

# Reports of child abuse, neglect rise with increase of public awareness

By JILL GERBER  
Staff Writer

An 18-month-old received third-degree burns from hot water because he was having trouble being toilet-trained. A three-year-old was branded on the hand by a hot iron after reaching up to his mother while she was ironing. A two-year-old weighed 10 pounds after being neglected by his parents.

These children are only three of the 27,625 cases of child abuse and neglect reported to the N.C. Central Registry between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985. County social workers confirmed 10,554 of the cases.

Each of North Carolina's 100 counties has a branch of the Protective Services to investigate cases of abuse and to put abusive parents in preventive programs. The N.C. Child Abuse Reporting Law of 1971 requires all citizens to report cases of abuse to county authorities.

The law defines an abused child as an individual under 18 who receives a "physical injury by other than accidental means which causes or creates a substantial risk of death or disfigurement . . ." by a parent or guardian.

A "neglected" child is under 18 and does not receive proper care, supervision, discipline or medical care, said Alice Coleman, one of two child abuse consultants for Children's Protective Services in Raleigh. The term "abandonment" applies when a child is left alone for six months or more, she said.

The law includes sexual exploitation and emotional abuse in its definition of abuse. Emotional abuse involves the constant belittlement of a child by his parent or guardian, Coleman said.

The statute states that an individual suspecting abuse

or neglect must file a report. Reports of abuse must be investigated 24 hours after they are made and cases of neglect must be investigated within 72 hours, Coleman said.

A report to Social Services may be oral or written but the person must give his name and address. He will not be held liable in court unless he is acting in bad faith, according to the statute.

After a report of abuse is made, a director of social services may remove the child from the home after presenting the facts to the district court. Objecting parents may request a hearing before the district court judge who makes the final decision on removal.

North Carolina only investigates cases involving abusers who fall under the heading "caretaker," meaning any one acting in the place of the parent. For example, a neighbor who could be sexually abusing a child is exempt. The case would have to be examined by the police, Coleman said.

School personnel are also exempt, she said. Directors of licensed day-care centers are covered by a 1977 amendment. The definition was not expanded to include all workers at centers, such as maintenance men, until 1981, she said.

Each county has up to 20 social workers, depending on its population needs, Coleman said. The number of workers is insufficient for the workload involved, she said.

"Each case takes up to a month to investigate, and foster homes and children's homes have to be investigated, too," she said. "It's difficult under the time frame."

The types of services offered to abusive parents vary between counties but might include foster care, mental

health counseling, homemaking classes and parent self-help groups.

"Some people just don't have a good sense of what children should be doing (at a given age)," she said. "Parents who just discipline too hard are sent to classes to learn how. Some even learn to cook meals."

Orange County Social Services received 306 abuse reports from July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985, said Susan Dickson, supervisor of Children's Protective Services for Northern Orange County. Less than one-half of those cases were substantiated, she said.

Dickson said the number of sexual abuse reports increased from 10 in 1982-83 to 56 in 1984-85, probably due to public awareness.

"The general public is more knowledgeable about these things," she said. "Children are more knowledgeable about the rights that belong to them."

Chapel Hill has six full-time social workers to investigate abuse cases. Hillsborough has five full-time and two part-time, Dickson said.

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect estimated that approximately one million children are maltreated by their parents each year. As many as 200,000 are physically abused and up to 100,000 are sexually abused.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse reported that accounts of abuse have risen at a rate of nine percent in recent years, due to public awareness of a previously hidden problem.

"Child abuse has been going on forever," said Dr. Robert Vanderberry, chief of pediatrics at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va. "It's no longer socially acceptable and there are finally laws on the books to protect the children."

## 50 die as commandos storm hijacked Egyptian jetliner

From wire reports

VALETTA, Malta — About 50 people were killed Sunday in an explosion from three grenades as Egyptian commandos stormed the hijacked Egyptian jetliner on the runway in Malta.

Maltese television broadcasts urged all doctors and nurses to rush to the airport. About 20 ambulances were seen speeding from the airport. Roads leading to the hospital were cleared of traffic.

An "undetermined number" of Americans was aboard the jetliner, which was hijacked Saturday by four Arabs.

One of the hijackers said four persons had been killed and he had planned to kill a fifth before the paratroopers raided the aircraft.

No demands had been made public as of Sunday afternoon, but the terrorists had threatened to kill a passenger every hour if their demands were not met. One of the hijackers told the control tower he was looking "for another American passport" and said "four bodies are under the plane and a fifth will follow" if the plane was not refueled.

The airliner, hijacked while en route from Athens, Greece, to Cairo, Egypt, was forced to land in Valetta.

### Federal tax changes drafted

WASHINGTON — The House Ways and Means Committee finished drafting sweeping changes in the federal tax system early Saturday. If enacted, the changes would affect the tax liability of almost every household and corporation in the nation.

The measure, which under the rules would be allowed few amendments when it reaches the House floor, differed from the tax changes President Reagan proposed, but committee members said Reagan supported their version.

If enacted, the measure would sharply lower tax rates, abolish many tax preferences, apply a stiff minimum tax to the wealthy and profitable companies, and remove the poor from the tax rolls.

The House of Representatives is scheduled to take up the bill the second week in December.

### Medicare changes proposed

WASHINGTON — Officials say the Reagan administration wants to control health costs by proposing

## news in brief

changes in the Medicare program. The proposal would encourage beneficiaries to use federal funds to sign up for private insurance offered by commercial insurance companies or Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Administration officials say the proposal would help control health costs by promoting competition among insurance companies. President Reagan also wants to give private enterprise a larger role in providing government services, they said.

### Retired CIA analyst arrested

A retired analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency was arrested Saturday and accused of providing classified information to the Chinese for over 30 years.

Federal law enforcement officials said Larry Wu-Tau Chin was paid more than \$140,000 by the Chinese in the past 30 years. Chin continued providing CIA documents to China after his retirement in 1981, law enforcement officials said.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy said Chinese officials had not had any involvement with Chin. The State Department said it had made an formal protest to the Chinese government.

### Civil rights march cancelled

PHILADELPHIA — A civil rights march through a racially troubled neighborhood was cancelled Saturday at the request of Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode.

Goode declared a state of emergency in a southwest Philadelphia neighborhood after two days of protest by whites against the arrival of a black family and interracial couple in the all-white area.

Operation PUSH, a civil rights organization founded by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the American Civil Liberties Union had planned for a march and a motorcade through the neighborhood to express support for the two families. PUSH leaders agreed to cancel the march after Goode argued against it in U.S. District Court, calling the area a "time bomb."

# Phi Beta Kappa inducts 71 new members

Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's highest honorary society, initiated 71 UNC students Thursday during ceremonies in Gerrard Hall. The featured speaker at a banquet following the ceremony was Eugen Merzbacher, Kenan professor of physics at UNC.

Students in the Division of Academic Affairs are eligible for admission. A junior must have a 3.7 grade point average and 75 credit hours. Seniors must have a 3.6 GPA and 105 hours. The list of initiates follows:

James A. Alspaugh II, a junior from Greensboro.

Kevin J. Anthony, a senior from Decatur, Ga.

Gregory C. Avioli, a senior from St. Louis, Mo.

Anne E. Barnes-Fussell, a senior from Cary.

Mary E. Bell, a May 1985 graduate from Knoxville, Tenn.

Patricia M. Bezek, a senior from Raleigh.

Sally M. Butler, a junior from Dallas, Texas.

Krista L. Buyck, a May 1985 graduate from Columbia, S.C.

Mina N. Choi, a senior from Chapel Hill.

Rudolf Coloredo-Mansfeld, a junior from South Hamilton, Mass.

Juliane C. Conley, a junior from St. Petersburg, Fla.

Robin J. Cunningham, a junior from Raleigh.

Margaret E. Denny, a junior from Winston-Salem.

Elizabeth A. Dickerson, a senior from Atlanta.

Rogers L. Drew, a senior from Chapel Hill.

Renee E. Dye, a junior from Augusta, Ga.

Richard M. Eckley, a senior from Columbus, Ohio.

Jonathan S. Edwards, a senior from Asheville.

Arri Eisen, a May 1985 graduate from Raleigh.

Thomas J. Falish, a senior from Greensboro.

Steven A. Fetter, a May 1985 graduate from Hallandale, Fla.

Scott S. Fowler, a junior from Spartanburg, S.C.

Phillip R. Gillespie, a senior from Fletcher.

Sarah R. Grossman, a May 1985 graduate from Rockville, Md.

Paul B. Habib, a senior from Elizabeth City.

Peter W. Hatcher, a junior from Atlanta.

Paige C. Henderson, a senior from Winston-Salem.

Jonathan M. Hochman, a junior from Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mary K. Hoffman, a senior from Arnold, Md.

Karen M. Hoover, a senior from Lexington.

Sarah J. Jackson, a May 1985 graduate from Mount Airy.

Martin R. Leary, a junior from Greensboro.

Michele F. Leland, a senior from Durham.

Jonathan W. Lewis, a May 1985 graduate from Whiteville.

Elizabeth A. Logan, a senior from Tuckerton, N.J.

Beverly D. Lynch, a junior from Winston-Salem.

Ann M. Marshbanks, a junior from Buies Creek.

Todd D. McDiarmid, a junior from Raeford.

Delise G. Metcalf, a senior from Valdese.

Fred G. Mock Jr., a junior from East Bend.

Margaret W. Mooring, a May 1985 graduate from Rutherfordton.

Lauren A. Murphy, a May 1985 graduate from Bahama.

Duong Xuan Nguyen, a May 1985 graduate from Saigon, Vietnam.

Elizabeth M. Orazem, a senior from Gastonia.

Rose M. Parish, a senior from Red Springs.

Patricia L. Parker, a junior from West

Jefferson.

Alison M. Pollock, a junior from Greer, S.C.

Robert J. Rosenbloom, a senior from Rocky Mount.

Betty R. Sanderlin, a May 1985 graduate from Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Maria A. Mendez Shearer, a senior from Chapel Hill.

John D. Smith, a junior from Leesburg, Va.

Helen A. Smits, a senior from Winston-Salem.

Charles A. Staley, a senior from Rockingham.

Amy E. Sturkey, a sophomore from Charlotte.

Daniel L. Sumberg, a senior from Coconut Grove, Fla.

Julia M. Taylor, a senior from Atlanta.

Edward C. Tharrington, a senior from Raleigh.

Laura L. Thomas, a junior from Chapel Hill.

Marcus W. Trathen, a junior from Boone.

Jeffrey A. Trexler, a senior from Mertz-town, Pa.

Dominique L. Mylene Vala, a July 1985 graduate from Raleigh.

Jean R. Van Tuyl, a senior from Silver Spring, Md.

Philip N. Ward, a senior from Rameur.

Sheila R. Ward, an August 1985 graduate from Boone.

Laura B. Welch, a senior from Wilmington.

Edward J. Wiley III, a senior from Richmond, Va.

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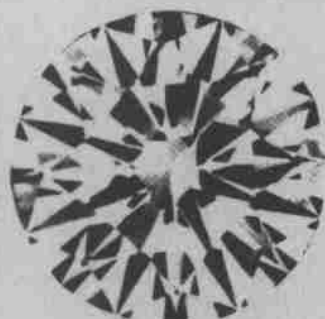
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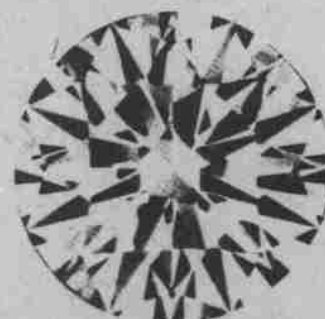


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