

# True story...

By: Inmate Mike Ruggieri

I grew up in a household full of excessive drinkers. I became a true drunk at the age of 17. I started off drinking moderately: I became a continuous hard drinker: but at some point of my drinking I began to lose control of my alcohol consumption. I had no clue that my life was so out of control.

When I turned 18, I started drinking Vodka regularly. I would drink until I blacked out. "Blacking out" is a temporary loss of consciousness. It's a real uneasy feeling not knowing what you did the night before. I would always fear arrest when I drank--disorderly conduct, public intoxication, assault, ect. "Blacking out" is no joke!

One night, I killed my friend George Foss. He was my best friend, my brother! He was only 15 yrs. Old! He was an honor student and artist. Now, because of me, and my drinking, he's dead! I couldn't believe it. I woke up in the Warwick Police station, in a cell, not knowing what happen. "What did I do this time?" I thought. D.U.I., assault--something worse? Two police detectives came and told me, in a not so nice way, what happened. "You murdered your friend, huh?! What a friend you are!" they said.

It turned out that I was so intoxicated that I drove my car off a cliff 30ft high! George was killed instantly. Just hours ago I was with my friend laughing and partying...without a care in the world. Now George is gone. It didn't make sense to me. Why? Why did this happen? "Denial" was the most powerful part of my problem. When I look back now, it's hard to imagine that I didn't see a problem with my drinking.

Not only did I lose my best friend, but I had to go to prison too! In prison I could only think about what I did. I woke up every single morning as if it were all a bad dream...but it was reality--harsh reality that I created. From my experience I realized that I cannot go back and make a brand new start. Through time and realizing my drinking problem I can make a brand new end. All this started with drinking alcohol at young age!

## Create Your Own CON★MIC CITY Character

1. Begin with an original name.
2. What social issue does your character represent?
3. What three steps are you willing to take to advocate Your peers and the community about the social issue Your character represents?
4. Now draw out your character... and be sure to include a standout physical feature like Ongkor's Mohawk or Nickel's afro.

## Author bio

The author of CON★MIC CITY, Steven Parkhurst, was convicted in R.I court of multiple charges including 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder back in Nov, 1992. As high school senior, Steven attended a week-long "house party" full of teens and alcohol. Alcohol, immaturity, and a series of horrendous decisions led to the shooting death of Trevor Ramella. He was only 20 years old. Con★Mic City was created with the hope that young people would learn from Steven's extreme mistakes.

Con★Mic City  
Production  
Prison Comic Series  
2009

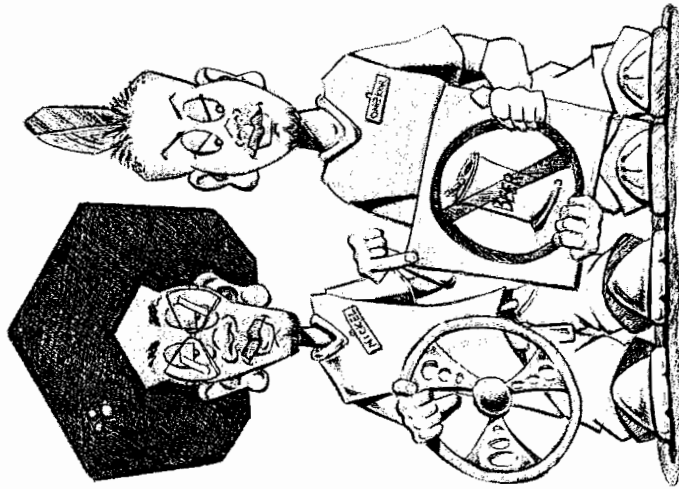
Created by: Steven Parkhurst

# CON★MIC CITY

Nickel & Ongkor  
present:

## Drunk Driving

\*\*\*Rest in peace George T. Foss 1976-1991\*\*\*



CON★MIC CITY is a localized movement that takes education by the streets and hopes to impart knowledge to young people in our communities. The social issue comic is intended as a learning tool, and also as a deterrent so kids avoid the mistakes of the fictionalized characters depicted throughout the CON★MIC CITY strip.

