The Criminal as Culture

The criminal is the menace, the alien, the Other-the one we fear, avoid, and condemn. Because criminals are outlaws, they operate outside of the rules and expectations by which we define ourselves as a society. But because they exist within our society, they threaten those codes that give our lives order and security. However, our definition and perception of the male criminal is not confined to what he does. Often it is simply a case of who he is. The disheveled immigrant or burly ghetto resident is quickly recognized as alien and reflexively perceived as a threat. Displaying an ignorance of middle-class mores that could easily be construed as hostility, he immediately becomes suspect. He may or may not be an outlaw, but his crude manner, lowly position, and manifest need license a suspicion that he very well might be.

This reading is never neat or sure, for most of us understand that appearances can be deceiving. We also realize that criminals are not always obvious outsiders. Some operate at the highest levels of respectable society and from very influential political and business positions. When this type of criminal ceases to be the random oddity and seems commonplace, our normal suspicions become confused and turn back upon themselves. Suddenly the criminal breaks free from the jail of our definitions and ceases to be a convenient scapegoat on which to pin and purge our fears. Those we thought of as kindred supporters of our laws and expectations begin to look like charlatans preying upon our gullibility and vulnerability. We wonder whether they, rather than us, are not the ones who truly understand our society, and we worry that maybe even society is criminal. Either way the outlaw pressures us to decide who we are and what we stand for.

Excerpted from "The Criminal as Culture" by Thomas H. Pauly. Source: American Literary History, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Winter, 1997), pp. 776-785 Published by: Oxford University Press Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/490193

Writing Directions

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The Dangers of Tanning

By: Malissa Carroll

Does your summer schedule include tanning time, or a lot of time out in the sun? If so, take note: According to the Academy of Dermatology, more than one million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed this year. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, will account for approximately 45,000-50,000 of these diagnoses. Although there are many skin cancer risk factors, prolonged unprotected sun exposure almost always plays some role.

Take steps to lower your and your family's risk of skin cancer while still having fun in the sun. Dr. Marcia Driscoll, a dermatologist at the University of Maryland Medical Center, provides the information you need to improve your skin cancer IQ.

What many people do not realize is that the tan color appearing on the surface of their skin after they sunbathe or visit the local tanning salon is actually an injury response from their skin cells.

"Tanning affects the DNA of cells," says Dr. Driscoll. "This DNA sends a signal to the cell to make pigment, also known as melanin. Making melanin is the cells' response to injury. So, while the tan may look healthy, the skin cells are actually signaling that they've been injured."

Recently, however, some researchers have been arguing that exposure to the sun's UV rays can have positive effects on people's overall health. They argue that sun exposure helps human beings generate Vitamin D, which is essential for promoting calcium absorption and bone growth within the human body.

"Although there has been a lot of discussion about the sun's ability to help humans generate Vitamin D, most dermatologists agree that it only takes a minimal amount of sun to do this," says Dr. Driscoll. "We do not recommend sunbathing as a primary source of generating Vitamin D in the human body."

Dr. Driscoll also notes that the effects of UV radiation from unprotected sun exposure and tanning beds are cumulative.

"Repeated tanning, such as when one goes to a tanning salon and purchases a package of sessions, causes repeated injury to the skin cells," says Dr. Driscoll. "At the beginning, the cells can repair themselves, but over time they become unable to repair the repeated damage. That's when cancers, like melanoma, come about."

Excerpted from Malissa Carroll's "Dangers of Tanning" The University of Maryland Medical Center http://www.umm.edu/features/tanning.htm

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Facts about Alcohol Poisoning

Excessive drinking can be hazardous to everyone's health! It can be particularly stressful if you are the sober one taking care of your drunken roommate, who is vomiting while you are trying to study for an exam. Some people laugh at the behavior of others who are drunk. Some think it's even funnier when they pass out. But there is nothing funny about the aspiration of vomit leading to asphyxiation or the poisoning of the respiratory center in the brain, both of which can result in death.

Do you know about the dangers of alcohol poisoning? When should you seek professional help for a friend? Sadly enough, too many college students say they wish they would have sought medical treatment for a friend. Many end up feeling responsible for alcohol-related tragedies that could have easily been prevented. Common myths about sobering up include drinking black coffee, taking a cold bath or shower, sleeping it off, or walking it off. But these are just myths, and they don't work. The only thing that reverses the effects of alcohol is time-something you may not have if you are suffering from alcohol poisoning. And many different factors affect the level of intoxication of an individual, so it's difficult to gauge exactly how much is too much (BAC calculators).

What happens to your body when you get alcohol poisoning? Alcohol depresses nerves that control involuntary actions such as breathing and the gag reflex (which prevents choking). A fatal dose of alcohol will eventually stop these functions.

It is common for someone who drank excessive alcohol to vomit since alcohol is an irritant to the stomach. There is then the danger of choking on vomit, which could cause death by asphyxiation in a person who is not conscious because of intoxication.

You should also know that a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) can continue to rise even while he or she is passed out. Even after a person stops drinking, alcohol in the stomach and intestine continues to enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body. It is dangerous to assume the person will be fine by sleeping it off.

Excepted from: College Drinking-Changing the Culture http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/OtherAlcoholInformation/factsAboutAlcoholPoisoning.aspx

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Improving Body Image © by Judy Lightstone

"If we place pornography and the tyranny of slenderness alongside one another we have the two most significant obsessions of our culture, and both of them focused upon a woman's body." -Kim Chernin

Body image involves our perception, imagination, emotions, and physical sensations of and about our bodies. It's not static- but ever changing; sensitive to changes in mood, environment, and physical experience. It is not based on fact. It is psychological in nature, and much more influenced by self-esteem than by actual physical attractiveness as judged by others. It is not inborn, but learned. This learning occurs in the family and among peers, but these only reinforce what is learned and expected culturally.

In this culture, we women are starving ourselves, starving our children and loved ones, gorging ourselves, gorging our children and loved ones, alternating between starving and gorging, purging, obsessing, and all the while hating, pounding and wanting to remove that which makes us female: our bodies, our curves, our pear-shaped selves.

"Cosmetic surgery is the fastest growing 'medical' specialty.... Throughout the 80s, as women gained power, unprecedented numbers of them sought out and submitted to the knife...." - Naomi Wolf

The work of feminist object relations theorists such as Susie Orbach (author of Fat is a Feminist Issue, and Hunger Strike: Anorexia as a Metaphor for Our Age) and those at The Women's Therapy Centre Institute (authors of Eating Problems: a Feminist Psychoanalytic Treatment Model) has demonstrated a relationship between the development of personal boundaries and body image. Personal boundaries are the physical and emotional borders around us. A concrete example of a physical boundary is our skin. It distinguishes between that which is inside you and that which is outside you. On a psychological level, people with strong boundaries might be able to help out well in disasters- feeling concerned for others, but able to keep a clear sense of who they are.

(Eating Disorder Referral and Information Center) http://www.edreferral.com/body_image.htm

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How Our Babies Were Taken For Adoption

"Adoption is not about unwanted children. It is about unwanted mothers."

If you are like most people, you may believe that adoption begins with a mother wanting and choosing to GIVE AWAY her baby. This is what the adoption industry wants you to believe. And in most cases, NOTHING could be further from the truth. A Trackers International survey of 1000 natural mothers found that 97.7% were coerced into surrendering against their will.

We are women who WANTED to keep our babies. But because of factors such as being single, ill, young, and/or just vulnerable to family and agency pressures, our babies were taken from us by force, coecion, and lies.

Some of us were still drugged from childbirth when social workers or lawyers demanded our signatures. Others of us never signed - our own parents signed away our children. Others were told that we would not be allowed to see our babies until we signed the papers. Others were told we would be responsible for hospital bills of thousands of dollars unless we signed. Some of our babies were taken from us at birth, given to adopters, and then we were told to sign as it would not matter if we signed or not - it was a done-deal.

"An agency has a responsibility of pointing out to the unmarried mother the extreme difficulty, if not the impossibility, if she remains unmarried, of raising her child successfully in our culture without damage to the child and to herself.... The concept that the unmarried mother and her child constitute a family is to me unsupportable. There is no family in any real sense of the word."- Joseph H. Reid, "Principles, Values, and Assumptions Underlying Adoption Practice", 1956 NAT'L CON. SOC. WORK.

All of us were victims of fraud in that we were NEVER told the truth about the consequences of adoption to us or our babies - in fact, we were deliberately lied to.

Our children were taken from us so the adoption industry make money, playing the role of savior to infertile couples by selling the "ultimate gift" to them at our expense, and then come out smelling like a rose for solving society's supposed welfare and moral problems. It all really came down to money ... keeping us off the welfare rolls and making money for the brokers.

http://www.exiledmothers.com/babies_taken_for_adoption/

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Happiness

What is happiness? If we mean by it a state of fulfillment, when everything is going our way, in terms of results as well as efforts (which requires a providential combination of pluck and luck), then it cannot simply be willed; it is partly, if not largely, a gift of fate.

Having said this, even this sort of happiness is a product of positive thinking and positive action, with good fortune lending a helping hand. In short, it is a product of will in relatively favorable circumstances. But isn't it peculiar to imply that happiness can be of one sort or another? Are there not simply happiness and unhappiness? I think not. The sort of happiness that the sage talks about is compatible with misfortune. It is preeminently a doing from within – while without, the only prerequisite for it is that the sage be alive and capable of thought. It is a feeling of serenity, of being at peace with his situation and his conscience, as a well-adjusted and fully committed servant of life, of humanity, of God as he sees them.

However conscious he is of the subjectiveness – i.e., the individual limitations and hence the imperfection – of his view, he does live by it with utmost faithfulness, if also with a willingness to reevaluate it critically when he catches himself out in a misstep. His wisdom is forever a work in progress; it is always laced with some form of foolishness, which leaves him open to ridicule. Humility and compassion, plus humor are therefore qualities that he cultivates. He mocks and forgives himself, and above all strives to improve. He shows no complacency, but an acceptance of his humanness that he is intent on bringing to the highest possible degree of truth and nobility. And this delicate blend of resignation and struggle alone – in any situation, favorable or not – is indeed the secret of his happiness, which admittedly is a dry manner of joy that fills the mind rather than the heart.

Author: Laurent Grenier's, Official website: <u>http://laurentgrenier.com/ARFL.html</u> Reprint announcement: <u>laurentgrenier@rogers.com</u>

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Workplace bullying is a problem, too

Friday, April 1, 2011

Seacoast newspapers have been running articles regarding the bullying of children, the most recent was printed last week. I am glad to see that this subject is getting the attention it deserves. These articles have prompted me to make you aware of another form of bullying that has not received as much attention, but is just as serious — workplace bullying.

Workplace bullying is defined by bullyonline.org as persistent, offensive, abusive, intimidating or insulting behavior, abuse of power which makes the recipient feel upset, threatened, humiliated or vulnerable, which undermines their self-confidence and which may cause them to suffer stress. It is a compulsive need to displace aggression and is achieved by the expression of inadequacy by projection of that inadequacy onto others through control and subjugation.

Bullying is violent and a workplace health hazard. Usual examples of bullying are unwarranted or invalid criticism, blame without factual justification, being treated differently than the rest of the work group, being sworn at, social isolation and being shouted at and humiliated. In a previous position of mine, I experienced all of these horrible actions from my supervisor. As a result, I suffered with high stress, reduced self-esteem, sleep disturbances, digestive problems, increased depression and self -blame, which led me at times to think that ending my life was the only solution. I had over 20 years of experience in my field with consistent glowing praises for my work and in a matter of a few months of abuse; I was made to feel that I was incompetent and unable to perform my job effectively. I lost a job that I loved and due to the poor economy I was unable to secure a job in my area for months, which created a financial hardship on my family.

I had coworkers that would have come forward on my behalf, but they felt threatened by the prospect of the same fate I experienced. More than once in my previous position I was told that I worked in a dictatorship, not a democracy. Unfortunately, I was working in an at-will employment state, which left me no alternative to fight back. But I live in the United States of America where freedom and free speech are inalienable rights which allow me to speak out in this manner. Bullying is not considered harassment under the current law and we need to change that!

I have decided to fight back by supporting the Healthy Workplace Bill. Eventually, it will become law in one or more states and be replicated like the school bullying laws that snowballed across our nation. I urge you to prevent this unethical and inhuman practice by logging on to www.healthyworkplacebill.org and make those that treat employees with such indignity aware that it will no longer be accepted. New Hampshire was the 18th state in the country to introduce the Bill; however, in February 2011, the N.H. Legislature voted 17-0 against bringing the bill to full vote — it essentially died in committee. We must work harder to make the legislature understand the need for this protection for workers. We must get this law passed for the health and safety of the American workforce. The Bill is gaining national momentum and with your support we can make Workplace Bullying against the law.

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110401/GJOPINION_0102/704019995/-1/FOSOPINION

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News Affects Our Behavior

By Susan Dolder

Most of us get news of the day from radio and television. And the kind of news we get from radio and TV affects our behavior toward other people. The good news we get from radio and TV makes us feel more friendly and kindly toward other people. Good news gives us a sense that other people are like brothers and sisters to us. Bad news makes us feel that other people are our enemies and that we are living in a precarious world.

These are the findings of 10 years of experiments by research psychologists at Columbia University in New York City. The psychologists did tests to see how people behaved toward one another after being exposed to news broadcasts.

In one test, people were asked to help one another in solving a difficult puzzle. At different times, the people were asked to stop working on the puzzle and to listen to a news story on the radio. After hearing good news, the people worked well with each other in trying to solve the puzzle. After hearing bad news, the people were hostile and angry towards one another and engaged in competition instead of cooperation in trying to solve the puzzle.

Dr. Henry Hornstein, one of the Columbia University Psychologists, explained the results of the test. "News about some person doing something cruel or harmful to another person makes us feel that other people are mostly evil, so we don't want to have anything to do with the people around us." Hornstein also explained that good news has the opposite effect on us. "W hen we hear new about how one person helped another person, then we see the people around us as mostly good, and we like o work with them.

Dr Susan Holloway, another of the Columbia University researchers, carried out experiments with TV news. She found that when television presented a news story full of violence and blood, people saw the world as a scary place, populated by cruel people. When television presented a story that showed people working together to achieve something beneficial for their city or their country, people watching the story felt better about the world in which they lived. When television presented neutral-news, people were not emotionally affected very much one way or the other. Dr Holloway explained that neutral-news is neither good nor bad. "Your average weather report," she said, "is an example of neutral news. If nothing unusual-such as a big storm-is in the report, then most people don't get strong feeling from the weather news."

Dr Holloway believes that TV and radio emphasize bad news stories of Crime and Violence. She thinks that broadcasts should present more good-news stories-stories of human kindness and cooperation. "By giving so much time to bad-news stories," she says, "radio and TV makes us feel that the world is a much worse place to live than it really is."

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THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FEMININE BEAUTY

Beauty, or the pursuit of beauty, occupies a central role in many women's lives, especially relatively affluent Euro-American women who have the resources, time, and energy to expend on acquired beauty. Bordo (1993, 167) argued that the beauty regimes of diet, makeup, and dress are "central organizing principles of time and space in the day of many women." It remains one of the major means by which adolescent girls and women gain social status and self-esteem (Backman and Adams 1991; Suitor and Reavis 1995). As noted by Freedman (1986, 11), "women are aware that beauty counts heavily with men and they therefore work hard to achieve it."

The social importance of the feminine beauty ideal lies in its ability to sustain and to reproduce gender inequality (Bartky 1990; Currie 1997; Freedman 1986; Wolf 1991). The feminine beauty ideal can be seen as a normative means of social control whereby social control is accomplished through the internalization of values and norms that serve to restrict women's lives (Fox 1977). In this way, women internalize norms and adopt behaviors that reflect and reinforce their relative powerlessness, making external forces less necessary. Value constructs such as "nice girl" or "feminine beauty" operate as normative restrictions by limiting women's personal freedom and laying the "ground work for a circumscription of women's potential for power and control in the world"

(Fox 1977, 816). Fox (1977, 816) also noted that "normative control guarantees to those women who comply with its demands safe passage in the world" and that women who do not comply are somehow punished. In the case of the beauty ideal, women who achieve a high degree of attractiveness are psychologically and socially rewarded (Dellinger and Williams 1997; Hatfield and Sprecher 1986). Adolescent girls in Currie's (1997,472) study reported that "feeling good about themselves" depended on "looking good." And Dellinger and Williams (1997) found that women who wear makeup in the workplace are seen as heterosexual, healthier, and more competent than those who do not. Those who unsuccessfully attempt to achieve the Baker-Sperry, Grauerholz / BEAUTY IN FAIRY TALES 713 standard, or fail to try at all, are viewed more negatively (Bartky 1990; Dellinger and Williams 1997).

Excerpted from "The Pervasiveness and Persistence of the Feminine Beauty Ideal in Children's Fairy Tales" by Lori Baker-Sperry and Liz Grauerholz. GENDER & SOCIETY, Vol. 15 No. 5, October 2003 711-726

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An analysis of public opinion toward undocumented immigration

Immigration to the United States is an important and increasingly conspicuous component of overall US population growth. In an average year, more than 600,000 legal immigrants and 100,000 refugees are admitted (US Immigration and Naturalization Service 1990b) together with perhaps an additional 200,000 net undocumented or illegal migrants (Woodrow & Passel 1990). By some estimates the United States accepts for permanent resettlement twice as many immigrants and refugees as the rest of the world combined (Lamm & Imhoff 1985), and the excess of total immigration over emigration now accounts for one-third of annual US population increase (Bouvier & Gardner 1986; O'Hare 1992).

Public attitudes toward immigration are especially important to consider because immigration is the only component of population change over which the US Congress seeks to extend direct and complete supervision. When public opinion is firmly held and consistently applied, it can move representative democracies to act often in decisive ways. Such was the case with the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRC A), the major purpose of which was to reduce the flow of undocumented immigration into the United States. However, despite the protracted and often heated nature of 190 the five-year debate leading to IRCA's final passage, social scientists have not closely analyzed any of the relevant public opinion data on illegal US immigration. The failure to do so is of more than academic consequence because the flow of undocumented migrants to the United States has been largely undeterred by IRC A and continues at high levels. This omission is also surprising given the large literature on attitudes toward immigration and the number of important and testable hypotheses yielded by this literature. Part of the problem is that available hypotheses are widely scattered across the research literature and have not been collected in one place or tested on the same data. Another is that existing hypotheses have not been adequately examined using appropriate multiple regression techniques. Instead, analyses generally rest on cross-tabulations of the data, and studies report marginal distributions of attitudes by one respondent characteristic or another. Our understanding of the demographic, socioeconomic and other factors affecting opinions toward undocumented US migration is incomplete as a result.

Excerpted from "An analysis of public opinion toward undocumented immigration" by Thomas J. Espenshade and Charles A. Calhoun. Source: Population Research and Policy Review, Vol. 12, No. 3 (1993), pp. 189-224. Published by: Springer in cooperation with the Southern Demographic Association

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Electronic Money: New Day or False Dawn by Benjamin J. Cohen

The era of electronic money will soon be upon us. What will the advent of electronic money mean for the capacity of central banks to sustain price stability and promote growth? The rise of electronic money, it is clear, is no anomaly in historical terms and indeed may be regarded as an entirely natural development in the context of today's rapidly globalizing world economy. Analysis suggests that the challenge of e-money differs significantly depending on what countries we are talking about. In the many economies around the world where central bankers are already experiencing increased difficulty in controlling monetary aggregates, owing to accelerating cross-border competition among currencies, the main impact of electronic money will be simply to add to the intensity of that competition. By contrast, in the traditional reserve centres - the US, 'Euroland' (home of the new euro), and Japan - the threat to state power appears distinctly greater and will demand real adjustments by policymakers.

The world is becoming increasingly addicted to doing business in cyber-space, across the Internet and World Wide Web. As electronic commerce (e-commerce) expands, it seems only a matter of time before various innovative forms of money, based on digital data and issued by private market actors, begin to substitute in one way or another for state-sanctioned banknotes and checking accounts as customary means of payment. Though difficult to predict in detail, the effects of electronic money are sure to be both manifold and profound. At issue is the effectiveness of monetary policy as an instrument of macroeconomic control. What will the advent of electronic money mean for the capacity of central banks to sustain price stability and promote growth?

Excerpted from "Electronic Money: New Day or False Dawn"? by Benjamin J. Cohen: Source: Review of International Political Economy, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Summer, 2001), pp. 197-225

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