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**HEADLINE:** TELEVISION REVIEW;  
Wisdom Won Behind Bars: 'It's Us Who's Killing Us'

**BYLINE:** By WALTER GOODMAN

**BODY:**

When we meet Aundrey Burno, he is behind bars in the District of Columbia jail, talking through a towel that he wears as a mask. In later meetings with Marc **Levin** and Daphne Pinkerson, producers of "**Thug Life** in D.C.," Mr. Burno takes off the mask, but he never stops talking.

This 17-year-old has one subject: the rules of street life that require quick and brutal retaliation to any threat or perceived slight. It's not edifying talk, but as this incisive HBO documentary follows Mr. Burno through the justice system, where so many of the capital's young black men spend time, you can detect the desperation behind the posturing.

The jail's warden and a guard reflect on the inmates with stern sympathy, and Mr. Burno's mother tries to give this son who never knew his father the little support she can. But the one person who seems to reach him is his younger brother, Kevin, who he fears will end up in jail. In quiet conversations about the fate of the youths they know, he tells Kevin, who is not yet in the dangerous teens, "It's us who's killing us." He displays his manacles and says, "You can't be me. . . . You can be better than me."

As he strives to get through to Kevin, Mr. Burno, who spends 23 hours a day behind bars because he stabbed another inmate, seems to be coming to a realization that his prized thug image has not served him very well.

Sentenced to 25 years to life for trying to murder a police officer, he is last seen on his way to a maximum-security institution in another state. He and this unsparing report leave the fragile hope that Kevin

will not follow.

#### MEDIA MATTERS

PBS, tonight

(Channel 13, New York, at 10)

A new season of public television's now-and-then media series begins tonight with brief reports from here and there. Main attention is given by Alex Jones, the earnest host, to an examination of a conflict between The Cincinnati Enquirer and Chiquita Brands International, based in that city. At issue is a reporter's use of purloined voice-mail messages in an extended expose of Chiquita. Since all the principals in the case are bound to silence by an out-of-court settlement in which the newspaper came out second best, we hear mostly from people with more opinions than information.

Also on tonight's bill: a frothy visit by American cartoonists to Cuba; a look at efforts to revitalize the Times Mirror Corporation, and results of a survey on journalistic ethics. Attention has evidently been paid to snazzing up the look of the series; further attention to the content couldn't hurt.

#### **THUG LIFE IN D.C.**

HBO, tonight at 11

A film by Blowback Productions Inc. Produced by Marc **Levin** and Daphne Pinkerson; directed by Marc **Levin**; edited by Brian Cotnoir; Mark Benjamin, director of photography. For HBO: Nancy Abraham, supervising producer; Sheila Nevins, executive producer.

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**GRAPHIC:** Photo: Aundrey Burno, the subject of a documentary on HBO tonight. (Walter Woodward/HBO)

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