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TEGO CALDERON | BEFORE KINDERGARTEN | BREAKFASTS | of AMERICA

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WRITERS!
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Update:
Paterson's Center City
Development

THE BROTHERS



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TEGO CALDERON | CHILDREN'S READING | BREAKFASTS | AMERICA

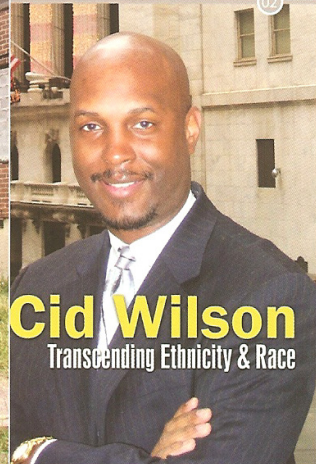
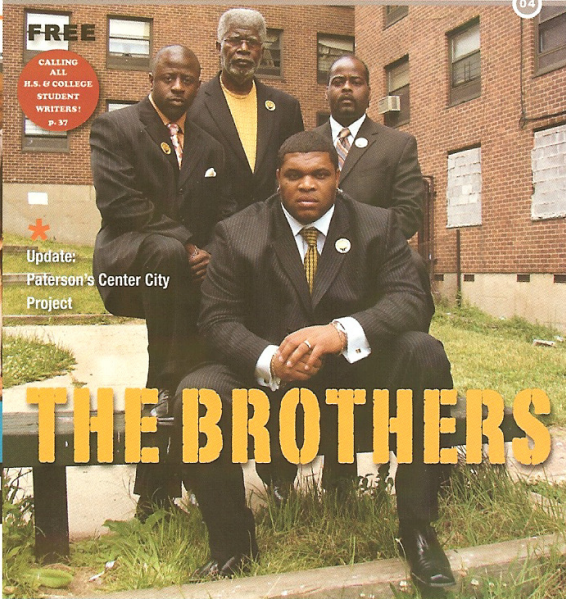
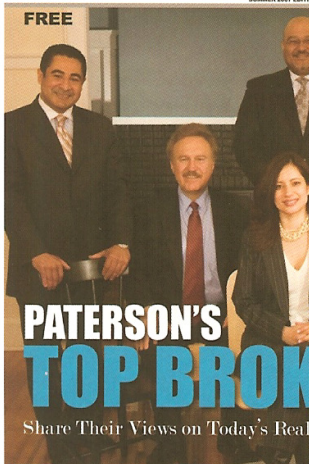
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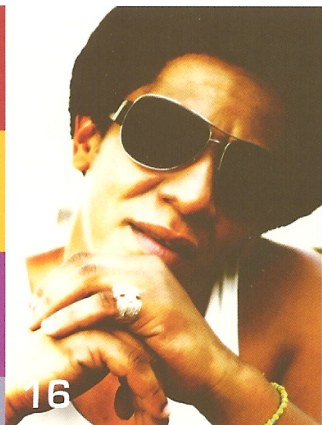
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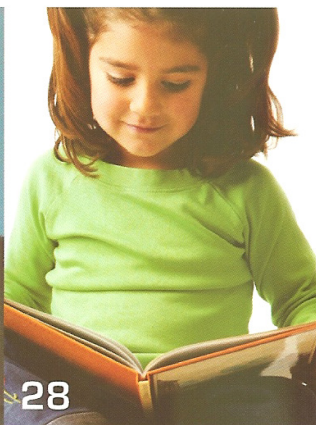
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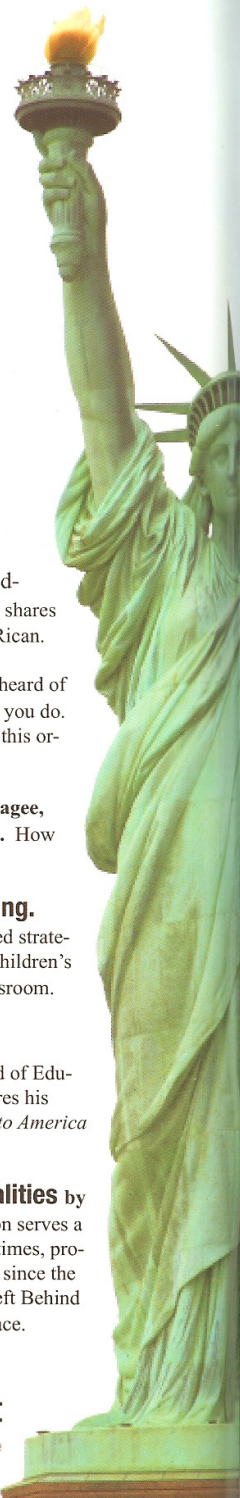
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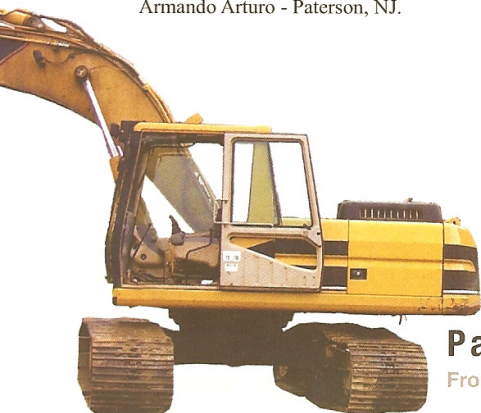


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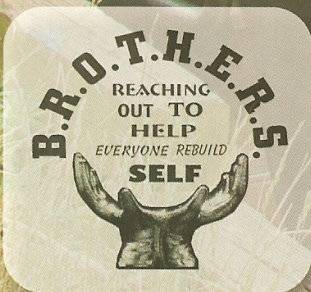
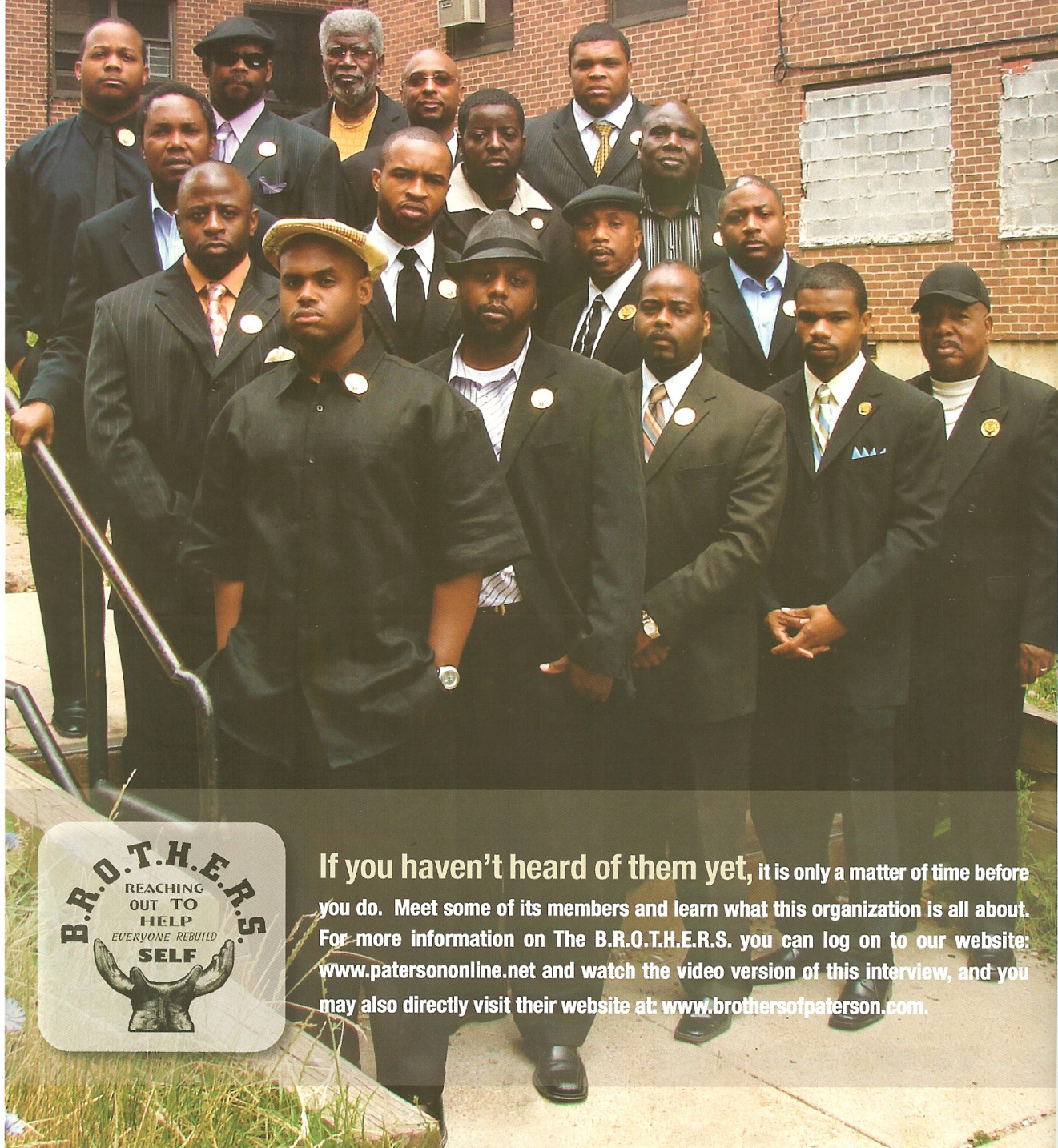


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Paterson's Center City Development

From the Perspective of the Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce

THE BROTHERS



If you haven't heard of them yet, it is only a matter of time before you do. Meet some of its members and learn what this organization is all about. For more information on The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. you can log on to our website: www.patersononline.net and watch the video version of this interview, and you may also directly visit their website at www.brothersofpaterson.com.



Charles Keeling.

President - Profession: General Contractor

PO/tm: What are the dynamics of the group?

CHARLES: The BROTHERS Organization is comprised of various men in our community who find the need to do something to help the situation in the circumstances of their community. We all feel that we have responsibilities – like others that came before us had a responsibility – to do our part. We can't afford to allow things to go on the way they are going and we idly stand by and just watch things without getting involved. The BROTHERS Organization is a very passionate organization [where] gentlemen come from various backgrounds, various religions, and various professions. We work "tiresly" to try to ensure that our mission statement is carried out to its letter. We all feel that is very important that we do what we do.

PO/tm: What is the organization's take on the curfew and the recent surge in violence throughout the City?

CHARLES: Well as the president of the organization and most members of the organization – I say most members – really don't support the curfew because our job is to create an environment; and once we create the proper environment, all things in that environment will work in harmony with each other. So, [as for] the violence and the curfew, we can't substitute a curfew for the wrong environment.

" we don't invest enough into our youth "

[The Division of] Recreation doesn't even have its own budget! In the city, we don't invest enough into our youth to prevent some

of the things that happen in the community. It is important that we put our money where our mouth is. When we cut the pie up, we need to cut our kids in the pie and they should be the biggest part of the budget; it should be the biggest emphasis because they are our future. The rash in violence is just a... actually, it's just an indication of how bad the problem is, and how bad the problem has been ignored. As soon as we focus on what the problem is, we need to deal with it, not with a Band-Aid.

People died for us to have the opportunity to go and come, and work, and be anywhere in America we choose to be. We will never stand behind not creating the right environment [and] just putting a Band-Aid on something. We have to create the right environment.

Zatiti Moody.

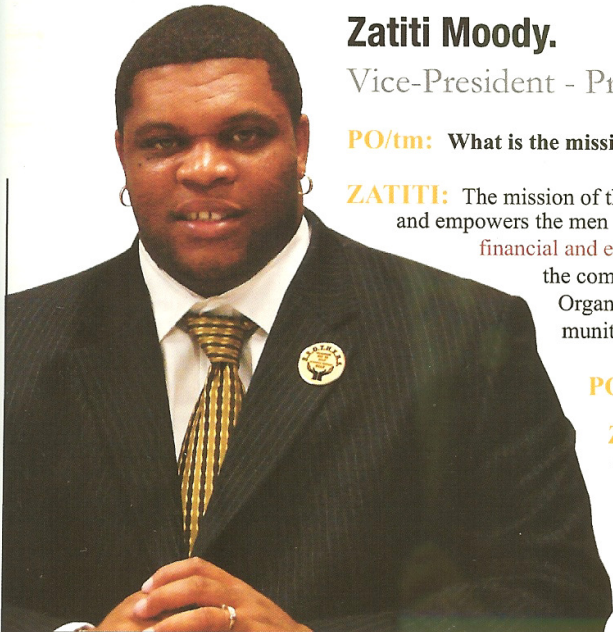
Vice-President - Profession: High School Academy Director

PO/tm: What is the mission of the BROTHERS Organization?

ZATITI: The mission of the BROTHERS organization is to create an environment that enables and empowers the men in our community through activities to succeed in life – through social, financial and educational awareness. Basically what that states is that any activity in the community that deals with one of those three components, the BROTHERS Organization will definitely be a part of and support; in order to build a community that we [will] all be proud of.

PO/tm: Why did you join the organization?

ZATITI: The question here is why did I join the BROTHERS Organization; I believe the real question should be: why wouldn't you join the BROTHERS Organization? The BROTHERS Organization consists of men of all walks of life who came together to have a serious, sincere impact on our community in a positive way. The brothers that we are affiliated with are very talented in many fields and we all contribute something to the organization in an effort to uplift our community.



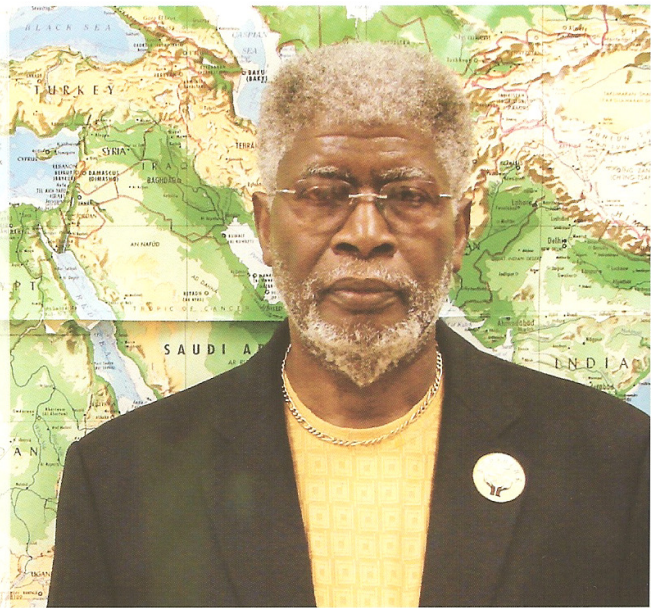
Henry Baker.

Member - Profession: Retired Educator and Basketball Coach

PO/tm: What is the need for such an organization?

COACH BAKER: The importance of a group like the BROTHERS Organization of Paterson is obviously in its strength and its commitment to this community. From the initial meeting where there was a strong passion from every man that spoke there; to develop, strengthen, and increase the positive things of this community.

We, the people of the community, have to become totally involved in its redevelopment. We [also] need to develop ourselves first, because if we don't do it first and within ourselves, we can't help anybody else. So I am so proud, so happy, of this group for their commitment to help everyone build self in this community.



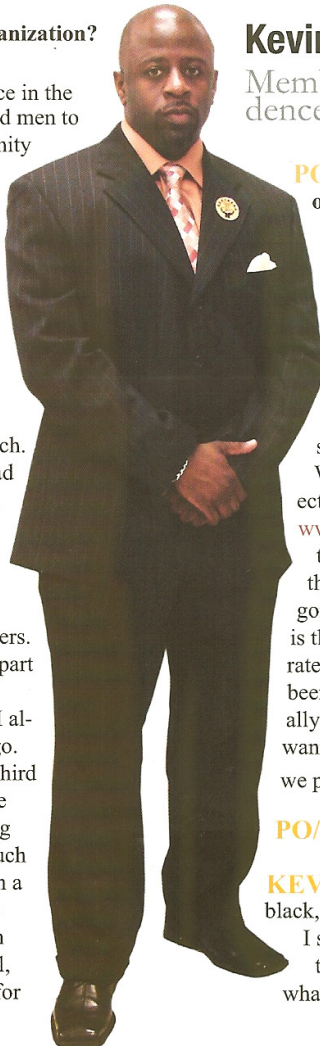
PO/tm: Why did you join the organization?

COACH BAKER: My experience in the past of working with young groups and men to develop an organization to be community involved and to develop our community is extensive.

My first effort was the "AA Mind Group" with men, Mr. Al Moody, and some other men in the community organized, and we had a good start. But, because we were working people, and we didn't put the time in. We had one meeting a month, and for whatever reason it didn't work.

My second effort was with my church. Calvary Baptist Church of Garfield had a men's group and we met every third Sunday – once a month again, for a short period of time. But we never got into the real the problem that make a community work – we talked about problems and never about answers.

And then when I was asked to be a part of the development of this group, I wanted to try one more time because I always believed that this is the way to go. And, as it is with life sometimes, the third time is a charm. The commitment, the work ethic, the real passion for helping self first, then community, has been such an enlightening thing for me to see, on a Sunday by Sunday basis, over the last three and a half, four years. That I am overjoyed by the success, and I'm real, real happy about the future that I see for this group.



Kevin McDaniel.

Member - Profession: University Residence Director

PO/tm: What projects have the BROTHERS worked on or plan on working on in the near future?

KEVIN: Some of the projects the BROTHERS have been involved recently are the [Paterson] Board of Education Candidates Forum, which was in collaboration with PatersonOnline.NET. We also worked on an event that addressed what's going on in Hip-Hop. The title of the event was: Is Hip-Hop Dead, Alive or Killing Us? So that was a good opportunity for us to talk about some of the recent issues that have come up in Hip-Hop. We also recently launched our website – which is a project that I recently worked on –

www.BrothersOfPaterson.com. So go to that and check that out for yourself. There's a lot of photographs up there for you and we are going to post the events we are going to be doing. Another event that we collaborated with is the Parade – the African Heritage Parade – we collaborated with the African Heritage Parade Committee – who've been doing this for a little bit of time. They done some really good things. Last year, the parade was really nice. We wanna – you know – just do our part to enhance it as much as we possibly can.

PO/tm: Why did you join the organization?

KEVIN: See, I've always wanted to join a strong, powerful, black, grass-roots organization like the BROTHERS; and when I saw the BROTHERS doing their thing, I was really attracted to it and I think I can add a lot to it. So, that's what I am here for. ●