



PERSONALITY TRAITS OF CRIPS AND BLOODS

The gang mentality of the Crips and Bloods is very different from that of the typical Latin gang, groups with which most of the general public is at least marginally aware. Because these two "new" gangs have only been in existence for roughly the past two decades, they have not yet developed entrenched traditions that have been passed from generation to generation. Many Latin gang members have a deep sense of loyalty to the gang and their fellow gang members. They are therefore reluctant to speak of their activities or about themselves.

In contrast, many black gang members are much more individualistic by nature and see themselves as clever businessmen instead of criminals. Once they are removed from the gang setting so that their "homeboys" won't accuse them of snitching, many are willing to speak openly about themselves and their gangs.

"... Some gang members brag about how successful they are in business, womanizing or dealing drugs; others attempt to portray the image of a ruthless and extremely dangerous person."

Several of the more noticeable traits that a great proportion of the black gang members share is that they appear to be extremely arrogant and self-centered.

They will often talk at length about their competition, giving out names, places and methods of operation. If they can curtail the drug dealing activities of their competition they stand to make a far greater profit on the drugs they plan to sell. It makes little difference to them that their competition happens to be other Bloods or Crips.

Because they have large amounts of cash, many gang members are flashy dressers and conspicuous buyers of whatever happens to be considered hot fashion items. They buy expensive cars and equip them with scanners, cellular telephones, mag wheels and other costly items. They are attracted to thick gold neckchains and jewelry, tend to wear expensive sport clothing and shoes, often have pagers and buy designer accessories. They feel that this flamboyance makes them irresistible to women and most will boast that they are well-endowed and have more women than they know what to do with. Usually their gang affiliation can be seen in the color of their shoelaces, belts, hats and



"Uniform" of local street gang member displaying gang identification band signs.



Travel kit often associated with the trafficking of rock cocaine.



"Colors" jacket displaying gang affiliation and nickname.

jackets. In general, they display what they believe to be the playboy image of an extravagant and luxurious life style.

While some of these gang members brag about how successful they are in business, womanizing or dealing drugs, others attempt to portray the image of a ruthless and extremely dangerous person. Many of their tattoos, prominently displayed on hands and upper or lower arms, refer to their self-proclaimed reputations, such as "Loco Mike," "Psycho Gabe" or "Killer Kris."

"Both Crips and Bloods are intent upon collecting automatic weapons, . . ."

Both Crips and Bloods are intent upon collecting automatic weapons, especially assault weapons. This interest is reflected in the crimes they commit while using such weapons, and in gang photographs where they adopt aggressive poses while displaying their arsenals. They have received much media attention in the past months because of their outrageous use of assault weapons in drive-by shootings.

Recently, law enforcement officials confiscated a manuscript that referred to Crips organizing for the purpose of making money. Phrases such as, "Power in this society is money, so the sword we must possess is money" and "we must adopt a business organization mentality" indicate that both Crips and Bloods are well established and must soon be considered an organized crime group. ★

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