

Gateway Gazette

Volume VII, Issue II

September 6, 2005

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Welcome back to school brings new students and old issues.

Chicago 2005

With the passing of Labor Day, it's the unofficial, official end of summer and back to school for the rest of the nation. Although schools all across America have started as early as August 1, the vast majority start school on September 6th.

As school begins for many American teens the issues that surround them at school are present. To list a few, will they fit in, will they like school, are they safe while at school, are they safe while walking to school, will they make friends, and lastly how they will do academically.

Most young people really don't pay attention to the academic side in the first few weeks of school. Rather they spend the majority of their time sizing up each other, testing teachers



and staff and getting accustomed to their new surroundings.

Very shortly, if they haven't already started, Police Officer's who teach programs such as G.

A.T.E. will venture into classrooms to begin addressing the many issues that face America's youth. As the instructors strive to address and possibly deal with individual issues as they arise, the instructors must remember that today's youth are preoccupied with the fitting in issue, dating and the all to important "looking cool."

Do you remember your first few days of school in Junior High or Middle school, or the way you felt on your first day of High School. Take a few moments to address these issues in your classes and in conversations with your young people and you just may bridge a gap and open a gate to someone's future.

Plain White T-Shirt newest symbol for gangs, cops say.

August 29, 2005

Colors -- blue, black, red and others -- have long trumpeted gang affiliation on Chicago's corners.

But cops are noticing a new trend in neighborhoods where drugs are peddled -- a plain white T-shirt.

The idea is that if you look like everyone else on the corner, the police might have a harder time finding you. Some call it "urban camouflage."

Although colors have not faded completely from gangs, there are criminally economic reasons to wear white, investigators say.

"There are different occasions -- occasions to represent and occasions to do business," said Sgt. James Fiduccia of the Chicago Police Department's Gang Intelligence Section. "They are using urban camouflage to blend in."

Rap song may add to the allure

As a group and from a distance, the teens -- and some adults -- are nearly

indistinguishable in the same oversize white T's. At a recent picnic of suspected gang members, officers who were in the area said the statement was undeniable.

"There was anywhere up to 400 to 600 people all wearing white," Fiduccia said. "It was brand new T-shirts. You could see the creases."

Fiduccia said the trend is a few years old, and it's common among all gangs. He and other gang investigators stress that the white shirts don't signal a gang -- just the potentially criminal behavior of gang members, or anyone else, who might want to avoid arrest.

"We're seeing it more around drug areas," said Cmdr. Mike Cronin, head of gang intelligence. "When you see a description of 5 feet 8 inches, 150 pounds, wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt, where do you start?"

The T-shirt is the subject of a rap song by Dem Franchize Boyz, which notes how affordable the tops are.

A look of 'rebellion'

Still, a University of Illinois at Chicago professor who has spent several years studying Chicago gangs cautioned that a lot of kids wearing the shirts are doing what James Dean did in his white T -- rebelling and not much else. And this particular song, which is quite catchy, adds to the allure of the look, said UIC's John Hagedorn.

"Listen to it once, and you'll get it," Hagedorn said. "If you're a kid and you hear it, you'll want to run out and get a big T. They see it as resistance and rebellion."

Hagedorn allowed, however, that some kids take the rebellion too seriously and are deep into gangs.

At least one suburban high school has banned the shirts because of the ties to street gangs.

Source: *Chicago Sun Times*
Anne Sweeney

“Schools confront gang violence”

August 30, 2005

Reporter: Arlo Wagner
Washington Times

Montgomery County public school students returned to classes yesterday with visits from County Executive Douglas M. Duncan and Superintendent Jerry D. Weast -- and under a strong police presence.

"There's a lot of concern around about gang activity, and of course we're geared up for that," Mr. Weast said outside of Wheaton High School.

Police officers have been assigned to each of the school system's 23 high schools to confront violence among teen gangs.

The problem has been increasing in the District, Northern Virginia and Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

On Aug. 5, two summer school students were stabbed outside Springbrook High School in White Oak.

Mr. Duncan, a Democrat, said the county is spending the necessary money on security to protect its 139,447 students in 194 schools, including two new middle schools -- Lakeland Park in Gaithersburg

and A. Mario Loiederman in Wheaton, the new name for Belt Junior High, which was closed in 1983.

"We want our children to worry about what is in their schoolbooks, not what's happening outside," he said after greeting students at Wheaton as they got off the yellow school buses.

"We wabn our children to worry about what is in their schoolbooks, not what's happening outside."

Mr. Duncan described gang violence as a "horrible thing," but said county officials are "moving forward to address the issue." At Wheaton, David Parrish, the school system's security team leader, admonished a student to remove his baseball cap, which was atop a bandanna, worn gang-style.

However, most of the warnings about inappropriate attire were directed at girls revealing bare midriffs and belly buttons.

Principal George Arlotto told the girls to cover themselves with shirts or jackets before entering the building.

Anne Arundel County public school officials reported no problems on the first day for their 74,500 students in 129 schools.

"We're doing great today," said Robert C. Leib, the school system's chief of staff. "It's been very calm. This morning we had zero bus accidents. Usually we have a number of fender benders."

Yesterday also was opening day for Loudoun County Public Schools, which opened two new high schools and three new elementary schools. The system now has 68 schools for 47,467 students, 3,453 more than last year.

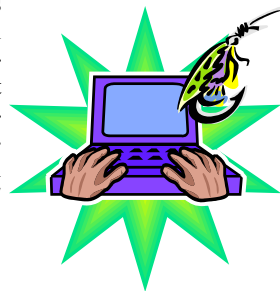
The most significant change for Loudoun schools was lengthening the school day by 20 minutes and beginning foreign language instruction at elementary schools. Most other Virginia schools begin next Tuesday, the day after Labor Day.

IBM says “Phishing” is conducted by Criminal Gangs

August 2, 2005

In the early days of the Internet, geeky hackers competed to see who could create the most diabolical computer viruses. The motivation was a twisted kind of bragging rights. But a study released by IBM says hackers today have a different motivation -- profit.

In its Global Business Security Index, the computer giant says email continues to grow as a security menace, with messages often disguised as communications from legitimate entities that seek to pry personal and financial information from the unsuspecting. Believed to be largely driven by criminal gangs, “phishing” was tied to 35.7 million emails in the first half of 2005.



The experts also noted an increase in “spear phishing,” highly targeted and coordinated attacks at a specific organization or individual designed to extract critical data. Also, more and more electronic messages contain viruses that can harm computer or network operations.

The overall volume of viruses has exploded. In January of 2004, one in every 129 emails contained a virus; by June of this year, infections had spread to one in every 28 emails.

The first half of 2005 saw more than 237 million security attacks overall, more than 20 percent of which were

aimed at government computers. The United States was overwhelmingly the target location for attacks (12 million), followed distantly by New Zealand (1.2 million) and China (1 million).

Surprisingly, spam, unsolicited and unwanted email, provided a bright spot in the study. The ratio of spam to legitimate email continuously decreased over the course of the last six months, from 83 percent in January to 67 percent in June 2005.

"IBM advises its clients to rapidly adopt a holistic, enterprise-wide approach to security and risk management," said John Lutz, general manager of IBM's Financial Services Sector.

Drug Dealers live with their mommies, By Robert Tornabene

Recently there was an author who did some research in regards to why many Drug Dealers still live with their mothers. Interestingly enough it had nothing to do with the Federal Governments use of the R.I.C.O. act or the confiscation of proceeds from criminal activity, but rather of economics.

In fact one of the leading reasons which resulted in funding the war on drugs during the rise of crack dealing was the belief that drug dealers were armed with state-of-the-art weapons and a bottomless supply of cash. The author stated "nothing infuriated the law-abiding populace more then the image of the millionaire crack dealer." The authors premise is based on some research that was conducted by a graduate student in the inner city of Chicago. What he learned is that many of the gangs that dealt drugs ran their operation much like McDonalds did. The gang franchised out drug sales, but only based on a licensing fee. In addition members were required to pay dues and the gang also made money through extortion of local businesses.

In reality gangs such as the Black Disciple were and are run like a gigantic pyramid scheme. With lets say roughly the top 100 men making over a \$100,000 a year tax free,



while the upper management made conservatively \$500,000 a year tax free. Not everyone in the gang was paid a salary, especially the lowly foot soldier

In fact the typical McDonalds employee has the same issues that a foot soldier would have in a Chicago street gang.

The wages were not that very high and their benefits were very poor. In fact many of the gangs foot soldiers had to also work low income jobs in order to make money or venture out into other criminal enterprises which could result in repercussions from the gang or law enforcement.

One of the major issues that face most businesses are also of concern to big labor. When there are a lot of people willing to do a job, that job generally doesn't pay well. If you study the inner city economics you can understand why, almost 60% of the neighborhoods surrounding the Black Disciples street gang live below the poverty level, 78% come from single family homes, less then 5% of the adults have a college degree and less then one in three adult men work at all.

The biggest problem surrounding drug dealing is that there are a lot people competing for a very few prizes. Just like anyone, those interested in selling drugs respond to incentives, obviously the chance at a big pay off no matter how remote are still a great draw.

Here are some underlying facts, the average corner crack dealer was making \$3.30 per hour. They must start at the bottom and work their way up. They must be willing to work long hard hours at below minimum wage, and ultimately they will come to the sad realization that they will never make it to the top, ultimately quitting. What we need to do as educators, police officer and parents is teach America's young people this before they become involved. Or ultimately they will be living with their mommies for a very long time.

The book is title "Freakonomics: A Rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything." Levitt, Steve D and Dubner, Stephen J.

Nurture your child's self esteem

A child's self-esteem is nurtured in a supportive home where he or she feels safe, loved and valued. A child with positive self-esteem is more likely to avoid dangerous situations and be less open to gangs. Building self-esteem must begin at a very early age and continue throughout their childhood.

- Support your child's goals and ideas, even if they differ from your own.
- Give your child a chance to contribute to the family. Assign chores or jobs that your child is old enough to do.
- Focus on your child's good points, praise positive behavior.
- Let your child know you expect good efforts and hard work in everything.

- Teach your child that trying hard counts as much as success. Praise your child's efforts as well as achievements.
- Encourage your child to make independent choices.
- Make it clear that you love your child as he or she is.
- Ask for your child's opinions and decisions on family matters.
- Express your feelings and encourage your child to do the same. Try not to judge or criticize your child's feelings.
- Set reasonable limits and follow through on them. That way, your child learns to handle limits.

Remember having the right attitude, about gangs and that you will do any-

thing to prevent them from getting involved in gangs. Be a role model for your child. Do not ask them to stay drug and violent free if you can't live up to those expectation as well. Children do as they see. Always know where, what and who your child is with at all times. Above all show interest in your child and ask numerous questions about school, their day and their concerns, do not just let them get away with those famous words "everything is fine."

Parents are truly the anti-drug for America's youth, by be involved being a good listener and above all being their parent can go along way to making your child drug and gang free.

Nurture their desire to do well in life!

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GATE Instructor Certification
January 3-6, 2005
Chicago Illinois
For more information go to
www.openthegate.org/le/certification/

Opening the GATE for our youth's Future

www.openthegate.org

G.A.T.E. America Inc, is a organization that works daily to protect America's young people from violence. That violence can be youth on youth violence, adult on youth violence, racial intolerance and terrorism. G.A.T.E. America strives to provide law enforcement officers and teachers with the appropriate training in order to achieve our mission and goals. This is achieved through programs such as G.A.T.E., a school based gang education intervention/prevention program for grades 5th through 8th. The G.A.T.E. program is presently completing a K through 4th grade program to compliment this program. The RADICAL program which is a high school based program will be available shortly, it presently is in the review stage by our Advisory Board. Look at the website for updates on this program.

GATE America Inc, also want to educate school administrators and teachers about gang violence through our series of training courses such as Gangs 101, and Counseling Wannabe's out of Becoming Gonnabes.

GATE America also wants to better prepare law enforcement officers to deal with youth violence, and the protection of our children. This is achieved through offering training courses and networking opportunities such as Terrorism Preparedness for Educational Institutions, Terrorism In the Workplace, Gangs 101, GATE Instructor Certification and a host of more.

Welcome Aboard Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office

G.A.T.E. America, Inc. is proud to welcome aboard the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Tampa Florida.

In May 2005, instructors went down to Tampa Bay and completed certifying 30 School Resource Deputies in the G.A.T.E. Curriculum.

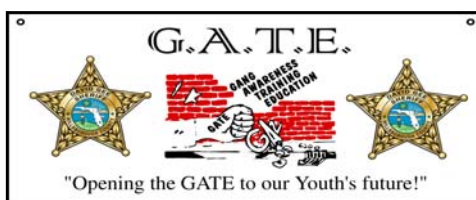
Hillsborough County has over 124,000 students in the school system and the Sheriff's Office works diligently on anti-drug, anti-gang and anti-violence programs in their schools.

G.A.T.E. replaces their DARE and GREAT programs in Hillsborough. Deputies saw a need for a more flexible adaptable program for their agency and GATE is the program they chose.

The certified deputies will teach the classes through the school program.

GATE America, Inc, looks forward to a long relationship to reduce gangs activity, drug use and violence among the Hillsborough youth.

A special thanks goes to Deputy/SRD Richard Cervis for his efforts in brining G.A.T.E. down to Florida.



Quick Tips for Educators

Violence and Aggression in youth and what to look for. Aggressive behavior is learned and maintained in a manner similar to other behaviors. Three important factors in behavior development and modification are modeling, positive reinforcement, and negative reinforcement. Teachers and peers may be modeling inappropriate or aggressive behavior without being aware of its undue influence on an aggressive student. Similarly, they may reinforce disruptive behaviors either positively (through attention to the student) or negatively (removal of the student from class or similar constraint allows him or her to escape or avoid what is perceived to be an aversive situation).

Aggressive students often exhibit deficits in social information processing; that is, they are likely to misinterpret social cues and mis-assign hostile intent to others, especially during times of stress. They are more likely than others to have some social skills deficits such as poor impulse control, low frustration tolerance, limited ability to generate alternative responses to stress, and limited insight into the feelings of self and others. Social skills training can be crucial to these students.

These students also may be frequently frustrated and yet have fewer skills than others to cope with the frustration. Additional sources of frustration for these students include:

- * Disorganized or inconsistent teachers
- * Failure
- * Boredom
- * Lack of positive reinforcement
- * Irrelevant curriculum
- * Overexposure to punishment
- * Feelings of powerlessness