

Boy Scouts of America Releases Abuse Allegations

BY SARA WORRELL
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 1,700 volunteer leaders in the Boy Scouts of America were suspended or fired between 1971 and 1991 under allegations that they sexually abused members of their troops, a spokesman for the BSA said.

Richard Walker, national spokesman for the BSA, said more than 1,800 cases of abuse were filed in the 20-year period, but about 100 cases had not been verified.

An allegation of abuse by a scout against a scout leader always results in the leader's suspension and the notification of child-protection agencies, Walker said.

Despite the high number of alleged abuses, Walker said Boy Scout leader selection was a thorough process. Leaders are chosen by local Boy Scout charters

according to guidelines set by the national headquarters. "Go down and fill out an application with a local boy scouts council," Walker said. "I guarantee it is a very rigorous application."

Triangle scout groups use the application process as a means to prevent child abuse within the organization, said Chuck Hanchay, scout executive of the Raleigh Boy Scouts' Oconeechee Council.

"There's a pretty good screening process, and we verify that," he said.

Hanchay said that although he did not think homosexuals were bad people, he believed they were not appropriate leaders for Boy Scout groups because pack leaders influenced children's beliefs.

"We do not consider homosexuals, pedophiles and people of that nature to be leaders," he said.

There are 11 Boy Scout councils in

North Carolina and approximately 380 in the United States, Hanchay said. Currently, approximately 4 million leaders volunteer across the nation. The volunteers are given positions such as scout master or club master, which have varying degrees of responsibility.

Walker said that according to the National Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, 3 million cases of child abuse were filed in 1992 across the United States.

Walker compared the 1,800 cases of alleged child abuse by Boy Scout leaders with the 3 million cases reported nationwide in one year. Child abuse, he said, was much worse in American society as opposed to the Boy Scouts.

Hanchay agreed with Walker that the problem of child abuse was more serious on a larger scale. "I think it's a societal problem," he said. "It's not just in Boy Scouts."

Walker said the BSA would continue to

develop programs to address the national problem of child abuse.

Charles Hart Enzer, a fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, called child abuse in general "a betrayal of trust."

"The young of mammals have a right to expect that the adults of the group will protect their rights," he said.

Enzer said children could be brainwashed into thinking they had been abused.

"The way they are asked about it can result in brainwashing," he said. "It has to do with the skill of the interviewers."

Paul Fine, a professor of psychiatry at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., said the abuse harmed the victims' trust in adults.

"The Boy Scouts are built around helping the boys develop a sense of identity," he said. "It's a basic betrayal of the child's trust in a surrogate parent."

To help prevent future incidents of sexual abuse within its ranks, the Boy Scouts of America sponsored the first national symposium on child abuse prevention this month. Youth protection experts discussed methods for prevention of child abuse and neglect with over 200 participants.

Experts participating in the symposium included U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo. Schroeder addressed the issue of children's rights via satellite from Washington, D.C.

In a press release, Walker said the BSA's first priority was to protect the 4.2 million Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in America.

All new volunteers are required to be trained in youth-protection methods, he said. Scouts also are required to discuss child abuse and youth protection with their families and sign a parents' guide to verify they had done so.

SPANGLER

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"It's helpful to have relationships with persons and companies that can contribute to our entire university system," Porter said. Spangler has helped raise private funds for UNC-CH's Bicentennial Campaign and other UNC-system projects, Porter said.

Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare and president pro tem of the state Senate, said he thought state officials could serve on corporate boards if it was not a conflict of interest and did not take their attention away from their jobs.

If officials spent too much time away from their public duties, "it would be improper, and certainly should be reviewed," he said.

However, it is not uncommon for UNC-system officials to hold positions on corpo-

rate boards.

In July, Chancellor Paul Hardin, a former member of the board of directors of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., became a defendant in a lawsuit aimed at the board, which was sued by the state of New Jersey for mismanagement.

The case is in litigation, and Hardin has said it will not interfere with his University duties because his lawyers were handling his defense.

A \$310-million bond issue, if passed on Nov. 2, will mean construction contracts with the university system, but Basnight said he didn't think Spangler's new investment in the wallboard company would be a conflict of interest.

Basnight said the contractors that won the bid from the universities to construct the new buildings would be in charge of buying their own material.

OLMOS

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convicted. Olmos' performance as El Pachuco earned him the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, a Theater World Award and a Tony nomination.

On television, Olmos probably is best known for his role as Lt. Castillo on the show "Miami Vice," for which he received an Emmy and a Golden Globe Award.

On "Miami Vice," Olmos even directed an episode.

In the movies, Olmos has performed a variety of roles. He starred in "Blade Runner" with Harrison Ford and in "American Me," in which he directed and played a crime lord associated with the "Mexican Mafia."

Perhaps his most famous movie role was as Jaime Escalante in "Stand and Deliver," in which he played a high-school math teacher who was determined to teach his class the power of learning.

Olmos talks often to high-school and

college students about diversity and multiculturalism. Feinstein said she thought Olmos talked to students at that age because he believed they were the future of the nation.

Rick Gardner, program assistant for the Carolina Union, said he thought Olmos would be able to give students a firsthand perspective on events like the L.A. riots.

"He brings a fresh perspective to Carolina," Gardner said. "He brings a diverse background from acting to being an activist. He will be able to give us insight from what he learned from his experiences."

CABLE

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cil will propose are removing the need for converter boxes, creating better customer service, expanding available channels, improving technology and service options and providing access to noncommercial public, educational and government programming, according to Horton's report.

"When Cablevision acquired the system last year from Prime of Austin, Texas, we knew there were problems with customer service," said William D'Epagnier, vice president of Cablevision.

After adding more workers, customer service complaints were reduced, D'Epagnier said. An additional service that Cablevision is looking into is broadcasting Emergency Broadcast System announcements on all channels.

"As soon as we know what the standards are, we are going to install this system," D'Epagnier said. "We (then) have to go through a rate-review process with the town and FCC."

GUNS

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the proposal was "right on the mark" and that he expected most of his fellow council members to agree.

"I don't think that we want to promote the use of guns in Chapel Hill," Werner said. "I think it's just sending the wrong message."

McFarling, who could not be reached for comment Monday, spoke against proposed gun-control legislation at an emotion-laden council meeting in September.

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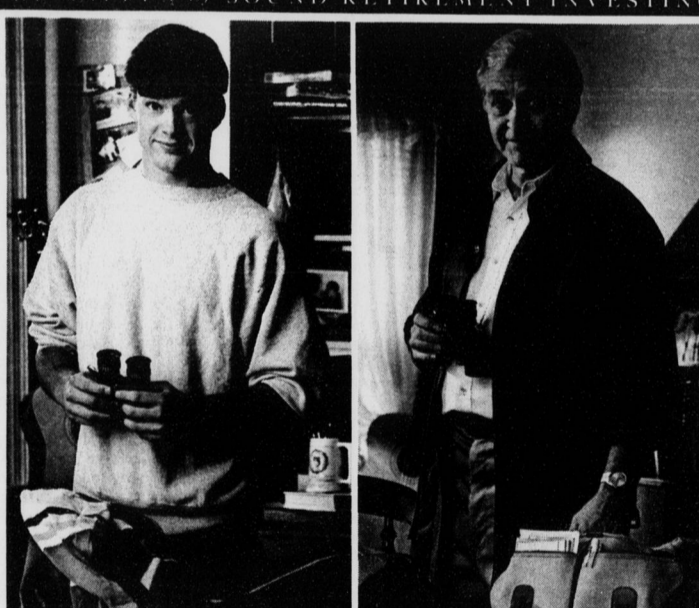
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