

NEXUS

Mark Krueger

Nexus, Definition:

- 1.) Connection, link
- 2.) a connected group or series

For this column:

- 1.) a series of interconnected moments, actions, and attitudes
- 2.) The name of an agency with several programs for troubled and/or at-risk children and youth

Clean Up

On the playground in the center of the city, Hank, a Nexus youth worker, talks to a local gang leader, Troy, a restless looking young man.

"How about getting your members to help us with this neighborhood clean-up project?" Hank asks.

"Shit man, what you trying to do, get a grant?" Troy leans against the school building.

"What do you mean?"

"Every time somebody comes down here to work with us, they're trying to get a grant. Then after the money runs out, they're gone. Give us the money, man. We'll make sure the neighborhood is clean," Troy grins.

"This isn't a grant," Hank smiles.

"What is it then."

"An offer to work together."

"What's in it for us."

"The feeling that you're doing something worthwhile."

"Shit." Troy begins to walk away, then turns and looks into Hank's eyes, "What's in it for you?"

"The same thing."