

summer of 1993, Korem, who is an internationally-recognized expert on gangs, spoke to several thousand youths at sports camps from across affluent communities in America about gangs and was shocked to find that many of the kids knew of people in gangs in their own neighbourhoods through personal contact.

With all of their research and documentation done, Korem and his associates found one recurring factor in a youth's risk of gang involvement. The factor, "that seems to tilt the balance in at-risk youths toward gang involvement," occurs when a youth cannot count on an immediate family member during a crisis. Dubbed the Missing Protector Factor (MPF), it is likely to spawn from broken and unstable homes in which families are separated or divorced or a child was abused or even has a severely dysfunctional parent. More than 75% of gang members interviewed stated that this factor was operative in their lives. Gang members are aware of this fact and when they are trying to lure a potential recruit, they will often use lines such as, "Don't worry, we'll take care of you. We understand you. We'll be your family," to play off the MPF.

Other topics such as the similarities between American and European gangs are touched upon in this 260-page book. However, the majority of it is spent on the different gang types and their profiles. As Korem explains in intricate detail of the mystique of gangs, readers are able to put themselves into the lives of youths who have been "players" in a gang. The ex-gang members tell their story of how they became involved, what it was like while involved, and how they were able to leave their gang. This proves to be very interesting, for each story is different and appealing. Readers get a true picture of what it is like and the sometimes-horrible realities of gang life.

*Suburban Gangs: The Affluent Rebels* is an informative, insightful book which explores

in depth the emergence of gangs in affluent neighbourhoods. It is a serious problem that must be acknowledged, respected, understood, and successfully addressed. Dan Korem delivers all of that, along with much more on the presence of gangs in our communities.

*Reviewed by Catriona Linton*

***A TREASURY OF POLICE HUMOR***, by Oliver Gaspirtz, Lincoln-Herndon Press, 818 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, U.S.A. 62703 \$12.95 (US); telephone: (217) 522-2732.

If you are looking for a book that is sure to put a smile on someone's face, look no further than Oliver Gaspirtz's latest book. It contains more than 100 pages of cartoons and about 70 pages of strange-but-true police stories, funny top-ten lists, weird news from around the world and curious facts from the field of law enforcement. The cartoons have been described as "very humorous and down to earth" by David Armitage, Editor, *The Police Shield*. "His cartoons reflect the real life of police officers and what they have to face every day, but in a funny, stress-relieving way."

"It is probably one of the funniest and most insightful books ever written about police work" says Cynthia Brown, Editor, *American Police Beat*.

In light of the negative press that police officers have encountered over the years, it is a pleasure to find a book that does not focus on a few bad cops, but shows the human side of the many good cops. *A Treasury of Police Humor* is a tribute to all the hard-working men and women in law enforcement who risk their lives every day for an often less than grateful public.

The author specializes in law enforcement humour and cartoons. His work frequently appears in well-known publications such as