

A Special Note To All Young People

Attn: All Young People And Their Families

I am a young man who has been involved with drugs for the last 5 years. Unlike most of my peers I have made it near adulthood and I have finally realized what life is about, although many of my close friends have passed away or have become institutionalized by constant incarceration. I have devoted my life to help parents of young gang members, and members themselves make a change. I hope by reading this letter, it will shed some light on our growing gang population and how to stop your children from getting involved. And if your children are already involved I can shed some light on how to help them out of the gang.

First of all to help young gang members you have to understand them. How can you solve a problem without understanding what the problem is? Many gang members feel misunderstood by adults and parents and prefer to confide in fellow peers, which in a sense strengthens gang ties. To them it's like a family. When a fellow gang member is blown away in the streets it's like killing their brother. If your brother was murdered and justice was not served you would feel an urge of vengeance which is the source of many gang related deaths, "vengeance". Many of you would leave a murder to the police, but to them the police are the enemy. I had a friend whose house was shot up and his 10 year old brother was hit, when the police came to investigate they arrested the people who lived in the victims household, instead of taking down complaints. Now think back to when you heard about the last gang killing. The first thing that they say about the victim is that he was a "gang member" with a long

arrest record: as if to say he deserved to die.

Now we hit on a very sensitive problem our youth are experiencing with the police. Many of you have seen the Rodney King beatings and have been amazed because someone had a camera. Everyday Portland youth experience some sort of harassment or brutality from the police, but unfortunately there aren't enough cameras around. Have you ever stopped to think would police have gotten away with berating Rodney King if there wouldn't have been a video tape. Well the answer is already known, because even with the tape the justice system failed. And did you ever stop to notice every little thing King did was nation wide news. "Rodney King-Jailed after a fight with girlfriend-King stopped for reckless driving". The media tried its best to slander his name. If he would have spit on the sidewalk, it would have made the front page. The police add fury to the gangs like gasoline to a fire.

There is a new law here in Portland that has fueled much fire. The uninsured motorist law gives police the right to seize uninsured cars. A major argument for this law was to cut down on gang related drive-bys, since the law has been in effect they have seized many gang related vehicles, but here the gasoline element rises, gang related shootings are at an all time high. Most youngsters feel oppressed by these laws, which are the stem of their anger and the growing number of incidents proves that they are lashing out against society. Many feel hopeless. They just don't care. Their life means nothing to them; so how can you expect them to spare someone else when a problem of gang conflict occurs. These youngsters are

like walking time bombs. You've already seen the damage done by these bombs in L.A. By these examples what I'm trying to get you to see as parents and community leaders is the anguish imbedded in the minds of these so called "Gang Members". Many have seen their friends die at a young age. They see crack heads on corners. Innocent victims shot or killed and homeless dying in the streets. I can remember sometimes being on the edge of going crazy. The people willing to talk to me was my gang homies. Most people don't realize how close gang involved youths really become. It's like the gang is your family. They speak the same language as you, while many times your dialect may seem like French to your parents. To me, I never could understand why the young boys I hung around with were called "Gang Bangers" they weren't "Gang Bangers" they were my brothers, and when they died it killed a part of me. What I'm trying to say is that "Gang Members" aren't just a group of youngsters who hang out on street corners and sell crack and do drive-bys at night. We are not animals, we are a group of neighborhood kids, and most often we are your kids. Most of us have done the same thing as you did as a child, played football in the streets; went to the Salvation Army to play hoop. It's just that through the years we have become close brother like. We've done some of the same wild stuff you did as children, except in our world today there's no more fist fighting in the streets, it's a war and without a gun you could end up dead! Sometimes me and my friends would just sit back and talk.

Remembering the old days when we used to go to Sunday School and church. When the thought of your 16

year old friend dead shot 5 times was a far off distant nightmare. Now its changed so much. We used to get in deep. As we got deeper into our conversations we came up with some solutions to this Gang/Drug problem. But most of you will never know what we came up with cause we are viewed as animals, not to be communicated with. Well I feel that I owe it to the younger generation to give you adults some real solutions because it's obvious your "lockem-up, beatem-down" solution is not working. Because even with more police, stiff sentencing, and more jail beds, the Gang/Drug problem is still at an all time high. So what I'm going to do is offer you some solutions for the inside. It's up to you as parents and politicians to honor them because the way you're going now, it's only making it worse.

First of all the gangs are like weeds in a lawn. You don't kill weeds by chopping off the tops, cause in a week they'll be back. Your policy until now lock all gang offenders up for as long as possible, hoping to scare other members out of the gang. And from the results here in Portland you know this policy is not working. You have to pull gangs up by their roots, or future members. I can remember when this gang thing started some where around 1988. The law makers did a big crack down on the problem, giving longer sentence to members, and by 1989 most of the Original Gangsters were locked up. But you forgot about the younger generation who looked up to these "OIG's" and they grew into a greater problems than the original members! In 1992 it took an all time high when gang shootings were at least 10 a week and it is still climbing in 1993.

These victims and aggressors are the young generation of members that are from Portland, not California, they are your kids and they were the roots of your problem back in 1986-87. So learn from your mistakes. Put more emphasis on your children-the future generation. Stop it at the roots! How do you do this?

First stop spending so much money on more jail beds, and more police and put it where it counts in the school system. For every class (school) of 30 you cut, you might as well open 20 beds in a correctional facility cause you're going to need them, budget more teachers and counselors and less prison guards. Make classes smaller so students can get more one-on-one attention from teachers. Start after school programs that keep kids off the streets. Start more school programs for at risk kids and those not quite making the grade. In high school start more Career Development, and programs like P.I.C. I noticed that while I was attending P.I.C. they had a case load of students wanting job training skills. That tells you that there are teens who are trying to better their lives. Don't run them down. Give them an extra hand.

In Juvenile corrections start more Community Based Programs to take offenders before they need JDH or MacClaren. Juvenile should be the last resort in Juvenile Correctional Why? Because young offenders tend to learn criminal ways from older offenders. Making them go from bad to worse. I heard a statistic that 85% of MacClaren level offenders go on to prison. Stop them before they reach 85% and get them on the right track.

Police-first stop hiring more, re-train your police; get more community based officers ad less "Bust'em

up, shootem down" Steven Segal cops. Get the community back on the police's side. Realize police are out there to cut down on crime not babysit, but they can still do their jobs effectively enough without brutality.

Another thing that is important to teens is boredom, give these young people something to do whether it be midnight basketball or clubs that cooperate with community policies, this is another way to get police and young people back together, have them coach midnight basketball and other outside activities. Open more recreation centers where young people can get off of the streets and get counseling or job training or just shoot a game of pool. If you don't give these kids something positive to do they will definitely find something else to get into, not always positive. The need for somewhere to go is desperate. If you can remember when you were a teenager, and you and some friends were bored and had nothing to do you got into some trouble. Maybe it was just staying out late or ripping and running through the neighborhood. Well, now the neighborhood is a war zone and kids are getting killed every day, so keep your kids off of the streets give them somewhere to go and something to do positive.

Last, stop alienating your children that have become involved with a gang-talk to them. Learn how they feel and what's going on in their lives. If you see them doing wrong don't pass judgement, point them in the right directions. Remember these are neighborhood children dying in our streets. Their blood is on our hands.

May God Have Mercy on us all.
Miguel L. Taylor

Church Of Scientology Publishes 800-Page "What Is Scientology?"

Most people have heard of Scientology. It has been in the news over the years for its fearless fights for reform in many areas of society.

Most notably, the technologies of Scientology Founder L. Ron Hubbard in the areas of drug rehabilitation and education reform have become known for their effectiveness.

In response to huge public and media demand, the Church of Scientology recently released a 800-page volume entitled "What Is Scientology?" The book is the definitive and comprehensive reference work on the subject of this multifaceted religion.

"What Is Scientology?" contains the facts on the philosophy, history, practices, activities, organizations, membership, community programs and much more.

The book describes all services offered by the Churches and Missions of Scientology, the uses and applications of the religion, and how applying Scientology principles has improved the lives of millions of people around the world.

Numerous charts and graphs show demographics and statistics

about Scientology, such as the average age (31 to 40); number of social betterment and reform activities of the Church; community activities participated in by Scientologists and their children; and education level of Scientologists.

One of the most interesting statistics about Scientologists has to do with drug use. This may be the only religion in the world that can boast of a 100% drug-free membership. According to the book, 61.8% had taken street drugs prior to their involvement with Scientology, while 100% report drug-free lives now, after participating in Scientology services.

Religion plays a vital role in creating an ethical and civilized society, with freedom of belief of major importance in all societies. "What Is Scientology?" shows the history of the Church of Scientology as a leading advocate of religious freedom in the United States and around the world. The church has borne the burden, many times alone, for defending the right of all religions to function in society, and this story is told in the book.

The book clearly shows how

Scientology is an all-denominational religious philosophy that an individual learns and applies to lead a healthier, happier and more productive life while maintaining his own earlier religious affiliations. Because applying Scientology enhances spirituality, many people report that their religious beliefs are strengthened and their understanding of their own relationship with the Supreme Being is clarified.

Why the Church has lead the way for religious freedom, and what it has to offer those who wish to improve society, are subjects covered in "What Is Scientology?"

"With accurate information can come real understanding," said Reverend Heber C. Jentsch, president of the Church of Scientology International. "And with understanding can come trust and cooperation in achieving mutually held goals. This is why we have published "What Is Scientology?"

For information on how to obtain a copy of "What Is Scientology?" contact the Church of Scientology Celebrity Center Portland at (503) 228-0116.

"Project Unity" Seeks Better Relations Between Police And N.E. Youth

Project Unity--a newly formed coalition of Northeast Portland youth, community groups and police--will sponsor a community meeting today, April 7th at 6:30pm at the Urban League of Portland, 10 N Russell St., to search for ways to improve relations between at-risk youth and the police. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

The goal of Project Unity is to improve relations and reduce tension between the police and youth in North and Northeast Portland. "Misunderstandings on both sides are causing many youth--African-American males in particular--to have their first scrape with the law," says Joann Rosevear of the Urban League's Male Responsibility Program. "And once a youth has a criminal record, more arrests seem to follow.

Project Unity formed a Police Youth Council to reduce initial confrontations and improve communication between police and youth. The Council will work to teach youth to avoid behavior police perceive as threatening and will also help police learn to distinguish between teenage horseplay and fashion styles and real gang activity.

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PEACE, GOD BLESS, AND SEE YOU AT THE APOLLO!!

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)
OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970 by Alfred L. Henderson

Joyce Washington
Publisher

The PORTLAND OBSERVER is located at
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211
503-288-0033 • Fax 288-0015

Deadline for all submitted materials:
Articles: Monday, 5:00 pm—Ads: Tuesday, noon
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer, P.O.
Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland
Oregon.

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Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver

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Army College Fund Increases

The Army today announced it is increasing to \$30,000 the maximum amount of money for college available to qualified applicants who enlist for the Army College Fund (ACF).

This boost from the previous maximum of \$25,200 for a four-year enlistment was initiated, with Congressional approval, to help restore the fund's buying power to its fiscal year 1985 origination level. College money is a potent enlistment incentive for the Army in attracting higher-quality recruits. Last fiscal year 100 percent of new Army recruits were high school graduates, while 78 percent scored in the top half of the entrance aptitude test.

Letter To The Editor
Reports of psychiatrists sexually assaulting their patients have been increasing over the last few years. This widespread abuse has existed for decades but has only gained recognition as a serious problem with the last few years.

One of every hundred patients sexually assaulted by their therapists, less than five ever take action against their perpetrators. Only half of the victims are aware that it is illegal and/or against the ethics codes of mental health professionals. Some victims are sexually abused while under the influence of psychiatric

The \$30,000 amount, like its \$25,200 predecessor, is a special incentive which is created by combining money from the Montgomery GI Bill (\$13,200) with a \$1,200 contribution from the soldier, and the remaining \$15,600 provided by the ACF. Similar increase have been made for a three-year enlistment providing \$25,000 for college tuition, and a two-year enlistment providing \$20,000.

As college expenses have increased, so has the importance of a college education to success in many career fields. At the same time, sources for funding college education have declined. The ACF provides qualified individuals opportunities to obtain

drugs or hypnosis. Some are given electric shock to erase the memory of the abuse:

A Glendale, California woman sued her psychiatrist, charging he had convinced her to have sexual intercourse under the guise of "psychiatric therapy" and then admitted her to a hospital for electric shock treatments to erase her memory of the matter.

Recently psychiatrists have been working to infiltrate religions and schools by providing sex offender treatment to members of the clergy and educators. The chosen method of treatment is "prevention". These psychiatrists actually want to determine if a

person may have the potential of being a sex offender and if so, then stop him before he starts. A concept they have failed with in their own profession.

These psychiatrists should not be allowed to treat anyone on sex offenses as they have the highest offense rate. The schools need to be educated, the clergy needs to be educated, parents need to be educated.

The psychiatric industry cannot control their own sexual perversions, therefore they should not be allowed near the children or the clergy.

Alicia Olson
Southeast Portland