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Bullies on Broad and Beyond Proposal

For my capstone senior project, I am proposing a Philadelphia based true crime podcast. The name of this podcast is going to be Bullies on Broad and Beyond. The name signifies the connection to the city of Philadelphia but also to the suburbs of the city as well. I have a passion of producing, cutting, and editing audio files, this is something I came to love at my previous college that has stuck with me. The true crime genre of podcasts has definitely taken off in the last few years, but this is one gap I want to fill. While there are true crime podcasts that feature stories from Philadelphia and the surrounding towns, there are none that focus solely on our city. I want to be able to tell the stories of these age-old crimes, some of which are still technically open and unsolved.

Another gap in the true crime podcast realm that I would like to fill is the conversation aspect of this topic. I feel that more often than not people are hesitant to add banter and conversation to the true crime conversation. It can be seen as disrespectful to those involved in the crime to turn it into a discussion piece, but I feel it is important to talk about to emphasize the historical connections. Most importantly, to have conversations about crimes that are unsolved and still open in hopes that they will not be forgotten.

The inspiration for this project came from a book I came across in Barnes and Nobel. The book titled *Marple's Gretchen Harrington Tragedy; Kidnapping, Murder, and Innocence Lost in Suburban Philadelphia*. This book, written by Mike Mathis and Joanna Falcone Sullivan, focuses on the case of eight-year-old Gretchen Harrington. This case sparked the idea for my podcast because it is a case close to home...literally 5 minutes from my house. Although this case was discussed widely over the years, there was no true crime podcast I came across that featured this case. Since this case was close to home and in a quiet Philadelphia suburb, I wanted to find more true crime from the city of Brotherly Love to delve deeper into.

In terms of my plan and approach to this endeavor, I feel like I am adequately prepared. I have found four true crimes to guarantee at least four episodes and began episode planning. There is a possible episode five that I am still debating on the topic, but I am leaning towards current and ongoing investigations in the area to shortly discuss with a guest. As of January 30, 2025, episodes one and two are fully planned and ready to be

recorded. There is no guest for the first episode, but I do have a guest for the second episode. I am coordinating with more guests for the rest of the episodes, but I also do not feel the need to have a guest for every episode. That being said, guests are still up in the air for episodes three, four, and five. I have a recording schedule roughly planned out and will finalize that in the next week. Once finalized, I will begin the process of recording for each episode. Once the episodes are recorded, edited, and finalized I will work with NeuPress to publish this podcast on their website for the public.

Overall, I feel well prepared and excited to pursue this project. While I am still in the early process of planning, I feel well equipped and enthusiastic to see this through. Not only is this my senior capstone project, but it is also a passion project. I have come to the realization that you have to love what you do to produce quality work. I am doing something I love, not only for myself but for my community, Philadelphia and its suburbs, as well as those who have the common interest in true crime.