

# IT'S ALL THE RAGE!

*An in-depth look at behavior modification in the United States*

By Angela Smith



(Photo by HEAL Kentucky Chapter, March, 2008)

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all of the survivors, victims, and families defrauded, abused, raped, tortured, and/or killed by the behavior modification industry.

## APPRECIATION

Special Thanks To:

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...and all the survivors, victims, and families who provided information for this project.

## **~SECTION ONE~**

### **CHAPTER ONE:**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this book is to educate and inform readers about the dangers involved in subjecting human beings to coercive thought reform (a.k.a. behavior modification). It is the author's intention to provide solid information and facts surrounding the behavior modification industry and its origins, in hopes, that readers will be better prepared to protect themselves and their loved ones from fraud and irreparable harm.

Chapter Two addresses behavior modification as it is used in public schools and in private homes as a method of discipline. Behavior modification can be as simple as a reward/punishment or pleasure/pain means of directing behavior. It is a conditioning process common in animal training. The author will be addressing and describing the purpose and intent of this form of behavior modification and how it is detrimental to social and intellectual development. This chapter will also be a gentle introduction to the more intense and destructive behavior modification techniques used in "therapeutic" boarding schools, "emotional growth" boarding schools, boot camps, wilderness camps, and residential treatment centers that are discussed in Chapter Three.

Chapter Three focuses on the destructive behavior modification practices, methods, and controls used by behavior modification programs. In this chapter readers will find an in-depth discussion of the origins of the methods currently employed within the teen "help" industry. This chapter includes information on the practices within a number of programs and provides a solid foundation for the scientific evidence against such practices discussed in Chapter Four.

Chapter Four reviews information from a variety of sources including the works of Dr. Peter Breggin, Dr. Stanley Milgram, and many others. This chapter reveals sound arguments for respecting human dignity and scientific evidence stating that the methods utilized in behavior modification programs are, at best, ineffective and at worst, deadly. Chapters One through Four are intended to provide a factual and evidence-based analysis of behavior modification in the United States today.

Chapter Five is dedicated to providing anecdotal evidence of fraud and abuse throughout the behavior modification industry. This chapter includes statements from former program staff, defrauded families, survivors of abuse, rape, and torture, and commentary from loved ones of those killed in programs and/or who committed suicide shortly after discharge from a behavior modification facility. This chapter is intended to provide supplementary experiential accounts in order to bring the humanity of the victims and inhumanity of the industry to light. Chapter Five concludes Section One of this book.

Section Two starts with Chapter Six, a detailed look at the civil and criminal liability of the parents/authorities/guardians who subject loved ones/wards to behavior modification programs as well as the liability of the programs themselves. This chapter discusses well-known civil and criminal cases against behavior modification programs and parents who've subjected their loved ones to illegal programs. Chapter Six is an excellent introduction to Chapter Seven, which discusses government corruption and cover-ups for the behavior modification industry and its practices.

Chapter Seven discusses the work of former Nebraska Senator, John W. DeCamp in his attempts to expose child sex slave rings and murder among the "elite". Many behavior modification programs are mentioned in his investigation as well as very high level politicians (i.e. Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, etc.). This chapter elaborates with additional facts regarding George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush's support of Straight, Inc., Teen Challenge, and other abusive "treatment" programs. CIA involvement and illegal human experimentation through governmental agencies are also addressed in this chapter.

In Chapter Eight, government action to stop abuse and regulate behavior modification programs is examined. This chapter includes a brief explanation of legislation introduced to combat the rampant fraud and abuse in the behavior modification industry. It also addresses suggested and necessary changes to existing legislation and laws to better protect families, children, and young adults. This and all preceding chapters provide the necessary foundation for the concluding chapter, Chapter Nine.

In Chapter Nine, readers find reasons for hope and immediate action. This chapter discusses current advocacy and activist organizations and campaigns. A sample citizen's initiative is included in the text of this chapter. It also provides a springboard for turning outrage into action.

“It’s All The Rage” is intended to educate, inform, and inspire good citizens and concerned families to protect themselves and their loved ones from the insidious industry commonly referred to as the “troubled teen” industry. (The material covered is of a very graphic and uncomfortable nature. The author recommends reading at a pace that is comfortable and knowing when to take a break. This material is not for the faint-hearted.)

~SECTION ONE~  
CHAPTER TWO:  
BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION AND DISCIPLINE

A basic definition for behavior modification is that it is a “technology of behavior control”.<sup>1</sup> According to Sulzer and Mayer: **(emphasis added)**

“If the causes of our behavior are to be managed, and certainly will be managed, then **we might still consider ourselves free as long as we remain ignorant** of those causes and how they are being managed in our own case. At least, we will feel free. **One hundred years ago, that ignorance was the essential freedom available...**”<sup>2</sup>

Sulzer and Mayer provided a manual for behavior modification in the Public School System in the United States in the early 1970s. The idea discussed is that powerful people have and will continue to implement behavior controls that go beyond mere public safety and into the realm of private freedoms. This is highlighted by the fact that educators are being told to give students the freedom of ignorance. This may be shocking to many who are yet unfamiliar with the deterioration of quality education, and society in general.

Sulzer and Mayer go on to say, “A political craftsman such as Machiavelli could offer some incomplete rules of thumb...based on partial appreciation of punishment.”<sup>3</sup> Merriam-Webster defines Machiavellian as “characterized by cunning, duplicity, and bad faith.”<sup>4</sup> Most readers (hopefully all) will agree that an education system based on manipulation, deceit, and bad faith is not in line with the goals of a free or just society. And, it is the widespread implementation of these practices that have become an industry of torture and fraud destroying American families. (see Chapter Five)

Instead of taking the individual into account and working to provide a solid foundation for decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking, and self-control

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<sup>1</sup> Sulzer, Beth and G. Roy Mayer. “Behavior Modification Procedures for School Personnel”. The Dryden Press Inc. Hinsdale, IL. © 1972. (p. vi)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. (p. vi)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. (p. vi)

<sup>4</sup> Merriam-Webster Inc. “Webster’s New American Dictionary”. SMITHMARK Publishers, a division of U.S. Media Holdings, Inc. New York, NY © 1995.

(emotional and physical), behavior modification reduces the individual to a product of manipulation using the pleasure/pain or reward/punishment system commonly used to train non-human animals. The intention is to prevent the questioning of authority or critical thinking and reduce subjects to the status of well-trained pets. This is in direct conflict with the stated values of individual freedom and self-expression guaranteed in the United States Constitution and is a serious threat to the future of freedom everywhere.

Sulzer and Mayer state:

“The hungry performing seal continues his performance as long as he receives an occasional fish. If a child receives a cookie when, and only when, he says “Please” when asking for it, the frequency of saying “Please” will increase.”<sup>5</sup>

The purpose of this “training” is to create a compliant and subjugated workforce.

According to Sulzer and Mayer: (*emphasis added*)

“Students eventually go out into the adult world, and there they will be expected to work not for sides of beef and chocolate cakes but for accomplishments, praise, points, tokens, or money. *The demands of society would not be fulfilled if students were not trained to work for those “conditioned reinforcers”.*”<sup>6</sup>

In response to critics who question the efficacy of conditioning when applied to humans, Sulzer and Mayer responded: (*emphasis added*)

“Some people feel that the child will tend to maintain the newly acquired behavior only as long as the tokens are contingently employed. While this is a risk, **careful programming** can avoid such a regression.”<sup>7</sup>

The language used by these behaviorists should clue readers in to the lack of respect for the individual and the cookie-cutter approach to behavior control and “programming” utilized in behavior modification. The notion that human beings should be treated like chattel and trained through basic animal training techniques is outdated and has no place in an enlightened or democratic society. However, this practice, in its cruelest form is being sold to thousands of families each year as a means to control adolescents during the sensitive transition from child to adult. (see Chapter Five)

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<sup>5</sup> Sulzer, Beth and G. Roy Mayer. “Behavior Modification Procedures for School Personnel”. The Dryden Press Inc. Hinsdale, IL. © 1972. (p. 24)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. (p. 26)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. (p. 35)

Withholding necessities in order to achieve compliance with the controlling behaviorist's agenda is a common practice and supported by Sulzer and Mayer:

“If the student has not eaten for several hours, a small amount of food may be reinforcing. Too much will satiate him quickly, and food will temporarily lose its reinforcing effectiveness...If too much food were given all at once, the children would gradually stop working.”<sup>8</sup>

The practice of withholding food from a growing child is abuse and prosecutable as such. These practices violate the civil and human rights of children and adults subjected to them. (see Chapter Six) It is interesting that even in a “mainstream” manual given to guide educators in public schools, it is recommended that basic human rights be violated if proposed for behavior control. This dismissal of child abuse and human rights laws is indicative of the underlying nature and purpose of behavior modification.

Sulzer and Mayer also advocate for a “Positive Peer Pressure” model stating that the educator should “have kids make fun of kids not conforming.”<sup>9</sup> This practice is psychologically harmful and creates a bullying effect that allows children to attack other children for the supposed benefit of maintaining control of the group. (See Chapter Four)

In reference to negative reinforcement (a.k.a. punishment), Sulzer and Mayer state:

“This is a technique that has been used with impressive success in many animal training experiments, and it is a potentially fruitful teaching technique.”<sup>10</sup>

Again, Sulzer and Mayer support the idea that behavior modification or training used on animals is what should be implemented in training humans. This is blatantly disrespectful to human rights and human dignity. They go on to refer to experimenting on “infrahumans” and define infrahumans as “mental defectives”. Infra means beneath or under and infrahuman is a “new” way to say “subhuman”. It is the author's position that unethical and cruel experiments on humans are in direct violation of the Nuremberg Code of Ethics and in violation of International Laws on Human Rights. This type of experimentation should be banned, not profited from at the cost of human life and dignity.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid. (p. 40)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. (p. 48)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. (p. 85)



The purpose of this “training” is to create a docile workforce. Sulzer and Mayer repeat this here: (**emphasis added**)

**“To have developed students who, on the completion of their formal schooling, continue to be productive (although financial, social, and other rewards may be infrequent) testifies to the success of an educational program.”<sup>11</sup>**

It is the conditioning to accept less than one’s labor is actually worth and a learned helplessness that cripples an individual’s ability to be an effective self-advocate. The very quality of life experienced by the average American of today compared to the average American decades past speaks to the very purpose of this type of behavioral training and control.

For further evidence of the destructive nature of behavior modification as implemented in public schools throughout the United States, consider the following... In response to a question regarding **what public schools should do with intelligent, highly motivated, and/or efficient children**, Sulzer and Mayer suggested: [**emphasis added**]

**“Certainly it would be possible to slow response ratio in other ways: yell at the student when he hurries [commit verbal abuse], ignore him altogether [neglect], flunk him, keep reminding him to slow down, feed him tranquilizing drugs and all kinds of other possibilities.”<sup>12</sup>**

Previously, we have discussed what behavior modification is and some ways it is implemented. The clandestine method of behavior control is part of the manipulation and deception of the subjected child and his family perpetrated by the school system. In advising teachers on how to implement behavior modification in the classroom, Sulzer and Mayer direct:

**“Do not give [the child] explanations of the program, of what you do, of his behavior, or engage in discussions of these topics with him...Treat disobedient behavior to other adults the same as disobedient behavior to you...Punishment is a procedure in which the presentation of a stimulus contingent upon behavior reduces the rate with which the behavior is emitted...”<sup>13</sup>**

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid. (p. 110)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. (p. 132)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. (p. 156, 170)

The first instruction is in direct opposition to the development of curiosity and critical thinking skills. To deny a human being of knowing what is expected of him/her and depriving him/her of the opportunity to understand why certain behaviors are receiving specific consequences is counter to what the intended purpose of education should be: knowledge and self-discipline.

The second instruction places subjects at risk of being exploited by ill-meaning adults or child predators. It is very important that human beings understand how to protect themselves and others from predators who would do them harm. This type of strict and blind adherence to authority is a direct violation of civil rights and ought not be fostered in any American school. Children who disobey a coach who wants to touch them “inappropriately” and are then punished for being disobedient learn to accept abuse as a part of life, instead of to demand to be treated with consideration and respect. This is psychologically damaging to a child’s self-esteem and has no business in educational settings.

The definition of punishment and the process used to stimulate a cessation of self-advocating behavior places subjects in a position to learn helplessness and feel crushed by authority. This is the opposite of a nurturing educational environment that fosters personal growth, curiosity, and exploration.

One of the contributors to this work recently (2009) had his niece told by her music teacher that, “girls can’t play the drums”. His niece was devastated and believed her teacher. The problem was corrected, but, the teacher still has her job. This is just one example of the games played to break the spirits of children in public schools today. Punishment and confusion are not tools of education; they are tools of control.

Sulzer and Mayer respond to other methods of educating children by saying:

“Authorities at the other extreme preach the gospel of permissiveness and allowing for “self expression.””<sup>14</sup>

Is it an extreme position in the United States of America to allow self-expression? If readers are familiar with the United States Constitution and the First Amendment, which guarantees citizens the right of self-expression, then readers may begin to understand what behavior modification means for freedom in America. If our

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid. (p. 169)

constitutional rights are at one “extreme” and behavior modification is at the other, then behavior modification may be simply reduced to a euphemism for slavery.

Sulzer and Mayer are not concerned about “right and wrong”, but, about “what works and doesn’t”.<sup>15</sup> They continue with descriptions of methods used to change behavior:

“Some types of stimuli have a **universally punishing effect. Physical trauma, electric shocks of high intensity, very bright lights, and very loud sounds are examples of these.** Any of those intense stimuli that are administered contingent upon a specific behavior will generally serve to reduce its rate of emission...”<sup>16</sup>

The author reminds readers that this is a manual for teachers in public schools in the United States. If it is difficult to understand that this is advocated by school officials, consider the following by Sulzer and Mayer:

“If punishment is to be lastingly effective, it must be administered with a strong intensity.”<sup>17</sup>

While the stimuli mentioned above, suggests types of torture, they are also referenced as being intense. Sulzer and Mayer recommend this intensity if results are to be lasting. Is it ethical to torture human beings in order to achieve a behavioral result? The law and most respected authorities say “no”.

In May of 2006, a 7-year old was killed in a deadly restraint at her school for blowing bubbles in her milk. Randall Cullen, MD reported:

“..he states there was no real physical threat to staff or to Angie. The unrealistic demands for total body control, sitting perfectly still in a prescribed manner seems to invite oppositional behaviors. He further stated these expectations are not appropriate for pre-teens with impulse control problems, attention problems, and often devastating histories of extreme control or abuse. The review indicated Angie most likely would have calmed herself, given a chance. Many of these

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid. (p. 169 paraphrased)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. (p. 171)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. (p. 172)

escalations could have possibly been avoided if expectations were more age-appropriate.”<sup>18</sup>

The problem with behavior modification and behaviorism in general is that those who practice it, generally, do not have the subjected individual’s health or well-being in mind. The purpose of behavior control is simply that, controlling behavior. Behaviorists do not respect human dignity or individuality and use a system of abuse and torture to change or control behavior. This system is harmful, destructive, and sometimes deadly to those subjected to it.

Sulzer and Mayer go on to state that total control of an individual’s environment is necessary for effective behavior control:

“Punishment can therefore only be effective in reducing the occurrence of misbehaviors when the environment is so arranged that an unauthorized escape...does not occur.”<sup>19</sup>

While public schools only have control over the child’s environment during the school day, often schools encourage parents to implement the same or similar behavior controls in the home. This is a violation of the privacy and sanctuary of the private home as well as an intrusion into the family that is unwarranted. Organizations like Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education (PTAVE— [www.nospank.net](http://www.nospank.net)) and Able Child ([www.ablechild.org](http://www.ablechild.org)) unite parents and educators against these intrusive and abusive practices in schools across the country. However, often the concerns of the educated, informed and compassionate are shadowed by profit and industry.

Sulzer and Mayer again emphasize that extreme punishment is warranted for small problems or even spelling issues:

“If the student constantly misspelled a word or consistently mishandled delicate equipment, mild punishment would probably be less effective in eliminating those behaviors than would intense punishment.”<sup>20</sup>

Should a child with a possible learning disability or mental disorder be subjected to intense punishment such as electro-shock, restraint, or isolation because they misspelled a word? Anyone with a notion of common-sense or professional training and a healthy respect for human dignity would likely say “no”. However, this is the recommendation of those practicing and utilizing the behavior modification model for maintaining order.

Those using the behavior modification model are not held accountable for human rights abuses. Again, Sulzer and Mayer state:

“Behavior modification procedures assume the responsibility for holding themselves accountable for behavioral changes by demonstrating the effectiveness of those procedures.”<sup>21</sup>

It is this self-regulation that has allowed for the development of the behavior modification industry in the United States without regard to civil or human rights laws as

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<sup>18</sup> [http://caica.org/ANGELLIKA%20ARNDT%20BUBBLES%20IN%20MY%20MILK%2012-9-06.htm#table of contents#table of contents](http://caica.org/ANGELLIKA%20ARNDT%20BUBBLES%20IN%20MY%20MILK%2012-9-06.htm#table%20of%20contents#table%20of%20contents)

<sup>19</sup> Sulzer, Beth and G. Roy Mayer. “Behavior Modification Procedures for School Personnel”. The Dryden Press Inc. Hinsdale, IL. © 1972. (p. 176)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. (p. 177)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. (p. 219)

it is the behavioral change “results” that matter to them, not human rights or dignity. As readers can imagine, this is a serious threat to democracy and freedom.

Sulzer and Mayer then go on to describe how they manipulate and advise others to manipulate language to “sell” these methods to the less sophisticated in the audience:

“It is frequently better, with an audience unsophisticated in the use of that kind of language, to substitute more palatable terms: “teaching” or “instruction”, for conditioning and shaping; “prompts”, “hints”, “cues”, or “directions for SD’s; “privileges”, “incentives”, or “rewards” for reinforcers; “penalties” or “costs” for aversive stimuli; and “learning”, “developmental programs”, or “precision teaching” for behavior modification.”<sup>22</sup>

This appears to be Orwellian at best. SD stands for systematic desensitization.<sup>23</sup> If a parent is told that their child is being taught and that discipline is a series of rewards and/or penalties, they will likely believe it is like any other education system. However, they are using a type of “double-speak” to assuage “disbelievers” and deception as a tool to control not just children, but, their parents as well. While these practices in public schools are disconcerting, their implementation behind locked doors or in the wilderness with no access to help or to report abuse, is devastatingly dangerous. (See Chapter Five)

Behavior modification is in its infancy, or, at least was in the 1970s. It is experimental<sup>24</sup> and psychologically damaging. (See Chapter Four) The use of it in both public and private schools has caused devastating harm to children and their families. It is a practice, which should be abolished as detrimental to human health and society.

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid. (p. 249)

<sup>23</sup> <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/ccp/44/4/638/> (Reviewed November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>24</sup> Sulzer, Beth and G. Roy Mayer. “Behavior Modification Procedures for School Personnel”. The Dryden Press Inc. Hinsdale, IL. © 1972. (p. 288)

## ~SECTION ONE~

### CHAPTER THREE:

#### BEHAVIORAL ENGINEERING AND CONTROLS

Behavioral engineering is implemented through a number of inhumane practices. As discussed in Chapter Two; the use of mind-altering drugs, mental abuse, food deprivation, and electro-shock are commonly used to control behavior. These methods are coupled with coercive thought reform practices that are psychologically harmful. (See Chapter Four)

Coercive Thought Reform is a euphemism for what is commonly referred to as brainwashing. In a 1962 address to the federal maximum-security prison wardens in Washington, DC, Dr. Edgar Schein stated:<sup>25</sup>

“In order to produce marked changes in behavior, it is necessary to weaken, undermine, or remove supports for old attitudes. I would like you to think of brainwashing not in terms of... ethics and morals, but in terms of the deliberate changing of human behavior by a group of men who have relatively complete control over the environment in which the captives live...[These changes can be induced by] isolation, sensory deprivation, segregation of leaders, spying, tricking men into signing written statements which are then shown to others, placing individuals whose will power has been severely weakened into a living situation with others more advanced in thought reform, character invalidation, humiliations, sleeplessness, rewarding subservience, and fear.”

It is the author's hope that readers will already understand that the above mentioned methods of behavioral engineering and control are prima facie (at face value) psychologically harmful to those subjected to such “treatment”. It is obvious from research into this field that those practicing behavioral engineering are not concerned about “right and wrong” or “ethics and morals”. These are the same or similar principles that created an environment where millions were tortured and killed by Nazi Germany in World War II. It is apparent to anyone familiar with human rights and with a desire for moral and ethical societies that such treatment is not in line with American laws or values. However, these horrible crimes against humanity are being perpetrated by unregulated behavior modification facilities masquerading as treatment or wilderness therapy throughout the United States and abroad. (See Chapter Five)

In 1987, Dr. Richard Korn wrote about the intentions of the High Security Unit (HSU) at Lexington Prison:

“[The purpose of the HSU is to] ...reduce prisoners to a state of submission essential for their ideological conversion. That failing, the next objective is to reduce them to a state of psychological incompetence sufficient to neutralize them as efficient, self-directing antagonists. That failing, the only alternative is to destroy them, preferably by making them desperate enough to destroy themselves.”<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Churchill, Ward and Jim Vander Wall. “The COINTELPRO Papers”. South End Press, Cambridge, MA. © 1990 and 2000 (p. 321, 322)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

While these passages from Dr. Schein and Dr. Korn are referencing methods and intentions utilized in U.S. prisons, it is important for readers to understand these are the same methods employed by private prisons for children and teens that advertise themselves as therapeutic programs and schools. It is apparent that any methodology that uses coercive thought reform practices in order to convert or destroy/kill those subjected to it is violating both civil and human rights laws. (See Chapter Six)

Dr. William Sargant commented on Pavlov's methods of behavioral engineering and control:

"[Ivan Pavlov] He theorized that there were three stages to this breaking down of neural organization and a fourth of reassembling the world. First, the animal is overloaded, through excessive exercise, excessive sensory stimulation, surgery, or sleep deprivation."<sup>27</sup>

In current behavior modification programs throughout the United States, the initial phase consists of excessive work and exercise, sensory deprivation, isolation, and sleep deprivation. These methods are considered torture.<sup>28</sup>

The purpose of this phase is to drive human beings to experience a complete mental breakdown. Dr. Sargant continues:

"Cognitive models suggest that an individual's world view is challenged by a traumatic event to the breaking point. So many assumptions formerly held of human nature and the ways the world should or does function become so untenable that the world view shatters."<sup>29</sup>

In behavioral engineering, this cognitive model is intended to destroy the subject's idea of him/herself and his/her idea of the world. It is argued by behaviorists that this is necessary to break him/her of his/her "bad habits" or "bad behavior". However, these "bad behaviors" are not illegal behaviors in most cases. They are legal actions and/or beliefs in the United States and it is a horrible violation of basic human rights and dignity to implement such a system.

Dr. Sargant further states:

"In brain-washing, trauma is applied through sleep deprivation, relentless pressure of an alternative ideology, and physical abuse."<sup>30</sup>

This brainwashing must be done in a secluded setting where the subject is cut-off from friends and family. This is common practice in behavioral engineering or behavior modification programs.

"First, the training [brainwashing] takes place in a special area or camp, which almost completely severs all ties with the trainees' families and former friends; and facilitates the breakup of old behavior patterns. A second constant factor is fatigue. Students are subjected to a schedule which maintains physical and mental fatigue throughout the training. There is no opportunity for relaxation or reflection, they are occupied with memorizing great amounts of theoretical material and are expected to employ the new terminology with facility. Coupled with the fatigue is a third constant: tension...Uncertainty is a fourth factor through the process...Trainees who conspicuously fail to comprehend the camp pattern in

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<sup>27</sup> Sargant, William (M.D.). "Battle for the Mind". Malor Books. Cambridge, MA. © 1997 (p. ix)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.cvt.org/page/36> (The Center for Victims of Torture)

<sup>29</sup> Sargant, William (M.D.). "Battle for the Mind". Malor Books. Cambridge, MA. © 1997 (p. xiii)

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. (p. viii)

the first few weeks disappear overnight, and there is usually a well-sown rumor concerning their fate...A fifth constant factor is the use of vicious language. The final factor is the seriousness attached to the whole process. Humor is forbidden.”<sup>31</sup>

This is the same process used in behavior modification programs targeting families facing communication breakdowns and other problems. These programs use the double-speak referenced in Chapter Two to cover-up their destructive practices that harm children and their families. (See Chapter Five)

“As a means of inducing increased fatigue, the trainees are encouraged to volunteer for extra work and study and make others in their group follow their example. An important part of the process is the stimulation of fear and doubt. Shall he tell all to his group? If so, will it then be used against him? The trainee had to wrestle silently and alone with all these anxieties and conflicts until he finally breaks down and decides to confess all; and this is the beginning of his end as an individual.”<sup>32</sup>

Facilities such as Straight, Inc., Provo Canyon School, World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, Chuck E. Diederich University (CEDU), Aspen Education Group, and countless others use these methods to change behavior in children with whom they work. (See Chapter Five) They call it behavior modification. But, a truer statement in advertising would be coercive thought reform or brainwashing.

Dr. Sargant breaks up the phases he recognizes into four general levels: physical control [sensory deprivation, isolation, forced labor and exhaustion], indoctrination [introduction to the “new” ideology and language of the program/cult], mental crisis and breakdown [complete nervous breakdown, induced psychosis, creation of dissociative disorder], and conversion [complete adherence and obedience to the program/cult].<sup>33</sup>

The use of brainwashing and torture to change behavior is a serious ethical concern for lawmakers and citizens alike. The methods described above are the common practice of behavior modification programs. These programs are unregulated in the United States and are systematically destroying American families. These behavioral engineers know that their methods cannot be known to their victims if they are to be successful in converting them. The purpose of this chapter is to give individuals a detailed and informative discussion of these practices so that they can be better prepared to protect themselves and their families from harm. (See Chapter Five)

According to Dr. Sargant, 20% (1 in 5) people subjected to this type of treatment are unrecoverable:

“...one in every five a complete nervous wreck, many more liquidated—may reflect the excessive standardization of the training [brainwashing] method used, but this at least ensures more mental and spiritual uniformity of the survivors—for what that is worth.”<sup>34</sup>

While 20% are lost to permanent and debilitating mental illness, others become unable to socialize with the greater part of society being semi-adherents to the thought reform system from which they escaped. In fact, many victims suffer a form of

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid. (p. 180-181)

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. (p. 181-182)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. (p. 182-184) [paraphrased]

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. (p. 185)



Stockholm Syndrome and desire to return to the program to work and live after finding they are unable to re-establish a normal life in society. These problems are discussed in greater detail in Chapter Four.

Dr. Margaret Thaler-Singer echoes Dr. Sargant's statements and provides additional information on the systematic and coercive thought reform practices used in behavioral engineering:

“In essence, a thought-reform program is a behavioral reconstruction program, a program of systematic manipulation using psychological and social techniques...It is commonly known as brainwashing...”<sup>35</sup>

Survivors of these programs attest to the use of these methods and the destruction of their faith and their families. The methods mentioned above are known to be psychologically damaging. However, behaviorists practicing these methods defend them as necessary for behavior modification. Reasonable people and the scientific community disagree with these behaviorists. (See Chapter Four)

Another tool of behaviorists is Large Group Awareness Training (LGAT). These LGATs are used in parent seminars as a form to indoctrinate parents into the behavioral engineering process used on their children. LGATs are also used in employee training seminars and are a behavioral engineering process to control working class people. Dr. Thaler-Singer writes:

“Another new type of group that became popular in the early seventies revolved around large group awareness training, or LGAT. LGAT groups represented commercially sold New Age thinking and the mass marketing of powerful therapeutic strategies carried out in large groups by nonprofessionals. The draw of these groups was the idea that each person is able to create his or her own reality. They used encounter group and hypnotic techniques to destabilize participants view of the world. Strong peer pressure was used to finish the job and produce conformity.”<sup>36</sup>

The problem with certain so-called advocacy groups arguing that they wish to change behavior modification programs is that they are actually part of the problem. Allison Pinto, member of A-START (Alliance for the Safe Therapeutic and Appropriate use of Residential Treatment), is an LGAT trainer. It is difficult for those who practice behavioral engineering to advocate for abolition or effective change when their own methods for social control echo those of coercive thought reform programs. (See Chapter Nine) One of the key components of behavior modification is the “positive peer pressure” or “positive peer culture” model. This model has been scientifically proven to be ineffective and harmful. (See Chapter Four)

Dr. Thaler-Singer has created a model describing the six conditions of thought reform, according to her research, they are:<sup>37</sup>

- Keep the person unaware of what is going on and the changes taking place.
- Control the person's time, and, if possible, physical environment.
- Create a sense of powerlessness, covert fear, and dependency.

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<sup>35</sup> Singer, Margaret Thaler. “Cults In Our Midst”. Jossey-Boss, A Wiley Imprint. San Francisco, CA. © 2003. (p. 27)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. (p. 42)

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. (p. 63)

- Suppress much of the person’s old behavior and attitudes.
- Instill new behavior and attitudes.
- Put forth a closed system of logic; allow no real input or criticism.

She goes on to describe the tactics of a coercive thought reform or behavior engineering system as follows:<sup>38</sup>

- Destabilize a person’s sense of self.
- Get the person to drastically reinterpret his or her life’s history and radically alter his or her world view and accept a new version of reality and causality.
- Develop in the person a dependence on the organization, and thereby turn the person into a deployable agent of the organization.

Behavior modification programs use systematic coercive thought reform techniques that destroy a person’s sense of self by changing how they perceive themselves and their own experiences and memories through abuse and torture.

In Chapter Five, survivor accounts explain how they were told repeatedly by the programs that they were not the “real” him/her. In these accounts, sexual abuse victims repeat that they were told that they wanted to be sexually touched, even at age 6, by the people who abused them and that this idea was forced upon them by the programs as a method to change their perception of abuses they had suffered. This methodology blames the victim for the abuse he/she suffered and is psychologically damaging. (See Chapter Four)

After convincing or brainwashing a subject into denying who he/she is and the truth about their own experiences and perceptions, these programs then turn the subject into a salesperson for the program. Survivors report not being given the opportunity to return home unless and until they convince a loved one to place another family member into the program thereby becoming an agent or salesperson for the program that abused them.

In regards to cult-operated schools, Dr. Thaler-Singer writes:

“Wendle Turley, the plaintiff’s attorney, called the reality of these schools, “the most unthinkable abuse and maltreatment of little children we have ever seen. It includes rape, sexual abuse, physical torture, and emotional terror of children as young as 3 years of age.”<sup>39</sup>

The Walker School takes children as young as 3 years of age. Some World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools’ (WWASPS) programs take children as young as 6 years of age. Provo Canyon School is now taking children under ten years old. And, these behavior modification programs do use drugging [The Walker School actually uses experimental drugs on children in their care<sup>40</sup>], physical torture, and emotional terror to change behavior. (See Chapter Five)

The listed behavioral engineering and control methods are the common practice at behavior modification programs throughout the country. These methods are scientifically proven to be damaging and the harm is discussed fully in the following chapters.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. (p. 62)

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. (p. 349)

<sup>40</sup> <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119925086/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

~SECTION ONE~  
CHAPTER FOUR:  
SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

In this chapter the discussion is balanced between the proven harmful methods of the behavior modification industry and suggested methods for improving individual and family relations. Dr. Peter Breggin, M.D., will provide a starting point for this look into modern mental health services. One of the problems with the mental health field, according to Dr. Breggin, is:

“Many psychiatrists have little or no training in how to communicate with people about their problems. Instead they are trained in making “medical” diagnoses and giving drugs and electroshock...Unfortunately, since psychiatry dominates the mental health profession, much of what is wrong with psychiatry is also wrong with the whole field.”<sup>41</sup>

The behaviorists have hijacked the field of mental health and have seen fit to overhaul society with drugs and behavioral engineering or animal conditioning techniques. Dr. Robert Crist, M.D., is a psychiatrist and the founder of the notoriously abusive Provo Canyon School in Provo, Utah. He has been found guilty of cruel and inhumane treatment of children.<sup>42</sup> However, this hasn't stopped Dr. Crist from continuing in this experimental line of work subjecting youth at multiple Utah-based facilities to abuse, isolation, and torture. Dr. Crist is not alone in these human rights violations. Dr. Breggin reports on his time with Metropolitan State Hospital patients in 1954:

“Many of these people actually looked like concentration camp inmates—undernourished, silent, stone-faced with sunken eyes. They would sit in corners or pace about. Some talked to themselves. One gesticulated into space. Another was lying on the radiator by the filthy window. Absolutely no one socialized with anyone else. It was as if each was ashamed and afraid of the others.”<sup>43</sup>

Dr. Breggin's description of patients at Metropolitan State Hospital echoes those reported by families after seeing their children after a few short weeks at a modern day behavior modification program.<sup>44</sup> In regards to Aaron Bacon, witnesses stated his corpse looked like something out of Auschwitz (WWII Nazi Concentration Camp).<sup>45</sup> Catherine Smith reported that her daughter looked like a walking corpse, thin, and pale, after only ten weeks at Provo Canyon School in 1989. There are countless stories of horror that come out of these facilities and programs. (See Chapter Five)

In his work, Dr. Breggin states that the “treatment had caused or worsened many of the patient's problems...It was also apparent to me that much of the patients' upset and suffering was induced by the hospital environment itself.”<sup>46</sup> Instead of rehabilitating the mentally ill, behavior modifying operations, drugs, and coercive thought reform practices

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<sup>41</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin's Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 1-2)

<sup>42</sup> *Milonas v. Williams*. United States Court of Appeals. Tenth Circuit. September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1982. Nos. 80-1569, 81-1407.

<sup>43</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin's Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 4)

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.teenadvocatesusa.org/REMEMBERINGAARONWRIGHTBACON.html>

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin's Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 5)

debilitate those they claim to help. In the process, they induce Stockholm Syndrome symptoms and create obedient adherents to authorities within hospitals and running behavior modification programs nationwide. Dr. Breggin continues:

“The once difficult and unruly inmates, with their brains now permanently damaged, became gratefully dependent on their keepers after being brought back from the edge of death...By damaging the brain and mind, they made the patients docile and passive—suitable for control within these abusive institutions.”<sup>47</sup>

It begs the question, how much of “therapy” is about helping individuals cope with life’s difficulties and how much of “treatment” is for the purpose of social control with no regard to the rights of the individual? According to one of the founding fathers of modern day psychiatry, Dr. J. R. Rees:

“If we are to infiltrate the professional and social activities of other people, I think we must imitate the totalitarians and organize some kind of fifth column activity...We have made a useful attack upon a number of professions. The two easiest of them naturally are the teaching profession and the church, the two most difficult are law and medicine...Let us not speak in terms of 'mental hygiene' but in terms of 'mental health.' ...Let us all therefore very secretly be fifth columnists. Psychiatry must now decide what is to be the immediate future of the human race. No one else can. This is the primary responsibility of psychiatry.”<sup>48</sup>

Dr. J.R. Rees worked for US and British Military Intelligence as well as the Tavistock Clinic in London, England. He was President of the World Federation for Mental Health. The Tavistock Clinic is the mental health arm of England’s National Health Service. The National Health Service in England is the equivalent of the National Institute of Health in the United States. Dr. Rees states quite clearly that mental health is about social direction and control and equates the agenda of those in that field to the totalitarians (i.e. Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, etc.) in regards to their stated purpose.

In 2006, the waiver on the next page was submitted to HEAL by a mother of a girl subjected to illegal experiments in violation of the Nuremberg Code of Ethics that year. This was not fifty years ago before any ethical standards for human treatment had been written or established. It happened in 2006 and continues to happen today. Parents are being conned into subjecting their children to dangerous and sometimes deadly social experiments while believing their children are getting state-of-the-art care from dedicated professionals. The following is included in this chapter to provide supplementary evidence of these practices continuing as the focus of those in the behavioral psychology and even other modern mental health systems. It is a serious ethical concern for mental health practitioners if they are weighing the rights of the individual versus the arguable needs of certain controlling members of society. If a woman has been raped by the CEO of an international corporation (i.e. Halliburton), should she be brainwashed into believing she enjoyed it so that the guilty party doesn’t have to face any consequences for violating her rights? In that world, does anyone have any rights besides those with wealth or power? If the answer is “no”, then society must take a stand for individual rights and freedom. The behavioral sciences wish to dismiss the sentient responses of the

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<sup>47</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 6)

<sup>48</sup> J.R. Rees "Strategic Planning for Mental Health" from *Mental Health*, Vol. I, No. 4, October 1940, (pp. 103-106)

individual and focus on inducing the behavior desired by those in positions of authority. This is in direct opposition to stated values of freedom, individuality, and independence.

## Sea Mar Youth Treatment

### Notification of Family and Others:

Unless you object, we may release health information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. We may tell your family or friends your condition and that you are in a hospital. In addition, we may disclose health information about you to assist in disaster relief efforts.

### We may use and disclose your protected health information without your authorization as follows:

- **With Medical Researchers**—if the research has been approved and has policies to protect the privacy of your health information. We may also share information with medical researchers preparing to conduct a research project.
- **To Funeral Directors/Coroners** consistent with applicable law to allow them to carry out their duties.
- **To Organ Procurement Organizations (tissue donation and transplant)** or persons who obtain, store, or transplant organs.
- **To the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** relating to problems with food, supplements, and products.
- **To Comply With Workers' Compensation Laws**—if you make a workers' compensation claim.
- **For Public Health and Safety Purposes as Allowed or Required by Law:**
  - to prevent or reduce a serious, immediate threat to the health or safety of a person or the public;
  - to public health or legal authorities; to protect public health and safety; to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability; to report vital statistics such as births or deaths.
- **To Report Suspected Abuse or Neglect** to public authorities.
- **To Correctional Institutions** if you are in jail or prison, as necessary for your health and the health and safety of others.
- **For Law Enforcement Purposes** such as when we receive a subpoena, court order, or other legal process, or you are the victim of a crime.
- **For Health and Safety Oversight Activities.** For example, we may share health information with the Department of Health.
- **For Disaster Relief Purposes.** For example, we may share health information with disaster relief agencies to assist in notification of your condition to family or others.
- **For Work-Related Conditions That Could Affect Employee Health.** For example, an employer may ask us to assess health risks on a job site.
- **To the Military Authorities of U.S. and Foreign Military Personnel.** For example, the law may require us to provide information necessary to a military mission.
- **In the Course of Judicial/Administrative Proceedings** at your request, or as directed by a subpoena or court order.
- **For Specialized Government Functions.** For example, we may share information for national security purposes.

### Other Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information:

Uses and disclosures not in this Notice will be made only as allowed or required by law or with your written authorization.

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Often, reformists are met with criticism by behaviorists who state that they must use force or abuse to achieve the desired results. In Dr. Breggin's experience, violence among patients was often caused by the mistreatment they suffered at the hands of those in positions of authority:

“And we realized that much, if not most, of their violence was in reaction to being abused within the state hospital. Living there was wholly demeaning and even life-threatening.”<sup>49</sup>

Dr. Breggin continues his analysis of psychiatry by pointing out that the training psychiatrists received was not intended to help patients. Those offering training in the field rarely mentioned ideas like self-determination, personal responsibility, and compassion. A look at the socio-economic factors involved in mental health was completely ignored. The blame and punishment for mental illness was laid at the feet of the person suffering.<sup>50</sup>

In his studies, Dr. Breggin found that the “defective” category creating an inhuman or subhuman label for people not conforming spread from the original target population of the poor to everyone seeking help.<sup>51</sup>

“Ironically, the “new psychiatry” was not at all new to me, because it resembled nothing so much as the old state mental hospital psychiatry, where patients were considered biologically and genetically defective and subjected to degrading, damaging treatments. Tragically, what was once the psychiatry for the poor—biopsychiatry—was now becoming the psychiatry for everyone.”

Dr. Breggin warns about subjecting children or teenagers to harmful and experimental treatments:

“The same is true if you are seeking help for...your son who’s become supposedly hyperactive, difficult, or uncomfortable in school. You may want advice on how to be more helpful to...your son; but the psychiatrist will explain that their problems are biological and treatable with drugs, electric shock, or hospitalization. You may be relieved at the prospect of having the difficulty prescribed away by an expert. But beware—you are creating effects from which...your child may never recover.”<sup>52</sup>

In addition to drugs, electric shock, and hospitalization, behavioral “therapies” are also touted as the answer to parents having difficulty. However, these behavioral “therapies” are ineffective, and like the rest, harmful.

Referral and assessment agents for the industry are not objective sources for diagnosing mental illness or chemical imbalances. There is no science behind the claims of “chemical imbalance” used to diagnose mental illness by charlatans looking to make money for the pharmaceutical and behavior modification industries. Dr. Breggin writes:

“Yet the only biochemical imbalances that we can identify with certainty in the brains of psychiatric patients are the ones produced by psychiatric treatment itself.”<sup>53</sup>

Breggin goes on to state that “all of the major psychiatric treatments work by producing brain dysfunction, and too often they result in lobotomy-like effects and permanent damage.”<sup>54</sup> Behavioral therapy results in similar damage and can cause irreparable harm

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<sup>49</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 6)

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. (p. 10)

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. (p. 10)

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. (p. 11)

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. (p. 12)

<sup>54</sup> Ibid. (p. 18)

to children and families subjected to them. In regards to “rebelliousness” or “oppositional defiance disorder”, Breggin states:

“Rebelliousness often involves conduct that seems irresponsible by conventional standards. Where passionate, spirited encounters with the meaning of life take place, ordinary concepts of responsibility often get left behind. Sometimes it seems as if people must temporarily reject or throw off responsibility in the process of reaching new plateaus. That they become exceedingly difficult to live with does not make them “mentally ill” or diseased.”<sup>55</sup>

However, it is during the transition from child to adult, known as adolescence, that holds the most important lessons in testing boundaries, establishing autonomy, and learning the balance required by adults; the balance between rights/freedoms and responsibilities. This is in part why institutionalization in a psychiatric hospital or behavior modification program during this time of life is so damaging.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) acts to shield parents from their own responsibility and aids in placing the blame for a child’s suffering completely on the child:

“By trying to exonerate themselves of responsibility for the emotional suffering of their children, by supporting the most oppressive biopsychiatric technologies, and by attempting to crush dissent, NAMI has become an institutional embodiment of the kind of parents who can drive a child into helpless despair.”<sup>56</sup>

Dr. Breggin suggests social and family efforts to support children and teens as opposed to institutionalization and abuse. Community-based parenting resources should be sought out by families in crisis. Often a simple communication skills course can open up dialogue between family members and act as a bridge to understanding and family bonding.

The experiences of witnesses to Aaron Bacon’s death and Catherine Smith’s account of seeing her daughter after a short stay at Provo Canyon School are not isolated incidents. Dr. Breggin previously noted that victims of institutionalized abuse often resemble victims of Nazi concentration camps during World War II. It does not escape the author that the national hot zones for behavior modification also contain the largest white supremacist and neo-Nazi organizations in the nation (i.e. Idaho, Montana, Utah, etc.).<sup>57</sup> It is no wonder that these highly organized militias and hate groups have sought out to create an industry, namely the behavior modification industry, to corrupt and destabilize youths in an institutional setting.

According to Dr. Breggin:

“Even among adults subjected to extreme psychological stress, many will tend to become helpless. In Nazi extermination camps, large numbers of people—Jews, gypsies, and Soviet army officers alike—developed a robotic, selfless existence. Only a few managed to maintain sufficient self-determination to plan successful escapes or to survive captivity... The term brainwashing was applied to these forms of carefully orchestrated physical and emotional torture.”<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid. (p. 33)

<sup>56</sup> Ibid. (p. 34)

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.splcenter.org/intel/map/hate.jsp>

<sup>58</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 38)

The followers of this behaviorist or eugenics inspired model of social change are often modern day Nazis. Adolf Hitler said, “The great masses of the people ... will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one.”<sup>59</sup> This is especially true when parents who lack confidence in their parenting abilities and lack a desire to improve their own family relations are convinced by very motivated salespeople to place their children in a re-education center operated by people with a desire to control others. This is a recipe for disaster.

There were two very important experiments conducted to determine what happens when average individuals are asked by authority figures to violate the human rights of others. The Milgram Experiment, conducted by Dr. Stanley Milgram, with the purpose of measuring the subjects’ willingness to obey an authority figure who ordered them to comply with requests that conflicted with their personal beliefs, morals, and consciences.<sup>60</sup> The second experiment is known as the Stanford Prison Experiment. In the Stanford Prison Experiment, some of the questions examined were:<sup>61</sup>

- What happens when you put good people in an evil place?
- Does humanity win over evil, or does evil triumph?

In both of these experiments, the answers were difficult to accept. In the Milgram Experiment, subjects were told to administer electric-shocks in greater and greater voltage to a victim in the next room. 99% of subjects were willing to administer electric-shocks to the point of causing severe pain to the victim. 65% of subjects were willing to obey authority to the point of killing the victim, even against their own consciences. The author reminds readers that this was a study in obedience to authority in order to understand how Nazi Germany occurred and how susceptible average people are to being controlled by those in authority to the point of hurting or killing an innocent person.<sup>62</sup>

The Stanford Prison Experiment was to last a couple of weeks. They had to shut it down after only a few days because those placed in positions of authority became uncontrollably sadistic and those placed in positions of subservience suffered extreme distress.<sup>63</sup> These were controlled experiments with oversight and short-term goals. The behavior modification programs where obedience and sadistic abuses of power and influence are common-place, are experimental and also horrifically damaging to those who suffer behind locked doors with no access to their families or the outside world for months or even years. It is because of these tortures that behavior modification programs are no place for human beings.

As mentioned previously, psychiatric drugs are used and advised as part of the overall behavior modification protocol. The goal of psychiatric drug treatments is to create a numb individual no longer capable of feeling normal human emotions.

According to Dr. Breggin:

“Lehmann and a co-author graphically describe the “emotional indifference” and specifically call it the “aim” of the treatment. Like Delay and Deniker, they found that “the patients under treatment display a lack of spontaneous interest in the environment...” Thus the mechanism of action of the neuroleptics is no mystery:

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<sup>59</sup> Hitler, Adolf. “Mein Kampf”. Educa Books. Ontario, Canada. © 2006.

<sup>60</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram\\_experiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram_experiment) (November 11th, 2009)

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.prisonexp.org/> (November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>62</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram\\_experiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram_experiment) (November 11th, 2009)

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.prisonexp.org/> (November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009)



clinically the drugs produce a lobotomy and neurologically the drugs produce a lobotomy.”<sup>64</sup>

In thinking back to Chapter Two, consider the fact that drugging exceptionally gifted children was the schools’ answer to dealing with their talents. The intention being to slow the child down and have them beaten back to be as dull as their fellow classmates. How could it possibly be in line with good health to drug a brilliant individual into a stupor so they are more manageable to those proving themselves incapable of teaching the gifted? In regards to the drugging of people for control, Dr. Breggin states: **(emphasis added)**

“On many psychiatric wards the neuroleptics are given to 90 to 100 percent of the patients; in many nursing homes, to 50 percent or more of the old people; and in many institutions for persons with mental retardation, to 50 percent or more of the inmates. **Neuroleptics also are used in children’s facilities and in prisons.**”<sup>65</sup>

Neuroleptics are the chemical lobotomizing drugs mentioned above. Obviously, neuroleptics cause brain damage. And, this brain damage is harmful resulting in vegetable-like mental states for those being drugged. It is the same technology used in tranquilizer darts used to subdue wild animals.<sup>66</sup> Again, the subject of “therapy” is really social control and the “treatment” is conditioning or tranquilizing the mind to make the subject more submissive to his/her handlers. The science behind animal training is the modern-day therapists approach to mental health. This approach is detrimental to human dignity and human rights. Dr. Breggin, continues:

“The brain-disabling principle applies to all of the most potent psychiatric treatments—neuroleptics, antidepressants, lithium, electroshock, and psychosurgery. The principle states that all of the major *psychiatric treatments exert their primary or intended effect* by disabling normal brain function...

Conversely, none of the major psychiatric interventions correct or improve existing brain dysfunction, such as any presumed biochemical imbalance. If the patient happens to suffer from brain dysfunction, then the psychiatric drug, electroshock, or psychosurgery will worsen or compound it.”<sup>67</sup>

Drugging is common-place at behavior modification programs such as Provo Canyon School, Logan River Academy, and many Aspen Education Group programs. This drugging is used as a means of punishment for those questioning authority. A.T., a teenage girl, was given an overdose of Haldol (very potent anti-psychotic/neuroleptic) for asking a question to Provo Canyon School staff about whether she could wear a t-shirt. The use of brain-damaging drugs at facilities such as Provo Canyon School as means to punish a child for asking a question is far beyond any stated purposeful use by the psychiatric profession. In programs like Provo Canyon School, it is obvious that social control is the intended purpose of every action of the staff and that individual wellness or well-being is not part of the considered agenda. This is in direct contrast to their stated agenda of building a child’s self-esteem. The lack of respect of an individual’s dignity

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<sup>64</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (pp. 55-56)

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. (p. 57)

<sup>66</sup> Ibid. (p. 58)

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. (p. 58)

and own self-image is in direct conflict with any accepted and proven methods of building self-esteem.<sup>68</sup>

Behavior modification programs work to undermine a person's self-esteem and self-respect. They do this by causing a mental breakdown as mentioned in Chapter Three. This is the opposite of teaching someone to accept him/herself and be confident in his/her own beliefs and actions. Instead of focusing on what a young adult is doing well in their life (no one is all good or all bad), the program tears them down by telling them there is nothing good about them and that until they adopt the values of the program and show blind adherence and obedience to the dogma being spouted they will never gain respect or value. This is horribly destructive to the children in these programs. (See Chapter Five)

Dr. Breggin continues to explain why drugged individuals in controlled settings appear better adjusted than their counterparts:

“His analysis in *Asylums* (1961) helps us understand why a drugged patient would seem better adjusted than a drug-free person in such a setting; the chemically lobotomized patient fits better into the social role of mental patient, with its obedience to authority, conformity, lack of dignity, acceptance of mundane routines, and restricted opportunities for self-expression.”<sup>69</sup>

As mentioned in Chapter Two, behaviorists argue that self-expression is the opposite of the agenda proposed by behavior modification procedures. It is unhealthy and inhumane to destroy the mind of a human being in order to make them conform or obey. In regards to institutions serving minors, Dr. Breggin states:

“Children frequently are given these medications in hospitals, facilities for delinquents, and, especially, institutions for the retarded. Typically they are used for the control of unwanted behaviors.”<sup>70</sup>

Again, exceptional children with brilliant futures are being subjected to mentally and physically debilitating treatments at behavior modification programs. These children are often lost as adults with no learned self-confidence or faith in their own ability to make choices for themselves. This is in direct opposition to accepted stages of development. According to Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Theory of Development, adolescence and young adulthood are a time of exploration, confusion, and establishing autonomy. When an adolescent is forced to conform or regress to a more easily controlled time in his/her development by parents or private behavior modification programs it impairs their ability to become self-actualized and self-advocating adults.<sup>71</sup> This impairment is, in lay terms, bad.

In mislabeling or scape-goating a child, parents send the wrong message and deny their own responsibility. According to Dr. Breggin:

“Guilt-provoking parents often take more notice of their children than do shaming parents. They make them feel as if they have a significant but negative impact on the family. Typically the parents blame their own suffering on the child... The children may be called “bad” or “burdensome” and be taught that they caused

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<sup>68</sup> <http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/199911/self-esteem-vs-self-respect>

<sup>69</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin's Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 62)

<sup>70</sup> Ibid. (p. 76)

<sup>71</sup> [http://www.businessballs.com/erik\\_erikson\\_psychosocial\\_theory.htm#erikson\\_psychosocial\\_theory\\_summary](http://www.businessballs.com/erik_erikson_psychosocial_theory.htm#erikson_psychosocial_theory_summary) (November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

pain and travail from the pregnancy throughout their teenage years and even into adulthood. As they grow up, these children become dominated by duty and obligations—often felt as guilt—in their relations with others.”<sup>72</sup>

When a parent chooses to denounce any responsibility for the failures or issues affecting his/her family, it becomes a serious life-long struggle for the child. It is imperative that parents work with their children to come to a mutually-respectful understanding of themselves and each other.

The intent of reprogramming human beings can cross relational lines from parent to child and spouse to spouse. Dr. Breggin writes of H.C. Tien, a Michigan psychiatrist experimenting in reprogramming/brainwashing through coercive and harmful treatments:

“Verbatim dialogues with Tien and a married couple dramatize how the wife believes, before her shock treatment, that she wants to leave her husband. She doesn’t love him, he is never home, and he beats her in front of the children. Under threat that her husband would try to get custody of the children in a divorce, the wife, Peggy, agrees to undergo the treatment. After each ECT Peggy regresses to a childlike state and is “reprogrammed” by her bottle-feeding husband to believe that her past personality was bad and that her new one is “good”. She assumes a new first name, Belinda, to signify the change.”<sup>73</sup>

It is a particular concern for stated values of freedom and recognition of basic human rights for this type of treatment or behavior modification to be allowed to defraud and dehumanize the citizenry.

Many children subjected to behavior modification are placed because of a diagnosed mental illness or learning disability (LD). Behaviorists (see Chapter Two) suggest mistakes made in the learning process be punished, but, ethical therapists, such as Mary Poplin, disagree:

“Poplin debunks the most basic LD approach, its emphasis on finding specific learning errors: “Errors are a substantial part of learning...Rather than designing errorless learning environments, holistic teachers design environments where errors are natural and go unpunished...Contrary to much of the LD thrust, it’s important not to stress the errors a child makes. Errors come and go; the child needs a good, positive learning environment and more individual attention.”<sup>74</sup>

In behavior modification programs, every misstep or mistake is punished. The end purpose of the program is to create a completely obedient and subservient subject. This is counter to what is known to be a healthy learning environment.

The problem with labeling children as defective is that such labels can and do inflict severe psychological damage that can last a lifetime. Dr. Breggin comments:

“The typical school-related diagnoses—attention deficit disorder, as well as so-called hyperactivity, depression, autism, and schizophrenia—tend to cover up the abuse, neglect, miscommunication, and family conflict that drive children into despair and failure... Psychiatric labeling inflicts additional humiliation and injury on already damaged children. It can rob them of all self-esteem, shatter

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<sup>72</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 129)

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. (p. 201)

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. (p. 286)

their identity among their peers, and relegate them to inferior status in the eyes of parents and teachers. Often the stigma remains for a lifetime.”<sup>75</sup>

It is quite clear that the current trend of institutionalizing inconvenient family members is detrimental to both the individual and society at large. In a critique of both the biological and behavioral approaches to mental health, Dr. Breggin states:

“The biological viewpoint deemphasizes to the point of denial the spiritual or psychological self and the important human values inherent in the existence of a subjective thinking, feeling, and decision-making human being. The behavior viewpoint accomplishes the same thing by analyzing only external actions and by trying to modify them by manipulating rewards or punishments and by constructing new routines or strategies for the individual to follow. To the extreme behaviorist, such as B.F. Skinner, the subjective, inner human being has no more relevance... Neither the biological nor the behavioral outlook cherishes introspecting, personal responsibility, self-expression, or striving for the fulfillment of higher values.”<sup>76</sup>

The mental health field of today is greatly dominated by the influences of the pharmaceutical and behavioral “health” industries. These influences run counter to what is good for individuals and society with a focus more on wealth and power than on individual and social health. It is up to informed people to warn and protect themselves and their loved ones from fraud and abuse disguised as therapy and treatment.

As mentioned in Chapters Two and Three, behavior modification programs use “positive peer pressure” (a.k.a. “positive peer culture”, “therapeutic communities”, and “confrontational therapy”) as part of their overall system for behavior modification. This “confrontational therapy” has been proven to be ineffective and harmful to those subjected to it:

“Four decades of research have failed to yield a single clinical trial showing efficacy of confrontational counseling, whereas a number have documented harmful effects, particularly for more vulnerable populations... a 2004 ethnographic survey of adolescent addiction treatment in the United States commonly encountered programs that were “explicitly designed to demean and humiliate” (Currie, 2004)”<sup>77</sup>

Demeaning and humiliating treatment is counter to the stated goals of behavior modification programs to cure depression and build self-esteem. It is important that readers understand that these methods are renamed and sold as a level or phase system that teaches responsibility and in which children earn respect through their system. However, they repeatedly fail to acknowledge their use of deception as a marketing tool and tool of social control and manipulation. They are purposely changing the language used in order to cover up their wrong-doing and sell parents on fraudulent and abusive services that do nothing but harm children and families. Coercive treatments are denounced by ethical professionals. Dr. Breggin continues:

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<sup>75</sup> Ibid. (p. 291)

<sup>76</sup> Ibid. (pp. 327-328)

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.pfctruth.com/scientificevidence.htm> (November 12th, 2009--cited source: <http://www.counselormagazine.com/content/view/608/63> , William R. Miller and William White, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

“When people are “treated” against their will, they mainly learn one thing—how to adjust to being bullied...Trapped people frequently become deceptive and manipulative, or slavish and dependent, or all of those things, in order to keep from getting even more hurt.”<sup>78</sup>

Children and teenagers institutionalized for being inconvenient to their parents learn that when relationships become too difficult, it is best to dump or abandon the other party rather than face problems together and work out issues in tandem to improve the overall relationship and health of the individuals involved. This is in direct contrast to healthy relationship building, which often requires taking problems and turning them into opportunities for compromise and understanding through mutual respect and open communication. Institutionalization is damaging to children and teenagers. Behavior modification programs are institutions for the purposes of this discussion and include boot camps, wilderness camps, emotional growth/“therapeutic” boarding schools, residential treatment centers, and behavioral health centers.

When dealing with older children and teenagers, respect for their choices is imperative when considering any type of therapy. According to Dr. Breggin:  
“[But] for older children, including many preadolescents and all teenagers, respect for their autonomy and decision-making is an extremely important component of any proposed psychological or psychiatric help...To [sic] force thousands and even millions of teenagers into psychiatric treatment against their will would not only be unethical, wrong-headed, and useless, it would further humiliate and alienate them.”<sup>79</sup>

Yet, this is the common practice among parents subjecting their teenagers to behavior modification programs. And, it is known by leading mental health professionals to be psychologically damaging. At this point, it should be clear to readers that behavior modification programs are deceptive, inhumane, purposefully cruel, and psychologically as well as physically harmful. There are countless alternatives to behavior modification programs that include:

- Reprioritizing family above other obligations
- Improving communication skills
- Family Therapy w/ Qualified Counselor/Therapist that entire family is comfortable with for counseling
- Individual Therapy w/ Qualified Counselor/Therapist that individual(s) is comfortable with for counseling
- Identifying personal areas for improvement instead of playing the “blame game” and scape-goating other family members.

There are other alternatives as well and each takes an investment of time from the immediate family members in crisis. As readers will see in the following chapter, the time one invests with repairing family relationships now is far better for the family than the loss of money, sanity, and life involved when subjecting a loved one to behavior modification.

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<sup>78</sup> Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 378)

<sup>79</sup> Breggin, Dr. Peter R. “Reclaiming Our Children”. Perseus Publishing, New York, NY. (2000) (p. 26)

## ~SECTION ONE~

### CHAPTER FIVE:

#### FRAUD, ABUSE, RAPE, TORTURE, AND DEATH

This chapter is written in chronological format using news articles and personal reports to anecdotally supplement the other chapters in Section One. It begins in the late 1950's and ends with statements from 2009 (the year of this writing). Readers will see a pattern of systematic abuse, corruption, and deception revealed. This will naturally be followed by questions regarding what the government has done and will be doing to combat the problem that the behavior modification poses to the United States. Those questions are answered in Section Two.

The rest of this chapter will be written in chronological order separated by decade headers and containing only quotes and excerpts from news articles and firsthand reports from victims of the behavior modification industry. The author is not providing commentary for this section, as it is unnecessary given the frankness and authority of the victims' and reporters' statements.

#### 1950's

“The use of mind-altering drugs, sensory deprivation, and other brainwashing techniques on U.S. citizens as subjects was the admitted practice of the CIA, certain military arms and private institutions joined in the MK-ULTRA, Artichoke, and Bluebird projects beginning in the early 1950's...With the “Monarch” (or whatever official title may be attached to it) project, the idea is extended to the production of a horde of children in whom the soul is crushed, who would spy, whore, kill, and commit suicide.”

-John W. DeCamp (former Nebraska Senator (R)), “The Franklin Cover-Up”.  
SWT, Inc. Lincoln, NE. © 1996 (p. 328)

“Since World War II, the United States government, led by the Central Intelligence Agency, has searched secretly for ways to control human behavior... They experimented with dangerous and unknown techniques on people who had no idea what was happening. They systematically violated the free will and mental dignity of their subjects, and like the Germans [Nazis], they chose to victimize special groups of people whose existence they considered, out of prejudice and convenience, less worthy than their own. Wherever their extreme experiments went, the CIA sponsors picked for subjects their own equivalents of the Nazis' Jews and gypsies: mental patients, prostitutes, foreigners, drug addicts, and prisoners...”

-John Marks (journalist), “The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)”. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (pp. 9-10)

“In 1952, CIA documents reveal causing heroin/narcotic addiction, then forced withdrawal can weaken will and make subject easier to manipulate/control.”

-John Marks (journalist), "The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)". W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (p. 39)

"...Dr. Ewen Cameron of Canada, who assaulted patients with massive drug doses, bizarre forms of conditioning, and what he called depatterning treatment. Cameron was professor of psychiatry at McGill University and the Allen Memorial Institute in Montreal. As president of the American Psychiatric Association (1953) and as the first president of the World Psychiatric Association, Cameron was one of the most revered and rewarded psychiatrists on the international scene.

Cameron subjected patients to twice-daily doses of six electroshocks, one after another, to maintain the individual in one prolonged stupor...The result of this devastating treatment was a severe delirium; patients would lose their sense of identity and sometimes become delusional. Robbed of virtually all memory, the patients became completely focused on present sensations and feelings. With much or even all of their lifetime memory bank obliterated, six months would be taken to reprogram them with new memories of themselves and a more docile personality...

Cameron's work suddenly became a major scandal. The outcry wasn't directed at the extreme treatments themselves, which were similar to numerous other regressive shock techniques, variations of which still are practiced in the United States...What made Cameron suddenly newsworthy was the disclosure in the newspaper reports and books that he had been secretly financed in part by CIA funds. Eager to learn how to "brainwash" people and to wipe out their memories, the CIA found a willing ally in Cameron."

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. "Toxic Psychiatry". St. Martin's Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 202)

"MARIANNA, Florida (CNN) -- Four men, now in their 60s, met over the Internet, shared stories about the darkest days of their pasts and spurred an investigation into 32 graves at a reform school. Roger Kiser, Michael McCarthy, Bryant Middleton and Dick Colon talked about whippings and beatings and other boys who disappeared. They discussed the 32 crosses marking the graves of persons unknown on the grounds of the former Florida Industrial School for Boys. They called their group the White House Boys, taking the name from the single story concrete building where, they say, boys were beaten and tortured decades ago...But in the 1950s, he acknowledged, he was a wayward youth who gritted his teeth through 11 beatings inside the White House. Colon said he remembers entering the laundry one day, and his life has never been the same. Inside a large tumble dryer was a black teen. The White House boys, who are all white, said black kids at the school were beaten even more savagely than white kids."

-Rich Phillips, CNN Senior Producer. "White House Boys' win inquiry of reform school graves". December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. <http://www.cnn.com>

## 1960's

“The CIA’s secrecy was also clearly aimed at the folks back home. As a 1963 Inspector General’s report stated, “Research in the manipulation of human behavior is considered by many authorities in medicine and related fields to be professionally unethical; therefore, openness would put “in jeopardy” the reputations of the outside researchers.””

-John Marks (journalist), “The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)”. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (p. 64)

“An October 1968 article by William Dyson and Myer Mendelson in the American Journal of Psychiatry captures the lithium effect in graphic terms. Describing lithium’s action upon patients...they wrote:

“It is as if their “intensity of living” dial had been turned down a few notches. Things do not seem so very important or imperative; there is a greater acceptance of everyday life as it is rather than as one might want it to be; and their spouses report a much more peaceful existence.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 178)

“It was a natural progression for cultic groups and others using thought reform techniques [brainwashing] to add the psychological techniques from the sensitivity, encounter, and group therapy movements into the behavioral change programs used for new members. Now gaining attention were groups like Charles Dederich’s [Diederich’s] drug rehabilitation, Synanon [birthplace of CEDU], and miscellaneous groups that provided the right mix of personal transformation and exotic undertones to attract followers.”

- Singer, Margaret Thaler. “Cults In Our Midst”. Jossey-Boss, A Wiley Imprint. San Francisco, CA. © 2003. (p. 41)

“**Synanon**, initially a drug rehabilitation program, was founded by Charles (Chuck) Dederich Sr. in 1958 in Santa Monica, California. By the early 1960s it had also become an alternative "Therapeutic Community", attracting people with its emphasis on living a self-examined life, as aided by group truth-telling sessions known as the "Synanon Game." **Synanon** ultimately became the cult known as **Church of Synanon** in the 1970s and the group disbanded permanently in 1989 due to difficulties with the Internal Revenue Service.”

- <http://www.pfctruth.com/pathwayorigins.htm> (November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Synanon member Bill Lane on Cedu’s Founding: “I met [**Cedu founder**] **Mel [Wasserman]** in San Francisco several years before he started CEDU, while I was working for Synanon, a drug rehabilitation center,” Bill said. “I remember talking with him about his ideas and thought he might have a better way of working with teens and younger students. But as the years passed, we went our separate ways with Mel moving to Palm Springs, and I never really thought much more about it, until I began hearing about **a new non-profit organization that had opened a school in Running Springs, CA.**”



According to Bill, Mel started the first program in about 1966, but it was several years after that when Mel approached him about working for CEDU.

“A few years after the program opened, I started reading and hearing about it, and we began communicating back and forth, but **I was pretty content at Synanon**, which was how I became involved in working with all ages, from teen to adult,” said Bill. “However, when Mel asked me to come down and take a look at CEDU, which at the time consisted of a very small school in Running Springs and an office in Los Angeles, I agreed and was pretty excited about what I saw at the program. He offered me a job and I started working for Mel in January 1974...”  
- <http://liamscheff.com/daily/2008/08/22/cedu-documentary-cedu-raps-and-the-synanon-game/> (November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“PROVO CANYON SCHOOL will expedite the admissions process for any CEDU students appropriate who enroll in Provo Canyon and will cover the airfare for those students.” [For more on Provo Canyon School, see below.]  
- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/news/cedu-support-index.html> (November 14th, 2009)

“By gaining footholds in government, the media, and the educational system, cults seek credibility and power and feign acceptance into the mainstream.”  
- Singer, Margaret Thaler. “Cults In Our Midst”. Jossey-Boss, A Wiley Imprint. San Francisco, CA. © 2003. (p. 209)

## 1970's

“Project MK-ULTRA was first brought to wide public attention in 1975 by the [U.S. Congress](#), through investigations by the [Church Committee](#), and by a presidential commission known as the [Rockefeller Commission](#). Investigative efforts were hampered by the fact that CIA Director [Richard Helms](#) ordered all MK-ULTRA files destroyed in 1973; the Church Committee and Rockefeller Commission investigations relied on the sworn testimony of direct participants and on the relatively small number of documents that survived Helms' destruction order.”<sup>[4]</sup>

Although the CIA insists that MK-ULTRA-type experiments have been abandoned, 14-year CIA veteran [Victor Marchetti](#) has stated in various interviews that the CIA routinely conducts disinformation campaigns and that CIA [mind control](#) research continued. In a 1977 interview, Marchetti specifically called the CIA claim that MK-ULTRA was abandoned a "cover story.”<sup>[5][6]</sup>

On the Senate floor in 1977, Senator [Ted Kennedy](#) said:  
The Deputy Director of the CIA revealed that over thirty universities and institutions were involved in an "extensive testing and experimentation" program which included covert drug tests on unwitting citizens "at all social levels, high and low, native Americans and foreign." Several of these tests involved the administration of [LSD](#) to "unwitting subjects in social situations." At least one death, that of [Dr. Olson](#), resulted

from these activities. The Agency itself acknowledged that these tests made little scientific sense. The agents doing the monitoring were not qualified scientific observers.<sup>[7]</sup>

To this day most specific information regarding Project MKULTRA remains highly classified.<sup>[8]</sup>

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project\\_MKULTRA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_MKULTRA) (November 14th, 2009)

“The researchers led by psychiatrist Dawson claimed to have found higher lithium levels in the drinking water of El Paso compared to Dallas... Dawson’s amazing conclusion is quoted in the July 7, 1973, National Observer by Diane Shah: “The lithium calms people in El Paso, makes them more cheerful, and gives them a more tranquil attitude toward life.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 173)

“H.C. Tien, a Michigan psychiatrist who founded an earlier organization, the American Society for Electrotherapy, would draw media attention in the late 1970s and early 1980s after I publicized his use of shock to obliterate and reprogram the mind of a woman to make her a more suitable housewife.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 190)

“Except for my own 1979 book, I am unaware of criticism of Tien and his technique from the psychiatric profession.”

- - Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 201)

“Provo Canyon School was founded in 1971<sup>[1]</sup> at the mouth of Provo Canyon, by Robert H. Crist and Jack Williams. Its primary purpose was educating teenage boys whose problems are so severe that their treatment and education require a restricted, therapeutic environment. Provo Canyon School currently focuses on rehabilitation of adolescents, girls and boys, with personality disorders and behavioral disorders, but also accepts adolescents for drug rehabilitation and treatment of other social dysfunctions.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Provo Canyon School is a member of the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

However, the school's credentials have been called into question by a number of lawsuits. In the 1980s and 90s, it was found guilty in several cases (Mundy v. Charter Medical Corporation dba Provo Canyon School, Milonas and Rice v. Provo Canyon School, Taylor v. Provo Canyon School), leading to the eventual closing of the facility's parent company, Charter Medical Corporation (not to be confused with Charter Medical, a pharmaceutical company). Co- founder Crist, who was a defendant in the above cases, continues to be its medical director, as well as the medical director and part owner of

Logan River Academy in Logan. As a private educational facility, Provo Canyon charges tuition fees, but also receives state and federal funding.

Many students are placed in the facility by one or both of their parents, typically because the parents feel they cannot deal with the behavioral problems themselves. Others are placed there by probation officers or juvenile courts, or local school districts. In the latter case, tuition is covered by state and federal agencies in accordance with state special education laws and the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act."

- [http://lgbt.wikia.com/wiki/Provo\\_Canyon\\_School](http://lgbt.wikia.com/wiki/Provo_Canyon_School) (November 14th, 2009)

"I was mentally tortured at Provo Canyon School in the 1970's. I was held there for a year despite being 18 years of age most of that year I was made to stand against a wall silently 8 hours a day, everyday for weeks. I saw beatings also. I had my mail read and was forced to write to my parent thing other than what I felt. That place is evil in so many ways. I am now a professor of mathematics (no thanks to PCS)"

-Jeffrey Lee, Provo Canyon School survivor (1970's)

"Provo Canyon School is truly abominable. It is an openly avowed behavior-modification center, proudly using techniques aimed at destroying the victim's sense of self. These were openly admitted to us in 1976, when I was there with Dave Michaels, Brent Neal, Dave Low, Bob Sealy, Kevin Coombs, and Paul Tucker."

-George Hamilton, Provo Canyon School survivor (1976)

"I spent 1979-80 there at Provo Canyon. I personally was beaten at the hands of Chris Weenig under the full Knowledge of Jack Williams. There was widespread mental and physical abuse of most of the "students" there. 23 years later I still have nightmares about my time there. The facility kidnapped me from my home in Portland and flew me by private plane to Utah in handcuffs. I'm not sure what has been happening there recently but during my time it was horrible."

- David Herr, Provo Canyon School survivor (1979-1980)

"I was there from march '75 to march '76 and from jan.'77 to aug. 78. It took me years of healing. Watched kids literally commit suicide from the damage incurred. Much pain has come out of the place. I remember that any staff with compassion didn't stay long. There were sick staff like ron garrett who needed to abuse because of his own lack of self worth. He seemed to take a perverse pleasure in the power he wielded over damaged kids. Went to be a cop after that. Then back into controlling kids. I wonder how his own children feel about him. Same with a lot of the staff. Small hearted damaged humans with the need to control."

-Reed Phillips, Provo Canyon School survivor (1975-1978)

“PROVO CANYON SCHOOL will expedite the admissions process for any CEDU students appropriate who enroll in Provo Canyon and will cover the airfare for those students.” [For more on Provo Canyon School, see below.]

- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/news/cedu-support-index.html> (November 14th, 2009)

“**The real origins of the Cedu schools** remained hidden from the students, their parents – and much of the staff – until years after their graduation or departure. At the heart of the Cedu program was a philosophy that had grown out of various self-help movements of the 1960s and ’70s, such as Lifespring, Werner Erhard’s EST, and most directly, from **Charles E. Dederich’s “Synanon” cult**, “church,” and street-level heroin-cure program. The Cedu Schools developed into **an industry** of sister schools, clones and copy-cats, that are now a multi-million dollar, international – and unregulated business.”

- <http://liamscheff.com/daily/cedu-documentary/> (November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“By the early 1970s, the federal government itself had funded its own **Synanon** clone. It was located in Florida and Ohio and was known as **The SEED**.

In this program, teenagers who were using drugs or who were believed to be at risk of doing so would spend 10 to 12 hour days seated on hard-backed chairs and waving furiously to catch the attention of staffers, most of whom were former participants themselves. They would flutter their hands, begging to be called on to confess their bad behavior. Even before the excesses of the ’80s, parents were so frightened of drugs that they were willing to surrender their children to strangers for tough treatment to avoid even the possibility of addiction.

In 1974 Sen. Sam Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat, presented a report to Congress entitled “Individual Rights and the Federal Role in Behavior Modification.” Ervin and other members of Congress were concerned about federal funding for efforts to change people’s behavior against their will, seeing a fundamental threat to liberty if such efforts were successful. The report cited **The SEED** as an example of programs that “begin by subjecting the individual to isolation and humiliation in a conscious effort to break down his psychological defenses.” It concluded that such programs are “similar to the highly refined brainwashing techniques employed by the North Koreans in the early 1950’s.” Government funding for **The SEED** was subsequently withdrawn in 1974.”

- <http://www.pfctruth.com/pathwayorigins.htm> (November 14th, 2009)

“On September 1st, 1976 Mel Sembler and Joseph Zappala founded a program virtually identical to **The SEED**, staffed by former **SEED** parents and participants. They named it **Straight Incorporated. Straight Inc.** was a nationally recognized non-profit drug rehabilitation program that produced hundreds of reports of abuse from adolescents and their families during its 15 years in existence. Despite allegations of abuse from escaped members and pending lawsuits, during its existence **Straight Inc.** won laudatory praise in Republican circles.

This program was highly controversial due to the style of therapy it used, called "Tough Love", that has been likened to brainwashing, and similar to the methods used on American POW's in the Korean War. Various accounts of abuse and lawsuits led to the end of **Straight Inc.** in 1993."

- <http://www.pfctruth.com/pathwayorigins.htm> (November 14th, 2009)

"... This climate of parental dread probably helped Straight's founders attempts to justify the program's brutality. The organization that birthed Straight was called (weirdly enough) "The Seed," and was fairly similar to Straight in the way that it applied hardcore physical and psychological abuse to disobedient teenagers in hopes that it would make an ordinary life without drugs seem pleasant in comparison. As the story goes, fed up parents who had tried everything else, who's lives had been torn asunder by their raging, out of control, drug-dependent offspring banded together to create a new kind of guerilla anti-drug program so severe and awful that it could fix even the worst addicts forever.

At least that's the legend that my father was told about The Seed by the "parent group" of Atlanta Straight. The Seed was actually begun by a retired comedian named Art Barker. Incorporated in 1972, The Seed conducted business for only four years before it became the subject of a Senate investigation, which dubbed its methods "potentially harmful," and subsequently shut down. Two of the parents whose children were involved in The Seed, Mel Sembler and Joe Zappala started Straight in 1976, vowing apparently, that it would be a more humane program. It wasn't; out of the ten "board members" who founded Straight, almost all quit within the first year of Straight's operation claiming that the new program was just as bad "if not worse" than The Seed had been."

- <http://www.heal-online.org/straightandteenchallenge.htm> (November 15th, 2009)

"James T. Russell was the prosecutor for Pinellas County, Florida in 1977. He had many opportunities to prosecute Straight, Inc. and it's executives, but refused to do so. He did not prosecute for the alleged beating of Jerry Vancil at Straight, Inc.-St Petersburg. Coincidentally, Vancil vanished while on his way to give evidence to the district attorney. As far as we know, to this very day, Jerry Vancil has never been seen or heard from since----dead or alive. Russell did not prosecute when Florida's Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance (BOCJPA) confirmed several cases of abuse at Straight, Inc. in 1978. Russell also declined to prosecute when two former Straight, Inc. counselors signed sworn affidavits that Helen Petermann, then clinical director at Straight, Inc.-St. Petersburg, had repeatedly slapped a small youth and jerked him by his hair in an apparent outburst of temper—even though that had not been the only public accusation of abuse inflicted by Ms. Petermann [*St. Petersburg Times*, 2-12-78.]. James Russell did not prosecute Mel Sembler when there was probable cause to believe that Mel Sembler had interfered with a state health department attempt to close Straight-St Petersburg for a reckless pattern over the years of violating state regulations. Russell chose not to prosecute for the kidnapping of Gail Stephenson by Straight, Inc., even though it led to a Congressional inquiry since Ms. Stephenson was from Maryland.

Lowell Clary's findings were apparently not the only time Mel Sembler put pressure on state licensing officials. Straight had opened in 1976 and by 1978 was in danger of being shut down because of numerous allegations of serious child abuse."

- <http://www.isacorp.org/straight/TheCrimes.pdf> (November 14th, 2009)



DEPARTMENT OF

## Health & Rehabilitative Services

District Five

2255 EAST BAY DRIVE, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33516

Bob Graham, Governor

July 14, 1982

Miller Newton, Ph.D  
Straight, Inc.  
P. O. Box 40052  
St. Petersburg, Fl 33743

Mr. John Bustle  
Mr. Tarrell Harper

FRANKIE GOLDSBY

Dear Dr. Newton:

As you are aware, this office has received an official complaint regarding your program, which was investigated by Mr. John Bustle and Mr. Terrell Harper on July 6, 1982. Seven program clients were interviewed on that date. The following issues of concern surfaced in those interviews:

- 1. Marathonng:** One client stated that she had been "marathonned" for 70 hours, allowed three hours sleep and then kept up for another full day before being allowed a full night's sleep. Marathonng was described as a disciplinary technique in which the client is forced to stay awake for long periods and confronted by rotating shifts of clients.
- 2. Spanking Machine:** The "spanking machine" was described as a disciplinary technique where clients are made to crawl through a line of other clients while being spanked. Two youngsters interviewed stated they had gone through the spanking machine. Both felt that the experience had been more humiliating than painful.
- 3. Confrontation:** Several clients related episodes of being "confronted" for various program infractions which ranged from "yelling and screaming" to being taken into a restroom by other clients and pushed, poked, and "nitpicked." Nitpicking was described as being restrained while being pinched and having one's hair pulled.
- 4. Peanut Butter Diet:** Two clients indicated they were placed on a diet of peanut butter, bread and water. One client stated this lasted 25 days and the other stated it lasted two weeks. You have indicated this technique is used for discipline and behavior modification.



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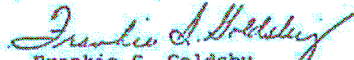
5. Retention in Program: Two clients, ages 18 and 19, indicated they had not been permitted to leave the program when they requested. One client stated she had put two requests through the "chain of command" and received no response. This client also added that she no longer wished to leave. The other client stated, "I am 18 years old and being held against my will." This issue has been brought to your attention and it is my understanding that this client has been discharged.

These issues are of concern to this office because of their potential adverse impact on clients and your program. As you have indicated in your conversations of July 6 with Mr. Bustle and Mr. Harper a willingness and intention to re-evaluate these practices, I suggest the following actions be taken:

1. A written response to these issues addressing particularly the corrective actions to be taken be developed by Straight, Inc. and submitted to this office as soon as possible.
2. A meeting be scheduled to include yourself, your medical director and board members, and HRS District V staff to review the plan developed.

It is hoped that by this action a resolution may be developed that will meet the needs of all parties involved. Your prompt response to this request will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Frankie S. Goldsby  
Alcohol, Drug Abuse and  
Mental Health Program Supervisor

FSG:jf

cc: SDPM (Smith)  
SDLC (McPherson)  
SDDA (Wester)  
SDA (Hoppe)

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## 1980's

"In 1980, when Samantha Monroe was 13, a classmate passed out mini bottles of booze, similar to the kind served on airplanes. Samantha was given one, but quickly flushed it down a toilet when school officials were notified. A local detective was called in. That detective told Samantha's parents he suspected she had a drug problem. That she'd been

“clean” when school officials confronted her, he said, was a fluke. He suggested they enroll her in the Sarasota branch of Straight, Inc., an aggressive drug rehab center for teens. The detective also happened to sit on the board of Straight Sarasota. Samantha spent the next two years of her life surviving Straight. She was beaten, starved, and denied toilet privileges for days on end. She describes her “humble pants,” a punishment that forced her to wear the same pants for six weeks at a time. Because she was allowed just one shower a week, the pants often filled with feces, urine and menstrual blood. Often she was confined to her “timeout” closet for days. She gnawed through her cheek during those sessions, hoping she’d bleed to death. She says that after she was raped by a counselor she calls Rob, “the wonderful state of Florida paid for and forced me to have an abortion.””

- <http://www.cafety.org/editorials/112-drug-war-casualties-florida-straight-inc-mel-semler> (November 15th, 2009)

“Kids Helping Kids was located in Milford, Ohio and was previously known as Straight, Inc. - Cincinnati.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/khktimeline.asp> (November 16th, 2009)

“I was entered into Kids Helping Kids on August 28th 1986. The location was route 20 Hebron, KY. I was 14 years old. I was interrogated and strip searched with an orifice examination upon my intake. I was restrained physically several times during my intake with unreasonable force. My clothes were taken away and I was given new, program clothes to wear that were entirely too small. No shoes, no belt. It was stated that I had a drug and alcohol addiction along with behavioral problems. I denied this and stated that I was only addicted to cigarettes...The constant torment I was forced to endure at kids helping kids was a mixture of torture, brainwashing, abuse and human rights violations. The tremendous psychological damage I have incurred as a result has been a large detriment in my ability to navigate my way through society. In spite of the program I have managed to make some small accomplishments in life. Although, I believe my mental health was wrecked by Kids Helping Kids. It has taken many years of personal work to reverse some of the program's damage. I am very far from achieving psychological health due to the abuses I received in the program.”

- Anthony Connelly, Kids Helping Kids survivor (1986-1993)

“California Department of Justice (DOJ) investigators are researching the possibility that serial child molester and child murderer, James Lee Crummel, 65 of San Quentin State Prison, had years of free, unsupervised access to the students at the now defunct CEDU School in Running Springs. The CEDU schools in Running Springs were founded by Mel Wasserman in 1967 and promoted itself as an emotional growth-boarding school for troubled youths. Monthly costs to board a student reportedly ran as high as \$3,500 dollar a month. The school closed its doors in 2005 amidst allegations of financial improprieties, allegations of sexual and physical abuse of the students, by other students and staff members and citations issued by the State of California for various violations. At a non-compliance conference, CEDU officials reportedly admitted that the rights of students under their care were systematically violated.”



- (November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009) Alpen Horn News, Chuck Wyatt (Staff Writer)  
<http://alpenhornnews.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&detail=388&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2750&hn=alpenhornnews&he=.com>

“Kallmann [Franz Josef Kallmann], and even the Nazi Rudin [Ernst Rudin], are being cited again as legitimate scientists, as in the 1988 American Psychiatric Press’s “Textbook of Psychiatry”.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 104)

“...in the San Diego Union: Dr. Gary Carl Aden, 53, of La Jolla gave us his medical license effective September 8 [1989] after allegations that he had sex with patients, beat them, and branded two of the women with heated metal devices, including an iron that bore his initials... Aden was permitted to forfeit his license without admitting guilt. He was not subjected to being psychiatrically diagnosed or treated involuntarily, nor was he criminally charged.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 213)

“The September 1989 Clinical Psychiatry News sites a Duke University study demonstrating that “the amount of trouble that children are causing adults, particularly teachers, appears to be the driving force determining children’s referrals to mental health services.” It was noted without comment that most of the children referred were “black, male, and poor.” The schools have provided mental health professions with the entering wedge for turning a large proportion of children into involuntary psychiatric consumers.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 273)

“Clinical Psychiatry News...[reported] in the April 1989 issue...”The growing use of psychiatric hospitals to treat children and adolescents is drawing criticism from some psychiatrists...” Several psychiatrists speak critically of practices such as giving bonuses to physicians who refer patients for hospitalization and using theatrical TV advertising to pressure guilt-ridden, stressed parents into hospitalizing their children.”

- Breggin, Peter R. MD. “Toxic Psychiatry”. St. Martin’s Press. New York. © 1991. (p. 299)

“Provo Canyon School has been providing mental health care for youth ages 12-17 for nearly 40 years. It is one of the nation’s largest and most experienced treatment facilities for youth. It is owned and operated as a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc, the nation’s third largest hospital management company.”

- <http://www.provocanyon.com/aboutus.html> (November 15th, 2009)

“I went to Provo Canyon School from 9/80 to 5/81. I had a few times that I felt my rights were violated. I sent letters to my mother about some of the things I saw going on at the

school my mother never received those letters because they would read your mail before they sent it out.

I know they also read your mail when it came in I know that because the letters were always opened when I received them. I felt like they invaded my religious rights because they had no services for Jewish students. I finally got out of going to services because I finally raised a stink about it.

I did have some good times at Provo canyon School and had some good friendships and I enjoyed my classes. I did hear physical abuse when I was in the locked up unit the first week I was there and it scared me. It sounds like the school has gotten worse over the years and it should be shut down for violating human rights and criminal laws.”

-Steven Levinson, Provo Canyon School (PCS/pcs) survivor (1980-1981)

“I was forced to undergo reparative therapy in PCS from 1981 to 1982. Aside from the unethical therapy I was punished physically and personally witnessed the beatings of several other students. I was shocked to learn that PCS and affiliates are still involved with these abuses > It must stop. PCS and other schools like it must be shut down for the protection of the children in their care.”

-Tim Keller, Provo Canyon School survivor (1981-1982)

“I was in pcs in the early 80’s, very controlled environment, ruthless, and they are the ones lying and manipulating, you cannot change a person by controlling them and putting them in isolation, and standing ips for goodness sake, I am now in my 30’s and have lower back pain, and trust issues, how can you trust when people take advantage and lie to you, and leave you alone for so long, it was insane the confusion and feelings of hate and anger they aroused ,they didn’t help, they harmed , and it should be stopped. I have never been able to talk about this to my parents, and I still remember walking down that hall and not knowing that was happening, as they surely manipulated my mom as she sat there staring at me as I left, I cannot remember when I saw her, but the phone calls were monitored and all that I have read is true , although I did not witness severe physical abuse, but harsh treatment , the steroid men throwing you down on the floor, like we can hurt them anyway, and the isolation and the cries, I cried for a year, what my mom was told is it is manipulation, it was all terrible, and it has got to stop!!!!”

-Shelly Cates, Provo Canyon School survivor

“I was abused at Provo Canyon School and continue to suffer from debilitating back and knee injuries incurred during “punishment” in their “investment” area.”

-Angela Smith, Provo Canyon School survivor (1989)

“ATTENTION PARENTS - ATTENTION PARENTS ---- If you truly love your child you will not be deceived by PCS. Their tactics and lies are evil in more ways than one. I was locked up at PCS in 1988/1989.

#### FALSE ADVERTISING-----

PCS mislead my parents in the 80's and I am sure they are doing the same now. PCS has pamphlets that show the numerous activities that the child will take part in once at the school. This simply does not happen. Neither does the therapy sessions that are meant to help the child. PCS is not truly a "school." Although the teachers could be just as vindictive as the counselors who were hopped up on steroids, employees of PCS saw school as a privilege for the child. The counselors would often not allow children to attend classes so that they would always have some kids to punish during the day. I was at PCS for fourteen months and probably attended class about six of those months.

#### ABUSE - PHYSICAL AND MENTAL-----

For minor misbehavior or no bad behavior at all, the child would be made to stare at a wall anywhere from three to ten hours a day. For many children including myself, this would result in dizzy spells. This was mainly because of the room that this was taking place. It was in a unit of the school that had locked doors and no windows. During my stay there was a time when I stared at a wall ten hours a day for six months straight. There were other eight foot by eight foot rooms that were used for solitary confinement. I was locked in solitary for over 24 hours once, and I have seen friends locked in for over three days for what counselors would regard as a "poor attitude." PHYSICAL ABUSE would often occur as well. Almost daily you would see a small child slammed to the floor by a 250+ pound BYU football player. Of course these goons had absolutely no credentials to work these positions. Most of them were not bright and resort to violence when they were frustrated with a child.

#### INSURANCE FRAUD-----

This may be an area that does not receive as much focus as the other complaints by former students. However, this is something that is very disturbing and very real. According to the staff members at PCS, your child is so fucked up and such a mess until the time when your insurance begins to run out. You will be told that your child is (magically) transformed into a well-adjusted person only when your insurance is gone and you are no longer of any value to them. Another disturbing fact is the financial compensation that Psychiatrists across the United States would receive for referring parents to PCS.

I have dozens of disturbing stories regarding my stay at PCS but it is probably best that I do not get into all of the specifics in this forum.

#### EVERYTHING WE SPEAK OF IS TRUE-----

As someone who endured fourteen horrible months in such an evil place, I see it as my duty to educate parents about what PCS is truly all about."

- Joe Stanton, Provo Canyon School survivor (1988-1989)

"WWASP founder Robert Lichfield and former President of WWASP Karr Farnsworth met while working at Provo Canyon Boys School.

According to news reports, authorities closed Provo Canyon in the late 1970's due to abuse, neglect and mistreatment of children. Robert Lichfield had been the director of residential living at the school. The facility did reopen and is still in operation today.

Lichfield then moved to La Verkin, Utah where he and partner Brent Facer opened Cross Creek Manor, Inc., (now Cross Creek Manor, LLC) an all-girls facility, in 1990.

In 1991, Robert Lichfield created Teen Help, Inc. (now Teen Help, LLC) to market the school.

After associates of Lichfield began opening more schools around the country and abroad, the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools was incorporated in 1998.

Robert Lichfield is now a consultant and director for WWASP.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/wwasps.asp> (November 15th, 2009)

## **1990's**

“Donna Burke's 14 and 16-year-old sons were forcibly abducted from their hometown in Utah and taken to a residential "treatment" facility for teens in Tranquility Bay, Jamaica. Burke was frantic when her sons didn't arrive home from school.

Then she discovered that her ex-husband had arranged for the abduction, had paid the facility, and had even received court permission to take one of the sons there because he had used marijuana.

The other son, she says, had no reason for treatment. When she learned they were in Jamaica she contacted Teen Help, but was told she would not be allowed any contact with them.

Donna Burke tried writing to her sons, but letters were not delivered. She even flew to Jamaica, but Teen Help directors would not allow her to see her sons.

When the boys were released, they seemed fearful. According to the lawsuit Burke has filed against Teen Help, her sons were "afraid, haunted by nightmares, subject to panic attacks," and would not "go anywhere near a beach" or "voice an opinion on their own, fearful that it might not find approval."

The Utah-based Teen Help program is facing other lawsuits as well, which claim as Burke's does that the teen treatment centers use cultic tactics of control, including physical abuse, humiliation, and meager allotments of food.

Burke's lawsuit accuses the program of negligence, negligent child abuse, false imprisonment, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, and breach of fiduciary duty.

Burke is seeking damages from the network of centers and people associated with Teen Help, including: Tranquility Bay, The Caribbean Center for Change, Worldwide Association of Specialty Programs, Brightway Hospital, Resource Realizations, R&B Billing, Dixie Contract Services, Teen Escort Services, Key Kay, Robert B. Lichfield, Karr Farnsworth, Brent M. Facer, Jay Kay, Jean Davis, Lorraine Black, Delbert Goates, and David Gilcrease.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/tranquility/tranquility-bay.05.19.99.html>

“*Christina Munday-Romaine v. The Provo Canyon School and Charter Medical Corporation*; (1995 WL 765398, US District Ct., Northern District, Texas-Fort Worth Division, 1995); *Steve Porter* (957 FSupp 1427, US District Ct., Northern District-Fort Worth Division, 1995); *Craig Harris, et al* (15 clients); In these numerous cases Cirkiel, again working with Robert Andrews of Fort Worth, Texas, brought a number of claims against this facility and corporation in federal district court. The allegations against this facility are mind boggling in the manner and means in which these young people were controlled, mistreated and exploited by the staff. You can review the facility history by reviewing *Milonas v. Williams*, 691 F2d 931, US Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit, 1982). Part of the cases reached a confidential settlement while other parts of the case were litigated where certain claims were lost on the statute of limitations. Notwithstanding the lack of major financial success, Cirkiel is proud of taking on this corporation, on behalf of a number of young people who were treated more like animals and criminals than disturbed children. You can read about these cases at *Milonas v. Provo Canyon School, Munday v. Provo Canyon School and Porter v. Provo Canyon School.*”

- <http://www.cirkielaw.com/id21.html> (November 18th, 2009)

“The American couple Glenda and Steven Roach, arrested last month in the Czech Republic on charges of illegal imprisonment and torture of the 57 teenagers found at Morava Academy, have a past marred by similar offenses. The couple has managed other illicit prison-like facilities for troubled American teens and been arrested in other foreign countries.

According to U.S. social worker Donna Headrick and her research team, the couple was arrested May 1996 while running a girls' facility called Sunrise Beach on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. After three teenage girls escaped from the institution and made complaints about sexual abuse, an immigration inspector visited the facility and found that the girls did not have the proper paperwork to be in the country. The inspectors also found poor sanitation standards and signs of abuse.

Shortly thereafter, the staff with 41 girls were intercepted at the local airport trying to leave the country. Mexican federal police arrested the staff, including Steven and Glenda Roach, and charged them with depriving juveniles of their liberty and with running an unlicensed and unsanitary facility. As at Morava

Academy, Sunrise Beach was shut down by police officials, and the couple eventually managed to leave Mexico.

The Roaches are longtime employees of an organization called Teen Help. Based in Utah, Teen Help operates a network of institutions that promises to set problematic kids straight. While many parents and children have defended the program and claim it has changed their lives, others report horror stories and speak of the staff's brutal practices, including starvation, chemical burns, handcuffing and psychological abuse.

"Kids are not treated well in these facilities. I saw horrible things," said Donna Burke, 48, from Houston, Texas. Her ex-husband sent their two sons to Tranquillity Bay, another of Teen Help's facilities in Jamaica. She told The Prague Post that in August 1997 an "escort service" -- two men hired by her ex-husband -- kidnapped her then-14-year-old son, Scott. "They handcuffed him and carried him out of the school screaming," she said.

Three months later, the escort service came for her elder son David, now 17. "I was trying to get them back, but my ex-husband ran up my legal fees so high I finally had to give up."

She went on describing the poor hygienic conditions and maltreatment of the children in the facility. "They take a shower with a hose, using only cold water," she said. During a surprise visit, she discovered that all the kids had ringworm.

The staff attempted to treat the fungus, but with horrible results. "My younger son had scars from chemical burns," Burke said.

Complaining to state authorities didn't help, she said: "The State Department people say, 'They're out of the country, there is nothing we can do.' One guy at the State Department told me straight to my face: 'We don't like to mess with rich people's kids.'" And rich they are, she added, since one year's tuition at Tranquillity Bay costs \$38,000 (1.14 million Kc).

After 13 months, Burke's older son David returned home, but his mother is distressed by his state of mental and physical health. "He's been brainwashed," she said. "We get in a fight every time we talk about the school, and he yells at me for fighting against it. And this is a boy who was begging, crying and pleading for me to take him home when I first visited him," Burke said.

Cases where one parent places the child in a behavior-modification facility against the will of the other parent are not uncommon, according to social worker Headrick. "They have their children legally kidnapped," she said. "The people usually come in the middle of the night, wake the kid up, handcuff him and take him away."

The Teen Help organization is part of a complicated network of companies and nonprofit organizations run mostly from La Verkin, a small community near St. George, Utah. They have at least eight behavior modification schools located in Mexico, Jamaica, Western Samoa, and the United States, Teen Help also operates several hospitals and other "service oriented" companies. One of them is Youth Transport Services (YTS) which, according to Headrick, does the kidnapping. Another organization, "Resources Realizations," runs seminars for parents who have placed their children in one of the Teen Help schools. Before taking part in the seminars, participants must sign a confidentiality clause.

About a year ago, Teen Help established a nonprofit organization called World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP). Its Web page provides little information and its president, Karr Farnsworth, who visited the Czech Republic during the Morava Academy crisis last month, refused to reveal details other than saying it is the umbrella organization of the Teen Help facilities."

- "Morava Academy heads arrested before", *The Prague Post*, Ladka Bauerova, December 11, 1998

"Confrontation and humiliation are also used by religious programs such as Escuela Caribe in the Dominican Republic and myriad "emotional growth boarding schools" affiliated with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (wwasp), such as Tranquility Bay in Jamaica. wwasps's president told me that the organization "took a little bit of what Synanon [did]." Lobbying by well-connected supporters such as wwasps founder Robert Lichfield (who, like Sembler, is a fundraiser for Republican presidential aspirant Mitt Romney) has kept state regulators at bay and blocked federal regulation entirely.

By the '90s, tough love had spawned military-style boot camps and wilderness programs that thrust kids into extreme survival scenarios. At least three dozen teens have died in these programs, often because staff see medical complaints as malingering. This May, a 15-year-old boy died from a staph infection at a Colorado wilderness program. His family claims his pleas for help were ignored. In his final letter to his mother, he wrote, "They found my weakness and I want to go home."

- <http://www.rickcross.com/reference/synanon/synanon7.html> (November 16th, 2009)

"Leslie, my sibling was murdered at CEDU running Springs a synanon spin off, like Pathway. The pain never ends for me. I hope it ends for you and that you are able to bring Terri Nissley and her henchmen to justice."

-[http://www.cincinnatiabeacon.com/index.php/contents/comments/pathway\\_family\\_center\\_protest/](http://www.cincinnatiabeacon.com/index.php/contents/comments/pathway_family_center_protest/) (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008/March 14th, 2009)

**"Pathway Family Center**, Detroit was founded in 1993 by former **Straight Inc.** program director, Helen Gowanny, 15 miles from the old **Straight Inc.** facility near

Detroit. **Pathway Family Center**, Indianapolis was founded in 1993 by former **Straight Inc.** Parent, Terri Nissley.

There have been several complaints reported by former parents and clients involved with **Pathway Family Center** concerning dangerous thought reform techniques and psychological torture within the program.”

- <http://www.pfctruth.com/pathwayorigins.htm> (November 16th, 2009)

“In 1995, Crummel, who was living in Big Bear City, had been charged with fifteen counts of child molestation. Most of the charges had to be dismissed during the trial when the State of California Supreme Court changed the statute of limitations, and the window of prosecution had passed.

That same year, former nine-year-old Crestline resident Jack (JD) Phillips disappeared while watching a parade in Big Bear. Crummel just happened to live on the same street as Phillips at the time. Phillips is still listed as missing.

At the time of his last arrest, Crummel was living with Dr. Burnell Forgey, a psychiatrist with a practice in Costa Mesa, in Forgey’s Newport Beach condominium. In addition to his private practice, Forgey counseled troubled teens at group homes around Southern California.

Crummel was described as “a faithful servant, chauffeur, maintenance, and right-hand-man” to Forgey, now deceased.

In 1997, California State Investigators were notified that Crummel was accompanying Forgey when he would travel to the youth homes.

State officials said Forgey described Crummel to group home staff as his assistant, but Forgey never informed the staff that Crummel was a registered sex offender and pedophile.

In 1998, Forgey confessed that he had engaged in oral sex with a 16-year-old patient while Crummel sodomized the minor. Forgey also admitted that he gave Crummel free access to his adolescent patients’ files, took Crummel with him on his rounds to group homes and would leave him alone with young patients during his visits from 1990 to 1994.

Both men were convicted of child molestation and received jail sentences.

After Forgey confessed to taking Crummel with him to youth homes, State of California officials began examining records of psychiatrists used by group homes around Southern California. During the still-in-progress investigation, it was discovered that Forgey also practiced at CEDU in Running Springs.”

- <http://ficanetwork.net/death-row-serial-molester-connected-to-cedu/> (November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009)



“In the late 1990s, the family that owned diversified medical and behavioral health services provider College Health Enterprises made a fateful move, resolving that they would sell the youth division of the company. Hindsight is golden, but maybe they would have decided differently had they known that the unit, now known as Aspen Education Group, would become one of nation’s largest and fastest growing private providers of therapeutic services to the country’s growing ranks of troubled teens.”

- <http://www.treatmentmagazine.com/special-reports/66-special-report-adolescent-addiction-treatment.html> (May, 2006 /November 16th, 2009)

“Mt. Bachelor Academy is a licensed Therapeutic Boarding School, located in a rural area, 26 miles east of Prineville, Oregon, licensed originally in 1988. The school admits both male and female students who are from age 14 to 17.5 at the time of admission, although some children are admitted pursuant to an exception as young as age 13. The total capacity is 125 students and the average length of stay is 14-16 months. Tuition is \$6,400 a month with an additional up front, one time \$2,200 enrollment fee. Other service fees are not included. In 2008, Mt. Bachelor was reorganized and became a program of Aspen Education Group. Aspen was recently acquired by CRC Health Group, Inc. In March of 2009, MBA had approximately 77 staff and 88 boarding students.”

- <http://www.cafety.org/solutions-and-successes/791-aspen-education-group-mount-bachelor-academy-closing> (November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Synanon began as a drug-rehabilitation program before morphing into a controversial cult and is credited with putting forth the idea that confrontation and boot-camp-style breakdown tactics could cure teen misbehavior and addiction. Synanon's confrontational techniques influenced est and LifeSpring, which began selling weekend seminars designed to prompt emotional breakthroughs in participants.

Food, sleep and access to the outside world — sometimes even to the bathroom — were strictly controlled. Using intense role-playing, humiliation and physical experience, the seminars attempted to liberate people from victimhood by teaching them that they are ultimately responsible for everything that happens to them, including being a victim of child abuse or rape.

Mount Bachelor's Lifesteps seminars appear to share these tactics and philosophy. Several of its top employees formerly worked at a now defunct chain of troubled-teen programs known as CEDU, which was founded by former Synanon members.”

- <http://www.nospank.net/szlvzt9.htm> (November 16th, 2009)

“went to Ascent in 1999. Here's my story: I was 16 years old and being treated for bipolar disorder and drug abuse in a short term behavioral health hospital in my hometown. This was my second hospitalization, and my parents decided I needed longer term treatment. They told me that I would be going to an outdoors facility in Idaho. I expected this to be a calm, soothing environment where I could get plenty of rest and express some of the difficulties I was having. So did my parents. Upon my arrival to Ascent, I was told that I would not be allowed to say goodbye to my parents, and that I

had to remove all of my clothes in front of 3 male and 1 female staff members. I resisted and was physically intimidated and threatened with force until I complied with the demand, but not before pointing out that this seemed like a part of Schindler's List and calling the director, Steve, a nazi. Once I got to the camp, I was told that we weren't allowed to call the toilets toilets, or the girls girls. We weren't even allowed to refer to ourselves as males. I had been placed on Lithium and some other psychiatric medications by my psychiatrist back home, and was immediately ridiculed by the staff and other, more senior residents for "being weak." I was told that there was no such disease as bipolar disorder and that the symptoms were derived from my unwillingness to "accept accountability." If I said that my first week was hell, I don't know of a word that I can use to describe the next several weeks. I was yelled at constantly for anything I did. I was even once yelled at for not yelling. We were given group punishment, which I later experienced wasn't even allowed in the Army after basic training. I recall being forced to perform excessive physical exercise for needing to urinate, by a staff member, Jamie Navarro. This same man later forced half of the camp to eat, surrounding the uncleaned port-a-johns because he heard someone talking at the dining tables, and no one would admit to it. Every letter I wrote my parents was pre-screened by the staff, and if it mentioned any sort of ill treatment, it was deemed manipulative, and would not be sent. After about a week and a half, I began to vomit excessively. I was told that I was making myself throw up, and that they weren't going to let me see a doctor. A few days later I began to have hallucinations, and told a staff member, James. I was quickly confronted by 2 staff members and a senior resident, and verbally abused to the point of panic. My symptoms worsened, quickly, until finally after a night time staff observed me having a seizure, I was taken to the hospital. Lithium is a very dangerous drug. My psychiatrist told me that my blood level needed to be checked frequently, and maintained at a level of 1.0. When I was admitted to the ICU, my level was at a 3.4. I was so sick that the doctor ordered me unable to eat or drink for 3 days. I was then sent to NIBH, a behavioral health hospital in cahoots with CEDU for a couple of weeks, continuing to hallucinate for about half of that time, until I was declared "fit" to return to Ascent by a psychiatrist employed by CEDU.

I returned and completed my 6 weeks there, allowing myself to be verbally abused, and beaten into submission before being returned to my parents, who had been brainwashed and lied to by the liaison and staff. They were also quick to inform my parents about how I would benefit from one of their "emotional growth" boarding schools. Thank God they took me home. They eventually realized what a nightmarish mistake it had been to send me, and even though I have long since forgiven them, I truly think they are still haunted by feelings of guilt. With select few exceptions, the staff at Ascent were criminally negligent, emotionally and physically abusive, and exploitative of private medical information. I believe my experience caused me to experience PTSD, and if I could, I would put most of these people in prison for what they did. -Kevin M. Everything in my statement is true. I give HEAL permission to use my statement. Please do not include any of my contact information except Kevin M."

-Kevin M., Ascent (CEDU) survivor (1999)

**2000**

“June 6, 2000) CEDU announced Dan Krabacher has joined CEDU Family of Services as president and CEO. Current interim president and CEO, Ann Knopf will become vice president of marketing and development for The Brown Schools Education Services Group. Krabacher is past director of program operations for Pacific Crest Outward Bound, where he operated five programs, delivering courses to 2,200 students annually and supervised 284 staff. In 1998 he received the Joshua Miner (Kurt Hahn) Award, for delivering exceptional challenge and growth experiences to thousands in Outward Bound programs nationwide.”

- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/archives/2000/7/seen03.html> (November 17th, 2009)

**“Todd Bock - Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Camelot PA Mr. Bock joined Camelot PA in 2003. He was previously employed by the Glen Mills Schools (a behavioral institution for children) and more recently at the Brown Schools. Mr. Bock holds a B.S. from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and has over 10 years of management experience operating for-profit educational programs for at-risk youth. His recognized specialty is the management of school programs for children with behavioral, emotional and developmental challenges. Under John Harcourt’s direction at the Brown Schools, Mr. Bock developed a public school partnership program with the school district of Houston, TX. The Houston program was highly successful and allowed Mr. Bock to apply his discipline and behavioral expertise to a public school environment, a model that the Company has successfully extended to Philadelphia.”**

- <http://www.schoolsmatter.info/2009/05/from-cedu-to-brown-schools-to-camelot.html> (November 17th, 2009)

“The MDC Defendants are collectively McCown De Leeuw & Co., Inc. (“MDC”) and the following of its affiliates: Kids Acquisition, LLC, McCown De Leeuw & Co., III, L.P., MDC Management Company III, L.P., MDC Management Company IIIA, L.P., McCown De Leeuw & Co. III (Europe), L.P., McCown De Leeuw & Co. III (Asia), L.P., Gamma Fund LLC; McCown De Leeuw & Co. IV, L.P., McCown De Leeuw & Co. IV Associates, L.P., Delta Fund, LLC, MDC Management IV, LLC, McCown De Leeuw & Co., LLC, George McCown, and Robert Hellman. George McCown is the founder of MDC and was a director of The Brown Schools, Inc. Robert Hellman was the CEO of MDC and a director of The Brown Schools, Inc. 3 The Parent Debtor owns the following subsidiaries: The Brown Schools Management Corporation, The Brown Schools Education Corporation, CEDU Education, Inc f/k/a CEDU Family of Services, Inc. CEDU School, Inc., North American Academy, Inc., The Brown Schools of Florida, Inc., The Brown Schools of Puerto Rico, Inc., CEDU Holdings, Inc., CEDU Business Corporation, Austin TBS, Inc., The Brown Schools Business Corp., Healthcare Living Centers, Inc., Healthcare Rehabilitation Center of Austin, Inc., The Brown Schools Behavioral Health System, Inc., Travis TBS, Inc., The Brown School of San Juan, Inc., Healthcare AHGI, Inc., Elmwood Management Company, Inc., Glenwood Management Company, Inc., TBS Holdings, Inc., and TBS Administrative Corp. (collectively, the “Debtors”).”

- [http://www.deb.uscourts.gov/Opinions/2008/mfw042408\\_06-50861.pdf](http://www.deb.uscourts.gov/Opinions/2008/mfw042408_06-50861.pdf)  
(November 17th, 2009)

“United Health Services, UHS, spied opportunity in the therapeutic schools and wilderness markets several years ago. That’s when UHS bought venerable Provo Canyon School, one of the earliest therapeutic schools operators. And, in 2005, UHS bought a number of programs and schools from bankrupt Brown Schools, which had overpaid vastly for CEDU a few years earlier. Included in the Brown Schools purchase were a school, Northwest Academy, and a wilderness program, Ascent, both located in Idaho. Paul Johnson, CEO of Idaho Education Services, oversees the UHS operations in the state, which also includes Boulder Creek Academy.”

- <http://www.treatmentmagazine.com/special-reports/180-therapeutic-schools.html> (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“In May of 2000 I managed to escape Provo Canyon School by means of crawling under a flimsy plastic fence and tumbling down a rocky cliff after being in treatment since November 1999. I chose to escape because the treatment I was receiving seemed to be harming me, not helping my situation... Upon arrival at the school, I quickly found out that this was no ordinary treatment facility. To go into all the details of my nightmarish stay at Provo would take up the better part of a day, but in short, some of the abuses that I and fellow "students" suffered were inhumane, sadistic, cruel, mentally and emotionally damaging, and completely humiliating. The staff members were poorly trained, all the way from the night shift personnel and day staff personnel to the psychiatrists and program directors. During my stay at Provo, I was placed on medication I did not need (up to seven different medications at once), forced to sleep in a brightly lit hallway on a broken metal cot for months on end, force-fed, my privacy was invaded, forced to perform difficult chores every day with severe punishment for not completing them properly, my private therapeutic journal was publicly ridiculed and thrown away, my reading materials were restricted, I was punished unnecessarily for very minor offenses, kept in a cold room with concrete floors for over 24 hours on many separate occasions, verbally and mentally abused by staff members and counselors, allowed to be reprimanded and punished by other teenage girls, forced to attend religious services, publicly accused of masturbating in front of staff members (which never happened), not allowed to contact my family by phone or mail, kept from attending school as a punishment, and the school threatened to lie to my parents about my progress in order to keep me there as long as possible, my therapeutic needs were not met, and I was restricted from going outdoors for almost 4 months, as well as many other instances of abuse and cruelty. It is my suspicion that my parents had been lied to about a number of issues, and this program was simply keeping me there in order to extract large sums of money from my family. It was quite easy to run away from this maximum lockdown "school", seeing that I was not being properly monitored by staff members at the time of my escape. My parents were desperate to find me, but received virtually no help and no apology from Provo Canyon whatsoever in my recovery. According to one staff member, she told my parents she had no idea where I could have gone, but "I was one of the most severely depressed people she had ever met in her life". Hmm, I wonder why, after six months at that school with no treatment for my emotional issues. My belongings

were thrown sloppily in a box and sent to my mother's front door with no explanation or compensation for my being missing. Having had spent all their money for my treatment at Provo, my family did not have the means of suing the school, although it became quite clear especially after I returned home that they had no idea what was really going on there, and that the school had been negligent in many different ways regarding my safety and care. I am 21 years old now and I have a daughter of my own. I am living with the abuses of my past, and it is my goal to make sure my daughter is never sent to a place like Provo Canyon School.”

- Amie Ashcraft, Provo Canyon School survivor (2000)

“According to the stated policy of David Steadman’s Northwest Association, member schools must *“Be approved, accredited, licensed, or recognized by the legally constituted educational agency in its state or by a federal government agency.”*

To the best of our knowledge, NONE of the WWASP affiliated schools located in the United States are approved, accredited, licensed or recognized by the Department of Education in ANY state.

According to a former WWASP employee, Joe Atkin, former Director of Academy at Dundee Ranch, reportedly said representatives of WWASP affiliated schools try to attend every meeting of David Steadman’s Northwest Association because *“that way, we get what we want.”*

When Bell(e) Academy was listed, the phone number shown was identical to the phone number shown for Casa by the Sea. This phone number reaches the office of Casa by the Sea in Ensenada, Mexico.

On the current list of member schools, the location for Casa by the Sea is listed as Chula Vista, California, even though the school is physically located in Ensenada, Mexico. David Steadman’s Northwest Association also accredits other controversial facilities, including Cinnamon Hills, Provo Canyon, Diamond Ranch, and Turn About Ranch.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/wwasps/wwaspreport.pdf> (November 18th, 2009)

## 2001

“I experienced and was witness to physical, emotional, and psychological abuse at Diamond Ranch Academy from late July 2001 to late June 2002. I speak not only for myself. 20-60 other kids at any given time went through some of the same sickening and humiliating torture around me every day. Years have passed, but a lot of the pain has not. In fact, I still keep contact with about five people I went to "DRA" with, and we all feel the same way. Some still have nightmares to this day related to this program. I myself was court ordered to the program, and was driven there by my parents... but there has always been something very strange to me about considering the idea of having a child woken up and literally kidnapped by strange men in the middle of the night to face a year of incarceration "therapeutic".) It is a very dangerous game these people are playing, indeed, and I speak from experience...”

- <http://www.heal-online.org/diamond.htm> (November 18th, 2009)

“I attended Provo Canyon School between the years of 2000 and 2001. The emotional, mental and physical torture I experienced there has haunted me since the day my father finally came to the campus, saw the truth for himself and took me out immediately. That was 4 years ago and still to this day I have nightmares of screaming girls being drug into the cold concrete rooms they called "observations". They would be drugged against their will with a shot in the butt and put to sleep. I remember being told to "get on a chair" where I sat for about 2 hours straight before any staff acknowledged me. Finally, one of the staff came over to speak to me. The first words out of her mouth were: "You are a disease and anyone you speak to...anyone you look at...anyone that gets near you is bound to catch your disease." After that she put me on a "no talk" standing order where I was unable to speak whatsoever for 2 months straight. Today I am 19 years old and have been out of Provo Canyon School for 4 years.”

- Nadia Stanton, Provo Canyon School survivor (2001)

“I could go on for days with the war stories of that place, but know I can tell you that I am now married with a beautiful son four years later and still wake up in the middle of the night with nightmares about cinnamon hills. I can tell you this: cinnamon hills does not prepare you with dealing with the real world it makes you afraid of it.”

- Rebecca Gensel, Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center survivor (2001)

**“ASPEN YOUTH SERVICES ACQUIRES TURN ABOUT RANCH** (January 31, 2000)  
Elliot A. Sainer, CEO of [Aspen Youth Services](http://www.aspenyouthservices.com), headquartered in Cerritos, California, 562-467-5500, announced the acquisition of Turn About Ranch, in Escalante, Utah. The Ranch has been operating for eleven years and Max Stewart will remain as Ranch Director. Aspen Youth Services currently serves six states, providing “education, treatment and rehabilitation services to at-risk youth and their families.””

- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/archives/2000/3/seen01.html> (November 18th, 2009)

“Aspen Education Group, Inc. was formerly known as Aspen Youth Services and changed its name to Aspen Education Group, Inc. in May 2001.”

- <http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/private/snapshot.asp?privcapId=1217717> (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

## **2002**

“The Oregon Department of Human Services has concluded a seven-month investigation into the programs of Mt. Bachelor Academy by ordering immediate closure of the specialty boarding school for troubled teens east of Prineville, accusing it of "abuse and neglect," and "serious violations of Oregon's licensing standards.”

The closure of the school (<http://www.mtba.com/>) was deemed "temporary" in the announcement, but will continue "until further notice." The school said Wednesday it is working "diligently" to place students elsewhere, but also revised and expanded its defense of its procedures, claiming it has yet to see the full state report but that some allegations apparently pre-date its revised procedures in 2002.

It's another major blow to the parent Aspen Education Group ([www.aspeneducation.com](http://www.aspeneducation.com)), which is dealing with an investigation of its Redmond-based SageWalk Wilderness School after a student died on a wilderness hike earlier this year."

- <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=11438297> (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

"According to veteran educational consultants, Mount Bachelor Academy was one of the last schools founded on a therapy for troubled teens that originated at the Southern California school called CEDU.

Three educational consultants, including a former CEDU staff member, said the school's founder, Mel Wasserman, drew from Synanon's ideas when he started the school."

- [http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091115/NEWS0107/911150428/1001/NEWS01&nav\\_category=NEWS01](http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091115/NEWS0107/911150428/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01) (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

"My name is Tom Oser. I was a resident at CEDU (Running Springs) from May of 2000 until June of 2002. I have recently become more active in researching and dealing with this painful period in my past and would love to help in any way I can. I was 18 when I left and at 25 am only just beginning to broach this painful subject with my parents. I left CEDU with no concept of how to function in the real world, no education, and without the ability to trust my own feelings. While at CEDU I fell down the backside of the mountain and broke my spine in three places. I also received severe damage to my head. CEDU refused my prescription drugs and forced me to do work assignments to punish me for having tried to run away. I was unconscious for over 2 hours and was forced to climb back up and make my way back to the school. At my first RAP back after returning from the hospital i was confronted by man staff who verbally abused me for my actions and how they affected others. I was never offered therapy for my injuries or support of any kind. I was 17 years old. It is only now, many years later that i am able to look back and see how poorly I was treated. I actually believed the things they were saying to me and that I deserved to be punished. That is the legacy of CEDU in my life. i don't know what I can do now but I would like to be involved in your efforts to make sure that this kind of thing never happens to anyone ever again."

- Tom Oser, CEDU survivor (2002)

## 2003

"...Anyway, the main problem with ASR was not the physical abuse but the mental abuse you suffer. They were very good at making kids yell at you about things they direct until you broke. You may not understand why you did in group, but you would.

And once the lifestep comes around, which is a session that lasts hours, that do various things to make you change. These sessions can last days if they need be. The reason why the program was so effective before my Peer Group got there was because students would get screamed at by other students and the staff would manipulate the situation to get kids to think a certain way. In short, they used brainwashing. This is a hard allegation to prove. However, consider this. Students have found two books on adolescent brainwashing within the school. Personally, during my stay I acquired both these books and had read them in full. I could open up a random page from the book at any given point and cite something that happened that day that was exact to the situation put forth in the book. I had also found various packets that outline the different parts of the program. At one point, I found a sheet describing the third part of there program. It stated that the counselors should be getting the kids lonely, scared, and confused to make them more susceptible to the upcoming life step. It also stated to steer the kids to an end where they will be right up to the breaking point. By using extreme peer pressure and mental stress they create an environment where a young mind can have trouble surviving. All of what I said is true.”

- Richard Meehan, Academy at Swift River/Aspen Education Group survivor (2003)

“(August 8, 2003) Barry Woodward, CEO of Provo Canyon School, Orem, Utah, 801-227-2100, announced Brad Gerrard, who has been the Director of Business Development for Provo Canyon School the past three years, has accepted a position with the parent company Universal Health Services (UHS) behavioral health facilities. Katie Jochum, formerly with CEDU Schools will become Provo Canyon’s new Director of Business Development.”

- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/archives/2003/9/sep03seennheard.html>  
(November 18th, 2009)

“My child was abused physically, emotionally, and psychologically at the school. No patient should be tortured!”

- Helen Taylor, Mother of Provo Canyon School survivor (2003)

“Patient in 2003. I suffered isolation, seclusion, human restraints, take downs, and forced drugging.”

-A. Elizabeth Taylor, Provo Canyon School survivor (2003)

“I went to PCS from Oct. 7th 2003 - March 5th 2004. During my stay i was treated like shit by the staff because i am Jewish. They had service for the Christians and refused to give us Jews one. Then I told my father and he said he and other Parents would sue if us Jewish kids were not given a service after that they did give us a service.

They treated are Rabbi like he was dirt. They gave him faces and was very rude. The boss of the boy's campus (Bruce) told the staff what i was doing. Then I was treated even worse by staff.”

- Jason Kan, Provo Canyon School survivor (2003)



“In recent years, government agencies in other countries have begun to track down on these American-owned programs; authorities in Costa Rica, Mexico and the Czech Republic have shut down at least four WWASPS programs thus far. But in the United States, regulators have been less assertive. In 2003, Congressman George Miller of California asked the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate a growing number of allegations against WWASPS, but to date the DOJ has taken no action. In Utah, State Office of Licensing Director Ken Stettler proposed legislation that would have established stricter licensing requirements for teen treatment centers, but it didn’t fly with lawmakers. As Stettler told the Salt Lake Tribune in April 2004, many Utah legislators felt that his office was “empire building” when it proposed instituting licenses for the paid “escort services” that private treatment centers use to transport teens to their facilities, even though there are many complaints against them.

After her daughter’s ordeal, Helen Taylor mounted a letter-writing campaign to inform Stettler and other state and federal legislators of Grace’s experiences at Provo Canyon, but to date she has only received a couple of terse replies. She feels that these legislators are taking reports of child abuse in their state very lightly and that the police are clearly acting in league with abusive schools. Local police routinely come out to help Provo Canyon deal with attempted escapes, for example, but have not investigated the children’s charges of abuse. “This is political corruption at its worst,” Taylor said.”

- <http://www.nospank.net/choices.htm> (November 18th, 2009)

“One of the largest chains of currently operating tough love schools is known as the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP), sometimes called the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools. Like Straight, it took tactics from Synanon; its ideology, the language it uses, and its methods for discrediting teens’ complaints are eerily similar.

Variously claiming to hold 1,200 to 2,500 teenagers and reporting 2003 revenues of \$80 million, the group currently has at least eight affiliates, in Jamaica (Tranquility Bay), South Carolina (Carolina Springs Academy), Nevada (Horizon Academy), Utah (Cross Creek Programs, Majestic Ranch Academy), Georgia (Darrington Academy), Mississippi (Respect Camp), and Iowa (Midwest Academy). WWASP is a series of limited liability corporations that frequently switch corporate officers and names. This strategy is often used to limit losses from lawsuits by disgruntled customers, and until very recently, WWASP has been successful in deterring major law firms from pursuing such cases against it.

Through its public relations representative, James Wall of Freeman Wall Aiello, WWASP denies charges of abuse. But nine of its affiliates have closed following abuse allegations and government investigations. Mexico has shut down three programs since the late ’90s; at one, police shot video of teenagers held in outdoor dog cages. (That program currently faces a civil suit by a boy who claims he not only was kept in a dog cage but was sexually assaulted and forced to eat vomit.) In 1998 the U.S. State Department found “credible allegations of physical abuse” at WWASP’s facility in

Samoa, citing “beatings, isolation, food and water deprivation, choke-holds, kicking, punching, bondage, spraying with chemical agents, forced medication, [and] verbal abuse.” It called for an investigation by the local government, which resulted in the program’s closure. The man who ran that program, who once admitted to 48 Hours that teens had been bound with duct tape at the Samoa site, now operates the WWASP facility in Iowa.”

- <http://reason.com/archives/2006/12/28/the-trouble-with-troubled-teen/2>  
(November 18th, 2009)

" I am so thankful that CEDU has been shut down. I attended Ascent, and RMA. I can honestly say I spent more time recovering after leaving than I did while I was kept there. I have read many accounts of people who have fond memories there, these are where CEDU was successful. These people were so brain washed, that they still believe in the mind control they went through. There are so many options for families in crisis, and this company took advantage of these peoples desperation. My mother was given weekly accounts of how happy I was, she was repeatedly told I could not be withdrawn early. She finally took an attorney to RMA and demanded my release, after hours of legal and emotional upset they let me leave. I spent the next 3 yrs in a loving and caring environment that incorporated families. I had to find myself after the abuse I endured there. I now realize the death of my best friend and my parents divorce was not my fault. These WWASP programs are based on breaking up down to nothing, and building you to be what they want..."

- Chelsea Craver, Rocky Mountain Academy (CEDU) survivor  
(<http://www.bonnercountydailybee.com/articles/2005/03/26/news/news01.txt>)

“Mr. Liberg submitted his journals with notes/letters from during and after his internment at Turning Winds for Ms. Smith to transcribe and post here to inform others of what life was like in Turning Winds in Idaho in 2003 and 2004. Mr. Liberg also submitted the deceptive brochure (exhibits A and B below) Turning Winds used to lure parents into their system. We have also received a number of program details and other promotional materials and will be quoting various sections through out this introduction in order to provide further evidence of false-advertising, deceptive marketing, and human/civil rights violations of the clients imprisoned by Turning Winds.

In Patrick’s entry for August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, he mentions going by [Rocky Mountain Academy](#) (RMA). Rocky Mountain Academy is/was one of many programs using the Chuck E. Diederich University (CEDU) cult model. Patrick also mentions having a friend currently at that program in that entry.”

- <http://www.heal-online.org/turnwinds.htm> (November 18th, 2009)

## 2004

**“I was screaming and yelling in my sleep last night! Josh thinks that it is fake. How can it be when I am sleeping? He didn’t get any sleep last night!... Bad news is that she had another surgery on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, and that she has cancer! I was crying! That sucks! It might run in the family! That could be bad news for me, my mom and brothers**

and sister! I need to talk to Kara ASAP! **I don't feel so well! I feel like throwing up! I almost did today! So, I might run into the bathroom if I need to! Just to let you know! I have a real bad headache and a stomachache as well!... I have been getting really lightheaded and dizzy. I have to see a doctor about me having vertigo, because it is starting to get really really bad! Like yesterday, I was getting dizzy when I was laying in my bed! I laid there and I could not move, talk or anything! It was really scary for me! I couldn't move or do anything for a minute! I am getting really scared!... I am having tons of sore in my mouth! I need to see a doctor about my seizures! I have been have a lot lately! I have also been getting very dizzy!... We had just such a long group! It was about two (2) hours long. We seriously tore apart 3 people. Jack, Josh, and Chris...I have a problem with a staff member. I'm not saying any names. They tell me to act like the real Patrick. I feel that I have acted like the real Patrick. I expressed that when I talk that I sound like a female. I am working on that, but, I feel as if it comes to me naturally! I like who I am and I am not going to act fake! And I feel that they judge me for what I prefer/opinion."**

- Excerpts from Patrick Liberg's Turning Winds Journals (2003-2004)  
([www.heal-online.org/turnwinds.htm](http://www.heal-online.org/turnwinds.htm))

"(December 11, 2003) John Baisden, Turning Winds/FSNI, 800-845-1380, Hayden, Idaho, [www.fsni.org](http://www.fsni.org) reports that Turning Winds, a program that focuses on rehabilitating troubled youth ages 12-17, has just added second therapist, Tracy Newton, MSW, to its treatment team, which is headed by Kirk Weaver, Ph.D., NCC, LMFT."

- [http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article\\_5808.shtml](http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article_5808.shtml) (January, 2004/November 18th, 2009)

"In Glacier's case, both Larry Bauer and John Baisden used to work at CEDU Family of Services, which operates Rocky Mountain Academy, Northwest Academy, Ascent and Boulder Creek Academy in Boundary County."

- <http://www.teenliberty.org/RMA.htm> (November 18th, 2009)

"As the Ascent program in North Idaho prepares to open in November under the new flagship of Universal Health Services (UHS), the core management team plans to maintain the original quality and structure of the program as designed by CEDU founder Mel Wasserman."

- [http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article\\_5203.shtml](http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article_5203.shtml) (November 18th, 2009)

"(September 7, 2004) CEO Kreg Gillman, Director of Business Development Ken Huey, Provo Canyon School, Orem, UT, 801-227-2100, [kreg.gillman@uhsinc.com](mailto:kreg.gillman@uhsinc.com), [www.provocanyon.com](http://www.provocanyon.com), and Division Director of Business Development Brad Gerrard, Universal Health Services, Provo, UT, 801-227-2034, [brad.gerrard@husinc.com](mailto:brad.gerrard@husinc.com)..."

- [http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/SnHNov04\\_041103.shtml](http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/SnHNov04_041103.shtml)

"I picked up my son on Saturday, July 17th in Utah, I pulled him out of the program, I was more and more frustrated the more I read on PCS. He came home with a swollen eye, cuts all over his hands and right finger swollen and bruised, knee cut up and swollen

and bruised. It was just as I had read in all the emails/internet. He was threatened and spoken to in such a manner that made my stomach turn. His life was threatened as well. My son did get into a physical fight with another student, and stopped immediately, but it did not stop the staff from throwing him down twisting his neck and throwing him into the "Observation Room", which by the way he spent the entire night, cold and smells of urine and who knows what else, just smells really bad and very cold. Just so you know I never mentioned anything to my son about what I had read, I simply asked him to describe what he went through, now remember he was there for only 13 days, and witnessed 12 year old boys being punched in the nose and made fun of on a daily basis, how therapeutic is that? There a person there by the name of Levi who told my son on many occasions, that "his \_ss was his, it is his way or the freeway, and don't be surprised he if he was to get shot", like killed, and calls the boys in the unit all really really bad names. This place is incredible and can't believe that children are suffering. My son said that there are a lot of court ordered boys in there so they don't even have a chance. Also, that all calls are monitored and they are told before they talk to their parents that they better not manipulate us by saying they want to go home or anything negative about PCS. Please let me know how and what to do to help take this place out of business."

- Annie Santillan, Mother of Provo Canyon School survivor (2004)

"My son went to PCS for six months. Fortunately, he was never physically harmed or drugged, however, he was threatened. Worse yet, he witnessed inhumane act after inhuman act. The staff at PCS are power freaks who have no training or skills or right to be in a position to deal with troubled children.

There is no therapy, there is ridicule, abuse and unforgivable behavior on the part of PCS.

Yes, many of these kids have done wrong or gotten into trouble as a result of poor decisions. But to punish them with drugs and inhumane treatment in absolutely unacceptable.

Utah is obviously a cash cow with this school, or should I say organization. If it were free I wouldn't send my worst enemy there!"

- Nancy Rebecca Camise, Mother of Provo Canyon School survivor (2004)

## **2005**

"I attended provo canyon school from June 17th of 2003 to January 20th of 2005. During that time I begged my parents to bring me home and they finally chose to. While I was there I saw my friend Hannah beat up by one of the senior-on staff and all that happened was that he was fired. Then my friend Belinda had her head bashed on the floor of the obs room. Luckily nothing happened to me but I want to save other children out there and I am yes I am only 15 years old but I have seen enough to know that Provo Canyon School is nothing but a shitty school and those fuckers who work there are shitheads and that school needs to be closed down FOREVER!"

- Audra Massman, Provo Canyon School survivor (2005)

“**PROVO CANYON SCHOOL** will expedite the admissions process for any CEDU students appropriate who enroll in Provo Canyon and will cover the airfare for those students.”

- <http://www.strugglingteens.com/news/cedu-altplcmt-index.html> (2005)

“The CEDU schools in Running Springs were founded by Mel Wasserman in 1967 and promoted itself as an emotional growth-boarding school for troubled youths. Monthly costs to board a student reportedly ran as high as \$3,500 dollar a month.

The school closed its doors in 2005 amidst allegations of financial improprieties, allegations of sexual and physical abuse of the students, by other students and staff members and citations issued by the State of California for various violations.

At a non-compliance conference, CEDU officials reportedly admitted that the rights of students under their care were systematically violated. The current investigation is focused on the activities of Doctor Burnell Forgey and his reported assistant, Crummel.”

-  
<http://alpenhornnews.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&detail=388&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=2750&hn=alpenhornnews&he=.com> (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Universal Health Services, the hospital management company, acquired 12 properties from Charter Behavioral Health Systems for \$105 million in 2000. That acquisition included the Provo Canyon School in Utah, which has been around since the 1970's as a help center for teens. The company is set to take over several therapeutic schools that were run by CEDU Education, the earliest large company in therapeutic teenage help and a branch of Brown Schools, now bankrupt. Brown, which was based in North Palm Beach, Fla., went bankrupt in March largely because of lingering legal costs from lawsuits filed by several former students, said a spokesman for McCown De Leeuw, the private equity firm that owned Brown. Universal Health's bid of \$13.35 million for the properties has been accepted by the bankruptcy judge, and the sale is expected to close at the end of the month, said George L. Miller, a partner at Miller Coffey Tate in Philadelphia and the bankruptcy trustee for Brown. Another private company, Three Springs, has seized on the market growth in the last five years, adding six new programs. Three Springs now has 25 programs, and may continue to expand.”

-  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/17/business/17teen.html?pagewanted=all> (November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“But ISAC contends Bethel Boys Academy in Mississippi, most recently going by the name of Eagle Point Christian Academy, has strings to WWASPS. A riot occurred there this month that left seven teenagers injured.

Most recently in Utah, a children's advocacy group called for an investigation last month into WWASPS' Randolph facility - Majestic Ranch - alleging abuse and unsanitary conditions.

State child welfare officials, who were chastised in the group's report, subsequently said they found nothing that rose to the level of abuse or neglect. On Wednesday, however, a mother filed a federal lawsuit against WWASPS alleging that her son had been battered at the ranch."

- <http://www.rickross.com/reference/teenboot/teenboot41.html>  
(Deseret Morning News, Amy Joi Bryson, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005)

"I am a survivor of EPCA/Bethel i arrived at bethel boys academy around august 16 2004 where my head was shaved it was a Saturday I believe i was changed and went downstairs and as soon as i got in the door i used the word "i" to refer to myself in a sentence then i was poked in the eye by a drill instructor he yelled "THIS IS YOUR EYE!!!!!!", "YOU ARE A CADET!!!!!" where he poked me in the chest. i did about 125 pushups that day. Then a week later i had made friends with the chief drill instructor willam knott he said "come here i want to play a game" so i walked toward him where he grabbed my hand as tight as he could and squashed my fingers. i informed him that night that i think my hand is broke sir. He said i was a baby and don't worry about it then he slapped my hand. So behind his back i went to the nurse and told her i hurt my hand. he listened in and pulled me out of the office and said "I'll hurt you bad if you tell her it was me!!!" so i lied and said i hit and wall. My hand was broken. During this thing called Evaluation you go in when you first go there we stood for a week the only time we got off our feet was when we where sleeping at POA. then the second week we did a "FUN EXERCISE;)" we all were wetted down and laid face first in the sand pit hands behind our back and blow and were covered in sand all day we were to wear our sand with pride and we couldn't wash it off all day. i have watched a cadet get his testicles squished but has anyone heard that???? Mr. Fountain covered that up to. One day i was told to cover both cameras and everyone was face to the wall then i heard a cadet getting stomped on and punched when we where turned around that cadet was laying in the rack crying eventually that cadet was submitted to a mental hospital for drinking pine sol. when the riot happened and john was out of town daddy came a ran the camp even though by law he was told to stay away that day Herman Fountain Sr. brought his attack dog with him to intimidate us in to listen to him. While MSP was there. Then Fountain Sr. called a drill inst. eliswoth for work on Sunday when elsworth was fired many times for abuse to kids that day the lunch was ruined we ate peanut butter sandwich which Mrs. Fountain hastily prepared for us. There was no breakfast because the milk was spoiled. i don't even remember dinner. There was a rumor going around that i had slept with another cadet which was totally untrue which i was made fun of for the rest of the time i was there. Shortly after the riot they couldn't afford to pay the quality control person so they let him go. The food after the riot had something wrong with outdated by months, maggots in the pop tarts, the kitchen was infested with huge roaches and mice. i cut myself on one of the chow carts and had to get stitches (6) the problem was never fixed. Also during bethel days if you ran away they would round up a posse of cadets which were armed with axe handles and branches and such and if they found you you would get beat up by

them. So bad that most had to get stitches. i have received emotional distress from even thinking about what I've been through i always cry when i think about it but never had the courage to stand up in court to the FOUNTAINS afraid for what they might do to me. One day i was cleaning out Fountain SR. desk when he stopped preaching i found two things a gun and a tape the tape had him beating the crap out of kids on it when i was found listening to it it was taken away and i was told never to repeat it. that is the end of my story.”

- Ben Demarteau, Eagle Point Christian Academy/Bethel Boys Academy/WWASPS survivor (2005)

“LUCEDALE -- Christy Depasquale has her twin 17-year-old sons at home with her in Oklahoma after they spent more than a month at **Eagle Point Christian Academy, formerly known as Bethel Boys Academy.**

Depasquale was concerned for the boys' welfare after hearing of the riot that took place at Eagle Point last weekend. During the riot, windows were broken, bunks overturned and a barrack was trashed.

Seven students were transported to a hospital for treatment, and six others were taken into custody for disorderly conduct.

Depasquale said she followed her instincts and, escorted by a George County sheriff's deputy, arrived at Eagle Point around 2 a.m. on Friday to retrieve her sons.

Depasquale said her sons were "very relieved to be coming home."

"It's not a good place," she said of Eagle Point.

Repeated phone calls Friday to Eagle Point director John Fountain were not returned. **Depasquale's sons reportedly had "plenty of bruises and cuts and scrapes" when she picked them up. One of the boys reportedly has a bruise on his back where an Eagle Point staff member allegedly "grabbed him and slammed his fist in his back" because he was talking.**

**Depasquale said Eagle Point uses "hazing-type discipline tactics." The twins reportedly have scrapes on their knees from being made to kneel on a hardwood floor for long periods of time when they got into trouble.**

The boys reported that the riot was really destructive and the "kids just went berserk." Depasquale's sons were two of four boys that ran away from the home on Sunday after the riot. They were picked up and returned to the home the same day. **"They were scared. They wanted to get out of there,"** Depasquale said.”

- *The Mississippi Press*, Mollie Reeves, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

<http://www.nospank.net/n-o32r.htm>

“Pine View Academy is located in Lucedale, Mississippi.

Pine View is owned and operated by John Fountain.

The Fountain family has been the subject of numerous investigations into child abuse and neglect.

This facility operated for many years as Bethel Boys Home, then Bethel Boys Academy, but changed its name to Eagle Point Christian Academy in an attempt to distance itself from allegations of child abuse and neglect.

Shortly before the name change, Eagle Point Christian Academy/Bethel Boys became part of the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS).

The facility is currently named in a civil suit alleging criminal acts amounting to torture.

Children desperate to leave the facility initiated a riot in April 2005.

Eagle Point/Bethel Boys was damaged by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

The boys were transferred to different WWASPS facilities, including Darrington Academy in Georgia.

In late 2005, the facility began advertising under ANOTHER name - Respect Camp.

Respect Camp advertised itself as a 60-120 day Christian boot camp and was operated by John Fountain.

In early 2006, the facility began advertising as Cambridge Academy.

In March 2006, the facility began advertising as Pine View Academy.

According to records on file with the state of Mississippi, the legal name of of Pine View Academy is STILL Eagle Point Christian Academy.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/pineviewacademy.asp> (November 19th, 2009)

## **2006**

“(July 2006) The Tico Times Online Edition reported that the trial against Narvin Litchfield, owner of Dundee Ranch Academy in Costa Rica, an affiliate of the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP), is set for September 26-29, 2006. Litchfield, brother of Robert Litchfield, founder of WWASP, is charged with coercion, torture and illegally detaining teens. If convicted on all counts in the First Circuit Court of Alajuela, Litchfield could get at least 10 years in prison.”

- [http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article\\_5358.shtml](http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article_5358.shtml) (November 19th, 2009)



“These schools appear to be quite profitable, and some are being gobbled up by large health care corporations. Provo Canyon School of Utah, subject of several lawsuits over abuses occurring at the institute, is owned by Universal Health Services, the 3rd largest health-care company in the United States. WWASP’s annual gross earnings are estimated to be at least \$70 million. One group monitoring abuses at these schools, HEAL ([Human Earth Animal Liberation](#)), maintains a list on their website of 85 schools that they suspect of being abusive; clearly there are many companies that see economic potential in this field.”

- <http://www.nospam.net/chapeli.htm> April 20th, 2006, dissidentvoice.org  
(November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Please protect my friends at PCS from being hurt like me. I almost died and want to stop PCS from doing this to anyone else with my Mom and family.”

- Ashley DeBoer, Provo Canyon School survivor (2006-2007)

“I was a patient at provo canyon school for 2 years. I was admitted during december 2006 and released in December of 2008. I was stripped of my rights and made me feel as though i was a robot and needed to tell on people to survive there. The center in un fair to their punishments and their don't believe many of the patients and play faveorites. When i was released to a level 12 i felt as though i was going hot to cold but let go of what i knew and felt as thought i had hatched from an egg and now feel myself and much stronger and realize what pcs had done to that was not right.”

- Brenda Cook, Provo Canyon School survivor (2006-2008)

“(April 28, 2006) [The Street.com](#) reported that Universal Health Services (UHS), King of Prussia, PA, first-quarter earnings fell 11.1 percent due to the hospital closures following Hurricane Katrina, which included hurricane related expenses of \$9 million. However, first-quarter revenue rose by two percent from a year-ago to \$1.03 billion. UHS owns Ascent, Boulder Creek and Northwest Academy in north Idaho, Provo Canyon and Center for Change in Utah, and King George School in Vermont.”

- [http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article\\_5314.shtml](http://www.strugglingteens.com/artman/publish/article_5314.shtml) (November 19th, 2009)

“Last month, CEDU closed its flagship Rocky Mountain Academy in Naples, Idaho. That still left CEDU with two other schools in Idaho: Boulder Creek Academy and Northwest Academy, both in Boundary County's Paradise Valley. In addition, the company operated a short-term intervention program in North Idaho, as well as ASCENT, a six-week wilderness program, and Milestones, a transition program for students 18 and older in Coeur d'Alene.”

- [http://www.spokesmanreview.com/tools/story\\_pf.asp?ID=61231](http://www.spokesmanreview.com/tools/story_pf.asp?ID=61231) (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Larry Carter, Executive Director of Logan River Academy...“I worked as a hospital administrator for 23 years, including 13 years at Charter, which I found very fascinating,” he explained. “While working in Charter’s psychiatric hospitals, I started a hospital in Utah, but the driving force for me getting into this business occurred when Charter

bought Provo Canyon School. After Charter purchased Provo Canyon, I then worked as Regional Director of Charter and Administrator of the new hospital.” (Larry Carter) Larry said he has worked in a couple large companies over the years, both locally and in a corporate position as a vice-president, and that his partners have similar backgrounds from all over the country. For over 20 years, Larry has been enamored with the mental health field because it is so different. “It isn’t a hard science, but it’s not cut and dry; it is very different to deal with the human mind which makes the field is so varied and vast.” However, during my [13 years at Provo Canyon School...](#)” After leaving Provo Canyon for the last time, Larry worked with [Aspen Education Group](#) as senior vice-president of their in-patient services. He oversaw all of Aspen’s residential services for just over a year before deciding to start Logan River Academy.”

- <http://www.heal-online.org/loganrvr.htm> (November 19th, 2009)

“Aspen Education Group, Inc. was formed in December 1997 as a spin-off from a company called College Health Enterprises. Since November 2006, Aspen Education Group has been a division of CRC Health Group, based in [Cupertino, California.](#)”

- <http://www.answers.com/topic/aspen-education-group> (November 19th, 2009)

“Terri Nissley was a [Straight, Inc.](#) parent who wanted to keep the abusive program going after it was shut down by authorities. So, she opened a "new" program called Pathway Family Center using the Straight, Inc. psychological torture and brainwashing cult model. Nissley is also the Treasurer for Toughlove International. Here is the website for Toughlove International: <http://www.4troubledteens.com/toughlove.html> (or [www.toughlove.org.au](http://www.toughlove.org.au)--link works , [www.toughlove.org](http://www.toughlove.org)--no longer appears active). It is sponsored by CRC Health Group. Toughlove International was founded in 1979 by Phyllis and David York from Pennsylvania. The website is also sponsored by [Aspen Education Group](#) (CRC Bought AEG out), still the same. In addition, Nissley and her husband Ken operate Kenter (KenTer a.k.a. Ken and Terri) Homes, a real estate "business" in Indiana. They have a history of scamming people with Multi-Level-Marketing schemes including Amway.”

- <http://www.heal-online.org/pfc.htm> (November 19th, 2009)

“In March 2006, Pathway Family Center acquired control of Kids Helping Kids. Pathway Family Center was formerly known as Straight, Inc. Michigan.”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/kidshelpingkids.asp> (November 16th, 2009)

“The largest remaining Straight-descendant program, the Pathway Family Center, has sites in three states and support from major companies like Emmis Communications and the professional basketball team, the Indiana Pacers.

Founded by Terri Nissley, whose expertise lies in the fact that she had an addicted daughter and her family participated in Straight, Pathway opened in Detroit in 1993. In fact, according to *The Tampa Tribune*, the facility was simply Straight's Detroit affiliate, reincorporated under a new name.

Pathway has continued to expand, swallowing up another former Straight facility and opening several new ones. In 2006, Pathway took over Kids Helping Kids, an Ohio program which evolved out of Straight-Cincinnati. The program also has centers in Southfield, Michigan, and in Indianapolis and Chesterton, Indiana. The Chesterton location opened just this year, despite efforts from survivors of the Straight model to warn the community that the program was outdated and harmful.”

- [http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=getting\\_tough\\_on\\_private\\_prisons\\_for\\_teens](http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=getting_tough_on_private_prisons_for_teens), Maia Szalavitz October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Amidst mounting lawsuit losses and bad publicity throughout the 1990's, the umbrella organization Straight Inc. changed its name in 1996 to the Drug Free America Foundation. DFAF thrives today — receiving \$400,000 in federal subsidies in 2000 and \$320,000 from the Small Business Administration.

"It amazes me that despite the pattern of complaints and abuse allegations, Straight chapters can simply change their names and continue to operate," says Rick Ross, a cult expert and intervention specialist. Ross says there's an unfortunate market for "rehab" centers that take burdensome children off the hands of troubled parents.

Most troubling, however, is the considerable and continuing political clout of Straight Inc.'s founders. Former President Bush once shot a television commercial for DFAF, and designated the Semblers' program as one of his "thousand points of light."”

- <http://www.nospank.net/rehab.htm>, FOXnews.com May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“Betty S. Sembler has dedicated the past three decades to fighting the war on drugs. In 1976, she was one of ten founding members of Straight, Inc., a nonprofit drug treatment program that successfully treated more than 12,000 young people with drug addiction in eight cities nationally from Dallas to Boston.

Mrs. Sembler then turned her sights to establishing a national drug policy to reinforce the four critical fronts to combat drug abuse: education, treatment, interdiction and law enforcement. She has helped form public policy in the United States' campaign against drugs through her participation in the White House Conference for a Drug Free America, as a member of the Governor's Drug Policy Task Force in Florida, and as a board member of DARE Florida (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), a national organization that provides drug resistance education for elementary and middle school students. Mrs. Sembler also serves on the board of DARE International as vice-chairperson.”

- <http://www.dfaf.org/about-us/founding%20members> (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

### **“Comprehensive Community Plan 3**

## **Membership List**

**County LCC Name: Boone**

<b>Penny Rader</b>	<b>Boone County Probation W F Judicial</b>
<b>Debbie Martin</b>	<b>Boone County Sheriff's Dept. W F Law Enforcement</b>
<b>Karen Galvin</b>	<b>Boone County Probation I W F Judicial</b>
<b>Sue Ritz</b>	<b>Boone Co. Senior Services W F social services</b>
<b>Bradley Schneck</b>	<b>New Life Recovery Home W M treatment</b>
<b>Joe Plewa</b>	<b>Meridian Health Group W M treatment</b>
<b>Lisa Hutcheson</b>	<b>ICRUD W F prevention/advocacy</b>
<b>Anna Mae Hartsock</b>	<b>Women's Christian Temperance W F faith based</b>
<b>Delana Bennington</b>	<b>Tobacco Free Boone County W F Prevention</b>
<b>Dave Rose</b>	<b>Teen Challenge W M youth organization</b>
<b>Bob Ross</b>	<b>Lebanon High School W M School</b>
<b>John Copeland</b>	<b>Indiana State Excise Police W M law enforcement</b>
<b>Dave Rose</b>	<b>Teen Challenge W M youth organization</b>
<b>Andrew Marshall</b>	<b>Probation W M judicial</b>
<b>Cindy Murphy</b>	<b>Health Department W F health department</b>
<b>Rob Knox</b>	<b>Zionsville PD W M law enforcement</b>
<b>Kamilla Aeschliman</b>	<b>Child Protective Services W F social services</b>
<b>Steve Smith</b>	<b>School Resource Officer - Lebanon Middle School W M DARE officer"</b>

- [http://www.in.gov/cji/files/Boone CCP.pdf](http://www.in.gov/cji/files/Boone_CCP.pdf) (November 19th, 2009) (emphasis added)

“Teen Challenge is notable for several reasons. Firstly, it is one of the few groups promoting abusive "kiddie boot camps" that is clearly linkable to a known religious group with documented coercive tactics (to the level that Narconon was linked to the Church of Scientology); secondly, it is a known recipient of federal funds under the "Faith Based Initiatives" program (one of the few abusive facilities of this type to get

such funding); thirdly, Teen Challenge acts as a wonderful example of the bad things that can happen when "faith-based" kiddie gulags go completely unregulated.

One reason Teen Challenge has likely gotten preferential treatment from Bush is because it is actually an Assemblies of God frontgroup (and a very closely connected one at that--namely, it's technically a division of its youth ministries program focusing on "troubled youth"). The group operates a chain of facilities (including not only ranches but other inpatient facilities similar to the now-closed "Love In Action/Refuge" "degaying" center) across the US and in several other countries."

- <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2008/4/26/17250/8747/930/503496>  
(November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

## 2007

"Bush's favouritism towards dominionists--and explicitly, to the Assemblies of God in particular--begins to be explicitly apparent by the time he was governor of Texas. One of his most infamous bits of dominionist pandering during his term as governor was an explicit act of favouritism towards [the Assemblies' own "faith based rehab" group Teen Challenge](#)--he literally [removed all state regulation of "Bible boot camps" in Texas after Teen Challenge was threatened with shutdown due to abuse and poor educational standards](#). (Dubya has also partnered with Mel Sembler, founder of Straight, Inc.; most of Straight, Inc.'s "daughters" have been "Bible boot camp" facilities. One better-known "Straight-daughter" is none other than Love In Action/Refuge, the infamous "degaying" center in Memphis, TN.)"

- <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2007/9/21/145614/144> (September 21st, 2007)

The overtly evangelical nature of the program raises questions about the constitutionality of the large amount of state money flowing into the program. Teen Challenge has received \$2,388,947 in state funding since 2007, mainly from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, according to the state's new Transparency and Accountability Project website.

"Although best known as a leading shopping center developer, Sembler is also renowned for his activism in the anti-drug movement. In 1976, Sembler and his wife Betty founded STRAIGHT, an adolescent drug treatment program. During its 17 years of existence, STRAIGHT successfully graduated more than 12,000 young people nationwide from its remarkable program.

He is nationally recognized as an activist in the anti-drug campaign and as a staunch, long-time supporter of the Republican Party and its candidates.

[Mel] Sembler's work as a civic and political activist is equally noteworthy. A supporter of George H.W. Bush since 1979, Sembler played a leadership role in raising funds for the Bush for President campaign. He was Finance Co-Chairman of The American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural, raising the dollars needed for the nation's 41st inauguration of the President of the United States. Sembler served as Finance Chairman

for the Republican National Committee from 1997 to 2000. He also served as Florida's National Committeeman to the Republican National Committee after his election in 1994 until 2000.”

- <http://www.sembler.com/company.php?id=1> (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“In January 2007, the Northwest Indiana Times ran a series of articles [exposing Pathway Family Center as a spin-off of Straight, Inc.](#)

ISAC supplied the reporter with substantial documentation showing that [Pathway Family Center is Straight, Inc. Michigan renamed.](#)

Pathway Family Center even used the same office equipment and internal documents. In some cases, [Pathway executives neglected to remove "STRAIGHT" from the documents or just crossed it out.](#)”

- <http://www.isaccorp.org/pathwayfamilycenter.asp> (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

## **2008**

“On Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> a group of people gathered outside of a nondescript building in Miami Township to protest Pathway Family Center. Some of the protesters are local but some drove from out of town to demonstrate their concerns.

Pathway Family Center has a sordid past, started by a former STRAIGHT Incorporated parent and reported by recent clients to be using techniques that were once used in that facility. A reasonable effort has been made on several occasions to create a dialogue with program executives to no avail. We are repeatedly told to “go home and get a life”.

This has been the 14<sup>th</sup> protest in a row at this program over the course of a year and there is always some type of interaction by those in support of the program and those opposing Institutionalized child abuse.”

- <http://www.pfctruth.com/pathwayprotest.htm> (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008)

“By now, you are probably wondering what my story has to do with Kids Helping Kids (KHK). It has everything to do with KHK! Sharing my experience about my Straight related PTSD is extremely important, since KHK uses the exact same ‘treatment’ methods, same ‘disciplinary’ tactics, same phase structure, same forms of extreme humiliation, degradation, and verbal assault, same rules, same untrained ‘peer staff’ concept. In fact the only significant difference between Straight, Inc. and KHK is the name of the program. For example, a [side-by-side comparison of Straight, Inc. and KHK documents](#) reveal that both programs are virtually identical. KHK [was also] [co-founded](#) by [a] former Straight officer George Ross. In addition, Maia Szalavitz reveals in [Help at Any Cost](#), that former Straight staffers still run Straight-like programs across the U.S. in Ohio (Kids Helping Kids).”

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[http://www.cincinnati-beacon.com/index.php/magaddiction/comments/kids\\_helping\\_kids\\_and\\_post\\_traumatic\\_stress\\_disorder\\_is\\_there\\_a\\_connection/](http://www.cincinnati-beacon.com/index.php/magaddiction/comments/kids_helping_kids_and_post_traumatic_stress_disorder_is_there_a_connection/) (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

“During my research, I interviewed over 100 teens, parents and former employees of these programs-- I have also read (and personally confirmed many) of the hundreds of other accounts on websites like this [one](#) [scroll down], which contains nearly 400 stories of abuse from just one organization, the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP or WWASPS). You don't have to believe me-- the kids who post there provide their email addresses for those with doubts. And I still get regular emails with accounts of new horrifying abuse.

Essentially, in these programs, abuse and degradation is not accidental, but rather, is itself the key ingredient of the "therapy."

I hope that the legislation will ban the use of such tactics-- and effectively monitor compliance. These hearings will also look at possible consumer fraud perpetrated by these organizations-- claims that programs offer very different services than they actually provide.

For example, WWASP's "Tranquility Bay" facility in Jamaica is notorious for being anything but tranquil-- one neighbor told me he regularly heard "horror movie" like screams emanating from the place and teens who were sent report being kept awake by the cries of those who are being beaten or restrained by employees. WWASP's now-shuttered "Paradise Cove," was known for holding teens in prisoner-of-war like conditions, isolated in small wooden boxes for days on end.”

- Maia Szalavitz, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maia-szalavitz/legislation-to-crack-down\\_b\\_98259.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maia-szalavitz/legislation-to-crack-down_b_98259.html)

“My adopted brother Colton Stawarz went to PCS in October 3rd to April 25th 2009. and during his stay I got to talk to him once on Easter in 2008. After he got out, he came back and told me what it was like there. How he was punished for little things like not folding his socks the way they wanted him to, forcing him to take dangerously high dosages of medication, how the staff physically assaulted him, forced him to go into (Observation) a cold concrete room in nothing but his boxers, forced strip searches on him after he came back from visitation.”

- Justin LaFleur, Brother of Provo Canyon School survivor (2008)

## **2009**

“We must shut them all down and truly address their problems with humanity and compassion. Even the killer pit bulls of DogTown were treated better than our troubled youth-- love and positive reinforcement transformed those dogs! What about our kids.”

- Janet Crane, Mother of Provo Canyon School victim (2009)

“After our report, protesters picketed regularly outside the center in Milford. This continued even after the center became affiliated with a chain called Pathway Family Center.

Now the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services confirms that Pathway has turned in its state certificate allowing it to operate.

A property search shows Pathway still owns the building. It still lists its address on Branch Hill Guinea Road on its paperwork, and the local phone number still leads to voice mail. But a visit to the building found no one there in the middle of business hours. The facility looks deserted, but files and keys still sit on desks. Inside, the rooms once full of troubled teens sit empty and silent.

Mark West says he knows what happened to the roughly two dozen kids who were here when the place shut its doors to treatment. He says they were moved to other Pathway facilities, including Indianapolis, where his son is enrolled. He opposes the program, but his ex-wife, who has custody, supports it.

West says the Milford location closed because of, "Bad publicity, not just bad publicity but actually the truth started getting out. I think community pressure closed it down."  
- <http://www.kypost.com/content/wcposhared/story/I-Team-Drug-Center-Closes/eYjOAhA4SkGMq0Lhbfd8rg.csp> (February 5th, 2009)

The trail of information provided above is only a light spattering and does not include all of the fraud, abuse, rape, torture, and death in the behavior modification industry. In the following chapters, readers will find detailed information regarding additional deaths, news reports, and lawsuits as well as government participation information. As Deep Throat once said, "Follow the money."<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8047258/> (November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009)



## ~SECTION TWO~

### CHAPTER SIX:

#### LEGAL ISSUES: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL

There have been hundreds of lawsuits against behavior modification programs. Law enforcement has also filed criminal charges against dozens of program owners and staff. This chapter will discuss legal actions, causes of action and their meaning, and additional resources available in bringing illegal programs to justice. The chapter is organized chronologically and unfolds with reference to civil and criminal cases over time.

It is also important that parents and survivors understand that parents can be sued for subjecting their children to cruel and inhumane conditions whether or not it is direct or indirect through an employed behavior modification program. Parents are liable for harm their children suffer when the parent is the cause or responsible for the cause of the harm. In the case of *Mahnke v. Moore* in 1951, the Maryland Court found:

“When...the parent is guilty of acts which show complete abandonment of the parental relation, the rule giving him immunity from suit by the child, on the ground that discipline should be maintained in the home, cannot logically be applied, for when he is guilty of such acts he forfeits his parental authority and privileges, including his immunity from suit...Justice demands that a minor child shall have a right of action against a parent for injuries resulting from cruel and inhumane treatment or for malicious and wanton wrongs.”<sup>81</sup>

In other words, if a parent abandons a child to the care of an unfit caregiver or facility, then said parent can be sued by his/her child for resulting injuries. In a later case, (*Taylor v. Provo Canyon School*), the court found the mother 75% responsible for the injuries her son incurred after having been abused at Provo Canyon School. The court found that she knew or should have known that Provo Canyon School was a dangerous environment and should have exercised due care in choosing a facility for her son.

In the previous chapter a CNN story is referenced regarding a present day investigation into the 32 cross-marked graves of children killed at Florida Industrial School for Boys in the 1950's and 1960's.<sup>82</sup> Don Stratton, a victim of the Florida reform school, interview excerpt:

"Stratton attended a Florida reform school as a teenager in the early 1960s. Nearly half a century later, he's telling a chilling tale of alleged beatings, sexual abuse and violent death at the hands of reform school workers.

He said he believes the bodies of slain boys are buried in unnamed graves on the grounds of the former reform school in Marianna, Florida.

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<sup>81</sup> *Mahnke v. Moore*, 197 Md. 61, 77 A. 2d 923, Id. At 67-68, 77 A. 2d at 926. (1951)

<sup>82</sup> Rich Phillips, CNN Senior Producer. “White House Boys' win inquiry of reform school graves”. December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. <http://www.cnn.com>

“These men are animals and need to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law,” Stratton told CNN in an interview at his attorney's office in Tampa.”<sup>83</sup> It has been over 40 years since these tortures and deaths occurred. This long of a delay in the criminal investigation leaves investigators with very little hope of finding the evidence, witnesses, and suspects involved in the crimes committed at the “school”. It is the author’s hope that current and future generations are given the opportunity for real justice in the extension of the statutes of limitation on cases involving institutionalized abuse, torture, and death.

Another case stemming from the 1960’s is that of the St. Francis Mission, a Jesuit boarding school in South Dakota aimed at American Indian children. In 2003, the cases of abuse began surfacing and a call for an investigation ensued. One of the victims, Lloyd “Sonny” One Star reports being physically, sexually, and mentally abused at the program over 40 years ago. Similar claims of abuse at Catholic run programs stemming from the 1970’s have recently given a landmark precedent extending the statute of limitations in cases involving institutionalized abuse (primarily sexual abuse).<sup>84</sup> The outcome of One Star’s pursuit of justice was unknown at the time of this writing.

The International Survivor’s Action Committee submitted the following regarding legal problems at Straight, Inc. in the 1970’s:

“In March 1978 Florida’s Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance (BOCJPA) produced a special report on Straight, Inc., which had received federal LEAA grants totaling \$100,000 in its first two years of operation. The grant guidelines had clearly stated that the money was to be used for salaries only. Another finding of the report was that Straight, Inc. founder Mel Sembler had violated federal conflict of interest regulations because the LEAA money, which had been granted for use for salaries only, had been placed in a single bank account along with other Straight, Inc. funds at First Bank of Treasure Island—a bank which included Mel Sembler among its corporate directors. (Source: Florida Division of Corporations 1977) The report further found that Straight, Inc. officials Richard Batchelor, Helen Petermann, and Marlene Hauser had violated federal conflict of interest regulations because either they or a family member was receiving part of the grant money as salary. The LEAA grants, which had been approved by BOCJPA, had been administered by the City of Saint Petersburg (Pinellas County had also made grants to Straight, Inc.). The significance being that one John White, Straight, Inc.’s treasurer was a financial officer for the City of Saint Petersburg. (Source: St. Petersburg Times). Straight stopped receiving LEAA grants when it was accused by (BOCJPA) of violating federal law in the use of that money.”<sup>85</sup>

It is the above-mentioned unethical financial dealings that suggest a need for RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) violation prosecution. A racketeering activity includes gambling, murder, kidnapping, extortion, arson, robbery, bribery, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in controlled substances.<sup>86</sup> Many programs are arguably guilty of conspiracy, kidnapping, and money-laundering. The misuse of

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<sup>83</sup> <http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2009/1/30/431958.html> (November 20th, 2009)

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.nospank.net/n-a10j.htm> (November 20th, 2009)--Sharon Waxman, Washington Post (6/2/03)

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.isaccorp.org/straight/straighttax.pdf> (November 20th, 2009)

<sup>86</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racketeer\\_Influenced\\_and\\_Corrupt\\_Organizations\\_Act#RICO\\_offenses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racketeer_Influenced_and_Corrupt_Organizations_Act#RICO_offenses)

public funds by Straight, Inc. is just one example of a RICO-type activity, which could and should result in criminal charges and prosecution. Many programs “smooth out their wrinkles” with backroom deals and possible extortion or bribery of public figures.

In 1973, the Indiana Boys School was ordered to end corporal punishment by the US District Court after having paddled one child until he bled and keeping another in solitary confinement for 70 days.<sup>87</sup> Even though extended solitary confinement and physical punishment was barred as a result of the Indiana Boys School decision, many programs continue to use these same destructive tactics.

One of the most important decisions regarding human rights and involuntary commitment was given by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, in 1976 the court decided *Lessard v. Schmidt*:

“*Lessard v. Schmidt* transformed mental health law. A federal district court in Milwaukee struck down Wisconsin's commitment law as unconstitutional. Setting aside traditional *parens patriae* grounds for commitment, the three-judge court set a narrow dangerousness standard: involuntary commitment was only permissible when "there is an extreme likelihood that if the person is not confined he will do immediate harm to himself or others." Moreover, the court for the first time required that commitment proceedings provide the mentally ill with all the protections accorded the criminal suspect -- among them a right to counsel, a right to remain silent, exclusion of hearsay evidence and a standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.”<sup>88</sup>

The above decision coupled with the fact that the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment provides equal protection under the law to all U.S. citizens (including children) shows the clear spirit of the law in respecting the liberty interests of all citizens and requiring due process if a citizen is to be involuntarily committed or confined. The behavior modification industry really began to spread during the mid and late 1970s as a new “treatment” and/or “school” system where families could easily sentence minor family members to a lockdown facility circumventing the law and putting themselves and their loved ones at grave risk. The same problems exist today.

In 1982, Provo Canyon School faced a class action lawsuit led by Timothy Milonas Jr. and Kenneth Rice charging the program with multiple abuses and civil rights violations. In this case, Provo Canyon School was found culpable for using unlawful behavior modification practices including violation of Due Process and the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment rights of the children at Provo Canyon School. The court found that Provo Canyon School also violated the liberty interests of the children at Provo Canyon School by: not providing a safe environment; use of unreasonable bodily restraints; censoring correspondence; and violating the right to the privacy of one’s own thoughts. The court also found that the children’s first and fourteenth amendment rights were violated in Provo Canyon’s use of a polygraph lie-detector machine, monitoring and censoring of mail, the use of isolation rooms, and the use of excessive physical force on the children. In the final decision, the Appeal’s court ruled: “[The] fact that some parents approved of "behavioral-modification" program employed by private school for youths 'with behavioral problems did not compel finding that practices were "necessary",- as required for them not to violate students' constitutional protected liberty interests. U.S.C.A.

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<sup>87</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plainfield\\_Juvenile\\_Correctional\\_Facility](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plainfield_Juvenile_Correctional_Facility) (November 20th, 2009)

<sup>88</sup> [http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=344](http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=344)

Const. Amend. 14.” In this case, Provo Canyon School was found guilty of cruel and inhumane treatment of children.<sup>89</sup> Provo Canyon School remains open in 2009 and is reportedly as abusive as it was in the early years.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court found that parents are liable for retaining a childcare provider after receiving reports or witnessing their child’s injuries and distress. In the case of *Glomb v. Ginosky* in 1987: “Parents liable for retaining babysitter despite child’s bruises and fears.”<sup>90</sup> This same principle applies to parents retaining the services of programs like Provo Canyon School, Straight Inc., or any behavior modification program.

Straight Inc. was sued in 1984 for a number of violations including false imprisonment, assault, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Fred Collins, the plaintiff, was awarded over \$200,000 in damages by the court.<sup>91</sup>

False imprisonment is the intentional confinement of one human being by another without privilege or consent.<sup>92</sup> It is unlawful and violates a citizen’s constitutional rights to lock them up without due process of law. It has been repeatedly found that minors are included in those protected by constitutional law. And, in cases through out this chapter, readers will see that locking up children without recognizing their due process rights is illegal and can result in serious civil and/or criminal penalties.

Assault is the intentional placing of another in immediate fear or apprehension of an imminent harmful or offensive touching.<sup>93</sup> When a program agent threatens or gestures as if meaning to manhandle or violently strip search or restrain an individual as was experienced by Mr. Collins, it is an assault and can result in civil and/or criminal penalties.

The intentional infliction of emotional distress is when the defendant commits an extreme and outrageous act against the plaintiff, with the intent to cause severe psychological distress, which results in such distress.<sup>94</sup> Straight, Inc. used cult-like brainwashing techniques, including torture, to modify behavior. It was known and should have been known by Straight, Inc. that these practices caused harm and that knowledge suffices for intent. Given the information in previous chapters, it seems unnecessary to explain that the behavior modification techniques employed by Straight, Inc. and similar programs are extreme, outrageous, and result in psychological harm. And, this is why Collins won his case and Straight, Inc. lost.

In 1980, Janice Chancellor filed suit against Meridell Achievement Academy in Texas. Ms. Chancellor was deemed neglected by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, removed from her home, and placed in Meridell Achievement Academy, thousands of miles from home. Ms. Chancellor was forcibly sterilized at age 13 under direction of Meridell Achievement Academy and with the consent of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Ms. Chancellor’s attorney argued for the following causes of action: violation of constitutional rights (primarily 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and

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<sup>89</sup> *Milonas v. Williams*, United States Court of Appeals, Nos. 80-1569, 81-1407. (September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1982)

<sup>90</sup> *Glomb v. Ginosky*, 366 Pa. Super. 206, 530 A. 2d 1362, (1987)

<sup>91</sup> *Collins v. Straight, Inc.*, 748 F2d 916, 17 Fed. R. Evid. Serv. 1351, (1984)

<sup>92</sup> [http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/violent\\_crimes/false\\_imprisonment.htm](http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/violent_crimes/false_imprisonment.htm)

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.lectlaw.com/def/a074.htm>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.west.net/~smith/distress.htm>

14<sup>th</sup> amendments), breach of guardianship duties, professional malpractice, and medical malpractice.<sup>95</sup>

Malpractice falls under the negligence theory of tort law. It involves an existing duty from defendant to plaintiff, a breach of that duty resulting in foreseeable damage to the plaintiff and the breach must be a proximate cause of the resulting damage to plaintiff. In the case of medical malpractice, the standard is the fiduciary duty owed from physician to patient. A breach would include removing a girl's reproductive system without her informed consent and with only the authorization of the state. Such a breach would also arguably be a breach of professional standards on the part of social services.

Even in situations where the state social service agencies place youth in facilities, they are still liable for the conditions under which the children are cared for and housed. In 1990, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court in Illinois found:

“Once the state assumes custody of a person it owes him a rudimentary duty of safekeeping no matter how perilous his circumstances when he was free...The distinction tracks tort law—there is no duty to rescue but, having effected it, the “rescuer” is “not entitled to harm the person who he has rescued.”<sup>96</sup>

Many programs operate as “foster homes” in states across the U.S. The World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS) runs Midwest Academy in Iowa and it is also a licensed foster care group home in that state. When social services chooses to place a child in a program like WWASPS, they are violating their duty of safekeeping the child and can be sued by the victims of such placement.

The House of Hope in San Diego had its day in court in 1992 when it filed suit against a county social worker (Oksana Smith) for filing a report that discussed concerns about suspected abuse at House of Hope with her department. The United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit decided: “Smith's reports of suspected abuse and negligence at House of Hope did not violate House of Hope's rights. The reports themselves do not intrude upon any rights protected by the federal Constitution or statutory law.”<sup>97</sup> It is important to note the audacity of a foster care group home to sue social services when abuse is suspected in their facility. This type of litigation and the overload of social services are both reasons why stronger regulation and funding for such regulation is sorely needed in regards to services for youth and families. (See Chapter Eight)

In 1998, Provo Canyon School was sued again. In the case of David Taylor v. Provo Canyon School, the jury found that the mother was 75% responsible for the damages Taylor incurred at Provo Canyon School. Provo Canyon School argued that it had changed ownership since Taylor's internment and that it was the “new” Provo Canyon School and that Taylor was abused by the “old” Provo Canyon School.<sup>98</sup> However, anyone that looks into Provo Canyon School can plainly see it maintains the same abusive practices and much of the same staff over decades of “practice” and through multiple changes in ownership.

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<sup>95</sup> Chancellor v. Lawrence, 501 F. Supp. 997 (1980)

<sup>96</sup> K.H. Through Murphy v. Morgan, 914 F.2d 846, 849 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990)

<sup>97</sup> San Diego House of Hope v. San Diego Department of Social Services, Oksana Smith, 959 F.2d 241 (1992)

<sup>98</sup> Taylor v. Charter Medical Corporation, 162 F.3d 827 (1998)

In the case of *Scott v. Pacific West Mountain Resort* of 1992, the court decided: “Parents can waive their own rights, but not their minor child’s.”<sup>99</sup> In the case above of *Taylor v. Provo Canyon School*, the mother was found 75% liable for the damages David Taylor incurred at Provo Canyon School. Taylor’s mother did not have the right to waive his constitutional rights in placing him in a lockdown facility like Provo Canyon School. The jury found her liable. Parents need to be very aware of the possibility that they can end up a defendant in a lawsuit filed by their institutionalized child(ren). The point here is not to cover up wrong-doing, but, to cease doing wrong to families and children.

CEDU began to face the “judicial music” in 2000 when Stanton Lewis and Nancy Dark filed suit naming Rocky Mountain Academy, Northwest Academy, Ascent, and Boulder Creek Academy as defendants. The complaint included allegations of: breach of contract, common law fraud/misrepresentation, violation of Idaho Consumer Protection Act, negligence, violation of the Idaho Racketeering Act (RICO defined *supra*), and breach of express warranty. The court found cause to allow suit.<sup>100</sup>

A breach of contract occurs when a contracting party owes a duty through agreement to another party and fails to part or all of the agreed upon contractual duties. In the case of residential treatment, this breach can include implied warranties regarding the ethical treatment of youth in their program(s). It can also be a failure to provide any service promised in the contract. Many programs have been sued for breach of contract.

Fraud is an intentional misrepresentation of material fact made by one person to another with knowledge of its falsity and for the purpose of inducing another to act resulting in injury or damages to that individual.<sup>101</sup> CEDU did not represent itself as a cult-like brainwashing program that used torture to change behavior. It falsely represented that it was a legitimate and therapeutic environment to help troubled families. CEDU knew or should have known in the 1970s that its practices were unethical following the trouble Charles (Chuck) Diederich had with media exposure of Synanon (CEDU’s predecessor). Torture is known to be harmful to humans. And, the resulting injury to victims and families is well documented in other areas of this book. Most behavior modification programs use deceptive marketing practices and this is a fraudulent practice.

In the above CEDU case, the plaintiffs sued for violation of the Idaho Consumer Protection Act. Because it was in Idaho and for the sake of brevity, the following information references federal consumer protection information. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the government agency in charge of enforcing federal consumer protection laws. The FTC has posted this warning about the behavior modification industry:<sup>102</sup>

“If you are a parent or guardian and think you have exhausted intervention alternatives for a troubled teen, you may be considering a private residential treatment program. These programs go by a variety of names, including “therapeutic boarding schools,” “emotional growth academies,” “teen boot camps,” “behavior modification facilities,” and “wilderness therapy programs.”

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<sup>99</sup> *Scott v. Pacific West Mountain Resort*, 119 Wash 2d 484, 834 P 2d 6 (1992)

<sup>100</sup> *Stanton Lewis and Nancy Dark v. CEDU Educational Services*, Docket # 25495, Idaho Supreme Court (2000)

<sup>101</sup> <http://definitions.uslegal.com/f/fraud/>

<sup>102</sup> <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro27.shtm>

No standard definitions exist for specific types of programs. The programs are not regulated by the federal government, and many are not subject to state licensing or monitoring as mental health or educational facilities, either. A 2007 Report to Congress by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found cases involving serious abuse and neglect..”

This FTC warning is a bit soft considering the thousands of reports of abuse, fraud, and deceptive marketing found in the Government Accountability Office investigation report.

In 2000, CEDU was also sued by the Accomazzo family. The Accomazzo’s charged that the CEDU programs were guilty of: breach of contract (defined *supra*), common law fraud/misrepresentation (defined *supra*), violation of the Idaho Consumer Protection Act (addressed *supra*), negligence, battery, violation of Idaho laws relating to children, and violation of Idaho Racketeering Act (RICO defined *supra*).<sup>103</sup>

Negligence is when a party owes a duty, that duty is breached, and the breach results in damages to another party. It is different from breach of contract as it can refer to civil duties, public duties, or fiduciary duties implied by the nature of the relationship of the parties involved. For instance, in the United States, one citizen owes another citizen the duty of obeying the law. If a citizen breaks the law and it causes injury to another person, then the injured person has a right to sue. If the injury was caused without motive or intent, the course of action is to sue for negligence.

Battery is an intentional tort. It is the intentional harmful or offensive touching of one person by another without privilege or consent.<sup>104</sup> Idaho’s laws relating to child abuse are:

#### **“Physical Abuse**

**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1602**

*Abused* means any case in which a child has been the victim of conduct or omission resulting in skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, failure to thrive, or death, and such condition or death is not justifiably explained; the history given concerning such condition or death is at variance with the degree or type of such condition or death; or the circumstances indicate that such condition or death may not be the product of an accidental occurrence.

#### **Neglect**

**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1602**

*Neglected* means a child:

- Who is without proper parental care and control, subsistence, education, or medical or other care necessary for his or her well-being because of the conduct or omission of his or her parents, guardian, or other custodian, or their neglect or refusal to provide them

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<sup>103</sup> Ronald Accomazzo, Marsh Accomazzo, and Kevin Accomazzo v. CEDU Educational Services, Docket # 25494, Idaho Supreme Court (2000)

<sup>104</sup> <http://www.answers.com/topic/battery>

- Whose parents, guardian, or other custodian is unable to discharge his or her responsibilities to and for the child and, as a result of such inability, the child lacks the parental care necessary for his or her health, safety, or well-being
- Who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of the law

### **Sexual Abuse**

**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1602**

*Abused* means any case in which a child has been the victim of sexual conduct, including rape, molestation, incest, prostitution, obscene or pornographic photographing, filming or depiction for commercial purposes, or other similar forms of sexual exploitation harming or threatening the child's health, welfare, or mental injury to the child.

### **Emotional Abuse**

**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1602**

*Mental injury* means a substantial impairment in the intellectual or psychological ability of a child to function within a normal range of performance and/or behavior, for short or long terms.

### **Abandonment**

**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1602**

*Abandoned* means the failure of the parent to maintain a normal parental relationship with his or her child, including but not limited to reasonable support or regular personal contact. Failure to maintain this relationship without just cause for a period of 1 year shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of abandonment.”<sup>105</sup>

Child abuse laws are similar in all states. Any physical abuse would also be properly characterized as battery. It is important to note that mental injury resulting from emotional abuse is also against the law in Idaho and many other states. CEDU faced multiple other lawsuits in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century resulting in bankruptcy in 2005.

In November of 2003, the Court of Appeals in Georgia affirmed the verdict against Broken Shackle Ranch for the wrongful death of the son of Parthenia Johnson by electrocution. The surviving Johnson family was awarded \$3 million for the wrongful death of their son. Broken Shackle Ranch appealed saying that the damage amount was excessive, even though it was equal to other wrongful death awards under less horrifying circumstances. The verdict was affirmed and Broken Shackle Ranch was found culpable in the wrongful death by electrocution of Johnson’s son.<sup>106</sup>

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[http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/index.cfm?event=stateStatutes.processSearch](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/index.cfm?event=stateStatutes.processSearch)

<sup>106</sup> Johnson v. Broken Shackle Ranch, Case No. A03A1065, Court of Appeals of Georgia. (2003)



Another important case was decided in California in 2003 regarding the use of exculpatory clauses that relieve care providers of liability for their own negligence. The case was filed against the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles.<sup>107</sup> The author is not intimating that the YMCA is a behavior modification program. The purpose of mentioning the case at all is the court's ruling regarding waivers relieving childcare providers of liability. The court found that an "Exculpatory agreement that purported to relieve a child care provider of liability for its own negligence is void as against public policy." This is extremely important because most contracts with behavior modification programs include unconscionable and/or illegal terms and waivers. Victims should be aware that the contractual provisions waiving liability for negligence and intentional torts (i.e. assault, battery, false imprisonment) is considered voidable or simply void by the courts. It is important that victims not be intimidated by unfair contractual clauses when seeking restitution and justice for themselves and their families.

Teen Help (a.k.a. World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS), etc.) founded by Robert Lichfield (formerly a residential director at Provo Canyon School) in the 1990's faced one of its first lawsuits in 2003. Ceta and Celece Dochterman (a minor) filed suit against Teen Help naming Robert Lichfield, Brent Facer, Resource Realizations, R & B Billing, R & D Billing, and Dixie Contract Services as co-defendants. The causes of action against Teen Help included claims of mental and physical abuse as well as deceptive marketing practices. This case was dismissed because the Dochtermans had difficulty obtaining information through the process of discovery, and, due to the stonewalling, ran out of time with the court to prove their case.<sup>108</sup>

It was a bad year for Teen Help. Teen Help was also sued by Debbie LaFleur and Sarah M. Gann in 2003.<sup>109</sup> Other cases continue to mount against the entity presently known as WWASPS. Also, WWASPS' program Dundee Ranch (owned by Narvin Lichfield (Robert Lichfield's brother) faced serious problems in Mexico and was shut down by authorities for torturing children. The New York Times reported:

"Adults beat some of the children to quell the uprising, according to six people present. The academy's owner, Narvin Lichfield, was jailed for 30 hours, may face criminal charges and has been ordered by a judge to remain in Costa Rica. Four staff members feared by the children are being deported to Jamaica, government officials said. Most of the children are going home, many to an uncertain future.

About 30 youths still remain at the academy. Two of them, Sean McDevitt of North Carolina and David Saczawl of New Jersey, sat in the cafeteria and joked about a fitting sentence for Mr. Lichfield, should he be tried on human rights charges, as threatened by a local prosecutor.

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<sup>107</sup> Gavin W. v. YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, 131 Cal. Rptr. 2d 168, 106 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 662 (2003)

<sup>108</sup> Ceta Dochterman and Celece Dochterman v. Resource Realizations, Teen Help. 56 Fed Appx. 455. (2003)

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/wwaspscases.htm>

"Four years here would be about right," said Sean, who has spent the past 11 months at the academy.

Dundee Ranch's base lay in the canyonlands of southern Utah, in a business called the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, or Wwasps."<sup>110</sup>

In 2004, WWASPS was in trouble again for defamation of a journalist writing articles exposing the corruption and abuse at WWASPS. Thomas G. Houlahan, writer for United Press International (UPI), filed a libel suit against WWASPS and specifically Ken Kay of WWASPS on the following grounds:

“ In this suit, Houlahan alleges that, in response to his investigation, WWASPS, Kay, and Landre: (1) made defamatory statements about him and his work; (2) intentionally interfered with his prospective economic advantage by allegedly attempting to interfere with his relationship with his editor at UPI, Tobin Beck; and (3) engaged in abuse of process by filing a suit against Houlahan in a Utah federal district court alleging that Houlahan defamed WWASPS and tortiously interfered with WWASPS’ contracts with its clients.<sup>1</sup> The court discusses each of these portions of Defendants’ motions separately.”<sup>111</sup>

This is a great case to see the audacity of these deceptive programs and the lengths they will go to in order to silence investigators and critics. It is also great to know that some courts do not let them get away with it.

Bethel Boys Academy (recently purchased and renamed by WWASPS) faced a class action lawsuit in 2005. A dozen families and victims filed suit charging Bethel Boys Academy with a variety of abuses and violations. The victims claims included: violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, fraud (*supra*), breach of contract (*supra*), loss of consortium, assault (*supra*), battery (*supra*), false imprisonment (*supra*), intentional infliction of emotional distress (*supra*), negligent medical care (negligence—*supra*), and failure to pay minimum wage and overtime.<sup>112</sup>

The Fair Labor Standards Act<sup>113</sup> violations included the failure to pay minimum wage (let alone anything at all) or overtime to higher level “cadets” who performed maintenance and security duties at Bethel Boys Academy. The children at Bethel Boys Academy were used as slaves elevating some to oversee and recapture any who dared to attempt escape.

In defrauding families and convincing captive children that their parents are aware and supportive of the abuse, torture, and slavery practiced at Bethel Boy Academy, the program itself undermines the trust between parents and children resulting in loss of consortium. Loss of consortium in this instance would be more properly called loss of filial consortium.<sup>114</sup> When a parent loses the love, trust, or affection of a child because of the wrongful acts of another, the parent may recover for loss of consortium. In intentionally and cruelly telling children that their parents support their being tortured,

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<sup>110</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/27/international/americas/27COST.html>

<sup>111</sup> Thomas G. Houlahan v. World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, et al., United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action 04-01161, (2004)

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/bethelsuits.htm>

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.dol.gov/compliance/laws/comp-FLSA.htm>

<sup>114</sup> [http://accident-law.freeadvice.com/auto/car\\_accident\\_no\\_relations.htm](http://accident-law.freeadvice.com/auto/car_accident_no_relations.htm)

Bethel Boys Academy compounded the injuries they caused and would be arguably liable for resulting damages.

In 2006, Bethel Boys Academy faced another lawsuit. Joseph Gabriel Paolillo and his father won a \$900,000 judgment against Bethel Boys Academy for abuses that presiding judge, Louis Guirola, said was reminiscent of “medieval torture”.<sup>115</sup> It is clear that these programs are in the practice of torturing children. This is not mere speculation, it is well documented and affirmed by American courts.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Randall Hinton (former WWASPS employee at multiple WWASPS facilities including Dundee Ranch which was mentioned previously as having been closed by Mexican authorities for torturing children), was arrested on charges of false imprisonment, assault, and reckless endangerment. At that time, the investigation was reported as ongoing.<sup>116</sup>

In 2008, the Southern Poverty Law Center filed suit on behalf of teenage girls physically and sexually abused at Columbia Training School in Mississippi. Seven months after the girls won the lawsuit, Columbia Training School was closed by the state of Mississippi.<sup>117</sup>

Robert Lee Jones, staff at the Hartmann Center for teens in Marietta, Georgia, was arrested and charged with sexual assault in February of 2008. He had snuck into the bedroom of one of the girls and fondled her in her sleep. The Hartmann Center is used as an alternative to juvenile hall placement in Georgia.<sup>118</sup>

Tranquility Bay, a WWASPS program in Jamaica, was sued again in 2008 for false imprisonment on other violations. Isaac Hersh, a young Jewish teen, was spirited away to Tranquility Bay under false pretenses. His attorney, Joshua Ambush, said of Tranquility Bay, “It’s a modern-day concentration camp.” With the help of authorities and Hillary Clinton, Hersh was released and is now living with loved ones in the United States.<sup>119</sup>

Many more suits and criminal charges have been filed over the last fifty years and even more are currently on their way to the courts. In 2009, HEAL assisted multiple families in preparing for hearings and legal actions to garner justice and freedom for youth held captive in the private compounds and freezing wilderness operated or utilized by the behavior modification industry. The trouble is that there is no regulation and little to no accountability for those operating private prisons for children and teens. So, a change in the laws through legislative action is necessary.

In the following chapters, readers will see how the corrupt officials: block change, protect frauds and abusers, and funnel federal monies to cults masquerading as treatment programs. But, this is followed by a chapter on what government officials are doing to create change, protect children and families, and reduce or eliminate public funding of experimental and abusive programs and cults. And, to help with creating hope and inspiration, see the final chapter.

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<sup>115</sup> “Camp censured for Seymour teen’s torture”. Connecticut Post. [www.connpost.com](http://www.connpost.com). December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/hinton.pdf> (Webwire Article)

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/splc021408.pdf> (Southern Poverty Law Center article)

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/police022808.pdf> ([www.wsbvtv.com](http://www.wsbvtv.com))

<sup>119</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/jewish032508.pdf> (Kirsten Danis, Daily News, City Hall Bureau Chief, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008)

## ~SECTION TWO~

### CHAPTER SEVEN:

#### GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

In 1976, George H.W. Bush was appointed Director of the Central Intelligence Agency by President Gerald Ford.<sup>120</sup> The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been operating a number of behavior modification (a.k.a. mind control) experiments since the 1950's.<sup>121</sup> Richard Helms was Director of the CIA for the early years of research. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1977 the U.S. Senate met regarding the experiments and earlier in the decade ruled that these experiments were unethical and violated human rights.

In the early 1970's, the federal government invested in a new behavior modification program aimed at drug users called The Seed in Ohio and Florida. Maia Szalavitz reports:

“In 1971, the federal government gave a grant to a Florida organization called The Seed, which applied Synanon's methods to teenagers, even those only suspected of trying drugs. In 1974, Congress opened an investigation into such behavior-modification programs, finding that The Seed had used methods "similar to the highly refined brainwashing techniques employed by the North Koreans."

The bad publicity led some supporters of The Seed to create a copycat organization under a different name. Straight Inc. was cofounded by Mel Sembler, a Bush family friend...<sup>122</sup>

At this point, readers may be concerned regarding the purpose of including information on the CIA's behavior modification experiments. It is important to understand the history of behavior modification in the United States and the motivations behind allowing such a fraudulent and abusive industry to flourish in our country. There are three primary reasons that behavior modification programs have found sanctuary in America. The first is that the United States, concerned about brainwashing in Communist countries such as Russia and North Korea, believed it needed to fully understand the technology of behavior modification for national security reasons. John Marks, reported:

“They experimented with dangerous and unknown techniques on people who had no idea what was happening. They systematically violated the free will and mental dignity of their subjects and like the Germans [Nazis], they chose to victimize special groups of people whose existence they considered, out of prejudice and convenience, less worthy than their own. Wherever their extreme experiments went, the CIA sponsors picked for subjects their own equivalents of

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<sup>120</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_H.\\_W.\\_Bush](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_H._W._Bush)

<sup>121</sup> John Marks (journalist), “The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)”. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (pp. 9-10)

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.rickross.com/reference/synanon/synanon7.html> (*Mother Jones Magazine*, Maia Szalavitz, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

the Nazi's Jews and gypsies: mental patients, prostitutes, foreigners, drug addicts, and prisoners..."<sup>123</sup>

The ethical arguments against the research conducted on uninformed individuals without their consent are apparent. The political argument that such experimentation was necessary for national security purposes fails when the ethical codes of informed consent of any participant in scientific research as determined by international laws on human rights (i.e. Nuremberg Code) is lacking. If these experiments were in fact "necessary", then they should have been conducted professionally after obtaining informed consent from participants and providing for care of those who suffer permanent damage as a result of such dangerous experimentation.

The argument that it was necessary for national security purposes in order to understand Communist technologies in controlling human behavior was not the only argument provided by the CIA regarding the purpose of the experiments. John Marks, reported:

"...CIA's research went further than that, and was intended to give the United States its own broad capacity to manipulate human behavior in the age-old quest for secret control."<sup>124</sup>

"Nearly every Agency [CIA] document stressed goals like "controlling an individual to the point where he will do our bidding against his will and even against such fundamental laws of nature as self-preservation."<sup>125</sup>

In a democratic society that celebrates freedom and diversity, the goal of controlling the population through deception and manipulation is arguably treasonous. But, this was the stated goals of the CIA regarding the development of behavior modification technologies.

The second motivation, beyond the desire of learning and using behavior modification, appears to be financial. Money funnels to and from behavior modification programs, politicians, and federal funds in what could be considered a giant money-laundering scheme.

The CIA set up charitable foundations including the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and Geschickter Fund for Medical Research in order to funnel federal grant money through the "charities" to those doing the research.<sup>126</sup> The concern here is that the public is not privy to the current "charities" that are fronts for CIA operations and donors may not know what they are funding when they donate to a charity. WWASPS and Parent Universal Research Experts (PURE) both claim to be non-profit organizations and receive the tax benefits associated. However, both WWASPS and PURE are for profit businesses using highly sophisticated bookkeeping skills to maintain the illusion of non-profit social work.<sup>127</sup> In *Green v. Sue Scheff, PURE, et al*:

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<sup>123</sup> John Marks (journalist), "The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)". W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (p. 10)

<sup>124</sup> John Marks (journalist), "The Search for the Manchurian Candidate (The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences)". W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, NY © 1979 (p. xiv)

<sup>125</sup> Ibid. (p. 25)

<sup>126</sup> Ibid. (p. 63)

<sup>127</sup> <http://www.statemaster.com/encyclopedia/World-Wide-Association-of-Specialty-Programs-and-Schools>

“Scheff in no way disclosed that she was being paid for referring R.G. and others to Defendant Focal Point on a per-child basis. Contrary to Scheff’s misrepresentations, Defendant Horlacher later disclosed that Focal Point Academy pays Scheff money for each student she refers to the school... The reality later discovered is that Defendant Scheff had in fact set up P.U.R.E. based on the business model of a Utah entity known as WWASP that she engaged in protracted litigation with.”<sup>128</sup>

Pathway Family Center, a Straight, Inc. spin-off program, was a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit in Indiana.<sup>129</sup> The final Pathway Family Center program closed in 2009. But, Terri Nissley, the founder of Pathway Family Center, is reportedly currently working on starting a new scam in Michigan. The political connections and support extend far beyond the tax benefits and lax regulation on private nonprofit organizations and financial incentives are a difficult single motivation to understand given the nature of what is happening in behavior modification programs. But, the money is a key element to understanding some of the reasons for no regulation and the continued allowance of these “businesses” to operate.

Maia Szalavitz reported:

“Straight Inc. was cofounded by Mel Sembler, a Bush family friend who would become the GOP’s 2000 finance chair and who heads Lewis “Scooter” Libby’s legal defense fund. By the mid-’80s, Straight was operating in seven states. First lady Nancy Reagan declared it her favorite antidrug program. As with The Seed, abuse was omnipresent—including beatings and kidnapping of adult participants. Facing seven-figure legal judgments, it closed in 1993. But loopholes in state laws and a lack of federal oversight allowed shuttered programs to simply change their names and reopen, often with the same staff, in the same state—even in the same building. Straight spin-offs like the Pathway Family Center are still in business.”<sup>130</sup> [Pathway Family Center has closed since this article was written.]

In another article, Szalavitz reported:

“Mitt Romney [has kicked troubled-teen titan](#) Robert Lichfield to the curb. Lichfield’s organization, the World Wide Association of Specialty Schools and Programs (WWASPS, previously WWASP), is being sued in a class action suit by over 100 plaintiffs, alleging serious sexual, emotional and physical abuse. In the worst cases, teens were beaten, kept in stress positions, sleep deprived, made to walk thousands of laps on a hot desert track, forced to eat their own vomit and held in dog cages. Mexican police shot footage of the dog cages and the track, which was aired on Inside Edition. Another lawsuit alleges educational fraud by one facility-- that facility was already made to pay parents back over \$1 million for falsely claiming to provide legitimate New York state high school diplomas, in one of the largest educational fraud judgments in New York history. Lichfield was Romney’s Utah co-chair for finance-- and he has been relieved of that position "until the lawsuit is resolved in the positive, which we are confident will

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<sup>128</sup> S. Green and M. Green v. Susan L. Scheff, Parents Universal Resource Experts, Inc., et. al. Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida

(<http://www.isaccorp.org/documents/greenvscheff.pdf>)

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.pfctruth.com/02062009.htm> (Hagit Limor, investigative reporter for WCPO)

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2007/08/cult-spawned-tough-love-teen-industry> (Maia Szalavitz)

happen," WWASPS spokesperson Ken Kay told Radar. This is the same Ken Kay who said under oath in another civil suit that he did not know whether sex between staff and teens in WWASPS programs was necessarily abusive. But Romney's national finance co-chair, Mel Sembler, remains."<sup>131</sup>

So, the CIA invested in decades of behavior modification research involving involuntary and uninformed participants that came from a variety of vulnerable classes including psychiatric patients, prisoners, drug addicts, and children in the state's custody. In 1971, the federal government invested in a new "drug rehabilitation" project called The Seed, which, later spawned Straight, Inc. In 1976, George H.W. Bush became director of the CIA. Mel Sembler was the founder of Straight, Inc. George H.W. Bush and Mel Sembler are friends and business associates. Mel Sembler was the co-chair of 2008 presidential candidate Mitt Romney's national finance campaign. And, in 2000 George W. Bush appointed Mel Sembler as U.S. Ambassador to Italy. Sembler was satirically labeled Ambassador de Sade by the media. In the same article it was reported that Governor Jeb Bush had officially made August 8<sup>th</sup> "Betty Sembler Day" to celebrate her work with Straight, Inc. [renamed Drug Free America Foundation in 1996].<sup>132</sup> Clearly a pattern has been established. What is more disturbing is that the Department of Homeland Security currently endorses a number of programs including Abundant Life Academy, Provo Canyon School, Mount Bachelor Academy (recently closed for forcing girls to perform lap dances as "therapy"), and many other abusive behavior modification facilities throughout the United States.<sup>133</sup> And, beyond that, "former" CIA agent, Richard Y. Moody, works for Eagle Ranch Academy and TurningLeaf Seminars run out of St. George, UT (the hometown of WWASPS).<sup>134</sup> After HEAL pointed out that Moody was working in the industry his bio was removed from Eagle Ranch Academy's staff list online. However, he is still employed with the program.

In the 2008 presidential election, Mitt Romney had Robert Lichfield and Mel Sembler handling key positions within his campaign. Romney also received large donations from Robert H. Crist (founder of Provo Canyon School and Logan River Academy),<sup>135</sup> Jack L. Williams (founder of Provo Canyon School and Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center),<sup>136</sup> and Mitt Romney is part owner of Aspen Education Group (the largest behavior modification umbrella corporation).<sup>137</sup> It is apparent that Republican leaders and frontrunners are knee-deep in the defrauding of American families and the torture of American children.

Money flows from industry leaders like Robert Crist, Robert Lichfield, and Mel Sembler directly into the campaigns and dealings of the Bush family, Mitt Romney and others. The programs get a return on their investment. The industry faces no regulation

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<sup>131</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maia-szalavitz/romney-fires-one-teenabu\\_b\\_63311.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maia-szalavitz/romney-fires-one-teenabu_b_63311.html) (Maia Szalavitz)

<sup>132</sup> <http://www.alternet.org/story/27725/> (John Gorenfeld, Altnet, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005)

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/map/ut.htm> (November 26th, 2009)

<sup>134</sup> [http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Moody\\_Richard\\_1181603501.aspx](http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Moody_Richard_1181603501.aspx) (November 26th, 2009)

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.opensecrets.org/pres08/search.php?zip=84058&amt=a&sort=A>

<sup>136</sup> <http://www.utahsright.com/candidate.php?id=c00431171>

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[http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091115/NEWS0107/911150428/1001/NEWS01&nav\\_category=NEWS01](http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091115/NEWS0107/911150428/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01) (Keith Chu, The Bulletin, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

or in places like Utah is allowed to self-regulate.<sup>138</sup> And, on top of this, abusive behavior modification programs receive millions from federal tax-payer dollars every year through grants and social services. Just before his “election” in November of 2000, George W. Bush pledged billions to the efforts of Mel Sembler/Drug Free America Foundation:

“Our organization invited nearly two dozen of America's best leaders in the areas of drug prevention, drug treatment, scientific research, drug interdiction and community anti-drug coalitions to participate. Collectively, we developed a list of strategies that we believe will effectively address the challenges of drug use and abuse for the next four years,” said Drug Free America Foundation's executive director, Calvin Fay. “What a thrill it was to listen to Governor Bush as he outlined his plan last week.” Bush pledged \$2.767 billion in new incentives to combat illegal drug use under his leadership.”<sup>139</sup>

In 2007, the Drug Free America Foundation received over \$1 million in taxpayer money.<sup>140</sup> Teen Challenge received over \$2 million from taxpayer money in the State of Minnesota in 2007.<sup>141</sup> Teen Challenge continues to receive public funds to operate and it is one of the few residential treatment programs endorsed by the Drug Free America Foundation. (See earlier chapters) Aspen Education Group also receives state and federal funds for the children placed in their programs through foster care and court orders.<sup>142</sup> Provo Canyon School and WWASPS also take children placed by government agencies and also receive federal funds. Millions of tax-payer dollars are covering “special education plans” for school districts unwilling to meet the needs of their students. And, difficult or inconvenient students are regularly being sent away through their own schools to behavior modification programs.

The third reason for the support of the behavior modification industry by elites is that it provides a pool of children from which sex slaves and *Hostel*-style<sup>143</sup> torture and murder victims can be harvested. In 1996, former Nebraska Senator John W. DeCamp wrote and published an extensive report on the corruption, sexual abuse, and ritualistic torture and murder of children harvested from various residential youth programs by high level politicians and America's elite. The report was called “The Franklin Cover-Up” and is available through AWI, Inc.<sup>144</sup> In one of DeCamp's reports he recounts the experience of two victims:

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<sup>138</sup> Jeff Smith, who sits on the Utah Dep't of Human Services Licensing Board is a co-owner of Logan River Academy. Logan River Academy is also co-owned by Robert Crist (founder of Provo Canyon School and reportedly still involved with the program as of February, 2009). If nothing else, this tight economic connection between the Dep't of Licensing Board and abusive programs in Utah is a prima facie conflict of interest and evidences the trouble with Utah programs and any real oversight in Utah. (<http://www.provotruthexposed.com/>)

<sup>139</sup> <http://www.allbusiness.com/crime-law/crime-prevention-drug-policy/6515408-1.html> (Business Wire, October 13th, 2000)

<sup>140</sup> <http://dfaf.dev.tampadigital.com/sites/dfaf.org/files/2007annualreport.pdf> (November 26th, 2009)

<sup>141</sup> <http://minnesotaindependent.com/tag/minnesota-teen-challenge/feed> (Andy Birkey, September 22nd, 2009)

<sup>142</sup> <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1891082,00.html> (Maia Szalavitz, Time Magazine, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>143</sup> <http://www.hostelfilm.com/> (also see “Trade” starring Kevin Kline)

<sup>144</sup> DeCamp, John W. “The Franklin Cover-Up.” AWI, Inc. Lincoln, NE. © 1996



“...Last year she met V.P. George Bush and saw him again at one of the parties Larry [Lawrence E. King, Jr.] gave while on a Washington D.C. trip. At some of the parties there are just men...Nelly said she had seen sodomy committed at those parties...then...she [Loretta, age 9] did begin going to the parties again and they lasted for another six months...On one occasion she threatened to tell her mother that the men were having sex with her and that they knew she was only nine but the men indicated that they would kill anyone who told about the activities.”<sup>145</sup>

The parties arranged by Larry King where children were used for sex and morbid entertainment were attended by officials of the Reagan-Bush Administration and members of Congress from both political parties.<sup>146</sup> Another boy reported on Lawrence E. King, Jr:

“The officer, said Stitt [Carol Stitt, FCRB], “confirmed that Larry King had been there, had contributed money to the group home and when he left, three boys came forward and said that they had been abused by him while he was there.”<sup>147</sup>

DeCamp further reported that King had been involved with CIA and the Iran-Contra arms transfers.<sup>148</sup>

In regards to the association between Lawrence E. King, Jr. and residential youth care facilities, DeCamp reported:

“The Omaha Corporations [Union Pacific Railroad, ConAgra, Mutual of Omaha, etc.] that bankrolled Larry King and Franklin are also the major sponsors of youth organizations...Many executives of these firms sit on the boards of the youth care facilities...Key members of the Omaha business community...did nothing to help and plenty to wreck the Franklin committee’s investigation into the sexual abuse, ritual torture, and murder of children.”<sup>149</sup>

DeCamp further reported on the notes of investigator Gary Caradori. A girl named Marcy remembered being flown to Texas for a Republican Convention because another girl had swiped a matchbook from the hotel and the address was in Texas. The children were flown all over the country to be used in and exploited sexually. Another girl, Joanie, “stated that she remembered that the children had been exploited sexually in Texas, and she indicated that it was [the] feeling this activity had been occurring for several years.”<sup>150</sup>

DeCamp also reported that “...George Bush is involved in this child abuse case, and that is why all these people have been dying...”<sup>151</sup> He continued:

“Lauded by the Reagan and Bush Administration as a showcase for the privatization of social services, Covenant House had expanded into Guatemala as a gateway to South America. According to intelligence community sources, the purpose was procurement of children from South America for exploitation in a pedophile ring.”<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> DeCamp, John W. “The Franklin Cover-Up.” AWI, Inc. Lincoln, NE. © 1996 (pp. 12 & 22)

<sup>146</sup> Ibid. (pp. 128-129)

<sup>147</sup> Ibid. (p. 58)

<sup>148</sup> Ibid. (p. 59)

<sup>149</sup> Ibid. (p. 157)

<sup>150</sup> Ibid. (p. 167)

<sup>151</sup> Ibid. (p. 175)

<sup>152</sup> Ibid. (p. 180)

The author would like to remind readers that John W. DeCamp was a senator in Nebraska for over a decade and is a reliable source for the information presented. While the facts are horrifying, it is imperative that readers understand they are all true.

DeCamp stated that institutionalized child abuse and exploitation was protected by the Reagan and Bush Administrations.<sup>153</sup> He went on to describe one of the most disturbing reports he received in the Franklin Committee's investigation:

"Excerpts reported by foster mother, Kathleen Sorenson..."The children I have talked to have all had to murder before the age of two. That is something beyond anything I could comprehend. But, in some way, whether with the help of an adult's hand over theirs, by having them practice, by getting them excited to be part of the adult scene, they do murder...They are told they will never get out, no one will ever believe them, that there is no freedom...They are threatened with death...They believe that these people know everything they are doing, everyone they're talking to. One teenager told me that she had been told that if she ever got married, that they would fool her, it would be one of them and she wouldn't know it ahead of time. They set them up to fail in every area."<sup>154</sup>

The purpose of including the three primary reasons is to give every "justification" of these corrupt practices a clean look with the help of a variety of verified and legitimate sources like former Senator John W. DeCamp. It is unacceptable to allow the exploitation of children and families for political gain or sadistic "pleasures". It is time for all of those involved in this sick, perverted, and deadly "game" to be held accountable. Unfortunately, with warring factions in the political arena, progress is horribly slow. But, there is hope. See the next chapter.

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<sup>153</sup> Ibid. (p. 181)

<sup>154</sup> Ibid. (p. 205-206)

~SECTION TWO~

CHAPTER EIGHT:

GOVERNMENT ACTION

Over the years, there have been hundreds of lawsuits and criminal charges against behavior modification programs. The Bethel Boys Academy (a.k.a. Bethel Children's Home, Bethel Baptist Boys Home, Eagle Point Christian Academy, etc.) was raided over three times by authorities with the children being returned home and the program is still operating today under a "new" name, Gulf Coast Academy. In 1989 regarding Herman Fountain, the founder of Bethel Boys Academy:

"New reports of child abuse prompted the removal of two minors from the notorious Bethel Children's Home in Lucedale, Ms. A 15 year old from Alabama and 12 year old from New York were removed following reports of abuse by a runaway. Last June 72 children were removed by the welfare department; many testified to excessive beatings and boot-camp type regimens. In contempt of court, REV. HERMAN FOUNTAIN and colleagues have \$300,000 in unpaid penalties, and face a jury trial for assaulting police officers. The state requires no licensing for religious homes. However, the legislature passed a bill, in effect July 1, requiring 24-hour childcare homes to submit monthly lists of names and places of origin for each child and staff member, and educational information. (Mobile Register, 4/11/89)

\* REV. HERMAN FOUNTAIN was sentenced to 1 year in jail and 4 years' probation for striking a Mississippi state trooper. Fountain, 39, a Baptist, operates the notorious Bethel Children's Home in Lucedale, MS, which has refused to turn over records on children in its custody, many of whom have run away and reported gross maltreatment. (Montgomery Advertiser, 5/17/89)"<sup>155</sup>

It's sister program, Bethel Girls Academy was closed following a raid by state welfare officials in 2004.<sup>156</sup>

In November of 2003, Representative George Miller (D-CA) wrote then Attorney General John Ashcroft as Ranking Minority Leader of the Education and Workforce Committee. Mr. Miller requested an investigation into the behavior modification programs connected with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS). Mr. Miller and the Education and Workforce (later Education and Labor) Committee were repeatedly denied satisfaction. Mr. Ashcroft stated that any problems between parents and behavior modification programs were contractual issues and best left to civil actions for restitution and justice. In a final letter to Mr. Ashcroft, Mr. Miller argued that:

"Past requests for the U.S. Department of Justice to initiate thorough review of allegations of severe child abuse in WWASPS facilities have been refused on the grounds that the Department lacks sufficient investigatory authority. Evidently,

<sup>155</sup> <http://worldaerodata.com/hell/fountain.html>

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.nospank.net/n-n49r.htm> (November 27th, 2009)

law enforcement officials in several states have determined they possess the power to conduct investigations, and the power of the U.S. Attorney General are hardly more constrained than those of these officials.”<sup>157</sup>

Following this exchange, Rep. George Miller requested the Government Accountability Office investigate the behavior modification industry and began work on legislation to create federal regulation standards for the industry.

In April of 2005, Rep. Miller introduced HR 1738, the “End Institutionalized Abuse of Children Act”. It was introduced and referred to the Education and Workforce Committee. There were only eight co-sponsors of this legislation and they included: Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Major Owens (D-NY), Fortney Stark (D-CA), Christopher Van Hollen (D-MD), Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), and David Wu (D-OR). The legislation included provisions for the following regulations:

- Explicitly authorizes Attorney General to work with foreign authorities to determine the welfare of children in off-shore (but, American owned) behavior modification programs.
- Explicitly authorizes Attorney General to investigate and create additional rules to protect American children held in off-shore (but, American owned) behavior modification programs.
- Civil penalty maximum for violating federal regulations determined not to exceed \$50,000.
- Grants to be made available to states to assist in enforcing regulations and licensing requirements.
  - Grant monies given to states to enable establishment of requirements and enforcement.
    - States Must Follow These Licensing Requirements
      - All child residential facilities in the state must be licensed by the state.
      - The facility meets applicable standards of the State for the provision of treatment services for children with emotional, psychological, developmental, or behavioral dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies.
      - In the case of each child who is a resident of the facility and whose domicile is another State, the facility meets the standards of such other State for the operation of such a facility, including any licensing standards.
      - With respect to State law that prohibits the physical or mental abuse of children and the neglect of children, the law of the State in which the facility is located applies to the facility standards for the care of children who are residents of the facility, including enforcement standards, that are equivalent

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<sup>157</sup> <http://www.nospank.net/ashcroft.htm> (November 27th, 2009)

- to the standards applied by the State to parents or legal guardians.
- The State requires periodic, unannounced inspections of the facility to determine compliance with applicable law, including law regarding the licensing of health professionals and law regarding the standards referred to in last bullet point.
- Grant monies given to states to enable establishment of requirements and enforcement.
  - Enforcement Requirements:
    - CIVIL PENALTY- A person who operates a child residential treatment facility in violation of the requirements under subsection (b) is subject to a civil penalty of \$250 per day until the violation is corrected, except that the number of days for which the penalty is assessed may not exceed 60 days.
    - ORDER TO TERMINATE OPERATIONS- With respect to a violation of the requirements under subsection (b), if a civil penalty under subparagraph (A) for the violation is assessed for 60 days, the State orders that the child residential treatment facility involved terminate all operations.
    - Abuse and Neglect:
      - CIVIL PENALTY- If a child residential treatment facility engages in the abuse or neglect of a child who is a resident of the facility, each person who owns or operates the facility, and each of the officers, employees, or contractors thereof who engaged in the abuse or neglect, is subject to a civil penalty for each such violation in an amount determined by the State, but not less than \$20,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding.
      - CRIMINAL PENALTY- If a child residential treatment facility engages in the abuse or neglect of a child who is a resident of the facility, each person who owns or operates the facility, and each of the officers, employees, or contractors thereof who engaged in the abuse or neglect, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.
      - ABUSE OR NEGLECT- For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), the term `abuse

or neglect', with respect to a child, means a knowing act or omission that the officer, employee, or contractor involved knows or should know will result in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or will present an imminent risk of serious harm.

The suggested allocation to implement the above regulations with federal funds was a meager \$50,000,000.<sup>158</sup> Far more than that is given in federal money every year to abusive behavior modification programs and regulation could pay for itself if such programs ceased to receive public funds.

The 2005 legislation had real teeth and would have gone far in protecting children and families from fraud and abuse. Unfortunately, the legislation has gone through its own devolution (retrograde evolution) and has lost much of the value the effort had in its earlier forms. In 2008, Rep. Miller introduced HR 5876, the “Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008”. HR 5876 was an almost completely different bill when compared to the HR 1738. The bill still had teeth, but, certain programs were now being excluded from the regulatory provisions. There was no more mention of regulating or protecting American children held in U.S. owned programs operating outside of the United States. Since some of the most horrific abuses reported have occurred in off-shore programs, removing those provisions was a big blow to real reform.

They changed the programs to be regulated to not include foster care or group homes (Midwest Academy, a WWASPS facility, is a “licensed foster group home”), psychiatric facilities, or licensed hospitals. Programs like Provo Canyon School are listed as hospitals in the state of Utah. And, other programs advertise themselves as behavioral health psychiatric hospitals (i.e. Northwest Behavioral, SLS Health, etc.). Eliminating programs that fall under the headings of foster care, hospital, psychiatric facility, or off-shore eliminates many of the programs that need to be regulated by this legislation. HR 5876 also allowed states an out in that they would not be eligible for grants to implement regulations if they did not follow the federal guidelines set forth for such regulation. And, there are countless other problems with the legislation as well. They removed the provision that offending programs would be terminated after a number of complaints were filed and found valid. And, they removed any requirement of prosecuting those found to be physically or sexually abusing children at such facilities.<sup>159</sup>

In 2008, HR 5876 morphed again into HR 6358, keeping its title. The bill reduces the funding for implementing regulation from \$50,000,000 to \$15,000,000. But, keeps the limit on fines against offending programs at \$50,000. It keeps other provisions of HR 5876, but, also keeps the failings of that legislation as well.<sup>160</sup>

In 2009, the House introduced and passed HR 911, the “Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009”. This legislation removes psychiatric facilities from the exclusions list but keeps foster care group homes and licensed hospitals on the list of programs excluded from federal regulation. It does not require

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<sup>158</sup> <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h109-1738> (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>159</sup> <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR05876>: (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>160</sup> <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?c110:./temp/~c1102I1vRS> (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

unannounced inspections of behavior modification programs, as was required in the earlier versions of the legislation, nor does it extend the statute of limitations for victims as had earlier versions. And, continues to allow states to conduct interstate business in accepting clients from other states without requiring they adhere to federal guidelines and regulations.<sup>161</sup> At this point, the legislation is a farce and will not effectively protect children and families from institutionalized abuse.

The good news is that the Federal Trade Commission<sup>162</sup> and Surgeon General<sup>163</sup> have issued warnings to consumers and families about the dangers of subjecting children to unregulated programs. Many programs are being closed by authorities throughout the country, and abroad.<sup>164</sup> Activists, advocates, survivors (and their families), and everyday citizens are aware of the problem, putting pressure on officials, and taking action for real reform. But, in the meantime, children continue to be confined, starved, abused, raped, tortured, and killed in behavior modification programs. You can help. (see next chapter)

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<sup>161</sup> <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?c111:./temp/~c111ZfOiv6> (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>162</sup> <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro27.shtm> (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>163</sup>

[http://www.enterthefreudianslip.com/surgeon\\_general\\_mental\\_health\\_ch3\\_treatment\\_interventions\\_residential.htm](http://www.enterthefreudianslip.com/surgeon_general_mental_health_ch3_treatment_interventions_residential.htm) (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>164</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/mbarachel.pdf>

## ~SECTION TWO~

### CHAPTER NINE:

#### REASONS FOR HOPE AND IMMEDIATE ACTION

There are many reasons for hope and immediate action. The fact that you have read this book and are now armed to effectively discuss the issue in an informed manner with your family and community is a big reason for all to hope. Since the government is unwilling or unable to effectively resolve the problem, it is up to all of us to be informed and protect each other from industrialized fraud and abuse.

Survivors, victims, and advocates have started multiple organizations and websites exposing the abuse. HEAL was started in 2002 after Angela Smith left the Northwest Animal Rights Network to focus on teen liberty following years of sharing her story on her personal website regarding the torture and abuse she suffered at Provo Canyon School. Smith's personal website was started in 1998 and included message forums for all survivors of institutionalized abuse to share their stories. Since 2002, HEAL has expanded to include survivors from all states and has chapters all over the country that are all coordinated by survivors of behavior modification programs. The International Survivors Action Committee (ISAC) organized to expose institutionalized abuse until it disbanded in 2009.<sup>165</sup> Survivors of Straight, Inc. founded ISAC. Over many years, other organizations have formed including the Fight Institutionalized Child Abuse Network (FICAnet),<sup>166</sup> Teen Advocates USA,<sup>167</sup> and many others.

In more recent years, survivors have taken to protesting programs. For years survivors protested Kids Helping Kids (formerly Straight, Inc. and later acquired by Pathway Family Center—another Straight, Inc. spin-off). In 2007, Tony Connelly joined the effort to expose and close Kids Helping Kids. Mr. Connelly was a victim of Kids Helping Kids in the 1980's. He was horrified that it was still operating. And, he took action. Amplifying the efforts of those who had been organizing for years, he gathered his friends and began organizing regular protests against Kids Helping Kids and Pathway Family Center. In 2009, the last Pathway Family Center closed.<sup>168</sup>

Also in the last few years, Gabriella Sheldon, survivor of Hephzibah House, has begun organizing protests against that program. Dozens of survivors rallied with her against Hephzibah House and continue to do so.<sup>169</sup> And, more victims and families have launched protests against Benchmark and Peninsula Village. If you want to get involved, see what's happening in your region and take action!

In addition to being informed, sharing information, and protesting; people may be able to change the laws through citizen's initiatives. 27 states have a citizen's initiative and referendum process by which civilians can propose legislation and put it to a public or legislative vote. An initiative is a form of direct democracy in which a petition of sorts

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<sup>165</sup> <http://www.isaccorp.org/aboutus.asp> (November 28th, 2009)

<sup>166</sup> <http://ficanetwork.net/> (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>167</sup> <http://www.teenadvocatesusa.org/FrontPage.html> (November 28th, 2009)

<sup>168</sup> [http://www.wcpo.com/content/news/localshows/iteam/story/Controversial-Treatment-Center-Shuts-Down/3GRHJzz\\_YUKGi68NUvUsmQ.csp](http://www.wcpo.com/content/news/localshows/iteam/story/Controversial-Treatment-Center-Shuts-Down/3GRHJzz_YUKGi68NUvUsmQ.csp) (November 28th, 2009--Original--July 31st, 2009)

<sup>169</sup> <http://www.heal-online.org/hephzibah.htm>



is drawn up and the state requires a minimum number of registered voter signatures in order to get it on the following election ballot. The states that allow for some form of citizen legislative action are:

- Alaska (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Arizona (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Arkansas (allows for initiative and referendum)
- California (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Colorado (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Florida (allows for initiative only)
- Idaho (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Illinois (allows for initiative only)
- Kentucky (allows for referendum only)
- Maine (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Maryland (allows for referendum only)
- Massachusetts (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Michigan (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Mississippi (allows for initiative only)
- Missouri (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Montana (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Nebraska (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Nevada (allows for initiative and referendum)
- New Mexico (allows for referendum only)
- North Dakota (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Ohio (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Oklahoma (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Oregon (allows for initiative and referendum)
- South Dakota (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Utah (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Washington (allows for initiative and referendum)
- Wyoming (allows for initiative and referendum)<sup>170</sup>

In 2008, Angela Smith filed Initiative 999 (I-999) in Washington State. The requirements for filing an initiative and getting it on the ballot differ by state. Washington requirements allow approximately five months for citizens to complete the following tasks:

- Submit draft of initiative to Secretary of State
- Receive suggested changes from Secretary of State
- Submit final initiative text to Secretary of State
- Receive initiative number for printing petitions from Secretary of State
- Print petitions
- Collect over 224,000 valid registered Washington voter signatures
- Submit signatures to Secretary of State for validation.

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<sup>170</sup> [http://www.iandrinstute.org/statewide\\_i&r.htm](http://www.iandrinstute.org/statewide_i&r.htm) (November 28th, 2009)

Unfortunately, HEAL HQ was unsuccessful in collecting the needed signatures to get the legislation on the ballot. But, the text of the initiative was approved by the Secretary of State and is copied here as an example:

## Initiative Measure No. 999

Filed

JAN 23 2008

SECRETARY OF STATE

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a minor's consent to psychological or  
2 chemical dependency treatment; amending RCW 70.96A.095, 13.32A.050,  
3 26.28.015, 26.50.020, and 13.64.010; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington has a long history of taking  
6 action to protect the interests of children and teenage minors from  
7 physical, psychological, emotional, and sexual abuse. There are  
8 numerous laws and safeguards to protect children from such abuse within  
9 the home or domestic situation. This measure would require that such  
10 protections be extended to children facing institutionalization in a  
11 residential treatment facility, boot camp, wilderness program, or  
12 alternative experimental behavior modification facility as a result of  
13 parental incompetence or lack of sufficient regulation of such  
14 programs.

15 The intent of this act is to provide additional safeguards to  
16 children and teens and prevent abuses of power and authority exercised  
17 by incompetent, ignorant, or negligent parents, legal guardians,  
18 guardians ad litem, or government officials. The people want the  
19 future adults of our state to be given proper care and treatment so as

1 not to mature into maladjusted ne'er-do-wells. The people want  
2 children to be given age-appropriate liberty and responsibility to  
3 protect them and empower them to contribute to decisions that affect  
4 their future in a significant, life-altering way.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.96A.095 and 1998 c 296 s 23 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Any person thirteen years of age or older may give consent for  
8 himself or herself to the furnishing of outpatient treatment by a  
9 chemical dependency treatment program (~~(certified by the department)~~,  
10 or other licensed and regulated family or child therapist. ~~The child~~  
11 may also give consent for independent legal assistance to safeguard  
12 from unnecessary, unconstitutional, and illegal institutionalization.  
13 No child age thirteen years of age or older may be transported outside  
14 of Washington state without his or her informed and express written  
15 permission witnessed by independent counsel or court order for behavior  
16 modification purposes. Parental authorization is required for any  
17 treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.32A.050 and 2000 c 123 s 6 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

- 20 (1) A law enforcement officer shall take a child into custody:
- 21 (a) If a law enforcement agency has been contacted by the parent of  
22 the child that the child is absent from parental custody without  
23 consent; or
- 24 (b) If a law enforcement officer reasonably believes, considering  
25 the child's age, the location, and the time of day, that a child is in  
26 circumstances which constitute a danger to the child's safety or that  
27 a child is violating a local curfew ordinance; or
- 28 (c) If an agency legally charged with the supervision of a child  
29 has notified a law enforcement agency that the child has run away from  
30 placement; or
- 31 (d) If a law enforcement agency has been notified by the juvenile  
32 court that the court finds probable cause exists to believe that the  
33 child has violated a court placement order issued under this chapter or  
34 chapter 13.34 RCW or that the court has issued an order for law  
35 enforcement pick-up of the child under this chapter or chapter 13.34  
36 RCW.

1 (2) Law enforcement custody shall not extend beyond the amount of  
2 time reasonably necessary to transport the child to a destination  
3 authorized by law and to place the child at that destination. Law  
4 enforcement custody continues until the law enforcement officer  
5 transfers custody to a person, agency, or other authorized entity under  
6 this chapter, or releases the child because no placement is available.  
7 Transfer of custody is not complete unless the person, agency, or  
8 entity to whom the child is released agrees to accept custody.

9 (3) If a law enforcement officer takes a child into custody  
10 pursuant to either subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section and  
11 transports the child to a crisis residential center, the officer shall,  
12 within twenty-four hours of delivering the child to the center, provide  
13 to the center a written report detailing the reasons the officer took  
14 the child into custody. The center shall provide the department with  
15 a copy of the officer's report.

16 (4) If the law enforcement officer who initially takes the juvenile  
17 into custody or the staff of the crisis residential center have  
18 reasonable cause to believe that the child is absent from home because  
19 he or she is abused or neglected, a report shall be made immediately to  
20 the department.

21 (5) Nothing in this section affects the authority of any political  
22 subdivision to make regulations concerning the conduct of minors in  
23 public places by ordinance or other local law.

24 (6) If a law enforcement officer has a reasonable suspicion that a  
25 child is being unlawfully harbored in violation of RCW 13.32A.080, the  
26 officer shall remove the child from the custody of the person harboring  
27 the child and shall transport the child to one of the locations  
28 specified in RCW 13.32A.060.

29 (7) No child may be placed in a secure facility within Washington  
30 state or transferred to a secure facility outside of Washington state  
31 except as provided in this chapter. This act shall apply to parents of  
32 minor children who contract to have children "escorted" and/or enrolled  
33 in unregulated, unlicensed, and/or out-of-state behavior modification  
34 programs including: Residential treatment programs, "therapeutic"  
35 boarding schools, boot camps, and wilderness camps. No child may be  
36 subjected to a secure, lockdown environment, except as provided in this  
37 chapter.

1           **Sec. 4.** RCW 26.28.015 and 1992 c 111 s 12 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3           Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided  
4 under RCW 26.50.020, all persons shall be deemed and taken to be of  
5 full age for the specific purposes hereafter enumerated at the age of  
6 eighteen years, unless otherwise stated:

7           (1) To enter into any marriage contract without parental consent if  
8 otherwise qualified by law;

9           (2) To execute a will for the disposition of both real and personal  
10 property if otherwise qualified by law;

11           (3) To vote in any election if authorized by the Constitution and  
12 otherwise qualified by law;

13           (4) To enter into any legal contractual obligation and to be  
14 legally bound thereby to the full extent as any other adult person;

15           (5) ~~((To make decisions))~~ Minors age sixteen or older shall be  
16 personally and legally responsible for fifty percent of each and every  
17 decision in regard to their own body and the body of their lawful issue  
18 whether natural born to or adopted by such person to the full extent  
19 allowed to any other adult person including but not limited to consent  
20 to surgical operations. Persons of the age of eighteen years shall be  
21 deemed and taken to be of full age for the specific purpose to make  
22 decisions in regard to their own body and the body of their lawful  
23 issue whether natural born to or adopted by such person to the full  
24 extent allowed to any other adult person including but not limited to  
25 surgical operations;

26           (6) To sue and be sued on any action to the full extent as any  
27 other adult person in any of the courts of this state, without the  
28 necessity for a guardian ad litem.

29           **Sec. 5.** RCW 26.50.020 and 1992 c 111 s 8 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31           (1) Any person may seek relief under this chapter by filing a  
32 petition with a court alleging that the person has been the victim of  
33 domestic violence, including physical, psychological, emotional, or  
34 sexual abuse, committed by the respondent. The person may petition for  
35 relief on behalf of himself or herself and on behalf of minor family or  
36 household members.

1 (2) A person under eighteen years of age who is sixteen years of  
2 age or older may seek relief under this chapter and is not required to  
3 seek relief by a guardian or next friend.

4 (3) No guardian or guardian ad litem need be appointed on behalf of  
5 a respondent to an action under this chapter who is under eighteen  
6 years of age if such respondent is sixteen years of age or older.

7 (4) The court may, if it deems necessary, appoint a guardian ad  
8 litem for a petitioner or respondent who is a party to an action under  
9 this chapter.

10 (5) The courts defined in RCW 26.50.010(~~(3)~~) (4) have  
11 jurisdiction over proceedings under this chapter. The jurisdiction of  
12 district and municipal courts under this chapter shall be limited to  
13 enforcement of RCW 26.50.110(1), or the equivalent municipal ordinance,  
14 and the issuance and enforcement of temporary orders for protection  
15 provided for in RCW 26.50.070 if: (a) A superior court has exercised  
16 or is exercising jurisdiction over a proceeding under this title or  
17 chapter 13.34 RCW involving the parties; (b) the petition for relief  
18 under this chapter presents issues of residential schedule of and  
19 contact with children of the parties; or (c) the petition for relief  
20 under this chapter requests the court to exclude a party from the  
21 dwelling which the parties share. When the jurisdiction of a district  
22 or municipal court is limited to the issuance and enforcement of a  
23 temporary order, the district or municipal court shall set the full  
24 hearing provided for in RCW 26.50.050 in superior court and transfer  
25 the case. If the notice and order are not served on the respondent in  
26 time for the full hearing, the issuing court shall have concurrent  
27 jurisdiction with the superior court to extend the order for  
28 protection.

29 (6) An action under this chapter shall be filed in the county or  
30 the municipality where the petitioner resides, unless the petitioner  
31 has left the residence or household to avoid abuse. In that case, the  
32 petitioner may bring an action in the county or municipality of the  
33 previous or the new household or residence.

34 (7) A person's right to petition for relief under this chapter is  
35 not affected by the person leaving the residence or household to avoid  
36 abuse.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 13.64.010 and 1993 c 294 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       Any minor who is sixteen years of age or older and who is a  
4 resident of this state may petition in the superior court for a  
5 declaration of emancipation. Any minor who is sixteen years of age or  
6 older and meets the criteria in this section who is in danger of  
7 illegal or extra-legal institutionalization by one or both parents may  
8 be fast-tracked and granted emancipation through an emergency ex parte  
9 hearing.

--- END ---

\*footnote\*<sup>171</sup>

The official Ballot Measure Summary read:

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<sup>171</sup> <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/text/i999.pdf> (November 28th, 2009)

“This measure would prohibit the transportation of minors age thirteen or older outside the state for behavior modification purposes without the consent of the minor or a court order. Minors age sixteen or older would be legally responsible for fifty percent of each decision with regard to their own bodies or their children. Domestic violence petitions could be filed based on physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse. Courts could expedite petitions for emancipation of minors.”<sup>172</sup>

Each state should pass legislation of this nature to protect its citizens from fraud and abuse. And, citizens can unite to lobby legislators in every state to encourage such reforms to existing law even if they do not have the option of initiative or referendum.

There are many ways to get involved and obvious reasons why immediate action is necessary. It is a danger to democracy to allow brainwashing camps masquerading as treatment facilities. It is time we, the people, stand up against the horrific human rights violations occurring behind closed doors in the United States and abroad. And, we can all be part of the solution. Be informed, stay informed, and share information with your family and community. Talk to your local Parent Teacher Association, Medical Associations, Mental Health, and Social Services regarding institutionalized abuse; advise them against referring to unregulated programs. Join in the efforts of survivors and victims in speaking out and exposing abuse through advocacy and protest. And, never allow anyone you know or love to be subjected to a behavior modification program. Get legal help and fight for the freedom of your friends and family whenever necessary.

In a 1775 proposition to the Pennsylvania Assembly, Benjamin Franklin wrote: “They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”<sup>173</sup> The philosopher Immanuel Kant argued that the best way to determine if an act is ethical/good or not is to determine whether it would be okay to do to everyone. If it would be wrong for all to suffer an act, than it is wrong for one to suffer an act.<sup>174</sup> In 1993, Nelson Mandela echoed Martin Luther King Jr.’s sentiment in his Nobel Award acceptance speech:

“These countless human beings, both inside and outside our country, had the nobility of spirit to stand in the path of tyranny and injustice, without seeking selfish gain. They recognised that an injury to one is an injury to all and therefore acted together in defence of justice and a common human decency.”<sup>175</sup>

It is time for all of us to stand and act together in defense of justice and human decency. The children need our help and we are their only voice. We must raise our voices against those who would torture and kill children for profit. The time is now!

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<sup>172</sup> [http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Washington\\_Rights\\_of\\_Minors\\_Initiative\\_\(2008\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Washington_Rights_of_Minors_Initiative_(2008)) (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>173</sup>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=W2MFAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA270&lpg=PA270t#v=onepage&q=&f=false> (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>174</sup> <http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/kant.html> (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

<sup>175</sup> [http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Nobel\\_Award\\_15212.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Nobel_Award_15212.html) (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009)