

SCHOOL PACKET





Dr. Ronnie Hill

Biographical Sketch for School Assemblies

At the age of 43, Dr. Ronnie Hill is one of the most dynamic, sought after speakers for school assemblies in the country. Speaking in over 200 schools a year, Ronnie's program, through his humorous and fresh approach, has encouraged students to stay off drugs and alcohol and see the importance of education.

School administrators are tired of having speakers that have done drugs and alcohol, due to the fear that students may look at the speaker and think, "If he did it and he is alright, then I can do it and I will be alright." Ronnie has never touched drugs or alcohol. Seeing the effects of alcohol on his family at an early age highly influenced his decision to abstain from any form of substance abuse.

Ronnie promotes education. He was salutatorian of his high school class. He received his B.A. in 1990, a 92-hour Master's Degree in 1993, and finished his Doctorate Degree in 2001. In his program, Ronnie shows the financial difference between a high school drop out and a high school graduate by the time they retire.

Ronnie's 30-minute assembly is colorful with a message that is straight forward to the students of this decade.

For more information write or call:

RONNIE HILL MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 161219 • Ft. Worth, TX 76161-1219 • Office 817.439.3267 • Fax 817.439.3269

Dear Principal,

Dr. Ronnie Hill, a dynamic professional public speaker, with over 15 years of experience is coming to (your city here) in (month here). In schools across the country, the word is the same, principals and school administrators describe Dr. Hill as *"entertaining, thought provoking and professional."* In recommendation after recommendation, he has been described as a man who can hold the students *"spellbound"* while presenting a positive message.

Dr. Hill travels across the country speaking to students at high school, middle school, and elementary school assemblies about the dangers associated with drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, he communicates to teenagers the importance of selecting the right friends, developing a plan and setting goals, and the value of an education.

He presents the necessary factual information in an entertaining manner and on the level of the students. Dr. Hill *"relates to the students in a down to earth, humorous, caring and respectful manner."*

Dr. Hill is not a gutter to glory story. Having never done drugs or alcohol, he can approach the subject in a purely positive manner. Although he is a minister, religious beliefs will not be addressed as part of the subject matter during the assemblies.

Dr. Hill will be in (your city here) on (date(s) here) and would be available to speak at an assembly for your school. There is no cost involved.

A transcript of Dr. Hill's presentation, as well as many letters of recommendation from high schools and middle schools around the country are included. You can schedule an assembly with Dr. Ronnie Hill by calling (your church name and phone number here) It is our goal to schedule Dr. Hill in as many schools as possible (date(s) here).

Please contact us soon to get Dr. Hill scheduled in your school before the time slots are full.

Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,

(your name here)

Ronnie Hill Ministries
PO Box 161219, Ft. Worth, Texas 76161-1219
Voice Mail: 817.439.3267 Fax: 817.439.3269



Dr. Ronnie Hill

Personal Profile

Dr. Ronnie Hill is married to Jennifer and they have a son, Jake (7).

His wife, Jennifer, formerly worked for NASA as a Space Shuttle Systems Engineer in Florida, before relocating to Fort Worth, where she worked for Lockheed Martin on the F-16 program. Jennifer is a pilot and has her Master's in Space Systems/Management.

His parents are Jamie and Sandra Hill. Ronnie's father is pastor at Victory Fellowship in Brazoria, TX.

He has two brothers: Allen (wife, Sarah, son, Wade, and daughter Bethany) and Peyton (wife, Jennifer and son, Dillon).

Ronnie's hobbies include:

- Skiing (snow and water)
- Baseball
- Football
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Roping (rodeo)
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Snorkeling

Ronnie lives just outside Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife Jennifer, and their Australian Shepard Shadow, and two Quarter horses named Crackers and Boomer.

Dr. Ronnie Hill

Recommendation Letters for School Assemblies

De Leon Elementary School



133 East Pecan Street Phone: 254.893.6889
610 North Johnson Street (Mailing Address)
De Leon, TX 76444 Fax: 254.893.6004
E-Mail: carnbruster@deleon.esc14.net

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Ronnie Hill of Ronnie Hill Ministries as an assembly speaker at the elementary level. Dr. Hill spoke to the third, fourth, and fifth graders at the elementary campus. He delivered an excellent message to the group in an exciting way. The students were very intent in listening to his messages to stay in school and avoid illegal drugs. Dr. Hill kept their attention during the entire presentation. He was very entertaining while teaching an important message.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Armbruster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Armbruster
Principal
De Leon Elem. School
De Leon, TX.

HARDIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

299 LACEFIELD DRIVE • SAVANNAH, TENNESSEE 38372-9502 • TELEPHONE 731-925-9037 FAX 731-925-0253

PRINCIPAL
STEPHEN J. HAFFLY

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
MICHAEL DAVIS
MACKIE A. GEAN

September 18, 2003

Dr. Ronnie Hill
Ronnie Hill Ministries

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure I recommend Dr. Ronnie Hill as a speaker for school assembly programs. Dr. Hill spoke with 300 7th grade students at our school recently. His presentation to our students was one of the best I have seen in years. He kept the students' undivided attention during his most timely and effective program.

Dr. Hill's message, encouraging and motivating students to abstain from drug and alcohol use, as well as the importance of getting an education, is presented in a fresh and dynamic way. He has a unique ability of effectively communicating his message to students of all ages.

If your school is seeking a new and fresh approach to addressing these matters with your students, Dr. Ronnie Hill is certainly worth your utmost consideration.

Sincerely



Stephen J. Haffly
Principal

Hardin County Middle School
Savannah, TN

MEMBER SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & SCHOOLS





A L E

Alternative Learning Environment of Garland County

September 17, 2003

Dr. Ronnie Hill
Post Office Box 161219
Fort Worth, TX 76161-1219

Dear Dr. Hill:

It is my pleasure to inform you that our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed your presentation on September 16, 2003.

As you know, our student population is classified as "at-risk." These children come to us from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. I was initially apprehensive about your speaking to our student body, but you were able to convey your message in such a manner as to both educate and entertain concerning the use of alcohol and drugs.

I was also concerned that there would be overt religious overtones to your story, but you put to rest those fears as well. Your personal presentation would be appropriate for any student body, whether religious or secular.

Your narrative about your personal experiences kept my students' attention. Your humor, sound effects, and drama drew our kids into your story. I believe they came away with a better understanding of the devastating effects of substance abuse.

I would not hesitate to recommend your presentation to any other school district.

Sincerely,

Jim Morgan, Director
Alternative Learning Environment of Garland County

Summit School
1425 Greenwood Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
Phone: 501-620-7830
Fax: 501-620-7833

Spring Street/Vista
1201 Spring St.
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Phone: 501-620-7842
Fax: 501-620-7843

Juvenile Detention
Center Classroom
222 Woodbine
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Phone: 501-622-3647
Fax: 501-623-1320



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**

**RAMSTEIN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL
CCSH-R
Unit 3240, Box 445
APO AE 09094**

08 August 2003

**Mr. Ronnie Hill
PO Box 161219
Ft. Worth, TX 76161-1219**

Dear Ronnie:

Very belated though this letter of appreciation may be, I want you to know how much we at Ramstein American High School appreciated your visit here on 17 September 2002. Nearly an entire year has passed since we had the pleasure of welcoming you to our school, but you certainly have been remembered! I extend my personal apologies to you for being so delinquent in letting you know how we feel and of your success.

The two separate sessions you presented to our students and teachers were very well received, you can be sure. It was clear when noting their reactions and after-assembly chatter that you had a positive and rewarding impact on all our kids. For that—as well as for the fact that you so willingly shared your time and thoughts with us—we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

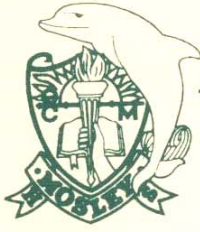
While I am sure that you receive dozens of letters like this one, I want to let lend our voice to the chorus singing your praises. We extend a thousand thanks to you for your graciousness and good will. Please feel free to return to Ramstein American High School when you are once again in our part of the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Ferg-Carter", is positioned above the typed name.

**Barbara Ferg-Carter
Principal**

**Cc: Dr. Archie Bates, Superintendent, DSO Kaiserslautern
Ms. Ofelia Robles, Assistant Principal
Dr. Tom Waters, Assistant Principal
Ms. Dorothy King, Assistant Principal**



A. Crawford Mosley High School

501 Mosley Drive * Lynn Haven, Florida 32444-5609 * Phone (850) 872-4400
FAX: Administrative (850) 872-4453 * Guidance (850) 872-4451

Principal
William V. Husfelt, III

Assistant Principals
Brooke Loyed
Mackie Owens

Administrative Assistants

Antonius Barnes
Tom Buttermore
Tim Keiffer
Ed Sheffield
Barbara Thomas

April 11, 2001

Dear Ronnie:

Over the years, we have had many speakers come to our school for both motivation and entertainment. Yesterday, you delivered two different presentations to four different grades. Your style was certainly upbeat, positive, and refreshing!

There is not enough room on this page to express my total respect for what your presentation is doing for the youth of this country. I am writing this letter to thank you not only for your message, but also for your obvious sincerity in your delivery.

You have an exceptional ability for dealing with kids and dealing with them in a way they understand. Your message is something we repeat day-in and day-out, but students will more likely listen to you because of your age and presence. The friendliness with which you shared your message was a model for all of us.

Your life is a testament to your faith; you walk the talk. Without a doubt, you have a gift and our students certainly have benefited. Please stay in touch and let us know about your successes.

From our kids, our staff, our parents, and our community, thanks for caring and for sharing.

GO FINS!

Bill Husfelt
Principal

BUILDING FOR THE 21st CENTURY... ONE STUDENT AT A TIME



MERIDIANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Terry Davis, Principal

November 20, 2000

To whom it may concern,

The following is some information that might be of help to you in planning for your school assemblies.

Ronnie Hill recently conducted an assembly with our students at Meridianville Middle School. I was extremely pleased with his presentation. As a person, Mr. Hill seemed to really connect with the kids. The content of his presentation was well thought out, appropriate for the age group, and respectful of the church/state boundaries. It included illustrations, stories, etc. that promoted good character and good decision making in all aspects of a middle schooler's life. Surprisingly, a big focus was academically oriented. I might add that I was especially pleased with the manner in which he kept 600+ seventh and eighth graders' attention. All in all I felt our time spent out of class was beneficial.

As you well know we have a tremendous responsibility as administrators to be very careful with assemblies and the manner in which they are conducted. We also have a responsibility to teach character and motivate students as much as possible. Sometimes reaching this safe balance is difficult. With this in mind, I would recommend Ronnie Hill as a speaker for school assemblies. Based on my experience with him recently, he would fit within the safe realm that we all are looking for.

Sincerely,

Terry Davis
Principal

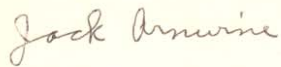
Pittsburg High School

300 Texas Street
Pittsburg, Texas 75686
903/856-3646
FAX: 903/855-3325

Jack Arnwine
Principal

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Ronnie Hill of Ronnie Hill Ministries, as an assembly speaker at all levels of public schools. He is a very dynamic speaker and delivers an excellent message aimed at drugs and staying in school. His age and style of presentation helps in identifying with youth and their problems. Ronnie has spoken in our schools and we know first-hand of his special abilities in relating to students. If you are searching for someone who can speak to students about these matters and hold their attention, then Ronnie Hill should be given all due consideration. Thank you for your time.



Jack Arnwine
Principal
Pittsburg High School
Pittsburg, Tx.



Northridge High School

ROUTE 2, 6066 JOHNSTOWN-UTICA ROAD N. W.
JOHNSTOWN, OHIO 43031

740-967-6651
1-888-295-6651

Sue Murphy, Principal

To Whom It May Concern,

On November 1, 1999 over 400 students and I were privileged to hear Mr. Ronnie Hill speak. His anti-drug and alcohol, and pro education speech, held us spell bound. He has an uncanny ability to relate to teenagers about the current problems with which many of them must deal.

Ronnie was able to deliver this highly motivational and inspirational message without crossing those questionable lines between church and state. The content of his presentation is so interesting that crowd control is never an issue.

It is without reservation that I recommend Ronnie Hill as a speaker for high school students. His material is age and grade level appropriate. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (740) 967-6651. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Murphy".

Sue Murphy
Principal
Northridge High School

Union City High School

Kerry O'Steen
Principal



1305 High School Drive
Union City, Tennessee 38261
Phone: (901) 885-2373
Fax: (901) 885-5011

September 29, 1999

To: Ronnie Hill
Re: Union City High School Assembly

Dear Ronnie,

On behalf of the students and staff at Union City High School, I want to say thanks. Your program was top-notch and very well received by all who attended.

The message was clear and the delivery great. Please feel free to use me as a source of recommendation for programs in the future.

Again, thank and best wishes to you.

Kerry O'Steen

Kerry O'Steen
Principal

KO/pat



JERRY STEWART
PRINCIPAL

Gaston School

ROUTE 6
GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35999

TELEPHONE
(205) 547-8828

To Whom It May Concern:

Ronnie Hill's program on drugs and alcohol was very beneficial to our high school students. He presented the students with the necessary factual information in an entertaining way. This method of presentation allowed him to relate well to the students. He stressed the setting of goals and not allowing peer pressure to cause straying from those goals.

I would recommend his program to any high school age group of students.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stewart
Principal

JS:nw

Dr. Ronnie Hill

Assembly Program

It is good to be with you all. Like I said, I'm from Dallas, Texas and I'm looking forward to being here. I want you to know that I'm not here to do a typical assembly because when I was in high school we had these guys come and do these drug and alcohol things. You know the guys I'm talking about. They're about 100 years old, have a three-piece suit on and say, 'Boys and girls, you shouldn't do drugs.' And the man thinks Pepto-Bismol is a drug. There were guys who went to my high school that got high before school, during school, and after school. That is why they thought there was a big sign out front that said HIGH school. So I want you to know that I'm not here to slam dunk you or tell you how sorry you are for doing drugs and alcohol. I'm not here to do that I'm here to tell you three things that helped me all the way through high school and college to stay off drugs and alcohol. As a matter of fact, to this day I have not had one drop of alcohol in my body, or any form of drug. I haven't had any need for it.

Everybody here knows who Ice T is. Ice T was being interviewed by Kurt Louder on MTV. And Kurt asked Ice T, "Why have you never done drugs?" And Ice T said, "Well, I'd have people come up to me and say, 'Ice T, do this drug man, it'll make you feel good.'" He said, "I already feel good." They'd say, "Well Ice T, do this drug man. It'll help you catch women." He said, "I already have women." You don't need drugs and alcohol to make you popular or to make you feel good. But I know what you are thinking. You're sitting there thinking, "OK, Ronnie, how can you sit here and tell us not to do drugs and alcohol if you have never done it?" That's a valid question. And I'll tell you how I can tell you. It's because when I was a young boy growing up, I saw alcohol almost totally destroy my family. When I saw that happen to my family, I vowed that I would never let it happen to me and my family. I've got three things that I believe will help you be a success.

First of all, this. Make sure that you have friends you can count on. Now, I have a little brother. His name is Allen, but we call him Big Al. And the reason we call him Big Al is because when he was real little he had this little bitty body and a big old mop head - this watermelon head. When we were growing up, Big Al would do whatever I said because I was his big brother. We were sitting in the house one day and I was about eight years old and he was about six years old. We were sitting in the house watching *The Little Rascals*. You've all seen *The Little Rascals*, right? So you know who Buckwheat is. And they had Petey. Peter was the dog with the ring around his eye. Remember that dog? Well, one day Buckwheat got Petey, put

him in a box. He tied a rope around the box. He climbed up in the tree house and Buckwheat started pulling Petey in this box up into the tree house. I looked at Big Al and said, "Hey, Big Al, I'm going do you like Buckwheat's doing Petey." Big Al goes, 'Okay.' So we go outside and I'm trying to find a box big enough for Big Al's head - can't find a box big enough for his head. So I find this plastic swing tire thing. I tied a rope around it. Now the rope was only ten feet long, but our tree house was at least twenty feet up in the air. So, I had to get another rope to tie on the first one so it would be long enough to go all the way to the ground. I get up in the tree house and I put Big Al in the box and start letting him down. It's going pretty good at first. Big Al's hanging about ten feet in the air - about as high as a basketball rim. And you know those two ropes I tied together? They come untied. Big Al hit the ground. He just laid there. He didn't cry, didn't squall, and didn't do anything. I thought, "Oh boy, I killed my brother." I said, "Big Al, Big Al, wake up!" Big Al just laid there hanging on to the tire. I looked around and didn't see my mom anywhere, so I hit him to see if he would move. Big Al went, "Weeeeeuuuu." I said, "Big Al, shhh, I'll give you a candy bar, just don't cry, don't cry." He's bawling and my mama's in the house. It's in the middle of summer. So she's in the house, the windows are closed, AC's on. She's in the kitchen and she hears Big Al outside bawling his head off. She throws open the door, comes out and says, "Ronnie, what did you do to Big Al?" I said, "Mom, I did nothing. That little man was playing in the tree and I told him to get out of the tree." She said, "Ronnie, get in the station wagon." We had this big, huge, honking, dodo brown station wagon. We throw Big Al in the back seat and we take off to the hospital. We get to the hospital. When we get to the hospital nurses are coming from everywhere to see Big Al. They thought he was the cutest little thing they had ever seen in their entire lives- little bitty body and a big mop head. They where fascinated with his head. They take him into the x-ray room, taking pictures of his head. What they found out was that he had a concussion. It wasn't that big of a deal, he just had a big knot on his head. It didn't kill him or anything. But he would still do whatever I said because I was his big brother. I'm not kidding.

Not three weeks later I'm sitting in the house again watching The Little Rascals by myself because Big Al wouldn't watch it with me anymore. My mom comes up to me and says, "Ronnie, I need you to go burn the trash." I said, "Mom, it's Big Al's turn to bum the trash." She said, "Ronnie, I told you to go burn the trash!" When your mom starts talking like a ventriloquist, you better do what she says. So, I go outside and I find Big Al. I said, "Big Al, mom told us to go burn the trash," Big Al says, "Okay." I told him, "Go around and get all the trash bags. I've got the matches so I'll meet you out back." So we go out back and I said, "Now Big Al, I discovered something." Big Al says, "What?" I said, "If you throw aerosol cans and shaving cream bottles in the fire, they blow up." Big Al goes, "Like the 4th of

July? " I said, "Yeh, like the 4th of July. "So he starts throwing all kinds of aerosol cans in the fire. I mean, he is looking for them all over the place. We've got this big, huge, honking fire going. I said, "Big Al, come here, little man, come here." He said, "What?" I said, "We've got to hide," He goes, "Oh, okay." So we go over here and we're hiding behind this trash can. Half of Big Al's mop head is sticking out one side. We're sitting there and all of a sudden we hear this BLOOB and I said, "Big Al, go check it." He goes, "Okay." So he walks out from behind this trashcan and walks up and looks at the fire and then looks back at me. He says, "Ronnie, you know what it was?" I said, "What?" He said, "It was a two-liter plastic coke bottle. It just popped." I said, "Oh." About that time, BOOM! The shaving cream in the fire blew up. Shaving cream went everywhere and Big Al was on fire! The little man was dancing around with his mop head. Smoke's going everywhere. I'm going, "Big Al, be still man, I'll put you out! " I mean, he gets close to where the house was and SHOOM, he was gone. Guys, I had never seen those little legs carry that big mop head so fast in my life. I'm running, yelling, "Big Al, I'll put you out!" He beats me to the house and throws open the back door. The back door leads right into the kitchen. My mom's in the kitchen cooking. She freaks out when sees Big Al's on fire. She takes a pitcher of sweet tea. BOOSH! She puts him out. Big Al's still smoldering. We're patting him on the head. Big Al's going, "Ronnie blew me up, Ronnie blew me up!" I'm going, "Big Al, shut up, I'll do it again." My mom says, "Ronnie, station wagon." So we go get in the station wagon and this is no joke, on the way to the hospital in "Dodo Brown" we are having to roll down the windows because Big Al is stinking so bad. We get to the emergency room. You want me to tell you what happened? A shaving cream bottle blew up. The shaving cream burned and melted into his left arm from his wrist to his elbow and also into his scalp. They had to take a knife and cut it off of his scalp and off of his arm in the emergency room. He still has scares to this day because of that. I mean, I used to do all kinds of things to him when we were growing up. One time I shot him in the rear with a pellet gun just to see how high he would jump. I was always doing something. But you see, that's when we were kids. He finally realized. He put two and two together. He was kind-of slow at first, but he finally caught on. He thought, "If I keep doing what Ronnie tells me to do, I am going to the hospital." So he quit doing it. I mean, he quit doing what I would tell him to do. But that's when we were kids. He knows now that he can trust me. He knows that it doesn't matter if he has a problem at two o'clock in the morning. All he has to do is pick up the phone and call me and I will be there for him. Make sure that you have those kinds of friends. Friends that will push you forward to succeed. Not friends that will pull you down and drag you under. See, I know what you're thinking. I was hard on Big Al when we were growing up, and I was. I will be honest with you about that. But the thing about it is that I made it up to him. When Big Al got married three years ago, I sent he and his

wife to Cancun for their honeymoon, all expenses paid. So I made it up to him. See, he knows now that he can trust me. Make sure that you have those kinds of friends.

Second of all, this, don't follow the crowd. Now can we be honest? There are a lot of people following the crowd these days, right? Look at the alcohol industry. Let me tell you something about the alcohol industry. Last year the alcohol industry spent 4.3 billion, not million, billion dollars on commercials trying to get you and me to drink. Now, that's a lot of money-just on commercials. Now, they do have the best commercials don't they? I mean you think about this. Are the frogs not the most hilarious things and the lizards? It's funny. They ought to. They spend the most money on them. You know what hacks me off? You ought to notice if you look in the newspaper almost every day your noticing that the tobacco industry is getting slam- dunked all over the nation for targeting students and younger in their commercials and their ads, right? And they're losing all these lawsuits and having to pay millions and millions and millions of dollars to all these states, all the medical insurance and all that kind of stuff because they have been targeting students forever. Well, what makes me so mad about it is that we have a double standard in this country. Because see, we're slamming the tobacco industry but the alcohol industry has been doing the same thing. For junior high and younger, do you know what the first commercial that comes to mind, out of all the other commercials, for a junior high student and younger, do you know the first commercial that comes to mind that they think of axe the Budweiser frogs. That's the first thing. Now you tell me that they're trying to target your parents... with frogs. I don't think so. But the thing about it is this. Now ladies, I want to talk to all the ladies here. Ladies, what does the alcohol industry use to appeal to you as women to get you to drink their alcohol? You said men, right? They don't use boys do they? Noooo! They use these jock, stud athletes that have got muscles everywhere. I mean, that's what they use. Muscles are coming out the top of their head. Just BOOM, dude is a walking muscle. He's standing by a red convertible saying, "Girls, you want to go out with me, you gotta drink Bud." Now, let me talk to all the men in the house. Look at me. Men, what do they use to appeal to us to get us to drink? They normally appeal to us with women, right? These women, and I'm not talking about just your girl next door, I am talking full fledge women. Right? Did you notice on these alcohol commercials, these women, they can't drink alcohol in regular clothes like anybody else can? I mean, it's like a law. If a woman is on a beer commercial, let's say she's got regular clothes on, she goes over to pick up a beer bottle, picks up the beer bottle and POOF, bikini! She puts the beer bottle down and POOF, regular clothes. That's what they use. I'm going to get serious with you for a second because I want to tell you what hacks me off. The alcohol industry, they never show you the flip side. I mean, they just don't. They're always showing everybody partying and having a good time,

smiling, all that kind of stuff. But they don't show you accident scene where some little boy or some little girl, it could be your little brother or little sister, is killed in a car accident because a drunk driver hit them. They don't show that. And that just hacks me off. It hacks me off when somebody gets behind the wheel of a car driving drunk. Because a lot of people think it's cute. You know what? It kills people. And I take it serious. As a matter of fact, two weeks ago I was eating in Ft. Worth at a Mexican restaurant and when I was walking out of the restaurant, there was valet parking down at the front, and there was a guy coming out of the restaurant. Now, I know he had already had at least three margaritas. And while he was waiting on the valet to bring him his car, he could barely stand up. He had to lean on the podium like this. And he was joking about it. He thought it was funny and cute. You know what I did? I told the valet, I said, "You tell that guy that if he gets in that car driving and his girlfriend doesn't drive, I will call the police on him. Tell him that." So the valet told him and his girlfriend was standing right there. This man's about fifty. He gets in the car. She says, "Honey, come on, get out, let me drive, it's no big deal." His girlfriend was sober. He goes, "No, get in the car." See, that was her first mistake, getting in the car with him. Second mistake is that he went and drove off the parking lot and I went and called the police. I got his license plate number, the whole nine yards. Because you know, I don't play. Because you know what that could be? He could be driving down the road and kill somebody in my family. And I'm not going to let that happen. And I get hacked off about it.

See, when I was in high school my freshman and sophomore years, my high school was no bigger than this section right here totally full. That's how small my school was my freshman and sophomore years. In two years, we had five people killed because of drinking and driving, Five. The first was a guy by the name of Rowdy Bean. You'd think everybody'd learn after Rowdy, but no. He was a senior. He played second base on our varsity baseball team. I played baseball with him. After a ball game one Friday night, Rowdy went out drinking and partying. He was so drunk by midnight, he decided to drive home. His friends went ahead and let him drive home. They could have driven him home, but no, they went ahead and let him drive home by himself. He was one mile from crawling into his bed and going to sleep that night. But between Rowdy and his pillow was a hairpin curve that you should take maximum speed at 15 miles per hour. Police estimate that he was going over 80 miles per hour in his truck. When his truck approached the hairpin curve, his truck went airborne on the guardrail. His truck did a nosedive into a pond that was at the bottom of that hill. And the next morning Rowdy's swollen, bloated body was found pinned underneath the steering wheel of his truck, upside-down, twenty-five feet deep in the bottom of that pond. Our whole baseball team, we were standing on the banks when the diver went down to get him the next morning. His mom, and his

dad, and his little sister were standing up on the road. When the divers finally cut him out and got him loose from underneath his truck, his body floated to the surface. When his body got to the surface he was so bloated, and so mutilated, you couldn't even recognize whom he was. And his little sister and his mom started screaming their head off. See; put that on an alcohol commercial. They don't show you that side. You see guys; everybody thinks it's so cool. I'm gonna tell you something else. Not only could it cost you your life, driving drunk. Let me tell you something else it can cost you. There was a guy in Florida. I was doing an assembly. There was a guy sitting on the front, left-hand section of the assembly. And he was in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the neck down. His buddy, the week before, had run off the road and was killed in a car wreck driving drunk. A week later, he is doing the exact same thing. He runs off the road driving drunk, but except this time he hits another car, kills somebody in the car. It paralyzes him from the neck down. So he's in a wheelchair. All his friends that were girls were all crying during the assembly. Because not only did he paralyze himself from the neck down, but he's also killed somebody and he's up on manslaughter charges. He's going to go to prison. So not only is he in his own prison, being paralyzed, he's also going to a physical prison for killing someone. That's all it takes is one time one night. You say, "Well Ronnie, I don't get that drunk. I mean, I hang out with people that do that, but I don't, I'm always in control." You know what all you people that drink and party on the weekends; you know what the national average says? It says that sixty to seventy percent of you are alcoholics and don't even know it. Sixty to seventy percent that party on the weekends. And not only that. You say, "Well Ronnie, I don't get that drunk." Well, there was a girl in the high school I went to those two years. The last one was a girl by the name of Shauna. Shauna was a freshman. Shauna was in ninth grade. She was dating a senior. She went to a party with her boyfriend on a Saturday night. She did not have one drop of alcohol at the party that night. She was just at the party. She didn't have one drop of it. Her boyfriend got wasted. After the party was over, her boyfriend was driving a truck home. She was right beside him and her boyfriend's best friend was in the passenger seat. On the way home he was driving his truck at speeds of over 100 miles per hour going down a hill. He went around a curve and lost control of his truck. He ran off into a ditch. Truck started flipping end over end. He was on one side of the truck. His best friend was on the other side of the truck. And Shauna, who was in ninth grade and did not have one drop of alcohol that night, was thrown face-first through the windshield of that truck, over the hood. The truck came down on top of her, crushed her body, and killed her on the scene. You know what happened to her boyfriend? Not one scratch. Her boyfriend's best friend? Just a few bruises. Shauna's boyfriend did the drinking. He did the driving and Shauna paid the price by doing the dying. That's all it take is one time, one night, with the wrong person, and it could cost you your life. Don't even hang out

with people like that. Hey, how would you like to be her boyfriend guys, with this weight on your shoulders for the rest of your life, knowing that you are responsible for killing your girlfriend? See, I want to tell you something. That stuff is not even cute to me. A lot of people think it's funny and it's cute and all that kind of stuff. I think alcoholics are a big joke. I mean, it's not even cool. I don't understand why people think it's cool. Now, I'm going to tell you this. Don't follow the crowd because it could cost you your life. And don't forget that.

Last thing. I want to talk about one word in here that we all like. Do you all like money? I thought we did. All right, then here's what I'm going to do. [Calls two students out of the audience, Ben and Mimi.] I'm going to show you the money. You know, it's been a big phrase the last couple of years. I'm going to show you the money. Here's what we are going to do. Statistics say most people who drop out of school drop out right after their sophomore year in high school. That would be their junior year. So, for the sake of this illustration, we're going to make both of them juniors in high school. All right, here's what we are going to do. Ben is going to be my high school drop out. He is sick and tired of school. He is tired of teachers telling him what to do. He's tired of doing homework. So he's going to drop out. He heard that he could get a job working in construction making thirty thousand dollars a year. Now, most people don't make that kind of money dropping out of school. I'm just being nice cause he's up here being my dropout. All right, now, so he works two years. I mean working hard for his money. He's making thirty thousand dollars a year for two years. That's sixty thousand dollars. But he has to work over-time - forty, fifty, sixty hours a week. He's tired, but he's got the money. But Mimi here, on the other hand, realizes the only way to get some serious cash flow is to get her education. And I mean make some good grades while she is doing it. So she's studying, making good grades while she is going to school. As a matter of fact, she is involved in all the school activities. You know, the dances, the proms, the football games, the baseball games, and all that kind of stuff. And Ben, he's missing out on all this. He can go to football games, but that's only if he can get off work. I mean, he's working hard. Now, Mimi gets out of high school with her high school diploma. She has made no money. He has made sixty thousand dollars. They both go to the retirement age of 65. By the time they retire, who do you think will make the most money? Do you all realize how much sixty thousand dollars is? That's a lot of money to spite somebody. Mimi will make the most money. Do you know what the national average says that a high school graduate will make over a high school drop out? Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in their lifetime. That is a quarter of a million dollars. He might have sixty thousand dollars right now, but she's going to make two hundred and fifty thousand dollars more than he is, and she doesn't even have to work those two years. And all these people think that people are smart for

dropping out of school. Don't think so! By the way girls, that's another reason not to go ahead and get drunk and stuff. I don't know if you all saw that movie not too long ago on TV where they had the college girl who went to a frat party or something and they got her drunk and wasted and she got raped. That's why a lot of girls have to drop out of school because they get pregnant. So, you think about that too. All right, so now, Mimi, here's what she's going to do. She not only graduates from high school, she is going to go to college. And I know what some of you all are thinking. You're thinking, "Man, when I get out of high school, that is it! Forget the rest of school. That is it for me." Hey, I want to tell you this. You will have more fun at college than you will your entire life. As a matter of fact, you will make more friends in college than you will probably make the rest of your life. As a matter of fact, some of you all might meet your husband or wife in college. I didn't happen to me, but that is what I've heard. OK, so, Mimi goes to school four more years making good grades. As a matter of fact, she made such good grades in high school that you know what they did? They gave her a full ride scholarship- paid for an apartment, paid for meals, paid for books, tuition, the whole nine yards. You all want to get out of the house? You want somebody to pay for it? Make good grades right now and they'll do it. So she goes to college and gets a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree. She gets a job. He's worked four years, while she was in there, making thirty thousand dollars a year for four years. That's one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, plus he made sixty thousand while she was in high school. That is one hundred and eighty thousand dollars that he makes before she gets out and makes one dime. But he has worked hard for six years. By the time they retire, who do you think is going to make the most money? We are talking one hundred and eighty thousand dollars. That's a lot of money. Mimi will make the most though. The national average says that a college graduate in their lifetime will make two times the money over a high school drop out. On the average, two times as much. That means she will be going up to the pay check window, for example, and say, "Boss, give me a thousand dollars this week." He'll be going up and saying, "Boss, give me five hundred dollars this week." That's the difference that we are talking about. You all see that? Thanks a lot you guys. Give them a hand. [Mimi and Ben go sit back down]. Now, listen. I am not telling you all to do something that I have not done myself. I graduated from high school. I was salutatorian of my class. I went on from there and got a Bachelor of Arts degree. I went on from there and got a ninety-two hour Master's degree, and I got a Doctorate's degree. I believe in education, all right. Now here, I am going to tell you this story. And I am so serious about this story that if you don't believe the story I'm about to tell you, I will give my best friend's name and phone number to your principal and he can call him and verify this story. I'm not blowing a bunch of smoke. My best friend's name is Wayne Epperson. He lives in East Tennessee. Wayne grew up in a very, very poor family. As a matter of fact, he

had five brothers and sisters. They lived in a two-bedroom house. Mom and dad slept in one bedroom. All the brothers and sisters slept in the other bedroom. They were so poor, that when Wayne was growing up he only had two shirts to choose from and one pair of blue jeans. That was it. People laughed at him, made fun of him, called him names. But you know what? When he was a junior in high school he decided no longer was he going to let the circumstances he was in dictate his future. He could have blamed everything on society, you know like a lot of people do. Saying, "Well, its society's fault we're down in this condition." Or, "It's mom and dad's fault or so-and-so." But he didn't. He knew the only way out was to get his education. But nobody in his family had ever gone to college. His family couldn't afford for him to go to college, so when he was a junior, he started working at McDonalds every day after school to save up money to go to college. By the time he graduated from high school, he didn't have enough money saved up, so he applied for financial aid, student grants, and government loans, which everybody in this room can do. With all that he was able to go to college. My best friend, he is now thirty-six. He lives in a five hundred thousand dollar house on Boon Lake and his home is paid for in cash. His home is a three-story home. It has two kitchens in it. He has a four-car garage. He has a detached two-car garage. Above his detached two car garage, he built an apartment with another full kitchen, not counting the two over there, a living room, a bedroom, and a bathroom for his parents to move out of their house so they don't have to make another rent payment for the rest of their lives. Underneath his boat dock he has a brand new Ski Nautique ski competition boat. It's a thirty thousand dollar boat, paid for. Two Kawasaki jet skis 750 XI. One sit down and one standup. Both of them bad to the bone. I know because I wrecked one of them last summer. He drives a brand new Yukon four wheel drive and his wife drives a brand new white Mercedes. Now I'm going to tell you something. You say, "What did he do? Did he win the lottery?" No, he didn't win the lottery. Do you want me to tell you what he did? With his education he got out and started managing three Bo Jangle fast food restaurant chicken stores. Go ahead and laugh. As of last year, those three stores were bringing in over three million dollars a year. He is the owner of all three of them now as of last year. Let me tell you something students. What is so ironic about this whole story is that Wayne has a brother named Landon. Landon is my age. Landon grew up in the same family, same home, same circumstances. Landon, though, decided that school wasn't all that important. So he dropped out of school. As a matter of fact, he got a job working for the city. He had a wife and had a kid. He started hanging out with the wrong crowd. He got involved in alcohol. Then alcohol led to dope. Then the dope led to selling the dope. He got busted selling dope on video. So what they did was, they threw him in jail, and before he could get out, he had to sell his trailer house to try and pay his lawyer fees to get him out of jail. He is now out of jail, trial pending, and he is living with his in-laws. Two

brothers. Same home, same family, same circumstances. One chose not to do drugs and alcohol and to get his education. The other, even though the other brother tried to help him over and over again, decided school was not important, got involved in drugs and alcohol, and look at the two situations. Students, it is your choice. The administration and the teachers, they are here to help you. But they can't hand it to you on a silver platter. You have got to make the grades and you have got to decide to make the right choices. It is your decision whether you are going to be a winner or a loser.