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Editorial

The second issue of the Journal of Vampirology is devoted entirely to the criminality of historical and contemporary vampirism. The article on hemocide, or murder committed for the purpose of obtaining the victim's blood, represents a comprehensive survey of this practice from ancient day to modern times. Terminology has been developed to assist the specialist in determining the various elements inherent to this growing phenomenon. Complementing this is an analysis of Dr. Stephen Kaplan's claims that vampirism constitutes a serious factor in current homicide trends. Although I am hesitant to accept the validity of such statements, I show, nonetheless, how such allegations may yet turn out to be true.

I have, with much reluctance, dropped the article on Jack the Ripper scheduled for this issue. This is due to the fact that I underestimated the final length of the current issue. The "Was Jack the Ripper a Vampire?" feature would have extended the journal's size to well over 30 pages. I'd rather the Journal of Vampirology remain a labor of love than one of sheer labor.

The third issue will be a multifaceted one, featuring articles on the Windigo Psychosis (by Ed Austin), Jack the Ripper (includes extensive bibliography), the odor of corruption (I discuss the bacteriological origins of vampirism) and forensic odontology (or bite-mark analysis). I hope to have it ready by late July.

Some corrections from last issue. The Count Dracula Fan Club has not undergone any name change as stated. I apologize to Dr. Jeanne Youngson, the organization's president, for any inconvenience caused her. In giving the address of Conspiracy Tracker I erroneously spelled Paterson, NJ, with two t's. Lastly, I must own up to a most embarrassing faux pas. Van Helsing, the name of Bram Stoker's redoubtable vampire hunter, is incorrectly given throughout as Von Helsing, the former spelling being Dutch and the latter German.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the following persons who provided me encouragement and support following the publication of the first issue: Dr. Jeanne Youngson, Dr. Stephen Kaplan, Ed Austin, Eric Held, Fern Miller, Martin V. Riccardo, Dennis Passero, Valerie Smith and Paul Thompson. Thank you all.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this issue to Joseph Vellutini and Nancy Sholkin. My father unwittingly fostered an early interest of mine in crime and abnormal behavior. Once an avid reader of detective magazines, he would sometimes fall asleep on the couch, the latest issue at his side. Seizing the opportunity, I would grab a quick glimpse of its shuddersome contents. The occasional paperback, such as Amazon Head Hunters or Attack of the Leopard Men, supplemented (surreptitiously) my readings of the Hardy Boys and Freddy the Pig. Leafing through detective magazines as a child, with their lurid covers depicting women being menaced by men silhouetted in darkness, was equivalent to sneaking peeks at those bare-breasted native women sometimes shown in National Geographic. More recently, Nancy Sholkin has assumed these responsibilities and keeps me current with a generous supply of detective magazines. I owe her a great debt of gratitude. Incidentally, these magazines should not be overlooked as potential sources of information, as occasionally stories involving blood-drinking or cannibalism are published. A recent example of this is John Dunning's "A Slow Death for the Vampire's Little-Girl Victim," to be found in the July issue of Official Detective.

See you next issue.

LETTERS

(from Ed Austin, Mutilation Data Center, Orange, Calif.)

Your article on rabies would benefit from some additional information.

In 1963 I did an article which was published in The Nebraska Farmer. Sources were the Nebraska Department of Health and the University of Nebraska Medical School. The gist was that the principal source of human rabies is the common skunk and his cousin, the civet cat.

Their "smell defense" embeds some peculiar danger responses that cause them to bite cows, horses, cats, dogs, squirrels and other animals which become vectors to the human population.

The same "smell defense" renders them virtually immune to predators, causing them to overrun their food, whereupon rabies is one of the diseases that periodically cleans them out. There was such an epidemic in the early 60's, some leading to a spurt in human exposure.

The medical people tell me there are two kinds of rabies. "Dumb rabies," where the victim stands and chokes to death on it's own saliva, displaying no other symptoms. Cows are particularly susceptible to dumb rabies, which goes unrecognized by vets and owners. They get to digging around trying to find out what's making the cow choke and cut their hands on those razor-sharp teeth. This sequence generates more human exposure to rabies from cows than all other sources combined.

There are "carriers" for rabies, among all species, who show no symptoms but spread the disease through a variety of sexual, physical and other contacts, including the dust from dried feces. This last is the principal agent for the spread of rabies from vampire bats.

Rabies can infect any species from mammals to reptiles to birds to insects. One little known fact is that you can eat a rabid animal, if there are no lesions in your mouth or digestive system.

There has been one known cure of full-blown rabies: a little boy treated with an iron lung, aspiration of saliva, strapdown, etc. (symptomatic treatment), at the University of Missouri Hospital, St. Louis, in the early 60's. I am told that others have been cured with the same approach since that time, but am unable to find documentation. This has never been properly publicized, to my notion.

If you want to study the "vampire connection" to rabies -- which is very real -- I suggest you begin with The Windigo Psychosis by Morton Teicher published by the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1960. This book is hard to find, but well worth the effort. The book is based on over 400 case histories, all resting on the physical evidence of mutilated bodies. Blood-drinking was included, along with cannibalism and mutilation. Both animal and human victims appear. A representative group of case histories are described in detail.

Reading the book it suddenly dawns on you that the Cree and Ojibway Indians, speaking a primitive language and lacking the sophistication in examining evidence, had combined three separate phenomena into a single word, "Windigo," because they all produced a similar result: mutilated bodies. The three were: large animals, starvation cannibalism and psychotic murder.

Of special interest is the Cree/Ojibway concept of the Windigo, which is so close to the modern Sasquatch/Yeti that one wonders if there is something here to research.

Once the idea of applying the same word to multiple sources is firmly embedded, go look at vampires and werewolves. It's all there to see, once you get the case histories. The same three Cree/Ojibway sources, plus certain peculiarities to the ergot epidemics in the Balkans. There is a "connection" to the Black Plague, but that appears to be a social phenomenon resting on desperation among a badly terrorized population, rather than the kind of physical thing the Windigo rests on.

The "rabies connection" is there, plain to see, in both Cree/Ojibway histories and the vampire/werewolf phenomena. But as a rare occurrence, not a common one.

Perhaps, more importantly, most mass murderers have committed a form of vampirism, ranging from killing people specifically to drink their blood, as Chase did, to numerous cults who kill animals and humans to drink small quantities of blood in pseudo-rituals, to the biting of victims on the buttocks, then licking off the blood. (Ted Bundy was convicted on tooth marks left on one such victim.) There is a wealth of modern material on blood-drinking, if one is willing to spend the time -- all of it well documented by competent police, welfare and medical investigators.

(Editor's note: More on the Windigo Psychosis next issue.)

Hemocide: Its Origins, Practice and Methodology

HEMOCIDE, or the murder of one person by another for the express purpose of obtaining the victim's blood, is a practice difficult to determine as to its origins. The fossil record cannot help us on this matter. However, it might be safe to assume that hemocide arose coincidental with the emergence of cannibalism among man's evolutionary forebears. There is strong evidence to indicate that HOMO ERECTUS (specifically, Peking Man) practiced cannibalism as long ago as 500,000 years, brain and bone marrow being the preferred items of consumption. Unfortunately, it is impossible to determine whether such victims were restricted solely to deceased tribal members or whether such victims were chosen from the living. HOMO HABILIS, the direct precursor to Homo erectus and a native of Africa, may have also practiced a form of cannibalism. It has been conjectured that this early hominid species engaged in open warfare with a related species, the AUSTRALOPITHECINES. Once thought to be ancestral to modern man, this latter group of near-humans were once widespread but inexplicably disappear from the fossil record about a million years ago. They may have been the victims of wholesale genocide perpetrated by the slightly more advanced, weapon-wielding Homo habilis. If this scenario is correct, then it is likely cannibalism may have also been practiced and done so in accordance with the primitive belief that the personality traits of a slain victim could be incorporated into one's own nature by eating the remains. That cannibalism is occasionally practiced among the chimpanzees, man's closest primate relation, is well documented and might indicate man's apelike ancestors also indulged themselves in a similar fashion, thus pushing back the origins of cannibalism even further(1). Thus, by inference, hemocide, or at least blood-drinking, may also predate the emergence of man.

Whereas cannibalism continued to be practiced in primitive societies or was modified to that of human sacrifice in more advanced societies, the earliest recorded instances of hemocide were frequently linked to demonic agencies and the subject of numerous superstitions. Indeed, any abnormal flow of blood, as that found in menstruating women, was the object of strong taboo(2). Hemocide was intimately associated with the perils of parturition and those held responsible

were commonly depicted as demi-women or teratological creatures with female attributes. Among the Assyrians and Hebrews these demons were said to be the blood thirsty progeny of LILAT or LILITH. The ancient Greeks and Romans held similar beliefs, the equivalent being the LAMIAE or STRIGES. This is still true in non-Western societies today, vampirism generally the province of women and not men, the victims usually young children and unborn infants. This in contrast to the great vampire epidemics of 17th and 18th century Europe where the majority of suspected vampires were men and rarely women.

Aside from folklore and classical mythology, few historical instances of homicide have come down to us. It is known that among some of our nomadic Northern tribes, as the Scythians, blood-drinking was common and performed to inculcate a more warlike spirit among the fighting men. Throughout the Middle Ages Jews were commonly accused of homicide and cannibalism, but this was more an indication of rabid anti-Semitism than actual circumstances. One of the earliest documented instances of homicidal mania was that of EZZELINO DA ROMANO, an Italian warlord of the 13th century whose depredations spanned a period of 50 years. He was described in various contemporary chronicles as "an iniquitous and perfidious man and a great drinker of human blood," whose paternity was sometimes attributed to Satan himself. Ironically, so barbarous were his other atrocities that his peculiar lust for blood was given scant attention. Other than a chapter in Raymond Rudorff's Studies in Ferocity, little has appeared in English on this sadist of the first order. His murderous exploits not only foreshadow those of Vlad Tepes of the 15th century but closely approximate some of the more infamous events recorded of Vlad's reign(3). One wonders whether the Wallachian prince was familiar with Ezzelino's life and used him as some sort of perverted role model or whether contemporary European chroniclers interpolated events which occurred in Ezzelino's time into those of Vlad's life in order to further blacken his reputation. This is a project worthy of future research.

VLAD TEPES or, more familiarly, Vlad the Impaler, after his penchant for impaling his victims on wooden stakes, was a Wallachian prince who lived during the latter part of the 15th century. Although Vlad fought valiantly against the marauding Turks, he is now remembered more for his sadistic propensities -- he once impaled 20,000 Turkish prisoners of war in a single day -- and for the fact that Bram Stoker loosely based his fictional vampire count on him. Ironically, although Vlad committed numerous atrocities on friend and foe alike, there exists no concrete testimony that he ever drank the blood of a single victim. However, Dr. Thomas McDevitt, an Idaho physician, has recently been quoted as saying "he (Vlad) probably did drink blood, both human and animal(4)." According to the physician, Vlad suffered from an allergenic reaction to blood to which, paradoxically, he soon became addicted. The Wallachian prince was driven to commit his violent acts when deprived of the substance which when satisfied only intensified his allergy. I find Dr. McDevitt's reasoning particularly tortuous and cannot subscribe to his theory. That Vlad may have drunk the blood of some of his victims is not an unreasonable assumption, but I'm inclined to think that any lust for blood on his part was more in the nature of an aphrodisiac than some obscure allergy.

GILLES DE RAIS, a near contemporary of Vlad's, was a wealthy nobleman who fought alongside Jeanne D'Arc in her efforts to liberate France from British rule. Following Jeanne's untimely death, Gilles quickly fell into dissolute ways. His immense fortune was squandered on expensive pursuits and he soon found himself in deep financial straits. Attempting to remedy this situation, Gilles engaged the services of numerous alchemists to aid him in finding the philosopher's stone, a fabulous mineral said to be capable of converting base metal into gold. All attempts proved fruitless, until one day it was suggested that the blood of young virgins might be the ingredient necessary in perfecting the process. For this purpose young men were lured to his castle where they were brutally murdered and their

blood collected. Needless to say, such methods proved equally as useless as previous ones. Unfortunately, the killing of male adolescents had awakened a pronounced pedophilic lust in Gilles and the means rapidly became an end in themselves. The French nobleman delighted particularly in the death throes of the young innocents, his naked body sometimes luxuriating in the blood which spurted from a victim's knife wounds. So enamored did he become with some of his more attractive victims that Gilles preserved the decapitated heads of some and placed them on display in his castle for his daily edification. Anywhere from 200 to 400 youths met their death under his sadistic tutelage. Eventually Gilles was arrested for his crimes and, on his seizure, his castle residence was searched, the remains of 50 bodies uncovered. Tried and found guilty, Gilles was strangled and his remains partially burnt at the stake.

A distant relation of Vlad Tepes was ERZEBET BATHORY, an Hungarian Countess who lived during the latter part of the 16th and 17th century. As the result of some minor incident with a maid, Erzebet developed the belief that by daily bathing in blood the ravages of old age would be retarded and her youthful appearance maintained. Like Gilles before her, only virgin blood was deemed effective. And, like her French predecessor, the means rapidly became an end in themselves. Aided and abetted in her crimes by a small circle of devoted attendants, Erzebet developed numerous ingenious tortures for her unsuspecting victims. A common method of hers was to "put a terrified naked girl in a narrow cage furnished with pointed nails turned inward, hang it from the ceiling and sit beneath it enjoying the rain of blood that came down." Another favored device was an artfully constructed automaton in the form of a life-sized woman which, when activated, "would clutch anyone that came near it in a tight embrace and transfix them with a series of sharp points that came out of her metal breasts. The blood ran down into a channel so that it could be collected, warmed over a fire and used for the Countess's bath(5)." In all over 600 women were sacrificed to secure her youthful looks, thus earning Erzebet the dubious distinction of being listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the single greatest mass murderer of all time. For ten years the Bloody Countess operated with impunity accorded her high estate, but when she began to seek her young victims from the families of nobility rather than those of the peasant classes her luck ran out. She was tried in absentia for her crimes, found guilty and sentenced to be immured in a single room of her castle for the rest of her natural days. She spent the last two years of her life in such confines. At her death it was said her body ~~had aged~~ had aged quite dramatically, apparently the result of being deprived of her daily blood treatments. It should be emphasized in closing that Erzebet was no real-life vampire, as is often believed, as she preferred to bathe in blood rather than drink it.

Another little known Italian blood-drinker was the brigand GAETANO MAMMONE who terrorized the northern provinces of his native country during the latter part of the 18th century. Few published accounts on Mammone exist in the English language. One such account informs us that "blood in its literal sense had become a sort of obsession with this monster. For some time he had made a practice of drinking it on certain occasions when he believed that his tremendous strength was failing him. He said that the taste of it was more delightful than the taste of the most exquisite wines of France and Italy, and that the man who had once formed an affection for the 'scarlet vintage' would not exchange it for the juice of the grape. He had two horrible methods of enjoying this blood-drinking. Sometimes he would sever the artery of a victim and then, bending down beside the wretched man, would suck the blood while the wretch was still living, uttering cries of joy between draughts. When in a more leisurely mood, he would cut off the head of a victim -- excising the brains -- and having made a sort of drinking cup of the interior of the skull, would fill it with blood and proceed to quench his disgusting thirst(6)." It was also claimed that Mammone did not age as visibly as his companions. Lack of any lengthy bio-

graphical sketches in English limits further inquiry on this intriguing "vampire." A lengthy treatment of his life awaits the attention of some enterprising researcher.

With the advent of a sizable middle class and a concomitant rise in leisure time during the 19th century in Europe and America, murder in general began to take on a decidedly more sinister air. Prior to this time, murder had been committed largely for economic gain or to resolve domestic disputes. Only those who due to their station in life or wealth, such as Gilles de Rais and Erzebet Bathory, had previously been able to indulge their sadistic whims to any great degree. It is no coincidence that "lust murder" began to emerge at this time, the indirect result of the Industrial Age. Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, with its emphasis on human sexuality, can also be seen as symptomatic of this developing trend.

An early example of this changing trend in murder was ANTOINE LEGER, a Frenchman, who one day savagely murdered a young girl in the woods nearby. He forcibly extracted her heart, still warm and dripping with blood, and ate it whole. Following his arrest Leger was brought before a tribunal of justices at Versailles and asked to account for his actions:

Judge: But what did you want to do with this little girl?

Leger: Eat her, your Honour.

Judge: And why did you drink her blood?

Leger: I was thirsty, your Honour.

Leger's disarming simplicity did not go unrewarded, as he was guillotined for his efforts in 1824.

Another prominent example of this new breed of killer was JOSEPH VACHER. Like Leger a Frenchman, Vacher was a solitary hunter of human prey who, during the years 1894-1897, committed eleven heinous murders. The victims were variously strangled, knifed, disembowelled, raped or otherwise sexually mutilated. At his trial Vacher claimed he committed his murders in a frenzy, the result of a childhood incident when he had been bitten by a mad dog. He asserted that his blood had subsequently become infected, causing him to attack humans indiscriminately like some rabid canine. He was executed for his crimes in 1898.

The mutilation murders of JACK THE RIPPER, that mysterious specter of evil who terrorized the Whitechapel district of London in 1888, were the most publicized example of this new trend in murder. A discussion of his crimes follows in a separate article in this issue.

It might do well to digress here for a moment before we consider more recent examples of hemocide and discuss some prevalent misconceptions. Firstly, none of them are true vampires in the traditional sense. Other than the common obsession with blood, hemocidal maniacs possess none of the supernatural trappings commonly associated with the legendary vampire, let alone the requisite undead status. I believe the term "vampire" a misnomer when applied to such persons and only helps confuse matters. They should more properly be termed "blood addicts" or "blood fetishists." Even then, such terminology is inadequate, failing as it does to reveal many facets inherent to the hemopsychologies involved. Nor is the drinking of blood an essential factor in the commission of these crimes. I have, after a careful analysis of all the individuals cited in this paper, devised five subsidiary categories to complement the act of hemocide. HEMORITUALISM, as the name applies, is the use of blood, animal or human, for purposes of a ritualistic or magical nature. Dr. Stephen Kaplan believes that the majority of contemporary hemocides are actually the work of blood cultists. However, hemoritualism need not always be accompanied by acts of hemocide. For instance, the drinking of the sacred blood of Christ in the semblance of wine is a form of this. John George Haigh was a self-avowed hemoritualist. HOMO-EROTICISM is the belief that the sight, sound or the drinking of blood is capable of inducing sexual arousal and orgasm. Peter Kürten was a prime example of this.

HEMOVITALISM is the belief that blood is an essential factor in maintaining one's well-being. Blood drinking may occur intermittently in some or daily in others. If the need becomes overwhelming in time, hemocide often results. It is this category that comes closest to the vampire of legend. Gaetano Mammine, the Italian bandit leader, was a hemovitalist. HEMOREJUVENALISM is the belief that through periodic consumption of blood or the bathing in it the outward symptoms of old age are suppressed and one's youthful appearance maintained. Countess Erzebet Bathory was its most notorious example. HEMOLONGEVISM is the belief that the consumption of blood will enable a person to live far beyond his normal lifetime. This category is a common plot motif in many tales of vampirism. Although other categories might be added, I believe the five categories just outlined are broad enough to encompass most aspects of human blood usage.

But why do people become obsessed with blood? Do people actually believe that by consuming or using blood in some manner one's health can be sustained, one's life prolonged, one's sexuality increased? Or is it simply that in partaking of blood one partakes of life as well? This may come as a disappointment to some, but I believe such attitudes more a result of what Colin Wilson terms "magical thinking" than anything inherent to blood itself. Magical thinking, simply defined, is the belief (delusion?) that by performing a certain action one life's can be altered dramatically or transformed completely. Although this attitude can be applied to many personal activities -- prayer, transcendental meditation, assertiveness training, etc., being positive examples of this form of thinking -- it is equally true of criminal behavior as well, hemocide in particular. The five categories outlined above reflect this as well. I strongly recommend the perusal of Colin Wilson's "murder" trilogy, in particular his A Casebook of Murder and Order of Assassins. They represent an innovative approach to this complex subject.

To return to our survey. Post-war Germany during the 1920's produced two extraordinary examples of homicidal mania. The first was that of FRITZ HAARMAN, the notorious "Hanover Vampire," after his penchant for biting his male victims to death. A practicing homosexual and mental defective, Haarman's story reads more like a chapter out of Sweeney Todd than Dracula. He lured young men to his apartment with promises of sexual favors, murdered them by biting through their necks and disposed of some of their remains in the form of processed meat given to neighbors as gifts or sold on the black market. Those he kept for himself he ate as blood sausages. Incredibly, Haarman killed 27 men in his apartment dwelling without anyone ever suspecting the truth. Eventually, the police investigated and found incriminating evidence in his dwelling. Arrested on suspicion of murder, Haarman broke down and confessed his complicity. In a sensational trial which generated worldwide interest, his horrid deeds recounted in graphic detail, Haarman was found guilty and sentenced to death for his crimes. That, after being tested, Haarman was shown to be of sub-par intelligence was not sufficient to spare him from the executioner's block. He was beheaded in 1925(7). Authorities speculate that his victim count was closer to 50 murdered than the 27 confessed to.

Although not as prolific a murderer as his German contemporary, PETER KURTEN, variously known as the "Düsseldorf Monster" or "Düsseldorf Vampire," has nonetheless achieved a lasting notoriety almost equal to that of Jack the Ripper. He was a Renaissance Man of the worse sort, as Wilmon Menard's description of him clearly demonstrates: "He was a liar, a thief, arsonist, sadist, masochist, strangler, throat-cutter, rapist, fetishist, child-molester and murderer, who revelled in attacks upon helpless humanity, especially young girls and women. He relished returning to the scenes of his revolting crimes, so he could enjoy the anguish and horror caused by his acts(8)." Born to an impoverished household dominated by an alcoholic and sadistic brute of a father, Kürten soon developed in a like manner. The lust for blood was early awakened in the youth and he was adept at prolonging the agonies of the

small animals he tortured. As an adult Kürten turned to a life of petty crime, random acts of arson and the occasional murder. In his later years Kürten's sadistic proclivities, coupled with his lust for blood, grew increasingly more pronounced. During the years 1927-1930 Kürten committed numerous acts of sexual assault and murder. Females of all ages were his preferred victims but, on occasion, as the following incident graphically illustrates, other sources were sometimes used to satisfy this compelling urge for blood: "I used to stroll at night through the Hofgarten very often, and in the spring of 1930 I noticed a swan sleeping at the edge of the lake. I cut its throat. The blood spurted and I drank from the stump -- and ejaculated." Of one human victim he recounted: "After I had stabbed her in the breast I heard the blood gushing through the blouse. It was only then that I had my orgasm. The sound of rushing blood always excited me that way." Citing further examples: "In the case of the child, Rose Ohliger, I also sucked the blood from the wound on the temple, and with the drunkard Rudolph Scheer, from the stab wound in the neck." Following his apprehension Kürten was tried and found guilty of his sordid crimes. In a letter written from prison to the mother of one of his victims, Kürten wrote: "What do you want, Madame? I need blood as others need alcohol." In a manner reminiscent of the traditional means of ridding a district of some marauding vampire, Kürten was beheaded for his crimes in 1931.

America's answer to these foreign bogeymen was ALFRED FISH who seemed to typify the worst characteristics of both his German counterparts. Religious crank, pedophile, practicing cannibal, this seemingly nice old man preyed on young children, sexually abusing them and, when opportunity arose, murdered them as well. He looked upon himself as an emissary of God chosen especially for the purpose of ridding the world of children. In 1934 Fish was arrested in conjunction with the disappearance of 10-year-old Grace Budd who was last seen in his presence six years previously. He confessed openly to her murder, claiming he had cannibalized her remains and consumed her blood in an orgy of violence that had lasted nine days. He also confessed to other murders, in which at least one further act of cannibalism had occurred. His defense counsel argued that Fish was insane and had been so for much of his adult life. Nonetheless, he was found guilty and subsequently executed in the electric chair. Once incidental note. Found among his personal belongings at the time of his arrest were numerous clippings referring to the case of the Hanover Vampire, Fritz Haarman, from whom Fish had obviously drawn some of his inspiration.

In the fifteen years that followed the murderous escapades of Haarman, Kürten and Fish, few recorded instances of hemocide occurred. The CLEVELAND TORSO MURDERS of the mid 1930's, in which 12 persons, mostly transients, were disembowelled and beheaded in a most savage manner, may have been the work of some hemocidal maniac. The murders remain unsolved to this day. The brutal torso murder of Elizabeth Short, better known as BLACK DAHLIA, in 1947 may have equally been the work of some hemocidal maniac. The autopsy revealed that the body had been completely drained of its blood. A spate of copy-cat killings, all likewise unsolved, followed in its wake.

JOHN GEORGE HAIGH, variously known as the "British Vampire" or "Acid Bath Killer," was arrested in 1949 for the murder of Mrs. Durand-Deacon, whose remains he had sought to obliterate all trace of by immersing them in a drum full of acid. Haigh readily confessed to nine other murders which he claimed were motivated by a compelling thirst for human blood. He traced this blood-mania to a recurrent dream which had plagued him since childhood. It was described thusly: "I saw a forest of crucifixes which gradually turned into trees. At first I seemed to see dew or rain running from the branches. But when I came nearer I knew it was blood. All of a sudden the whole forest began to twist about and the trees streamed with blood. Blood ran from the trunks. Blood ran from the branches, all red and shiny. I felt weak and I seemed to faint. I saw a man going round the trees gathering blood.

When the cup he was holding in his hand was full he came up to me and said 'drink.' But I was paralysed. The dream vanished. But I still felt faint and stretched out with all my strength towards the cup." Discussing his earliest victim, Haigh recounted: "For three or four days I always had the same dream and each time I woke up, my horrible desire always became stronger. You will now understand what happened to young Swan when he found himself alone with me that autumn evening. I knocked him out with the leg of a table, or a piece of tubing: I don't remember exactly now. Then, I slit his throat open with a penknife. I tried to drink his blood but it wasn't easy. I didn't know yet which was the best way to go about it. I held him over the kitchen sink and tried somehow to gather the red liquid. In the end, I managed to drink directly from the wound, with a sense of deep satisfaction." Of his last victim, Mrs. Durand-Deacon, he commented: "I went out and fetched a drinking glass and made an incision in the side of her neck, and collected a glass of blood from which I drank(9)." At his trial in which he pleaded insanity twenty-three psychologists were called to testify, of which only one testified in Haigh's behalf. The prosecution insisted that Haigh was nothing more than a calculating, cold-blooded killer who murdered strictly for gain. His elaborate tales of blood-drinking were dismissed as those of a pathological liar. His defense argued that Haigh suffered from paranoia. The jury, convinced by the overwhelming evidence against Haigh, deliberated less than fifteen minutes before returning a verdict of guilty. The presiding judge passed a sentence of death on the defendant and the authorities wasted no time in fulfilling his mandate. The self-avowed vampire was hanged one month later. Although Haigh has gained prominence among vampirologists as a real-life vampire, grave doubts still exist as to the veracity of his claims. Most British authorities dismiss his claims as fanciful and accord scant attention to them. It should be emphasized that Haigh was a skilled prevaricator, profited from his crimes in every instance and, more telling, only one psychologist took the stand in his defense. A healthy skepticism seems indicated here.

ED GEIN, necrophile extraordinaire, first began desecrating graves shortly after his mother's death in 1945. This Wisconsin recluse, who rarely left evidence of his nocturnal forays, committed numerous acts of necrosadism over a period of twelve years. Had he not resorted to murder to supplement his graverobbing, Gein might have persisted in his ways indefinitely. Suspected in the disappearance of a local shopkeeper, the farmer's ramshackle home was searched in his absence and the headless remains of the missing woman were found trussed up like some butchered deer. Her head was later found secreted between the mattresses of his bed and her extracted heart was found in a saucepan in the kitchen. As it turned out, Gein's home was a veritable museum of horrors. Investigators found the remains of fifteen disinterred bodies and evidence that linked him to another murder. Although Gein readily confessed to the shopkeeper's murder, his graverobbing, his penchant for dressing up as a woman using the flayed skins of female corpses, he refused to admit to any acts of cannibalism. Incredibly, he insisted he grew faint at the sight of blood! Gein never stood trial, having been instead remanded to a state mental institution. In 1969 Gein was deemed fit to stand trial and was found guilty but insane in the 1957 killing. Whether the recluse farmer was a practicing hemocide is a moot point. His life and crimes though are a classic example of Wilson's "magical thinking." And, giving credit where credit is due, Gein's bizarre lifestyle inspired two classics of modern horror, Robert Bloch's *Psycho* (on which Hitchcock's film was based) and director Tobe Hooper's Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

In 1972 WELDON KENNEDY, 24-year-old drycleaner, was found guilty of two counts of first degree murder in Alameda County, Calif. Headlined as the "Vampire Killings" by the local newspapers, Kennedy's trial garnered little publicity outside the Bay Area. Yet, in some respects, his case is strikingly prophetic, anticipating as it does the more publicized cases of the mid and late 70's. Claiming the defense of diminished responsibility, Kennedy asserted that he was a bondsman of Satan, that voices inside his head urged him to kill and that the murders were a

form of human sacrifice. He admitted to cannibalizing both his victims' remains and of drinking their blood as well. Although later shown to be false, the young dry-cleaner also claimed responsibility for the murders of the 25 migrant workers that Juan Corona had been found guilty of. In sum the voices, the link to Satanism, the possessing demons, the gross mutilations, the blood-drinking, the cannibalism, all were factors later to become increasingly common in future trials.

During the latter part of 1974 and early 1975 a succession of brutal murders occurred in the skidrow district of downtown Los Angeles. A large majority of these victims (eleven in all) were derelicts and all were found with their throats slashed from ear to ear. Evidence found at the murder sites indicated that the killer drank the blood of some of his victims from small glasses. This eccentric killer also removed the shoes of his victims and placed them in a position pointing toward their deceased owners. Furthermore, "salt had been scattered around the bodies to create a grim mosaic and there were certain unexplained markings around some of the wounds(10)." 32-year-old VAUGHN GREENWOOD was eventually arrested for the murders and subsequently found guilty. Little is known of the exact details surrounding the murders and what the motivating factors might have been (Greenwood pleaded innocent), since a gag rule was imposed on the judicial proceedings. Unlike the following case of Richard Chase, this prominent example of contemporary homicide remains a relative mystery to this day.

RICHARD CHASE, the "Sacramento Vampire," believed that repeated infusions of blood were essential to his continued welfare. Obsessed with the idea that his mother was trying to poison him, Chase tried to counter the deleterious effects of this poison by seeking blood transfusions. When such measures were denied him, the disturbed youth tried to inject the blood of a rabbit into his veins. Shortly thereafter, Chase was committed to a mental institution where his obsessions became even more pronounced. It was during this stay here that he earned the nickname "Dracula," after his penchant for capturing small birds on the hospital grounds and drinking their blood. After a year's confinement Chase was released, having been deemed capable of caring for himself. Unfortunately, his desire for blood plasma continued unabated and he soon gravitated toward human victims. On January 23, 1978, Chase brutally murdered 22-year-old pregnant Theresa Wallin with a butcher knife, laying open the woman's abdominal cavity from breast to pelvis. Five days later, his thirst for blood unassuaged, he savagely massacred a household of four, including a six-year-old and a 22-month-old infant. The lone woman victim had been similarly butchered like Theresa Wallin and some of her internal organs removed. Acting on a tip, authorities arrested Chase and searched his apartment. Brain tissue was found adhering to his kitchen sink and small amounts of some undisclosed raw meat was found in his refrigerator. Although never explicitly revealed at his trial, evidence points to the distinct possibility that acts of cannibalism supplemented the 27-year-old's blood-drinking. Indicted on six counts of first degree murder -- Chase had confessed to an earlier murder -- his only defense was that of insanity. However, the jury, swayed more by the enormity of his crimes than his history of abnormal behavior, found him guilty as charged. The presiding judge sentenced him to die in the gas chamber for his crimes. In prison Chase continued to insist he was being poisoned and that he required periodic blood transfusions. On Dec. 26, 1980, the Sacramento Vampire committed suicide by an overdose. Authorities speculate that Chase may have been involved in numerous other murders, possibly 40 or more, but this is impossible to determine now.

JAMES P. RIVA II, a 24-year-old Marshfield, Mass. resident, shot and killed his grandmother in 1981 with bullets fashioned from gold. Although he initially tried to evade suspicion, Riva later confessed his crime to his mother. The son claimed he had been a vampire for the past four years and had attempted to drink the blood oozing from his grandmother's gunshot wounds. He also asserted that voices

from outer space had urged him to kill his grandmother before she killed him. Riva was later found guilty of second degree murder.

This survey doesn't pretend to be exhaustive. Many instances of hemocide have been reported in the past decade, especially from Europe, but detailed information is difficult to come by or lacking altogether. I have therefore chosen to concentrate in this paper on only the more prominent examples of hemocide. In time those excluded from this survey will be covered.

But how common is the crime of hemocide? Does it represent some isolated phenomenon or has it, as Dr. Kaplan maintains, reached epidemic proportions in this country alone. This will be the subject of our next article.

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1. Oscar Maerth in his The Beginning Was the End claims that man is the descendant of cannibalistic apes. He further asserts that cannibalism was first practiced in order to stimulate sexual vitality.
 2. Ishi, the last remaining survivor of a California Indian tribe and the subject of Theodora Kroeber's famous book by the same name, claimed the whiteman's pallor, which he considered an unhealthy hue, was the result of Western society's failure to segregate women at the time of their monthly period.
 3. For instance: "According to one tale, when he was ruling in Verona he suddenly announced that all the blind, the lame and the crippled should come to the city where they would be clothed and fed and given shelter for life. Some three thousand poor wretched accepted the offer and were lodged in a large mansion. Word was sent to them after a time to say that they should only leave when they fit to work again. As no one left, Ezzelino had the house filled with wood and straw and had them all burned to death." Raymond Rudorff, Studies in Ferocity, NY, Citadel Press, 1969, p. 68. Compare this account with the burning of the sick and poor by Vlad Tepes in McNally and Florescu's In Search of Dracula, 1972.
 4. As quoted in Omni, Feb. 1983, p. 96. See also Vampire Information Exchange, Sept. 1982, pp. 11-14.
 5. All quotes from Ornella Volta, The Vampire, London, Tandem Books, 1965, pp. 117-118.
 6. Cliff Howe, Scoundrels, Fiends and Human Monsters, NY, Ace Books, 1958, p. 125.
 7. Erroneously given as 1923 in Anthony Masters, The Natural History of the Vampire, NY, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1972, p. 132.
 8. All quotes from Wilmon Menard, "The Foulest Sex Maniac in History," Detective Dragnet, Oct. 1980, pp. 18-19
 9. All quotes from Anthony Masters, The Natural History of the Vampire, NY, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1972, pp. 254-256.
 10. Chris Edwards, "11 Throats Were Cut by the Skidrow Slasher," Official Detective, June 1976, p. 57.

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Dr. Kaplan and the Vampire Epidemic

Dr. Stephen Kaplan, head of the Vampire Research Center in Queens, New York, has repeatedly made claims to the effect that over 6,000 murders occur in the United States yearly due to vampiric attack(1). The large majority of these homicides are never suspected as such, the murders themselves often disguised to appear the result of something else: "They (vampires) cover up their crimes by bludgeoning the skull so that it will look as if the blood poured out of the wound." If such assertions are to be accepted at face value, one is forced to conclude that a veritable epidemic of vampirism (I prefer the term hemocide) is sweeping this country.

But can such claims be substantiated? Dr. Kaplan has provided no concrete evidence in support of such statements. Strangely enough, considering the extraordinary nature of these claims, his most recent publication, Vampires Are, is singularly lacking in any reference to these matters. It could be that he intends to publish a separate study on this intriguing question in the future.

Although I am no fan of statistical data, their use in this matter may shed some light on these matters. According to the Uniform Crime Reports (Crime in the United States) for 1982 (1983's figures have not yet been published), compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the most reliable indicator of crime trends in America, there were 21,012 known homicides committed that year, a decline from 22,516 in 1981. Of this amount the FBI has statistical data on 19,485 of these homicides. Using this latter figure we find that roughly 60% of these murders were the product of domestic disputes or committed during the course of a felony (rape, robbery, etc.). Motivations ranged from petty spats, quarrels over money, jealous suitors, personal gain, etc. Nothing here to indicate, either overt or implied, any pronounced hemocidal activity.

The remaining 41.5% were grouped within three categories: the unspecified Other Motives and Circumstances (16.7%), Unknown Motives (19.6%) and Suspected Felonies (5.2%). Let's assume, for the sake of fairness, that half (8.4%) the total of the first category may have been vampire-related and combine this amount with that of Unknown Motives, giving us 28% of the total homicide rate. This latter category, the most likely to reflect vampiric assault, has increased 5% over the past five years. However, 28% of 19,485 gives us only 5,455 homicides, somewhat short of Dr. Kaplan's estimated 6,000. (Even in 1981, when the homicide rate was greater, the potential deaths from vampirism would have been equivalent, as the Unknown Motives category was 2% less that year.) This slight disparity might be corrected if we assume that some crimes that fall into the shadowy category of Suspected Felonies, 5.2% in 1982, may have been vampire-related. It could be that hemocidal predators disguise some of their murderous assaults as felonies to throw off the authorities from suspecting the true nature of their crimes. However, the entire category would have to be subsumed into the two previous ones to compensate for this discrepancy.

So what does this finally give us. It provides us with approximately 6,500 murders in which the motive is either unknown or not easily discerned. This does not mean that such murders go largely unsolved. Homicide, unlike other major felonies, has a high solution rate. For 1982 the solution rate was 74%. Let's assume then that 50% of the aforementioned homicides were solved. (It should be noted that many murder suspects plead innocent and are yet found guilty, even in the absence of any discernible motive. How many of these may have been closet vampires is impossible to determine. The last publicized instance of blood-drinking in America, that of James Riva, occurred in 1981 and accounted for only one victim.) We're

now left with 3,250 unsolved, potentially vampire-related deaths. Even with all the charitable allowances made, this figure falls considerably short of Dr. Kaplan's initial estimate of 6,000 homicides. Statistically, this translates to approximately 6% of the total homicide rate for 1982, a respectable figure nonetheless.

Dr. Kaplan's other contention is that vampires often bludgeon their victims to death, presumably both to facilitate blood-drinking and disguise these tendencies at the same time. Unfortunately, the statistics prove otherwise. Firearms are still the most favored form of killing, accounting for more than 50% of the homicide rate in 1982. The use of blunt instruments to commit murder is of fractional importance. For example, in those instances where homicide occurred as the result of lethal blows to the head and the motive unknown, the amount was a meager 173 times. Even with the addition of the Suspect Felony category, the total barely exceeded that of 250. Yet if we rigidly adhere to Dr. Kaplan's claim that vampires commonly bludgeon their victims to death, this simply cannot by any stretch of the imagination account for 6,000 deaths a year, let alone the 3,250 conceded him.

Since deaths from gunshot wounds are so common and murders due to blunt instruments so infrequent, one wonders why vampires don't resort to gunplay to accomplish their ends, as the atypical bludgeoning death is more apt to arouse suspicion among authorities than deceive them. That hemocides commonly use cutting instruments, such as knives or razor blades, to both dispatch their victims and expedite the flow of blood, seems a better suggestion. This category accounted for 21% of all deaths due to homicide in 1982. Ironically, some of the cases cited in Dr. Kaplan's Vampires Are seem to confirm this more likely possibility.

Finally, the one interesting fact which emerges from all this statistical analysis is that motiveless crimes have steadily increased over the years. That a small minority represent blood-related slayings, or hemocide, is granted, but the available statistical data does not bare out the validity of Dr. Kaplan's assertions.

In writing this article I sought the opinion of Ed Austin, head of the Mutilation Data Center, who monitors instances of human and animal mutilations. If such hemocidal trends were developing, as Dr. Kaplan insisted, I thought Ed would be in a position to either ~~to~~ confirm or deny their existence. His response to my query was unexpected and I quote the following excerpt: "His (Kaplan) claims are very conservative. I make it more like 20,000 deaths with blood-drinking overtones, plus at least 100,000 animals killed for the same purpose." In the April 1984 issue of the Vampire Information Exchange Ed further writes that Dr. Kaplan's estimate of 22 known vampires, as distinguished from blood cultists, is more like a thousand. If the use of animal blood is taken into account, the total number then would "run into the tens of thousands(2)."

I have also had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Kaplan personally concerning his estimate. He informed me that the 6,000 figure was meant to include animal mutilations as well. However, he insists the above total is a conservative one and, like Ed Austin, feels the actual amount is considerably higher. He also believes that the majority of all hemocides are the work of blood cultists, of which he estimates anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 members now active in the United States.

Although I still maintain that no such vampire epidemic exists, it should be noted that the U.S. Department of Justice recently stated there are currently about 35 serial murderers at liberty in this country whose activities have accounted for over 4,000 deaths(3). As I write this (3/25/84), the Independent News Network is broadcasting an interview with convicted slayer Henry Lucas who has admitted to the staggering total of 500 murders! He claims he was a member of a Satanic organization known as the Hand of Death and that human sacrifice was a feature of their

rituals. Women were his preferred victims and they were variously stabbed, beaten, decapitated, strangled, shot or burned to death. An ardent necrophile, Lucas had no compunctions about having sex with their corpses after murdering them. Ironically, Lucas now professes to be a born-again Christian(4).

Nor should it be forgotten that the recorded homicide rate of 20,012 for 1982 reflects known instances only. Numerous persons disappear inexplicably on a yearly basis. Although no exact figures exist for adults, it is estimated that 500 children disappear daily, approximately two million a year. Of this amount, 90% eventually return home. But what of the fate of those 100,000 who don't? Many of you may have recently seen the rebroadcast of "Adam" on commercial television concerning the disappearance of 6-year-old Adam Walsh. His torsoless head was later found in a drainage canal. The police now have a suspect in this slaying, one Ottis Toole, who it turns out was a former slaymate of Henry Lucas. The authorities believe the homosexual Toole may be responsible for the deaths of close to 70 children nationwide. Closer to home, a former acquaintance of mine recently had one of his children disappear off the streets of San Francisco. 10-year-old Kevin Collins has been the subject of a nationwide search but so far, nothing. How many of these kidnaped children or runaways end up in unmarked graves can only be speculated. How many adults meet a similar fate represents an even more frightening conjecture. America has once again become a nation of transients, of rootless individuals. Hitchhikers are the common prey of many murderers. If Henry Lucas (possibly 500 victims) and Ottis Toole (suspected in 69 homicides) are at all typical of this growing trend in mega murder, there may indeed be some truth to Dr. Kaplan's claims that homicidal maniacs, unsuspected by authorities and littering the landscape with bloodless corpses, are contributing to this epidemic of mass murder.

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1. Dr. Kaplan's claims can be found in the following periodicals: Globe, Nov. 11, 1980, Weekly World News, Dec. 2, 1980, Close-Up on Crime, August 1981, Saga, Dec. 1981, National Examiner, May 15, 1984, and Omni, May 1984. Dr. Kaplan cautions me to alert readers to the fact that he is sometimes misquoted in these articles and statements cited may not reflect what was actually said.
 2. Ed doesn't specify whether this figure includes blood cultists (as Satanists) or religious cultists (as Santerians) or both.
 3. I have yet to see any published confirmation of this Justice Department claim. It was cited on the 6:00 pm news, KPIX, San Francisco, April 27, 1984.
 4. For a more detailed account of Henry Lucas, see Bill G. Cox, "The Worst Mass Murderer in History," True Detective, May, 1984. The alleged crimes of Ottis Toole are also described in some detail.

What The Newspapers Say

San Francisco Chronicle: 3/21/73

"Grisly Details Told in 'Vampire' Trial"

by Drew McKillips

A tale of murder, necrophilia and occultism was unfolded yesterday in the "vampire" murder trial of Weldon Meade Kennedy.

Kennedy, 29, a former Union City resident, is on trial in Alameda County Superior Court on charges of slaying two teenagers last summer. He allegedly killed Mario Oliver, 15, June 27 in Hayward, and Vicky Lynn Iselin, 14, July 29 in Union City.

A seven-woman, five-man jury was sworn in to hear the expected three-week trial shortly before noon yesterday.

In his opening statement to the jury, veteran deputy prosecutor Donald P. Whyte said the facts he would prove in the case "are so grisly as to be almost beyond belief."

Whyte spelled out heretofore undisclosed details of the killings, stating that they were facts Kennedy himself supplied to police officers.

The prosecutor said Oliver had been hitchhiking to his girl friend's house on the night of June 27 when Kennedy picked him up and drove him to an already-dug gravesite complete with a mattress and machete.

Whyte told the jurors that Kennedy performed several acts of perversion on the boy, then choked him until he moved no more. After this, Whyte said, Kennedy chopped off the boy's head.

Whyte said Kennedy then placed Oliver's torso in the grave and buried the boy's head in a second grave.

Whyte said he dug up the head several days later and threw it into Niles Creek.

The account of Miss Iselin's murder was even more sordid.

Whyte said Kennedy lured her to his Union City home on the pretext of giving her some money he said he owed to her boyfriend.

"When she got there, he told her the way to make some money was to fake a kidnaping," Whyte said. "Vicky began to cry and he choked her until she didn't cry anymore.

"He then placed her underneath the crawl space in his bedroom closet."

Later, Whyte said, Kennedy cut her throat and had sexual intercourse with her.

Public Defender Michael Ciruolo told presiding Judge Alan Lindsay that he would reserve his opening statement.

Albert J. Guzman, a Union City police detective, testified that he went to Kennedy's home on August 1 and discovered a ransom note on a bedroom desk. The note asked that \$5,000 be left under a freeway overpass and that then "She will be returned to you."

Guzman said he and other officers returned to the home the next day and discovered Vicky's nude body underneath the closet crawl space.

The trial will resum at 10 a.m. today (Wednesday).

San Francisco Chronicle: 3/24/73

"Brain Decline Told in 'Vampire' Trial"

A Berkeley psychologist testified in Alameda County Superior Court yesterday that Weldon Meade Kennedy, self-proclaimed vampire, is probably suffering from a progressive brain disease.

Dr. David Sandler, who is a part-time psychology consultant for the University of California and also for the City of San Francisco, said he gave Kennedy a "battery" of psychological examinations.

He said the results were "strongly suggestive of organic brain syndrome."

Sandler's testimony came as Public Defender Michael Ciruolo opened his defense of the 29-year-old Kennedy.

Kennedy is charged with killing Mario W. Oliver, 15, of Hayward, last June 27, and Vicky Lynn Iselin, 14, of Union City last July 29.

Oliver was sexually abused and decapitated. Miss Iselin was strangled to death and later raped.

In an opening statement to the jury, Ciruolo said he would show that Kennedy has suffered diminished mental capacity as the result of inhaling fumes while working for a drycleaning company.

He said Kennedy had an IQ of 110 when he was discharged from the Army, but after working in a Union City drycleaning plant his IQ dipped to 87.

The trial, which is being held before Judge Alan Lindsay, has been recessed until 10 a.m. Monday.

Kennedy is charged with two counts of first degree murder. He has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

If he is found guilty, he must undergo a second trial to determine if he was sane at the time of the killings.

San Francisco Chronicle: 3/30/73

"'Vampire' Guilty of 2 Slayings"

An East Bay murder suspect who claimed he is a vampire was found guilty yesterday of the grisly murders of two teen-agers.

The Alameda county jury of seven women and five men who heard the case against Weldon Meade Kennedy deliberated only one hour before finding him guilty of two counts of first-degree murder.

Kennedy, arrested in Wyoming last summer after police said he slashed two hitchhiking teen-agers with a screwdriver, sat impassively as the verdict was read.

According to testimony by an Alameda county district attorney's investigator, Kennedy said he "had a strong feeling to go out and find somebody to kill. This was all due to the devil."

Police found one of his victims, Vicky Lynn Iselin, 14, of Union City, under Kennedy's Union City home last July 29.

She was strangled to death and later raped, investigators said.

An earlier victim Mario Oliver, 15, of Hayward, was driven by Kennedy to a grave he had already dug, investigators said, where Kennedy sexually abused him, then cut his head off.

Minutes before the gruesome case went to the jury, Kennedy grabbed his prosecutor's finger and threatened him.

The incident occurred during prosecutor Donald P. Whyte's closing argument. Whyte strode near the defense table where Kennedy sat, pointed at the defendant and said he regretted he had "to refer to him as a man."

"There's nothing wrong with his head," Whyte said of the defendant, who had pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

"If there's even one abnormal wave length," he began, continuing to point at Kennedy.

At this point, Kennedy grabbed Whyte's finger and said: "If you do that again, young man, you'll be in serious trouble."

After the jury returned their guilty verdict, Alameda county Superior Court Judge Alan Lindsay admonished them not to discuss the case with anyone, including himself.

Then he ordered them to return to the courtroom Monday to determine if Kennedy was sane at the time of the grisly murders.

San Francisco Examiner: 3/30/73

"'Vampire' Killer Convicted"

Weldon Meade Kennedy, 29-year-old Union City laundry worker and self-professed "messenger of the devil," was convicted yesterday of first-degree murder in the slaying of two teen-agers.

An Alameda County Superior Court jury of seven women and five men deliberated one hour before finding Kennedy guilty of the sex slaying of Vicky L. Iselin, 14, Union City, and the beheading of Mario W. "Bill" Oliver, 15, last summer.

Superior Judge Alan A. Lindsay set Monday for the sanity phase of Kennedy's trial before the same jury. If found sane he faces life imprisonment.

Testifying in his own defense, Kennedy said his two admitted victims were "a sacrifice to Satan."

The girl was lured to Kennedy's home in Union City. The boy was picked up while hitchhiking, sexually assaulted and decapitated with a machete.

"I was under the power of a demon — you know, one that controls people," Kennedy testified.

The defense claimed Kennedy sustained organic brain damage caused by noxious fumes in a dry cleaning plant where he worked prior to the slayings.

His attorney said this caused "his capacity to form intent to be diminished and therefore he was not culpable of the homicides."

However, three prosecution psychiatrists said he was sane at the time.

"The purpose of calling Vicky to the house was to sacrifice her to Satan," Kennedy testified in the trial.

"It wasn't my intention to kill her.

"I had no intention of killing anybody. It was something I couldn't control." He compared his action to Abraham's sacrifice of his son, Isaac, in the Bible.

The girl was lured to Kennedy's house in Union City by a promise he would give her money he owed her boy-friend. The prosecution said he slashed her throat, violated her sexually and hid her body under the house.

Prosecution witnesses said Kennedy beheaded Oliver and left the body near a freeway.

Kennedy was arrested Aug. 4 in Worland, Wyo., and convicted of a screwdriver attack on two hitchhiking youths from Illinois. He was sentenced to 24 years in Wyoming's prison for those offenses.

San Francisco Chronicle: 4/3/73

"'Vampire' Says He Killed More"

Self-styled vampire Weldon Meade Kennedy, convicted of murdering two East Bay teen-agers in grisly fashion, yesterday took the stand and confessed to murdering the 25 itinerant farmworkers for whose death Juan Corona was convicted.

"You better let Corona out," the 29-year-old former laundry worker told the Alameda county Superior Court jury. "I killed all those damn people up there (in Sutter county) and I just want to tell it all..."

Kennedy also testified that he killed four other people in Alameda county and no one has ever bothered to question him about it.

Kennedy made his confessions during an hour-long sanity hearing before Alameda county Superior Court Judge Alan A. Lindsay.

The jury, which last Thursday found Kennedy guilty of the two murders, deliberated only 11 minutes yesterday before finding him sane.

Kennedy repeated his contention that he was a disciple of the devil when he killed Mario W. Oliver, 15, of Hayward and Vicky Lynn Iselin, 14, of Union City. Both victims had been sexually abused, Miss Iselin after death.

"Now I pray to God," Kennedy said in his behalf. "I used to feel like an animal. That's what demons do to you."

Kennedy declined to give details on his confessions of killing the 25 farmworkers or the four Alameda county persons.

Evidently because of a court-imposed gag-rule, law enforcement officers said they would have to wait until Kennedy is sentenced April 23 before questioning him on the matter.

"This guy has every law enforcement agency from everywhere calling us about their murders," one local official noted.

San Francisco Chronicle: 4/24/73

"Life in Mutilation Slayings"

Weldon Meade Kennedy, 29, a Union City laundry worker, was sentenced yesterday to two consecutive life terms for the mutilation slaying of two East Bay teen-agers.

Alameda county Superior Judge Alan A. Lindsay acknowledged he knew that the consecutive sentences would be made concurrent under California law, but he added: "This is the only way I have of telling the Parole authorities exactly how I feel about the case."

Lindsay ordered that Kennedy be returned to Wyoming to complete a 24-year sentence for the screwdriver stabbings of two young Illinois hitchhikers.

At his trial Kennedy said he was led by the devil to offer up Mario Oliver, 15, Hayward, and Vicky Lynn Iselin, 14, Union City, "as sacrifices to demon spirits." The jurors who convicted him last month deliberated only 11 minutes in finding him legally sane.



Tabloid Watch

National Examiner: 9/6/83

"Beward Vampire Doctors!"

by Lewis Clifton

Vampire doctors are secretly feasting on the life's blood of unsuspecting patients.

Top researchers ripped the lid off the shocking story after a blood crazed surgeon horrified and sickened his colleagues by dipping his hand into the open body of a patient during an operation — then greedily licking his fingers.

Said psychiatrist Lazlo Nascz: "This appalling behavior runs counter to everything one should expect from the modern vampire, and constituted an unforgiveable betrayl of his brethren.

"Obviously something happened to interfere with his normal self-control."

The disgusting episode occurred in Roumania, and was quickly hushed up by the Communist government which feared a revival of old superstitions about the loathsome undead.

Incredibly, however, Nascz — an expatriot Hungarian who fled his country during the uprising against the Marxist government nearly 30 years ago — says blood-hungry vampires have infiltrated the medical profession throughout the world.

"Working in the medical field provides them with a safe, ready supply of healthy blood to satisfy their nutritional needs, with little danger of discovery," he explained.

"And the blood can be extracted from a variety of patients in small amounts to prevent any lasting harm to the unsuspecting donors."

Dr. Stephen Kaplan, a sociologist and parapsychologist who heads the Vampire Research Center in Elmhurst, New York, told the EXAMINER:

"Most vampires obtain blood from people who have a fixation on the vampire legend and offer some of their own."

Vampires usually do everything they can to avoid drawing attention to themselves, according to Kaplan — and to Bernard J. Hurwood — author of Vampires, published in 1981 by Quick Fox. And today they prefer to be called Sangroids.

Hurwood explains that they are not normally threatening to others, and do no change into bats or other dread creatures such as wolves or giant cats.

They often obtain their blood from volunteers who are aware of the vampiric condition and make regular donations, he said.

Others obtain jobs in prisons, mental institutions and hospitals, traditionally seeking out the night shift when they are more comfortable because of photosensitivity to light.

Hurwood confided that the body cells of vampires have a curious rejuvenative factor which slows down, if not altogether retards aging.

"A similarly fascinating quality of the vampire's body is the presence of what can only be described as a universal antibody," he said.

"Not only does this anti-body attack and destroy virtually every bacterium and virus that may be introduced, it appears to be an anticarcinogenic."

Kaplan, who recently completed a vampire census indicating an increase in the creatures, said:

"Most vampires don't want any trouble with the law, so they aren't out there swooping down on a bunch of little kids or innocent young maidens."

Medicine has provided a safe haven for cunning vampires to stealthily obtain the blood they need, earn a living — even to obtain nightshift work and avoid the sun that is so disconcerting.

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Ed Gein at the time of his arrest.

VAMPIRE RESEARCH CENTER TO GO UNDERGROUND IN ITS 13th YEAR

For Immediate Release: We don't fear 13, as the Vampire Research Center celebrates its 13th year in the field of Vampirology on Friday, January 13, 1984.

The world-famous serious research center will end active research of any and all cases of "real" vampires on the other Friday the 13th, July 13th, 1984. After this date we will accept all reports and interviews by mail only.

This is being done because of the constant threat to our lives, and our very last non-fictional work, "The VAMPIRE CENSUS BOOK", will give a more complete explanation. The book will be complete by May, 1984, awaiting future publication. Our new address will be included in the book.

The Vampire Research Center will, however, continue to gather information on the ever current vampirology scene, but after 1,000 radio and television programs, Dr. Stephen Kaplan will decrease his appearances. He will do a maximum of 50 radio programs and 12 television appearances per year for the next three years.

Dr. Stephen Kaplan founded the VRC in 1972, creating a new social science called Vampirology. As the Father of this field, he has become a household name among experts in Parapsychology and the Occult, and is considered the world's greatest living expert on Modern Vampires. He and his wife, Roxanne Salch Kaplan, are the first Vampirology team in history.

In 1983, Dr. Kaplan won the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Award for his outstanding international work in psychical research. He completed teaching his 38th course in parapsychology for the N.Y. City Board of Ed., Forest Hills Adult Center.

UPCOMING BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS:

Vampires Are, by Stephen Kaplan, as told to Carole Kane. The first decade of the VRC. Bizarre, humorous, informative and frightening. (Names and dates have been changed to protect the VRC staff.) Limited edition by ETC Publications, Dept VRC, P.O. Drawer 1627A, Palm Springs, CA 92263. Send \$11.95 for hardcover, \$6.95 for paperback. (\$1.00 more in Canada.)

The Vampire Census Book, by Stephen Kaplan and Roxanne Salch Kaplan. The only Official Vampire Census ever conducted. The most original, pioneering research ever. The last complete work on "real" vampires includes shocking surprises of murder, mayhem and human blood-drinkers in the 1980's. Unpublished.

The Amityville Horror Solved, by Stephen Kaplan and Roxanne Salch Kaplan, who were the first called into the case in 1976. It details the dirty deals, doublecrosses, deceptions and what really happened in the Amityville House of Horror. They were in the house and are the only ones left who can still tell you the true story. Probably the hottest exposé since "Serpico" or "Watergate"; a \$250 million ghost hoax. Completed in 1982, Unpub.

Psychic Safaris, by Stephen Kaplan. True explorations of psychic exploration of real haunted houses. Includes Poe's ghost and Houdini seance.

Vampires Are
 By Stephen Kaplan, Vampiologist
 as told to Carole Kane
 An ETC Publication
 192 pp, \$6.95

Stephen Kaplan is a vampirologist. He studies vampires. And yes, he's serious. *Vampires Are* is the story of his work.

One may wonder why (and how) an obviously intelligent, academically decorated individual would (and could) devote his time to the study of a creature whose existence is questionable at best, and laughable at worst. Kaplan explains that he was "bitten at an early age with a consuming interest in strange phenomena." Garbled metaphors and hoary puns aside, this is the long and the short of it. The man has spent most of his adult life in pursuit of All Things Weird. It's an odd job, but it's gotta be done. And Stephen Kaplan is the man to do it. You may question Dr. Kaplan's sanity, but not his sincerity.

A New York City public school teacher and parapsychology scholar, Kaplan founded the Vampire Research Center in 1972. Aided by a changing cast of assistants and consultants, the VRC has become the world's foremost clearing house of vampire data, and Kaplan himself is regarded as the single leading authority on the subject. To ask who the competition would be may be begging the point.

Vampires Are details how Dr. Kaplan and his staff solicit and investigate leads which may enable them to locate, examine and verify the existence of actual vampires. The VRC's primary source of information is telephone calls, which come in at all hours of the day and night from all over the North American continent. Levels of believability and coherence vary widely, but Kaplan seems to have enough perspective (and enough of a sense of humor) to anticipate, and be able to deal with, the prepunderance of curiosity

seekers, Bela Lugosi impressionists, college dorm funsters, and people who are unquestionably demented (and quite possibly dangerous) but aren't vampires. Dr. Kaplan doesn't lack for prospective customers; he spreads his gospel through media interviews, and has appeared on more talk shows than Zsa Zsa Gabor.

The VRC has to sift through a lot of compost to come up with an occasional winner, but when they do, they get some real hot ones. The book recounts several tales of Kaplan (with and without sidekicks) doing field investigations of people who revel in the mutilation of human bodies and the consumption of blood. In one instance, the good doctor is "treated" to a voyeuristic observation post for one such episode. That the participants in this kind of horrifying practice are far more likely to be pathological sex deviates than the Immortal Undead does not make them one bit less frightening.

Vampires Are, despite this unsettling undercurrent, is an entertaining and basically light-hearted work. Dr. Kaplan, although apparently earnest about his studies, comes across as having a rather tongue-in-cheek outlook on the world, and that attitude is evident throughout. He relates numerous conversations with self-proclaimed vampires, in which his wise-cracking style is more characteristic of someone trying to imitate Raymond Chandler than Dr. Van Helsing. But there is one case during which even Philip Marlowe would have sat up and listened, and that is the story of "Elizabeth", a long-distance caller who established contact with the VRC and identified herself as a 439-year-old female vampire. Before you respond with a hearty Bronx cheer, read the chapter devoted to Elizabeth. It contains transcripts of her conversations with Kaplan and his colleagues over a period of months. So natural, so unshakeable, and so utterly convincing is this woman in her prosaic oral memoirs of four centuries of supernatural existence that she leaves both the VRC staff and the reader mightily unnerved. Elizabeth is either a genuine vampire, a Hall of Fame practical joker, or a stone psycho. Decide for yourself.

Ultimately, *Vampires Are* is an interesting, informal study of a repellent yet fascinating subject, though not necessarily the one Stephen Kaplan intended. Vampires themselves may not be real, but the mythology about them is ancient and enduring. There are people all over the world today who believe in the existence of vampires, or believe they are one. Is vampirism a superstition that arose from the need to explain such aberrations as sexual perversion and criminal insanity at a time when the oppressive religious and social climate discouraged rational thought? Could vampirism truly exist — not in the form of a supernatural being, but as a manifestation of some kind of genetic mutation of physiological chemical imbalance? Finally, is it possible for "vampirism" to actually be studied in a precise, scientific manner, without the semi-comic overtones of melodrama and charlatanry which undermine the credibility of people like Dr. Stephen Kaplan? For a book such as *Vampires Are*, these may be the toughest questions to address.

The vampires themselves have the last laugh. As long as we continue to think about them, write about them, and run around looking for them, then they truly "are." And will always be.

1984 FANGORIA #34 65

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This fantastic reference book is a must for anyone researching the unearthly realm of vampirism. It is a joy for any true vampire fan.

Hardcover 135 pages Index

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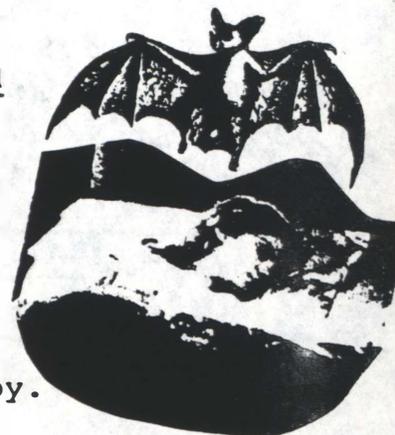
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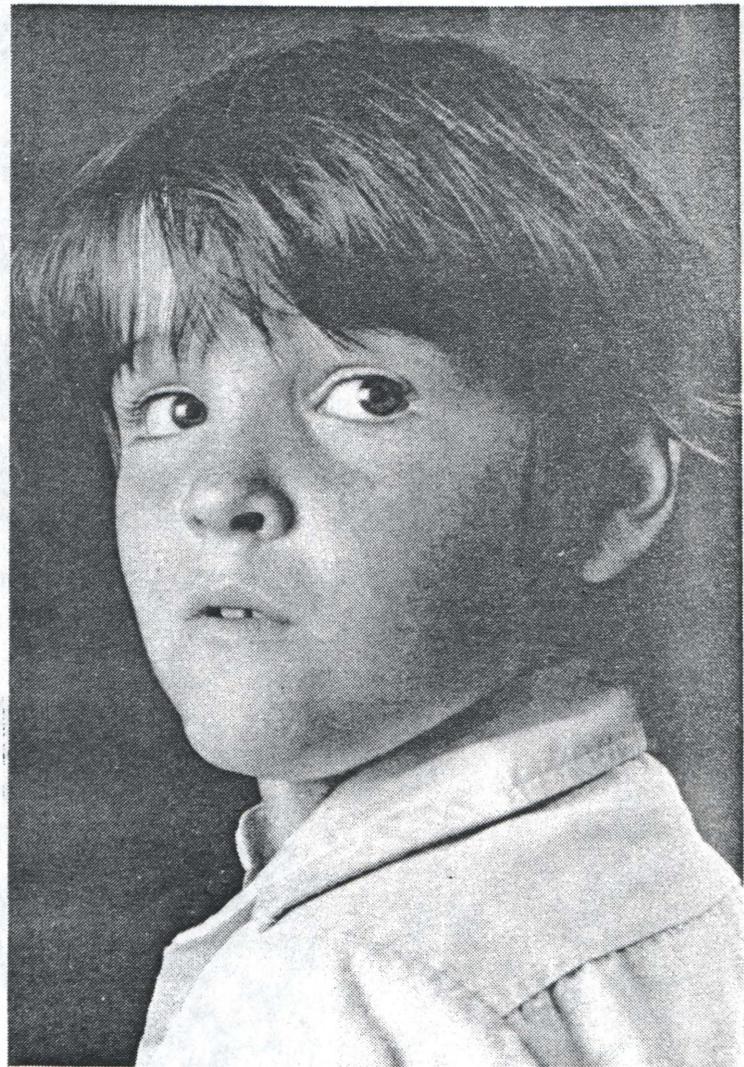
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Grey/Green Eyes

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**—brown cords, white
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**If you have seen him or know anything
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Corrections

1. Page 5, line 46, read taste for tast.
2. Page 6, line 28, read bitten for bitted.
3. Page 6, line 45, read paper for paer.
4. Page 9, line 19, read Haigh for Haighk.
5. Page 10, line 14, read mosaic for mosaid.
6. Page 11, line 21, read wretches for wretched.
7. Page 24, line 9, read resume for resum.
8. Page 26, line 25, read The girl for Thegirl.
9. Page 28, line 9, read betrayal for betrayl.
10. Page 28, line 36, read not for no.



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