

# T Criminal Justice News

© 2005 Northwestern State University

#### Volume I, Issue 3

#### November, 2005

#### Inside this issue:

The Police Beat I	Cops Are Differe 10 Reasons Why Reasons 6 through 10
	Associate Professor Jo
The Courthouse <b>2</b>	<ol> <li>Even the stress have a different jobs, called</li> </ol>
Counter-Point 3	stress means steady stressor an immediate ' to a high stress
The Forensic Files <b>4</b>	officers go fro high activity "burst." The r for most of the
The Grab Bag 5	consists of a that can be
G.S.R.C.P.I. News 7	adapted to befo control." This i officer, because happen in see Story" for a g
	stress). The law reactive, not not usually of most situation most people w have to react, It is difficult t
	stress. 7. The need to b control. Law have a job t
Visit us on the web Http://www.nsula.edu/ criminaljustice	restraint und circumstances. are extremely e calm. They are ous; they hav
	ous; they hav They are taug emotional. Th with the work tional constrai tremendous m

# The Police Beat ops Are Different:

#### sociate Professor loe Morris

- 8. Even the stress is different. Officers have a different kind of stress in their jobs, called "burst stress." Burst stress means there is not always a steady stressor, but at times, there is an immediate "burst" from low stress to a high stress state. In other words, officers go from complete calm, to high activity and pressure in one "burst." The normal stress situation for most of the rest of the work force consists of a stress building process that can be either reduced or adapted to before it gets "out of control." This is not the case for the officer, because "out of control" can happen in seconds (see "A Cop's Story" for a good example of burst stress). The law enforcement job is reactive, not proactive. Officers can not usually control entrance into 9. most situations they face, unlike most people who get warnings. They have to react, not prevent problems. It is difficult to defend against burst stress.
  - The need to be in constant emotional control. Law enforcement officers have a job that requires extreme restraint under highly emotional circumstances. They are told when they are extremely ex-cited, they have to act calm. They are told when they are nerv ous; they have to be in charge. They are taught to be stoic when emotional. They are to interact with the world in a role. The emotional constraint of the role takes tremendous mental energy, much more energy than expressing true emotions. When the energy drain is very

strong, it may make the officer more prone to exhaustion outside of work, such as not wanting to participate in social or family life. This energy drain can also create a sense of job and social burnout.

No gray areas. The law enforcement officer works in a fact-based world with everything compared to written law. Right and wrong is determined by a standard. They have a set way of going about gathering the proper evidence for the law and can justify their actions because they represent the "good and right side." In the real world, clear rights and wrongs are not as likely to occur. The news-

papers are an opinion-based system, the court system is an opinion-based system and, needless to say, relationship decisions and proper parenting techniques are opinion-based systems. Adjusting from right and wrong, black-and-white systems, to opinion-based systems are very difficult and require a complete change in mental attitude.

The "at work" world of the officer is very negative. He sees the bad part of society - the criminal, the abuser of the rules. This may skew the officer's opinions on the character of the average human being. It creates а cynicism, a critical view of the world. It is hard to adjust to trusting a fellow human being when so much of the day is spent with people who are not trust worthy. It is hard to believe in positive intentions of people, when the day is spent with people who are intending to hurt each other. This lack of trust can show up in the way the officer deals with people on a personal level, with neighbors, with a spouse. It can even show up in the way children are raised, as police p a r e n t s may tend to be stricter in discipline and

#### Page 2

#### Cops are different, continued

more careful with privilege. 10. Even the children are affected. The children of law enforcement officers have a more difficult adjustment. As a young child, the police officer parent is seen as holding a prestigious, desirable position. The young child and his friends look up to the police officer as a minor celebrity, a person of great respect. As a teenager, their parent is part of the authority of society. Since teens rebel against authority anyway, this can cause a double

rebellion against the parent both in their role as caretaker and as a symbol of the authority of society. Frequently, the officer's child is either overly compliant be cause of the rules imposed, thus causing depressive problems or personality restriction, or the teen becomes overly rebel- lious of the rule-oriented parent - the best child or the worst.

As you can see, there is more to being a police officer than the training received in

an academy or on the job. The work has many effects that need to be overcome so as not to affect their personal and family life.



Images courtesy of: http://www.kestan.com/ travel/dc/dup\_cir/imf\_demo/

This website is designed to help you understand and overcome the effects of these other parts of the job. It is important for an officer to realize that sometimes that shield on your chest or in your pocket can be "A Heavy Badge!"

Reprinted from URL

# THE COURTHOUSE

### Fireworks or Fizzle: The Search for Justice?

#### Assistant Professor, Shirley Snyder

Nine individuals on the highest court in the land are given authority and power to interpret the meaning of the U.S. Constitution. Those decisions affect the rights and liberties of every person in the United States. Because we are a diverse people, our desire is to see diversity on the bench. What that looks like to each of us depends on our definition of diversity and perhaps, that too, is different for each of us. The Justices have a fundamental obligation to serve and that service provides results that impact us individually and collectively for decades to come. Because these freedoms and liberties are important and fundamental, it is imperative that the process to choose persons to fill those justice positions be accomplished with measured deliberation.

Harriet Myers, as a potential justice for the U.S. Supreme Court, is now only a postscript in future history books. The dust had not settled from her withdrawal when President Bush nominated his second choice for Associate Justice to fill the vacancy made by the imminent retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., a judge on the United



States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (Taley and Hotakainen) (Davis),

seemed to assuage the fears of conservatives and to provide a paper trail for all who want to investigate the interpretive leanings of the candidate regarding the United States Constitution.

Judge Alito's qualifications seem impressive: 55 years old, 15 years on the bench as a federal appellate judge, three years as a U.S. attorney, two years as deputy assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, and degrees from Princeton University and Yale Law School. (Taley and Hotakainen) (Davis) Alito, with extensive federal appellate court experience, has made decisions in numerous cases during his tenure as judge. Those published opinions provide a window into which our representatives will peer to evaluate this judge's interpretations of the Constitution, his legal and moral philosophies, and where he fits in the continuum from left to right in his political views.

What can we expect in the actual confirmation process? The procedure for choosing a Supreme Court justice formally begins when the President nominates a candidate to fill a vacant position on the high Court. The candidate's background and experience have already been investigated to make sure the nominee meets minimum qualifications, and has no huge liabilities that could prevent his confirmation. At that point, the selection process moves to the Senate. (Neubauer 176) The Senate Judiciary Committee questions the nominee during public hearings regarding his background and experience. Senators demand that the candidate explain his legal principles and defend his judicial decisions and interpretations. (Neubauer 176) At times, some of the senators forget their obligation to seek the truth, and instead, ask questions that are transparent, self-serving, and frankly unforgivable. Ultimately, the full Senate has the opportunity to vote for or against the confirmation of the candidate. (Neubauer 176) Upon confirmation, Supreme Court justices, like other judges appointed under the authority of the U.S. Constitution, Article III, serve in that confirmed position for life. (Neubauer 64)

The President on this second time around has chosen a candidate who has indicated by some of his prior legal writings and professional decisions that he interprets the Constitution in a manner that does promote conservative values. Those in power who believe the best direction for the Court is to move it further to the conservative right desire a Justice who will interpret the Constitution in a manner which will further their agenda. Conservative senators, who do not champion the goals of the extreme right faction but still espouse conserva-

#### Volume I, Issue 3

#### **Fireworks or Fizzle, continued**

tive values, will also seek to bolster the nomination by asking questions that display the nominee's conservative strengths for the public and the Senate.

Judge Alito's confirmation, replacing Justice O'Connor who was often the deciding vote on important issues "...before the court, including reproductive rights, church-state separation, and the balance of federal and state power" is troubling to democrats and liberal groups. (Davis) Some of Alito's judicial opinions place him in a position to be questioned seriously by those who are less conservative, as to his ability to be an impartial judge of the law when interpreting what and who the U.S. Constitution actually does or does not protect. Those who fear a move further to the right of the current conservatism in the Court, will attack Alito for any legal opinions he has made which point to conservative leanings in that direction.

What do we know about Judge Alito's beliefs and practices at this point? Some say that Alito is a fair and objective judge and will make decisions on the facts of each case and the law that pertains to it. Michael Stein, a law professor at the College of William and Mary and Judge Alito's first law clerk, was quoted as saying that the judge "doesn't have any preset ideological position or an instrumental desire to come out with a result in a certain way. He's really extraordinarily fair-minded." (Davis)

Judge Alito in his acceptance speech, spoke to his belief in the duty of federal judges, saying, "Federal judges have the duty to interpret the Constitution and the laws faithfully and fairly, to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans, and to do these things with care and with restraint, always keeping in mind the limited role that the courts play in our constitutional system". (Davis)

Others say that Alito will drive the conservative nature of the current Supreme Court further to the right, shifting the balance toward government power over the value of individual rights and freedoms. (Davis) The president of the Alliance for Justice, Nan Aron, remarked, "If confirmed to the pivotal O'Connor seat, Judge Alito would fundamentally change the balance of the Supreme Court, tipping it in a direction that could jeopardize our most cherished rights and freedoms." (Davis)

Massachusetts' senator John Kerry, said, "Every American should be deeply concerned that the far right wing, which prevented Harriet Miers from even receiving a Senate hearing, is celebrating Judge Alito's nomination and urging the Senate to rubber-stamp the swing vote on our rights and liberties." (Taley and Hotakainen) Judge Alito can be confirmed by a majority of votes in the Senate. Republicans number in the majority, 55, to 45 Democrats and can

[1].

[2].

F31.



President Bush introduces Judge Samuel Alito as his Supreme Court nominee at the White House. (Joe Raedle -- Getty Images)

unite to confirm this nominee unless Democrats move to block a vote. (Davis) Unless there is a filibuster or some other unforeseen surprise, at the end of the confirmation hearings, this candidate will be confirmed by a vote of the Senate. Bibliography

Talev, Margaret and Rob Hotakainen. "Battle Coming Over Court Pick; Con servative leaders are thrilled by the nomi nation of Samuel Alito Jr. to the Supreme Court, and liberal activists are aghast. It's a recipe for a showdown when the Senate Judiciary Committee begins hearings." <u>Star Tribune.</u> Minneapolis, MN. (Metro Edition) I Nov. 2005: IA. (The Los Ange les Times, New York Times, Washington Post and Associated Press contributed to this report).

Neubauer, David. W. <u>America's Courts</u> and the Criminal Justice System, 8<sup>TH</sup> ed., Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2005: 64, 176.

Davis, Julie Hirschfeld. "Bush Nominates Alito; Abortion Rights at Center Stage in Confirmation". <u>The Baltimore Sun</u>. (Final Edition.) I Nov. 2005: IA. (Sun reporter Gwyneth K. Shaw contributed to this article.)

# <u>COUNTER-POINT</u>

# Meth Labs in Louisiana: The Recent Challenge to Law Enforcement

#### Associate Professor Siddig Fageir

Illegal drug production, distribution, and use remains a challenge to law enforcement agencies in Louisiana. In 2004, there were 506 drug arrests in Louisiana (Louisiana 2005,2005). One particular drug problem that is of tremendous concern among law enforcement agencies in Louisiana is the manufacture of methamphetamine. In 2004, law enforcement agencies seized 74 Methamphetamine laboratories in Louisiana.



Methamphetamine is a derivative of Amphetamine that was widely

and legally used in the U.S. from the late 1930s through 1960s. The recent widespread local production and use of Methamphetamine is a reaction to the limited availability of the drug due to the restrictions imposed on its production and distribution in the 1970s (Ray et al, 2004). One reason for the growth of the clandestine methamphetamine labs in Louisiana is the rural nature of Northern Louisiana that provides a suitable environment for the development of these laboratories. There is a large quantity of horses, livestock, and plenty of anhydrous ammonia and iodine crystals that are commonly used in the handling of farm animals, and are precursor chemicals in the ephedrine process of methamphetamine manufacturing (Louisiana 2005, 2005).

The concern of the law enforcement agencies in Louisiana is not only the abuse of the methamphetamine drug, but also the connection between methamphetamine distribution and violent crimes. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Louisiana state agencies have noted a direct relationship between methamphetamine distribution and violent crimes such as domestic violence, child

#### Page 3

#### Page 4

#### Meth Labs in Louisiana Continued

abuse, aggravated assault, and murder (Louisiana 2005, 2005). Moreover, in recent years, law enforcement agencies have noted an increase in theft of anhydrous ammonia from business establishments. One more problem that is associated with the increase in clandestine methamphetamine laboratories is environmental damage. The environmental damage due to methamphetamine manufacturing is estimated to be 5 to 7 lbs. of toxic waster per pound of methamphetamine (Louisiana 2005, 2005). Despite recent law enforcement efforts to control the methamphetamine manufacturing in the state, the illegal clandestine methamphetamine laboratories will continue to operate for some time to come.

#### References

Ray, O., & Ksir, C. (2004). Drug, Society, and Human Behavior. 10th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, (2005). Louisiana 2005. Retrieved Nov. 09, 2005, from DEA Web site: www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/ louisiana.html

Year	Meth Lab Seizures
2002	132
2003	89
2004	74

Source: Louisiana 2005

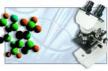
# THE FORENSIC FILES

# Courts Should Make Experts Shave with Occam's Razor!

#### Assistant Professor David Hough

I have no idea how the "new" expert witnesses have fared since the Daubert v. Merrill Dow decision (1993), nor how many states still follow the "general acceptance" test (Frye v. United States, 1923). Although my boss will probably want me to conduct some research on this question. However, I do have a question in mind that arises periodically; What ever happened to those self-proposed forensic experts that either lied on the stand during criminal trials regarding their purported examinations of physical evidence, which later turned out to be perjury or false testimony regarding such results or their fabricated expertise? What happens to the cases that were incorrectly evaluated, or the experts just plain lied on the witness stand? Where are the days when a person raises his hand to be sworn in court, and there is no visible brand on his palm, but takes the oath and lies to the court?

The requirements to "be" an expert witness should be scrutinized before such a person takes the witness stand. Proposed experts should be vetted by the court, not opposing counsel. I don't intend for the court to have a long list of expert witnesses, but in



addition to a "property master,"

maybe we should have a "witness master." This position would be advantageous to the process of justice. The threat or deterrence of a "perjury" charge is almost nonexistent, unless it involves a celebrity like "Martha," or a former police detective from Los Angeles. My personal opinion is based upon the "weight" that the jurors place upon "expert" witthe ness(Saferstein, 1988). Jurors should also be informed as to the meaning of "Occam's Razor." This principle is attributed to that 14<sup>th</sup> century English logician and Franciscan friar, William of Ockham. It basically posits: "One should make no more assumptions than needed." or simply put, "Given two equally predictive theories, choose the simpler." Honestly, I am exasperated at the constant reporting of experts, and others that go into court, take the oath to tell the truth under penalty of perjury, and either lie or stretch the truth to the point where no one cares if the testimony unfairly sways the jury. It took the U.S. Supreme Court seventy (70) years to come up with a new rule for scientific evidence admissibility that only applies to the federal judiciary, unless the states happen to adopt it. Justice moves slowly, but how slow would it be if you happen to be

wrongly convicted and incarcerated in a "true state of nature?"

I write this article due to a recent discovery of a coroner's office that failed to process autopsies, where the death certificates have gone absent for too long. Also, I note that a parish grand jury was convened to investigate this situation with no indictment of any ham sandwiches. Ho Hum. Lady Justice just yawned obliviously. We as a society deserve a more active judiciary, one where "truth and science" takes precedence, and when a person swears to tell the truth, such testimony is examined with earnest intentions. It is a far better thing to let 100 guilty defendants go free, than to incarcerate I innocent.

Bibliography

Saferstein, <u>Richard, Forensic Science Handbook,</u> <u>Vol. II,</u> © 1988, Prentice Hall Publishing Co., Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Wikipedia.org/wiki/Occam's\_Razor

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the **NSU Criminal Justice News** please send an email with your name, address, and phone number to: <u>crim just@nsula.edu</u> or visit the Criminal J u s t i c e w e b s i t e a t http://www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice.

# <u>THE GRAB BAG</u>

# Is "Old Age" a Problem with the United States Constitution?

#### **Associate Professor Joe Morris**

How can the United States Constitution, written over two hundred years ago, address problems that did not exist when the Constitution was drafted? How has the Constitution and its accompanying amendments evolved into a complex legal system that protects the rights guaranteed all United States Citizens?

The Bill of Rights was written in an attempt to provide safeguards for the rights of citizens in all facets of life as known at that time to the framers of the United States Constitution. Basically, the major issue is to find and define the thin line which separates the government's mandate to enforce the law and the private citizens' right "... to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures ... "I The law has developed over most if its long history in response to some form of physical action by officials invading the life space of people whose activities were of official interest.

The Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and balances the freedoms guaranteed the citizens with the common good of the nation. When the court's work is scrutinized in public, that is, when the court's authority is being either affirmed or criticized, the historical analysis acquires importance. The Constitution itself is a product of the nation's past, and the Supreme Court, as the accepted interpreter of the Constitution, has become an interpreter of American political history.<sup>2</sup>

Supreme Court Justices are bound by law in non-constitutional issues whereas there are very few rules to govern their actions in Constitutional Law. The limits are set by the political and judicial values of the Justices and the nature of the cases that come before them.<sup>3</sup>



Justice Wendell Jackson in a written legal opinion said that neither the Constitution nor any other legal source of-

fered a guide to the judges; it was a matter he said, "...on which we can find no law but our own prepossession."<sup>4</sup>

Judicial opinions are the most permanent and public manifestations of the work of the courts, and they are the chief demonstration that reasoning is the essential element of the judicial process<sup>5</sup> Justice Jackson wrote that "... in which the reasons we give for our decisions are more important to the development of the law than the decision itself."6 Two years prior to this, Justice Jackson wrote "... the reasons of decisions stand around like a loaded weapon waiting to be fired when the Constitutional occasion arises."7 Justice Holmes warned that "Every question of construction is unique, and an argument that would prevail in one case may be inadequate in another."8 This is the awkward position in which the lustices find themselves. They are not only required to render a decision on a particular case but they also must delineate the reasoning that enabled them to reach that conclusion. As previously stated, the decision is important but equally or perhaps more is the reasoning that allowed the Justices to reach that decision.

History is used to decide cases in Constitutional law. Justice Wendell Holmes declared over eighty five years ago that in doubtful cases which present a conflict between two social desires and for which precedent offers no solution, judges are called on to exercise the sovereign prerogative of choice. The Supreme Court Justices must find the proper balance to protect the rights of all concerned. The court must also keep pace with the times while showing homage for the Constitution and respect for tradition.

When the Justices pore over the documents, they must seek out the meaning of documents and not the intention of the people writing the original document. In its most basic form, it boils down to the "letter of the law" versus the "spirit of the law." The one most crucial factor that gives rise to problems of intent and change is that the Constitution is old and does not specifically address issues confronting the court. This age also raises serious questions about changes in the meaning of historical

intent as they are applied to contemporary problems.<sup>9</sup> "Old age" is not a problem with the



United States Constitution. As long as the Justices are learned men and women of integrity, the Supreme Court of the United States will be able to effectively deal with the Constitution and the Justices will continue to shape the law of the land, maintaining a delicate balance between the rights of the alleged law violators and the mandate of the police to enforce the law.

#### Bibliography

<sup>1</sup>John C. Klotter and Jacqueline R. Kanovitz, <u>Constitutional Law</u> (Cincinatti, Ohio: Anderson Publishing Company, 1986) 847

<sup>2</sup>Charles A. Miller, <u>The Supreme Court and Use of</u> <u>History</u> (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1969) 6.

<sup>3</sup>Charles A. Miller, <u>The Supreme Court and Use of</u> <u>History</u> (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1969) 8.

<sup>4</sup>Justice Jackson, "McCollum v. Board of Education, 333 U.S. 103, 238," (1940: Washington, D.C.).

<sup>5</sup>Charles A. Miller, <u>The Supreme Court and Use of</u> <u>History</u> (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1969) 11.

<sup>6</sup> Justice Jackson, "Craig v. Harvey, 331 U.S. 367.394," (1947: Washington, D.C.).

<sup>7</sup>Justice Jackson, "Korematsu v. U.S., 323 U.S. 214, 246," (1945: Washington, D.C.).

<sup>8</sup> Justice Holmes, "U.S. v. Jim Fioy Moy, 241, U.S. 394, 402," (19167: Washington, D.C.).

#### Page 6

#### **NSU Offers Reduced Tuition for Full-Time Law Enforcement Officers**

#### Assistant Professor Shirley Snyder

Northwestern State University through the School of Social Sciences, Criminal Justice Program, offers two degree options in its Criminal Justice Program, a two-year Associate of Arts degree and a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree, with both programs designed to provide the academic preparation necessary for careers in the criminal justice field.

The Associates Degree Program offers basic courses in policing, criminal court processes, and corrections, as well as a number of support and general education courses. It is designed so that students who finish the two-year program can easily enroll in the four-year program if they so choose.

The Bachelors Degree Program provides a full complement of criminal justice courses with additional courses in sociology, psychology, and political science. To make the program more accessible to students around the area, the Criminal Justice Program offers distance-learning courses where students may take classes from campuses in Alexandria, Jonesville, Leesville, and Winnfield, Louisiana.

The program also provides an additional advantage for students who desire alternatives to traditional degree options, by providing an opportunity for the completion of a two-year Associate of Arts Degree or a four-year Bachelors of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice through the successful completion of all course requirements via the Internet.

Northwestern also, through its Criminal Justice Program, offers fee exemptions for a portion of tuition for officers who are employed full-time in a criminal justice agency. As an additional benefit and to encourage out-of-state students desiring to pursue this particular field of study, NSU also offers out-of -state fee exemptions for out-of-state students who are enrolled via the Internet and who are not attending oncampus courses.

The website for the Criminal Justice Program provides pertinent information and links regarding the program, current degree and course information, answers to frequently asked questions, scholarship opportunities and applications, faculty, and contact information. Students interested in more information on Northwestern's Criminal Justice Program and/or information on fee exemption may be view the site at www.nsula.edu/criminaljustice and or contact the Criminal Justice Program at 318-357-6967 for more information.

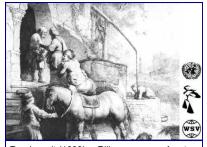
#### The Forgotten Criminal Justice Purpose

#### Associate Professor Bill Shaw

For most entering the Criminal Justice field there is a sense of altruism, a feeling of benevolence. Ask cadets or rookies why they want to be cops and many will say that they want to help people, to make a difference. They express this desire in varied ways but the basic idea is the same. Not withstanding the fact that most cops also want to carry a gun, be able to drive fast, and see really gross stuff, this universal motivation is an important factor in the career choice of more than a few who graduate from the police academies across the country. All too soon, however, I have seen this desire subjugated to the other demands, interests, and pressures of policing. Somewhere along the line, most officers lose touch with their initial purpose, which is a shame. It is not only a noble purpose but probably one of the most important goals in policing.

This loss of focus begins for most in the police academy. The rigors of the discipline, regimentation, and pace deemphasize the humanity of the job and tend to reinforce the mechanization of it. The acquisition of skills and knowledge is accentuated while little attention is paid to ultimate purpose of these. It is the nature of the academy experience to prepare the cadet to face the street experience, to survive, to get the job done and go home alive. There is little highlight on the humanity of those with whom the cadet will make contact.

Once on the street, the ability to remain human and caring is further damaged. Let's face it. Most people only have contact with the police when they are under a great deal of stress. People aren't at their best under stress. They are angry, upset, fearful, out of control, grieving, confused, and resentful. "Why did this happen to me? Whose fault is this?" Many times it is the police who catch this emotional fallout. "The police aren't doing their job. They didn't get here fast enough. The police are just picking on me." Even normally docile people can become extremely belligerent and downright mean when placed in the sorts of situations that call for police inter-



Rembrandt,(1633), Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The Good Samaritan is a universal symbol for the care for victims.

vention. It makes it hard to remember that these are the people who need help when they are lashing out.

There is also a great deal of emotional pain for the officer involved if he insists on viewing people as humans rather than as "suspects, witnesses, victims, scumbags, morons, floaters, DRTs (Dead Right There)," and all of the other stereotypical names that we use to distance ourselves. It's a lot easier to throw someone in iail if we attach one of these labels to them than if we view them as human with a life like ours. He has to go to jail. That's our job. So, we cut ourselves off from his humanity and it's easier. But by doing this, we make it easier to separate ourselves from all of humani-

### The Forgotten CJ Purpose, continued

ty. It's also easier to deal with the woman who has been raped, the child who has been abused, or the man whose home was burglarized, if we think of them in similar stereotypical terms—like our suspect. There is so much less emotional pain if we don't allow ourselves to be involved emotionally. Except, we lose our focus on why we got into this business to begin with. The rest of the Criminal Justice system is not any better at dealing with victims. It is often said that criminals have all the "rights" and that victims have none. Usually this is directed towards incidents where the defendant's constitutional rights have been protected by the courts. There is a lot of truth in this statement and for a very good reason. The purpose of the Bill of Rights was to protect citizens being accused by the government of a crime, not to help the victims of those crimes. The Bill of Rights was written to ensure that government did not become oppressive and ensure that everyone is presumed innocent and receives a fair trial. With the focus of the constitution on the accused, it is often very easy for the system that serves that constitution to forget the victims.

A very vocal witness to the fact that this is the case is the development of college level courses exploring "victimology" - check out http://www.victimology.nl/ - and the recent rise in victim's rights groups. These latter have organized in response to the Criminal Justice system's lack of response. These organizations have their own political structures, news organs, and lobbying groups. In the past 15 years, radical changes in the law have reflected their efforts. It is now mandated by law that victims be notified of important court proceedings relating to their cases, that they be informed of the progress of their cases, and many other "victim's rights" of the type found in Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Chapter 56 of the TxCCP addresses magistrates, prosecutors, parole boards, and police officers, laying out requirements that must be met when dealing with the victims of crime. I was very pleased to see these changes. Some should have been obvious, such as forcing a police agency to pay for a rape exam if the agency requires one during an investigation. When I first began investigations, agencies often told women that they had to pay for their own rape exam but that an investigation would not be conducted without one. This is like telling the family of a murder victim that they would have to pay for the lab work on the evidence collected at the scene of the crime. In addition, both police departments and prosecutor's officers are required to have Crime Victim

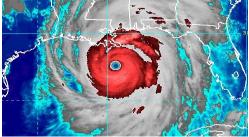
Liaisons to assist victims in negotiating the maze of the criminal justice system. Louisiana has passed several statutes similar to these but one must hunt to find them scattered through out the Children's Code, and the Penal Code. Louisiana still sadly trails many other states in the depth and breadth of this issued addressed in our laws.

All of these changes are welcome and are important steps in recapturing the nature of the Criminal Justice System. However, it is only indicative of the fact that the majority of that system has lost touch with one of is primary goals. In the midst of solving crimes, recovering property, collecting evidence, and prosecuting the guilty, there is also the overarching purpose of helping people, of making a difference. This has to be more than just "doing the job," of good mechanics and up-to-date knowledge of the field. There has to humanity and caring for people who need the help of the system created for that purpose when their lives are devastated by crime. Police are the first point of contact with that system and it is their job to demonstrate that level of caring while doing their job expertly and professionally. It's a tall order and sometimes seems next to impossible, but then, nobody said the job was easy.



Lessons Learned: 2005 Hurricane Season Emergency Planning & Response Conference

Funded by The US Department of Justice, COPS Office and Gulf States Regional Community Policing Institute (GSRCPI)



**Evacuation—Re-entry—Technology/Communication—Debriefing—Care of Emergency Workers and Their Families—Working with State/Federal Entities—Church and Non-Profit Resources—Accessing/Coordinating Volunteers: Civilian, National Guard, Red-Cross—Rescues—State Plans—Shelters—and more...** GSRCPI is sponsoring a conference to identify lessons learned, best practices, planning tools, training and technology issues and answers related to the recent hurricanes. The exact date and location are still being negotiated, however, we expect early spring. This is YOUR opportunity to request the types of workshops and information that would benefit you most. GSRCPI will also be seeking presentation proposals for the topics listed above and other related issues. A hurricane resource guide will be produced with the learning products of this conference and distributed to the Atlantic Sea Board and Gulf South States. Please contact GSRCPI at GSRCPI@GSRCPI.org Fax 318-357-6964 or call I-888-283-0966 with workshop, contact information or interest.

# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR**

The Criminal Justice Program at Northwestern State University of Louisiana is hosting a career fair for Criminal Justice majors and other majors interested in this field, on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building on the Natchitoches campus.

Law enforcement and correction organizations, state and local governments, law schools and university graduate programs, and other prospective employers participate in this career fair. You are invited to represent your organization and to present your organization's career options to interested individuals and have them begin the application process for available positions in law enforcement, law, and associated fields. Please contact our office at 318-357-6967 and request a reservation form. There is no fee for this Fair.

Please plan to be at this fair and make contact with students and other interested individuals as well as representatives of various public and private law enforcement agencies. We look forward to your participation in this career fair! Place this date on your calendar. We will also update this information as the fair date approaches. See you in March 2006!

For further information, please contact the Criminal Justice Program at 318-357-5505 or 318-357-6967.

Visit us on the web Http://www.nsula.edu/ criminaljustice



Northwestern State University

Criminal Justice Program Rm. 343-C, Kyser Hall Natchitoches, LA 71497