Additional Commentary

The remarkable observation about this important scientific story of an extraordinary man—Harry Harlow—is what was not said. Although, Blum reviewed the Mason-Berkson moving mother surrogate study she failed to recognize that it was the most important study in the history of infrahuman primate studies on mother-infant separation. Inexplicably she failed to cite the Time-Life documentary film "Rock a Bye Baby" (1970) that reviewed these studies, the damage inflicted upon the cerebellum and other brain structures that were supported by the NICHD. A letter of protest and request for corrective actions was sent to Discovery Magazine, which went unacknowledged and is attached here.

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16 January 2003

Stephen L. Petranek
Editor In Chief
Dear Mr. Petranek,

The book *Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection* by Deborah Blum and reviewed in *Discover*, February 2003 by Elizabeth Royte has glaring omissions that need to be corrected, as her book fails to cite the significant contributions that developmental neuropsychologists and neurobiologists have made to identifying developmental brain abnormalities in these mother deprived monkeys and their implications for modern human societies.

Additionally, the unique and significant contributions of Drs. William Mason and Gershon Berkson, who demonstrated that a moving mother surrogate could prevent the variety of emotional-social disorders of maternal-infant separation, was not sufficiently recognized by Deborah Blum. Nor was she aware that the prevention of depression and violence through mother-infant movement stimulation (baby carrying) was validated by studies on tribal cultures.

Specifically, the peaceful or violent nature of 49 tribal cultures could be predicted with 80% accuracy from a single measure of mother-infant bonding—baby carrying during the first year of life.

Following is a list of some of the brain studies that documented brain disorders in the mother deprived violent adult monkeys, as well as selected cross-cultural studies, which Deborah Blum was evidently not familiar with.

**Primate Mother Deprivation Brain Studies**


http://www.violence.de/berman/article.html


http://www.violence.de/coleman/article.html


Cross- Cultural Studies


A number of the above studies have been posted at the above websites for your review. I am also enclosing two video documentary tapes that document some of the brain-behavioral disorders of depressed and violent mother deprived monkeys that makes more clear the life long disability of failed mother love and its implications for modern human societies.

I would be pleased to write an article for Discovery that reviews these data and places them in perspective for modern human cultures for the prevention of depression and violence, if that would be of interest to you. Enclosed are a few selected publications that will give you an overview of these perspectives.

Sincerely,

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.
Director

The following photo collage illustrates the wide variety of long-term consequences of maternal-infant separation (impaired or loss of maternal affectional bonding) that range from self-mutilation, child abuse and impaired sexual functioning. See: Prescott, 1977.