

School

(continued from page 1)

"These investigations are like a huge octopus," he said. "As fast as you cut off one leg, you find another to follow."

"It scares the living daylights out of me to think what could have happened to police officers or kids," he said, referring to the gun theft. "We're mixing three volatile ingredients - firearms, drugs and alcohol - with teens. Until three weeks ago I thought alcohol and occasionally marijuana, were the drugs of choice out here, but they aren't. During my investigations I've run into heroin, crack and at least one hard-core cocaine addict. LSD, the hallucinogenic of the 70's, is also making a comeback."

Drug dealers have learned that police tap their phones, so they graduated to cellular phones, then to beepers, on which their customers can leave certain number codes as messages, he said.

He blamed the juvenile detention system's leniency for tempting older gang members and drug sellers to let the younger teens get caught and take the punishment.

"It's a revolving door," he said. "The penalties aren't harsh enough - the kids get a good, stern lecture and are back out on the street."

Three Back Mountain groups have caught Miers's attention.

He doesn't see much of the GLP (the Green Lightning Posse), a loose group of taggers or graffiti artists from Dallas and other schools, any more.

The 187's, named for the tough California gang which took its name from the section of the penal code dealing with murder, have stopped wearing their colors and gone underground after several members were arrested. Not all 187's are from the Back Mountain, he said.

Miers believes the Third World Knights (TWK) has broken up, now that most of its members were arrested for criminal activity. Some TWK's come from Brooklyn, while others are local.

Kingston Township police chief James Balavage said he has seen juvenile crimes quadruple during the past decade.

"Juvenile crimes aren't just petty larceny or vandalism any more," he said. "We now see more theft and drug involvement. This year took the cake - we had a juvenile take a BB gun, the only gun in the house, and shoot his neighbor. He had seen it on television."

Assistant district attorney Dan Pillets, who described open juvenile proceedings and other new juvenile laws, said most youthful offenders are wannabes.

"But it doesn't matter if they're imitators or real gang members," he said. "Their victims don't care whether they're gang members or not. They should be dealt with seriously. Changes in the law will now deal more harshly with those who previously literally thumbed their noses at the system. As juvenile crimes become more serious, you'll see tougher laws and enforcement."

The best way to prevent young people from becoming involved with drugs or gangs is for parents, the church, the school and the community to instill the right values in them at an early age, panel members said.

Don't let them wear their baseball caps backwards (a popular gang symbol) and don't buy them beepers.

"Everyone says 'this won't happen in my backyard,'" Miers said. "I'm sure they said that a lot in Oklahoma City too."

Parents suspected trouble

All say they want to find solutions

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS - Some parents of Dallas High School students have long suspected that some teenagers were on the wrong track. They just didn't know what that track was, until several young people were arrested for credit card fraud and gun theft during the past two months.

At least one parent knew exactly what was going on.

"If the administration had admitted this problem existed five years ago, they wouldn't be here trying to straighten it out now," said Carol Adams, whose children attended Dallas schools. "I saw the trend developing when my children were growing up. I've heard the kids talking about it. It's been going on for a long time, but the district would never recognize it. Lately it's become worse."

Like many other parents attending the June 2 town meeting at the Dallas Middle School,

Adams wants to be part of the solution.

"I'll do whatever I can to help out," she said. "I live here - it's my community too."

Ed Gross, the father of two children in the Dallas schools, said he has been aware of problems for a while. He wants to be as educated as possible about gangs and drug activity.

"I want my kids to be able to grow up in the safe school environment they deserve," he said. "I want to be part of the solution."

Although their children have graduated and now have children of their own, Janet and Rich Schooley are concerned about gangs and drugs in the school and community.

"We aren't surprised to hear about this," they said. "We knew it was going on." They're working with their church to try to deter young people from going into gangs and drugs.

"I had a gut feeling it was around," said Mary Kay Covert, whose children are still in school. "I lock my doors now - I rarely did before."

John and Sonia Maslowski said

they knew some of the young people involved in the recent activities. Their children are still in school.

"The district attorney's office and the Dallas Township police have done a fantastic job with this," they said. "They have demonstrated outstanding expertise and professionalism."

Yvonne Bohlander and John and Vivian Bednarz have children in school and said they knew gang-related activity is increasing.

"You can tell because crimes are rising," John Bednarz said.

After presentations from the six-member panel on how the school, law enforcement officials and the court system are handling youth drug and gang incidents, parents asked questions ranging from what the signs of gang activity or drug use are to what parents and churches can do to help.

Panel members admitted there are no neat answers, no magic solutions. "Gang activity and drugs know no socio-economic boundaries," they said. "It could be my child or your child."

LakeTownship recycling June 10

The voluntary recycling drop-off center for Lake Township will be accepting recyclables June 10, from 10-12 noon at the township building.

The following items may be dropped off: aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass, plastic #1 and #2 only.

No motor oil containers can be accepted.

Harveys Lake Legion to hold flea mart

Harveys Lake American Legion will host a flea market, June 10 at the post home, Rt. 415, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tables are \$10 and may be reserved by calling 675-0104 or 639-5500.

Bible school at Emmanuel Assembly

A Vacation Bible School featuring games, crafts, songs, snacks and Bible stories, will be held at the Emmanuel Assembly of God, Harveys Lake, June 19-23, from 6-8:30 p.m.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Upcoming auction

Planning the 39th Annual Auction of the Idetown United Methodist Church's couples' club are, front, Jayne Haefele and Elaine St. Clair; back row Henry Bergstrasser, Dick Ide, Claire and Bill Kleinfelder and the Rev. Richard Santella. The auction will be June 10 at the Luzerne County fairgrounds, starting at 11 a.m.

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THURSDAY, June 8th
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"Free Giveaways"

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JUNE 8th
JUNE 9th
JUNE 10th

Thursday, June 8th
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Friday, June 9th
WEMR Broadcasting "LIVE"
Free Coffee 6:30 TO 8:30 AM

Berks 1/4 lb. Hot Dogs Buy One get One FREE

Super Submarine Sandwiches Buy One Get One FREE

PIZZA - 15" Pie or a Slice - Buy One get One FREE

<p>Perry's Deluxe 1/2 Gal. Ice Cream buy 1 Get one FREE</p>	<p>Great Everyday Savings from the Deli Daily Lunch Specials Fri. Stromboli - Whole \$3.99 Half \$1.99</p>	<p>Haagen Dazs Pints Buy 1 Get one FREE</p>	<p>Herr's Potato Chips Buy 1 Get one FREE</p>
<p>Coke or Pepsi 24 pk. cans \$5.99 Single cans 30¢</p>	<p>WAVE Cigarettes 99¢</p>	<p>STOP By & Register to WIN ★ Gas Grill ★ Bicycle ★ Red Barons Ticket</p>	<p>FREE Coffee 6:30 to 8:30 AM June 8, 9, 10</p>

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