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Stephen Rosoff

1945-2010



Stephen M. Rosoff, professor of criminology at the University of Houston – Clear Lake, passed away after a sudden heart attack on March 27th at the age of 64. He had undergone esophageal surgery in December followed by a number of additional operations, had shown incredible strength in battling through these maladies, and was recovering at a rehabilitation unit in Houston when his heart failed him. Steve was a brilliant scholar and an extremely popular instructor at UH who during the past 20 years created a highly successful criminology curriculum with a thriving master's degree program that attracted a large number of Houston police officers.

Steve was born and raised in Boston. A lifelong baseball fanatic, he played in Little League, and few persons knew more about the sport, its players, and its statistics than Steve. He was a loyal Red Sox fan and attended one of the championship games at Fenway Park when his team recently won the World Series. Steve was a gifted child and a voracious reader. He devoured everything from comic books to novels and history books. He graduated from English High School in Boston at the age of 15 and entered UMass Amherst where he studied drama. Given his young age, it proved to be a difficult experience and he dropped out after a year. He went to work in his family's pickle business ("Rosoff's Pickles"), was employed as an actor and producer in theatre and film over the next decade and a half, and began to take psychology courses through Harvard extension. In his early thirties he matriculated at Harvard and graduated in three years number two in his class (he never forgave the professor who gave him an A-) with a major in psychology.

Steve arrived at UC, Irvine's Program in Social Ecology in the early 1980s to begin his doctoral work in human development. He had been attracted by the advertised interdisciplinary environment and the "strange name" of the degree. After his first year he worked as a research assistant on a federally-funded study of Medicaid fraud and shifted his scholarly interests to law and psychology, medical sociology, criminology, and white-collar crime. He completed a stellar master's thesis on the social psychology of the sanctioning of high-status defendants (later published in *Law & Human Behavior*), and placed articles in medical journals on issues related to miscreant physicians. Missing the east coast, he was accepted into Harvard's Ph.D. program in psychology, where he spent his third year of graduate

Rosoff (cont.)

work. Not finding a mentor for his interests in the punishment of the well-to-do, he returned to Irvine to write his doctoral dissertation the following year. No one in the history of social ecology or criminology at Irvine has completed two advanced degrees this quickly; nor published a number of major articles while doing so.

Steve's wit and wry sense of humor is shown in a short piece that he contributed to the Sage Handbook of Field Work. "Interviewing offenders of any hue collar is a tricky business," he started out. "If I were interviewing a convicted burglar I would probably call him Charlie (or whatever his first name is), while he might call me "Doc." There is a role reversal when the offender is an elite deviant. I respectfully called the Medicaid fraud subject Dr. So-and-So. And I might well be called Steve in return—or called nothing at all." Then Steve added the punch line: "No problem. When the interview ends, I'm still the one without a parole officer."

Steve accepted a job at Indiana University upon graduation, and UH – Clear Lake a few years later.

He taught enormously popular graduate courses at UH in social deviance, law and society, crime and the media, law and psychology, criminological theory, organized crime, juvenile delinquency, crime in the cinema, and white-collar and corporate crime. Steve was a brilliant, gifted, and hard-working instructor who still found time to publish articles and book chapters. He is the lead author of the classic white-collar crime text, *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America* (just released in the 5th edition) which is being translated into Japanese and Chinese and which Fortune Executive Editor Clifton Leaf used in writing the first cover story on white-collar crime in the magazine's history (March 2002). Steve presented papers at conferences in Australia, Hungary, Thailand, and Italy, and was a regular participant at criminology conferences in the U.S. He was invited to discuss his work at a major conference on control fraud organized by economist James Galbraith at the University of Texas, Austin, and was a delegate and presenter at a U.N. Crime Congress. The FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit invited him to a 3-day closed conference on cyber crime at Quantico. Always ahead of the curve, Steve was the first major writer on cyber crime in criminology.

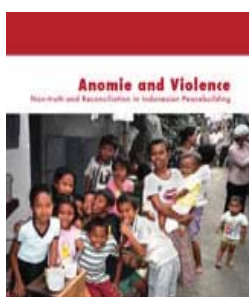
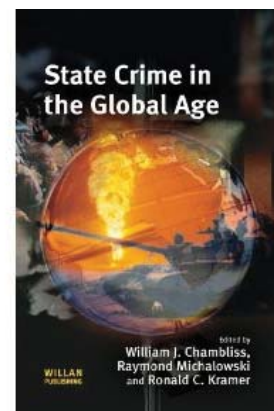
Besides his notable academic accomplishments, Steve Rosoff was a first-rate human being whose absolute unpretentiousness belied his enormous intellectual prowess. In addition to baseball, Steve was also a movie and media expert. His life was teaching. His immense kindness toward animals saw him rescue numerous dogs who became members of his family. He had a keen eye for injustice, an impeccable wit, and an almost non-stop sense of humor. As one colleague astutely observed, "He was probably the funniest smart person I have ever known and the smartest funny person as well." He was a dear friend, gifted teacher, and valued colleague to so many and will be greatly missed. His family requests that expressions of sympathy be made to: MSPCA-Angell, Attn.: Donations, c/o Newbridge on the Charles RSU, 350 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

Henry Pontell and Gilbert Geis, University of California, Irvine
Steven Egger, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Member News

New Books

State Crime in the Global Age, edited by William Chambliss, Raymond Michalowski and Ronald Kramer, is a collection of original articles by leading scholars of state crime that examine the theoretical, substantive and social control challenges presented by the social injuries of political states in an age of neo-liberal globalization. Some of the key issues examined include imperialism, war, terror bombing, genocide, torture, wrongful conviction and prosecutorial misbehavior. Check it out at http://www.amazon.com/State-Crime-Global-William-Chambliss/dp/1843927039/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1270063723&sr=1-1.



Anomie and Violence: Non-Truth and Reconciliation in Indonesian Peacebuilding by John Braithwaite, Valerie Braithwaite, Michael Cookson and Leah Dunn is free from ANU E Press at: http://epress.anu.edu.au/anomie_citation.html.

Indonesia suffered an explosion of religious violence, ethnic violence, separatist violence, terrorism, and violence by criminal gangs, the security forces and militias in the late 1990s and early 2000s. By 2002 Indonesia had the worst terrorism problem of any nation. All these forms of violence have now fallen dramatically. How was this accomplished? What drove the rise and the fall of violence? Anomie theory is deployed to explain these developments. Sudden institutional change at the time of the Asian financial crisis and the fall of

President Suharto meant the rules of the game were up for grabs. Valerie Braithwaite's motivational postures theory is used to explain the gaming of the rules and the disengagement from authority that occurred in that era. Ultimately resistance to Suharto laid a foundation for commitment to a revised, more democratic, institutional order. The peacebuilding that occurred was not based on the high-integrity truth-seeking and reconciliation that was the normative preference of these authors. Rather it was based on non-truth, sometimes lies, and yet substantial reconciliation. This poses a challenge to restorative justice theories of peacebuilding.

NW3C Partners with NAAG for Intellectual Property Training

NW3C and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) have been funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to develop and deliver training events for state and local law enforcement on the topic of Intellectual Property Theft. The goal of this collaborative project is to increase awareness of IP crimes, thereby increasing the number of investigations and prosecutions. The trainings will be hosted nationally and geared toward investigators and prosecutors.

Intellectual Property crime is an under-recognized problem that affects every strata of society. Although these trainings will be geared toward state and local law enforcement, academicians also play an important role with regard to awareness. For more information on this

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initiative, you may contact **April Wall** at awall@nw3c.org or **Jim Foley** at jfoley@nw3c.org.

Career Developments

J. Bradley Sargent, Managing Member of the Sargent Consulting Group, LLC, has joined the Board of Directors at the Illinois CPA Society. Sargent will also be writing a monthly column on fraud in *Insight* magazine, the ICPAS' publication (which goes out to 25,000 subscribers) beginning in June 2010.

New Members

Callie Rennison, Associate Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado, Denver

James Cali, Adjunct Professor, School of Accountancy, University of Missouri; Director of Internal Audit, Bi-State Development Agency dba Metro

Research Initiatives

Articles

Michael J. Hogan, Michael A. Long, and Paul B. Stretesky. Forthcoming, 2010. Campaign contributions, lobbying, and post-Katrina contracts. *Disasters*.
(This title is also currently available online at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120122352/issue>.)

Henry N. Pontell, "Fraud and Financial Crisis: Trivializing the Lunatic Crime Rate," in Henry N. Pontell and Stephen M. Rosoff (eds.) *Social Deviance: Readings in Theory and Research*. New York: McGraw Hill (2010); Revised and reprinted (with Gilbert Geis and William K. Black) as "White-Collar Crime and the Global Economic Crisis," *Waseda Proceedings of Comparative Law*, Vol 12, 2009, pp. 248-270.

Henry N. Pontell, "Geis, Gilbert: Perspectives on White-Collar Crime Scandals" in *Encyclopedia of Criminological Theory* edited by Francis T. Cullen and Pamela Wilcox. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (in press).

Henry N. Pontell. "Identity Theft: Bounded Rationality, Research and Policy." *Criminology and Public Policy* 8:2 (May 2009) pp. 263-270.

Henry N. Pontell, "Trivializing White-Collar Crime." *Crime, Law, and Deviance Section Newsletter*, American Sociological Association (Spring 2009): pp. 3-4.

Research Initiatives (cont.)

Tomson Nguyen and Henry N. Pontell, "Mortgage Origination Fraud and the Global Economic Crisis: A Criminological Analysis" *Criminology and Public Policy* (in press).

Henry N. Pontell and Gregory C. Brown. "Identity Theft." In Clifton Bryant (ed.) *Handbook of Deviant Behavior*. London: Routledge (in press).

Henry N. Pontell and Gilbert Geis, "How to Effectively Get Crooks Like Bernie Madoff in Dutch." *Criminology & Public Policy* (in press).

Henry N. Pontell and Gilbert Geis, "White-Collar and Corporate Crime in International Perspective," in K. Jaishankar (ed.) *International Perspectives on Crime and Justice*. New Castle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2009) pp. 18-35; Revised, translated (Chinese), and reprinted as "White-Collar and Corporate Crime in Global and Comparative Perspective," *International Criminal Law Review* (Beijing Normal University, in press).

Henry N. Pontell and Stephen M. Rosoff, "White-Collar Delinquency." *Crime, Law and Social Change* (Mary Dodge and Gilbert Geis, editors, *Social & Political Transformations in White-Collar Crime*) 51:1 (February 2009) pp. 147-162.

Stephen M. Rosoff and Henry N. Pontell. "Cyber Crime." In Clifton Bryant (ed.) *Handbook of Deviant Behavior*. London: Routledge (in press).

Stephen M. Rosoff, Henry N. Pontell, and Robert Tillman, *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America*. Fifth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall (2010).

David Shichor, Henry N. Pontell, and Gilbert Geis, "On Criminological Indifference to the Global Economic Crisis," *The Criminologist* 35:2 (March/April, 2010) pp. 24-25.

Calendar

American Society of Criminology
Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Marriot Marquis Hotel
November 17 - 20, 2010
<http://www.asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm>

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
Annual Meeting
San Diego, CA
Town and Country Resort and Convention
Center
February 23-27, 2010
http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167_668_2915.cfm

News

Laufer Wins Book Award

William Laufer, a Legal Studies and Business Ethics professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, won the 2009 Outstanding Book Award for his *Corporate Bodies and Guilty Minds: The Failure of Corporate Criminal Liability* (University of Chicago Press). Laufer received the award from a panel that included Michael Lynch, Sharon Meltzer, Michael Blankenship, and WCCRC president Kip Schlegel.

Albanese Does Study, Requests Assistance

Jay Albanese is conducting a study of theft and fraud in the electrical distribution industry. He is looking for sources that he may have missed on the subjects of industrial, retail, employee theft, and related topics. Any citations or links are welcome! Please send to jsalbane@vcu.edu.

Research Analyst Needed

Dr. Ken Saban of Duquesne University is seeking a "Research Analyst" to help administer a Cyber Security Grant sponsored by the DOJ. Library research, writing and analytical skills a must, along with a degree in Information Technology. The position requires between 16 and 20 hours per week. Grant runs until December 31, 2010. For additional information, contact Dr. Ken Saban, Duquesne University, saban@duq.edu or 412-396-5152.

ASC Roundtable on Intellectual Property Crime

Some members of the WCCRC are preparing a roundtable panel to discuss the global, economic, and social problem of intellectual property crime for the upcoming ASC meeting in San Francisco. Discussants will include **Jay Albanese** of Virginia Commonwealth University, **Hedi Nasheri** of Kent State University, **Jeremy Wilson** and **Justin Heinonen** of Michigan State University, and **April Wall** of NW3C. Discussion will focus on what constitutes intellectual property crime; the illustration of the nexus of intellectual property crime to physical, economic, and social harms via qualitative and quantitative data; current academic and practitioner initiatives; and what can and should be done in the future regarding this under-recognized issue.

NW3C Research Section

The NW3C Research team recently completed the Internet Crime Complaint Center's tenth annual report. The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is NW3C's partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation devoted to fielding complaints on Internet-facilitated crime and referring these complaints to appropriate law enforcement agencies. The annual report presents statistics

NW3C Research Section (cont.)

on complaints received and referred by IC3, while highlighting emergent crime trends. The report can be accessed at <http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreports.aspx>.

In February, the Research section hosted a roundtable meeting in Charlotte, NC to discuss the next iteration of the National Public Survey on White Collar Crime. The participants shared their views on the content and structure of the questionnaire as well as the kinds of questions that should be asked in light of the growing economic crisis. The Research section is taking the participants' recommendations into consideration as it refines the questionnaire for implementation this summer. The Research section also is considering bids on the job of administering the survey and should be arriving at a final decision shortly.

NW3C is gearing up for the upcoming WCCRC luncheon to be held in conjunction with the 2010 American Society of Criminology Meeting in San Francisco, CA. We are in the process of making reservations and should have the arrangements finalized in the coming months. Be on the lookout for a an email update in the months ahead. Many thanks!

Contact Us

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Editor's Note

The Focus is a publication of the White Collar Crime Research Consortium (WCCRC). It welcomes articles and announcements concerning white collar crime research or related scholarly work. NW3C sponsors, funds, and coordinates the activities of the WCCRC. Please direct comments, suggestions, and materials concerning the newsletter to Rodney Huff.