



# NSU Criminal Justice News



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## THE POLICE BEAT



### **The Badge**

by Associate Professor Joe Morris

Even though the badge may weigh 2 – 4 ounces, when pinned on, there is a weight unknown to most law enforcement officers. The true weight of the badge requires a strength and conditioning for which few officers are trained. The badge is not just pinned on a chest; it is pinned on a lifestyle. The heaviness of the badge makes the law enforcement officer different from other professionals. Ten areas have been identified which make the badge heavy and law enforcement officers different. (Paraphrased from *The Heavy Badge*, Vol 1, No. 1)

humanize people who are without a uniform. Just wearing a badge or a gun can cause people to act more aggressively. These are changes that could happen to anyone wearing a uniform, badge and gun, thus these factors are expected to operate in some way on the police officer. Many officers suggest there is a "role," or "mask" which they put on along with their uniform. Sometimes this role leaks into their personal lives and changes the course of their relationships and leisure time.

Other reasons will be printed in subsequent issues of the *NSU Criminal Justice News*.

Reprinted from URL <http://www.heavybadge.com>

## **10 REASONS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE DIFFERENT**

*And how these differences impact on their stress!*

### **Reasons 1 and 2**

- 1) Law enforcement officers are seen as authority figures. People deal with them differently and treat them differently, even when they are not working. When a problem occurs, everyone looks to the officer to "take charge," to "solve the problem." Some say the cop is never off duty. Even when the officer is not working there is a tendency to attack problems and take charge. Sometimes taking charge is not preferable, and can cause particular strains in our world where many people like to linger with problems, never really solving anything. Recognizing the difference between a "problem solving" situation, where action is desirable, and a more passive situation, where action may alienate others, is difficult for the cop.
- 2) They are isolated. The wearing of a badge, uniform and gun makes a law officer separate from society. This segregation leads to many psychological effects which research shows can create negative personality traits. For example, psychological research shows the wearing of a uniform will tend to make any person de-



## THE COURTHOUSE

### **Who Is The Newest Chief Justice of The Supreme Court?**

By Assistant Professor Shirley Snyder

Who is John Glover Roberts, Jr.? Those with any interest in the future direction of the highest court in our nation watched Roberts respond to questions asked during confirmation hearings before the Senate, a forum used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of candidates for the high office of Supreme Court justice.

Would this nominee be an evenhanded and judicious contender for the powerful position at the summit of the United States Court System? At the end of the confirmation hearings and after Roberts' confirmation, the public still doesn't know. Roberts' answers often provided little substance of his character or his legal viewpoints and principles. Randy E. Barnett, law professor at Boston University and legal theorist on constitutional law and theory [1], said of Roberts, "In his distinguished career, he has somehow managed not to give a speech or write an article that reveals the core of his judicial philosophy. As a result, we simply have no idea what to expect from him." [2]

How do we determine the fabric of the Robert's character, the substance of his attitudes and beliefs, and the tradition in which he will serve? We know only that he can present cautiously prudent responses filled with the same impenetrability that we have grown complacent with in our political leaders. Those of us who like clarity and who have no idea where he stands at the end of the day, would have appreciated better from this man. Straightforward answers and forthright replies would have been respected from the individual given the power to interpret the nuances of the document that shields and guards the citizenry of this great nation. So, why, one asks, were clear answers not given? Is it the nature of the law to be confusing? Did Roberts respond as he was coached? Did he fear that the tough answers would have compromised his opportunity for this Court?

On Thursday, September 29, 2005, John Glover Roberts, Jr. was confirmed as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, by a vote of 78-22 by the full Senate. [3] Roberts' confirmation was assured. The votes were there on the side of the Republicans and enough Democrats could defend the decision to vote his confirmation as well. So, where are we at this point with this new appointee of the President confirmed by our Senate? As citizens and individuals who are interested, we can study Robert's prior legal decisions during the short time he served in the judiciary but the list is not extensive from which we can generate an accurate understanding of his historical views on constitutional issues. [4] We can read articles written by those who are studying him now. The bottom line is that Roberts has been confirmed to serve as Chief Justice and serve he will for as long as he desires or lives, weighing in on cases of enormous importance. We must wait to discover his judicial design. At that point, what Roberts felt compelled not to disclose during his confirmation hearings will become apparent.

In the meantime, a second nomination by President Bush to fill the vacancy made by departing Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor promises to provide a much livelier discourse in those confirmation hearings. The threat to the current structure of the high Court is that this replacement for the vacancy left by centrist O'Connor will finally swing the already conservative structure of the Court firmly to the extreme right, a position feared by due process proponents throughout the country. This move to a more conservative stance by the Court has the potential to abandon legal precedent and to overturn cases previously protecting liberty and privacy interests of the individual over the rights of the government to control and restrict those interests.

At his confirmation ceremony, Chief Justice Roberts said, "I'll try to ensure, in the discharge of my responsibilities, that, with the help of my colleagues, I can pass on to my children's generation a charter of self

government as strong and as vibrant as the one that Chief Justice Rehnquist passed on to us". [5] We, the American public, must wait to determine exactly what that means to the new Chief Justice.

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- [5] "Roberts Sworn in as Chief Justice". CNN.com. (Bill Mears of CNN's Washington Bureau contributed to this report.) Page 1.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/09/29/roberts.nomination/>

## THE SLAMMER

### ***Position Statement from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care***



### **Health Services to Adolescents in Adult Correctional Facilities - Background**

By Assistant Professor Thomas J. Tiefenwerth

Judicial and correctional authorities have always been challenged with the problem of adolescents committing crimes. Bolstered by changing public attitudes toward adolescents accused of acts of violent crime (i.e., murder, rape, drug offenses, robbery, and aggravated assault), states are lowering the adult age limit that allows adolescents to be tried and sentenced in adult criminal court. The rise in the number of violent crimes committed by adolescents, political pressures, and community reaction have resulted in increased placement of adolescents in adult correctional facilities.

Incarcerating adolescents in adult correctional facilities jeopardizes the long-standing paradigm of protecting the innocence of youth by incarcerating them separately from adults, maintaining their confidentiality, providing them with specialized community-based services, and ensuring that they participate in an individualized justice system. Furthermore, incarcerating adolescents in adult correctional facilities ignores the fact that the growth and developmental changes that occur in adolescence are substantially different from those that occur in adults.

Adolescence is a period of rapid physical, nutritional, cognitive, and social growth and development. These changes are influenced by a variety of factors including genetic, nutritional, environmental, family, and social experiences. Adolescents are at an increased risk for developing depressive symptoms and anxiety symptoms. Associated with this can be an increased risk for self-mutilating behavior, suicide attempts (National Coalition of State Juvenile Justice Advisory Groups, 1993), psychotic symptoms, and aggressive behaviors toward others. Confinement in any correctional facility can have a major impact on the ultimate outcome on this developmental process. Adult facilities are not able to deal with these and other needs of adolescents, and rarely are staff in adult facilities trained or prepared to work with the problems unique to adolescents.

Juveniles in adult facilities are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted, twice as likely to be beaten by staff, and 50 percent more likely to be attacked with a weapon than adolescents in a juvenile facility (Forst, Fagan, & Scott, 1989). The same studies also indicate a much lower rating of counseling programs' efforts to improve family relations and medical care in adult facilities. Given these facts, it is imperative that correctional programs caring for adolescents be designed specifically to meet their needs.

#### **Position Statement**

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care believes the incarceration of adolescents in adult correctional facilities is detrimental to the health and developmental well-being of youth. The Commission realizes, nevertheless, that jurisdictions will adjudicate youths as adults and incarcerate them in institutions for adults. Therefore, due to the unique health service needs presented by adolescents in adult correctional facilities, the Commission recommends the following:

#### **Recommendations**

Adolescent health specialists, including medical and mental health professionals, familiar with correctional health care should be consulted in the development of correctional policies and procedures dealing with adolescent inmates.

Correctional and health staff who are responsible for the supervision and treatment of adolescents should receive orientation and on-going training regarding the unique health, developmental and educational needs of youth. Facilities housing adolescents should recognize their vulnerability in an adult setting. Adolescents should be separated and provided opportunities for appropriate peer interaction.

There should be a mechanism for referral to adolescent medical and mental health specialists.

The Commission advises that the specific developmental and growth needs of an adolescent population be addressed in a special needs treatment planning process for inmates as described in the NCCHC jail and prison standards on Special Needs Treatment Plans.

Adolescent prisoners should receive health care and health education in accordance with the American Medical Association's Guidelines for Adolescent Preventive Services (GAPS). The NCCHC document, Standards for Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, provides guidelines that also will be of assistance in this regard.

***Adopted by the National Commission on  
Correctional Health Care  
Board of Directors: May 17, 1998***

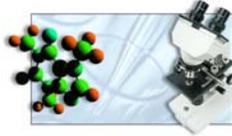
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## THE FORENSIC FILES

### **You'll Shoot Your Eye Out**

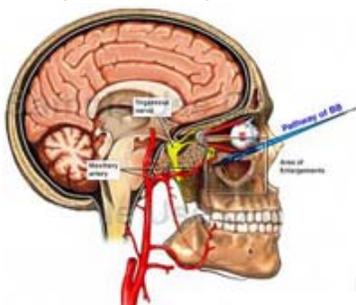
by Assistant Professor David Hough



Yes, your mother was right! That BB-Gun will probably do some surprising damage to the human orbit or worse. Every year, BB-Guns and other air-powered guns do ocular damage and serious bodily injury, including death. Statistics from the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) reports such accidental deaths. Most of these incidents of death and serious bodily injuries are accidents. The problems with these guns are on several levels:

1. These guns are treated as “toys.” Every 10-12 year old gets one of these guns for Christmas, birthdays, other holidays, etc. The parents, yes, I said the “P” word, should become familiar with the power and trajectory of these gifts. But, as some of my co-professors would say, “cultural transmission” takes over and my dad gave me a BB-gun, etc.
2. The ballistics information on these toys is serious. Most parents do not know the power of these “toys,” until it is too late. The velocity of these “toys” can range from 250 fps (feet per second) to 1200 fps. Such velocities are enough for penetration of the chest cavity, not to mention that soft tissue area known as the “eye.” The most pressing concern is what is beyond the eye or orbit, which most anatomy students will tell you, is the “brain.”
3. Historically, air weapons (rifles) have been used since the 16<sup>th</sup> century in warfare and to kill game, including deer. The CPSC estimates that there are approximately 3.2 million non-powder guns sold yearly.

Many children that become victims of air-gun injuries are unsupervised, usually with a friend, and probably not at home. The regulation of air-guns are found in New York and Florida, as well as 28 other states. However, as a former law enforcement official, I am somewhat dubious as to the actual enforcement, or officials taking the time to explain to the parents the down-side of these guns. I



do take heart that maybe those mothers can convince their local jurisdictions to consider the BB-gun problem, or maybe get the word out to all parents that such guns are not toys. Next time you watch “A Christmas Story,” and

you hear Darren McGavin tell his son; “You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out,” maybe you will think of this BB-gun story, and just maybe when you buy your son an air rifle, you will take appropriate precautions and “Keep Your Eyes Out” for his safety.

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## THE GRAB BAG

### **Criminal Behavior and Biology**

By Assistant Professor Bill Shaw



Recently we have been reminded that we are what we are because of our genetic constitution. Studies have indicated that much of our behavior is hard-wired into our brains. That really should come as no surprise since we have always observed that little boys are very different behaviorally from little girls, no matter what their environment. This is true for many of our dispositions and overt behaviors. Criminality is included.

No one is suggesting that anyone is destined to be a criminal and that genetic programming is unavoidable. But, anyone who has observed a baby grow into adulthood knows that people get here with characteristic ways of behaving that are recognizable throughout their lives. I have had the opportunity to witness the development of several



people from birth to adulthood in my own household and can attest to the fact that personality “quirks” noticed from a very young age are still present and influence the individual’s behavior throughout their life. Quiet, shy babies make quiet, shy adults. Active, happy babies grow into similar type adults. Of course, in some people, intervening events may change some of this, which is an important point. Personality characteristics and resulting behaviors may have a genetic genesis but not unalterably so. They can be influenced, guided, and redirected. However, the tendencies are still there. It is one of the ways of explaining why children from the same family, same experiences, turn out so differently. There are in-born tendencies with which each person must contend.

We know that certain characteristics are common to criminal personalities. One is impulsivity or willingness to take risks. Several years ago it was learned that a particular gene codes for this personality trait (see Drs. Jonathan Benjamin and Robert Cloningers' independent research, both published in *Nature Genetics*, vol. 12, Jan 1996). Those with the gene were found to be much more likely to engage in risky, stimulating activities, *i.e.*, skydiving, bungee jumping, or criminal acts and other norm violations. This particular gene was also correlated with the decision to pursue a certain profession—law enforcement. It gives some credence to the old belief that there is a fine line between the personalities of crooks and cops.

Another gene was found to be associated with the ability to control and deal effectively with anger. Han Brunner, a geneticist from the Netherlands, conducted a study of one family with a number of members of nefarious repute revealed that, in each case, this gene was missing. I have no doubt other important criminogenic personality characteristics or behaviors will be found to have a genetic component. After all, if the decision to begin smoking has a genetic origin, what doesn't (see *Health Psychology*, vol. 18(1), Jan 1999 pp. 7-13)?

We have successfully mapped the entire human genome. Even so, we are still decades away from knowing what each of those genes do, how they fit into the whole of the human superstructure. Perhaps, with the arrival of that knowledge will be a better understanding of the mix of biology, psychology and sociology that makes us what we are and what we do. It's important to remember, however, that the same personality traits that lead one person to commit bank robberies may drive another to be a war hero or a police officer. It's true that many of the characteristics common to criminals cause them to break the rules. Other noted groups of "rule breakers" are explorers, inventors, and innovators who have similar personalities. While we desire to control, even eliminate, criminal behavior, we need to be careful that we do not eliminate the characteristics that every society needs if it is going to continue to mature and progress.

**Gulf States Regional Community Policing Institute**  
at Northwestern State University

**Who We Are**

In 1997, the Department of Justice COPS Office funded the creation of the Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs). This is the only national network created to provide low and no-cost training to law enforcement and the communities they



serve. The Louisiana Community Policing Institute (LCPI), based at Northwestern State University, was one of the original RCPIs but expanded to become the Gulf State Regional Community Policing Institute (GSRCP) in 2002, serving the states of Alabama and Mississippi in addition to Louisiana.

RCPIs deliver and develop innovative cutting edge curricula on emerging law enforcement issues to challenge and improve traditional training. Topics include domestic violence, emotional survival, partnership building, community improvement, domestic preparedness, and terrorism.

**Our Mission:**

The Gulf States Regional Community Policing Institute is dedicated to building partnerships between law enforcement agencies, government, and community organizations to facilitate the implementation of Community Oriented Policing/Government. Our goal is to enhance public safety and to improve the quality of life through teamwork. GSRCP does this in the following ways:

**Training** – Training is offered regionally and by special request. GSRCP also contracts with states and agencies to deliver customized curriculum such as the New Chief Management Training Course for the State of Louisiana.

**Conferences** – GSRCP presents and co-sponsors conferences to raise the level of awareness regarding Community Oriented Policing, crime prevention, homeland defense, and quality of life issues. We also work to share information, support communities, build partnerships, and create forums for sharing best practices.

**Training of Trainers** – GSRCP selects experiences subject matter experts from around the country and uses best practice materials and information to deliver curriculum customized to our region. This cadre of trainers not only provides depth for GSRCP, but also enhances the knowledge base in departments throughout the region.

For more information or to find training in your area, visit the GSRCP website at [www.GSRCP.org](http://www.GSRCP.org) or call toll free at 1-888-283-0966.

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