Child Abuse: The Silent Crime

By CODI WHITEMAN

One night in 1874, Henry Bergh, founder of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), was searching the streets of New York City for wounded animals. As he made his way past an old apartment building, he heard a child screaming in pain. Bergh ran into the building to find a ten-year-old girl named Mary Ellen being stabbed repeatedly by her parents with scissors.

At that time there were no laws protecting children from abuse, but there were laws protecting animals. Henry Bergh, who wanted to take Mary Ellen from her cruel parents, took the case to court and argued that since Mary Ellen was a member of the animal kingdom she should be allowed the same rights as a cat or dog. This was the earliest child-abuse case in America. Unfortunately, it was not a lone incident. Child abuse has probably been around since the beginning of time, or at least as long as there have been children to abuse.

In the 1990's, it was common practice to send children away from home to learn a skill or trade. Often times, the master they were to learn from was cruel and inimpatient. If the child was willful, did not learn fast enough, or made a mistake, he was beaten severely. Sadly enough, over the ages the "spare the rod and spoil the child" theory has prevailed. The only problem is some of these "parents" not only didn't spare the rod but also steel pipes, 2 x 4's, whips, belts, cables, knives, frying pans, and occasionally, guns.

Although this sounds dramatic and too unrealistic, it's all too often the truth. At one time, it was discovered that a seven-year-old boy had suffered internal injuries from his father's kicks and punches to his stomach. Once, the boy's mother, very angry at him, slashed a butcher knife across his cheek, slicing off part of his ear. This little boy had been in and out of intensive care units over a dozen times since he was two years old. This same little boy had been shot in the face so many times with a frying pan he no longer had a nose. A nine-year-old girl was once found locked in a closet where she had spent most of her life. Her parents simply ignored her. She weighed 23 pounds.

Another little girl was admitted to a hospital where nothing could be done to save her life. An autopsy revealed she had suffered from a broken knee, ruptured spleen, liver, and 14 broken ribs. She also had alcohol in her bloodstream. That little girl was only six weeks old.

Why would parents do such terrible things to their children? There are many reasons. The parents may be ill-equipped to handle the constant crying of a colicky baby, forever being a monitor for an exploring toddler, or answering the never-ending questions of a hyperactive child. These things can stretch their nerves to the breaking point where they just lash out at whatever is handy. Unfortunately, "whatever is handy" is usually the child.

Contrary to popular belief, most abusers are not crackpots or nut cases. In fact, less than 10% of all reported cases involve parents with mental instabilities.

Abused children often grow up to be abusive parents, thus creating a never-ending cycle of abuse. Experts say that since these parents never experienced any love or kindness when they were children they believe that the way all children should be raised. In truth they respond to their children the only way they know how—by hitting them. A study at the University of Colorado School of Medicine has found that about 80% of abusive parents were abused as children.

About everyone agrees that some discipline is necessary to teach a child how to act. However, some parents over-discipline their children. One man wanted to teach his sixteen-month old child obedience, so every time the child would disobey the man would give him a "gentle tug" on the ear. Those "gentle tugs" partially tore the ear from the boy's head.

Another major reason abusive parents abuse their children is because of an alcohol or drug dependence. As you may know, alcohol and drugs can have drastic effects on people. For example, a mother may be playing calmly with a young child one moment, and the next be slapping the child again and again for a simple mistake.

Not all abusive parents, however, are alcoholics, drug abusers, poor, homeless people, or formerly abused children. Most are just plain, everyday people with a big problem. Stress can have to do with abuse. For example, a parent with money problems might start seeing a child as one giant expenditure, and thus blame the child
Ku Klux Klan leader talks with Post

By GREG WALKER

Editor's Note: This article is continued from the February issue. Showed Slater, Exalted Cyclops of the Colorado Ku Klux Klan, spoke with Greg Walk via telephone on February 10, 1992. The Bobcat Post has permission to publish the interview. Bold print (without italics) is used to explain to the reader what happened in sections that were deleted. The word "sic" is a journalistic word meaning the speaker is understood even though he or she has used improper English. Slater and Walker just finished talking about Hitler. The interviewer continues.

Slater and Walker continued talking about Hitler, but neither one of them would change their stance on the subject. Slater suddenly interrupted himself and concentrated on George Bush and the Japanese.

SS: I guarantee you if George Bush got off his lazy butt and said the Japanese have to match for whatever products we send out, they know, they have to match back, you know. They take $10 million in American products, we have to buy $10 million of Japanese products. It should be on a one-for-one basis. Here, they are dominating. Wait until they start making a truck. America will be done and gone. It will be all over. I don't think any foreigners should be able to own American land. It should be only for Americans only. Do you think if you're an entrepreneur, do you think you could go to Japan and go in there and buy some land?

GW: No, but that contradicts our economic system of free enterprise.

SS: Now the Japanese want to come over and buy our baseball teams! It should be an American birthright to own American property. If you're born in some foreign country, you don't deserve to come over here and buy land.

GW: That gets back to our forefathers who were born in Europe. They came over here, but didn't buy land, they stole land.

SS: Yeah they came over and stole it, but did they... was that their fault? That was 300 years ago when our forefathers came over. It wasn't like it is now. It's today.

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Leviticus 13: 20, "Man who lies with a man is considered abomination and blood should be poured on his head." Black and white----I didn't write it, it was written years ago and here they think that preach----and other ordained Baptist preachers should be able to allow homosexuals to get married. That is disgusting. You know, what is it with these people? And here they want to be proud and they want to have laws that discriminate against homosexuals. It's immoral. It's written in plain black and white. Our country was founded on God's word, and here they want to change the Bible?

GW: But to be fair, not all Americans are Christian.

SS: I know. I'm not saying that----homosexuality----here they're letting them get married in our churches. We celebrate a Gay Pride parade! In Denver, CO last year, what five or six couples got married on the Capitol steps! In the United States we [Colorado] are the third largest per capita of homosexuals in the United States. We are in the top three. That is disgusting! I don't want my children going to school with kids whose parents are homosexuals. Here they want to teach in our schools. They want to be----I don't want these people around my kids. You know, and here's another thing with the AIDS----I believe that all AIDS patients should be quarantined. They don't let a kid go to school with head lice, but they'll let some kid go to school with head lice.

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The Holocaust is a hoax. I don't believe in it...

—Shawn Slater
Silent crime

Abuse from Page 1

for the lack of money. A wife who
formerly had a job, but stayed home
to devote all her time to the baby,
may feel cramped or get "cabin fe-
ver". She may start to feel the baby
is at fault. A husband who is jealous
over the attention given to a new
baby by its mother might start to
resent that baby.

These parents usually love their
children but find that they can't stop
hitting them. In between beatings
they shower their children with love
and gifts, trying to make up for the
bad times. They promise, "Mommy
will never hit you again", but they
can't stop by themselves.

There is help out there for abusive
parents and their children. Organiza-
tions like Child Abuse Listening
Mediation (CALM), and Parents
Anonymous are available to par-
tents and their children. If you are an
abused child or an abusive parent,
tell someone, anyone. You could
tell a preacher, a teacher, a social
worker, or just tell a friend. Experts
estimate that over 50% of all child-
abuse cases go unreported every
year. Get help. This doesn't have to
be a silent crime.

"Friends may come
and go, but enemies
accumulate."

Anonymous

FCL forum

Forum from Page 1

away from the potentially dangerous
forum. At the press conference that
preceded the forum, Slater was ver-
bally attacked by members of the
press. Discussions between Slater,
the press, and other forum members
sowed heat that political science
club members had to step in.

The forum consisted of four spea-
kers: Jorge Amaya, director of the
Colorado LULAC; Judith Lee Berg,
widow of Alan Berg, who was killed
by a white supremacist group; and
Ward Churchill, director of Ameri-
can Indian studies at the University
of Colorado; and Slater.

Churchill was the first to speak. He
took five minutes to verbally assault
Slater and the KKK. Churchill then
explained why international law made
the FCL forum "illegal". With that,
Churchill invited the local law en-
forcement, the media, and the entire
audience to leave the illegal forum.
Churchill, along with his group and
some audience members, left the fo-
rum and attended the Unityfest.

The forum continued with the
remaining three speakers. Most ques-
tions were directed to Slater, who
ironically answered them just like he
did in his exclusive Bobcat Post inter-
view. The crowd was unrelentless
with Slater by giving him little ap-
plause and much laughter.

The forum, which was heavily se-
cured by local and state law
enforcement, ended without incident.

Best cars around

Cars from Page 11

In second place is the Mazda RX-7,
which Car and Driver says is the
"raziest of the speedsters." This car
missed first place in the road test by
two points. Perhaps we can blame
Mazda for this, when they decided
to go for the "pure sports car.

Weight is one-tenth of a second faster than the
RX-7. Last, but not least, is the British-
made Lotus Elan, called the "Richard
Simmons of speedsters." The Elan is
not too popular in the U.S., only 300
have been sold. This is the smallest of
the four cars. Being small, don't expect
more than two people and a briefcase
to fit inside. The Elan is small in weight as well as in size-
2452 pounds, a full 350 pounds less
than the RX-7. With the turbocharged
1588c. four, it's definitely light-
weight.

This is an empty box to take up
space, that's all, nothing else.

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which to

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derful, too. The tires also have tre-
mendous grip, enough to stop from
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KKK interview

AIDS. C'mon let's get real. Let's be realistic about this stuff. . . . Here's another thing: Where do they get off making Michael Jackson [sic] a spokesman for AIDS? He lives an immoral life ... and they want our children to be proud of the guy, and he lives an immoral life—cheating on his wife and he gets AIDS?

GW: Don't you mean Magic Johnson?

SS: Magic John—whatever his name is ... I mean think of that, why should this guy be a spokesman for AIDS?

Walker then asked Slater his views on sexual freedom.

"... They [European settlers] came over and stole it [America]."

—Shawn Slater

SS: Homosexuality is not even worth talking about. It's disgusting! They should boycott it all. I don't care if they're gonna do it as long as they'll be well dressed, no gay-homo day or something like that.

GW: What about religious freedom?

SS: Yeah, you have the right to practice, but I think prayers should be taught in school. And I think you should—well, you should encourage the teaching of religion in school again.

GW: If you practiced a different religion, you wouldn't go by the Bible.

SS: Yeah I know, but why should TV promote it? Why should the federal government promote it? The federal government was brought by our forefathers who were great Christians. So the Bible and everything should coincide with the federal government, and we shouldn't pass laws for these people. You know these anti-hate laws are pathetic.

GW: You want us to . . . add prayer in school. Do you know about separation of church and state?

SS: Yeah, the Muslims should do their prayers, the Jews should do their's, the white Christians should do their's, the Methodists should do their's. You know, you should break down into little groups and do them. I feel all in favor of it.

GW: You said white Christian. What about the black Christians?

SS: The King James version [of the Bible] says, "The true [Semitic] Israelites are white." So blacks don't even coincide with being in there. So I don't even think about them being Christians. They can call themselves Christians, they can call themselves Muslims, they can call whatever they want to be, but I don't agree with them.

GW: You're a Christian I take it?

SS: Yeah.

GW: Do you practice it regularly?

SS: Not regularly. I sit down and read my Bible.

Tired of talking about religion, Walker changed the subject to Hollywood . . .

GW: Have you seen the movie Mississippi Burning?

SS: Yeah, that's a stupid movie.

GW: Well it was based on a true story and the murderers in that movie were Klansman.

SS: What?

GW: It's based on a true story.

SS: So what? 'Cause it's in the '30s or '40s? I don't care! 'Cause the '60s I wasn't alive! I don't care! Just like the Germans and the Jews, I don't care nothing [sic] about 'em. The Holocaust is a hoax. I don't believe in it. Ya' know I don't believe in this stuff. They had groups who went over there [Germany] and studied it, and they said there's no way six million people or how many—four million and a half—were killed in the crematoriums [sic] could happen. And if there is four and a half million killed, where are the teeth of these people? 'Cause that's the only thing that is left out of a crematorium.

GW: Well it's not just the statistics that are staggering. Why would Hitler ever kill one person in that way? Just because their Jewish?

SS: Why did the Viet Cong just randomly kill American people who went over and fought in Vietnam?

GW: Because we were invading their country.

SS: Hitler went and invaded other countries. He wanted to take over other countries. And also if you look at the train system back then, there is no way [Hitler's army] that many people and ships could cross to different countries. It's just impossible. I mean yeah, there were people killed. There were more homosexuals and gypsies killed than there were Jews—by far.

Slater continued talking about World War II for awhile. He then went back to talking about Hollywood.

SS: Whose behind most of all the big production of movies? JEWS! Who runs most of the T.V.s? JEWS! Of course anything to make a big buck, you know. They promote race mixing, that's disgusting!

GW: I'm glad you brought that point up. Why do you find race-mixing so terrible?

SS: Where does the kid have uhh . . . what's his heritage? Where in history books is there a black and white heritage mix? Or a [sic] Asian black mix? Those races.

GW: I guess we should be now! We make history as we live!

SS: Name one great mixture, black and white, who has made something.

GW: I don't know.

SS: See. You know, be proud of who you are. Don't mix races. It says in the Bible. You know it says in the Bible—King James version—"one shall not mix." You know, and that's the way it should be. Be proud of who you are. Bring on your race and be proud. And keep that race pure!

What's wrong with that? Just like the true Israelis, we'll keep them. You know, I will do my best to keep my race pure. . . . This race mixing is nonsense. Spike Lee is making movies on this stuff.

GW: That's what's happening so that's why you need to make movies about it. With so many topics covered, it seemed like a good time to wrap things up . . .

GW: What's next for you?

SS: Well we will have a rally coming in April. Thomas Jefferson patriotic picture day, and then we will have two rallies coming in July. And that will probably be our rallies for the year. Four rallies, that's about right.

Editor's Note: This is the end of the Bobcat Post's exclusive interview with Shawn Slater, Exalted Cyclops of the Colorado Ku Klux Klan.

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