

just my bad luck to have been in the bank then.” The lucky had a different reaction: “Things could have been a lot worse; I might have been shot in the head.” That sort of positive attitude among the lucky, says Wiseman, “helps keep their expectations about the future high,” and makes a continued lucky life more likely.

But the ill-starred need not fear that all is lost.

Wiseman explained “the four main principles of luck” to a group of volunteers who then went off for a month to put the principles into practice. On their return, he says, 80 percent reported that they “were now happier, more satisfied with their lives, and, perhaps most important of all, luckier.” A fortunate outcome, indeed! (Knock on wood.)

The Bright Side of Prison

“Women in Prison: A Comparative Assessment” by Heather Heitfield and Rita J. Simon, in *Gender Issues* (Winter 2002), Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Berrue Circle, Piscataway, N.J. 08854-8042.

Globalization has been a good thing for most women around the world, and one piece of evidence for that proposition, oddly enough, is that more of them are in jail than ever before.

It makes sense, say Heitfield and Simon, a graduate student and professor, respectively, at American University. Globalization produces economic and social progress, which allows more women to “assume the positions of authority and power that have traditionally been held by men.” That also means “increased exposure to opportunities to commit workplace and property crimes such as larceny, fraud, embezzlement and forgery.” Apparently, women have been seizing those opportunities.

In their survey of 26 countries, Heitfield and Simon find that Thailand tops the list of dubious honor. Women make up 18 percent of the prison population there. Next come Argentina, the Netherlands, and the United States, all at

levels slightly above eight percent. (There were just under one million women behind bars in the United States in 1998.) At the bottom of the scale are Israel, Pakistan, and Nigeria, where women constitute two percent or less of the prison population.

Feeding these and other data into a computer, the authors looked for correlations. They found that incarceration rates were pretty closely linked with levels of female education and literacy. More education generally means more women in prison. So does a higher rate of economic growth. Yet, surprisingly, the authors uncovered no meaningful connection between jail time and women’s participation in the work force or other labor-related indicators. They say their findings point to a need for new prisons and for new policies for dealing with inmates who, among other things, bear and raise children.

PRESS & MEDIA

The Media’s Iraq War

A Survey of Recent Articles

“During seven weeks spent with half a dozen [U.S. Army] units,” recalls David Zucchini, a reporter for *The Los Angeles Times* (May 3, 2003), “I slept in fighting holes and armored vehicles, on a rooftop, a garage floor and in lumbering troop trucks. . . . I ate with the troops. . . . I complained with them about the choking dust, the lack of water, our foul-smelling bodies, and our scaly, rotting feet.”

Like the 600 other journalists “embedded” in U.S. military units during the 43-day war in

Iraq, Zucchini was dependent on his hosts for sustenance, transportation, protection—and access. This last enabled him to write vividly detailed stories about the battle for Baghdad and the performance of American soldiers in combat. But the officially sanctioned access also limited him. “I could not interview survivors of Iraqi civilians killed by U.S. soldiers. . . . I had no idea what ordinary Iraqis were experiencing.”

Despite its drawbacks, the extensive embedding experiment (which had been tried on