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Fatherhood Arrested: Parenting from Within the Juvenile Justice System. Ann M. Nurse.

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adversarial, impartial, and impersonal decorum representative of traditional legal protocol is inconsistent with the existing drug court forum. Opponents of the drug court movement contend that drug courts may compromise the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.

The book attempts to explain drug courts from a number of legal and jurisprudential theoretical perspectives such as theories of punishment, social defense theory, and the rehabilitative ideal. Practical examples of drug court dynamics are presented to support or challenge theoretical interpretations. Proponents of the drug court movement discuss its efficacy and implications for the future of drug offender jurisprudence. The book also contains interesting comparisons and contrasts between the drug court movements of the United States and Great Britain.

This book is very informative and enlightening. Its strongest point lies in its diversity of perspectives. Nolan provides a panoply of arguments for critical consideration. The theme and intent of the book are consistent throughout. Unfortunately, some of the points do become redundant. Nevertheless, the contributing authors are clear and informative regarding the drug court movement, its evolution and development as a judicial innovation, and the many theoretical and practical challenges that have been presented by this nascent sociolegal phenomenon.

Ann M. Nurse, *Fatherhood Arrested: Parenting from Within the Juvenile Justice System*. Nashville, TN: Van der Bilt University Press, 2002. \$39.95 hardcover, \$19.95 papercover.

The increased use of custodial sentencing in the United States over the last decade has resulted in a huge prison population. While many politicians and members of the public believe that the routine use of incarceration is an effective way of reducing crime, many criminologists conclude that it has, in fact, had a limited deterrent impact. Despite the exponential increase in the prison population, violence, drug dealing and properly crime remain problems of huge proportions. Drawing on a substantive body of research into the effectiveness of prisons, they also point out that custodial sentences, particularly for drug related offences, is counterproductive. Recidivism remains a major problem and in many cases, the prospects of rehabilitating those who

are incarcerated are small. Another problem is the negative impact of incarceration on low income communities, and especially on low income communities of color, where the proportion of young men in prison has reached sizable proportions. Their absence has a deleterious impact on family life in these communities, exacerbating poverty, insecurity and dependency,

In this important study, Anne Nurse addresses the issue by focusing on young fathers who have been incarcerated. To obtain more information about their experiences, attitudes and commitment to their children, she tracked a group of young fathers who had been given custodial sentences by the California courts, and who were detained in facilities operated by the California Youth Authority. Of these, she was able to interview 258. In addition, 20 were randomly selected for an in-depth interview. In addition to interviewing candidates herself, Nurse made use of professional translators and interviewers who could communicate with minority respondents. Not surprisingly, they were over-represented in the sample. The purpose of the study was to obtain detailed information about the lives and experiences of these young men with particular reference to their roles as fathers. The interviews sought to determine whether the young men wished to maintain contact with their children, how they felt about fatherhood, and to what extent their efforts to maintain relationships with their children were successful.

The book contains a wealth of important information on these topics. Nurse found that contrary to what many assume, the young incarcerated fathers were anxious to maintain relationships with their children and most made sustained efforts to do so. On the other hand, relationships with their partners tended to dissipate creating barriers to long term contacts. On release from detention, many sought to stay in touch with their children and many were committed to providing income and emotional support. However, as Nurse reveals, there were variations in the extent to which they were successful in achieving this goal.

Drawing on her survey and in-depth interviews, Nurse also addresses a number of policy issues relating to 'arrested' fatherhood. With the current national policy emphasis on strengthening families, she urges that more effective steps be taken to assist young incarcerated fathers nurture relationships with their

children. She points out that prison visitation rules impede the development of these relationships and she urges the authorities to adopt policies that will enhance contact. Since many children of incarcerated fathers are involved with the statutory child welfare system, she proposes the child welfare and correctional personnel cooperative more closely on these cases. She also urges that improved parenting and educational opportunities be provided for fathers and that support networks be developed. Many other issues of policy relevance are discussed in this engaging and well written book which deserves to be widely consulted and commended for addressing an important but neglected topic.

Martin B. Feldstein and Jeffrey B. Liebman (Eds.), *The Distributional Aspects of Social Security and Social Security Reform*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002. \$40.00 hardcover.

Social security reform (as privatization is euphemistically known), has been on the political agenda since the 1980s but so far, the hopes of those who favor the abolition of America's most popular and effective social program and its replacement with commercially managed individual retirement accounts have not been realized. Despite sustained lobbying, support from both Republican and Democrat politicians, the appointment of a President Commission, and a large number of research studies, books and conferences designed to show that privatization will provide income security for elderly people when they retire, social security remains in tact. However, many believe that the Republican Party's recent electoral successes may finally result in legislation that will partially privatize the social security system and introduce commercially managed retirement accounts.

In the mean time, the campaign against social security continues apace. Media reports continue to present alarming reports of the impending crisis of an aging population that will be forced to rely on a declining and overburdened number of productive workers for income support in their retirement. Similarly, reports of the imminent bankruptcy of the social security system are issued with monotonous regularity even though the system continues to receive more income from payroll taxes than it pays out in benefits. Scholarly books designed to provide scientific evidence to support the need to urgent social security reform continue to