



# THE MONITOR

Volume 4, Issue 4  
September 2009

U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Northern District of Indiana  
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## Some Indiana school districts cut back on buses

Published by the South Bend Tribune on August 24, 2009.

**ELKHART, IN|** Parents in some Indiana school districts say they are frustrated with changes in school bus routes that districts say are designed to save money.

School officials say the changes, which include fewer bus routes and require more children to walk to school, are needed because many districts are facing steep budget cuts as a result of changes in the state's property tax system.

"It's an awful thing to do, and the only reason we're doing it is the state has taken action to reduce our revenue to support our programming," said Doug Hasler, director of support services for Elkhart Community Schools. "We really have no other choice."

Elementary students in Elkhart who live within a mile of their school have to walk or be dropped off under the new policy. Intermediate and high school students within two miles of school can no longer ride the bus.

Hasler said some students may have to walk greater distances because they don't have a straight line from their home to the school. Even students who are eligible to ride the bus could be forced to walk up to half a mile to get to a bus stop, he said.

The district hopes to save up to \$300,000 on transportation costs this year through the changes.

The Lawrence Township schools in Indianapolis expects to save \$800,000 by moving to a shuttle system. Edinburgh Community Schools have eliminated a bus to save \$15,000, forcing dozens of students to walk. Franklin Township in Indianapolis cut 15 bus routes and consolidated others.

Superintendent Walter Bourke said more cuts may be necessary, including eliminating bus service for some students.

Beth Calhoun says she worries about her daughter Allison's safety as she walks a couple of blocks to school in Elkhart.

"It's not safe out here," she said. "There are too many pedophiles. It's a scary day and age for kids."



## District News Briefs

### Classes to resume after fire at Argos schools

Published by WSBT.com on August 18, 2009.

**ARGOS, IN|** School will resume Wednesday at Argos Junior Senior High School after a fire over the weekend forced the cancellation of classes for two days.



Crews are cleaning up following Saturday's fire at Argos Community Schools. Classes will resume Wednesday on a 2-hour delay.

School will operate Wednesday on a 2-hour delay; teachers are to report at the normal time.

The fire on Saturday morning appeared to be electrical in nature and started in a computer room, according to investigators

It destroyed the computer servers, spread in the wall to another computer room and destroyed an adjoining conference room, according to principal and superintendent Jennifer Lucht. No one was hurt.

In addition to cleanup efforts, school officials had to check all the safety systems in the building before students were allowed back.

Classes started Friday for the K-12 school. The elementary school adjoins the junior senior high school in the same building.

### 2 students arrested in fatal shooting

Published by the South Bend Tribune on August 24, 2009

**WEST LAFAYETTE, IN|** Two Purdue University students have been arrested following a fatal shooting in an off-campus apartment Saturday night, police said.

West Lafayette police were called about 7 p.m. after Landon Siena, 21, of Fort Wayne, was shot in what investigators said was a prank tragically gone awry.

Siena spent the day hanging around with two friends, students Cory Lynch and William Calderon, before the incident, police said.

But the friends had guns and decided to point the weapons at Siena. The gun Lynch held was loaded and discharged, striking Siena in the neck.

Lynch and Calderon were taken to the Tippecanoe County Jail, the department said in a press release.

## Parents concerned about kids' safety after crossing guard cuts

Published by WSBT.com on August 18, 2009.

**SOUTH BEND, IN|** It's back to school for hundreds of students. But in South Bend, they may have noticed something was missing. South Bend police cut nine of the 35 crossing guard positions. This year, Susie Bendy's 10-year-old son Josh will go to Edison Intermediate Center, and he won't get to ride the bus.

"I think that's ridiculous because it is within a mile, but he's going to have to walk down this street, through another neighborhood, cross Ironwood, and cross Corby to get there," Bendy told WSBT News.

This year, several intersections near South Bend schools will no longer have crossing guards.

"I assume they're doing it for financial reasons, and I think they need to put the kids' safety before the financial situations," Bendy said.

By restructuring the crossing guard program, South Bend Police will save money, cutting the cost from \$350,000 a year to just \$90,000. Capt. Phil Trent says their study found 9 of the 35 guard jobs were not necessary.

"We think we did a good job of isolating intersections that had just one or two children crossing there per day," Trent said, "which obviously does not warrant a crossing guard."

On the first day of school at a busy intersection near Thomas Edison Intermediate Center, WSBT News saw several kids crossing but no crossing guard.



In the wake of budget cuts, more kids are crossing streets without crossing guards on their way to school.

"I'm really concerned about those corners that service the primary schools — the real young kids," said South Bend Schools Supt. James Kapsa.

Kapsa says principals are looking at ways to help kids cross safely. Either way, Bendy will drive Josh to and from school so she can make sure he's safe.

Back to School Week continues Wednesday on WSBT News First Thing in the Morning. We'll have more on a big safety concern for parents in Elkhart. Many of their children are walking to school for the first time because of budget cuts.

For video coverage of this story visit: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/53603077.html?video=YHI&t=a>

### Regional News Briefs

## Illinois man charged in BB gun shooting of student golfer

Published by WBBM News on August 23, 2009.



**MOUNT PROSPECT, IL|** Police say a 27-year-old suburban Chicago man faces charges for allegedly shooting a high school golfer with a BB gun while she competed. John Guy of Mount Prospect was charged with unlawful discharge of an air rifle, reckless conduct, aggravated battery and possession of ammunition, among other charges.

He allegedly shot a 17-year-old from St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights in the knee earlier this month. She was on the 12th tee at Old Orchard Country Club in Mount Prospect.

Mount Prospect police spokesman Bill Roscop says the student is scheduled to have surgery to remove the pellet in the coming days.

Guy is due in court Monday.

## Teen panel offers ideas on 'reinventing' high schools

Published by the Chicago Sun Times on August 24, 2009.

**CHICAGO, IL** A group of teenagers has some advice for the people running Chicago's public schools.

A teen advisory committee spent the summer surveying hundreds of their peers citywide. Now, it has passed along its findings to schools chief Ron Huberman in a report, "How to Reinvent Chicago Public High Schools."

Among the 30 recommendations: Make class sizes smaller, have teachers offer weekly office hours for students, and provide mediation alternatives rather than just suspending students.

The students also had loftier suggestions -- such as adding to current graduation requirements two years of extracurricular activities and college-level courses, and application to at least five post-secondary schools.

"What was interesting was that students said their high school courses were not challenging," said Alex Marquez, 16, a junior at John Hancock High School and one of the authors of the report. "I would have thought they'd say it was too hard. Students want to be challenged."

They also want to be engaged.

"Some 80 percent stated that they did not have interesting classes," said co-author Janelle Perez, 17, a junior at Jones College Prep. "They said current offerings were irrelevant to their lives and that there aren't enough vocational courses. I think teachers and administration assume they're offering interesting classes and students are engaged. Not true."

The 15-student committee worked with the Mikva Challenge, an organization that aims to "help low-income Chicago youth become meaningful actors in politics."

The students surveyed 400 teens on everything from discipline and teacher quality to school culture and curriculum.

Of the teens surveyed, about a third were from neighborhood schools, a fourth from selective-enrollment schools, a 10th each from magnet, small and career schools, and most of the rest from charter schools.

"What's so cool about what these students did is that youth actually live the things that adults are making decisions about. They're the experts," said Jessica Gingold of the Mikva Challenge.

Teens said they want 15 to 20 students per class, rather than the 20 to 30 or more that's now typical. They want it to be policy that teachers make themselves available outside class. And they want suspensions reserved only for the worst violations, such as for fighting or getting caught with drugs or alcohol.

"Teens say suspensions are a joke -- a day to be out of school," Marquez said. "Most of our schools are overcrowded. Students say they'd benefit from smaller classes and more one-on-one time with teachers."

Other recommendations include having every high school partner with a university for bridge programs, updating textbooks and technology, and hiring more school counselors.

Huberman said of the students' effort: "Our discussions were honest and thought-provoking, and that's the type of exchange we want to engage our students in."



Chicago Public School students surveyed 400 teens on such matters as discipline, teacher quality, school culture and curriculum.

# Mass suspensions issued over dress code flap at Indiana high school

Published by WSBT.com on August 20, 2009.

**RICHMOND, IN** | More than 150 students were sent home from an eastern Indiana high school for violating the school district's dress code.

Richmond High School Principal Barb Bergdoll says she is serious about enforcing the dress code and that the one-day suspensions ordered Wednesday would continue among the school's 1,500 students for those failing to comply.

The district's dress code prohibits students from wearing clothing with any logos or designs and bans excessively tight or baggy clothes or low-cut shirts.

Parent Vicki Kamps says she believes school officials are fighting the wrong battle by concentrating on the outward appearance of students.

## National News Briefs

### Pittsburgh mom sues school district, saying bullies drove teen daughter to anorexia

Published by the NY Daily News on August 20, 2009.

**PITTSBURGH, PA** | A woman has filed what experts believe is a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against the Pittsburgh Public Schools, claiming her daughter developed anorexia because male students bullied the girl about her weight, forcing her to leave the district.

But those experts - including the head of the National Eating Disorders Association - say linking bullying to anorexia is oversimplification, at best.

"With eating disorders, we say you're born with a gun and life pulls the trigger," said Lynn Grefe, chief executive officer of Seattle-based NEDA, who has never heard of a school being sued over such a scenario.

Generally, people who develop anorexia already have issues with anxiety, obsessive-compulsive or perfectionist behavior. Bullying could trigger anorexia in those people but not others who are taunted about their weight, Grefe said.



"The person's often a real high achiever, and if you put those people in a situation and then their world comes crashing down, they get triggered," Grefe said.

That's essentially what's described in the 10-page federal lawsuit Pittsburgh attorney Edward Olds filed Friday on behalf of an unnamed woman whose middle-school sixth-grader began to be bullied 2006-07 by three boys who called her "fat."

The girl was in a program for gifted students, made straight A's and was active in community and volunteer programs, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit contends a guidance counselor did nothing to stop the

In a new lawsuit, a woman blames the Pittsburgh public school district for not intervening when bullies called her daughter 'fat', claiming the taunting led to the teen girl developing anorexia.

bullying. The next year, in seventh grade, two other boys joined in the daily harassment.

"Some other students tried to shame the boys about the conduct. However, no faculty member or other school official intervened," the lawsuit said.

By February 2008, the girl entered an inpatient treatment program for anorexia nervosa because "her weight was dangerously low."

The girl's mother contends school officials harassed her when she tried to home-school the girl, who now attends private school. The woman's attorney didn't return calls for comment and a school attorney says only that he'll vigorously defend the district.

Although experts say they've never heard of a lawsuit alleging that anorexia resulted from school bullying, suits over school-based bullying are not new.

The lawsuit contends the school's alleged failure to protect the girl violates Title IX, an antidiscrimination law affecting any school that receives federal funding. Title IX has most often been cited in lawsuits about disparities in the number of athletic opportunities and scholarships afforded to male and female athletes.

But the U.S. Supreme Court says peer-on-peer gender harassment also violates Title IX if the school should have stopped the abuse and a student lost an educational opportunity as a result, said Tom Hutton, senior staff attorney for the National School Boards Association.

Hutton has never seen a suit claiming school bullying caused anorexia, though Title IX bullying suits are becoming more common. "But I wouldn't say I've seen a tidal wave of them," he said.

Dr. Alberto Goldwaser, a forensic psychiatrist and expert witness on mental illnesses from New York University, cautioned against linking bullying directly to anorexia. Goldwaser says adolescent girls with high-achieving, perfectionist tendencies are prime candidates for the disorder.

"But we cannot say that anorexia is caused by bullying or brain issues or mother-daughter relationships or any one thing," Goldwaser said.

Yet another legal expert said that focusing on the girl's anorexia misses the point of bullying lawsuits.

"Very often it's nervous orders of different kinds that are alleged in these lawsuits," said Bruce Ledewitz, a Duquesne University law professor. That this girl developed anorexia "is completely incidental."

The issue, instead, is whether the bullying "deprives the victim of an educational opportunity. That's the language that's been used in these suits all along."

## Students Show Up at Florida Schools with "Islam is of the Devil" Shirts

Published by Huliq News on August 27, 2009

**GAINESVILLE, FL** There was a time when parents tried to teach their kids acceptance. Gainesville, FL high school students have been sent home over the last few days for wearing t-shirts with the phrase "Islam is of the Devil" on the back. The children wearing the shirts belong to the Dove World Outreach Center, an evangelical "New Testament Church."

The T-shirts had a verse from the Gospel of John on the front: "Jesus answered I am the way and the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except through me," and the statement, "I stand in trust with Dove Outreach Center." The students were sent home for violation of the school district's dress code when they declined to change clothes or cover their clothing.

Freedom of speech does not apply in this case, according to legal experts:



Catherine Cameron, a faculty member at the Stetson College of Law, said the school district "likely has a good leg to stand on from a First Amendment standpoint" because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in several cases that public schools may quash speech deemed disruptive "even if it steps on the other child's free speech rights."

Also, Ron Collins, a scholar with the nonprofit First Amendment Center in Washington D.C., said courts give public school officials a "significant amount of latitude" in regulating student dress that could be disruptive.

"Here, it's not only a religious expression. It's a religious expression that is hostile to other forms of religious expression."

What's happened to people? Every time you turn around, it seems there is a new excuse for hate.

Saeed R. Khan, president of the Muslim Association of North Central Florida, said:

"It's pretty offensive, isn't it? Particularly in a school setting where you are trying to create an atmosphere where people are supposed to respect each other and live with each other, where we have people of every ethnicity and every religion."

## Calif man pleads guilty to extorting money from teacher accused of having sex with 15-year-old

Published by the New York Times on June 25, 2009.

**SANTA ANA, CA** Prosecutors say a former Southern California high school student has admitted demanding money and pornographic photos from a teacher accused of having sex with a current student.

Twenty-three-year-old Miguel Lopez pleaded guilty to felony extortion and was sentenced Tuesday in Orange County Superior Court to three years of informal probation.

Prosecutors say Lopez learned of an alleged relationship between 30-year-old Carlie Attebury, a band teacher at El Modena High School, and a 15-year-old student. Prosecutors say Lopez used a fake MySpace account to extort \$3,500 and photos out of Attebury.

Investigators found the images on his computer when he was arrested last year.

Attebury is awaiting trial on charges of having sex with a teenage boy and trying to dissuade him from cooperating with investigators.



El Modena High School  
Source: [www.oranged.k12.ca.us/emhs/](http://www.oranged.k12.ca.us/emhs/)

### In The News

## School Closures May Not Be Necessary When Swine Flu Strikes

Published by U.S. News & World Report August 7, 2009.

The school closures that swept across the United States last spring during the emergence of the H1N1 swine flu needn't be repeated this fall, according to new guidelines issued Friday by federal health officials.

However, the same guidelines noted that everything could change if the outbreak suddenly turns severe.

"New guidance for schools from the [U.S.] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will help schools prepare and respond to the H1N1 flu as kids get ready for school in the upcoming days," Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said during a Friday morning news conference.

"Schools must have clear guidance about how to minimize the spread of H1N1," Janet Napolitano, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, added during the same news conference. "The decisions to close schools is a local one," she said. "Once you close a school, as we saw last spring, that causes a very significant ripple effect, because children need to stay home [and] that means parents need to be thinking about their own plans."

"The guidance we are providing today will give school officials the tools they need to make informed decisions about how to decrease exposure to the flu while limiting the disruption of day-to-day learning in schools," Napolitano added.



"What we don't know is whether or when H1N1 will return," said Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's quite possible that it will come back when schools reopen. It is also possible that it will not."

As far as school closings go, the new guidelines offer a "range of options." According to the CDC, more than 55 million students and 7 million staffers head to the nation's 130,000 schools each weekday during the school year. In essence, the recommendations balance the need to contain the spread of the H1N1 swine flu against the disruption to education and inconvenience to parents that school closures can bring.

Among the recommendations:

- \* Students and school staff should exercise good flu hygiene, such as hand washing and covering noses and mouths with tissue when sneezing or coughing (use a shirt sleeve if tissue is unavailable).
- \* If flu is suspected, the affected person should contact a health-care worker as soon as possible. People at high risk (due to pregnancy, or medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes) should take antiviral medication immediately to reduce risk of prolonged or dangerous illness.
- \* Schools should have an action plan for flu outbreaks, including a room set aside for people suspected of coming down with flu, as they wait to be transported home. Schools should also have a contingency plan should important personnel, such as school nurses, fall ill.
- \* The CDC recommends the use of surgical masks for ill students or staff and those caring for them.
- \* The education of students who are ill at home with the flu should be continued, using phone calls, homework packets and Web-based learning.
- \* Any ill student or staff member should stay home for an additional 24 hours after flu symptoms such as fever have ended, even if they are using antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu.
- \* Select schools with high populations of high-risk students (for example, schools for "medically fragile" students) may want to consider closure.

However, these guidelines may need to be revisited and revised should the swine flu prove more dangerous this fall, health officials said. Under those conditions:

- \* Parents should check their children each morning for flu symptoms and keep them home if they have a fever. Students should also be screened for flu symptoms upon arrival at the school.
- \* If any family member of a student becomes ill with the flu, the respective student should stay home for five days from the day symptoms arise, the experts advised.
- \* Increase distances between students by spreading desks further apart or canceling classes that bring students from different classes together.

\* Extend the stay-at-home period for sick students to seven days, even after symptoms have subsided.

\* Close schools after careful weighing of the risks and benefits to students and the community. Schools should be closed for five to seven calendar days, and then officials should reassess the advisability of re-opening the school.

\* Even during a school closure, teachers and staff should have access to the school so they can continue to provide instruction via the Web and other means. Speaking at the news conference, Arne Duncan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, said that "realistically, some schools will close this fall. If they do, it is important to us that students continue to learn."

"Only schools with high numbers of high-risk students or students getting the flu should actually consider closure," Napolitano said.

Health officials may have another tool in their arsenal, as well: a swine flu vaccine.

"The best way to prevent the spread of the flu is vaccination, and our scientists are working hard to have a vaccine ready for consumption by mid-October," Sebelius said. According to the CDC's Frieden, "the vaccine will most likely, at least for children, require two doses separated by about three weeks or more."

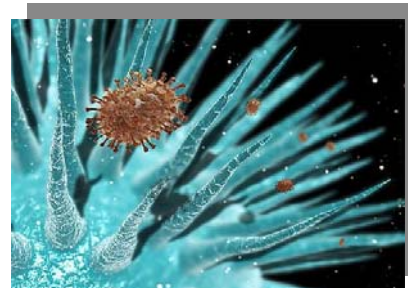
"Because not a lot of kids get vaccinated against flu in a regular flu season, it's going to be challenging to get lots of kids vaccinated," he noted.

When the H1N1 vaccine is available, "we hope all providers and venues where flu vaccine can be given will be used. That includes, wherever possible, school-located vaccine clinics," Frieden said. "It's a great way to get all the kids vaccinated."

One expert called the new recommendations "sensible and reasonable," but noted that certain illnesses other than flu can cause sudden fever.

"My only concern is that people who don't have flu, I think they are recommending that anyone with a sign of fever has to be out of school for a week," said Dr. Stuart E. Beeber, attending physician at Northern Westchester Hospital and a pediatrician in private practice in Chappaqua, N.Y. "You could have a strep throat or gastroenteritis or something, and that's overkill for those people and a hardship on the families, working parents -- providing babysitters and so on for someone who has strep throat and is treated with penicillin and is ready to go back to school in a day or two."

Beeber noted that it is relatively quick and easy to identify strep throat, however, and the flu does have a distinctive set of symptoms. "To me, there are certain things - if you tell me you have chills, aches, you feel like someone hit you over the head with a sledgehammer, you've got the flu," he said.



Source: ehow.com

## Recent School Violence

### Teen charged with trying to kill teacher, aide

Published by the Washington Post on August 27, 2009.

**SAN MATEO, CA** | A 17-year-old boy accused of detonating two pipe bombs at a Northern California high school while armed with a chain saw, sword and explosives appeared in court Wednesday on charges of trying to murder two faculty members.

Alexander Robert Youshock, a former student at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, did not enter a plea to charges that included exploding or attempting to explode bombs in a school to terrorize others and possession of dangerous weapons - the sword and chain saw.



Alex Youshock, 17, appears behind a bullet proof glass for his arraignment in a Redwood City, Calif., courtroom, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, after being accused of detonating two pipe bombs at a Northern California high school on Monday, Aug. 24, while armed with a chain saw, sword and explosives. Youshock was also charged Wednesday with attempting to murder two faculty members. Youshock, a former student at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, Calif., was charged with six other counts, including exploding or attempting to explode bombs in a school to terrorize others and possession of dangerous weapons.

No one was injured in the attack, which quickly ended when faculty members wrestled the attacker to the ground. Prosecutors said they would try Youshock as an adult for Monday's attack.

"He planned this elaborately," said Deputy District Attorney Karen Guidotti, adding that Youshock could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted of the attempted murder charges.

The prosecutor declined to discuss why Youshock allegedly wanted to kill security aide Jana Torres and chemistry teacher Meghan Spalding.

"We believe he had intent to harm them," Guidotti said. "We believe they were intended targets."

Police Chief Susan Manheimer has said investigators believe Youshock planned to carry out a "cold-blooded plot of execution" on students and teachers because he was angry with the school administration.

Principal Jeff Gilbert said Youshock hadn't been a student at the school for more than a year.

Guidotti said Youshock was being prosecuted as an adult because of the serious nature of the alleged crimes and because he was about eight months from his 18th birthday.

Youshock appeared in a packed courtroom with his parents and sister in the front row. He stood behind a thick glass partition wearing a lime-green T-shirt with his right arm heavy bandaged.

Guidotti believed he was injured when he was wrestled down by faculty members at the school.

San Mateo Superior Court Judge Mark Forcum granted the prosecutor's request that Youshock be held in Juvenile Hall without bail until his next court date on Sept. 3.

Meanwhile, classes resumed at the school for the first time since Monday's incident. Students and staff members participated an assembly where those who took down the attacker received a standing ovation.

The morning was spent discussing the incident, with classes resuming in the afternoon. Counselors also talked to individual students.

"They're trying to get back to normal," said Kirk Black, associate superintendent for the San Mateo Union High School District. "I think everybody is really coming together. They're relieved that no one was hurt and that school is back in session."

*For more news on this story visit: [http://www.mercurynews.com/topstories/ci\\_13193327?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/topstories/ci_13193327?nclick_check=1) or [http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article\\_preview.php?id=115440](http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=115440) or <http://www.policeone.com/school-violence/articles/1877870-Calif-police-teachers-who-subdued-school-attackers-hailed-as-heroes/>*

## Technology & Internet Safety

### Is PSA about texting while driving too graphic?

Published by MSNBC.com on August 25, 2009.

Even in a world with increasingly tough and graphic public service announcements on TV about the dangers of such activities as smoking, a recent PSA originating out of Gwent, Wales, breaks new boundaries in the explicit level of its bloody details.

Two teen girls giggle over a text message they are sending while driving along a country road. Distracted, the driver smashes head-on into another car, and while the bloodied girls exchange dazed glances, a third car careens into the passenger side.

The driver finds her friend lying dead next to her. Then the camera switches to another smashed vehicle and shows a young child inside, asking why her parents are not waking up.

Produced by the Gwent Police Department, the PSA sends out a horrible visual to illustrate the dangers of texting while driving. But it currently isn't being aired on U.S. television. For Americans to even view the ad on YouTube, they must assert they are at least 18.

#### **Warning from Wales**

A South Wales community of 550,000 that many Americans have never even heard of seems an unlikely place for discussion of the dangers of texting-and-driving to be raised, but a visionary Gwent police department was up to the task. Police locked arms with filmmaker Peter Watkins-Hughes to produce the PSA, titled "COW — The Film That Will Stop You Texting and Driving," named after the character Cassie Cowan, who unleashes the lethal chain of events by texting behind the wheel.



Some 300 drama students from throughout Wales auditioned for the movielike short, with local police cars and air ambulance helicopters used to lend an even more vivid reality to the film. Digital special effects were used to give viewers the "you are there" feeling of being inside Cowan's vehicle as the road carnage ensues.

Gwent's Chief Constable Mick Giannasi said it was the department's intent for the PSA to cut a wider swath than just Wales.

"The messages contained in the film are as relevant to the people of Tennessee as they are to the residents [of Wales]," he said on the department's Web site. "Texting and driving can have tragic consequences, and the more this film is viewed, the better."

#### **Required viewing?**

Appearing on TODAY Tuesday, noted ad executive Donny Deutsch said he believes the ad may be the most powerful ever — and agreed that it needs to be required viewing.

"I will show this to every kid I know, and I salute the police department," Deutsch told TODAY's Ann Curry. "I would really implore various local stations: Run this stuff, put this on the air. It will help."

Recent studies show that texting while driving may be as dangerous and lethal as drunken driving. Up to a quarter of the estimated 40,000 vehicle fatalities in the U.S. annually may be traced back to distracted drivers texting. A recent Virginia Tech study found that texting drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a collision than nontexters. And although the AAA reports 95 percent of drivers polled acknowledge texting while driving is dangerous, 21 percent of them have done it recently anyway.

However, Deutsch told Curry, cold, hard [data](#) is nothing compared to showing people the human toll texting while driving can exact, up close and in chilling detail.

"It's one thing if I just say to you, 'You know what, Ann, you increase your risk 23 times when texting,' and you go, 'OK,'" he said. "We hear the numbers, we hear of the fatalities, but you never actually see it this graphic.

"It's one thing to intellectually get it into our brains, but when you see it this graphically ... I tell you, I couldn't get through this [ad]."



#### **'Tremendous problem'**

Yet there remains doubt whether the 4-minute PSA will ever see the light of day on U.S. television screens — even when TODAY ran segments of the Welsh police production, it did not show it in its entirety.

Curry asked Deutsch if the PSA will make it past U.S. censors, and he acknowledged, "They're going to have a problem with that." But he was staunch in calling for the spot to make it to U.S. air.

"I say start running this thing all over the country," Deutsch said. "This is a tremendous problem — all you have to do is drive yourself and look around. You see this, you never will do this again."

Currently, 17 states and the District of Columbia have laws on the books that ban texting while driving, and it appears the issue is soon to get even more government attention. The U.S. Department of Transportation will hold a summit next month examining all forms of distracted driving, with texting being at the top of the list.

"We all know texting while driving is dangerous, and I promise you we are going to do something about it," U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood said in announcing the summit.

Still, it took years after seat-belt laws were put on the books before the overwhelming majority of Americans began buckling up in earnest. Deutsch told Curry he believes viewers watching the story of a nice teen girl who ultimately kills four people because she texts while she drives could speed up the compliance process exponentially.

"It is a phenomenal piece of tape," he said. "When you show something this graphic, it stays in people's heads."

More than 1 million people have viewed the hard-hitting PSA on YouTube to date.

To view the PSA you can visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBllktSWqYQ>

For MSNBC video news coverage of the controversy surrounding the PSA visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOTbAbKoL28>

## **Drugs & Alcohol**

### **ADHD Drug Abuse Soars Among U.S. Teenagers**

**Calls to poison control centers about teens abusing attention-deficit drugs soared 76 percent over eight years, sobering evidence about the dangerous consequences of prescription misuse, a study shows.**

Published by FOXNews.com on August 24, 2009.

The calls were from worried parents, emergency room doctors and others seeking advice on how to deal with the problem, which can be deadly. Four deaths were among cases evaluated in the study.

Kids taking ADHD drugs to get high or increase alertness may not realize that misuse of the drugs can cause serious, sometimes life-threatening symptoms, including agitation, rapid heartbeat, extremely high blood pressure.

"They say, 'It's FDA approved, how dangerous could it be?'" said Steve Pasierb, head of The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, based in New York.

In the study, researchers from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center evaluated 1998-2005 data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers. During that time, nationwide calls related to teen abuse of ADHD drugs, specifically stimulants, increased from 330 to 581 yearly, and there were four deaths. Overall, 42 percent of teens involved had moderate to severe side-effects and most ended up getting emergency-room treatment.

The true number of teen abusers who have bad side effects is likely much higher, because many cases don't result in calls to poison control centers, said study author Dr. Randall Bond, medical director of the hospital's Drug and Poison Information Center.



Source: ABCNews.com

The surge, from 1998 to 2005, outpaced calls for teen substance abuse generally. It also paralleled an 86 percent rise in ADHD medicine prescriptions for kids aged 10 to 19, from about 4 million to nearly 8 million during that time.

"It's more bad news on an entrenched problem," Pasierb said. His nonprofit group was not involved in the study. Its own research suggests that about 19 percent of teens have abused prescription drugs including medicine for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Government-sponsored surveys suggest that teen abuse of stimulants including ADHD drugs has declined in recent years.

The new study was for release Monday in the August edition of Pediatrics.

Mark Stein, a psychiatry professor and ADHD expert at University of Illinois at Chicago, said abuse typically involves crushing and snorting the pills, which speeds up the effects and can produce a buzz or sense of euphoria — along with dangerous side effects.

Kids who develop serious side effects should be taken to the emergency room, where sedatives can be used to treat the problem, Stein said.

The study lacks information on whether abusers were teens with ADHD, but anecdotal evidence suggests many are not.

Stein said the study should not deter use of ADHD drugs in teens who really need them, particularly since there's evidence that kids with ADHD who don't get medication are at risk for abusing illicit drugs.

For more information from the National Institute on Drug Abuse visit: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/infofacts/ADHD.html>

For related news visit: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/wireStory?id=8396722>

# Youth Gang Awareness - Almighty Latin Kings

## Almighty Latin Kings

- Alliance:** People
- Gang Make Up:** Primarily Hispanic but also include Caucasians, African Americans and Middle Eastern members
- Gang Colors:** Black and gold
- Monikers/Graffiti:**
- Letters "LK", "ALK", "ALKN", or "ALKQN"
  - The numeral "5"
  - Five-point crown
  - Five-point star or cross with five rays
  - A.D.C. (Amor De Corona/King Love)
  - A.L.M.I.G.H.T.Y. (A Love Measured In Great Harmony Towards Yahve)
  - A.M.O.R. (Term used to show love and respect for one another; also an acronym for Almighty Masters of Righteousness)
- Primary Rivals:** Gangster Disciples
- Primary Allies:** Vice Lords



Source: KnowGangs.com



Source: OttawaCountyDSA.com



ALK member on the NYC Subway  
Source: Flickr.com

**Basic Gang History:** The Latin Kings are the oldest and largest Hispanic-led gang in existence. The gang was formed in the mid-1950s or 1960s in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago as a way for Hispanics to defend themselves from encroaching African American gangs. Latin Kings are thought to exist in 34 states. Their mottos are "*Once a King, always a King*" and "*Cowards die many times before their death; Latin Kings never taste death, but once...*" The primary symbol of the gang is the five-point star and the colors black and gold.

**Structure and Criminal Activities:** The Latin Kings have a very organized hierarchical structure in comparison to many other street gangs. "Sets" around the nation are usually referred to as "chapters" or "tribes". Each "tribe" reports to an Inca, Caciqa, Enforcer and Regional Officer. The leaders of the organization are known as "Coronas" (crowns in Spanish), with the first in command referred to as Primero Corona (First Crown) and second in command referred to as Segundo Corona (Second Crown).

Their criminal activities include the sale of narcotics, primarily cocaine sales; identity theft; auto theft; robbery; and extortion. Murder, drive-by shootings, and intimidation are often used as enforcement tactics.

Source: *The Chicago Crime Commission Gang Book*; *ChicagoGangs.org*; *NationalConcernedOfficers.com*

The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department recently published a wide-ranging guide on Campus Safety for college students. The guide highlights ways in which college students can protect themselves from crime on campus as well emphasizing the role that alcohol and drug abuse often plays in campus crime.

You can find the Metropolitan Police Department *Guide to Campus Safety* at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/info/safety\\_pdf/campus\\_safety.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/info/safety_pdf/campus_safety.pdf)

## SRO Resources

### National School Incident Map



Stay informed on school incident information in your area by visiting the National School Incident Mapping Resource hosted by SafePlans, LLC.

The map is provided to improve situational awareness through the posting of school safety related incidents and success stories. To protect privacy, these postings will be limited to information that is readily accessible through the media and includes topics such as school shootings, bomb threats, evacuations, severe weather, bus accidents and school safety improvements.

The Map can be found @  
<http://www.safeplans.com/schoolmap/>.



Please send your comments and suggestions on the  
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*For further information on the L.E.C.C. please visit: [www.keepingourcommunitiessafe.us](http://www.keepingourcommunitiessafe.us)*