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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Teaching the Teachers

Article published by the Pharos Tribune on January 29, 2008

Logansport, IN | Joe Guerrero, a bilingual youth intervention specialist from Elkhart, recently spoke to Logansport High School teachers about gangs. Guerrero, once a gang member himself, said gangs are common and often socially acceptable.



Even a high school athletic team, he said, meets some of the definitions of a gang. "The only difference between that is those are natural expressions of youth," Guerrero said. "They want to hang together, they want to be special, they want to be identified, they want to be distinguished. Nothing wrong with that. They need to hang out with groups."

The problem is when the groups commit crime. Guerrero called the ones spray-painting graffiti "kids" who gather based on friendship. Often, they will identify with established gang labels or make up their own. "That's what you're going to see here mostly."

In a recent interview about gang graffiti, Logansport detective Rob Smith agreed. He said most of the graffiti in Logansport was done by middle school-aged kids. By putting symbols associated with big-city gangs, they're showing support as well as copying gang life.

"That's pretty much what you're seeing around here is the younger generation coming up, doing a lot of emulating," Smith said. "Not very often are you going to find an 18-, 19-, 20-year-old kid out doing graffiti. It's mainly the younger kids."

Still Wannabes

As the younger kids get in trouble at school and wind up in the juvenile justice system, they come into contact with more serious gangs. Gang life can be deadly, Guerrero said, but incarceration is where he loses most of those he mentors. "Most of my kids our affected by gang activity by spending their young adulthood behind bars," Guerrero said. "So, here's all this God-given talent and energy and possibility locked up behind bars for 10, 15, 20 years."

Guerrero asked his audience if they could identify any of the signs of gang activity in their students. One teacher responded that many of Logansport's students were still at the wannabe level.

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Hammond Gang Activity on the Rise

Article published by the Times

01/23/2008 Hammond, IN | An updated report on gang activity was the topic of discussion at the Hammond Hispanic Community Committee's meeting for the month of January. "We asked the Hammond Police Department to give us an update on crime and gang activity in our community," said Sylvia Planer President of HHCC. The Hammond Police Department Gang Unit officers invited as guest speakers updated the community on gang activity primarily in the Tree Streets' area of Hammond.

Lt. Tharp and Sgt. Moore updated the committee on the crime level in Hammond, stating that residential break-ins have gone down 5% and theft has gone up 7%; overall the crime rate has gone down 10% from December 2007. Gang Unit Officers Onahan and Schmidt spoke about how street gangs run their organizations like fortune 500 companies.

Officer James Onahan said that nowadays the gangs are not as organized as they once were. "The gangs have some structure, once the federal indictment came about 4 years ago, that took a lot of gang activity out of the area; they have no type of leadership anymore," said Officer Schmidt.

"You have your CEO's, your managers and the people that enforce the laws and then you have all the other people that do their work. The higher ups and the CEO's we'll probably never see, will hear their name or something like that, they separate themselves so they are not the ones getting the police down their throats, they send their little street soldiers," added Schmidt.

The officers said related that the country is experiencing a rise in gang activity and the media is to blame for glamorizing street gangs through MTV, movies, television and even song lyrics. "Teenagers think it's cool to be part of a gang," said Officer Schmidt. "We are here to suppress the gang activity," added Onahan.

Both gang unit officers talked about the combination of colors each gang is known for and the manner the gang members, many of them high school students are now trying to be clever by displaying their colors in a subtle way whilst in public and in school by wearing various articles of clothing such as rosaries around their necks, shoe laces and even camouflaging their gang colors under their school uniform.

Full Story: http://www.nwi.com/articles/2008/01/23/viva/english_news/doc9dfb80be353e8b61862573d500221a8b.txt



Students Suspended for Possible Gang Activity

Article published by WTHR Indianapolis

01/22/2008 Indianapolis, IN | Two middle school students are suspended, possibly for the rest of the year, for gang activity. Officials in the Washington Township school district believe they prevented a serious fight between rival groups when stopped a fight between two students at Northview Middle School.



"Two individuals made a poor choice and decided to fight," said Superintendent Dr. James Mervilde. "We broke the fight up and no one was seriously injured or anything like that."

On Friday, school officials at the school found gang graffiti in a boys restroom. It included a 14-year-old male student's name, who reportedly threatened other students. The previous week, school police broke up a fight involving the same student. The 14-year-old claims a rival gang planned to attack him, which was no surprise to the gang task force.

"They will spray paint fences, sidewalks, cars and also some minor fist fights," a gang task force officer said.

A student tip revealed the 14-year-old planned an even bigger confrontation using weapons and explosives. Police searched the students locker only finding a camera. Officers say it showed him and other students throwing up gang signs, which is a school violation.

Full Story: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=7758274&nav=9Tai>

Gangs Targeted Teen Boy

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

01/16/2008 Chicago, IL | Roky Uriostegui didn't want to be a gang member, and he didn't want to get beat up, either. So when the gangs at his high school last year harassed him, he transferred schools, instead. "They were always asking him what gang he belonged to," said his cousin, Maria Melendez, 30. "He was in fear that he would get into trouble."



On Tuesday evening, the 16-year-old was returning to his Little Village home from a mall when he was shot three times and killed, police believe by suspected gang members. Police are looking for as many as three suspects.

Police don't know why Uriostegui was shot, saying he appeared to be targeted but could have been mistaken for someone else. He was not a gang member and had no criminal history, said Harrison Area Lt. Melissa Staples. "I just don't understand how these things just keep happening in the neighborhood," said his mother, Antonia Macias, 50, through a translator. A sophomore at Kelly High School, Uriostegui was shot about 7:45 p.m. at West 23rd Place and Rockwell Street, a few blocks from his home in the 2600 block of West 25th Street.

The suspects were in a red sport-utility vehicle and either one or two men got out of the SUV, Staples said. One fired at the teen, striking him in the head and armpit, police said. The suspects fled west on 23rd Place, police said. Police said at least one witness said they heard words exchanged before the gunfire. Neighbors said there were several gang-related shootings in the neighborhood in recent days.

Full Story: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-shooting_webjan17,0,4251073,print.story



National 

Teen Gang Made Girls Prostitutes

Article published by the Associated Press

01/15/2008 Fort Worth, TX | Several teenage gang members have been arrested on suspicion of forcing girls as young as 12 into a prostitution ring, police said Tuesday. After befriending the girls and getting them high, Varrio Central gang members took them to some regular customers and then sought other men by trolling apartment complexes, offering the girls' services for \$50, Fort Worth police Lt. Ken Dean said.

The gang apparently targeted runaways and other girls with unstable homes, and if the girls refused to have sex for money the members beat and sexually assaulted them and threatened their families, Dean said. "The age of the victims and suspects is the surprising part of it," Dean said. "To have such young individuals in a somewhat organized business, a forced prostitution ring, is somewhat alarming and such a horrendous crime against the 12- to 16-year-old girls."

Detectives found five victims, ages 12 to 16, but believe there may be more. Those girls are back with relatives or in other safe places, he said, declining to elaborate. A 15-year-old girl who may be a gang member helped the group by going to the victims' houses to pick them up under the pretense of going shopping or to a movie, which fooled the parents, said Lt. Dan Draper.

Four alleged gang members were arrested Jan. 3 after they took a 14-year-old to a convenience store to have sex with the owner, a regular customer of the prostitution ring, police said. Diego Rodriguez, 19, and Martin Reyes, 17, were charged with counts including engaging in organized criminal activity, aggravated kidnapping and trafficking of a person. Rodriguez, held on \$170,000 bond, did not have an attorney, and a lawyer for Reyes, held on \$150,000 bond, could not be immediately reached for comment Tuesday.

The cases of two boys, ages 15 and 16, and the 15-year-old girl accused of helping the gang are being handled in the juvenile system. The convenience store owner, Chang Hyeong Lee, 56, was charged with aggravated kidnapping, engaging in organized criminal activity and prostitution.

Full Story: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jsr6I0-kxYSSdXjOJBbAMpGB7b2gD8U6MG582>

23 Suspected Texas Gang Members Indicted

Article published by the Associated Press

01/30/2008 San Antonio, TX | Twenty-three suspected members of a Texas prison gang were accused of racketeering in connection with the slayings of 22 people, according to a federal indictment released Wednesday. The victims were mostly fellow members of the Texas Mexican Mafia or rival gangs. In some cases, they were suspected drug dealers indebted to the gang, which authorities say enforces a street tax on drug dealers who work on gang turf. The slayings occurred between 2000 and 2005, according to the indictment.



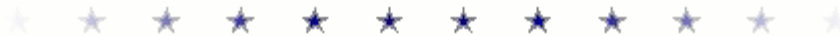
The defendants were not charged with murder, in part because tying them to a specific crime is harder than proving they ran an operation that committed murder and dealt drugs, U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton said. Most of the defendants were already in custody on lesser charges. By Wednesday, 18 people were in custody. Another five were still being sought. None had attorneys listed in U.S. District Court filings.

"The Mexican Mafia is a violent criminal gang. They deal in intimidation. They deal in drugs — heroin and cocaine. They deal in violence, and in this case, they dealt in murder," Sutton said at a news conference. The slayings occurred in San Antonio, Austin and rural Atascosa County south of San Antonio.

The investigation that led to charges issued Tuesday included informants and undercover officers over a three-year period, said Sutton, declining to release details. More charges were possible, he said. FBI agent Ralph Diaz said the defendants include alleged generals and lieutenants in the gang. The indictment, he said, is "a very significant hit to the organization."

The Texas Mexican Mafia, allegedly founded by San Antonio native Heriberto Huerta in 1984, is the largest gang in the state prison system, but it's not directly related to a California gang of the same name. Huerta and other gang members were later convicted on drug charges.

Full Story: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5juUkvLLG6xqqFJE2NqF6ZcfxHTgAD8UGF9SO8>



Five Members of Violent Prison Gang Arrested on RICO Charges

Article published by KRISTV.com

01/10/2008 El Paso, TX | Five members of the violent Barrio Azteca gang have been arrested on a federal indictment alleging 11 RICO counts, the U.S. Attorney's Office in El Paso announced Thursday. Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Leachman said the five reputed gang members: Danny Tarin, 28; Jose Martin Garcia, 38; Said Francisco Herrera, 28; John Michelletti, 37; and Eugene Mona, 50 are accused of racketeering, murder, extortion, money laundering and trafficking in marijuana, cocaine and heroin, among other offenses. The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in El Paso Wednesday.



Leachman said specific details of the RICO indictment would not be released until the men make their first appearance in federal court on Friday. Leachman said federal, state and local authorities have been investigating Barrio Azteca, a violent organization that started as a Texas prison gang in 1986, since 2003. She said the probe "spans the ranks of the organization" while targeting its leadership.

Investigators believe the gang has partnered with the Ciudad Juarez, Mexico-based Carrillo Fuentes drug cartel to provide security and other services. Leachman said as part of the partnership the cartel has given the gang discounts on narcotics. She said Barrio Azteca is believed to be active in both El Paso and across the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez.

Investigators said the investigation is ongoing, though they would not specify how many more people may be arrested.

Source: KRISTV.com

Record Producer 'Suge' Knight Named in Gang Injunction

Article published by the Associated Press

01/24/2008 Los Angeles, CA | City officials asked a judge to ban members of the Mob Piru street gang from being able to congregate in a neighborhood of Compton - and asked that the order include Marion "Suge" Knight.

The co-founder of Death Row Records was one of 200 people the officials said were members of Mob Piru. The injunction would ban them from congregating, carrying guns, drinking alcohol in public or staying out past 10 p.m. Knight called the injunction a "publicity stunt."

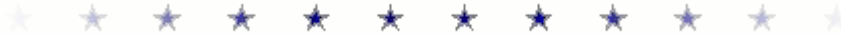


"This is crazy," Knight told the Los Angeles Times in Thursday's editions. "I'm a 42-year-old businessman, not a gang member. I don't even live in Compton anymore." A hearing on the matter was to be held Thursday.

Although such injunctions are a common anti-gang tactic in southern California, this is the first time one has been sought in Compton, a city less than 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles that announced a gang crackdown two years ago.

Mob Piru members have gained notoriety for their alleged links to Knight and Death Row, once home to artists such as Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg.

Source: Associated Press



New Method Helps Convict Gang Members

Article published by the Bradenton Herald

01/15/2008 Bradenton, FL | For five years, Eric Santiago lived the life of a gang member, flashing gang signs, sporting gang colors and dealing drugs from his Bradenton home, prosecutors said Monday during opening statements of the 21-year-old's trial.

Santiago is the first reputed gang member to go before a Manatee County jury on racketeering and conspiracy charges, filed after a sweep by law enforcement last year that led to the arrest of nine reputed members of the Brown Pride Locos and East Side Crips.

Under racketeering laws, people can be charged for the totality of crimes found to have benefited a criminal enterprise.

"This case is about criminal street gangs, the world in which they live and the crimes they commit," statewide prosecutor Diane Croff told the six-member jury that will hear testimony during the four-day trial at the Manatee County Courthouse.

Croff painted a picture of the life she said gang members live:

- Earning money illegally.
- Disrespecting law enforcement.
- Fighting dangerous rivalries.

They will detail Santiago's criminal history by putting witnesses on the stand to recall his predicate incidents including burglary and high-speed car chases with law enforcement.

Known on the streets as "E", Santiago was charged with racketeering because he is a member of a criminal enterprise, the East Side Crips, Croff said. The other charge is because she said he conspired with fellow gang members to commit crimes with them.

"Guns, drugs, disrespect for the law - for . . . years he's lead that way of life here in Manatee County," Croff said. "We will ask to find the acts were connected to the gangs."

Full Story: <http://www.bradenton.com/local/story/328174.html>



YouTube Taunt Brings Gangster Takedown

Article published by ABC News

01/16/2008 Miami, FL | Two alleged gang members who taunted the Miami Dade Police Department in a video posted on YouTube have been arrested by U.S. agents and charged with federal firearms violations. Rudy Villanueva and Tony Logan, alleged members of a Miami-Dade County street gang called the Bird Road Boys, [were seen in the video brandishing a shotgun, assault rifle and handguns.](#)

Villanueva was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement late Tuesday evening, and Logan was arrested early Wednesday morning.

Villanueva, who goes by the names King Bird Road and Bird Road Rudy, is the alleged leader of the gang and is seen on the video saying, "Metro Dade Gang Unit, here I am baby." Villanueva went on in the video to say "we's out here fighting a Cold War" and that "they come at us if they want to." Logan appears in the video saying "come get it" while flashing gang signs and pulling the triggers of the two handguns he is holding.



"Villanueva and Logan threatened law enforcement. They brandished weapons and told us, 'Here I am baby. & Come get us if you want.' Villanueva said come get me, and we did. We will not tolerate gang threats to our police officers," U.S. attorney Alex Acosta said in a statement.

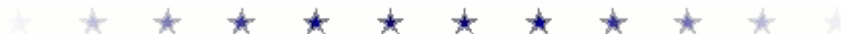
During a search of Logan's home early Wednesday morning, agents reported finding an AK47 assault rifle, a shotgun and several handguns. The shotgun and the AK47 are believed to be the same firearms seen in the video.

According to court documents, Villanueva waived his Miranda rights and admitted to investigators that he handled firearms and made the threats in the video to instill fear in people who "roll up" on him. Villanueva, a three-time convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing a gun. The video, according to the criminal complaint, was made by Villanueva's girlfriend.

The video, titled "Bird Road Getting in Trouble," was posted Jan. 3 and has since been taken down by YouTube. Gang presence on the Internet, known as "net banging," has been a growing phenomenon in recent years, according to law enforcement officials.

ICE agents made the arrests as part of their involvement in a Miami Dade gang task force. Both men are being held in Miami-Dade County jail.

Full Story: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5juUkvLLG6xqqFJE2NqF6ZcfxHTgAD8UGF9SO8>



Did You Know?

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 32 states in recent years have approved legislation to increase penalties for gang-related crime or to enact suppression, intervention and prevention programs. At least one state, Indiana, bars membership in criminal gangs that require members to commit felonies or battery to join. Numerous states have increased sentences for crimes associated with gang activity.

Ed Cohn, executive director of the National Major Gang Task Force in Indianapolis, finds that many communities are finally acknowledging they have gang problems. Denial is far less rampant than in years past.

MPD Getting Tough on Gangs, Enforcing Curfew

Article published by the Walton Tribune

01/09/2008 Monroe, GA | Law enforcement officers will be cracking down on juvenile criminal activity and the perceived gang element in the city with a more stringent enforcement of curfew laws aimed at getting juveniles off the street — and this effort may also result in jail time or fines for parents of offenders.

“We have enforced these laws in the past and given a significant number of warnings in the past 90 days,” Monroe Police Chief Keith Glass said. “That is going to stop. We have given as many courtesy warnings as we can. There won’t be any more warnings to the kids. We won’t just tell them to go home. We will take them home and give both them and their parents or guardian a citation. It is important parents and those responsible for juveniles realize they are responsible for these kids as well.”

All of the officers of the Monroe Police Department will be on the lookout for violators of the city’s curfew law — which for children 15 years old and younger means they need to be home between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. on any day and for children ages 16 and 17 the curfew is between midnight and 6 a.m. on any given day. There are few exceptions, which include juveniles returning from emergency errands, work or late school activities, but the child must be returning home by the most “direct and efficient” route.

While most stringent enforcement of the curfew law is expected to address the juveniles in the city, parents of these children will also face harsh penalties as a stricter enforcement of the parental responsibility law is enforced. This law stipulates it is “unlawful for the parent, guardian or other adult person having care and custody of a child under the age of 18 years to permit” violations of the curfew law. A parent found in violation could face a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or six months of jail time.

“Laws are there for a reason and we aren’t going to raise people’s children any longer,” MPD Lt. Sam Treadwell said. “Parents have got to understand — if they have a child, they are responsible. I think this will go a long way to curtailing a lot of the problems we are having right now.”

Full Story: <http://www.waltontribune.com/story.lasso?ewcd=a0d4058c33303bd7>



New Law Can Order Parents of Gang Members to Attend Parenting Classes

Article published by KSBY 6 Action News

01/01/2008 Santa Barbara, CA | Lawmakers hope a new bill being enacted this year will reduce California's gang violence.

Here are the Facts First:

- The [Parental Accountability Act](#) allows courts to order parents of young gang members to attend parenting classes.
- Courses will teach parents how to identify gang and drug activity in their kids.
- They will also learn better communication skills with their children.

Gang violence has been in the forefront in Santa Barbara this year. Police have identified 700 gang members living in the city. The new law will hold parents of gang members accountable for their children's actions. The law will allow juvenile court judges to send gang parents to parenting classes.

The new law will also force parents to meet face to face with the families who have lost loved ones to gang violence. "It's a good idea because it will get parents to be more responsible for their kids actions," says Martin Medina, a father in Santa Barbara with his kids.

The parenting program will be funded by requiring parents to pay for the classes. The law also allows juvenile court judges to dismiss the costs for families with extreme financial difficulties.

Full Story: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=7565122>

Anti-Graffiti Camera System Getting Results

Article published by the San Gabriel Valley Tribune

01/17/2008 Montebello, CA | Even without all the cameras working at full capacity, the \$836,000 surveillance system installed late last year is producing results, officials said Thursday. There have been six tagging incidents captured by surveillance without a full-time officer monitoring the camera and two arrests for illegal dumping, said Montebello police Detective Ismael Navarro, head of the special investigations graffiti task force.



With a total of 120 cameras, it is the third-largest camera surveillance system in the country, behind only Washington, D.C., and Chicago, he added. The cameras began operation in mid-November to create a deterrent to all criminal activity in the city.

"We are going to mitigate this problem (of graffiti)," said Mayor Bill Molinari. "We're going to get this plague out of the city."

The cameras, designed by Pasadena-based Axiom Technologies, employ "Tagger Trap" technology, which senses the digital signature of the ultrasonic frequency that spray-paint cans emit.

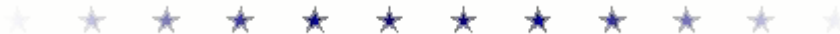
"We have the tagging suspects on video," Navarro said, "and we are in the process of identifying them." The ID investigation includes trying to match the persons seen in the video with mug shots on file and even sending officers to local schools. However, Navarro pointed out, it's not only juveniles creating graffiti. The oldest person arrested for the crime was 36.

Navarro said he has noticed the incidents of both graffiti and illegal dumping have decreased. "People know we are out there. Suppression is working," he said.

Molinari said the camera system is an effective investment because the city spends about \$600,000 annually on removing graffiti.

The cameras are not only along Whittier Boulevard, Beverly Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue, but also at City Hall and all nine city parks. The city is also looking into providing laptops for all 25 police units to monitor the cameras from the field, Navarro said. Businesses are able to purchase compatible cameras and software, which can be connected to the city's system.

Full Story: http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:ACRDhdAxTqAJ:www.sgvtribune.com/ci_8002339+Anti-graffiti+camera+system+getting+results&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us



Technology to Help Target Gangs

Article published by the Baltimore Sun

01/26/2008 Harford County, MD | Law enforcement agencies from six states and the District of Columbia will be able to share information on gang members, including nicknames, addresses, associates and even tattoos by linking crime databases as part of a \$2.8 million federal program.

The funding will pay for new technology to link databases as part of a Gang Elimination Task Force. The databases will be used by federal, state and local authorities in Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, officials said yesterday.

The information about gang members will be tracked much as it is for terror suspects, officials said during a news conference at the Edgewood Community and Recreation Center, a few blocks from a series of shootings, some of which have been linked to gangs.

Officials said the gang task force is the first of its kind on the East Coast. A portion of the money for the program will go to gang-prevention education.

Full Story: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-md.ha.gangs26jan26,0,76137.story>

Schools Look to Quell Gang Concerns

Article published by the State

01/09/2008 Kershaw County, SC | December gang-related, student death has prompted Kershaw County schools officials to bring a renewed focus to youth violence in the community.

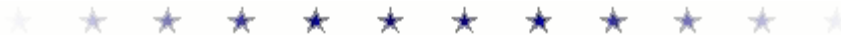
At the school board's Tuesday meeting, superintendent Frank Morgan presented three plans to inform the public and help stymie the growth of gangs. In addition to continuing support from Kershaw County Sheriff's Department School resource officers, new plans would:

- Appoint two school board members to a civic umbrella group that will target youth-related issues. Two members each from Camden and Kershaw County councils also will participate, Morgan said. The group's first meeting will be at the end of this month, he said.
- Reconvene a community gang task force that would draw support from resident leadership.
- Meet with school improvement councils and designated students from each of the three high schools to discuss how to create an atmosphere in which students feel comfortable coming forward about violence or gang-related issues. Morgan could start his meetings with the schools later this month.

The renewed focus follows the Dec. 7 gang-related death of Michael Joseph Smith, 17, a Camden High student. An argument that Friday night led to Smith being beaten and shot. Camden Police Department has arrested a number of people, including Camden High students, in connection with Smith's death. Among them is Markelle Jamar Reid, 18, who was charged in the killing. Efforts to reach investigators late Monday were unsuccessful, so it is unknown how many total arrests have been made. But, the investigation is ongoing.

"I'm sorry it takes an event like this to kind of heighten everyone's awareness," said Dana Morris, outgoing school board chairman.

Full Story: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/279024.html>



White Plains to get Program that Uses Art to Combat Youth Violence

Article published by the Journal News

01/03/2008 White Plains, NY | The mythical gang war between the Jets and the Sharks will soon be used in White Plains as a jumping off point for discussions among young people about real life issues including violence, immigration and the relationship between teens and police.

The city is the first to be selected by the Seattle Police Foundation to replicate that city's West Side Story Project, a program that uses the legendary Broadway musical as a catalyst to prevent youth violence and promote an appreciation of diversity. Developed by Seattle's police, theater and school communities in 2006, the program was so successful that the police foundation last year received a federal grant from the Department of Justice to bring it to five other cities and develop a technical assistance manual that can be used nationwide.

Puopolo said the Youth Bureau and teen members of Mayor Joseph Delfino's Youth Council will work to sponsor middle and high school youth summits in the spring. The summits will focus on issues raised in the play, most likely using scenes from the movie as starting points.

Later in the year, the program will culminate with some sort of theatrical production at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, aimed at reaching larger numbers of kids. The production will be developed and performed by young people working with Youth Bureau staff and police.

Beal said the performance component was particularly popular among at-risk kids in Seattle. "Art, theater and music can reach and change these kids and harness their energy for better purposes, while threats or fear of punishment may not be as effective," she said.

Full Story: <http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080103/NEWS02/801030372/1024/NEWS08>

Teaching the Teachers

Continued from page 1...

Many kids act out because they see it on TV or read about it in magazines. Media is a powerful influence, Guerrero said. “They’re seeing it in the culture around us, and they think it’s cool,” Guerrero said. “That’s part of our problem right now because gangster culture, thug culture is popular culture.”

Kids will listen to gangster rap, wear the clothes and spray paint gang symbols in alleyways. Popular culture provides images of adulthood and lifestyles portrayed as glamorous. Some of the messages are misleading, Guerrero said. For example, to be in a gang and commit crimes is a way to be warriors, soldiers and protectors. “That’s why it is dangerous to allow our kids to swallow this type of culture without telling them what’s wrong and what’s right,” Guerrero said.

Prevention and intervention

In dealing with youth suspected of gang activity, Guerrero told the teachers to remember that they were dealing with kids, even if they are kids decked out in thug attire. He also said respect is a two-way street and that faculty should set high standards. The approach that, “if they got all Ds that would be great” is not good enough, Guerrero said. “I want my students getting As and Bs.”

Guerrero suggested that the Logansport educators and parents start their own gang, a council of elders providing what is best to students. “Network, share intelligence, coordinate efforts and programs, develop and implement a common strategy and tactic,” Guerrero said. “This is our purpose. This is everything we need to do as a community.”

Kids are often left to their own resources to find out what it means to grow up, and many mainstream messages are counterproductive, Guerrero said. “If we don’t give competency, usefulness, belonging, influence or power to them, gangs will,” Guerrero said.

Jessica Pasel, an English teacher and the chairperson of the committee that invited Guerrero to speak, saw value in Guerrero’s methods. “Taking a proactive approach to combating potentially dangerous situations for our students is a necessary objective for teachers, parents and the community,” she said. “Our students are capable of thriving and being successful, and it is the responsibility of those who can make a difference to step up and make that difference.”

Source: The Logansport Pharos-Tribune

From the Editors



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.
We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the “G.A.I.N.” Newsletter, please send them to:

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