long-term vitality of the community.

"I love my job," Logan said. "It's not easy. I'm just trying to make a difference in these kids' lives and in this neighborhood."

Decolonize Education and Stomp the Stadium! (cont.)

We are concerned with Temple's lack of communication and accountability to the surrounding community, and with the composition of the Board of Trustees, which does not include community residents and leaders. We want the fight against the stadium to also be a fight for decolonized education. Up with community! Down with the Stadium!



STADIUM STOMPERS DEMANDS: NO NEW STADIUM IN NORTH PHILLY!

**STOP FOR-PROFIT DEVELOP-
MENT AND DISPLACEMENT IN
NORTH CENTRAL**

**TEMPLE INVEST \$126 MILLION
FOR THE STADIUM INTO PUBLIC
EDUCATION AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

**DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY
CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITY**

**Call these Temple representatives
and local politicians and tell them,
"NO NEW STADIUM IN NORTH
PHILLY!"**

Darrell Clarke, City Council President
215-686-3442, 215-686-3443

Richard Englert, President of Temple University
215-204-7405

Patrick J. O'Connor, Chair, Temple Univ Board of Trustees
215-204-7308

Rep. Curtis Thomas, 181st Legislative District
(215) 560-3261

Sharif Street, State Senator District 3
(215) 227-6161

**UP WITH THE COMMUNITY!
DOWN WITH THE STADIUM!**