



MENTIONS

PUBLICATIONS

'Youth Street Rights'

This new booklet, produced by Sydney's University of Technology, Community Law and Research Centre, clarifies the rights and responsibilities of young people when 'hanging out' in public spaces in NSW.

Implications arising out of recent legislative developments, including the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, the *Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility Act) 1997* and the *Crimes Amendment (Detention After Arrest) Act 1997*, are explained for the benefit of young people, youth workers and advocates. The booklet counters many misconceptions about the rights of people under 18, when dealing with police on the streets.

Contact: Mr Tim Anderson, UTS Community Law and Research Centre
tel 02 9514 2920

Streetwise Comics

The latest edition of *Streetwise Comics*, 'It's Legit', has recently been launched by the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department.

'It's Legit' explains the real consequences of breaking the law, in common scenarios involving young people including, writing graffiti, alcohol associated fighting and delinquent behaviour on trains. It also lists information to assist access to legal aid, legal advice, drug and alcohol counselling, emergency accommodation and the Ombudsman services. The use of everyday language, up-beat characters and life-like scenarios, enables complex legal information to be presented in an easy to understand format that kids can relate to.

The comic is distributed free of charge to schools and community organisations throughout NSW.

Contact: Peter Lewis, NSW Attorney General's Department
tel 02 9228 8188 or 0411014135

For copies contact: Liz Potter
tel: 02 9560 3244

Hot Topics

Environmental Law is the focus of *Hot Topics* issue number 18, produced by the Legal Information Access Centre.

The issue includes examination of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 1997*, the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* — addressing pollution laws, changes to the law protecting native vegetation and the regulation of contaminated land. It also contains an overview of the most significant developments in land use planning, over the last 20 years.

Copies are held in every public library in NSW as well as Community Legal Centres and Legal Aid Commission Offices.

Contact: Trish Luker
tel: 02 9273 1645
email: tluker@slnsw.gov.au

Lost in Space

Judy Horacek's latest book of cartoons was published recently by Allen & Unwin. It carries 80 cartoons and 25 stories about the catastrophes of modern life, from flat tyres to laundromats, from frightening dinner parties to unhelpful police officers. RRP: \$16.95



ARTS LAW CENTRE ADVICE SERVICE

This night service provides an ideal opportunity to directly access experienced specialists in arts and entertainment law.

The service deals with a wide variety of art forms and their associated publishing, recording and purchase contracts. The centre also operates a toll free telephone advice service.

Advice Night Service: Every second Monday (except public holidays)

Time: 6-8 pm

Location: Victorian College of the Arts
204 St Kilda Road, Southbank, Melbourne

Bookings essential: tollfree 1800 221 457

email: artslaw@artslaw.asn.au

CONFERENCES

Defending the Environment

The EDO Network presents its first national conference, assisting those seeking to defend the environment to better understand their rights and responsibilities. The conference aims to educate campaigners to better protect themselves from the harm and abuse which frequently accompanies environmental protests.

Themes to be covered include: the importance of public participation, tactics used against environmentally concerned citizens, and getting organised if you are arrested.

Date: 24 October 1998

Location: Sydney

Contact: Ann tel 02 9262 6989

16th Annual Law and Society Conference

Embodiments & Texts of the Law, Where Have 'The People' Gone?

Poignant topics covering the imperial legacy, abortion, capital punishment, artificial persons, privatisation and the idea of the state, will be presented.

In addition, submissions for papers from disciplines within the humanities, social sciences and law, are welcome, before 30 September.

Date: 7, 8, 9 December 1998

Venue: La Trobe University, Melbourne

Cost: 3 days \$160 or \$80 unwaged,
1 day \$80 or \$40 unwaged

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There is also a detailed description of the obstacles faced by Filipino women in Australia which make it difficult for them to report violence, seek protection orders or use services such as refuges. The study is thus very well grounded in the current feminist and criminological debates which deal with family violence.

Section two of the monograph provides those details which are available concerning the 27 cases being studied. The authors acknowledge the inadequacy of these data, collected, as they were, from HREOC files and the Centre for Philippine Concerns. The quantity and quality of information varies considerably and they suspect that there are gaps and omissions for years at a time. Notwithstanding these methodological shortcomings, the cases are stark and disturbing evidence of the authors' contention that some young Filipino women and their children are at grave risk of suffering violence and even death when they are sponsored to migrate by Australian men.

For example, two men had previously had Filipino wives and one other man had made an application for further introductions the day before he killed his present wife (p.89). There are also disparities in how each case was investigated and prosecuted as well as in the sentences meted out where the killer was convicted (p.82) — one man was

acquitted and several had murder charges reduced to manslaughter. One man was not prosecuted because the bodies of mother and child were never found although there was circumstantial evidence and the husband remained the prime suspect (p.63). In their discussion of these cases, the authors successfully link the intersections of gender, race, and class with the violence perpetrated on Filipino 'brides'.

In section three and the appendices, further proof is provided of how Filipino women are racialised in advertising, in publicity for 'introduction' agencies and on the Internet as the 'ideal' women of male fantasy. Finally, the international relations aspect of the research is confirmed as the authors demonstrate how the pressures to earn foreign exchange in third world countries plays into the hands of first world interests willing to exploit women as wives and cheap labour.

However, some questions remain unanswered as a result of deficiencies in the data. Although the study is very well documented and carefully qualified in most areas, I would have liked to know what proportion of these Filipina-Australian marriages are represented in the homicide numbers. When reading the cases, for instance, I wondered if the men who killed their Filipino wives might have killed any wife. Certainly many of them had been

married before with histories of violence, had suffered psychiatric illnesses or been in prison. My question might therefore be: is it the type of man who seeks a Filipino wife which makes these women so vulnerable? Perhaps the question cannot be answered without further research.

In terms of the structure and language of the monograph, I found it to be well written and accessible. It will be useful for legal personnel, social workers, refuges and the staff of outreach services who come into contact with Filipino women. However, it might have been better to have the cases integrated into the analysis. It was a little confusing in chapter five to have to keep referring back to the previous chapter for details and it would have saved some repetition. An index too, would have been welcome.

Nevertheless, this monograph is a significant addition to existing knowledge of domestic violence and its consequences. It is thoroughly researched and its limitations do not detract from its sophisticated analysis. As such, it is like an exploratory study which is not definitive but certainly raises important issues of which we need to be made aware.

JENNY BURLEY

Jenny Burley teaches legal studies at Flinders University of South Australia.



MORE MENTIONS

CAPSICUM SPRAY

All States and Territory police forces in Australia have now introduced or are considering introducing a controversial new chemical weapon called capsicum spray.

Victoria Police are the first police force in Australia to make the spray weapon standard equipment for all operational police.

The Western Suburbs Legal Service has developed a comprehensive resource library of local and overseas material relating to the way capsicum spray has been used, medical, safety and civil liberties concerns. The resources are designed for use and distribution to lawyers acting for people who have been sprayed, community workers, students, activists and those who want to know more about the spray.

The legal service also wants to hear from anybody who has been sprayed by police.

Contact: Jude McCulloch or Marcus Clayton on (03) 9391 2244.

VICTORIA LAW FOUNDATION IDEAS INCENTIVE SCHEME

The Foundation is trialling a new scheme called the Ideas Incentive Scheme. The scheme seeks to channel creative ideas from the community into Foundation projects — by offering organisations a fee for ideas that become Foundation projects. The Scheme in no way diminishes the Foundation's existing Grants Program.

To apply, an organisation must first elect whether it intends to apply for a grant to carry out the project itself or whether it wants to offer an idea for a project to the Foundation. To apply to the Ideas Incentive Scheme a project

outline of approximately two pages, containing a clear description of the project, the need for the project, a general plan for its execution and global estimate of its cost is submitted.

For more information contact Noelene Graton on (03) 9602 2877 or email noelene@viclf.asn.au

Editing/proofreading

For writing, editing or proofreading, contact:
Lynn Buchanan
(03) 9484 4439

Specialising in clear, easy-to-understand law-related information. Many years experience with the Lawyers Practice manual (Vic) as well as project work with Victoria Legal Aid and Victoria Law Foundation.