

This report makes shocking reading... but it

concerns the safety of every woman in Britain

DO RAPIST'S SICK HE'S HARMLESS

FANTASIES PROVE OR EVIL?



THIS is one of the most disturbing reports you will ever read in the News of the World. It contains graphic extracts from the writings of Cambridge Rapist Peter Cook. Some of you may find them deeply distressing. We have taken the decision to publish this account because it raises massive issues of female safety and we believe it is hugely in the public interest.

Cook raped six women and viciously assaulted three others in and around Cambridge. The university city was crammed with female students away from home for the first time—all convulsed with fear as each night fell. His prison writings now detail the grotesque torture and rape of a woman called Ann. It is apparently a work of fiction. The story has been studied by two eminent experts. One, psychiatrist Dr Seymour Spencer, believes Cook's tale means he now understands his victims' pain and should be FREED with a security tag. The other, psychologist Mr Rhys Matthews, is convinced that Cook, who wore a mask with 'Rapist' on the front, 'continues to have sadistic interests' and should remain behind bars. Today, you have your chance to tell us your views.

CAGE HIM

SAYS PSYCHOLOGIST RHYS MATTHEWS

AFTER reading Cook's writings, psychologist Rhys Matthews wrote in a prison report: "This story is conclusive evidence that Mr Cook continues to have an obsessional interest in female clothing and a sadistic interest in causing women to suffer."

He believes the final pages of the story are "an extremely sadistic account of the effects of rape on a victim and in my opinion clearly show that Mr Cook continues to have sadistic interests".

Mr Matthews continues: "Mr Cook could not be described as progressing towards release at this stage and he is clearly too risky for open conditions."

Under the heading 'Attitude To Females' Mr Matthews writes in the report: "During the relapse prevention programme it was noticeable that Mr Cook tended to focus on the female tutor as the source of his difficulties. His attitude and behaviour towards her was a cause for concern."

"His perception that it was the female tutor who was challenging him most aggressively was incorrect and is a reflection of his attitude to females."

Public fear

Under the heading 'Sexual History', Mr Matthews adds: "On Mr Cook's account he has indulged in consenting heterosexual activity, rape, sadism, transvestism, transsexualism and homosexuality. This variability in sexual interests is, in my opinion, a risk factor in itself. It allows the possibility of Mr Cook offending in the future in a manner different to his present offences."

"Research has shown that there is a crossover from one victim category to another. It has not been established which offenders are at risk of this crossover but again in my opinion on the basis of the degree of sexual variability displayed by Mr Cook he must be a prime candidate. It emerged during the relapse prevention programme that Mr Cook will not accept this risk factor."

Then, under the heading 'Public Fear', Mr Matthews adds:

"During the time Mr Cook was committing offences in the Cambridge area there was considerable public concern, even terror. Mr Cook disclosed that he derived great pleasure from being the cause of that public concern. He used the expression that he wanted 'to take Cambridge apart'. It is a factor which further increases the risk of future offences."

starkly titled 'In The Night', Cook again assumes Ann's personality and writes: "I woke sometime after midnight...my bedside clock showed time just after 1am. I thought I heard a noise that awakened me from outside."

He describes how Ann gets up and checks the flat. Finding nothing she returns to bed at 1.15am. "I fell asleep. Again I was woken by a strong small beam of light on my face. Then a soft quiet male voice said, 'Don't scream, I have a razor sharp knife and will cut your throat!'"

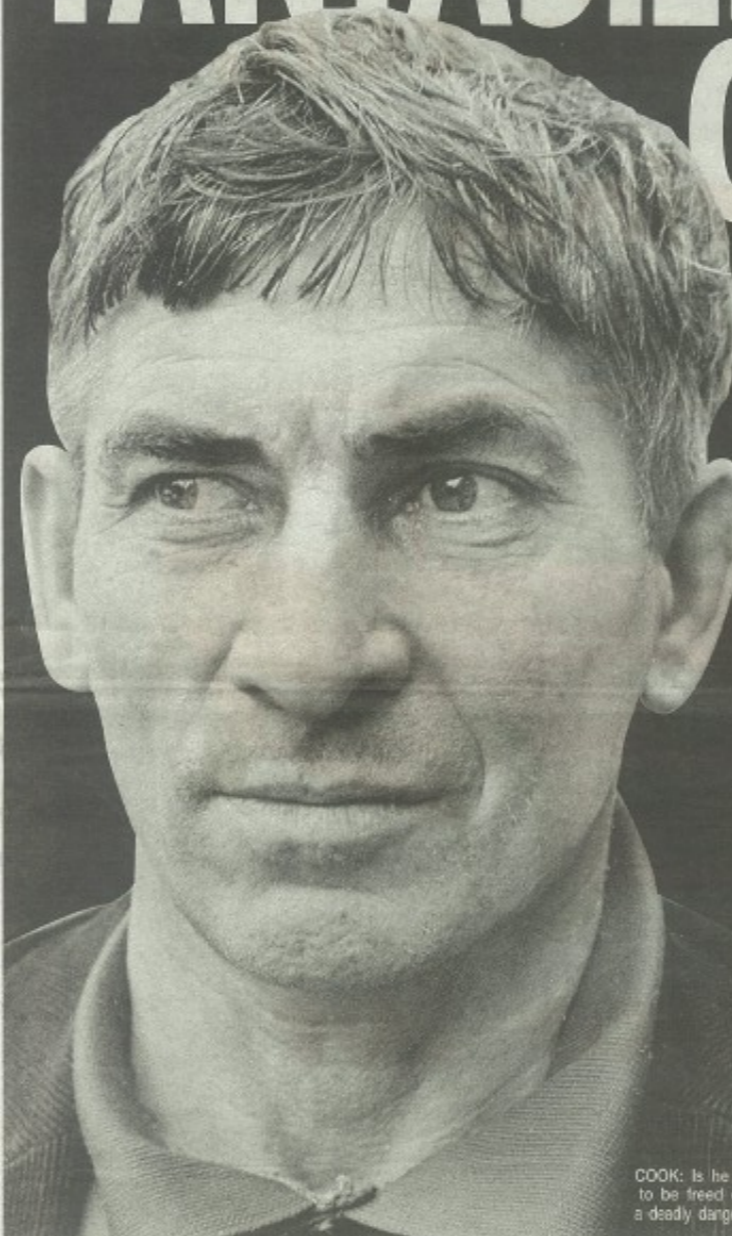
"He drew the knife blade across my throat to make his point. With sudden fear, I froze in horrific terror, whimpering. He pricked my cheek with the point of the knife several

times. He kept on saying to shut up or he would cut me up into little pieces... He told me to roll over face down... He said he had been watching me for a long time... He said he knew all about me."

Cook then details Ann's terror, in her 'own words'. The monster writes: "He wound my pantyhose around my wrist...I was crying, begging him not to harm me. He put the pillow over my face. I thought I was about to die..."

"He took the pillow off my face, asking once again, 'Open your mouth'. I opened my mouth and he pushed something in - later I found out they were a pair of my panties."

"He then tied pantyhose around my face to keep the mouth gag from



COOK: Is he fit to be freed or a deadly danger?

coming out, a pantyhose was pulled over my head and tied around my head sealing off my sight vision."

The rapist tells Ann he has a disease and then rapes her.

The third and final part of the story, called 'The Aftermath', tells how Ann is too petrified to move, fearing her attacker may return to rape her again. She feels "ashamed with myself, sordid, unclean, distressed...what will Mumsey and Papa think about me now?"

Cook then describes how Ann comes round in hospital with a detective sitting by her bed. She has nightmares and is deeply depressed.

Her family and friends come and go in a blur. The final paragraph of the story reads:

"The fear does not go away. I jump

at the least little noise I hear. I sweat with nervous scenes of the past, strange men near me give me shivers through my body. I am 23 years old, what next? Suicide?"

Consultant psychiatrist Dr Seymour Spencer, who argues for Cook's release from prison in the panel at the top of this page, has even written to the rapist suggesting he can speed up his release by volunteering for security tagging.

Dr Spencer writes: "Dear Peter. There has been recently in the press something about prisoners being released on tagging. I think you said that you would be only too willing for this a long time ago."

"Had you thought of having a word about this with your Governor with a

view to his pushing for your release on tagging? It might be worth trying. With every good wish. Ever Yours, Seymour Spencer."

Squat, 5ft 4in Cook began his rampage with the rape of a 20-year-old secretary on October 19, 1974, as she sat on her bed wearing a bathrobe waiting for the bath to fill.

The lights went out suddenly, leaving her in total darkness apart from a chink of brightness showing Cook standing in the doorway.

Cook leapt on her, throwing her back on the bed and tying her up with a pair of tights — much like the pantyhose he wrote about in his 'Ann' story.

Cook infamously wore a leather hood with 'Rapist' written on the front. Bizarrely, he has a rare medical disorder and is part-man, part-woman. He dressed in women's clothes to stalk his victims. His reign of terror continued for nine months before he was caught.

FREE HIM

SAYS PSYCHIATRIST SEYMOUR SPENCER

EMINENT consultant psychiatrist Dr Seymour Spencer believes Cook is no longer a danger. Referring to the rapist's story, Dr Spencer writes in the prison report: "I do not agree with Mr Matthews that this was a totally uncalculated-for production on Mr Cook's part. Nor do I agree that he retains sadistic attitudes."

"I have read and reread it and find in it marked identification with the girl Ann in what she is suffering...but not the slightest indication that Mr Cook is deriving sexual pleasure from the miseries that Ann is undergoing."

Dr Spencer adds: "With circumstances now so completely different from those pertaining at Cambridge when he became the Cambridge Rapist I do not consider him to be in danger of reoffending."

Returning to Cook's story of Ann, Dr Spencer continues: "My view is that Mr Cook now has good victim empathy and the 'Ann' document exemplifies it."

Case the joint

Then he argues: "I am sure it is true that sexual offences can be committed by people of Mr Cook's age. I am equally sure that any statistics on this situation will show that sexual offences by old people are far more rare than in younger ones and that there is a progressive decrease with age."

"People at high risk from Mr Cook seem even to include women standing at bus stops. I cannot see that he could successfully pursue women at bus stops or in any similar situation."

"Many anti-high risk factors have been left out, particularly that he would never be resident again in an area where there were so many students to enable him to size up where they live and case the joints, in the way he did before the rape episodes."

Talking about Cook's attitude to women, Dr Spencer does admit: "I think it may be true that Mr Cook does find women in authority difficult to get on with...Even if this is the case I can't see that it's really relevant to the idea of his sexually assaulting women in the future. I think the inference is too far-fetched."

Cook was tried at Norwich Crown Court and on October 3, 1975, he was sent to Parkhurst, the top-security prison on the Isle of Wight.

But soon he was campaigning to be allowed to wear women's clothes and signing letters with the name Janet.

He then, unsuccessfully, demanded a sex change, claiming he was more woman than man.

In 1985 he was moved to low-security Lindholme Jail in Doncaster and was allowed to work in the sewing room, making women's clothes.

Cook's last victim, plastic surgeon Jane Sproul, said at the time: "The law is pathetic. I think he should be locked up for the rest of his days."

Jane was badly stabbed as she successfully fought off his attempt to rape her. She said she believed Cook had been trying to chop off her hands.

"I've spent the last 20 years trying to put it out of my mind," she said, "but I can never forget."

'If two experts cannot agree, lock him away'

BY SARAH COURTENAY

MP Helen Brinton has long campaigned against violence towards women. And last night she was horrified that there was even a suggestion that Cook should be freed.

Ms Brinton, Labour MP for Peterborough, told the News of the World: "If you have two wildly differing views from experts about someone's suitability for release there has to be no question. That person STAYS in prison."

"There would have to be a 100 per cent guarantee that the person was no longer a danger to society."

"You have to consider the victims and possible dangers in the future."

That is absolutely paramount if we are going to create a safe society for everyone.

"I want all women to feel safe in their lives at whatever time of the day or night, wherever they are. We're not just talking about the particular area of Cambridge."

Assault

Jane McMahon of the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust said: "Research shows that rape is a very common crime. About two out of five women have been raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetimes."

"The numbers of rapes reported to the police have risen dramatically in recent years but the numbers of convictions are falling. Women are constantly let down by the legal system."

"The criminal justice system is clearly failing to protect women and children who suffer the trauma of sexual violence. Urgent action is needed to review the current system to ensure equality."

"Rape is rarely a one-off event. Research shows that serial rapists walk free again and again because of the courts' reluctance to believe women and children."

"The onus is on women to prove that they did not consent rather than on the man. The focus is almost exclusively on the woman's behaviour, reinforcing the myth that 'women ask for or deserve most rapes. Action is needed now.'"

YOU THE JURY

SHOULD Cook ever be allowed to leave prison? If you think he should spend the rest of his life in jail, ring 09009 1111 49. Or call 09009 1111 50 if you think he should be given parole. Calls cost no more than 10p. Lines are open until midnight on Monday. Results next week.