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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

American Juggalos: We're Family, not Gang-Bangers

Article published by the Pocono Record

Pocono, PA | "We're not a gang. Technically, we're a family."

A 20-year-old Tannersville man is one of a handful of people who took exception with a recent Pocono Record article listing Juggalos as one of the gangs identified in Monroe County. A self-proclaimed Juggalo and graffiti artist, "Mark" wanted to "shine some light" on the Juggalo lifestyle. (It's not his real name, which we are withholding for the sake of getting the story.)

"Juggalo is just another name for a scrub. A scrub is someone who shops at Salvation Army, comes from a broken home, and is made fun of in class. I've met rich Juggalos, but most are scrubs," he said. Mark explained that scrubs isolate themselves because they are made fun of in school.

They identify with the violent lyrics of music groups like Insane Clown Posse (ICP), Twisted and Blaze. Vulgar lyrics about rape, murder and dismembered bodies, liberally peppered with the F-word, speak to them. For Juggalos, "It's revenge music for people who hate on them," Mark said.

"It's very hateful and violent when you get laughed at all the time. All you can think about is, 'I'd like to stab someone.' Who doesn't feel like stabbing someone sometimes? Now with the whole gang thing being told — it is harassment to people who are like that, and it sucks."

Somehow, the negative reputation was there even before the Monroe County Gang Task Force put the word Juggalo on the local radar screen. "We get kicked out of the mall. Security guards don't like us. I have the 'Hatchetman' on my car. A cop searched my car at 2:30 in the morning because I had that sticker on it," Mark said.

"We're the black sheep of our families. My dad was abusive. Mom did the best that she could." Mark's home life became unbearable so he left, at first sleeping in his car, eventually crashing with friends in similar situations. He dropped out of school and found acceptance with his Juggalo friends.



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Officials Learn how to Face Gang Issues

Article published by the Journal & Courier

12/19/2007 Lafayette, IN | At Jefferson High School, students can't wear hats or headgear during the school day - one way administrators thwart them from showing gang affiliations. School officials also keep track of other clothing trends and look for recruitment patterns of known gangs in the Lafayette area. "If you have a high school or junior high school anywhere in the U.S., you're going to have some gangs," assistant principal Roger Francis said. "We're not immune to that. Not even the private schools in our community are immune to that."

Francis was one of about 15 people from Tippecanoe County who just returned from the national "Know Gangs" conference in Las Vegas, where last week they learned more about gangs in the Midwest. Other local attendees included Sheriff Tracy Brown, Prosecutor Pat Harrington, several Lafayette police officers and representatives from Jeff, Harrison and McCutcheon high schools. "It's a great way to keep up with what's taking place," Francis said. "We can really confer with other states and see what may be headed to the Midwest -- particularly here."



Law enforcement agencies here have long maintained that Lafayette's location off Interstate 65, between Chicago and Indianapolis, has brought gang members into the community. Brown said his department continues to see inmates booked in with gang-related tattoos. Their criminal activity includes narcotic sales, burglaries and robberies. In the last three months, offenders during sentencing at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse have admitted affiliations to the Latin Kings, Gangster Disciples, Vice

Lords and Sur 13 gangs, according to Harrington.

Both men say the goal county-wide is to address the issue before it worsens. "We certainly do not have the presence that other communities have. We're not dealing with the same issues as Indianapolis or northwest Indiana," Brown said. "But you can't deny that they're coming into our community and bringing a heightened presence with them."

Full Story: <http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071219/NEWS03/712190327/1152/NEWS>



Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation Targets Gang Activity

Article published by the Evansville Courier & Press

12/09/2007 Evansville, IN | Evansville public school officials say they have a "no tolerance" policy for gang-related activities on school property. But they say whatever happens outside of school is largely beyond their control, and that's when they need help from parents and the community. The issue of gangs and teenagers came into public view last week when five males who attend Harrison High School were arrested on felony charges related to a Nov. 30 assault at Brentwood Drive and Lloyd Expressway.

The Friday afternoon incident, which Evansville police said left Tony R. Mattingly Jr., 18, in Gateway Hospital with serious injuries, happened after school had adjourned for the day. The five teens charged in the incident are affiliated with a gang called the East Side G's, according to police. Police have said the beating stemmed from a dispute between two girls.

Gerald Summers, safety and security coordinator for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp., and Jeff Worthington, who is the school liaison officer for Harrison's district, said they were unaware of gang-related activity involving Harrison students until news of the beating surfaced.



An investigation since then revealed all five teens charged in the beating had MySpace Internet pages with "ESG" displayed prominently, Summers said. The Internet is helping fuel an upswing in gang activities across the country, he said.

There have been reports of gang-related graffiti throughout Evansville, and Summers said teens often spray graffiti, wear clothes or do hand gestures they viewed online.

"Half of these parents have no idea what's on their kids' MySpace pages," Summers said.

Full Story: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2007/dec/09/evsc-targets-gang-activity/>

Graffiti with Gang Ties Pops up in Town

Article published by the Post Tribune

12/17/2007 Chesterton, IN | Gere Drake doesn't think there are gangs in Chesterton. "But I don't know," said Drake, who runs Millwright's Daughter Cafe. "Maybe I'm being naive." For more than a month, gang signs have been spray-painted in the Chesterton area. Local authorities suspect that a group of juveniles are likely responsible for the spray-paint vandalism and have made two arrests thus far. Porter police are investigating the problem with Chesterton police, said Porter Police Assistant Chief Todd Allen. While it's hard to determine if an established gang exists in the area, "there's lots of kids who proclaim that they are," through the graffiti, Allen said. Gang-inspired slurs and signs have been reported by Porter and Chesterton residents.

The Porter County Sheriff's Department is featuring the recent spate as a Crime of the Week through the Crime Stoppers program to raise awareness of the problem and get more people to come forward with information. "We absolutely rely on neighbors," said County Sheriff David Lain. "We need input from folks. ... We need more eyes and ears." Last Monday, a Fairhaven Baptist Church member reported that a dozen of its church buses were defaced with white spray paint. Also that day, an Amtrak employee found white spray marks on a shed and a utility pole. Police believe the church and Amtrak properties were targeted solely because of access.

Scribbles, including upside-down pitchforks, 'If U erase I'll murder you,' 'Smoke marijuana till death,' is just a sampling of slurs residents and businesses have seen marked on their properties. "This does happen historically," Lain said. But he said, "typically people talk" and law enforcement officials hope the chatter could lead to the end of the vandalism.

Full Story: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/700217.chgraffiti.article>



Cal City Man Charged in Slaying of Popular Thornton North Student

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

12/28/2007 Calumet City, IL | Students and administrators from Thornton Fractional North High School expressed relief Thursday as charges were filed against an alleged gang member in the slaying of a popular athlete whom police described as an innocent victim. A memorial for Samuel Rogers had remained in his school's locker room for weeks to pay tribute to the star athlete and band member killed outside a party Nov. 17 in Calumet City. "The kids are still dealing with this," said Principal Dwayne Evans. "He was one of the kids doing the right thing by staying out of trouble and making the right decisions."



Mario Sawyer, 22, was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Rogers, 16, outside a home from which Sawyer was asked to leave a party, authorities said. He was arrested by Chicago police on Christmas after being pulled over on a routine traffic stop, officials said. The investigation was aided by an outpouring of help from community members, who were outraged at the killing, detectives for the Calumet City Police Department said at a news conference to announce charges.

Police allege Sawyer and several other gang members arrived uninvited at a parent-supervised party in a home in the 1600 block of Shirley Drive. They were asked to leave by the host about 10:30 p.m., authorities said. Sawyer then allegedly drove up to the house and got out of the car, firing several shots in the direction of the party, police said. Rogers, a junior, who had been inside the house eating snacks and dancing with friends, was leaving the party when he was shot in the head, police said.

The school, unaccustomed to such violence, was reeling again when student Melody Elias, 16, was slain a week later in another gang-related shooting, authorities said. She was killed Nov. 24 while sitting in a car with her boyfriend outside her home. Seven alleged gang members were arrested the next week and charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder. The suspects live across the south suburbs in Calumet City, Harvey, Dolton and Hammond. Losing Rogers and Elias affected the entire student body at the school, where the last tragic death happened more than a decade ago, the principal said. Gang violence outside the school made a direct impact inside, he said.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-calcity_28dec28,1,6718080.story

Gang Kingpins Disappearing in Chicago

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

12/10/2007 Chicago, IL | In a city where legendary street gang leaders Jeff Fort and Larry Hoover took their place beside Al Capone in the local criminal hall of fame, the powerful Chicago gang kingpin is looking more and more like an endangered species. Major street gangs that once carved up the city into virtual fiefdoms for drug trafficking are producing fewer of the "super" leaders who dominated their organizations with charisma, ruthlessness and guile in years past, law-enforcement officials and other experts say. Hierarchies traditionally topped by a powerful few have decentralized.

The factors behind this dramatic change range from aggressive federal prosecutions of leadership ranks to a crackdown on once-powerful gang leaders inside prisons, preventing them from still holding sway on the outside. The culture is also changing among younger gang members, who increasingly put money before loyalty and are wary of taking on leadership roles for fear of drawing heat, the officials and experts said.

Once caught, younger gang members are more likely to turn on their cohorts and become informants, making it easier for authorities to further infiltrate gangs. "All they know is money," said Tio Hardiman, director of mediation services for the prominent violence-prevention program CeaseFire. "There's no real loyalty in the gangs anymore. The code of the street, it doesn't count like it used to."



Still, fighting gangs remains a principal challenge for Jody Weis, Chicago's next police superintendent. The changes in gang structure have not weakened the gangs' ability to dispense drugs or violence, and while there are fewer all-out gang wars directed by chieftains, lower-level gang members still battle block by block over drug turf.

In recent years federal authorities have stung Chicago's gangs with a series of investigations aimed at dethroning gang leaders, targeting organizations from the Four Corner Hustlers to the Mickey Cobras, from the New Breeds to the Satan Disciples. Among the most recent to be hit hard was a Latin Kings faction headed by Fernando "Ace" King, alleged to be one of the gang's most powerful leaders in the Chicago area. King, who is scheduled to go on trial in March, was indicted along with 38 others on drug and weapons charges following a three-year investigation.

Full Story: http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/printedition/monday/chi-king_10dec10.0.7653102.print.story



Latin King Leader Found Guilty of Murder

Article published by the Beacon News

12/06/2007 Aurora, IL | After less than five hours of deliberation, a jury on Thursday found the alleged head of the Latin Kings street gang in Aurora guilty of murder.



Angel "Doc" Luciano was convicted of ordering his underlings to shoot a fellow gang member. His lawyers said he plans to appeal the verdict. Luciano showed no reaction when the verdict was read at 5 p.m.

Prosecutors said Luciano's son volunteered to shoot Willie Arce on June 29, 1989, after Luciano ordered that Arce be punished for losing part of the gang's treasury. Arce, 20, was shot in his basement, crawled upstairs to warn his sister, but died in his kitchen on Liberty Street.

Luciano previously served prison time for counterfeiting, weapons offenses and cocaine sales, but has never been convicted of murder. He also is charged with a 1990 murder. If convicted of both crimes, he could face a life sentence.

This is the second cold-case murder to come to trial since a June sweep charged 31 men with 22 old Aurora gang murders. The first defendant, George Torres, was acquitted.

Source: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/685092.au06_doc_web.article

21 to be Deported in Suburban Sweep

Article published in the Chicago Tribune

12/12/2007 Carpentersville, IL | Federal agents working with police in Carpentersville and other northwest suburbs arrested 21 Mexican immigrants for deportation in an ongoing national sweep targeting members of transnational gangs, officials said Tuesday. Sixteen were members of the Maniac Latin Disciples and Sureno-13 street gangs who had past convictions for crimes including drug possession, burglary and aggravated battery, said Gail Montenegro of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Five were illegal immigrants with no gang affiliation who were arrested during searches conducted as part of the three-day operation that ended Tuesday.

Immigrants were also arrested in Belvidere, Bensenville, Cary, Lake Zurich and West Dundee. Most were residing here illegally, but two are legal permanent residents whose criminal convictions make them eligible for deportation, according to the ICE. Most of the arrests took place in Carpentersville, where immigration has been a hot-button issue for much of the past year, and where village trustees have applied for a controversial federal program that helps train local police to question suspects about their immigration status.

Carpentersville Police Cmdr. Michael Kilbourne said ICE agents approached his department in August to participate in its anti-gang initiative. "We shared our gang intelligence information with ICE as part of the operation, but in the end ICE is making the determination about who is valid to detain and who is valid to bring up for deportation," Kilbourne said.



ICE regularly relies on local police departments to provide hands-on knowledge of the communities targeted for Operation Community Shield, a nationwide initiative that has netted more than 7,500 gang members over the last two years, officials said.

Many gangs in the United States have links to Central America, Mexico, Jamaica and Haiti. Gang culture fluidly crosses borders when members either immigrate to the United States or are deported back. "We are mandated to enforce immigration laws. And where better to start than with individuals who are here illegally and are members of violent gangs?" Montenegro said.

Full Story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-icebustdec12.0.6529692.print.story>



School Fight to End Gang Violence

Article published by the Rockford Register Star

12/01/2007 Rockford, IL | Jefferson High School is hardly alone in efforts to fight gang violence — Rockford's school principals say the city's other high schools confront the same issue. A week of turmoil at Jefferson led to seven arrests, a fracas involving dozens of students and the suspension of what one teacher estimated to be 25 students. The teacher said gang strife between African-American and Latino students appeared to be the cause of Wednesday's incident, and there were reports of more fights at Jefferson on Thursday.

On Friday — just hours after someone shot at a student standing in front of Roosevelt Alternative High School — a statement from the School District confirmed that gangs were at the root of the problem. "Gang activity occurring in the community appears to have made its way into our buildings, causing disruption in the learning process," the statement said. Police said Friday the incident at Roosevelt was gang-related. Darren D. Fitzgerald Jr., 19, was arrested Friday in connection with that incident. The statement proclaimed a get-tough policy, quoting Interim Superintendent Linda Hernandez as saying, "Gang violence will not be tolerated in any of the district's buildings, and strict adherence to the discipline code will be enforced."

East High Chief Operating Officer Earl Hernandez said gangs cause occasional problems at his school. Vigilance, frequent hallway patrols and consistent enforcement of rules are part of the formula used combat gang violence and typical teenage fights. "Jefferson experiences what we all do," he said. "We have urban kids affiliated with groups on the outside. When you put them into one building, it sometimes manifests into physical contact, and we have to deal with it."

Full Story: <http://www.rstar.com/homepage/x540388175/?printview=true>

Sheriff: L.A. Gang Killed to Cleanse Turf of Blacks

Article published by CNN

12/31/2007 Los Angeles, CA | In a murderous quest aimed at "cleansing" their turf of snitches and rival gangsters, members of one of Los Angeles County's most vicious Latino gangs sometimes killed people just because of their race, an investigation found. There were even instances in which Florencia 13 leaders ordered killings of black gangsters and then, when the intended victim couldn't be located, said "Well, shoot any black you see," Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca said. "In certain cases some murders were just purely motivated on killing a black person," Baca said.

Authorities say there were 20 murders among more than 80 shootings documented during the gang's rampage in the hardscrabble Florence-Firestone neighborhood, exceptional even in an area where gang violence has been commonplace for decades. They don't specify the time frame or how many of the killings were racial.

Los Angeles has struggled with gang violence for years, especially during the wars in the late 1980s and early '90s between the Crips and the Bloods -- both black gangs. Latino gangs have gained influence since then as the Hispanic population surged.



Evidence of Florencia 13, or F13, is easy to find in Florence-Firestone. Arrows spray-painted on the wall of a liquor store mark the gang's boundary and graffiti warns rivals to steer clear. The gang's name comes from the neighborhood that is its stronghold and the 13th letter of the alphabet -- M -- representing the gang's ties to the Mexican Mafia.

Federal, state and local officials worked together to charge 102 men linked to F13 with racketeering, conspiracy to murder, weapons possession, drug dealing and other crimes. In terms of people charged, it's the largest-ever federal case involving a Southern California gang, prosecutors say. More than 80 of those indicted are in custody.

But eliminating the gang won't be easy. It's survived for decades and is believed to have about 2,000 members. Its reach extends to Nevada, Arizona and into prisons, where prosecutors say incarcerated gang leaders were able to order hits on black gangsters. According to the indictment, F13's leader, Arturo Castellanos, sent word in 2004 from California's fortress-like Pelican Bay State Prison that he wanted his street soldiers to begin "cleansing" Florence-Firestone of black gangsters, notably the East Coast Crips, and snitches. His followers eagerly obeyed, according to federal prosecutors.

Full Story: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/CRIME/12/31/gangs.race.ap/index.html#cnnSTCText?iref=werecommend>



Clothes can lead to Gang Clashes

Article published by the Daily News

12/14/2007 New York, NY | Gang-related clothing that can trigger clashes and even bloodshed isn't limited to hats or T-shirts, police and other witnesses testified Thursday. Gangs such as the Bloods, Crips, the Latin Kings and the Trinitarios (a Dominican gang) can use shoes, shoelaces and even underwear to identify themselves.

Testifying at a City Council hearing on the dangers of gang paraphernalia, Joe Figueroa, a former Bloods member who is now with the Council for Unity, a Brooklyn-based anti-gang advocacy group, noted that Bloods are known to wear Calvin Klein merchandise because to them, the CK logo stands for "Crip Killer." And Crips prefer Ralph Lauren's CHAPS line because it supposedly stands for Crips Hate All Piru Slobs, he said. Piru is a term associated with an early Bloods gang in Compton, Calif.



Deputy Police Chief Robert Boyce, commanding officer of the NYPD's gang division, said identifying methods keep changing. But an example of what has been used is that Crips tuck their shirts in their pants on the left and Bloods on the right, he said. And the same applies if a bandana is tucked in the left or right shirt pocket.

Of underwear showing above their sagging pants, Boyce said, red and pink is "usually a sign" for Bloods, blue for Crips, yellow and black for Latin Kings and lime-green for Trinitarios. Jerseys with the number 32 signify Latin Kings, because the numbers add up to five - the number of points on their crown symbol.

Full Story - http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2007/12/14/2007-12-14_clothes_can_lead_to_gang_clashes.html



American Juggalos: We're Family

Continued from page 1...

One bonding experience was the first time they put a piece of graffiti up. "I was 15 with a big group of friends hanging out at the Boiler Works. (A collapsing, disused manufacturing plant in East Stroudsburg). I like to look at abandoned places, it is interesting to me. We had a friend buy paint at Wal-Mart, because you have to be 18 to buy paint. We put up a big ICP piece. There was 10 of us and we all tagged the piece. We took our picture in front of it. It was the first one we ever did. I really enjoyed it. It was fun. It was really colorful. I felt it added beauty to something that was ugly." It was about a year before that first piece was buffed, or painted over.

Graffiti artists tag their work with a nickname signature. Mark uses at least three different tags. If he is ever caught, he would be fined for all the work with the tag name he was found under. One of his tags is FNS, which means forever never stops. Another tag he uses is ATC, meaning art through crime.



It is illegal to paint graffiti. Mark says he thinks about that all the time. When it comes to painting in abandoned yards like Pocono Gardens, he says it makes little sense. "It's all beat up, so why can't I go do art? Why is art that bad? In California they have legal spots for graffiti. Why can't we have something like that here?"

"In the Poconos there is really nothing to do for teenagers and young adults. I know a lot of people who just hang out at Wal-Mart or the mall. Then they find a hobby. That's where graffiti came in for me."

While pointing out graffiti at Pocono Gardens in Paradise Township, Mark introduced Cherry, 18, a well-groomed Ninja who lives in East Stroudsburg with a group of friends. She left school and home at 16 because "all of my friends were older." Cherry said her mother let her leave as soon as she was old enough, but wouldn't offer details about her home life.

"People are naive because they don't understand us. A gang to me is people in the street with guns. We don't do that. We sit at home and play video games," Cherry said. Cherry thinks the graffiti "is pretty, it's art. They're going to tear down the building anyway. There is nothing to do in this town."

Cherry's roommate, Lacey, 21, is not a Juggalo but has "mad respect for the Clown." Both say they earn good money, \$10 an hour working in food service. Mark also works in food service and lives with his mother and grandmother.

His mother knows he is a graffiti artist. "My mom thinks it is a stupid idea. She doesn't want to pick me up from the police station for it. I've been doing it for a couple years now and haven't gotten caught. A lot of my friends have been caught and they pay a fine. If I were to get caught with a popular tag, I'll have to pay a fine. You will be sent to jail if you don't pay the fine," Mark said.

Friends have been fined between \$400 and \$2,000. Mark said there are between 60 and 70 graffiti artists in the area. "Graffiti has a lot to do with respect. Respect of other graffiti artists' work. There are turfs. We will not hit private homes. We don't like to hit businesses. *We like abandoned places, bridges overpasses, billboards or stuff against the government.*" *They will hit township buildings because they are government.*

It doesn't bother Mark that the cleanup costs are paid by taxpayers. "That's why they should have a legal place for us," Mark said.

The recent graffiti at Abrams Brothers Welding of Tannersville was done by "toys," fake artists who have no respect. Paint on homes, according to Mark, is likely from someone who has a personal connection.

Time has brought Mark to a crossroads. He doesn't know if he will do any more graffiti, or if he will remain a Juggalo. "I'm always going to be a scrub. I don't like being a Juggalo anymore. It is different than it was. Now we are being classified as a gang. The bad apples are, like, going to war with the cops," Mark wouldn't elaborate on that comment. "I liked it for the music and how friendly we were with each other. You grow up, you grow out of things."



Juggalo Jargon

BUFFING: Painting over graffiti either by property owner or another graffiti artist. It is considered disrespectful to paint over another person's art.

YARD: An abandoned building where painters can take more time, as opposed to jumping out of a car and hitting a sign and zipping away. Two yards mentioned are the Boiler Works in East Stroudsburg and Pocono Gardens.

SCRUB: Someone down on their luck, living in poverty, difficult home life, made fun of in class, looked at as a loser by outsiders, misunderstood.

ICP: Insane Clown Posse, a rap duo consisting of Violent J (Joseph Bruce) and Shaggy 2 Dope (Joseph Utsler). ICP fans are called Juggalos.

NINJA: Another name for Juggalo.

PIECE: Graffiti. "Did you see the piece I left on that sign?"

TAG: Nickname used as a signature.

DOWN WITH THE CLOWN: Positive feelings about Insane Clown Posse, as in, "Are you down with the Clown?"

HATCHETMAN: ICP symbol, silhouette of a running man with dreadlocks and an axe (created by Shaggy 2 Dope).

JUGGALETTE: Female juggalo.

TOYS: Fake or poser graffiti artists who paint in disrespectful places like businesses and homes.

What's In A Name?

It should go without saying, but we'll say it anyway: Wearing a red shirt does not necessarily mean you are a member of the Bloods. A blue hat doesn't automatically make you a Crip. Drinking Faygo soda in itself does not mean you are a Juggalo.

Just as Jimmy Buffett fans are called Parrotheads and Grateful Dead listeners are known as Deadheads, people who listen to Insane Clown Posse music are known as Juggalos. Identifying yourself as a Juggalo does not officially make you a gang member.

Not all people who consider themselves Juggalo participate in crime.

The Monroe County Gang Task Force and Monroe County Correctional Facility have identified Juggalo members who are involved in the sale of controlled substances. Others have been involved in fights, vandalism and criminal mischief.

The task force defines gangs as "one group of three or more persons, formal or informal, who may have a common or identifying sign, symbol or name, and who individually or collectively engage in criminal activity."

If you know of criminal activity, including graffiti, contact your local police department, or the Monroe County Gang Task Force. at (570) 420-3470.

Source: <http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071209/NEWS/712090346>



From the Editors



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.
We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:

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