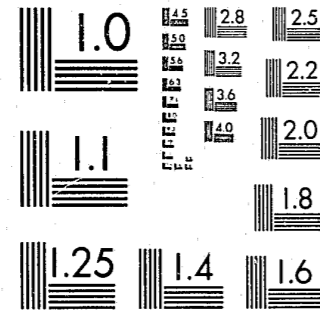


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National Institute of Justice  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20531

7/2/84

JANUARY 1984

# FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

## Pedophilia /pēd-ə-fil-ē-ə/ n : sexual perversion in which children are the preferred sexual object

93130-93133



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# FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

JANUARY 1984, VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1

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ACQUISITIONS

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FBI

Pedophilia / p'd-ē-fil-ē-ē / n:  
sexual perversion in which  
children are the preferred  
sexual object



This special issue centers on the theme of child sexual exploitation—a crime which remains a potential threat to every child in America.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20535

William H. Webster, Director

The Attorney General has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of the Department of Justice. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through June 6, 1988.

Published by the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs,  
Roger S. Young, Assistant Director

Editor—Thomas J. Deakin  
Assistant Editor—Kathryn E. Sulewski  
Art Director—Kevin J. Mulholland  
Writer/Editor—Karen McCarron  
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Reprints—Marlethia S. Black



ISSN 0014-5688

USPS 383-310

## Director's Message

Last Spring, in a conference with religious and political leaders concerned over law enforcement's efforts against pornography, the President of the United States told the group that having "identified the worst hazardous-waste sites in America—we have to do the same with the worst sources of pornography." As hazardous wastes destroy this Nation's environment, pornography permeates the backbone of American society and destroys one of our most valuable resources—our children.

Public concern over this perverted assault on children was directly expressed in 1978 when Congress passed the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act. The FBI investigates criminal conduct defined by the Act and gives high priority to those pornography cases involving children. One of the problems encountered in the investigation of this type of pornography is that much of the material is produced by a clandestine subculture with perverted sexual interests focusing on children. Because the pornographic material produced by this subculture is for members self-gratification rather than for commercial profit, these investigations are complicated.

The FBI has achieved notable success in combating the child exploitation problem that affects our Nation. Undercover operations conducted in major U.S. cities have resulted in a number of arrests, indictments, and convictions. Laboratory examination of pornographic materials often provides valuable information which can identify sources and locations of manufacture and distribution. Also, steps are being taken to expand our investigative techniques regarding these investigations to include storing data on violators in the Organized Crime Information System. However, the key element to a more effective enforcement program is cooperation.

The exploitation of children transcends jurisdictional boundaries. And because of the nature and national scope of this crime, many of the thousands of children who disappear without a trace each year fall victim to sexual exploitation, no single law enforcement agency can cope with the inherent investigative problems. Our efforts need to be coordinated—not fragmented. Information must be shared—not withheld.

The FBI has already established one joint task force specializing in child sex exploitation cases. Operating out of the New York City Office, the task force is composed of FBI Agents, U.S. Customs Service officers, investigators from the U.S. Postal Service, and officers from the New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk County Police Departments.

As another means to assist those in law enforcement who investigate child sex offenders, a network of Federal, State, and local officers has been formed through the efforts of members of the Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Va. Twenty-five officers from various agencies throughout the United States took part in a 5-day seminar, during which attendees presented and participated in a discussion of various topics concerning the sexual exploitation of children. A major goal of this seminar was to foster personal contact among officers who work in this sensitive and difficult-to-penetrate area. Opening lines of communication between agencies eliminates one of the stumbling blocks to effective investigation and prosecution.

The dangers of sexual exploitation and pornography to its victims are only too evident—physical and emotional suffering and ruined lives. As a civilized society, we cannot afford to let our children pay the price for our inaction. Every child in America is a potential victim of sexual abuse and exploitation. For this reason, all of us in law enforcement must join together in the protection of our Nation's most valuable resource—our children.

*William H. Webster*

William H. Webster  
Director  
January 1, 1984

# Child Pornography and Sex Rings

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Over the past 10 years, the availability of literature on sexual assault has increased significantly. Due primarily to the feminist movement speaking out on rape<sup>1</sup> and incest,<sup>2</sup> clinical studies suggesting interventions have been initiated.<sup>3</sup>

The incidence data on child sexual assault reveal that one in four females will be molested or raped by the time she reaches age 20 and that she will be at risk for sexual victimization by a family member.<sup>4</sup> The numbers for male victimization are more hidden, perhaps because boys are reluctant to admit to being victimized. However, clinical data are increasingly suggesting that boys may be at equal risk for sexual victimization<sup>5</sup> since they are the preferred target of habitual pedophiles<sup>6</sup> and victims of child sex rings.<sup>7</sup>

A counterculture movement for child sex is reported in the media to be gaining momentum through radical writings and opinions of proincest groups, organized pedophiles, and sexologists who argue for children's sexual rights.<sup>8</sup> Also, self-styled therapists are publicly arguing that the issue under debate is the child's perception of consent and freedom of choice.<sup>9</sup> Even in professional circles of psychiatry, law, and law enforcement, sexual activity between adults and prepubertal children tends to gain more sympathy for the child and outrage for the adult than does sexual activity involving adults and adolescents, especially when the activity includes the exchange of money and/or material goods. Sympathy for victims seems to be inversely proportional to their age.

This article seeks to contribute to an understanding of the nature, organization, and operation of the type of sexual victimization of children and adolescents which occurs when groups of children are formed into rings and when molesting, pornography and/or prostitution are the major sexual components of these rings.

## Study

An exploratory research project focusing on methodology development regarding the study of child victims, the perpetrators, and the consumers of child pornography was designed as a first step toward increasing recognition and understanding of the problem of the use of children in pornography. The project constituted a field-initiated model and used consultants working with and investigating child sexual assault or counseling the child victims and their families

to establish an information network on the phenomenon of child sex rings and the production of pornography within these rings. Information was regularly pooled on clinical case studies of particular rings, as well as an analysis of the types of cases coming under law enforcement jurisdiction.

Project consultants were asked to review their files for cases involving one or more adults who were known to be simultaneously involved sexually with several children or adolescent victims. Single victim/offender cases were excluded from the study.

The sample for this article consists of the first 40 cases received from the project consultants. While all of the cases were known to law enforcement agencies, only a minority were concurrently involved with a mental health agency.

## Adult Component of the Rings

In all 40 cases, adults (at least 10-15 years older than the victims) were the dominant leaders and organized and operated the sex rings. In no case did groups of children or youths seek out an adult for sex, pornography, or prostitution. Young people were selectively gathered together for a sexual purpose, usually implicit in the initial stages. The timing of the initiation into the sexual activity varied from the first contact to months, with the longest time periods occurring in those cases where prepubescent children were involved.<sup>10</sup> All of the cases involved male ring leaders and a few cases involved female codefendants, usually husband/wife pairs. The youngest adults were in their twenties and the oldest in their seventies.



Special Agent Lanning



Dr. Burgess

## Victim Component of the Rings

Although the number of victims actively involved in a ring at a specific time generally ranged from 3 to 11, cases involving hundreds of children could be reported if the numbers of victims were added consecutively over the tenure of the adult's operation of the ring. In this article, the term "victim" is used to denote all underage persons for several reasons. First, in adult/child and adult/youth relationships, there is an imbalance of power and thus the young person is unable to make an informed consent when sex is the issue.<sup>11</sup> Second, empirical research strongly suggests that there is a high amount of unresolved sexual trauma in the life histories of prostitutes<sup>12</sup> and sex offenders<sup>13</sup> and thus, youth prostitutes may represent a victimized child. Third, the majority of these cases were processed through the criminal justice system and were so defined in the process.

The majority of these cases involved primarily male children and youths. Cases involving females only and cases involving both genders were fairly equal in number. However, cases involving male victims outnumbered female only and both gender cases by 2 to 1. There were very young children represented in the sample, i.e., nursery school-age children. The youngest child molested and photographed was noted in a letter exchanged by an incest pedophile who wrote of performing cunnilingus on his 1-week-old daughter and reported trying all sexual acts with the daughter until he was apprehended when the child was 8 years old.<sup>14</sup>

## Solo Sex Rings

The organization of solo sex rings is primarily by the age of the child, e.g., toddlers (age 2-5), prepubescent (6-12), or pubescent (13-17). Sex rings are interactional situations involving an adult as organizer or ring-leader and a child or adolescent as victim. From a psychiatric point of view, the offender's conscious and overt sexual responses and contacts are directed toward prepubertal children (pedophilia) and/or pubescent children (hebephilia). From a sociological perspective, the adult capitalizes on the developmental needs of children, specifically the peer group membership and competition and pressures the young person for sex in exchange for a variety of material and psychological rewards. This type of offender prefers to have multiple children as sex objects in contrast to the offender who seeks out one child at a time.

To organize a ring, whether it be for child molesting, pornography, prostitution, or any combination of these, the offender needs access to a group of children. Access routes for group victimization include occupation, a child, and the neighborhood.

## Occupation

Almost half of the offenders used their occupation as the major access route to the child victims. The adult had a legitimate role as an authority figure in the lives of the children selected for the ring or was able to survey vulnerable children through access to some type of family records or history. This offender used his occupational role to impose authority and control on the children. The offenders in this category included teachers (nursery school, grammar,

and junior high levels), a city health physician, an engineer, a school bus driver, a camp counselor, a photographer, a gas station owner, and scout leaders.

#### Child

On occasion, a ring is formed by the adult targeting a child to use his connections via peer pressure to bring other children into the group. The initial child could be a relative of the offender or the adult could solicit the help of a previously unknown child. One technique used was posting a notice on a store bulletin board requesting girls to help with the housework.

#### Neighborhood

The adult's status in the neighborhood sometimes helped to legitimize his presence with the children and their parents and permitted the unquestioned exchange of young people into his home. Often such an offender is well-liked by many of his neighbors. However, more careful investigation will usually reveal that he has befriended and interacted closely only with those neighbors who have children of the sex and age that he sexually prefers. In some cases, he may be willing to develop such a friendship for years while waiting for a neighbor's child to reach his age preference.

In order to understand the dynamics of child sex rings, it is important to understand the seduction process used by pedophiles. The child is not forced into sexuality, as in rape. Rather, the child is pressured into being an accessory to the sexual activity—to go along with it at least once. The child may be totally unaware that sexual activity is part of the exchange by the offender. Many times, the child describes encounters with the offender that are nonsexual. These usually occur in early meetings, and then progressively, the child becomes a sexual partner.<sup>15</sup>

Molestation involving pressure does not have physical force as part of the act. The offender behaves in

counteraggressive ways. Two patterns of sex pressure are enticement, in which the offender attempts to engage the child through persuasion or cajolement, and entrapment, in which he takes advantage of having put the child in a situation where the victim feels obligated in some way to the offender. Many times bribes and rewards are part of the offense. The victim is rewarded with good times, affection, money, approval, gifts, and treats. The offender's motive is to gain sexual control of the child by developing a sexual relationship. Sexuality appears to be in the service of dependency needs for physical contact and affection from children. However, such an offender may use blackmail and threats to maintain control of a child previously seduced.

These offenders are very attracted to children and find it very difficult to avoid them. They feel comfortable with a child and seek out opportunities to be with children.<sup>16</sup> The offender may seek groups of victims rather than one victim because of his psychosocial development and occupation. The majority of adults in this sample were employed at skilled and white-collar positions and some worked with children in groups. Organizational skills, knowledge in child psychology, and the ability to communicate and interact with children are important common characteristics of child sex ring operators. They know how to use peer pressure, rewards and punishment, and competition to maintain control of the group and ensure their continued access to the children.

The following is an example of a typical solo-sex ring case which involves an interesting, but increasingly more common, technical innovation:

In a small southern city, police identified a pedophile named Ralph, who was sexually involved with more than 50 young boys in the local area. Pursuant to a search warrant, the police seized the following items believed to be of evidentiary value: Photographic equipment, polaroid cameras, film, a

typewriter, an address book, a calendar book, ledgers, cancelled checks, biorhythm charts, a computer, and computer tapes.

Ralph was a meticulous recordkeeper. He had a notebook with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of many of his victims. He had a calendar book showing dates and types of sexual activity. He had a diary containing photographs and narrative information about over 50 victims. He had a small memoranda book which contained a summary and analysis of his sexual activity with 31 victims over a certain period of time. In this book, he recorded information such as the youngest (5.26 years), the oldest (19.45 years), and the average (10.89 years) age of his victims, the average duration of sexual relations (2.2 years), the average number of sex acts per person (64.68), the number of various types of sexual acts performed, the number of sperm ejaculated by his victims per day, and biorhythm information for each of his victims.

For many of his "regular" boys, he maintained even more information. For each of these boys he had a chronological list of sexual acts, with each act assigned a consecutive number. This was then cross-referenced to his account ledger for each boy. The ledger was a running balance of the amount of money each boy had on account. Money would be added for doing work around the house, for sexual acts, and for picture-taking sessions. Money would be subtracted for clothing, cigarettes, games, cash, and other presents. He kept the cancelled checks showing the payments to each victim. He also had his victims make handwritten notes stating how much they enjoyed the sexual activity. He had photographs of the boys, many of which he kept in a green metal box.

The key to Ralph's meticulous recordkeeping was his computer. The computer contained information about sexual activity with over 400 boys and a few girls. He cross-referenced all the information he maintained on his victims. It contained a sexual history of each of his victims. He used it to keep track of the biorhythm charts of his victims. He also used it as an index for his child pornography collection so that he could locate photographs on specific sexual acts. The computer was accessed by using the name and an assigned bank account identification number of each victim. The computer also had a self-destruct program which the subject did not have an opportunity to initiate prior to his arrest.

Ralph's victims were primarily neighborhood boys whom he had befriended. He paid many of these boys for doing odd jobs around the house. His sexual acts with them consisted primarily of oral sex with some occasional anal sex. The subject always referred to the sexual acts as "projects." He frequently used alcohol to lower their inhibitions. Once the sexual acts began with the boys, he constantly reminded them not to tell anyone because it was their secret. He would attempt to justify the sexual acts by reading to his victims passages from the Bible which he claimed stated that this type of sex was of benefit to humans.

All of Ralph's victims who were interviewed by the police stated that Ralph was a very nice man who was individually concerned with each of them. He paid them for work, sexual acts, and for photography sessions. He always encouraged the boys to compete with each other in the "projects." There were rewards of extra points and money for completing a sexual act better or longer than previously or better and longer than another boy. He created an "88 Club," in which a boy could become a member only after completing four

different sexual acts. Progress in joining this club was maintained on a chart.

After arresting Ralph, the police learned that he was on 5-years' probation for sexually molesting children in another city. Ralph had also been convicted and served time for sexually molesting children 20 years earlier in another State. Ralph lied about this conviction on several job applications. Less than 1 month before his most recent discovery and arrest, Ralph's psychiatrist wrote a letter to his probation officer stating that "there is no indication that there has been recurrence of symptoms. I feel, therefore, that his problem remains in remission."

#### Transition Sex Rings

Although pedophilia is a sex offense in all States, there is a strong need among pedophiles to communicate with others regarding their interest in children. In transition rings, experiences can be exchanged; in solo rings, the pedophile keeps his activities and photographs totally secret. Photographs of children may also be traded and sold, as well as sexual services.

The study of child pornography has identified this component of pedophilia in which a communication network is developed to share common interests, e.g. preference for boys or girls and fantasy scenarios, such as sexual acts with children. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual III (DSM III) describes the essential features of the group of paraphiliac disorders as unusual or bizarre imagery or acts that are necessary for sexual excitement. Photographing children in both sexual and nonsexual poses appears to be a common practice among pedophiles. This practice was noted in all three types of sex rings. In the sample, there was a wide range of pornography noted, from "innocent" poses to bondage, sadomasochism, and bestiality. The pedophile who also takes photographs can be called

a collector and he always has a personal collection.<sup>17</sup> At the point the photographs begin to be traded to other pedophiles, the development of a transition ring may be observed. The participants send letters, photographs, and video and audio tapes back and forth through the carefully developed network of pedophiles. The trading of pornography appears to be the first move of the victim into the possession of other pedophiles. The photographs are traded, and victims may be tested by other offenders and eventually traded for their sexual services. In one search of a pedophile's apartment, many photographs of naked youths were found. This led to the discovery of a youth prostitution ring that had developed with some of the children from the child ring.<sup>18</sup> In another case, a pedophile took the home computer method one step further by using it to communicate with other pedophiles possessing similar equipment and interests.

As pubescent children grow up, the pedophile has the task of deciding how to end the sexual activity since he loses sexual interest in the child. The transition rings suggest that some of the pubescent children are tested for their role in pornography and prostitution as a way to end the relationship.

#### Syndicated Rings

The third type of ring noted in the sample was the syndicated ring. This ring involves a well-structured organization that recruits children, produces pornography, delivers direct sexual services, and establishes an extensive network of customers. The number of adults operating the ring ranged from two to nine.

The major access of adults to children is often through adult association. In his study on pederasty, Rossman notes that the subculture of

adults with a sexual preference for prepubescent or pubescent youths also likes to associate with other sympathetic adults.<sup>19</sup> This sense of camaraderie can serve to provide children for sexual purposes between adults with similar interests once they reach that level of trust and communication. This method of access to victims did not preclude the adults in this sample from using their occupation to act out other paraphilias. For example, in the youth prostitution ring, the occupation of five of the defendants included a pediatrician/adolescent psychiatrist, assistant to the headmaster of a private boy's school, a psychologist, an investment broker, and a business executive.

Interviews with young people under the authority of the first two defendants revealed incidents of exhibitionism and voyeurism. The assistant to the headmaster was reported to have conducted room checks in the dormitory wearing only a loosely tied bathrobe which clearly exhibited his genitals. The physician was well known in a college community for writing medical deferments for the military. The students only knew that the deferment letter was expensive and required several office visits. It appears that on the last office visit, the physician would monitor EKG and blood pressure readings and require the students to masturbate and ejaculate in front of him. A report was then written documenting postural hypotension; the students kept this practice secret in exchange for the 4-F letter. At the trial, it was learned that the physician and the assistant to the headmaster met when the physician was hired as a consulting psychiatrist to the school. They discovered their mutual interest in boys during a social function, and it was another year before there was talk of the availability of boys for sex. The physician's defense was that he was conducting research on male youth prostitution. After his conviction, an article was published in a journal on sexual behavior.

Many pedophiles organize into support organizations. On the surface, they claim to advocate change in age of consent laws and the sexual liberation of children. Although they certainly have interest in such things, in reality, they are often networks for the mutual exchange of information and victims among pedophiles.

Recent syndicated rings have involved a Boy Scout troop, a boy's farm operated by a minister, and a national boy prostitution ring.

#### Victimology

The followup of some of the children who were involved with adults<sup>20</sup> indicates post-traumatic stress response, both acute, chronic, and delayed.<sup>21</sup> Prominent features of intrusive thoughts, avoidance behavior, gender identity conflicts, and stylized sexual behavior were noted.

Because much of the sexual victimization that occurs in childhood and adolescence is not disclosed and thus remains a silent trauma reaction, it is crucial that psychiatrists and mental health professionals diagnose the conditions. Signs of suspected child or youth sexual victimization include such somatic symptoms as stomach aches, headaches, sore throats, and earaches; enuresis and urinary tract infection; sexually explicit behavior, either physical, verbal, or written; social withdrawal and difficulty with peers, classmates, and family; minor mood swings; and disruption in normal life activities. Chronic conditions such as dissociative reactions (multiple personality), depression, and psychosis may also be present.

It is extremely important for persons involved in the intervention, investigation, or prosecution of child pornography and sex ring cases (police, prosecutor, social workers, etc.) to recognize that a bond often develops between the offender and the victims. Many of these victims find themselves in a situation where they are willing to trade sex for attention

and affection and other benefits. Pedophile ring operators are, by definition, skilled at gaining the continued cooperation and control of their victims through well-planned seduction.

Pedophiles are skilled at the seduction process. They know how to use bribes, attention, affection, adult authority, and even threats to establish continued access to, and ongoing relationships with, children. They know the "in" games, toys, television shows, and moves. They are skilled at recognizing and then temporarily filling the emotional and physical needs of children. They know how to, and actually enjoy, listening to children, an ability many parents lack. They are willing to spend all the time it takes to seduce the child.

If one understands the dynamics of this seduction process and is familiar with the developmental stages of children, the existence of an offender/victim bond in a sex ring case should not be totally unexpected. Child victims frequently have mixed feelings about the discovery of such a sex ring—they do not necessarily want to see the offender punished and sent to jail. They may describe him as a nice man who, despite the size of the ring, treated each of them as an individual. They may be reluctant to be interviewed or to be witnesses against the offender. They may be embarrassed about others discovering what they have been doing. This is particularly true of the discovery of their involvement in child pornography or unusual sexual acts. Some victims have even assisted the offender with his defense, hindering the police investigation. Often, their victimization is perpetuated or even worsened by the criminal justice process.

Not all victims have negative feelings toward discovery and intervention by authorities. Many of these victims have been desperately searching for a way out and welcome police inter-

vention. The possibility of a positive offender/victim bond must, however, be recognized. It must not be misinterpreted as consent, complicity, or guilt. In one case, a prosecutor announced to the television media that the victims were as guilty, if not more guilty, than the offenders. The police investigator, in particular, must be sensitive to this problem. In cases of this type, he must be willing to replace at least part of this victim/offender bond with a new bond. He must be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to develop rapport with, and the trust and confidence of, the victim. He must not ridicule, degrade, or condemn either the offender or the victim. The police investigator must be able to use some of the techniques the pedophile uses to gain the cooperation of the children.

The police investigator should do everything possible to ensure that victims receive the necessary medical and psychological help to deal with the problems of their victimization. Although the identification and conviction of offenders is the main objective for law enforcement, considerable satisfaction for the police investigator can come from knowing that police intervention was beneficial to the victim. Regardless if the offender is punished, the victim can usually be helped.

When you recognize the effect and scope of the trauma caused by nonviolent sexual manipulation, the amount of consideration given by the criminal justice system to such offenders simply because they are nonviolent is baffling. Physically batter a child and you are locked up, but psychologically batter 100 children and you are left on the street because you are nonviolent. The devastation caused by such "nonviolent" victimization is psychological violence of the worst kind.

#### Offender Reactions

When a child pornography and sex ring is discovered, there are certain reactions by the pedophile offender that are fairly predictable. Knowledge and anticipation of these reactions are beneficial to the investigation and prosecution of such cases. The intensity of these reactions may depend on how much the offender has to lose by identification and conviction. At least one case known to the authors involved a female ring leader. The possibility of a female offender should not be overlooked by investigators.

Usually the first reaction of a pedophile to discovery is complete denial. The offender may act shocked, surprised, or even indignant about such an allegation of sexual activity with children. He will claim to know nothing about the alleged activity. He might claim it was a misunderstood act of simple affection or he might claim that he does not remember. His denial will be frequently aided by friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers, who insist that he is such a wonderful person there is no way he could have done what is alleged. These associates will be uncooperative and may even hinder police investigation of the offender.

If the evidence against him rules out total denial, the offender may switch to a slightly different tactic. He will attempt to minimize what he has done in both quantity and quality. He might claim that it happened on one or two isolated occasions or that he only touched or caressed the victim. He will be knowledgeable about the law and might possibly admit to acts he knows to be lesser offenses or misdemeanors. It is important to recognize that even seemingly cooperative victims will also often minimize their acts in quantity and quality. If a certain act was performed 100 times, the victim might claim it happened only 30 times, and the offender might claim it happened only twice. A victim may admit to having sex but not to having received money for sex.

Either as part of his effort to minimize or as a separate reaction, a pedophile typically attempts to justify his behavior. He might claim that he cares for these children more than their parents do and that what he does is beneficial to the children. He might claim that he has been under tremendous stress, has a drinking problem, or did not know how old a certain victim was. A large part of his efforts to justify his behavior centers around blaming the victim. The offender will claim that he was seduced by the victim, that the victim initiated the sexual activity, or that the victim is promiscuous or even a prostitute. In one case, an offender claimed that the children had such a desperate need for attention and affection that they practically threw themselves at him and misunderstood his resulting affection for sexual advances.

Some of the more clever pedophiles come up with ingenious stories to explain their behavior. One offender claimed he was trying to teach his victims to stop sucking their thumbs. In another case, a nursery school operator, who had taken and collected thousands of nude and seminude photographs of young children in his care, claimed that they were not for sexual purpose. A ballet instructor convicted of taking indecent liberties with five pupils claimed that the sexual activities with the young girls may have stemmed from "the pressure, the fantasy involved in the production of 'The Nutcracker.'" <sup>22</sup>

When various reactions do not result in termination of the investigation or prosecution, the pedophile may then try the "sick game." This tactic involves claiming that he is sick and cannot control what he is doing. Pedophile manuals advocate this tactic when all else fails. It is interesting to note that few pedophiles admit this sickness until they are arrested or until other tactics fail.

Another effective tactic for the pedophile at any stage of an investigation is the "sympathy game." This is designed to make as many people as possible, especially judges, jurors, and the community, feel sorry for him. This is best illustrated by the "nice guy defense." In this defense, the offender says he is sorry and then presents evidence to show that he is the pillar of the community—a devoted family man, a military veteran, a church leader, is nonviolent, has no prior arrests, and is a victim of circumstances with many personal problems. A pedophile first arrested at age 40 for his involvement in a child sex ring has probably sexually victimized dozens, if not hundreds, of children previously. Since many people still believe in some variation of the myth that child molesters are "dirty old men in wrinkled rain coats," the "sympathy game" combined with the "sick game" is a very effective tactic for the pedophile to use to escape responsibility for his behavior.

It is important not to overlook one final reaction of the identified pedophile—that of attacking or going on the offensive. It involves such things as harassing, threatening, and/or bribing victims and witnesses; attacking the reputation and personal lives of the investigating officers; attacking the motives of the prosecutor; claiming the case is selective prosecution; raising issues such as gay rights if the child victim is the same sex as the offender; and enlisting the active support of peer groups. Pedophiles are not passive, inadequate people who are easily intimidated.

When all else fails, the offender will usually try to make a deal in order to avoid a trial. The unfortunate aspect of this is that the offender is often allowed to plead *nolo contendere* in order to avoid civil liability. At this point, the pedophile will frequently

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**"The police investigator should do everything possible to ensure that victims receive the necessary medical and psychological help to deal with the problems of their victimization."**

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claim that he is pleading guilty because he "doesn't want to put the children through the trauma of having to testify" or because he "has no more money to defend himself." This problem is compounded by the fact that it is possible, under the provisions of a 1970 U.S. Supreme Court decision,<sup>23</sup> to plead guilty to a charge while at the same time not acknowledging that you committed the crime. This relieves the pedophile of having to accept public responsibility for his behavior. Increasing in popularity is the pedophile pleading not guilty by reason of insanity. If State insanity criteria allow it, he will claim that although he knew his acts were wrong, he lacked the ability to conform his behavior to the law—that he was driven by irresistible impulses. The judge and jury are then given the difficult task of differentiating between an irresistible impulse and an impulse not resisted.

Although a wide variety of criminals may react in similar ways when their activity is discovered or investigated, these reactions have repeatedly been seen in offenders involved in child sex rings, and their occurrence should be anticipated.

#### Summary

Society outwardly projects strong disapproval and anger toward child molesters. A more conflictive area is when a child is pubescent and is sexually victimized. This represents a neglected area—one fraught with bias and attitudes regarding adolescent sexuality.

In order to deal effectively with this serious and complex problem, police officers and prosecutors must be aware of the dynamics of the organization, types, structure, victimology, and offender behavior involved in child pornography and sex rings. This awareness will increase the chances that offenders will be identified and effectively prosecuted and decrease the chances that child victims will be mistreated and further traumatized. **FBI**

#### Footnotes

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<sup>2</sup> L. Armstrong, *Kiss Daddy Goodnight* (New York: Hawthorn, 1978); K. Brady, *Father's Days* (New York: Dell, 1979).

<sup>3</sup> A. W. Burgess, A. N. Groth, L. L. Holmstrom, and S. M. Sgoroi, *Sexual Assault of Children and Adolescents* (Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath Co., 1978); J. Herman and L. Hirschman, *Father-Daughter Incest* (Harvard, Mass.: Harvard Press, 1982); S. M. Sgoroi, *Handbook of Clinical Intervention in Child Sexual Abuse* (Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath Co., 1981).

<sup>4</sup> D. Finkelhor, *Sexually Victimized Children* (New York: Free Press, 1979).

<sup>5</sup> C. Swift, "Sex Between Adults and Children," *The Journal of Psychohistory*, Winter 1977.

<sup>6</sup> A. N. Groth, R. Longo, and B. McFaddin, "Undetected Recidivism in Sex Offenders," *Crime and Delinquency*, July 1982.

<sup>7</sup> A. W. Burgess, A. N. Groth, and M. McCausland, "Child Sex Initiation Rings," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, January 1981.

<sup>8</sup> J. Leo, "Cradle-to-grave Intimacy," *Time*, September 7, 1981.

<sup>9</sup> L. T. Constantine, *Children and Sex: New Findings, New Perspectives* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1982).

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 7.

<sup>11</sup> A. W. Burgess and L. L. Holmstrom, "Sexual Trauma of Children and Adolescents: Pressure, Sex and Secrecy," *Nursing Clinics of North America*, September 1975; D. Finkelhor, "What's Wrong with Sex Between Adults and Children?" *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, October 1979.

<sup>12</sup> J. James and J. Meyerding, "Early Sexual Experience and Prostitution," *American Journal of Psychiatry*, December 1977.

<sup>13</sup> *Supra* note 6.

<sup>14</sup> A. W. Burgess, ed., *Child Pornography and Sex Rings* (Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath Company, forthcoming).

<sup>15</sup> *Supra* note 11.

<sup>16</sup> A. N. Groth and A. W. Burgess, "Motivational Intent in the Sexual Assault of Children," *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, vol. 45, September 1977, pp. 253-264.

<sup>17</sup> *Supra* note 14.

<sup>18</sup> *Supra* note 7.

<sup>19</sup> P. Rossman, *Sexual Experience Between Men and Boys* (New York: Association Press, 1976), p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> *Supra* note 7.

<sup>21</sup> *Supra* note 14.

<sup>22</sup> "Danco Studio Head Faces Prison Term," *The Washington Post*, December 29, 1982, C.3.

<sup>23</sup> *North Carolina v. Allford*, 400 U.S. 25 (1970).

**END**