

PRIMER ON MURDER "We are experiencing a murder epidemic that is breaking all previous records.

"More Americans were murdered from 1970 through 1974 than were killed during the entire Vietnam War.

"In 1975, one of every 10,000 Americans will be murdered."

The most likely murderer is a victim's relative. "Almost a third of all victims are related to their killers."

So long as the economy remains depressed, murder in this country will boom.

The peak months for murder in the United States are July and December. The murder rate soars during weekends.

Many authorities are not aware of the correlation between material expectations, a depressed economy and the growing murder rate. Many think the answer lies in tougher criminal penalties and larger police forces.

The above are just a few of the statements, ideas, and conclusions of a Stanford University psychiatrist, Dr. Donald Lunde, in his fascinating new book, "Murder and Madness."

A professor of law and psychiatry, Lunde points out that murderers are not a homogeneous group of bad guys. "For the most part," he writes, "they are husbands, wives, lovers, neighbors, friends, and acquaintances--persons who can no longer endure chronic frustration."

In former depressions, Lunde observes, murder rates went down and suicides went up. Today the opposite holds true. Why? Because Americans no longer blame themselves for their material mis-

fortunes. They blame the system. They expect society to provide them with certain material things. When society doesn't, people vent their anger, frustration, and dissatisfaction on others.

Most murders in the U.S. are committed by men in their twenties. Lunde believes that young people are more likely than adults to blame external factors for their frustration or troubles.

But felony murders are also on the rise, and according to Dr. Lunde, one major reason for this is the lack of gun control. "Two-thirds of all murders in the U.S. are committed with guns, 92 per cent of these with handguns. Gun ownership is highest in the regions

with the highest murder rates," he says.

"You are most likely to die young" if you live in the South where 13 out of every 100,000 persons are murdered each year. In New England the rate is four out of 100,000.

If you live in a large city, your chances of being murdered are twice what they are in a suburb or rural area.

Black men are 10 times more vulnerable than white men to murder, black women five times more than white women. In more than 90 per cent of all homicides, killer and victim belong to the same race. Where racial lines are crossed, it is more frequently the whites murdering blacks than the reverse.

In the majority of homicides the murderer has been drinking prior to the murder. Alcohol and murder are therefore closely linked.

Lunde does not blame the rise in the murder rate only on frustration. He explains that "even changes in child-rearing practices have contributed to the holocaust. Permissive parents are less likely to insist that children develop and use internal constraints.

"Organized religion, an institution that taught self-restraint and accountability, reaches fewer and fewer young people.

"Corruption in government makes it easier for people to blame external forces for hard times. Many have forgotten and some never realized that 'there is no free lunch.'"

"Murder and Madness" costs \$3.95 and can be purchased from the Stanford Alumni Association, Bowman Alumni House, Stanford, Cal. 94305.



DONALD LUNDE