

## **“What in the Hell is going on?”**

When I was a child my father had a close friend who was fond of asking: “What in the Hell is going on?” I learned that my father could elicit this exclaim by merely sharing some outrageous fact at the dinner table.

Let’s see if you are anything like my father’s close friend. I’ll play the role of my father. Here we go. Did you know that convicted murderer Scott Peterson received a marriage proposal within the first hour he arrived on death row at San Quentin? You might ask, “OK, but just one call from a crazy person, what does that really mean?” My father speaks: “On the first day of Scott Peterson’s incarceration on death row, 36 calls came into the warden’s office from women pleading for Scott’s prison address.” Don’t respond just yet; let me give you a recent history on this subject.

Richard Ramirez, maybe you know him better by his nom de guerre, “The Night Stalker,” has women throwing themselves at him, despite the fact that he was convicted of brutally murdering several women in Los Angeles back in the mid-1980s. By the way, he got married in prison to a woman who fell madly in love with “The Night Stalker” after his conviction.

The murderer of Polly Klaas, a miserable and loathsome monster by the name of Richard Allen Davis, is very popular with the fairer sex. Oh, and let’s not forget that both, Erik and Lyle Menendez, were married while serving sentences for murdering their parents. Reportedly, the “boys” still receive love letters on a regular basis. OK, you can go ahead and say it, “What in the Hell is going on?”

Let me put my doctor’s hat on. First, the fact that some women are uncontrollably attracted to the dregs of the world has been known for a very long time. Like most complex behaviors, this one is multifactorial and can’t be explained by a single cause. Nevertheless, while only a small percentage of women fall for convicted murderers, a huge segment of the female population is attracted to “bad boys.” And in the same way my house cat chases a string, like a hungry cheetah chases a wildebeest, the women who are attracted to “bad boys” share a common thread with the women who fall for convicted murderers.

Before you hit the print button on your letter to the editor, let me remind you that

what women *say* they are sexually attracted to is different from what their brain stem finds to be sexually attractive. Similarly, what women think they *should* find sexy is often different from what really turns them on. Astute and thoughtful women know exactly what I am talking about. Women sexually respond to daring, bold, tough, edgy, autonomous, cad-like, confident males. On the other hand, women say they like sweet, communicative, sharing, nurturing and gentle men.

Women are attracted to notorious men. They find the exercise of power and dominance sexy. How else could you explain the fact that Henry Kissinger was, in his day, quite the ladies man? Men who possess fame, forget about why, trip a primitive psychobiological trigger in women. And speaking of psychobiological triggers, women find the evidence of testosterone sexy. What do I mean when I say the “evidence of testosterone?”

Research by David Perrett and Anthony Little, conducted at St Andrews University in the U.K., reminds us that you can see the evidence of testosterone when you compare the faces of young boys and women. Those faces are similar, as are the voices, until testosterone kicks in. According to the researchers, masculine faces are sexy because they are dominant faces. Could it be that the dregs of the world are replete with the evidence of testosterone or at the very least mimic testosterone-like behaviors and looks?

Well, “roid-rage” is a psychobiological phenomenon that is the result of taking anabolic steroids (testosterone). You can both see and hear the evidence of steroid use. Research done at the University of Canterbury, in New Zealand, by Satoshi Kanazawa, has postulated that testosterone is the driving force behind both intellectual achievement, as well as criminal activity. Kanazawa studied the biographies of 280 scientists. He compared age related patterns of achievement in scientists, jazz musicians, painters and authors, and found that they matched the age related patterns of criminal activity in convicted felons.

To be sure, this phenomenon has not been lost on Hollywood, where “bad boy” actor images are produced and preened with a predictability that would make the Japanese railroads envious. Women fall for this testosterone-casting time and time again. What do Harrison Ford and Matthew McConaughey have in common with all the other male leads in Hollywood? Why did Lois Lane fall for Superman and not “mild

mannered” Clark Kent? Need I even make mention of “Spidey?”

And By the way, I broke two keyboards hammering out this article and I don't give a damn whether or not you like it. I once dated a stripper until I got tired of her, then I dumped her for a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall. I'm not really the guardian for a cat, I own a Rottweiler. The dog, like me, smells like a new leather jacket. Send your marriage proposals to cell block 555, in care of Grand Tour Magazine.

Dr. Anthony Napoleon is a licensed medical psychologist. He is an expert on visual image and non-verbal communication. His book on visual image, *Awakening Beauty, an Illustrated Look at Mankind's Love and Hatred of Beauty*, chronicles how children and adults are influenced by visual image. He can be reached at [www.napoleonlegal.com](http://www.napoleonlegal.com) and his book is available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and other leading bookstores.