

Approved: 2/24/94
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jerry Moran at 10:00 a.m. on February 9, 1994 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Darlene Thomas, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joseph Jennings, Turning Point, Marshfield, Wisconsin

Others attending: See attached list

A motion was made by Senator Harris, seconded by Senator Feleciano to amend K.S.A. 20-3112 to allow a registration fee payable to the clerk of the district court of not less than \$25 nor more than \$125, affecting only Johnson and Sedgwick Counties, to fund law libraries. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond, seconded by Senator Emert to approve the minutes of February 3 and February 4, 1994. The motion carried.

Chairman Moran introduced Joseph Jennings of Turning Point, Marshfield, Wisconsin, and a member of the Koch Commission, appointed by Governor Joan Finney, to the Committee. He said the Committee would welcome input into the judicial system in the state of Kansas, how to deal affectively with gang activity and what Governor Finney and the Koch Commission had planned for his services.

Joseph Jennings referred to a past movie about gang bangers where it was stated a documentary had been completed on TV about global violence and not once was it ever mentioned the neighborhood they came from or all the killings in the inner cities. "Either they don't know, or they don't show or they don't care." He said this must be applied to this Committee. He referred to the booklet provided Committee members regarding letters from teenagers (Attachment No. 1). He said 93% of our children are basically good but need attention. They are turning to gangs and drugs to get the attention of parents and community. He said we are dealing with a group of children who have been sold out; a generation of children who have legalized alcohol; a generation of children who have been taught to do as they feel. Mr. Jennings said in America 135,000 children in America are carrying guns to school; there are 50,000 gangs and 500,000 gang members. He said prevention must be dealt with. He quoted from an autobiography, "Monster Cody Scott", imprisoned member of a Los Angeles gang, which says "banging ain't no part time thing...it's a full time...it's a career. It's being down when ain't nobody down with you...it's getting caught and not telling...killing and not caring...dying without fear...it's love for your set (gang) and hate for your enemy." He said children are being recruited to gangs while incarcerated. He expressed concern that YCAT is mixing prison population, murderers with run-a-way children. The strongest children will survive. He said his concept was "whatever you tolerate, you'll never pay the price to change. Once you stop tolerating it, you'll pay the price to change."

Mr. Jennings responded to questions asked by the Committee. When asked where legislators begin he said the data must be gathered before anything could be done, however, he is involved in putting together a gang prevention program. He said prevention and intervention are the key. Mr. Jennings said it is difficult to tell children they cannot sell drugs if we can't get them a job. People are stuck in the system...no jobs...jobs produce productivity. He said we've taken the morals away from our children. He stated in prosecuting 16 and 17 year olds as adults his opinion was the age should be lowered to 16 year olds, however, it should be equal justice.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, Room 514-S Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m.
on February 9, 1994.

Chairman Moran said the Koch Commission's initial plans for this legislative session was provide the Committee with specific information about boot camps and to provide input on how the informational system can be improved and how to integrate an informational system.

A motion was made by Senator Oleen, seconded by Senator Bond to introduce a bill (3 RS 2342) concerning mortgages; relating to registration thereof. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Oleen, seconded by Senator Bond to introduce (3 RS 2275) relating to residency requirements of district magistrate judges. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 1994.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Judiciary Committee

DATE: 2/9/94

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION
Ruby Manka	El Dorado, Ks	Senior group
Annabelle Abraham	Leon, Ks	Senior group
Aelen Marshall	El Dorado, Ks	Senior group
Kim Sebastian	Topeka	Corporation for Change
Lydia Wilkin	Topeka	Corporation for Change
Dan Finch	Topeka	KWIC
DON LINDSEY	OSAWATOMIE	UTU
Donna McDaniel	Topeka	Sen Burke's office
Julie Wenzel	Topeka	Eagle
Paul Shelby	Topeka	OFA
Karen Gresham	Topeka	Governor's Office
Mary Holladay	"	" "
ED BEHAUB	"	WESTERN RESOURCES
Gary Reser	Governor's Office	Topeka
TONI WHEELER	TOPEKA	SEN. KARR'S OFC.
Jon Dargatzis	Hutchinson	Chamber of Commerce
Karen Proulx	Topeka	Ksthsn of School Boards
Ben Coates	Topeka	KPA
STherese Bangert	TOPEKA	Ks. Sentencing Commission
Joe Ruszkowicz	Kansas City	Community Connection

THIS MAN WANTS



TO SELL YOUR KIDS SOMETHING. . .

Steve Jordaniy
2-7-94
attached 1-1

Houston police pick up 3-year-old crack dealer

12-year-old admits raping sister

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
SAN LEANDRO, Calif. — A 12-year-old boy has admitted raping his 5-year-old stepister after telling police he was inspired by a TV program that showed a couple making love.

"It looked like fun," the boy was quoted as saying in his statement admitting the sexual attack.

Alameda County juvenile court authorities said Tuesday they charged the boy with two counts each of rape, incest and lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 14.

The case came to light last Sunday night when San Leandro police received a call from medical officials at Children's Hospital in Oakland saying they were treating a little girl who appeared to have been raped.

San Leandro Police Lt. Thomas Hull said officers went to the hospital to interview the girl's parents and, eventually, her stepbrother.

"The boy told us that he assaulted his stepister twice late Sunday afternoon while his parents were out shopping," Lt. Hull said. "He said he got the idea while watching TV or

ther the day before or earlier at his aunt's house."

According to Lt. Hull, the boy said he was "flipping channels and came on some kind of a program that showed an intimate scene involving a couple."

"We don't know what program it was, whether it was an adult channel or a so-called soap opera," Lt. Hull said. "Some of those programs can be pretty explicit."

The parents noticed there was a problem at dinner later that evening when the girl complained of pain

"I'm looking for... sometimes... and she... case. Sure... a matchbox... in it."

anality... out sm... brother... in t... us

Jackson, 22, her grandmother, Maggie Bailey, 58, and the child's three siblings were taken into custody. The children were turned over to Harris County Children's Protective Services, and the women were charged with delivery of a "red substance."

By JACK KRESNAK and BRIAN FLANIGAN
Free Press Staff Writers

Three Taylor youngsters — between 12 and 14 years old — have been charged with forcing an 11-year-old boy to rape a nine-year-old girl while three other youngsters watched.

After the incident, the seven boys ran off to play hide-and-go-seek, according to police and court records.

The girl did not report the alleged assault until the next day because one of the youngsters who watched is related to her, the records say.

"In Juvenile Court, we see an awful lot of sad stuff and other things that would turn most people's stomachs. But this case has even shocked the sensibilities of people here," said a Wayne County Juvenile Court officer who asked not to be identified.

Taylor Police Chief Jack Broses said it is "certainly unusual" to have such cases reported, but "how much of it occurs and is unreported, God only

United Press Int.
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Teens call
alcohol their
biggest woe

By Pat Ordozensky
USA TODAY

COVER STORY

Kids aware of alcohol's influence

The bottle looms as answer to and catalyst for students' problems

By Pat Ordozensky
USA TODAY

MILWAUKIE, Ore. — Lack of self-esteem, a desire to fit in and peer pressure are driving high school students to drink, student leaders say.

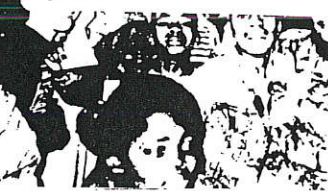
Drinking is "a way to feel important doing something you're not supposed to be doing," says Jennifer Saulino of Richmond, Ohio, one of 1,181

Leaders polled here by USA TODAY at the National Association of Student Councils convention.

Almost half the student leaders, or 44%, say drinking is the No. 1 problem facing their high schools.

Other teenage problems — pregnancy, racism, vandalism — have their roots in alcohol, says Moses Espinoza of Espanola Valley (N.M.). High: "It's the major thing that starts everything else."

Even student apathy, listed as the top problem by 17%, of the convention delegates, is linked to alcohol, they say. "It's cool" to appear older. Older people drink. Older people don't care about high school activities.



DRUGS: Teen Abusers Start by Age 12

By Kim Painter
USA TODAY

Almost half of the USA's teen drug abusers got involved before age 12, a survey shows.

Straight Inc., a Florida-based drug treatment program, questioned 615 abusers ages 13-23 in treatment across the USA.

"We are reporting on the tip of the iceberg" by focusing on kids in treatment, said Suzanne Hardman, Straight's Washington, D.C., director.

- 63 percent have used cocaine vs. 7 percent in '84.
- 61 percent used alcohol first; 30 percent used pot first.
- 65 percent used drugs a year before parents suspected.
- 70 percent were introduced to drugs by friends.
- 34 percent used drugs for the first time at home.

USA SNAPSHOTS
A look at statistics that shape our lives

Big decisions for teens
Teens say they should decide for themselves about:

Clothes	Staying out late	Quitting school	Sex	Drinking beer/wine
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Full of 531 age 13-17 respondents (includes more than one answer)
Source: Public Opinion, May/June 1987 By: Ray

Teen-age killing infant boy admits

13-year-old charged with crack murder

By JACK KRESNAK and BRIAN FLANIGAN
Free Press Staff Writers

A 13-year-old Detroit young man who was allegedly operating a crack house with a 15-year-old partner, shot and killed a drug-addicted prostitute in order "to take care of business," an assistant Wayne County Prosecutor said Tuesday.

"Basically, the allegation is that the dope peddler was killed," he said. "We're not taking any chances."

COVER STORY

Parents fear reign of sex and violence

By Anita Manning
USA TODAY

Parents have one simple question to ask the world. How are they supposed to raise healthy, decent kids in this society? Consider:

► By the time they've finished elementary school, the average kid has watched 8,000 murders on TV.

► Already this year, 5

Teen found guilty of slaying grandmother

ANTIGO (AP) — A teenager accused of raping and murdering his 76-year-old grandmother when he returned home from a drinking party has been sentenced to life in prison.

"He didn't kill his grandmother; drugs and alcohol did," defense lawyer Richard Lawson said before a Circuit Court jury announced its verdict Thursday night against Jason Ungeth.

"If Jason had intended to kill his grandmother, especially in the way he did, he's the lowest form of life. That's not consistent with the Jason who loved his grandmother," Lawson said.

The youth was convicted of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison. He was also sentenced to five years for sexual assault.

Court observers said the law will allow him to apply for parole in about 16 years.

A Langlade County deputy sheriff testified Wednesday that Ungeth gave conflicting stories about the death Jan. 31 of Pauline Rock. Ungeth was quoted as saying there was a quarrel when he arrived at her apartment after a party.

Lawson said he doubted he would appeal the verdict by the jury of three women and nine

men. But there may be an appeal concerning some pretrial decisions, including one that allowed the use of an Ungeth statement as evidence, he said.

In his closing arguments, Lawson denied his client meant to cause his grandmother's death. He urged jurors to distinguish between first-degree murder, which implies criminal intent, and second-degree murder.

"His favorite person is now dead and he's the one who killed her. He has to live with that," Lawson said.

The teenager drank at least eight beers and five shots of whiskey at a party before he went

to his grandmother's Antigo apartment, Lawson told jurors.

There also was evidence the youth smoked marijuana, took the drug mescaline and was susceptible to blackouts, he said.

He estimated Ungeth's blood alcohol content was about .225, or more than double the state's legal definition of intoxication.

District Attorney Brian Pawlak told the jury. Ungeth's attorney was using an alcohol defense in an attempt to cloud the issue.

"Alcohol simply allows somebody with suppressed criminal tendencies to bring them to the surface," Pawlak said.

1-2

The Hutchinson News

Friday, December 17, 1993, Hutchinson, Kansas, 32 Pages, Year 122 No. 167

Emotions overwhelm speaker's audience

Editor's note: News photographer Sandra Watts was asked to put down her camera Thursday and help Liberty Middle School students cope with an unusual situation at the school. Here is her account of what happened.

By Sandra Watts
The Hutchinson News

It's not often that I become a part of the news event I'm photographing, but that's what happened Thursday when I was assigned to cover Joseph Jennings' speech to Liberty Middle School students.

At one point during his speech, Jennings struck a chord with the students that prompted an unexpected outpouring of emotion. Right before my eyes, I saw students bow their heads and begin to cry. Not just one or two students, but dozens of students began sobbing and hugging one another for comfort.

Jennings talked about gangs, alcohol and drugs and peer pressure. He touched on how youngsters need affection and how young girls are supposed to get that from their

fathers, who are supposed to hug them and tell them they are special.

But these days, with divorce a major part of families, he said, fathers often are not a part of the family life anymore.

That's when most of the tears began to flow.

I lowered my camera and looked up at the 430 youngsters, many now overcome with emotion.

Jennings continued talking, explaining how we all make good and bad choices and that we need to be responsible for these choices. If we happen to make a mistake, we need to find help. Talk to somebody, he urged.

Well, the students wanted to talk to him.

After his speech, about 100 students in the crowd were hugging and crying and wanting to talk.

Jennings sat them all down on the bleachers and tried to talk to them, but there were too many upset students for him to deal with alone. He broke them into groups and told them to talk among themselves until a counselor could come

by to help.

With only one counselor in the gym, the school called for more help, but it took awhile for assistance to arrive.

I had set my cameras down, too shocked at what I was seeing and hearing to take any more pictures. Jennings turned to me and urged me to do something, to reach out and talk to them.

I didn't know what to say, but he said all they needed was someone to listen and someone to hug them.

So I did.

I walked up to a group of about eight students and saw they were in a lot of pain. I asked them if they wanted to talk about it, and they did. They began pouring their hearts out to me. I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

One girl said she had been fondled by an old man when she was very young, and since then, she can't be around old men without being very scared of them. She is even afraid to be in a group of people when there is an old man there.

Another girl was very upset because her parents had divorced and she missed her father terribly, and her stepmother was horrible to her. Another girl said her parents had almost divorced many times because of her father's affair, and that the parents take their anger out on the kids.

Another girl said she had been beaten when she was young.

I overheard another girl say she had been attacked and beaten and had her head bashed against a wall. The guy who did it threatened to kill her. He has been following her around town, and she had been too scared to talk to anyone.

The depth of their pain was astonishing. I really don't want to think about all the horrible things these kids have been going through. I was amazed they felt they could not tell their friends or family that all this had happened to them.

How could they hold all this in for so many years?

Somehow Joseph Jennings managed to open the floodgates.



Joseph Jennings, a motivational speaker, spoke to students at Sherman Middle School and at Liberty Middle School. A former gang leader, Jennings spoke about his past mistakes and how he is still paying for them.

Motivational speaker hits a nerve in Hutch

By John Green
The Hutchinson News

In honest, shocking and sometimes coarse words, a convicted felon and former gang member offered Hutchinson's middle school students a glimpse of the future possible for them.

That future will be determined by decisions the students make today in accepting or rejecting drugs, alcohol, gang participation and premarital sex.

The response to Joseph Jennings' message at one of two assemblies Thursday stunned even Jennings, who gives his motivational speeches nationwide, with an outpouring by some 70 students of

grief, fear and need. (See story, Page 2).

What reached the kids, perhaps, was his understanding of what they face.

"I've been with a lot of kids whose lives have been destroyed by a lack of knowledge. As young people start to make decisions, so many make choices on wrong information. If your parents say it's all right to drink in moderation, they are lying to you. There are 6 million teen-age alcoholics in this country, and it opens the way to drugs," Jennings said.

"Some will pay a price for decisions not made by themselves,"

See SPEAKER, Page 2

Joseph

Now left treating you.
As for myself I'm cooling
out. The other day when
you was up there talking
it really made me think
about all of the things that
I've been doing. I am in
the gang called the Black Youngsters
and I'm on the streets stealing
sakes and all kinds of
crimes but I want to change
myself here. I am going to
change. Joseph when you said
some of the things you could
have been killed it was just
like some of my comments
I been shot three times and
stake twice. I am not good
at writing letters but I said
I was going to.

Anthony

Hello!

well what's happening? well my name
is Carlos [redacted] I'm from Puerterico.
I'm from The North Side I
grew up in a gang Latin queen's my
boyfriends is a Latin King I'm on
cocain, acide, speed, all that stuff
but my worst one was a is cocain
I went through some bad with darts
I shoot it up my own brother showed
me how I'm 15 well be 16 Dec, 11th
I been doing cocain since I was
11 years old I did cocain before I
did any other drug, well to tell
you the truth I didn't know there
were any other kinds of drugs!
but I lived a bad life living
on the streets not as being just gangs
and fighting! and I would really
like to change because I know
I go back out there I could get
into some deep shit! and I don't
want all that! see I love fighting
I really do I love to see blood
I just do! I want to change I
just don't think I can handle life
any more! see about 3 months ago

I cut my wrist but it didn't
work because I'm ~~not~~ here!
my ma, & pops passed away
my father died when I was 7
my mom died when I came up
here January, 2. I came up here
Dec. 18, and I couldn't handle
all of this. I'm kinda chilled
out but not all the way. and I
would like to change very much
but I just don't know how!!
well I'm gonna be your pen-pal
I'll write you because what you told
us up there went to my head and
I need help, please try to help
me! well I hope you & your
buddy still take those pictures
so you can send me a couple!
and you said you'd send me a
copy of your tape I would very
much like that - by for now
I hope to hear from you soon!

I really do
need help!

you know at
nights I cry
because I feel
so lonely and

Birmingham Public Schools

CARVER HIGH SCHOOL



Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

3400 33rd Terrace, North

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35207

January 28, 1992

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please be advised that on January 22, 1992, a stirring event that got both youngsters and adults involved occurred at Carver High School. This event was the coming of Breakthru '92, featuring a dynamic young man, Joseph Jennings.

His knowledge of young people astounded me as he selected students to come to the front as a part of his demonstration. He selected the president of the Carver High School Senior Class, the number one student in the senior class, a student that is a leading candidate for a scholarship to study medicine at a local university and a student that is lead singer with our group.

During my twelve years as principal of Carver High School I have brought in a General of the U.S. Army, a United States Senator, a State Senator, several Judges, Mayor of the city of Birmingham, County Commissioner, Professional Baseball and Football players, City Councilman and Women, State Representatives, State Board of Education members, many representatives of the business world, and Law Enforcement officials. The most notable to visit our stage was Rev. Jesse Jackson, in 1991.

As you can see, the above is a list of impressive people. However, the person that left the greatest impression on us was Joseph Jennings.

I heartily endorse the Break through '92 program and look forward to future visits.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Debrow".

Donald Debrow,
Principal

STATE OF KANSAS



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JOAN FINNEY, Governor
State Capitol, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

913-296-3232
1-800-432-2487
TDD# 1-800-992-0152
FAX# (913) 296-7973

January 19, 1994

Mr. Joseph Jennings
Turning Point
P.O. Box 1148
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

Dear Joseph 

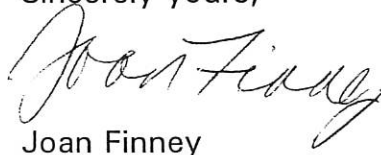
I want you to know how deeply grateful I am to you for contributing your time and talents toward relieving the serious crime problem here in Kansas.

I have had the privilege of witnessing the tremendously positive impact you have had on young students during four school assembly appearances in Topeka, Kansas. Your sincerity, your personal magnetism and delivery so impressed our young people that I know, Joseph, you can and will help these youngsters to cope with the personal dilemmas which have been buried within their young psychics since early childhood. If they face their personal tragedies, perhaps their lives can be directed toward positive outcomes.

Citizens of Wichita advise me that you have already had a crime deterring effect on many of their students.

And again, please accept my sincere and grateful appreciation for your support and your wonderful friendship.

Sincerely yours,


Joan Finney

JF:aed



November 17, 1993

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am honored to write to you in reference to Joseph Jennings and his work with young people. Out Stuco President, Anthony Watson, attended East High's assembly during Youth Crisis Awareness Week. He was so touched by Joseph's message that he came to me in hopes that I could persuade Joseph to come to Hamilton when he returned to Wichita in November.

At my invitation, Joseph agreed to spend a morning with 35 Hamilton students. Fortunate enough to hear his story, these students were deeply touched. Joseph is a warm, caring man who commands the respect of his audience. His honesty captures their attention and his empathy for them keeps them engaged. Hamilton students left the session with hope and determination. Rarely have I met an adult who has such a positive effect on troubled teens.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wallace
Project Site Coordinator
Cities in Schools
Hamilton Middle School

Joseph,
Hey! I know you won't
remember me but I'm one of
the girls you talked to at ~~the~~
High School. I was the one who
had a mom who was going to
Jail.

I just want you to know
that you saved my life. I
was going to go home that night
and kill my self but you
made me change my mind
When you said we were all
winners you made me realize
I had every thing to live for.

I've never heard any
one speak so dramatic. I know
you saved a lot of kids that day
but you really helped me.

Kimberly

TALKING TO TEENS

Simple choices
determine our
destiny, says
former addict

By Mark Griggs Jr.

Times-Georgian Staff Writer

Choices.

The right ones can lead to a successful life, the wrong ones can lead down the path of destruction.

"It's so important we understand the choices we have made for our lives," said Joseph Jennings, founder of Turning Point.

Jennings gave a presentation, "Choices," yesterday morning at Bowdon High School. Turning Point is "a national organization that speaks to the needs and issues of young people across the country," he said.

Jennings, 43, founded the organization, based in Marshfield, Wis., seven years ago after kicking a 14-year drug and alcohol habit.

"I have made a lot of mistakes in my life," and he is still being punished for them, he told students.

"I still get persecution. Regardless of how I am (now), I'm still paying a price," Jennings said.

He said he has eight brothers and sisters, all of whom are involved in drugs. "They all bought the lie."

Jennings also has a 20-year-old son who has been in prison for five years, which he said is his biggest crime.

"You can see James made a choice in his life... and he



The Times-Georgian/Wayne Parham

Joseph Jennings, founder of Turning Point, delivers a message to Bowdon High School students concerning drugs, alcohol, and sex. Jennings gave first hand testimony of his 14 years as a drug addict.

grew up just like his daddy," Jennings said. "There's some of you sitting there today just like James."

Jennings' crimes included shooting one of his brothers in the face after an argument. The brother lived and

went to prison two years later on a murder charge.

At the beginning of the program, Jennings asked the students how many of them have already started drinking beer, wine or liquor, or have at least tasted them,

and most of the them raised their hands.

"You bought a lie. This country told us it's okay to drink in moderation, but they didn't tell you who would have to pay the price," he said.

Jennings said there are 16 million teen-age alcoholics, and 100,000 10- and 11-year-olds who drink once a week.

"There is no such thing as moderation," he said. "I bought the lie and I paid the price."

Jennings was in a gang and was stabbed, burned and shot 13 times. He still has a bullet lodged in his spine.

He also addressed the effects of alcoholic parents and divorce on young people.

"Who pays the price of divorce — you do," he said. Half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce, he said, and 80 percent of black marriages.

Jennings said he would not want to be a teen-ager now, with all of the pressures and problems teens face.

"There's no way I'd want to be in your shoes," he said.

A native of South Bend, Ind., Jones said when he was in school, the principals and superintendents didn't "have the backbone" to bring someone like him into the schools to speak to the students about drugs, alcohol and sex.

He told the students they have to receive the message and make the right choices.

"You're not dumb or stupid, you just have to listen," he said.

Jennings told students they "are all in the same boat," and making the right

See **SPEAKER**, page 3

Speaker: Teens have tough choices

Continued from page 1
choices has nothing to do with race or other differences.

He also discussed premarital sex and basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson's recent revelation that he has tested positive for the HIV virus, which causes AIDS.

Jennings said he was "devastated" at the news, but was equally devastated when Johnson urged the practice of "safe sex," and sent him a telegram to that effect.

"Magic Johnson lied," Jennings said. "Don't promote the safe sex philosophy as an alternative to abstinence. There's no such thing as safe sex."

He used Johnson's situation to again stress the importance of making the right choices.

"Magic Johnson made a choice about his life," Jennings said.

He said 30,000 Americans a day contract a venereal disease, and more than one million teenage girls get pregnant each year, and 400,000 have abortions.

He also said having sex with someone is tantamount to sleeping with everyone they have been with in the last 10 years, which is the incubation period for the AIDS virus.

He also stressed that having premarital sex does not make someone "a man."

"Just because you have sex don't make you a man. My dog can have sex," he said.

"The good part of it is you're not a loser," Jennings said. "Your not born losers, your born choosers."

He told the female students the biggest lie a boy will tell her is "if you love me, you'll go all the way," and handed out several T-shirts that say "I'm not doing it," with 28 reasons not to do it on the back.

He also handed out several copies of his book, "Prisoner Of The American Dream."

After asking the students how many wanted to grow up to be alcoholics or drug addicts, with no response, then how many wanted to grow happy and successful with a good family, with an overwhelming response, Jennings

asked the students to turn to each other and say, "I'm a winner, are you a winner?"

Jennings said, despite the pressures students face, they have to eventually take responsibility for their actions and their decisions.

"If one day you turn out to be a failure... chances are you made a choice" to fail, he said. "At some point you have to stop putting it off on other people."

He also urged students who have been raped or molested to talk to someone about it.

"If you've been raped or molested, it's not your fault," he said.

He said one of every four girls and one of every eight boys are molested before they reach the age of 18.

Jennings also told the students suicide is not the answer.

"Man, it's not an alternative," he said.

Jennings' current tour is being funded by Precision Tunes of Atlanta.

The telephone number to Turning Point is 1-800-236-8551.

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

W. CAMPUS ROAD • WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29169 • (803) 822-5480

MARY CATHERINE NORWOOD, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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WALTER DAHLGREN
Greenville

MARVIN EFRON, Ph.D.
West Columbia

FRANK HART
Marion

MICKY LINDLER
Columbia

WILHELMINA McBRIDE
Columbia

HANNAH MEADORS
Greenville

VINCE RHODES
West Columbia

LINDA SLEDGE
Lexington

ELIZABETH THRAILKILL
Fort Lawn

OLIVE WILSON
Williamston

April 18, 1991

Mr. Joseph Jennings
Turning Point
P. O. Box 1148
Marshfield, WI 54449

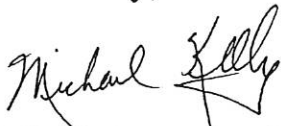
Dear Mr. Jennings:

Thank you for making the effort to speak to the students at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School on April 15, 1991. We are also very grateful to the Columbia area management of the Precision Tune company who helped make your visit possible.

You were definitely a hit with our students, many of whom could relate well to your experiences. I believe the students appreciated your honesty and your faith in them. Your message about personal responsibility and the power we have to change our lives was delivered in a way that made sense to them. The singer who accompanied you was terrific, too, and really captured the students' hearts.

Again, thank you for sharing your story with us. You were a great kick-off speaker for our Wellness Week activities and touched the lives of teenagers and adults. Best of luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



Michael Kelly, Coordinator
Psychological and Special Services

MK/bgs



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1-13