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# CROTHERS PHARMACY

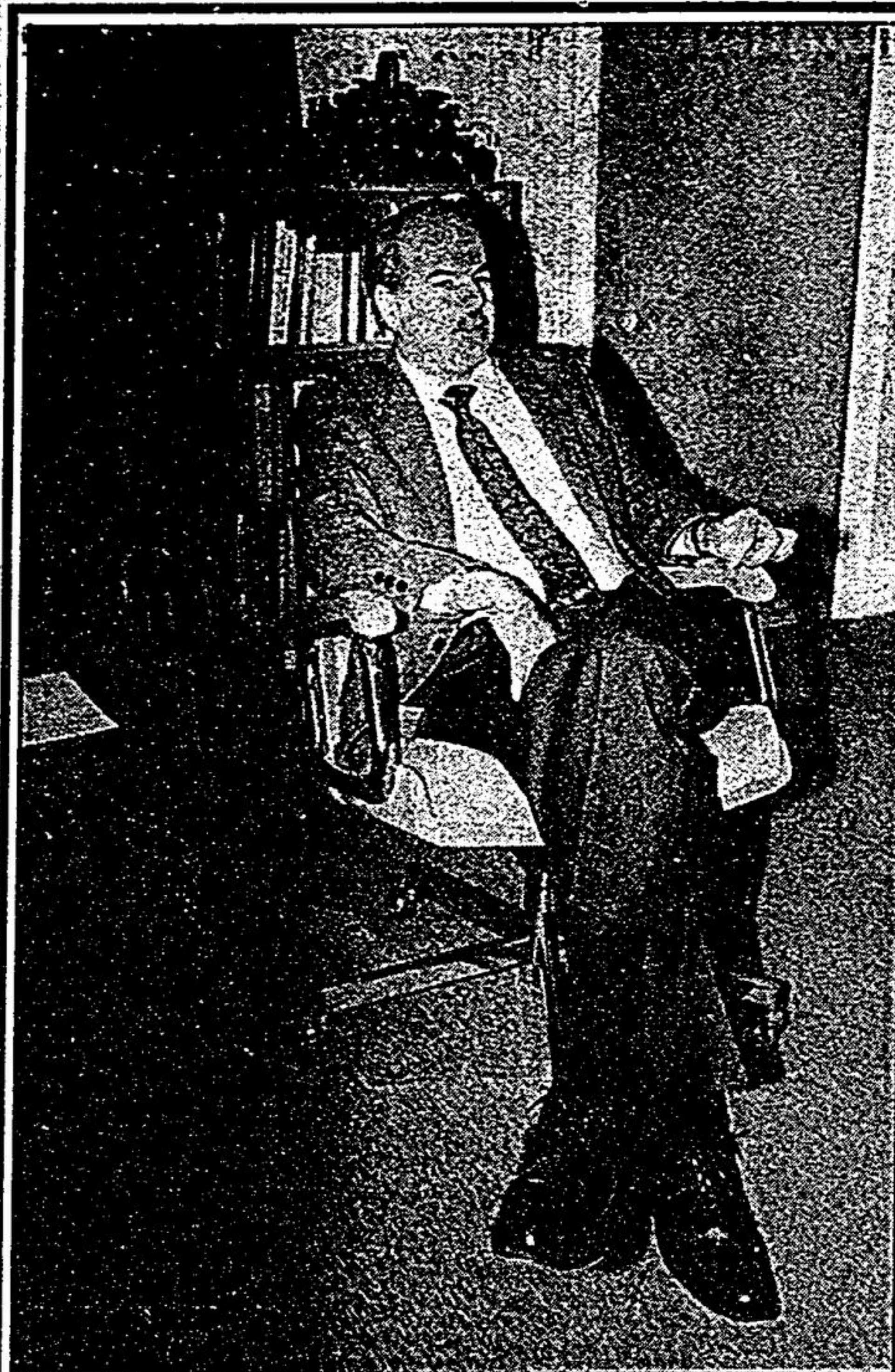
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Markham psychologist John Brownlee spent more time with child-killer Saul Betish than any other doctor during his work with the Ministry of Corrections. The patient was convicted in the sex-slaying of shoeshine boy Emanuele Jacques.

— Bruce Etheridge

## Therapist coping with murder case

By BRUCE ETHERIDGE  
For six months, Markham psychologist John Brownlee worked with Saul Betish, the man convicted of murdering shoeshine boy Emanuele Jacques.

The murder sparked an uproar which led to the clean-up of Toronto's Yonge St. strip and closure of body-rub parlors on the street.

Mr. Brownlee, who spent more time with the child-killer than any other mental health professional while working for the Ministry of Corrections, says Betish was "an unhappy man in terrible pain."

He blames Betish's psychopathic behavior on rejection by his original parents.

"A part of me hated who he (Betish) was and what he did and another part was trying to see him as a person of worth and value."

"I felt the same about him clear through to the end," Mr. Brownlee says. "I was torn between hate and compassion. And I never totally resolved those feelings or the two sides of him."

Mr. Brownlee's philosophy as a psychologist in dealing with people is to see every one as a person of value and a creation of God.

"I try to separate behavior from the actual person," says Mr. Brownlee. "I may not like their behavior but I still care about the person."

But as with the Betish case, that isn't always easy to do. "My human part has to wrestle with that," he says. "That's my work."

According to Mr. Brownlee, most of the problems plaguing today's society can be traced to one source — anger.

"It's reflected in the violence we're seeing in homes as well as in society," he says. "A decade

ago the biggest problem was self-esteem, now it's violence."

People are dissatisfied with their personal relationships, their jobs, their own lives in general, he says. The frustration of unfulfilled dreams is at the root of people's anger.

What Mr. Brownlee tries to do is challenge people to recognize and resolve conflicts within themselves. "I listen and reflect back to people what I hear them saying and what they're really saying."

"It always amazes me that people come in here, pay to get help and then fight it every step of the way," he says shaking his head. "But that's exactly what everybody does."

"None of us wants to face truth about ourselves," he adds. "We all resist seeing ourselves as we really are. Deep inside we're all afraid we're a little bit crazy."

But, he says, when people get their fears out and find they aren't "abnormal," that brings freedom.

"We have to be honest with ourselves," he noted. "It sounds terribly simple but actually it's very complex."

Likening the human brain to a computer, Mr. Brownlee says the information we're fed — especially in the first 10 years of life — shape the basis of our personalities.

After a personality is formed, "we're almost destined to follow it unless we make a very significant and conscious choice to change."

As an example, he cited that 70 per cent of all child abuse victims grow up to be abusers themselves.

"In times of crisis we only do what we have learned," explained Mr. Brownlee. "Sometimes when the right entry key is hit the data that comes out isn't always pleasant."