

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Biological clues wanted

Sexual deviants studied

**United Press International**  
BALTIMORE — In an effort to find ways to short-circuit deviant behavior, sex researchers are launching a study searching for biological clues to the causes of strong, abnormal sexual compulsions in men.

Dr. Fred S. Berlin, co-director of the Biosexual Psychohormonal Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, said evidence suggests there may be physiological reasons for the actions of sex offenders.

"It appears there may be a connection between certain biological pathologies and development of unconventional sexual interests," Berlin said at a recent neurosciences seminar.

By abnormal behavior, the researchers mean such things as a sexual interest in children, exhibitionism and forced sex acts.

Berlin and Dr. John Money plan to take a detailed look at sex hormone levels and brain meta-

bolism, structures and electrical activity of sex offenders in treatment at the clinic.

"We have found a surprising number of abnormalities in sex offenders along with one or more of these biological parameters, and this raises a lot of questions about the nature of unconventional sexual compulsions," Berlin said.

Berlin, who is a psychiatrist, said there may be specific areas of the brain involved in sexual arousal, and these areas may differ for sex offenders.

One key examination planned for the study will be a brain scan. Radioactive glucose will be injected in the test subject, and since glucose is the major energy source of the brain, more will go to the most active parts of the brain. The scanner will be able to detect those glucose concentrations.

"It will provide the opportunity to study the brains of people with conventional and uncon-

ventional sexual preferences, in states of arousal and nonarousal," Berlin said.

"We will be able to observe brain metabolism under controlled conditions, to see what differences exist, both between the sexes, and between men with conventional and unconventional sexual preferences."

Berlin said the plan is to study about 25 men with unconventional sexual interests a year for five years, comparing them to men with normal sex preferences.

He said linking biological differences to unconventional behavior could lead the way to a new theory of sexual desire, drive and behavior. This, he said, could do much to improve the treatment of sex offenders.

"Men with abnormal sexual compulsions have a problem which they cannot control by themselves," Berlin said. "They have preoccupations and abnormal impulses which lead them to

act in socially unacceptable ways, even when it is against their own moral code."

He said one important advance in helping sex offenders was the development of a drug that lowers levels of testosterone, the male hormone.

"With the decrease in this hormone, the intensity of patients' sex drive diminishes enough for them to control their compulsion."

Researchers already know that a chromosomal abnormality can cause confusion about sexual identity and affect sexual behavior, Berlin said.

"We need to know more about other, possible biological substrates of sexual disorders, for it could do much to change society's punitive response to sex offenders," he said. "And, most importantly, such knowledge could lead to effective prevention and treatment for these individuals."

Author says humans should live to 100

**United Press International**  
SAN FRANCISCO — Statistics which show that Americans now live much longer lives than their forefathers are misleading, said author R. William Whitmer.

Basically, Whitmer said, not much has changed as far as health is concerned since the ancient Romans recommended "vita sobria" — the life of moderation.

The adult life span has changed little since 1900, if the higher infant mortality rates of yesteryear and previous deaths from epidemic diseases now under control are tossed out. He noted that in 1900, 22 percent of deaths had cardiovascular causes, while now more than half do.

"In fact, people in those days in many ways lived healthier lives than people do now," he said. "They worked harder, so they got enough exercise, and their diet was more natural, especially where fiber foods are concerned. They didn't have to contend with junk food."

"They usually got enough exercise because they worked harder. In addition, they probably had as much stress as we do today, but it was more manageable. Nowadays, stress is more often caused by factors beyond our control."

But Whitmer thinks people are built to live to 100 years of age. "When artificial organs are developed, the life span will probably go to 200," he added.

"So why don't we live to be 100?"

"Most deaths are self-induced," he said bluntly.

Whitmer said the "negative life-styles" of smoking, lack of exercise, poor nutrition, obesity, stress and drinking are the main causes of early death.

His book, "Whitmer's Guide to Total Wellness" is aimed at helping the reader conquer those problems by breaking them down into basic components and teaching the subconscious to send new signals to the body.

He insists that the only reason for smoking is an addiction to nicotine. Once this and the effects that smoking have on the body are understood, the smoker is on the road to cutting down or giving up tobacco.

"The body can't think," he said. "It is inert, a mass that relies on signals from conscious or subconscious signals often are sent to it."

Whitmer said the process decides to revolutionize by trying to change old health habits is doomed to failure. He urged that one problem be led at a time.

The subconscious channel instrument, he said.

Whitmer also warned dangers of excessive drinking. He strongly drinking decaffeinated and said that excessive drinking can affect the blood pressure, kidneys and brains.

Training is rig safety key

**United Press International**  
THE GULF OF MEXICO — The hazards of working on an offshore oil rig are countless. The workers face the threat of serious injury or death daily.

But officials say they can keep the number of accidents to a minimum by training employees to be fully aware of the risks.

"We live and breathe safety 24 hours a day out here," Harell Campbell, drilling foreman with Sun Gas and Exploration Co., said. "We've got to be safety conscious because we are so far off shore. You can't be too safe — or else someone could get hurt."

Safety experts agree the majority of serious accidents on offshore rigs can be traced to new employees.

Safety engineer Robert "Buck" Lewis with Ocean Drilling and Exploration Co., said he gives an orientation speech when workers arrive on the rig.

"Most injuries occur with people who are here less than six months. Ninety-nine percent of the time it is sheer ignorance," Lewis said.

Steel-toed boots and hard hats are two mandatory items for all offshore workers. Safety glasses and gloves are required for certain jobs.

But Lewis said, "common sense" is probably the most important commodity each individual must possess.

Accidents do happen. Hands get caught in the cables, workers fall overboard, toxic chemicals burn employees and cuts and bruises occur when men work with machinery.

The Labor Department re-

ports the number of injuries on oil rigs in federal waters exceeds 9,000 cases annually.

In 1979, the department reported 9,584 injuries. That number jumped to 10,162 cases in 1980, but fell the next year to 9,597.

So far this year, 9,074 injuries have been reported to the Workmen's Compensation office in Washington.

A spokesman said the federal government keeps statistics only for rigs in federal waters, under the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act.

Although decreasing annually, fatalities are still prevalent.

In both 1979 and 1980, 36 deaths were reported. In 1981, the death count dropped to 19 and this year 16 fatalities were reported.

The most hazardous job offshore is drilling, which requires hand and eye coordination and drilling team cooperation.

The five-person team should work together like a fine-tuned piece of equipment, one driller said.

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