

The Devil and Dr. Perry

By Joseph E. Green

“Sociopaths are notorious for being able to fool lie detector tests, which actually measure physical responses related to anxiety and stress, not deception.”

-Dr. Bruce Perry¹

Unless you work in mental health, you may have never heard of Dr. Bruce Perry. However, for decades, Dr. Perry has been the most cited expert in childhood trauma therapy. He is, to quote the Dallas Morning News, “the rock star of early brain development.”²

This is not an exaggeration. Perry was brought in as a consultant following:

- the Waco/David Koresh incident in 1993
- the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995
- the Columbine shootings in 1999
- the September 11th 2001 attacks
- Hurricane Katrina in 2005
- Sandy Hook in 2012

And those are just some of the bigger aftermaths he’s attended, invitation in hand. He’s been on every television network available in the United States and been featured in documentaries both here and abroad.³ He is *the* consultant of choice for handling the fallout of high-profile trauma incidents. When the so-called “Satanic Panic” was happening during the 1980s and young folks were going on television to claim Satanic ritual abuse, Dr. Perry was the guy who would appear on the same show to explain that it was all in their heads. He expressed his opinion in the ‘Abney Case,’ for example, where he felt the memories were implanted *during therapy*, thus supporting the line adopted by the False Memory Syndrome Foundation.⁴ If you’ve got children experiencing mass trauma, this is the government’s go-to guy.

Now if you’re a political researcher, this is already a little interesting. It gets better.

¹ Perry, Bruce, and Maia Szalavitz, *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog* (Basic Books: New York 2006), 117.

² “Point Person: Our Q & A with Dr. Bruce Perry.” <http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/sunday-commentary/20120302-point-person-our-qa-with-dr.-bruce-perry.ece>

³ From his biography at the ChildTrauma Academy, www.ChildTrauma.org.

⁴ <http://www.fmsfonline.org/links/usavpeterabney.html>

When he was a young man attending college at Stanford, Perry says he received his “introduction to neuroscience” from Dr. Seymour Levine.⁵ Dr. Levine was a famous man by the time he became Perry’s first advisor and would prove to be an enormous influence on the budding psychiatrist. It is thus interesting to note that Dr. Levine’s entire career as an experimental psychobiologist was centered on torturing animals. His specific area of study was taking very young mammals and separating them from their mothers, shocking them, and measuring the societal results. Would mammals, taken away from a loving environment and replaced with pain be able to properly socialize?

The answer, unsurprisingly, is no.

By 1968, Levine had risen to the top of the "psychobiology of development" food chain. The psychobiology of development, as an animal-based research endeavor, often focuses on the long-term results of harming infants. Levine co-edited the extensive text, *Early Experience and Behavior*, in 1968. (Levine and Newton, Thomas Books, Springfield, Illinois. 18 chapters, multiple contributors, 718 pages).

Levine's early work focused on harming rat pups in various ways and then documenting the psychobiological effects of that harm. Writing in *Early Experience and Behavior*, Levine explained a component of his work at that time, "At forty-six days of age, half of the rats in each group received electroconvulsive shock. Twenty-four hours later, blood samples were obtained from all animals and glucose concentration was measured," ("Hormones in Infancy," in *Early Experience and Behavior*, page 174).⁶

Although the primary focus of his decades-long career was removing mammals from their parents in order to observe the damage, he also performed other experiments. In one example, Levine periodically terrified monkeys by placing a boa constrictor on top of their cage to measure the effects of fear on their subsequent blood samples.⁷

Now it is commonly known that psychopathic murderers often start out by killing or torturing animals as children.⁸ However, if you acquire the proper doctorate and lab coat, you can legally torture animals for decades – for excellent pay. One of the grants Levine earned paid over three-quarter of a million dollars from 1992 to 1994 to study “Long Term Consequences of Prenatal Stress.”⁹ In animals, of course – not humans.

His protégé, Dr. Perry, would be interested in humans.

⁵ Perry and Szalavitz, 19.

⁶ <http://www.primateliberty.com/essays/seymourlevine.shtml>

⁷ “Animal Research in the ‘90s,” Jackie Dove,

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/cover/1996_Nov_6_COVER06.html

⁸ Weinhold, Janae B., and Barry K. Weinhold, *The Flight from Intimacy* (New World Library: Navato, CA 2008), 24.

⁹ <http://www.primateliberty.com/essays/seymourlevine.shtml>

TRAGEDY

While Perry was still at Stanford, he got married at the age of nineteen. His devoutly religious wife, Arlis Dykema, was the same age. On October 12, 1974, about two months into their marriage, they had an argument – apparently over the air in the tires of their car. It was about 11:50PM. Bruce went home; Arlis went to the on-campus chapel to pray.

When Arlis failed to come home, Bruce called campus security about 3AM.¹⁰ Security would find Arlis's body in the chapel, where it had been desecrated – three-foot long candles used to sexually assault her in what local press called a “torture ritual.”¹¹ However she had not, apparently, been raped. Her bare legs had been splayed out in a ritualistic manner and she had been beaten and choked, with an ice pick in her brain the cause of death.

(Although local police denied the ritualistic aspects to the killing, it has been noted that October 12 is Aleister Crowley's birthday and Arlis Perry's legs were arranged in a hexagon similar to Crowley's use of that symbol.)

After the discovery, police came to the Perry home later that morning. When Bruce Perry opened the door, his shirt was covered in blood. He was taken in for questioning on the spot while he insisted that the blood came from a nosebleed. Chemical tests would apparently prove that the blood did not belong to Arlis Perry, and later he would pass a lie-detector test.¹²

The police moved off Bruce Perry as a suspect and the case remains unsolved.

However, in 1976, David Berkowitz (and perhaps several others – see the work of Mae Brussell¹³), allegedly taking orders from a dog, began shooting young people around New York. He was finally arrested in August 1977. However, the ‘son of Sam’ later admitted to even more crimes than the ones police attributed to them. And one of them was Arlis Perry. Now the mere fact that Berkowitz gave the name Arlis Perry, a fairly obscure young woman from North Dakota murdered in Palo Alto, is remarkable. Even more remarkable, later, during the mid-1990s, Berkowitz would change his mind and attribute the murders to the Process Church,¹⁴ well known to conspiracy researchers for its links to both the CIA and MK-ULTRA. (Again, see Mae Brussell for more – or Timothy Wylie's *Love Sex Fear Death*.)

The Son of Sam stuff is the tip of a deep iceberg regarding the murder of Arlis Perry, but that is somewhat of an adjunct to this story. For now, let's just observe that this is one

¹⁰ “Devil's in the Heartland: The Ritualistic Killing of Arliss Perry,” Kristen Grace, *Great Plains Examiner*, 25 June 2012.

¹¹ “Woman murdered in campus church,” UPI, The Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 14 Oct 1974.

¹² Terry, Maury, *The Ultimate Evil* (Bantam Books: New York 1987), 12.

¹³ An excellent source for her complete radio programs can be found at <http://www.worldwatchers.info>.

¹⁴ Terry, *The Ultimate Evil*.

hell of a background for a guy who will someday be America's leading expert on child trauma.

It's also interesting that, as noted, Dr. Perry became a public figure by attacking people for having 'false impressions' about their involvement in Satanic rituals. He made numerous appearances on television about it and dedicates an entire chapter in his book about why they are bunk.

SPEAKING OF TRAUMA

The rest of the story is a happy ending for Dr. Bruce Perry. He eventually recovered from his wife's death, remarried, studied at Rockefeller's University of Chicago, and grew into the government's main expert on childhood trauma. As noted, to this day any time a large scale trauma event occurs, Dr. Perry is deployed to help coordinate the care of the children involved.

Much of his fame comes from a bestselling book he co-wrote called *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*. It is a compilation of case studies of children who have experienced terrible trauma and what the resultant effects were. He carefully dissects each one and draws certain conclusions about the nature of the trauma and its specific aftereffects.

It serves as a kind of encyclopedia, or perhaps *manual*, of horror.

Dr. Perry was quite aware that he would not be able to study children the way his mentor, Seymour Levine, had studied animals. And he knew just what he wanted to study.

We didn't know how trauma during development produced particular problems in particular children. No one could say why some came away from trauma seemingly unscathed while others developed serious mental illnesses and behavioral problems. No one knew where the devastating symptoms of conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder came from, and why some children would develop, say, primarily disassociative symptoms, while others would mainly be hyper-vigilant. The only way to figure this out, it seemed, was to closely study groups of children immediately after a traumatic event.¹⁵

It was therefore lucky, from this standpoint, for Dr. Perry that there were numerous terrible events to follow and that he would have an intimate view of them. The book, among other things, contains a long description of his interaction with children from the David Koresh situation in Waco. This experience gave him first-hand knowledge which allows him to make observations like the following:

As noted earlier, the brain develops in a use-oriented manner...this use-dependent development must occur at specific times in order for these systems to function at their best...Children who don't get consistent,

¹⁵ Perry and Szalavitz, 59.

physical affection or the chance to build loving bonds simply don't receive the patterned, repetitive stimulation necessary to properly build the systems in the brain that connect reward, pleasure, and human-to-human interactions.¹⁶

It also leads him to make several descriptive pronouncements.

“Trauma involves an overwhelming and terrifying loss of control; putting people back into situations over which they have no control recapitulates this and impedes recovery.” (164)

He also discovered the use of a heart rate monitor and applied to measuring the extent of trauma and whether a person was either stressing out or becoming dissociative.

“Frequently, I saw the same reaction: if a child was exposed to a scent, sight, sound, or, as in this case, a verbal suggestion that lead him to recall the trauma, his heart rate would rise dramatically. For some, if cues made them experience dissociative symptoms rather than hyper-arousal responses, their heart rates would go down, rather than up.” (172)

Another case saw Dr. Perry turning to the use of opioid blockers, with limited success.

“He took the medication [naltrexone] for four weeks, during which he had no further fainting episodes. But because the drug blocked the opioid response that allowed Ted to dissociate, he now became very anxious when he faced a new or stressful experience.” (192)

And he uses hypnotic techniques to treat traumatized children.

“I had taught her an induction technique that involved focusing on her breathing/ After simply observing each breath she took for a moment or two, she would then take a number of deep, controlled breaths and count them down, from ten to one. With each inhalation she would imagine taking one step down a staircase. At the bottom of the staircase was a door, and when she opened that door she would be in her ‘safe’ place...” (197)

Dr. Perry has, in effect, been in a prime position to do the kind of field work that Dr. Levine could only dream about. He has a cat bird's seat to observing and experimenting on traumatized children, in the highest profile manner possible. He has used his position to strongly advocate for early intervention by the state in child cases, using advances in neuroscience toward that goal. In aligning himself with state interests, he has courted some controversy:

¹⁶ Ibid, 85-86.

Sue White, professor of social work at the University of Birmingham, is sceptical of what she has called the "artfully packaged" neuroscience/early intervention narrative.

Examples of extreme neglect – such as the case of Malaya, or Perry's infamous brain images depicting scans of two contrasting three-year old child brains (the "normal" brain significantly larger than the brain of the child suffering "extreme neglect") – are typically taken from children who have suffered extreme institutional abuse in orphanages in eastern Europe and have virtually no predictive value in a UK context, she says. Yet such examples encourage a "policy leap from orphanage to council estate". Neuroscience is "infiltrating" child protection practice and the family courts, she says, where it has been conscripted to support "moral arguments" about state intervention in family life. The danger, she believes, is that it will lead to ill-considered "act now or never" decisions to take children into care.¹⁷

And in addition to being present after some of the most famous disasters of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, he has strongly opposed the recovery of traumatic memories in children and pooh-poohs the entire "Satanic panic."

The trouble is, there does appear to be substantial evidence of an underground network involving child trafficking. Anyone familiar with John DeCamp's *The Franklin Coverup* is aware of some of that evidence. There is the peculiar fascination with the sacrifice of a 'child' at the cremation of care ceremony at the Bohemian Grove. And there is the occasional evidence that slips into mainstream news, as with the Jimmy Saville revelations, in which the famed UK DJ directly invoked Satanism in his ritual sex.¹⁸

This is not to say that I personally believe in Satanism or have any metaphysical beliefs at all. It's clear that some people find motivation in it, and that some of these folks are among the upper crust. There's enough to make you think Kubrick was on to something when he filmed the sex magic scene of *Eyes Wide Shut* at Evelyn de Rothschild's house.

Dr. Perry, however, disagrees. Like everything else in his background, it's either a coincidence, or it isn't.

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¹⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/may/06/policymakers-neuroscience-justify-early-intervention-agenda-bruce-perry>

¹⁸ <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/370439/Jimmy-Savile-was-part-of-satanic-ring>