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To the Reader

General Deviance

Five articles discuss what deviance is and review some of the current behaviors considered deviant.

Top	ic Guide
Ove	erview
1.	Rules for Distinguishing between the Normal and the
	Pathological, Émile Durkheim, from The Rules of Sociolog-
	ical Method, New York: Free Press, 1938.

Émile Durkheim discusses the social definitions of **crime** and **deviance**. He notes that crime and deviance are normal for a healthy society. Durkheim suggests that crime and deviance are **functional** since they set **moral boundaries** between acceptable and unacceptable behavior patterns.

 The Mystery of Suicide, David Gelman, Newsweek, April 18, 1994.

Taking one's own life. **Suicide**. Who kills him- or herself? Why? How do they do it? A recent increase of celebrity suicides has brought this social issue back to the surface. People who are perceived as having it all mysteriously take their own lives, and the survivors are left wondering why.

 The Worst of Times, Patricia G. Miller, Psychology Today, May/June 1993.

Abortion has been legal since 1973. Memories of when abortion was illegal remain in the minds of many. Patricia Miller interviews these abortion survivors, practitioners, police officers, and the children of women who died from illegal abortions.

A Ring in Her Navel, Vicki Glembocki, Playboy, February

No longer content to pierce their ears, Americans are flocking to *piercing* parlors, where, for a price, they can have any part of their body pierced and a piece of jewelry inserted. Commonly noses, lips, and navels are pierced. Less common is the piercing of tongues, nipples, and genitalia. While not for everyone, piercing is becoming a statement of style and fashion.

 Working Mothers on Trial, Betty Holcomb, Working Mother, January 1995.

Historically, in divorce actions, mothers have retained *custody* of the children. Now, fathers are receiving custody based on the argument that mothers who work outside the home are unfit to raise their children. On the other hand, a father who has received custody is considered to be a fit parent when he works outside the home. Is it sexism, a challenge to changes in traditional *sex roles*, or both?



Unit 2

Crime

Criminal deviance in today's society is examined in the five unit articles.





Family Deviance

Four articles address deviance in the context of family relationships.

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 A LEN Interview with Professor Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie Mellon University, Marie Simonetti Rosen, Law Enforcement News, April 30, 1995.

Alfred Blumstein is considered one of the nation's leading experts on *crime* statistics. In this interview he discusses some of the reasons for changes in the *crime rate* such as *drugs*, the increasing number of *guns* on the streets, and the age-based demographic composition of the population.

 Dances with Werewolves, Anastasia Toufexis, Time, April 4, 1994.

Serial killers, people who kill numerous persons over the course of time, are becoming the newest fascination for the American public. This is evidenced by the number of people visiting the grisly sites of such killings and buying the growing number of books on the topic.

 Was It Rape? An Examination of Sexual Abuse Statistics, Neil Gilbert, The American Enterprise, September/ October 1994.

Neil Gilbert examines research that is being done on **child sexual abuse**, **rape**, and date rape. The difficult issues of definitional ambiguities, **statistics**, and causes are discussed. The essay concludes with suggestions for prevention and the redirection of government policies dealing with violent **sex crimes**.

 Natural Born Predators, U.S. News & World Report, September 19, 1994.

Sexual predators, men who prey on children for sexual pleasure and sometimes murder, are examined as communities enraged by such misconduct are striking back. The 1994 anticrime bill calls for a community notification provision, known as Meagan's Law (named for Meagan Kanka, the seven-year-old victim of a sexual predator). Will new legal crackdowns work to avoid vigilantism?

10. Gangs: A National Perspective, Alan C. Brantley and Andrew DiRosa, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, May 1994. An increase in drug sales and violence by youth gangs are two of the reasons police officers often give for the dramatic increase in crime in the United States. This essay addresses such topics as defining the problems, the scope of the problems, why youths may join gangs, and how the FBI is responding to the problems of gangs in American society.

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The Social Context of Child Maltreatment, Diana Baumrind, Family Relations, October 1994.

There are a number of social factors that are associated with **child abuse**. These include **family** factors as well as economic and cultural generative factors. Diana Baumrind also discusses the relationship between a number of special circumstances and child abuse, including parental youth and inexperience, parental discord, and adoption. Policy implications of this research are discussed.

12. Inside the Heart of Marital Violence, Hara Estroff Marano, Psychology Today, November/December 1993. Who are the victims, and why do they stay with their abusers? Who are the abusers, and why do they do it? At the University of Washington, a team of researchers is trying to answer these and many other questions about domestic violence.





Occupational Deviance

The five unit selections discuss how people in working situations abuse their roles.

13.	Incest:	A	Chilling	Report,	Heidi	Vanderbilt,	Lear's,
	February 1992						

Heidi Vanderbilt discusses *incest* in a straightforward manner without "euphemisms, evasions, excuses, or intellections." Among the problems *incest survivors* have to deal with are feelings of confusion, fear, and guilt. They may also suffer from *mental disorders* such as *post-traumatic stress disorder* (*PTSD*) or *multiple personality disorder* (*MPD*). Also described are five types of incestuous fathers.

Parents Who 'Kidnap,' U.S. News & World Report, March 20, 1995.

Over 350,000 children per year are "kidnapped" by their noncustodial parent in *divorce* disputes, but these parents are almost never charged with a crime. Revenge is often the motive, and the children are often abused and/or killed by the kidnapping parent.

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White-Collar Crime and the Study of Embezzlement, Gary S. Green, The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, January 1993.

Gary Green discusses **embezzlement** as an **occupational crime**. Embezzlement is defined as "the theft of entrusted property." This report presents the pioneering work of Edwin Sutherland, who coined the term "**white-collar crime**," as well as Donald Cressey's early work on embezzlement. It is noted that more recent researchers tend to disagree with some of Cressey's findings.

16. How Lawyers Abuse the Law, U.S. News & World Report, January 30, 1995.

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The majority of Americans *surveyed* believe that lawyers are not always honest. Investigative auditors have been able to document such practices as billing for media appearances, commuting times, and birthday parties. Other questionable practices include exaggerated testimony and outright *fraud*. Will a Congressional package of legal reforms help the legal profession?

17. Medscam, L. J. Davis, Mother Jones, March/April 1995. The medical industry grosses nearly \$1 trillion in revenues annually. Of that, a minimum of 10 percent is lost to fraud. L. J. Davis discusses such fraudulent practices as unbundling, pharmacy fraud, psychiatric schemes, and ghost patients.

Behind Closed Doors: Therapist-Client Sex, Carl Sherman, Psychology Today, May/June 1993.

While the majority of *therapists* are *ethical*, 7–12 percent of their colleagues engage in *sexual misconduct* with their clients. Whether consensual or not, patient-therapist sexual relationships are an abuse of power and a violation of a sacred trust.

 Research Misconduct, Marcel C. LaFollette, Society, March/April 1994.

Research fraud is the cardinal sin of science. Acts such as data fabrication, forgery, misrepresentation of methods and data, and plagiarism violate the most basic norms of science. In an atmosphere where being the first person to discover a new finding can mean fame and fortune, fraud may be rampant.



Unit 5

Organizational Deviance

Four selections in this unit examine how organizations work to cause social disruption.





Drugs

The unit's four articles address the impact of drugs on the social order.

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 Toward a Sociology of Organizational Crime, Laura Shill Schrager and James F. Short Jr., Social Problems, April 1978

Laura Shill Schrager and James Short define organizational crimes as "those illegal actions taken in accordance with operative organizational goals which do serious harm either physical or economic, to employees, consumers, or the general public." They explore patterns of organizational crimes and the impact of such crimes on their victims.

 Trial and Error, Audry Duff, The National Times, February/ March 1995.

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Organizational incompetence? Or, is it just a case of sloppy science? An innocent Texan spent three and a half years in prison based on false or erroneous DNA tests that were purported to prove that he was a rapist. Literally hundreds of criminal cases may be compromised.

 International Organized Crime, Roy Godson and William J. Olson, Society, January/February 1995.

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Roy Godson and William Olson claim that *international organized crime* is going through a period of change and growth. They describe the ties between organized crime and business, the importance of family ties within the *organization*, the characteristics of the modern international organized crime network, and the factors that are likely to aid in the growth of international organized crime.

 High-Tech Counterfeiting, U.S. News & World Report, December 5, 1994.

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The boom in *high-technology* electronics has proven to be an asset to counterfeiters. Desktop publishing systems with scanners can be used to quickly create counterfeit currency that appears genuine to the naked eye. While most governments are taking new steps to protect their nation's currency against *counterfeiting*, some governments are promoting it.

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 Opium, Cocaine, and Marijuana in American History, David F. Musto, Scientific American, July 1991.

During the nineteenth century, *drugs* such as *opiates* and *cocaine* were regarded as useful compounds. The first half of the twentieth century saw a shift toward the perception of drugs as dangerous. During the 1960s and 1970s, drugs once again became socially acceptable. The 1980s and 1990s have brought forth a swing back toward the opinion that drugs are dangerous. David Musto discusses the reasons for these shifts of opinion in a historical context.

 A Society of Suspects: The War on Drugs and Civil Liberties, Steven Wisotsky, USA Today Magazine (Society for the Advancement of Education), July 1993.

The "War on Drugs" is a decade old. The results have been an expansion in youth gangs, twice as many prisoners as a decade ago, and the erosion of constitutional rights. Steven Wisotsky provides examples of the abuses of the war.





Sexual Deviance

Seven selections review some of the current forms of sexual deviance.

26.	Dangerous	Drugs,	U.S.	News	&	World	Report,	January 9,
	1995.							

What you do not know about *legal prescription drugs* may kill you. Commonly prescribed drugs may have harmful side effects, which your doctor or pharmacist may not know about. Legal? Yes! Safe? Maybe . . . and maybe not.

Alcohol in Perspective, University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter, February 1993.

Alcohol and its effects—what do you really know about it? Take a short quiz to test your knowledge; then learn about alcohol, its short-term effects, and the long-term effects of heavy drinking. Causes and treatment of alcoholism are also discussed in this essay.

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Public Settings for "Private" Encounters, Laud Humphreys, from Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places, Aldine de Gruyter, 1975.

Laud Humphreys introduces the reader to the deviant world of the "tearoom." A tearoom is a public restroom where men, often strangers, can meet to engage in quick *homosexual* relations without any emotional ties to each other. The various behavioral patterns of participants, whom Humphreys studied during the hundreds of hours he spent observing tearooms, are presented in this essay.

 Playboy's International Sex Survey, Playboy, February 1995.

Playboy's unique 1993 sex survey of over 6,000 of its readers included respondents from 11 countries on 4 continents. This international survey included such topics as intercourse, oral sex, dating, fantasies, extramarital partners, prostitution, and sexually transmitted diseases.

 The Last Commodity: Child Prostitution in the Developing World, Aaron Sachs, World Watch, July/August 1994.

In developing countries, millions of **children** are treated as sexual commodities. They are sold by their poor parents to rich entrepreneurs, to be used and abused. Tour agencies have sponsored overseas **sex** tours, business travelers plan their trips to include sex for money, and some governments even support child prostitution.

 Danes Don't Debate Same-Sex Marriages, They Celebrate Them, Lawrence Ingrassia, Wall Street Journal, June 8, 1994.

In 1989 Denmark became the first country to legalize marriages between *homosexual* partners. While there is still some opposition to the law, the majority of Danes have no problem with it. As a result, both Sweden and Norway have passed similar laws.

Bisexuality, John Leland, Newsweek, July 17, 1995.
 Bisexuality is becoming more visible in American society. Musicians, fashion models, actors, and others have gone public with the news that they enjoy having both heterosexual and homosexual relations. Bisexuals are commonly viewed by heterosexuals as homosexuals, while being rejected by the homosexual subculture.





Mental Illness

Five unit articles address various forms of deviant behavior as reflected by mental differences. Beyond Betrayal: Life after Infidelity, Frank Pittman III, Psychology Today, May/June 1993.

Although most first affairs are accidental and unintended, some people, according to the author, planfully and regularly violate their marital vows. With commonly believed myths about *infidelity* and a typology of infidelities, Frank Pittman exposes the realities of this often-damaged script.

 Abused and Confused, Michele Ingrassia, Newsweek, October 25, 1993.

Complaints of **sexual harassment** continue to increase in the United States. While the problem exists, the courts seem confused about how to deal with the issue. As a result, victims often may not report the behavior for fear of being victimized twice, once at work or school, and then in the courtroom.

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 Mental Illness Is Still a Myth, Thomas Szasz, Society, May/June 1994.

Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz has spent his career challenging the foundations of the *mental illness* concept. He argues that diagnoses of mental illness "are social constructs, [which] vary from time to time, and from culture to culture," and that psychiatry is not a *science*.

- 36. Life in Overdrive, Claudia Wallis, Time, July 18, 1994. Slow learners, unable to learn, inattentive. These are all terms used to describe children who are unable to concentrate on their schoolwork. Many children previously so labeled may actually suffer from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or the same affliction without hyperactivity, called attention deficit disorder (ADD). Discussed are ADHD and ADD—the diagnosis, treatment, and effects on the children and their families.
- 37. Disappearing Acts, Nina Berman, Ms, March/April 1993. Eating disorders such as anorexia (self-starvation) and bulimia (bingeing and purging) affect eight million Americans. Victims have an obsessive need to be skinny. Far from promoting health, eating disorders may result in numerous physical ailments and/or death. Nina Berman addresses the many social and psychological factors that may cause eating disorders.
- 38. Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Phobia? Stephen Rae, Cosmopolitan, September 1994.
 Almost 10 percent of all Americans suffer from a phobia, or an irrational fear of something. Some victims are so scared that they cannot do everyday activities such as leaving their homes, flying, driving, or even signing their name. Stephen Rae discusses the different types of phobias and how people can receive help with overcoming their fears.
- Pathological Gambling: Roots, Phases, and Treatment, Henry R. Lesieur and Robert L. Custer, The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, July 1984.

Gambling has reawakened in the United States. Most states now have lotteries, and many are also introducing various forms of casino gambling. One of the arguments that opponents of gambling have raised is that some people may be pathologically addicted to gambling. The authors discuss the types of pathological gamblers, the problems they face, and treatment strategies for dealing with the addiction.





Religious Deviance

The unit's three articles examine different forms of religion that deviate from the normal.

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- 40. How Small Groups Are Transforming Our Lives, Robert Wuthnow, Christianity Today, February 7, 1994. Robert Wuthnow draws on his national research study of small groups and spirituality to describe the effects of the small groups that are common in leisure adcitivies, self-help groups, and churches. Their effects are extensive and largely positive, but their norms of tolerance, encouragement, and being positive seem to spawn a somewhat superficial spirituality that downplays justice and righteousness.
- 41. Shaman in Chicago: Religious Transcendence or Midlife Crisis? Jill Neimark, Psychology Today, September/ October 1993.
 Jill Neimark chronicles the conversion of her uncle, Philip John Neimark, from a straight-laced financial analyst to a shaman, or priest, of the Ifa religion, whose practices include blood sacrifices. A Supreme Court ruling allowing such practices was supported by mainline churches fearing that a negative ruling might open the door to challenges of their own religious practices.
- 42. Surviving the Unbelievable, Elizabeth S. Rose, Ms, January/February 1993.
 Elizabeth Rose gives a first-person account of cult ritual abuse. Sworn to secrecy as a child, she was physically, sexually, and emotionally abused by members of her own extended family over the course of many years. She describes such events as her mother's forced pregnancy, induced premature delivery, and the decapitation of the baby as a ritual sacrifice.

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