**Educational Opportunities:**

*Here we see a scene from the movie 8 Mile on a television, in which a young man finds his path through music, although with some shady consequences. Instead we offer a scene from Coach Carter, which shows some troubling statistics for boys who do not complete high school, and *how one can find motivation through education and sports.*

- By 2007, states spend more than $44 Billion on incarceration and related expenses, a 127% jump in 20 years. In the same time period, there was only a 21% increase in spending in higher education.

- The national graduation rate increased to 75.5 percent in 2009, up from 72 percent in 2001. And the number of these schools fell from 2,007 in 2002 to 1,550 in 2010.

- Researchers found that graduation rates vary by race, with 91.8 percent of Asian students, 82 percent of whites, 65.9 percent of Hispanics and 63.5 percent of blacks graduating on time.

- On average, high school graduates earn $130,000 more over their lifetimes, compared with peers who drop out of school, the study said.

- “We have continued to make good progress, but we also have much work ahead to achieve our goal of a 90 percent high school graduation rate,” Colin Powell and his wife, Alma J. Powell, wrote in a letter introducing the report.