

Expert: Alienated teens seek out gangs

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Adults join unions, the Moose Lodge and PTAs. Young people also want to join groups where they feel they belong.

Sometimes teens find their comfort zone in gangs, which become like family to lonely, isolated youngsters.

That was one of the messages in "Recognition, Reason and Response to Teen Violence" presented recently by the Farmington Area Advisory Council Inc. at the Farmington Hills Activities Center.

Speaking was nationally known Michael Walker, who described himself as a reformed gang member. He has appeared on the NBC "Today" show and CBS' "Eye on America" and "48 Hours."

Walker is a partner in Walker and Schmidt Training Consultants and the executive director of the Task Force on Violent Crime in Cleveland, Ohio. He is also a member of the Board of Governors of the Ohio State University Alumni Association, a member of the Midwest Gang Investigators Association and the Ohio Crime Prevention Council.

He frequently mentioned his days as a young black man on Chicago's South Side. "When I was 11 years old, I was beaten by an 18-year-old man with a brick," Walker said. "When I went to my house, my mother told me to get off of her carpet. She could have cared less about my broken nose."

AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Best friend murdered

At 12, he said he was shot at five times and his best friend was murdered.

When there are no options, young people do the wrong thing, he told his suburban audience. If people are alienated, they seek out some kind of relationships.

Reaction to Walker's speech was mixed.

"I think he missed some things," said Norm Cellinake, a student teacher at Warner Middle School, Farmington Hills. "He told parents how to recognize gangs, but not how to get their kids out of gangs."

No notice of the meeting was sent to Warner Middle School, Cellinake said. A council spokesman said that elementary schools received the flyer.

"A lot of what he said I've heard before, but I like the way he said it," said Ronelle Bowman, a Livonia resident and program director for Westland's juvenile offenders/youth assistance. She said her son was once involved in gang activity.

Walker spoke of his desire to cry into their child's activities, changes in clothing styles, hand symbols, everything," she added.

Signs on notebook

Nancy Clark of Livonia said that her son is in the drug treatment program at Parkway Family Center in Southfield. "My son wasn't involved in any ma-

jor gangs but in minor ones, the wannabes," Clark said.

"I remember him giving the signs. I remember seeing the graffiti on the notebooks. But, I didn't know what it meant then."

So-called "Wiggers" are white young people trying to be black, Walker said. "You don't have to have a name, leader or symbol to be a gang," he added.

All graffiti is not gang graffiti, Walker said. Some is tagging (art) or simple vandalism.

"When I got in the elevator tonight, at the hotel I'm staying at that symbol (a pitchfork used by a gang known as The Folk) was in both elevators," Walker said.

The gang problem will not be solved by The White House, he said. "It will be solved by you. Washington, D.C., is one of the most dangerous places to live. If they (the government) cannot protect this city, how will they protect the nation?"

Walker spoke of a Scottsbluff, Neb., small city of about 13,000 which had several drive-by shootings last year. "No Afro-Americans live there, no Puerto-Rican Americans, just white Nebraskans," Walker said.

Seven percent of kids are responsible for gang violence which involves ages 13-25, Walker said.

Recruit in schools

Gangs recruit in schools.

Walker said. On another subject, Walker said that young people often resent the elderly because they have taken the jobs once held by those under 18 — fast food and bagging groceries.

Also, portray crimes for want they are, he insists. "Instead of calling it a carjacking, call it an armed robbery of a motor vehicle. A home invasion is a breaking and entering. A drive-by shooting is attempted murder. "Stop glamorizing crime. Call it what it is."

Black people are angry, he said, because one out of every 27 black men are being murdered compared to one in 205 white males. "The only other country which comes close is Scotland," Walker said.

Watch for symbolism like a shield on the head, he added. The letter 'H' is the eighth letter in the alphabet and stands for Adolf Hitler, denoting a neo-Nazi.

Sharks, skinheads with strong racial prejudice, want to relocate all black to Alabama and Mississippi, Walker said.

"Jews get Florida and New York," he said. "Mexicans get New Mexico and gays get California."

Another neo-Nazi faction is Straight Edge, a group whose members don't drink or smoke, but are dangerous.

"We take care of perpetrators and victims, but not witnesses who are equally vulnerable," Walker said.

Hills fills board, commission posts

The Farmington Hills City Council has made the annual appointments and reappointments to terms on boards and commissions.

The following people will serve three-year terms unless otherwise indicated:

- Commission on Aging — Dorothy Woolley (reappointment).
- Arts Commission — Fern Barber, Kathryn Briggs, Janice Samoray-Haddad.
- Beautification Commission — Lincoln Avery (reappointment), Sue Glesin, Betty Pool (reappointment).
- Board of Review — Barbara Dutton, Dorothy Jeffers, Joan Lennis (one-year term), Barbara Megerian (two-year term).
- Building Authority — William Costick (reappointment, two-year term), D. Keith Deacon (reappointment, two-year term), Kathryn Dorman (reappointment, two-year term), Jerry Neyer (reappointment, two-year term).
- Cable Access Committee — Bruce Gaskill (reappointment).
- Commission on Children, Youth & Families — Elizabeth

Borghi (one year), Richard Dagunanno, William Dwyer (reappointment), Gerry Glibuly (reappointment), Debra Kenderski (reappointment), Maryanne Peck (two-year term), Mark Sommers.

■ Historic District Commission — L.J. Juliano (reappointment), Steve Olser (reappointment).

■ Historical Commission — Kathryn Briggs (reappointment), Louise Henderson McFarland, Albert Moschman (reappointment), John Willard (reappointment).

■ Housing Rehabilitation Loan Board — Harris Katzman (reappointment to fill unexpired term, two years).

■ Library Board — Robert Plummer (four-year term).

■ Parks and Recreation Commission — Mary Foran (reappointment), Michael Horner (reappointment), Stuart Sells (reappointment).

■ Planning Commission — Glen Fleischhacker, Carol Freedman and Jeri VanHouten.

■ Zoning Board of Appeals — Mary Avery, Reginald Linberger and Bradley List (alternate).

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NEWSPAPERS



Dentistry in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.M., D.D.S.




TAKING DENTAL PROCEDURES TO HEART

Patients who have had heart surgery or heart disease, or have a disorder known as mitral valve prolapse (an improperly closed valve that can allow blood to flow backward) into the heart, should have their dentists know the dentist. As a precaution, antibiotics may be administered to patients with these histories before and after any procedure that might cause bacteria to enter the bloodstream. During dental procedures (even teeth cleanings) can cause gums to bleed, and bacteria are introduced into the bloodstream. There is a real cause for concern. However, the bacteria can cause potential problems for some patients if the bacteria were to accumulate around damaged, abnormal, or prosthetic heart valves. Antibiotic treatment at but eliminates this risk.


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UPDATE ON Obstetrics & Gynecology


GETTING THEIR KICKS

The sensation of feeling their unborn babies' kicks inside their expanding bellies usually provides mothers-to-be with untold joy. While the embryo may begin to make spontaneous movements by the seventh week of pregnancy, a pregnant woman may not discern this fetal movement until anywhere between the 14th and 26th weeks, with the average being between weeks 18 and 22. Much of this wide range in detecting the first momentous sensation of life is "guessing" — it is due to experience. Those who have had babies before know the sensation and what to expect. They may also have later uterine muscles that make it easier to detect the sensation of a kick. On the other hand, the first perception of movement may be delayed because of a miscalculated due date or inability to recognize the movement.

Most women know that once they get pregnant, it is vitally important to get prenatal care. I stay on top of the latest developments in obstetrics and gynecology in order to offer you the highest level of care. It is my responsibility to answer your questions, so you're comfortable with the recommended course of treatment. You can find my office at 15901 W. 9 Mile Road in Southfield.

P.S. Early fetal movement is commonly interpreted as "butterflies in the abdomen" or "butterflies in the stomach," or may be mistaken for gas or hunger pangs.

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