

There is no profile for the sex offender

Continued from Page 1

VIDEOTAPED material collected during interviews with inmates at Somers State Prison allowed Groth to demonstrate his belief that behavior separates the perpetrator from other people who may have similar thoughts but lack the will to put their thoughts into action.

"For any kind of behavior a person has to be capable of the behavior," he said. "More than capability you have to have intent and an opportunity to exhibit that behavior. Intervention has to address each of these factors. You have to do more than stop that behavior temporarily."

Groth places sex offenders among "a group of people who have not developed a coping mechanism for dealing with the large traumas in life. These people might be suicidal. So, too, are a group who can be classified as sex offenders. These people haven't developed the responses they need to cope with life's stresses. There are a lot of the same needs and issues between alcohol and sexual abuse. The dynamics are the same. Sex is not the primary issue."

Why do some people resort to sexual abuse while others do not? "We don't know," But, he said, sex offenders within the prison have a higher incidence of having been sexually abused than others in the prison population. His statistics, indicating that about 80 percent were themselves abused as children, coincide with a number of studies taken elsewhere in the nation.

"I am not saying that most kids who are victimized will become victimizers. Nor that children who are battered will become battering parents. However, we find most sex offenders were victimized as kids."

SOCIETY ALSO plays a role in encouraging sex offenders, said Groth. "If you don't think society expects, endorses aggression, just look at what we spend our money on for entertainment. Ask a parent if he'd rather have a bully or a wimp for a kid? "If you are seeing an adolescent perpetrator, ask where he learned this behavior? Usually he's being victimized, modeling his father's be-

havior, or he's been victimized outside the home and is bringing it home to use on younger kids. I think of perpetrators both as perpetrator and victim."

Groth advocates separating the good things a person does from the things he shouldn't do.

"I believe in separating the offender from the offense," he said. By looking at the offensive behavior, he said, he can determine whether he is dealing with a molester — whose goal is sexual exploitation — or the rapist — whose goal is sexual assault.

"What is the dynamic of the action? The molester is the offender who gains access to the child through enticement. He persuades the child to cooperate; entrapping the child through promises. He is not posing a threat to the safety of the child. An express threat to the safety of the child, that's the rapist. His strategies include the gun to the head, group intimidation, physical threat. The molester is a social threat. The rapist is 'I will hurt you.'"

The difference between the molester and the rapist also is predicated on what the child means to the offender. The molester feels he is safe with the child. He wants an ongoing relationship with the child, and he will lead the child gradually into the sex act.

"When a child actively refuses or objects he will turn to another child. He wants the child to enjoy the sex act."

The rapist wants control of the child, said Groth. He's not interested in the seduction of the child. His more hit and run, a different kind of experience. He is not particularly interested in having the child enjoy the experience.

Rapists, said Groth, fall into several types, each one with its own anger.

"Something triggered that anger," said Groth. "It's usually retaliatory. His act is usually accompanied by some battery, which may make onlookers overlook the sexual battery." The rapist uses sex to degrade somebody. Sexual degradation is considered by society to be worse than battery.

"Society uses swear words when we're angry. We use sexual referrals to degrade that person we are angry at."

Subgroups among rapists, explained Groth, include the power rapist who believes in control. He believes, said Groth, "that a real man

doesn't pay for it. If they're giving it to me I'm not in control. You have to take it."

Groth said he is most disturbed by society's fascination with the sadistic rapist, who can't distinguish between sex and aggression. The sadistic rapist will commit ritualistic acts and premeditated sexual abuse. His is sadistic assault.

"Society really is fascinated with this. The most unusual, most bizarre behavior is focused on."

HIS EXPERIENCE, said Groth, indicates that those incarcerated for sexual offenses are approximately 80 percent molesters and 20 percent rapists. He believes that a much larger portion of the prison population, though incarcerated for other offenses, also is guilty of having committed sexual offenses.

"The number of tickets I have received don't reflect the number of times I have driven over 55. The same for sex offenders. Most have gotten away with much more than they got caught for."

An author, "Men Who Rape: The Psychology of the Offender" and "Sexual Assault of Children and Adolescents," and recipient of the Stephen Shafer Award for Outstanding Research from the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Groth said therapy has a greater success rate among molesters than among rapists.

"I see the child molester as someone who doesn't want to hurt the child. Among rapists I found the victims were depersonalized. He was teaching the delinquent child a lesson."

Groth describes the rapist's act as a form of suicide by proxy. He is saying "I see myself in that child. A trauma has gone on in the perpetrator's life that he is trying to eradicate. The molester will turn to another child. The rapist won't take no for an answer."

His research also reveals that most of the time molesters are molesters, rapists remain rapists.

"We don't generally see a crossover. That's why we try to see what that child is to the perpetrator."

Finding solutions that will terminate this offensive behavior, said Groth, will depend on society itself.

"What's not appreciated is the role of everyone involved in this. No system's better than the people involved. Recovery does work if you help them work through the trauma of their own lives."



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

The Children's Tree

Each tag on The Children's Tree carries the name of a child, clothing sizes and the kind of toy he or she is hoping to get for Christmas. Shoppers at K mart this month are asked to take one of those tags and return it attached to a gift that will be placed under the tree in the store on Grand River and Halsted. The Salvation Army, local churches and Farmington Kiwanis have furnished K mart employees with the names of about 200 youngsters that have been put on the tags, which decorate The Children's Tree.

Youth in concert

Michigan Youth Symphony will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. Three Farmington area musicians will perform with the symphony. Ilya Swartsburg is a violinist who attends O.E. Dunlap Middle School. Jennifer Fleck, who played with the Detroit Civic Symphony last year, is now a senior at Farmington High

School. Melissa Taylor, who won Farmington Mall town scholarships in both 1985 and 1986, is a student at Mercy High School.

The symphony will perform Schubert's Unfinished Symphony in B Minor, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 in C Minor under the director of Robert Debbaut.

There is no admission charge.

Camp Ramah program hosted by Adat Shalom

Adat Shalom Synagogue will host the citywide slide show and information session for Camp Ramah at 7 p.m. Sunday. A representative from Camp Ramah will be present to speak about the program and to answer questions. Anyone considering a summer at Camp Ramah, and all new campers and their families are urged to attend this session.

In addition there is a complete selection of sports, arts, trips and other camping activities. Ramah is Jewish education in a natural, informal environment, a total experience in Jewish living that lasts well beyond the summer months.

Camp Ramah accepts boys and girls ages 9-16 for the regular eight-week session. Campers in grades three to six may choose instead a special one-month session.

Preceding the slide show, there will be a "mini-reunion" for campers and staff 1986-88. They will remain for the slide show and will also be available to answer questions.

There is no charge. For other information, call Adat Shalom, 851-5100.

Celebrate at

Sacchi

AN AMAZING COLLECTION of
HANDBAGS • SILVER & COSTUME JEWELRY
BELTS • GLOVES

Free Gift Boxes - Free Gift Wrapping

ON THE BOARDWALK
Orchard Lake Rd. just South of Maple

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS Noon-5 p.m.
WHERE ALL THE DETAILS COUNT

WISH A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM

La Neige

FOUR GREAT REASONS WHY FACIALS ARE BETTER AT LA NEIGE

- Everyone's skin is different. Dry or oily, young or mature. There's a facial for everyone at La Neige.
- OXYDERMIE INSTITUTE TREATMENT
- ASTINE & COLLAGEN TREATMENT
- COLLEGEN INTEGRAL TREATMENT
- TEEN-AGE FACIAL

We also have:

- Manicures, Pedicures, Bed Massages for men & women
- Make-up applications and the very finest in beauty and skin care products
- Specially priced "Beauty Bouquet" packaged for you to enjoy yourself or to present to someone else.

La Neige at La Mirage Mall
2955 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
Any amount or service

Call 356-1222 to make your appointment with the skin care experts at La Neige. Hours: 9-7 Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 9-9 Thurs., 9-6 Saturday.

Donate Blood.

Helping to save lives.

Will help Will help

HOLIDAY SALE

HANDBAG / SOCK GALLERY / SHOP

25-75% OFF

*EVERYTHING IN STORE
THIS FRIDAY thru MONDAY
DEC. 12-DEC. 15

HANDBAG GALLERY/SOCK SHOP
32930 Middlebelt at 14 Mile • Farm. Hills

626-8068/626-0611

HOLIDAY HOURS: DAILY 10-5:30, SUN. 11-4, THURS. 10-7
*except pantyhose & knee highs

Long ALL NEW Nails

BACKSCRATCHER

Stronger, healthier, and more natural looking than acrylics or solars.

- Water Thin
- Withstands extreme temps.
- 4-6 weeks between fill-ins
- No need for polish

Receive a FREE bottle of POLISH w/ NAILS.
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
626-4610

hair performers

28968 ORCHARD LAKE • S. of 13 MILE

CHRISTMAS

Holiday Hours: Sundays, Nov. 30 until Christmas: Noon-5:00 p.m.
Weekdays, Dec. 13 - Dec. 23: 10:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Northwestern Highway, Southfield

SANTA'S BEST KEPT SECRET

SUGAR TREE

DISCOVER

- Colony Interiors • Kenneth Cole • Hugel 'N Gretel • Tres Chic
- Petites • The Art Show • Nouveauté Fabulous Giftware • Travelers
- World • Capelli Hair Colour Studio • Body Exercise Studio • Carmen's
- Men's Clothing and Tailors • Signatures of W. Bloomfield • Raphael
- Salon • Elkin Travel & Cruises Only! • Marilyn Brooks • Victoria
- Corporation Corina • Kidz Kloz (Formerly Rainbow Lollipop)
- Bedroom Dreams

HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS
Sundays - November 30-December 21: Noon-5
Weekdays - December 13-December 23: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. • Saturdays - 10 a.m.-5 p.m.