



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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FROM THE EDITOR

Aloha! The new year has started and we are fast approaching the start of the 1997 Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference on February 27, 1997 in Waikiki, Hawaii. The program chair, Candace Cross-Drew has put together an exciting and stimulating program which we know will provide us all an opportunity to reflect on and discuss many critical justice issues. The theme is *Crime, Justice and Cultural Diversity: From the Wild West to the Pacific Rim* and the discussions for the conference center around such topics as crime and popular culture; the influences of race, gender and age on sentences and sanctions; adolescent drug use and dealing; gangs; girls in the criminal justice system; community-based justice in Canada; and reforming juvenile after-care. Panelists and presenters are coming from many western states including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Hawaii and Oregon as well as Canada, Australia, and Europe. Candace and other members of the board are thrilled by the diversity of the speakers and the diversity of the audience. You can access the preliminary program at <http://www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/prelim97.html> (many thanks are extended to Pat Jackson at Sonoma State University who created the web site and is continually adding new information and making it more exciting for our membership and other criminal justice folks).

Barbara Bloom and Gerry Reardon, facilities chairs for this conference, have been instrumental in securing an outstanding property for our conference, the Hawaii Prince Hotel. The hotel, a AAA Four Diamond award facility, is situated between Ala Moana Beach Park and Waikiki Beach, has its own golf course, and all of the guest rooms have ocean views. We know you will be pleased with the Hawaii Prince Hotel and find it a great place to converse with your justice colleagues from around the world.

In this edition of *The Western Criminologist* we are again featuring a section called "Around the WSC." The purpose of this section is to provide a forum for sharing information about our members' research and other scholarly and creative activities. I would like to encourage all of you to submit brief statements on what research and other activities

you are participating in and if applicable, information on any monographs, articles and/or books you have currently published. This will enhance our ability to network more effectively with our colleagues and perhaps develop future collaborative efforts.

Martha-Elin Blomquist from Southern Oregon State College suggested a new section to the newsletter, a feature box on individual criminal justice programs across the country. I thought it was such a great idea that I 'coerced and cajoled' Martha-Elin into writing a brief summary of her program for this newsletter. An overview of Southern Oregon State College's criminal justice program is provided here. If you would like to submit a summary of your program for future publications, please send them to me at California State University, Sacramento.

One last reminder of a request I made to the membership in Fall 1993. Many of our criminal justice students may be participating in research grants with their professors and colleagues, writing substantive critiques and/or analyses of critical criminal justice issues, or submitting papers as part of a class requirement. The association very much values the participation of its students and we would again like to encourage you and/or your students to submit papers for publication in *The Western Criminologist*.

Again, a very happy new year to all of you and I hope you are able to come to Hawaii in February and be a part of the 1997 WSC Annual Conference.

AROUND THE WSC

This section of the newsletter will provide brief overviews of the ongoing research efforts of several of our members.

Cheryl Maxson, Research Associate, Social Science Research Institute, University of Southern California

My current research is focused upon factors associated with joining gangs, juvenile violence in Los Angeles, and community responses to community policing. We are in the early stages of data analysis for two studies on resistance to gang membership. With support from the California Wellness

Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we have interviewed more than 400 gang and non-gang adolescents (ages 13-15) in communities with high levels of gang activity in San Diego and Long Beach, California. The interviews covered individual, family, peer, school and neighborhood features that previous research had suggested might distinguish between youth who do and do not join gangs. Our goal is to tease out the risk and protective factors for gang joining and to identify those dimensions which seem most promising for early intervention and prevention of gang membership.

Our study of juvenile violence in Los Angeles (funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) investigates the characteristics and patterns of violence involvement, both victimization and offending, with emphases on ethnic differences, accessibility to firearms, gang features, and drug and alcohol involvement. We are in the midst of gathering these data (even as we speak!), which includes interview with 360 adolescents and their caretakers (drawn from a household sample of the ten neighborhoods with the highest juvenile violence rates in Los Angeles county), and youths who have been treated for violent injuries in the emergency rooms of our two largest county hospitals. Data on the characteristics of homicides involving juveniles are being gathered from police investigation records. The National Institute of Justice provided resources to collect data from an additional group of adult homicides. This project also has a strong policy focus and we are working closely with a Community Advisory Board to develop the programmatic and policy implications from our findings.

In January 1997, I am beginning a NIJ-supported project to help the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) develop a community survey to gather data on residents' perceptions of community policing and on citizens' attitudes, participation and neighborhood features that provide the context for the implementation of community policing. Mail and phone survey procedures will be tested to assess the reliability of these different modes of gathering data. In addition to developing a survey tool that can be used by the LAPD in annual surveys and providing some baseline data to them, we hope to examine the relationship of individual and community factors in residents' reactions to community policing.

Other research activities include an evaluation of the Inglewood Police Department's Youth Firearm Reduction Initiative and work with trauma surgeons on a Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention funded study to develop measures of time of injury from interviews with patients and witnesses. The catalyst for this project was a preliminary study that suggested that seriously-injured individuals were more likely to die if they were brought to the hospital through the EMS system rather than by private transportation. The notion is that a "scoop and run" policy to reduce delays in getting to the trauma center may be better than providing treatment at the scene.

Barbara Bloom, Department of Criminal Justice Administration, Sonoma State University, and Barbara Owen, Department of Criminology, California State University, Fresno.

We are conducting a study of young female offenders incarcerated in the California Youth Authority. This study, funded by the National Institute of Justice, seeks to answer the following question: what is the nature of California's young female offender population?; what are the needs of this population?; and what needs are not being met through existing programming? The pilot study has three basic components: 1) a detailed profile of female wards confined at the Ventura School; 2) an on-site inventory of existing programs at the Ventura School; and 3) a needs assessment which will match profile data with program data to determine gaps between identified needs and current programming. Research methods include face-to-face interviews, site visits, and interviews with program staff and wards. This project will provide baseline information for California Youth Authority administrators and program planners as well as data for use by others involved in studying and managing this population. Additionally, a research protocol will be developed by Bloom and Owen to be used by researchers and administrators in other jurisdictions throughout the United States. We presented our preliminary findings at the American Society of Criminology meeting in Chicago in a paper entitled, *Preliminary Data From Profiling the Needs of California's Female Youthful Offenders*.

FEATURE BOX ON SOUTHERN OREGON STATE COLLEGE

The Criminology Department at Southern Oregon State College (SOSC) was created in 1968, but is very different today. The department has three new criminology faculty members, a new dean, new provost and new college president. The program offers a bachelor of arts (BA) and a bachelor of science (BS) degree in criminology. Full-time faculty include Dr. Vern Hubka, D.Crim.; Dr. Vic Sims, Ph.D.; Dr. Martha-Elin Blomquist, Ph.D.; and Lore Rutz-Burr, J.D., M.A. and SOSC graduate.

The criminology faculty are world travelers and bring diverse perspectives from their travels and training into the classroom. One of our new emphases is to provide individual attention to each criminology major. Another is to offer an open-door policy and 'user friendly' faculty in order to communicate our energy and interest for students.

The department is also proud to offer internships in England for the first time as well as four distance learning Ed-Net courses, and several scholarships. Recently, this criminology department was honored when the Frank J. Van Dyke Endowed Lecture Series in Professional Ethics focused its annual program on "Policing in a Pluralistic Society."

For more information, you may use any or all of the following: phone: 541/552-6308; fax: 541/552-6439; email: sims@wpo.sosc.osshe.edu; write: Department of Criminology, Southern Oregon State College, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520; ask any Southern Oregon State College graduate criminologist; or listen carefully to the wind.

BOOK REVIEW

Child Abuse and the Legal System, Inger J. Sagatun and Leonard P. Edwards. Chicago: Nelson-Hall Inc. 1995.

By Brooke Allison, Part-time instructor, Criminal Justice Division, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)

Six years ago I initiated a course on *Family Violence* in the Criminal Justice Division at CSUS. For five of those six years, because of the absence of an integrated text on the subject, I had to piece together for my students the relevant information on the legal aspects and implications of child abuse from my personal materials and professional experience. The publication of this book in 1995 marked the dawn of a new era because it is the first text devoted to the subject of child abuse and the legal system. Sagatun and Edwards' provide concrete information and data on the serious legal and social ramifications of child abuse.

It is important to note that this text does not stand alone in a comprehensive course on family violence or child abuse. The book should be supplemented with another more comprehensive text on the social, psychological, and behavioral indicators of child abuse and the dynamics, causes and effects of child abuse. While it includes brief sections on the history of child abuse and indicators of abuse, *Child Abuse and the Legal System* is primarily devoted to an examination of the institutional and legal aspects of this issue, including the roles of professionals in investigating, protecting, and prosecuting child abuse. These complicated, essentially bureaucratic-based subjects are covered cogently and thoroughly.

The authors devote an entire section to the very important topic of "children as witnesses," detailing extensive research findings and practice regarding a child's credibility in court, expert witnesses, hearsay evidence rules, and the use of videotaped statements. Sagatun and Edwards have also taken on some of the most controversial and emerging issues related to child abuse including: fetal abuse, the case of drug-exposed infants; recovered memory; and the battered child syndrome and children who fight back. The challenge will be for the authors and the publisher to revisit these emerging issues and others in timely, subsequent editions as laws in the area of child abuse are changing rapidly with every state and legislative session.

I highly recommend *Child Abuse and the Legal System* as a supplementary text to those teaching comprehensive courses on family violence and child abuse, as well as to those covering the topic of child abuse investigation and prosecution in social work and criminal justice courses. I also look forward to subsequent editions, as the authors help students and professionals keep up with ever-changing developments in the field.

TRAVEL ALERT

The WSC membership has been offered assistance in booking travel by Hello World Travel (HWT). Thus far, HWT has negotiated for airfare discounts with Continental, Northwest and United Airlines. To take advantage of this offer, you must travel between February 21 and March 8, 1997, and HWT must book a minimum of ten tickets with the air carrier of your choice. Given the number of WSC members from the western United States who are attending the Hawaii conference, there should be no problem meeting these minimums. Contact Christine at (800) 566-5224 and tell her that you are a member of the WSC and are attending the conference in Hawaii.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* The 1997 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting of the Association for Criminal Justice Research (California) is to be held on April 24 and 25 at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Sacramento, California. Themes are criminal justice planning and accountability; domestic violence; juvenile gangs, violence, and drug research; and funding sources. Contact Robert C. Cushman, Program Chair: 408/277-0103; e-mail bob@cua.co.santa-clara.ca.us) or Dale K. Sechrest, 909/880-5566 (fax 909/880-7070).

UPCOMING ARTICLES

- 1) Student Paper given first place in the June Morrison Student Award.
- 2) *The Purpose(s) of Sanctioning Parental Child Stealing: Deterrence, Just Deserts, or the Control of Gender and Racial 'Deviance'* by Martha Elin-Blomquist, Department of Criminology, Southern Oregon State College and Susan Stockdale, Department of Sociology, University of California at Los Angeles.

See you in Hawaii!

