



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

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From The President

*Martha-Elin Blomquist
Southern Oregon University*

At our March, May and October meetings, the WSC Executive Board has been engaged in discussions and planning to help guide the association into the next millennium. I'd like to use this opportunity to share with the WSC membership the Board's efforts and concerns thus far.

Financial and Administrative Management

With input and guidance from the Executive Board, our new secretary/treasurer, Judith Embree, has begun clarifying, developing, recording, computerizing and streamlining fiscal and administrative procedures to improve the management of the association's records, internal procedures and financial transactions (no small task!). Judith brings considerable organizational and administrative experience to her duties. She is building on the foundation developed by her predecessor and long time WSC secretary/treasurer, Linda Humble. Judith has helped to generate broader and important forward looking discussions concerning the association's revenues and expenditures. The WSC needs to increase and vary its revenue sources in order to support 21st century undertakings such as our electronic journal, and to continue to keep conference rates affordable for our membership.

The board has been considering various strategies: increasing the number of active members who are current on dues and who participate in conferences; and soliciting advertising in the WSC newsletter and conference program from publishers and vendors. Angel Illaraza, book exhibit chair, has promoted interest in the WSC from several publishers and vendors of academic materials. As a result, several publishers' representatives participated in our 1999 conference book exhibit. Angel is exploring other ways that these business interests could contribute to the WSC's financial security. Member suggestions for increasing revenues and financial solidarity for WSC executive operations as well as annual conferences are welcome!

WSC Membership

Membership committee chair, Kim Rossmo and members Jean Scott and Chris Boyd have focused board discussions on promoting growth in the size and diversity of the association's members while still preserving the WSC's cohesive, accessible, inexpensive and friendly characteristics. With backgrounds and experiences as practitioners, the membership committee is especially concerned with making students and those whose work entails direct services within social service and justice agencies, aware of the WSC as an association for networking and exchanging ideas, technology and practices. One strategy to guide 'planned growth' in the association's membership will be to survey the current members to obtain baseline data about members' interests, commitments, goals and professional affiliations. Such information will be useful for selecting conference locations and programs responsive to members' interests and preferences, and for involving members in the society's leadership and administrative tasks in between conferences. Periodic membership surveys thereafter will also enable us to assess our success in attracting and retaining students and professionals from throughout the west. The board is particularly committed to increasing the visibility and participation of students and professionals of color at our conferences and in leadership positions. We welcome member recommendations and referrals to help us accomplish these various membership outreach goals.

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Leadership Opportunities

Assisting the board in diversifying the perspectives and talents of the individuals who will guide the WSC in the new millennium is its nomination committee composed of Charles Tracy, Kim Rossmo and Angel Illaraza. The executive board is composed of officers and counselors who serve varied terms. Board members serve as chairs of various standing committees and we welcome assistance from the membership on all of these committees. Please contact any WSC member if you would like to be involved in the WSC's leadership.

Conference 2000 Planning

Consistent with its commitment to diversifying WSC membership, leadership and contributions to the justice field, the board has established a new award to recognize and honor scholarly work and/or activism concerned with crime and race/ethnicity. The first W.E.B. DuBois Award will be given as part of the award luncheon at the 2000 conference in Hawaii. Inaugurating such an award fits well with the theme of this year's conference, *Diversity and Justice*, as well as its location.

Conference facilities chair Marilyn Brown has been working closely with Kona Surf Resort and WSC program chair Cindy Rienick, to create a conference experience that embraces diversity and justice in word as well as deed. Del Elliott, our conference keynote speaker, is sure to generate inspiring discussions about crime prevention and intervention strategies that work and the populations and communities with whom they are most effective. The board also hopes to see the perspectives, experiences and impact of justice system practices on nonwhites, women and other excluded groups as part of all panels sessions.

WSC's Contributions to the Future of the Field

The most important concern of the board is the place of students in the life of the WSC in the new millennium and in the field of criminology broadly speaking. Today's students, undergraduate and graduates, are tomorrow's researchers, practitioners, theoreticians and professors. As our future, they are crucial to the continuing vitality of the WSC and its unique niche as a regional association for professionals in criminology and criminal justice in the west.

Board member and newsletter editor Miki Vohryzek-Bolden regularly organizes a conference session on some aspect of teaching and mentoring. This year she is organizing a panel on graduate student success. Miki and Pat Jackson, electronic journal editor, encourage manuscript submissions from students and recent graduates. We have an annual student paper competition and awards, and we continue to offer the June Morrison Scholarship Fund to students to help defray conference expenses. WSC offers students a number of venues to enhance their education and professional entree into the field.

Join Us!

The WSC board is busy planning the next conference and preparing for WSC's future. All aspects of the 2000 conference will make it an especially meaningful and memorable gathering. Please plan to come and share your talents at the conference. Make WSC a strong and dynamic association in the next millennium.



California's Recent Experience with Jury Reform Efforts

The right to a jury trial is a fundamental tenet in our legal system, guaranteed by the California and U.S. Constitutions, and based on fairness and public confidence. Low juror turnout is the biggest problem the jury system faces because this can create juries that are less representative of the community and cause the burdens of jury service to be concentrated among relatively few citizens. Exit interviews with jurors reflect increasing public intolerance for a jury system that many perceive as erratic, costly and burdensome. The public is rendering its own judgment by refusing to show up for jury duty when called. In California, felony trials in several counties with large populations are sometimes delayed because of an inability to provide sufficient jurors to meet increasing demands for jury trials (e.g., result of the enactment of 'three strikes' legislation).

Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court Ronald M. George noted, 'All too often, jury duty is greeted not with enthusiasm, but rather with irritation or neglect.' He went on to state that, "Too often the message received is that our system neither respects the contributions of jurors nor values their time. This perception is unfortunate, because no one knows better than those in the judicial branch how important jurors are." There is also a recognition that a strengthened jury system will enhance the judicial system as a whole. This article will provide a brief review of the history of jury reform efforts in California in the 1990s.

California is not the only state experiencing problems with its juries. Increasingly, legal scholars and social science researchers have questioned how juries function during trial and have called for major reforms in the way our legal system utilizes and affects jurors (See for example, S. Adler, *The Jury: Trial and Error in the American Courtroom* (1994)). Many states, including California, Arizona, Texas and New York, have heeded the call for reform. Since 1995, reform of the California jury system has been one of the Judicial Council's top priority.

The history of jury reform efforts goes back a number of years but there was increased attention paid by a number of counties and the state Judicial Council during the 1990s. In

November 1994, the Superior Court of Los Angeles issued a comprehensive report, *The Jury Report - A Blueprint for Change in the Los Angeles County Jury System*, with recommendations to improve the jury system. The Citizens Economy and Efficiency Commission of Los Angeles County issued its own report, *The Management of Juries Within Los Angeles County*, in December 1994.

Many of the recommendations found in these reports have already been implemented in Los Angeles County and were adopted in substantial form by the Blue Ribbon Commission (Blue Ribbon Commission) on Jury System Improvement which issued its final report to the Judicial Council on May 6, 1996. The Blue Ribbon Commission, formed in December 1995, was composed of 26 members and was broadly representative of the diverse groups which regularly work with the courts and the juries - judges, court administrators, legislators, Governor's office, a district attorney, defense counsel, civil practitioners, and public members. Their 186 page report contained findings and recommendations regarding the jury pool, juror treatment and jury management; jury selection and structure of the trial jury; and the jury's deliberative function.

The Blue Ribbon Commission also expressed concern that without continuing oversight, implementation of the recommendations contained in the report would not be fully and promptly accomplished. In October 1998, Chief Justice George appointed a 15-member task force with a number of charges. The Jury System Improvement Task Force (Task Force) is composed of appellate court justices, trial court judges and administrators, attorneys, and public members.

Judicial Council's goals in this area of jury reform are to improve the representativeness of jury panels, reduce some of the burdensome aspects of jury service, and create greater incentives for service. With those goals in mind, the Task Force was charged with, among other things to: oversee implementation of one day-one trial service requirement; evaluate the pilot projects established to improve juror utilization through screening of jurors prior to arrival at the courthouse for oral voir dire; produce a format for a standardized jury summons that is understandable and that can be used, with appropriate modifications, statewide; and work toward having juror commissioners adopt a one-step summons process to replace the two-step process (See Jury System Improvement Task Force brochure, Trial Court Services Division, California Administrative Office of the Courts, 1998).

A 1995 hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee explored questions about the quality, diversity and utilization of jurors. Among other issues, the hearing considered reasons why citizens might avoid jury service, including minimal compensation, crowded jury assembly rooms, and frustration with juror selection practices.

Judicial Council and the Legislature will continue to explore

ways of improving juror utilization. The Task Force will present its recommendations to the Judicial Council within the next two years. Individually, counties will continue their efforts to ensure representativeness of the juror pool and to encourage jury service.



Theses Abstracts

Effects of the Impact of Crime on Victim Awareness Training Program at the California Youth Authority
Kimberly Ann Ledden Pedersen, California State University, Sacramento, Criminal Justice Division (Fall 1996)

Research suggests a link between empathy training and increased empathy in juvenile offenders. The proposed study will test the hypothesis that the Impact of Crime of Victim Awareness Training Program offered at one specific site of a northern California Youth Authority facility will increase the levels of empathy in juvenile offenders who successfully complete the requirements of the program. The hypothesis is based on the theoretical perspective that as children are socialized, levels of empathy vary. Low levels of empathy may lead to aggressive behavior. Aggressive behavior can lead to the involvement in crime arising in an increase in incarceration rates for delinquent youth. Victim awareness training programs may increase levels of empathy and therefore reduce violent crimes committed by these youthful offenders when released.

The research design for the proposed study is an experimental design known as the before-after-with-control. The design measures for empathy in the experimental and control groups by using an empathy scale that is administered as a pre and post test. A non-probability sampling technique will be used to select the control group. If the hypothesized relationship between participation in the Impact of Crime on Victim Awareness Training Program and increased levels of empathy is supported by the data collected, then this study will be valuable to the California Youth Authority in assessing the effectiveness of their training program. In addition, further studies may be replicated in other institutions that offer similar programs. Comparisons may then be drawn to provide additional knowledge to improve the effectiveness of the Impact of Crime on Victim Awareness Training Programs offered nationwide.

Law Enforcement and Media Relations
Jill Adriane Hendrickson, California State University, Sacramento, Criminal Justice Division (Spring 1999)

The relationship between law enforcement and the media is symbiotic in nature. The media need law enforcement to provide crime information that is of interest to the public. Law enforcement need the media to communicate informa-

tion to the public on law enforcement related matters. Past research indicates that there are conflicts within the relationship that is often associated with the exchange of information.

The purpose of the study was to examine the working relationship between local law enforcement and print media contacts within a metropolitan location in the State of California. The study utilized a descriptive research design to describe the relationship as it currently exists. The snowball sampling technique was used to build the sample by making initial contact with representatives from law enforcement and the print media and asking for the names of potential participants. The data were gathered using two questionnaires with several parallel questions for both law enforcement and the print media. The study builds on earlier research conducted in Tennessee.

Conclusions from the study are that greater access to information is associated with the relationship as it currently exists and is not dependent on the reporter's experience and years in the community. The relationship between the law enforcement sources and print media contacts was also much more positive with the agency that, in general, had more information and was more public relations oriented. The study also confirms the dependency between the two groups. The print media contacts need law enforcement for information and law enforcement needs the print media to communicate to the public.

A Review of Youthful Offender Recidivism

Carlos Edmundo Noriega, California State University, Sacramento, Criminal Justice Division (Spring 1999)

This study will review the existing literature on juvenile justice, with a specific focus on youthful offender recidivism. It will focus specifically on recent studies of recidivism due to high recidivism rates of 80 percent. This study will attempt to identify critical variables contributing to success or failure on parole. Due to the ongoing high incidents of recidivism, the juvenile justice system has transitioned into a retributive and incapacitative system due to unrealistic workloads, expectations, and parole programs that do not work. Despite this trend and many years of research by criminologists, there is no uniform definition of what constitutes recidivism, nor is there an accepted methodology to obtain recidivate data. Therefore, this study will provide an overview of historical and recent research on recidivism, as well as an examination of selected parole programs and their outcomes in reducing recidivism. Finally, the study will address what future research is needed, and will suggest a direction of future rehabilitation standards.

This study primarily relied on the literature available within the libraries of California State University, Sacramento, and University of California, Davis, as well as the California State Library. Additionally, the extensive use of computer data-

bases were utilized.

There exists a plethora of theories and a lack of agreement on what constitutes recidivism and how to obtain data on recidivism. These are major obstacles in directing researchers into a true and simplified definition on recidivism. Based on this review, recommendations are made: (1) A clear and consistent definition of recidivism needs to be developed and applied in future research; and (2) Post release strategies and programs need to be based on clear and coherent theory, documented and studied for future application. Programs that have yielded positive results need to be replicated to determine their generalizability.

Program Implementation and Effectiveness:

A Process Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program

Karen Marie Arboit, California State University, Long Beach, Criminal Justice Department (December 1996)

For many years, school-based curricula have been viewed as a viable modality for teaching prevention skills to youths. With the increase in youth gangs, the concept of school-based gang prevention curricula such as Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) is growing in popularity. However, program evaluations that include a process evaluation have been lacking. Process evaluations are essential to a thorough program evaluation: they examine implementation and provide the foundation for future impact evaluations. Program success is largely determined by the degree to which the program is properly implemented. By measuring the relationship between the quality of the classroom implementation and behavioral outcomes, one can account for the variability in effects and more accurately determine program effectiveness. Before widespread dissemination of any program, implementation evaluations should be conducted to improve the quality of the overall program evaluation. This thesis examines the day-to-day implementation of the G.R.E.A.T. program in Torrance, California.

Delinquents' Social Attitude Change During Confinement: A Comparison of the Nokomis Challenge Program with Traditional Residential Placements

Darla Van Mil-Kime, California State University, Long Beach, Criminal Justice Department (May 1999)

The purpose of this study was to examine the effectiveness of an alternative sanction to incarceration in changing social attitudes and behavior of youthful offenders. The study sample was drawn from youths placed in the Nokomis Wilderness Challenge Program and traditional training schools.

The unexpected results of this study indicated that the comparison group had more positive attitudes than Nokomis

youths. The results further revealed that no significant differences existed between the experimental and the comparison groups when comparing attitude change and self-esteem to substance use and recidivism upon return to the community. Even though Nokomis youths did not change their attitudes, a higher number of Nokomis youths attended educational or vocational classes following release.



Hawaiian History in South Kona: Tradition and Transformation

The site of the WSC 27th Annual Meeting along the old Kona Coast of Hawaii's 'Big Island' is famed not only for its rugged beauty, but also for its historical and cultural significance. In keeping with this year's conference theme (ka lau 'oko' a me ke kaulike in Hawaiian), we are planning a special program that explores the roots of Hawaiian traditional law, kapu, and how it was changed forever. As the political base of the Hawaiian kings, the Kona coast was the center for events that shaped these historical processes. This region was also the location for the Place of Refuge at Honaunau, a site where kapu breakers and war refugees could find expiation for their transgressions or shelter from political upheaval.

Our program includes visits to this site and to the battleground where factions representing the old gods and old law were vanquished by a new, Western influenced, Hawaiian order. Within just a few decades of contact with European nations, Hawaii's cultural and political organization had undergone profound changes. Not long after the first ships arrived in Hawaiian harbors in the last decades of the eighteenth century, the economic structures of these islands became oriented to the requirements of the outside world. Once a well integrated, highly organized society based on a sophisticated form of irrigated agricultural production, the islands eventually came under the political and cultural hegemony of the West.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, European and American traders re-provisioned their ships with Hawaiian goods, offering a variety of Western products in return for fresh water and food. Trade with Hawaiian chiefs accelerated when American merchants learned that Hawaiian sandalwood would gain them entry into coveted Chinese markets. Hawaiian chiefs accumulated stores of Western goods, including clothing, tools, furniture, ships and guns. Quick to adopt these new technologies of war, King Kamehameha I united the formerly differentiated system of local chiefdoms in 1810.

In the face of pressures from the West and consequent transformations in Hawaiian society, traditional alliances among Hawaiian chiefs shifted and new networks of power and authority were formed. Traditional religious and political institutions began to be called into question. After the death of Kamehameha I in 1819, doubts about the old political and

sacred order embodied in the kapu system escalated. Factions aligned with King Kamehameha II and regent Kaahumanu abrogated the central tenet of the kapu system. In a battle fought at Lekeleke, the forces representing the old order were vanquished by the new. However, the void left by the rejection of the gods and the kapu system was soon to be filled. In 1820, American missionaries arrived bringing a new god. Within less than a decade, a Western-style set of laws was launched by the Hawaiian monarchy under the influence of these newcomers.

Our special program provides an opportunity for conference participants to learn about Hawaiian history, culture and law. We will visit the place where, in 1819, the forces of the old Hawaiian order were overthrown by the new. This seaside battleground has been memorialized as a testament to the passing of the kapu. Our second exploration of Hawaiian history and culture will take place nearby at Pu'uhonua o Honaunau, the "Place of Refuge" on idyllic Honaunau Bay. Kapu violators, wartime refugees, and defeated warriors who sought refuge at this site were granted absolution by the kahuna pule (priest) and their lives were spared. The presentation will detail the significance of this site in the context of the kapu, the system of law and custom that regulated Hawaiian life. We will also hear about the ancient Hawaiian approach to conflict resolution, ho'oponopono, and the ways it is being used today. Our walking tour of this beautiful seaside village will include its heiau (temple), house sites, great wall and demonstrations of traditional Hawaiian crafts.

Please join us for a rich cultural exchange. Our guide, Ms. Mikahala Roy, will share her extensive knowledge of Hawaiian history and culture as we tour these extraordinary sites. Ms. Roy is an historian and interpreter of Hawaiian culture and a life-long resident of Kona. She is a gifted teacher who will inspire and enlighten us with her passion for Hawaiian history and culture. Participation in this special program will be limited, so please register in advance with your conference registration. The additional registration fee of \$10 for this program includes transportation and tour from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. February 25th.

For conference attendees who want additional information about attractions and accommodations on the Big Island or Hawaii in general, connect to the following WEB sites: <http://www.gohawaii.com> or <http://www.bigisland.org>.



Meeting Announcement

The Fall 1999 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Association for Criminal Justice Research (California) is on October 28-29 at the Bahia in San Diego, California. Themes include court consolidation, treatment in corrections, and education for criminal justice personnel. Contact Dr. Frances Coles, Program Chair, 909/864-4744 or Dale Sechrest at 909-880-5566 (dksechrest@aol.com).



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