Greetings from New York City where the baseball season is in full swing and the local weather is magnificent. I am engaged in some work here over the next few months and contemplating another busy academic year. We are gearing up for the annual SSSP meeting scheduled for August 9-11. This newsletter provides information on Law and Society Division organized and co-sponsored sessions along with several essays relevant to division members’ interests. In addition, there are other matters that warrant your attention.

Please join us in NYC for the annual SSSP meeting. The Law and Society Division has organized two interesting sessions and co-sponsored another six sessions. The topics range from perspectives on 9/11 to analyses of criminal justice processes. A detailed listing of these sessions is provided within this newsletter. The date and time will be reported in the forthcoming preliminary program and summarized in the summer issue of the Law and Society Division newsletter.

The Law and Society Division will contribute to the usual joint reception with approximately twenty other divisions. Look for the announced date and time in the forthcoming preliminary program. This reception affords everyone the opportunity to network with established acquaintances and meet new people. You are urged to attend this noteworthy event.

Program participants (with limited exceptions as defined in the preliminary program) must comply with early conference registration. Please consider the purchase of a banquet ticket. This is a good way to network with friends and support the SSSP. Senior faculty can consider contributing funds toward supporting graduate student attendance at this function. Remember that first year members generally receive a free banquet ticket.

The 2007 Lindesmith Paper Award competition has concluded. The committee, consisting of Cary Federman (Chair), Joan Luxenburg, and Shela VanNess, selected Emily Horowitz, Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Francis College. You will find an abstract of her highly interesting paper devoted to civil commitment of convicted sex offenders contained in this newsletter.

Our annual budget contains $200 earmarked for ten SSSP student membership scholarships. Please contact me if you want to grant students one of these memberships. I will help you process the application.

In addition, I would like to work with Ken Kyle in compiling a symposium of essays relevant to the scholarly work of Law and Society Division members. The symposium would be published in the general SSSP newsletter. Please contact me with proposals for potential contributions toward this professional symposium. We will discuss this issue in further detail during the Law and Society Division business meeting held during the upcoming SSSP conference.

Tom Hood and Michelle Koontz have sent notification that I have been elected to serve on the SSSP Committee on Committees for a three year term from 2007-2010. According to the SSSP bylaws, we have a number of appointed positions to fill. These positions include mandated terms on the following committees: Committee on Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication and Teaching, Membership Committee, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee, C. Wright Mills Award Committee, Lee Founders Award Committee, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee, Social Action Award Committee, Accessibility Committee, Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee, Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee, and the Lee Student Support Fund Committee. Contact me should you wish to be considered for nomination to any of these committee assignments.

On another note, the terms of the current chair and vice-chair of this division will expire during the 2008 SSSP meeting. We need to hold an election by Spring 2008 for both positions. Please consider nominating individuals for these positions or perhaps nominating yourself. The work is not overwhelming and the recognition accompanying this position is important for junior faculty needing professional service for retention or tenure. Other senior faculty may want to consider these positions as professional service on the inevitable yearly evaluations. Please contact me with any questions or nominations.

We need your announcements, contributed essays and other materials relevant to the interests of Law and Society Division members. You can send contributions to Jen Girgen or directly to me via e-mail. Deadline for submissions to the Summer 2007 newsletter is June 30. Best wishes for a relaxing summer season.

Lloyd Klein
Division Chair
2007 Annual Meeting – Program Information

**THEMATIC Session:**  Drugs, Crime, and Punishment

**Sponsors:**  
Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division  
Drinking and Drugs Division  
Law and Society Division

**Organizer, Presider & Discussant:**  
Paul D. Steele, Morehead State University

**Papers:**  
“Losing Hope: The Production of Failure in Drug Court,” Mitchell Mackinem, Claflin University and Paul Higgins, University of South Carolina

“Gender and Asian Pacific Islander Youth: Understanding Pathways to Delinquency,” Lisa Pasko, University of Denver

“Fettered Discretion: Legal and Interactional Constraints on Judicial Sanctioning in California’s Proposition 36,” Stacy Lee Burns, Loyola Marymount University and Mark Peyrot, Loyola College in Maryland

“Poverty and the Role of the Criminal Justice System in Eliminating Violence Against Women and Children: The Case of Ghana’s Police Service,” C. Nana Derby, Virginia State University

“Envisioning the Legal Drug Economy: Markets, Consumption, and Regulation,” Adam D. Jacobs, University of Wisconsin


**Session:**  Crime, Justice and Incarceration

**Sponsors:**  
Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division  
Law and Society Division

**Organizer & Presider:**  
Jodie Lawston, California State University, San Marcos

**Papers:**  
“Just Shut Up and Do Your Work: Young Adults’ Employment Experiences During Reentry,” Emily A. NaPier and Elaine M. Wolf, Center for Community Alternatives

“Public Attitudes towards Crime and Reentry in Neighborhood Context: Does Salience Impact Perception?” Andrea Leverentz, University of Massachusetts, Boston

“The Road to Reentry,” Kathryn J. Fox, University of Vermont

“Reentry Rights: Negotiating Correctional Reform in ‘The Terminator’s’ Californiam” Danielle S. Rudes, University of California, Irvine

“Problem Solving Reentry Courts: Judge Work to Transform Master Status,” JoAnn L. Miller, Purdue University

**Session:**  Prisoner Reentry

**Sponsors:**  
Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division  
Law and Society Division

**Organizer, Presider & Discussant:**  
Kris Paap, SUNY Institute of Technology

**Papers:**  
“Public Attitudes towards Crime and Reentry in Neighborhood Context: Does Salience Impact Perception?” Andrea Leverentz, University of Massachusetts, Boston

“The Road to Reentry,” Kathryn J. Fox, University of Vermont

“Reentry Rights: Negotiating Correctional Reform in ‘The Terminator’s’ Californiam” Danielle S. Rudes, University of California, Irvine

“Problem Solving Reentry Courts: Judge Work to Transform Master Status,” JoAnn L. Miller, Purdue University

AN LCD PROJECTOR WILL BE AVAILABLE

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**
Session: Terrorism and Public Policy: The Aftermath of 9/11

Sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division
Law and Society Division

Organizer, Presider & Discussant:
Charles Trent, Yeshiva University

Papers:

“Post-9/11 Agents of Social Control and Popular Novel Depictions,” Bryan Pabin, University of Illinois, Chicago


“One Nation, Under Surveillance: Examining the Diffusion of Surveillance Technology among Local Law Enforcement Agencies,” Kirk Miller, Northern Illinois University

“Peacemaking Criminology: An Ethnographic Study of Muslim Americans, The PATRIOT Act, and the War on Terror,” Tony Gaskew, University of Pittsburgh

“Citizenship and the Promise of Justice in Arizona Schools,” Belinda A. Herrera, Joao Saim and Anne Schneider, Arizona State University

AN LCD PROJECTOR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Session: Violent Offenders, Victims, and Community/Organizational Responses

Sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division
Law and Society Division

Organizer, Presider & Discussant:
Stephen J. Morewitz, Stephen J. Morewitz, Ph.D., & Associates, IL & CA, and California State University, East Bay

Papers:

“Empowering Advocates: Emotion Management Strategies of Staff in a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agency,” Kenneth H. Kolb, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

“From Victims to Patients: Organizational Framing in Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs,” Lara Foley, University of Tulsa

“Pilot Evaluation of an In-Prison Restorative Justice Intervention,” Liliane Cambriaia Windsor, National Development & Research Institutes, Inc. and Marilyn Armour, University of Texas at Austin

“Modern-Day Medea: The Social Identity of Women Who Kill Their Children,” Julie B. Wiest, University of Tennessee

“Complicating the Cycle of Violence: Efforts to Disrupt Patterns by Homeless Women,” Jennifer K. Wesely, University of North Florida and James D. Wright, University of Central Florida

“An Ecological Model of the Challenges to Effective Rural Victim Advocacy,” Michelle Hughes Miller, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Session: Law and Sexuality

Sponsors: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division
Law and Society Division
Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division

Organizer: Lloyd Klein, Grambling State University

Presider: Cary Federman, Montclair State University

Papers:


“Same-Sex Unions and Legislation in the European Union,” Marietta Riska, Abo Akademi University

“Passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act: Discursive Politics and the Reconstitution of Prisoner Rape in a Culture of Control,” Valerie Jenness and Michael A. Smyth, University of California, Irvine

“The Role of HIV Transmission/Exposure Laws in HIV Prevention Efforts,” Joan Luxenburg, University of Central Oklahoma and Thomas E. Guild, Meinders, Oklahoma City University

“The War on Sexual Predators: Legislative Efforts and the Enforcement of Sex Offender Laws,” Lloyd Klein, Grambling State University

“The Changing Facets of Marriage and the Family: A Comparative Analysis within the United States,” Kristen M. Budd, Purdue University

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
**Session:** Sex Offenders and the Legal System

**Sponsors:**
- Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division
- Law and Society Division
- Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division

**Organizer:** Lloyd Klein, Grambling State University

**Presider:** Emily Horowitz, St. Francis College

**Discussant:** Lloyd Klein, Grambling State University

**Papers:**
- “Increasing Media and Legislative Attention to Sex Offenders: Evidence and Implications,” Emily Horowitz, St. Francis College
- “Pedophiles, Pedophilia, and Social Control,” Mark C. Stafford, University of Texas at Austin
- “From the Inside: An Offender’s Perception Regarding Sexual Offender Registration Laws,” Bethannie Jo Jackson, Oklahoma State University

**Session:** Race, Police, and the Law

**Sponsor:** Law and Society Division

**Organizer, Presider & Discussant:**
Suzanne Goodney Lea, Gallaudet University

**Papers:**
- “Race and Place: Lessons from a Decade of Racial Profiling Research,” Nancy A. Wonders, Frederic I. Solop and Meghan McDowell, Northern Arizona University
- “But is it Racial Profiling?: Identifying Evidence of Pretext Stops in Vehicle Stop Data,” Vikas Gumbhir, Gonzaga University

**Session:** History, Sociology and the Law

**Sponsor:** Law and Society Division

**Organizer:** Adam Jacobs, University of Wisconsin

**Papers:**
- “The History and Theory of Youth, Justice, and Liberalism in Canada, 1950-1982,” Val Johnson, St Mary’s University
- “Evolution of Age of Consent Laws: the Legal and Social Constructions of Sexual Consent during the Progressive Era,” Sarah Lynn Babb, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

AN LCD PROJECTOR WILL BE AVAILABLE
This paper, presented in August 2006 at the SSSP meeting, examines the civil commitment laws for sex offenders that have emerged throughout the United States in the past decade. Civil commitment laws allow for post-prison detention for those determined by the state to be at “high-risk” for re-offense. These laws undermine fundamental human rights and civil liberties, because they involve double jeopardy and cruel and unusual punishment for a specific set of crime, but have passed easily in 19 state legislatures since 1994 with a startling lack of public debate. There is little research or data demonstrating civil commitment decreases crime (or increases public safety). Additionally, these programs are expensive, and take resources away from social and mental health services, including post-release supervision and treatment, that have proven effective for promoting sex offender rehabilitation. Numerous bar and civil liberties groups, as well as mental health advocates, oppose the legislation, but these voices are not heard in the political and media-driven speechifying. This paper argues that our culture in the grip of collective hysteria and moral panic about sex offenders, allowing politicians to promote laws that appeal to public fear rather than the context of criminal justice realities. Sex offenders are a reviled group, and it is difficult for any political figure to vote against any law targeting sex offenders without risking serious voter and media backlash. Researchers, journalists, and social theorists must not shy away from critiquing laws targeting sex offenders because politicians and the media will exploit public fears for votes and ratings. This paper specifically discusses the rhetoric used in the debate over pending civil commitment laws in New York State, and highlights the inflammatory tone and content of the remarks made by those in public office (and those running). In March 2007, a coalition of Democrats and Republicans, and the newly elected Democratic governor, voted to enact civil commitment legislation in New York. Not surprisingly, there was no outcry or critique by the media, and the Republicans issued a statement denouncing the 8 Democratic state senators (out of 62) who voted against this problematic legislation as being soft on crime.
The recent mass murder at the Virginia Tech campus, in which 32 individuals were killed and the shooter committed suicide, prompted many public discussions regarding various policies such as gun control, mental health treatment, and school administration. A few days after the shootings, we brought together two classes of sociology and criminology students to discuss their thoughts and concerns surrounding the incident. Specifically, we were interested in our students’ opinions regarding the shootings and subsequent policy responses that they would like to see implemented as a result. Not surprisingly, our student discussion revealed an alarming willingness on the part of students to sacrifice privacy on campus for a perceived heightened sense of (as opposed to actual) security.

Author Christian Parenti describes the extent to which our society has increasingly become a soft cage; one in which surveillance has become routine, embraced by the public, and ultimately commodified. In fact, Parenti (2003) states that “Americans have embraced their loss of privacy with patriotic vigor and pop-culture nonchalance.” Since September 11, 2001, politicians successfully embraced the “everything has changed” mantra in order to expand the powers of law enforcement, often sacrificing civil liberties in the process. Most notably, the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act was passed through congress with little debate and one single dissenting vote. In addition to supporting added security measures, lawmakers, as well as the general public, have shown a disgraceful tolerance for the abuses of detainees held at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. Politicians, along with a complicit media, facilitate what sociologist Barry Glassner, and others, identify as a pervasive culture of fear. Sociologist Frank Ferudi notes that political leaders no longer urge people, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt did, to conquer and abandon fear - instead, they pander to it, and “advise the public to fear everything, including fear itself” (2007). In this context, it is not surprising that when given the opportunity to respond to the campus shootings, students were more than willing to advocate increased surveillance and social control over their own lives.
With the exception of gun control and concerns surrounding student notification in the event of an emergency, our students overwhelmingly suggested changes in policy that would impose unnecessary restrictions on their own freedoms while offering little hope of actually preventing a future campus shooting. Echoing many media outlets, the students were quick to blame the school administration, arguing that the Virginia Tech administration did not warn the students fast enough and failed to immediately lock-down the campus. Some students expressed concern that the school administration should worry less about public relations and more about student safety, suggesting that the Virginia Tech administration did not want to get bad publicity and thus did not lock-down the campus immediately. They said that the school should immediately warn all students electronically if there is any police activity at all on campus, regardless of the nature of the crime.

As for efforts to increase security on campus, the students suggested installing metal detectors at every building entrance and increase the presence of security guards patrolling the hallways at all times. Some students argued in favor of armed guards that appear “threatening” (one student expressed that the security guards on our campus are not “threatening” enough and are just “too friendly”). Some students were troubled by a policy at our institution that allows students to sign in and enter the building if they forget their ID card, arguing that such students should be denied entrance.

Students recognized the infrequency of school shootings and expressed little fear of being victimized on campus by a gunman, yet paradoxically there was overwhelming support for the installation of numerous security cameras with constant monitoring. The students were quite comfortable with the idea that virtually all areas of the campus should be subject to 24/7 video surveillance.

Tossing aside all potential concerns of Big Brother, the willingness to be an object of constant surveillance is simply a part of life in the age of reality television. In fact, Seung-Hui Cho, the Virginia Tech gunman, sent video images of himself brandishing the firearms to a major media outlet on the day of the shooting. That the security cameras at Columbine were of no deterrent value and simply captured images of the school shooting in progress was of no consequence.

In addition to increasing surveillance cameras on campus, the students expressed concern that not enough efforts were made to identify and prohibit dangerous people from gaining entrance to the campus. In favor of profiling the potentially dangerous, the students suggested
that colleges should mandate mental health screenings of students so that the mentally ill can be treated—and banned from campus. One student proposed that the administration have a “watch list” of troubled students seeking mental health services. Presumably, those students would be subject to increased monitoring. Another student suggested that anyone suspected of “stalking” should be immediately expelled.

Finally, one student recommended stricter gun laws, but most felt that gun laws were less important than a school administration that is actively involved and aware of dangerous students. Most students countered that illegal guns are easily obtained and any increase in gun control would be ineffective.1 Several students, echoing the sentiment put forth by the gun lobby, favored less gun control, arguing that if students and faculty were armed, the perpetrator would have been shot and thus incapacitated.1

The challenge that this discussion raises for us is how to help our students understand the importance of civil liberties in a broader sense. We need to work harder to teach our students about the inexorable links between personal freedom, privacy, and democracy. Perhaps, everything has changed. During the civil rights era, when college student activism was at its peak, students aggressively challenged administrative power and control, and successfully fought to remove the college administration acting in loco parentis. In the context of a post-9/11 world, students have little interest in joining collective movements and even welcome an increase in administrative authority and social control.

References


A Basic Guide to Enjoying New York City
Lloyd Klein

Anyone visiting NYC (especially for the first time) is likely to feel overwhelmed given the magnitude of choice and the lack of time to see and do everything. Luckily, the Roosevelt Hotel is not far from many of the principle attractions and is situated near public transportation. This handy little guide will provide some ideas. It is not inclusive for every attraction. You will find guides on the Internet prior to your visit and much information at the hotel. The Concierge Desk at the Roosevelt Hotel offers access to tickets for sightseeing tours, Broadway shows, and information on various attractions.

First, you may want visit the NYC Visitor Information Center on Seventh Avenue and 45th Street (approximately three blocks from the Roosevelt). This tourist center, situated in the lobby of a classic NYC movie theater, contains many brochures and an expert staff ready to answer all your questions. In addition, separate booths offer information on Broadway shows (tip: try the half price ticket booth on Broadway and 45th Street for the best prices on tickets), a postal station (a major post office is also located on 45th Street and Lexington Avenue, just two blocks from the Roosevelt Hotel), access to the Internet, and other helpful services.

There are a number of attractions close to the Roosevelt Hotel. Grand Central Station is just across the street. Enjoy the magnificent architecture of this restored railroad depot. A number of restaurants are located inside the terminal. Michael Jordan’s Steakhouse, along with other pricey restaurants, are located on the second level. The lower level includes many moderate level restaurants serving quality food. This European market setting is a great place to find a quick lunch. You might want to check out Junior’s Restaurant—known for their classic cheesecake. On the main floor and second level of the terminal, you will also find two of the better locations for obtaining newspapers and magazines.

There are a number of relatively inexpensive eating places along Lexington Avenue and 45th Street. Wendy’s, McDonald’s, and other smaller places are situated in this area. These fast food places and numerous other restaurants offering Greek, Chinese, and other cuisines are situated here.

Many of the essential NYC attractions are within walking distance. The United Nations Building is at First Avenue between 42nd and 45th Streets and guided tours are available. In addition, Fifth Avenue offers many well-known businesses (NBA Store, high-end clothing shops, and several Barnes and Noble stores). You will find the Empire State Building (34th Street), New York Public Library (42nd Street), Rockefeller Center (49th Street), St. Patrick’s Cathedral (50th Street), and Trump Tower (56th Street).

Walk about three blocks east of the Roosevelt to Times Square. The theater district is located a block away on Broadway. Times Square offers theme restaurants such as the ESPN Zone, Hard Rock Café, and numerous restaurants. The famous Times Building with the “news zipper” and jumbotron screens is located on 42nd Street. You have seen this building on the New Year’s Eve celebration television telecasts. You will also find the world’s largest “Toys R Us”, Virgin entertainment megastore, and numerous other major businesses. For those of you who are into media production, ABC television is located in this area and MTV is just a block away.

Early risers might want to head over to the Rockefeller Center area. The Today Show features nationwide exposure for the live crowd of assembled tourists and NYC residents. There is usually a mini-concert (the Toyota Concert series) given by a well-known entertainer or group on most Friday mornings from 8:45am-9am. The NBC tour is also available if you have the time.

Visitors wishing to head downtown can catch the subway. “Ground Zero” is located around Chambers Street (within the City Hall area). Wall Street and the Stock Exchanges are not far from this area. Additionally, you can catch the subway to the Bowling Green area. The Circle Line boat cruise is available here along with the free Staten Island ferry providing great views of the downtown skyline and the Statue of Liberty. Another boat requiring a slight fee (approximately $10) will take
you to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Anyone seeking another weekend attraction can take a free ferry to Governor’s Island. This island was once a military installation but now consists of a public park with free guided tours.

The uptown area around 59th Street offers the impressive Time Warner Building with interesting shops and restaurants (bring lots of money if you partake over here). Across the street, Central Park is a great place to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. There is a free Shakespeare in the Park production during many summer evenings and other concerts in the Rumsey Playfield (supported by a donation from Diana Ross). In addition, Central Park West and 72nd Street offers the famous Dakota apartment building where John Lennon was murdered and the Strawberry Fields memorial is situated just across the street within the park.

There are so many other areas of the city worth seeing. I will point out just a few of the other highlights. In regard to tours, the Gray Line offers a guided tour throughout Manhattan. You can get off the bus at a specific attraction and then catch another bus taking tourists to other places. There is a somewhat pricey Sopranos Tour ($40) leaving from midtown Manhattan that will take you to New Jersey and the places from the HBO series. These tours depart on Saturdays and Sunday and reservations are necessary. Advance reservations are usually necessary. Check out this tour on the Internet prior to arrival in NYC.

Finally, here are a few last highlights. Shoppers should check out Macy’s Department Store on 34th Street and 7th Avenue. The store does offer tourist discounts. New York City is also famous for food. Definitely try the NYC pizza, bagels, cheese cake (especially at Junior’s), and delicatessen (especially at the Stage and Carnegie Delis just across the street from the NY Sheraton on 7th Avenue and 54th Street). Enjoy the SSSP meeting and the ambiance provided by New York City.

Announcements

Robert Perrucci has posted a reopened call for contributions to the Justice 21 project. Interested individuals should submit a one-page proposal for consideration of the committee. Please see the Fall 2006 edition of the Law and Society Division newsletter or the Fall 2006 general SSSP newsletter for more details.

Several session chairs have contacted me with inquiries regarding availability of papers scheduled for presentation at this year’s Law and Society sessions. Please try to email a copy or draft of your paper to the session organizer no later that July 15. Feel free to send me a file copy of your paper at lklein@kbcc.cuny.edu if you are unsure of how to contact the session chair. I will ensure that the appropriate session chair receives your paper. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Division Chairs have been requested to forward contemplated resolutions to the SSSP for consideration by a meeting of Division Chairs and approval at the general SSSP business meeting. Please send me text or ideas for possible resolutions. See the Fall 2006 general SSSP newsletter for examples of resolutions approved at the 2006 meeting.

Please send submissions for future newsletters to Lloyd Klein or Jen Girgen. Contact information is provided at the top of page 1. The deadline for submissions for the upcoming newsletter is June 30.