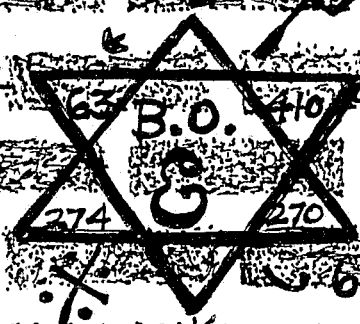


1985



WINE
GLASS

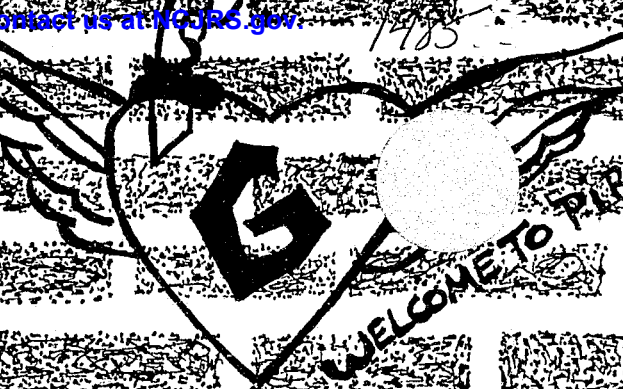
ECC
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HOOVER



W

6

K



WELCOME TO P.P.P.

GIE
ECC
G

GANGES

FORES

A

Mini
P.P.P.

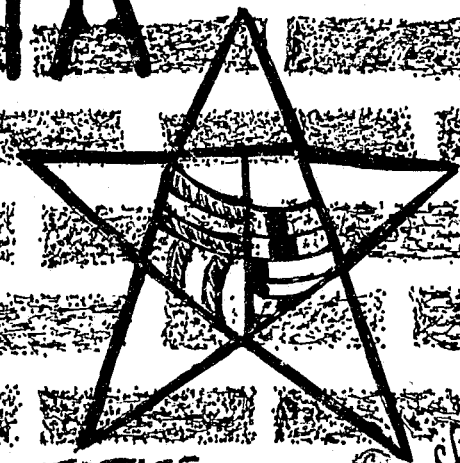
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DILEMMA

LOVE

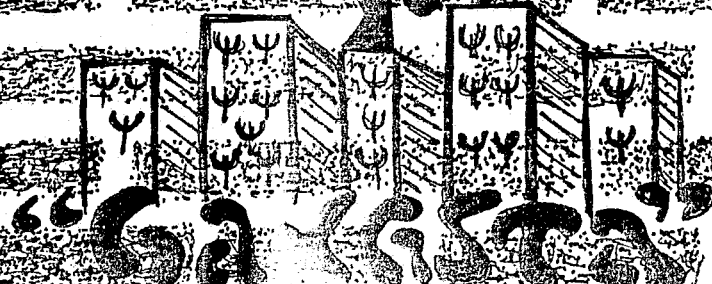
PEACE

TRU



JUSTICE

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Front cover done by Charlyn Liddell.

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Acknowledgment and Dedication

A special thanks to Thomas Babicky, Illinois Department of Corrections Training Officer, and to the Los Angeles Police and County Sheriff's Departments whose conferences and materials were used in the construction of this manual. A note of gratitude to Sgt John D. Shumway, who has been fighting the battle against gangs in Montgomery. Also to Charlyn Liddell whose drawings on all on my manuals is acknowledged with love and gratitude. Finally thanks to Dan Morse, staff reporter for the Alabama Journal, whose articles in the local newspaper have made all Montgomerians more aware of the gang problem.

To the following people for their work toward solving the gang problem in Montgomery: Judge John Davis; Judge Richard Dorrough; Referee Robert T. Bailey; Bruce Howell; Chief Probation Officer of Montgomery County, Beverly Riddle Wise; my supervisor. Intake staff: Michael Provitt; Ronda Beesley; Julia Summers; Catherine Andrews; David Beverly; Mickey McDermott; Charles Glasscock; probation staff: Steve Wooten, who edited the parent manual; Patricia Strickland; Betty Jo Whatley; John Hurst; Micheal George; and Roslyn Goodwin.

The manual is dedicated to my parents Sam and Vera Vrgora, who are my best friends.

Parents wonder why the streams are bitter
when they themselves have poisoned
the fountain.

John Locke

This is a guide to be used in the fight against gangs. It will attempt to help professionals become more familiar with the identifying factors that are woven into the gang culture. Some of the information was provided by agencies that have had many years of contact with street gangs.

This material is subject to change and should be classified for use only by **professionals**. Crips and Bloods information was provided by the Los Angeles Police and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Departments. Information containing knowledge about the Disciples and Vice Lords was provided by Thomas Babicky. Also information was provided by Sgt John D. Shumway, Montgomery Police Department and Fredrick Vrgora, M.S., Montgomery County Family Court who investigates gangs in the Montgomery area.

A man cannot be comfortable without
his own approval.

Mark Twain

What is a Man?

1906

Written by
Fredrick Vrgora, M.S.

Gangs: A Counselor's Dilemma

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Introduction to Professional Counselors

The formation of gangs is not a new phenomenon in this part of the country. Florida, Mississippi, Georgia and other southern states have experienced gang activity for some time. Gang formation in Montgomery County has become a growing problem since 1988. The groundwork for the formation of gangs in Montgomery has been building for the past two years. It has penetrated the core of our existence, today's young people. Gangs, like the boll weevils of the 1800's, are destroying the inner city youths by the hundreds.

Most southern cities are currently experiencing gang violence. In the Birmingham News, dated 7-28-91, staff writer Roy Williams, revealed some shocking statistics about other southern states' homicide rates due to juvenile and gang-related crimes. Current homicide rates in cities such as Birmingham, Charlotte, and Louisville are already in excess of those of the same time last year by between 13 and 19 percent (Local Police Departments statistics, as reported by the Birmingham News, 1991). Sgt Ray Reed, a homicide detective, in Jackson, Mississippi reports that Jackson's homicide rate is up 21%-mostly due to drive-by shootings and drug related crime (Birmingham News, 1991). The United States is well on its way to surpassing last year's 23,220 reported homicides (Birmingham News, 1991). Increasing crime statistics reveal that southern states have growing gang and drug problems. Few answers have been found to combat this problem.

The problem is complex and few answers appear to be at hand. Lack of jobs for these youths, and poor parental supervision contribute to the gang phenomenon. Causal factors include peer pressure, intimidation by hard core gang members, and poor role models (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

Gang members are often underachievers with no real sense of identity. They try to find their identity within the gang organization. Since most of them are underachievers the gang

provides a perfect atmosphere for what they perceive to be important: **to make money and gain power.** (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989)

The gang member is usually a low-income African-American, who has a poor academic record, and has either dropped out or has been indefinitely suspended from school. Most gangs are classified as 100% black with less than a 1% white membership (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989). The gang problem in Montgomery for whites is at 10%. At present gang membership by whites has been dominated by the lower-and middle-classes.

In the gang members' society, different norms and rules emerge. Any gesture, real or imagined, can be met with harsh and deadly consequences toward rival gang members. All hard-core gang members are willing to defend their turf and their policies to the death. When coming into contact with a possible gang member, it is best not to show fear. It can never be known whether a gang member wearing colors is hard-core or a fringe member, so one should not **disgrace or ridicule their graffiti or clothing.** Dangerous and violent consequences could follow (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

I hope this manual will be beneficial to professional counselors who feel that their clients could be involved in gang activity. This manual should help make counselors aware of how to detect whether certain clients are involved in gang activity. Identifying this problem early may be an answer to deterring gang activity. Steps should be taken by the counselor to refer the gang member to the appropriate agencies so that these clients will not become hard-core members. It appears that the deeper their involvement, the harder it is to break the hold of the gang's influence.

Gang Structure

The Illinois Department of Corrections has identified four criteria used to define a street gang. The first criterion is that a gang is an organization or group with a leadership that is recognizable. Second, the gang is unified during good and bad times. Third, it demonstrates its unity with colors, symbols or hand signs. Fourth, the gang participates in illegal activities that are detrimental to society. The gang has four shared elements: loyalty, unity, identity and reward.

There is a relationship between five other factors to the question of gang existence. The first addresses whether the members have local meetings, or recurrent interaction. Gang members will meet on a regular basis to discuss activities and initiate new gang members. These meetings are usually held once a week at the same place and time. Second, the question of whether these members claim to be an organization should be addressed. Do they share the same name and have some form of leadership? The third criterion is whether they wear the same type of clothing or other specific colors to identify their organization. The fourth category has to do with whether they claim any territorial boundaries. This is commonly known as turf and decorated with graffiti. Finally do they involve themselves in criminal activity (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

There are three basic levels of membership to which the gang member can aspire within the organization. The first is the leader, who is boss or the general over his members. The more members the leader has, the stronger he can become. These members are usually the oldest and the most hostile, and do not, on the whole, engage in illegal activities. The second level includes the hard-core members. These individuals are gang members, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Their lives evolve around the gang violence and criminal activity surrounding the gang. In the third level, the members are called marginal or fringe. These individuals drift in and out of the

gang and its activities, and do not know the day-to-day operation of the gang. They associate with the gang for status and recognition. These individuals are the youngest members and often the most dangerous. They are attempting to prove themselves to the gang to become hard-core members. The hard-core leaders use them to commit crimes because it takes a higher level of deviant behavior to be convicted (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

There appears to be many reasons for an individual to join a gang: for identity and recognition; achieving a perceived level of status; and a lack of recognition by their parents. Protection is another incentive for joining a gang. Members sometimes join because they live in an area where they are subject to violence by rival gang members. Joining guarantees support from their fellow members. Another factor is fellowship and brotherhood. To the majority of these youths, gangs are an extension of their own family. The leader is considered the father figure often lacking in their own home. The leaders usually go after the underachievers that the school has abandoned due to behavioral problems. Another factor is that of intimidation. Some members are forced to join out of strict peer pressure, which may range from extortion to physical beatings (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

The recruitment ages range from eight to fifty-five years of age. Gang members can be recruited in many ways. One is through the institution. It has become apparent that DYS has become a hub for gang formation. It is this writer's hypothesis that this is how gangs have formed in Montgomery and in other cities in Alabama. Certain gangs have become the mainstay in the DYS system. The majority of housing projects, in which most of the delinquents are emerging appear to be the geographic base from which gangs recruit members. Other members come from the families where children are already members. The gang has many ways to initiate new members, and depending on the group one will either be beaten or blessed into the gang.

Identifiers

Identifiers take the form of clothing, graffiti, colors, and hand signs. To the layman these symbols have no meaning. However, to gang members, these symbols are a vital and necessary part of their organization. To the hard-core, it represents the world in which they exist and the boundaries they attempt to control. In reality any misrepresentation, misuse, or defacing of their graffiti will result in violent retribution against the person, rival gang member or lay person.

Graffiti: This is a way for the gang to mark their turf, using meaningful symbols. Graffiti on walls serve several objectives: (1) to show their dominance or control over the area; (2) to establish turf; and (3) to show hate or opposition to a rival gang. The latter is used by showing the rival gang's graffiti upside down, backwards, or both. All graffiti should be removed as soon as it is found to accomplish two goals: (1) to see if it returns; and (2) that the gang can not establish turf (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

Hand Signs: This is the method used by gangs to communicate to one another. They will use it to show allegiance to one set, or opposition to another. Various gang hand signs are the same as that used by the hearing impaired.

Clothing: Gang members usually dress alike. Colors such as black, blue, and red will dominate in their dress. They will not wear the colors of rival gang members. Clothing is just one of several ways of identifying gang members.

Identifying a Gang Member: Other attempts to identify gang members include considering whether he openly admits to gang membership. Also, asking questions such as whether he: communicates to other people in gang language, such as, "Cuzz", "Homeboy", or "Blood"; tattoos his body with gang slogans or symbols; carries a rag and wears it somewhere on his body; marks his gang's graffiti on walls, school books, and notebook paper (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

Disciples

The Disciples were formed in the early 60's and were the rivals of the Black-P-Stone Rangers. The Disciples grew under the leadership of David Barksdale. Barksdale was killed and the leadership role was taken over by Larry Hoover, who formed the Black Gangster Disciples. In 1985 the Disciples attempted to unite under one leader, but failed. They broke into the Gangster Disciples, Black Disciples and the Asiatic Apostles headed by Dirk Acklin. At the present time the Disciples are the major group at the Illinois Department of Correction.

The major group in Montgomery are the Disciples. They are referred to as "Folks". They will place the letter "L" backwards and up side down to show opposition to the Vice Lord Nation. Disciples are right-oriented. They will place their hats, belts, and have their tattoos to the right. Disciples have many sets. However, they will fall into two major categories: **BGD** or **IGD**. **BGD** means Black, or Bad Gangster Disciples. **IGD** means Insane Gangster Disciples. The two major sets of **BGD** Disciples appear to be the 63 and the 410. The two major **IGD** sets are the 36 and 720. All Disciple sets originate in Chicago.

Common factors in their graffiti are the pitchfork, the six-pointed star, dollar signs, rabbit heads with bent ears, and the heart with a sword through it. Jewelry includes a six-pointed star of David and a Mariner Cross.

The common color factors in their clothing will be black and white. Note the shoelaces, not only in the Disciple members, but also other gangs. They will have two sets of laces showing their gang colors, right or left depending on affiliation, and then one primary color in one shoe.

The Disciples have what they call a "book of knowledge". They have thirty six ranks that a member can aspire to. Each rank has its own knowledge to follow within the book. The ranks are from lowest to highest: Pee Wee; Minute Man; Foot Soldier; High Foot Soldier; Knight; Low Knight; Knight Walker; Royal

Knight; Knight of the Round Table; Royal Knight of the Round Table; High Knight; King of all Knights; Chief; Chief Executor; Chief Prosecutor; Chief Violator; Chief Enforcer; General; One Star General; Two Star General; Three Star General; Six Star General; Prince; Dunn; High Dunn; Set King; Dunn Bishop; Three Star King; Six Star King; Right Hand Man; King. The above ranks are **BGD** or **IGD**. However, some **IGD** ranks are the same as the Armys: Sergeant; Lieutenant; Majors; etc. All these positions have obligations and must perform certain activities within the gang. For example, the Foot Soldier is one of the lowest ranked men and thus has to do most of the illegal activities. These are the individuals with which law enforcement officials will probably come into contact with on the streets.

Disciple graffiti is easily recognizable. The six-pointed star is used often, as is a heart with a sword through it. The pitchfork is also used often. The initials **BGD** or **IGD** will be present somewhere in their graffiti. In Montgomery, Disciple graffiti has been found in the Southlawn, South Court, Capital Heights and Normandale areas. These areas appear to be included in their turf.

Disciples have various hand signs, with the most dominate ones being the pitchfork and various signs of their different ranks. These are on a slide presentation which may be viewed upon request.

The Disciples wear several types of hats or clothing referring to meanings within the gang organization. **NIKE** stands for: Niggers, Insane, Kicking Ass, Extremely. **FOLKS** stand for: Forever, Our, Love, Kill, Satan. **RAIDERS** stand for: Ruthless, Ass, Insane, Disciples, Eliminate, Red, Slop. **RED SLOP** stands for: Bloods. L.A. **KINGS** stand for: Killing, Innocent, Niggers, Gangster, Style. The six-pointed star stands for: Love, Light, Loyalty, Understanding, Knowledge and Wisdom.

The hats worn include gang names. Bandannas may be observed hanging out of their right back pockets.

As previously stated most Disciples will either be classified as BGD or IGD. However, this may not be the case for white members who are in the Disciple Nation. They could also be classified as GGD (Ghost Gangster Disciple) or WGD (White Gangster Disciple). In certain parts of the country the whites have their own Disciple "type gang" called the Simon City Royals. Everything that applies to the Black Disciples would be part of the Simon City Royals, such as pitchforks, hearts, six-pointed stars, etc.

"Knowledge" is a group of questions and answers that pertain to the history of the Disciple Nation. Members study it to gain rank within the nation. A Disciple member who claims that he holds a rank must know the knowledge which pertains to that rank. Knowledge is numbered and the higher the numbering of the knowledge the higher the rank of the member. A small sampling is provided so that one can become aware of what to look for when one comes into contact with this type of writing.

The following pages will contain "knowledge" and the symbols of the Disciple gang. To understand them one must know what the symbols stand for within the nation. The six-pointed star stands for the six principles of David Barksdale. The pitchfork's meaning is the nations power in the struggle to overcome oppression. The sword is used to mean life and death within the nation and the struggle to survive at all costs. The devil's horn stands for the nations determination to overcome all obstacles. The devil's tail is the oppression that all non-white peoples suffer. The heart represents the love of the nation (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

Women play an important role within the Disciple nation. One is for sex, which a girl is referred to as a DQ (Disciple Queen). This means she has gone to bed with numerous gang members and she is there for their pleasure. Also a girl can become a GQ (Gangster Queen), which means she will be used more as a look-out and for the hiding of drugs or weapons.

9
Knight Walker

- Phone # 360 - 3660
- address 63rd street
- where do you live? Langston City
- Hoover is on the right side of Hellgate
- David is on the left side of Hellgate
- Satan is in the middle of Hellgate
- John put up the 5 pt star
- Hoover shoot it down
- Hoover born in Oct, 18, 1966

bur mario is on the plant
it grows larger everytime someone join

- The 3 Cities are Langston City,
- Folk City, David City
- Langston City is in hell
- Folk City is in heaven
- David City is in Chicago

He was about to become a
King of Kings

Code of silence

66 FdK

A J OH @ 7 V W

50 opposition 72

B T3 h T1 p 2 W 7

45 neutral 5+

C < i 7 * * * R W X

410 Love

D X J K A R S W

4120 Life

E E K L A B X

420 Loyalty

F L I A 7 B X

430 Wi's dom

F T M I I V B 2 U

3600 Knowledge

Knight Knowledge page 6

1. What is under your right foot? 2 dead vicelords
2. What do you see out of your right eye? 2 dead vicelords
3. What ^{do} you see out of your left eye? pitch fork
4. What's wrong with your left leg? it's broke
5. What did David turn into when he jumped off the mountain? A 6 point star.
6. What did Hoover turn into when he jumped off the mountain? An eagle
7. Who broke the 6 point star? David did, when he died.
8. Who broke the 8 point star? Hoover did, when he went to jail
9. How much money did ^{David} have in his pocket when he died? 63 cents
10. Hoover - I don't know what you're talkin about mother-daughter, you know what you're talkin about mother-daughter, what are you talkin bout? mother-daughter
11. How many times do you fold your scarf - 6 times
12. ~~How~~ Which way do you fold your scarf - North
13. What do you have in your left pocket - ~~nothing~~
14. What do you have in your ~~right~~ right pocket - ~~nothing~~
15. What's at the beginning of the yellow brick road? pie
16. What's on both sides of the yellow brick road? David Hoover
17. Do you have the key to the gate? Who? Yes, David and Hoover

Chief Knowledge page 12

20. What's on the right side of the gate David.
21. Why did Hoover drop a bomb on Chicago? to split the nation of Mexicans
22. What's behind David Brown? Brown
23. Who are your 6 drop heads? David, Brown, Shamus Shamus Don Dee, Don Killhill
24. Where is David's blood? in the cactus behind his house
25. When was Shamus born
26. What does this mean

ψ dots B.G.D.
 2. I.G.D.
 7. O.G.D.
 1. M.G.D.

27. 500 - opener
28. 274 - B.G.D.
29. 270 - G.G., D.G.
30. 66 - 70% ^{44%} K\$
31. What is the worst name to call a cry - Crabs.
32. What is the worst name to call a blood - slabs
33. What is the worst name to call a 70% - Pouts
34. Book - Perpetrator
35. Book Bitt - wanna be gangster
36. How many steps to Mexico City? 63
37. How many steps to Mexico back? 36
38. pitchfork - mind, body, soul, plus strength of our nation
29. When did David die - in 1967

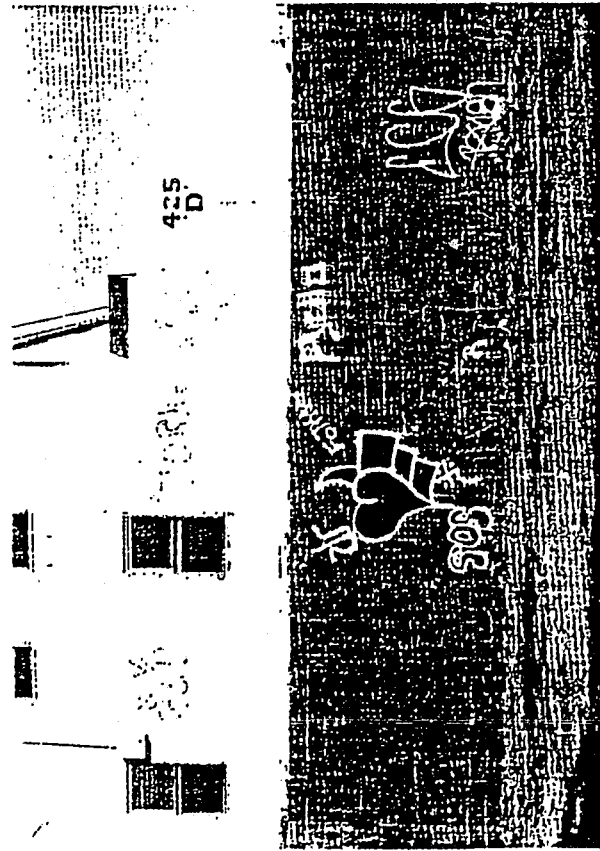
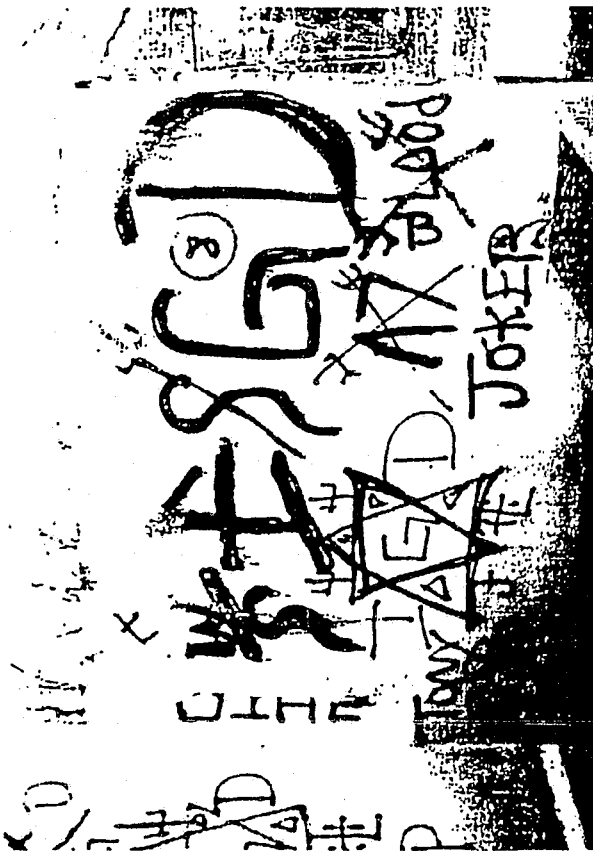
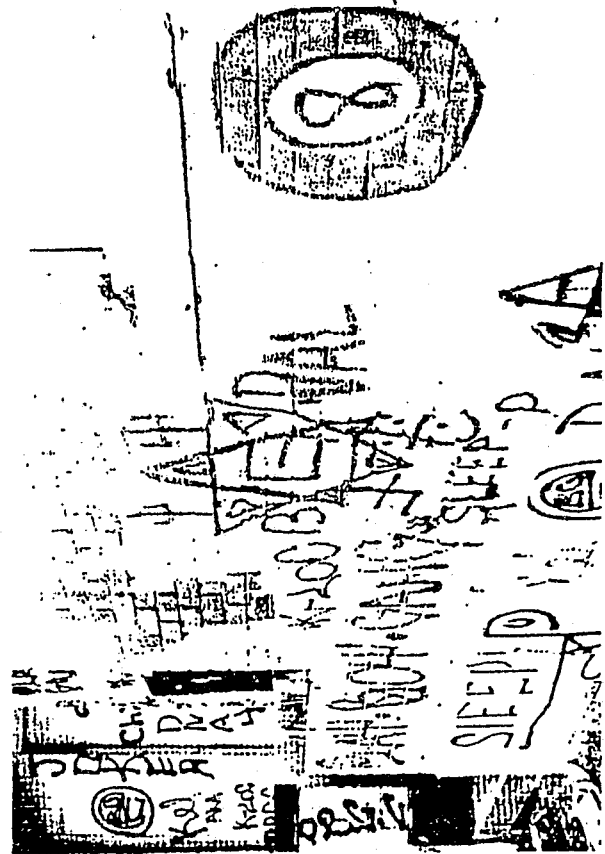
There are many places that graffiti can be found within any city. Usually graffiti can be located in ditches, under a interstate pass, and on walls in which gangs may consider their turf. Gang graffiti is very different in meaning and substance. Notify your local police department so that they can take pictures of the graffiti and make arrangement to have it removed. The following is a sample of the graffiti taken by the author so that one may become familiar with a certain gangs graffiti. Disciples will be views in the following section.

The graffiti displayed was that taken in the Montgomery area. Graffiti is much like a painting in that the artist wants to take credit for it. Graffiti is usually signed with the gang members name who drew the wall scrawl. Their gang names, known as their "moniker", is usually what most other members will know this individual as. Customarily the first of several names listed is the one who drew the graffiti with the others watching (Los Angeles Sheriff's Manual). The following applies for the Crips, Bloods and Vice Lord graffiti contained in this book.

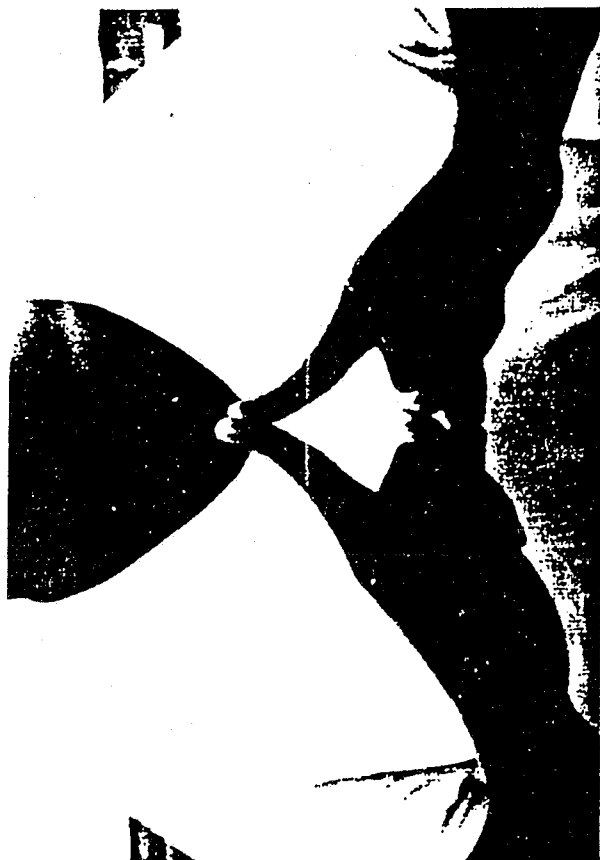
Following the graffiti is the Black Gangster Disciple Code. The code represents numbers which equal a letter of the alphabet often used by the Disciples to communicate to one another such as Morse Code. See the example below on page 15.

Disciples will go on "missions" and will possess a "mission list". A mission is another type of activity a Disciples must perform in order to gain rank within the nation, and consist of illegal activities requested by a high ranking member. Missions will include drive-by shootings, rapes, robberies, and property crimes. After each mission is completed the gang member will check off the accomplished item on his list. Failure to go on a mission could results in the member being "violated" or punished by their group.

Disciple Graffiti



Disciple Hand Signs



Black Gangster Disciples Code

1. A ALLAH, AS ALL, AND
2. B BE BORN, BROTHERS, BLACK
3. C SEE, COBRA CLUB
4. D DIVINE, DISCIPLES, DAUGHTER'S, DEATH, DISHONOR
5. E EQUALITY
6. F FATHER (HOOVER), FOLKS
7. G GOD, GANGSTER
8. H HE/HER, HOOVER
9. I ISLAM
10. J JUSTICE
11. K KINGDOM, KNOWLEDGE
12. L LOVE, LIFE
13. M MASTER, MUCH
14. N NATION
15. O OF ONE
16. P POWER
17. Q QUALITY
18. R RIGHT, RIGHTEOUS
19. S SELF, SAVIOR, SONS
20. T TRUE, TRUTH, TO THE
21. U UNIVERSE, UNITY, UNITE
22. V VICTORY
23. W WISDOM, WITH WE
24. X UNKNOWN
25. Y WHY, YOU
26. Z ZIG ZAG, MOVE OUT

EXAMPLE

2	7	4	9	7	4
Black-Gangster-Disciples			Insane-Gangster-Disciples		
7	7	4	2	11	
Ghost-Gangster-Disciple			Black Knowledge		

Taken from Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989

Vice Lords

The Vice Lords are the rival gang to the Disciples, and also started in Chicago. Like the Disciples they are known as a nation and were formed in the late 50's at a juvenile detention facility called St Charles. Some 20 factions of Vice Lords operate in the Chicago area. They are known as the Unknown Conservative Vice Lords. The Vice Lords leaders were either jailed or were killed, causing the Vice Lords to become inactive in the 70's. In June of 1980 their leaders appeared back on the streets and the Vice Lords were reborn. They applied for a state charter Illinois as a non-profit organization. They call themselves the United Concerned Voter League, **U.C.V.L.** The Disciples' knowledge states that a Disciple started the Vice Lords. He was known as King John, a member who wanted to start his own nation. The Vice Lords are known as the Kings of Knowledge. The number of Vice Lords in the state of Alabama and in the city of Montgomery is small. Numbers identified in Montgomery are only around ten to date.

There are various factors to look for in identifying Vice Lord gang members. They refer to themselves as "people". They use the five-pointed star and use terms such as "five high-six die". The Vice Lords place all of their gang items such as hats, belts, and earrings to the left. The Vice Lord colors are black and gold. In Chicago the cap preferred by this gang is that of the Pittsburgh Pirates. This is for two reasons, because of the color and for the "P" which stands for "people". Hats with P, V, or L present should be noticed. They are also known to wear the gray civil war hat. The initials **DK**, "Disciple Killer", should be observed.

Vice Lords have a tendency to steal items such as the Chrysler Corporation star because it is five-pointed. It is known that the Vice Lords have a few hand signs and the author possesses a small amount of their knowledge. Their rank system is similar to the Disciples. Vice Lords identify themselves

as CVLN, City Lords, Undertakers and Imperial Insane.

The Vice Lords have two other groups with which they may be identified. They are the Park Avenue Players and the .38 Specials. These groups started in East St. Louis and began in their institution.

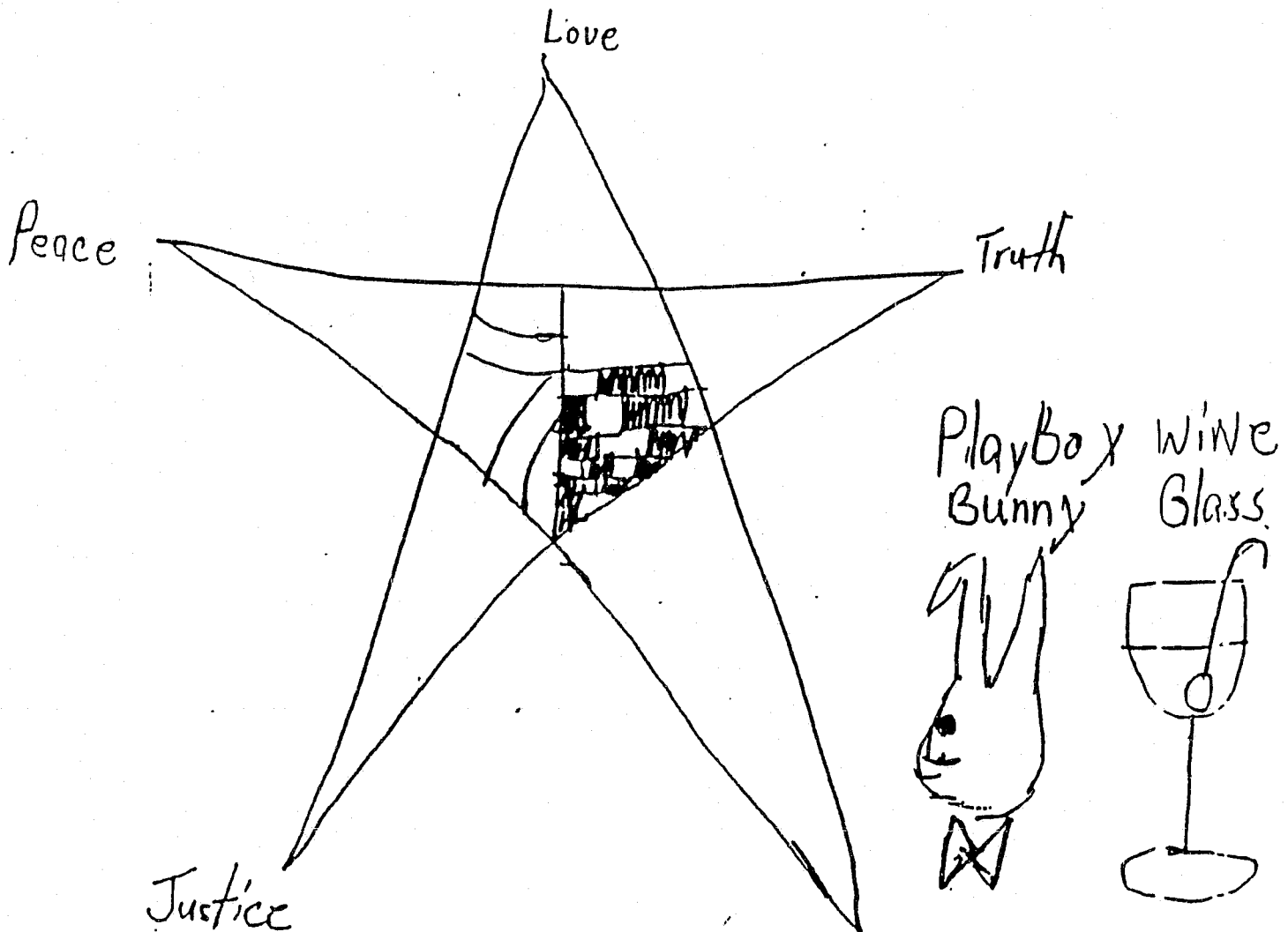
Vice Lords, like Disciples, have many symbols which have meaning to their nation. The circle means that 360 degrees of knowledge that the black people ruled the world and they will rule again. Fire represents the black nations true knowledge of being suppressed and their inability to reach knowledge because of the heat caused by the fire. Darkness means that the black majority, not minority, rule the world. The crescent moon symbolizes the splitting of the black nation into two parts, one on the west and the other on the east. The five-pointed star represents the eye of Allah watching over His people. The pyramind refers to the mystery of the construction of the pyramind, which was constructed by the black people. The three corners of the pyramind triangle represents the physical, mental and spiritual knowledge. The sun means the rising truth in the black nation. The hat means shelter, the cane, the staff of strength and gloves symbolize purity (Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989).

The following page is the only item obtained by the Vice Lords in Montgomery. Their graffiti has been appearing in the last three months on the west side of Montgomery.

Vice Lords' Knowledge Examples

opening pray
 ① As the gold may glow the world shall know
 that were Vice Lords as it says in the holy bible
 and those who follow the footsteps of the Lord
 shall always receive salvation

~~starting pray~~ Vice Lords were started in
 1963 @ Black Peace Stone (BPS) Jeff. ~~Jeff~~
 fort lead (BPS) under the five point star.



Closing

Allah, Father of the Universe, Lord of the universe

ser

43rd street Dext

Top of

U, to the knee 5 popping
5 to the sky 6 dropping
6 to Die

If your solid holler it
Highest Rank - Eligue
Next highest - Overseer
Always respect the left side

Black, Red & Green Bawadmir - Light Green

Self Davis Hair

left Vice Lords Discipline Fred Droppa

VICE LORDS ALPHABET

A	of	N	V
B	—	O	
C) (P	— —
D	Xo	Q	S
E	~	R	f
F	↑	T	"o"
G	///	U	^
H	=	V	2
I	• — •	W	→ •
J	.)	X	.T.
K	∪	Y)))
L	(. .)	Z	HP
M	^		

NOTE: There is no symbol for the letter 'S'.

The letter 'Z' is probably used in its place.

(Gang and Gang Awareness, 1989)

CRIPS

Raymond Washington started the Crips in the late 60's or early 70's. The color blue was adopted by the Crips because it was Raymond Washington's high school's color. The Crips, unlike the Disciples, have no rank order. They usually have no formal leadership style. It appears members who shoot or injure rival gang members emerge as leaders. The Crips' name could have originated from one of three ways. There may have been a crippled member and the group was named after him. It could have come from "Tales from the CRYPT," or it could have come from the movie Superman, in which the only power that could kill him which was "Kryptonite" which spelled phonetically is Crips. Their numbers are much larger than the Bloods and unlike the Bloods, they will fight among themselves.

The Crips wear the color blue. They call themselves **CUZ**, **KUZ**, **KUZZ**. They use the initials **B/K** which stands for "Blood Killer". They will replace the letter **B** with **C** when spelling words. The letter **B** and **P** are also crossed out in Crips graffiti to show hatred toward the "Bloods" or "Piru". Crips will have the **R** backwards to show opposition to the "Bloods" in Los Angeles. Their graffiti is found mostly on the west side of Montgomery. Locations include Fairview Avenue, South Court Street, Caroline Court, and Rosa L. Parks Avenue. An **8** in a circle usually means a united effort by Crips and Disciples.

The Crips are broken down into sets or factions. There are approximately 200 different set of Crips in the L.A. area. Crips is often used in their gang name; Hoover Crips; Compton Crips; East Coast Crips.

In these factions there are basically four types of members: an Original Gangster (**OG**); Gangster (**G**), Baby Gangster (**BG**), and Tiny Gangster (**TG**). The age for these gang members are as follows: Original Gangster-16/22, Baby Gangster-9/12, and Tiny Gangster-12/14 years.

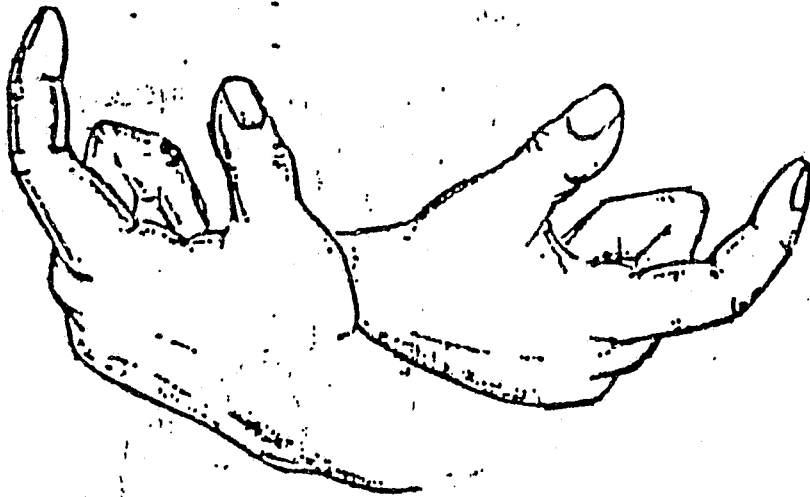
Original gangsters are always hard-core members of the gang. Associate gang members will identify themselves with the gang, however, they usually do not involve themselves in criminal activity. Peripherals are those members rarely seen and they only identify with the gang as means of protection.

Hard-core members are rarely known by their real names. Nicknames or street names are what most gang members are known by in the community. Often used street names for Crips and Bloods include: C-Bone, Gangster, K-Loc or K-Lok, T-Bone, Rabbit, Q-Ball, Psycho, and Snake.

The reader should note in the graffiti of the Crips the lettering B-187, with the B crossed out. This may indicate that the gang member is originally from the Los Angeles area. This is because 187 is the code for **murder** in the California State Criminal Penal Code. They have been using this phrase for years in Los Angeles to indicate the killing of Bloods. Note this B-187 on hats; clothing; school books; or tattoos.

The following pages display hand-signs that different sets use to communicate with one another. The hand-signs provided may or may not have groups in Alabama. Also included are pictures of Crip graffiti that have appeared in the last two years in Montgomery. There is a letter included which was obtained by the author from an detainee at the Montgomery County Youth Facility charged with an illegal gang activity. The writer of the letter addressed the letter with "What's up Cuz", and crossed out all the P's and B's within the letter. This is a known Crip gang member writing the letter with ties to the East Coast Crips in Los Angeles. The author also provides Crip sets that operate within the Los Angeles area.

COMPTON CRIPS



EAST COAST

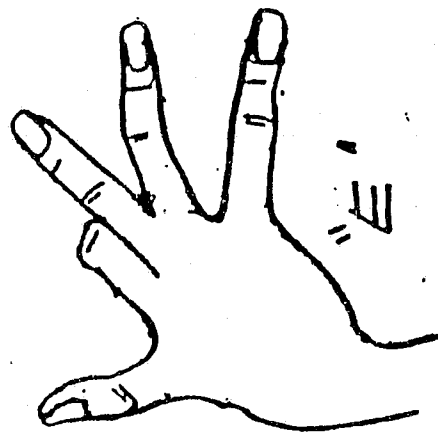
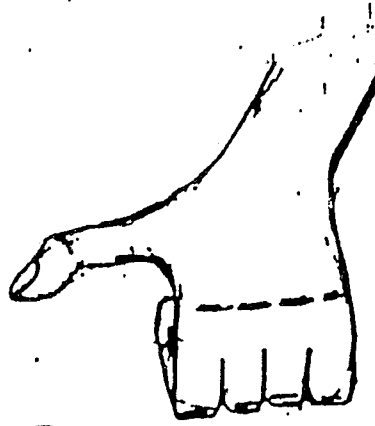
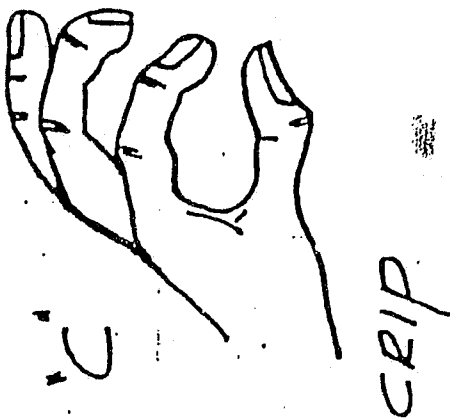
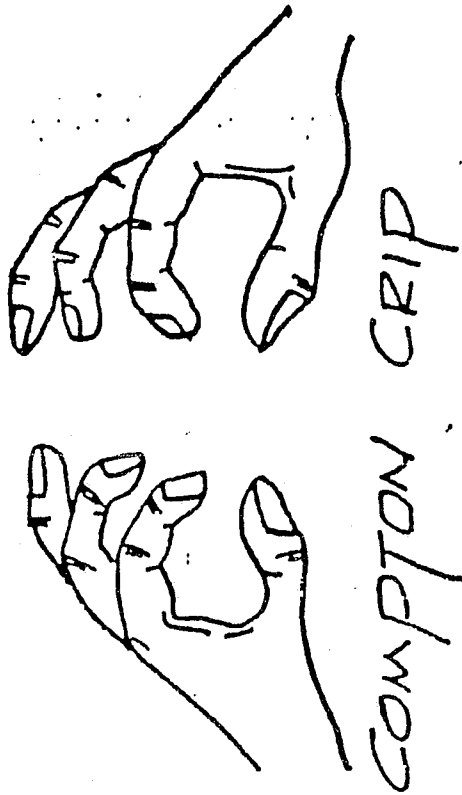
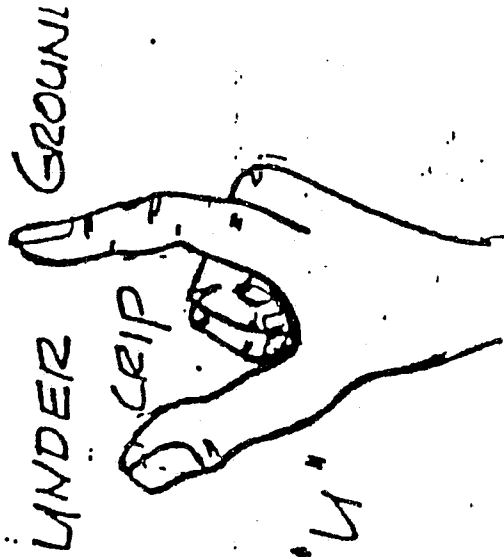


90 GANGSTER OR WEST COAST CRIPS



RAYMOND AVE.



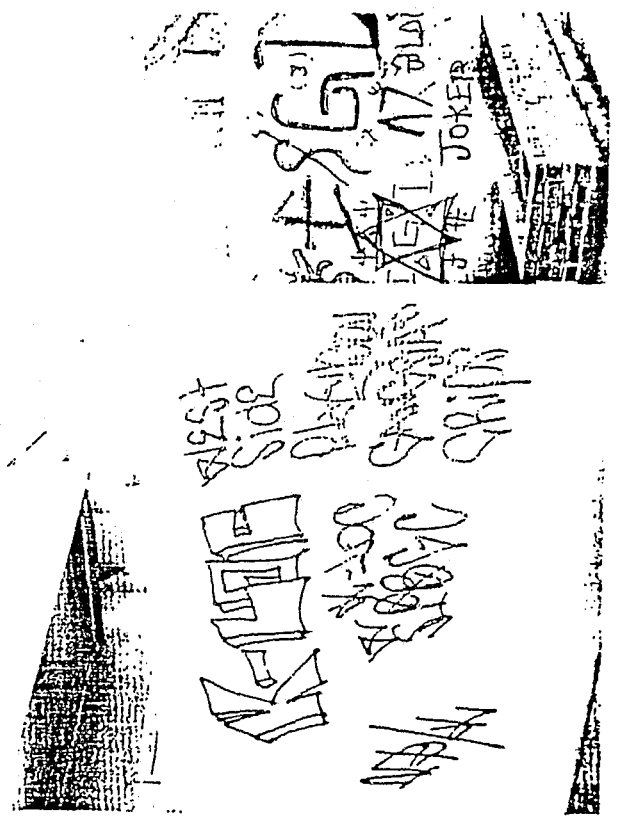
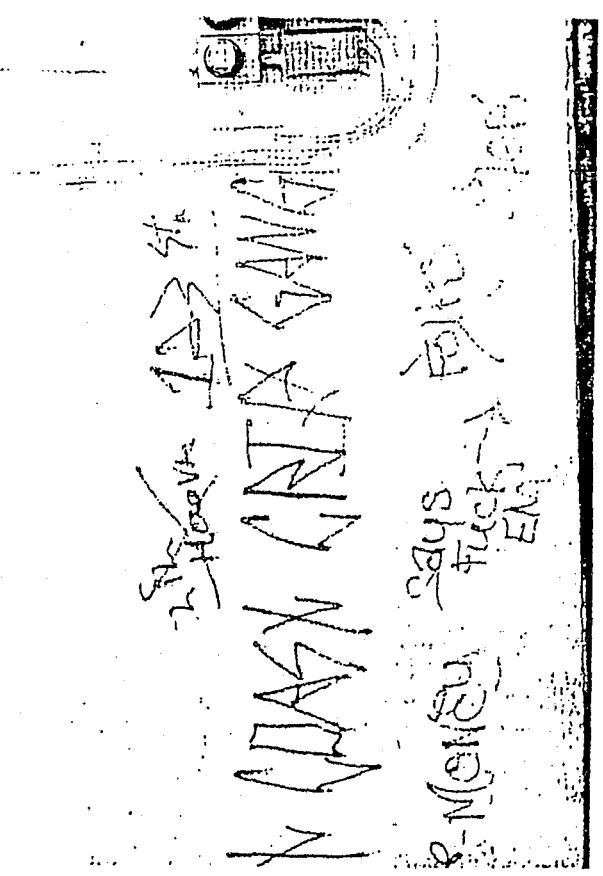
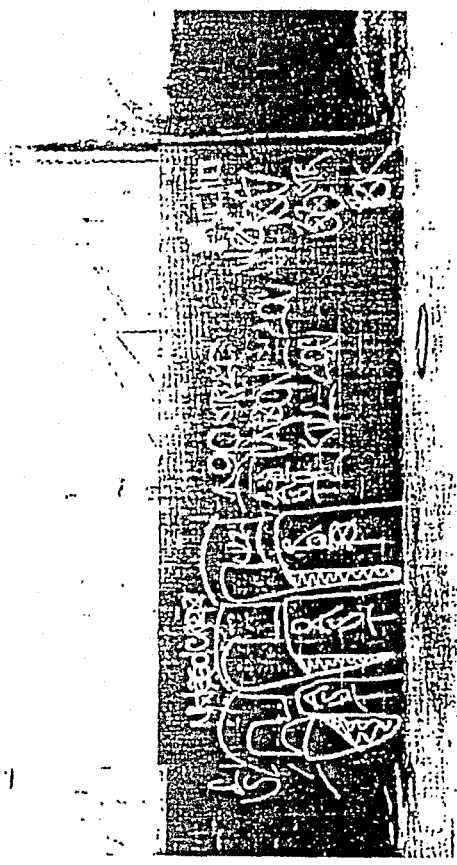
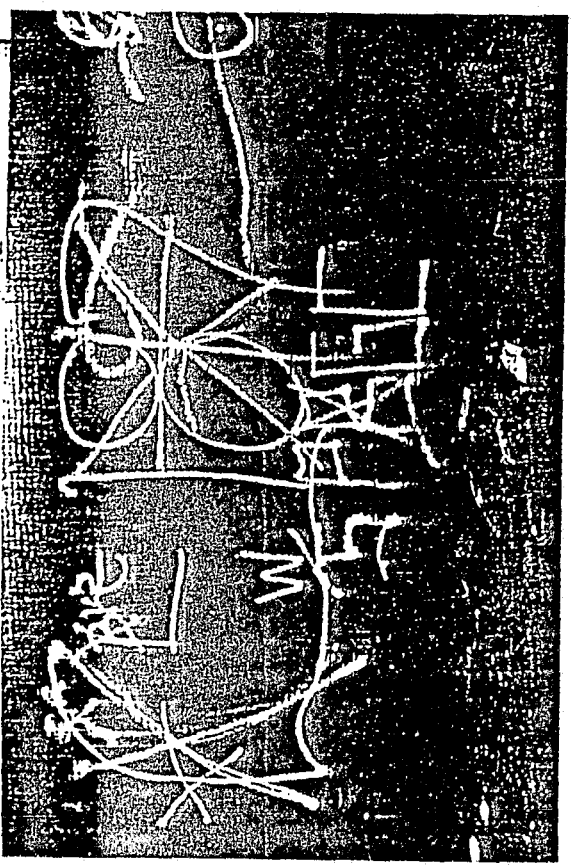


HARLEM CRIP

NO. ZERO

EAST

Crip Graffiti



26/01/90

July 30, 1990

WHAT'S UP CUZ,

I MISS YOU SINCE YOU LEFT. I HOPE YOU GET OUT SOON. I LOT OF STUFF BEEN HAP-
 PENING SINCE YOU LEFT, BUT I'LL WAIT
 TILL YOU GET OUT TO TELL YOU. A LOT OF
 YOUR FRIENDS BEEN SELLING OUT LEFT
 AND RIGHT, BUT I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT
 IT WHEN YOU GET OUT. NEXT WEEK
 IM GOING BACK TO L.A. FOR
 A WHILE. WHILE IM OUT THERE I
 WILL WRITE AND CALL YOU. BUT PRO-
 BABLE I'LL BE OUT THERE TO SEE
 YOU BEFORE I LEAVE.

WELL SORRY I HAVE TO END THIS
 LETTER. BUT I'LL WRITE YOU BACK
 REAL SOON. UNTILL THEN I LOVE YA.
 C YA.

P.S. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET OUT.

P.S.S. KEVIN AND STACY SAID "WHAT'S UP"

IDENTIFIED CRIP SETS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

CRIP SETS

<u>GANG NAME</u>	<u>JURISDICTION</u>
Acacia Crips	Compton P.D.
Altadena Block Crips	LASD Altadena
Atlantic Crips	Compton P.D.
Avalon Gangster Crip Sets	L.A.P.D.
A-Line	"
53 Street	"
88 Street	"
116 Street	"
Back Street Crips	"
Beach Town Mafia Crips	LASD Firestone
Bible Crips	Compton P.D.
Boulevard Crips	Long Beach P.D.
52 Broadway Gangster Crips	L.A.P.D.
Carver Park Crips	LASD Lynwood
Compton Crips	Compton P.D.
Compton Westside Crips	"
Corner Pocket Crips	LASD Lynwood
Dodge City Crips	L.A.P.D.
Durock (Doorah) Crips	Monrovia P.D./LASD Temple
East Coast Crips	L.A.P.D.
1st East Coast	"
43	"
59	"
62	"
66	"
68	"
69	"
76	"
89	"
94	"
97	"
102	"
118	"
190	"
Eight Tray Gangster Crips	LASD Lennox
Fronthood Crips	LASD Lynwood
Front Street Crips	L.A.P.D.
43 Gangster Crips	"
53 Gangster Crips	"
87 Gangster Crips	"
90 Gangster Crips (W/Side Crips)	"
Geer Street Crips (Geer Crips)	"
Ghost Town Crips	"
Grandee Crips	Compton P.D.
Grape Street Watts Crips	L.A.P.D.
Harbor City Crips	"
Harlem 30's Crips	"
Hat Gang Crips	LASD Firestone

<u>GANG NAME</u>	<u>JURISDICTION</u>
Hoover Set Crips	
43 Hoover	L.A.P.D.
52 "	"
59 "	"
74 "	"
83 "	"
92 "	"
94 "	"
107 "	LASD Lennox
112 "	"
Imperial Village Crips	Inglewood PD
Insane Crips	Long Beach PD
Kitchen Crips	LAPD
Lantana Block Crips	Compton P.D.
Long Beach Boulevard Mafia Crips	Long Beach PD
Main Street Crips	LAPD
83 Main Street Crips	"
98 Main Street Crips	"
Marvin Gangster Crips	"
Menlo Gangster Crips	"
Mona Park Crips	LASD Lynwood
Myrtle Street Crips	Inglewood PD
Neighborhood Crip Sets	
Lynwood H-Hood	LASD Lynwood
108 N-Hood	"
111 N-Hood	LASD Lennox
113 N-Hood	LASD Lynwood
NBC (Neighborhood Block Crip)	Compton PD
Nut Hood Watts Crips	"
Original Valley Gangster Crips	LAPD
Palmer Block Crips	Compton PD
Palmdale Gangster Crips	LASD Antelope Valley
Park Village Crips	Compton PD
Payback Crips	Gardena PD
P.J. Watts Crips	LAPD
Playboy Gangster Crips	"
Raymond Crip Sets	
Raymond Avenue Crips	LASD Lennox
Inglewood Raymond Crips	LASD Inglewood
Pasadena Raymond Crips	Pasadena PD
Rollin 20's	Long Beach PD
Rollin 30's	LAPD
Rollin 40's	"
Rollin 60's	"
Santana Block Crips	Compton PD
Schoolyard Crips	LAPD
Shack Boys (76 East Coast Crips)	LASD Firestone
Shotgun Crips	Gardena PD
Sintown Crips	Pomona PD
Spooktown Crips	Compton PD

BLOODS

The Bloods started in Compton, California, and were founded by Sylvester Scott and Vincent Owens. The Bloods formed as a necessity to counter attacks by the Crips. The Compton Piru Bloods adopted the color red, like the Crips, from their High School, in South Los Angeles. Bloods are known also as "Piru". The reason for this is due to the fact that the Bloods were started on Piru Street, in Compton California.

Bloods, unlike the Crips do not fight among themselves. They are generally outnumbered by the Crips and are more unified. Bloods do not use the letter C in their language and replace it with the letter B. They will cross out the letter C if they use it in their graffiti.

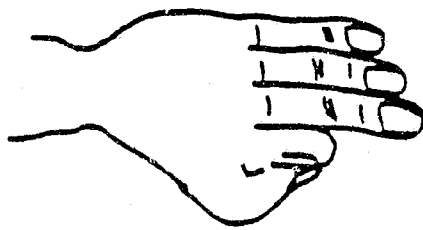
The Bloods characteristics include the facts that they use the color red, and address themselves as Bloods in the same manner as the Crips use the word cuzz. Blood graffiti can be identified by the terms Bloods, Bloodstone, BS or C/K which stands for "Crips Killers". They usually treat a person wearing the color red with respect if in their turf. The word Blood is usually not found in their gang name. Instead they use names such as Outlaws or Bounty Hunters.

The Bloods have the same type of structure as the Crips. They use the same initials and street names as Crips. The initials OG and TG are used in Bloods classification. When talking with a Blood member, the basic outline for talking with Crips will apply.

Handkerchiefs are used because it lets other members identify individuals in the gang easily. The handkerchiefs are called "rags" that the gang members carry and are worn in the back pockets.

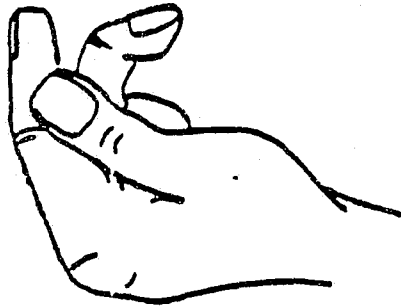
As previously stated in the Crip section of this manual, the readers knowledge of 187, should also apply to the Bloods. They will use C-187, with the C crossed out. They use it in the same manner and meaning as the Crips.

PRY SIGN

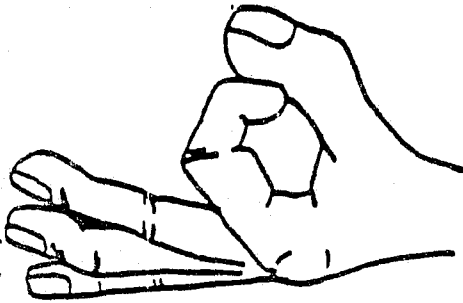


"BLOOD"

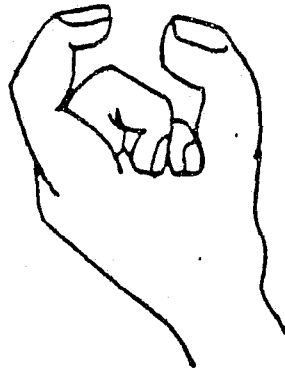
KITCHEN
CRIP



BOUNTY
HUNTERS

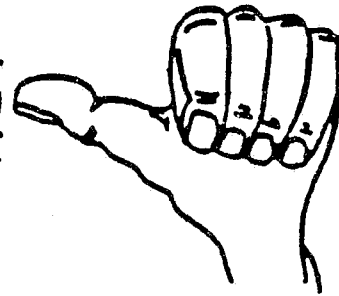


CRIPS

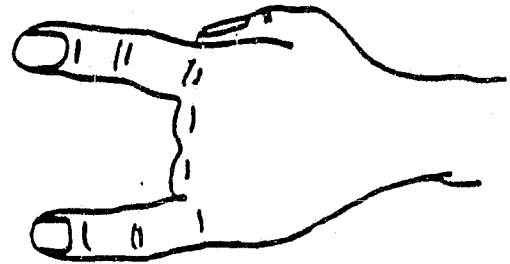


"COUSIN"

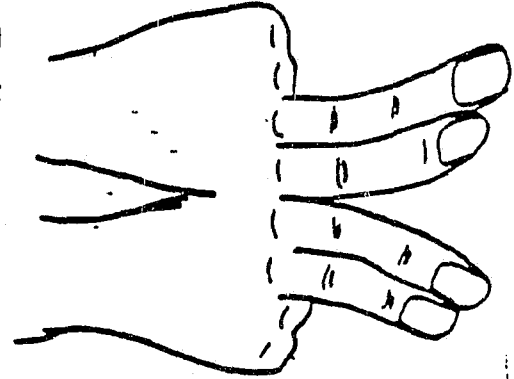
BISHOP



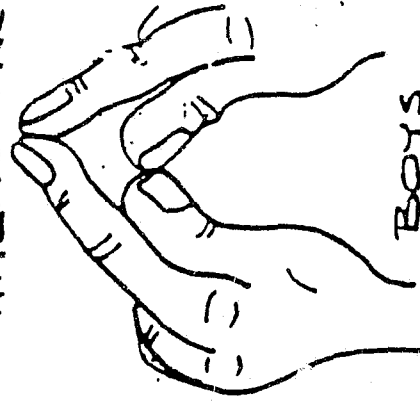
BRIMS



MAFIA CRIPS



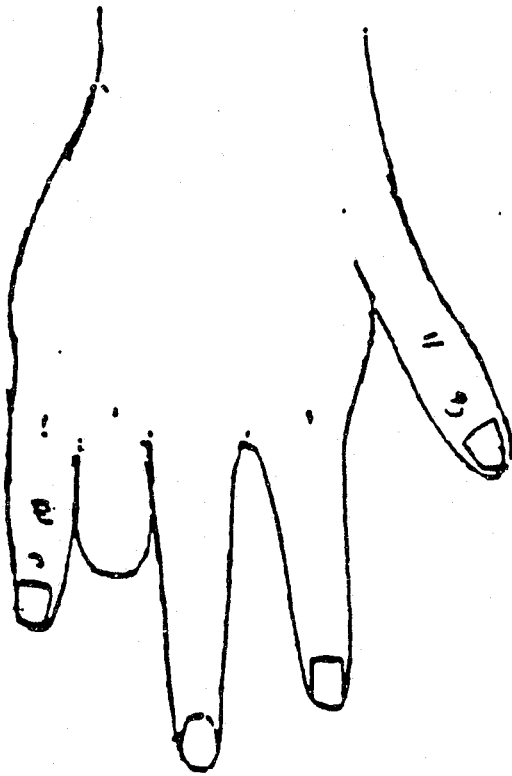
ATHENS PAR



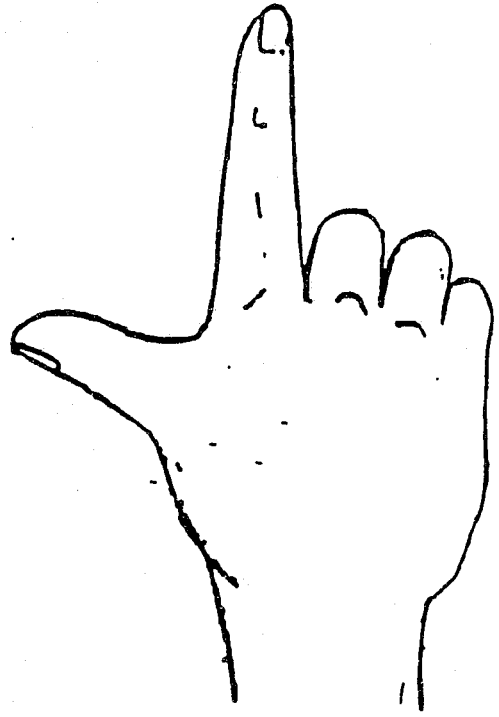
BOYS

A.P.B.'s

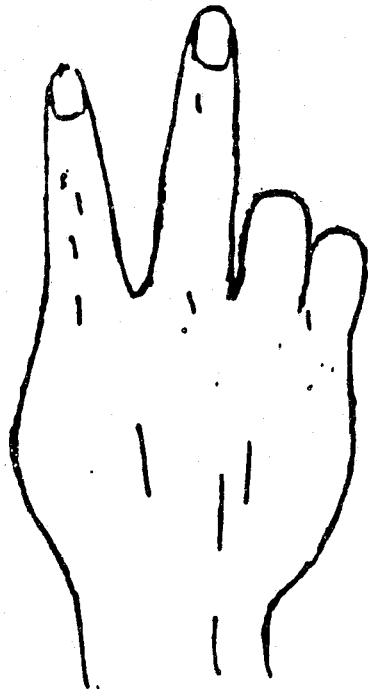
SWANS BLOODS



DENVER LANES BLOODS



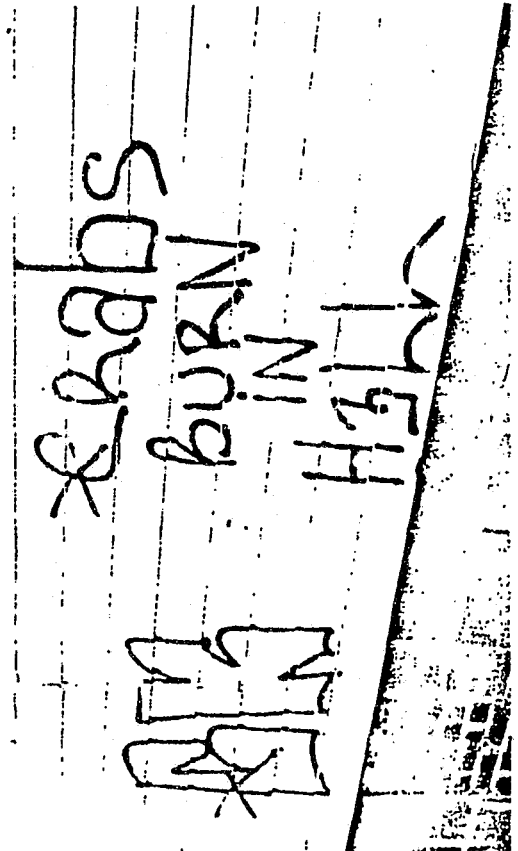
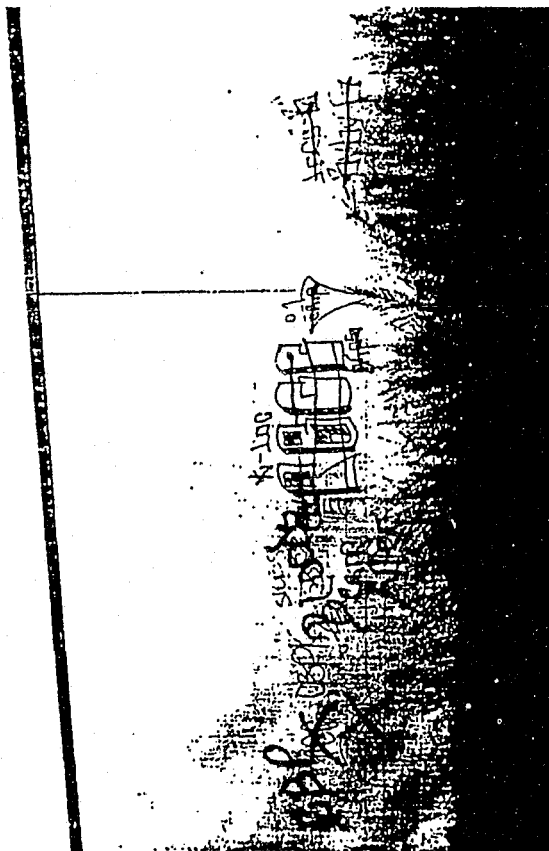
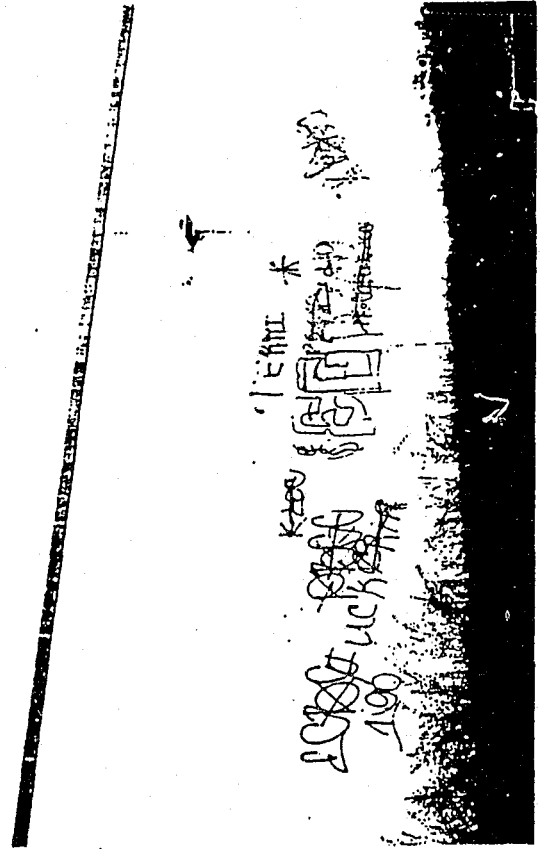
VILLIANS BLOODS



BRIMS BLOODS



Blood Graffiti



IDENTIFIED BLOOD SETS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BLOODS

<u>GANG NAME</u>	<u>JURISDICTION</u>
Athens Park Boys	LASD Carson
Bishop Sets	
Elm Street Bishop	LAPD
Block Bishop	"
92 Bishop	"
Pueblo Bishop	"
Bounty Hunters	LASD Lynwood/LAPD
Bloodstone Villians	LAPD
Black-P-Stone	LAPD
Blood Fives	LASD Carson
Belhaven Bloods	LAPD
Brim Sets	
62 Brims	LAPD
Aliso Village Brims	"
59 Brims	"
Rollin 20's Brims	"
Carson Cabbage Patch	LASD Carson
Crenshaw Mafia Gang	LAPD
Denver Lane Sets	
Pasadena Denver Lanes	Pasadena PD
Pasadena Devil Lanes	"
Denver Lanes	LASD Lennox
89 Family Blood	LAPD
Harvard Park	"
Hacienda Village	"
Inglewood Family Blood	Inglewood PD
Miller Gangsters	LASD Carson/LAPD
Piru Sets	
Pomona Islands Piru	Pomona PD
Campancilla Park Piru	Compton PD
Cedar Block Piru	"
Centerview Piru	"
Cross Atlantic Piru	"
Compton Piru	"
Circle City Piru	LAPD
Fruit Town Piru	Compton PD
Holly Hood Piru	"
Leuder Park Piru	"
Lime Hood Piru	"
Nutty Block Piru	"
Swan Sets	
77 Swans	LAPD
79 "	"
80 "	"
83 "	"
Samoan Warriors	LASD Carson
Ujima Village Blood	"
Van Ness Gangsters	LAPD

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

<u>TERM</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
ACE KOOL	BEST FRIEND/BACKUP
BASE HEAD	PERSON HOOKED ON COCAINE
BEEMER	BMW VEHICLE
BENZO	A MERCEDES BENZ
BLOB	CRIP NICKNAME FOR BLOOD MEMBER
BLOOD	PIRU NON CRIP
BO	MARIJUANA
BONED OUT	QUIT CHICKEN OUT
BOOK	RUNAWAY
BREAK	RUNAWAY
BREAKDOWN	SHOTGUN
BUCKET	OLD RAGGEDY CAR
BUD	MARIJUANA
BULLET	ONE YEAR IN CUSTODY
BUMPER KIT	GIRL S BUTT
BUMPING TITTIES	FIGHTING
BUSTED POPPED A CAP	SHOT AT SOMEONE
BUSTER	FAKE GANG MEMBER
CABBAGE PATCH	POPULAR DANCE
CHECK IT OUT	LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY
CHILL OUT	STOP IT
COMMERICAL	COLUMBIAN MARIJUANA
COLUM	COLUMBIAN MARIJUANA
CRAB	BLOOD NICKNAME FOR CRIP MEMBER
CRAIGARED DOWN	LOW RIDER TYPE CAR
CUZZ	CRIP
DEAD RAG	RED RAG
DEFT	LOOKING GOOD
DIS	NO RESPECT
DO A GHOST	LEAVE THE SCENE
DOUBLE DUCE	.22 CALIBER GUN

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

<u>TERM</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
DOWN FOR MINE	ABLE TO PROTECT SELF
DRAG, MACK, RUSH	ABILITY TO SWEET TALK GIRLS
DUECE AND A QUARTER	BUICK 225 VEHICLE
DURAG	RAG WRAPPED AROUND THE HEAD
EASTLY	VERY UGLY PERSON
8-TRACK	2½ GRAMS OF COCAINE
ESSEYS	MEXICANS
FEDERATED	CRIP DISRESPECTING RED
5.0	1988 MUSTANG
500	BMW
FLUE FLAG	BLUR RAG
FLY	GOOD LOOKING
FREAK	GOOD LOOKING GIRL
FROG	GIRL WITH LOW MORALS
G-RIDE	GANGSTER RIDE STOLEN CAR
GEEK	SOMEONE WHOSE LOADED
GET DOWN	FIGHT
GIG	GATHERING
GLASS HOUSE	77-78 CHEVY
GOT IT GOING ON	SUCCESSFUL PERSON OR FUNCTION
HEAD HUNTER STRAWBERRY	GIRL WHO DOES SEXUAL ACTS FOR COCAINE
HOLDING DOWN	CONTROLLING AREA OR TURF
HOMY HOME BOY	FELLOW GANG MEMBER
HOOD	NEIGHBORHOOD
HOOK	PHONEY
HOOPTY	CAR
HUSTLER PLAYER	NON GANG MEMBER INTO MAKING MONEY
ILLING	MAKING MENTAL MISTAKES
JACKED UP	BEAT UP

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

<u>TERM</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
JAMMED	CONFRONTED
JIM JONES	MARIJUANA JOINT LACED WITH COCAINE AND DIPPED IN PCP
JUICED LIFTS	VEHICLE HAS HYDRAULICS TO RAISE AND LOWER CAR
KICK YOU DOWN	GIVE YOU SOMETHING, SET YOU UP IN THE DRUG TRADE
KIBBLES AND BITS	CRUMBS OF COCAINE
KOOL	ITS ALRIGHT
LADY	GIRLFRIEND
LIZARD BUTT	UGLY GIRL
LOC	DARK SUN GLASSES
MAN	COP
MARK	WANT TO BE GANG MEMBER
MOBILE	PROPER NICE LOOKING
MOLDED SCRATCH	EMBARRASSED
MONTE C	MONTE CARLO VEHICLE
MUD DUCK	UGLY GIRL
NUT UP	ANGRY
OG	ORIGINAL GANGSTER
ON THE PIPE	FREE BASING COCAINE
ON THE STRENGTH	BASED ON THESE FACTS
ONE TIME	POLICE
PACKING	GANG MEMBER WITH GUN
PEANUT BUTTER	CRIP DISRESPECT TOWARD BLOODS
POSSE	EAST COAST TERM FOR GANG
PUT THAT ON THE SET	TELLING THE TRUTH
RAG	COLOR OF GANG
RECRUITING	LOOKING FOR GOOD LOOKING GIRL
RED EYE	HARD STARE
RELATIVE	BLOOD TERM FOR HOME BOY

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

<u>TERM</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
RIDE ON	GO TO ANOTHER RIVAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN VEHICLES TO ATTACK OTHER GANG MEMBERS
ROAD DOG	CLOSE FRIEND
ROBO COP	POPULAR DANCE
ROCK	CRYSTALLIZED COCAINE
ROLLIN	DOING WELL
RU	PIRU
SET	NEIGHBORHOOD
SLING OR SLANG	DEALS OR SELLS COCAINE
SLOB	CRIP NICKNAME FOR BLOODS
SMOKER	PERSON WHO SMOKES COCAINE
SNOW BUNNY	A WHITE GIRL
SPRUNG	A PERSON ADDICTED TO COCAINE
TALKING HEAD	A PERSON WHO WANTS TO FIGHT
TO THE CURB	BAD POSITION TO BE IN
TURKISH	A TERM TO DESCRIBE HEAVY ORNAMENTAL GOLD
20 CENTS	\$20 WORTH OF COCAINE
UP ON IT	HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF DRUG SCENE
WHAT IT "B" LIKE	BLOOD GREETING
WHAT IT "C" LIKE	CRIP GREETING
YO	HEY

Prepared by:

Kenneth M. Bell

Los Angeles County District Attorney

Bureau of Investigation

BLACK STREET GANG LANGUAGE

<u>TERM</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
DYS	DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES
BGD	BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLES
IGD	INSANE GANGSTER DISCIPLES
KNOWLEDGE	DISCIPLES QUESTION AND ANSWERS
DQ	DISCIPLE QUEENS
GQ	GANGSTER QUEENS
YGD	YOUNG GANGSTER DISCIPLES
RAIDERS	RUTHLESS ASS INSANE DISCIPLES
	ELIMINATE RED SLOB
KINGS	KILLING INNOCENT NIGGERS
	GANGSTER STYLE
FOLKS	NICKNAME FOR DISCIPLE MEMBERS
PEOPLE	NICKNAME FOR VICE LORD MEMBERS
GGD	GHOST GANGSTER DISCIPLES
DK	DISCIPLE KILLER
BK	BLOOD KILLER
CK	CRIP KILLER
G	GANGSTER
BG	BABY GANGSTER
TG	TINY GANGSTER
187	PENAL CODE FOR MURDER IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
JUVENILE	PERSON UNDER AGE 18
DELINQUENT	PERSON UNDER 18 WHO COMMITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
DISCIPLE	GANG THAT STARTED IN CHICAGO
VICE LORD	GANG THAT STARTED IN CHICAGO
CRIP	GANG THAT STARTED IN LOS ANGELES
BLOOD	GANG THAT STARTED IN LOS ANGELES
MIAMI	MAKING INSANE ASS MORE INSANE
K SWISS	KILLING SLOBS WHEN I SEE SOME

Quick Check List to Identifying Gang Members

Gangs in the State of Alabama

There are four major groups in the state of Alabama which effects all large cities. These gangs affect the cities involved, and surrounding counties. These members claim to have connects with known gangs in Los Angeles and Chicago.

CRIPS

ORIGIN: Los Angeles, Raymond Washington.

SETS: Playboy Gangster (PBGC), East Coast Crips (ECC)
(ECC) sets 190-118, Grape Street Watts Crips,
Hoover Crips, Rollin 60's, 357 Crips.

COLORS: Blue and Black.

CLOTHES: Bandannas, Athletic Wear, L.A. Dodger Caps.

MEMBERS: (OG) Original Gangsters, (BG) Baby Gangsters,
(G) Gangsters, (TG) Tiny Gangsters.

CRIP TALK: Cuzz, Kuzz, B/K-Blood Killer.

STREET NAMES: C-Bone, T-Loc, Rabbit, Ice Moe, Caveman.

BLOODS

ORIGIN: Los Angeles, Sylvester Scott & Vincent Owens.

SETS: Blue Boys, Bounty Hunters.

COLORS: Red, Red and White.

CLOTHES: Bandannas, Chicago Bulls or St Louis Cardinal's
baseball caps, Athletic Wear, Bluejeans.

BLOOD TALK: Bloods, C/K Crip Killer.

STREET NAMES: T-Lok, K-Bone, Gangster, Psycho.

DISCIPLES

ORIGINS: Chicago, IL, David Barksdale & Larry Hoover.

SETS: 63rd Street and 410.

TYPES: (BGD) Black Gangster Disciples, (IGD) Insane Gangster
Disciples, (DQ) Disciple Queen, (GQ) Gangster Queens,
(GD) Ghost Disciple, (SCR) Simon City Royals,

COLORS: Black and Blue.

DISCIPLES (con't)

CLOTHES: Athletic Wear, NIKE, Swiss-K shoes, L.A. Kings,
Raiders, L.A. Lakers, most black baseball caps,
GANG EMBLEMS: Six-pointed Star, Pitchfork, Sword, Heart,
Devil's Horn, Devil's Tail, Numbers 6 & 3.
DISCIPLE TALK: Folks, Homeboys, Kings, Knowledge.

CONSERVATIVE VICE LORDS

ORIGIN: Chicago, IL, St Charles.
SETS: 43rd Street.
COLORS: Black and Gold, Green and Red.
CLOTHES: Pittsburgh Pirates, Athletic Wear, Baseball caps.
GANG EMBLEMS: Five pointed Star, Left oriented.
Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors, Civil War Hats (Gray)
VICE LORD TALKS: People.

TALKING TO GANG MEMBERS

Work on their ego.
Use their sense of individualism
Use their self-proclaimed "Playboy" image.
Have some background on them.
Show some interest in their extravagant life-style.
Show interest in how deadly they perceived to be.

Outline by Sgt John D. Shumway, M.P.D.

Gangs in the State of Alabama

Dan Morse, Alabama Journal staff writer, reported in August of 1990 that Birmingham estimated the city's gang membership at around 3,000 members. Huntsville reported their membership at 165, Mobile at 60-100 and Montgomery at 100 at that time. Birmingham officials stated that they had an estimated two drive-by shootings per night, with the majority of the drug trade being handled by gang members. Huntsville reported four deaths since 1988 due to gang activity. Mobile officials denied that gang members were involved in any crimes. Montgomery reported that gang members were involved in shootings and robberies.

In Montgomery, Police Chief John Wilson has maintained that Montgomery is in the recruiting stages of gang activity. He has admitted that there are some gang members that claim L.A. as their home base. However, he related that these numbers are small. He stated this a few months ago to the Alabama Journal. Chief Wilson as of 11-19-90, believed that Montgomery's gang problem was manageable.

Charles H Dean, a staff writer for the Birmingham News, reported on 11-20-90, in Section 6, that the total gang membership in Birmingham, as related by the Police Department is 1,184. This is a smaller number than was reported to the Alabama Journal reporter, Dan Morse, in August of 1990. The breakdown is: 843 Disciples, 40 Bloods, 45 Alpha Phi Psi, 44 Alpha Sigma Omega, 9 Vice Lords, and 203 Crips. In Birmingham, arrests of juveniles for aggravated assaults and homicides are up 95.5 percent and 80.0 percent, respectively. Of the juveniles that were arrested for weapons charges, 96.6 were black males (Birmingham News, 11-20-90, section 6).

Most of these juveniles are placed at the Department of Youth Services. George Phyfer, the director of the Department Youth Services, estimates the department's gang population at around 60 percent (Alabama Journal, 11-20-90). The trend at

the Department of Youth Services follows the states overall problem with the majority of gang members claiming that they belong to the Disciple Nation. Crips, Bloods and Vice Lords are next in order of population. The institutions are located in Montgomery and Birmingham.

To fully understand the scope of the gang problem one needs to examine the statistics in Montgomery and Birmingham in crime and other gang-related problems. From 2/28/91 to 4/30/91 Montgomery experienced a 27% increase in overall gang membership. This includes a 100% increase in Vice Lords and a 33% increase in Disciples. During this time, Montgomery had a 142% increase in white male membership. The list consist of 73% juveniles and 27% adults (Montgomery Police Department Gang List). In Los Angeles the gang membership for adults is 95% and for juveniles 5%. This is partly due to the fact that they have had a gang problem for over 20 years. This would lead to the conclusion that the higher the adult rate the longer the problem exist in the community. In the 7/21/91 issue of the Birmingham News, an article written by Roni Bea Kayne showed that the suburbs in Birmingham experienced a tremendous increase in the crime rate due on part to gang activity. Homewood and Hoover had the biggest rises from 1988-90. Most of the incidents center around drive by shootings and robberies.

All indications reveal that the gang problem is growing in all major cities in Alabama. Huntsville reported to Mr. Phyfer that the city appears to have the gang problem under control (Alabama Journal 11-20-90). However, no other city has reported any sustained success in combating the gang problem. Mobile officials continue to deny reports that the city has gang problem at all. The numbers reported by police departments are actual identified gang members. In reality, for every gang member identified, there are probably several that exist but are undetected. We therefore no doubt have greater numbers than officials are will or able to admit.

At the present time there are many groups that operate in the state of Alabama. Both Afro-American and White groups formed to terrorize the citizens of Alabama cities. It is difficult to determine a consistent leadership pattern in these groups, due to members being killed or jailed due to their gang activities. In the state the number of known and unknown gang members, as of 1992, could be estimated as high as 25,000. Since gangs are a new part of our lives most of the individuals involved at the present time are juveniles.

All groups have many splinter groups within an organization. Disciples, Crips or another group may refer to themselves by a distinct name to avoid detection.

There is evidence that intimidation of other teenagers, by local gang members, is a growing problem in the state. Disciples are the most powerful group within the state and outnumbered other groups from 100-10 to 1. Due to the fact that the Disciples are largest group within the Department of Youth Services, they have the ability to recruit new members and in turn their new members will recruit in their communities upon their release. The number of members in any particular community rest on who has the most members and receives the most publicity. The publicity may show their important to people seeking a gang.

As previously stated the Disciples, are the strongest group in the state. They are followed by Crips, Bloods and Vice Lords. White groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, Skin Heads and motorcycle gangs are also a problem in the state.

Gangs causes several problem for a community. One could be the selling of drugs by members. This is not conducted as a group or gang activity, but as a separate individual within the gang, thus keeping the profits. Weapons used against other members is the most deadliest way that a gang member will deal with a rival.

In the state it is hard to determine how many of individuals within these groups are hard-core, or fringe members. These

types of members need to be identified in a city so that the populace can then understand how fierce their gang problem could actual be in their own municipality. Giving a number of possible gang members without telling of their potential for violence has little merit.

All cities in the state of Alabama must come to an understanding that the only way that a community can fight a gang problem is to do it proactively. Our society needs to stop gang activity before it starts. Areas of concern need to be addressed in a community gang task force, in which all segments of the community are represented. Police, both local and county, schools, courts, PTA, churches, federal law enforcement, SAYNO, media and housing authority personnel must work together to fight the problem. The need to establish a criteria for gang and gang members within a community must be conceived. School programs which deal with the negative side of gang activity needs to be addressed. Finally the community as a whole needs to work together to keep their neighborhoods clean of graffiti, keep their children off street corners, and finally to keep guns out of hands of the most deadliest gang members in a community.

The Troubled Adolescents

The controversy that entangles how a juvenile evolves into a troubled adolescent is an ongoing debate. Plato believed that heredity is the major determinant of behavior, while Aristotle taught that humans are a writing tablet on which, initially, nothing stands written (Zander, 1978). John Locke agreed with Aristotle when he referred to individuals as *tabula rasa*, or blank slate (Zander, 1978). These individuals, along with many others, saw the need to determine what makes a person engage in certain activities, hold various beliefs or deviate from society's norms.

To be able to better deal with the problem, we must find out what factors cause some youths to become gang members. The adolescents of today are the leaders, businessmen and tax-payers of the future. Failing to find answers to the gang problem will burden society by lost revenue, burgeoning crimes, and growing problem of prison overcrowding.

The U.S. Bureau and Census showed that from 1950 to 1970 there was a population shift from the rural to the urban areas. As this shift occurred, urban cities saw their crime rate skyrocket. Approximately 30% of all crime in that period was committed by juveniles. In recent years a 100% jump of juvenile crime has occurred. The rate of crimes committed by juveniles is 60%, with most of this rise in the inner-city (Moffat, 1983).

The question of identifying reasons for deviant behavior among adolescents is complex and is not always reflected in identifiable patterns. When faced with the complexities and pressure of today's society, some adolescents may sense a feeling of hopelessness. Sometimes this malaise is exhibited by inappropriate behavior, in which standard norms are violated, making adults feel uncomfortable and threatened (Merbaum and Stricker, 1977).

Behaviorists hold that all behavior is learned. John B. Watson, the father of American Behaviorism, stated that given

a dozen infants, and his own environment to raise them in, he would be able to condition them to be any specialist that he might select: doctor, lawyer, beggar-man or thief (Zander, 1978). Even though this may be considered a caustic statement, it illustrates his belief that individuals are a product of their environment. Therefore, it naturally follows that, the logical way to change a gang member's attitude is to change a gang member's environment.

In the early 70's a new theory emerged on behaviorism called Social Learning Theory. Albert Bandura stated that people learned by watching other people (Conger, 1977). Burgess and Akers (1966) stated that criminal behavior is learned and maintained in both social and non-social situations. Social learning postulates that attachment is the key to delinquency. Individual gang members may be exhibiting to the public how gangs actually form in their community. The younger, more easily influenced adolescents learn how to behave from older gang members. Even though each gang member possesses a different reason for being in a gang, a common threads appear to be fellowship and brotherhood, and the attachments that form from these relationships.

Another factor that emerges from juvenile delinquents and from gang families is the tragedy of broken families. A study of institutionalized delinquents done by Baker and Adams (1962) revealed that only one third of delinquents were being reared by both parents. Homes stricken by a lack of affection and understanding and numerous other negative environmental factors can produce stress in a child and substantially hurt his social growth (Turner and Helmes, 1979).

Many problems relate to the teen-age culture: gangs; drugs; abuse; and ineffective parenting. Most delinquents harbor feelings of rejection, hostility and have a negative self concept (Turner and Helmes, 1979). These feelings may contribute to decisions to choose gang membership. Gang members report feeling

a sense of power and a improved self image that the other members reinforce.

It appears that girls are becoming more of a factor in gang activity. They will be used for sex, hiding weapons and used for look outs. H. Charles Fisherman has concluded that crime in the past 40 years has shifted from male dominance to non-gender specific, when dealing with juvenile crime. It has become sadly apparent that criminal activity and juvenile delinquency are fields in which equal opportunity has become a reality. It is also visible that gender role has changed and has become more of a problem for all communities (Fisherman, 1988).

In the Journal of Social Forces it was concluded by Neal Shover that if girls maintained traditional roles, they will be less likely to commit criminal acts. Shover reported three intervening variables that could lessen delinquency in girls. They are opportunity, attachment to a significant other and a belief in rules and laws (Social Forces, 1986).

Miller (1975) revealed theories on the differences between male and female delinquency. While male delinquency stems from the males' need to show their manliness and rebellion against female authority, girls, he theorized are more likely to conform, and their need for close relationships could hinder delinquent behavior and steer them away from gang activity. Nye and Rittenhouse (1962) set forth in their study of 44,000 delinquents in facilities in Philadelphia that delinquent girls are more likely to come from broken homes (Social Forces, 1986).

Another contrast in adolescent behavior is that of responding to peer groups. Peers play an important part in gang activity. When an unguarded youth has few neighborhood peers other than gang members, he often has little choice in his actions. The major socializing agent during adolescence is often their peers. Peer pressure has become even a greater factor in gang membership over the past 30 years. The traditionally vertical

family has become horizontal one with friends and teachers often having more behavioral influences (Fisherman, 1988). Research reveals that in recent years, with the breakdown of the family and family traditions, the delinquents' peer groups have been exerting a dominant role.

Finally, to fully look at troubled adolescents, we must look in our own backyard. In December of 1989 a report was released on the status of juvenile delinquents in Alabama. The report, called "Report of the Commission of the Future of the Alabama Juvenile Justice System", attempted to probe various aspects of delinquent behavior, including the court system's failure to rehabilitate and to make recommendations for the guidance of delinquents and their parents. The commission came up with over 100 recommendations for improvements. In its findings the commission revealed that development, expansion and adequate funding is needed in the area of prevention/intervention. It specifically does not address the gang problem within Alabama. However, what affects delinquency on the whole could apply to gang membership. The commission held that the prevention and intervention areas were critical to the future development of the juvenile justice system as a whole in the state and the most cost efficient means to help delinquent adolescents. One of the most serious problems found by the commission was that of the relationship between truancy and crime, which they felt made truants a high risk for delinquent behavior (Alabama Commission, 1989).

The study showed numerous areas that Alabama fails to provide adequate services for juvenile delinquents. The study suggested areas to help curb delinquent behavior in Alabama: mandatory school age; alternative schools for drop outs; truancy prevention; alcohol and drug counseling; family responsibility for their delinquent child and better social service support (Alabama Commission, 1989).

Clinical Interview with Gang Members

The author has developed a theory concerning gang membership and the stages they obtain before becoming a hard-core member. As previously stated there are three types of members: fringe; hard-core and leaders. The theory is based on the 150 interviews done by the author with Montgomery gang members. This is a small sample of the gang population in Montgomery. However, the research is continuing. The theory will be up-dated as new information develops. The theory that the author projects concerning parent involvement was done only with 50, with 90% coming from single parents. The theory should not in any way be linked to other gang members in other cities. Nevertheless, such generalizations could pertain in those cities. This is not a nationally recognized theory on gang development.

The research revealed that two stages emerged in becoming a fringe member. The first is a **Learning Stage**, which entails finding out about the rules and attending a few of the meetings. The major component of this stage is that the member finds out what the gang can do for him and what he has to do for the gang. During this stage the member will deny membership or knowledge about the gang.

The second stage of becoming a fringe member is called **Role Identity**. This is the most volatile because the fringe starts having a sense of belonging and the leader can either become a father-figure or role-model. The member starts losing identity within his natural family and becomes a more defined player in the gang. He attends meetings more regularly and has a tendency to become truant. He will take on a street name, which he may already have, and now will identify himself as part of the gang. At this stage he has made a conscious decision to join the gang. He will admit to knowing gang knowledge but will deny membership.

The hard-core also has three general stages. The first is referred to as **Marginal Hard-Core**. The Marginal Hard-Core

will wear his gang color on a regular basis. His natural family may sense that they are losing control of the member. He often commits minor crimes, usually fighting type offenses. He may drop out of school or get a few days to permanently suspended from school. He attends almost all meetings and will start painting graffiti on walls, books or papers without his moniker. The member may initiate a few members, recite gang knowledge, but will still deny membership in the gang.

The second type of hard-core member is the **Internship**. He starts initiating and recruiting members on a regular basis. He may have his body tattooed with gang symbols and will wear gang colors all the time. He might commit property crimes and the money stolen be given to the nation or organization. He paints graffiti on walls and signs it with their moniker. The member will admit gang membership.

The third stage of the hard-core member is called the **Hard-Core Hard-Core**. They commit the more violent crimes, ie., rapes, robberies or drive-by shootings. They often have no regard for human life and live the gang life twenty-four hours a day seven days a week or what they call (24-7). They live for the gang family and the natural family has completely lost control. They will do anything for the gang and will defiantly admit membership.

The **Leader** is the final level a gang member can achieve. Since the author has not talked to many of the local leaders, a theory is not provided within this text. However, the nationally held concept deserves consideration. The Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's department stated that the leader acts like a father to the rest of his members. However, in Montgomery it appears that the leader plays more of a role model. The leader plans illegal activities, but does not usually participate in the crime. He is often well-mannered, with intentions to draw suspicion away from himself. The leader is always a hard-core member and is the most dangerous member of the group.

The parents also go through what the author perceives are stages. The stages described come from Kubler-Ross's theory on death and dying. This is used because the parents die a slow mental death. The five stages that the gang parent goes through are denial, anger, acceptance, bargaining and depression with a sense of hopelessness. There have been no known studies on parents of gang members done on a national level.

The first stage, **Denial**, entails the parents total refusal to accept their child's gang membership. They become his enabler and will state that he never goes anywhere and has no friends. They refuse to cooperate and refuse to listen to the evidence presented.

The second stage, **Anger**, will evolve around parents blaming their problems onto other people that are involved. They realize that their child is involved in some sort of illicit activity, but will not admit it is gang related. They blame others for not helping their child and will get angry at the child. They may begin to cooperate with the helping individual.

The third stage, **Acceptance**, comes about when there is overwhelming evidence concerning his membership. By this time the child has committed crimes, gang members come to their homes, they find gang material in their child's room, and notice tattoos on his body. The child expresses a desire to wear certain brand name clothing and wishes only one color. The parent loses total control of the child. The child may admit gang membership to the parent.

The fourth stage, **Bargaining**, entails the parents attempting to get their child out of the gang. This means that they attempt to strike a deal with their child, by buying them material items or letting him do as he pleases. The parent may let the child live somewhere else at this time to appease him.

The fifth stage, **Depression with a Sense of Hopelessness**, will come about after the parent has attempted to bargain with the child and he still is involved in the gang. At this time

the parent exhibits deep depression. They feel that there is nothing they can do to help their child. They often feel that their hands are tied and a sense of hopelessness filters through their attitude.

The following clinical interview is the expansion of this theory. The questions were developed so that the individual may determine the gang member's involvement. The amount of information able to be obtained will be determined by the stage of involvement. Even though the counselor may feel that the gang member is withholding information, every attempt should be made to fill out the form completely. The counselor should always have three goals in mind: (1) to have current and factual information about the gang in which the member is in at their disposal; (2) to establish rapport and respect for one another; and (3) to play on their ego and deadliness. Gang members will try to lie to the uneducated counselor about his activities.

Another section has been added to the clinical interview. This has to do with moral development and judgment. The author has no current theory on the gang members moral valves. However, this is an important factor in the development of the gang mentality. The lack of moral valves may cause the gang member to rationalize his behavior. A change from negative to positive thinking must be accomplished by the counselor. Also the counselor should help the gang member evaluate his moral dilemma. This must be changed within the gang member if one is to successfully help him change his behavior.

CLINICAL INTERVIEW WITH GANG MEMBERS

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ RACE/SEX _____

ADDRESS: _____

(CITY-STATE-ZIP)

DOB: _____ LEGAL STATUS: _____

PHONE: _____ SS# _____

GANG INVOLVEMENT

Do you belong to a Nation or Organization? _____

How long have you been a member of this group? _____

How did you find out about the group you belong to? _____

How were you initiated? _____

Have you initiated any members? _____ How many? _____

Are your parents aware that you may be involved in a gang? _____

DISCIPLES AND VICE LORDS-MALES

How are you classified in your Nation? _____

(BGD/IGD)

What rank do you currently hold? _____

How did you obtain this rank? _____

Are you currently studying any knowledge? _____ Have you passed this knowledge onto other members and how? _____

When you were initiated into the Nation did you also have to commit a crime? _____ Explain the crime. _____

How often do you carry any deadly weapon? _____

What types of weapons do you carry? _____

How often do you use a weapon in a crime? _____

Do you give money toward the Nation? _____ Explain how? (Drugs or Crimes) _____

What set do you belong to? _____

Have you ever placed graffiti on walls and signed it with your moniker? _____ How many times? _____ Where in your community have you placed this graffiti? _____

Does this area which is marked become part of the gangs and protected by them? _____ How is it protected? _____

Do you have a street name? _____ What is it? _____ How often do you carry a rag and how do you wear it? _____

What type of clothing do you prefer to wear? (Include Brand Names and Hat Types) _____

Do you have any tattoos? _____ Show me what kind you have on your body? _____

(Write down what kind of tattoo and where it is on the body)

How long have those tattoo(s) been on your body? _____

Do you know any hand-signs? _____ Show me which ones and explain the sign? _____

Will you be a "folk" or "people" forever? _____

Tell me what you know about the Disciples or Vice Lord Nation? _____

DISCIPLE OR VICE LORDS-FEMALES

Are you a Queen (Q) or Gangster Queen (GQ)? _____

What rank do you currently hold? _____

What set do you belong to? _____

To become a gangster queen how many gang members did you have sex with in one night? _____

Are you still having sex with different gang members? _____

Are you studying any knowledge? _____ Have you passed this
knowledge onto other members and how? _____

How often do you carry a weapon? _____

What types of weapons do you carry? _____

How often do you use a weapon in a crime? _____

Do you hide weapons used by other gang members? _____ Where? _____

(Con't on Men's, Do you give money to the Nation)

CRIPS AND BLOODS

Are you an Original Gangster (OG), Baby Gangster (BG), Tiny
Gangster (TG), Gangster (G)? _____

How many people have you recruited? _____

What type of member are you? _____

(Leader-Hardcore-Marginal)

How many people do you control? _____

What are your gangs stated rules? _____

When you were initiated did you have to commit a crime? _____

What type of crime? _____

How often do you carry a weapon? _____

How often do you use a weapon when committing a crime? _____

Do you give money to your organization? (How) _____

Do you attend local meetings? _____ Day/Time/Where? _____

Have you placed graffiti on walls and signed it with your
moniker? _____ How many times? _____

Is this territory your gangs after it is marked? _____ How do
you protect it? _____

Do you have a street name? _____ What is it? _____

How often do you carry a rag and how do you wear it? _____

What type of clothing do you wear or don't wear? _____

Do you have any tattoos? _____

(Write the type of tattoos down and where placed on body)

How long have those tattoo(s) been on your body? _____

Do you know any hand signs? _____ Show me which ones and
tell me what they mean? _____

Tell me what you know about the Crips and Bloods from Los Angeles?

PARENTS KNOWLEDGE OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

Name: _____ Age: _____ Race/Sex _____

Single Parent or Family Unit: _____

What type of supervision do you give your child? _____

How do you know their whereabouts during the week and on weekend?

Do you know and approve of his/her friends? _____ Who are
they? _____

Do you know if your son or daughter is in a gang? _____

What type of clothing do they request you buy them? _____

Do they wear only one dominant color? _____ What color? _____

Does he wear a handkerchief on a regular basis? _____ What
does it look like and how does he wear it? _____

Do they have any tattoos on their body? _____

What type of hand signs have you seen them use? _____

Have you noticed graffiti on their bedroom walls or in their school books? _____ What did you do with it? _____

Have you found any unexplained papers that look like questions and answers? _____ What did you do with it? _____

How would you feel if your son or daughter were in a gang? _____

Since you know that they are involved in gang activity have you made a deal with them if they would get out of the gang? _____ What was the deal? _____

After you made them the deal did they continue in their gang activity? _____ How did this make you feel? _____

SCHOOL

Name of School: _____ Current grade: _____

How many grades have you failed? _____ Which grades? _____

Are you in SE? _____ (IQ) If known _____

Have you ever been approached at school concerning being in a gang? _____ How many times? _____ Were they classmates or outsiders? _____ Do you recruit in school? _____

How many members have you recruited? _____

COUNSELING

Have you ever attended any counseling sessions? _____

Who/When/Where? _____

How many times did you attend the counseling sessions? _____

Did you talk to the counselor about gangs? _____

If so what did you talk about concerning your gang activity?

Did you received any type of testing? _____ What type? _____

GANG FAMILY

How does being in a gang make you feel? _____

What do you expect the gang to do for you? _____

What are you willing to do for the gang? _____

Does your leader "fill-in" for your father? _____

If the leader do you feel like a father to your members?

(Explain) _____

How much pressure did the gang apply toward your membership?

Is your membership in the gang due to the area in which you live in? _____ Are you a gang member for this reason? _____

How do you feel if the gang request that you do some illegal activity and you "back out" of it? _____

How much do you depend on the gang as your family? _____

How does this gang family relate to your natural family? _____

Which family do you prefer to spend time with on a daily basis?

(Gang or Natural Family) _____

Does being in a gang make you feel important? _____

Do you believe people fear you because of your membership? _____

Do you tell people that you are in a gang for this reason? _____

Do you ever think about going to prison or being shot? _____

Are you in the gang for the violence? _____ Described to
me how committing a violent act makes you feel? _____

Would you kill a member of your family for the gang? _____

Can you get out of your gang? _____ How? _____

Why must you leave in this manner? _____

How would you feel after you have left the gang? _____

After being a part of the gang family, would you still have
joined knowing how it is in a gang? _____ Why? (If still wants
to be part of the gang) (What would you have done differently
to avoid being part of the gang) _____

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

How often do you use drugs? _____ What type of drugs do
you use? _____

When you use drugs is it with other members? _____ Do you
and the other members commit your crimes after using or before
using drugs? (Both) _____

Do you also use alcohol with your members? _____ How often?

Do you sell drugs for the gang? _____ How did you get
started? _____

What do you buy with the money? _____

Does some of the money help support your family? (Gang or
Natural) _____

Do you feel that you have a drug problem? (Explain) _____

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Who taught you the difference between right and wrong? _____

Do you feel that taking peoples property is wrong? _____

What type of system should we have for those who break the law?

Who's to blame when you break the law? _____

How do you feel when your rights are violated? _____

How do you feel when you violate someone else's rights? _____

How do you view society? _____

How do you view the world as a place to live? _____

Do you live by the law of the land or the jungle? _____
 What circumstances do you feel would be alright to take another
 persons property? _____
 _____ How about hurting
 another person? _____

DIAGNOSTIC AND EVALUATION OF GANG MEMBER

A conduct of disturbance lasting at least six months, during
 in which at least three of the following are present:

(Check each problem which applies)

- (1) _____ has stolen without confrontation of a victim on
 more than one occasion (including forgery)
- (2) _____ has runaway from home overnight at least twice while
 living in parental or parental surrogate home (or
 once without returning)
- (3) _____ often lies (other than to avoid physical or sexual
 abuse)
- (4) _____ has deliberately engaged in fire-setting
- (5) _____ is often truant from school (older person, absent
 from work)
- (6) _____ has broken into someone else's house, building,
 car
- (7) _____ has deliberately destroyed others' property (other
 than fire-setting)
- (8) _____ has been physically cruel to animals
- (9) _____ has forced someone into sexually activity with him
 or her
- (10) _____ has used a weapon in more than one fight
- (11) _____ often initiates physical fights
- (12) _____ has stolen with confrontation of a victim (e.g.
 mugging, purse-snatching, extortion, armed robbery)
- (13) _____ has been physically cruel to people

The above diagnosis is found in DSM-III-R. The diagnosis is listed as a Conduct Disorder. Conduct Disorders are listed as group, solitary, undifferentiated. Gang Members, for the most part commit their crimes as a group, which would then be a diagnosis of Conduct Disorder, Group Type: 312.20

A disturbance of a least six months during which at least five of the following are present: (Check each problem which applies)

- (1) _____ often loses temper
- (2) _____ often argues with adults
- (3) _____ often actively defies or refuse adults requests of rules, e.g., refuse to do chores at home
- (4) _____ often deliberately does things that annoy other people, e.g., grabs other children's hats
- (5) _____ often blames others for his/hers mistakes
- (6) _____ is often touchy or easily annoyed by others
- (7) _____ is often angry and resentful
- (8) _____ is often spiteful or vindictive
- (9) _____ often swears or uses obscene language

The above diagnosis is also found in DSM III-R. The diagnosis is listed as Oppositional Defiant Disorder; 313.81. The person should fill out either diagnosis, not both.

Fredrick Vrgora, M.S.

Counseling Approach to Gang Members and Substance Abusers

There are various approaches that a counselor may choose from when dealing with gang members and substance abusers. However, the author feels that the best approach for both problems would be Rational-Emotive Therapy (RET). This approach is often effective because of the links between negative and irrational behaviors such as gang membership and the use of illegal substances. However, the counselor should always use the method he or she feels most comfortable with. This is simply the method the author theorizes would be the most beneficial to these types of clients.

A brief overview in the RET technique is needed to understand how it may relate to the gang member and the abuser. RET states that individuals are born with both rational and irrational tendencies. Their disturbances or problems are caused by irrational thinking. From this illogical thinking emerge patterns of illogical learning. The person verbalizes irrational ideas and thoughts and his or her perception of the situation is internally negative. The irrational and self-defeating behavior should be challenged and changed to enhance rational thinking. A goal in this technique is to make one come to the realization that failure is a part of life and not the end of the world.

The first aspect of this approach focuses on gang members and their irrational thinking that should be conditioned to change. One belief is that he must be accepted by significant others, which in this case are the other members of the gang. The gang member needs to come to the conclusion that love and acceptance of himself are the most important aspects of his life.

Gang members need to accept failure in their lives. The gang member has failed at most of the conventional norms, ie., school, dating, jobs and socialization. He needs to realize that this is an inescapable part of growing up. Gang members

feel the need to punish themselves and others for their plight in the world. They refuse to take responsibility for their actions. They rationalize their actions and attribute blame onto others.

The basic goal of therapy is to acknowledge and challenge irrational and inappropriate behaviors, feelings and thoughts. The gang member needs to know that his negative thoughts and ideas can be challenged and changed to achieve positive accomplishments. The counselor needs to question the validity of the gang member's ideas about being a part of a gang, his future within the gang, and determine how he views society as a whole. The therapist's main goal should be to change self-defeating attitudes and behaviors.

There are various techniques and procedures that a counselor can use to facilitate this change. Rapport is a must when dealing with gang members. Gang members have lost trust in many people, and it will take time for them to regain it. The frequent lack of progress may prove frustrating to the counselor. Books, tapes, and films that reflect the negative side of gang activity might be useful. Assigning homework projects for the youth to prepare on the effects that gang membership has on the individual and his family could also serve to gain more attention by active participation.

Although a description is not included of the RET method, the author feels that it could also be an important part of the recovery process. Families should be brought into the situation so that the positive attitude is continued, controlled and maintained at home. Without the cooperation of the parents, it seems that there is often little hope for the rehabilitation of a gang member. Parents need to work to control several important aspects of their child's life: (1) discipline needs to be maintained on a consistent level, (2) dress codes need to be enforced in which no gang type clothing is worn, (3) a high state of positive reinforcement needs to be developed

between parent and child, and (4) constant knowledge of the child's peers should be maintained.

Another aspects concerns substance abuse by the gang member. Gang members who use drugs are usually not the ones who sell it. This is due to the fact that drug users in the gang are often not trusted by their fellow members.

An estimated 70 million Americans suffer some problem which can be traced back to a substance abuse (Franks, 1985). The economic cost of substance abuse is staggering in terms of health care, absentee employees and lost productivity is estimated at around \$70 billion annually (Quayle, 1983.)

Counselors need to understand why the gang member has become part of the gang. This is probably one of the most important parts of the treatment process. A two year study conducted by Ronald C. Huff (1989) concluded that there are three gang typologies that emerge. The first is hedonistic in which a gang member joins the gang simply for pleasure. The second type is a instrumental gang member who has a means to an end, such as selling or using drugs. The third is a predatory gang member who is in the gang for the violence (Crime and Delinquency, 1989).

RET theorizes that irrational beliefs leads to low frustration tolerance which is present in addicts. Ellis refers to this as discomfort anxiety or discomfort disturbance. The primary cause of an addicts problem according to Ellis is the blocking or abstinence of Low Frustration Tolerance (LFT). See Figure 3.1 on page 26 (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989).

Ellis says that the LFT pattern can be easily understood but is overlooked by most therapists. He states that to understand LFT, one should image how he or she would feel about a vice or redaction they have and intentionally deprive to themselves. How would one describe the feeling of craving? This is what Ellis would term discomfort anxiety. The clients often have trouble labeling feelings about what is happening to them

prior to escaping into their addiction. Therapists sometimes fails to recognize this pattern because they ask inappropriate questions. The therapist usually has seen the client before his LFT has come into full swing. The client will express guilt rather than LFT making the therapist look for the LFT pattern. This is often ineffectual because it does not address the real problem and can serve to make the client feel no remorse at all over the drinking episode (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989).

Uncovering the LFT can be rather simple once the therapist knows what feelings he or she will be examining. Have the clients express how they feel when they deprive themselves of their addiction, or inquire how they feel when alcohol is unavailable to them. In doing so, the therapist tries to establish the clients' words for their discomfort anxiety. Once this is established the therapist can work on these irrational beliefs (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989).

The second part of the process is using drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. See figure 32 on page 29. The coping problem can be identified using the ABC method of irrational beliefs. These include the activating event, the irrational belief about the event and how the clients chooses to resolve A. Their stress serves as a negative reinforcement, which will mean that the behavior will occur again. The reinforcing factor is the removal of pain (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989). Clients denial of their addiction problem impedes the therapist attempts to uncover the coping pattern. Denial is maintained through the process of distorting reality, by which clients actually view themselves as having no problem. The enabler or co-dependent is often a family member who the individual seeks out to maintain their distortion of reality. These individuals help the addict avoid their problems and responsibilities. Therefore the client does not have to face the consequences of his or her actions. One effective way of

having clients admit their failure and to cope with their problem is to have the enabler resign from the role. Once this happens, then a crisis will overtake the addict making them realize their inability to cope with the problem without their addiction. Focus should be on the activating event and the irrational belief the client holds about the event (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989).

Many clients' alcoholism stems from an irrational inner feeling of worthlessness. A pattern of worthlessness emerges from these feelings and produces guilt and depression. See figure 3.3 on page 34. Once these individuals sober up from a drinking episode, they often realize the negative consequences to their actions. This can result in them condemning themselves for what they had done. In this guilt they place a demand on themselves insisting that they will never use drugs or alcohol again. When they fail to live up to this demand, the feeling of worthlessness recurs, often more intense. The second type of irrationality involves an individual who employs a rigid meaning on the terms users and non-users. They see any person who takes a drink, one snort, or a smoke from a marijuana cigarette as a user. Since they see themselves in this way they define themselves as addicts and abusers and unable to stop the behavior. Marlatt and Gordon (1985) concluded that once addicts have labeled themselves as users, a small relapse can result in them abusing their substance again. They termed this abstinence violation effect (AVE). This leads the addicts to a sense of hopelessness and an inability to escape their addiction (Ellis, McInerney, DiGiuseppe, Yeager, 1989.)

These three patterns can have a devastating effect on the client and a frustrating one on the therapist who is attempting to be an effective counselor. The therapist should understand that when a client is both a gang member and substance abuser, it is important to focus primarily on the abuse. Since these clients obviously have a negative self-esteem and image, it

is important to attempt to build on the positive aspects of the clients life and enhance their inner being. Although it is not possible to remove clients permanently from their environment, we must help them adapt to their environment as it is, thereby enhancing success. Therapists themselves should be cognizant of the fact that they can become enablers in the plight of the gang member/drug abuser. Instead, they must help these troubled individuals cope in a difficult world and above all, learn to face reality about themselves.

Children at Risk for Gang Activity

As counselor we can only provide help for those that we can identify as needing our help. An individual may or may not be receptive to a counselor's assistance. However, the longer a client waits to get treatment the more challenging the case will be. This is even more evident in providing services to gang members. At some point in their membership they will admit to belonging to a gang but that admission usually comes too late. As stated in the opening of the book the longer the gang member belongs to the gang the harder it is to break the gangs hold on the individual. This hold on the gang member can be illustrated by my research in the Montgomery area. A newly initiated gang member with no criminal record will take on the average of eight to ten months to explode into a life of crime- however petty. Identifying these individuals early may help divert them from gang membership and crime.

The following pages consist of a questionnaire designed to detect children at risk in the early stages of gang formation. With this as a guide, counselors can begin to identify those most at risk at a time when their behavior can be best shaped. Past and present behaviors should be considered in answering questions. When asking questions concerning them studying knowledge, holding rank or committing crimes, history of the last 12 months should be considered. In filling out the form be as objective as possible without leaning toward personal prejudices. However, use insight to decipher obvious clues such as the type of clothing clients are wearing, indications of who they associate with on a daily basis and the reason that they are seeing a counselor. Detecting the truth is the hardest part of the counselors interview. If the individual scores ten or higher, professional help in the area of gang rehabilitation would be recommended.

Gangs: A Counselor's Dilemma
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Children at Risk for Gang Activity

Name: _____ Age: _____ Race/Sex: _____
Address: _____
(City-State-Zip)
Dob: _____ School: _____ Phone: _____

Place checks on all answers (Yes-No) that apply to the child at risk.

	Yes	No
1. Does the child admit membership in a Nation or Organization?	_____	_____
2. Does the child admit to being initiated into the gang?	_____	_____
3. Does the child admit to initiating other members into the gang?	_____	_____
4. Does the child admit to being present at an initiation?	_____	_____
5. Does the child admit to studying "knowledge" about the gang?	_____	_____
6. Does the child admit to holding rank (past/present) in the gang?	_____	_____
7. Does the child admit to committing any crime for the gang?	_____	_____
8. Does the child admit to carrying a weapon for safety?	_____	_____
9. Does the child admit to belonging to a set or faction?	_____	_____
10. Does the child admit to placing graffiti on any items?	_____	_____
11. Does the child admit to having a street name used by the gang?	_____	_____
12. Does the child admit to carrying a rag at any time?	_____	_____
13. Does the child admit to wearing only certain type of clothing?	_____	_____
14. Does the child state wearing a preferred color?	_____	_____
15. Does the child have gang related tattoos on his body?	_____	_____
16. Does the child admit to knowing gang hand signs at least 5?	_____	_____
17. Does the child admit that they associate with gang members?	_____	_____
18. Does the child admit to being pressured to be part of the gang?	_____	_____
19. Does the child admit the gang is part of his family?	_____	_____
20. Does the child admit that being a gang member is important?	_____	_____
21. Does the child admit that he is seeking brotherhood/protection?	_____	_____
22. Does the child admit to committing violent acts upon people?	_____	_____
23. Does the child admit to buying or selling drugs for the gang?	_____	_____
24. Does the child admit to using retaliation against other gang members?	_____	_____
25. Does the child admit that his/her parents have little knowledge about his/her activities?	_____	_____
26. Does the child admit to recruiting members for the gang?	_____	_____
27. Does the child state that they will be a gang member forever?	_____	_____
28. Does the child admit to ever being placed in the DYS system?	_____	_____
29. Does the child admit to associating with anyone who has been in the DYS system?	_____	_____
30. Does the child state a willingness to die for his gang?	_____	_____

1-5 Slight Risk for Gang Activity
5-15 Moderate Risk for Gang Activity
15-25 High Risk for Gang Activity
26 + Gang Member

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