

deficit' in global governance is well rehearsed in many spheres, but this is less often the case in relation to criminal justice policy. Thus Scheerer's meditations upon the nature of an emergent 'post-modern global empire' toward the end of the volume are especially fascinating. He notes that there are many issues for global governance and some of them are criminological, for example, relatively new crime categories, including crimes against humanity, crimes against the financial system and crimes against the environment. Further he observes (p. 257) that:

Single states cannot prevent global stock exchange disasters, nor can they find solutions to international migratory movements, the population explosion or transnational crime. . . the main argument for, and the main means of, establishing a single global power will be the hope for progressive global pacification. The world state then, is the New Leviathan, with all its promises and all its dangers, gone global.

Scheerer argues that, while the evolution of the global system is difficult to predict, 'it is more likely than not that things are steering towards some central hyper-structure'. The real questions have to do with the character of that structure. Will it be despotic or democratic? Federalist or centralist? Effective or ineffective?

These are important questions which are difficult to answer, not least for criminal policy experts, who have not historically been disposed to thinking about questions of global governance. That is why this book is so welcome. Penny Green and Andrew Rutherford, the book's editors, end their introduction to the volume by saying:

Whatever 'futures' we harness, we must be clear that criminal policy cannot be the vehicle for remedying that which is criminogenic in our society. To move forward we must, therefore, free our imaginations from the limiting constraints of modern criminal policy and work creatively to resist the repressive state and global developments which confront us at the beginning of the new millennium. (p. 13)

Criminal Policy in Transition well illustrates that academics in this field are not indisposed to freeing their imaginations, but their imaginings are coloured more by pessimism than hope.

Todd R. Clear and David K. Karp

The Community Justice Ideal: Preventing Crime and Achieving Justice

Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999. 195 pp. \$25.00 (pbk); ISBN 0-8133-6766-2 (pbk)

• Reviewed by Mike Nellis, University of Birmingham, UK

This book, published two years ago, is too important to ignore in Britain, where commitment to 'community justice' might yet stimulate moral and practical challenges to our still unduly repressive penal policy. Drawing in the

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main on American experience, Clear and Karp aim to map the philosophical and political bases of the community justice ideal as they see it, and to outline what it could mean in practice. They define it as 'all variants of crime prevention and justice activities that explicitly include the community in their processes and set the enhancement of community quality of life as an explicit goal' (p. 25). Their starting points are widespread public concern about the declining quality of local community life and the steady loss of confidence in the formal agencies of criminal justice to deal effectively with crime. They discern a nascent community justice movement emerging from recent developments in community policing, community corrections, crime prevention and the demands of the crime victim's movement, and their fourfold characterization of community justice derives less from abstract theory than from considered reflection on what already seems to work to reduce crime in just ways.

Clear and Karp's four ingredients of community justice are: operation at neighbourhood level, problem-solving orientation, citizen involvement in the justice process, and decentralization of authority and accountability. Lest anyone be tempted to think that this is simply a restatement of Etzioni's communitarianism, let me say that, rather, this is the best synthesis of communitarian and liberal thinking that I have read, giving due credit to the insights of the former, but erring often toward the latter's recognition of rights and its celebration of individual autonomy as a political ideal. The (communitarian) cornerstone of the book is this: 'Individuals need a substantial baseline of security in order to pursue their own happiness' (p. 33), but this leads neither to a romanticized conception of 'community' nor of 'human nature'. Local neighbourhoods (unfashionably in the light of much recent theorizing of community) are the material basis of Clear and Karp's view of community justice, but their interdependence and their need of state resources to level inequalities between them (as far as possible) are acknowledged. The predatory and trust-destroying nature of much crime is also acknowledged, but Clear and Karp still propose an ideal of community justice which they hope could be applied in high-crime neighbourhoods as well as in suburbia.

The book is distinguished by its hard thinking, its clear conceptualization of key issues, and its awareness of practical possibilities. Although never so extreme as to reject outright adversarial approaches to justice, it redefines justice to mean the affirmation of community norms, the holding accountable and challenging of the offender in terms of harm done, the restoration of victims and the community itself, and the assurance of community safety for all. It insists upon parallel attention being paid to individual criminal behaviour and to the community precursors of crime, if sustained crime reduction and quality of life is to be achieved. This requires a commitment to poverty reduction, incentives to law-abidingness and an active concern for the long-term futures of all local communities. Some awkward questions are conceded, but not addressed, most perceptively the extent to which 'equality before the

law can be reconciled with [local] community variation in approaches to justice' (p. 57).

Implicit, and occasionally explicit, in Clear and Karp's perspective is a critique of mass imprisonment in the USA, particularly its race dimension. 'Given the drastic increase in the rate of imprisonment since 1973, African-American communities have suffered war-level casualties of adult males of parenting age' (p. 48). The removal of young men on such a scale damages community networks (child-rearing arrangements, consumption patterns, and political commitment) in the short term and in the long run, still fails to guarantee public safety. Clear and Karp quote a fascinating study which shows that a young man whose economic activities (purchases, deals and so on) are worth \$12,000 to his host community comes to be worth \$30,000 in the community where he is imprisoned, because of the secondary economic activities which his incarceration generates (correctional salaries and purchases, and security costs). This study provides but one incentive to find effective alternatives to prison; there are many more.

Understanding of the community justice ideal will be deepened as much by practitioners trying to live it out as by theorists trying to improve upon Clear and Karp's ideas. Both would find this fine book useful. It moves us on and deserves to be hugely influential, in Britain as much as America.

James McGuire, Tom Mason and Aisling O'Kane (eds)
Behaviour, Crime and Legal Processes: A Guide for Forensic Practitioners
Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 2000. 319 pp. including index. £19.99
(pbk); ISBN 0-471-99869-9 (pbk)

• Reviewed by Nick Purchase, North London Forensic Service, UK

This is a timely book aimed at those agencies and professionals whose work carries them across the usual demarcations between criminal justice, mental health, and social and behavioural sciences; outlining any one case may involve police, probation, mental health services, social services, prison health, courts, and legal advisors.

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the processes, legislation, disposals and treatments. It enables an appreciation of the ideologies of the diverse and separate professions. The contributors to each of the 14 chapters are experienced professionals in their own fields, ranging from psychology, psychiatry, nursing, and social work to law and criminal justice, looking at the points of contact where these realms of knowledge come face to face, describing a 'perennial sense of disquiet'.

The focus of this book is on those meeting points. It looks at the impact of reports such as 'Butler' in 1975, which recommended treatment rather