

CRIMSA NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is Springtime and even criminologists seem to be experiencing a fruitful period if the contributions in this newsletter are anything to go by.

In the previous newsletter (volume 23) the debate on blowing the whistle to reduce crime was initiated. Two members comment on this topic are included under “Academic debate”. I hope this is the

beginning of an ongoing academic discourse, initiated by the readers.

The Protected Disclosures Bill, Act 26 of 2000, was published in the Government Gazette No 21453 of 7 August 2000 and will be promulgated during September. The aim of this Bill is threefold, namely to make provision for procedures in terms of which employees in both the private and the public sector may disclose information regarding unlawful or irregular conduct by their employers or other employees in the employ of their employers; to provide for the protection of employees who make a disclosure in terms of this Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Criminologists become more and more involved in community projects. In the previous newsletter “Project Aspis” under the auspice of the Department of Criminology at the University of South Africa, aiming at the shielding and protection of child abuse, was covered. In this newsletter criminologists from the Department of Criminology at the Pretoria

University report on their community projects. The “Anti-drug Project” launched various initiatives involving, amongst others, clubs, restaurateurs, parents, the youth, teachers and security guards to curb drug abuse and the related problems. The “Ithumeleng Project” is a multi-disciplinary community service project with the street children in Sunnyside as target group. The purpose of this project is to develop life skills, build capacity and empower the children.

Criminologists from South Africa were appointed by UNICRI as Africa representatives. Congratulations to them!

The Model of differentiation and institutional types as proposed by the Minister of Education is an important development that should be taken note of. Therefore, a summary is integrated in this newsletter. Consult the website address for more information:
http://education.pwv.gov.za/DoE_Sites/higher_Education/CHE/Model.htm

Contributions to this newsletter should not exceed 500 words. Photo’s may also be included. Name, full address, telephone number and fax number or e-mail address should accompany all letters and material submitted for publication.

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<p>AN OPEN LETTER TO A “WHISTLEBLOWER”</p> <p>Dirk Lambrechts</p>

The Open Democracy Bill which was published during 1998, eventually ended up as the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000. The latter Act was enacted to give effect to section 32(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 108 of 1996, i.e. the (Bill of) Right of Access to Information.

The Open Democracy Bill contained a Part 5 entitled "Protection of Whistleblowers (Afrikaans: "alarmmakers"). Part 5 did, however, not make it into the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000.

According to subsequent media reports, the nation was informed that Part 5 will become an independent statute. Hence the publication of the Protected Disclosures Bill. However, nowhere in the Protected Disclosures Bill does one find the term

“whistleblower”. This is to be welcomed because “whistleblower” (as used in this context) is not generally used in South Africa.

The objectives of the Protected Disclosures Bill are, inter alia, to make provision for procedures in terms of which employees in both the private and the public sector may disclose information regarding unlawful or irregular conduct by their employers or other employees in the employ of their employers; and to provide for the protection of employees who make such disclosures. Phrased differently, the disclosure of information referred to in the Protected Disclosures Bill is, with respect, nothing but a glorified statutory informer. Note the word "statutory" because the concept is established by statute.

The statutory informer (and also a common law informer), is of course nothing new in South Africa. Firstly there is section 3(1) of the Finance and Financial Adjustment Consolidation Act 11 of 1977 which provides as follows:

"Rewards to informers in respect of precious metals and precious stones
(1) Notwithstanding anything in any other law contained, any person, other than a person in the service of the State, upon whose information any precious stone or

precious metal or any money paid in respect of the illicit purchase of any precious stone or precious metal is seized under any law, may, at the discretion and under the written authority of the Commissioner of the South African Police, be paid out of the revenues accruing to the State from the sale of such precious stone or metal or from the seizure of such money a monetary reward not exceeding one-third of the amount realized by such sale or of such money seized, as the case may be, and, where the said Commissioner is of the opinion that such a reward is inadequate, may in the discretion of the said Commissioner be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose, such additional amount as together with the said reward does not exceed the sum of one hundred rand".

Then there are section 44 (1) of the South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995, section 61 of the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998, section 60 of the National Forests Act 84 of 1998 and section 26 (5) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998. They provide as follows:

Section 44(1) of Act 68 of 1995

"44. Rewards and recognition - (1) The National or Provincial Commissioner may, after consultation with the Minister or member of the Executive Council, make an

appropriate award to any member or other person for meritorious service in the interest of the Service".

Section 61 of Act 18 of 1998

"61, Payment for information leading to conviction -

The Minister may from money appropriated by Parliament for that purpose and in consultation with the Minister of Finance, pay to any person, excluding a person in the employment of the State or an organ of state who has furnished any information or material of proof which leads to a conviction by a court, a remuneration in cash which, in the opinion of the Minister, is reasonable and fair in the circumstances".

Section 60 of Act 84 of 1998

"60. Award of part of fine recovered to informant. -

(1) A court which imposes a fine for an offence in terms of this Act, may order that a sum of not more than one-fourth of the fine, be paid to any person whose evidence led to the conviction or who helped bring the offender to justice.

(2) An officer in the service of the State may not receive such an award."

Section 26(5) of Act 101 of 1998

"(5)(a) A court which imposes a fine for an offence in terms of this Act, may order that a sum of not more than one-fourth of the

fine be paid to any person whose evidence led to the conviction or who helped bring the offender to justice.

(b) An officer in the service of the State may not receive such an award".

The "whistleblower" must remember that he or she may (depending on the nature of the information concerned) be used by whatever authorities as a trap or as an undercover agent. And (legally speaking), informers and undercover agents and traps, go hand in hand with rewards (see section 9(l)(b) of the Protected Disclosures Bill). And further, the person may be called as a witness in a court of law.

How do the courts (and for that matter the community) feel about informers, undercover agents, traps and rewards? In *R v Van Schalkwyk* 1938 AD 543 as quoted by Hiemstra (in Kriegler 1993:488), an informer is described as follows: "He is, first, one who gives information of a kind prejudicial to others whose enmity he may thereby provoke; secondly, that information must be of a kind which is (or may be) the cause of a criminal prosecution; and lastly, it must be given to the officers of justice. Definitions are often difficult to frame and their inflexibility is often a serious drawback and danger. It is much easier and safer to say, in given cases, who is and who is not an informer than accurately to describe the

circle in which he is rigidly confined. My remarks above are, therefore, intended to describe some of the essential characteristics of an informer. The English cases, proceeding, perhaps, more safely, if more vaguely, seem to lay down that any person who gives information to the authorities of the commission of a crime, or information which leads to the detection of a crime, is one who, in the public interest, ought to be protected. In other words, anyone who gives useful information about the commission of a crime and needs protection against those who may suffer from his disclosures should get that protection so as to encourage these disclosures."

Note that the "protection" referred to here in Van Schalkwyk, is "protection" against disclosure of an informer's identity. However, seven years after Van Schalkwyk the same Supreme Court of Appeal in *Ex Parte Minister of Justice: In re R v Pillay* 1945 AD 653 held that the identity of an informer must be disclosed if, inter alia, it is in the interests of justice and if the disclosure may prove the innocence of an accused. The latter principles have since obtained statutory status in the form of section 46 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000.

However, in *S v Qokumfana* (unreported)

Case Nrs. K 3336/69; 2147/69 and 7734/69 undated (CPD) Mr Justice Corbett, who later became our Chief Justice, commented as follows: "In this matter the accused was convicted of being in possession of a quantity of dagga for the purpose of sale in contravention of section 61(l)(c) of Act 13 of 1928, as amended, and sentenced to a fine of R100 or six months' imprisonment. Neither the conviction nor the sentence can be faulted but, in confirming the case on review, I feel compelled to comment upon one aspect of the matter.

The case against the accused was based mainly upon the evidence of a trap employed by the Police, one Mose Kippe, who deposed to having purchased two dagga cigarettes from the accused at a certain house in Langa. His evidence is corroborated in many material respects by that of Constable de Witt who employed him, gave him the necessary instruction and kept him under observation while he approached, and returned from, the house in question; and I have no reason to question its essential veracity. In the course of the cross-examination of Kippe, however, the following passage has been recorded:

Q: Is it the first time that you give evidence in such a case? - No

Q: Are you paid? - Yes Q: Do the police pay you if the accused is acquitted? - No

Q: You must see to it that the accused is convicted? (Prosecutor objects).

Objection sustained.

Q: If the accused is discharged you get nothing? - That is so"

This passage indicated that the witness had previously been employed as a Police trap and as a witness against the person sought to be trapped and that the practice was to pay him remuneration, provided that the accused person was duly convicted. If this evidence is true, then, in my view, it reveals a serious malpractice which should be terminated immediately. As it is, there is always a danger that a trap may use improper methods to secure success or may falsely incriminate an accused person in evidence, especially where he is rewarded for his services; and it is because of this that his evidence is treated by the Courts with caution. A practice whereby the trap receives his reward only if a conviction is secured not only gives the main State witness a direct financial interest in the successful outcome of the case, but also raises question about the propriety of method or false incrimination. I have accordingly decided to refer this matter to

the Attorney General for appropriate action. I would add that this is the first time that evidence of such practice has ever come to my attention and I have no reason to believe that it is anything but an isolated instance.

There is one final comment that I wish to make. As will appear from the above-quoted passage in the evidence, the question by the defence attorney (You must see to it that the accused is convicted?) was disallowed by the Court after an objection by the public prosecutor. It is not clear to me why the Magistrate ruled in this way. Although the question was, perhaps, not very politely phrased, it seems to me, in the circumstances, to have been a permissible one. Be that as it may, this ruling is not of vital importance and cannot affect the correctness of the conviction.

The conviction and sentence are confirmed but the papers in this matter are referred to the Attorney-General for such action as he deems it fit to take.

And then there is *S v Tau 19% (2) SACR 97 (TPD)*. Tan worked in the smelt house of the Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine near Klerksdorp. His fellow employees in the smelt house saw him taking a piece of rough gold, together with some stones and

put it down on a wheelbarrow nearby, then turned around to the wheelbarrow and took the piece of gold with his left hand, returned to the pot and dropped the piece of gold whereupon he kicked it about five times with his left foot under the pan. A portion of the gold protruded from under the pan.

His fellow employees confronted him immediately whereupon he was arrested. On appeal the court, inter alia, compared the matter with shoplifting. It held that Tan's conduct not even amounted to a preparation to commit an offence - which is not punishable - let alone the execution of an offence. During the trial in the regional court the defence called the chief of security on the mine who testified that rewards are paid to persons who inform on fellow employees regarding the theft of gold. Accordingly the court of appeal (on p101i and p105b) held that both the State witnesses (Tan's fellow employees), 'were over-eager in the light of their knowledge that there may possibly be a reward for them, should Tan be convicted'.

Accordingly Tau was acquitted on appeal.

In *S v Nangombe* (unreported) Case Nr. SA 2/93 dated 7 October 1994 (Supreme Court of Namibia), Nangombe was convicted in the High Court of Namibia of the theft of 174 unpolished diamonds with a mass of

283,02 carats valued at R472 890,00 from his employer, i.e. Consolidated Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd (CDM) at Oranjemund in Namibia.

According to the evidence, security officer K, also in the employ of CDM, struck up an acquaintance with Nangombe. He requested K to assist him in removing the said parcel of unpolished diamonds from CDM. In due course the parcel was handed to K and Nangombe arrested.

On appeal in the Supreme Court of Namibia, the court confirmed the conviction. However, on p19-22 of the judgment, the Supreme Court remarked as follows:

'K was a senior security officer. Appellant must have thought that it was safe to use him as a conduit. And indeed the indication became a reality when the first parcel handed to K, the subject of the first count, did not lead to an arrest.'

Mr. Van Wyk (for the State) conceded that K's behaviour and his inducing appellant to take out diamonds corroded appellant's resistance to stealing diamonds. Because of this argued Mr. Van Wyk, appellant was entitled to a lesser term of imprisonment than that imposed by the court a quo.

I would like to comment on the reward

system, the policy of CDM. The diamond industry everywhere in the world is threatened by losses incurred through thefts. One can say without hesitation that thefts of diamonds amount to economic sabotage. There is, therefore, every justification for mining companies to introduce all manner of measures in order to minimize losses of money through thefts. CDM introduced, understandably, a reward of 70 percent of the value of stolen diamonds that are retrieved. It is a big incentive to security officers and other workers whose duty it is to prevent thefts.

But the system has telling disadvantages. It interferes with the smooth running of our system of justice. The reward system, because it is very lucrative, may induce security officers and others to tempt people to steal diamonds in order for them to get rewards.

In *S v Fillemon Shitungeni*, Case Nr. CC 25/93, as yet unreported, Levy J, described the reward system as immoral. He went on to say at 13: 'The underlying danger that the reward system has, is that it may make liars and perjurers out of innocent and good security officers and positive criminals, out of weak security officers by offering them more money than they could earn in a life-time. And all they had to do to get this money, is to use the power which they have

by virtue of their employment to trap someone, whether such person is a suspected illicit diamond dealer or whether he is innocent.

In this case it is easy to assume that K is a good person and a good employee of CDM. The Court does not know how much his employer pays him per month. In this entrapment he earned 70 percent of R472 890,00, a reward of R331 000,00 from his employers, CDM. Whatever his salary is this is a great deal of money.

The danger is that innocent men and women may be induced, I put it no higher than that, to steal diamonds because security officers want to earn the 70 percent reward. Innocent people may find themselves convicted by the Courts on evidence led by people with interests of their own to serve, the lucrative rewards.

Courts of law must guard against the abuse of the legal system because justice begins at the time a suspect is questioned by the police. If at that stage falsehoods are brought to court by over-enthusiastic police or state witnesses, courts may unknowingly accept false evidence and convict innocent men and women. The interests of society are safeguarded by a system of justice that excludes the false entrapping of innocent people because such entrapment may bring

to court people who had no interest in stealing and dealing in diamonds. When security men, the very people who are employed to prevent the theft of diamonds, entice people to steal diamonds in order for them to earn a reward, no fair system of justice can justly be enforced.

The interest of the diamond industry, which must by all means be protected by our justice system, must not be used to corrupt the very system that gives the industry protection. I say so because those who want to earn the high rewards open to them upon the apprehension of diamond thieves and the retrieval of diamonds are open to abuse the innocent and high rewards meant to curb the incidents of thefts."

And then there is the cherry on the top: *S v Corns* 1993 (2) SACK 350 (NCD) (an illicit diamond buying [IDB] case). In this case the informer was also called as a State witness. From p358a-e of the verbatim judgment it appears as if the informer is to receive a one-third reward of R8000 (see section 3(1) of Act 11 of 1977 supra). But according to the court on p358b-c the informer had already received "his first instalment of his Judas money", i.e. R1000. Knowing the system, it is most likely that this R1000 is rather for travelling and subsistence expenses, and not a reward as such.

Despite the good and laudable intentions and motives of the Protected Disclosures Bill, also bear in mind that the informer may be compared with the Biblical Judas and that nasty remarks may be made - either by the courts or the community. There is a little bit of a stigma attached to the informer. As far as I am concerned (and I believe also the courts and the community), this person could easily emulate Judas if "innocent blood" is betrayed. But if he or she "betrays" (informs or blows the whistle on) "guilty blood", then there is no reason whatsoever to feel bad. The whistleblower renders a service to the community and the country and provides assistance in eradicating the cancer of lawlessness, which can ultimately destroy everything.

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The Holy Bible .

**A CRIMINOLOGIST ON
“WHISTLEBLOWING”**

Sandra Joubert

The purpose of “whistleblowing” is to provide a channel for employees to disclose wrongdoings or professional misconduct or fraudulent and unethical behaviour in the workplace. These measures should be regarded as a positive reflection of that particular organisation’s ethical values and code of conduct.

For the criminologist “whistleblowing” is a proactive strategy aimed at preventing crimes such as the various manifestations of fraud, embezzlement, corruption and employee theft. A major role of the criminologist is to explain the causes of crime and particularly to identify factors which create a risk of offending such as access to funds without proper control, as well as factors which create a risk of victimisation such as pressure by syndicates on employees to provide personal client information.

In placing “whistleblowing” in the context of crime prevention the opportunity crime prevention model is particularly relevant. This model focuses on the tightening of measures such as cross control on the signing of cheques and the proper

screening of potential employees.

One should be careful not to equate the act of blowing the whistle to tattling or to stigmatise such a person as a snitch, informer or undercover agent whose only concern is ample financial reward. One of the most visible signs of white-collar activity in the workplace as identified by the writer’s empirical research, is the inclination by offenders to flaunt their unexpected wealth. Expansive shopping during lunch breaks as well as disclosures to co-workers on financial matters, indicated to fellow employees that the person was living well beyond his/her income. If at the time such information was disclosed, ongoing losses could have been prevented.

Empirical research by writer revealed that the cost of crime in the organisation is not merely of a financial nature (although the sums are vast) but that it creates a climate of distrust amongst fellow workers resulting in a negative working environment and a decline in performance and output. It is thus imperative that each organisation should shoulder the responsibility to provide proper internal mechanisms for employees to raise their concerns without fear of reprisal or victimisation.

**ANTI-DRUG PROJECT: CPF
BROOKLYN**

Christiaan Bezuidenhout

**Background to the anti-drug project:
CPF Brooklyn**

During 1998 parents and other citizens who attended the CPF Brooklyn information meetings expressed concern about the increase in drug abuse amongst juveniles and young adults in the Brooklyn Policing Precinct. It soon became apparent that this problem was not limited to the Hatfield and Brooklyn areas alone, but occurred in all the suburbs of Pretoria. This awareness contributed to the decision taken in 1999 that all police stations in Pretoria were to initiate anti-drug projects in their precincts. Since 1998 the CPF Brooklyn and the SAPS Brooklyn have launched various initiatives to curb drug abuse and its related problems. These included the following:

Phase 1: Focus on clubs and restaurateurs

Information sessions were held with night-club owners in Hatfield and Brooklyn. During these meetings they were requested to assist the police in declaring their clubs drugfree zones. They were also given the opportunity to sign a co-operation

agreement in which they undertook to help curb this problem.

Phase 2: Focus on parents

A further initiative, in which the Department of Criminology, University of Pretoria, CPF Brooklyn, SAPS Brooklyn, SANAB, Mr Ado Krige (Club Regeneration) and Rev Barbara Louw (Intertrauma Nexus) participated, involved visits to priority schools during which talks and information sessions involving parents, were held.

Phase 3: Focus on the youth

The third initiative involved a pro-active prevention programme to be undertaken at more than 20 primary and high schools in the Brooklyn policing area. This phase was introduced with a "Big Bang" function for important role players in the fight against drugs. The aim with the launching of this phase was to establish a network between individuals and organisations involved in the curbing of the drug problem. At the launch the Department of Drama, University of Pretoria, staged a play directed by Professor Alan Munro. The play, **Time Out**, dealt with the drug problem and can be seen as a pro-active attempt to make the youth aware of the dangers involved in using drugs.

Dignitaries such as diplomats, senior police officials, heads of schools and tertiary institutions, representatives of the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council, chairpersons of all Community Policing Forums (CPF's) in Pretoria, all Police Station Commissioners in Pretoria, the MEC of Gauteng, the Mayor of Pretoria and members of the media were amongst the invited guests. This function took place at Brooklyn Square on Thursday, 27 May 1999 at 19:00. The programme for the evening included a choir performance by the **Tuks Africa Sings Chorale**, the **Time Out** production, background music by a chamber orchestra of the SAPS, the serving of snacks and drinks and an opportunity for networking.

Phase 4: Focus on teachers

Phase 4 involves the presenting of a workshop for teachers. The focus of the workshop is on drug abuse, the identification of high-risk pupils and networks available to assist when pupils are in need of help.

Phase 5: Focus on security guards

During this phase security guards at shopping centres (e.g. Brooklyn Square and Mall) will be informed about the problems of drug abuse, drug trafficking

and possible ways to deal with problems they may encounter.

As members of the Brooklyn CPF we would like to express our sincere thanks to the following:

The media for their interest in and coverage of matters concerning the danger of drugs and the initiatives of the various role players who are involved in curbing this problem. The media represents the most important method of reaching the public and getting them involved in the fight against drugs and other crimes. A great deal of our success with these initiatives relies on media coverage.

Sunwil Financial Services (unsecured loans for all government officials) are thanked for their financial assistance. Without their help this important project could not have been initiated.

<p>ITHUMLENG COMMUNITY PROJECT (UP)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Linda Davis</p>

Ithumeleng is an assessment centre for street children, which can accommodate 36 boys. The Faculty of Humanities has identified street children in Sunnyside (and specifically those at Ithumeleng) as target

group for a joint community service project in which all departments are involved. The purpose of the project is to develop life skills, build capacity and empower the children. The idea is to achieve these goals by means of multi-disciplinary co-operation.

The Department of Criminology was responsible for the two weeks between 29 May 2000 and 9 June 2000. Two days, namely Friday 2 June 2000 and Friday 9 June 2000 from 9:00 till 13:00, were selected as suitable days to implement a project titled "The policeman is my friend". The aim of the project was to improve interaction between the police and street children from Ithumeleng and was run by the Honours students enrolled for Victimology.

"Captain Crime Stop" as well as the SAPD dog-unit participated in the events. Other activities included drawings on T-shirts of their image of the police, role-playing of a crime situation and sing-songs.

Evaluation forms received from the students as well as the center, confirm that the project was a great success. The students learned a great deal and a trusting relationship between the students and children developed early on the first day of the project. One of the children even admitted to having a drug problem.

The aim of the two days, namely to illustrate to the children that the policeman is their friend, was reached. Police members enjoyed the interaction with the children and involved them in **all** their activities (even the dog show) to great delight of the children.

Although it is difficult to change attitudes over a short period of time, the project definitely made an impact on the children's lives. Friendships were formed, and the children's co-operation and enthusiasm went way beyond the students' expectations. Despite the children's deprived situation, all the children brought back the pictures on the 9th that the students gave them on the 2nd.

The children left with the feeling that there are people who care. This was confirmed by a report received from John, a worker at Ithumeleng. They learned that the police are their friends and can help them if they are victimised or feel threatened.

The project was of great personal value to the students and they learned some harsh realities like giving thanks for privileges they often take for granted. They realised that some of these children want to improve their lives and that they are not criminals, only individuals in a "bad situation". With their background knowledge in Criminology, they also identified certain situational

factors such as their exposure to drugs, negative attitudes of the community towards them and their socio-economic circumstances, that could serve as a breeding ground for their involvement in crime and that need to be addressed in future community projects.

UNICRI-APPOINTED AFRICA REPRESENTATIVES

Johan Prinsloo and Beaty Naudé have been appointed as the Africa representatives of UNICRI (International Crime and Justice Research Institute) in Italy to promote victim crime surveys in Africa. To date more than 62 countries have participated in the international crime victim survey, all using the same questionnaire, and it is currently regarded as the major empirical international comparative project in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice with particular emphasis on victimisation risks and experiences of citizens all over the world. To date the survey has been conducted in ten African countries (Botswana, Egypt, Tunisia, Uganda (twice), Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa (twice), Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia). The Zambian survey is currently in progress and surveys are also planned for Malawi, Botswana, South Africa and Uganda before the end of 2000.

Beauty Naudé and Johan Prinsloo are the Southern African representatives for the International Victimology Website (<http://www.victimology.nl>) established in 1999 and administered by the Netherlands Ministry of Justice in conjunction with the United Nations (UN) with the aim to support the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Beaty also serves on the International Advisory Board. The aim of the website is to establish an international website on the field of crime victims and abuse of power. Please advise Beaty and Johan of any completed research projects and provide them with a copy of the research report. Information on ongoing research and expected completion dates will also be appreciated.

In addition, Beaty Naudé has been appointed as a member of the Scientific Council of the International Society of Criminology for the term 2000-2005.

THEFT OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS

Theft of laptop computers is becoming increasingly prevalent according to an article in a newsletter of a South African Security Service consultant, Griffiths & Associates (2000:3). The thefts are happening most often in airports where thieves have cottoned on to ways of

relieving unwary and sometimes weary travellers of their expensive laptops. It is a classical scam and the following *modus operandi* is used: Innocent-looking thieves station themselves at the airport baggage checkpoint keeping an eye out for passengers with laptops. When one shows up, they position themselves in front and behind him or her in the queue waiting to go through the security metal detector equipment. The passenger puts his computer on the X-ray conveyer belt and it is whisked off. The first crook is allowed to pass through the metal detector system, but the one behind him sets off the alarm. He is stopped and body searched, and then painstakingly goes through his pockets looking for the object that set off the alarm. This is finally discovered to be something innocent, such as metal nail clippers, a bunch of keys or a metal comb.

Eventually he is allowed to proceed while the victim, waiting in the queue behind, goes through to find that his laptop has disappeared, along with the con artists who'd had five valuable minutes to make his getaway.

Hints to prevent laptop theft

- Document the serial number, make and model of your equipment.
- Never let your laptop out of your

hands when travelling and only place it on X-ray scanners when you're sure you're next in line at the metal detector.

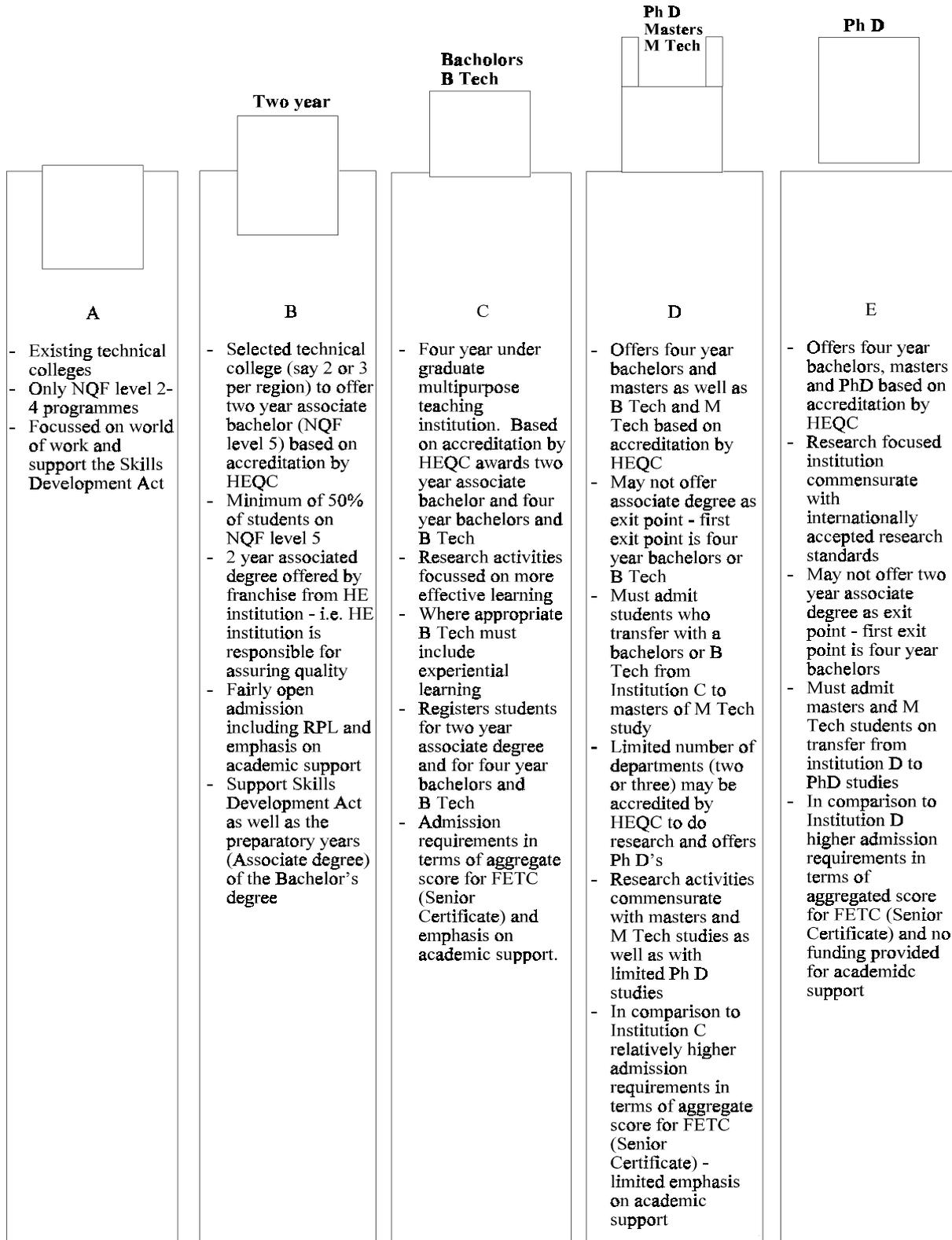
- Keep your laptop in the hotel safe when you are not using it.
- Carry your presentation laptop with you during intermissions at conferences.

Products available to help companies and individuals safeguard their laptops include special software installed on laptops that can periodically dial a designated number to trace the computer's whereabouts. Another company produces hard-to-remove tags which, if the thief does manage to prize it off, will leave a large, indelible dye mark to indicate that the laptop has probably been stolen.

During a telephone conversation with Me Botha at the Johannesburg International Airport, she said that four cases of laptop thefts were reported during January to July 2000. Non of these by the described method. As laptops are being transported as luggage in the fuselage of the aeroplane, the possibility exists that the laptops could have been stolen at other airports on the way to Johannesburg. She reassures passengers that precautionary steps have been put in place to prevent these kinds of thefts at the Johannesburg International airport.

SIZE AND SHAPE OF UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNIKONS

Figure : MODEL OF DIFFERENTIATION AND INSTITUTIONAL TYPES



C:\prwin\docs\sizeandshape

**LAUNCH OF THE CRIME
PREVENTION RESEARCH
RESOURCES CENTRE (RRC)**

Madeleine Victor

The Crime Prevention Resources Centre (RRC) was launched on 28 June 2000 at the "Open Window" in Pretoria. Among the guests were members of the research community, delegates from all the government departments within the criminal justice cluster, and also experts on the identified focus areas.

A performance was given by the Victorian Sanqoba Theatre Company. In this performance the crime problem in South Africa is acknowledged, and attention was also given to the criminal justice process. The essential message from the performance is that crime can be prevented and that crime prevention must be one of the most important goals of the criminal justice process. The audience was shown that in order to reach this goal, it is necessary for everyone involved in the fight against crime to be aware of the available resources, and to develop these resources through research and related activities.

The speeches from Bridgette Mabandla (Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology), and Steve Tshwete (Minister of Safety and Security) also

highlighted the importance of crime prevention. Both speakers stressed the role that the audience members can play in the prevention of crime. Each guest received a whistle and were asked to blow on it as a symbolic gesture to show their willingness to "blow the whistle on crime", thereby showing active involvement in the crime fight.

The function was concluded with a finger buffet and the guests were given the opportunity to meet others with an interest in crime prevention.

**CRIME PREVENTION RESEARCH
RESOURCES CENTRE**

BACKGROUND

South Africa has an alarmingly high crime rate - a fact which not only impacts negatively on the quality of life of its citizens, but also on the much-needed economic growth and development of this country. President Thabo Mbeki has reiterated the importance of crime prevention to ensure safety and security in South Africa in his inaugural speech in 1999. Crime prevention has subsequently been identified as one of President Mbeki's Presidential Imperative programmes.

Since the dawning of the new South Africa,

the current Government has been hard at work in the domain of crime prevention and combating. A National Crime Prevention Strategy was developed and national priorities for addressing crime and violence were identified as early as 1996. The White Paper on Safety and Security was drafted in 1998 and includes both more effective law enforcement and social crime prevention strategies.

In order to operationalise these strategies successfully, all available resources in the country need to work together. Government, parastatals, business, research, non-government and community-based organisations all need to join in the fight against crime.

FUNDING AND STAKEHOLDERS

The RRC is funded by the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST) as a pilot project to establish an information network which would benefit the national fight against crime. The RRC is managed by the CSIR, but is positioned as a national network and repository for information and research on specific areas of crime prevention.

The stakeholders and beneficiaries of the RRC are relevant government departments at national, provincial and local levels, the

research community in tertiary educational institutions and science councils, parastatals, business organisations and the public at large.

OBJECTIVE

The Crime Prevention Research Resources Centre (RRC) was established during the latter part of 1999 and aims to act as a conduit between government and the research fraternity. The RRC recognises the contribution of research, both social and scientific, as well as technology in the fight against crime and focuses on the prevention of crime through innovative effective interventions, backed by sound and reliable research.

The RRC is, furthermore, dedicated to address the need of government to be information and knowledge driven. It will provide knowledge management and decision support to government, and facilitate alignment between national priorities and research in order to achieve the common goal of a safer South Africa.

The research community forms an integral part of addressing the challenges set by increased crime and technological advancement. Since considerable research, which has a bearing or application in crime prevention, is being

done nationally and internationally, there is a need for the RRC to serve as a repository for such research. The RRC will aim to be a repository of information on community crime prevention programmes and interventions and will strive to make successes visible and replicable. It will therefore network with government, research communities, business and the public and will ultimately serve as a knowledge management centre.

The RRC also provides the opportunity to establish knowledge management centres to focus on all the Presidential Imperative areas.

AIMS

To achieve the above objectives the RRC will:

- Serve as a conduit between government and the research community and community-based organisations in order to communicate needs and solutions.
- Inform stakeholders and be informed of completed, ongoing or planned research.
- Serve as a repository for crime prevention information, i.e. to collect, collate and evaluate existing research and programmes on the nature of a

crime prevention topic and proposed interventions, as well as to disseminate such information.

- Capture, store, categorise and disseminate research results in focus areas which are important in the prevention of and fight against crime.
- Provide links with international research networks.

Other functions of the RRC will be the hosting of conferences and workshops; the development and maintenance of an information management system, an Internet web site (<http://www.ncps-rrc.co.za>) and database(s); producing an annual report, as well as a quarterly Research Brief and weekly electronic newsletter(s).

FOCUS AREAS

The RRC will initially focus on the following areas in which it aims to obtain expert knowledge for application in priority areas:

- Social Crime Prevention Youth
- Violence
- Youth violence
- Rape
- Domestic violence
- Firearms
- Hijacking
- Substance abuse

- Victimisation
- Victim and offender profiles. (The last two focus areas are seen to be integral to every other focus area.)
- Local Crime Prevention:
 - Community safety plans
 - Environmental design

CSIR

The CSIR has proved itself to be one of the prominent leaders in providing solutions to national needs. In this manner the CSIR is also administering the RRC.

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<p>LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES</p>
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'International Perspective on Women's Security' for the Security Journal, the leading international journal in the field of security for the April 2001 issue.

The editors are seeking contributions from around the world. Please send a 150-word abstract for topics to Rosemary e-mail Barberet@cica.es or Bonnie.Fisher@le.ac.uk. Draft papers are

due on 1 August and final drafts by 1 November 2000.

'Policing in Central and Eastern Europe: Ethics, Integrity, and Human Rights' (Third Biennial International Conference)

Date: 21-23 September 2000
 Venue: College of Police and Security Studies, Univ of Ljubljana, Slovenia
 Fax: +386 61 302 687
 Website: www.vpvs.uni-lj.si/conf2000

Restorative Justice for Juveniles: Restorative Justice as a Challenge for the New Millennium (Fourth International Conference)

Date: 1-4 October 2000
 Venue: Institute of Criminology, Tubingen, Germany
 Contact person: Conference Coordinator
 Fax: +49 (0) 707165104
 Website: www.ifk.jura.uni.tuebingen.de/restjust/

Violence and Adolescence (International seminar)

Date: 15-18 November 2000
 Venue: Jerusalem
 Fax: (0972 2) 675 20558
 E-mail: isas@netvision.net.il

Crime and criminology in the year 2000
(American Society of Criminology
Conference)

Date: 15-18 November 2000
Venue: Western St Francis Hotel, San
Francisco, California
Contact person: Deborah Baskin or
Ira Sommers
Fax: 323 343 4646
E-mail: dbaskin@calstatela.edu

Motor Vehicle Theft

Date: 30 November-1 December 2000
Venue: Adelaide
Contact person: Conference Coordinator
Tel: +(02) 6292 9000
Fax: +(02) 6262 9002
E-mail: conference@netinfo.com.au
Website: www.aic.gov.au

Stalking

Date: 7-8 December 2000
Venue: Landmark Parkroyal, Sydney
(full details available on
website: www.aic.gov.au)
Contact person: Conference Coordinator
Tel: +(02) 6292 9000
E-mail: conference@netinfo.com.au
Fax: +(02) 6262 9002

MORE ABOUT CRIMSA

Fund raising number:
01 1016131 0003

CRIMSA'S PHILOSOPHY

CRIMSA is a non-governmental, voluntary, non-sexist, non-racial organisation aiming to promote the academic, practical, social and universal relevance of criminology in order to understand, control, prevent and reduce crime and its outcomes and to serve the South African community at large.

CRIMSA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Society is English.

CRIMSA'S MISSION

CRIMSA is committed to combatting crime and to positively impact on the following:

An increased level of standards of criminological discourse in South Africa
An increased understanding of crime, the criminal, the victim and the criminal justice system in order to control, prevent and reduce crime through coordinating:

- research and publications;
- community outreach;
- networking with the public and private sector and government;
- training;
- teaching; and

- awareness raising in a professional and cost-effective manner.

Co-operation with interested local and international institutions.

Promoting the interests of academics, researchers, NGOs and students by encouraging special workshops and participation at national and international conferences.

ACTA CRIMINOLOGICA AND CRIMSA NEWS

CRIMSA will provide members with the latest research findings, professional issues and statistical information in the field of criminal justice, free of charge, by means of an accredited journal, *Acta Criminologica*, and a regular newsletter *Crimsa News*.

<p>CATEGORIES OF CRIMSA MEMBERSHIP</p>

ACTIVE PERSONAL MEMBERS

An active personal member may be any person who is devoted to the field of Criminology. (The field of Criminology is the study of crime, the criminal, the victim and the Criminal Justice System. It is also concentrated with the improvement of the understanding, control, prevention and reduction of crime in South Africa.

Please note: Only active personal members have voting rights and qualify for election as office bearers.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Any student enrolled in a discipline which is acceptable to CRIMSA may join the Society as a student member.

Please note: A student member may participate in all the activities of CRIMSA, but has no voting rights at a meeting.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Where a group, an institution, or an organisation attains membership of CRIMSA as a group, it nominates a representative to exercise, on behalf of the group, the rights of the group concerned.

Please note: The representative of the group may not be an office bearer of CRIMSA unless he/she is an active member in his/her own right. A group consists of at least five people.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary membership is at the invitation of the Board and is bestowed by the Board by virtue of a particular contribution in the field of criminology or to the Society.

An honorary member has the same privileges as an active personal member of CRIMSA.

Make sure that your membership is renewed

MEMBERSHIP FEES : 2000

Active personal members

R150 per annum

Student members

R50 per annum

Group members

R250 per annum

International members

R350 (US \$55) per annum

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and mail it together with your postal order/cheque (no cash please), to:

**The Treasurer
CRIMSA
PO Box 28936
SUNNYSIDE
0132**

Please mark your membership category with an X

- Active personal membership
- Student membership
- Group membership

Title: Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof

Initials:

Surname:

Postal address:

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.....

.....

Tel: () (w)

Tel: () (h)

Cell:

E-mail address: