

MISCELLANY

News from the WA Branch

The WA Branch has been active in holding discussions with the Education Department with a view to reviewing the scope and content of the teaching on law and crime at junior high school level. After much consultation, the Department has agreed to the review.

In conjunction with the Retail Traders' Association, the Branch recently conducted a poster competition for school children on the theme of discouraging shop lifting. Some excellent posters were produced and prizes awarded to a number of students from years 8 and 9.

Recently a seminar for members was held on the topic of "Restraining Orders: A Cry for Help." Branch president, Mr. Ken Moore, SM, presented the topic to the meeting.

News from the SA Branch

A Conference on "Crime Prevention: A National Overview" organized by the Australian Institute of Criminology and sponsored by the Attorney-General's Department of South Australia was held in Adelaide between 4th and 6th June. Some members of the Branch had the opportunity to attend this very successful Conference.

An All-day Seminar on Alcohol-related Crimes of Violence, co-sponsored by this Branch and the "violence prevention" and "alcohol, drugs and crime" working groups of the Coalition Against Crime, is to be held in Adelaide on Friday, 5th July 1991. The Keynote Address is to be given by Ms Judith Dixon, Commissioner of the Victorian Community Council Against Violence. Topics for discussion include the prevention of alcohol-related crimes of violence in the home (including domestic violence and child abuse) through education of children, parents and field-workers and the prevention of such crimes in public places by such means as server intervention programmes, liquor licensing guidelines, codes of conduct for, and training and licensing of, 'bouncers' and 'bartenders'.

The Branch is playing an active part in the implementation of the "South Australian Crime Prevention Strategy" and is involved in the work of the "Coalition Against Crime".

The Coalition Against Crime is a broad-based crime prevention committee in South Australia which is a principal advisory body co-ordinating the implementation of "Together Against Crime - The South Australian Crime Prevention Strategy".

Australian Institute of Criminology BOOK REVIEW

The Australian Institute of Criminology has many facets to its work. One of the most significant is the organisation and presentation of symposia to explore issues of community concern in its specialised field. It publishes many of the papers presented at its meetings. Just to hand is its publication of the proceedings of a "Youth Crime Prevention Policy Forum", in which the Youth Bureau of the Department of Employment, Education and Training joined as sponsor. The Forum was held in Melbourne late last year. The publication contains more than 250 pages of information,

discussion and policy recommendations.

Commencing with an overview of the current programmes in each State and Territory, the papers proceed to examine the case for community-based strategies such as the French "Bonnemaison model" and the need for integration and co-operation between agencies working in the field of youth crime prevention.

A number of particular Australian projects are described and examined, as is the difficult task of establishing a suitable basis for evaluating specific programmes. Other articles deal with such divergent topics as the respective roles of sport and other physical activity and of children's courts in crime prevention.

A fund of useful information, together with many challenging concepts for consideration, the publication is available at the bargain price of \$20.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The Restoration Model of Criminal Justice

I read with interest the article by David Indermaur published in Volume 12 No. 1 (March 1991) of the Journal.

My interest was kindled because of the similarity of the ideas expressed therein and those enunciated by the Mennonites in Canada since the early 1970s. Since there is no mention in the article or the bibliography of their very extensive work in victim-offender reconciliation I can only assume that Mr. Indermaur is unaware of it. Hence my bringing it to the attention of your readers.

I enclose a copy of a book review of **Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice**. This is written by Howard Zehr who was one of those who propounded the Restoration Model 20 years ago. I believe it was he who first described these paradigms of criminal justice which he called 'Retributive' and 'Restorative'. A copy of these is also enclosed.

Whereas Mr. Indermaur has reached his views through psychology, the Mennonites reached the same views through the Christian scriptures, particularly motivated by St. Paul who said '... to us is given the ministry of reconciliation'. (2 Cor 5. 19.)

Mr. Indermaur does not develop the idea of the Restoration Model but rather uses it as an occasion to advocate victims' rights. This is a side-track to the Copernican revolution he advocates.

It should go without saying that we need a criminal justice system which satisfies the needs of the offender, the victim and society. Anything short of that is not justice. From the offenders' point of view victims need to be satisfied otherwise bitterness turns to vengeance and to cries for longer, though ineffective, sentences. Obviously there is still a long way to go.

Yours sincerely,

GEOFF GLANVILLE

Public Relations Officer, Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of South Australia Incorporated.

(Constraints of space prohibit the reproduction of the enclosures referred to by Mr. Glanville - Editor.)