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REMARKS FOR THE EDGE MEADE SCHOOL VISIT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1988

-- THANK YOU, I'M VERY GLAD THAT WE COULD BE TOGETHER THIS MORNING. BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

-- I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU WISH FOR MOST IN THE WORLD. EACH OF YOU HAS A DREAM, MAYBE MANY DREAMS, THINGS THAT DEEP DOWN YOU HOPE AND PRAY WILL COME TRUE. I DON'T MEAN LIKE GETTING A NEW STEER, OR SOME NEW TAPES; I MEAN THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT INSIDE YOU.

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-- BUT DREAMS DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST DRUGS. DRUGS WILL DESTROY WHAT YOU HOPE FOR MOST. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO HORRIBLE. IF YOU WANT FRIENDS, DRUGS WILL MAKE YOU LONELY. IF YOU WANT TO BE A GREAT ATHLETE, DRUGS WILL DESTROY YOUR BODY AND YOUR DETERMINATION. IF YOU WANT GOOD GRADES, DRUGS WILL MAKE YOU FAIL.

-- SINCE DRUGS TAKE AWAY WHAT WE WANT MOST, YOU'D THINK IT WOULD BE EASY TO SAY NO. BUT SAYING NO IS OFTEN HARDER THAN

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SAYING YES, BECAUSE SOMETIMES THE PERSON OFFERING THE DRUG IS A FRIEND, A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, MAYBE EVEN A PARENT.

-- SOMETIMES THE PERSON OFFERING THE DRUG RIDES AROUND IN A BIG CAR WITH LOTS OF MONEY. BUT WHEN YOU SEE THE DRUG DEALER IN HIS BIG CAR AND HIS NICE CLOTHES, REMEMBER THAT HE GOT THOSE THINGS BY HURTING OTHER PEOPLE. HE GOT THOSE THINGS BY DESTROYING OTHER PEOPLE'S DREAMS. AND YET IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, I KNOW IT CAN BE HARD TO RESIST HIS INFLUENCE.

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-- WHAT ALL THIS MEANS IS THAT YOU HAVE TO BE STRONGER TO SAY NO THAN TO SAY YES. YOU HAVE TO BE SMARTER. YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVER.

-- AND I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE. YOU'RE NOT ALONE WHEN YOU SAY NO. MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE YOUR AGE WOULD COME RUNNING TO YOUR SIDE IF ONLY THEY KNEW YOU NEEDED HELP. MR. T OF "THE A-TEAM," TOM SELLECK OF "MAGNUM," DON JOHNSON AND PHILIP MICHAEL THOMAS OF "MIAMI VICE," EDDIE MURPHY, WOULD ALL

RUSH TO YOUR RESCUE IF THEY KNEW YOU WERE BEING OFFERED DRUGS,
BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE.

-- AND IF YOU NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT DRUGS OR OTHER
PROBLEMS, IF YOU JUST NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR DREAMS, I
HOPE YOU'LL TALK TO A FOSTER GRANDPARENT HERE AT YOUR SCHOOL.
THEY'RE KIND, WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY LOVE
YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU. THEY WON'T TELL
YOU THAT YOU'VE BEEN BAD. THEY WON'T SAY THEY DON'T HAVE TIME.

ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS TO BE THERE FOR YOU. ISN'T IT GREAT TO
KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL LIKE YOU AUTOMATICALLY, WHO WILL
BE YOUR FRIEND THE MINUTE YOU TALK TO THEM?

-- I CAME TODAY BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I BELIEVE
IN YOU AND I BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS. I BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN DO
WHATEVER YOU SET YOUR HEARTS TO DO. SO, FOR YOURSELVES AND FOR ALL
THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU -- BE STRONG, BE BRAVE AND PLEASE,
PLEASE, JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS.

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