

# Monster

Kody Scott was born and raised in war-torn South Central Los Angeles, a place that, after the Rodney King incident and the riots last year, has become a symbol of the decay and despair that is permeating our inner cities. At age eleven, gun in hand, Kody was initiated into the L.A. gang, the Crips, and from that day on all his energy, ambition and vitality went into gang life. It is an existence unbelievable and unfathomable to anyone outside this world.

**Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang member** (Atlantic Monthly Press: June 28, 1993) is the first-hand account of Kody Scott's life. As he says in the preface:

"I have pushed people violently out of this existence and have fathered three children. I have felt completely free and have set in total solitary confinement in San Quentin state prison. I have shot numerous people and have been shot seven times myself. I have been in gunfights in South Central and knife fights in Folsom State Prison. Today, I languish at the bottom of one of the strictest maximum security state prisons in this country."



Former LA Gang Member Kody Scott

Monster chronicles this life with vivid--often dangerously violent--detail. Covered with tatoos and bullet holes, Kody tells of how he earned his name "Monster," how he existed and survived on the streets between carjackings and beatings, subsequently ending up in juvenile hall,

probationary camp, and Youth Authority. Even in jail, where Kody has spent almost one-half of his life, the gang lifestyle still prevails. And it is from jail--solitary confinement--that he has written this riveting look at his life.

But this book goes beyond simply portraying the gang lifestyle. Self-educated, mostly in prison, Kody studied the writings of Eldridge Cleaver and Malcolm X, among others and discovered a new world for himself--a redemption that has taken him way beyond the rough and tumble of South Central Los Angeles. He says, "Writing has been my spear and intelligence has been my shield...Where I come from, I'm very old. While I still have wind, I decided to chronicle my life in hopes of reaching a receptive ear." Now, twenty-nine years old, he has given us one of the most remarkable and important documents about this highly visible but little understood aspect of the black ghetto experience today. Written with a keen eye and a razor-sharp narrative, **Monster** promises to linger with all who read it for quite some time. If we are ever going to solve the problems of the rampant violence and decay afflicting America's inner cities, we must first understand them. And to understand we must listen to the voices coming out of this inner city experience.

Summertime for children can be a three-month excuse for sleeping in, unsupervised play and a lot of "hanging out" with nothing to do.

So why are hundreds of inner-city, at-risk youth spending half of each summer day attending academic classes, researching positive career opportunities and learning the true meaning of community pride and empowerment?

**What:** Fifth annual Summer awards luncheon recognizing Self Enhancement, Inc. students for academic achievement and participation in SEI summer camps. Awards include cash bonuses and the much-coveted Self Enhancement jackets.

**Who:** Ray Leary and Tony

Hopson, SEI co-founders; other community leaders; and hundreds of SEI students and their families.

**When:** Thursday, August 12, 1993, Noon-1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Red Lion Hotel/Lloyd Center, First floor ballroom, 1000 NE Multnomah.

**Why:** All Portland-area residents can take pride in this nationally-recognized local program dedicated to helping inner-city, at risk youth avoid drugs gangs and violence. A source of hope for more than 700 inner-city Portland youth and their families, SEI is currently raising funds to build and operate the new Center for Self Enhancement in north/northeast Portland.

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## Firemen Join Ranks Of Drug Marshals

Members of the Portland Fire Department pledged their support of a drug-free community by joining the ranks of the Drug-Free Marshals this week.

The Drug-Free Marshals campaign was originally launched in Los Angeles in April where more than 500 attendees watched as the FBI swore in over 200 kids as Drug-Free Marshals. To become a Marshal, kids ages 5 to 12 had to qualify in a Marshal contest, submitting a picture, song, essay, etc., on how they would create a drug-free community. The campaign was brought to Portland with a similar kick-off event earlier this summer where 32 contest winners were sworn in as Marshals.

The Drug-Free Marshal pledge has kids promise to live a drug-free life, show their friends that a drug-free life is more fun, help their fellow Drug Free Marshals, learn more about how drugs really harm people, tell people the truth about the harmful effects of drugs, help their family and friends be drug-free and set a good example to all children by leading the way to a drug free USA. As part of upholding this pledge, the new Marshals are touring Portland, deputizing community leaders and learning more ways to combat society's drug problem.



Portland fire fighters after signing the Drug-Free marshals pledge.

The Drug-Free Marshals campaign is sponsored and supported by several Portland churches, schools and businesses and coordinated by the Church of Scientology's Lead The Way to a Drug-Free USA program.

Angie Mann, spokesperson for the Lead the Way to a Drug Free USA program, commented, "While the Church was the main catalyst behind this program, it is the drive of the kids

that keeps the program alive and growing. They take their jobs quite seriously and work to find different ways to act out the Drug-Free Marshals pledge."

Enjoying a 100% drug-free congregation themselves, the Church of Scientology is known for its support of drug-free solutions and working with a wide variety of organizations that are leading the way to handle

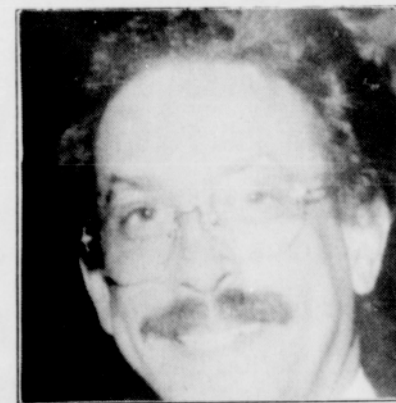
society's drug and crime problems. Local sponsors and supporters intend to hold a second Drug-Free Marshals contest later this year.

For more information about the contest, how your group can participate in the Drug Free Marshal program or how you can become a Drug-free Marshal, contact Angie Mann at the Church of Scientology at 228-0116.

## Bogle Re-elected President Of Black Newspaper Publishers Group

At its recent annual conference in Los Angeles, the members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association that represents 205 African-American newspapers across the country, re-elected Robert W. Bogle to serve a second consecutive two-year term as the organization's national president.

Bogle, who has served as member of the NNPA board for the past 20 years, is president of the Philadelphia Tribune, the oldest Afri-



NNPA President, Robert W. Bogle

can-American owned newspaper in the country.

Also elected to serve with Bogle as officers of the NNPA were Melvyn J. Williams, Esq., publisher-editor, The Macon Courier, Macon Georgia (1st vice president); John Smith, publisher-CEO, Atlanta Inquirer, Atlanta, Georgia (2nd vice president); Floyd Adams, publisher, Savannah Herald, Savannah, Georgia (Secretary); and Dorothy Leavell, publisher, Gary Crusader, Gary Indiana (Treasurer).

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## Implementing Education Reform In Oregon

The City Club of Portland's Oregon at Risk series continues with a discussion of education reform featuring Portland Public Schools Superintendent Jack Bierwirth, Oregon State Senate President Bill Bradbury, and Oregon State Board of Education Chair Jeana Woolley. This panel discussion will take place at the Club's weekly Friday program on August 20, at 12:15pm, in the Rose Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland. Members of the press and public are welcome at this event.

Senator Bradbury, fresh from a record-long session in Salem, will explain how the tax package referred to voters will affect education and the

future of education reform in Oregon; Woolley will discuss how other school districts statewide are dealing with the funding crisis and looking for ways to implement reform; Bierwirth will center his discussion on Portland's plans for reform in this climate of low funding and high expectations. The speakers' presentations will be followed by a question and answer session for City Club members.

Program 12:15 - 1:15. Luncheon reservations and cancellations, call 222-2582 by 2pm Thursday, August 19. Coffee tickets available at the door; free, open seating in back available on a first-come first-served basis. Doors open 11:30am.

## \$1.2 Million Awarded To Metro Anti-Gang Programs

Governor Barbara Roberts announced \$1.7 million in grants to combat gang activity in the Portland metropolitan area. The federally-funded grants go to eight different efforts that work to help youth avoid becoming involved in gangs, or to rebuild their lives after their gang activity.

Governor Roberts made the grant announcement at Emmanuel Temple in North Portland, a site where two programs receiving grants provide services: drug treatment for youth and a range of services to young women involved in gangs. Governor Roberts toured the programs before making the grant announcement.

She also planned visits to the Mainstream Youth Program's Innervations Program, and to the Southeast Gang Resource Intervention Team project. The Innervations Program provides drug treatment for African-American youth. Southeast

GRIT is a specialized intensive supervision program that diverts juvenile offenders from gang and criminal activity.

Governor Roberts made the awards based on recommendations from the Governor's Drug and Violent Crime Policy Board. The grants announced are the first of \$4.5 million in grants to be distributed this year, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

**These are the anti-gang efforts funded by the governor's grants:**

**Main stream, Innervations:** \$155,053. Drug Treatment for African-American youth who have committed gang-related criminal activity or that are at-risk for gang involvement. Culturally specific outpatient drug treatment services have been provided to 154 youth, of whom 112 have continued in treatment for six months.

**Police Activities League, Drug Education Program:** \$38,822 Program Director - Lt. Gerry Nyberg, 796-3017. This project provides a drug and gang resistance program for the Police Activities League. This program has distributed 7,000 drug resistance brochures.

**Portland House of Umoja:** \$118,000, Program Director - William Jennings, 282-3296. This grant will fund the Outreach Program of the House of Umoja. The program's main goal is to reduce the participation of youth in gangs and related crime. Outreach participation has grown to 111 youth and a many youth that have been involved for at least 3 months have no further arrests.

**Multnomah County Juvenile Justice S.E. Gang Resource Intervention Team:** \$211,077, Program Director - Lorenzo Poe, 248-3460. The Southeast G.R.I.T. unit, is a specialized intensive supervision program that provides a variety of

services to intervene and divert juvenile offenders from gang and criminal activity. In the past year, Southeast G.R.I.T. has supervised 70 juvenile offenders and provided 70 skill building and counseling groups.

**Multnomah County Juvenile Justice, Gang influenced Female Team:** \$388,923, Program Director - Lorenzo Poe, 248-3460. This program provides crisis intervention, mentorship, patening, employment, and life skills services to young women who are gang involved with the goal of prevention their further involvement with gangs and criminal activity. The program also includes specialized services for Southeast Asian young women.

**Multnomah County Juvenile Justice, Youth Employment and Empowerment:** \$175,000, Program Director - Lorenzo Poe, 248-3460. This program provides employment training and unsubsidized jobs for

youth to prevent their further involvement with gangs and criminal activity. In the past year 194 youth have received employment training, 48 youth have been placed in jobs, and 56% have been employed at least 60 days.

**Project RODAC: YAUN Care Center,** \$60,983 Program Director, Rodney Cook, 281-7564. Provides drug treatment on-site at four agencies that work with gang-involved youth. The four agencies are the House of Umoja, Yaun Youth Care Center, Youth Redirections, and Minority Youth Concerns action Program. In the past year, 40 youths have received treatment and over 50% have remained clean and sober.

**MYCAP Mental Health Initiative:** \$22,719, Program Director - Tim Holt, 280-1050. This program provides mental health counseling, conducted by a psychologist, for gang-involved youth at the Minority Youth Concerns Action Program House.

## Grant Park Traffic Safety Fair Postponed

This weekend's Grant Park Traffic Safety Fair, a special day of educational events and games, has been postponed until the fall. Originally scheduled for Saturday, August 7, the event instead will be held during the academic year in order to encourage involvement by local school children. It is sponsored by Portland's Bureau of Traffic Management and the Grant Park Neighborhood Association.

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