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The Book of the Seven Lagoons

A Collaborative ecological project
by Helen Mayer Harrison
and Newton Harrison

January 7 - February 15

Art Gallery of York University
N145 Ross Building, 4700 Keele St.,

For information: 736-5169

Exhibition is circulated by the Art Museum Association of America

UBC doctor reveals key to split personality

By Hugh Westrup

Like characters out of *Sybil* and *The Three Faces of Eve*, eighteen Vancouver college women have lately appeared, before a local psychologist, with signs of multiple personality.

The difference is that the college women did not have real cases of multiple personality. They were merely faking it, all in the name of science.

Feigning multiple personalities is not uncommon, says Dr. Eric Eich of the University of British Columbia's department of psychology. "It's seen most often in criminal trials, where defendants plead insanity, claiming that they were under the influence of another identity at the time of the crime," he says.

Kenneth Bianchi, the notorious "Hillside Strangler", recently sent to jail in California for murder, is only the latest headline-making case of a criminal defendant who used multiple personality to excuse his deranged actions. Psychiatric analysis concluded that, though seriously disturbed, Bianchi does not have separate and different identities.

Deciding if individuals like Bianchi are telling the truth is not easy, and Dr. Eich has tried to improve the procedure with the use of a special memory test.

In any real case of multiple personality there is a primary personality and one or more secondary personalities, Dr. Eich says. "The primary personality is the one that controls behaviour most of the time, while the secondary personalities appear only in certain moods—in moments of sexual arousal, maybe, or anger or joy," he says.

Multiple personalities also suffer from a certain form of forgetting, called asymmetric amnesia. "When you question these people, you find that the secondary personalities can remember what the primary personality has done. The primary personality is at best dimly aware that there are other personalities, and can't remember what they've done. This is called asymmetric amnesia," says Dr. Eich.

"Asymmetric amnesia is probably a reliable, though not perfect, indicator of multiple personality," he adds.

To gain evidence for this theory, Dr. Eich asked 18 female college students to pretend they had multiple

personalities. (Most cases of multiple personality are women.)

Each student was asked to take on three identities. The primary personality was shy and retiring Sue, and the secondary personalities were fun-loving, hedonistic Linda and angry Alice.

While faking each personality, the college women were asked to produce lists of words beginning with specific letters. For each letter, they were given one minute to think of as many words as they could.

"The women really got into their roles," he says. "When pretending to be Alice, for example, they used a lot of four-letter words."

After that, each woman was asked to assume the three identities again, and this time, to remember the lists made by the other two incarnations.

Dr. Eich found that each personality did equally well at recalling what the other two had said. "There was no evidence of asymmetric amnesia," he says.

If he gives the word test to people claiming to have more than one personality, it should prove a good measure of who is telling the truth, he expects.

How does Dr. Eich explain the presence of asymmetric amnesia in multiple personality? He says that secondary personalities can be thought of as altered states of consciousness, like being drunk on alcohol (or stoned on drugs).

"Most people know from experience that it's easy to remember things about your life when you're inebriated," he says. "But when you're sober, you often forget the things you did while drunk."

The reverse holds true for alcoholics, whose normal state is drunkenness, and whose altered state is sobriety. Alcoholics often have trouble recalling what happened to them when they weren't inebriated.

"An altered state of consciousness profoundly colours the experiences you have. To remember those experiences you have to be back in that state," says Dr. Eich.

On the other hand, it's easier for people in an altered state to remember what they did while 'normal', he adds.

Dr. Eich's research has been funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

(Canadian Science News)

FALL/WINTER 1986-87 SESSION STUDENTS

KEEP IN MIND

THE LAST DAY FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS TO PAY ACADEMIC FEES
WITH LATE SERVICE CHARGES FOR WINTER TERM COURSES IS:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1987

Students who have not paid their fees and the applicable late services charges to complete the registration process by this date will be de-enrolled and their Winter Term courses will be cancelled.

Anyone wishing to register after this date must submit a written petition to the Registration Office no later than **Friday, February 13, 1987**. The appropriate form is available from the Registration Office, Suite C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155.

Petitions which demonstrate administrative default on the part of a University office or cover compassionate reasons are considered. The Registrar's decision is final.

Office of the Registrar
January 15, 1987

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

APPLICATIONS

The Faculty of Education will be receiving applications early in February for the 1987-88 academic session. Students currently registered in undergraduate faculties can obtain applications or information from

Office of Student Programmes
Faculty of Education
Ross Building, N801
736-5001

Education Office
Glendon College
C112 York Hall
736-5004

INFORMATION MEETINGS

Students wishing to learn more about the Bachelor of Education programme at York University are invited to attend special information meetings to be held:

Tuesday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.
Curtis Lecture Hall F

Wednesday, January 28, 4:00 p.m.
Senior Common Room, York Hall, Glendon College

Thursday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.
Stedman Lecture Hall F

FISH FAX

By GEORGE MATHEWSON

Yellow Perch

DESCRIPTION: An oval, elongated fish of nearly circumpolar distribution, though some Ichthyologists consider the perch of Eurasia a distinct species. Maximum length approaches 14 inches.

BREEDING: Despite the yellow perch's commercial and recreational importance, its spawning act appears to be undocumented. It is thought that spawning involves a single large female and a host of males swimming about in a compact queue, the closest males with their snouts pressed against the female. No nest is built.

PREDATION: Active feeding takes place in the morning and evening on insect larvae, small fish, and the eggs of other species. In turn, they are consumed by other perch, crappies, muskellunge and birds. Parasitic tapeworms can infect humans if raw or poorly cooked perch are eaten.

RELATIONSHIP: The yellow perch is often used in laboratories to



instruct students in anatomy. In the kitchen it is generally regarded as a culinary delight. Scott and Crossman in *Freshwater Fishes of Canada* describe its flesh as "white, flaky and delicious." Yet it wasn't always considered a delicacy. Robert Roosevelt, American congressman, conservationist and self-professed sportsman wrote in 1862 that he wantonly destroyed every perch he encountered, considering its flesh "coarse, white and tasteless." He instructed his readers that perch should only be pursued "by boys and ladies." ♪