



UK Dow Jones Workshop 2009

### **Profile of Drucilla Renee' Thompson**

**By: Ashley Scoby**

Drucilla Renee' Thompson packs a lot of personality into a 4' 8" frame. Her interests include everything from cooking to running track, and even she describes herself as being "energetic" and "talkative." Boring moments rarely exist when spending time with "Dru."

Drucilla is also a motivated person. She will be a senior at Whitehaven High School in Memphis, Tenn., this fall, and she already knows exactly what she wants out of life.

Going to college is a first priority for her, where she wants to major in journalism and business. She plans to receive these degrees from either the University of Kentucky or Middle Tennessee State University.

After graduating from college, Dru wants to become a news anchor, as well as open a restaurant called "D.Renee." Dru says that she wants to be a news anchor because she wants to "give information out to the people." Opening a restaurant is a dream of hers because of her interests in cooking and baking. Her grandmother was the one that instilled these interests in Dru at an early age; she actually started cooking when she was about 10 years old.

Dru also enjoys playing volleyball, cheerleading and running track. "I'm a very active person – you're not going to see me sitting around watching TV," Dru explained. Although her lack of interest in watching television may seem contradictory because of her desire to one day be part of a TV station, Dru simply wants to stay active. "Couch potato" is not part of her personality by any means – she would rather be out having fun, while also preparing herself for her future.

Dru's interests have proven to be very diverse, and this has made her into the person that she is today. Her outgoing nature and her motivation have given her the potential to be a very successful newswoman and entrepreneur one day.

*Note: Dru's essay received honorable mention honors in the First Amendment essay competition.*

## **The First Amendment**

### **By Drucilla Thompson**

The First Amendment guarantees us the freedoms of speech, of religion, of the press, to petition the government and the right to assemble peaceably. I feel that young people in the United States do not understand the significance of the First Amendment. Notably, I feel that young black people take the First Amendment for granted. For a multitude of reasons, they do not know how the civil rights movement helped black people actually be able to exercise their First Amendment right of freedom of speech, of the press, and to petition the government.

Young black people take the First Amendment for granted because they were born with the right to say what they want in front of whom they want without really having any real consequences. Older and wiser black men and women appreciate the First Amendment more because when they were growing up most times when they exercised their freedom of speech they suffered consequences that could mean they were put in jail lynched, or killed some other way. One example of this is a young boy named Emmett Till who, while visiting his grandfather in Money, Miss., in 1955, was killed by two Caucasian men: one an owner of a grocery store, the other the store owner's brother. They abducted, beat, and shot Emmett Till because it was said that the young boy made a comment to and whistled at the grocery store owner's wife. If this is not a tragedy, I do not know what is. This young boy was killed because he exercised his First Amendment right of freedom of speech.

Young black people do not know what it means to be beaten, get blasted by water hoses and chased by dogs -- all things done by police on Bloody Sunday, an event where many innocent people were killed and injured coming together for Civil Rights. Moreover, police, people who are supposed to protect the community no matter what color you are, did these actions. Police attacked innocent people because they were petitioning the South's state and local governments to have Jim Crow eliminated in the South. Young black people today can all join together and walk and not be executed or injured because they are using the First Amendment right to assemble peaceably.

Last but not least, young black people can start a newspaper and not have to deal with people trying to kill them or burn their establishment all because of them publishing a weekly newspaper. This was not the same story for Charles Tisdale, a publisher for The Jackson Advocate in Jackson, Miss. The office of the Jackson Advocate was firebombed, riddled with bullets, burglarized, ransacked, firebombed again, and Mr. Tisdale received many threats on his life. All this was done because Mr. Tisdale exercised the First Amendment of freedom of the press.

Many young black people really do not understand the significance of the First Amendment. I believe that young black people would better appreciate the First Amendment if they knew more about the history of the First Amendment in our country. If they knew more about what it was like before the First Amendment was applied equally regardless of race, then they would better understand the significance of the First Amendment.

