



by J.D. Wiseman
Public Safety Supervisor

Gang Members: who are they and what are they about? These are the questions that I am asked all the time.

The very words "gang member," quickly targets most people's deepest source of fear and instinctive feelings of self preservation. But remember, these may be our own loved ones, family members or friends.

When we hear about gangs, it is usually through a dramatic media story which tends to focus on the killing and street violence of black or hispanic gang members. The fact is, that in the '90's all social, economical and ethnic segments of our society have gang memberships conducting criminal activities such as drug dealing, murder, extortion, robbery, theft, assaults and prostitution.

Joining a gang provides some people with needed personal acknowledgement, a shallow exciting feel of social connection, physical and economic security, and a sense of "family." This is based on a rigid set of gang values and a personal behavior code which is often enforced by threats, intimidations, and fear of death or injury.

For these people, being a gang member may offset their own tragic personal family situation, which may include a poor education, low self-esteem, physical and emotional violence or sexual abuse, parental neglect and drug and alcohol abuse.

A "typical" gang member profile is sometimes difficult to identify, but here are some typical behaviors to watch for.

Be aware of a person's lack of positive social, school or recreational activities. Also watch for poor progress or achievement at school or on the job. Other things to watch for are frequent negative contact with law enforcement, friends wearing the same hair styles and clothing and the use gang jargon, drawings or symbols, usually displayed in public places. Remember, one of the aforementioned observations does not make a gang member but may be an indication of personal change to come.

Sounds kind of overwhelming doesn't it? Well, there is something you can do as a friend or family member. First of all, show a personal interest in them. Keep telling them that you love and care about them.

Show them that the two basic results of belonging to a gang are prison and death. Encourage them to seek personal help and group support and get straight with the world.

Invasion through Voyeurism

Video mongers exploit private sex lives

by Christopher Haberman
The Print Staff

Two people have sex in their own bathroom with the shades barely drawn, and a man in flowered shorts stands at pool side with his video camera buzzing.

The home video world has expanded. Simple bystanders in Disneyland are now unofficial deputies to any crime or scene able to be recorded on video cassette. Anyone with a video camera can make their living by filming newsworthy events and selling it to news stations.

Decency and freedom aside, where is the line drawn? Why does violence fuel the news everyday? Death is the battle we all fight, so we like to know about other people's pain, without experiencing death ourselves.

A woman falls from a ferris wheel at an amusement park and is suspended 80 feet above the

would say they wouldn't want to see it, but they would probably watch it in anticipation. How many people wanted to see Dodd hung on television, or Bundy electrocuted? If someone could have taped the executions I'm sure they would have.

Censorship is still the worst evil, but some things are only common sense to not show on TV, especially poorly-made video tapings.

The man sits silent in the corner of the courtroom accepting book offers and movie deals of the footage he has shot. The real hero in the case is always the nothing creep that filmed the incident selling himself like anyone on the street, trading in his morals for cold, hard cash. The man that caught someone else's personal life on video, and gallantly sold it to the highest bidder. A true textbook voyeur claiming himself to

We are a paranoid civilization chained to couches across America in search of the next big scandal.

ground by her broken leg which is wrapped around a piece of steel. A video camera was present while the woman waited for rescuers. Fires blaze, and the Earth quakes, and skaters clash, but the video camera is always there, filling the news with emotion, death counts and personal life. Invasion of personal life.

Take someone on film and replay their humiliation. Take them as a subject and tear them apart before an audience of millions. A man jumps from a skyscraper over New York and bounces several times as he smashes into the sidewalk. Does it make the news? Yes, but the video footage does not. It is sold to make a compiled video cassette of strange deaths. But when will it make the news? I'm sure people

be God's answer to public decency.

"Paranoia will destroy you," the song lyrics repeat themselves chanting in my ear. We are a paranoid civilization chained to couches across America in search of the next big scandal. It is the paranoia that makes us lock our doors and pull back the shades on windows, closing ourselves in to watch CNN for the next 12 hours. Our pain is great, but others must be worse.

Video clubs that run across the country ask for film footage on important events that may be newsworthy. People across the nation, marching toward a worse tomorrow, armed only with open eyes, closed minds and video cameras with little red lights, the signals of organized invasion.

Dynix revolution: automation vs. manual

by Christopher Haberman
The Print Staff

have changed and once again the computer has taken over.

Dynix will help you find the books. Quick and easy, fast and no hassle, clothes will drip dry in spin cycle. The books are all there on computer, waiting for someone who can use a simple program to stagger through the maze and check them out. Well, it isn't that easy, the knowledge of the book is needed and the repeated library tours will most likely include instruction on the Dynix system. Subject, author and series are also present in the filing system.

"I like it," said student Scott Ransom. "Anything beats the card catalog. It makes using the library easier, and cuts down the time spent in the library."

Dynix will help you find what you're looking for. Everyone looks for different things in different ways. Some people like computers, and some do not. Not everyone likes to ask for help after they have spent 15 minutes trying to figure out how to work a computer. The card catalog is the old stand-by, the spare tire, the old buddy that will always get you out of a jam. But not now. That "old buddy" has been traded in for a new model, easier, smaller, more complicated.

As Big Brother looks on, just cupping his hands over puppet strings, computers slide easily into libraries, slowly killing the card catalog system. Computers are the wave of the future, but not everyone surfs.

Since the beginning of technology things have become popular and then replaced. Compact Discs annihilated the vinyl record industry almost entirely, thrusting records into second-hand shops and county libraries. Now the precious manual card-catalog system has been upgraded.

The Clackamas Community College Library has done away with the old and has installed Dynix, an automated on-line computer card catalog system.

Dynix replaces the old card catalog. The instructions are clearly presented before the computers and on-line instruction is only a button away, but personal assistance is available for the computer illiterate.

"It's not that I don't know how to use computers, but this system is just not user-friendly," said student Tony Batchelor. "Plus the fact that there is a lot of instructions, and the lights are kind of dim, and I look behind my shoulder and there is nothing to go to, nothing to turn to if I can't figure the computer out. I feel trapped."

All the sessions in elementary school spent in the library learning to use the index system are completely useless now. The crisp folds of cards rippled in eager fingertips, searching for the perfect title, not knowing the author or the subject, just searching for the perfect read. The times

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