

DETROIT FREE PRESS/MONDAY, MAY 18, 1981 3E

# Handbook explodes myths about molesters

**HANDBOOK**, from Page 1E

wrong," Patterson said. "So did my daughter Patsy ... and she's a perfect student."

There is also a test for parents on myths about child molesters and their young victims. Here is a sampling:

**Myth:** All sexual deviates are dangerous.

**Fact:** Less than five percent of cases involving molestation of children involve violence. Coital relations with penetration are uncommon, and rape, rape-murder, and lust-murder are rare.

**Myth:** The number of adult women who exploit young boys is about equal to the number of adult men who exploit young girls.

**Fact:** Males are clearly the dominant exploiters of both male and female victims.

**Myth:** Molestation will result in the child's suffering permanent psychological damage.

**Fact:** This need not be true. To the extent there is any such damage, it will stem not solely from the abuse itself but from the way the child is treated by parents, medical personnel, law enforcement officers, school officials, and social workers.

**Myth:** Exhibitionists are unkempt, sleazy people.

**Fact:** Many are handsome, neatly dressed and successful in their jobs. Although they are not socially isolated, most are shy.

Sosnick said no similar book is available in the United States.

"It combines how to prevent it (molestation) with what to do if it happens," said Sosnick. "The book also emphasizes how parents should react if a child of theirs is molested."

The letter in the handbook from a convicted child molester was included to provide "some insights into the mind of a molester and to suggest ways to protect children from sexual abuse."

Patterson said only 150 copies have been printed so far, but anyone interested in obtaining one can write to his office at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac 48053. He said future printings would include a postcard so parents can send back examples of role playing or other advice that might be used in an expansion of the handbook in the future.

A copy of the handbook will be sent to authorities in Atlanta and to groups such as the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Patterson said.

"This has been a labor of love for over a year now," Patterson said. "And if we can save one child from being added to our list, or the Atlanta list, it's well worth the time that we put into it."



L. Brooks Patterson, author of "Child Molesting — a Prosecutor's Advisory," said the handbook, at left, is "a valuable contribution in the total effort to combat this most serious problem which is very prevalent and increasing every day."

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