

He talks about going to Eddie Robinson's house to interview the Bull shortly after he signed a \$30 million contract. "Bentleys, Escalades--whatever you could want. It was all there," says Davenport. "You want all these things. But then you go back to the heart of the ghetto and you find kids who don't even have shoes that fit their feet. It's hard to feel too bad for yourself."

As a teacher, he sees the challenges of today's youth first hand. In Detroit, he says, "it was nothing to have middle schoolers with a thousand dollars in their pocket. I had one student, and I was trying to tell that kid about selling drugs, and he said 'Mr. Davenport, what kind of car do you drive? How old are you? How much school did you go to? My cousin is 18 years old and drives a 500 series Mercedes Benz.' I told him that at least I could sleep at night. He said 'OK, like my aunt, who was her whole life and then one night when she was going to work at the factory, somebody shot her dead and just kept moving.' It's very hard. It's a very difficult environment."

"I think the best thing we can do, as parents and as educators, is to put more of an emphasis on education. Like the guy who owns the Pistons, if he asked his son what he wanted to do, and his son said he wanted to be Ben Wallace, he'd probably slap him because he could earn a lot more money in a different career. Kids don't know that they can go to school and be very successful using their minds, as a doctor or a lawyer or something. They just see basketball players and rappers on MTV Cribs and think that's the only way to be successful."

*Flint Star* is incredibly candid. At one point, some young men of Flint are sitting around in the living room, talking about guys who make the NFL or the NBA, and how they give back by taking everyone out the club, or holding free camps, or whatever it is. Players like Mateen Cleaves and Robaire Smith are praised. What about players who come around in their \$400,000 cars but don't give back, someone asks. Is it OK to rob them? People in the room tend to agree. Yes, that's OK.

That's certainly something I'll remember next time I hear about an NBA player giving up his gold at gunpoint.

Those are stories we don't usually get to learn from our TV sets. But they're true, and they're a big untold part of this world of basketball that we all love so much. Choppy, grainy, and jumbled as it may be, *Flint Star* tells that story as honestly as anything I have ever seen. Foundations should give this man grants to keep telling these stories with such integrity. Well worth a watch.

You can [learn more about it here](#).