

To: Mary Collins

From: Cedric Dean

Date: 11-13-08

Re: Interview Questions

Thanks for thinking of me - you are appreciated!

Infamous: Where was you when you heard the news that Barack Obama had been elected?

Cedric: I was sitting on my bunk, listening to the election coverage on CNN. Between eleven and twelve o'clock eastern time, I heard the breaking news. Simultaneously, the cell block erupted in banging and yelling. All I heard throughout the block was people chanting, "Obama!" That lasted for at least 3 hours.

Infamous: Are you inspired by this turn of events? And if so, does this strengthen your hope in America, and your concern for the future of our children?

Cedric: Words cannot express my feelings. Barack Obama is an inspiration to all people of color, and those that can identify with the past struggles of people of color. America has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that this is indeed a land of opportunity. Obama's official position on youth violence and crime is to enforce gun laws more effectively to keep handguns off the streets, to set up after-school programs and summer programs so that young children have a safe place to go, to expand early-childhood education and improve the pay and support that's provided to teachers, and most importantly, he wants to have a system to deal with ex-offenders that will provide us with jobs and social services so we can successfully reintegrate into society. My hope is strengthened tremendously!

Infamous: What would you like to see happen?

Cedric: I'd like for children to look at Obama as their role model, instead of the ghetto super star drug dealers, gangsters and thugs. Children are easily influenced - I hope Obama will take advantage of that fact in a positive way. Right now, a black boy born in America has a 1 in 3 chance, and a black girl has a 1 in 17 chance, of going to prison in his or her lifetime. 1 in 3 brothers in their 20s is under some form of correctional supervision or control. I'd like to see Obama get our nation to focus on intervention and prevention instead of incarceration and no rehabilitation. In federal prison, if you want to watch BET all day and play board games, that's exactly what you can do until you get out. The main problem is this - on the streets, the government doesn't pass out toilet paper; there is no chow call or sick call - you don't work...you don't eat. That's why so many brothers come back; they don't have any responsibilities while they're here.