

ANDRE STUCKEY

WORD COUNT: 4,000

## BRIDGING THE GAP

IN ORDER TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES THAT SEPARATES

US WE MUST FIRST FIND THE SIMILARITIES THAT UNITES US BY ADVOCATING, AND PROMOTING THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES WE'VE MADE AS A SOCIETY, AND MAKING SURE ALL PEOPLE AND AREAS ARE EQUALLY APART OF THIS PROCESS.

CASE IN POINT, IN 1998 I MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY TO LIVE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER SHORTLY AFTER DROPPING OUT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY.

AFTER A BRIEF STINT LIVING WITH THIS FAMILY MEMBER I DECIDED TO MOVE BUT BECAUSE I DIDNT WANT TO FOLLOW HOUSE RULES, INSTEAD FOCUSING MY ATTENTION ON EXTENSIVE PARTYING, LIVING THE "STREET LIFE" AND ENGAGING IN GANG ACTIVITIES (~~AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES~~) FOR MONEY REASONS.

I EVENTUALLY MOVED IN WITH A GIRLFRIEND WHO LIVED IN A HOTEL, ON W. 47<sup>TH</sup> STREET, IN BETWEEN 8<sup>TH</sup> AND 9<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE CALLED THE SHERMAN HOTEL (STILL THERE!) IN THE HELL'S KITCHEN SECTION OF MANHATTAN, KNOWN FOR EXTENSIVE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES