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# Case in Point

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## Training Points on the Serial Child Molester and Abductor Program

FOR:

- law enforcement
- the court system: attorneys, prosecutors, juvenile court judges, guardians ad litem
- schools: teachers, counselors, truant officers
- health care: child psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, nurses
- corrections and probation officers



Federal Bureau  
of Investigation

Office of Juvenile  
Justice and  
Delinquency  
Prevention



University of  
Pennsylvania  
School of  
Nursing

**NOTE:** This edition of *Case in Point* is based on the research findings of the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC) in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, focusing on data from interviews of incarcerated murders conducted by the FBI. Unlike some of the editions in this series that focused on investigative aspects of serial-child molesters and abductors, this piece includes special insights for health-care and child-protection professionals.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has joined in cooperation with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, to examine and study the case histories of serial-child molesters and abductors and to disseminate the results to criminal-justice professionals. The focus of this special edition is on serial-child molesters who murder their victims. Although sexually-mo-

tivated child abductors are fewer in number, these are the child abductors whose identities are most likely to be unknown at the time of the offense.

To date the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's

*National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America (NISMA)* has provided the only scientific estimates of the incidence of nonfamily abduction of children. There were an estimated 3,200-4,600 nonfamily abductions in the United States in 1988 in which a child under the age of 18 was taken, lured, or detained against his or her will by someone who is not a member of the child's family. Among those cases recorded in a sample of police sexual assault files, most (89 percent) were girls and most of the victims were minorities; 41 percent were Black, 29 percent Hispanic, and 24 percent were white. Twenty-three (23) percent were 16 to 17 years of age; 12 percent were 14 to 15 years of age; 10 percent were 12 to 13 years of age; 14 percent were ages 9 and younger; and in 41 percent of the cases the age of the victim was not specified. Virtually all (99 percent) of the perpetrators were male; 18 percent of the perpetrators were aged 16 to 20; 14 percent were aged 21 to 30; and the age of the perpetrators was unknown in 61 per-

cent of the cases. Half of the perpetrators were classified as strangers and 41 percent were acquaintances of the victim. While distance and duration were generally not well reported, it was found that in 43 percent of the cases the victim was moved from the street. Regarding location, 23 percent were taken to a vehicle; 21 percent were taken to a building; and 38 percent were taken to some other location. Force was used in at least 85 percent of the instances, and a weapon was used against the victims in 86 percent of the cases.<sup>1</sup>

For purposes of this research, a *child* will be defined as anyone not yet 18 at the time of the molestation or abduction. Although the sexually-motivated abduction of one such child would qualify an offender for this study, the focus will be on offenders who demonstrate a pattern of preferring child victims (i.e., not selecting them as vulnerable substitutes for adult victims).

The goal of the *Serial Child Molester and Abductor Program* is to gain insights into the backgrounds, behavior, and techniques of such offenders in order either to prevent their crimes or identify and stop them more quickly.

Serial-child abductors and molesters pose one of the most dangerous threats to the safety of our children. Although the number of such offenders is unknown, each of these criminals typically has a very large number of victims and a long history of criminal behavior.

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ACQUISITION

## CHILD MOLESTERS WHO MURDER THEIR VICTIMS

The focus of this *Case in Point* is child molesters who abduct and murder their victims. The four cases highlighted here were taken from a group of child molesters currently incarcerated in various state penitentiaries who were interviewed by FBI agents between 1985 and 1989. The intention of this *Case in Point* is to shed light on offender characteristics and patterns observed in four cases involving child homicide. Although there is little scientific information about child killers, specific characteristics of the child molester may provide a basis for some insights about this type of offender.

### CASE HISTORY A

Donald was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He has been on death row for approximately four years. He is 30 years old and comes from a middle-class family. He has three older sisters, and his parents are retired. No other family member has a criminal or psychiatric history. There is no evidence that any family member abused alcohol or drugs. Donald himself claims he did not drink or take drugs. There is no evidence of physical or sexual abuse in the family.

Donald attended special classes in school and quit in the ninth grade. He remembers not getting along with his peers or teachers. As far back as Donald can recall he was sexually interested in boys. His first sexual activity with boys occurred when he was 11 years old. When he was 12 he began using pornography that depicted younger boys. His use of pornography increased as he grew older. At first his sexual contacts with boys were of an experimental nature, but they soon became a way of life for him. He initially had sex with boys of his own age, but as he grew older, he remained attracted to young boys ranging in age from 9 to 14. His first arrest was at age 13 when he lured a 10-year-old boy to a secluded area and made the boy fellate him. Although he was not incarcerated, the court stipulated that he attend therapy. He went to counseling for two years, but reported that it had no

impact on his sexual behavior. When asked what caused his attraction to boys, he could not offer an explanation. He said he is attracted to males in the same way others are attracted to females.

Donald lived with his parents and worked at various unskilled jobs. He would sometimes invite young boys over to his house, and they would engage in sexual activities. On several occasions his parents walked in while he was engaged in sex acts with the boys. They reprimanded him, but took no other action. From age 13 to 18 Donald was arrested for sex offenses five times; each time he was given suspended sentences. His typical offense would be to lure a young boy to a secluded area, fellate the boy, and have the boy fellate him. There was no evidence that Donald used physical force, and there were no physical injuries to the victims.

Sometime in late adolescence Donald's offense pattern changed. He began to use Dramamine, a drug used to alleviate motion sickness, on his victims in order to sedate them. At age 19 he met a 9-year-old boy on the street and asked the boy if he would show him a good bike trail. Once they were in a wooded area Donald forced the boy to drink a solution of water and Dramamine, and then fellated the boy. When he told the boy to fellate him, the boy refused. Donald became so angry that he brutally beat the boy and left the scene. The boy was hospitalized with severe bruises and a concussion. Based on the victim's description and Donald's past criminal history, the police were able to apprehend him. Donald was convicted of Indecent Assault and Battery and Attempted Murder. He was placed in a psychiatric hospital, and two months later he escaped. He traveled south and was able to get enough odd jobs to buy food and a bicycle. He continued to victimize young boys, usually by luring them to a secluded area on a ploy or by befriending them.

One day he woke up and decided he was going to abduct a boy, have sex with him, and kill him. He rode around on his bicycle and passed by a bus stop. He saw a 9-year-old boy near the bus stop. He struck up a conversation with him and lured him away. He brought him to a wooded

area. He tried to force the boy to drink a coke that he had mixed with Dramamine. The boy kept spitting it out, and that made Donald angry. He forced the boy to fellate him and then sodomized the boy. During the assault Donald hit the boy to get him to do what he wanted. After he sexually assaulted the boy, Donald took his belt, placed it around the boy's neck, put his knee on the boy's head, and strangled him to death. He then cut the boy's face and anus with a knife. He took the boy's clothes, covered the body with leaves and grass, and left the scene.

Two days later he met a 10-year-old boy, named Ken, who was doing his paper route. Donald started talking with the boy and convinced him to go with him to Virginia. They took a bus and arrived in Virginia the next day. They worked odd jobs to earn money for food. They spent the next eight days together and had sex with each other often. Donald developed a close relationship with Ken and wanted to stay with him. Donald considered Ken to be his social and sexual partner. One morning Donald told Ken that they were going to abduct a boy and kill him. They got up as usual, went to look for work, went to breakfast, then went looking for a victim. They passed a bus stop near the center of town and saw several young boys. They picked one out and began to talk with him. They convinced the boy, who was 11 years old, to accompany them to a secluded area a short distance from town. As before, Donald had a mixture of Dramamine and coke to give the boy. When they arrived at the wooded area Donald gave the boy the Dramamine mixture, but the boy wouldn't drink much of it. Donald forced the boy to fellate him, and then he sodomized the boy. The boy attempted to get away, but Donald caught him and began beating him. He took a belt, put it around the boy's neck, and strangled him to death. He then put the body in an area with thick brush, put the boy's clothes in a bag, and he and Ken left the area. He dumped the bag with the boy's clothes in a nearby ravine.

Several days later a woman, who had seen a picture of Ken on a television program about missing children, saw Ken and Donald in a restaurant

and called the police. They came and arrested Donald for kidnapping. During the police interview with Ken they learned that Donald had had sex with Ken and that Donald had killed a young boy a few days earlier. Ken led the police and FBI agents to the scene of the murder where they found the body.

Donald later admitted that he had victimized more than 100 boys ranging in age from 9 to 13. Donald seldom used physical force when committing these crimes, but would, on occasion, use threats. When he was living at home with his parents he would persuade boys to go to his house where he would engage in sex with them. The police found a bag of pornographic pictures, many of which were snapshots of his victims. He would sometimes show his victims these pictures to lure or excite them.

Along with the pictures the police found a list of names and telephone

numbers of the boys Donald had assaulted. Donald said he liked young boys because he could "train" them about sex and because "their skin is smoother, younger, they have no hair and are cleaner." Donald said he seldom assaulted the same victim twice and that all of his victims were strangers. He could not offer any explanation as to why he decided at some point in time to kill two of his victims. He only said that he killed them to make a point to society. In his mind adults should have the right to have sex with young boys as long as it is consensual. He felt society was wrong to have laws against sex with minors, and he felt that he had carried out some sort of revenge when he murdered the two boys. He seemed to be saying, in effect, "If I can't do it legally, I'll show you, I'll kill them, see how you like that!"

Donald said he was always a loner and could never get along with

people. He reported that he had no serious problems with his parents. Although he liked them both, he liked his mother more than his father. Donald claimed he was never cruel to animals, wet the bed, nor set fires. Since early pubescence he had severe acne. He claims to have had one heterosexual encounter with a female when he was about 18 and stated that he didn't like it.

Donald was very successful in luring young boys away from the initial encounter location to a secluded area. It seems he never used physical force to abduct the victims. Although the evidence is not clear, it appears that his crimes became more violent over time to the point of murder. Although his real motives for murdering two young boys may never be known, it is likely that there would have been additional abduction murders had he not been apprehended.

#### CASE HISTORY A: SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENTS

##### Personal History

- raised in middle-class family
- no reported family problems
- severe acne throughout life
- never held a full-time job
- lived with parents until age 19
- a loner with no friends
- poor social/life skills

##### School Records

- attended special classes
- quit school in 9th grade
- did not get along with peers or teachers

##### Chronic Behaviors

- none noted

##### Sexual Behaviors

- attracted to young boys since age 11
- sexual activity with boys began at age 11
- started using pornography at age 12
- first arrest for sex offense at age 13
- arrested five times between age 13 and 18 for sex offenses
- believes sex with young boys should be permitted
- lured more than 100 young boys for sex over his lifetime
- sexually assaulted and murdered two boys ages 9 and 11
- took pornographic pictures of many of his victims
- violence in sexual assaults escalated over time

#### CASE HISTORY B

Richard is currently serving a life sentence for the murder of two young boys. He was born and raised in Ohio and came from a dysfunctional family characterized by an alcoholic father who physically and sexually abused Richard and one of his sisters. He has three older brothers, two younger brothers, and two younger sisters. His father was des-

cribed by Richard as "crazy," irresponsible, and mean. He would terrorize the family and would be verbally and physically abusive, especially when he was drunk, which was often. Richard remembers being severely beaten for relatively minor incidents. He said that although the other children were hit by his father, none were beaten as badly as he was.

Richard remembers his mother as a very big, overweight woman who was home most of the time. She was good to the children and a quiet woman who only drank socially. The family was frequently on welfare as his father did not work regularly.

Richard said that the family was not close and that all the children moved out of the house as soon as

they were able to do so. Two of Richard's brothers burglarized homes and would take him along on some of their capers. On one occasion they were caught by the police. In court Richard's mother told the judge that Richard was frequently beaten by his father and had been sexually assaulted by him since he was 4 years old. The judge took custody from the parents, placed Richard in a boarding school, and enrolled his two brothers in a training school.

Richard was 6 years old at the time he entered the boarding school. He remembers feeling abandoned by his family, unloved, and scared. He would not let people get close to him or make friends. Soon after he arrived at the boarding school the house father started buying Richard gifts. On Richard's birthday the house father brought him to his room where he had several birthday presents for Richard. He talked Richard into taking his clothes off, and the house father fondled and fellated him. During the next year Richard had sex with the house father, as well as with other children at the school. The house father was arrested for having sex with the children, and Richard was transferred to another boarding school where he stayed until he was 12 years old. He was then returned to his family.

Several months after he returned home his mother reported his father to the authorities for molesting one of his sisters. His father eventually was forced to leave the house. Richard was almost 14 at that time. He was going to school and working part-time to help his mother with expenses. His uncle moved in with the family after his father left. Richard said he was good to the kids, but he too was an alcoholic. Richard quit school in the seventh grade and went to work full-time delivering groceries. He began to drink heavily for a time, but stopped after about a year. At age 14 Richard had his first heterosexual experience with a 16-year-old neighborhood girl. She became pregnant and wanted to get married, but he did not marry her. Richard stated that when he was 15 years old he began letting other boys and young men fellate him in return for money.

Richard changed jobs a couple of times before enlisting in the U.S. Army

at age 17. While on leave, at the age of 18, he met a girl in a barroom. He struck up a conversation and told her he wanted to have sex. She refused, and he hit her. He was picked up by the police an hour later and charged with Assault and Battery. He spent 90 days in county jail and was released. Richard was sent to Korea with the Fifth Artillery Battalion. He reported that while in Korea, he raped approximately twenty Korean women between the ages of 18 and 25. He said that "everybody was doing it." Apparently none of these assaults were reported.

Two years later he was returned to the United States and was stationed in California. He was having trouble adjusting and began to drink heavily. Two months later he went AWOL, got in a car accident, was court martialed, and sentenced to 250 days at hard labor. A month later he again went AWOL, was caught, and spent two weeks in the stockade.

At age 21 Richard started dating a woman. After she became pregnant they married and had a son. He said that things were good at first, but the marriage gradually deteriorated. One day he met a woman at the Army canteen, and she rode with him to a secluded area. Once there the woman asked Richard to take her back to the base. He refused and forced her to have sexual intercourse. When he was finished he drove her back and was later arrested for Rape at Knifepoint. He adamantly denied that he forced her, but was convicted and given a life sentence. He was released when he was 31 years old after serving ten years in prison. While Richard was incarcerated his wife had a second child. She waited for him, and when he got out of prison he moved in with her. At the time he could not find a job, but his wife was working.

They were not successful in keeping their marriage intact, and after several months she moved back to her parents' home with the two children. Richard remained in California and moved in with Hank, a friend he had met in prison. They had sex regularly. Richard worked odd jobs for awhile, started to pass bad checks, and committed a few burglaries. During this time Richard was having sex with "everybody and anybody"—

males, females, adults, adolescents, and preadolescents. He said California was "one big sexpot."

One day, while doing some work in a church, Richard saw several young ladies pass by. He went out and began to talk with them. He started to think that he could get a young girl to have sex with him. He went outside to get some packages that had been delivered and saw a young girl walk by. He asked her if she would help him carry the packages into the church. Once in the church he grabbed her, threw her onto a pew, and raped her. She was not seriously injured. Richard remembers being excited, nervous, and exhilarated all at the same time. Richard was arrested the next day for Assault and Battery and Rape of a Child as the girl was only 12 years old. He was convicted and given a life sentence. This was the first reported assault that he committed on a child; he was 34 years old at the time.

He was released ten years later. By the time Richard was 44 years old he had spent 20 years of his life in prison. Soon after his release he moved back to Ohio to live with his sister on her farm. Richard remembers this period as the best time in his life. He worked on the farm, helped with the chores, cared for the animals, and lived a peaceful life. He would go to bingo frequently and one night he saw an attractive woman there. Richard walked over to her and told her how pretty she was. He found out that her name was Diane. She was married and had two children. She told him that she was very unhappy with her marriage and wanted to get a divorce. They started seeing each other, and, shortly afterward, she separated from her husband. Richard got a job at a packing company, and he and Diane made plans to buy a trailer and move in together. Richard said that they were happy, and they enjoyed a good sex life. He loved her two children named Josh, who was 6 years old, and Lynn, who was 4 years old.

One morning Richard read a newspaper article about a 13-year-old boy who sexually molested a 4-year-old boy and then hung the boy with a rope. This triggered thoughts about having sex with a young boy and killing him. This fantasy excited him, and he began to plan an assault. He

had had many sexual experiences with young boys, 8, 9, and 10 years old and never thought anything of it. In fact it seemed normal to him. It was the thought of raping a boy, however, that fascinated him. A few days later he and Diane had an argument. The following day Richard went to a trailer park that he and Diane had been to earlier that week looking for a trailer to buy. He approached a 10-year-old boy and talked him into getting into his car under the pretext of meeting his wife to look for a trailer. Richard drove the boy to a wooded area, kissed him, fondled him, forced him to commit fellatio, sodomized him, and then strangled him to death with the child's T-shirt.

Although Richard did not admit to the abduction, sexual abuse, and murder of the child, the following summary is based on his thoughts on "how I would have felt and acted if I had done it":

Richard was very keyed up, or 'high' when he thought about taking sex from a boy, knowing the boy couldn't get away. He stated, 'There is fear, but it is commingled with excitement.' He was excited by the fact the boy wore white socks. He had developed a fetish for white socks on boys. He wanted to love the boy more than anything. Richard stated that the boy was not scared and did not resist him until Richard sodomized him. He reported that the sexual pleasure was much more satisfying than in consensual sex. Richard stated that killing the boy was part of the sex act. It made him feel strong and powerful. He said, 'The feeling was incredible, ejaculation is probably three times longer than normal.' He didn't think about getting caught, because there were no witnesses, and the boy was dead. Therefore, there were no thoughts about consequences. Richard reported that, if he had done it, he probably would have spent about two hours with the boy. He also said there would have

been no hostility involved in the assault, just the sexual desire to have sex with a boy who didn't want it. This is what would make it enjoyable.

This assault took place approximately 200 yards from his sister's house. The body was found there, by the police, buried in a shallow grave. The police did not locate the body, however, until Richard was arrested for a subsequent murder, and his next victim's body was found in the same area.

Several weeks after the murder Richard and Diane purchased a trailer and moved in together. Richard stated that they were getting along well. Diane's children visited them each weekend. Richard said he would play with the children and take them places, but never thought about touching them sexually. Three months after moving in together, Diane's son, Josh, was reported missing, and the child's body was found three days later.

Once again Richard denied that he had anything to do with the disappearance and murder, but following is a summary of what he said would have happened had he "done it":

He had returned to the trailer park after he had been out hunting. He saw Josh and the thought entered his mind to take him and force him to have sex. Richard had to run an errand, and Josh wanted to go with him. Richard told him he didn't want him to go as he knew that his 'feelings' were to harm Josh. Josh kept pleading with Richard to take him and Richard finally did. He drove to the same area where he had killed the other boy several months earlier. Richard explained his feelings of love for Josh, but said he was compelled to have sex with him. Richard took Josh into the woods and punched him in the head to knock him out. He then sodomized Josh while he stabbed him in the back and ejaculated. Richard then buried the body in a shallow grave, approxi-

mately twenty yards from the prior victim's grave. He went back to the trailer, put his clothes in the washing machine, and Diane and he went to bingo. At the time Diane did not know that Josh was missing. When they returned from bingo the police were there and told them that Josh was missing. Josh's father had come by and couldn't find him, so he called the police. After learning that Richard had a criminal record and that he was in violation of his parole by being in Ohio, they arrested him. After questioning neighbors and relatives, the police found out that Richard often hunted near his sister's home. They searched the area and found both bodies. Through forensic analysis of footprints and hair fibers they were able to indict Richard for both murders. Richard stated that although he loved Josh, 'the sex act, the sex urge, was so overwhelming that it had to be completed.'

Richard has a long history of sexual assaults—some charged and many uncharged/unreported. He has both male and female, child and adult victims. He was apparently bisexual, although he seemed to have a stronger attraction to young boys. He denies having fantasies. Based on the extent of his sexual activities, however, it is obvious that he had a very strong sexual drive, uncontrollable sexual urges, and a very violent, sadistic fantasy life. His consensual sex activities were apparently not enough to satisfy his desires. He admits that he was driven by an overwhelming urge to *take sex from young boys*, even though he said he could get consenting sex from young boys and adolescents virtually at will. His rapes of women can be seen as another example of his need to "take sex." His statements about the excitement, power, and fear that he felt when he assaulted the two murder victims, coupled with the fusion of sex and violence, are the prototypical characteristics of a sadist.

## CASE HISTORY B: SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENTS

### Personal History

- raised in a dysfunctional family
- father was an alcoholic, irresponsible, mean
- was physically and sexually abused by father
- family often on welfare
- two brothers have criminal records
- sent to boarding school by judge at age 6
- sexually abused by house father at boarding school
- entered the U.S. Army at age 17 and was discharged at age 21
- went AWOL twice while in the service
- married at age 21
- has spent more than half his life in prison
- unstable work history

### School Records

- placed in boarding school from age 6 to 12
- quit school in 7th grade

### Chronic Behaviors

- alcohol abuse
- impulsive

### Sexual Behaviors

- prostituted himself at age 15
- raped several women
- had "consenting" sex with young boys, adult men, and females
- sexually promiscuous
- sadistic fantasies
- sexually assaulted and murdered two boys 6 and 10 years old

## CASE HISTORY C

Peter is currently serving a life sentence for one count of Murder and one count of Attempted Murder. Peter is the oldest of three siblings and has one younger sister and one younger brother. He was born in New York to a middle-class couple. His parents were never separated or divorced. His family life was stable with no major problems.

Peter said he got along well with both his parents, but added that they did not communicate about anything. His father was a minister, and the family relocated frequently. This was disruptive to Peter and made it difficult for him to have friends. His mother had a college degree, but did not work outside of the home. She was the primary caretaker and disciplinarian. Peter's father was involved in church activities and spent a great deal of time working with various charitable organizations. Although his father was a minister, Peter felt that his parents were not overly strict. Peter's brother used drugs heavily and was committed to a psychiatric hospital when he was 20 years old. No other family members had a drug, alcohol, criminal, or psychiatric history. There were no reports of physical or sexual abuse in the family.

At age 12, while swimming in a lake, a man approached Peter and struck up a conversation. He talked Peter into putting women's clothing on and fellated Peter. Peter was initially frightened, but enjoyed the experience. He continued to meet this man at the lake regularly for the next two months. Each time the man would have Peter wear women's clothes, and he would fellate Peter. It was following these episodes that Peter began to steal women's undergarments from clothes lines and cross-dress. This practice continued for several years. He was caught on many occasions for stealing undergarments, but no charges were lodged. When Peter was about 15 years old he began to expose himself to girls and was arrested for indecent exposure several times. His first arrest was at age 18 when he exposed himself to two 17 year old girls and chased them. He received probation for this offense. A year later he was arrested for a similar offense and again was given probation. This time, however, he was ordered to go to counseling. Peter continued to expose himself to both young girls and adult women until his current arrest. He said that there were no particular types of vic-

tims he preferred, just anyone who would be in the area at the time. He would also walk the streets dressed in women's clothes. Peter said he would become sexually aroused when he cross-dressed.

Peter developed a fascination with guns at an early age and bought his first gun when he was 17. He hunted and would shoot skeet regularly. He stated that guns took the place of sex for him. He would carry either a knife or a gun often, although he claimed the murder he later committed was the first time he ever used a weapon to inflict injury.

Peter graduated from high school at age 18. He stated he had average marks and did not repeat any grades. There were no significant problems noted in his school records. Peter never married and had few heterosexual experiences. He said he dated a few girls in high school, but didn't have sexual intercourse until he was 21 while in the service and stationed in Okinawa. That experience was with a prostitute.

Peter joined the U.S. Army when he was 21 and remained in the service for ten years. While in the service he often drank heavily and experimented with LSD and marijuana. He was

caught several times for exposing himself to women on the Army base. He was never court martialed, but did spend time at an Army psychiatric hospital. He was finally given a general discharge due to his psychiatric problems and an ulcer. After his discharge Peter obtained a job at a sporting goods store. He continued to cross-dress and expose himself to women. He would cruise in his car looking for victims.

He committed a series of indecent exposures and assaults around a college campus a short distance from where he lived. He would park his vehicle a short distance away from the campus, dress in women's clothing, and walk the streets. On one occasion he grabbed a woman, held a gun to her, handcuffed her, and forced her to a secluded area. He made her disrobe, fondled her, but did not rape her. He was never charged for this offense.

Peter had three or four jobs between the time he left the service and his recent arrest. About two months

prior to the murder Peter was injured on the job. He had been out of work and was becoming increasingly frustrated over his inability to satisfy his sexual feelings. One evening, as he was cruising in his vehicle, he saw two 11-year-old girls. He pulled over to the side of the road and asked them for directions. As they approached his vehicle, he pulled out a gun and told them to get in. He handcuffed both girls and drove to a secluded, wooded area. He made them disrobe, fondled them, and made them fellate him. After the sex acts were completed Peter shot both girls with the gun, and proceeded to leave. He had traveled about five miles when he decided to go back to see if the girls were really dead. In the meantime someone heard the gunshots and called the police who went to the area to check on the report. Peter went to the place he had shot the girls and found that one of them was no longer there. As he was leaving the scene a policeman stopped him. The police detained Peter and, after searching

the area, found one girl's body. The second victim was found later wandering in the area and taken to the hospital. She survived and testified in court.

Peter felt that although he drank heavily at different times throughout his life, alcohol was not a contributing factor to his acting out. He had few friends and considered himself a loner. When questioned about the murder Peter said he knew if the victims got in his car he would not be able to let them live. His primary motive for shooting them was to avoid apprehension. He said the incident took about an hour and that he was highly stimulated by the sex acts. He said that he was never very selective about his victims. It was merely a matter of someone being in the right place at the right time. He did state, however, that he would usually seek an area that would make for a quick escape. He further mentioned that although he rarely thought about getting caught, part of the excitement was eluding capture.

#### CASE HISTORY C: SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENTS

##### Personal History

- stable family life
- parents' marriage intact
- good relationship with parents
- family moved frequently
- younger brother abused drugs
- sexually assaulted at age 12
- avid interest in guns
- few heterosexual experiences
- never married
- in U.S. Army for 10 years
- experimented with drugs
- a loner with few friends

##### School Records

- no problems in school
- graduated from high school
- never repeated grades

##### Chronic behaviors

- drank heavily

##### Sexual Behaviors

- began cross-dressing at age 12
- stole women's undergarments
- exhibitionism beginning at age 15
- first arrest at age 18 for exhibitionism
- sexually assaulted and shot two 11-year-old girls killing one



## CASE HISTORY D

Lee is currently awaiting disposition on a stay of execution. He was convicted of brutally murdering two young boys and sentenced to death. He has also been convicted of a third murder of a child in another state. He has been in prison since age 20, after his 1984 arrest for Assault and Battery on a 25-year-old woman he attempted to rob. When the police obtained a search warrant for his room they found several copies of detective magazines and some drawings he had made of two different murder scenes. Upon further investigation the police were able to match rope they found in his room to the rope that was used on one of the murder victims. They also had a description of his car from a passerby who saw him with one of the boys he abducted and murdered. According to Lee he had planned the assaults several days before he actually committed them. He drove around looking for a young boy, someone between the age of 11 and 14. He targeted boys who were somewhat slender and who were smaller than he was.

In August of 1981 he stalked a 13-year-old boy who was doing his paper route. One day when the boy had left his house at around 5:30 pm to start his route Lee parked his car a short distance from where he saw the boy; took his knife, rope, and tape; and started walking towards the child. After the boy had delivered papers to the first few houses, Lee approached him and the boy said hello. As the boy was about to walk away Lee grabbed him and put his knife to the boy's throat, telling him not to make any noise. He led the boy to his car, tied his hands and feet, and put tape over the boy's mouth. Lee then put the boy in the trunk of his car and drove to a secluded area a few miles away. He took the boy out of his car, untied his hands, and made the boy undress, leaving only his underpants on. Although Lee did not actually perform any "sexual" acts with the boy, his primary motivation was apparently sexual gratification. He stabbed the boy several times and bit him on the neck, chest, and legs. He slashed several of the bite marks with the knife in an attempt to cover teeth marks that could be used as

identifying evidence. Lee also wore gloves to prevent fingerprint evidence. He dragged the body into an area of tall weeds and left. Lee returned to the barracks, went to his room, masturbated, and went to sleep.

Three months later Lee stalked a 12-year-old boy who was walking to school. One day he awoke about 6:30 am and decided to look for the boy. He saw the boy as he was driving around a school. He parked his car near the boy. He walked up to the boy, showed him the knife, and told him to "come with me, or I will kill you." Lee then walked the boy to his car. Just as Lee was putting the boy in the car, someone passed by. Lee told the boy to lie down in the car, and he drove off. He drove around for a short time, until he saw a dirt road. He drove up the road until they were out of site. He told the boy to get out of the car. Lee made the boy take his clothes off, but told him to leave his underpants on. He told the boy to lie on his back, but the boy refused. Lee forced him to the ground and began to strangle him. He then took out his knife and stabbed the boy repeatedly until he was sure he was dead. He then bit the boy on the neck, chest, and legs and slashed the bite marks. He left the scene and returned to the barracks where he threw the knife in a dumpster. He went to his room and masturbated.

A few days before this last murder Lee had an argument with a fellow soldier. He was very upset by this and feels this triggered the abduction and murder. Lee reported that between those two murders, he had, on several occasions, thought about abducting and killing someone else, but did not carry out that plan.

Lee was born in Massachusetts and has one younger sister. Lee's mother and father divorced when he was 8 years old. After the divorce Lee, his mother, and his sister moved to New Hampshire. According to Lee his parents constantly bickered and berated each other. His mother blamed his father for everything that went wrong. He recalled that his mother had a short temper and would often throw things around when she got angry. She would frequently belittle Lee and make him feel worthless. She was critical of all the friends he used to hang around with feeling that

they were a bad influence. Lee had few friends and spent most of his time, when he was young, jogging, riding his bike, or going to boy scout activities. He suppressed his feelings about his parent's divorce and said it was not a "big deal" to him. His mother was a housewife for the first several years after Lee was born and was the dominant parental figure. When Lee was about 4 years old, his mother began working in a department store. His paternal grandmother took care of him every day that his mother was at work.

His mother later took accounting courses and became a bookkeeper. His mother never remarried, but did date after the divorce. His father worked in a family restaurant. Lee felt that his father was cold and uncaring and said his relationship with his mother was "average." Lee noted that after the divorce his father tried unsuccessfully to obtain custody of Lee. Following the divorce Lee saw his father only two or three times a year. His father remarried when Lee was 15 years old. There is no evidence that Lee was sexually or physically abused. He reported a great deal of anger and hostility concerning childhood and upbringing; however, he did not specify the reasons for this hostility. There is no criminal or psychiatric history for any family member and no evidence of drug or alcohol abuse.

Lee implied that his mother bathed him until he was 13 years old. He does not believe, however, that any sexual activities took place. He thinks his violent fantasies began around age 6, shortly after his mother caught him masturbating. One of his fantasies involved cannibalizing his babysitter. This bizarre fantasy clearly pre-saged his biting the three murder victims. By the age of 13 Lee said he was masturbating five times a day, and his fantasies had changed to strangling and stabbing someone to death. These fantasies persisted throughout his life. Although there is some indication that he attempted to kill animals during this time period, the details are unknown.

Around age 16 Lee started collecting issues of *Detective Magazine*. He became obsessed with them, reporting that he liked to look at the pictures depicting people in fear, especially

women, and would use them when he masturbated. He recalled one magazine in particular depicting a woman being threatened with a knife. Lee said a knife is more personal than a gun. His fascination with these magazines and their violent themes continued throughout his life.

He joined a boy scout troop when he was about 12 years old and was the oldest boy in the group. He continued his involvement with scouting up until his arrest. He denies ever having sexual relationships with any of the boys in the scouts. He never dated and people would often ask him if he was gay. At first he was attracted to boys one or two years younger than he was. As he grew older his attraction to younger, slender boys persisted, and grew stronger. Although he stated that it was more than the sex that attracted him to younger boys, he never identified what the "more" was.

Lee never repeated a grade, and his marks were good until he began junior high school, at which point his marks dropped to barely passing. There is no evidence at any point, however, of serious behavior problems in school. Moreover, there is no indication of what may have been responsible for the decline in his academic performance. Lee attended a private Catholic high school in New Hampshire and delivered newspapers

to pay for his tuition. His grades in high school improved, and he maintained a C+ average. He was a member of the track team in high school. He reported that he was harassed by bullies in school nearly every day. He said that when he was young, he was shy and felt people avoided him. Lee began to befriend younger boys when he was a sophomore in high school.

After graduating from high school Lee attended college in New Hampshire for one year where he was in the ROTC program. He did poorly in college and, after the first year, decided to join the U.S. Air Force. He had just turned 19 at the time. After he finished basic training he was stationed in Iowa where he lived on an Air Force base. Lee worked as a radar technician and had no problems in the service.

Lee never married, reportedly never had a consensual sexual relationship, had no close friends, and apparently never dated. Although the records do not indicate that he had consensual homosexual relationships, it seems possible that he did.

His first murder took place at age 17 when he was living at home in New Hampshire. Lee said that prior to the crime a friend had moved away and that before he left they had an argument. Lee felt badly about the argument and the loss of a friend. He stalked an 11-year-old boy who used

to walk near where Lee had his paper route. He forced the boy at knifepoint to follow him to a secluded area. He then had the boy undress, leaving only his underpants on. Lee stabbed the boy to death and slashed his body where he had bitten him. It wasn't until after his arrest for the two murders in Iowa that authorities in New Hampshire realized the similarities in the crimes and lodged a murder charge for the homicide of the 11-year-old boy in their state.

Lee described all his crimes as premeditated. He stalked all three victims, wore gloves in all three murders, brought rope and tied one of the victims, and bit and slashed the bodies of all three victims. He revisited the scene of two of the murders. He said there was no conversation with any of the victims outside of threats. In each assault Lee described himself as being angry, hostile, frustrated, and lonely. All three victims were strangers, and he stated that he could not assault someone he knew.

After the murders he fantasized about the victims and masturbated while reliving the assaults. He has little remorse about his crimes, and it is very likely that he would have murdered again if he hadn't been apprehended. The murders appear to be the culmination of his rich and violent fantasy life, which began at a very early age and continues now.

#### CASE HISTORY D: SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENTS

##### Personal History

- parents divorced when he was 8 years old
- parents constantly fought with each other
- mother frequently belittled Lee
- a loner with few friends
- never dated
- never married
- active in boy scouts from age 12 to arrest
- joined the U.S. Air Force at age 19
- collected detective magazines
- reported being harassed nearly daily by bullies in school

##### School Records

- no reported problems in school
- graduated from high school
- attended one year of college

##### Chronic Behaviors

- none noted

##### Sexual Behaviors

- sadistic fantasies beginning at age 6
- compulsive masturbation
- bit victims after killing them
- masturbated while reliving murders
- sadistically murdered three boys ages 11, 12, and 13

# CRIME CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES<sup>2</sup>

	Donald	Richard	Peter	Lee
<i>Social Competence:</i>	Low	High	Low	Low
<i>Sexual Preoccupation with Children:</i>	High	High	High	High
<i>Non-Offense Contact with Children:</i>	Low	Low	Low	High
<i>Physical Injury:</i>	High	High	High	High
<i>Sadism:</i>	Present	Present	Absent	Present

## COMMENTARY

The above table presents the "Crime Classification Variables" for the four vignettes presented in this *Case in Point*. Three of the four offenders were low in Social Competence. This seems to fit the prototype of those child molesters who cause severe injury to their victims. On an "attachment continuum," the relative inability to form and sustain meaningful interpersonal relationships with peers often motivates would-be child molesters to seek out children for companionship—or simply sexual gratification. In some cases the child molester does develop "relationships" with his victims (i.e., the victim becomes a social companion as well as a sexual partner). Such attachments require some degree of caring and empathetic relatedness, however, distorted by the offender. The four cases we are presenting in this *Case in Point* fall at the extreme end of this attachment continuum. There is an absence of any empathy or sense of caring for the victim. There is no attachment or relatedness to the victim. The victim, for the most part, serves only to satisfy a brief moment of perverse sexual pleasure for the offender. It is noteworthy in this regard that Donald, Peter, and Lee all considered themselves to be "loners."

Sexual Preoccupation with Children is high for all four offenders. This is a function of the duration of their interest in and/or sexual fantasies involving children. In three of four cases

Non-Offense Contact with Children is low. The motive for associating with children for these offenders is solely for sexual gratification. The one offender for whom Non-Offense Contact was high (Lee) resulted from his involvement in scouting, where he had frequent contact with young boys in the context of scouting activities. Although it is not clear from the records whether Lee himself had any sexual involvement with any of the boy scouts, it seems highly unlikely that his involvement was purely altruistic. Physical injury obviously was high in all four cases, as the victims were murdered. Sadism was present in three of the four cases. These three cases (Donald, Richard, and Lee) involved brutality and a fusion of sex and violence.

Also common to Donald, Richard, and Lee is the early manifestation of sexual deviancy. All three offenders experienced some form of sexually deviant thoughts, fantasy, or behavior, as well as sexual victimization, when they were young. In Donald's case he became interested in pornography at age 12. He was sexually attracted to boys and had his first sexual experience with boys at age 11. His attraction to young males continued throughout his lifetime.

Richard was sexually abused by his father when he was 4 years old and was also sexually abused by the house father at the boarding school he was placed in when he was 6 years old.

Richard's interest was not limited to young boys. His intense sexual needs spanned the gamut in age and gender and included both consenting and forced sexual activity. His need to *take* sex forcibly became a compelling drive that led to his brutally murdering two young boys. Lee reported having sadistic fantasies as early as 6 years old. Although there is no information in his records to suggest the origin of these fantasies, it is clear that the fantasies were dominant throughout his life and that the murders of the three young boys were a culmination of his sadistic fantasies. Consistent with the speculation that fantasy was an important etiologic factor in all of these cases, it is noteworthy that all of the murders were planned.

Like the other three offenders, Peter experienced sexual abuse when he was a young boy of 12. He was coerced into having sex with an adult stranger, who also made him dress in women's clothing. This seemed to be the starting point for his deviant sexual interests (e.g., cross-dressing and exhibitionism). We know little about the motives for the murders. Although he claims that he shot the girls to elude apprehension, we may reasonably speculate that there were other motives driving the offense that culminated in murder. There is no evidence, however, that the assaults were sadistically motivated.

What factors influence why some premeditates and calculates a brut-

tal murder? Why is it that they are able to cross over the boundary between primitive, violent thoughts to primitive, violent behavior? Of all the offenders known, the serial killer is certainly the most dangerous of all. It is especially disturbing and horrifying when the victims are young children. As yet there are no scientific methods to accurately determine who is capable of premeditated murder. Although many offenders share several characteristics, no two are exactly alike. There are several characteristics that seem to be present in many of these cases. The offender himself was a victim of sexual abuse, often at a young age. The feeling that they were not able to "get along" with others, again beginning at an early age, is associated with the feeling each had of being a "loner." Preoccupation with violent and/or sadistic fantasies for several years seems to be present for many of these offenders. Paraphilias beginning at a young age are also common. Perhaps the most common characteristic associated with this type of offender is his inability to develop any genuine, deep feeling or

concern for other human beings. Although there are no methods to measure empathy, or true concern, accurately it seems highly unlikely that these offenders could experience these feelings and commit such atrocious crimes.

Child molesters rely on the vulnerability and naïveté of their young victims to facilitate their assault. Educating our children about child abuse and how to react to sexual overtures is probably our best and only available defense against child sexual abuse today. The scenarios presented in this issue are certainly the extreme cases in the spectrum of child sexual abuse. Perhaps some of these tragedies can be avoided with proper educational/instructional programs directed toward both parents and children. Primary prevention methods could include standardized instruction modules, training, and program evaluation. Programs should emphasize the dangers involved and present several examples of both verbal and physical situations that are overtly or covertly sexual in nature and the dangers involved. Programs should also include

a repertoire of simple responses that the child could employ based on the nature of the sexual overture. The responses would range from verbal to physical, as well as a combination of verbal and physical. Each program could be tailored to a specific age group. For example, a very basic elementary program for children age 4 to 7; a somewhat more detailed program for children age 8 to 10; and a more sophisticated program geared for children age 10 to 14. The programs must be sensitive to the different age groups it instructs in terms of the likely situations that each age group may encounter. Follow up programs should be offered so that children will not forget the lessons. There should be a referral system for children to access in cases when they experience sexual abuse. Care must be used not to create undue fear and distrust of people, but rather to instill an awareness of the dangers that exist in the area of sexual abuse. Educating children about these dangers is no less important than educating them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>David Finkelhor, Gerald Hotaling, and Andrea Sedlack. *Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, May 1990, pp. 72-83. (Copies of this report may be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 1-800-638-8736. In Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area please call (301) 251-5500.)

<sup>2</sup>The Crime Classification module is based on the following five elements: social competence, sexual preoccupation with children, non-offense contact with children, physical injury to child, and sadism. Following are the criteria used to classify an offender within this module.

- I. Five criteria were used to determine *social competence*. If an offender fit two or more of the following criteria, then he was listed as having high social competence. If an offender fit less than two of the following criteria, then he was listed as having low social competence.

- A) Maintained a single job for three or more years.
- B) Involved in a sexual relationship with another adult that included marriage or cohabitation for at least one year.
- C) Provided evidence of assuming responsibility for parenting a child for three or more years.
- D) Actively involved in an adult oriented organization (nonvocationally related) with frequent adult interpersonal contact for one or more years.
- E) Maintained a friendship with an adult, not involving marriage or cohabitation, lasting at least one year and involving active contact and shared activities.

- II. Three criteria were used to determine *sexual preoccupation with children*.

- A) The offender is considered to have a low sexual preoccupation with children if he is more than 20 years old and all of his sexual encounters with children (both charged and uncharged incidents) occurred within a six-month period of time. The offender is considered to have a high sexual preoccupation with children if he is more than 20 years old and there is evidence of three or more sexual encounters with children in which the time period between the first and third encounter is greater than six months. These encounters may be with a single victim over many incidents and should not be limited to charged offenses.
- B) For the offender with a high sexual preoccupation with children there is evidence that he has had enduring relationships with children (excluding parental contact). This includes sexual and nonsexual and professional and nonprofessional contacts.
- C) In addition an offender with a high sexual preoccupation with children initiates contact with children in numerous situations over his lifetime.

- III. Many factors were taken into consideration when classifying *non-offense contact with children*. In general the amount of contact is a behavioral measure of the time spent with children. It includes both sexual and nonsexual situations, but excludes contact resulting from parental responsibilities. This definition must be distinguished from sexual preoccupation with children that attempts to assess the strength of an individual's pedophilic interest (i.e., the extent to which thoughts of children dominate his fantasy life).

A low amount of non-offense contact with children is characterized by little or no contact with children in nonsexual contexts (for example, in jobs, hobbies, or recreation). In general the only contact such a person has with children is in the context of sexual assault.

An offender with high non-offense contact with children has frequent contact with children in both sexual and nonsexual contexts. It is assumed that repeated sexual encounters with the same child implies the development of a relationship that goes beyond sexual involvement. For that reason, when there are three or more sexual encounters with the same victim, the offender is coded as having high non-offense contact with children.

- IV. *Low physical injury to victim* is characterized by the absence of physical injury to the victim and the presence of only such acts as pushing, shoving, slapping, holding, or verbal threats—as long as these acts result in no lasting physical injury (e.g., cuts, bruises, or contusions). High physical injury to victim includes hitting, punching, choking, aggressive sodomy (i.e., any violence causing moderate to severe physical injury to the victim including death). High injury also includes forcing the victim to ingest urine or feces.

- V. In regard to *sadism* there must be evidence that the offender is sexually aroused or otherwise derives pleasure from placing the victim in pain or fear. In lieu of self-report of such arousal or sadistic fantasies, it is necessary to rely upon behavioral evidence, such as the use of violence to facilitate arousal or ritualized, bizarre acts, not usually seen as part of normal sexuality. Other examples of sadistic acts include: aggressive sodomy, object insertion, or violence focused on breasts, genitals, or the anus. A presence of any of the above behaviors, in conjunction with high physical injury (see IV above), would qualify an offender to be rated high in sadism. The offender may be classified as *muted* sadistic when there is evidence of sadistic fantasies or behavioral evidence that suggests sadism (such as bondage, insertion of foreign objects) in the absence of high physical injury. In the case of muted sadism, pain and injury may be feigned, but not actually inflicted. If none of the above factors were present, sadism would be rated as absent.

*Editor's Note:* The purpose of this series is "to gain insight and provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of the missing and exploited child case, and in locating and recovering missing children." (42 USC 5771)

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The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) serves as a clearinghouse of information on missing and exploited children; provides technical assistance to citizens and law enforcement agencies; offers training programs to law enforcement; distributes photographs and descriptions of missing children nationwide; coordinates child protection efforts with the private sector; networks with nonprofit service providers and state clearinghouses on missing person cases; and provides information and advice on effective state legislation to ensure the safety and protection of children per 42 USC 5771 and 42 USC 5780.

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