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## THE RELATIONSHIP OF WEATHER CONDITIONS, FACIAL CHARACTERISTICS, AND CRIME

Manfred Curry

In accepting the following article for publication, the editor fully realized that the article would be viewed with much skepticism. However, the thesis which the author develops is based upon certain plausible assumptions and facts, and the article certainly does suggest an intriguing opportunity for further research and study designed to test the validity of the conclusions submitted by the author. Dr. Curry, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, received a degree of Doctor of Medicine from Munich University, and has done considerable research in the fields of aerodynamics and bioclimatics. He is the author of "Yacht Racing: The Aerodynamics of Sails and Racing Tactics (1926 and 1948)," in which he advanced certain theories that at first were criticized as unsound but which were later widely accepted—as evidenced by the subsequent publication of a book by Charles Geoffrey Muller bearing the title "Curry Was Right." The results of his medical research in the field of bioclimatics are reported in his book "Bioklimatik," which was published in Germany in 1946.—EDITOR.

Suppose you are telephoning in a closed telephone booth. After a few minutes you have the feeling that the air in the booth is bad. It seems to be used up, and you have the sensation of air hunger. You open the door of the booth, even if the noise on the outside is disturbing, to admit a fresh supply of air to facilitate breathing.

If the air in the telephone booth in which you have been talking for a quarter of an hour or so is examined, the astonishing fact is revealed that the oxygen content has not been reduced to any measurable degree and that there has been practically no increase in the carbon dioxide. It can be calculated that the amount of air present is sufficient for several hours, and not as it might seem to you, for only a few minutes. Many persons feel the same desire for air in a sleeping room when the windows are closed. Therefore, most persons sleep with the window open. This air hunger can be explained neither by a lack of oxygen nor by an excessive accumulation of carbon dioxide, as the oxygen in a sleeping room of average size without ventilation is sufficient for five or six days and it has been proved that much larger concentrations of carbon dioxide than those measured here have no appreciable biological effect. Therefore, the symptoms must be due to the using-up of a still unknown substance, which is resupplied through the open window and which defines what we call "fresh air."

It was this line of thought which fifteen years ago led the writer to undertake extensive chemical, physical, and biological investigations. It would lead too far to discuss details of this research in a non-medical journal, and therefore, the following discussion is limited to the basic facts and results and to a con-

sideration of their practical application in the fields of criminology and police science.

It was found that the sensations experienced in a closed telephone booth—the feeling of lack of air, nervousness, restlessness, increased body temperature, perspiration, and sometimes even fear—are caused by the lack of ozone or an ozone-like substance which is disintegrated very quickly and the complete absence of which may even cause illness.<sup>1</sup>

By continuous determinations with newly developed measuring apparatus it was found that the oxidizing capacity of the atmosphere, which so far has been attributed to ozone, is subject to marked fluctuations in its concentration. However, there was one point which did not quite fit into this “ozone” theory. Synthetic ozone produced by an ozonizer, an ultra-violet lamp, or by any other means has a very distinct odor and causes an irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes, while the same oxidizing effect, recorded in the atmospheric air, has no odor and does not cause irritation. This thought led to the idea that the atmosphere contains another form of active oxygen, or oxidizing gas, which is not ozone ( $O_3$ ). Pending further identification data it is tentatively referred to as “aran.” The differentiation of ozone and this gas, however, is of scientific interest only inasmuch as the biological effect is due to the oxidative capacity of the air, which depends on all forms of active oxygen contained therein.

The interesting fact was revealed, that the amount of this atmospheric ozone, the “aran,” depends upon the direction of the wind. Southwinds, for example, are accompanied by low, and northwinds by high, concentrations. We know that on certain days we experience the sensation of air hunger even in the open, especially when the air is still, as is particularly apt to be the case in the haze of a large city. Under these conditions, just as in a closed room, the “aran” supply which is favored by vertical currents from the stratosphere is lacking.

Studies and observations of many thousands of individuals have disclosed the very important fact that this “aran,” or the lack of it, affects human beings in two generally different ways; that there are two groups of persons, one being sensitive to low, and the other to high ozone (“aran”) values. This sensitivity to the air causes different, and usually opposite, reactions of the body and thereby seems to occasion different habits and differences in the general behavior of individuals. It also seems to be accompanied by a pronounced difference in the physical fea-

<sup>1</sup> See Curry, M., *Bioklimatik* (published in Germany in 1946 and distributed in the United States through Stechert-Hafner, Inc., 31 E. 10th St., New York City).

tures of the individual, and particularly as regards the features of the face, as will be subsequently described.

Because of the fact that one person is affected more by decreasing, and another by increasing ozone values, there are two different constitutional types. Persons sensitive to warm air (the south wind) may be designated as the "*W*" type, and those sensitive to cold air (the north wind), the "*C*" type. The *W* type of person requires more air ("aran") than the *C* type. It is the *W* type who does not have enough air in a telephone booth and is unable to hold his breath very long. It is also the *W* type who, when he finds himself in a room with many other persons, is apt to faint, and whose discomfort is relieved immediately when fresh air ("aran") is admitted by opening the window. Between the two extreme types, *W* and *C*, there are, of course, the mixed or *M* types, without predominant *W* or *C* characteristics.<sup>2</sup>

The two types, *W* and *C*, can be distinguished upon the basis of a number of physiognomic and psychic characteristics. In considering the comparisons here noted and discussed, the reader should bear in mind, of course, that we are discussing factors which are *true as a general rule*, and which are subject to some exceptions.

The *W* type has large, shining, sometimes somewhat superficially placed eyes, a short, somewhat broad nose with round nostrils, thick lips, and a round ruddy face. (See Figure 1.) He is emotional and ready for contacts. The *C* type has harder features, smaller and more deeply set, and piercing eyes which are closer together, a narrow and longer nose with slit-like nostrils, and a mouth with narrow lips, which is often turned down. (See Figure 2.) His most pronounced characteristics are energy and intelligence; he is reserved. In correspondence with this characteristic constitution, we find, for example, that most persons whose occupations take them out into the "fresh air," such as postmen, gardeners, fishermen, and seamen, belong to the *W* type, and that business executives and lawyers, engineers, teachers, and other "inside" workers generally belong to the *C* type.<sup>3</sup>

As to the habits and general behavior of the two groups, the writer has formulated seventy-four standard questions, of which

<sup>2</sup> The additional fact has been revealed that in both sexes, climatically opposite types are attracted. Statistics disclose that the *W* and *C* and the *M* and *M* types are united in about ninety-five percent of marriages. Then, too, this research has also disclosed that persons representing extreme types of either *W* or *C* are susceptible to different groups of diseases—the *W* type chiefly to inflammatory, and the *C* type principally to spasmodic diseases.

<sup>3</sup> The characteristics previously discussed do not apply to all races as far as the features are concerned. It does apply to the English, Swedes, Norwegians, the people of the Baltic nations, the Germans, Austrians, Dutch, Belgians, and the French of northern France, and all Americans descended therefrom. A typological study has not been made of other groups.



Figure 1  
Illustrations of *W* Types

factors only a few are mentioned here. The *W* type is sensitive to south winds and feels better during the time of north winds. High altitudes agree with him. His face is ruddy. He is able to sleep well only with the window open (desire for higher ozone values), loves a cold bedroom, dreams a great deal, likes cold baths, and has a pronounced need for movement (increased supply of ozone). He dresses lightly (shirts open at the neck), wears no vest, perspires freely, has slower adaptation to the dark (that is, requires a longer time before he can see in darkness when he comes into it from the light), loves milk and



Figure 2  
Illustrations of *C* Types

carbohydrate-rich foods (chocolate), likes vegetables, and is subject to moods of depression. The *C* type, on the other hand, likes a mild climate and is not sensitive to south winds. Cold, rough weather does not agree with him, and leads to "spastic" attacks. His condition is affected unfavorably by thunderstorms. His face is pale. He dresses warmly, and tolerates sunbaths and hot water baths well. He perspires little or not at all. He is essentially a meat eater and salts and spices his foods highly. He is easily irritated and sometimes quarrelsome.

The *W* type is an affectionate, agreeable, generally liked,

altruistic and therefore generous person with strong emotions. As a rule, he is cheerful and optimistic, but occasionally depressed and melancholy. He experiences everything intensely, and therefore is emotionally and physically disturbed by misfortune. Because of his urge for movement, he is usually a busy, vital individual. However, he is quickly exhausted. Sometimes he is somewhat talkative, overwhelming, and confidential. He is sensual, and therefore occasionally vulgar. He is indecisive, and aims at no higher goal. He has a sense of art and humor, and a natural uninhibited sociability. He enjoys life, and is good-natured. When he becomes older, he likes a soothing drink and many small meals, and possesses the ability to relax. He is practical and not oversensitive; he soon forgets and forgives an injustice. Because of his yielding and conciliatory nature, he is seldom involved in quarrels. He is teachable and a good listener. He loves peace and hates conflict. Indeed, he sometimes acts cowardly (fear of the dark, etc.). In his movements he is natural, i.e., loose-jointed and therefore not exactly graceful. He is more an emotional than an intellectual person.

The *C* type is a capable, ambitious, energetic person with an inflexible will. His reactions cannot be foreseen. He is moody and incalculable, and therefore sometimes dangerous, although he tries to regard all situations objectively and to be just. He is a calculating, pushing, egotistical person, who is usually, thrifty and sometimes even stingy. He is of an autocratic, domineering nature, and has an outstanding talent for teaching. The *C* type is a systematic thinker, without imagination, and he tends toward philosophical contemplation. He is alert, but not quick-witted.

The *C* type is uncompromising. To him, it is yes-no, either-or. He is enthusiastic about something or rejects it. He recognizes only friend or foe. He is in general unforgiving and capable of intense hate. He is also conscientious, dogmatic, and sometimes pedantic; therefore exact and reliable in thought and deed. This is expressed also in his clothing. The *C* type gives the impression of a calm, self-controlled person, but he boils in secret, and finally, as a rule in an unguarded moment, bursts out explosively with fits of rage and sudden anger or betrays his agitation by quick, fidgety movements. As a rule, the *C* type is earnest, humorless, and, in spite of his coldness, an oversensitive person who is easily offended and never forgets an injustice done him. He is "stand-offish," keeping at a distance, surrounding himself, so to speak, with a protective coat which is impermeable to environmental influences and through which those on the outside cannot peer. In contrast to the *W* type, with whom contact is established quickly, he is a puzzling and



Figure 3  
Murderers—C Types

difficult person, not to be known intimately even after many years.

As the surest and most exact method for determining the type, we use a climatic chamber test. In an airtight, closed room all oxidating substances (ozone, etc.) are removed or increased. In agreement with the reaction to the ozone concentrations in the open air, the *W* type will feel depressed and uncomfortable in low oxidative values while he feels fine in high concentrations. The *C* type reacts in the opposite way. In agreement with his reaction to ozone concentrations in the open air, he feels fine in ozone-free air, whereas he develops spastic disturbances (attacks of the most varied kinds) at the site of lowered resistance when he is exposed to high ozone concentrations.

At this point the reader may well inquire: what possible interest is all this in the field of criminology or police science? There is considerable significance to all of it, as we shall presently see.

Let us look at the faces of murderers shown in the newspapers, or, if we wish to investigate the subject more thoroughly, let us study the photographs of murderers in the archives of newspapers or pathologic institutes. What is characteristic of the face of the murderer? In other words, what features do the typical faces of murderers have in common?

In principle, the expression is like that of the schizophrenics who, to a certain extent, are similar to murderers also in their mental characteristics. Schizophrenics and murderers (at least those whose crimes are planned or deliberate) are vindictive persons with an unsteady, piercing glance. Both are characterized by a certain shyness, which is typical of extreme *C* types. The eyes are deep set and strikingly small. The nose is in general narrow and long, and the mouth slit-like. (See Figure 3.) Although deliberate murderers depend more upon weapons than physical strength to commit their crime, some of them are very muscular. Some murderers have also the broad nose charac-





Figure 4  
Suicides—W Types

teristic of the *W* type, but even when this occurs, we are struck by the small, piercing eyes with a crafty quick movement, which are the chief characteristics of criminals. Murderers never have large dreamy eyes.

Persons who commit crimes such as robbery, which seriously endanger human life, are potential murderers, and their facial characteristics conform to the patterns previously described for murderers. (See Figure 5.)

In contrast to murderers are the *suicides*, who, as statistics show, are *almost without exception W types*. (See the photographs of murderers and suicides, as shown in Figures 3 and 4.) The faces of suicides resemble those of the maniac depressives. The mood of suicides also varies from "heaven-high exultation to the sadness of death."

The findings of this investigation may play an important role in forensic medicine in distinguishing between murder and suicide. Murder and suicide, as we are able to prove, are the results of opposite, and therefore quite different, impulses. Except under unusual circumstances, a suicide is never also a murderer, nor a murderer also a suicide.

Suicide is due to loss of will power combined with a negative attitude toward life, whereas murder is the result of an exaggerated expression of the will. It is of interest that, in accordance with these facts, suicides occur only when the oxidizing ("aran") values are falling or are low, whereas murders which are not premeditated but spontaneous occur under the influence of high concentrations.<sup>4</sup> This knowledge is of the greatest practical

<sup>4</sup> Continuous recordings of the oxidizing effect of the air have shown that in 122 cases of mental depression (extreme sadness) observed on patients and normal individuals, all 122 (mostly *W* types) were recorded during a period when the oxidizing effect of the air was decreasing or very low, while none were reported during a rising concentration. In accordance herewith, almost all suicides observed by the author and his co-workers took place during low aran concentrations.



Figure 5

Persons like the ones pictured above who commit crimes such as robbery, which seriously endanger human life, are potential murderers, and their facial characteristics conform to the patterns illustrated in Figure 3.

value, as it may enable a criminal investigator readily to distinguish between suicide and murder. If the dead person is a *W* type, this fact alone indicates with great probability that his death was due to suicide; if a *C* type, that it was in all probability due to murder. If then we know the exact hour of his death—as may be the case, for example, when someone heard the shot—or can determine the time from the condition of the body (rigor mortis, etc.), the oxidizing effect at that time is of great practical importance. If the death occurred when the ozone values were falling or at their lowest level, this fact is indicative of suicide, as it is very unusual for a murderer to commit a planned killing under such conditions. The diagnosis of suicide is strongly indicated when the values were low or falling at the time of death and the dead person is of a *W* type. If the death occurred with rising or maximal ozone values, that fact is indicative of murder. The diagnosis of murder is almost certain if the dead person is a *C* type, as this type is not inclined toward suicide and would not think of it when the ozone values are rising.

When the diagnosis of murder is made, typology will also aid in the identification of the murderer, as he generally belongs not to the *W*, but to the *C* type.

On the other hand, instances of increased irritability, quarrelsomeness and a pugnacious attitude, which we see among patients and normal individuals, is observed during rising and high aran values. Among 293 reports, 287 (mostly *C* types) could be traced to rising or high aran values, while only 6 were reported during a period of low aran concentration.

Considering this tremendous influence of the air chemistry on the psyche, we understand why suicides occur on certain days and at certain hours. For example, four people ended their lives by hanging in Chicago, on September 15, 1947, which day was pointed out by the newspapers as a "day of death." The suicides occurred at a very low aran concentration, just before the infall of a polar front. On November 5, 1947, also in Chicago, three men ended their lives during the night, by hanging. Although for many weeks prior to October 2, 1947 no suicides occurred in Los Angeles, on that day six were reported within several hours. Within twenty-four hours on November 19, 1947, no less than three persons jumped to their death from the Golden Gate bridge at San Francisco.