

Incest

(Continued from Page 12) performing arts, because I was gone all the time," Jefferson said. She was 14-years-old and her schedule would sometimes have her at school as early as 5 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. Her only regret was that it would leave her sister wide open for continued sexual abuse.

Jefferson described her cousin as a rebellious child, though he was raised by strict, religious parents. She said that he often abused drugs, drank, stayed out late and was sexually active. But they also indulged him. She said that he was the only one that she knew of, who was given a motorcycle at age 15 or 16. But he was also the only teen that she knew of who had been admitted to Charter Hospital for substance abuse.

Jefferson recalled an incident where Taylor assaulted another man with a brick. She said that her mother tried to stop him, but it seemed that Taylor couldn't hear her. She and her sister went with their mother to let her know what was going on.

"Yeah, he broke in here this morning and we had already told him that he can't be here," said his mother, seemingly removed from the situation. Taylor's parents kicked him out of their house, prior to the incident, due to his behavioral issues.

According to the researchers at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, these might have been signs of previous abuse. But having not met with him, they could not say

for sure.

However, in a letter to *The Dallas Examiner*, Taylor wrote briefly about his, "past experience with child abuse, drug abuse..." and the pain he's caused others, including himself. However, he declined to give details.

According to Dr. William Holmes of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine during an interview with MSNBC News, "When sexually abused boys are not treated, society must later deal with the resulting problems, including crime, suicide, drug use and more sexual abuse." He also stated that one third of juvenile delinquents and 40 percent of sexual offenders report they were sexually abused as youngsters.

Many studies have found that sexual abuse is passed down from predator to victim. And many times, the victim will later become the predator or will raise other victims. They cycle and the symptoms usually continue in secret.

Jefferson's sister suffered from memory loss, not being able to fully recall the incidents, experiencing flashbacks instead. But Jefferson, on the other hand, has full recollection accompanied by flashbacks, restlessness, sleeplessness and moments of anxiety. Additionally, her asthma was exacerbated by the stress.

So far, but yet so close

Jefferson says her mother may have been clued in on her trauma at some point, had she not been dealing with her own bouts of depression and anxiety. Her mother suffered from bipolar disorder, and along with her medication,

had become addicted to street drugs. Jefferson said that both of her parents took a variety of illegal drugs and her father sold them on the streets. She recalled helping her father roll the "funny cigarettes" and times when her father would go to 7-Eleven to get straws for drug parties. She witnessed the adults make lines of white powder on the glass coffee table in the living room and snort it through the straws.

Adding to the families' dysfunction, the girl's father was physically and mentally abusive to their mother. She said that she had seen her father beat her mother unmercifully on occasions. There were times when he'd put her head in the toilet or put a knife to her throat. She had also seen him rape and sodomize her mother.

Jefferson said that there were several times when her father would put on his "battle dress uniform," standard camouflage military attire, and place black shoe polish under his eyes, then come in to the room and cock the gun.

"You didn't know if he's going to come in that night and pull the trigger and end everybody's life, 'cause that's what he had been talking about," Jefferson recalled.

The abuse continued until her mother left him, which was when they went to stay with her mother. They would live with her until Jefferson was 12 years old.

Jefferson began to exhibit disciplinary problems in school due to sleep deprivation and her grades began to suffer. During a "fit of rage," her father was called to take

her to the hospital. A physician prescribed an anxiety medication and thought it might have been brought on by her lack of sleep.

Jefferson said that her mother thought that her actions as a drug addict and neglectful parent had contributed to her anxiety and became resistant to getting the prescription. Instead, the mother offered her a "night cap" to help her sleep. When the alcohol didn't help, she was offered her mother's prescription, as well.

As Jefferson's mother finally reached a point where she felt whole, she was diagnosed with kidney disease after various hospital stays and exploratory surgeries.

By that time, she had lost a tremendous amount of weight. This was devastating, emotionally and financially. Jefferson recalls that her mother had about 30 prescriptions.

There were times that the electricity was turned off and they had to go back to their grandmother's until it was back on, though the mother stayed at home in the dark. She recalled times that they went hungry or sat alone at home while their mother was in the hospital, because she didn't want anyone to know of her diagnosis.

At age 17, Jefferson went away to college to study music. And though she thought that she would finally be free and far away from her abuser and family dysfunction, her battle had only yet begun.

Robyn H. Jimenez writes for the Dallas Examiner.



Barack Obama has captured the American imagination.

Obama

(Continued from Page 12)

any kind that triggers hate and violence in America.

"It may be race, but it may not be race in the sense that the Kennedys were killed because they were perceived as having ideas to change the southern way of life. They became the objects of hate because they were willing to use their power to change the ways of the Old South and to coalesce with people like Dr. King; then the Kennedys and King had to die because they were change agents," said Jackson. "If they would try to kill White presidents of the United States — if they would try to kill Ronald Reagan — you know it's not just a question of race."

But, it was clearly both race and change in 1984 when Jackson began to receive death threats when he was seen sweeping the nation with his "Rainbow Coalition" — promoting racial harmony and unified political power among people with a diversity of backgrounds.

University of Maryland political scientist, Dr. Ron Walters, a top aide in the Jackson campaign at that time, recalls when Jackson had to ask for help.

"In the fall of 1983, he was going around the country and Black people were saying, 'Run Jesse run!' and it was clear that he was going to run," Walters recalls. "So, what happened was we had the Nation of Islam to deploy security for him. But, when he became an official candidate in November of 1983, we found out that we were eligible for Secret Service protection... We almost had to show probable cause why he should get it."

Hatred was intense, says Jackson.

"I had so many threats prior to the election that it was a disruption. So they gave me the Secret Service protection the very first day," he recalls.

Four presidents in U.S. history have been assassinated: Abraham Lincoln in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth; James Garfield in 1881 by Charles J. Guiteau; William McKinley in 1901 by Leon Czolgosz; and John F. Kennedy 1963, allegedly by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Four others died in office of natural causes: William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia in 1841, Zachary Taylor died of "acute indigestion" in 1850, Warren G. Harding died of a heart attack in 1923, and Franklin D. Roosevelt died of cerebral hemorrhage in 1945. With so much power at stake in a country that needs so much change, it's always a risk, Jackson says.

"Those who would dare be change agents have to be willing to sacrifice. You can't play in the big game without stains on your uniform. Champions play with pain. Champions play with injury. I had to make that decision," he said. "You can't let fear and shadows interfere with your [mission] to make your contribution."



It is with great pleasure that we invite you to apply for registration to Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School. Each student will bring special qualities that will make Rainbow Dreams Academy the most exciting new charter school in Las Vegas.

Applications for registration may be picked up at the following locations:

West Las Vegas Library; 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Nevada Partners; 710 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Urban Chamber of Commerce; 1052 W. Owens Ave.
Doolittle Community Center; 1950 J Street
Local Churches

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Diane or Kathy at 702-255-3001.

Banks

(Continued from Page 6) companies, such as ING Direct.

"These banks offer all the services of a majority-owned bank. People should understand that these banks are regulated by the same folks that work with majority-owned banks and are FDIC regulated," said Hart.

Billionaire entrepreneur Robert L. Johnson plans to revive Black-owned banking with Urban Trust Bank, which opened its Washington, D.C., headquarters in September.

The bank is federally chartered and owned by RLJ, a development company headed by the BET founder. Urban Trust has \$30 million

in assets, chiefly because of Johnson's personal wealth, and plans to expand to branches nationwide including Wal-Mart stores.

Urban Trust is focusing on lending services including student loans, mortgages and credit cards for underserved urban communities, a clientele that analysts say is virtually untapped by Black-owned banks.

"There defiantly is a niche for African-American owned banking institutions in these communities. Our study clearly showed that there are not enough banks of any kind to meet the need of those in that community. The banks that are there are regional or national," says David

Berenbaum, Executive Vice President of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition.

He was referring to an NCRC study that recorded the shortage of banks in minority neighborhoods nationwide.

Berenbaum said that Black-founded banks like Independence Federal Savings have suffered by abandoning customers in disadvantaged communities where major retailers and White-owned banks have profited. He stressed that there was excellent opportunity for banks like Johnson's Urban Trust to capitalize and better serve the needs of these people.

Although today African-

Americans have the option of banking at White-controlled institutions, interest in Black-owned banks have sparked in light of recent discrimination lawsuits against powerhouse financial institution Bank of America where, according to the federal lawsuit, Black employees alleged that they were given inferior positions and steered from wealthy clients. Cunningham said these discriminatory practices not only hurt the economy but also serve as a wake up call.

"It is true that African-Americans have more options other than Black-owned banks. But given the Bank of America class action suits you have to consider just how viable these options are."