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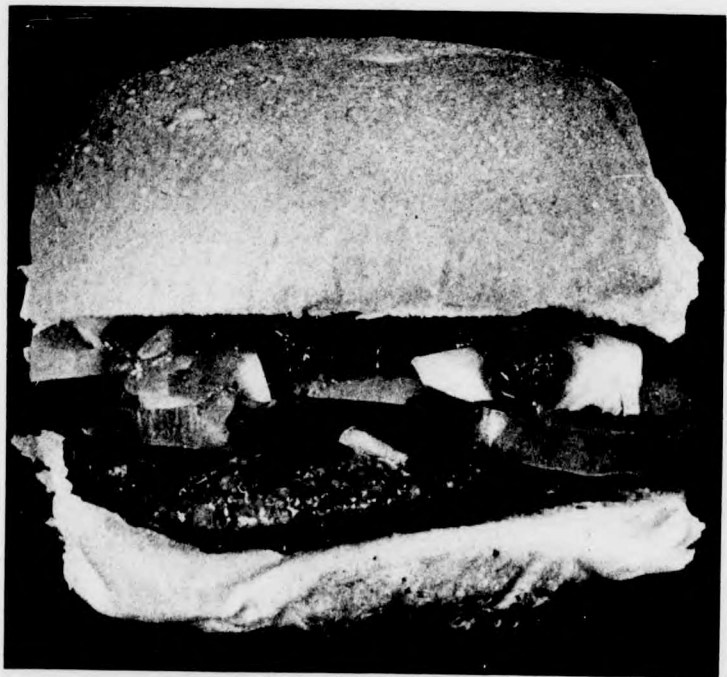
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# U.S. sex offenders tortured



Just north of Santa Barbara, travellers on U.S. 101 pass what appears to be a beautiful school. Its neatly chopped lawns, its unobtrusive cyclone fence, and its majestic location on a hill top add to the image of tranquil serenity.

It is the Atascadero State Hospital, a maximum security facility designed to treat "sex offenders, sociopaths and cultural deviants." Most of the patients are plain, ordinary homosexuals.

Under the Mentally Disordered Sex Offender Act, any person who is suspected of committing a sex crime can be held at Atascadero until "cured." All sex acts other than solitary masturbation and a married couple fornicating with the man on top are defined as "sex crimes" under California law.

In several rural counties it is the practice to commit all such suspects to Atascadero. In addition to the homosexual "patients" there are also many heterosexuals. Among them is a young man who allegedly was caught performing an "unnatural sex crime against nature" with his girl friend in an automobile parked on a secluded road.

Under the MDSO law, the suspects can be sent to a state "hospital" for observation. They need not be convicted of a crime, or even arrested; thus the inconveniences of a trial and evidence are avoided. Once committed, the person loses all legal rights, and can be kept in the "hospital" forever, used for atrocious medical experiments and even murdered.

The newest experiments tried out by the masters of Atascadero is with death panic and acute anxiety producing drugs. The purpose of the experiments or "exploratory study" was to find out if the drug was effective as "an agent in behaviour modification," according to Dr. Martin J. Reininger, chief psychiatrist at Atascadero.

When the drug, succinylcholine, takes effect, the victim loses all control of his muscles but retains consciousness.

Dr. Nugent, chief psychiatrist at Vacaville Medical Facility (who also use the drug) says "the sensation is one of suffocation and drowning. The patient feels as if he had a heavy weight on his chest and can't get any air into his lungs. The patient feels as if he is on the brink of death."

Then a technician commences to brainwash the victim, scolding him for being "wicked."

The doctors feel that the victim might connect the behaviour he is being scolded for with the feeling of dying and therefore refrain from such behaviour in the future. 167 men have been treated in this experiment.

Dr. Grant H. Morris, professor of law at Wayne State University (Detroit) recently visited Atascadero.

"The succinylcholine experiments were conducted in apparent violation of the Nuremberg Code, the Declaration of Helsinki and the AMA's 1966 ethical guidelines for clinical investigation," he said.

Although no judge or other official has the power to order an involuntary castration, section 645 of the state penal code provides that an operation "for the prevention of procreation" may be forceably imposed on anyone found by state doctors to be a "mentally disordered sex offender," or who is convicted of certain sex crimes.

Because California law provides for "indefinite" prison sentences, the state parole board has a long tradition of refusing to fix the length of sentence for "sex criminals."

Therefore, persons convicted of sexual irregularities are virtual lifers. Moralistic judges use the threat of life imprisonment in a mental hospital as a means of forcing men to sign papers agreeing to "voluntary castration." When the victim still adamantly refuses to sign the papers, hypnotic drugs have been used to coerce him.

How many operations have been performed in California nobody knows. The state department of mental hygiene reports that 19,042 involuntary "sterilizations" have been ordered by judges. What percentage of those operations are vasectomies and what percentage are castrations is not revealed.

San Diego county superior court judge Lawrence N. Turrentile boasts (in Time magazine) of ordering 60 such castrations. Los Angeles county superior court judge Frank C. Collier (retired) claims credit for 41. Warden Duffy (retired) of San Quentin mentions many such castrations at San Quentin in his autobiography.

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