

Approved: 4-2-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jerry Moran at 10:05 a.m. on March 10, 1993 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Rock (excused)

Committee staff present: Michael Heim, Legislative Research Department
Sue Krische, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Scott Teeselink, KBI
Darryln Johnson, Topeka Youth Project
Officer Bill White, Topeka Police Department
Officer Chris Heaven, Topeka Police Department

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Moran announced this meeting would be a continuation of the briefing on gang activity in Kansas.

Scott Teeselink, KBI, distributed handouts on "Gangs and Violent Street Crime" (on file in the Kansas Legislative Research Department) and "Kansas Gangs" (Attachment 1). Mr. Teeselink stated Kansas' rural communities are currently seeing an increase in violent crime. He noted the KBI is setting up training programs for local law enforcement--police, sheriffs and county attorneys. In response to a question, Mr. Teeselink stated the ages of gang members are from eleven to twenty-one. He also advised that he would support SB 281 addressing unlawful acts relating to enterprise activity. It was noted that our first priority should be deterring very young children from joining gangs through programs in the schools.

Darryln Johnson, Director of Youth Corps, Topeka Youth Project, testified that he is a former gang member and now works to deter children from joining gangs. Mr. Johnson emphasized that we must offer children opportunities, skills and rewards to stay out of gangs, because gangs are offering these things and that attracts new members. He noted the Topeka Youth Project hires 54 kids during the summer to work on community service projects from more than 400 applications. Mr. Johnson stated more funding is needed to serve more individuals because the program targets both youths at risk of joining gangs and other youth in the community. The program offers opportunities to young people. Mr. Johnson suggested after-school activities should be expanded to include as many children as possible to fill the time between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Officer Bill White, Topeka Police Department, distributed a "Parent Handout" compiled by the Topeka Police Department (Attachment 2). Officer White addressed the gang mentality wherein children have no fear of death, yet they have access to very potent weapons. Topeka's biggest problem currently with gang members is their involvement in cocaine sales.

Officer Chris Heaven, Topeka SCAT team, described street sweeps executed by the SCAT team. He noted Topeka is greatly influenced by gangs from Chicago.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 1993.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DATE: 3-10-9

[illegible]



An Informational Packet
prepared by the



Kansas Bureau of Investigation
1620 SW Tyler
Topeka, Kansas 66612

SJ
3-10-93
Attachment 1



ROBERT B. DAVENPORT
DIRECTOR

KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF KANSAS

1620 TYLER

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1837

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ROBERT T. STEPHAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

The national scourge of gangs, and their increasing relationship to violent crime, has not left the state of Kansas unscathed. Located at the geographical center of the country, the crossroads of two interstate highways and the relative rural nature of much of the state affords the criminal entrepreneur with numerous opportunities for economic advancement. Recently, the incursion of gang influences - Hispanic, Southeast Asian, Black and White - from the south, from the west, from the east, with their efforts at carving out territorial empires, have elevated the state to the unenviable status of "just like the big boys."

An escalation in the level of violence associated with all crime has occurred. In 1991, violent crime in Kansas increased 10.9% over the previous year, while the national rate of increase was only 5%. Problems once thought to be the province of either coast, now become near daily occurrences often not even receiving front-page notice. Drive-by shootings, injuries suffered by innocent bystanders, retaliation attacks, the hand signals, the graffiti, extortion, intimidation, things so often associated with another place or time, have now become common in even the more remote areas of the state. The metropolitan areas have become focal points for criminal activity bringing increasingly younger people into the fold. Often, the "wanna-be" presents a more serious concern to law enforcement than do those actually confirmed as gang members.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation is actively working with the local law enforcement community in Kansas to effectively identify and deal with the increasing gang violence and is taking proactive steps to intervene in the involvement of gang members in this violence.

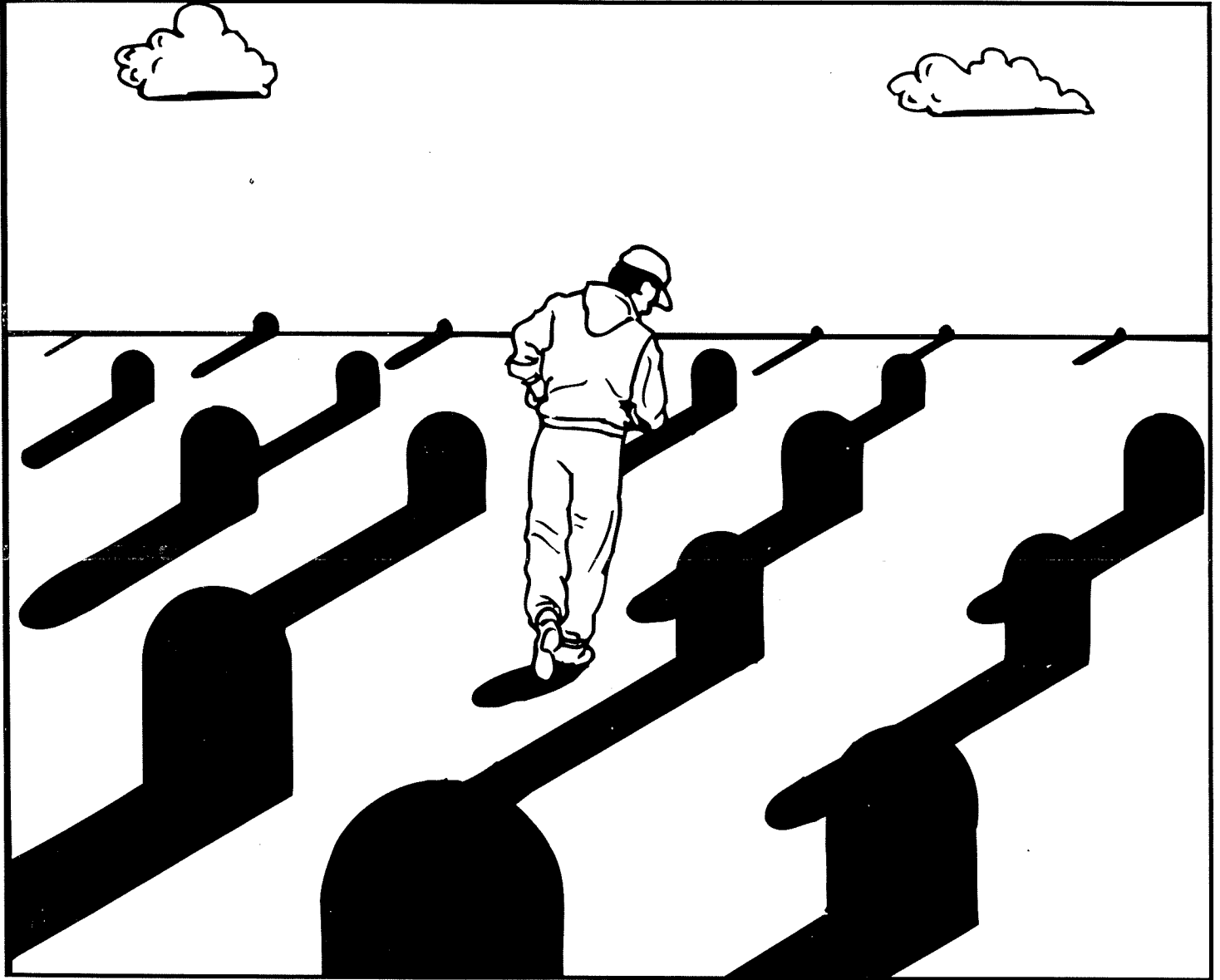


This is the last picture
we have of my brother.
I miss him.

If you join a gang, a picture like this could be your last.



Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here



This is no way to visit with your friends. Stick with friends who aren't in gangs—they'll be around much longer.



Convicted killer Matlock says gangs fast track to trouble

By JOE TASCHLER
The Capital-Journal

The most money Chad Matlock ever made on the streets was \$2,000.

In one night.

He isn't bragging. He is making a point.

"If a 16-year-old knows how to sell drugs and count money, that's marketing," Matlock said during an interview Saturday from the Shawnee County Jail.

Matlock, a convicted killer and self-professed former gang member, said his point is that there are talented young people who don't have any positive outlets for their talents.

Given a choice between using their talents to sell drugs and make a lot of money or working at a fast-food job, they will almost always take the fast money, he said.

The money is usually made "sellin' guns, drugs, whatever," Matlock said.

"I was doing it for the money," he said. "There weren't any jobs out there. I felt like people thought my ideas didn't matter."

Life as a gang member eventually soured for him.

"I just finally said 'bleep it'," he said. "I'd rather my money be honest."

But even after changing his mind about gangs, the positive opportunities still weren't there, he said.

A three-sport high school athlete, Matlock turned to gang membership during summer when there were no practices or sports to keep him busy.

There are things to do in the summer, but he didn't take advantage of them, he said.

Matlock asked young people to commit themselves to doing something besides getting involved with gang membership.

He didn't, and he soon will become a resident of the state's prison system. He was sentenced Friday to two consecutive three- to 10-year terms for the August shooting death of Christopher Miller, 23.

The interview with Matlock took place in a visiting room at the jail. The conversation was carried out using telephone receivers on either side of a thick-glass window.

Matlock talked about his life and what he has learned from his mistakes.

He was born Feb. 13, 1974, in Texarkana, Texas. He has lived in Topeka

Continued on page 2-A, col. 1

—Jane Rudolph/The Capital-Journal

Chad Matlock listened as Chris Miller's relatives testified at his sentencing Friday.



Matlock says avoid gangs

Continued from page 1-A

since 1978.

He joined a gang when he was 14.

"It was just like a big family," he said. "They would be there for you."

Matlock said he has a message for anyone thinking of joining a gang.

"I'd tell them to think before they act," he said. "Do they want their life to end up like this?"

"Think about the positive things you can do besides joining a gang. Like on Sunday, instead of going over to some homey's house or sellin' drugs, go to church."

Except for the faded forest green jail jumpsuit he is wearing, Matlock looks like any other 19-year-old.

He is articulate and smart.

During the conversation, he complained of a double-standard in which young black men in a group are regarded with suspicion and referred to as a "gang," while a similar group of young white men is just a group.

His time in jail has taught him a few things.

Matlock has developed a strong religious faith and wants to turn his life around.

"I feel like I've hurt a lot of people," he said.

He turns away and looks at a wall when talking about Miller's death.

"I feel bad about it," he said. "I wasn't trying to kill him."

"I did the crime. Now I've got to do the time."

Gangs aggressively burrowing into the core of Kansas

By Ned Seaton

Associated Press

TOPEKA — Jim Gilchrist worries about the mothers who call him, asking if their children are being sucked into street gangs.

He worries when gang members tell him it's become impossible in Topeka to drop out of a gang without dying.

But mostly, Gilchrist, a police lieutenant in charge of a special unit dealing with gangs, worries about the growing acceptance in the capital city — and elsewhere in Kansas — of gangs and the violence they create.

"Reports of shots fired were up dramatically last year, sometimes to as much as 200 per month," Gilchrist said. "But the people who used to call to report the shots are now just rolling over and going back to sleep. It's becoming so commonplace, nobody reports it."

♦ Kansas, often perceived as pastoral farmland immune to urban problems, has a growing gang problem.

Officials blame it on aggressive recruiting and expansion by big-city gangs that have found room to grow throughout the state. But they also admit the majority of gang members are young Kansans who join for the same reasons that lie at the

"We're starting to see (gangs) in smaller communities. They follow the path of least resistance — when the heat's on from police in bigger cities around the country, the gangs reach out to other communities. It's a sad situation."

*Scott Teeselink,
KBI agent*

root of the gang phenomenon nationwide.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation's most recent figures list about 3,100 serious gang members in the state, said Special Agent Scott Teeselink. The KBI intends to purchase a computer network this year to help law enforcement agencies track Kansas gang members, he said.

See **GANGS**, Page 4B

January 7, 1993

GANGS

From Page 1B

"We're starting to see (gangs) in smaller communities," Teeselink said. "They follow the path of least resistance — when the heat's on from police in bigger cities around the country, the gangs reach out to other communities. It's a sad situation."

■ In Wichita, about 74 gangs sell drugs, run guns, steal and kill, police said. There are about 1,200 gang members, and the gangs are recruiting in grade schools. Last year, Wichita recorded 36 gang-related killings.

■ In Topeka, two Chicago-based gangs are warring for control of the crack cocaine trade, Gilchrist said. Three hundred people openly admit the gang allegiance, he said.

■ In Garden City, a western Kansas community of about 24,000, po-

lice shut down a crack house last year in which gangs were involved. Seven gangs are active in the town, said Robert Gonzalez, a police community service officer.

■ Authorities in the Johnson County area, an affluent Kansas City suburb, have identified 16 gangs with "a couple hundred" members, said Lee Williams, a detective with the gang interdiction unit of the Overland Park Police Department. During a three-month period last summer, authorities made 54 gang-related felony arrests in the county,



Bauman
Expects rise
in gang violence

he said.

■ In Dodge City, the old gun-slingers' outpost of the Plains, about nine gangs are active, said Sgt. James Lyall. Police don't specifically track gang crimes, but Lyall recalled a slaying and an injury shooting that were gang-related, both in the last three years.

■ In Lawrence, police made their first arrest in January for an attempted murder of one gang member by a member of a rival gang, said Lt. Mike Hall.

■ In Topeka, police presented a seminar in January for seven law enforcement agencies in the Junction City and Manhattan areas. Authorities there have become concerned about the growing presence of gangs and outside groups recruiting young people to help sell drugs.

"People think there are still covered wagons and Indian uprisings out here in Kansas," said Kent Bauman, a gang intelligence officer with

the Wichita Police Department. "But the same things that happen on the coasts happen here. It may take a few years, but we'll get there."

Violent crime jumped 10.9 percent in Kansas in 1991, and was up again 10.5 percent in the first six months of 1992, according to the KBI's latest report.

Wichita's gangs sprouted in 1989, with connections to the infamous Los Angeles organizations known as the Crips and Bloods, Bauman said. Since then, the Wichita gangs have spread throughout the state, officials said.

Officials think gangs from big cities saw a chance to market drugs at higher prices, with less competition and less police surveillance, in Kansas. But the gangs' ability to recruit throughout the state indicates Kansas is subject to the same social ills that threaten the rest of the country, police said.

"Gangs don't spring up in a com-

munity because of kids moving in from the city," said Jim Cox, director of urban services for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and an expert on gangs. "They crop up because they fill a void created by increasing numbers of dysfunctional families and a lack of constructive activities for young people."

"If the conditions weren't right, the gangs would die."

Officials statewide are trying a variety of approaches to combat gangs, from tougher policing to outreach efforts in schools. They insist the problem won't become as entrenched as it's become in urban centers.

But they said gangs are growing stronger.

"There is an emerging gang presence here," said Hall of the Lawrence police. "I don't think there's any place in America that's immune from this problem. And if there is, it won't be for long."

Evidence links suspects to gangs

Police find papers, drawings showing signs of potential gang activity

By JODI COOTS-LUCKE
Tribune Writer

Evidence obtained from search warrants executed Wednesday revealed Chanute had ingredients for the development of a serious gang problem, according to Parsons law enforcement officers.

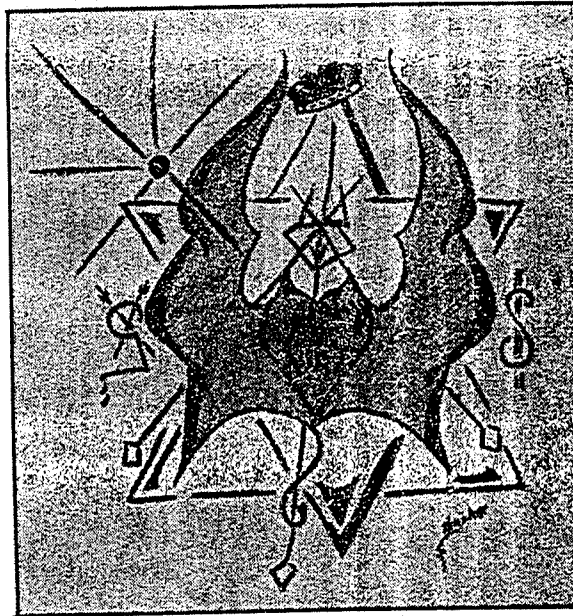
The afternoon operation involved the homes of four men arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting in Parsons late Saturday.

From the beginning, Parsons authorities believed the shooting was gang related. The searches were conducted to try and link the four suspects with gang activity in Parsons and to help determine if a problem was developing in Chanute.

"I don't really think Chanute has that big of a problem — but we don't know that for sure," said Parsons Police Detective Scott Gofourth. "But the worst thing a community can do is to deny they have a problem" or not realize that one exists.

Chanute's Assistant Chief of Police Don Umbarger said his department welcomes the assistance of the Parsons officers. More specifically, their help in indentifying what Chanute police believed was gang related graffiti painted on Royster Middle School last month. Papers found during the search in the homes of two of the suspects contained drawings of almost identical symbols used in the graffiti at Royster.

"I'll be honest and say that until today we really didn't know what this graffiti was," Umbarger said late Wednesday. "This is the only place that we've had it. It appears



Parsons officer Tom Doyle, at right, flips through a sketch pad found at the Daryl "D.J." Ray residence that investigators think are gang symbols. Police said the symbol shown above is similar to those painted on Royster Middle School in late January.



though we may have had a start (in gang activity). This is the first indication we've really had a gang and I'm hoping the problem has been taken care of."

The Parsons shooting resulted in a two counts of attempted first degree murder against 18-year-old Alex D. Curls, 220 S. Malcolm. Three others that police believe were with Curls at the time of the shooting face lesser charges.

Those three — Mark E. Barnhart, 19 N. Washington, Marcus A. Griffin, 16, 315 W. Seventh, and Daryl L. "D.J." Ray, 20, 1824 S. Highland, each face two counts of aiding and abetting attempted first degree murder. Ray, a former Parsons resident, has also been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and

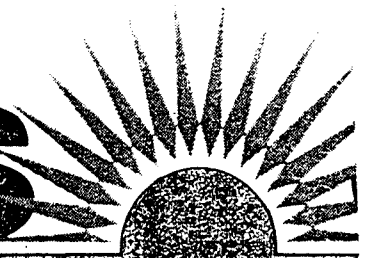
and abetting criminal damage to property. Barnhart also faces one count of criminal damage to property.

The shooting victims were Roger L. Thompson, 19, Topeka, and Johnny L. Poole, 20, Parsons. Thompson was shot in the back and treated and released from Labette County Medical Center. Poole was admitted to LCMC for treatment of a shoulder wound and has been released.

The shooting occurred outside a residence during a party.

All four men arrested are now in the custody of Labette County authorities. Ray and Curls are each being held on \$200,000 bond. Barnhart is

Parsons



PARSONS, KANSAS 67357 TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 1993

12

Chanute men charged in shooting

By Ray Nolting
Parsons Sun

Four Chanute residents face charges of attempted murder or assisting in the attempt for participating in a drive-by shooting that injured two men just before midnight Saturday in Parsons.

The four arrested in the shooting are: Alexander D. Curls, 18; Marcus A. Griffin, 16; Daryl L. "D.J." Ray Jr., 20, formerly of Parsons; and Martin E. Barnhart, 19. All of them live in Chanute.

Curls faces two counts of attempted first degree murder, both Class B felonies, in Labette County District Court. The other three each face two counts of aiding and abetting attempted first degree murder, also Class B felonies. In addition, Ray faces one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, a Class D felony.

and a misdemeanor count of aiding and abetting criminal damage to property. Barnhart also faces a misdemeanor count of criminal damage to property.

The shooting occurred shortly before midnight Saturday at 1301 Crawford. Two men were injured: Roger L. Thompson, 19, Topeka, and Johnny L. Poole, 20, 814 S. 35th. Thompson was treated for injuries and then released from Labette County Medical Center. Poole was admitted at LCMC for his injuries and released on Monday.

Police, while investigating a possible motive for the shooting, linked three of the four Chanute residents to the Black Gangster Disciples street gang. The BGDs have active members in Parsons, police say.

Police Chief Gary Baldwin said today that witnesses saw two of the

shooting suspects indicated one of the shooting victims and another man standing nearby when the shots were fired may have been members in the Bloods street gang, a rival of the BGDs.

Those men — Thompson and Raymond B. Jones, 21, 1508 Clark — emphatically denied membership in the Bloods gang today. Jones also pointed to another possible motive: He and "D.J." Ray had a disagreement sometime back involving Ray's girlfriend.

Baldwin said police are still investigating the shooting and the possible role gangs may or may not have played in it.

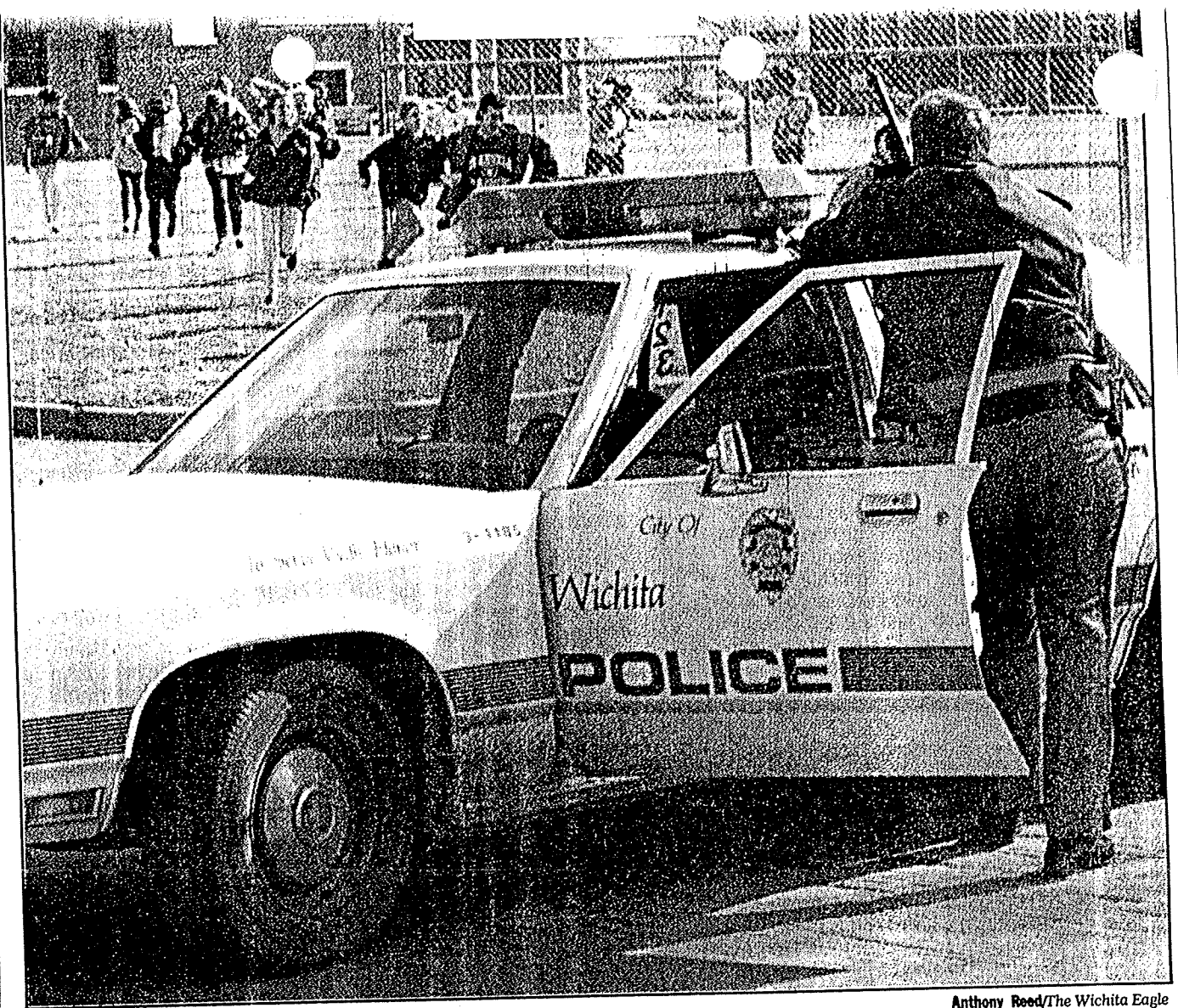
Police said the four shooting suspects and the two shooting victims were attending a birthday party at 1301 Crawford. Sometime during the party, the suspects fired a car

front of the home were punctured. The car is owned by Trudy Harris, 814 S. 35th.

Thompson, Poole and Jones were standing near the car inspecting the damage when a red pickup drove by and Curls allegedly fired two or three rounds from the .22-caliber revolver, Baldwin said. Thompson was shot in the back and Poole was shot in the shoulder. Jones was not injured.

The pickup's occupants were arrested shortly after 12:30 a.m. Sunday on the 35th Street exit on U.S. 169 at Chanute. The revolver was recovered.

The three adult shooting suspects remain in the Neosho County jail, pending their release to Labette County authorities. Griffin, the juvenile, was released to his parent's custody, police said.



Anthony Reed/The Wichita Eagle

Students at Allison Middle School run from the building Tuesday, under cover of police officer Dennis Holtz, after an armed classmate took over the principal's office. Some students said that the armed boy had threatened to kill an assistant principal. The boy surrendered after about an hour, and classes resumed shortly thereafter. No one was hurt.

Armed teen puts scare in school

Mother had sought help for son's behavior disorder

By Bill Hirschman
The Wichita Eagle

The 14-year-old boy who carried two loaded weapons into a middle school office on Tuesday has a behavioral disorder that his mother contends the school system has not adequately handled.

Nicholas Phillips walked into the office at Allison Middle School on Tuesday after classmates said he told them that he wanted to take over the school and kill the assistant principal.

Girl calm: Armed boy wanted her brought to office.

7A

He holed up in the principal's office for about an hour after releasing eight students and administrators who had been cowering in an adjacent room for roughly 20 minutes.



Alleged teen 'shooter' charged

*18-year-old accused of attempted murder,
3 others face counts of aiding, abetting*

By JODI COOTS-LUCKE
Tribune Writer

An 18-year-old Chanute man has been charged with two counts of attempted first degree murder in connection with the drive-by shooting in Parsons late Saturday night.

Alex D. Curls is accused of firing the gun that left two men injured while three others face lesser charges for their alleged role in the shooting.

Those three — Mark E. Barnhart, 19, Marcus A. Griffin, 16, and Daryl L. "D.J." Ray Jr., 20, — each face two counts of aiding an abetting attempted first degree murder. All are Chanute residents.

The shooting victims were Roger L. Thompson, 19, Topeka, and Johnny L. Poole, 20, Parsons.

Thompson was shot in the back and treated and released at Labette County Medical Center. Poole was admitted to LCMC for a gunshot wound to the shoulder. Officials at LCMC said this morning he has been released.

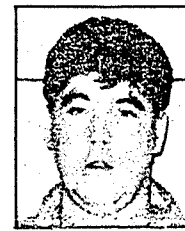
Authorities are investigating a connection between the suspects, the victims and gang activity in Parsons and Chanute.

Police believed Thompson is a member of the Bloods street gang and at least one of the four Chanute resident is suspected of being a member of the Black Gangster Disciples street gang. Police said the BGDs have active members in Parsons and are rivals with the Bloods.

During a press conference Monday afternoon, Parsons Police Chief Gary Baldwin gave this scenario of



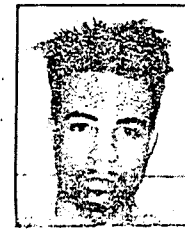
Curls



Barnhart



Griffith



Ray

what authorities believe led to the shooting.

A party at 1301 Crawford was attended by what police called rival gang members. A disturbance erupted and sometime during the party three tires on a car parked at the residence were punctured.

When Thompson, Poole and Raymond Jones, another suspected Bloods member, were inspecting the tire damage, a red pickup drove by and police said Curls fired two to three rounds from a .22-caliber revolver.

The shots were fired while the pickup was in motion, police said,

and witnesses gave a description of the pickup and told police one of the occupants was wearing a yellow jacket with "Chanute Track" on the back.

About a half-hour after the shooting Neosho County authorities spotted the pickup near Earlton traveling toward Chanute at a high rate of speed. Neosho County Deputy David Hughes stopped it at the 35th Street exit, with the assistance of two Kansas Highway Patrol troopers and three Chanute police officers.

See SHOOTING, Page 12

Are there gangs in Chanute?

By JODI COOTS-LUCKE
Tribune Writer

Does Chanute have a gang problem?

That is the question posed to local police following a drive-by shooting in Parsons that ended in felony charges against four Chanute residents.

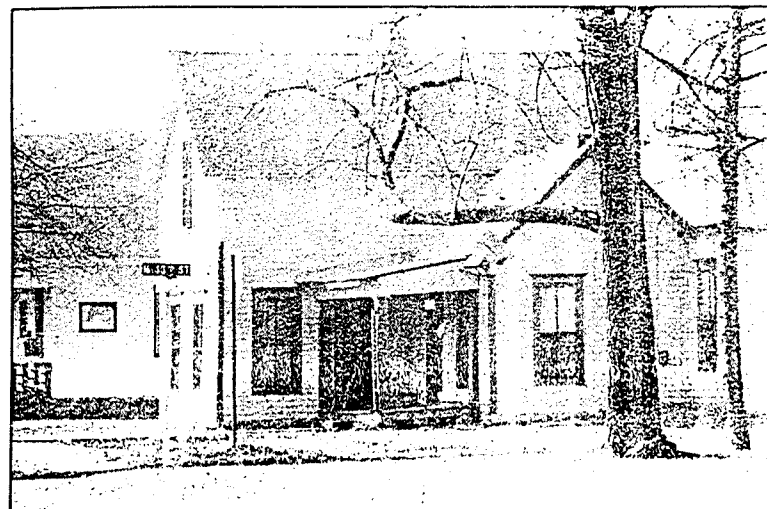
Parsons authorities believe the shooting was gang related and say their investigation will link known gang factions in their community with similar activity in Chanute.

Assistant Chief of Police Don Umbarger said local authorities do not think he sees gangs may exist, but that most of the

local problems can be traced to only a few individuals.

"I don't know if there are a large number of people who consider themselves gang members, but hopefully, after all of this, some information will surface and if there is a gang problem (in Chanute) we can do something about it," Umbarger said.

The Parsons shooting ended in the arrest of Mark E. Barnhart, 19, and Alex Curls, 18, both of 19 N. Washington, Marcus A. Griffin, 16, 315 W. Seventh, and Daryl L. "D.J." Ray Jr., 20, 1824 S. Highland.



This Parsons residence at 1301 Crawford was the scene of the drive-by shooting that resulted in felony charges against Chanute residents.

See GANGS, Page 12



Anthony Reed/The Wichita Eagle

Police search a man and his 13-year-old son who allegedly came with loaded guns to West High School on Friday.

Father, son take guns to school

Other son's trouble prompted armed visit; police arrest both

By Robert Short
The Wichita Eagle

A man and his 13-year-old son Friday carried two loaded guns into West High School, where they had gone to look into a dispute involving another family member.

The pair were arrested about 3:30 p.m. as they left the school after the father met briefly with Joseph Muci, the school's principal, in Muci's office. No shots were fired.

Police said each carried a concealed handgun. Officers also found two loaded guns in their car, parked nearby.

The man's older son, a junior at

West, was having problems with other students, and his father, 39, and brother went to the school to investigate, police Lt. Mitch Dunbar said.

"The bottom line is, they armed themselves in anticipation of trouble," Dunbar said. The names of those involved were withheld by police and school officials.

The incident was the second Friday in which police dealt with guns and teenagers.

Officials searching a car stopped by school security officers in south Wichita found two semiautomatic handguns, ammunition and marijuana, police said. Two South High

School teenagers who were seen leaving the school about 12:30 p.m. got into the car shortly before it was stopped, police said.

In the incident at West, police said, the father was carrying a chrome-plated .44-caliber Magnum revolver, and the boy was carrying a .380-caliber semiautomatic handgun.

In the father's car, police found a loaded 12-gauge pump shotgun lying across the back seat. On the floorboard in front of the driver's seat was a loaded .22-caliber semiautomatic machine pistol and several loose .22-caliber cartridges.

The car was parked at the curb at Osage and Dayton, in front of an entrance to West High's auditorium and less than 20 feet from a sign declaring that the area was in a drug-free, gun-free zone and that

violators would be charged under federal and state laws.

By the time the car was towed away at 4:30 p.m., the school was deserted except for office staff. Many students were not aware of the incident, and the few who were said they didn't know the student involved.

Police and school officials offered this account:

Apparently the son enrolled at West went home when school was dismissed at 3 p.m. and told his father about a "conflict" he had with other students. The father and 13-year-old then went to the school. The older son did not go with them.

At the school, the father went into the building while the younger

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE



NEED HELP?

CALL . . . 1-800 KS CRIME

**TO REPORT GANG ACTIVITY, WEAPONS
VIOLATIONS OR ILLEGAL DRUGS**

"Working Together to Prevent Crime"

Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Anti-Crime Unit

1-14

- ou see your child as special, and worth protecting;
- ◆ you want to help your child with problems;
 - ◆ family members don't keep secrets from each other; and
 - ◆ you and other parents are working together against gangs.

Don't forget to listen to your child as well!

3. Help Keep (or Put) Gangs Out—Four Things You Can Do

Everyone (except gang members) wants a gang-free community. Parents stand to lose the most—the well-being or even the life of a child—if gangs take or keep hold. But gangs are often violent and intimidating. What can you do in the face of this?

First, develop positive alternatives. Are there after-school and weekend activities kids can enjoy? Can the school offer its facilities? Can parents organize clubs or sports? Can older kids tutor or mentor younger ones? Can the kids themselves help with ideas?

Second, talk with other parents. For one thing, you'll find out what everyone else's parent really said. For another, you can support each other and share knowledge that will help spot problems sooner than you can on your own.

Third, work with police and other agencies. Report suspicious activity; set up a

Neighborhood Watch or a community patrol; let the police know about gang graffiti; get (and share with other parents) the facts on the gang problem in your community; find out what local services—nonprofit as well as government—will work with communities against gangs.

Fourth, get organized against the gang organization. Use your neighborhood association or a new group. Get help from a variety of sources right in your community. Try these kinds of people in addition to the police: priest or minister, family counselor, community association, school counselor or principal, athletic coach, Boys & Girls Club, YM/WCA, Scouts, drug abuse prevention groups, youth-serving agencies, and community centers—just to name a few.

Crime prevention tips from

National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817

and



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

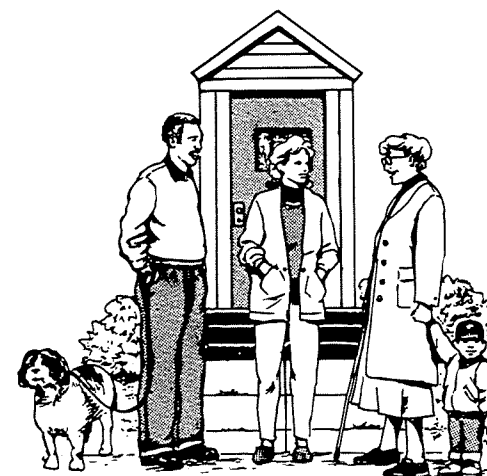
Anti-Crime / Gang Unit

1620 SW Tyler, Topeka, KS 66612

913 / 232-6000

For details on getting a neighborhood group organized, write to the National Crime Prevention Council for a free copy of *Getting Together to Fight Crime*.

1-2-3



A Parent's Guide for Preventing Gangs

Many communities—maybe the one you live in—have serious problems with gangs. There are many kinds of gangs, but whatever kind your community is dealing with, gangs spell trouble. They cause fear, destroy property, threaten or hurt peaceable residents, and drive out businesses.

Parents can do a lot to prevent gang problems or to reduce gang problems already in place. Most important, there's a lot that parents like you can do to keep your own children from joining gangs:

- ◆ Learn about gangs and signs of gang activity.
- ◆ Sharpen your skills as a parent and use them.
- ◆ Join with others to make or keep your neighborhood gang free.

1. Learn About Gangs

Young people (as young as nine or ten) join gangs for reasons that makes sense to them, if not to adults. They give reasons like these:

- ◆ to belong to a group;
- ◆ for excitement;
- ◆ to get protection;
- ◆ to earn money; and
- ◆ to be with friends.

Gangs leave signs of their presence. Your child may adopt some of those signs as either a gang member or an imitator:

- ◆ specific colors or emblems;

- ◆ special hand signals;
- ◆ gang symbols on walls as graffiti or on books or clothing;
- ◆ major and negative behavior changes, such as:
 - ◇ worse grades,
 - ◇ staying out without good reason,
 - ◇ “hanging” with known or suspected gang members, or
 - ◇ carrying weapons.



- ◆ wearing certain kinds and colors of clothing in very specific ways; and
- ◆ possessing unexplained, relatively large sums of money.



2. Sharpen Your Skills as a Parent

Many gang members say they joined because the gang offered them support, caring, and a sense of order and purpose—all the things that most parents try to give their kids. The odds are that the better you meet these needs, the less need your children will see for gangs. Here are some parenting skills that are especially important:

- ◆ Talk with and listen to your child. Spend some special time with each child.
- ◆ Put a high value on education and help your child to do his or her best in school. Do everything possible to prevent dropping out.
- ◆ Help your kids identify positive role models and heroes—especially people right in your community.
- ◆ Do everything possible to involve your children in supervised, positive group activities.
- ◆ Praise them for doing well and encourage them to do their very best—to stretch their skills to the utmost.
- ◆ Know what your children are doing and whom they are with. Know about their friends and their friends' families.

Don't forget to talk about gangs. The best time is before there's a major problem. Tell your child that

- ◆ you disapprove of gangs;
- ◆ you don't want to see your child hurt or arrested;

9/16

GANG ASSESSMENT & PLANNING GUIDE

LEVELS OF GANG ACTIVITY

GANG PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROCESS

Level 1	No Known Gang Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have some existing gang prevention & education programs • Recreation, employment & other programs for youth • Strong sense of community/family • Minimum crime/delinquency 	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing programs/priority • Reinforce positive attitudes for family, home, community & the laws • Maintain strong business/civic interaction
Level 2	Limited Gang Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gangs near your community; sporadic gang crimes/graffiti • Limited gang intrusion • General indifference/denial • Community passive/"let others respond" 	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share gang intelligence and program information • School & community prevention/education programs • Increase sports/other community activities • Graffiti abatement efforts • Anti-gang public information campaign
Level 3	Emerging Gang Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more gangs in area • Local schools & parks are hangouts • Loss of community identity/pride • Limited short-term counter measures • Increase in gang crimes 	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & implement target area strategies • Specialized gang suppression/abatement • Community mobilization ("Reclaim the Community") • Parent education/accountability • Job placement (youth-at-risk)
Level 4	Community in Crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major gang activity/drive by's • Parks & schools dominated by gangs • Community living in fear • Increase in truancy/dropouts/crime • Police overburdened 	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & implement major community mobilization efforts • Collaboration between community groups, anti-gang professionals/law enforcement • "Reclaim the Schools, Parks, Kids" campaign
Level 5	Gang-Controlled Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gangs dominate most of daily life • Tax base eroded/businesses flee • An "illegal" economy thrives • General breakdown of family/community • Institutional response to gangs overwhelmed 	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare gang "state of emergency" • Majority of efforts left to professionals • Develop a block-by-block effort • Selected resident/law enforcement patrols



PROFILE OF A GANG MEMBER

Usually male.

School drop-out or truant; poor student who does not like school and who does not adapt well at school.

Unemployed; no employable skills.

In trouble with the police.

Does not receive adequate family attention. The gang provides identity and status and, in return, the member develops a fierce loyalty to the gang/nation. He becomes incapable of breaking away. A break may result in death. In some cases, a parent or family member may approve or condone participation especially if the gang member helps support the family through narcotic sales.

Victim of abuse and/or neglect and/or parental brutality.

Economically, and/or socially, deprived backgrounds.

Lower economic background; found largely in black and Hispanic populations, whites tend to join different types such as skinheads, bikers and satanic groups.

Negative role models.

Hispanics/machismo vs. Blacks/money

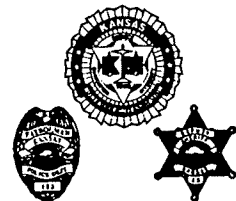
Very streetwise.

Activities confined to close proximity of residence or gang's turf.

Anti-social, aggressive and hostile.

Gang members commit crimes against people who are unable to defend themselves. They work where they have the advantage:

- In the darkness
- From speeding cars
- Five or six sneaking up on one
- By shooting out of alleyways or from roofs



WHAT ARE GANG CHARACTERISTICS ?

When members of a gang are together they display **PACK** behavior. This behavior spreads responsibility of the individual to the group and tends to diminish normal judgment and conscience.

Gang members together have a higher propensity for **VIOLENT BEHAVIOR**. This is enhanced if they are on their own **TURF**.

Gangs reflect the ideas and attitudes of the **LEADERSHIP**.

Gangs have defined **LEADERSHIP**, **BEHAVIOR CODES**, and **VALUES**, in greater or lesser degrees, depending on their needs and state of development. (Gang codes and values are foreign to normal standards!)

Gangs develop sophisticated ways of **COMMUNICATING** and **REPRESENTING** their membership to rivals and to fellow members (**COLORS**, **GRAFFITI**, **TATTOOS**, etc.).

INDIVIDUALS generally display bad attitudes, uncontrolled anger, poor impulse control and some have clear personality disorders.

Gang behavior is not a distinct representation of any **ETHNIC** or **CULTURAL BACKGROUND** but is, in fact, a sub-culture within the ethnic and cultural factions of any community. Gangs are normally not specific representations of any oppressed social or economic faction of the communities.

Gangs have a tendency toward criminal acts and violence against what they perceive as a **RIVAL GANG**; they don't take a lot of time to verify membership. They also tend to prey upon the community within their turf boundaries. Crime and violence spreads as the gang becomes more mobile and the **TURF BOUNDARIES** change or are in dispute.



USE OF LETHAL WEAPONS and increased gang violence are more prevalent today because of the access to more modern weapons and the involvement in DRUG USE and SALES.

Persons involved in gangs tend to become involved in MORE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY and MORE VIOLENT CRIMES when the membership is maintained over a period of time.

Gang members that go to PRISON do not leave the gang but maintain their membership or move to a bigger gang. At the least, they LEARN MORE VIOLENT methods of behavior.

HARDCORE

Comprise approximately 5-10% of the gang. They have been in the gang the longest and frequently are in and out of jail, unemployed and involved with drugs (distribution or usage). Average age, early to mid-twenties; however, some hardcores could be older or younger. Very influential in the gang.

REGULAR MEMBER

Average age 14-17 years old; however, could be older or younger. They have already been initiated into gang. Tend to back up the "hardcore" gang members. If they stay in the gang long enough, they could become hardcore.

ASSOCIATE, CLAIMER OR "WANNA-BE"

Average age 11-13 years old; however, age may vary. These are the youngsters who are not officially members of the gang but act like they are or claim to be from the gang. May begin to dress in gang attire, hang around with the gang or write the graffiti of the gang.

POTENTIAL OR "COULD-BE"

Youngsters who are getting close to an age where they might decide to join a gang, live in or close to an area where there are gangs, or have a family member who is involved with gangs. The potentials do not have to join gangs, they can choose alternatives and avoid gang affiliation completely. Generally, the further into a gang that someone is, the harder it is to get back out.

(date)

Guardians of (child's name)

(address)

(address)

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of (child's name):

This letter is to inform you that your child, (child's name), has been identified by the (contacting agency) as being associated with or being a member of a street gang. This identification was made for the following reason(s):

(see examples below)

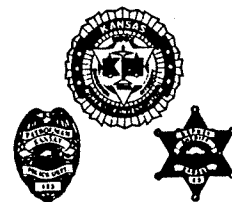
1. (child's name) was involved in a gang-related fight at Kansas Middle East High School.
2. (child's name) was in a vehicle, stopped by the police, in which numerous weapons and drug paraphernalia were found.
3. (child's name) has been seen at the No-Tell Video Arcade and Uptown Shopping Mall wearing gang colors and using gang hand signs.

It is hoped that this information will assist you in making informed decisions regarding your child. As a concerned and responsible parent/guardian, you are encouraged to contact the police department to discuss your child's gang involvement, our procedures and the impact this will have on future contacts between your child and the police. In our attempt to inform, support and involve parents, please contact (detective's name and phone number) for further information.



RULES FOR WORKING WITH GANGS

- 1. Be decisive, firm, and fair. Lenient treatment of gang members is viewed as a weakness, and they will take full advantage of you.**
- 2. Intimidation of gang members usually escalates into a confrontation, and seldom creates respect. Remember lectures to scare gangsters straight DON'T WORK!!!**
- 3. Giving any public or media attention to a gang or its members tends to escalate gang activity. If media attention is needed, always play up the negative side of gang involvement, i.e. arrest, conviction, prison term, etc.**
- 4. When gang graffiti is found, recommend its removal as soon as possible. It will attract other rival gangs and/or invite more "writing on the walls."**
- 5. View each gang member or suspected gang member as an individual. They may be a "poser" or "wanna-be" and your actions could push them into full gang involvement.**
- 6. Prevent conflict whenever possible. Previous experience has shown that an incident, no matter how minor today, can cause 1 to 10 more gang-related or motivated acts of vengeance or reprisals as much as two or more years later.**



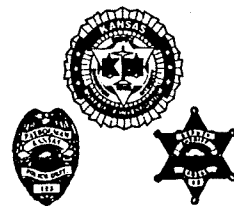
"If we don't invest in our youth now

- We will pay the price later

And the price that will be paid...

- WILL BE THEIR LIVES!!"

Luis Llerena, Jr.
Juvenile Gang Intervention
Program Coordinator
City of Dallas



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Know your children's friends

Know who influences your child

Know what your children are doing

Occupy their time

Develop good communication skills

Spend time with your children

Do not allow gang dress

Do not allow "hanging" in the streets

Be suspicious of writing graffiti, gang tattoos, etc.

Develop anti-gang attitudes at home

Learn about gangs and drugs

Participate in your child's education

Get involved in community affairs

Start early

Model the expected behavior



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO COMBAT GANGS ?

Anti-gang programs are in operation around the country. Those that have been effective seem to include four broad strategies. These are:

- More recreational and leisure-time activities for youngsters;
- A crack-down and tougher law enforcement against gang activities in the community;
- Stepped-up efforts to dry up the chief source of gang revenue - drugs and narcotics; and
- Increase parental supervision of children, their activities, and their friends.

Parents can help to combat gangs by improving their parenting skills and taking more seriously their responsibility for their children. The best way to keep their children out of gangs is by:

- Taking a deeper interest in their children and what they do;
- Knowing the company their child keeps - make sure he or she hangs around with the right crowd;
- Monitoring their child's whereabouts - know where he or she is all the time;
- Involving their kids in church activities, school activities, and recreational activities. **KEEP THEM BUSY!!!!;**
- Modeling good behavior for their children - if parents truly love them, they should behave as they want them to behave;
- Spending time with their children - include them in their life and do things with them; and,
- Being on the watch for signs of gang recruitment or membership of their children - if such signs are present, intervene quickly, seek help and advice from their church, school administrators, or police officials.



FOLKS

Pant leg rolled on
the right leg

Jewelry representing
horn emblems

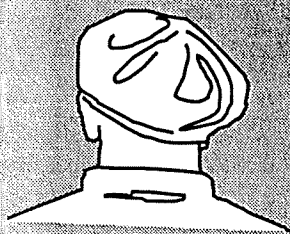
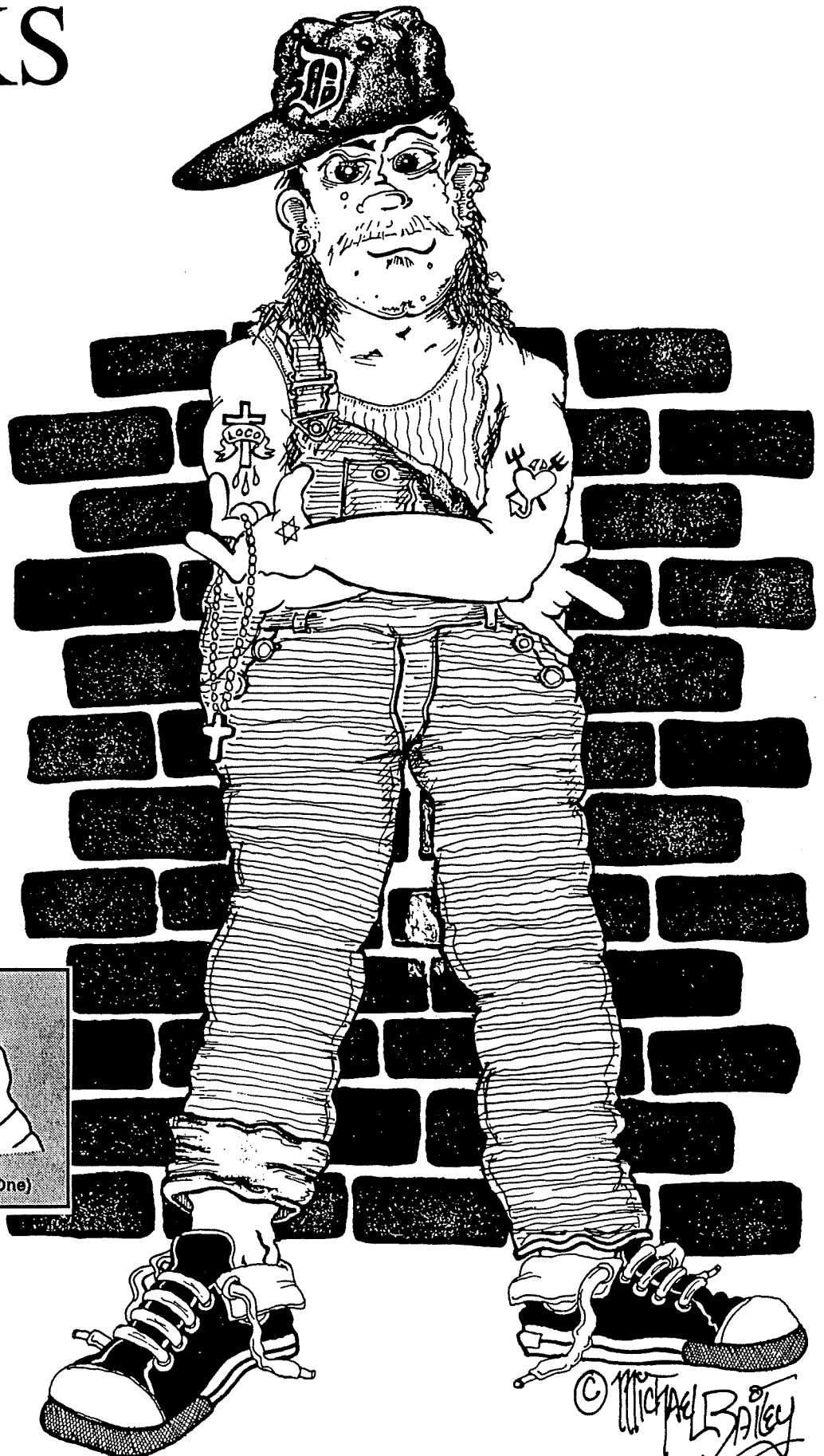
Earrings on right ear

Hats tilted to the right

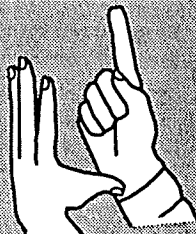
Crown artwork with
rounded tips

Right shoe laced up,
left shoe laced up
only halfway or untied

Associated with the
Six Point Star



(Hat Tilted To The Right)



(All Is One)

© Michael Bailey
-1991-

The following are symbols, and their meanings, used by the FOLKS street gangs, and their affiliates to identify themselves.

SIX POINT STAR - six principles of King David.

PITCHFORKS - the Nation's power in the struggle to overcome oppression.

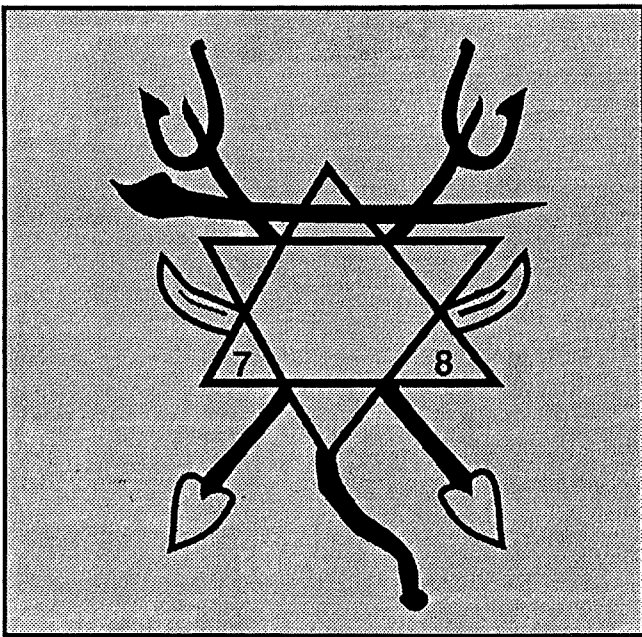
SWORD - life and death within the Nation and the struggle to survive at all costs.

DEVIL'S HORNS - the Nation's determination to overcome all obstacles.

DEVIL'S TAIL - the oppression that all non-White people suffer.

HEART - the love of the Nation.

NUMBERS 7 AND 8 - the year of the founding of the Sons and Daughters.



Folks' Symbols



Heart

The "Heart and Wings" of the Black Gangster Disciples, or the Folk Nation. Note the number of wings is six, the same as is the number of points on the BGD star. The heart signifies love for their gang.

PEOPLE

Pant leg rolled on
the left leg

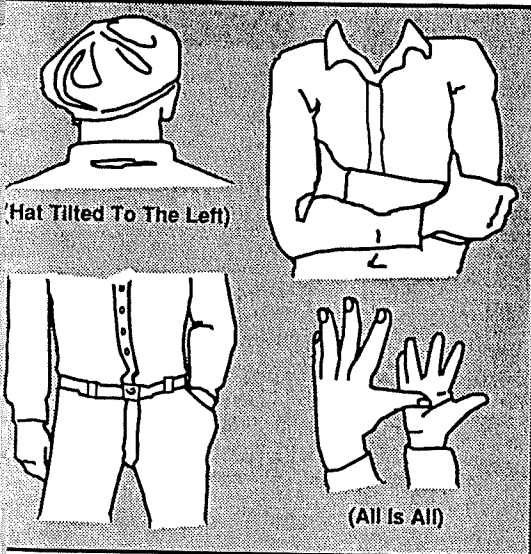
Earrings on left ear

Hats tilted to the left

Crown artwork with
pointed tips

Left shoe laced up,
right shoe laced up
only halfway or untied

Associated with the
Five Point Star



The following are symbols, and their meanings, used by the PEOPLE street gangs, and their affiliates to identify themselves.

CIRCLE - 360 degrees of the knowledge that black people once ruled the world and will again.

FIRE - represents the Black Nation's true knowledge of being suppressed, and their inability to reach knowledge because of the heat created by the fire.

DARKNESS - represents the Black majority, not minority, of the world.

CRESCENT MOONS - represents the splitting of the Black Nation into two parts, one of West and one of the East.

STAR - represents the eye of Allah, watching over his people.

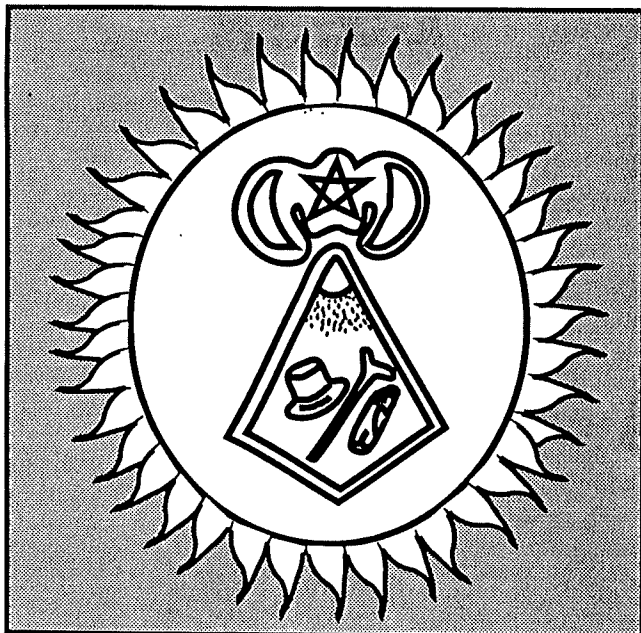
PYRAMID - represents the mystery of the construction of the pyramid, which was constructed by Black people. The three corners of the triangle represents physical, mental, and spiritual knowledge.

SUN - represents the rising of truth in the Black Nation. Used only by Vice Lords.

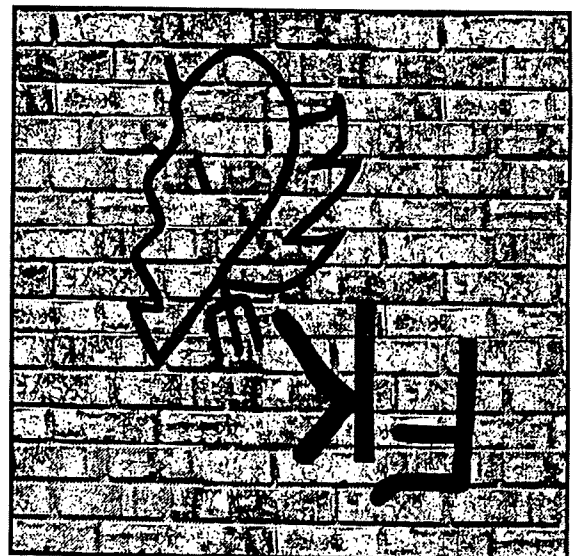
HAT - represents shelter.

CANE - represents the staff of strength.

GLOVES - represents purity.

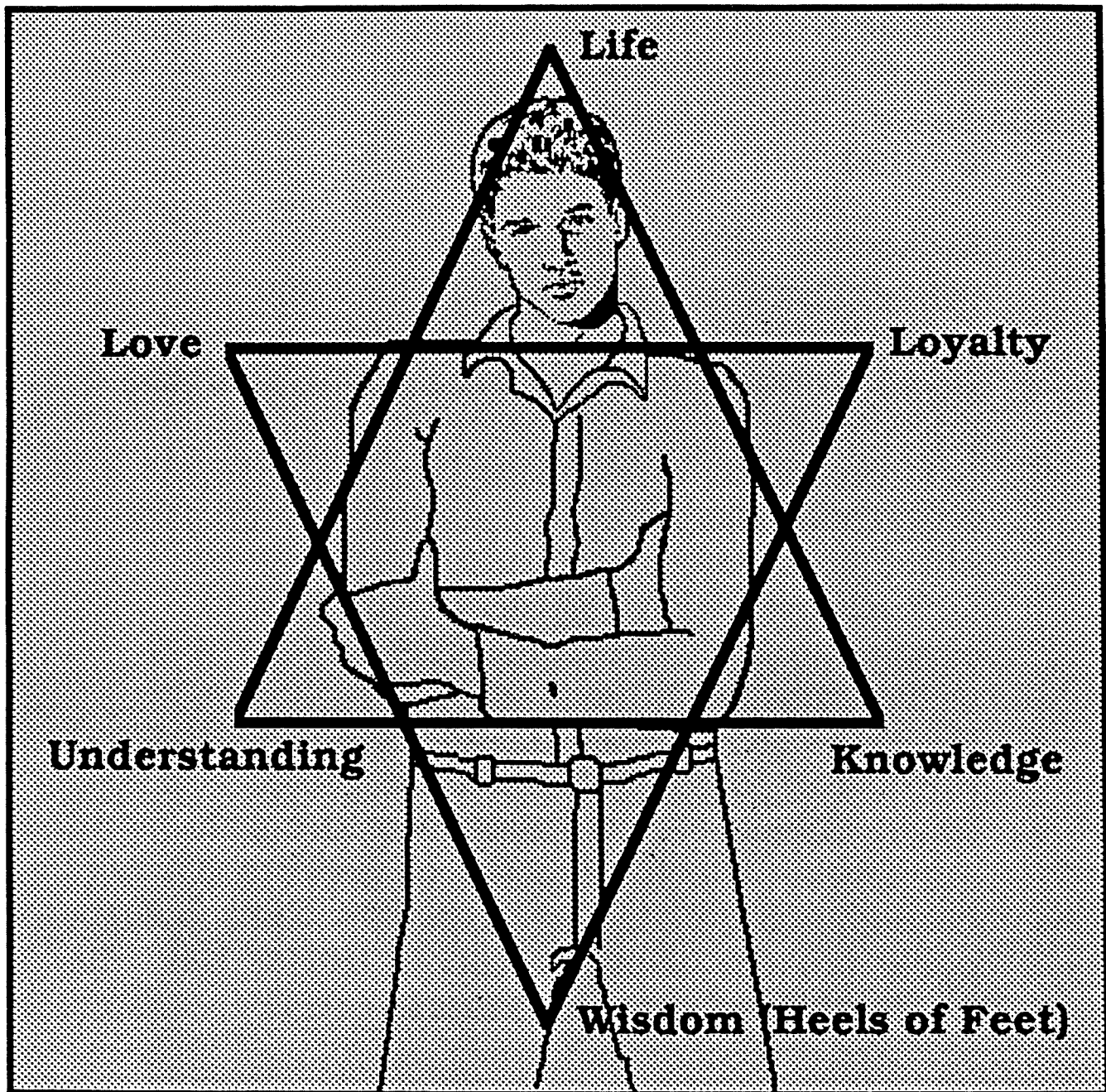


People Symbols



Broken Heart

The "Broken Heart" is another example of violent graffiti found in gang areas. This particular rendering shows a broken heart and inverted pitchfork, both symbolic of anti-Folk graffiti. "FK" stands for Folk Killer.



Six Point Stance

§ x Point Stance

The Six Point Stance is directly connected to the Six Point Star. According to the gang, their Thumbs are embracing the Star within the pits of the arms. The thumbs serve as Locks (grips) upon their Unity, bringing them within the cipher of the Organization. The Stance applies to the following parts of the body:

1. Right Shoulder — holding LOVE for each other, the Chairman, and the entire organization.
2. Head — being in the frame of LIFE; living and flourishing into something great.
3. Left Shoulder — holding LOYALTY above any negativity that may try to surface on the left side.
4. Left Elbow — KNOWing the LEDGE of obstacles and blocks against any form of opposition.
5. Heels — giving them balance upon their path, and WISDOM down the road.
6. Right Elbow — crossing over the left; serving as the final point of locking them into UNDERSTANDING within their 360° cycle (circle) of organization under the leadership of the Chairman.

They stand firmly in their Six Point Stance and their concept of: (1) Organization; (2) Politics; (3) Economics; (4) Security; (5) Education; and (6) Unity. When they look in all six directions—North, South, East, West, Up, and Down—they feel they are on the road to Organizational Unity and that they are a power to be reckoned with.

**CRIME IN KANSAS
SUMMARY
1991**

- * Crime Index Offenses increased 5.4% (129,440 in 1990 to 136,433 in 1991).

- * Violent Crime increased 10.9% (11,129 in 1990 to 12,338 in 1991).

***Murder and Non - Negligent Manslaughter Increased 41.9%** (105 in 1990 to 150 in 1991).*

***Rape increased 11.8%** (1,002 in 1990 to 1,121 in 1991).*

***Robbery increased 17.5%** (2,926 in 1990 to 3,438 in 1991).*

***Aggravated Assault/Battery increased 7.6%** (7,096 in 1990 to 7,632 in 1991).*

***Simple Assault/Battery increased 6.1%** (31,457 in 1990 to 33,364 in 1991).*

- * Property Crimes increased 4.9% (118,311 in 1990 to 124,093 in 1991).

***Burglary increased 10.2%** (40,323 in 1990 to 44,437 in 1991).*

***Theft increased 1.9%** (69,688 in 1990 to 71,009 in 1991).*

***Motor Vehicle Theft increased 4.2%** (8,300 in 1990 to 8,647 in 1991).*

Criminal Damage to Property, reported through the Incident Based Reporting System, totalled \$6,540,728 in 1991; damage done to vehicles accounted for 39.6% of the total.

- * Statistics for 1991 indicate Violent Crime affected 4.9 persons per thousand population while Property Crimes affected 49.7 persons per thousand.

- * The State Fire Marshal's Office reported **Incendiary/Suspicious Fires increased 27.4%** (2,193 in 1990 to 2,793 in 1991).

- * The reported value of **Property Stolen increased 7.3%** (from \$86,041,937 in 1990 to \$92,318,375 in 1991) with **Motor Vehicle Theft** accounting for 34.2% of the total.

- * The Kansas Incident Based Reporting System received reports on 198,050 incidents that involved violations of state statutes.

- * **Total arrests increased 8.2%** (124,572 in 1990 to 134,783 in 1991). *Juveniles were arrested most frequently for theft; Adults for DUI.*

- * **Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers decreased 0.7%** (1076 in 1990 to 1,068 in 1991).



KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF KANSAS

1620 TYLER

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1837

(913) 232-6000



ROBERT T. STEPHAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BERT B. DAVENPORT
DIRECTOR

February 1, 1993

KANSAS QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS

Crime in Kansas showed a decrease of 2.1% during the period January through September, 1992, compared to the same period of 1991, according to quarterly crime statistics released today by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Robert Davenport, KBI Director, said third quarter 1992 crime figures increased 10.9% over the previous three month period (April through June). The Crime Index figures are based upon the Part I crimes of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault / battery, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft.

Violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault / battery) increased 5.1% over 1991 and increased 5.2% over the previous quarter. Property crime (burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft) decreased 2.8% over 1991 and increased 11.5% when compared to the previous quarter.

On January 1, 1992, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation began collecting information on incidents of domestic violence reported to state and local law enforcement agencies. Included in this release are graphs depicting these trends by statute violation and number of incidents reported monthly since January, 1992.

The table below compares those specific crimes reported to the KBI by approximately 350 law enforcement agencies for January through September, 1992 and 1991, July through September, 1992, and April through June, 1992. Other tables reflect Crime by County, Cities With Population over 5,000, Part I Crimes reported by State University Police Departments, Value of Property Stolen and Recovered for Part I Crimes, Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted, and Juvenile and Adult Arrests by County for the same periods. Also included is a list of statutory violations, as reported in the Incident Based Reporting System, which may include multiple violations in a single incident.

OFFENSE	JUL - SEP 1992	APR - JUN 1992	% CHANGE	JAN - SEP 1992	JAN - SEP 1991	% CHANGE
MURDER	44	24	+ 83.3	116	120	- 3.3
RAPE	296	255	+ 16.1	792	852	- 7.0
ROBBERY	789	747	+ 5.6	2,376	2,421	- 1.9
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2,190	2,128	+ 2.9	6,407	5,830	+ 9.9
VIOLENT CRIMES	3,319	3,154	+ 5.2	9,691	9,223	+ 5.1
BURGLARY	11,721	10,317	+ 13.6	32,935	33,301	- 1.1
THEFT	18,299	16,770	+ 9.1	51,809	53,523	- 3.2
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	2,137	1,749	+ 22.2	5,913	6,452	- 8.4
PROPERTY CRIMES	32,157	28,836	+ 11.5	90,657	93,276	- 2.8
TOTAL	35,476	31,990	+ 10.9	100,348	102,499	- 2.1

PARENT HANDOUTS

*"Gangs are only as strong
as the community
allows them to be."*

TOPEKA POLICE DEPARTMENT
STREET CRIME ACTION TEAM
S. C. A. T.
913 / 354-9498



SJ
3-10-93
Attachment 2

ALTERNATIVES TO GANG MEMBERSHIP

TYPICAL PRE-GANG BEHAVIOR

Identification or affiliation with gangs usually does not happen overnight. Pre-gang behavior usually begins at the elementary school age.

Children join gangs for a variety of reasons. Although there are no positive ways to predict who will join a gang and who will not, some indications that a youth is headed towards gang membership are:

Poor progress or achievement in school;

Truancy from school;

Lack of hobbies or something to do with leisure time;

Frequent negative contact with police;

Draws gang placas or insignias;

Problems at home;

Puts tattoos on himself;

Residence in a neighborhood where gangs exist;

Friends are gang members or "dressing down" in gang attire;

Wants to dress in traditional gang clothes (i.e. only red, blue or black clothing, certain sports team warm-up jackets, stadium coats, ball caps, bandanas)

While the above items are characteristic of gang involvement, some youth who join or associate with gangs do not dress in the traditional gang clothes and do not exhibit conspicuous behavior that indicates gang involvement. Parents must be aware of the behavior and activities of their children. Continual behavior and communication interaction between parents and youth is imperative as a means to prevent gang membership.

TOPEKA POLICE DEPARTMENT
STREET CRIME ACTION TEAM

S. C. A. T.

913 / 354-9498



ALTERNATIVES TO GANG MEMBERSHIP

EXAMPLES OF GANG ACTIVITIES

Research conducted in the area of youth gang membership has shown that many young people who join gangs do so not for a desire to commit violent acts or engage in illegal activities. Youth join gangs for the companionship and camaraderie that they perceive as readily available and to fulfill their desire to identify with and belong to a group. Inevitably, the gang will become involved in some type of illegal activity and violence. Current youth gangs have become a violent entity.

In light of the recent escalation of youth gang related crime and the increased use of guns and violence by gangs, the positive benefits that are believed to be gained from joining a gang are outweighed by the negative activities in which gangs involve themselves.

Some examples of negative gang activity are:

- The Drive-By Shooting

A drive-by shooting occurs when a group of youths drive by and shoot at an opposing gang, member, a place where they believe the opposing gang congregates or what they believe to be the residence of an opposing gang member. Often innocent bystanders are injured or killed and property is damaged.

- Graffiti

Gang members paint, write or carve the gang's or their own name on a blank space or wall. Often another gang or gang member's name is marked over or crossed out and a retaliation will occur sometimes resulting in death.

- Drug Usage

Joining a gang increases one's exposure to drugs (including alcohol) and the probability of usage. A common method of a young gang member to obtain an inexpensive "high" is sniffing spray paint fumes. This is done by spraying the paint into a bag, sock, or rag and encircling the mouth and nose with it, thus inhaling the fumes. This particular method of intoxication is extremely dangerous and can cause permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, liver, kidneys, spinal cord and blood. There are many other types of drugs in which gang members indulge. Drugs and alcohol are integral parts of gang activity.

The effects of the above examples of gang activity are not limited to the gang members themselves. Other family members and the community itself are affected, both emotionally and financially, by gang activity. Youth do not have to join gangs to find friends or to seek companionship; there are many other organizations that young people can join or identify with. Parents must take the lead in redirecting their children from gangs to any one of the wholesome and supervised activities found in a community that are sponsored through the City or schools.

ALTERNATIVES TO GANG MEMBERSHIP

GANGS AND TATTOOS

One of the rituals often related to gang membership is the imprinting of tattoos on various parts of the body. The desire for overt gang identification often leads youth to place tattoos on their face, neck, arms, hands, chest, stomach and legs. Gang members use tattoos as a means of identifying who they are, what gang they belong to, as a method to glorify their gang, and for recognition from other gang members. The tattoo will usually include the name, initials or symbols of the gang, and the name or moniker of the gang member. Often youth begin to claim gang affiliation by drawing gang insignias on their hands or arms.

Tattoos are generally permanent. Their removal is very costly. Plastic surgeons may charge anywhere from \$300 to \$2000 for a single small tattoo removal. Large tattoos are impractical for the average person to have removed. When a tattoo has been removed it usually is replaced by a scar the size of the tattoo. Tattoos that denote gang membership can mark the gang member for life. They can interfere with attempts at getting a job, and with job advancement once a job is found.

Public reactions to tattoos that advertise past or present gang membership can negatively affect a person for the rest of his life.

TOPEKA POLICE DEPARTMENT
STREET CRIME ACTION TEAM

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913- 354-9498



ALTERNATIVES TO GANG MEMBERSHIP

IMPACT OF GANG MEMBERSHIP ON FAMILY MEMBERS

It is a fact that gang membership can have a very negative impact upon the family and close friends of gang members.

Many other people do not realize the effects that gang membership can have on them and on their family. The mere act of joining a gang increases one's exposure to dangerous drugs, alcohol, weapons, violence, the likelihood of dropping out of school and ending up in jail or prison.

Over recent years youth gang membership has become synonymous with violence. Family and friends of active gang members could experience:

- Realistic fear for their own personal safety and the safety of their family and neighborhood.
- Damage to personal property.
- Trauma, grief, confusion and depression over the injury or loss of a loved one due to gang violence.
- Personal injury or even death.

Additionally, the gang member who becomes involved in illegal activities, who is in and out of jail and who cannot get a job because of his gang affiliation, may become a financial burden to his or her family. Youth of today join gangs at an ever-increasing early age. Once a youth joins a gang and adopts the gang life-style it is difficult to part from it.

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913 - 354-9498**



HOW TO DISCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN FROM JOINING GANGS

DISCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN FROM HANGING AROUND WITH GANG MEMBERS. Meet your children's friends. Find out who they are, what influence they have over your children and how they and your children spend their free time. If your children choose friends that are mostly from gangs, then your children are probably involved or will be become involved in one also.

OCCUPY YOUR CHILDREN'S FREE TIME. Give them responsibilities at home. Get them involved in after-school sports, city recreation, or church activities.

DEVELOP GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILDREN. Good communication is open, frequent, and it takes on a positive tone. It allows your children to come to you to discuss any topic or problem. It does not condemn or put down. Good communication allows you to tell your children that you love them.

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR CHILDREN. Plan activities that the whole family can enjoy. Spend time alone with your children. Expose them to different places outside of your neighborhood - parks, museums, camping trips, etc. Give them attention!

DO NOT BUY OR ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO DRESS IN GANG STYLE CLOTHING. If your children dress in gang style clothing they are expressing an interest in gangs and will attract the attention of gangs.

SET LIMITS FOR YOUR CHILDREN. At an early age children need to know what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO STAY OUT LATE AND SPEND A LOT OF UNSUPERVISED TIME OUT IN THE STREETS.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO WRITE OR PRACTICE WRITING GANG NAMES, SYMBOLS OR ANY OTHER GANG GRAFFITI ON THEIR BOOKS, PAPERS, CLOTHES, BODIES, WALLS OR ANY OTHER PLACE. Teach respect for other's property.

DEVELOP AN ANTI-GANG ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR HOME. Clearly and continually begin to express to your children at an early age your disapproval of gang activity and of any family members joining a gang.

LEARN ABOUT GANG AND DRUG ACTIVITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY. Learn how gang members dress, how they speak, their behavior and their activities. Attend informational meetings, read articles related to gang activity. Become an informed parent!

PARTICIPATE IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILDREN. Take an interest in your children's education. Visit your children's school, meet their teachers, and attend parent/school meetings. Help your children with their school work. Set high standards for your children.

TOPEKA POLICE DEPARTMENT
STREET CRIME ACTION TEAM
S. C. A. T.
913- 354-9498



PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

Dear _____ :

I am _____ of the Topeka Police Department Street Crime Action Team. I have contacted your child, _____ and I am concerned that she/he is involved in gang activity.

Your child meets the listed criteria (below), indicating to us that she/he may be involved:

- _____ Admitted gang involvement
- _____ Was wearing clothing consistent with gang members
- _____ Was using gang language and/or hand signs
- _____ Was associating with known gang members
- _____ Other _____

Often parents don't realize that their children are engaged in gang activity. You may have noticed changes in the behavior of your child.

- _____ Are your child's grades in school dropping?
- _____ Has your child changed friends?
- _____ Is your child refusing to wear a particular color of clothing?
- _____ Have you seen graffiti in school work and/or your child's bedroom?
- _____ Is your child consistently staying out late and/or loitering on the street?

Youth are often not aware of the real dangers of gang involvement. We are concerned about your child. Enclosed is a list of agencies that are willing to assist you and your child.

Please call me if you have any questions. Thank you for your concern.

LIFE SAVING ADVICE FOR YOUTH - ABOUT GANGS

DO NOT ...

- ... Associate with any suspected "Wannabes" or known "Gang" members.
- ... Identify with any community "Gang".
- ... Hang out or gather on street corners or other places "Gangs" are active.
- ... Wear any color or clothing which may be "Gang related". (Keep neutral in your clothing - includes hats, jackets, shoes, shoe laces, slacks, etc.)
- ... Wear designer clothing that exposes the initials of the designer. Some "Gangs" have assigned their own definitions to certain initials; such as: B.K. - Blood Killer / K.C. - Crip Killer.
- ... Use the words "Crab" or "Slob" in public; these are insults to certain "Gangs".
- ... Attend parties or social gatherings of suspected or known "Wannabes" or "Gang" members.
- ... Take part in any graffiti writing of any kind, anywhere, anytime.
- ... Hang around any graffiti marked walls, buildings, etc. -- anywhere, anytime.
- ... Approach unknown people in cars -- who want information.
- ... Flash any "Gang Style Hand Signs" -- anywhere, anytime to anyone.

IF YOU WALK LIKE, TALK LIKE, DRESS LIKE OR HANG OUT WITH GANG TYPES; AT SOME POINT YOU MAY BE TREATED AS IF YOU ARE A "GANG" PERSON BY PARENTS, SCHOOLS, OTHER "GANG" PERSONS, THE POLICE, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE COURTS. YOU, YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS WILL BE IN DANGER (MAYBE DEADLY DANGER) IF YOU BECOME GANG INVOLVED!!!