

Brantley: We first quantified it when we did research in the late 1970s, interviewing thirty-six multiple murderers in prison. This kind of theme had already emerged in our work with violent criminals. We all believed this was an important factor, so we said, "Let's go and ask the offenders themselves and see what they have to say about it." By self report, 36 percent described killing and torturing animals as children and 46 percent said they did this as adolescents. We believe that the real figure was much higher, but that people might not have been willing to admit to it.

HSUS: You mean that people who commit multiple, brutal murders might be reluctant to admit to killing animals?

Brantley: I believe that to be true in some cases. In the inmate population, it's one thing to be a big-time criminal and kill people—many inmates have no empathy or concern for human victims—but they might identify with animals. I've worked with prisoners who kept pets even though they weren't supposed to. They would consider someone else hurting their pet as reason enough to commit homicide. Also, within prisons, criminals usually don't want to talk about what they have done to animals or children for fear that other inmates may retaliate against them or that they may lose status among their peers.

HSUS: Where is violence against animals coming from? Are criminals witnessing it in others? Convicted serial killer Ted Bundy recounted being forced to watch his grandfather's animal abuse.

Brantley: For the most part, in my experience, offenders who harm animals as children pretty much come up with this on their own. Quite often they will do this in the presence of others and teach it to others, but the ones with a rich history of violence are usually the instigators. Some children might follow along to be accepted, but the ones we need to worry about are the one or two dominant, influential children who initiate the cruelty.

HSUS: What components need to be present for you to think a child or adolescent is really in trouble?

Brantley: You have to look at the quality of the act and at the frequency and severity. If a child kicks the dog when somebody's been aggressive toward him, that's one issue, but if it's a daily thing or if he has a pattern of tormenting and physically torturing the family dog or cat, that's another. I would look to see if the pattern is escalating. I look at any type of abuse of an animal as serious to begin with, unless I have other information that might explain it. It should not be dismissed. I've seen it too often develop into something more severe.

Some types of abuse, for example, against insects, seem to be fundamentally different. Our society doesn't consider insects attractive or worthy of affection. But our pets are friendly and affectionate and they often symbolically represent the qualities and characteristics of human beings. Violence against them indicates violence that may well escalate into violence against humans.

You also need to look at the bigger picture. What's going on at home? What other supports, if any, are in place? How is the child doing in school? Is he drinking or doing drugs?

HSUS: We are familiar with the "classic" cases of serial killers, like Jeffrey Dahmer, who had early histories of animal abuse (see the Summer 1986 *HSUS News*). Are there any recent cases you have worked on?

Brantley: The Jason Massey case jumps out as being a prominent one. This was a case from 1993 in Texas. This individual, from an early age, started his career killing many dogs and cats. He finally graduated, at

the age of 20, to beheading a thirteen-year-old girl and shooting her fourteen-year-old stepbrother to death.

He was convicted of murder. I was brought in for the sentencing phase to testify as to his dangerousness and future threat to the community. The prosecutors knew that he was a prolific killer of animals, and that he was saving the body parts of these animals. The prosecutor discovered a cooler full of animal remains that belonged to Massey and brought it to the courtroom for the sentencing hearing. It caused the jurors to react strongly, and ultimately the sentence was death.

HSUS: Mr. Massey had been institutionalized at his mother's request two years before the murders since she was aware of his diaries, which recorded his violent fantasies, and his animal killings, yet he was released. Do you think that mental health officials have been slower than law enforcement agencies in taking animal abuse seriously?

Brantley: We've made this a part of a lot of our training for local police, and I think most police recognize that when they see animal mutilation or torture that they need to check it out; but police have to triage and prioritize their cases. We try to tell people that investigating animal cruelty and investigating homicides may not be mutually exclusive.

We are trying to do the same for mental health professionals. We offer training to forensic psychiatrists through a fellowship program and provide other training to the mental health community. I think psychiatrists are receptive to our message when we can give them examples and case studies demonstrating this connection. The word is getting out.

HSUS: Do you think more aggressive prosecution of animal-cruelty cases can help get some people into the legal system who might otherwise slip through?

Brantley: I think that it is a legitimate way to deal with someone who poses a threat. Remember, Al Capone was finally imprisoned for income-tax evasion rather than for murder or racketeering-charges which could never be proven.

HSUS: Have you ever encountered a situation where extreme or repeated animal cruelty is the only warning sign you see in an individual, where there is no other violent behavior? Or does such abuse not occur in a vacuum?

Brantley: I would agree with that last concept. But let's say that you do have a case of an individual who seems not to have had any other adjustment problems but is harming animals. What that says is that while, up to that point, there is no documented history of adjustment problems, there are adjustment problems now and there could be greater problems down the road. We have some kids who start early and move toward greater and greater levels of violence, some who get into it starting in adolescence, and some who are adults before they start to blossom into violent offenders.

HSUS: Do you find animal cruelty developing in those who have already begun killing people?

Brantley: We know that certain types of offenders who have escalated to human victims will, at times, regress back to earlier offenses such as making obscene phone calls, stalking people, or killing animals. Rarely, if ever, do we see humans being killed as a precursor to the killing of animals.

HSUS: How would you respond to the argument that animal cruelty provides an outlet that prevents violent individuals from acting against people?

Brantley: I would disagree with that. Animal cruelty is not as serious as killing human beings, we have to agree to that, but

certainly it's moving in a very ominous direction. This is not a harmless venting of emotion in a healthy individual; this is a warning sign that this individual is not mentally healthy and needs some sort of intervention. Abusing animals does not dissipate those violent emotions; instead, it may fuel them.

HSUS: What problems do you have in trying to assess the dangerousness of suspect or a known offender?

Brantley: Getting background information is the main problem. People know this person has done these things, but there may be no record or we haven't found the right people to interview.

HSUS: That's one of the reasons why we have put an emphasis on stronger anticruelty laws and more aggressive enforcement—to get such information in the record.

Brantley: A lot of time people who encounter this kind of behavior are looking for the best in people. We also see cases where people are quite frankly afraid to get involved, because it they are dealing with a child or adult who seems to be bizarre or threatening, they are afraid that he or she may no longer kill animals but instead come after them. I've seen a lot of mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, and private citizens who don't want to get involved because they are afraid . . . and for good reason. There are very scary people out there doing scary things. That's largely why they are doing it and talking about it: they want to intimidate and shock and offend, sometimes regardless of the consequences.

HSUS: Is there hope for such an individual?

Brantley: The earlier you can intervene, the better off you'll be. I like to be optimistic. I think in the vast majority of cases, especially if you get to them as children, you can intervene. People shouldn't discount animal abuse as a childish prank or childish experimentation.

HSUS: Have you ever seen any serial killers who have been rehabilitated?

Brantley: I've seen no examples of it and no real efforts to even attempt it! Even if you had a program that might work, the potential consequences of being wrong and releasing someone like that greatly outweigh the benefits of attempting it, in my opinion.

HSUS: There is also a problem in trying to understand which acts against animals and others are associated with the escalation of violence, since police records, if they exist, are often unavailable or juvenile offenses are expunged. Sometimes only local humane societies or animal-control agencies have any record. The HSUS hopes to facilitate consolidating some of these records.

Brantley: That would be great. If animal-cruelty investigators are aware of a case such as a sexual homicide in their community and they are also aware of any animal mutilation going on in the same area, I would encourage them to reach out to us.●

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF SENATOR JOHNSTON

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, no senator has been blessed with a more capable, more loyal, more effective personal staff than I have. For 24 years, they have worked for my office, our State and our Nation with energy and diligence. All of the staff over these years have been excellent, but at this time I want to especially recognize the three most senior staffers in my Washington office for their special talents and contributions.

PATSY GUYER

When I arrived in Washington in November 1972, I was taken in tow by Bill Cochran of the Rules Committee, who gave me invaluable assistance and counsel in setting up my office. Like most new Senators, I was short-handed and uncertain about the best way to staff my office and deal with the avalanche of mail, telephone calls, and visitors. Bill mentioned to me that he knew of a young woman, Patsy Guyer, who had worked with him on the staff of Senator B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina, and who was available and was a prodigious worker. She was quickly hired, and I don't think her output has slowed one iota over the 24 years she has been on my staff. As my executive assistant, Patsy has handled a huge array of responsibilities over the years, ranging from supervising State offices to managing summer interns, to creating and overseeing an exceptionally efficient mail operation.

But if Patsy should be singled out for anything, it is her management and deep personal commitment to a case work operation that is unmatched in the volume and quality of service it has rendered to countless thousands of Louisianians in need. I am very proud of the aid my office has given over the years to people who had nowhere else to turn, whether it was securing a visa, locating a loved one, or breaking an impasse on a disability payment or a VA widow's benefits.

We were able to be effective principally because Patsy Guyer has an astounding network of friends and colleagues throughout the Congress and among Federal agencies and, most of all, because she greeted every case, no matter how routine, with the enthusiasm and commitment she brought to her first day on the job in November of 1972. Whether the challenge was to bring home from Abu Dhabi a tragically injured Louisiana businessman, locate a missing child in a Rwandan refugee camp or organize a food airlift to Cambodia, we always knew Patsy would have the ingenuity and contacts to start the process and the absolutely iron-willed determination and dedication to see it through to completion. I have never known a more selfless and giving individual, and I know I speak for untold thousands in Louisiana in expressing deep gratitude for the extraordinary service that this loyal daughter of North Carolina has rendered to Louisiana and our country.

BECKY PUTENS

Mr. President, as many Senators know, Becky Putens has been my personal secretary for the last 18 years. While that is her title, it hardly does justice to the multitude of roles that she has had to play in that time. She has been my gatekeeper, my scheduler, my right-hand person; she keeps track of where I need to be, arranges how I will get there, and generally has acted as a buffer between me and the enormous number of outside demands on my time and attention that go along

with being a Senator. Most of all, though, Becky Putens is a fixer: she takes care of problems, from the routine to the seemingly insurmountable, with an aplomb and calmness that is remarkable, and that has, in countless large and small ways, made my time as a Senator more effective, more efficient, and generally more fun.

As my colleagues and her peers—a group of Senators' personal secretaries who call themselves the Senior Babes—can attest, the small area just outside a Senator's personal office often takes on the aspect of Grand Central Station at rush hour. Becky is the person who keeps it all together and running smoothly. Through it all, and maybe because of it all, Becky displays a sense of humor and a way with people and with words that is legendary among many of the longtime staff and Senators. For someone in a position that is always demanding and often thankless, such an attitude and outlook is almost a requirement, and for me it has often served to make even the most tiring and demanding days and nights in the Senate bearable.

But, to me, the most fundamental aspect of Becky's personality is her unquestioning dedication. Whatever the circumstances, however late or early, on weekends or during vacations, if I am there, Becky is there; if I am under the gun, Becky is at my side. In short, in a field of endeavor where loyalty is an often-invoked but seldom-realized ideal, Becky personifies it. I am grateful for her service.

ERIC SILAGY

Mr. President, Eric Silagy has managed to pack more achievements into his brief career than any young man I know. He came to my office in 1987, fresh out of the University of Texas. In less than 2 years, he was chief scheduler for a Senate campaign that was as politically significant and hard fought as any in this century. His intelligence, good judgment and youthful energy were important factors in our victory. For the next 4 years, he served as my legislative assistant while attending Georgetown University Law School, performing superbly in both capacities. Since 1994, he has been my administrative assistant and chief of staff. Thanks to his excellent organizational skills and his tact and good humor, it is an office that has been a productive workplace for a happy, hardworking, and extremely talented staff.

Just as important to me as his skill in running the office, however, has been his remarkable political and policy judgment, which I rely upon in making all the most crucial decisions that come before me; and his extraordinary effectiveness in getting the job done, no matter what the odds against it. Once a legislative goal has been targeted, there is very little that can stand in the way of Eric's efforts to achieve it. In short, while some divide the world into thinkers and doers, Eric Silagy manages to combine the best aspects of both. I want to express my

gratitude for his diligence and devotion, and commend him for a job well done.●

#### VERMONT'S GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP. WINS DISTINGUISHED AWARD

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to rise today in recognition of the Green Mountain Power Corp. Green Mountain Power [GMP] was recently honored with the Edison Electric Institute Common Goals Special Distinction Award for energy efficiency.

Douglas Hyde, GMP president and CEO, and a close friend of mine, was in Washington to accept the award which recognizes GMP's work as a part of EVERmont. A public-private partnership, EVERmont was formed to test and improve the winter performance of electric vehicles, or EV's. EV's provide clean, quiet, and environmentally sound transportation. For this service, we commend Green Mountain Power and EVERmont and congratulate them on winning the EEI Common Goals Award.●

#### SATISFYING THE HUNGER FOR READING

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, encouraging strong reading habits in schoolchildren is a goal that we all share. Reading skills are a core element of the National Education Goals, and literacy is the subject of a new Presidential initiative.

To highlight the importance of reading, I would like to take a brief moment to describe the achievements of an innovative program at a very special school in New Mexico that I believe captures what we should all be trying to do to promote reading.

This fall, the lunch period at Dolores Gonzales Elementary School in Albuquerque will be satisfying a different kind of appetite: A hunger for reading. Thanks to their Join-a-School Partners—Sunwest Bank, Bueno Foods, the Albuquerque Zoological Park, and community members—more than 50 students at Dolores Gonzales Elementary will have a partner to read with under a pilot program which I helped initiate at the school last spring.

The Read-Write-Now program pairs an adult volunteer with a student from Dolores Gonzales for reading. The program has grown from a dozen or so volunteers last spring to more than 50 this fall. I commend principal Dora Ortiz and her dedicated staff and teachers for fostering the Read-Write-Now program at their school.

I borrowed the idea from a similar program which originated in New York City. Volunteers pledge 1 lunch hour a week for the entire semester to read with the children. This one-on-one approach helps the children develop their reading ability and love of books, as well as make a new friend. It is impossible to overestimate the value of this